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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 message
- School news and events
- Department news and events

Head of School address

Dear Colleagues,

In SLAM we recently started a regular Newsletter to keep everyone informed about upcoming events as well as notable achievements in our School. In the future, the Newsletter will also be covering aspects traditionally featured in SLAMmag. This will therefore be the last issue of SLAMmag as we know it. I want to thank everyone for their contribution in the past, but in particular Lurdes de Oliveira who looked after the magazine with great care, patience, and dedication.

Umberto



Professor [Umberto Ansaldo](#)
Head, SLAM

news

SLAM New Faces

[Robert Brennan](#)



I am a newly appointed Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Art History. I specialise in medieval and Renaissance art, with secondary interests in modern and contemporary art. While finishing my PhD in art history at the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University in 2016, I worked as a teacher and researcher at the Parsons School of Design and the Morgan Library & Museum. From 2016 to 2019, I held a postdoctoral fellowship at the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz (Max-Planck-Institut) and am currently preparing to publish the proceedings of an international conference that I co-organised there, titled *Art History before English: Negotiating a European Lingua Franca from Vasari to the Present*. My first book, to be published this year by Harvey Miller, is titled *Painting as a Modern Art in Early Renaissance Italy*. Drawing on 14th- and early 15th-century descriptions of “modern art” (*ars moderna*), it offers a new narrative of painting from Giotto to Mantegna, and a different background for more recent discourses of modernity and modernism in European art.

[Jedidiah Evans](#)

I am a newly appointed Associate Lecturer in Writing Studies at the University of Sydney. My forthcoming book, *Look Abroad, Angel* (2020), explores reading cultures in the U.S. south and Germany between 1929-38, with a particular focus on the writings of Thomas Wolfe. My current research is interested in the intersection between incarceration and writing: how we imagine prisons and prisoners, and how reading operates as a mode of liberation.



news

SLAM New Faces

[Peyvand Firouzeh](#)



I am a newly-appointed Lecturer in Islamic Art in the Department of Art History. I specialise in medieval and early modern art and material culture from the Islamic world, particularly the connections between art and socio-political authority, sacred art and architecture, the intersection of image, space, and text, and the mobility of artistic and intellectual networks across Persianate societies. I am currently working on two projects: the first is a monograph, tentatively titled *The Poetics and Politics of Shrine Networks: Ne'matullahi Sufis and material culture in early modern Iran and India*, which examines the relationship between issues of materiality and spirituality. The second project explores how historical and geographical distance relates to visual and spatial metaphors in the art and architecture of Deccan India in the fifteenth century.

Prior to joining the University of Sydney, I held research fellowships and curatorial positions with the Getty Foundation and the American Council of Learned Societies, the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz (Max-Planck-Institut), the Forum Transregionale Studien and Museum für Islamische Kunst in Berlin, and the British Museum in London.

[Emma Knowles](#)



I am a newly appointed Associate Lecturer in the Department of English teaching Old and Middle English literature. I am returning to the University of Sydney, where I completed my BA in 2012, after recently finishing my PhD on the representation of nature in Old English biblical poetry at the University of Cambridge. My current research involves writing a chapter on 'Women, Gender, and Sexuality' for the medieval volume of the Bloomsbury Cultural History of the Bible and reworking my PhD dissertation into a monograph. My research interests include medievalism and ecocriticism.

news

SLAM New Faces

[Lila San Roque](#)



I work on understanding diversity and universality in language, with a focus on how different languages of the world express perceptual and cognitive experience. With a special interest in linguistic fieldwork and in New Guinea, I have collaborated on comparative projects that look at language structure and use around the world, hoping to understand more about how cultural attitudes and social practices interact with lexical and grammatical features. I have recently joined SLAM as a Lecturer in Linguistics.

[Lucas Thompson](#)



I'm a newly appointed Lecturer in English and am delighted to find myself back in the Department where I completed my PhD, after many years of teaching and research experience at the University of Sydney (across various schools and departments), as well as the University of Wollongong and UNSW. My research focus is contemporary and twentieth-century US literature, on which I have published widely, having also written on film and television. My first book, *Global Wallace: David Foster Wallace and World Literature*, was published in 2017, and I am currently at work on a second book project, titled *Metaphors We Read By*. This new project explores what is at stake when we read in the light of various metaphors, and engages with many fields of literary studies, including aesthetics, postcritique, and ordinary language philosophy.

news

WOW2019

Words by Dr [Frances Di Lauro](#)

In June, Drs [Bunty Avieson](#) (MECO) and [Frances Di Lauro](#) (Writing Studies) hosted the inaugural WOW Worlds of Wikimedia conference - [WOW2019 Worlds of Wikimedia](#) - at the University of Sydney. Set in the International Year of Indigenous Languages, the conference showcased initiatives that broaden inclusion and enhance global diversity. Papers addressed Wikimedia's role in enhancing global diversity from a range of perspectives including indigenous knowledge and languages, contested geographies, decolonisation of the Internet, the role of education in fostering inclusion, GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums), internet studies and big data.

Day 1: The conference opened on Wednesday, 12 June with a Sydney Ideas event '[Cultural power in the online world: are we being skewed?](#)'. The Dean, Professor [Annamarie Jagose](#), hosted guest speakers, Dr Martin Dittus (Oxford Internet Institute) and Professor Jaky Troy (University of Sydney), in conversation. This event was followed by welcome drinks for conference delegates, and registration.

Day 2: Uncle Alan, a Gadigal man from the Eora nation, Welcomed delegates to Country. After a keynote by Professor Jaky Troy, Adnan Bhatti treated the audience to a special Sufi performance. [Bunty Avieson](#), Adrian Estevez Iglesias (Portugal), and Ivonne Kristiani (Indonesia) presented their research and, after lunch, Dr Carwil Bjork-James, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Vanderbilt University, presented his keynote. Afternoon research presenters included [Frances Di Lauro](#), Simon Liu (Law student), GLAM founder and coordinator of GLAM Europeana, Liam Wyatt (Bologna), Kerry Raymond of Wikimedia Australia (Queensland), and distinguished Wikimedian and WikiDatean, Dr Toby Hudson (Sydney).

Day 3: On Friday, 14 June, the day began with Ingrid Cumming's keynote about Noongarpedia, an ARC-funded project in Western Australia to create a Wikipedia in the Indigenous language of Noongar. Caddie Brain and Joel Liddle shared their work developing Indigemoji with communities in Alice

Springs, and Carrol Quadrio presented her work on digital technology as an enabler for indigenous peoples. Afternoon presentations by Jacinta Sutton and [Jedidiah Evans](#) preceded international guest Liam Wyatt's keynote "Wikipedia as Palimpsest".

The conference finished with a roundtable discussion considering the central theme of how the breadth of human experience, wisdom and knowledge systems can best be served by digital technologies and the Wikimedia movement.



Dr Martin Dittus, Professor Jaky Troy and FASS Dean, Professor Annamarie Jagose. Photo by Pru Mitchell (under [license](#))

Department of Art History

Words by Associate Professor Ann Elias | Chair of Department

It has been a busy few months for colleagues in Art History. We started July with the arrival of our newest colleague, [Peyvand Firouzeh](#), a brilliant scholar of Islamic art and culture. We are delighted to welcome Peyvand and her husband [Robert Brennan](#), a new Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department.

Student Experience

Easily the most profound student experience of July to August was *Berlin19*, the yearly Art History Fieldtrip. The Art History department's Berlin Reiseleiter (tour guides), [Donna West Brett](#) and Mimi Kelly, gave 28 students a unique experience of Berlin's world-famous art museums and cultural sites as part of a two-week winter intensive course. From Egyptian, Islamic, Roman and Etruscan treasures such as the famous Nefertiti bust, art from the Renaissance, Classical and Modernist periods to palaces of Sans Souci and Charlottenburg, as well as the latest in contemporary art, the students experienced the history of art in specialist museums.

The history of Berlin was a perfect backdrop to the daily activities and at night the students explored the food markets of Kreuzberg, hunted down the best ramen and kebabs and recorded it all in journals through drawings, photographs and notes. The trip culminated with a dinner and dancing at the Clärchen Ballhaus in the old Jewish quarter with abundant smiles and laughter. The enormous success of the tour was thanks to the incredible enthusiasm of the students and to the invaluable support of the Department's administrative superstar Lucy Baird.



Berlin Art History group. Pics courtesy Tom Loveday

Conferences, symposia and public engagement

Although [Peyvand Firouzeh](#) has only been in Australia a very short time, she was invited to speak at a symposium titled [Intersections: New Work on Islamic and Southeast Asian Art](#) staged by the University of Melbourne and the Islamic Museum of Australia in August. Scholars, curators, and artists who engage with Islamic and Southeast Asian art attended the symposium and Peyvand's paper – part of a new project on Deccan India – was titled “Distance and Metaphor in Fifteenth-Century Deccan India”.

[Donna West Brett](#) presented a paper titled 'The Business of Photography and the Ministry for State Security in the GDR', at the Photographic History Research Centre conference, De Montfort University, Leicester, UK, in June.

July was the start of the wildflower season in Western Australia. It is hard to believe that there was ever a time when wildflowers were despised as flowers, but that was the case in Australia in the early twentieth century. This and other matters were discussed by [Ann Elias](#) in her Keynote Speech titled “Beyond Beauty” delivered at the University of Western Australia for the symposium [Framing Flora: Artists and the Science of Botany](#).

The Department of Art History is rightly proud of the global significance of [Mary Roberts](#). A retrospective mention is made here of Mary's participation as Visiting Expert at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London, speaking in April to the theme, “‘Orientalism’ After 40”. Mary presented a public lecture, “Edward Said and the Epistolary Interior”. Later she delivered a lecture, “Crafting Fantasy: Frederic Leighton's Arab Hall,” at the Khanenko's Museum, Kyiv in the Ukraine.

Engagement and the team in Museum and Heritage Studies

The Museum and Heritage studies program has had an extremely busy couple of months.

[Anna Lawrenson](#) featured in a panel discussion broadcast on Radio National focused on the topical debates around arts funding and sponsorship – [When money, art and ethics collide](#) – on the Art Show presented by Ed Ayers. On 24 August, [Lee-Anne Hall](#) facilitated Blacktown Arts Centre's *Printed Matters – Now and Then* panel discussion on poster making in New South Wales, with a special focus on artist Wendy Murray's recent poster making residency at Blacktown Art Centre, and discussion of the 1980s Poster workshop powerhouse, Garage Graphix.

[Chiara O'Reilly](#) undertook *Through the Nano Lens: Science Art and Nature* stall at the Royal Botanic Gardens *Living Laboratory* event on 18 August. The Nano Lens team was invited back to the Royal Botanic Gardens for their major science week showcase – which was attended by over 7000 people this year! This research project founded by Chiara Neto, Chiara O'Reilly and Alice Motion in 2018 has resulted in a number of publications and has a significant outreach component.

For the Nano Lens stall at the Botanic Gardens students from Chemistry and Museum and Heritage Studies were trained to lead a huge number of exciting conversations across science and art and the marvels of the nanoscale, which is all around us.



Children who attended the Nano Lens stall at the Botanic Gardens

[Anna Lawrenson](#), [Lee-Anne Hall](#), and [Chiara O'Reilly](#) are currently collaborating on research with Museums and Galleries NSW to examine ideas of Cultural Mediation. They hosted a public lecture from Marion Buchloh-Kollerbohm, who is the head of Cultural Mediation at Paris' Palais de Tokyo, the largest centre for contemporary artistic creation in Europe. The lecture was well attended by people from across the cultural sector, students in Art Curating and Museum and Heritage Studies, and others who were fascinated by the different and very rich approaches the Palais deploys to create a 'lived experience of art'.

Events

Perhaps the highlight of August for the Department of Art History was an event at the Sibyl Centre when three new books by [Ann Elias](#), [Anna Lawrenson](#), [Chiara O'Reilly](#) and [Susan Potter](#) were launched by the Dean, Annamarie Jagose. MC for the night was [Mark Ledbury](#), the spirited Power Professor who described the event as a “celebration of the three fields encompassed by our Department of Art History – Art History, Museum Studies and Film Studies – interwoven but distinct areas of expertise, flourishing at the moment in a Department I’ve never enjoyed so much or been so proud to be part of”. Following Mark’s speech, Annamarie wove a riveting narrative around three books of disparate nature by focusing on the first line of each. It was a memorable night due in no small part to the efforts of the SLAM Events team, the support of SLAM Head of School, [Umberto Ansaldo](#), and the presence of a large crowd of colleagues, students, alumni as well as friends and family.



21 August, Art History Book Launch, Sibyl Centre. Photos: Lucy Baird

Publications

A sample of publications for the period includes [Donna West Brett](#)’s latest journal article ‘Stasi Surveillance Photographs and Extra-archival Legacy’, which can be found in a special issue ‘Overcoming Communism in the Eastern Bloc,’ in [Photography and Culture](#) 12.2 (2019): 227-248, and [Ann Elias](#)’s article for [The Conversation](#), “How Frank Hurley came face to face with the future of the Great Barrier Reef in 1922”.

Recent publications

Olivier Krischer (Ed). [Zhang Peili: From Painting to Video](#). (2019, ANU Press)



Department of English

Words by Dr [Brigid Rooney](#)

IAUPE Conference: Sydney 2022

At the meeting of the [International Association of University Professors of English](#) held in Poland in July, [Paul Giles](#) was elected president of the organisation for the next three years. IAUPE, formed in 1949, is an organisation designed to facilitate communication among professors of English across the world and to protect the interests of the subject. The next triennial conference of IAUPE will take place at the University of Sydney in July 2022, the first time it will have been to Australia, when James Simpson (Harvard) will be one of the plenary speakers.

Townsville Imaginarium: Shax Reloaded

On 1 June, [Liam Semler](#), Jackie Manuel, Lauren Weber and Claire Hansen (JCU) from the Better Strangers project ran a free, accredited, [professional learning event](#) at James Cook University (Townsville) for English teachers in North Queensland. The event was supported by the English Teachers' Association of Queensland (ETAQ) and included 25 pre- and in-service teachers hearing keynote papers and participating in activities based on the [Shakespeare Reloaded](#) website.

Conferences

[Nicola Parsons](#) presented a paper entitled “‘Beauties Alphabetically Displayed’: Iterative character and Indexical Form in *Harris’s List of Covent Garden Ladies* (1760-94)” at the International Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies (ISECS) Congress in Edinburgh in July. A strong contingent represented Sydney at the annual Association for the Study of Australian Literature (ASAL) conference convened this year at the University of Western Australia in Perth, from 1-4 July. Papers were presented by Melinda Cooper, “‘Proud as a ring-barked blue gum tree’: The antipodes in the poetry of Anna Wickham”; Toby Fitch “Inversion: A Down Under conceit”; [Peter Kirkpatrick](#), “‘Trouble, on the Rocks’: Poetry and dirty realism in Dorothy Porter’s verse novels”; Lauren Pearce, “Casebook of a Disturbed Loner: Peter Kocan and the mad text”; Caitlin Still, “‘If You’re That Hungry, Why Don’t You Go and Eat Shit?’: The mother, the abject, and the postmaternal in Jennifer Kent’s *The Babadook*”; Liliana Zavaglia, “Back to Mabo: Liberal whiteness and the uneasy state of being”; and a panel was curated by Caitlin Maling and Killian Quigley on “Composting Australian Eco-poetics in Critical-Creative Practice”.

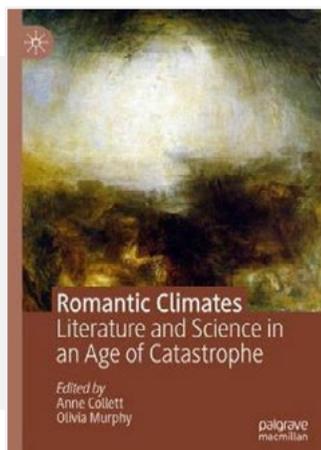


[Olivia Murphy](#) reports on her mid-year conferencing as follows: “Ada and I very much enjoyed our time at conferences in Edinburgh (International Society for Eighteenth Century Studies), Nottingham (British Association for Romantic Studies) and Manchester (International Conference on Romanticism), and the trains between them. The photo (above) of Ada and me was taken by the long-suffering Kathryn Wood outside the Friends Meeting House in Manchester, which hosted this year’s ICR and where 200 years ago the floors were covered in the blood of those injured and killed in the massacre of St Peter’s Field (‘Peterloo’).”

Publications

[Olivia Murphy](#) is co-editor with Anne Collett (University of Wollongong) of *Romantic Climates: Literature and Science in an Age of Catastrophe* (published in July). This much anticipated collection, drawn from the “Romantic Climates” symposium held in the Department of English in 2015, includes essays by English doctoral alumni such as Elias Greig, Amelia Dale and Alexis Harley, among others.

[Vanessa Berry](#)'s essay, “Spatial Experiments: Autobiographical Cartography” has been published in [New and Experimental Approaches to Writing Lives](#), edited by Jo Parnell (2019, Red Globe Press).



Recent publications

Anne Collett, Olivia Murphy (Eds). [Romantic Climates: Literature and Science in an Age of Catastrophe](#). (2019, Palgrave Macmillan)

Current Postgraduate News

Sarah Vallance (a D.Arts candidate supervised by Peter Kirkpatrick), has published [Prognosis: A Memoir of My Brain](#) (2019, Little A). Sarah's book was one of *The Washington Post's* [The 10 books to read in August](#).

Doctoral completions

Since July 2019, the following students have successfully completed their PhDs:

- Jennifer Nicholson, “Shakespeare’s French: Reading Hamlet at the Edge of English” (Supervisor, [Huw Griffiths](#)).
- Caitlin Maling, “A ‘community of communities’: A Study of Pastoral and Eco-poetics in the Poetry of Randolph Stow, William Stafford, Tracy Ryan and Juliana Spahr” (Supervisor, [Peter Minter](#)).
- Bushra Naz. “Henry James’s Critique of Women’s Judgment: Aesthetic and Ethic Autonomy in The Portrait of a Lady, The Aspern Papers, The Spoils of Poynton and The Outcry” (Supervisor, [Bruce Gardiner](#)).

Department of Linguistics

Words by Associate Professor [Lisa Lim](#) | Chair of Department

I am delighted to be filing this report – my first in my role as Chair of Department – and to be able to note how we in the Department, together with our wider community of honorary associates and visiting scholars, have kept ourselves positively productive through the winter period. We have been actively involved in numerous research events, many of them interdisciplinary – not only in international gatherings and training of junior researchers here in Sydney, but also at numerous international conferences – we have garnered top recognition for our research output, and we have made the most of engaging with the public through events and the media. Most notably, a significant proportion of our work has centred around indigenous languages, going a small way in fulfilling the responsibility we have in contributing to knowledge, rights, inclusion, and sustainable development in the context of 2019 as the [International Year of Indigenous Languages](#).

Staff matters

New Chair of Department

[Lisa Lim](#), who joined the University in January 2019, assumed the role of Chair of the Department of Linguistics on 1 August. Department colleagues would like to express their heartfelt thanks to outgoing Chair [Monika Bednarek](#) for her dedication, conscientiousness, and sound stewardship the past two years.

New staff member

[Lila San Roque](#) joined the Department in July 2019 as a Lecturer in Linguistics, having previously been at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics and at Radboud University in the Netherlands. She is especially interested in the languages of New Guinea, one of the most linguistically diverse areas on the planet – her PhD at ANU was on Duna spoken in Hela Province, Papua New Guinea – and in the ways we use language to encode and express perceptual and cognitive experience. For more on Lila, see '[New Faces](#)' in this edition of *SLAMmag*.

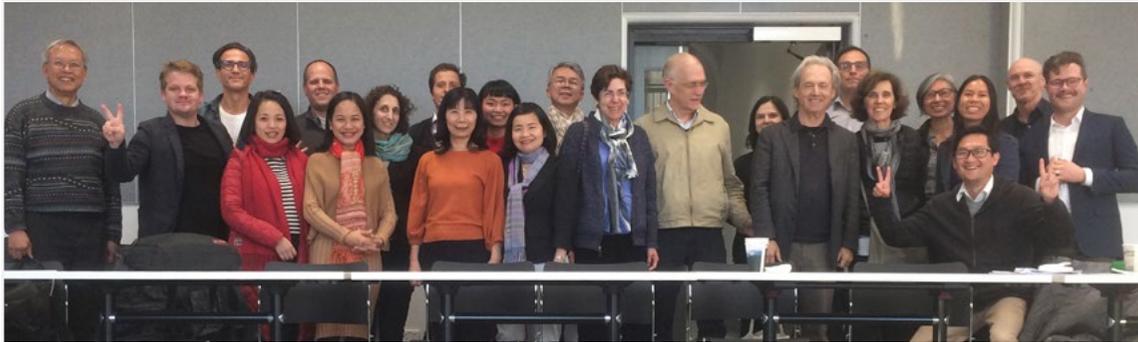
Visiting scholars

The Department had the pleasure of hosting Dr [Matteo Fuoli](#) from the University of Birmingham, who worked with the [Sydney Corpus Lab](#) through August 2019. In addition to developing new collaborative research projects with [Monika Bednarek](#), Dr Fuoli met with students and gave a well-attended workshop on [UAM Corpus tool](#), presented a guest lecture in our PG Coursework Masters program, and gave an interdisciplinary lunchtime research seminar at the Business School. His visit was enabled through a SLAM Visiting Research Fellowship.

Student representatives

We are pleased to welcome Benjamin Hewitt, a 3rd-year Linguistics major, and Xianjun Lin, in his first year in Linguistics, as our Department Student Representatives (for 12 months until mid-April 2020). Ben and Xianjun were most recently seen sharing their passion for linguistic study at the Department's information booth at Open Day on 31 August.

Research news



Some of the participants at the international workshop “The Anthropology of Language in Mainland Southeast Asia”, 19-20 August, at the University of Sydney. Photo courtesy Nick Enfield.



Participants at the 52nd International Conference on Sino-Tibetan Languages and Linguistics, 24-26 June, at the University of Sydney. Photo courtesy Mark W. Post.

Recent events

[Mark W. Post](#), together with Simon Ho (Biology), co-organised a one-day workshop on “Language, Genes and Prehistory” on 14 June, which was attended by about 30 linguists and biologists from Sydney, ANU, and the University of Berne.

Honorary Associate Yankee Modi, [Gwendolyn Hyslop](#) and [Mark W. Post](#) co-organised a marathon week-long event from 24-29 June on “Linguistic Diversity in the Asian Century”, consisting of the 52nd International Conference on Sino-Tibetan Language and Linguistics, the 25th Himalayan Languages Symposium, a day of associated workshops, and a public panel on Indigenous Languages of the Himalayas (co-organised with Gerald Roche, LaTrobe University). In acknowledgment of 2019 as UNESCO’s International Year of Indigenous Languages, special emphases were placed on papers with an explicit focus on one or more of Asia’s many hundreds of Indigenous languages. A particular emphasis was also placed on participation by

Indigenous researchers - many of whom were represented as conference presenters, as session chairs, as panel members, and as event co-organisers. The event was attended by nearly three hundred scholars and members of the public, and was covered by [national](#) and community and Indigenous media outlets.

On 19-20 August, [Nick Enfield](#) hosted an international workshop entitled [The Anthropology of Language in Mainland Southeast Asia](#), with funding from the [Sydney Southeast Asia Centre](#) and the [Australian Research Council](#). The workshop featured presentations by researchers from Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, Canada, Australia and the US, on a wide range of topics including ethnolinguistic history, orthography, cosmology, ethnic identity, language description, language endangerment, political discourse, and language ideology. A group publication is forthcoming.

Selected keynote and conference presentations

The Department was well represented amongst the plenary speakers at the 40th conference of the International Computer Archive of Medieval and Modern English (ICAME40) at the Université de Neuchâtel, Switzerland, from 1-5 June.

[Monika Bednarek](#)'s plenary addressed "Newsworthiness: A corpus linguistic approach", while [Lisa Lim](#)'s plenary encompassed "Heritage languages in time: Contact, evolution, vitality and authenticity in pre-colonial through post-digital ecologies".

[Monika Bednarek](#) continued through June and July presenting a range of invited talks (at the University of Lancaster and Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich), and more conference presentations on different topics in corpus linguistics and media linguistics, including "'Beyond the product' in corpus-based analyses of media discourse(s)" at the 10th International Corpus Linguistics Conference, Cardiff University, and "Functions of dialogue in TV drama and beyond" at the 39th Poetics and Linguistics Association Conference, University of Liverpool.

At the 24th [International Conference on Historical Linguistics](#) (ICHL24), held at ANU, Canberra, from 1-5 July, [Gwendolyn Hyslop](#) spoke on "Reconstructable culture in East Bodish", while [Umberto Ansaldo](#) and [Lisa Lim](#) discussed "Typological restructuring without genetic admixture".

In early July, [Yaegan Doran](#) gave a plenary on "Knower-building: Developing axiological constellations in the Humanities" and an invited workshop on "Analysing constellations: Seeing axiological and epistemological meanings" at the 3rd [International Legitimation Code Theory Conference](#) at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, both focusing on how dispositions and values are cultivated through language. Later that month, he also gave an invited talk to the annual Systemic Language Modelling workshop in Santiago, Chile, organised by [Margarita Vidal-Lizama](#), focusing on types of structure across languages, as well as two papers at the 46th International Systemic Functional Linguistics Congress at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, also in Santiago.

On 10 August, [Nick Enfield](#) gave a keynote address to the 15th [International Cognitive Linguistics Conference](#) in Nishinomiya, Japan, on "Enchrony: An essential frame for language and cognition".

[Monika Bednarek](#) and Georgia Carr brought a linguistic perspective to the [Australasian Diabetes Congress](#) 2019, held in Sydney from 21-23 August, with a poster on "'Waging war on diabetes': Diabetes coverage in Australian newspapers".

Awards and prizes

Fourth Pāṇini Award, Association for Linguistic Typology

Honorary Associate Yankee Modi's dissertation *The Milang language: Grammar and texts* (2017, University of Bern) was shortlisted for the Fourth Pāṇini Award for best dissertation grammar awarded by the Association for Linguistic Typology. The selection panel had much praise for the work, including:

"Yankee Modi's grammar is a comprehensive and innovative study about the Tibeto-Burman language of Milang, located in Arunachal Pradesh. It is the result of a decade-long language documentation project by a heritage speaker who decided to rediscover her own passive knowledge of the language, acquired from her grandmother. Hence, the grammar has first of all benefitted from the fact that the author is a community researcher who has been exposed to the culture and language of the Milang speaking community in a way very different from normal research circumstances.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of this grammar is the bold attempt to escape the structuralist mould of grammar writing and get closer to interaction and communication. This effort culminates in the last three chapters, which target the perspective taking, knowledge states, and information structure."

2019 Book Prize shortlist, British Association for Applied Linguistics

The Multilingual Citizen: Towards a Politics of Language for Agency and Change (Multilingual Matters, 2019), co-edited by [Lisa Lim](#) together with Christopher Stroud (University of the Western Cape) and Lionel Wee (National University of Singapore), with contributions exploring issues of Linguistic Citizenship in the Global South, was shortlisted for the [British Association for Applied Linguistics' 2019 Book Prize](#), an annual prize for an outstanding book in the field of Applied Linguistics.

New corpora of Australian English

The [Sydney Corpus Lab](#) has made several new corpora available to researchers, teachers, and students for corpus analysis using an online interface (with restricted access to full texts, to avoid copyright violations), including:

- The **Diabetes News corpus** (DNC): corpus of Australian newspaper articles on diabetes (2013-2017), ca 250,000 words, compiled by [Monika Bednarek](#) and Georgia Carr
- The **Sydney Corpus of Television Dialogue**: corpus of dialogue from US American fictional television series, ca 275,000 words, compiled by [Monika Bednarek](#).

Users can access the corpus search interface here: [CQPweb](#). We strongly recommend users read the corpus documentation (where available) to better understand the contents of these corpora. The corpora are lemmatised, part-of-speech tagged, and semantically tagged, and enable frequency analysis, collocation analysis, keyness analysis, concordancing, etc.

Thanks go to Chao Sun, Andressa Rodrigues Gomide, and Andrew Hardie for help with [CQPweb](#). Contact: info@sydneycorpuslab.com.

Engagement and impact

Public event

In conjunction with the Himalayan Languages Symposium, a public panel was held on 27 June on [The Thousand Tongues in the Heart of Asia: Indigenous Languages of the Himalayas](#), co-organised and co-chaired by [Mark W. Post](#) and Gerald Roche (LaTrobe University), with the support of La Trobe Asia, the University of Sydney, and the Australian Himalayan Foundation, with discussants Henriette Daudey (La Trobe University), Charisma K Lepcha (Sikkim University), Yankee Modi (University of Sydney), Tshering Lama O’Gorman (Australian Himalayan Foundation), Tsering Shakya (University of British Columbia) and George van Driem (University of Bern).

Media engagement

The Himalayan Languages Symposium in June also afforded excellent opportunities for public engagement. In addition to the public event (above), [Mark W. Post](#) was a guest on two radio programmes (in the latter, together with Tsering Shakya (University of British Columbia) who was here for the symposium and a discussant in the public panel), speaking on Himalayan indigenous languages. Listen to the podcasts here:

- 2ser’s [The Wire](#), 24 June 2019; and
- ABC’s [Late Night Live](#), 27 June 2019.

[Lisa Lim](#) writes a fortnightly [Language Matters](#) column for Hong Kong’s South China Morning Post’s *Sunday Post Magazine*; some recent column topics include: the [mixed code used by bilingual Hongkongers](#), also in the context of the ongoing protests; [dates and the Australia Day debate](#); and [why ‘indigenous’ should be word of the year](#).

Department of Media & Communications

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

MECO in Madrid

The Department of Media and Communications was well represented at the annual conference of the International Association of Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) held in Madrid in July. With 1,785 participants from 83 countries and five continents, the event was a fiesta of diversity and cross-cultural exchange, as well as ideas, research and debate. Our contributions included the following papers:

- Dr [Alana Mann](#): *Claiming Rights to Recapture Voice in Food Politics*
- Dr [Penny O'Donnell](#): *Journalism as Collective Practice: Towards a Political Economy of Digital-first News Production and Workplace Reorganisation in Australian Media*
- Dr [Benedetta Brevini](#): *Discourses on AI in Europe: Reinforcing the ideological hegemony of capitalism*
- Dr [Chris Chesher](#) & Dr [Fiona Andreallo](#): *Eye Machines: Organic, Mechanical and Intelligent*
- Dr Beate Josephi (MECO Honorary Associate) & Dr Martin Oller Alonso: *Journalism: No Country for Old Men and Women*
- Dr Beate Josephi (MECO Honorary Associate) & Dr Jahnnabi Das: *The Ethics of Water*
- Yuanbo Qiu (PhD Candidate): *The Political Economy of Live Streaming: Exploring Live Interactions and 'Platform Capitalism' in Live Streaming Platforms in China.*

In addition, Professor Gerard Goggin, who is currently IAMCR's Secretary General, presented a keynote to the IAMCR-ICA Partner Session on 'Truth, Trust, and Populism', entitled *Trusting Apps*.



L-R: Dr Rikki Bjerg Jensen, Dr Benedetta Brevini, Dr Alana Mann, Professor Rod Tiffen, Dr Penny O'Donnell, Professor Graham Murdock at the IAMCR in Madrid. Photo courtesy Alana Mann.

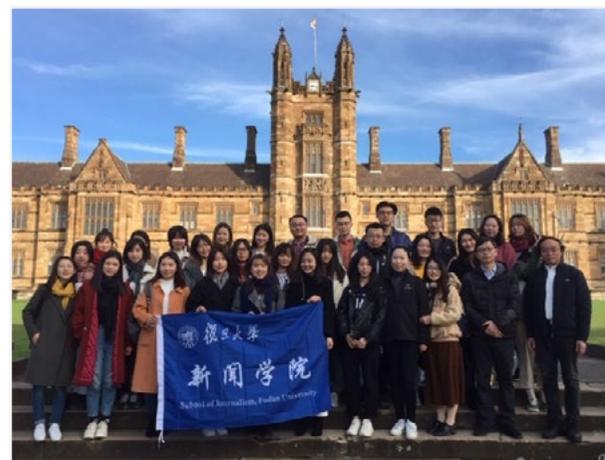
MECO hosts SWARM Symposium

In the wake of the Christchurch call, MECO's fourth annual SWARM Symposium on platform governance was a sell-out event. Over 100 people gathered at the New Law Foyer on 19 August to hear speakers from 6 universities propose creative ways to create less toxic, safer online communities. Keynote Professor Nicolas Suzor argued that given the current debates about how to constrain the power of platforms, we now have the chance to create new social spaces through a new digital constitutionalism - better regulation and governance principles, based on rule of law principles and human rights. He also noted that professional community managers need a seat at the policy-making table when regulatory moves are being drafted.

The Symposium showcased USYD postgraduate work on the emotional labour of moderation in an activist community (Jenna Price, Govt & IR), the new governance roles in news media commenting (Tim Koskie, MECO) and the contested relationship between community managers and digital platform companies (SWARM conference founder and PhD student, Venessa Paech, and symposium convenor Dr [Fiona Martin](#)).

Fudan Journalism School Masters Students

Thirty masters students and their professors (Vice Dean Shuanglong Li and Jianguo Deng) from the School of Journalism, Fudan University Shanghai, attended a research showcase hosted by colleagues from the Department of Media and Communications on 1 July. Associate Professor [Tim Dwyer](#), Dr [Mitchell Hobbs](#) and Dr [Marcus Carter](#) gave presentations relating to their research in media policy, media relations, and virtual reality.



Fudan students. Photo courtesy Tim Dwyer.

The Sonic Storyboard Project

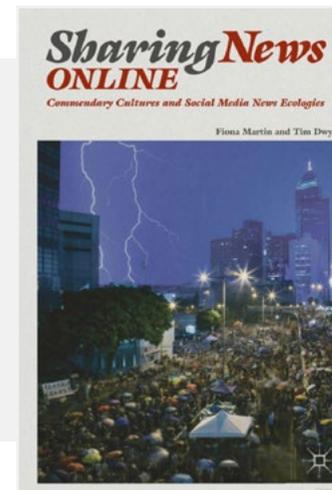
In June 2019, Dr [Diana Chester](#) developed and exhibited [The Sonic Storyboard: The Islamic Call to Prayer](#) through a residency at the InterArtsCenter in Malmo, Sweden. The residency included a public lecture and exhibition talk and was used to develop an exhibition from recordings of the Islamic call to prayer. Using these field recordings and corresponding photographs, Diana developed a sensor based interactive space where visitors to the exhibition became participants in its ever-changing soundscape. The key aim of the exhibition was to highlight human mediation of thought through human mediation of sound. The idea was to experiment with creating a space where people become self-aware of how their presence and participation in the gallery space augment the call to prayer and the sounds they hear. This self-conscious mediation was the goal of the work.

New research leads to an invitation

Dr [Margaret Van Heekeren](#) was invited to present her research on fake news and disinformation at the launch of the annual Australian Catholic Bishops Social Justice Statement on 3 September in Sydney as this year's statement focuses on truth and information in the digital environment. The invitation coincides with the recent publication in *Journalism Studies* of Margaret's article, *The Curative Effect of Social Media on Fake News: A Historical Re-evaluation*.

Recent publications

Fiona Martin & Timothy Dwyer. [Sharing News Online: Commendary Cultures and Social Media News Ecologies](#). (2019, Palgrave Macmillan)



Medieval & Early Modern Centre

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

MEMC & RBSC Collaboration

The Medieval and Early Modern Centre has been working with Fisher Library's Rare Books and Special Collections (RBSC) to make more of the University's rich resources available to the research community. We have launched a campaign to identify unusual and interesting manuscripts in the collection that can be scanned and accessed via the Library's digital platform. MEMC has offered to fund the digitisation of rare holdings relevant to our research area as an enrichment of the RBSC scanning project already underway. Over the past few months, the Executive Board of MEMC has been working through the Nicholson Collection of manuscripts, from which we have already identified a number of stimulating and valuable discoveries in Latin, Arabic, Persian, Hebrew, and several European vernacular languages. Work continues on this project through the end of 2019: watch for new uploads in due course!

Emerging Scholars Research Seminar

MEMC has been excited to charter a new multi-disciplinary seminar for postgraduate research students and early career researchers. One of our core missions is to foster intellectual community and exchange between departments, and it's exciting to see the range of new research happening across the University. The monthly seminar allows emerging scholars to present and discuss their research to peers across many different disciplines who work in affiliated times and places but from different disciplinary perspectives. We hope the seminar will provide a space not just for friendly commentary and critique, but also an opportunity to cross boundaries and to think fruitfully about the significance of their work more broadly.

Visitors

The Centre hosted several international visitors this winter. We enjoyed a return visit by David Andrés Fernández (Universidad Complutense de Madrid). This was David's third visit to Sydney, and an opportunity to continue his collaboration with MEMC Honorary Associate Jane Hardie on the expanding collection of Spanish liturgical manuscripts in Fisher RBSC. In particular, he devoted his time to two newly acquired sixteenth-century processions (music books carried in liturgical processions) from Spain and France, on which he presented to a packed crowd in the Fisher Library Seminar Room. David and Jane are correcting proofs from last year's MEMC conference on the Sydney music manuscripts, to be published early in 2020.

MEMC also hosted two events for Timothy McCall, an art historian from Villanova University. McCall was here as a fellow of the Sydney Social Sciences and Humanities Advanced Research Centre ([SSSHARC](#)). In a public lecture, McCall – a specialist in gender and power as mediated through the fashion, textiles, and art of Renaissance Italy – explored how brocades and other rich textiles constructed the powerful silhouettes fifteenth-century lords adopted to display their might. The next day, McCall led a masterclass seminar with a number of specialists in early European fashion, including MEMC affiliates Sarah Bendall and Hilary Davidson.

Finally, Anya Adair (English, University of Hong Kong) offered a stimulating lunchtime research seminar on the legal codes of the Anglo-Saxon king, Alfred. Her critical examination of the vocabulary shared between poetic and legal lexicons in Anglo-Saxon England wiped away a number of anachronistic assumptions about early common law.

Department of Studies in Religion

Words by Associate Professor [Jay Johnston](#)

Magic in Many Modes

It's been a magical time recently as a bevy of publications by Department staff investigating aspects of magic found public form. To follow is a short round-up.

[Carole Cusack](#) co-edited [The Sacred in Fantastic Fandom](#) with John W. Morehead and Venetia Laura Delano Robertson (a former PhD student of the Department). The eclectic volume investigates the intersection of fandom and spiritual practice, particularly in relation to the use of texts, for example *The Hobbit* and the *Harry Potter* series, and in online games and popular shows like *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

[Iain Gardner](#) and [Jay Johnston](#) published "[I, Deacon Iohannes, Servant of Michael!](#)" a new consideration of the text, design, image and ritual instructions on one of the papyrus works belonging to the 'magical archive' held at Heidelberg University. Looking seriously at marks routinely dismissed as just scribble led to the consideration of 'magic' square' workings and related ritual practices in early Islamic Egypt.

Bridging the ancient and the contemporary, a chapter (a long-time 'in press') by [Jay Johnston](#), on the re-use of ancient magical texts - particularly images - by contemporary ritual magicians appeared in the edited volume [New Antiquities: Transformations of Ancient Religion in the New Age and Beyond](#). Also appearing recently are three pieces she authored, on Icelandic magic and medicinal mushrooms as a contributor to the book part of Kirsha Kaechele's (MONA) [Eat The Problem](#) project.

Words by Ray Radford (PhD Candidate)

The 2019 European Summer Conference Circuit - The Donner Institute and the EASR

In 2019 I attended my first international conferences as a PhD candidate and representative of the University of Sydney, and of my department, Studies in Religion. I have previously presented at the Australian Association for the Study of Religion (AASR) conferences; they are local affairs, not requiring a 24-hour flight to reach the host country. I first found myself in the lovely town of Turku, Finland (a two-hour drive from Helsinki) for a small conference at the Donner Institute. The Donner Institute is a private institute attached to Åbo Akademi University. The theme, 'Approaching Esotericism and Mysticism', focused predominantly on the cultural influences that attach themselves to esoteric and mystical currents, attracting papers on topics including art, photography, literature, architecture, philosophy, and music.

Traditional and modern themes were explored; for example, Olli Pitkänen and Oskari Koskela discussed esoteric themes in Black Metal and the Contemporary Occult Milieu, in a session where Dr Kimi Kärki (University of Turku) presented on the multiple soundtracks and occult dimensions of Kenneth Anger's film *Lucifer Rising*. The majority of PhD candidates in attendance were also presenting in Europe for the first time, some coming from distances as great as I did, like Abby R. Eron (University of Maryland) who presented on Gertrude Käsebier's spirit photography. Others, such as Cristoffer Tideli (University of Uppsala) gave his first presentation on attempts to study paranormal (oc)culture. This plethora of PhD students was heartening, considering the distances travelled to attend this niche meeting. Organisers and local students treated us to a walking tour, focusing on sites and people of significance to esoteric Turku, including occultist neo-Nazi Pekka Siitoin, the Theosophical library of Héléne Jacobsson, and the history of the Donner Institute itself.

By contrast, the 2019 European Association for the Study of Religion (EASR) conference, in beautiful Tartu, Estonia was (good) bedlam. Over 650 delegates from around the world participated. The University of Sydney was represented by Professor [Carole Cusack](#), Giselle Bader (giving two papers), and myself. A downside of the sheer number of presenters was twenty plus panels all running concurrently. I chose to attend panels regarding humour and religion focusing primarily on new religious movements. The positive of so many academics in one place multiplied the outcomes from Tartu; meeting like-minded people, including multiple postgrads and recently submitted PhD candidates, in scenic surrounds. The EASR proffered cultural excursions, ranging from a hike through a bog, visiting a Russian Old Believers' village, and a ghost tour of Tartu. I signed up for the ghost tour, which explored the ruined abbey, with its stories of the entombed virgin and the suicide victim wandering the outside gate area. This tour revealed parts of Tartu I might not have otherwise seen. This continued the esoteric aspect, carried over from Finland, which I enjoyed and thought strengthened the interplay between the two gatherings.

Both conferences were well-organised and endeavoured to not only showcase the home university, but to also introduce the town and the region to which they belonged. The EASR especially was a massive undertaking, and an army of blue-shirted student volunteers offered help to anyone in need. I was encouraged that my first experiences of the summer conference scene in Europe was so enjoyable, and that I met so many new friends and colleagues on the same PhD journey.

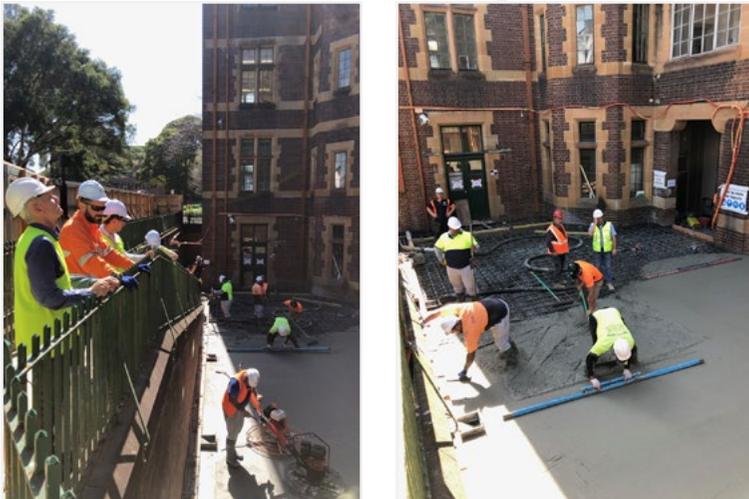
Sydney College of the Arts

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

Pictured is the concrete pour of the foundation of what will be the glass and ceramics studios within SCA's OTC facilities. I joined a dozen or so workers, who had gathered quietly along the OTC's palisade fence to watch the choreographed performance. Amongst the sublime aroma of fresh concrete, we looked on, exchanging glances as the team danced with their spewing tubes and straight edges, to the tune of a device that beeped when each section of the mass had been caressed to a spirit level finish. I would have stayed on to witness the completion of what is possibly Sydney's most plumb slab but instead was lured away by the siren song of yet another meeting.

I am sharing this defining and humbling moment with you because from this point forward the build will quicken in pace. The historic relocation of SCA is nearing reality and we are very much looking forward to being in closer contact with our colleagues in SLAM and the broader university.

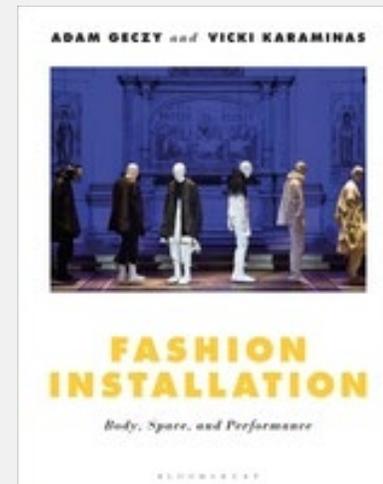
Meanwhile SCA continues with its everyday work in the cultural sphere.



The OTC refurbishment. Images courtesy Andrew Lavery.

Recent publications

Adam Geczy, Vicki Karaminas. [Fashion Installation: Body, Space, and Performance](#). (2019, Bloomsbury)





Julie Rrap's *At Arm's Length*



Julie Rrap's *Point Blank*

Photos by John Gollings

Current Exhibitions

Staff

- [Julie Rrap](#) is exhibiting new sculptural works in her solo exhibition *Twisted Logic* at [Arc One Gallery](#) in Melbourne until 5 October. The exhibition is centred around the historical fact that bronze artworks were often melted down to create weapons and armour, with this process potentially reversed in times of peace. *Twisted Logic* articulates the ambiguous relationship that can exist between culture and politics, that art can be created or destroyed depending on political regimes.

Alumni

- Jonny Niesche's latest solo exhibition *Blush* is on at [Sarah Cottier Gallery](#), Sydney, until 5 October.

Department of Theatre & Performance Studies

Words by Dr Justine Shih Pearson

In Memorium: Paul Moore (1963-2019)



It is with profound sadness that we must share news of the passing of a wonderful friend, colleague, artist and scholar, Dr **Paul Moore**, who died on 26 June in his adopted home of Derry, Northern Ireland. Paul will be fondly remembered by many former students in Theatre and Performance Studies, either as one of their peers or as a tutor/guest lecturer or (for a new generation of undergraduates) as the author of some brilliant and incisive set readings on the sociology of theatre. His wit, charm, intelligence and kindness also touched many colleagues, not only among the academic staff but also general staff (for a number of years, he was an excellent, highly empathic student adviser in the Faculty Office).

Paul's family left Belfast at the height of "The Troubles" and emigrated to Adelaide where he completed his schooling and subsequently trained as an actor at the Flinders University Drama Centre. He relocated to Sydney in the mid-1990s and remained highly engaged in professional theatre practice before, during and after completing his PhD in the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies. A performer, playwright and director, he co-founded [Brink Productions](#) in Adelaide and toured the world with Indonesian-Australian festival blockbuster [The Theft of Sita](#). After he moved to Derry in 2007 (initially to take up a lectureship at Ulster University), he remained an active Honorary Associate at the University of Sydney and continued to produce both scholarly papers and creative research outputs - the latter generated through [AnNua](#) (Irish for "The New"), a company he formed with other local Derry artists to produce works that merged traditional Irish forms with contemporary performance aesthetics and new technologies.

Paul's PhD thesis, "Longing to Belong: Trained Actors' Attempts to Enter the Profession" (2004) remains one of the best sustained sociological analyses of the field of theatre production in Australia. It has been downloaded over a thousand times from the Fisher Library digital repository and is enormously helpful as a model of how one might apply the theoretical and methodological framework of Pierre Bourdieu to contemporary cultural analysis. At the time of his death, Paul had exciting plans to renew this research in the form of a book publication, alongside other plays, short stories, and a novel he was working on. The Department hopes to take up Paul's work in a posthumous publication and will hold a special seminar dedicated to his work later in the year.

Memorials for the life of Paul Moore were held at the Playhouse Theatre in Derry in July and in Adelaide in late August. We join in sending condolences to Paul's siblings Catherine and Richard, his mother and father, and the larger family of his friends and colleagues - from across several continents (Paul hated borders!) - who will all miss him greatly.

Visiting Scholars

We welcome visiting scholar **Jennifer Gaschler** who joins the Department this semester from Freie Universität Berlin, where she is undertaking an MA in Theatre. Jennifer will be undertaking coursework as part of her Study Abroad program and researching contemporary Australian theatre practices for her thesis project.

Kirin Narayan, Professor of Anthropology and South Asian Studies in the College of Asia and the Pacific at ANU, joined us in August to deliver a guest workshop and seminar as part of the Department's weekly Research Seminar for staff and postgraduate students. Kirin's work at the intersection of narrative and ethnography has been influential to the teaching and doing of performance ethnography by many in the Department; and her presentation, "Working With the Carpenters' Cord", drew upon fieldwork amongst hereditary carpenters in Western India to explore the concept of "crafting" in relation to writing ethnography.

In August, we held a one-day workshop on the acting approach of Rudolf and Marie Steiner, with guest practitioners **Annika Andersdotter** and **Renate Millonig** as part of PhD student Neil Anderson's research on the influence of Steiner on contemporaries Goethe, Michael Chekhov and others.

In the News

[Paul Dwyer](#) was quoted in the [Sydney Morning Herald](#) in August regarding the defunding of Australian Plays by the Australia Council for the Arts, on the back of the closure of Playwrighting Australia. The potential loss of these two key organisations for playwriting would leave a large gap in the country's theatre ecology. The current round of multi-year funding to organisations by the Australia Council is expected to see a number of well-known companies lose their funding, with only one-third of 412 organisations making it through the first-round EoI, and more expected to fall before the final results are announced in February, leading to a widespread [call](#) for the government to increase Australia Council funding "to ensure that the small to medium sector can survive".

Conferences, Events and Community Engagement

[Ian Maxwell](#) was awarded \$9,910 for a *SLAM Festival of Chinese Culture*, through the Student Life "Quick wins" scheme. The Festival, to unfold through Semester 2 in 2019, will involve a series of events curated by the Departments of Art History, Writing Studies, and the Sydney College of the Arts, including film screenings, writing workshops, performance presentations and pop-up exhibitions. The first event consisted of a public forum, a dramaturgical workshop, and a seminar presentation with Chinese-American playwright Zhu Yi and dramaturg Fabrizio Massini of Ibsen International, marking the occasion of the Australian premiere of Zhu Yi's play *A Deal*, on 22 August. The focus on theatre continues with a production of the contemporary Taiwanese classic *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land*, produced by the Chinese Development Society and presented at Barney's Anglican Church, Ultimo, which opened on 28 August, and the Sydney University Dramatic Society's *Rhinoceros in Love* by Liao Yimei, which opened in the Cellar Theatre in mid-September.

The project is intended to highlight and showcase the wealth and variety of cultural activity brought to the University by international students - and particularly, in this case, by Chinese students - at a time when there is widespread concern about the kinds of experiences these students have while they are studying with us. It will also affirm SLAM's commitment to cultural work more broadly, across the campus. Future events are still to be scheduled. Please contact [Ian Maxwell](#) for details.

Conferences, Events and Community Engagement (cont'd)

In July, [Paul Dwyer](#) worked with performers Mahdi Mohammadi and Jawad Yaqoubi, as well as video artist Sean Bacon, to develop a new theatre work *Dorr-e Dari: A Poetic Crash Course in the Language of Love*, commissioned as part of [PYT Fairfield's Residency Program](#). The show draws on Mahdi and Jawad's connection to Hazara traditions of courtly love poetry, religious mysticism, popular ballads and ecstatic dances that has endured for over a thousand years. The work-in-progress was presented to an audience at the Fairfield School of the Arts, and will travel to Adelaide in September as part of Vitalstatistix's national theatre hothouse [Adhocracy](#), before performing at the Crack Theatre Festival in Newcastle at the beginning of October. Paul's collaboration with Mahdi and Jawad is an extension of the relationship they formed working together on PYT Fairfield's [Tribunal](#), a participatory performance in which Indigenous Elder Aunty Rhonda Dixon Grovenor presides over a Truth and Reconciliation Tribunal on Australia's colonial past and its murky refugee policies. Tribunal premiered at the Stables Theatre in 2016, and went on to sell-out seasons at PYT Fairfield, MCA, Artshouse, Sydney Opera House and the Sydney Festival.



Mahdi Mohammadi and Jawad Yaqoubi perform in *Dorr-e Dari* at PYT Fairfield in July. Image by Alex Wisser.



(L): Chris Hay, Paul Dwyer, and Ting Zhang; and (R) Glen McGillivray, Laura Ginters, and Andrew Filmer, at the 2019 IFTR conference in Shanghai in July.

[The International Federation of Theatre Research annual conference](#) was held this year at the Shanghai Theatre Academy (8-12 July), with the theme "Theatre, Performance and Urbanism". The Department of Theatre and Performance Studies was well represented with papers delivered by staff [Paul Dwyer](#), [Glen McGillivray](#), and [Laura Ginters](#), PhD student Ting Zhang, and alumni of the Department Jonathan Bollen (UNSW), Chris Hay (UQ), and Andrew Filmer (Aberystwyth University, Wales).

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

In June, we were joined in the studio by emerging choreographer **Raghav Handa**, noted by *Dance Australia* as one of his generation's "dancers to watch", and **Maharshi Raval**, a highly-regarded tabla master from the Benaras Gharana School, a student of the late Pt. Nandan Mehta who was a disciple of the legendary Pt. Sri Kishen Maharaj (see a profile on Maharshi by [SBS](#)). The two artists spent their time in the studio developing a new work, *Two*. Raghav says their work together "draws on Kathak rhythms and the principle of dynamic shift and uses bodies and minds in space to physically test these themes", making a notable contribution to creative research in the field of contemporary dance which calls upon relationships to traditional cultural practices. From The Rex, Raghav takes *Two* into residence at the Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts in Bangalore for three months before returning to Australia.



An image from *Silent Trio Beats*, choreographed by Rex resident Artist Raghav Handa. Image by Martin Fox.



In June-July, TaPS alumni **Dino Dimitriadis** returned to rehearse his production of *Omar and Dawn* by James Elazzi, presented at Kings Cross Theatre. Dino completed his Honours with the Department in 2010 and has gone on to become an emerging director at the forefront of queer theatre in Sydney. For this production he worked with the actors Lex Marinos, Antony Makhlof, Mansoor Noor, and Maggie Blinco, herself an alumnus of the University and an active member of SUDS in the 1950-60s. The show received great reviews for its "[bravado and bristling energy](#)" and it being a "[tense, gut-punch of a ride](#)".

Left: Doyenne of Australian theatre Maggie Blinco in rehearsal for *Omar and Dawn*, directed by Dino Dimitriadis. Both Maggie and Dino are USYD alumni; Maggie studied here in the 1950s and Dino in the 2000s. Image courtesy Apocalypse Theatre Company.

In The Rex ... cont'd

Interdisciplinary artist **Vic McEwan** was in the studio for a week in July working on his project as resident artist with the [Sydney Facial Nerve Clinic](#). Vic's creative research explores the potential role that the arts can play in cultivating and/or challenging institutionalised medical thinking. Research at the nexus of arts and health is becoming one increasing focus of work in the Department of Theatre & Performance Studies, and Vic will be returning to The Rex later in the year as part of a research retreat funded by a grant from Sydney Social Sciences and Humanities Advanced Research Centre ([SSSHARC](#)), which will bring together artists and academics of the interdisciplinary Sydney Arts Health Collective.



Artist-in-residence Kathy Cogill. Image by Martin Fox.

In July, contemporary performance makers **Nigel Kellaway** and **Katia Molina** joined us to work with musician **Michael Bell** on the development of *Arcadia*, a pseudo-memoiristic performative dialogue with music in the tradition of post-dramatic theatre. Nigel's company, [The Opera Project](#), explores how physical notions of space and the abstract qualities more generally attributed to music (tempi, dynamics, durations) can provide the structural, narrative and aesthetic building blocks of a new theatre work. The artists gave a showing of the work to open the Department's weekly Research Seminar for Semester 2, and also two evening showings in The Rex for invited guests.

The *Arcadia* team shared the studio with independent choreographer **Kathy Cogill**, working on early development of a movement/text piece, *The Channel*, based on objects and letters left by her mother. Kathy has a long performance history as an actor and dancer, working with companies such as Force Majeure, Australian Dance Theatre, Dance Exchange, The One Extra Company, Marrugeku, Sydney Theatre Co. and in Europe with Les Ballets C de la B, Compania Vicente Saez and prominent director Robert Wilson.

In August, [Griffin Theatre Company](#) returned for the final rehearsal period of their renewal of leading playwright Hilary Bell's [Splinter](#), starring Lucy Bell and Simon Gleeson and directed by Griffin Artistic Director Lee Lewis. First produced in 2012 by Sydney Theatre Company, the play explores sinister ground, a chilling thriller involving the return of a missing child. While in residence in The Rex, the company participated in a marketing campaign for the University's Open Day, and also hosted TaPS Honours student Hayden Moon, undertaking his industry placement as part of the rehearsal ethnography component of his research project.



Actors Lucy Bell and Simon Gleeson rehearsing *Splinter* in The Rex, before opening at the Stables Theatre on 11 September. Image by Brett Boardman; courtesy Griffin Theatre.

Department of Writing Studies

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

The Department of Writing Studies welcomed its new continuing member of staff, Dr [Jedidiah Evans](#). For more about Jed, see '[New Faces](#)' in this edition of SLAMmag.

The Department of Writing Studies' Dr [Frances Di Lauro](#) and Dr [Bunty Avieson](#) (Department of Media and Communications) hosted the inaugural Worlds of Wikimedia conference [WOW2019 Worlds of Wikimedia](#) from 12-14 June in association with Wikimedia Australia. Held over 3 days in the International Year of Indigenous Languages, the conference theme prioritised initiatives that broaden inclusion and global diversity. Esteemed keynote talks were presented by Professor Jaky Troy, Ingrid Cumming, and Dr Toby Hudson, and international guests Dr Martin Dittus (Oxford), Liam Wyatt (Bologna) and Carwil Bjork-James (Tennessee). Frances presented on contributions to English Wikipedia by international students in a large undergraduate elective unit (OLES2129). Simon Liu, creator of an article on the S&P top 1000 companies presented on his process and experience as a student in that unit in 2018. Carrol Quadrio presented her work on digital technology as an enabler for indigenous peoples, and Dr [Jedidiah Evans](#) presented his paper "Wikiprisons: carceral education and the limits of knowledge. See '[SLAM News](#)' in this edition of SLAMmag for more.

Dr [Alex Howard](#) gave the paper 'Glaciers, Castles, Pianos: Michael Haneke and the Art of Adaptation' at the Sydney Literature and Cinema Network's 'Literary Cinematics: Experience, Poetics, and Philosophies of Form' symposium.

Associate Professor [Susan Thomas](#) presented "The Zen WPA" at the Council of Writing Program Administrators Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, on 26 July. She has also published [Learning to write by writing to learn: How writing centres and creativity can transform academic writing instruction](#) in *TEXT Journal of Writing and Writing Courses*.

The Writing Hub's Student Writing Fellows Team have received a [Vice Chancellor's Award for Educational Excellence](#) for their flagship peer tutoring program, designed and currently coordinated by [Susan Thomas](#).



L-R: Gabriela Bourke, Anna Byesyedina, Alyssa Hutchings, Josh Harper, Megan Ivory, Thomas Jurkiewicz, Dr Michael Spence, and Tom Paech, at the 2019 VC's Awards event on 26 August.

Photo courtesy Ben Miller.

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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