

QUADRIVIA

The HPRC Newsletter



May 2006

Head of School's Report

Things go well indeed! With the restructuring of the School concluded on 2 May 2006, we all can breathe a sigh of relief that it's over, albeit with some regret that it occurred in the first place. That no redundancy in Philosophy was necessary represents a high-water-mark when it comes to teamwork in the School. Thanks to Philosophy for pressing the case; I personally thank everybody for their support in advancing our cause in the context of restructuring. Now we're "back to business" with fresh purpose.

Regrettably, however, as June rolls around we'll be saying goodbye to a number of our colleagues: Mark Colyvan, Damian Cox, Marion Diamond (to 50%) Lynne Hume, Tim Parkin, and Dorothy Watts. I would like to thank those who are leaving us for their contributions to the School, but more of this needs to be said by all of us in a suitable send-off event before they go. Perhaps towards the end of the year those of us remaining in the School will need a retreat. Thinking together about "where to from here" in regard to strategic directions for teaching, research and service for the School could well be in order then. I would appreciate input from members of the School about how they might envisage such a retreat, along with things to include on an agenda for it. In the meantime, I'll keep my eye on the School's budget to see if we can afford a retreat as the year unfolds. Classics and Religion are in the process of making one Level B appointment each, with these lecturers commencing in January 2007. This is good news; a sign of movement forward.

Thanks to all those who bore the brunt of implementing the BA Review recommendations, especially the coordinators of our majors, including Dominic Hyde, William Grey, Clive Moore, Tim Parkin, Rick Strelan, Renee Worringer and Frank Zelko. The job was easier for some than it was for others, but overall it was well done. Also, we finally finished off the bibliographic data for DEST, with thanks to Jodie. Then there is the UQRQA exercise that was recently finalized, with thanks to Bob and Ray and all participating members of the School. I'm winding up our 18-month report on implementing the School Review of 2004, which comes due in a week. My thanks especially to Julian, Bob, Clive and Ray for their assistance with this, a document that I have been

developing for the past nine months and which promises to be in excess of 60 pages. Such is gestation! Would that it were for DEST points! For those of you anticipating joining in the mid-year conferencing rounds in your disciplines, please get out there and network on behalf of the School. Tell people that we are well and truly "back to business" and stepping ahead in our work.

Richard Hutch
Head of School



This Just In

Stefano and Leanne were happy to announce the birth of their first son, Lewis Giovanni Girola. "He was born on the 8th of April and everything went ok," says his Dad. "Lewis G. is a healthy and placid child (for now....). His weight is



ca. 3.35 kg and he's 55 cm long.

In these pictures he's portrayed sleeping in his mother's and father's arms. We are happy to share with all of you this most beautiful moment."

An ecstatic Stefano Girola with newborn Lewis Giovanni.



School News

Promotions

The following promotions in HPRC were announced by the Academic Board recently. From Lecturer to Senior Lecturer: Dr Andrew Bonnell and Dr Primoz Pecenko.

From Senior Lecturer to Reader: Dr Phil Dowe.

There were three promotions to Senior Lecturer and two promotions to Reader in the Faculty. Three of the five promotions came our way, which is an excellent overall result for the School.

Marital celebrations

Martin Crotty was married to his lovely wife, Amy Hyslop, on 1 April at a ceremony at Brisbane Forest Park, and subsequently enjoyed a week honeymooning on the NSW mid-north and north coast. Martin and Amy would like to thank those people who signed the card and chipped in for



the gift vouchers - which have now been expended wisely!

The happy couple smooched a lot...

Book launch

Popular Spiritualities: the Politics of Contemporary Enchantment, edited by Lynne Hume and Kathleen McPhillips and published by Ashgate, U.K., is a collection of 15 articles on popular forms of spiritualities, with an international list of contributors, as well as some of our very own postgraduate students: Des Tramacchi, Michael Carden, and Patricia Rose. It should be on the shelves in bookstores in early July and will have its launch at the August conference 'Alternative Expressions of the Numinous' hosted by HPRC (for more details contact Helen Farley: h.farley@uq.edu.au). Incidentally, the book's cover is from the artwork of another of our postgrad students, David Kellow.

He's a natural

Here's a global citizen for you: congratulations to **Andrew Gentes** (History), an American émigré who works on Siberian exile, who has recently been 'naturalised', the first step to Australian citizenship.

Globetrotters

Prof. Paul Griffiths was a keynote speaker at Duke University's Fifth Annual Conference in Philosophy & Biology, April 28-30 in Durham NC. The topic of the

conference was 'The Emotions as Norm Enforcers: The interface between evolution, ethics and behavioral game theory' and Paul spoke on "'Ask not what your emotions can do for you..." - Emotions, social norms and Machiavellian intelligence' (this trip was at no expense to the Australian taxpayer). **Dr Stefan Linquist** from the UQ Biohumanities Project delivered a paper at the same conference on 'Emotion-governing norms as extended phenotypes'. Meanwhile, CHED/HPRC postgraduate **Brad Nitins** reports on a Norbert Elias conference he recently attended in the UK (see below).

Opinionated? Who, me?

With the May 6 elections in Singapore, Michael Barr (HPRC post-doc) has been in demand for his opinions (of which he admits to having many!) For better or for worse, his views were reported in Reuters, 5 May 2006 and *Australian Financial Review*, 5 and 6 May 2006. Reuters even gave a plug for his forthcoming book, so Michael is a happy camper.

Buddhist meditation

The School's Centre for Buddhist Studies offers meditation sessions every Tuesday at 1 pm in UQ Chaplaincy (Building 38). "Together in Silence" offers the opportunity for a break in your schedule to join us for a silent sitting - all welcome, faith or no faith - stay for as long or short a time as you like.

Crossroads launch, June 6

Crossroads, the interdisciplinary e-journal of HPRC, is being launched on Tuesday 6 June from 3:30pm, level 3 Forgan Smith Building. Some of the authors who have contributed to the first issue will be in attendance. The champagne will be flowing, hot snacks abounding and highbrow conversation engaged in. Please come along and support this wonderful postgraduate initiative. For more information email hprcpostgrads@uq.edu.au and don't forget to check out the Crossroads website at: <http://www.uq.edu.au/crossroads>.

Heritage walks

The School's Centre for Applied History & heritage Studies is hosting three guided walks of the UQ campus on Wednesday May 18th as part of the National Trust of Queensland's Heritage Festival. The walks will be from 9-11 am ('The Campus Landscape'), 12-2 pm ('The Great Court') and from 3-5 pm ('University Museums'). No booking is necessary, and the meeting point for all three walks will be at the foot of the Clock Tower, Great Court.



Seminars

Thursday May 11: CHED

Leela Gandhi (La Trobe): 'Postcolonial theory and the crisis of European Man: A short history'

A History of Theory Seminar

4-6pm., CCCS Seminar Room, Forgan Smith Tower, level 4 - access via the elevator or stairs at the base of tower.

Leela Gandhi's publications include *Postcolonial Theory* (1998), the co-authored, *England through Colonial Eyes* (2001), and *Affective Communities* (2006). She is co-editor of the journal *Postcolonial Studies*.

Thursday May 18: History

Spencer Routh (D. Litt., former UQ librarian and member of the working party of the Australian Dictionary of Biography): "'Sherlock Holmes of researchers':

Researching Australian Biographies'

4.15-5.30pm, Room E109 Forgan Smith Building (1)

Friday May 19: Philosophy

Dr Jenann Ismael (QE II ARC Fellow, U. Syd.) (title TBA)

3 pm, Rm. E348 Forgan Smith Bldg. (Backup venue: Richards (5) Room 207)

Friday May 26: Classics

Cam Batteraby: 'cassander: A statesman of his times?'

3.30pm, Michie Building, Room 323.

The seminars are followed by wine and cheese in the HPRC Common Room, Michie Level 3 (gold coin donation). Everyone is welcome.

Friday May 26: Philosophy

Federation Fellow Professor David Chalmers, ANU (title TBA)

4-6pm, Parnell (7) Room 222

Thursday June 1: History

Professor Brian Levack (John E. Green Regents Professor in History, University of Texas, Austin): 'The Murder of Janet Cornfoot: Witchcraft and the Law in Early Modern Scotland.'

10 a.m.-12 noon, Rm. 101 Seddon building (82)

Professor Levack is author of the classic text, *The Witch-Hunt In Early Modern Europe*.

Friday June 2: Philosophy

Dr Kriste Miller (UQ): 'Immaterial Beings'

3 pm, Rm. E348 Forgan Smith Bldg. (Backup venue: Richards (5) Room 207)

Friday June 2: History

HISTORY IN THE MAKING:

History Work-in-Progress Papers

9.30am to 5.00pm, Steele Building 3-309

ALL HISTORY STAFF, STUDENTS AND ASSOCIATES ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND (see programme below)

Friday June 9: Philosophy

Professor Peter Menzies (Macquarie): (title TBA)

3 pm, Rm. E348 Forgan Smith Bldg. (Backup venue: Forgan Smith (1) Room E356)

Friday 16 June: Philosophy

Professor Michael Brady, (U. of Glasgow, Visiting Fellow ANU): (title TBA)

(Backup venue: Forgan Smith (1) Room E356)

Friday June 23: Philosophy

Dr Stephen Heatherington (UNSW): (title TBA)

(Backup venue: Forgan Smith (1) Room E356)

Friday June 2: Classics

Pamela How: "'Let every person be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God...," Romans 13:1; Support of the Roman Imperial Order or subtle anti-Imperialism?'

Liz Crane: 'Food in Roman Britain'

3.30pm, Michie Building, Room 323

The seminars are followed by wine and cheese in the HPRC Common Room, Michie Level 3 (gold coin donation). Everyone is welcome.



Conferences

Emmanuel Levinas Centenary Conference

My 'place in the sun': Levinas Today

The University of Queensland: 30 June - 1 July 2006

The Powerhouse, Brisbane Australia

In 2006 we celebrate the centenary of Emmanuel Levinas' birth. To mark this occasion, the European Philosophy Research Group (EPRG) at the University of Queensland is hosting an international conference entitled "My 'place in

the sun': Levinas Today", contributing to a series of world-wide events designed to commemorate Levinas' work (<http://www.levinas100.org/index-en.html>).

Invited Speakers:

David L. Clark: Professor in the Department of English and Cultural Studies and Associate Member of the Health Studies Program, McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada.

Ghassan Hage: Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology, The University of Sydney, Australia.

Deborah Bird Rose: Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Research and Environmental Studies, Institute of Advanced Studies, The Australian National University, Australia.

The conference is fully catered, providing morning tea, afternoon tea, and lunch each day, as well as a cocktail party on the Friday night. Please note that vegetarians are catered for.

Early Registration (by 31 May 2006)

Waged: \$220

Student/Concession: \$190

Late Registration: (1 June – 26 June 2006)

Waged: \$250

Student/Concession: \$220

Please note: Online registration is now available at:

<http://www.uq.edu.au/hprc/index.html?page=45589&pid=21736>

(Inquiries contact levinas@uq.edu.au).

Preliminary Programme:

Friday 30 June 2006

8.00 – 8.30: Registration and coffee

9.00 – 9.30: Welcome and Introduction

9.30 – 11.00: Professor David L. Clarke: "Towards a Prehistory of the Postanimal: Levinas, Kant, and the Regard of Brutes"

11.00 – 11.30: Morning Tea

11.30 – 1.00: Dr. Deborah Bird Rose: "Ruined Faces: the shattering of ethics"

1.00 – 2.00: Lunch

2.00 – 4.00: Panel: "exceeding the idea of the other in me": the good life, suffering and animal rights

4.00 – 4.30: Afternoon Tea

4.30–6.30: Panel: "But we are in the world": psychotherapy, maternity and the virtual (inter)face

7.00 – 9.00: Cocktail Party

Saturday 1 July 2006

9.30 – 10.15: Breakfast/Morning Tea

10.15 – 10.30: Welcome and Introduction

10.30 – 12.30: Panel: "spaces belonging to the other man": indigeneity, negotiation and avoidance

12.30 – 1.30: Lunch

1.30 – 3.30: Panel: "the whole of humanity, in the eyes that look at me": asylum, detention and genocide

3.30 – 4.00: Afternoon Tea

4.00 – 6.00: Associate Professor Ghassan Hage: "The faith of the other: reflections on the radical alterity of seriously religious Muslims"

As the title of this conference suggests, we plan an engagement with Levinas' work that is grounded in contemporary ethical issues, inviting contributions from critical scholars working both within and without the borders of philosophy as it is traditionally defined.



Centre for Buddhist Studies

Sri Lanka Tsunami Relief Appeal Report

The School's Centre for Buddhist Studies started the Sri Lanka Tsunami Relief Appeal in January 2005 by collecting funds to help rebuilt the destroyed housing and education infrastructure in Sri Lanka. Our staff at the Centre has had well-established links (for more than 30 years) with Buddhist Sangha and several Buddhist institutions in Sri Lanka which have been involved in various relief efforts. Because of our longstanding links with Sri Lanka we have been confident that the donations would be spent most appropriately. We are very happy to report that in 2005 we collected AUS \$17,200.00 which was donated to several schools in Sri Lanka, mainly to help rebuild their infrastructure.

In January 2006 Tamara Ditrich (director of the Centre for Buddhist Studies) went for a field-trip to Sri Lanka to record commentaries on the *Satipatthana-sutta* by Ven. Premasiri of Sri Sumathipala Na Himi Senasun Arana, Kanduboda. During her stay in Sri Lanka she delivered all the funds collected for the Tsunami Appeal. On the advice of Ven. Premasiri she cooperated with the Kandy Mahamaya Girl's College Old Girl's Association (Colombo Branch), a charity organization that was extremely helpful with organising and facilitating the donation. All the collected funds (100%) went directly to those who needed help. There were no administrative costs involved, as all the administrative work was performed entirely on a voluntary basis. The funds were spent on the following projects:

1. Vimala Buddhi Seenigama Primary and Secondary School, situated on the coast in Hikkaduwa (the school was severely damaged by the tsunami): equipment for home-

science program (kitchen utensils, cooker, chairs, cupboards).



2. Maha Maya Primary and Secondary School: a multimedia projector to be shared among several schools.

3. Vidyathilaka Vidyalaya Thiranagama School, Hikkaduwa: underwear for children, a sound system and basic equipment for a science lab.



4. Halpatota Vidyalaya Primary School: underwear for children and a sound system.

The donation will also cover playground equipment for a preschool and a primary school in the Hikkaduwa area.

The Centre for Buddhist Studies would like to warmly thank all the donors from Australia and overseas for their most generous contributions. Our students, particularly those from the UQ Sanskrit Society, put a lot of effort in various fund-raising activities—we would like to thank them for their dedicated work. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the Kandy Mahamaya Girl's College Old Girl's Association, especially to Mrs Dilrukshi Samaraweera and Mrs Amitha Kiridena, for their wonderful and most-efficient work: they purchased all the goods donated, organised the transport and performed the administrative work. Their help and generosity were invaluable.

After Tamara's visit to Sri Lanka we are even more aware how enormous was the tsunami destruction and we understand that a long-term help is required. In the educational area, more infrastructure is needed, and the children who became orphaned after the tsunami or

remained with a single parent need financial help for their education. The Centre for Buddhist Studies will continue with the appeal: we would like to encourage further support and donations which will be spent primarily for education in the most affected areas of Sri Lanka.



More Conferences

Australian Studies Day

19th May 2006

CCCS Seminar Room
Level 4, Forgan Smith Tower

9.00 – 10.00 Keynote Presentation

Dr Katrina Schlunke (University of Technology Sydney)
'Past Writing'

The pasts of material culture throw up particular problems with how to properly evoke the mechanics, the sensations and the means of production that have left us with all these things. What can an Eora shield, a water jet and the Hyatt Hotel (among others) tell us about 'doing Australian Studies' and the problem with thinking of the past as fact or fiction?

10.00 – 11.00 Indigenous Knowledges

Norm Sheahan (ATSIS Unit) 'Indigenous Knowledge and Recurrent Patterns in Australian Colonialism'

Maryrose Casey (ASC) 'Performing the "Human" for Social and Political Rights'

11.00 – 11.20 Break

Tea, coffee, juice provided in the cloisters

11.20 – 12.50 Australian International

Roger Osborne (ASC) 'Louis Kaye: International Magazinish from Lindisfarne, Tasmania'

Joe Hardwick (SLCCS) 'Wander Lust: sexuality, ethnicity and genre in Head On and Les corps ouverts (Open Bodies)'

Rex Butler (EMSAH) 'Un-Australian Art'

1.00 – 2.00 Lunch

2.00 – 3.15 Moving Pictures

Dania Lawrence (EMSAH) 'The Growth of Personalised Plates in Australia'

Kerry Heckenberg (EMSAH) 'Traffic in Pictures'

Marion Redmond (EMSAH) 'Alternate Belongings: Indigenous and White affiliations in Australian cinema'

3.15 – 3.30 Move to Level 6 for final session with wine and nibbles.

3:30 – 5.00 Masculinities et al.

Bill Casey (ASC) 'Wham, Bam, No Thanks Ma'am: the non-inclusion of Australian female popular vocalists in Oz Rock histories'

Alan Han (EMSAH) 'Where is the Asian Australian Penis?: masculinities in We Can Be Heroes'

Gary Foster (ASC) 'Unnatural Crime and the Production of the Self Governing Man'

Robert Hogg (HPRC) 'Masculinity: Gentlemen on the Colonial Frontier'

Please register your attendance at morning / afternoon session with Marilyn Barton by email to m.barton@uq.edu.au or by phone to 336 51369



Early Career Researcher Workshop Series

24 MAY 2006

'What UQ does for ECRs and tips on how to manage your research career'

The second workshop in the ECR series will be held in the Senate Room from 1 to 3pm on Wednesday 24 May 2006. This workshop includes three early career research staff who will speak on their personal experience and strategies for career development and advancement. At the conclusion of presentations a panel will be convened to take questions from the audience. This will be an interesting workshop that can provide useful hints on career development for new staff/early career researchers.

Presenters are:

Professor David Siddle, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research); **Professor Cindy Gallois**, Director, Centre for Social Research in Communication, and Research Director, Faculty of Social & Behavioural Sciences; **Dr Michele Sterling**, School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences (ECR, Physiotherapy); **Dr Paul Meredith**, School of Physical Sciences (ECR, Physics), and **Dr Rod Rietze**, ECR, Queensland Brain Institute.

To register for the seminar please email to director@research.uq.edu.au by Friday 19 May.



Some recent publications

Michael D. Barr, 'Racialised Education in Singapore' Educational Research for Policy and Practice, 5:1 (2006), pp. 15–31.

Andrew Gentes, 'Towards a Demography of Children in the Tsarist Siberian Exile System,' *Sibirica* 5, no. 1 (2006): 1-23.

Andrew Gentes, 'No Kind of Liberal: Alexander II and the Sakhalin Penal Colony,' *Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas* 54, no. 3 (2006): 321-44.

Renée Worringer, 'Pan-Asianism in the Late Ottoman Empire, 1905-1912,' in Camron Michael Amin, Benjamin C. Fortna and Elizabeth B. Frierson (eds.), *The Modern Middle East: A Sourcebook for History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), pp. 331-338.

Renée Worringer, 'Conceptualizing Modernity in Late Ottoman Times: Japan as a Model Nation, 1902-1913,' in Camron Michael Amin, Benjamin C. Fortna and Elizabeth B. Frierson (eds.), *The Modern Middle East: A Sourcebook for History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), pp. 432-440.



My Dog Boys

A middle class privilege, apparently

By Julie Kelso

I have two boys, Frederick the Thickhead Alexander (Golden Retriever; 2.5 years old) and Maximus the Gladiator Kelso (Maltese yapping Terrier; 2 years old). Now that I have submitted my thesis, and await the reports, I can actually pay them some attention. And I can tell you about my life as a single mother of one human daughter (Lillian Harriet Alexander, who won't rate much of a mention here, not being a dog) and two very naughty dog sons.

When Lillian and I returned from Melbourne early in 2004, my sister's Golden Retrievers (Charlie-girl and Harry) had just had their second litter of puppies. I SWORE that we would not be getting another one. Our last dog (a Retriever) was a world-class nightmare. In the Dandenong mountains where we lived, she would run up our road to the Primary school, three doors up, and steal lunches out of the school bags hanging outside the classrooms. The number of times I had to take a Vegemite sandwich and a tin of baked beans up to some poor kid...Let's just say, I was, at that troubled time, "over" dogs. And cats have been, still are, and for all time will be repulsive, unlovable critters. By the way, no apologies to cat owners and/or

lovers, forthcoming. Ever. You do the crime, you do the time. Anyway, I had decided that we would be pet-free: I know birds and fish and Guinea pigs and such count as pets for some. Not for me. I'm stubborn. A dog-person until my very last breath which, come to think of it, will probably smell like that of a dog's, umm, breath. God love 'em.

Not long after our return "home" to Brisbane (which, incidentally, is a most splendid place to live) my father drove Lillian and me out to my sister's place. When we drove up the long dirt driveway, the dust eventually settled to reveal a scene auteur-directed by Satan (and edited in Hell): seven of the most gorgeous little goldies you ever saw running, I tell you, *running*, straight for me. Before the car had actually stopped, I was out! "Oh, leeeeedle ones, oh my leeeeedle One, come here, come on now, come here."

Fred was ours. When he first came home, for about 2 months I called him "Freddie from Heaven," because he was, quite simply, divine. He would follow me with that little tail wagging with a Hummingbird's velocity, and sit on his possum-rug bum when I bent down to pat him, pick him up, kiss him (yes, you heard me, kiss him), and snuggle him until he could barely breath. HE never complained. I was in love again.

Then, he got bored. Though he never peed or pooped inside, he had started looking elsewhere; he started chewing at things. I knew I still loved him when I found one of my favourite Robert Clergerie shoes almost entirely eaten (French leather; I understand, Freddie, I *understand*). But then he started to "get out," as the council has put it (verbal tense intentional; ongoing traumas), so, so many times to me. I hate those smiling assassins who give you advice on how to keep your dog in as they print out a \$150 fine. Moving on, I felt sorry for my boy and I said unto him "It is not good that dog should be alone. I will get for him a helper fit for him" (Genesis 2: 18; my interpretation). But, really, I swear to Yahweh, Buddha, Jesus, Mary, the holy saints, Confucius, Krishna, and the other millions of Hindu gods and goddess ...I even swear to Elvis: I was only joking.

When Frederick the Thickhead was four months old ('twas late June, around my daughter's and my birthday), Lil and I went to Indooroopilly Shoppingtown. We had some money to spend. I was there for a \$10 crap toy she wanted. *She would have it...* "Oh, but wait a minute Lil, let's just have a squizz in the pet shop. Though, know this before we go forth, my darling: We will NOT be getting another dog. We have one. And he's divine, still, but let's say, *slightly* on the side of darkness. We need no more trouble, but...Let's just have a leeeeedle looky shall we?" Now, I ask you, what kind of an idiot buys a dog from a pet store? A \$900 (NINE HUNDRED DOLLAR) little ball of cotton with eyes, who had just had his "hair" done out the back. A

blow-dry; that's how they suck you in (oh, hindsight, my tormentress). "Leeeedle one, with a leeeeedle mowhawk. How much is he, oh how much for this leeeeedle one who will soon be miiiiiiiiine?" (Yes that is the tone of Satan you hear. 'Twas not me, I swear to g-d whose arse is in heaven, at this point, obviously. G-d wasn't at Indooroopilly that day, I can assure you). My picture now hangs outside the Indooroopilly pet store, with the caption "One more and you need a kennel license." Nevertheless...

*

"I shall call thee Maximus the Gladiator (Kelso)." He slept in my bed from night one (I couldn't stand the weeping in the bathroom, oh, and the red tears that are apparently a trait of the Maltese – with this discolouration I knew that he knew that I knew that he'd been crying! And the Academy for Direction goes to...Lucifer! Massive applause). But, *no-one* told me that Maltese Terriers learn slow, *real, real slow*, when it comes to toilet training. A glorious rug ('twas cheap, but tasteful) has now been excommunicated, exiled to the store-room, awaiting hard-rubbish day. But still, I love thee, my incontinent little man-dog.

Soon, my two boys learnt how to get "out" together. One day, Fred and Max were seen running down the middle of Lodge Street (when I was living one street over in Ivy St) with a neighbour's cat's blanket in Freddie's mouth. Cars had to pull over. I was labeled "Slightly negligent" by a neighbour (not the cat owner, incidentally; a rarity). Freddie was later seen dragging that cat blanket through the sewerage "area" of the West Toowong creek. Now, *that* is psychological torment. And I called him Frederick the Thickhead. Actually, if these guys broke in to a bank, I know Maxi would be the "brains" of the operation, while Fred would be the good-looking one driving the get-away car who, whilst getting them caught because of his idiocy, would nevertheless, get them out of jail. I like to think of Maxi as Albert Brook's ascerbic, easy to hate character to William Hurt's lovable, good-looking, but dumb as almost everyone you knew from Primary School, character who *still* gets the job you want, in *Broadcast News*. In my new, far more secure address (ironically, Lodge St), I'm trying. But, if you see a Retriever and a Maltese yapping Terrier running down Miskin Street (and that yapping is not only annoying, it's *driving* the whole operation), please, *please*, return them to 29 Lodge Street Toowong (my new address, by the way, Leslie). My naughty, naughty boys.

*

A little under a year ago, when little Maxi got mauled by a Rottweiler next door (one of the reasons I had to move; see below), I couldn't pay the vet bill at the UQ vet clinic. I said (with tears held right at the back of my eyeballs), "You'll have to put him down." "But," vet-in-training (whose education is funded by those of us willing to pay an enormous amount of money so that they can learn their very profitable professional skills, as they also pay for their education through HECS) said, "It seems like such a small

thing to put a dog down over. We should open him up and see if we have a problem.” “Yes, it does,” said I, “but, well, I don’t have three thousand dollars. Is there a Public vet hospital?” “No. Our Government believes it’s a privilege to own a dog.”

I had no option. I had to leave him for one night, at an enormous fee that I had no idea how I’d pay. After this, good luck my leeeeedle naughty boy. Last year, you may have seen me with my little fella in the corridors of HPRC; a mumma who couldn’t “pay” for her son’s apparent needs, not being “privileged;” whose only option was to nurse him to the end. So many issues here...but sometimes you make friends in life who understand, who love you, who know what these naughty little muttly mutts mean to you. And they save your dog. You know who you are, my great and wonderful friend (also doing a PhD in Religion. I will never forget thee). And how dare our Government decide who gets to own a dog.

*

Recently, I had to move – fences, Rottweilers, owners moving back in to the rental that they had with absolute cheapness provided while charging a fortune, and upping the rent without ever following through on the dog fence they’d promised. I moved one street away from my last house not only because Lillian’s great friends live on “the block,” but because Freddie and Maxi have great friends here too. Their best friends now live over the back fence. Both are Labradors; they were bred as “guide” dogs. Stella (aka “Mrs,” who, with her nervously bullish behaviour, is Hyacinth Bucket - “It’s *Bouquet!*”) and her niece, the deaf-as-a-post Ruby, regularly greet me with dry bones in their mouths when I open my back door after a hard day at the institution (Ruby really is deaf. Mrs and Rubes were in cages when their mum picked them up from the “breeder,” who obviously *loved* his dogs. Stella, ironically, is Ruby’s ears, not eyes. God, really, love ‘em). We are now settled, fences are in place, the neighbour’s chooks (after a scary encounter with Frederick the Thickhead, a gun dog no less) are secure.

*

I live in Lodge Street, Toowong, and across the road, quite handily, is a pet beauty salon. I submitted my thesis in the same week I had to move here. Sometimes, life gets in the way of the three year, government plan (mine took seven years, and I’m proud of my thesis and my mothering). Freddy had his first bath in a year last week, and Maxi not only got bathed, he also got “clipped.” His fur, that is, nothing else as of yet. Can’t afford it, though it has to happen soon. To some extent, I have neglected all of my children (human and canine) during this thesis. And, though they trouble me awful (canine far more than gorgeous little girl), so much so that I bring down upon them, at times, all the curses that my Irish Catholic and Scots/Irish Protestant ancestors have passed down to me, in the end, they *still* persist on resenting little. These “kids” of mine *love* me when they see me everyday, as if for the first of times (Cartesian wonder belongs to kids and

canines, I’m sure of that. However, I believe that we are still capable of such emotional-rational learning, even as 35+ adult human beings, men and women). I certainly won’t say that, as is the rhetoric of so-called “empowered” mothering, I do what I do because it makes me a better mother. *I do what I do as a feminist* who knows that I have to do what I do because that is who I am, and I *love it*. It’s my livelihood, my life. And my children, who, arguably could be better looked after by a patriarchal nurse, love me as I am and want no other. God bless ‘em.



Centre for Buddhist Studies

News for 2006

January

Tamara Ditrich went for a field-trip to Sri Lanka to record commentaries on the Satipatthana-sutta by Ven. Premasiri of Sri Sumathipala Na Himi Senasun Arana, Kanduboda. The trip was very successful; she recorded Ven. Premasiri’s talks on audio-tapes and CDs. The talks will be transcribed, edited, commented upon and analysed. This research will result in several publications.

March

Primoz Pecenko participated at the Fifth Chung-Hwa International Conference on Buddhism, “Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara (Guanyin) and Modern Society”, hosted by the Chung-Hwa Institute of Buddhist studies. He presented a paper “The Theravada Tradition and Modern Pali Scholarship” and investigated Burmese Pali manuscripts held in the Library of the Chung-Hwa Institute.

April

In April 2006 the Centre for Buddhist Studies received \$15 000 donation from the Bodhicitta Chan International Association, Buddhist Meditation Centre, Pimpama, Queensland. The donation will be used to further the research of the Centre and to provide postgraduate scholarship funding.



History Postgraduate Confirmations

Friday May 26, 2006

Room E319 Forgan Smith

ALL WELCOME

10.00-10.30: Ihssan Arafeh (Worringer, Marcotte): “The Institution of the Early Khalifate”

10.30-10.45: Arafeh consultation without advisors

11.00-11.30: Geoffrey Doherty (Crotty, Diamond):
“Australian Soldiers and the Boer War Experience”

11.30-12.00: Avan Stallard (Diamond, Crotty): “The Search
for the Inland Sea in the Australian Interior”

12.00-12.15: Stallard & Doherty consultations

12.15-12.45: Committee meeting for each candidate
(Diamond, Crotty, Worringer, Zelko)



Haiku Classics #3

Vergil's *Aeneid*

*Trojan prince leaves wife,
jilts queen, steals princess, slays king,
sets bad example.*

Ovid's *Metamorphoses*

*Gods and men transformed
in hundreds of wondrous ways –
don't blink, you'll miss one!*

Longus' *Daphnis & Chloe*

*Dumped at birth, now grown
but don't know their birds and bees
(need to be shown!). Please!!!*

Paul Murphy

(warm thanks to Paul for these delightful contributions!)



HISTORY IN THE MAKING

History Work-in-Progress Papers

Friday 2nd June 2006

9.30am to 5.00pm

Steele Building 3-309

**ALL HISTORY STAFF, STUDENTS AND
ASSOCIATES ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND**

On the last teaching day of each semester the History Discipline presents work-in-progress seminars for postgraduate students and staff. The day showcases the historical research being conducted at UQ and provides a collegial environment where all historians and other interested individuals from other disciplines or outside the university can come together.

The seminar also satisfies HPRC requirements for the assessment of postgraduates in a supportive and collegial manner as part of their candidature.

9.30-10.00am

Anthony Yeates: “A Cult Kingdom Toppled by Law”:
Fighting the Government in Papua and New Guinea’

10.00-10.30am

Clive Moore: ‘Waku: Asians in Solomon Islands Economic
and Political Processes’

Morning Tea: 10.30-11.00am

(provided in the HPRC Common Room)

11.00 noon-11.30pm

Michael Barr: ‘Racialised Education in Singapore’

11.30-12.00pm

Professor Chen Shiwei (Visiting Senior Research Fellow,
Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore):
‘Professional Scientists and Scientist Professionals: State
and Academia Sinica in Republic China, 1927-1957’

12.00-12.30pm

Chi-Kong Lai: ‘The legacy of the command policy in pre-
modern Chinese economy’

Lunch break 12.30-1.30pm

(Participants to provide for themselves)

1.30-2.00pm

Berenis Alcorn: ‘Thomas O’Connor and his vision of a
Seaside Resort’

2.00-2.30pm

Catherine McTavish: 'The Process of Normalisation in Postwar Nuremberg, 1945-1948'

Afternoon Tea 2.30-3.00pm

(provided in the HPRC Common Room)

3.00-3.30pm

Roisin Goss: 'Writing a biography of Dr Eugen Hirschfeld: Some Transnational Issues and Methodological Challenges'

3.30-4.00pm

Denver Beanland: 'Thomas McIlwraith, a liberal'

4.00-4.30pm

Marilyn England: 'From River Banks to Shearing Sheds: Thirty Years of Flying Arts (1971-2001)'

4.30-5.00pm

Robert Hogg: "'Nothing Could be Wanting From Our Perfect Enjoyment": Male to Male Relationships on the Frontier'

5.00pm Drinks at the Staff and Graduates Club

Q: Why did the chicken go the séance?

A: To get to the other side.

Norbert Elias today

Brad Nitins (CHED)

The work of the historical sociologist Norbert Elias sits somewhat on the periphery of, and in an ambivalent relationship to, the 'classical' sociological discipline and, indeed, complicates in no small degree traditional disciplinary demarcations *per se*. This fact was testified to at the recent conference held at Leicester in early April, 'Elias in the 21st Century' which attracted a diverse range of scholars dealing with a diverse range of topics, including such areas as the sociology of sport, psychoanalysis, philosophy, history and historical sociology, gender studies, state formation and international relations. Indeed it was remarked at the time by the renown Eliasian scholar, Stephen Mennell, that Elias appealed particular to those 'marginal', or 'fringe' dwellers, of the academic community who considered themselves primarily inter- or trans-disciplinary in their approach. Although there are indications that, despite Elias' remove from mainstream academic sociology, the great bulk of dedicated followers identify themselves explicitly as social scientists,

nevertheless, it is hoped that the increasing popularity of Elias' thought can only serve to increasingly dismantle conservative definitions of 'proper' academic domains and the challenge habits of purblind specialization.

Appropriately the University of Leicester an institution where Elias spent a considerable amount of his time teaching and researching whilst in England, hosted the conference. However, despite this fact, the university has produced no recognizable, coherent Eliasian movement (though it is true that the recently established Centre for the Sociology of Sport is strongly influenced by Eliasian scholarship through the work of Prof. Eric Dunning). Consequently the great bulk of scholars were sourced from sundry areas around the globe, from Ireland, the Netherlands, Canada and, yes, Australia. The lack of formal academic direction, organization and legitimation inevitably arising from such a situation is, I believe, more than compensated by the freedom and diversity that it allows.

The conference ran for three days with nearly 60 papers being delivered in total. To speak of some of the highlights is to intimate the vast and fascinating ground opened up to those inspired by Elias' writings. The paper by Richard Kilminster on 'Elias as an ontologist' stands to the forefront of my mind as an exceptionally tantalizing insight into a much more comprehensive and detailed research project. In what can be described as an exercise in a traditional history of ideas, Kilminster's paper elucidated the intellectual context of Elias' thought. In doing this he concentrated on Elias' key concept of 'interdependency', demonstrating the likelihood that Elias' translated this notion into a sociological/historical register from Heidegger's more ontological and philosophical concept of Being-in-the-World. In this way Kilminster exhibited the various intellectual influences informing the work of a thinker who in many ways was exceptionally original. Another paper of note immediately followed Kilminster's, namely Hector Vera's "Time, Money & Measures in the Civilizing Process". Despite his titled, Vera was forced, because of time constraints, to focus specifically on the gradual development of universalized forms of measurement, particularly concentrating on the spread of the metric system across the globe. In line with Elias' approach Vera employed a long-term sociological and historical perspective, tracing the trajectory of the standardization of measurement systems in the West over a thousand year period, from the extreme state of diversity and particularity during the medieval period to the gradual monopolization of one set of measurement (barring, of course, the significant exception of the United States of America) during the last three hundred years. Consequently he provided a fascinating insight into such Eliasian concerns as the gradual development of organizational integration and social processes of rationalization and functional monopolization within the crucible of Western societies. A final paper of note was Chris Powell's "Genocidal Civilization: Deconstruction, Figuration and

Violence”. Powell’s paper seemed to both dazzle and infuriate many in the room as he deployed certain conceptual tools from the Derridian school of deconstruction studies to critically analysis Elias’ understanding of the intrinsically ambivalent notion of ‘civilization’ and suggested that essentially, as he put it, “civilization produces genocide”. Though the starkness of this claim ignited no little amount of controversy amongst the audience it should be noted that Powell’s argument is not far removed from the generally well received work of Robert van Krieken, an Australian sociologist strongly informed by Elias’ thought who has argued that the establishment of Australian civilization was ineluctably tied to the genocide of the aboriginal populace.

These three papers were, in my mind, the highlights of what was undoubtedly a conference of very great quality. They are testament to the fact that whilst Elias’ work may still be relatively marginal now, it can only grow in influence. What is not least encouraging is the fact that most of the scholars I met were not so much preoccupied in canonizing Elias, in elevating his writings into an immutable dogma - as was unfortunately the case with that other great historical sociologist, Marx - but were eager to draw inspiration and conceptual tools from him, hoping to inch the frontiers he drew ever further, to throw new light on his arguments, to challenge and complicate his assertions, to incorporate him into ever new and unique structures of knowledge and positions of inquiry, to scatter his seeds far and wide.



Design

Quadrivia was designed by HPRC postgraduate Laurence Brown on behalf of Congress Of Dreams. Please call on +61 0421 349 086 or email us at:

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