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SLAMmag

SLAMmag is the electronic magazine of the School of Literature, Art & Media (SLAM) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, providing updates on the activities of the School and celebrating our research and teaching achievements.

In this issue:

- Head of School welcome
- School news and events
- Department news & events

Head of School welcome

I hope you enjoy this Autumn edition of *SLAMmag*, a timely snapshot of the achievements, highlights, and news of the School in 1st semester, 2018.

The range, variety, and quality of the endeavours covered here are impressive indeed. It was especially nice to celebrate the excellent efforts of our students, supported by their teachers, in a very enjoyable SLAM Prizes and Awards Ceremony.

The magazine also records sad news, the passing away of our distinguished colleague Emeritus Professor Michael A.K. Halliday – founder of the Department of Linguistics and a mainstay of humanities research and education at the University.

My thanks again to Lurdes de Oliveira for her editorial labours, and colleagues for their contributions – happy reading!



Professor [Gerard Goggin](#)
Head, SLAM

news SLAM Prizes and Awards Ceremony 2018

Words by Norlela Husen



On 3 May, the grand hall of The Refectory welcomed guests to SLAM's Prizes and Awards Ceremony. Against the imposing backdrop of artist Vergil Lo Schiavo's oil mural entitled *Mankind*, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, Professor [Annamarie Jagose](#), gave a light-hearted welcome before handing over to SLAM's Head of School, Professor [Gerard Goggin](#), to preside over the event.

Prizes were awarded in the following disciplines by Chairs of Department or their delegates:

Media and Communications	Associate Professor Timothy Dwyer
Linguistics	Professor James Martin
Celtic Studies	Professor Jonathan Wooding
English & Australian Literature	Dr Brigid Rooney
Studies in Religion	Associate Professor Jay Johnston
Art History	Dr Catriona Moore

Winners of the English Literary Prizes and recipients of International Fellowships in Media and Communication were also presented with certificates.

An annual highlight on the SLAM calendar, the Prizes and Awards ceremony not only celebrated students' achievements but also the support of friends and families, the dedication of teachers and the generosity of benefactors.

news SLAM Prizes and Awards Ceremony cont'd

In receiving three awards across two disciplines, Madeleine Snook was one of the students who celebrated her accomplishments. A double-major in Linguistics and Celtic Studies, Madeleine is now completing an honours degree in Linguistics. She received the *Appen Prize for Excellence in Linguistics*, the *GS Caird Scholarship in Linguistics III* and the *Rosemary Samios Award in Scottish Gaelic Studies*. The last award funded her four-week research on communication between native Scottish Gaelic speakers and their farm animals on the Isle of Skye, Scotland.

It was also an evening of reflection as Professor [James Martin](#) paid tribute to the late Emeritus Professor Michael Halliday who passed away on 19 April. Professor Halliday founded the Linguistics department in 1976. After his retirement in 1987, the *M.A.K. Halliday Medal for Outstanding Merit in Master of Applied Linguistics* was set up by colleagues in his honour. In 2013, Professor Halliday presented the award for the first time at that year's prizes ceremony. Two M.A.K. Halliday medals were awarded this year, to Lungguh Ariang Bangga and Melissa Kemble.

The ceremony ended with light refreshments in the drawing room of The Refectory.

Congratulations to [all the prize winners!](#)



news SLAM Prizes and Awards Ceremony *cont'd*



Some of our prize winners.

news SLAM Prizes and Awards Ceremony *cont'd*



Some of our prize winners.

news SLAM Prizes and Awards Ceremony cont'd



Congratulations to all our prize winners!

Department of Art History

Words by Dr [Catriona Moore](#) | Chair of Department

Art History is an exciting place to be, and this year's Prizes Night paid tribute to our enthusiastic and ever-curious student body. We congratulate prizewinners Chloe Phillips, Joy Angelo Santos, Soo-Min Shim, Lucy White, Imogen King, Mitchell Kelly, Joshua Taylor, Sarah Clayton and Lisa-Anne Morris on their efforts, and wish them the very best. Indeed, it has been a particularly busy few months for Art History and Film Studies students all round. Dr [Mark de Vitis](#) has set up a relationship with Bonhams and several of our undergraduate students will be doing paid sessional work with them, helping out on auction nights over the course of the year. Our 'Fieldwork: Art & the City' students are preparing for their upcoming trip to Paris with sessions at the Art Gallery of NSW exhibition *The Lady and the Unicorn*, at which Professor [Mark Ledbury](#) gave a public lecture, and on which Dr [Mark de Vitis](#) published an article in *The Conversation*.

In April, our postgraduates enjoyed a Masterclass given by three senior artists associated with the Bábbarra Women's Centre in Maningrida, Central Arnhem Land. Susan Marawarr, Jennifer Wurrkidj and Susan Wurrkidj (*Kuninjku* language group) are accomplished painters who paint their Motherland (*Mumeka* - one country), using traditional natural ochres on bark and work full-time as printmakers on fabric for Bábbarra Designs. They talked with students on contemporary art and textiles being produced by women artists in remote communities, on key developments in the community-run Aboriginal art sector and on the broader challenges of 'curating remote'.

Professor [Mark Ledbury](#), Dr [Donna Brett](#) and Dr [Stephen Whiteman](#) convened a valuable workshop on 'Objects and Problems in the Museum and in the Curriculum'. How can we facilitate student learning within our museum collections, and how can principles of object and problem-based learning inform curriculum planning and class-room teaching practices? Staff from the University museums joined visiting speakers Associate Professor Mimi Hellman (Skidmore College, NY), Honorary Professor Les Kirkup (Physics, University of Sydney), Dr Ted Robinson (Archaeology, University of Sydney) and departmental colleagues, to challenge our collective thinking around issues of object-based and problem-based learning.



L-R: Janet Marawarr, Jennifer Wurrkidj, Deborah Wurrkidj from the Bábbarra Women's Centre at Maningrida, NT in front of the USYD Quad. Photo: Jo Holder.

We had a great start to the Sydney Asian Art Series with guest papers by Professor Winnie Wong (Berkeley) and Professor Ajay Sinha (Mt Holyoke College). During her stay, Professor Wong also presented an open lunchtime seminar to consider the study of Chinese art in a Eurocentric art historical paradigm. In May, Dr [Bruce Isaacs](#) convened a topical and provocative event on Virtual Reality Technologies, with Yan Chen and Travis Rice from [Lens Immersive](#). Bruce has also resumed his monthly column for “The Conversation” (in June, read “[Close-Up: Rewatching Film Classics](#)”, with an analysis of Bernard Hermann’s score in Hitchcock’s *Psycho* (1960)).

Dr [Susan Potter](#) has been elected President of the Women and Film History International and is co-organiser of the May 2019 Women and the Silent Screen X conference, hosted by the EYE Filmmuseum in Amsterdam. Susan also received a Publication Subsidy award from the Australian Academy of the Humanities for her forthcoming monograph, *Queer Timing: The Emergence of Lesbian Sexuality in Early Cinema*, published by University of Illinois Press. Dr [Stephen Whiteman](#) was another Publication Subsidy recipient for his *Constructing Kangxi: Landscape, Image, and Ideology in Early Modern China*, University of Washington Press. At present, Stephen is a colleague in transit – he returned from a successful trip to Harvard as part of the Office of Global Engagement scheme for research partnerships and is now *en route* to Venice to participate in this year’s Visualizing Venice Summer Institute, ‘Advanced Topics in Digital Art History: 3D and (Geo)Spatial Networks’. In Venice he will partner with two colleagues at Nanyang Technological University on *Visualizing the Mountain Estate: Landscape, Architecture, and Experience in Chengde*.

Professor [Roger Benjamin](#) was awarded a Bridging Support Grant of \$30,000 by the Research Office for his ARC project Double Crossings: post-orientalist visual arts at the Strait of Gibraltar. The Planetary Art research team, including 3 members of the Art History Department, was shortlisted for the FASS Emerging Research Strengths scheme. Most recently, Dr [Louise Marshall](#) presented History of Emotions node at the University of Queensland, on [Art and Resurrection](#).

Celtic Studies

Words by Professor [Jonathan Wooding](#) | Sir Warwick Fairfax Chair of Celtic Studies

On 3 May we celebrated the success of some of our outstanding students (of which we have many) at the SLAM prizes night. Congratulations to Andrew Le Marne (Hadyn Lloyd-Davies Prize for Welsh), Finlay Mackenzie (Scottish Society and Burns Club Prize), and Jason Tamas (Betty Eva Naish Prize). Mrs Rosemary Samios was there to award scholarships from the Samios Fund: to Eleanor Deep to pursue further studies of Gaelic in Scotland, and to Madeleine Snook for her fieldwork project (Honours in Linguistics) on how Gaelic-speakers use the language to talk to their dogs. It is no surprise that Madeleine made it onto the BBC during her stay on Skye—such is the fascination of the projects we are able to support!

We are honoured to be hosting the 22nd Australasian Conference of Irish Studies from 27 to 30 November 2018—the first time it has been held at the University of Sydney. Over 40 impressive papers have been offered. Dedicated sessions will include the story of how an egg was thrown at Prime Minister Billy Hughes in Queensland in 1917 and how a family of Italians (Melocco Bros) created spectacular mosaics inspired by the Book of Kells from their factory in Annandale. The support of the School is gratefully acknowledged, both for the conference and the Melocco Project (Dr Lynette Olson, Dr Penny Nash, Professor Jonathan Wooding).

Professor [Jonathan Wooding](#) was recently in Scotland to give a keynote address on 'Archaeology and Celtic Myth' at a conference on 'Myth in the 21st Century' at the University of Edinburgh. Only a few weeks ago he also had a fascinating adventure in research. He is researching a uniquely complex inscription on a gravestone (see photo) from Kempsey NSW written in Donegal Irish (which happens to commemorate his own great-great-grandparents). An email came from Dr Breandán Mac Suibhne, author of a recent notable book *The End of Outrage: Post-Famine Adjustment in Rural Ireland* (Oxford University Press, 2017). At the centre of Dr Mac Suibhne's micro-historical account of rebel politics in West Donegal is a colourful informer who fled with his family to Australia in 1857 under a new name—and who turns out to be the author of the inscription in Kempsey! We like to think that research in Celtic Studies is never dull ...



Floor by the Melocco Brothers (1928), St Johns' College, University of Sydney



Gravestone in Kempsey NSW

Department of English

Words by Dr [Brigid Rooney](#) | Chair of Department

[Vanessa Smith](#), [Melissa Hardie](#) and [John Frow](#) (representing the Novel Network) successfully applied for funding from the University's Harvard mobility scheme to visit Harvard in late April/early May. As well as participating in graduate teaching in Harvard's English department, they were involved in two events at the [Mahindra Humanities Center](#). John and Melissa spoke at a roundtable on *The Novel and the Media* on 3 May, along with Kelly Rich (Harvard) and Dennis Tenen (Columbia), which tackled questions including, whether the novel is a medium, and how it functions as a networked object and interacts with medial concepts such as memory, storage, preservation and duration. Vanessa gave a keynote talk, "'Want of Proper Objects': Edgeworth, Rousseau and the psychic life of toys" at an eighteenth-century mini-conference, *A Century of Things*, on 2 May. The trio's visit was hosted by Deidre Lynch, Ernest Bernbaum Professor of Literature, and provided them with the opportunity to consult resources in the Harvard libraries, to engage with colleagues from Harvard and from other local universities, and to get a sense of the richness of Harvard graduate teaching.

Australian Literature in China & New York

On 12 April, [Brigid Rooney](#) represented the English Department and its Australian Literature program at an [event](#) to celebrate the career of

esteemed Chinese translator Professor Li Yao. Hosted by the Australia-China Institute for Arts and Culture at Western Sydney University, the event marked the re-publication by Qingdao Publishing House of a commemorative 10 volume series of Li Yao's translations of key works of Australian literature. The series marks the 40th anniversary of Professor Li's career and the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Australia and China.

[Robert Dixon](#) wrote a general preface to the series, which is reproduced in both English and Mandarin in each of the 10 volumes. In it he traces Professor Li's earliest engagement with Australia as a student of Professor Hu, one of the so-called "Gang of Nine", who were among the first students from China to undertake graduate studies in Australia after the Cultural Revolution, studying under the late Professor Leonie Kramer. Professor Li's translations include Patrick White's *The Tree of Man*, Alex Miller's *The Ancestor Game*, Peter Carey's *True History of the Kelly Gang* and Alexis Wright's *Carpentaria*. In 2014, Li Yao was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Sydney for his services to Australian literature.

The Department was well represented at the 2018 conference of the American Association for Australian Literary Studies (AAALS), held at New

York University from 5 to 7 April. [Peter Minter](#) gave the opening address ("The World Up Until Now") as well as the closing poetry reading. [Robert Dixon](#) presented a paper entitled "'Carry-On Up the Bush': Ironic Nationality in Patrick White's *The Twyborn Affair* (1979)", and Benedetto Passaretti, a current PhD student in the Department of English, presented a paper entitled "If Mrs Dalloway and Miss Herbert Were to Meet: The Politics of Negative Feelings in Virginia Woolf and Christina Stead".

English PhD Graduate News

Former Department of English student Sam Reese has won this year's British Association of American Studies/Arthur Miller Centre First Book Prize for the best first book of the year. Sam's book, [The Short Story in Midcentury America: Countercultural Form in the Work of Bowles, McCarthy, Welty, and Williams](#), based on his PhD completed in the English Department in 2014, supervised by [Paul Giles](#), was published by Louisiana State University Press in 2017 (more about Sam below).

Current PhD student Blythe Worthy (supervised by [Rebecca Johnke](#)) was runner-up in the inaugural *Senses of Cinema*-Monash Essay Prize for her essay 'Questioning the "Strong Female Character": Gillian Armstrong's *High Tide* (1987)'.

This month brought inspiring news of recent English PhD graduates who have landed permanent positions in the UK and Australia. Alexandra Kingston-Reese (formerly 'Smith' when studying at Sydney, supervised by [Rebecca Johnke](#)) has secured a continuing position as a Lecturer at the University of York. Sam Reese, Alexandra's husband (mentioned above for his prize-winning book), now has a continuing position as Lecturer at the University of Northampton. And Lili Paquet, another of Associate Professor Johnke's students, has this month won a permanent position teaching writing at the University of New England. Congratulations and best wishes to all, and to their supervisors and mentors in the Department.

Recent and Forthcoming Works

[Belinda Castle](#)'s new novel [Bluebottle](#) is due out with Allen and Unwin in June.

[Anthony Cordingley](#) published "Autotraduire son moi: *Birds of Passage* de Brian Castro" in *Etudes anglaises* 70.4 (2017): 476-93. He gave two seminar papers in Melbourne: "Remembering collaborative translation: histories, technologies, networks" at the University of Melbourne's Translation Research Seminar on 12 April, and "Self-translation: circulation and metonymy" at Monash University's Cultures and Linguistics research seminar on 13 April.

Justine Ettler, supervised by [Rebecca Johnke](#), has just published a novel, [Bohemia Beach](#) (2018, Transit Lounge).

Kate Lilley's new book of poetry, [Tilt](#), was launched as part of a 'triple Vagabond' launch event in the John Woolley Building on 28 May, together with Fiona Hile's *Subtraction* (awarded the Helen Bell Prize for an unpublished manuscript) and Philip

Mead's *Zanzibar Light. Tilt* "follows the skewed itinerary of attachment and loss, possession and dispossession; the movement of people and things, from Greta Garbo's Manhattan exile to the Green Bans of 1970s Sydney to the precarious passages of deracinated subjects".

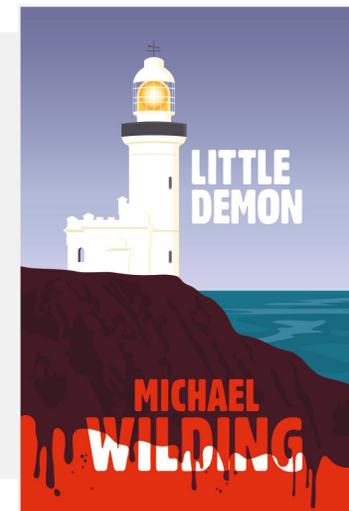
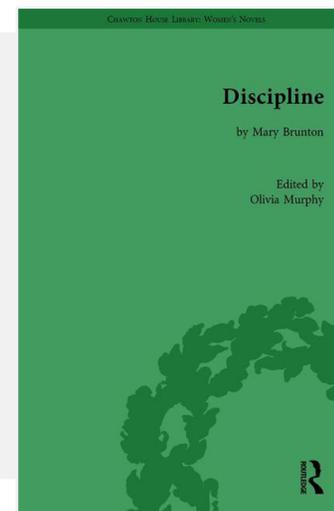
[Olivia Murphy](#)'s edition of Mary Brunton's *Discipline* (1814) has been published by Chawton House Library: Women's Novels Series, Taylor and Francis. Olivia says: "The second novel by Scottish writer Mary Brunton (1778-1818), *Discipline* is a racy follow-up to *Self-Control*. With bratty heiresses, stern-but-sexy abolitionists, ne'er-do-well aristos and proud, Jacobitical Highlanders, *Discipline* is the Evangelical bodice-ripper you've been waiting for; at least if you're Jane Austen, who once struggled to get her hands on a copy. Available in hardback if you've been lucky at cards, or the Library has it as an e-book."

Recent publications

Kate Lilley, [Tilt](#). (2018, Vagabond Press).

Olivia Murphy (Ed), [Discipline: by Mary Brunton](#). (2018, CRC Press).

Michael Wilding, [Little Demon](#). (2018, Australian Scholarly Publishing).



Department of Linguistics

Words by Associate Professor [Monika Bednarek](#) | Chair of Department

Vale M.A.K. Halliday

It is with great sadness that the Department has learnt that Emeritus Professor and founder of the Department of Linguistics, Michael A.K. Halliday, passed away in Sydney on 15 April 2018, aged 93. The departmental obituary can be found [here](#). *The Sydney Morning Herald* published a longer [obituary](#).

Welcome to our new affiliated and honorary staff

The Department is pleased to report that Professor Jaky Troy (Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research) is joining the Department as an Affiliate. We also welcome our new Honorary Associates Professor Trevor Johnston, Associate Professor Sue Hood, Dr [Alice Caffarel](#), and Dr Yankee Modi.

Conferences and other research events

Over the teaching break [Gwendolyn Hyslop](#) travelled to New Zealand in order to meet with collaborator Professor Toni Huber and begin drafting the outcomes of their joint ARC Discovery Project *Reconstruction Eastern Himalayan Histories: Languages, Plants, and People*.

In early March, [Ahmar Mahboob](#) gave a keynote address at the 49th Linguistics Association of the Philippines conference on *Language in Education: More than just medium of instruction*. Ahmar was also awarded Lifetime Honorary Membership in recognition of his work on language/linguistics in the Philippines. In early May, Ahmar was a plenary speaker at BC TEAL's 50th Annual Conference in Vancouver, where he presented on *Space-time, language, society and pedagogy: multiple intersections*.

Over the Easter break, [Jim Martin](#) returned to the Pontifical Catholic University (PUC) of Chile in Santiago (where he had spent his sabbatical in the second half of 2017) to continue work with Beatriz Quiroz on the monograph they are preparing with Chinese colleagues on the lexicogrammar of English, Spanish and Chinese. On 5 April, they presented on the nominal group section of this work at the 2018 Coloquio Permanente in the School of Letters at PUC.

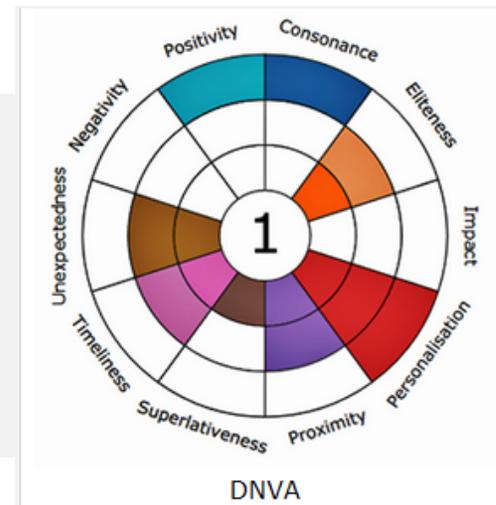
Linguistics in the news

Breaking news: [Nick Enfield](#) was awarded a Sydney Southeast Asia Centre Workshop Grant for an international workshop entitled "The Anthropology of Language in Mainland Southeast Asia" to take place in mid-2019 at the University of Sydney.

Nick Enfield published an opinion piece in *The Sydney Morning Herald* (p18) on 22 May, titled "The aitch or haitch debate has a dark side", arguing that seemingly minor language prejudices are fundamentally no different from the attitudes that underpin the worst excesses of language-based discrimination.

A study led by Nick Enfield, published on 23 May in the journal [Royal Society Open Science](#), attracted worldwide media attention, with reports on the study appearing in major outlets including *The New York Times*, *The Times*, *NRC Handelsblad*, and *Nature Research Highlights*. The [study](#) shows that in informal interaction in home and village style settings, people are highly cooperative, complying with requests most of the time, but seldom receiving a 'thank you'. On average across languages, one out of 20 times someone complies with a request or command, the recipient of help will express gratitude. This finding helps to explain why many languages have no word for 'thank you'.

The website Kaleidographic.org (partially funded through the SLAM Research Support Scheme) is now up-and-running. Kaleidographic is a dynamic and interactive visualisation tool that can show relations between multiple variables in a dataset. Researchers can build their own (free) Kaleidographic visualisations via the website. Instructional videos will be added soon. The visualisation tool was developed by Helen Caple (UNSW) and Monika Bednarek, in collaboration with Laurence Anthony (Waseda University, Japan).



Kaleidographic visualisation of news values (screenshot)

Selected Publications

Bednarek, M. (2018). 'Epilogue: Analyzing pop culture'. In Valentin Werner (ed). *The Language of Pop Culture*. London/New York: Routledge: 253-264.

Cruz, P. and Mahboob, A. (2018). Critiquing Mother-tongue-based Language in Education Policies: A focus on the Philippines. In I. Martin (Ed) *Re-conceptualizing English Education in a Multilingual Society*. New York: Springer.

Cruz, P. and Mahboob, A. (2018). Mother-tongue based multilingual education in the Philippines: Perceptions, problems and possibilities. In

J. Choi and S. Ollerhead (Eds) *Plurilingualism in Learning and Teaching: Complexities across Contexts*. London: Routledge.

Hyslop, G. (2018). On Mirativity and Egophoricity in Kurtöp. In eds. E. Norcliffe, L. San Roque, and S. Floyd *Egophoricity*, 109-138. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Hyslop, G. (2018). Evidentiality in Bodic languages. In ed. Alexandra Aikhenvald *The Oxford handbook of evidentiality*, 595-609. Oxford: OUP.

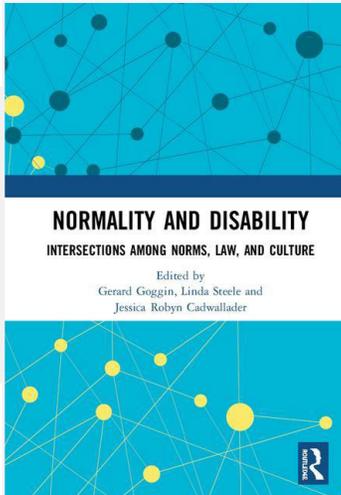
Department of Media & Communications

Words by Associate Professor [Timothy Dwyer](#) | Chair of Department

Visiting Zhejiang Delegation

A delegation of five Chinese colleagues from Zhejiang University visited the Department of Media and Communications on 1 May. The delegation was led by Professor Lu Wei, who is the Director of the Institute of Journalism, and Dean of the College of Media and International Culture. The discussions covered common interests in teaching in research, and the possibilities for future collaboration.

Honorary Associate Mark Pesce Wins Podcast Award

A big congratulations to Digital Cultures Honorary Associate [Mark Pesce](#), who has won a 2018 Australian Podcast Award. Mark, who hosts the program (with producer Alex Mitchell), won the award for Best Science and Technology podcast [The Next Billion Seconds](#). This podcast series profiles the individuals shaping the world of tomorrow. In the podcast, Mark explains how *The Next Billion Seconds* (that's a bit more than 30 years) will be the most important in history – and asks 'what can we know today to help us make better decisions about tomorrow?'.


Digital Roadshow to China

Last month, just as President Xi Jinping was outlining his plans for China's information revolution, MECO's Dr [Fiona Martin](#) and her FASS colleagues arrived in Shanghai to promote the University's Digital Roadshow. The timing was exquisite – with China's major newspapers and networks all promoting a 'people-centred' IT development agenda, just as FASS was trying to raise awareness of its diverse digital media, communications, arts, music and design computing degrees. Dr Martin, together with Dr [Stefan Popescu](#) from Sydney College of the Arts, Mr Liam Bray from the School of Architecture's Design Computing program, and Dr Ivan Zavada from the Sydney Conservatorium, spoke to packed gatherings of prospective students and their families, and delivered professional development training to international high school

Recent publications

Gerard Goggin, Linda Steele, Jessica Robyn Cadwallader (Eds). [Normality and Disability: Intersections among Norms, Law, and Culture](#). (2018, Routledge).

teachers with a view to building knowledge about our innovative digital teaching strategies and study options. The tornado-like tour covered 3 cities in five days, with Libby Graham and Sherrie Huan from Global Mobility ensuring their academics ate well, got to their destinations, and met with alumni, research colleagues and partner businesses. Dr Martin had an exceptionally warm welcome from our China Daily internship hosts, Ms Jin Gou and former University of Sydney students Liu Xuan (Albert) and Chan Bowen (Tiffany). Liu and Chan have introduced a range of digital innovations to *21st Century*, China Daily's youth publication, based on what they said was an inspiring and exciting Masters exchange program in Sydney.

Centre for Medieval & Early Modern Studies

Words by Professor [Daniel Anlezark](#) | Centre Director

Publications

A number of publications by MEMC members or associates and parties have appeared recently. Professor [Anders Ahlqvist](#) has two. The first is a journal edited with others with associations with the MEMC. The second is a publication in Swedish based on a longer English-language paper in Brian Taylor's *Festshrift*, entitled *Germano-Celtica*. The publication in English was discussed in [issue 10](#) of *SLAMmag*.

Journal of the Sydney Society for Scottish History, eds Anders Ahlqvist, Lorna G. Barrow, Carole Cusack, Matthew Glozier and Sybil Jack, 17 (2018). This edition of the journal includes articles by Carole Cusack ("The Cult of St Triduana in Scotland"), Sybil Jack ("The Welsh and Scottish Part in the Making of Magna Carta"), and others.

Anders Ahlqvist, "Hast du mir gesehen," *Språkbruk* 37, no. 1 (2018) 46–47.

Other publications include:

Ursula Potter, "Menstruation and Coming of Age," in *Gender: Time*, ed. Karin Sellbert, (Farmington Hills, MI), 185–200.

Penelope Nash, "Maintaining Elite Households in Germany and Italy, 900–1115: Finance, Control, and Patronage," in *Royal and Elite Households in Later Medieval and Early Modern Europe: More than Just a Castle*, ed. Theresa Earenfight (Leiden), 42–72.

Mockingbird

Diana Jeffries (WSU) has been an active supporter of the Centre and its research activities for many years. The production of her play, *Mockingbird*, about serious mental illness after childbirth (which arose out of her work about Margery Kempe), was very well received. In February, 250 people attended the launch at Western Sydney University (WSU), Parramatta, and two extra nights in Redfern. In March, *Mockingbird* played to a sell-out audience in Auckland and is scheduled for performance again in Melbourne in October 2018.

The Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions (CHE), Sydney Node, gave \$2000 in funding, which is being used to develop video scenarios based on the play in order to train health professionals. See Diana's [blog](#) for the CHE and a segment on SBS Viceland's [The Feed](#).

Audrey Meaney Prize - 2017 (awarded in 2018)

The Audrey Meaney Prize is administered by the Sydney Medieval and Renaissance Group on a yearly basis to a second- or third-year undergraduate student attending a university in the Sydney area. The Audrey Meaney prize for 2017 for the University of Sydney was awarded from a selection of high-quality essays broadly covering Medieval and Early Modern topics. John-Patrick Asimakis (School of Languages and Cultures) was awarded the prize for his essay "Solving the Problem of Virgil: Analysing the 'virtuous pagan' in Dante's *Commedia*".

Presentations at the University of Sydney

John Gagné (Department of History), "Dinner with the Greatest Man on Earth, or, Erasmus's Sword and D'Alviano's Pen," Medieval and Early Modern Centre – 12 April

Hélène Sirantoine (Department of History), "The Politics of al-Andalus," Global Middle Ages – 23 May

Presentations elsewhere

[Carole Cusack](#) (Studies in Religion), "Death, Famine, War & Conquest: The Black Death, The Hundred Years' War, & Popular Revolt in the Calamitous 14th Century," The Plantagenet History Society of Australia – 17 March

[Penelope Nash](#) (Medieval and Early Modern Centre), "Jane Austen and Medieval Women: What on *earth* do they have in common?" Jane Austen Society of Australia – 21 April

Penelope Nash "How Medieval Women Wielded Power and Kept their Wealth," Ashfield Library – 16 May

Presentations at the Sydney Medieval and Renaissance Group (SMRG)

Michele Seah, "Networking: the serious Business of Riding and Hunting" – 14 March

Sharon Davidson, [Jonathan Wooding](#), Lyn Olson, Penelope Nash, "SMRG - History Status and The Melocco Project" – 11 April

Sarah A. Bendall, "Structural Undergarments, Social Mobility, and Changing Sensibilities of Appearance in 17thC England" – 9 May

Middle English Reading Group (MERG)

Jordan Church continues to organise enthusiasts for weekly readings of Middle English texts. Recent selections include the sayings of Diogenes from *The Dicts and Sayings of the Philosophers* and *The Fox and the Wolf in the Well*.

Department of Studies in Religion

Words by Professor [Carole Cusack](#) | Chair of Department

Book Launch, 28 May

Elisha McIntyre submitted her PhD thesis 'God's Comics: Religious Humour in Evangelical Christian and Mormon Comedy' in 2013 and graduated in 2014. Her thesis has now been published as *Religious Humour in Evangelical Christian and Mormon Culture* (2018, Bloomsbury) and a launch was held in the Rogers Room on 28 May to celebrate this research outcome for one of Studies in Religion's former students. While enrolled in her PhD, Elisha was a popular and effective lecturer and tutor in a range of units, and she was one of the first to receive a coveted Postgraduate Teaching Fellowship. The book was launched by another recent Religion PhD graduate, Dr Venetia Robertson, who regaled attendees with a range of "lame Biblical pun jokes" and introduced them to the esoteric world of Mollywood (the Utah equivalent of Hollywood) rom-coms, among other entertaining material from the book. Dr McIntyre's work on religious humour is unique, in that she focuses exclusively on comedy and humour developed by religious individuals for members of their faith communities. Other scholarship focuses on products developed by outsiders like Matt Groening (creator of *The Simpsons*) or Trey Parker and Matt Stone (creators of *South Park*), who make humour out of religious subject matter for outsiders.

This was an especially happy occasion for Studies in Religion, in that we were able to wish Elisha well for the sales and reviews of *Religious Humour in Evangelical Christian and Mormon Culture*, and also to congratulate Venetia (graduated 2017), who takes up a half-year position at Victoria University of Wellington from 1 July, and Morgan Jackson (graduated Honours First Class 2018) on achieving a funded place in Durham University's Masters programme, which he will take up in October 2018.

The Department runs a regular research seminar for staff (everyone invited!) and graduate students. The following papers have been presented in 2018:

13 March – Dr [Christopher Hartney](#) (Studies in Religion, University of Sydney): "An Open Letter to the Residents of Wattle Avenue, Carramar Concerning the Upcoming Dedication of a Temple to Honour the Divine Mother of Caodaism."

27 March – Emeritus Professor Terry Lovat (University of Newcastle): "Islam and Jihadist Extremism: An Ineluctable or Indecorous Fit?"

24 April – Professor Bronwen Neil (Ancient History, Macquarie University): "Evil Dreams and their Interpreters in the Babylonian Talmud."

8 May – Dr Muriel E. Swijghuisen Reigersberg (Research Portfolio & Visiting Fellow Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney): "The Christianity of Ethnomusicology and the Ethics of Applied Research in Christian Contexts: A Hopevalian Case Study."

Sydney College of the Arts

Words by Mr [Andrew Lavery](#) | Director and Chair of Department

My report is devoted to the extraordinary success of SCA staff and alumni since the last edition of SLAMmag. It demonstrates SCA's ongoing contribution to knowledge in contemporary art, but also the cultural life of the city.

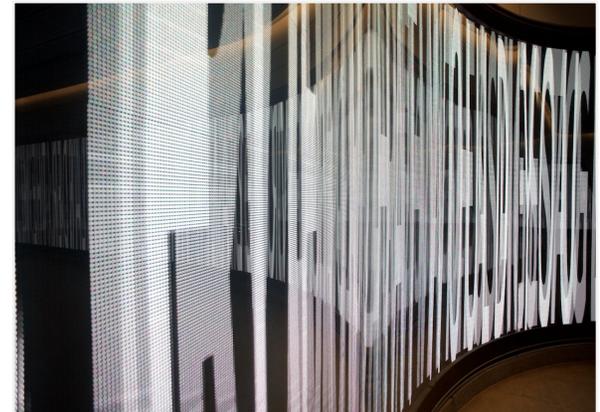
Public work

[Robyn Backen](#)'s work, *Thought Train* has just completed its showing on *Wynscreen*, a distinctively-shaped screen located on the mezzanine level of Wynyard Station's Clarence Street entrance.

Thought Train is an animated series of messages – silent whispers passing through time. The pulsing messages move from clearly representational to abstract coded patterns in a metaphorical representation of the way we articulate unconnected thoughts in relationship to travel or moving. Experienced by travellers transiting Wynyard Station, *Thought Train* broadly references the thematic platforms of Time, Travel and Place in a series of interconnected sequences leading from one thought to another, creating an endless loop. ~ Robyn Backen

Wynscreen is a 23-metre wide curved LED screen showing a constantly changing series of moving images created by Australian sound and installation artists using contemporary digital technology in their art practices. It is situated within Wynyard Walk at the Clarence Street Entrance to Wynyard Station, *Wynscreen* is the first major immersive public art project commissioned by Transport for NSW in conjunction with Cultural Capital.

The next showing of Robyn's work will be in 2019.



Robyn Backen, *Thought Train*, 2018
Photo courtesy of the artist

Staff exhibitions

[Julie Rrap](#)'s *Blow Back* is on exhibition at Roslyn Oxley 9 Gallery from 7 June to 7 July.

Gallery Manager Liam Garstang's *The Shepherds Crook* is on exhibition at Dominik Mersch Gallery from 21 June to 21 July.



Chris Fox, *Interloop*, Wynyard Station, 2018
Photo: Josh Raymond



Tracey Clement, *Metropolis Experiment*, 2018
Photo courtesy of the artist



Jonny Niesche, Spinifex Group, Mark Pritchard, *Virtual Vibration*, Vivid Festival, 2018

Alumni success

Recent MFA graduate Chris Fox was awarded the National Trust, National Heritage award for his public artwork *Interloop* at Wynyard Station.

Recent PhD graduate Tracey Clement was awarded the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre (CPAC) 2018 Blake Prize's Blake Established Artist Residency Award, for her sculptural piece *Metropolis Experiment*, which depicts a post-apocalyptic vision of a ruined city. The Blake Established Artist Residency prize includes a one-month residency and solo exhibition at CPAC.

Jonny Niesche was a featured artist for the Vivid Festival. His work *Virtual Vibration* was on display from 25 May to 16 June. Jonny also curated the MCA Art Bar Vivid edition, which featured several SCA alumni.

Amanda Williams was awarded the \$30,000 Murray Art Museum Albury (MAMA) Art Foundation National Photography Prize for her series *Coleman Plain Karst, Kosciuszko National Park, (know who you are at every age)*.

Maria Fernanda Cardoso's public artwork [*While I Live I Will Grow*](#) for South Sydney's Green Square launched in June.

Oliver Watts has been appointed as the Head Curator of Artbank. He will lead the curatorial program and acquisition strategy, plus drive a range of exciting new national and international projects launching soon.

Department of Theatre & Performance Studies

Words by Kirstin Bokor

Artists in the Rex Cramphorn Studio

Workhorse Theatre Company were in the Rex Cramphorn Studio until 13 May, after which they bumped in to Kings Cross Theatre (KXT). Every Monday during rehearsals however these wonderful artists opened the doors to the rehearsal room for the students in PRFM3961, enabling our students to develop their performance ethnographic writing skills.

The Walworth Farce:

Dinny has kept his two boys Sean and Blake locked away from the dangers of the world in a tiny flat on Walworth Road South London ever since bringing them from Ireland as young boys.

He endlessly forces them to perform a farce at 11:00 every morning, which is the story of their final day in their homeland. But as the outside world begins to infiltrate their seclusion and cracks begin to appear in Dinny's version of events, the blurry line between truth and lies threatens to tear the family apart.

Equal parts hilarious, menacing, absurd, terrifying, tender, violent, and deeply moving The Walworth Farce is a wild exploration into what can happen when we get stuck inside the stories we tell. Because in the end... "what are we, if not our stories?"

Writer Enda Walsh | Director: Kim Hardwick

With: Rachel Alexander, Laurence Coy, Robin Goldsworthy, Troy Harrison
Assistant Director Sarah Hadley; Set/Costume Design Isabel Hudson; Lighting Design Martin Kinanne; Sound Design Benjamin Freeman; Stage Manager Kianah Marlena

We are very grateful to the Workhorse Theatre Company, and Kings Cross Theatre Company, for offering our students and staff discounted tickets so that we could attend this production at the Theatre on 31 May.

If you are interested in what happens in the Rex Cramphorn Studio, please view our [blog](#). If you have any queries, email [Kirstin Bokor](mailto:Kirstin.Bokor).

Student experiences

One of our students, Tracy Cui, recently interned with PlayWriting Australia at the National Playwriting Festival. Tracy had this to say about the experience:

"I was the festival assistant for a new play called 'White Pearl' by Anchuli Felicia King in the National Play Festival. I was mainly responsible for the smooth running of workshops and reporting any developments throughout the process. Because the workshops set the stage for the play reading, I was also responsible for coordinating the logistics for the staging of the show. I found this two-week experience very rewarding, especially that I got to see the playwright, director, dramaturg, and actors at work! Particularly, being in a room where the playwright is still tweaking the beats of the play, and director investigating important actions with actors is a great learning experience for me as an emerging playwright".



Image courtesy Tracy Cui

Honorary associates

Quiet Faith

Words by Dr David Williams

Dr [David Williams](#), an Honorary Associate in the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, is currently touring nationally with his show [Quiet Faith](#), a verbatim theatre project based on interviews with Australian Christians about their views on religion and politics. As David explains, “*Quiet Faith* tries to get to the heart of how contemporary Australian Christians are driven by their faith to enrich their communities. I specifically sought to interview Australian Christians with actively compassionate political leanings – those working in caring roles as social workers and health workers, as well as refugee activists and social justice advocates. The show offers a gentle counter-perspective to the often very loud voices of conservative Christian politicians, and it’s a beautiful experience for audiences, whether or not they themselves are believers.”

Recently, *The Canberra Times* wrote: “*Quiet Faith* blows no trumpets, breathes no hellfire and damnation, utters no sanctimony. It moved the lady I saw with tears rolling down her cheek during the communal singing of Amazing Grace. It aroused a sense of shared community during the audience’s uttering of the Lord’s Prayer. Devoid of pretension, the simple roleplay exposed the irrational, challenged the prejudicial, lauded love and compassion and left the audience to determine the nature of their faith and how it is manifest in their daily lives.”
~ Peter Wilkins, *The Canberra Times*, 17 May 2018.



Quiet Faith. Image by Heidrun Lohr

Changing Pathways, Westmead Precinct

Words by Dr Justine Shih Pearson

Students in the pilot unit of study FASS3999 Interdisciplinary Impact are trialling a new audiowalk of the Westmead Precinct made by Honorary Associate Dr Justine Shih Pearson. *Changing Pathways* is a site-based audio experience of the campus, exploring the site’s social history in light of the large-scale redevelopment of Westmead-Parramatta currently underway. The audiowalk uses binaural (spatially locatable) sound to immerse the walker in a twinned acoustic space in which past and present, usual and unfamiliar, insider and outsider are up for negotiation. Incorporating interviews with First Peoples of the area, local residents, hospital staff, and artists involved in the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct Memory Project, the audiowalk gives voice to the many stories that make up this place in a profound, experiential way. Dr Shih Pearson and Dr [Paul Dwyer](#), along with Professor Michael Anderson from the Sydney School of Education and Social Work, recently participated in a panel discussion on the project (livestreamed via [Periscope](#)). Dr Dwyer, one of the beta-testers for the audiowalk, said of his experience, “You are having a co-created performance experience of that place... What other stories have been lived out here? All these other emotions are bubbling up, and there is a blurring of the noises that are actual, live, situated noises and some spillage with these other sounds. It is so powerful.” *Changing Pathways* is available via [Soundcloud](#).

Department of Writing Studies

Words by Dr [Frances Di Lauro](#) | Chair of Department

“Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, / Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun”; so Keats wrote of autumn in his famous ode. This autumn in the Department of Writing Studies has most certainly been a season of fruitfulness, and like the Romantic poet watches bountiful Nature “load and bless / With fruit the vines”, we have similarly witnessed with pleasure several projects coming to fruition, and members of our staff mature into successful and established academics.

Firstly, we offer the warmest of congratulations to Dr Lili Paquet, who has just accepted a full-time continuing lectureship at the University of New England, beginning in semester 2, 2018. Lili has been working in the Department of Writing Studies since 2015. She has taught three of our first-year units and, as a guest lecturer in a senior unit, shared her work on forensic rhetoric – a focus of her own doctoral research – based on a chapter titled “Professional Eyes: Feminist Crime Fiction by Former Criminal Justice Professionals”. Most recently, her paper “Literary Forensic Rhetoric: Maps, Emotional Assent, and Rhetorical Space in *Serial* and *Making a Murderer*” was published in *Law and Humanities* 12.1. Now, Lili is preparing to move to New England with her husband Sam, and baby daughter Sylvie-Rose. We wish Lili all the best with her move and in her new post, and look forward to watching her promising career unfold.

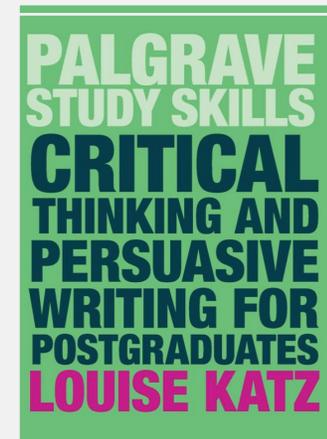
Alongside Lili’s article, we have had several staff publications over the past couple of months. March saw the release of Dr [Louise Katz](#)’s *Critical Thinking and Persuasive Writing for Postgraduates*. In *The TESOL Encyclopedia of English Language Teaching* (ed. J. Lontas, Wiley-Blackwell, 2018), Dr [Bronwen Dyson](#) contributed an entry on ‘Developmental sequences’ in the acquisition of grammar. Dr [Alexander Howard](#), the Department’s newest full-time lecturer, has recently edited the current volume of *Glossator: Practice and Theory of the Commentary*, “Astern in the Dinghy: Commentaries on Ezra’s Pound’s *Thrones de los Cantares XCVI-CIX*” (10, 2018). To this volume, Alex has also contributed an article, “Mr Pound Goes to Washington” (i-xii). He himself has just returned from the University of York, where he was invited to give the paper, “‘The words, the flesh that lives on, as spirit, after we are gone’, or, Charles Henri Ford and the Modernist Archive’ at the [Historicizing Modernism/Modernist Archives Conference](#) (17 to 19 May).

Our research seminars, as ever, continue to showcase the diverse range of projects undertaken by our staff and guests of the Department. In May, Dr [Benjamin Miller](#) presented “The rhetoric of white saviours: How critiquing editors of Indigenous myths and legends can decolonise writing studies”, and Dr Bonnie Devett, visiting from America, shared her work on rhetoric and pedagogy in her paper,

“Transfer of Learning for Teachers and Tutors of Academic Writing”. Dr Devett directs the Writing Lab at the College of Charleston, South Carolina – the transatlantic counterpart to our own Dr Alex Howard. To make connections across universities and share practices, ideas and visions for the teaching of writing is a great privilege, and one which we hope will continue between writing centres across the globe.

Recent publications

Louise Katz. [Critical Thinking and Persuasive Writing for Postgraduates](#). (2018, Palgrave Macmillan).



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The following departments and programs are located in the School of Literature, Art and Media:

- Art History
- Celtic Studies
- English
- Linguistics
- Media and Communications
- Medieval and Early Modern Studies
- Museum Studies
- Studies in Religion
- Sydney College of the Arts
- Theatre and Performance Studies
- Writing Studies