New ‘Pad’ for CCR

The Centre for Cultural Research at the University of Western Sydney has relocated from its previous base, a demountable building adjacent to the Parramatta campus oval, to a heritage-listed building near the Parramatta River.

The new digs, currently known prosaically as ‘Building EM’, are directly north of the campus’s oldest and most famous edifice, the Female Orphan School. The FOS, to use its shorthand name, has in recent years been the base for two members of CCR’s professoriate. EM was built as part of the extensive expansion of the former psychiatric hospital, which occupied the site of the current campus, undertaken in the 1890s.

The construction history of the FOS precinct begins in 1830, when Governor King proposed moving the Crown’s orphans from Sydney to Parramatta. But it was Governor Macquarie who gazetted the FOS’s construction in 1813, its design it seems based on ‘Airds’, the family home in Scotland of Mrs Macquarie. Its location on Arthur’s Hill, overlooking the Elizabeth Farm estate of Macquarie’s adversary John Macarthur, across the river, has been judged intentionally provocative. The FOS opened in 1818.

In 1850, when many of the colony’s orphan boys moved in, the location became known as the Protestant Orphan School, which it remained until 1888, when the name Rydenmore Hospital for the Insane was bestowed by Henry Parkes.

The government architect Walter Liberty Vernon, a leading citizen of Victorian and Edwardian Sydney, oversaw the construction of the 1890s expansion of the Hospital by the Department of Public Works.

[Image of Female Orphan School, Parramatta campus (photo M. O’Neill/E. Lally)]

ARC Grant puts Cross-cultural Larrikins in Business

While the etymology of the noun ‘larrikin’ might lie in the ‘Black Country’ dialects of the English West Midlands, it is most often associated with an idiomatic Australian language usage that emerged in the 1870s. Many readers will be familiar with phrases like ‘lovable larrikin’ used to describe knockabout (mostly male) characters possessing a certain roguish charm.

However, the original Australian larrikins were not very endearing. In the Sydney of the late nineteenth century they were anathema to the ‘respectable’ middle classes. Feared for their fondness for the razor as a weapon, larrikin gangs took apparently motiveless pleasure in anti-social behaviour such as terrifying genteel riverside picnickers by pelting them with rocks and bottles.

(continued page 7)

Sources: UWS News & Events 2005; NSW Heritage Office; Australian Dictionary of Biography; Saltmarsh, Transforming the Female Orphan School, 2005.

[Image of CCR’s new quarters, Building EM, on the Parramatta campus (photo H. Dobson)]

Other examples of his work are preserved in the Homebush Bay Abattoirs and former Lidcombe Hospital precincts. Sprawling, well ventilated buildings in brick with sandstone feature work, complemented by verandas and courtyards, characterise Vernon’s public buildings style.

University of Western Sydney Nepean obtained the former Ryde Psychiatric Hospital (as it had been renamed) site in 1995. CCR began to occupy refitted sections of Building EM in March 2007, joining existing tenants from the Schools of Social Sciences and Business. CCR’s offices were previously classrooms but earlier, in the hospital era, had served as wards, dispensaries and cells.

When stage two refits become available in August several CCR researchers will occupy offices in a small ‘penthouse’ above the main entrance foyer.

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ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

• Habitus and Humanism at MCA
• Visiting Scholars
• World-renowned Curator and Cultural Theorist Enriches CCR Postgrad Ranks
• In the Pipeline Seminar
• CCR Postgrads see the World
• CCR Research Associates and Assistants Collegial Network
Habitus and Humanism: Seminar and Book Launch at MCA

The Conversation Room of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, was the venue for two significant CCR events on Thursday 17 May.

First came the sixth session of the 2007 CCR Seminar Series, presented by Tony Bennett, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change at the UK’s Open University. The launch of the book Race and the Crisis of Humanism, written by CCR’s Professor Kay Anderson, followed later in the evening. These events drew a capacity audience that included UWS Vice Chancellor, Professor Janice Reid, and College of Arts Executive Dean, Professor Wayne McKenna. Professor Bennett’s research is situated at the interface of sociology, cultural studies and cultural history. It includes a focus on the history and theory of museums, modern forms of cultural governance, studies of everyday cultural practice and their relevance to contemporary socio-cultural theory and policy.

The Director of CCR, Professor David Rowe, introduced Professor Bennett’s MCA paper ‘Habitus, Aesthetics and Politics’. It presented findings of recent research that sought to determine it pre-eminent sociologist Pierre Bourdieu’s theory of habitus—broadly, that a person’s cultural tastes are determined by the social class into which he or she is born—applied to vocational groupings in the United Kingdom. In Bourdieu’s original paradigm each person could have just one habitus.

In the 1990s Professor Bennett conducted research on the utility of Bourdieu’s concept of habitus in the Australian context. He published his findings in the book he co-authored Accounting for Tastes: Australian Everyday Cultures.

The UK research team’s recent findings suggest that in fact a divided habitus is the rule rather than the exception, and that the notion of a united habitus—which plays a central role in Bourdieu’s sociology of consumption—is unsustainable. Professor Bennett made the significant point that in his later work Bourdieu conceded that he had himself a ‘habitus cleavage’, meaning a divided sensibility resulting from his trajectory from a rustic childhood to an adulthood in academia.

A plaque of professors: Rowe, McKenna, Anderson, Reid and Bennett at the MCA (Photo H. Dobson)

A lively discussion followed Professor Bennett’s presentation.

Many guests visited the MCA’s galleries during the break, after which Professor Bennett launched Professor Anderson’s Race and the Crisis of Humanism. He described the book as an important contribution to contemporary scholarship on race, echoing the comments of other leading academics such as Professor Stephen Muecke (University of Technology Sydney), Dr Catherine Nash (University of London) and Professor John Agnew (University of California, Los Angeles).

Race and the Crisis of Humanism presents a fresh and provocative historiography of colonial racism. It provides a critical re-narration of British colonial encounters in Australia from the late 1700s onwards, exploring how the apparently ‘unimproved’ condition of the Australian Aborigine, when viewed against the dominant European understandings of humanity as being separate from nature, precipitated a crisis in existing ideas of what it meant to be human.

Professor Anderson’s new book, together with her earlier work in the area, won her the 2007 Distinguished Scholar Award of the Ethnic Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers, in recognition of her contributions to ‘race’ scholarship in Human Geography. Kay received the award at the Association’s annual conference in San Francisco in April this year, where she also presented an invited keynote address entitled, ‘Race: from Representational to More-than-representational Accounts.’

CCR Seminar Series

The CCR Seminar Series is an ongoing monthly event convened by Professor Kay Anderson. When it began in 2004 the series provided an opportunity for CCR researchers and final year HDR candidates to present their work-in-progress to a largely in-house audience of peers.

In 2006 the concept of the seminar was expanded. It has become a forum for presenting UOW work to both itself and to a much broader audience at UWS and beyond.

In addition, a significant proportion of the speakers now consists of internationally acknowledged researchers from outside the CCR and UWS community.

In 2007 the seminar series continues to feature a compelling mix of CCR researchers and guest speakers recognised for their ‘impact’ and ‘quality’ in their fields of research.

The series will remain an important showcase for CCR staff and students and it is likely that these will provide a greater number of the presenters in 2008.

A complete listing of CCR seminars scheduled for 2007 is provided on page four.
Visiting Scholars at CCR

Following a successful application under the UWS Eminent Research Visitors Scheme (ERVS), Associate Professor Sandro Mezzadra of the Department of Politics, Institutions and History, Bologna University Italy, came to CCR’s Parramatta campus on 23 October 2006 to begin a two-month first-round stay.

Professor Mezzadra’s research focuses on questions of migration, citizenship and globalization. It is, consequently, a very close ‘match’ with the core interests of a number of CCR researchers. Moreover this research mix set up an opportunity to explore the largely trackless regions of border regimes and labour market dynamics.

CCR’s Associate Professor Brett Nelson, who collaborated with Professor Mezzadra in 2003, described him as ‘a thinker of significant influence within the international field of cultural research… an extremely strong researcher and scholar producing work that will register increasingly high impact into the future.’

In 2006 CCR’s Eminent Visitor:
• Attended the CCR Advisory Board and Annual Retreat;
• Presented several research papers at CCR and elsewhere;
• Planned research collaborations with CCR members, and;
• Made contact with researchers at several other Sydney universities.

Professor Mezzadra will return to CCR later in 2007 and in 2008 to complete his ERVS appointment. In 2007 his program will include lecturing to undergraduate classes and conducting a masterclass for CCR postgraduates, as well as continuing to develop his research collaboration with CCR members.

Professor John Urry of the Department of Sociology and Centre for Mobilities Research, Lancaster University, visited CCR’s Parramatta campus headquarters in late April 2007.

Professor Urry conducted a masterclass for 20 postgraduate students on 24 April, which was supported by the AHRC Cultural Research Network. The theme was the impact on social life of modern-day ‘complexities and mobilities’. The classes included discussion of Professor Urry’s work on this subject, including the co-edited publication Automobilities (2003), and individual presentations by the postgraduate students.

Professor Urry later repeated the masterclass at Rinders University in South Australia.

A paper titled ‘Cars, Climate and Complex Futures’ was another highlight of Professor Urry’s contribution to the research culture at CCR. It was given as part of the CCR Seminar Series, on 26 April.

Professor Urry’s paper posited possible sociologies of the future, the potentially disastrous implications of transport and of the automobile in particular on the global climate were discussed. Professor Urry also depicted alternative post-automobile scenarios: a type of Hobbesian-cum-Mad Max ‘state of nature’ where all are at war with one another—and a society where an Orwellian digital panopticon maintains order.

Sharon Zukin, Broeklundian Professor of Sociology at Brooklyn College, City University New York, is one of the world’s foremost observers and theorists of the contemporary city.

Following a successful IRS grant application by Dr George Morgan and Professor Kay Anderson, Professor Zukin visited CCR during July 2007.

The author of five influential books, Professor Zukin’s work sits at the intersection of sociology, geography, cultural studies, and political economy. Her most recent book is Point of Purchase: How Shopping Changed American Culture (2004). Her work examines the cultural economy of the contemporary city, including themes such as culture-led urban regeneration; spaces of consumption; urban development; art and real estate; racialised ghettos; public space; and the transformation of urban life and form under globalisation.

Professor Zukin’s Australian program includes:
• A CCR seminar series presentation ‘Authentic Public Spaces: Between Consumption and Democracy’;
• A higher degree masterclass ‘Urban Cultural Economy in an Age of Globalisation’;
• A public lecture ‘The Crisis of Authenticity in Modern Cities’.

Professor Zukin collaborated with several CCR members, including Dr George Morgan (on urban cultural minorities and youth aspirations), Professor Kay Anderson (cities of difference, comparative urbanisms), Dr Elaine Lally (art and culture in urban development), Dr Hona Allon (specific sites and struggle within the city) and Professor David Rowe (the 24-hour city and the night-time economy).
### CCR Seminars 2007

#### SESSION ONE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker/Presenter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Institution/University</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 February</td>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>Dr Tim Rowse</td>
<td>Australian National University</td>
<td>Family, Nation and Social Cohesion: The Indigenous/ Non-Indigenous Relationship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 March</td>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>Dr Don Slater</td>
<td>London School of Economics</td>
<td>'Communicative Ecologies': Re-thinking New Media, Development and Globalization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 March Noon</td>
<td></td>
<td>Professor John Eade</td>
<td>Roehampton University</td>
<td>Reaping the Whirlwind: Identity Politics, Minorities and the State</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Dr Ben O'Loughlin</td>
<td>University of London</td>
<td>Conving Claims? Democracy, Representation and Security Threats in Contemporary Britain</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 April</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Professor Stuart Allan</td>
<td>University of the West of England</td>
<td>Servants of the Public? Rethinking Questions of Journalistic Identity</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Cynthia Carter</td>
<td>Carcass University</td>
<td>Children's Online News and Views: Investigating Children's Responses to the 2005 London Bombings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 April</td>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>Professor John Ury</td>
<td>Lancaster University</td>
<td>Cars, Climates and Complex Futures</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 May</td>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>Professor Tony Bennett</td>
<td>The Open University, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Habitus, Aesthetics and Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 June</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Adjunct Professor Helen Armstrong</td>
<td>CCR UWS</td>
<td>Community Place Values: Collaborative Programs Between Universities, Designers and Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Russell Staff</td>
<td>CCR UWS</td>
<td>Whose Penis is that on Parade? History, Tourism and Intellectual Representations of Florence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 July</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Adjunct Professor Jeannie Martin</td>
<td>CCR UWS</td>
<td>Youth and Violence; Energy and Cultural Reproduction</td>
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<td>Professor Boic Hodge</td>
<td>CCR UWS</td>
<td>Chaos Theory and Community Engagement</td>
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#### SESSION TWO

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker/Presenter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Institution/University</th>
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<tr>
<td>19 July</td>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>Professor Sharon Zulkir</td>
<td>Brooklyn College</td>
<td>Authentic Public Spaces: Between Consumption and Democracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 August</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Dr Gabriela Coronado</td>
<td>CCR UWS</td>
<td>Cultural Strategies for Social Justice: Learning from Grass Roots Organisations in Australia and Latin America</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Dr Cristina Rocha</td>
<td>CCR UWS</td>
<td>&quot;The spirits told me they were working on my pineal gland&quot;: Brazilian Faith Healing and Alternative Spiritualities in Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 August</td>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>Professor Katharyne Mitchell</td>
<td>University of Washington</td>
<td>Marseille's not for Burning; Immigrant Cities and the Production of Peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 September</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Dr Elaine Lally</td>
<td>CCR UWS</td>
<td>Cultural e-Research for CCR: Possibilities and Practicalities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr Juan Salazar</td>
<td>CCR UWS</td>
<td>Indigenous Social Movements and Community Media in Latin America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 October</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Assoc. Professor Virginia Nghtingale</td>
<td>Professor David Rowe, Dr Elaine Lally, Dr Juan Salazar, &amp; Dr Tim Dowyer, UWS</td>
<td>New Media &amp; the Public Sphere: Panel Presentation and Book Launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 November</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Dr Fiona Cameron &amp; Sarah Mengler</td>
<td>CCR UWS</td>
<td>Reconceptualising Heritage Collections</td>
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<td>Dr Sharon Chalmers &amp; Dr Amanda Rosso-Buckton</td>
<td>CCR UWS</td>
<td>Cultural Diversity and Children's Health Care: The Final Chapters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 December</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Dr Fiona Alan</td>
<td>CCR UWS</td>
<td>Open Cities: Borders, Berlin and City Marketing</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assoc. Professor Brett Neilson</td>
<td>CCR UWS &amp; Assoc. Professor Sandro Mezzadra, Bologna University</td>
<td>Is there a non-European Border?</td>
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Current CCR Projects

Australian Research Council Funded

Anti-Ageing Devices: On the Cultural Politics of Staying Young in a Globalised World (Neillson, Franceschi, Lamura)


Backpacker Cultures, Residential Communities and the Construction of Tourist Spaces and Landscapes: A Regional Study of the Changing Tourist Dynamics in Sydney (Allon, Anderson, Bushell). Partners: Sydney City Council; Manly City Council; Randwick City Council; Waverley Council; North Sydney Council; Woollahra Council

Bridging Worlds, Linking Cultures (Lally, Hodge). Partner: Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils

Cross-Cultural ‘Lankins’ in a Neo-Liberal World: Ideology and Myth in Postmodern Australia, Mexico and Brazil (Hodge, Coronado, Duarte, Teal)

Cultural Research for the 21st Century: Building Cultural Intelligence for a Complex World (Ang)

Culture Circuits: Exploring the International Networks and Institutions Shaping Contemporary Cultural Policy (Rowe, Stevenson, Markwell)


Handling the ‘Battering Ram’: Rupert Murdoch, News Corporation and the Global Contest for Dominance in Sports Television (Rowe)

The Humanities Beyond Humanism: Race, Nature and the Human in Australia from Enlightenment to Federation (Anderson)

Negotiating the Challenge of Cultural Diversity in Children’s Health Care: The Australian Context (Ang & Chalmers). Partners: South-Eastern Sydney Area Health Service, South-Western Sydney Area Health Service, Westmead Children’s Hospital, Sydney Children’s Hospital, NSW Department of Health


Places in Transition: A Case Study of Cultural Planning in an Australian City (Rowe, Stevenson, Markwell). Partners: Newcastle City Council; Mayfield Main Street Committee

Putting Humanities to Work in a Chaotic World: Dynamic Interdisciplinarity and Community Engagement (Hodge)

Reconceptualising Heritage Collections: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Museum Collections and Documentation (Cameron). Partner: Powerhouse Museum

A Study of the Brazilian Community in Australia and Australian-Brazilian Bilateral Exchange (Rocha)

The Visual Mediation of a Complex Narrative: TGH Strehlow’s Journey to Horseshoe Bend (Cohen, Dallow, Lloyd, Newton, Webb). Partner: Strehlow Research Centre

University of Western Sydney funded

The City after Dark: Cultural Planning and Governance of the ‘Night-Time Economy’ in Parramatta (Rowe, Stevenson, Tomsen) Partner: Parramatta City Council

Law and the City: The Parramatta Justice Precinct as Civic Culture (Anderson). Partners: Attorney General’s Dept. NSW; Parramatta City Council

‘Parramatta Stories’: Values Based Community Development (Bushell, Stoff, Theerapapisit)

A Pilot Study of NSW Community Languages Schools Program (Noble, Di Blase). Partner: NSW Department of Education and Training

Eminent Curator and Cultural Theorist Enriches CCR Postgrad Ranks

The distinguished curator and cultural theorist Marian Pastor Roces commenced a Doctor of Philosophy candidature at CCR in March 2007, under the supervision of Professor Kay Anderson and Associate Professor Brett Neilson.

Ms Pastor Roces has 35 years experience in curatorial work, covering everything from founding museums in the Philippines to the development of a critique of international art exhibitions. She has been described as a ‘writer-curator-cultural researcher-intellectual-activist’, and is well known throughout the world of art and scholarship.

The working title of her research project is ‘Perth: An anthology of spatial concepts striated by discordant temporali­ties’.

When asked why she had chosen to undertake her doctoral thesis at CCR, Ms Pastor Roces said, “I wished to be part of CCR in particular because of where I believe it has taken Cultural Studies: in the direction of formal engagements with constructions of community. In a world in which there is no outside position, where everything is implicated in everything else, it seems to me that the most intricately challenging course of activism and theoretical work is in the capillary-like networks where, precisely, the imbrications are produced, re-aligned, severed, re-connected, by-passed, sutured, grafted, and so forth.’

Ms Pastor Roces continued, ‘At CCR, I am beginning—and being assisted in—my efforts to theorize complexity in a completely grounded way; by thinking through the work on complexity that is presently impacting on the social sciences, but also through my own experiences of complexity that do not issue from physics.’

Explaining the choice of her thesis topic, Ms Pastor Roces commented, ‘I had resolved to take up an entire city as a thesis topic, in order to gain for myself the opportunity to explore gradients in—and to ground—the matter of scale/order of complexity. I chose Perth, constructed on a long stretch of sand dunes, which is experiencing a moment of extremely accelerated growth due to the embeddedness of its mining economy in the phenomenal developments in China. I am proposing to study the scale of complexity involved in the range of differences and similarities of concepts of space held by its different residents, in relation to the discordant temporalities experienced in all urban sites, but which, in Perth, are attenuated by acceleration.’

‘Taking up the work of thinking the city is, I believe, a vital way of understanding a number of conundrums that have haunted my curatorial work, notably, why/how are utopian projects undermined by the infrastructure of art practice? And why/how is the city the context for this diminishment of utopian ideals?’

Knowledge on Tap: the Future of Water Sustainability is ‘In the Pipeline’

In the first years of the twenty-first century Australia has been subject to the worst drought since the benchmark ‘Big Dry’ of the 1890s. So devastating and dramatic was the drought of 1890 to 1905 it was a major factor in the development of Henry Lawson’s soured vision of an inhospitable Australian bush, and was immortalised in art by the exposed river beds of the Nepean – Greater Western Sydney’s main waterway – near the town of Richmond, as depicted in Arthur Streeton’s masterpiece The Purple Noon’s Transparent Might. Today, Australian east coast governments are compelled to impose stringent water restrictions.

But concerns with dwindling stocks of water are not confined to the ‘hard’ sciences, nor within the borders of Australia; indeed some of the leading contemporary water researchers are social scientists from the rain-sodden islands of the United Kingdom.

The symposium In the Pipeline: New Directions in Cultural Research on Water brought together leading international researchers working on water-related issues at the Parramatta campus of UWS on 19 and 20 July 2007.

The symposium delved into the domain of one of the three UWS research themes, Water Research, as well as CCR’s own research theme, Urban Development in Cultural Perspective.

The symposium explored issues such as:
• Who’s doing what in cultural research on water, and what kinds of theories, methods and research designs are being used?
• What kinds of networks and partnerships are being developed?
• How can cultural research on water contribute more effectively to policies and practices for water sustainability?

Dr Zoe Sofoulis of CCR convened In the Pipeline. Dr Sofoulis recently completed a project in partnership with Sydney Water Corporation on the nexus between water demand management and cultural innovation. Professor Elizabeth Shove of Lancaster University UK gave the keynote address.


Professor Bob Hodge and John O’Carroll, Border Work in Multicultural Australia, Sydney, Allen and Unwin, 2006.


Dr George Morgan and Dr Scott Huyting (eds), Outrageous! Moral Panics in Australia, Hobart, ACYS Press, 2007.


ARC Grant puts Cross-cultural Larrikins in Business

(continued from page 1)

At race meetings larrikins had their ‘donah’—girlfriends open their umbrellas in the face of the leaders, with predictable results. At night trotting meetings larrikins pulled the plug on the electricity supply mid-race if their horse was losing.

When CCR member Professor Bob Hodge decided to call his successful 2004 ARC Discovery Grant proposal Cross-cultural ‘larrikins’ in a neo-liberal world: ideology and myth in postmodern Australia, he did not have these fin de siècle ruffians primarily in mind but rather their twentieth-century namesakes.

Modern larrikinism has been described as a sensibility of ‘irreverence, mockery of authority and disregard for rigid norms of propriety’. It is the development of such an outlook in the Australian psyche, identified in seminal works such as Russel Ward’s The Australian Legend (1958), to which Bob referred. Larrikin characteristics have been identified in, among others, success stories such as entertainers Bryan Brown, Ernie Dingo and Paul Hogan, sportspersons Dawn Fraser and Shane Warne, politician Bob Hawke, and businessman John Singleton.

It was in the application of the larrikin approach to international business that Bob was especially interested. He posited that the larrikin’s ‘have-a-go’ attitude, ‘easy ways and creative irreverence can give Australian business new skills and identities to navigate a complex world’. Moreover, because he has identified similar attitudes among the jeitinho of Brazil and the favores of Mexico, he believed that the construction of a ‘cross-cultural larrikin’, an ‘inclusive figure able to draw together the many strands of multicultural Australia’, particularly in regard to business, was plausible. Moreover, he argued that such businesspersons could become effective ambassadors of trade in Latin American countries.

Thus far the project has been very successful in its varied aims, with six months still remaining of the funding period. Team members have published six articles from the emerging results, and the research’s applications for business are proving attractive to a range of political and industry bodies, especially those with an interest in better links between Australia and Latin America, such as the Council on Australia Latin American Relations (COALAR), which was set up by the Australian federal government to foster such links. The council includes the Vice Chancellor of UWS, Professor Janice Reid, among its members.

‘Conceptually’, commented Professor Hodge, ‘the greatest achievement of the project has been in re framing the image of Australian identity, with the ‘larrikin’ as its symbol. The ‘larrikin’ label got a bad press in the 19th century by being applied, by those who aspired to be the elite, to those whose behaviour they disapproved of. Not only louts who caused trouble at the races, but also to criminals, or worse. No less a figure than Ned Kelly was called a larrikin in his time. Now he is an Australian icon, as Australians proudly recognise that the qualities that he represented can be seen in a completely different light: Ned’s contact with the world of commerce was to rob a bank in response to his sense of exclusion and injustice. Modern larrikins may be women as well as men, Aboriginal or “ethnic” as well as Anglo-Celts, and what they represent is still criticised by some Australians. But as understood in this project, the larrikin represents a positive evaluation of a complex set of ways of being Australian. And that, it turns out, is better for business than Ned’s gun.’

CCR Research Associates and Assistants

Research assistants and associates (RAs) at CCR are looking to expand their research impact in the Centre and across the University. A recent initiative is the development of a lunchtime seminar series, a grassroots alternative to the established CCR Research Seminar. Held every third Monday, it provides a chance to foster further collaboration, develop work-in-progress and profile new research at CCR, and people working in the research context of the university.

‘CCR is the perfect forum for this kind of dialogue’, commented Dr Kylie Brass, a CCR RA and one of the conveners of the seminar. ‘UWS has such a breadth of knowledge circulating in its ranks, but we don’t always get the time to share it. The lunchtime seminar series is an opportunity for us to enhance collegiality and open up research possibilities’.

Introductory seminars have reflected the diversity of interest and expertise among CCR’s RAs. Sarah Mengier drew on her background in indigenous arts and community practices to talk about Salgo Art, Dr Inga Brasche gave an account of apartheid on Grootes Eylant, and Russell Daylight took Frederick Jameson for a turn around Penrith Plaza. Upcoming paper presenters include Kieryn McKay on cult music and obsession, Dr Kylie Brass on university media policy, and Dr Amanda Rosso-Buckton on women, madness and possession in Modern Greece.

Research Transit Lounge

Recent CCR internationalisation initiatives

Research Transit Lounge

Recent CCR internationalisation initiatives

During May Professor Ien Ang met with Ms Katerina Stenou, Director of UNESCO’s Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue in Paris. They discussed collaboration by CCR researchers with colleagues in Mumbai and Singapore on a cultural diversity project. Ien also took part in a UNESCO meeting on Intercultural Dialogue experts.

Also in May Associate Professor Robyn Bushell participated in a Global Ecotourism Conference in Oslo that incorporated the launch of her new co-edited book Benefits Beyond Boundaries: Tourism and Protected Areas. Robyn also took part in a meeting with the World Conservation Union in Gland, Switzerland.

Associate Professor Brett Neilson has been in Europe on Professional Development Leave and undertaking research on his ARC Discovery Project Anti-Ageing Devices. During his visit Brett worked with European colleagues preparing a work program for collaborative research funding under the European Union Framework 7 Program. If the application is successful further CCR involvement in the program will be developed.
The pursuit of a postgraduate qualification at the Centre for Cultural Research frequently brings the opportunity for overseas travel. Here is an account by HDR student Sarah James of some recent offshore research adventures:

In September 2006 I joined a team of CCR researchers in a research workshop in Berlin, titled ‘Open Cities’, partly funded by an ARC International Linkage Grant. The workshop engaged with themes of urban citizenship, and comparative urban studies, focusing on Berlin and Sydney. Other members of the team were Professor Kay Anderson, Dr Fiona Allon, and Dr Justine Lloyd (UTS), a mix that provided an across-the-board representation of established, early career and postgraduate researchers. The Sydney contingent was matched by four researchers from the Free University in Berlin.

The workshop allowed me to consider a range of debates and perspectives from outside my discipline that have enriched my current work. The opportunity to publish within a special edition of an academic journal is particularly valuable for someone at the beginning of their research career.

In April 2007, another contingent of researchers represented CCR at the meeting of the Association of American Geographers in San Francisco. This conference is the largest of its kind in the world, attracting approximately 7,000 attendees and 3,000 delivered papers. Up to 15 simultaneous sessions took place.

San Francisco was an experience in itself, with its cable cars, breathtakingly steep hills and fabulous street art. The level of urban poverty evident in the homeless, predominantly black males, encountered as we moved between our hotel and the Hilton conference site, provided a reminder of the legacies of colonial pasts in one of the richest nations on the earth.

Anne Hurni and I were the CCR postgraduates at the conference, which was also attended by Professor Kay Anderson, and we found it an invaluable experience in a number of respects. Our papers were well received and provided us with many interesting and often unexpected contacts with people studying in similar areas.

This conference demonstrated the breadth of Geography as a discipline, providing exposure to the pivotal debates and themes that influence current research. The opportunity to listen to and meet some of the ‘big’ names within Geography was another unique and valuable aspect of it. The strength of such a humanities discipline in the USA is reassuring to those of us starting at the beginning of their research career.

CCR postgrads have many opportunities to establish themselves within their area of research by attending national or international conferences, or by participating in exchange programs. A long-term co-operation has been established between the Advanced Cultural Studies Institute of Sweden (ACESIS) in Linkoping University and CCR. In May, CCR postgraduate Lynne Spender was at ACESS and in September another, Jayde Cahir, will be studying at the research centre.

The opportunity to travel overseas, to participate in and engage with debates and dialogues at an international level, fosters a postgraduate development in terms of both research and professional life. It is also a great cultural experience.

CCR’s Sarah James addressing the Association of American Geographers.

Lynne’s research focuses on digital culture (the practices, values and attitudes of those for whom digital technology is the primary mode of creativity), and the challenge that this culture poses to copyright laws. As a part of her project she will study the Swedish ‘Pirate Party’ and will conduct interviews with them during her visit.

Jayde’s research analyses the spatial dimensions of text messaging. In this research the 160 character-limit of a text message is considered as a space; it is also used to map the social, cultural and political negotiation of text messaging in private and public space. Jayde will visit Nokia, Ileorn and Eriksson and work with academics who have studied mobile phone and text messaging practices in Scandinavia since 1995. All of these opportunities provide CCR postgraduates with the experience necessary to do well within a highly competitive employment market upon completion of their research training. They also encourage collaboration in research projects with established academics, which can produce valuable outcomes, such as publications.

By The Wall: l to r: Fiona Allon & Sarah James (CCR), Anja Swarz (Free University Berlin), Justine Lloyd (UTS) & Kay Anderson (CCR).

The week-long workshop involved presentations by all participants, combined with tours of Berlin.

The ‘Open Cities’ workshop explored themes relating to urban citizenship including power, exclusion and access. Berlin provided a fitting backdrop to such endeavours, with its dense and sometimes dark history inscribed onto the cityscape.

Our tours of Berlin traced its Nazi history, through the rise and fall of the Berlin Wall and on to its contemporary uses for urban empty space. ‘Open Cities’ is a reciprocal project and the Berlin academics will visit Sydney in October 2007. A special edition of the journal Space and Culture will follow from this research.

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