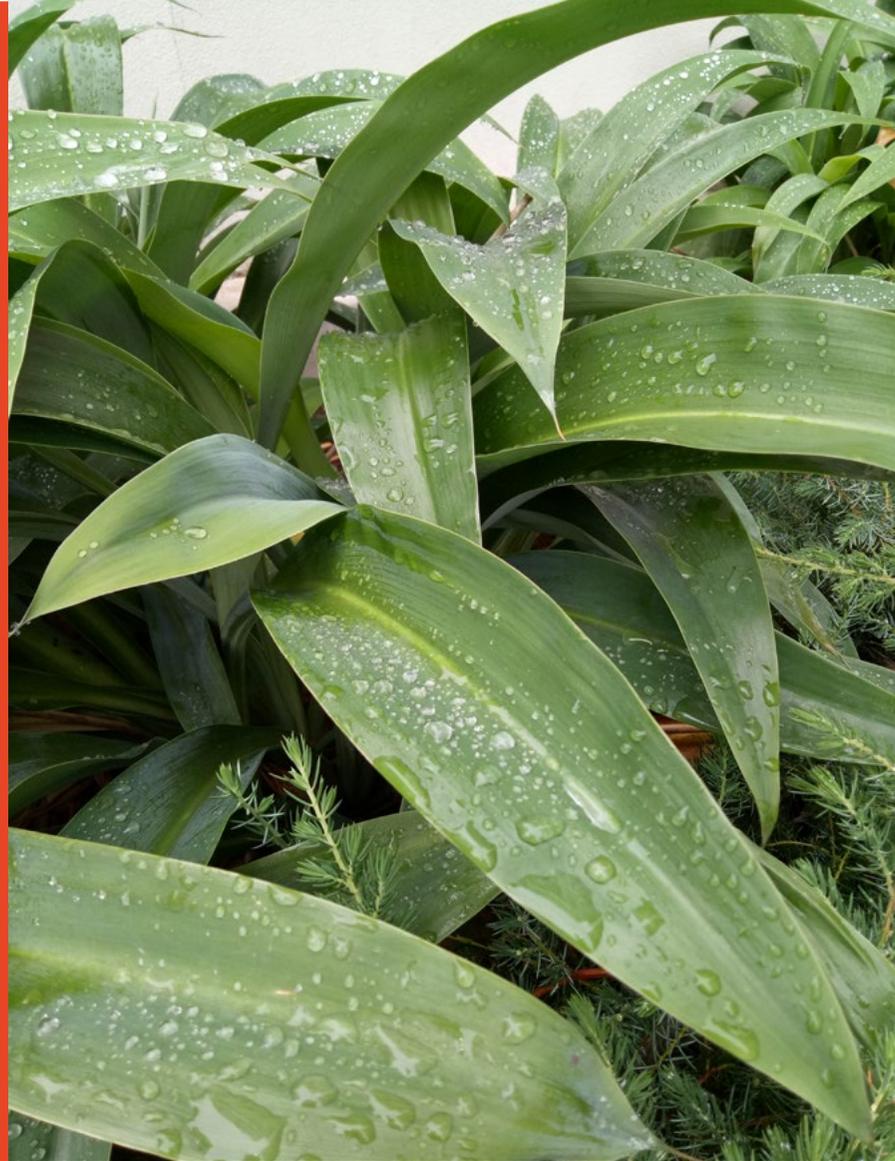




THE UNIVERSITY OF
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SLAM*mag*

SLAM*mag* 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 address

Dear Colleagues,

In this message, I want to focus on the Sydney College of the Arts. Known to many as SCA, this amazing College is now organisationally part of our School, and will join us physically in 2020 when it will move from Rozelle campus to the Old Teachers College at Camperdown. The building, just across from John Woolley where much of SLAM - but not all - is housed, is being refurbished for the purpose. Adding a cluster of talented and highly regarded arts practitioners to our School will confirm the fact that SLAM is no doubt the creative powerhouse of the University. For an example of this, see page 12 of this edition of *SLAMmag*. See also the architect's renderings of the OTC refurbishment on page 24 of this edition of *SLAMmag*.



Professor [Umberto Ansaldo](#)
Head, SLAM

news

SLAM New Faces

[Kathleen Davidson](#)



I am a newly appointed Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Art History. My research areas include: nineteenth-century visual culture; the history of photography; and the intersections of visual art and science, with particular focus on nineteenth-century intellectual, professional and creative networks. Prior to undertaking my PhD, I was Curator of International Photography at the National Gallery of Australia. My background in museums inspired my recent book *Photography, Natural History and the Nineteenth-Century Museum: Exchanging Views of Empire* (Routledge, 2017). I am presently finalising a co-edited volume, *Sea Currents in Nineteenth-Century Art, Science and Culture* (Bloomsbury Academic). This book examines the commodification of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Ocean worlds during the long nineteenth century, focusing on the representation, transformation and transaction of marine objects through networks of empire and the interconnecting realms of art, science and culture. My current research project examines imperial/transnational exchanges, and associated visual art and design, arising from the nineteenth-century acclimatisation movement.

Lea Redfern



Lea Redfern is an internationally recognised audio producer in radio and podcasting with over 20 years' experience at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC). She has received an Australian Human Rights Award for documentary radio and the 2016 inaugural Sarah Award for radio drama in New York.

In 2017, she was invited to teach podcasting and audio to capstone students at the University of Sydney. In 2018, she developed the foundational course in audio for undergraduate students. She wrote and taught (with a fabulous team) the new - and highly successful - postgraduate podcasting course. She holds a first class honours degree in communications from UTS and is currently completing a Graduate Certificate in University Teaching and Learning at the University of Sydney.

[Margaret Van Heekeren](#)



I am a newly appointed education-focused Lecturer in Media and Communications, having worked with MECO on teaching and research contracts since 2017. A former journalist, I have been a journalism and media educator for 15 years and I am currently an editorial board member of [The Junction](#), a national collaboration of more than 20 Australian universities, including USYD. I am also a journalism historian and my research in this area has focused on the history of ideas in journalism and the relationship between old and new media forms. My current research is exploring the teaching of journalism and media history in Australian media programs.

Pam Walker

I have a passion for journalism and teaching and am lucky my work allows me to enjoy both. I am currently a Lecturer in Media and Communications, editor-in-chief of [Salience](#), the Department's student showcase website, and campus editor for the Sydney University participation in [The Junction](#) 2019 federal election coverage. I have taught at the University of NSW, UTS and Western Sydney University, and worked as media adviser for City of Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore; freelancer for *The South China Morning Post*; editor, *NewsLocal*, *The Fairfield Advance*; journalist and editor *Courier Newspapers* (Group Arts Editor, inaugural editor *Central*, editor and news editor *The Wentworth Courier*); editor *The Glebe* (Cumberland); journalist *Fairfax Community Newspapers* (the *Fairfield City Champion*); and editor *The City Hub*, *The Bondi View* and *The City News*.



Words by Christian Haag,
SLAM Communications Officer

On 10 May, more than 200 students, staff, donors, family, and friends convened in the historic Great Hall of the Quadrangle for the 2019 SLAM Prizes and Awards Ceremony. This prestigious event celebrates our students' achievements and is the highlight of our annual calendar. The evening provided a wonderful opportunity to thank the School's benefactors for their generosity and for students to share their success with family and friends.

With its imposing gothic architecture, stained glass windows, and marble floor, the Great Hall was the perfect venue to host this year's ceremony.

The proceedings commenced with a warm welcome by the Head of School, Professor Umberto Ansaldo, who presided over the event.

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

- Studies in Religion - Associate Professor [Jay Johnston](#)
- Media and Communications - Dr [Alana Mann](#)
- Linguistics - Professor [James Martin](#)
- English & Australian Literature - Dr [Brigid Rooney](#)
- Celtic Studies – Professor [Jonathan Wooding](#)
- Art History - Dr [Catriona Moore](#)

This year, 84 awards, prizes, and scholarships were awarded across six disciplines. Winners of the English Literary Prizes were also presented with certificates.

Particularly impressive were the five students who succeeded in receiving two prizes:

- Alana Bowden: GS Caird Scholarship in Religious Studies II & John Cooper Memorial Prize (Undergraduate)
- Benjamin Hewitt: Hadyn Lloyd Davies Prize for Welsh Language & Arthur Capell Prize for an essay on Australian and Pacific Linguistics
- Victoria Anh-Vy Pham: The John Schaeffer Fund for Nineteenth Century Art (Fieldwork) & Henry Lawson Prize for Prose
- Soo-Min Shim: Francis Stuart Prize & Mary Makinson Prize for Fourth Year Fine Arts
- Leanne Williams: Power Institute Alumni Prize in Australian Art & The John Schaeffer Fund for Nineteenth Century Art (Fieldwork)

The ceremony also marked the introduction of the Hill + Knowlton Strategies Prize in Media and Communications and the John Schaeffer Fund for Nineteenth-Century Art. The Hill + Knowlton Strategies Prize is awarded to a postgraduate student for an outstanding essay in Financial and Investor Communication. The John Schaeffer Fund for Nineteenth-Century Art assists undergraduate Art History students with costs of fieldwork and study tours.

The event concluded with drinks and a delightful selection of canapes. Students, academics, and donors seized the opportunity to discuss their work and the disciplines they are passionate about. Thank you to all students, benefactors and staff who attended the event. And Congratulations to all the prize winners!

See photos from the night on the following pages. For more photos, head to [Facebook.com/usyd.slam](https://www.facebook.com/usyd.slam).

news SLAM Prizes Night *(cont'd)*

Congratulations to all our prize winners!



The ceremony was held in the Great Hall of the Quadrangle



news SLAM Prizes Night (cont'd)

Some of our prize winners ...



news SLAM Prizes Night (cont'd)

Some of our prize winners ...



Dr Brigid Rooney with Thomas Dickinson



Prof. James Martin with Lee Cheng Koay



A/Prof. Jay Johnston with Larissa Grinsell



Dr Alana Mann with Rachel Roan

news SLAM Prizes Night (cont'd)

Some of our prize donors ...



Ben Warburton with Elizabeth Newton



L-R: Donald Adams, Anna Verney and Dr Brigid Rooney



Linda Oliveira with Alana Bowden



Mandy Galmes (Hill+Knowlton) with Courtney O'Sullivan Stanley



L-R: Professor John Carter, Helen Carter, Amie Anthony and Dr Catriona Moore



Simon Hammond (Appen) with Carly Bray

Words by Sarah Taylor,
SLAM Research Support Officer

The SLAM Research Day, held on 21 May, was attended by over 50 researchers from across the School, plus the Dean and FASS Directors of Research Development. The event was described by colleagues as “inspiring”, and “a great success”. SLAM Head of School, Professor [Umberto Ansaldo](#), began the session by sharing an [interactive visualisation](#) of the major research themes within SLAM, created using information available on academic profiles online, publication listings and publication abstracts. The visualisation can be used to find terms used by multiple people across departments, and to discover possible opportunities for future collaboration. In fact, the China Studies Centre wants to produce some visualisations for its own research.

We then heard a number of highlights from colleagues about current research projects that include aspects of collaboration with other researchers or engagement outside the walls of the University. First, Professor [Paul Giles](#) spoke about a new collaboration with colleagues from Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, and Mainz, Germany. The project aims to expand the internationalisation of American Studies by considering the relations between local and global through an Austral and Pacific framework, and will suggest ways in which transnational interactions between Australia and the wider world are helping to shape new understandings of representation in both its aesthetic and political forms.

Dr [Mark Post](#) shared about his work of documentation and description of Asian minority languages from the Eastern Himalayan “diversity hotspot”. This is a particularly timely project as most endangered languages are spoken by Indigenous peoples and 2019 is the UNESCO [International Year of Indigenous Languages](#). Mark’s aim is to document and describe as many Eastern Himalayan languages as possible and work with speakers of these languages on projects that will hopefully positively impact on the sustainability of the languages.

Dr [Alana Mann](#) spoke about her ARC Linkage-funded project [FoodLab Sydney](#) which aims to address food insecurity by bringing vulnerable people into the food system. An alternative to the charity-based model of providing free or cheap food, FoodLab Sydney aims to assist vulnerable populations participate in the development of new food businesses, empowers individuals and communities, expands inclusion in the food system, and creates new economic development opportunities. This project will be the first to test this promising approach to food insecurity in Australia.

Associate Professor [Jay Johnston](#) surprised many colleagues with the discussion of her project *Rewilding Religion: An Aesthetics of Religion Approach*. This approach asks: *How in the context of religious practice are the senses stimulated, governed and disciplined? How are religious experiences, emotions and attitudes created, memorised and normalised? How do religious perceptual orders interact with those of a larger culture?* The project includes consideration of ‘animal’ religion, how wildlife tourism effects everyday life, and cultivating community through nature connection.

Professor [Mark Ledbury](#) discussed two very different research projects in which he is involved. His ARC-funded project *Performing Transdisciplinarity* is a collaboration with colleagues at ANU, Oxford University and Sorbonne and will publish a digital critical edition of an illustrated eighteenth-century songbook, making a rich and linked version of the songbook available and testing the interface that might provide a blueprint for others. The other project, [Site and Space in Southeast Asia](#), is the second collaborative grant funded primarily by the Getty Foundation, and explores, through site-based research, the intersections of urban space, art and culture in three cities – Yangon, Penang and Hué.

news SLAM Research Day (cont'd)

Dr [Paul Dwyer](#) shared about his verbatim theatre collaboration with the Sydney Arts and Health Collective, titled [Grace Under Pressure](#). The original theatre project developed from interviews with doctors and nurses at various stages of their careers and is opening a critical space for conversation about the often taboo issues of workplace and training cultures that are making young health professionals sick and putting patient lives at risk. *Grace Under Pressure* was first performed at the Seymour Centre in 2017 and extracts of the work are now being used in the training of health professionals around Australia.

Dr [Sanné Mestrom](#) spoke about her practice-based research 'Play and Social Progress explored through Art in Public Spaces: Connecting art, play, education and public space'. This project considers how we can make the urban landscape playable, and why this is important. In collaboration with local councils, Sanné designs and creates 'playable sculptures', such as the playable-sculpture-in-development, *Sun Room* (Docklands, Melbourne), which includes a sun dial of sorts that indicates, using different coloured soft-fall inlays, the current season of the seven seasons of the local Wurundjeri people (to which there was an audible expression of appreciation from the audience).

The second session of the day included three roundtable discussions of research projects in development for external funding. Each table included experienced colleagues to provide advice, as well as a variety of colleagues at different stages of developing new projects. These discussions proved very useful for many researchers and roundtables will be a format we return to for a subsequent research day later in 2019.

Overall, the Research Day provided a space for the development of useful connections with colleagues in the context of engaging with the wonderful breadth and depth of research conducted within SLAM. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the day.



news In the Spotlight ...

Words by [Umberto Ansaldo](#)

On 4 March 2019, Sydney College of the Arts' Senior Lecturer, [Joyce Hinterding](#), was awarded the 2019 Australia Council for Emerging & Experimental Arts Award. The Australia Council Awards are the nation's most prestigious recognition of outstanding and sustained contributions by Australian artists in music, literature, community arts and cultural development (CACD), emerging and experimental arts, visual arts, theatre, and dance. Joyce's practice, based on investigations into acoustic and electromagnetic phenomena, through custom built field recording and monitoring technologies, have produced large sculptural antenna works, experimental drawings, video and sound-producing installations and experimental audio works for performance.

See a most moving [video clip](#) of Joyce's award presentation showcasing her work, including visualising sculptural qualities of sound, at the ceremony at Carriageworks on 4 March.

Congratulations, Joyce. We are proud to have you among us.



Photos courtesy Lisa Lim

Department of Art History

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

It's been a busy three months for Art History and Film Studies. [Donna West Brett](#) and Mimi Kelly, our resident Germanophiles, have been deep in final planning stages of the 2019 Fieldwork unit to be held in Berlin in July, with pre-trip seminars at the Art Gallery of NSW and the Museum of Contemporary Art. Thirty students will join Donna and Mimi for two weeks in the city described as "poor but sexy", immersing themselves in art museums, monuments, and Berlin's history of war and division. From Islamic to contemporary art, the tour is jam-packed with on-the-ground learning in some of the world's best collections of art. Students will have the opportunity to experience art and culture in the flesh and groups will make presentations in front of the very subjects they are talking about – what a fantastic experience! You can follow the group on [#arthistoryinaction](#) or [#berlin19arthistory](#).

At SLAM's recent Prizes Night we paid tribute to our enthusiastic and ever-curious student body, and we congratulate prize-winners Shim Soo-Min, Cassandra Madderom, Adelaide Wallace, Charlotte Lim, Darius Whittaker, Donnalyn Xu, Jennifer Yang, Amie Anthony, William Jeffrey,

Hannah Bradshaw and Leanne Williams for their wonderful efforts. At the May graduations we also toasted University medal winner Jennifer Stafford and raised our glasses to a large cohort of Art Curating and Museum & Heritage Studies postgraduates, to whom we wish all the very best in their art, museum and film ventures. Alumni networks are important in our industry, and we are keen to support recent student initiatives, like our postgraduate alumni network and the fledgling university GLAM Society (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums).

It was heartening to see so many students attending the Power Institute panel discussion and book launch celebrating Eugenia Raskopoulos' work in [The National](#) and her new monograph, [Vestiges of the Tongue](#). A Sydney-based artist who spoke Greek before English, Raskopoulos has spent four decades interrogating language and its impact on the body, performing slippages of translation and tracing the movement of words as they migrate across time and space, becoming both remnants of history and data for future surveillance. Power also hosted Matthew Affron, curator at the Philadelphia Museum of Art,

to talk with students, colleagues and the general public, taking on Duchamp's ideas about the institution of the art museum through the room-sized tableau-construction *Étant donnés*, the artist's last major work.

International Women's Day in March was marked in a number of ways by staff and students. [Catriona Moore](#) co-curated an exhibition at Wollongong Regional Art Gallery as part of the 'Future Feminist Archive' series. The show opened with a lively street and gallery performance commemorating the inaugural 1979 International Women's Day march in Wollongong. This celebratory event and exhibition have generated a series of 'town hall' round-tables with local government, Wollongong University and women's organisations to develop and promote feminist histories in the South Coast region. Also during this period, Nina Stromqvist (working with Catriona in the ARHT6960 Contemporary Curating unit) curated an exhibition at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre which brought together Australian and Swedish artists working with the natural environment, sound and silence.

It's also been a brisk season for department staff. [Ann Elias](#) published *Coral Empire: Underwater oceans, colonial tropics, visual modernity* (Duke Press), a book that takes a long overdue look at mass media constructions of the figure of the coral reef as a spectacle of nature, and the progressive degradation of coral reef environments through tourism and industry.

In April, [Mary Roberts](#) was an invited visiting expert at the Courtauld Institute of Art's Research Forum in London. She gave a public lecture, a staff/student seminar and conducted a museum visit all in response to this year's theme, [Edward Said's Orientalism after 40 years](#). Closer to home, [Yvonne Low](#) was invited to speak at the Asian Art Gallery 4A. "Please Explain: The Rise of New Asia is not the end of the World" was part of the gallery's public program for the exhibition

[By All Estimates](#). Yvonne also co-convened the second iteration of [Gender in Southeast Asian Art Histories: Art, Design and Canon-Making?](#) at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. The event featured lectures, workshops, panel discussions, exhibitions and film screenings. A key focus of the event was the histories of 'Womanifesto', a significant but understudied feminist artistic residency and exhibition project, that has been held bi-annually in various locations in Thailand since 1995. An important outcome of the exhibition is a digitisation project to be undertaken by [Asia Art Archive](#) (Hong Kong) this year. A University of Sydney October event will extend conversations initiated in Bangkok around women's exhibitions, archives and canon-making, including an exhibition of the 'Womanifesto' Archives at [The Cross Art Projects](#).

[Mary Roberts](#) was interviewed about her book, *Istanbul Exchanges* and her latest research by Zeinab Azarbadegan (Columbia University) for the Ottoman History Podcast. [Chiara O'Reilly](#) and [Anna Lawrenson](#) were interviewed by Gina Fairley from ArtsHub about the current state of blockbuster exhibitions. Her piece drew heavily upon their interview and recent book [The Rise of the Must-See Exhibition](#). [Catriona Moore](#) was also interviewed by the ABC for a podcast on varied practices that come under the umbrella slogan of 'craftivism'. This program will be posted next week.

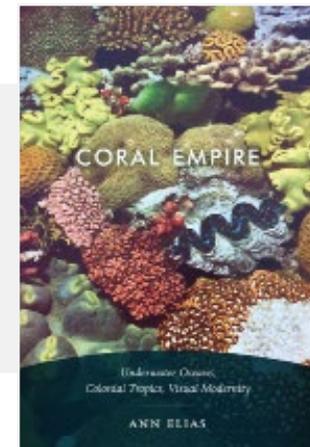
Stop press: Welcome to baby Erin Low! We pride ourselves in being among the more sentimental of SLAM departments, and we welcome a new arrival in the Mills Building. Congratulations to Yvonne Low, and best wishes to her growing family.



Berlin Fieldwork students examine Janet Laurence's environmental installation at the MCA as part of the pre-trip preparation. Photo courtesy Donna West Brett

Recent publications

Ann Elias. [Coral Empire: Underwater Oceans, Colonial Tropics, Visual Modernity](#) (2019, Duke University Press)



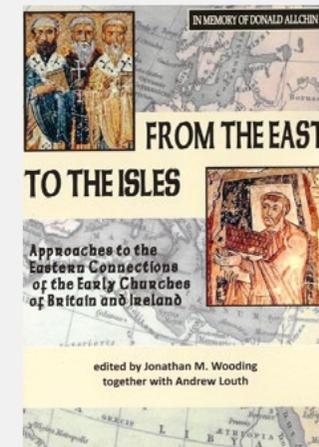
Celtic Studies

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

From 14-17 April 2020, the Celtic Studies programme will host the Sixth Conference of the International Research Consortium for Irish and Scottish Studies. The consortium is an initiative of the University of Aberdeen (Scotland) which has already been taken to universities in Canada and New Zealand, as well as Scotland. We are honoured to be the first Australian university to host a conference in this series. The theme is Sovereignty and Territory: Ireland, Scotland and their Diasporas, with papers invited from a wide range of disciplines and periods. We are grateful to our friends in Aberdeen, especially Professor Cairns Craig, for the invitation to host this exciting event.

We would also like to congratulate all our students who received prizes at the recent SLAM Prizes Night. The annual awards evening is a special occasion where we can celebrate things that are essential to our programme: the great achievement, as well as enthusiasm, of our students, and the generosity of the benefactors who make possible Celtic Studies at the University of Sydney. See pages 5-8 of this edition of SLAMmag for more.

Recent publications



Jonathan Wooding & Andrew Louth (Eds).
[From the East to the Isles: Approaches to the Eastern Connections of the Early Churches of Britain and Ireland](#) (2019, Fellowship of St Alban and St Sergius)

Department of English

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

Publications

Dr [James Kane](#) and co-author Dr Keagan Brewer have a new book out with Routledge in the series 'Crusade Texts in Translation': *The Conquest of the Holy Land by Salah al-Din: A Critical Edition and Translation of the Anonymous 'Libellus de expugnatione Terrae Sanctae per Saladinum'*. The book is a study and new critical edition with facing-page English translation of an anonymous Latin text written by somebody who was present in Jerusalem (and claims to have taken an arrow to the nose!) when it fell to the Muslim sultan Saladin in October 1187.

Professor [Liam Semler](#) has been appointed as the editor of a recently announced *Cambridge Elements* (Cambridge University Press) series called [Shakespeare and Pedagogy](#). The series will provide 'a carefully curated collection of explorations, interventions and provocations', synthesising 'theory and practice, with provocative, original pieces of research, as well as dynamic, practical engagements with learning contexts'.

Dr [Vanessa Berry](#)'s essay [Future, past, present](#) was published in March with the opening of *The National 2019*, an exhibition of new work by contemporary Australian artists across the Art Gallery of NSW, Carriageworks and the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia. The essay is one of three commissioned to respond to the themes of *The National*, with a focus on the Carriageworks exhibition, curated by Daniel Mudie Cunningham.

Visiting fellowship

Associate Professor [Mark Byron](#) is invited to the China Studies Centre at Kansai University in Osaka as a visiting scholar (from September to October 2019). While in Japan, Mark will chair sessions and present his work at the Modernism Studies in Asia conference in Tokyo (12-14 September). He will also serve on the Modernist Studies in Asia Advisory Board. He looks forward to the opportunity this brings to strengthen ties with East Asian literary studies generally.

Bell Shakespeare visitor

ENGL2640 Shakespeare coordinator Dr [Huw Griffiths](#) reports that his students were visited in one of the unit's final lectures by James Evans, Artistic Director of Bell Shakespeare. James spoke to the students about Shakespeare, about Bell Shakespeare's upcoming production of *Titus Andronicus* (a play that they have been studying), and about his role as an artistic director. Accompanying James was Imogen Gardam, Bell Shakespeare's Artistic Administrator and former ENGL2640 student.

Award news

Dr [Brigid Rooney](#)'s *Suburban Space, the Novel and Australian Modernity* (Anthem 2018) has been shortlisted for the Association for the Study of Australian Literature's biennial Walter McRae Russell Award (given for a best book of literary scholarship on an Australian subject published in the preceding two calendar years). Information and current shortlist can be found on the [ASAL website](#).

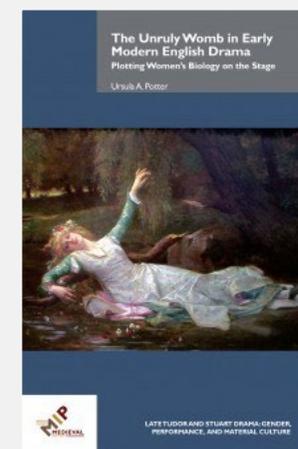
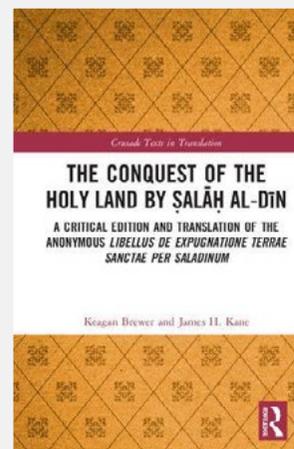
Alumni news

Dr Sara Crouch, who received her PhD in English in 2018 under the supervision of Professor Vanessa Smith, has been awarded a fellowship at Yale's Lewis Walpole Library to work on the conversion of her thesis, *Surface Tensions: Representations of Skin in the Long Eighteenth Century*, to a book manuscript. Some years ago, Dr Amelia Dale (supervised by Dr [Nicola Parsons](#)) also won a Lewis Walpole Library fellowship for her project "Our Cyprian Stage": *Character, Theatre and Harris's List of Covent Garden Ladies* – Amelia is now employed at Shanghai University of International Business and Economics.

Recent publications

Keagan Brewer & James Kane. [The Conquest of the Holy Land by Salah al-Din: A critical edition and translation of the anonymous 'Libellus de expugnatione Terrae Sanctae per Saladinum'](#) (2019, Routledge)

Ursula Potter. [The Unruly Womb in Early Modern English Drama: Plotting Women's Biology on the Stage](#) (2019, De Gruyter)



Department of Linguistics

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

We are very excited about the many events the Department has been involved in these past months (and continuing), from corpus linguistics to Indigenous languages to multicultural ecologies and linguistic diversity.

Launch of the Sydney Corpus Lab

The [Sydney Corpus Lab](#) has officially been launched! This is an online platform for connecting computer-based linguists across the University of Sydney and beyond. From 18-19 March, the Lab hosted its [first event](#) – a series of talks which highlighted some of the great work going on in corpus linguistics in Australia and overseas. The program included speakers from Lancaster University (UK), Waseda University (Japan), the University of Melbourne, and the University of Sydney.



TRICL 2 participants

Training and Resources for Indigenous Community Linguists (TRICL) 2

As one of the many events being organised in association with UNESCO's International Year of Indigenous Languages, [Mark Post](#) and Yankee Modi co-organised *Training and Resources for Indigenous Community Linguists (TRICL) 2* in Arunachal Pradesh, India, from 15-19 April. Sponsored by a grant from the Firebird Foundation for Anthropological Research, the event was attended by 20 Indigenous Community Linguists representing 13 ethnolinguistic communities from northeast India and Bhutan, and included intensive training and practice in community-focused language documentation. The local hosts of TRICL2 were the Modi and Koyu clans of Napit Village.



Yankee Modi (L) with TRICL 2 participants

Photos courtesy Mark Post

Publishing workshop

On 9 May, the Language and Education node of the Sydney Centre for Language Research hosted a successful workshop on “Publishing from a PhD”, organised by [Yaegan Doran](#), [Monika Bednarek](#) and [Nick Enfield](#) offered keen insights into the publishing process, while Professor Brian Paltridge (SSESW) and Associate Professor Joanna Arciuli (Health Sciences) focused on turning a thesis into a monograph and journal articles. The workshop was very well attended with around 70 HDR and ECR scholars brimming with questions.

Ancestry and Language Symposium

A 2-day symposium on Ancestry and Language was organised and hosted by [Lisa Lim](#), [Umberto Ansaldo](#) and [Nick Enfield](#) from 16-17 May. This was an event of *The ebb and flow of heritage: Investigating urban multilingual diaspora*, a project co-funded by the University of Hong Kong’s HKU-USydney Strategic Partnership Fund and University of Sydney’s HKU-USydney Priority Partnership Collaboration Award (Umberto Ansaldo and Nicholas Enfield, Pls; Lisa Lim, Co-I), one of whose goals is to further strong and dynamic collaborations between the two institutions. The symposium brought together scholars from the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Macquarie University, the University of New South Wales, and from the University of Sydney not only from SLAM but also SLC, SSESW, and Sydney Law School. Presentations and discussions explored dimensions of heritage/minority/indigenous/community languages, with a central question being how cultural ancestries and linguistic practices are managed, in particular in urban multicultural ecologies, in relation to law and government policy, acquisition and education, migration and identity, as well as the engagement that we in higher education have the responsibility to pursue. Our contributions included [Lisa Lim](#)’s ‘Engaging enquiry into heritage languages: Linguistic minorities of HK’, [Ahmar Mahboob](#)’s ‘Doing Subaltern Linguistics: Reasons, directions, and early outcomes’, and [Umberto Ansaldo](#) and [Nick Enfield](#)’s participation on the closing ‘Desiderata’ panel. Symposium programme and abstracts are available [here](#).

Upcoming event

The Department of Linguistics will host a week-long event, [Linguistic Diversity in the Asian Century](#), comprising the 52nd International Conference on Sino-Tibetan Languages and Linguistics (ICSTLL52, 24-26 June), the 25th Himalayan Languages Symposium (HLS25, 28-29 June), a day of associated workshops (27 June) and a panel on Language Endangerment in the Himalayan Region (27 June).

Media engagement

[Umberto Ansaldo](#) was interviewed and cited in an SBS News article ([published online](#) on 22 May 2019) on harnessing new technology to boost engagement in language learning, and rethinking how languages are taught in schools.



Some of the Ancestry and Language symposium participants at the reception at the Holme Building, University of Sydney, 16 May 2019.

Department of Media & Communications

Words by Dr [Alana Mann](#) | Chair of Department



Filming: Mareike Bire behind the camera and Gabrielle Platt get ready to film. Photo: *Bunty Avieson*



Tanya Plibersek fronts the media at her post-election party at the Erskineville Bowling Club. Photo courtesy Pam Walker

MECO students cover the election

Under the expert leadership of Pam Walker, [Alison Ray](#) and [Bunty Avieson](#), MECO volunteers reported on the 2019 federal election campaign. They exceeded all expectations, delivering excellent real-time comprehensive coverage that included more than 22 stories - profiles, news features and multimedia packages. Their work was published on [The Junction](#), a massive national student project involving 23 universities that showcases and promotes student journalism, and on MECO's student showcase site [Salience](#).

Over the semester more than a dozen volunteer students across four postgraduate journalism units attended a Friday on-campus “newsroom” to discuss and plan their coverage. Their stories ranged from electorate and candidate profiles to in-depth features on issues of local and national relevance including climate change on Norfolk Island (Jen Grinham), how candidates have used WeChat to woo Chinese voters (Wuruo Xu), the magic of political satire (Tim Piccione) and the needs of the Indigenous community in Redfern (Gabrielle Platt). And just like working journalists, Maria Gil and Cindy Cameronne hit the road on election day to submit fabulous reports and photos of candidates from booths

around the electorate. The day after the election, Jen Grinham submitted a thoroughly researched and beautifully illustrated report of the election result, with infographics she created. The election coverage culminated on election night with a live cross to the Erskineville Bowling Club, where Tanya Plibersek was having her party, for the national three-hour broadcast coordinated out of RMIT, Melbourne, which featured political analysis, commentary and 31 live crosses to student reporters across 17 universities. MECO students Keeli Royle and Cindy Cameronne spoke off-the-cuff to camera, eloquently explaining the voting patterns in the Sydney electorate, aided by Gabrielle Platt and Marieke Bire who also worked the room filming Tanya's speech for a video package. The broadcast was live-streamed on Facebook and on Melbourne TV station Channel 31, and relayed to Adelaide and Perth, as well as the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia's network of radio stations.

The national Junction Journalism project is supported by the newly-established Judith Neilson Foundation for Journalism and Ideas. The foundation was established by billionaire philanthropist Judith Neilson late last year to support evidence-based journalism.

In other news

[Olaf Werder](#) presented a research report, titled "Digital health communication and citizen empowerment: Connecting health interventions, technology, and communities", at the 2019 meeting of the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), held in Rotorua, New Zealand from 7-11 April. The IUHPE is the world's foremost independent professional association committed to improving the health and wellbeing of the world's population. Its core mission lies in making the case for effective health promotion and the development and implementation of healthy public policy.

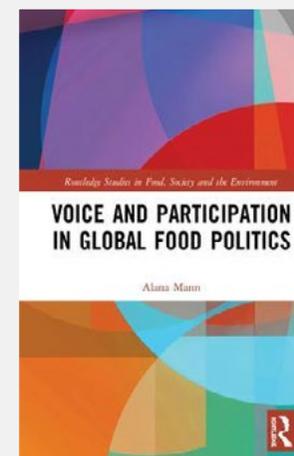
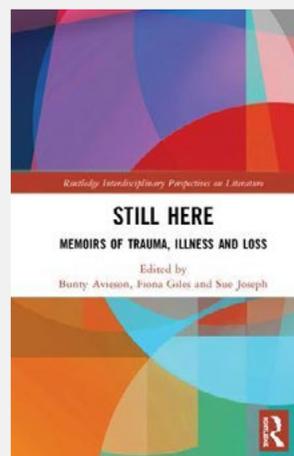
[Alana Mann](#), in conversation with Professor Dany Celemajer, launched her new monograph *Voice and Participation in Global Food Politics* before a full house at the Forrest Lodge Hotel on 17 May, supported by the Sydney Environment Institute.

In April, [Heather Horst](#) launched the new documentary film "Parenting in the Smart Age: Fijian Perspectives" at the Oceania Centre Pavillion at the University of the South Pacific, Fiji. The film, an outcome of the ARC Discovery Project "The Moral and Cultural Economy of the Mobile Phone" with Robert Foster, was followed by a panel and community discussion with 160 attendees from local NGOs, Vodafone Fiji, parents and others. The film, a collaboration between the Journalism Programme at the University of the South Pacific and the University of Sydney, was co-directed by Romitesh Kant, [Heather Horst](#) and Elike Drugunalevu and included soundmixing by [Diana Chester](#). The film will be placed online for free download in June 2019.

Recent publications

Bunty Avieson, Fiona Giles & Sue Joseph (Eds). [Still Here: Memoirs of Trauma, Illness and Loss](#) (2019, Routledge)

Alana Mann. [Voice and Participation in Global Food Politics](#) (2019, Routledge)



Medieval & Early Modern Centre

Words by Dr [John Gagné](#) | Director, MEMC

It's my pleasure to greet the readership of SLAMmag in my first semester as Director of the Medieval and Early Modern Centre. I'd like to extend thanks to Professor [Daniel Anlezark](#), immediate past director, for his marvellous leadership and his ongoing support. I'm thrilled to be stepping into this role at a moment when there is so much exciting new scholarship happening here in Sydney.

The range and diversity of Premodern Studies continues to open into exciting territory: MEMC would particularly like to extend a warm welcome to our new colleague Peyvand Firouzeh, an expert of the art of early modern Iran and India who commences in the Department of Art History in semester 2.

The Centre's activities have brought guests from around the world in the past months. Early in semester 1, MEMC hosted two visitors in the wake of the Australasian Centre for Italian Studies (ACIS) conference in Wellington, New Zealand. Professor Elizabeth Horodowich (History, New Mexico State University) delivered a keynote address at ACIS and then joined us in Sydney to present the book she is co-authoring with Professor Alexander Nagel (Art History, Institute of Fine Arts, NYU): *Amerasia: A European Discovery in the First Global Age*. Horodowich illustrated how Europeans conceptually and geographically smudged Asia and America from the 15th to the 17th centuries, producing maps in which Chinese place-names appeared in the American west long after the distinction between continents was ostensibly settled. The cultural and cartographic clarities we often ascribe to the 16th century were foggier than we've understood.

Earlier this year, MEMC also hosted Professor Deanna Shemek (Italian, University of California at Irvine), director of the Isabella d'Este Archive ([IDEA](#)) website and research project. The website offers a variety of research and teaching tools for discovering Isabella d'Este, Marchioness of Mantua (1473-1539), one of Renaissance Italy's most discerning art collectors and patrons. Professor Shemek led a very productive workshop on the Digital Humanities and the state of online interdisciplinary research in premodern studies.

In April, I convened a half-day workshop titled "Agents in Times of War: Italy, 1500-1530" which assembled a team of scholars whose current research is revising histories of the early 16th century Italian Wars by revealing overshadowed contributors to the politics and war-making of the time. Stephen Bowd (History, Edinburgh), John Gagné (History, Sydney), Carolyn James (History, Monash), and Lisa Mansfield (Art History, Adelaide) all offered case studies of agents whose commitments in war tell us new stories about women and culture-makers.

In semester 2 of 2019, MEMC will begin to collaborate more closely with the Global Middle Ages project (GMA), currently directed by H el ene Sirantoine (Department of History, SOPHI). We will also be hosting a number of events aimed at creating more opportunities for young scholars and postgraduate students in premodern studies across the University to meet, share interests, and exchange research. I invite all interested postgraduates to contact me at john.gagne@sydney.edu.au.

Department of Studies in Religion

Words by Professor [Iain Gardner](#)

ARC Success: Project Commences

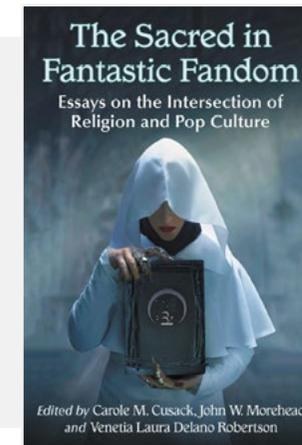
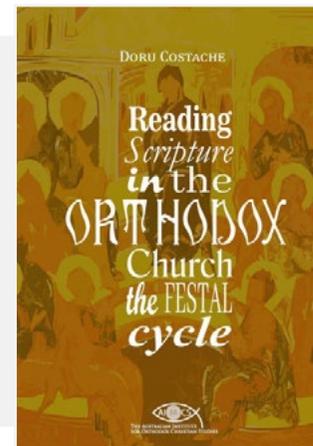
In a challenging atmosphere for the traditional Humanities, and with word of a new National Interest Test (NIT), it will be encouraging for many in SLAM to hear of the recent success for a project focussed on manuscripts from the ancient and medieval worlds. From the latest ARC DP round, and starting up in April 2019, Professor Iain Gardner heads a strong international team awarded \$225,000 to work on “Manichaean Liturgical Texts from Egypt to China”. This was a diverse and influential religious tradition that spread across the trade routes of Eurasia, acting as a major conduit for the transfer of ideas and practices between east and west, and current from late antiquity to early modernity. Spectacular new discoveries, often entirely unexpected (most recently hanging scrolls on silk identified in Japan and a hoard of community texts from the village of Xiapu in south China), have led to the development of one of the most dynamic, cross-cultural and internationalised fields in ancient world studies. As the blurb states: The project expects to generate new knowledge through the employment of emergent methodologies consequent to the ‘material turn’ for an holistic understanding in terms of lived religion.

What does all that mean and why the interest? This is a field where it is genuinely possible to break new ground and challenge long-standing opinions. Previously unknown literatures in poorly-understood dialects, scripts and languages have attracted leading specialists. A close-knit group of scholars, with many Australian as well as international connections, have built up momentum for the subject and pioneered the application of innovative techniques and methodologies. We hope the realisation that it is possible to be successful with such a topic in the current atmosphere will be an encouragement to all in the School; that real scholarship, endeavour and excellence can be rewarded and need not be constrained by institutional or administratively-driven priorities.

Recent publications

Doru Costache. [Reading Scripture in the Orthodox Church: The Festal Cycle](#) (2019, AIOCS Press)

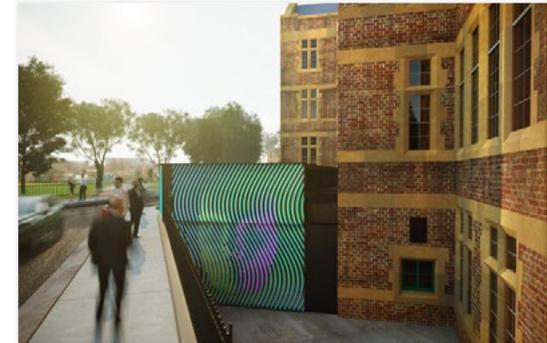
Carole Cusack, John W. Morehead & Venetia Laura Delano Robertson (Eds). [The Sacred in Fantastic Fandom: Essays on the Intersection of Religion and Pop Culture](#) (2019, McFarland & Company, Inc.)



Sydney College of the Arts

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

The Old Teacher's College refurbishment has officially commenced. Concrete will be poured by the time of publication, and a significant strip-out of the interior will take place over the coming months. We are very excited about this and take this opportunity to apologise for any disruption to our colleagues in SLAM. The accompanying images depict the modern addition along the Western Avenue facade, which will house the hot glass and ceramics studio.



Architect's renderings of the OTC refurbishment. Images courtesy ARM Architecture

Publications

Dr [Adam Geczy](#) recently published *Fashion Installation: Body, Space, and Performance*.

Awards

[Mariko Smith](#) has been awarded the 2019 Jon Rieger Award through the International Visual Sociology Association. Mariko received the award for her photo elicitation study which was based on her indigenous documentary photography practice around Aboriginal tied-bark canoe making. The prize will be awarded at the annual IVSA conference in Saratoga Springs, New York in June 2019, where Mariko will also present a conference paper.

Festivals

Dr [Anna Broinowski](#) joined journalist Kate Wild, RMIT ABC Fact Check Director Russell Skelton, and bestselling historian Antony Beevor for the panel discussion *Matter of Facts*, as part of the recent Sydney Writers Festival.

Conferences

Dr [Jane Gavan](#) presented a paper titled Sustainability as a lens for creative art practice at the EcoArts Australis National Conference. Her paper explored the Vietnam recycling network and the potential use of clean factory waste as a material resource for art and design practitioners. These themes emerged from her UNESCO research project *Manufacturing Creativity 2018-2019*.

Exhibitions

- Dr [David Haines](#) and [Joyce Hinterding](#) are exhibiting in the group exhibition *In Motion* at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery, New Zealand. *In Motion* invites audiences to explore kinetic sculpture, including their work *Geology, 2015*, which invites viewers to use their body and actions to explore a three-dimensional digital world.
- Kusum Normoyle will be performing alongside Stephen O'Malley, Lucy Railton, Rafael Anton Irisarri, Joe Talia + Eiko Ishibashi and Marina Rosenfeld at Borderlands as part of MONA's 2019 Dark MOFO.

Alumni

- Several SCA alumni are exhibiting in *The National: New Australian Art*. A major collaborative venture, *The National* is presented across three venues, the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, the Art Gallery of New South Wales and Carriageworks, Sydney, until 21 July.
- SCA alumni and past Fauvette Loureiro Travelling Scholarship recipients Vicky Browne and Julian Day are exhibiting in *Sounds Like* at the Town Hall Gallery, Melbourne. The exhibition brings together five Australian artists who use sound as the principal vehicle for the production of meaning in their works. Through immersive installation, sculpture and performance, this interactive exhibition explores the use of sound as a medium for artistic expression.
- SCA Graduates Jess Bradford and Huseyin Sami are both finalists in the Art Gallery of South Australia's prestigious \$100,000 Ramsay Art Prize. Held every two years, the Ramsay Art Prize invites submissions from Australian artists under 40 working in any medium.
- Several SCA alumni have been selected by philanthropic group Art Incubator to take up subsidised studio tenancies at Shirlow Street Studios in Marrickville. They include Will Cooke, Cybele Cox, Stevie Fieldsend, David Griggs and Tim Sliver and artists Phil James, Mason Kimber and Izabela Pluta.

Department of Theatre & Performance Studies

Words by Dr Justine Shih Pearson

Special events

[Paul Dwyer](#) was invited by Sydney Opera House to host a public panel discussion, “Performing Selves”, with [Festival UnWrapped](#) artists, in mid-May. The festival has emerged as one of the most prominent platforms celebrating original and independent Australian performance work, with May’s festival featuring Torres Strait dance and theatre maker Ghenoa Gela’s *My Urrwai*; legendary photographer and chronicler of Sydney’s social life William Yang’s *Party (verb)*; opera star Ali McGregor’s cabaret tribute *Yma Sumac: The Peruvian Songbird*; the five “kick-ass millennials” of PYT Fairfield’s *Playlist* (Ebube Uba, May Tran, Tasha O’Brien, Mara Knezevic and Neda Taha); and a collaboration between contemporary performance maker Lara Thoms and ex-funeral director Scott Turnball in *The Director*, a demystification of death. The artists’ talk explored approaches to shaping lived experience into performance, asking who is the “self” that performs onstage? The animated discussion also questioned the responsibility the artist has to their audience when dealing with “real” life and vice versa, and the theatrical traditions and aesthetic forms underpinning this type of work.



PYT Fairfield's *Playlist* performers. Image: Alex Wisser; courtesy of PYT Fairfield

In late April, TaPS senior HDR students Lawrence Ashford, James Dalton and Nien Yuan Cheng convened the first of a two-part interdisciplinary symposium series, “New Approaches to Ethnographic Practice and Fieldwork”, supported through successful grant funding from HDR+ Grants and held in the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies. The symposium brought together 20 fellow HDR students from across FASS to reflect on their own approaches to ethnographic practice and contribute to a discussion about what the future of such work could (and should) look like.

The morning sessions featured a range of thought-provoking presentations that considered how ethnographic fieldwork is conducted in diverse locations, including the virtual and actual worlds of Sydney’s Queer Gaming Communities (Jacob Grice, Anthropology), the casino economy in the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone (Josto Luzzu, Gender and Cultural Studies), remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory (Patrick Horton, Anthropology) and metropolitan hospitals across India (Arpita Das, Gender and Cultural Studies). The afternoon sessions took the form of roundtable discussions: the convenors said, “all participants contributed to lively debate that considered the difference between conceptualisation of ethnographic work and its actual practice in the field, as well as the difference between ‘good’ and ‘bad’ ethnographic writing”.

Initiated and delivered by Lawrence, James and Nien, this was an important professional and academic development opportunity for the HDR students to gain experience in convening a symposium. It was also an opportunity for all participants to centre the knowledge and experiences of next-generation researchers and form interdisciplinary connections in a supportive, collegial environment.

The symposium will reconvene for its second and final session in early June.

In the news

TaPS alumna Kat Roma Greer was featured by [Sydney Alumni Magazine](#) in April. Kat received her MA(Res) in performance studies in 2014 for research into the structural conditions effecting the emergence of Australian First Nations performance-makers in Sydney. Kat has founded an award-winning travelling art festival called [Micro Galleries](#), changing the economies and accessibility of art through street-based interventions. Based in Hong Kong, Kat has taken Micro Galleries to Kathmandu, Denpasar, Nowra, Cape Town, and many cities in between. “Micro Galleries is a disruptive process. It’s about providing artists with opportunities and being in communities in a way that can have a meaningful impact”.



Installation by Michelle LL from Nepal during *Micro Galleries* Kathmandu. Image courtesy of *Micro Galleries*



Peter Fraser performs in the University’s Round House, in *Great Attractor No. 3*, as part of Sydney’s March Dance Festival. Image: Vsevolod Vlaskine; courtesy of De Quincey Co.

In late March, as part of the inaugural Sydney March Dance Festival, experimental dance company De Quincey Co performed to sell-out audiences in the University’s historic Round House, supported by Theatre & Performance Studies in partnership with the Sydney School of Veterinary Science. A former resident company of the Rex Cramphorn Studio and long-time collaborator of TaPS, De Quincey Co is known internationally for their continuation of the legacy of Bodyweather, a movement practice related to Butoh. The March performance, [The Great Attractor No. 3](#), utilised the intimate, octagonal space of the Round House, a century-old building located in amongst the Sydney School of Veterinary Science which was used originally as a demonstration platform for teaching. Solo dancers Victoria Hunt and Peter Fraser, together with live musicians, gave life to the heritage-listed building in highly-sophisticated improvisations which called attention to its history as a place for objective scientific learning, a certain kind of Enlightenment thinking, as well as the hauntings of animals that inhabited the space, and the spirits on whose lands the Round House still stands. [The Sydney Morning Herald](#) gave the performance 5 out of 5 stars, calling it, “exhilarating”.

In the Rex ... Artist-in-Residence program, Rex Cramphorn Studio

There are clear themes evident in the work of our artists-in-residence over the last quarter, with stories by women in development and on our theatre stages. From mainstream script-based theatre to experimental contemporary performance, we are seeing a renaissance of decidedly feminist work in the sector.

Our March artists-in-residence, leading Australian theatre-for-children company [Monkey Baa](#), continue their tour of brand-new stage adaptation of Mem Fox and Julie Vivas's beloved classic *Possum Magic* to 62 communities around the nation. Laura Ginters, Richard Manner and Justine Shih Pearson attended the official opening at the ARA Darling Quarter Theatre on 30 March.



Monkey Baa rehearsed their new adaptation of *Possum Magic* in The Rex Studio before opening at the ARA Darling Quarter Theatre on 30 March. Image courtesy of Monkey Baa



Students in PRFM3691 Rehearsal Studies get behind-the-scenes access to the rehearsal process of *Sisters*: the play by Stephen Sewell, a new play by Sunny Grace. Image: Justine Shih Pearson

For four weeks in March-April, we were joined in The Rex by independent artists Sunny Grace (playwright) and Charles Sanders (director) in early development with a new metacritical play based on Stephen Sewell's famous *Sisters*. Exploring a recursive approach to script development, the creative team worked in the studio to develop a play-within-a-play about two actors, a director and dramaturg staging a production of *Sisters*, with the aim of exploring women's agency in the making and telling of women's stories, especially in regards to changing gender relationships since the early 1990s when the play was originally produced. Students of PRFM3691 Rehearsal Studies were given behind-the-scenes access into this rehearsal process; their task to develop a rehearsal ethnography. A core part of the Theatre and Performance Studies major, and an important subfield of performance studies which has been developed through foundational research in the Department over the last 25 years, rehearsal ethnography positions the creative work of the rehearsal room as a critical site of study. Midway through this residency period, the judgement was handed down on the [Geoffrey Rush vs Nationwide News defamation case](#), giving the students important insight into how the broader social world and the "world" of the rehearsal room impact one another.

In the Rex ... cont'd

In April-May, Griffin Theatre Company returned for the final rehearsal period for their production of [Prima Facie](#), a one-woman show starring Sheridan Harbridge and directed by Lee Lewis. An indictment of the Australian legal system's failure to provide reliable pathways to justice for women in rape, sexual assault and harassment cases, and winner of the 2018 Griffin Award, the production opened at beloved Sydney institution the Stables Theatre on 22 May. The Department's long-time partnership with Griffin Theatre has been a fruitful one on both sides: the support we provide through rehearsal space allows the company to maintain their vital cultural role developing new Australian theatre; and Griffin has hosted many of our Honours students over the years undertaking industry placements as part of the rehearsal ethnography or "Casebook" part of their research projects.



Griffin Theatre undertook their final rehearsal period of *Prima Facie* in The Rex, before opening the new production at the Stables Theatre on 22 May. Image courtesy of Griffin Theatre



Living Room Theatre's *The Foul of the Air* is part of the Sites of Violence research project at the Sydney Environmental Institute. Image courtesy of Living Room Theatre.

For a week in May, we also hosted Honorary Associate Michelle St Anne's development of *The Foul of the Air*, part of the Sites of Violence research project conducted at the Sydney Environment Institute. This project explores how scholars across disciplines can work with performance artists to powerfully transmit the realities of violence, and thereby move away from strategies of avoidance and denial. *The Foul of the Air* confronts two contemporary forms of violence that need critical intervention: that of violence against women, and violence against our natural planet.



Performers Moreblessing Maturure and Valerie Berry in The Rex Studio working on the development of *99%: Leading is Following is Leading*. Image courtesy Yana Taylor

In June, we are joined by independent contemporary performance maker Yana Taylor, a previous PhD graduate from the department and well-known Sydney-based political theatre maker. Yana is working on a new multimedia installation titled *99%: Leading is Following is Leading*, developing verbatim re-performance of a large archive of historical political speeches and leaders' public performances. Working with performers Moreblessing Maturure and Valerie Berry, digital artists Sean Bacon and David Kirkpatrick, and dramaturgs Tariro Mavondo and Chris Ryan, the work touches on issues of gendered representation and the missing voices of people of colour in embodied and politically incisive ways.

Department of Writing Studies

Words by Professor [Peter Marks](#) | Chair of Department

In February, [Susan Thomas](#) presented two keynote addresses: “The Future of Literacy Instruction in Australian Education” at the Northern Beaches Symposium for Gifted and Talented Educators in Narrabeen, and “Rearticulating Writing Instruction as Creative, Global Practice” at the Global Society of Online Literacy Educators conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

On 30 April, [Susan Thomas](#) relaunched The Writing Hub’s “How I Write” Seminar Series. Guest speakers Omid Tofghian and Behrouz Boochani, translator and author of *No Friend But the Mountains: Writing From Manus Prison*, chatted with Student Writing Fellows Meg Ivory and Josh Harper about their process of writing/translating the book mostly via text message.

[Susan Thomas](#) and [Bronwen Dyson](#), along with [Ahmar Mahboob](#) from Linguistics, have been awarded a SLAM External Grant Application Award for their project “Language as a Lens for Cultural Analysis: Investigating Writing Transfer from the Academy to the Professions Through Textography”. The grant will fund a pilot study to inform their ARC Discovery Project Application for a national study of writing in Australian universities. The project team also includes Professor Brian Paltridge and Dr Marie Stevenson from SSESW.



Omid Tofghian (seated) and Behrouz Boochani (on screen, via Skype) address the audience at the ‘How I Write’ seminar.

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- 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