

QUADRIVIA

The HPRC Newsletter



September 2006

Editorial

This month your newsletter is top-heavy with seminars, lectures, conference reports, writers festivals and other thoughtful and thought-provoking gatherings of the busy-minded. This is great – and there is a call for papers from the School's postgraduate e-journal, an equally worthy activity. But there is very little in the way of 'School News' of a more mundane and everyday kind. Which leads to the question: are we all working so hard and so dutifully that nobody does anything worthy of gossip anymore?

Thankfully Julie Kelso comes to the rescue with a joyful celebration of the mundane in the sacred on her big day. And Sonia Puttock is suitably thrilled to be hosting glamorous media types and their film crews in the Antiquities Museum. Your editors look around the corridors, classrooms, tea-rooms and offices of this place and say, "more please!"

There will be two more issues of *Quadrivia* this year before the summer break, so please send all your gossip, snippets, stray thoughts, gratuitous self-promotion and reflections on the meaning of it all to the editorial team at any time.

It's also time to turn our minds towards the end of the year, which can only mean three things: marking, Melbourne Cup Day, marking, and a Christmas party to mark the end of the marking.

Your editors,

Geoff Ginn (g.ginn@uq.edu.au)

Serena Bagley (s.bagley@uq.edu.au)



Head of School's Report

We should be pleased to know that recently the Dean approved an appointment of a Lecturer in Religion in the area of Religion and Culture, with a focus on Contemporary Spiritualities. The hope is for a successful candidate to commence in first semester next year.

Due to a resignation effective at the end of this coming November, the School is requesting the Dean to approve an appointment of a Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in American History to commence at the same time. A prerequisite is for the Dean to receive from the School a proposal about curriculum reform in History, in which a reduction of the current number of courses is evident. I'm happy to report, "so far, so good." However, whether the History position will be approved by the Dean remains to be seen.

Whilst money and number-crunching is a big part of the daily business of the School, our academic life together is what makes coming to work really worth it. Toward this end, I recently announced to the School Executive that \$10,000 will be available in 2007 as a "School Visitors Fund." The purpose of the fund is to bring academic colleagues to the School on a regular basis. Each discipline will be able to bring 2 visitors per semester, with a School total of 16 visitors in all (@\$625 per visit maximum). No doubt disciplines will want to think about this sooner than later before the new year rolls around.

Finally, the School offers best wishes to Dr Frank Zelko who is leaving us for the University of Vermont at the end of the year, and to Ms Cindy Johnston who is being seconded (as I write) to the School of Integrative Biology at UQ for twelve months. I must say that I am relieved to know that Cindy will remain "in the loop," just in case the university auditor walks through my door one day.

Richard Hutch

Head of School



Welcome

Congratulations and welcome to **Megan McCarthy**, a new postgraduate research student in the School. Megan was the stand-out applicant for the two-year scholarship jointly funded by the Fellowship Fund Inc (FFI), the UQ Library and the School of HPRC to research and document the history of the Australian Federation of University Women –Queensland (AFUW-Q).

The AFUW-Q was founded in 1922, and is a philanthropic association dedicated to encourage and promote the further education of graduate women through advocacy, fellowships and conferences. Megan will undertake the project to mark the organisation's 85th anniversary in 2007 as a M. Phil. research degree. She moved up from Sydney to Brisbane in mid-August to commence her work on this project, and is presently residing in Tim Parkin's old room, Rm. 315 Michie Building.

An afternoon tea was held in HPRC on September 13 to welcome Megan and introduce her to key individuals as her project develops. This was attended by staff from HPRC, the Fryer Library, University Archives and **Agnes Whitton** and **Barbara Williams** from the AFUW (Q).



Crossroads

Call for papers

Crossroads, an interdisciplinary journal for the study of history, philosophy, religion and classics, publishes essays and book reviews from undergraduate and research higher degree students from the School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics at the University of Queensland. *Crossroads* also encourages papers that dialogue between two or more of these disciplines. Students are encouraged to submit either as individual authors or as co-writers with relevant disciplinary or multi-disciplinary interests.

Crossroads is a refereed journal. Essays considered to be of a high standard will be blind-reviewed by academics from outside the University of Queensland who are familiar with the field a particular essay addresses. *Crossroads* does not assert copyright over published essays, so students are free to make relevant changes to the published essay and resubmit to other journals if they wish.

We are now seeking submissions with the deadline being Friday 22 September. Please support the journal, because by doing so you are supporting the School and your fellow students. Not only is this a chance for everyone to build on their 'list of publications', but the School will also receive significant funding for every essay published. If you have any queries, or wish to submit an essay or review article, please contact the editorial committee via email on crossroads@uq.edu.au or access our website at www.uq.edu.au/crossroads for *Crossroads* philosophy and submission guidelines.



HPRC Honours Information Session

All undergraduate students in the School interested in finding out more about the School's Honours programs for 2007 are cordially invited to an information session.

DATE: Wednesday 20th September 2006

WHEN: 3-5pm

WHERE: Social Sciences & Humanities Library Conference Room, Level 1 in the Duhig Building (#2).

Catering will be provided. Places can be reserved by sending an RSVP to hprc@uq.edu.au.



Seminars

Thursday September 7: History

Libby Connors (USQ): 'A Judicial Response? Evidence of Traditional Law as a factor in indigenous responses to Europeans at Moreton Bay'

4.15 pm, Rm 816, Michie Bldg.

Wednesday September 13: CHED

Professor John Christian Laursen (University of California) 'Utopia and Dystopia in More and Veiras, Or, One Person's Utopia is the Next Person's Dystopia'

4-6pm, CCCS Seminar Room, Forgan Smith Tower, level 4.

John Christian Laursen is the author of *The Politics of Skepticism in the Ancients, Montaigne, Hume, and Kant* (1992). He has written many articles and edited numerous volumes on toleration, heresy, and issues of freedom of the press, including *Heresy in Transition* (2005); *Continental Millenarians* (2001); *Beyond the Persecuting Society* (1998); and *Difference and Dissent* (1996). He is an Affiliate of the Centre for the History of European Discourses at the University of Queensland, and Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Riverside.

Thursday 14th September: CHED

Professor Ian Hunter (CHED): 'Learning to Tolerate Heretics: Religious Peace and the Secularisation of the State'

5.30-6.30pm, The Mayne Centre, St Lucia Campus, UQ

This lecture will discuss the relation between religious toleration and the secularisation of the state in early modern Europe. This nexus is something that has become obscured over time, but is crucial for dealing with the problem of governing multi-confessional societies.

Ian Hunter will draw on his research into the early modern political jurist Christian Thomasius. Little known in English-language contexts, Thomasius is famous in Germany for a series of disputations arguing against heresy and witchcraft trials and in favour of a certain kind of religious toleration. Thomasius's central lesson is that religious peace depends on the secularisation of the state, which is something quite different from the secularisation of society.

Friday September 15: Philosophy

William Grey: "Time Wounds All Heels: Reflections on the Harm of Death".

3pm, Seminar Room E348, Forgan Smith Building (1)
(Backup venue: Forgan Smith Building (1) Room E303)

Thursday September 21: History

Chris Dawson: "The Last Morning: the practice of execution in Queensland"

4.15 pm, Rm 816, Michie Bldg.

This paper will focus on the practice of execution at Boggo Road Gaol 1883-1913, providing a step-by-step account of the events on the morning of an execution at that prison.

Chris Dawson completed his BA at UQ in 2002 with a double major in Anthropology. He co-founded the Boggo Road Gaol Historical Society in 2003, and has completed research as a volunteer in the museum context, producing several books and exhibits, a CD-ROM and the historical plaque that marks the prisoners graves in South Brisbane Cemetery. He is presently undertaking a Postgraduate Diploma in Applied and Local History at UQ.

Thursday September 21: Classics & Ancient History

Professor Jacques Perreault: "Argilos, A Greek Colony In Thracian Territory" (an illustrated lecture)

7.30 p.m., Rm 388 Goddard Bldg.

Since 1992, Greek and Canadian archaeologists have been excavating one of the earliest Greek colonies in the Northern Aegean. Founded around 655 B.C., Argilos rapidly became a flourishing city which benefited from its trading activities in the region. This lecture will present the discoveries made on the site, amongst which were surprisingly well preserved houses and public buildings.

Professor Perreault is Professor of the Greek Archaeology at the University of Montreal. A former Director of the Canadian Archaeological Institute in Athens, he is currently Co-director of the Greek-Canadian excavations at Argilos and Director of the Canadian Excavations at Ras el Bassit in Syria.

Friday September 22: Philosophy

Marion Tapper (U. Melb.): title TBA.

3pm, Seminar Room E348, Forgan Smith Building (1)
(Backup venue: Forgan Smith Building (1) Room E303)

Friday September 22: Classics & Ancient History

Prof. Jacques Perreault: 'Ras El Bassit: A Port of Trade on the North Syrian Coast'

3.30 pm, Room 323, Michie Bldg.

From 1971 until 1984, French archaeologists excavated the Bronze and Iron Age levels of this small coastal town known to the ancient Greeks as 'Posidéion'. After several study seasons, work was resumed on the site by Canadian archaeologists, who have concentrated their excavations on an early Christian basilica. The aim of this lecture is to present the history of Ras el Bassit, based on the excavations of both teams.

Thursday October 5: CCCS

Prof. Alan Atkinson (UNE): "The intellectual refashioning of Australia, 1870s to 1890s"

4.00 pm, CCCS Seminar Room, Level 4, Forgan Smith Tower.



School News

Sarah Ferber is the joint coordinator of a new Network for Early European Research (NEER) cluster, which has received a \$4000 seeding grant to encourage new research directions on the theme 'Supernatural Power and Social Relations.' NEER is a large ARC-funded research network.



Some Recent Publications

Neil Pembroke, 'A Pastoral Perspective on the Suffering of God', *Colloquium* 38, 1 (2006) 27-40.

Neil Pembroke, *Renewing Pastoral Practice: Trinitarian Perspectives on Pastoral Care and Counselling* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2006).



PSC Drinks 'n' Nibbles: October 5

Don't forget, the hip and happening PSC Drinks 'n' Nibbles is happening Thursday 5 October from 4pm at the Classics Common Room, Level 3, Michie Building!

All faculty, staff and postgraduate (research, coursework and honours) students are invited (and urged) to attend.

All we ask is a gold coin donation so that we can fund future events. If you have any questions or need more information, please email: hprcpostgrads@uq.edu.au. If you have any ideas for other events, also get in touch.

The September Drinks 'n' Nibbles was a big success with lots of new faces and off-campus postgrads coming in to visit. Hope to see you there!

Helen Farley

PSC Chair



Cats and Dogs

Centre for Buddhist Studies

Wednesday September 20

“Meditation in Vedic Tradition” by Vedavyasapriya Swami, 12.00 - 2.00pm, Room E356 (Forgan Smith Building)

Saturday September 30

Meditation workshop with Sue Sawyer, 8.45am until 4.00pm, Room 215, Gordon Greenwood Bldg (#32)
Bookings by email s4032625@student.uq.edu.au.



Biohumanities Project update

In August **Prof. Paul Griffiths** delivered two lectures at Future Directions in Biology Studies, an international postgraduate and early career researcher workshop at the University of Indiana, Bloomington, sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology. **Dr John Wilkins** of the Biohumanities Project also attended the workshop.

Paul went on to the International Society for Research on the Emotions in Atlanta, Georgia, where he spoke in the Presidential Plenary Session on emotions as social transactions. Paul and **Dr Stefan Linquist** of the Biohumanities Project have been cooperating with UQs Faculty of Business, Economics and Law to bring the 2008 ISRE conference to Australia and it was confirmed at this year's meeting that the next conference will be held at the Coolum Hilton on the Sunshine Coast from 11-15 July 2008. The conference brings together emotion researchers from fields as diverse as psychology, neuroscience, anthropology, philosophy of mind, and management theory. Paul will be acting as program chair for the meeting.

Paul spent the remainder of August as a Visiting Professor at the ESRC Center for Genomics in Society at the University of Exeter. Egenis was the model which more than any other inspired UQs own Biohumanities Project. A research center in Exeter's School of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Egenis was funded by an initial five-year grant from the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) to Egenis director Prof. John Dupré. Supported by two new teaching appointments in the Department of Sociology and Philosophy it has become perhaps the most exciting place to pursue research in the history, philosophy and social studies of biology in the UK and is attracting many postgraduate students. Egenis has received a second five-year funding renewal from the ESRC, plus additional grants from ESRC and AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council) for specific projects. Egenis now supports ten senior and junior research fellows, with an additional three arriving this year to study aspects of stem cell research. A recent US\$1M grant from a US charitable trust has allowed Egenis to renovate and equip a new building (pictured), although such is its rate of growth that there is already pressure to expand into adjacent space.

The final event on Paul's trip was an address to the Genomics Forum in Edinburgh, a national coordinating body for ESRC-supported social science research on genomics. His September 14th lecture was entitled 'Is there a problem with the public understanding of genomics?'

This trip was at no expense to the Australian taxpayer.



My New Book

A sound-bite summary of the latest HPRC opus...

“Christian theologians have been trying for quite some time to sell the idea that the Trinity is not some esoteric doctrine that has nothing to do with everyday life; it is really very practical. I think that they are right,” says our very own Neil Pembroke.

In *Renewing Pastoral Practice* (Ashgate 2006) Neil takes the relational dynamics at the heart of the life of the triune God and shows how they inform the practices of pastoral care and counselling.



A Wedding Belle

Julie Kelso reports on recent marital celebrations...

“The bride was blushing, the groom well-behaved...ok that’s a lie. But the wedding was a curious success. I know this because the groom tore his new suit trousers (from *Mitchell Ogilvie*. Bugger) when he was sent downstairs at 11:30pm to fetch another bottle of bubbles, and the bride tore the train of her “Tatty Edwardian” (by *Chercher la Femme*, of course) ensemble.

She also woke the next day to realise that she had lost her wedding ring. This was at 7:30am (after stumps were pulled at 1am) so she was, as they say in the classics, a little emotional. She searched for hours trying to figure out: A. why she took it off; B. where a drunk gal might have placed her blessed-by-a-Jesuit ring (did she take it off by the basin as she scrubbed the raccoon rings from her sorry eyes, or perhaps, next to her delicate garments, fearing, somewhat illogically, that a spikeless gold-band might tear them like her shoe had done 10 hours earlier?); and C. how to tell her snoring groom. He would, some hours later, find it next to her side of the bed on the floor. Who knows why, but thank you anyway St Anthony.

The bride should have known the whole thing would be something of a disaster. Three days prior to her big day, the 18 years old eye-candy next door, whom she had organised to run the bar, broke his arm. The day before the event of the century, an enormous fridge for the liquids of the day arrived, far too big to fit through the gate into the back yard (36 perches in Toowong! gotta buy this place).

Consequently, there were three bar stations, which led to her very gracious friends ‘popping out’ to buy cartons of Corona and white wine because they thought she’d run out (“I was in the other fridge,” she cried, barely concealing her glee). As a consequence of this consequence, the nuptial

pair now have a heap of booze. Thanks, maybe, to the fact that they allowed the priest to gospel-on about the wedding at Cana (water turned to wine, etc). So, thank you Jesus.

The priest failed to show at the practice session the night before. Bride went home in a huff (calmed by a lovely, buttery Margaret River chardie). The whole ceremony was a hilarious shamozzle, made worse by the fact that the groom still, at the age of 39, cannot tell his right from his left (think: ceremony of the rings; think: laughter from his family who still find this endearing because they never have to direct him in a car – ‘I said RIGHT’ Pete, not left!’ Blimey our lives together are going to be long and meandering).

The priest introduced them, at the end of the service, as Mr and Mrs Dixon (slight pause, as he recalls that the bride’s a feminist who most absolutely, certainly, verily, trooly rooly would not be taking the groom’s name), um, -Kelso, umm, Jnr. Mr and Mrs Dixon-Kelso Jnr? Actually, it’s starting to grow on her (like a wart).

The mother of the bride slipped a disc on the morning of the wedding, and was in an even more foul than usual mood (‘Jule, I think the guests want coffee, so you should go and make it,’ she snarled. ‘Mum, when I go upstairs and make coffee on my wedding day you can go and get your ice-skates and head down to hell. Not gonna happen.’ As the bride walked away she heard her mother saying to no-one ‘I wonder how much it would cost to have coffees delivered.’ Sheesh. She left not long after. Thank you to all the saints in heaven).



Julie and Peter made it...

Professor of English (female) was flirting outrageously with the groom’s very tall, spunky, married friend from Toowoomba who once did an MA in Spanish literature, only to reject the academic life to sell nuts. He is known in our parts as the ‘nutman who reads Spanish.’ The really, really, wealthy nutman who reads Spanish. ‘Come back and do a PhD in literature. You’d be great,’ purred the Professor of English to the gorgeously sozzled gorgeous nutman-gorgeosity (go on spell check, do your work) from

Toowoomba. His gorgeous wife laughed gorgeously (they're a great couple and we've been invited for weekends in Poowoomba in the near future).

The bride's friend Prudence stayed until 1am. She has two kids at home, left with her mother and her mother's husband. She knew she'd be in trouble (her mother doesn't cope well with children and her mother's husband is feared by all under the age of 32), but it was a rare chance to get a skin full with an old friend. She kept saying 'Oh my god, this is embarrassing. I should go,' whilst holding out her glass for another. For hours, they amused themselves by being Pru and Ju (think Kath and Kim) from Toorak.

It was all wonderfully casual in the end, with the jumping castle keeping the little ones amused for six hours, and the grog keeping the big ones hilarious. Perhaps it could have been a little better organised, but everyone was smiling and laughing. And there were no physical fights. The bride deems that a winner.

Julie Kelso - um Dixon - um Dixon-Kelso Jnr.



Bioethics Conference

Assoc. Prof. **William Grey** (Philosophy and Ethics Adviser, CILR) attended the 11th conference of the Australasian Bioethics Association (ABA) at QUT on 5-8 July. Bioethics has typically focused on ethical issues in biomedicine, though its net is increasingly cast more widely to include problems which arise in the biological sciences more generally.

A number of papers at the ABA conference addressed genetics-related issues in connection with biomedical research and therapeutic practice. A common emerging conviction is that, increasingly, where there are misgivings about the applications of genetic technologies, the onus of proof is shifting towards opponents of these technologies to demonstrate the likelihood of significant harm before restrictions of these technologies can be imposed. The cautious precautionary approach prevalent in the early stages of the development of genetic technologies appears to be softening, as the benefits of these technologies become increasingly clear – and the supposed hazards in many cases turn out to be less serious than was formerly supposed.

The shift towards a more permissive approach to the utilization of genetic technologies does not of course mean that anything goes. It is clear that ethical boundaries remain which are not to be transgressed. But there is nevertheless a shift in the atmospherics in the direction of a more permissive climate for genetic research and the developing

sense that the burden of proof is shifting from those who would argue in favour of particular lines of research to those who would oppose it. This shift may be important in considering the current national ethical debate about stem cell research.

The importance of protecting the public against risks posed by new technologies (such as drugs and GM crops) means that there is a continuing need for regulation to control the production of dangerous products and to ban dangerous goods. However there is little doubt that there may also be significant risks associated with not exploring some of the developing technological possibilities – such as the development of drought-resistant crops.

Professor John Mattick (IMB, UQ and adjunct professor in Philosophy) suggested that rapid developments in genetic technology have generated a high-level of (often misconceived) public anxiety. He singled out genetic modification of plant species and human genetic modification as popular focal points of concern. Mattick expressed concern about an emerging obdurate ideological fundamentalism, opposed in principle to any genetic manipulation of organisms. He argued that there is an urgent need to promote better understanding of science and technology, and its benefits, to ensure that prejudice and ignorance don't prevent us from harvesting the benefits that the new technologies present.

The challenge is perhaps easier in connection with medicine than it is in other areas of fruitful genetic research because, Mattick observed, when it comes to the crunch, concern with health always trumps other concerns. This perhaps is illustrated by the fact that there is far less objection to the use of genetic modification in connection with medicine and pharmaceuticals than there is in connection with genetic modification in connection with food production and agriculture.

Mattick suggested that too often public perception of risk is based on poorly understood or exaggerated concerns. This situation perhaps can only be addressed by a careful and gradual process of public education. A great deal of work remains to be done.

William Grey



Brisbane Writers Festival Highlights

Thursday September 14

- 12 noon, Green Marquee, Cultural Forecourt – South Bank. **Fictional History/Historical Fiction** with

Emma Darwin, John Hirst, Tessa Morris-Suzuki, Peter Wells.

- 2 pm, River Marquee, Cultural Forecourt - South Bank. **In the Shadow of the Eagle: Australia – the 51st State?** Dennis Altman in conversation with Andrew Bonnell.
- 4.30 pm Green Marquee, Cultural Forecourt – South Bank. **Beautiful One Day – Will It Be Perfect the Next? Sustaining Brisbane** with John Archer, Brendan Gleeson, Ian Lowe, David J. Smith.

Friday September 15

- 2.00 pm Green Marquee, Cultural Forecourt – South Bank. **Paper Empires: The History of the Book in Australia 1964-2004** with Robyn Sheahan-Bright and Craig Munro.

Saturday September 16

- 1.45 pm Green Marquee, Cultural Forecourt – South Bank. **The Search for Historical Truth** with Ross Fitzgerald, John Hirst and Tessa Morris-Suzuki.
- 7.45 pm Visy Theatre, Brisbane Powerhouse. **The Militarisation of Australian History** with John Birmingham, Ken Inglis and Brenda Walker.

Sunday September 17

- 10.00 am. Green Marquee, Cultural Forecourt – South Bank. **Stolen Pasts** with Rosalind Kidd, Melissa Lucashenko and Peter Turnbull.
- 1.45 pm River Marquee, Cultural Forecourt – South Bank. **Sense and Nonsense in Australian History** John Hirst in conversation with Robert Manne.
- 3.00 pm Blue Marquee, Cultural Forecourt – South Bank. **Writing the Past** with Pat Hoffie, Alexis Wright, and Anna Haebich.

For more information: www.brisbanewritersfestival.com.au



Antiquities Museum

Quadrivia recently reported that the Antiquities Museum had hosted a presenter and film crew from the ABC's program, 'The Collectors'. Not to be outdone, Channel 9 visited the museum a few weeks later to film an episode of 'The Great South East'. During their visit the crew from the commercial channel also filmed the Art Museum and the Great Court complete with a "rent-a-crowd" of Classics and Ancient History students who undertook their role as the fascinated audience with great aplomb. But whereas 'The Collectors' took 9 hours to complete filming 'The Great South East' spent about half an hour in the museum. What this says I am not completely sure. Not to be outdone, a scout from Warner Brothers also visited the museum in her search for the perfect location for a scene in

a proposed film. Obviously our fame is reaching new heights.

As usual the museum is very busy with students finishing their artefact assignments and the volunteers diligently working under the eye of Mark Avery. Mark also supervises the Museum Interns. This year there are four interns, Jessica Favelle, Suzanne Kortlucke (who has just returned from a dig in Pompeii), Katrina Schloss and Nina Roy. Although they are working very hard on their end of semester exhibition, they are also in the process of producing a small display about the history of the Antiquities Museum. This week a work experience student has joined them in the museum as well as spending a day at the school office.

For those people who have wondered at the activity in the ex-Microfiche Room on level 3 of Michie, this is now functioning as the museum office and I have at last relocated some of the many filing cabinets to the office. I am happy to say that the museum office is quickly becoming filled with students and files whereas mine is becoming depleted of both.

Sonia Puttock



Design

Designed by Laurence Brown on behalf of Congress Of Dreams. If you have any questions or comments please call on +61 0421 349 086 or email us at: congressdreams@optusnet.com.au.

