CCR Holds Annual Expo Day

In early April 2009, the Centre for Cultural Research shut its doors to the outside world and held its second annual Expo Day. Expo Day aims to bring together all members of the CCR community - professors, research fellows, academic members, research associates and assistants, doctoral candidates and administrative staff - and provide an opportunity for everyone to hear about the different research projects and initiatives that are happening in the Centre. In between the competing demands of research and writing, lecturing and teaching and multi-campus meetings, there are not many opportunities for CCR folk to come together in an atmosphere dedicated to intellectual exchange and sharing. CCR's first Expo Day was trialled in 2008 with the intention of addressing this lack and offers a dedicated occasion to refresh people's awareness of the diversities and commonalities in the research being conducted across CCR.

The 2009 Expo Day included presentations on projects still at the development stage, demonstrations of particularly useful software and digital applications, as well as discussions of in-progress research projects, such as Hot Science, Global Citizens: The Agency of the museum Sector in Climate Change Interventions, Culture in Transition: Creative Labour and Social Mobilities in the Asian Century and Media Strategies for Western Sydney: A Media Survey of Contemporary Representations of Western Sydney. Light-hearted accents to the day included showbags, competitions, prizes and a specially catered lunch.

In prioritising the sharing of researcher interests and passions, Expo Day contributes to a greater sense of CCR collegiality, engagement and of moving towards new knowledge practices.

Graduation April 2009

Congratulations to the following higher degree research graduates.

Dr Stephen Clark    PhD
Dr Kim Cunio    DCA
Ms Mary Donnelly    MA (Hons)
Dr Jon Drummond    PhD
Dr Karen Findeis    DCA
Dr Elizabeth Jones    DCA
Ms Kirsten Robertson-Gillam    MA (Hons)
Dr Suzann Victor    PhD
Dr Linda Candita    PhD
Dr Jill Farrar    PhD
Dr Hollis Thomas    PhD
Dr Susan Benson    PhD
Dr Paul Glew    EdD
Dr Wendy Kortman    PhD
Ms Susan Millar    MEd (Hons)
Dr James Neill    PhD
Dr Peter Sun    PhD
Dr Stephanie Dowrick    PhD
Dr Karen Entwistle    PhD
Dr Melinda Jewell    PhD
Dr Sarah Nicholson    PhD
Dr Denise Testa    PhD
Dr Timothy Byron    PhD
Dr Robert Sazdov    PhD
Ms Sonia Wilkie    MA (Hons)
Dr Nan Xu    PhD
Dr Anna Hueneke    PhD
Dr Lidija Krebs-Lazendic    PhD
Dr Marko Milic    PhD
Dr Dennis Garland    PhD
Dr Penelope Robinson    PhD
Dr Jasmine Foxlee    PhD
Working with a professional/practitioner magazine editor about hidden alcohol misuse

Communicating results from our study to professionals in the health and medical fields of addiction and mental health through more than academic journals and conference presentations was an objective of the PhD research design: Researching with Midlife Women in Recovery from Alcohol Dependence. Translating research results to evidence-based information that is applicable to day-to-day healthcare is a challenge for researchers. This knowledge transfer process was established and followed as part of the study; the article Alcohol, Women and Midlife is an example of an important outcome. More than 3000 copies of Of Substance are distributed to Australian practitioners and facilities.

Also, important for this participatory action research is meeting an obligation to the women in recovery and alcohol and to the other drug counsellors, psychologists, GPs and specialists who contributed as participants. They all received a copy of this article as evidence of their experiences being passed on to hopefully improve practice. Other similar obligations to participants are developing recommendations, based on the research findings, for education curricula, government strategies and policies, treatment models and public and community health promotion activities.

The article below took two years of building a relationship with the editor and then three months of rewriting as we negotiated with the editorial board and editor to achieve an ‘inviting and interesting article’ for their readers: a double-page spread that can be read in a lunch break. The original article submitted was 5,000 words, then rewrites of 3,000 words, and eventually 1,000 words for the editor to hone as the published article.

As a result of the publication, we have had very positive and some negative feedback. Examples include congratulations from specialists in Perth, and from a participant who felt that we had over simplified, even trivialised, the illness. It is part of the study design to work with the people who provide such feedback to continue the process of transformative learning about a highly stigmatised, chronic illness (alcoholism) and its ongoing management to achieve ‘being in-recovery from alcohol dependence’.

Submitted by Janice Withnall, Stuart Hill and Sharon Bourgeois

Seminar

Centre for Educational Research, 4 June 2009

Professor Terri Seddon

Biography: Terri Seddon is a Professor of Education at Monash University with a national and international reputation for her research on the social organization of education as a social institution. This work is cross-sectoral in orientation, looking at schools, vocational and higher education, and workplace and community learning contexts in order to understand learning, work practices and organisational and decision-making processes in diverse learning spaces. She has particular research interests in partnership work and the challenges in constructing knowledge-sharing networks and collective agency across boundaries. Professor Seddon has substantial research experience, which has been concentrated in Australia but has also involved projects in Europe and Kazakhstan. She is co-ordinator of Crosslife, a Socrates funded project on cross-cultural collaboration in lifelong learning and work. Through the Centre for Work and Learning Studies, and collaborative research partnerships with European and other Australian universities, she is building an extended capacity for research and research training in lifelong learning, work and citizenship.

Workshop

Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy: Arendt on Action

The Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy is organizing an international workshop on Hannah Arendt’s concept and theory of action. The workshop, which will include both international and Australian scholars with interest and expertise in Arendt’s political philosophy, will take place at the Bankstown Campus on May 15-16, 2009. The workshop convenors are Professor Anna Yeatman and Dr. Magdalena Zolkos, both from the Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy, and Dr. Charles Barbour, from the School of Humanities and Languages.

The contributions to the workshop will address the question of how Arendt conceptualized ‘action’, what theoretical territory her idea of ‘action’ covers, and what its contemporary political implications are. More specifically, one of the issues that the workshop will focus on is the apparent tension in Arendt’s work whether action defines a specific political engagement, or whether it describes an aspect of general human condition that deals with a person’s relation to and movement in an external environment. Another issue, which will be addressed by the workshop participants, is Arendt’s distinction between action and the human activities of labour and work, as well as how action relates to the question freedom. Finally, some papers prepared for the workshop will consider Arendt’s own public rhetorical practice as a writer in terms of a theory of action.

The workshop convenors will consider the possibility of publishing the contributions to the workshop in either a special issue of a journal or an edited collection.
School of Communication Arts –
Global Media Journal

Global Media Journal - Australian Edition

The Global Media Journal - Australian Edition (GMJ/AU) is a double blind refereed journal as well as a forum for research, commentary and reviews with an interest in both specifically Australian but also International articulations of the local/global nexus. It is hosted by the School of Communication Arts at UWS and is part of a network of similar journals that publish in multiple languages and editions. We welcome the submission of articles, essays, research reports, and book reviews that focus on subjects in the fields of Communication, Media and Journalism. GMJ/AU is also a space for the publication of postgraduate student research and practice-based research in media arts and visual media. We also see the discussion and tracking of Australian media issues as vital to the journal's interests. As an electronic journal, GMJ/AU prioritises the analysis of globally networked media organisations and new ways of accessing and using convergent media. GMJ/AU intends to showcase multiple perspectives on contemporary media and welcomes your contribution.

Photos from “In Conversation with Alexandra Halkin” on the Chiapas Media Project –

Book Launch

Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy

On Feb 9, Professor Michael Atherton launched Individualization and the Delivery of Welfare Services (Palgrave 2009) by Anna Yeatman with Gary W. Dowsett, Michael Fine and Diane Gursansky at the UWS Bankstown campus.

The launch included a short panel discussion on individualized service delivery with Anna Yeatman (Director, Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy, UWS), Sue Vardon (AO, past President Institute of Public Administration of Australia; CEO Centrelink 1997-2004) and Jane Woodruff (CEO, Burnside).

An audio recording of this event is available on the CCPP website at http://www.uws.edu.au/ccpp/ccpp_home/news_events.

In brief, “individualization” refers to the construction of the individual as the unit of social action. The book argues that this has led to a major rethinking of welfare and the welfare state, away from the construction of the ‘needy’ citizen as a client of a patrimonial state, towards the conception of all citizens as active users of human services. Individualization and the Delivery of Welfare Services offers a theoretical account of this conception and illustrates it with reference to six case studies. While all Australian, the case studies are emblematic of what is happening elsewhere in the developed world. They range across the income-support agency of Centrelink (1996-2004), the Looking After Children program for children and young people in care, intensive aged care delivered to individuals in their own homes, HIV/AIDS drug treatment regimes, an employment service oriented to people with a psychiatric disability, and the introduction of case management into correctional services.

The book poses a theory of individualization in its implications for the idea of the welfare state. It proposes two distinct and opposing conceptions of the individual as the subject of welfare: the individual as a self and the individual as a will. Arguing that a public conception of welfare makes sense only in relation to the self as the subject of welfare, the book shows that welfare services which facilitate and secure a sense of self emphasize the service delivery relationship.

Left to Right: Sue Vardon, Diane Gursansky, Anna Yeatman, Michael Fine, Jane Woodruff
Studies
I started in Psychology, but always with a strong interest in criminal justice. After my undergraduate degree I decided to work on a Master of Criminal Justice degree and found that I really enjoyed the research process and that it was a possibility as a career. My Masters thesis was a meta-analysis of men and women’s reports of intimate violence in their relationships, which was quite an intense quantitative project. I’ve wanted to develop my skills in qualitative research for a while and after a bit of reading on a topic I’m quite interested in, how governments use social science evidence, I found a clear need for qualitative research into the impact of evaluations on government funded social change programs.

PhD Research
The research I’m currently undertaking for my PhD is concerned with the influence evaluation has on social change programs. One of the biggest roles for evidence in government decision-making should be to ensure that Australian taxpayer dollars are spent as efficiently as possible, and accordingly most funded programs are evaluated these days. The real question is what does this investment in evaluation actually do? The ideal situation would be that programs which are effective and efficient are funding priorities, while programs that do not do what they are funded to do are not funding priorities. Program evaluation has the potential to tell us not only what works, and what doesn’t, but also what works for whom, in what circumstances, and why. My research involves multiple case studies examining the influence that evaluation has on specific social change programs; so what effect did the evaluation have on the work of the program, its relationship with its host organisation and funders, and ultimately if the evaluation affected the sustainability of the program. Previous studies have mainly examined these sorts of outcomes in terms of use, so what I’m proposing is quite unique in terms of the influence framework I’ll be using. I think this approach will give a really clear picture of the types of effects evaluation can have on these types of programs.

Work
For a fair while now I’ve worked at the Department of Corrective Services (WA) as a researcher. The Department have been great in allowing me to reduce my hours in compliance with my scholarship requirements, but still keeping me involved in their research and evaluation work. The work and my experiences within a big Government organisation have given me a lot of practical insights into policy and decision-making in the public service, which will help me to produce research that is grounded in the realities of Government Institutions. The research and evaluation team have been a great source of ideas and support, particularly as my thesis concerns the use of evidence in Governments and Government Institutions.

Doing A PhD Out of State
Being so physically far from the university does make it difficult sometimes, particularly in not being able to engage directly with other researchers and students and not being able to engage in a lot of campus events you tend to take for granted. I try to get to local university events and conferences as much as possible in order to keep track of what’s going on in research and to subject my thinking to academic rigour. I probably have a bit more contact with my supervisors than other candidates would to make up for the distance, as well as utilising all the online resources through VUWS. I’ve got a pretty sweet office now, sometimes the motivation to get on with things comes from something as simple as having a pleasant place to work.

Hobbies
I’ve gotten to tour the country a few times in my heavy metal band ‘Dyscord’, so I’ve been able to get down to the university more often than I would have otherwise. There’s defiantly something quite comic in the juxtaposition between my life as a student and researcher and my life as a heavy metal vocalist. We’re doing a new album this year and hoping to get U.S. distribution with a decent metal label over there, so I’ll have to be more and more careful in managing my time to make sure I can give everything my best effort. Probably the main effect of being in a metal band on my professional life is I find I don’t get as nervous before public speaking. I’d love to combine my interests sometime in the future and do some research into heavy metal and musician culture, and particularly look at some of the purported links between heavy metal music and crime.

James is undertaking his thesis “The Impact of Evaluation on Social Change Programs” through the School of Social Sciences, supervised by Professor Margaret Mitchell and Associate Professor Natalie Bolzan.
Coming Events

Professorial Lecture by Professor Kevin Dunn, School of Social Sciences
24 June 2009, Playhouse, Kingswood
Everywhere Different: Challenging Racism - The Anti-Racism Research Project

Abstract
This Inaugural Professorial Lecture reports on the findings, motivations and plans of the Challenging Racism Project, which is now based in the School of Social Sciences at the UWS. Professor Dunn heads this project, which draws its empirical material from two large-scale telephone surveys. The first was principally a survey of attitudes to cultural diversity, racism and the so-called out groups (n:12512), and the second was a detailed examination of experiences of racism, including the forms of racist experience and the contexts and responses to those experiences (n:4020). Racist attitudes are expressed in highly specific ways and in different forms across Australian cities. Variation in one dimension of racist attitude across a city does not correspond with that of another. From the evidence it is apparent that spatial context is important, that place matters. Regional typologies of racism, and contextual information, are being used to formulate anti-racism suggestions for ‘regional types’. Regional typologies, and associated suggested anti-racisms, are being tested in the field as part of the applied end of this project. The typologies and suggestions may be a means for helping address racism in a more spatially sensitive and effective manner. The Project has generated compelling evidence on the extent, nature and impacts of racism (including the reactions and responses of victims of racism). Policy and theoretical agendas for challenging everyday racism are outlined.

Biography
Kevin Dunn is Professor in Human Geography and Urban Studies, in the School of Social Sciences, University of Western Sydney. His areas of research include: the geographies of racism; Islam in Australia; immigration and settlement; and local government and multiculturalism. He teaches cultural and social geography, migration and urban studies. Professor Dunn’s recent articles are published in Society and Space, Ethnicities, The Australian Geographer, Studia Islamika, Urban Studies, and the Australian Journal of Social Issues. Professor Dunn’s recent books include Landscapes: Ways of Imagining the World (2003) and Introducing Human Geography: Globalisation, Difference and Inequality (2000). Professor Dunn is a Fellow of the New South Wales Geographical Society (FNGS) and President (2008-). He was a founding member of the Cultural Geography Study Group of the Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG) (1994) and Chair (1997-1998).

CALL FOR PAPERS

The College of Arts’ INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATION RESEARCH NODE IS HOSTING ITS 2nd RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM ON 25-26 SEPTEMBER 2009 At the Bankstown Campus
“APPLYING RESEARCH TO INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATION ASSESSMENT AND TRAINING”

International guest speaker: A/Professor Franz Poechhacker, University of Vienna, Austria.
http://public.univie.ac.at/index.php?id=14027

We are now calling for abstracts to be considered as 30 minute papers or 1 hour workshops

The presentations must be based on results of original research on any aspect of Interpreting or Translation pedagogy or assessment. This can include the results of action research or informal evaluations of educators’ or examiners’ own practices. The suggested themes for the symposium are:

» The applications of research to translation teaching methodology
» The applications of research to interpreting teaching methodology (community or conference)
» Student evaluations and student centred learning
» Evaluating the effectiveness of training
» The applications of research to translation & interpreting assessment (instrument development, instrument validation, conducting the examinations, etc).

Please send a 250 word abstract to Ms Elizabeth Friedman at e.friedman@uws.edu.au by 15 June 2009 as a Word attachment, stating your name, affiliation and email address, title and abstract of the presentation, type of presentation (whether a paper or a workshop).

The Symposium will cater specifically for I&T educators (TAFE and universities), researchers, and NAATI examiners, but also welcomes practitioners.

We look forward to receiving your abstracts.
A/Professor Sandra Hale
Leader of the Interpreting and Translation Research Node
Interventions and Intersections

A Communication Arts Postgraduate Conference

Monday 15 June 2009
Penrith Campus (Werrington South)

The School of Communication Arts (UWS) presents ‘Interventions and Intersections’, a one-day interdisciplinary postgraduate conference for School-based Honours and Higher Degree Research (HDR) candidates, with Keynote speakers Associate Professor Kathryn Millard and Dr Phillip McIntyre.

Designed to showcase the work of the School’s research students, the event will explore a series of themes connected to communication arts research. The conference features presentations by a diverse student cohort made up of practising journalists, musicians, filmmakers, designers and other emerging communication arts practitioners. Participants will present their work in panel sessions which will be followed by a formal response from an expert in the field.

This conference is free, however, registration is essential. All delegates must register their interest by Monday, 8 June. Please see the conference website for full registration and programming information http://www.uws.edu.au/communication_arts/sca/research/postgrad_conference.

If you would like any further information please contact Rachel Morley at r.morley@uws.edu.au

Keynote speakers

Kathryn Millard is an Associate Professor at Macquarie University and a Writer and Filmmaker. Her essay film The Boot Cake - about her quest to find the ghosts and reincarnations of Charlie Chaplin will be completed later this year. Kathryn’s Research areas are; Screenwriting and Production, Script Editing/ Dramaturgy, Theories of Creativity, Performance, Colour Theory, Photography, Media Psychology, Visual Culture. Please see her web page for more details; http://tinyurl.com/cb24wg.

Phillip McIntyre is the Communication and Media Honours Program Convenor and Head of Discipline for Communication and Media in the School of Design, Communication and Information Technology at the University of Newcastle. He has been involved in the music industry for over thirty years having worked as a songwriter, instrumentalist, musical director and manager for various groups. During this time he has also worked extensively as a music journalist, interviewing and writing stories on musicians such as David Bowie, John Fogerty, Paul Kelly, Daniel Johns, Tim Rogers, and Mandawuy Yunupingu to name but a few. He currently operates a production service, producing and engineering audio and video recordings, and a number of the music videos he has produced, directed and edited have been broadcast on ABCTV.

College of Arts Conference 2009 – Participate, Discover, Share
2 and 3 November 2009, Bankstown
OF SLUMDOGS AND WHITETIGERS: And now we present to you: “The Global Indian”!

At a time when India is going through great changes and, with China, is likely to inherit the world from the West, it is important that writers like me try to highlight the brutal injustices of [Indian] society. That’s what I’m trying to do – it is not an attack on the country, it’s about the greater process of self-examination.


If the “thinking man’s pin-up contest” had been held in 1997, the winner would undoubtedly have been the complete-with-a-beauty-spot Arundhati Roy posing oh-so-mysteriously on the jacket-flaps of her Booker Prize winner, The God of Small Things. The home and the world were still sizzling with the twin victories, in 1994, of two Indian ‘beauties’ for the Miss World and Miss Universe titles. Fifteen years on, this long-winded preamble constitutes a red-thread-of sorts for the recent win of two different narrative texts about India: Aravind Adiga’s The White Tiger (Man Booker Prize 2008) and Danny Boyle’s 2009 Oscar win-fest, Slumdog Millionaire. In a history-as-farce repeat of the events of the late-nineties when India became the call-centre capital of the English-speaking world, these two recent ‘victories’ have also excited miles of commentary and critique in both print and blog spheres about the meek inheriting the earth. My paper is a point of entry into these discussions about the new exotic face of India via what has been variously termed as poverty-porn, half-Boyled cinema, cinema-of-the-deprived, literary tourism ventriloquizing others’ suffering, the dark truth about India’s have-nots versus the high glamour of India’s economic growth story etc. Apart from the usual cultural politics of representation, questions of authenticity and originality, what is interesting about this discussion is the way it has divided critics, mainly from the elite intelligentsia in India. The much-vaulted process of self-examination that contemporary India is supposed to embark on in this global battle for the inheritance (of loss?) has devolved into navel-gazing on the part of most of the critics and commentators attuned to global publishing/filming regimes and its [English] language/cash wars. In my examination of the new face of India, namely the poverty-and-adversity-striken but wildly entrepreneurial agent who will deliver hope and succour in these recessionary times, I also want to pose my own question about the ‘global’ Indian. Who is this exotic and elusive creature, where does it reside and how does it complicate the gaze, both from the new north-and-south, and its [English] language/cash wars. In my examination of the new face of India, namely the poverty-and-adversity-striken but wildly entrepreneurial agent who will deliver hope and succour in these recessionary times, I also want to pose my own question about the ‘global’ Indian. Who is this exotic and elusive creature, where does it reside and how does it complicate the gaze, both from the new...

Bio: Mridula Nath Chakraborty is a postdoctoral fellow with the Writing and Society Research Group at the University of Western Sydney, Australia. She has just completed a book on identity politics and postcolonial feminisms in Anglo-North America in the 1980s, using as case-studies the work and figures of Himani Banerji, Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Shereen Razack and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. She is now researching a cultural biography of red lentils and editing an intellectual history of Bengalis. Bombay cinema remains an abiding interest and Mridula is also working towards the thematic analysis of marriage as a trope in Hindi cinema of the 1970s.

The Gifted Challenge

Bringing together educators, parents and community members interested in providing challenging programs for gifted children, and addressing their needs in our Australian context.

The University of Western Sydney and the NSW Association for Gifted and Talented Children are working together to present a wide range of speakers working with and for gifted children in different settings.

Sunday 1st November, 2009
Monday 2nd November, 2009
Bankstown Campus, Building 5
University of Western Sydney

A Call for Papers

The themes of the conference are:
Technology: challenging, and challenged, as a tool for gifted education
Family Issues: addressing the challenge of family needs and dilemmas
Community Engagement: meeting the challenge of involving gifted students in community/service learning – challenging their lived experiences.
Other: ideas that you have found to address your gifted students or learners; or questions you have asked and investigated about teaching and working with gifted students.

You are invited to submit a 250 word abstract for a workshop (90 mins) or a paper (45 mins) that addresses one or more of the themes.

Call for papers closes: 30th June 2009.
A workshop: interactive, session including presentation and activity for participants. 90 minutes
A paper: seminar presenting a paper based on research, an issue or an approach to gifted children. 30 minute presentation + 15 mins for questions.

Please email: giftedchallenge@uws.edu.au for link to application for submission and any information.
Staff Profile

Professor Tim Rowse, Centre for Citizenship & Public Policy

Tim Rowse grew up in Sydney and is a graduate of the University of Sydney and the Flinders University of South Australia. He has been employed, for various lengths of time, by Macquarie University, the University of Sydney, Melbourne University, the Menzies School of Health Research, the University of Queensland, Harvard University and the Australian National University before coming to UWS in January 2009.

Having studied in the disciplines of Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology, he now identifies most with the discipline of History. Since 1981, his main interest has been Indigenous Affairs in Australia - its history and current developments. Between 1987 and 1996 he lived, for the most part, in Alice Springs, where he was able to research some of the problems facing the Aboriginal people of Central Australia.

Seven of Tim's ten books since 1978 are to do with Indigenous Affairs, in both past and present. The most recent (co-authored with Murray Goot) was Divided Nation? Indigenous Affairs and the Imagined Public (Melbourne University Publishing, 2007) - a study of the ways that public opinion research has informed Australian debates about Indigenous issues.

Tim's interest in Indigenous affairs led him to study (with ARC financial support) the career of Dr. H.C. Coombs, one of Australia’s greatest public servants and public intellectuals. The result was a biography; Nugget - a reforming life (Cambridge University Press 2002) in which Coombs' career as an economist is the most prominent theme. In a companion volume Obiased to be difficult (Cambridge University Press 2000) Tim dealt with Coombs' advocacy of new Indigenous policies from the 1960s to the 1990s.

Currently, Tim is engaged in a study, funded by the ARC, of the history of Indigenous enumeration - Censuses of Indigenous peoples - in Australia, New Zealand and North America. In order to advance this work he is soon to spend two weeks in British Columbia followed by eight weeks in New Zealand. Two products of this project are about to be published: ‘Official statistics and the contemporary politics of Indigenousity’ in the Australian Journal of Political Science (June 2009), and ‘The political ontology of “Closing the Gaps”’ in the Journal of Cultural Economy (June 2009).

Communication Arts’ Scholars make it to a prestigious international festival.

School of Communication Arts researchers Ji Yun Lee and Bruce Crossman travelled to Korea in late March to rehearse and hear their works performed at the Tongyeong International Music Festival. Ms Lee is a Doctor of Creative Arts candidate in musical composition and was selected as the Young Composer by the Melbourne Composers League to represent Australia at the festival. The jury included distinguished composers Eve Duncan and Dr Andrian Pertout who were impressed by the candidate’s distinctive intercultural voice—a fusion of Korean and Australian identities in her work Bu-Hwal (Resurrection). Ms. Lee’s doctoral work is supervised by Dr Crossman and Professor Michael Atherton. Crossman’s work Fierce Tranquillity was selected by the Asian Contemporary Music Festival committee also for performance at the same festival.

At the ACL Young Composers Concert in the Tongyeong Arts Center, Seoul-born Ji Yun Lee’s Bu-Hwal (Resurrection) showed a concern for the after-life of sonorities presenting the sonorities more in chordal wafts than in single tones. Gently placed discordant clusters and p’yongjo mode laced interval-colours sat still in the air as if imitating the gentle fading gong-like resonance of the deep ching sound from within a Korean Samulnori percussion ensemble. Single-note points of sound were savoured like kayagum single-string attacks but within grace-note processional-like rhythms of Nongak (farmer’s music and dance) percussion bands. Amongst these sonorities arose the gentle stasis of lyrical threads of the p’yongjo mode subtly altered with chromatic shifts; the translucent lyricism with vigorous invention demonstrating a distinctive Korean-Australian voice.

Ji Yun Lee (L) in Tongyeong with the cellist and pianist for her work

Also in Tongyeong, at the Night Studio concert by Japanese ensemble Next Mushroom Promotion, the splintered dissonances around Korean court music fragments of Crossman’s Fierce Tranquillity were given a vigorous interpretation. The musicians worked the materials in a sculptured way, with contrasting sound and silence heightened by interpretive lengths, as well as exploited the colour spectrum of the vibrating string from noise to pitch.

Submitted by Dr Bruce Crossman
The Diabetes Research into Adolescent Transitions project, DRAT! for short, began in May 2006 with an ARC Linkage grant being awarded to Assoc Prof Christine Johnston (School of Education, UWS), Dr Lorraine Smith (Faculty of Pharmacy, Sydney University) and Dr Jane Overland (Independent Nurse Practitioner, Diabetes Centre, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital). The fourth partner in the project is NovoNordisk Pharmaceuticals. The research team was completed with the appointment of two APAI students, Daniel Waller (UWS) and Kristy Hatherly (Sydney University), and Lin Brown Singh as the project's Research Officer. The study is interdisciplinary with team members having backgrounds in Education, Psychology, Practice Pharmacy and Nursing.

The project arose from the realisation that, despite modern treatment, over 50% of young people with type 1 diabetes will develop at least one devastating complication (such as renal failure or vision impairment) by the time they reach adulthood. The dilemma then is how to improve self-management in this high risk group. The innovation in this study lies in its acknowledgement that poor self-management is a multifaceted problem for which there is no single solution or, indeed, cause. It aim, then, is to investigate the critical pathways to self-management for children and young adults aged 8 to 19 years with Type 1 diabetes. These are seen as deriving from a complex interplay of physiological, psychological and demographic factors as well as the accommodations that young people and their families make to deal with diabetes. It is hoped that findings will provide a framework for evidence-based interventions.

The study, which is now in its third and final year, has utilised a mixed method approach with quantitative data on a range of physiological, psychosocial, family and service characteristics collected on yearly visits to the homes of the 159 families participating. The map below indicates the distances travelled by the research team and the spread of rural and urban participants in the study. Interviews are currently being conducted with some 30 young people and their families. This is enabling us to look in more depth at the impact diabetes has on their lives.

We now have the first two waves of data entered and are commencing the analyses in earnest. The first article to come out of the study (a systematic review of the impact of service models led by Kristy Hatherly) is being published in May, Dan Waller is leading an article on the impact of personality on self-management in adolescents with type 1 diabetes (the focus of his PhD) and two others are in progress. As with all research there have been some unexpected hurdles but even more unexpected, positive outcomes. The nature of the methodology has meant that we have come to know “our” families well and look forward to visiting them and to the regular phone calls which are part of the study. Their interests and concerns have led us to publish a regular Newsletter which contains updates on the project, recipes, articles on issues around type 1 diabetes and answers to questions posed by the families themselves. We have also had an addition to our team with Kristy Hatherly giving birth to a daughter in December last year.

This year promises much work and promising outcomes including Daniel's having had a paper accepted at an international conference later in the year. We are also intending to apply for additional funding so that we can extend the study and look at what interventions are suggested by the study findings.

Submitted by A/Prof Christine Johnston
Profile
Professor Jack Barbalet

Jack Barbalet joined UWS in March 2008 to take up his current position, Professor of Sociology in the School of Social sciences. Before returning to Australia – Jack grew up in Adelaide – he had since 1999 been Professor of Sociology at the University of Leicester in England, where he was Head of Department and Director of the Centre for Classical and Critical Sociology. Jack had previously held positions in sociology at the Australian National University, in political science at the University of Adelaide, and in economics at the University of Papua New Guinea. In 2007 he had the honour of being the first Scholar-in-Residence at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, in Cologne, Germany.

Jack has researched and published widely in sociological theory, political sociology, economic sociology and the sociology of emotions. He has made important contributions to each of these areas but is probably best known for his work in the sociology of emotions through a number of important articles and especially his path-breaking book, *Emotion, Social Theory, and Social Structure* (Cambridge University Press 1998 and 2001).

While Jack retains an interest in the sociology of emotions his current research is focussed on aspects of economic sociology. He is presently writing a book, *The Constitution of Markets*, to be published by Oxford University Press. At the same time Jack has recently been concerned with expanding the theory of social action by re-evaluating the concept of self interest, especially in the context of the so-called ‘collective action problem’, and more generally with the benefits to sociological theorizing of critical engagement with recent developments in economic science. Alongside these interests Jack has begun a new research project on Chinese capitalism which situates Chinese economic advancement in the context of the familial, religious and emotional capacities available to economic actors.


The Centre for Cultural Research Seminar Series 2009

The Centre for Cultural Research’s Seminar Series for 2009 has started apace with a run of quality seminars featuring speakers from the international arena and closer to home.

In February, the series hosted Professor Andrew Higson (University of York, UK) who spoke on nostalgia in film and popular culture, as well as Professor Elizabeth Shove (Lancaster University, UK), who presented a thought-provoking paper on the need for changes in practice in the face of climate change. March saw Professor Raewyn Connell, University Chair at the University of Sydney, make the trip west to talk to her recent book calling for an intellectual recognition of ‘southern theory’ in the humanities.

These well-received seminars represent an example of the variety of ways CCR researchers engage with contemporary debates in cultural research.

In addition to international and local speakers from outside UWS, the CCR Seminar Series presents work by CCR researchers and final-year Higher Degree Research candidates.

In the coming months the Seminar Series will cover topics ranging from architectural icons to new media advertising, through the contestations for space on the city’s streets to climate change in the museum.

Please come along.

Details of the next two CCR seminars are:

4th June – What is at stake in the shift from cultural to creative industries? Professor Justin O’Connor (Queensland University of Technology)

18th June – Old Whines in New Bottles? Advertising, Binge Drinking and New Media Influence Research Dr Andy Ruddock (Monash University)

For more information, to RSVP, or to receive email notifications of upcoming seminars, please contact Ms Christy Nguy (C.Nguy@uws.edu.au).
Sydney Seminar for the Arts and Philosophy

Seminar 14

Kafka’s Cages

It seems that in Kafka’s world there is no escape. His protagonists are trapped: in the Metamorphosis Gregor Samsa is confined to his room; in the Castle, K. is unable to leave the village; and in The Trial, the whole city functions like a giant prison for Josef K. In contrast to these ‘cages’ that permeate Kafka’s writings, there is – in the final chapter of Amerika – a description of the Nature Theatre of Oklahoma. When Karl Rossmann arrives there, he discovers that its members are absolutely free. Everybody is welcome to join the Nature Theatre, and the actors are not even constrained by a script, since all they have to do is play themselves.

The Sydney Seminar “Kafka’s Cages” will explore these fascinating interplays between ideas of imprisonment and freedom in Kafka’s work.

Indeed, such contrasts between freedom and imprisonment touches the core of Kafka’s work. His modernist writing is characterised by lack of reference to particular locales. Do these nameless places operate as figurations of ‘hell,’ where people are imprisoned? Or are they images of a possible ‘heaven,’ where there is absolute freedom? This lack of reference to specific places may appear as being connected to the political turmoil engulfing Europe during Kafka’s lifetime – turmoil that ultimately led to perhaps the most horrifying prison that mankind constructed for itself, Auschwitz.

The contrast between freedom and imprisonment highlighted by Kafka’s ‘cages,’ affords us the possibility of re-examining Kafka’s position in the modernist canon of the twentieth century, his political and social ideas – and perhaps even key issues of our own time.