

QUADRIVIA

The HPRC Newsletter



October 2005

Editorial

In an effort to embrace the entrepreneurial ethos of the times, in addition to raising funds to purchase some teaching relief for next year, Quadrivia, like Google, is going public. We have filed our IPO with the Securities and Exchange Commission and will be offering shares next Wednesday in the old photocopying room. Initial projections indicated that the sale could net Quadrivia as much as \$3.4 million, though these were later revised to a more realistic \$17.25. Nevertheless, we are excited by this bold new venture into the cut-throat electronic media market. If nothing else, it will demonstrate that humanities scholars are just as capable of thinking outside the envelope and pushing the box as any other academics.

This month's issue is full of intriguing upcoming events and outstanding achievements, as well as containing our usual tabloid human interest stories. Speaking of which, due to popular demand (don't ask), Renee Worringer has been given her own column in order to keep you all abreast of the tribulations of sheep dog trials in the greater Gympie area. There is much we can learn from the humble sheep dog. How to chase sheep around a paddock, for example.

Please keep the stories and photos coming. The November issue is already in production.

Your Quadrivia™ editors,

Frank Zelko (f.zelko@uq.edu.au)

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

Head of School's Report

As I write this brief note, the outcome of the restructuring of the School is not yet formally known. This is our central concern right now, and will continue to be so into the new year. What can be said is that the Change Management Committee of the university recently approved that part of the School's restructuring proposal about Voluntary Separation

Packages, and no time is being wasted about it. Letters of offer already have been sent out to staff who had indicated their interest in such packages. Should the five offers of VSPs be accepted by staff, then work will be left behind for the rest of us to do. Who will teach the courses lined up for 2006 that after restructuring will no longer have coordinators? And what about RHD supervisors, who will then need to be replaced? Such spin-offs from restructuring will be taxing, especially as there is little to no funding for quick casual replacements from the School's operating budget.

I have asked Discipline Convenors to think hard about identifying staff who could teach courses of colleagues who are likely to take up VSPs, a "mix-and-match" exercise to see just what can be done within our current budgetary constraints, which in spite of the restructuring will remain considerable as we head into the new year. Perhaps this is the moment to set aside hopes for teaching relief and to think seriously about flexible delivery of teaching, or how to make this job easier for all of us. So too will we have to share the job of looking after all of the RHD students who are currently on our books, and those to come next year, who may find themselves without their customary or expected advisory team. While no one could claim omniscience, most of us recognise what is formally required for a sound and presentable research thesis in all fields of research within the School.

Time will tell whether we can, in fact, work together successfully doing such things. I shall keep our exceptional circumstances at the forefront of discussions with the Executive Dean for the remainder of the year. Just what is possible at that level to lessen the impact of restructuring on the School needs to be considered. At any rate, restructuring may mostly plug the holes in the Good Ship HPRC in the short term. However, in the meantime we all have to bail like crazy to keep the boat afloat. A significant dimension of this is generational. Perhaps those of us near the retirement end of things can pretend the ship isn't taking on a lot of water, and that a safe harbour is just over the horizon. For those of us on the other end of

the generational spectrum, the reality we face is a necessary but uncertain step into the future. Bailing out the boat becomes continuous, and promises of a future of less comfort, renewed effort and a need for wits more clever than ever before. The thought of a safe harbour just over the horizon may be hopeful, but it also is somewhat naive and unrealistic for now. So, perhaps like Odysseus of Homer's *Odyssey*, getting back after surviving our Trojan War of restructuring to where we started out from long ago, our Ithaca, won't be a summer cruise. It is likely to be an adventure of personal and professional trials that will test our courage and resolve. We must plug our ears to the songs of Sirens (okay, at least one ear). However, I am confident that we will get there and, probably, be a better School for it, Zeus be willing.

Richard Hutch
Head of School

October 2005

Events



From Genetics to Genomics and Beyond: Queensland researchers address the meaning of the genomic revolution

International researchers in history and philosophy of science will join leading Queensland bioscientists to discuss the meaning of the genomic revolution at a conference to be held at the University of Queensland, October 14-15.

The definition of human nature is once again being rewritten. What 'genetics' did for the 1970s, 'genomics' did for the 1990s and we are now beginning to assess the impact of this new revolution. The genome is far more than a collection of genes, but what new picture of the genome will replace the idea that individual genes are the 'agents of life'? How will biological influences on human behaviour be studied in the 'post-genomic era'?

'The Conceptual Impact of the Genomic Revolution' conference is organised by Australia's first research centre in 'biohumanities'. This is a new field in which philosophers, historians and social scientists

work together with biologists to digest the extraordinary advances of recent bioscience. Biohumanities aims to mediate between researchers, the broader academic community and the community at large.

University of Queensland Federation Fellow Professor Paul Griffiths said of the biohumanities endeavour: "Across fields as diverse as genomics, evolutionary biology and ecology, the biosciences are generating claims that society needs to analyse and understand. This means more than reflecting on the moral and technological implications of certain biological facts. We need to understand how specific experimental findings come together to create a larger picture – what is it that has really been discovered?"

The importance of such research has been recognized in the United Kingdom by the establishment of a £10M (\$23.5M) research network, one of whose components, the ESRC Center for Genomics in Society (Egenis), will present its work at this conference. Summing up that work, Egenis Director Prof John Dupré said, "Genomics no longer casts genes as the blueprint that determines traits of humans, animals or plants. Rather genes are seen as "contextual" or as part of an interactive network that encompasses the genome, the cell, the organism and the natural and social environment."

The proceedings of the conference will be podcast from the Biohumanities website.

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Kenneth F. Schaffner MD, University Professor of Medical Humanities, George Washington University, author of *Behaving: What's Genetic and What's Not, and Why Should We Care?* (Oxford 2006)

Prof. John Dupré, Director of the ESRC Center for Genomics in Society, author of *Darwin's Legacy: What Evolution Means Today* (Oxford 2003)

Prof. Paul E. Griffiths, ARC Federation Fellow, University of Queensland, co-author of *Sex and Death: An introduction to the philosophy of biology* (Chicago 2001)

Other speakers:

Dr Rachel Ankeny is Director of the Unit for History and Philosophy of Science, University of Sydney. She has published on both history and philosophy of genetics, as well as on genethics. She has particular interest in *c. elegans* research.

Peter Godfrey-Smith is Professor of Philosophy at Harvard University and at the ANU. He has written extensively on conceptual issues in evolutionary genetics and on the idea of genetic coding.

Prof. Wayne Hall is Professor of Public Health at the University of Queensland. He was previously Director of the Office for Public Policy and Ethics in the Institute for Molecular Bioscience.

Dr Jonathan Kaplan, Oregon State University, is the author of *The Limits and Lies of Human Genetic Research* (Routledge 2001) and *Making Sense of Evolution* (with Massimo Pigliucci, Chicago 2006).

Prof. John Mattick, AO is an ARC Federation Fellow and Director of the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, University of Queensland.

Prof. John McGrath MD, Queensland Institute for Mental Health Research, is a former winner of the Premier's Award for Medical Research.

Dr Samir Okasha is a Reader at the University of Bristol. He is the author of *Philosophy of Science: A very short introduction* (Oxford 2002) and *Evolution and the Levels of Selection* (Oxford 2006)

Dr Maureen O'Malley is a Research Fellow at Egenis studying the development of systems biology and metagenomics.

Dr Lenny Moss (Egenis) is a double PhD in cell biology and philosophy and author of *What Genes Can't Do* (MIT 2003)

Prof. Mark Ragan is Research Group Leader, Comparative and Computational Genomics in the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, University of Queensland.

Dr Karola Stotz is a Research Fellow in the Cognitive Science Program, University of Indiana, working on conceptual change in genetics.

Dr John Wilkins is a Research Fellow in the Biohumanities Project, University of Queensland. His work focuses on the history and philosophy of taxonomy and systematics.

For contact details for speakers and all media enquiries, contact:

Lori Grantham on (07) 3365 2646, email biohumanities@uq.edu.au

Biohumanities website:

<http://www.uq.edu.au/biohumanities/>

UQ Sanskrit Society Lecture Series

Victoria Yareham, *Panini and Sanskrit Compounds*

4 Nov 2 - 4pm Room details to be confirmed

The European Philosophy Research Group (EPRG)

The European Philosophy Research Group (EPRG) is based in the Centre for the History of European Discourses (CHED) and the School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics (HPRC), The University of Queensland.

Members are:

Dr. Michelle Boulous Walker

Dr. Marguerite La Caze

Dr. Aurelia Armstrong

Dr. Simon Duffy

The aims of the group are to promote research and interest in European philosophy through a series of conferences and workshops. Speakers, both national and international, will be invited to these events. On occasion, visiting scholars will be invited to stay for short periods of time to present papers and consult with postgraduate students.

JEAN-PAUL SARTRE (1905-1985) CENTENARY

Friday, 11th Nov. 2005

This year is the centenary of Sartre's birth and we are having one-day conference at The University of Queensland in celebration.

Venue: Room 302, Forgan Smith (Building 1)

Speakers include Jennifer Ang Mei Sze, Michelle Boulous Walker, Paul Crittenden, Greg Hainge, Joe Hardwick, Diane Josey, and Marguerite La Caze.

Further details will be on the webpage:

<http://www.ched.uq.edu.au/eprg.html>

or contact Marguerite La Caze at m.lacaze@uq.edu.au

Convened by the European Philosophy Research Group, HPRC and CHED

There is no registration cost but please RSVP for catering purposes.

The Committee of Postgraduate Students (COPS) Dinner

COPS is dedicated to fostering collegiality amongst Classics and Ancient History postgraduate students, so amongst its many duties is the organisation of social events throughout the year. This year's COPS dinner - a fantastic event - was held at Harem Turkish Restaurant in Paddington. Highlights included belly dancing (and, yes, members of the Committee happily joined in with the professionals!), great Turkish cuisine, including divine Turkish delight, and fine wine. Thanks to all who attended.

COPS is currently running a raffle to raise funds for future activities. The item up for grabs is an ancient Egyptian ushabti figure, whose sole driving desire is to do one's household chores in the afterlife. So if a housework-free afterlife appeals, or if you'd just like to own a beautiful figurine dated to 945-712 BC, then make sure you buy some tickets! These are available from Pamela (room 717, Michie), Jennifer (room 707, Michie), and Rashna (room 727, Michie). Buy 1 for \$1, 3 for \$2, or 8 for \$5. The raffle will be drawn at COPS' end-of-year dinner.

Call for Papers: Lilith Symposium 2005

The Lilith Symposium is a valuable forum for new and established scholars to present research in feminist history and related areas. Following last year's Symposium on Feminist Remembering, we are poised to consider the future of feminist historical writing. This year, the theme is:

Where to Now? The Future of Feminist History

Monday 21st November 2005
Gryphon Gallery, Graduate Centre
University of Melbourne
(Enter Via Gate 10, Grattan Street)
9am-5pm

We can now announce that Dr Katie Holmes (La Trobe) will be giving the keynote address. We are also concluding the day with a panel discussion on new directions for feminist history, with contributions from Dr Christina Twomey (Monash), Dr Liz Conor (Melbourne) and Dr Zora Simic (Melbourne) We have extended to deadline for abstracts until Wednesday 12th October. Please see the call for papers below for further details.

Paper topics may include, but are not limited to,

questions such as:

How can we write feminist histories in the current political climate?
Is gender as a category of historical analysis an outdated paradigm?
Is psychoanalysis the way forward?
How can (or should) feminist history respond to the rise of fundamentalisms?
How do/will/can queer projects influence feminist historians?
Terrorism: The new patriarchal force?
Can we still write feminist histories at all?

We would welcome proposals, from both new and established scholars, for 20 minute papers relating to the theme in some way. Papers presented at the Symposium may be considered for publication for the 2005 edition of Lilith.

Please send abstracts of 200 words (preferably via email) by Wednesday 12th October 2005, along with your full contact details, to:

history-lilith@unimelb.edu.au
or
Lilith Collective
Department of History
University of Melbourne
Vic 3010
Fax: (03) 8344 7894

To register for the symposium please email us by October 31, 2005. For symposium updates, or to subscribe to the journal, please visit our website at: www.history.unimelb.edu.au/lilith

Meeting in Silence

Weekly Meditation Sessions for Staff and Students organised by the Centre for Buddhist Studies and UQ Sanskrit Society.
Venue: UQ Chaplaincy
Time: Tuesday 1pm
Details: Tamara Ditrich (t.ditrich@uq.edu.au) or Primoz Pecenko (p.pecenko@uq.edu.au)

PSC Melbourne Cup Lunch

Tuesday November 1st from 1pm.
No lectures! No tutes! No excuses not to be there!
Michie Common Room, 3rd Floor Michie Bldg.
Cover charge includes: Delicious lunch, champagne and beverages, sweep ticket, lucky door prize ticket.
Just \$20 (staff) / \$15 (postgrads). Partners and friends most welcome.

Best Hat and Fashion on the Field Competitions

RSVP and payment required by Wednesday, October 26th. Please advise us if you are vegetarian or vegan when you book. Please see Jodie in the HPRC office or email Maria: maria.fletcher@uq.edu.au

Publications and Awards

Richard Hutch, "Under Sail Alone at Sea: A Study of Sport as Spiritual Practice," *Australian Religion Studies Review* 18/1 (May 2005), pp. 3-24.

Michael D. Barr and **Jevon Low**, "Assimilation as Multiracialism: The Case of Singapore's Malays," *Asian Ethnicity*, 6:3 (October 2005), pp. 161-182.

Book Launch

More than 80 people attended the launching of the latest book by Assoc. Professor **Dorothy Watts** (Classics and Ancient History): *Boudicca's Heirs: Women in Early Britain* (Routledge 2005) at Women's College Auditorium on Sunday, 11 September. The function was put on by the Friends of Antiquity, and the book launch performed by Emeritus Professor Bob Milns, formerly Professor of Classics and Ancient History.

The book examines archaeological, literary and inscriptional evidence. Identity, birth and death, marriage and relationships, health and appearance, daily life and religion are aspects covered for the period from the pre-Roman Iron Age (c.150 BC) to the end of the Roman period (c. AD 410). This is Dorothy's third book, the earlier ones being *Christians and Pagans in Roman Britain* (Routledge 1991), and *Religion in Late Roman Britain: Forces of Change* (Routledge 1998).

Prior to the book launch, Dorothy spoke on "Early British women from birth to marriage", as part of the Friends of Antiquity's regular "Sunday Series" talks.

The Friends of Antiquity also used the occasion to welcome potential members – about 20 visitors were among the audience – and the event concluded with a champagne reception.

David Thiele recently published "The Millennium: 'A Prepostorous'?", *Melanesian Journal of Theology* 21.2 (2005), 57-70.

Jasmine Sommer's history paper "Katharina Benfer: Early German Settler at Mount Cotton Queensland" has been accepted for publication in the November 2005 edition of the *Journal of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland*. Jasmine is writing a thesis for her MPhil at UQ on German settlers of the Logan and Maroochy Rivers, 1860-1914.

Renee Worringer has been awarded a CCCS Fellowship for first semester of 2006 to assist her in finishing up her book tentatively entitled *Ottoman Imagination and the Rising Sun: the Middle East, Japan, and non-Western Modernity at the Turn of the 20th Century*.

Announcements

The School office is still collecting 2005 publications for the Bibliographic collection. Where possible please provide the journals/books so the required information can be copied for the hardcopy evidence. Please note: offprints alone are not enough.

The RFCD codes (category according to the field of research) can be found at:
<http://www.uq.edu.au/research/orps/index.html?id=4436>

The Publication proformas:
<http://www.uq.edu.au/research/orps/?id=4758>

Please don't hesitate to contact the school office by phone: (07) 3365 2620 or by email: hprc@uq.edu.au if you need any further information.

Scholarship

Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) and UQ Postgraduate Research Scholarship (UQPRS).
Closing Date: 14 October 2005 at the Scholarships Office, Office of Research & Postgraduate Studies.
Value: \$18,837 p.a. tax free and indexed annually.
Number Available: Approximately 140 APA and 30 UQPRS scholarships.

Eligibility

- * You must hold or expect to hold a Bachelor's degree with Honours Class I, or a qualification deemed equivalent, by 31 December 2005.
- * You must enrol for a full-time research higher degree before 24 March 2006.
- * You must be an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident or New Zealand citizen as at the application closing date.
- * You may be of any age.
- * For the full list of eligibility criteria please review the Application Guide (weblink below).

Application Forms and Further Information is available from www.uq.edu.au/gradschool/apa

Out and About

On his way to the Netherlands for research, **Bob Elson** recently attended the UQ graduation in Bangkok, held at the Shangri-La Hotel and attended by around 70 Thai graduates of UQ. Bob also presented a seminar at Chulalongkorn University on his current research, and met with colleagues from the Arts and Political Science Faculties. In the Netherlands, he attended a meeting of the Academic Board of the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation (NIOD), and worked in the library of the Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal, Land en Volkenkunde in Leiden and at the Nationaal Archief in The Hague.

Paul Griffiths travelled to Cividale, Italy for a consensus-building workshop on The active role of the organism in biological evolution organised by Professor Sir Patrick Bateson, FRS with the support of the Università degli studi di Udine DUdine and the regional government of Friuli-Venezia-Giulia. He also delivered a seminar to the UQ psychology department on the topic, "In what sense does Nothing make sense except in the light of evolution?"

Clive Moore has been awarded a Cross of the Solomon Islands for fostering cultural and community awareness in the East Fataleka District of Malaita Province. Clive has carried out research work in the district since 1976 and is adopted into a leading family there. The Solomon Islands has three levels of awards: a Star, a Cross and a Medal with four divisions. The Star of the Solomon Island is an elite award of very limited number, the only overseas recipients of which must be Heads of State. The Cross is the second class of award, and the Court of St. James has placed it immediately above the Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, and the Officer of the Order of Australia. The Post Nominals are C.S.I. The investiture will take place in a private ceremony during November.

Virginia Thorley, history postgraduate, recently returned from a Graduate School Research Travel Award funded research and conference trip to Victoria and Tasmania. Her report is below.

The research started with three intensive days in the Rare Books section of the Matheson Library at Monash University in Melbourne, followed by research in Hobart in two libraries. Detailed advance planning for each research day meant that my time could be used effectively. Prior planning also meant that I could use public transport to arrive at the Matheson Library on time each morning. One of the libraries in Hobart, the Health and Community Services Library, had even arranged for material to be sent over from another, smaller library for my use. The Tasmanian State Library was right in the city, a short walk. During my research I met a number of very helpful librarians. I also met with a Hobart colleague who brought me photocopies of some useful material she'd located for me among friends' personal collections.

The weather was mild in both cities and my warm waterproof coat was an unnecessary extra to carry. After being caught in drizzle twice, I bought a cheap folding umbrella.

In Melbourne I stayed with an old school friend and her family, during what turned out to be an eventful week for them as their daughter delivered her first baby late one night, by emergency C-Section. They were very tired, after spending a few days mostly at the hospital. Mother and baby girl are doing well and the new dad is very proud.

My arrival in Hobart was memorable. The hotel in Hobart which a colleague had found on the internet looked good on the website, but turned out to be a real dive. Some people who had arrived early to do some sightseeing before the conference checked it out, and another hotel was found for the four of us who were still to arrive. However, I was already on my way, and so arrived at night outside the first hotel, which didn't seem to have a reception desk, just a bar across the front, full of drunken football fans. (It was AFL Grand Final night.) A hotel employee informed me I "wasn't staying there" and handed me a message that he had written down for me. So I stood out in the street using my mobile to ring my roommate (still in Melbourne) to obtain the name and address of the new hotel. It was probably advantageous that I was too tired to panic. After finding a policeman to ask for directions, I set off with my backpack, dragging a large port a number of blocks. By the time I arrived at the second hotel it was late, but when the manager came down to book me in she was very welcoming

and caring.

Some sightseeing highlights were climbing the steep Kelly's Steps to the Battery Point area on the Sunday afternoon and taking brisk walks along the Hobart waterfront some evenings. I also enjoyed walking round the town and getting to know the layout. I did get to see some suburban areas when someone took me to her home for dinner on the Sunday night, and when I took a taxi out to the library on a health campus which I needed to visit on the Monday. One night the bellringers must have been having carillon practice at the nearby St David's Cathedral, as the bells went on and on, ringing the changes. For the first hour that was pleasant.

As I was leaving Hobart someone on the airport bus mentioned he had walked out to the Botanical Gardens and sought out Peter Cundall's vegetable garden there. Envy! I'm a great fan of the amazing Peter Cundall and his ABC TV program. (I hope I'm as good as that, and as active, at age 78! What a great role model!)

Blast from the Past



Last month's "blast" was Jodie Caruana. Any guesses for this month's little cutie?

My Favourite Thing

By Ann Power

I have many, many favourite things. I looked up the meaning of "thing" to find that it could cover both objects and beings. This made it even harder.

Anyway I have played safe and chosen a tree as my favourite thing. I cannot imagine a world without them.

A Tree is for walking under in the rain and watching the leaves sparkle like diamonds.

A Tree is for shade when walking on a summer's day

A Tree is for lying under and looking at the sky through its leafy shade

A Tree is where birds perch and sing for us to admire

A Tree gives the artist a challenge to paint

A Tree gives our landscapes structure and beauty

A Tree - my favourite thing

I have worked on the beautiful St Lucia Campus for twenty-five years and not many lunch hours have gone by without walking around and enjoying the environment, especially alongside the river as well as the occasional joy ride on the Dutton Park Ferry just for the sheer pleasure of it.

I am a very keen gardener and have learned a lot about landscaping from our UQ gardeners.

All we need now is rain which would be everyone's Favourite Thing.

So Please Let It Pour.

Dog Days, by Renee Worringer

Yes, we hosted our first ever 2-day shepherding trial at our farm last weekend and had about 25-30 dogs run each day. It was miserably HOT but nonetheless I managed to take High-in-Trial with Sulu on Saturday and Steve took High-in-Trial on Sunday! The competition consisted of mainly Border Collies but there were a few Kelpies, a German Shepherd, a Briard, and some Belgian Shepherds as well.

