

reSearch.matters

AUGUST 2008 • COLLEGE OF ARTS • UWS



Dear Colleagues,

Please enjoy our August reSearch.matters newsletter.

As usual, there are lots of achievements to report and interesting things on the horizon. For example, four books have been published and a cohort of higher degree research candidates have graduated.

The College acknowledges the arrival of new professors with an inaugural lecture organised for October with Professor Jack Barbalet.

Previous inaugural lectures have been podcast and are available for viewing at http://music.uws.edu.au/web/coa/

Preparations are well under way for the third College of Arts conference on Saturday, 11 October. All academic staff are strongly encouraged to attend. It is compulsory for HDR candidates to present or attend, with an expectation that their supervisory panels are there for support.

The highlight of our next edition will be a profile on new staff.

Professor Michael Atherton Associate Dean (Research)

From high school to higher education: Gendered Pathways in information, communication and computer technology education.

Submitted by Margaret Vickers

UWS has just concluded a three-year long project titled Gender and IT (Gait) The project was conducted by a team of researchers led by Professor Margaret Vickers, in conjunction with other researchers from University of Western Sydney (Carol Reid, Susanne Gannon, and Kerry Robinson), Charles Sturt University (Toni Downes) and Deakin University (Juli Lynch, Catherine Harris, and Leonie Rowan). Cristyn Davies, Trinh Ha, Clare Sidoti, and Jose Van-den-Akker provided

expert research assistance. On 5 May, the book based on this project was launched at Gleebooks (see photo).

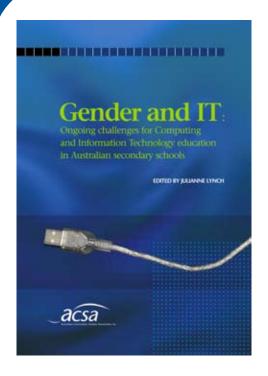
The project addressed the long standing issue regarding the inequality and disparity of women in Computing and Information Technology (CIT) courses. Specifically, it explored the processes and factors that occur in high school that lead to the observed gender-based discrepancy in the rate of enrolments/entry into CIT courses at University in Australia.

The results indicate that there is a definite decline in interest in CIT subjects in the senior years of high school among both boys and girls. Although the enrolment rates for girls and boys are dropping, results revealed that girls' enrolments are falling away more quickly than those of boys.



Left to Right:
Kerry Robinson, Cristyn Davies,
Trinh Ha, Susanne Gannon, Toni
Downes, Carol Reid, M Vickers, Juli
Lynch, and Daryl Melgar, MP for
Banks





Furthermore, the findings of the project thus far have indicated that

- » The majority of the high school students surveyed believe they learn more about computers at home than at school;
- » Girls who perceive their own ability with computers to be high are no more likely than those who see themselves as 'just average' to enrol in years CIT subjects in years 11 and 12;
- » Male students are more likely than female students to say they are good at computer subjects (52.8% of males compared with 35.1% of female students said they were 'good at CIT').
- » Computer literacy is high among both boys and girls, with 92.6 per cent of all students having access to the internet at home; 90.5 per cent using computers to do their homework; and 64.4 per cent sending emails and text messages to friends.

The book based on this work is titled Gender and IT: Ongoing Challenges for Computing and Information Technology education in Australian secondary schools. Ed, Juli Lynch, and available from www.acsa.edu.au

The Sociolinguistics of Development in Africa

Author: Djité, Paulin G., Ph.D., Palmes Académiques

Associate Professor, School of Humanities and Languages

The book is an analysis of modernisation informed by the place of language in education, health, the economy and governance in the African context. It paints a wide canvas of Africa in its different facets, and shows how language is used as an instrument to deny access to socioeconomic and political emancipation.

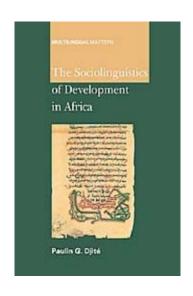
Professor Neville Alexander, Director of PRAESA, University of Cape Town, South Africa said that the book was a delight to read and wrote:

"This book is going to become compulsory reading for anyone wishing to work on sociolinguistics and applied linguistics in Africa. It has numerous qualities that will make it inescapable as a vade-mecum in these fields. It describes concisely the state of the art with respect to the relationship between language policy, language use and economics, health, education, and governance, the domains that it covers in the main. At the same time, it challenges all the myths and many orthodox assumptions and authoritative positions in these domains. As such, it will undoubtedly give rise to very necessary polemics inside and beyond the

continent. In view of the global trend towards the valorisation of cultural diversity, the positions that are put forward here, such as the relationship between multilingualism and economic development, will undoubtedly help to shape the orthodoxy of the future. Coming as it does at the very moment when a Pan-African Masters and Doctoral degree programme in Applied Linguistics and African Languages is about to be launched, its seeds will fall on fertile ground."

The book, published by Multilingual Matters LTD (visit: www.multilingual-matters.com/ for more information), has earned Associate Professor Djité another book contract to examine the Sociolinguistics of Development in Southeast Asia, and an invitation as a panellist at an international conference celebrating the International Year of Languages organised by UNESCO in Paris later this year.

Submitted by Paulin Djite



Congratulations to the graduating HDR candidates at the April 2008 ceremonies.

- » Dr Genevieve Nelson.
- » Dr Simon Middleton.
- » Dr Vahít Dogu Erdener,
- » Dr Iris-Corinna Schwarz,
- » Dr Barbara Schwanhäußer.
- » Dr Nicole Lees,
- » Dr David Oliphant,
- » Dr Marjorie Seaton,
- » Dr Megan Brock,
- » Dr Debbie Biton.
- » Dr Jane Mills.
- » Dr Laura Calderón de la Barca Sánchez,
- » Dr Harry Cole,
- » Dr Jane Kent,
- » Dr Elisabeth Powell,
- » Dr Shane Smithers,
- » Dr Lea Crisante,

- » Dr Ngaire McCubben,
- » Dr Ian Coxon,
- » Dr Shane Hersey,
- » Ms Janine Harrison,
- » Dr Mireille Astore.
- » Dr Corrina Bonshek,
- » Dr Adrian Renzo,
- » Dr Diane Hughes,
- » Dr Kim Chau Leung,
- » Ms Debra Wray,
- » Dr Jennifer Browne.
- » Dr Kenneth Langford.
- » Dr Shiona Shiu.
- » Dr Ben-Zion Weiss,
- » Dr Susan Mackenzie.
- » Dr Glen Fuller.

FREE NATIONAL I&T RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Hosted by

THE COLLEGE OF ARTS'
INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATION
RESEARCH NODE

On 26 – 27 SEPTEMBER 2008 At the Bankstown Campus

"APPLYING RESEARCH
TO INTERPRETING
AND TRANSLATION
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE"

Guest speaker: Dr Miriam Shlesinger, Bar-Ilan University, Israel.

Visit her website for more details:

http://www.biu.ac.il/faculty/shlesm/

The Symposium will cater for I&T researchers, educators, students and practitioners. Its aims are: to disseminate the results of research; to explore the applications of research to the improvement of the practice of interpreting and translation and to the training; and to create a dynamic dialogue between researchers, trainers and practitioners.

There will be single 30 minute paper presentations, workshops and plenary lectures. Morning and afternoon tea and a light lunch will be provided.

Register by emailing Ms Elizabeth Friedman at e.friedman@uws.edu.au by 29 August 2008, stating your name, affiliation and email address.

Submitted by Sandra Hale

Motion Captured(d).

Who is in the photo (left-right):

James Batchelor, Sam Maxted, Rebecca Frasca. James Batchelor wearing reflective markers for detection by a Vicon motion capture system. James's movement in three dimensions was tracked and recorded by 10 high-speed cameras. This performance, recorded at The Australian Choreographic Centre (now QL2 Centre for Youth Dance) in Canberra in 2007, included an experiment where the dancers performed in silence and then again with an accompanying soundscape. Acceleration and velocity were later analysed under these two conditions and compared with continuous responses obtained from 21 audience members. The experiment is part of a three-year research project (2005-8) funded by the Australian Research Council and industry partners QL2, Ausdance, and the Australia Council for the Arts (LP0562687). The project is coordinated at MARCS Auditory Laboratories, University of Western Sydney by A/Prof Kate Stevens with research collaborators at UWS, University of Melbourne, University of New South Wales and Deakin University.

Photographer:

Dr Garth Paine, MARCS Auditory Laboratories, University of Western Sydney

Contact details:

Chief Investigator: A/Prof Kate Stevens, MARCS Auditory Laboratories, University of Western Sydney

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Submitted by Kate Stevens



Learning for Sustainable Living: Psychology of Ecological Transformation

A new book Learning for Sustainable Living: Psychology of Ecological Transformation is now available as a paperback and portable document file (PDF) aimed at environmental and sustainability educators, social-workers, social planners, health professionals, and those curious and passionate about a holistic and integrated approach to positive social and environmental change.

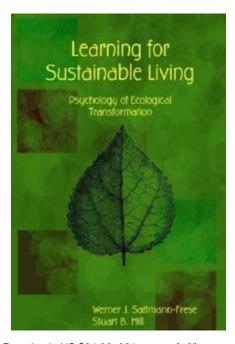
This book addresses the critical observation of ecologists and ecopsychologists that our current approaches to environmental change have largely failed because they are not grounded in a deep understanding of the complex physio-emotional, psychological and sociocultural interrelationships that underpin human perception and behaviour. It is this nexus of unconscious emotional and psychosocial forces that are preventing most people in modern societies from developing a coherent and stable sense of self, and from leading satisfying and harmonious lives, free from such unsustainable compensatory pseudo self-supports as retail therapy.

A critical discussion of the core issues underpinning sustainability, outlined in Agenda 21, is followed by a description of the key elements of Learning for Sustainable Living (LSL). An interdisciplinary transformative approach to personal and planetary healing is based on an extended set of physio-emotional, psychosocial, and environmental sustainability indicators. It is informed by the theory and practice of social ecology, learning ecology, and transformative education; and it focuses on practices that develop one's transpersonal self – as a wise, responsible, able, and paradoxical being.

Authors:

Dr Werner Sattmann-Frese works as a part-time psychotherapist, supervisor, and ecological counsellor in private practice and conducts Learning for Sustainable Living Courses at centres throughout Australia.

Professor Stuart B. Hill is Foundation Chair of Social Ecology at the University of Western Sydney.

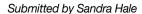


Paperback: US \$24.99, 331 pages, 6x9" - Download: US \$7.00

http://www.lulu.com/content/2589181 Submitted by Stuart Hill

Book Launch:

On 5 June 2008, Sandra Hale's new book 'Community Interpreting' published by Palgrave Macmillan, was launched by Professor Christopher Candlin who was one of the series editors. Prior to the book launch. Sandra presented a seminar based on one of the chapters "What do the interpreters' code of ethics really mean? An empirical analysis of codes of ethics from around the world'. The night was well attended, with representatives from the Interpreting and Translation professional association (AUSIT), practising interpreters, and interpreting researchers, educators and students from UWS and Macquarie universities. Prof. Nancy Wright, Head of the School of Humanities and Languages, opened the event.





Realising Gifted Students' Potential:

Elucidating psychosocial determinants and the impact of different educational settings on educational outcomes and psychosocial wellbeing

As current gifted students are expected to provide future leaders in all fields of endeavour, there is an increasing emphasis in Australia and worldwide on how to educate gifted students most effectively. In September 2007, a research team headed by Professor Rhonda Craven of the Centre for Educational Research was successful in obtaining ARC Discovery funding to study ways in which to maximise the potential of gifted young Australians. This four year study aims to improve Australia's capacity to educate gifted students by: explicating the psychosocial determinants of gifted students' educational outcomes; examining the characteristics of learners who benefit most from gifted education; investigating the impact of different settings on educational outcomes and psychosocial wellbeing; informing practice on how best to select students to participate in gifted education; and by providing guidance for future intervention strategies. By identifying new solutions to realise gifted students' potential, this research will contribute substantially to further actualising Australia's claim to be the clever country and will have important implications for the future of gifted education.

The research team also includes Dr Alex Yeung from the Centre for Educational Research, Professor Herbert Marsh from Oxford University, UK, and Professor Ladd Wheeler from Macquarie University. A recently qualified PhD student from the Centre for Educational Research, Marjorie Seaton, was also successful in obtaining an ARC post-doctoral research fellowship to participate in this research.

Performing Water: A documentary fiction film on the cultural futures of water.



In a global context of crisis where in many places in recent years demand for water has systematically outstripped supply, there is a critical new role for artists to take active part in the education, communication and creative rendering of water as a key cultural resource and, perhaps, the key aspect of the human rights program for the beginning of the 21st century.

In this project, my personal aim is to be able to make an intervention in current debates surrounding water and its extreme importance in the emerging political and environmental global and local contexts. My main intervention will be through the production of a documentary work that advances some of the ideas I began working with in my previous films.

Three fieldwork research activities (including pre-production and video interviews, as well as photographic documentation done by Belgium photographer Anne Ransquin) conducted in Western NSW in September and October 2007 and in Santiago and Northern Chile in November 2007 to January 2008 were essential to sharpen the approach to the project.

This research is concerned with the rendering and performing of water in a cross-cultural context. It looks at definitions, relations, and social construction as well as effects water has for humanity.

In capturing water as the main performer, the film will originate from the notions of water materiality as a metaphor for aesthetic representations. The film is structured in three vignettes and an epilogue relating to the three main states of water and its molecular structure: Solid, Liquid, Gas...H2O. The film intends to contribute to the understanding of the complexities in the meanings and relations of water and its human, non-human and political as well as spiritual dimensions. The research intends to interface actornetwork with performative documentary theories introducing the notion of water as and actant-performer.

Submitted by Alejandra Canales

NightinGala

The Helsinki record store would not open for another half hour, or so read the sign. Two men stood outside the locked door, peering in, then knocking. To my surprise, the door opened. I got behind them to plead my case: I have to catch a plane soon, and I hear you have one of the largest collections of birdsong recordings in Europe. Alright, come in—but I have no time for you. You'll have to look around yourself.

The men huddled at the front desk, playing recordings. When the two visitors left, the owner announced, We're going to be invaded. Really? I prompted him. He proceeded to explain that a rare snipe had been spotted by these two birders the previous evening, a bird never seen before in Finland or anywhere in Western Europe. Birders would be pouring in from all over Europe. I must make several phone calls; then I can help you. And he did.

I'm studying birdsong in Australia—the country's best singer.

Lyrebird.

No—they are in their own league, but the bird I study is the most beautiful by far.

Butcherbird.

Yes! (I was amazed he guessed it.) Pied or grey?

Pied.

How did you know?

My nickname is Emu.

Thus ended a trip that had begun a mere five days earlier at a zoömusicology conference. Musicology seems a perfectly obvious word—how better to describe the study of music? However, as it became apparent that the field dealt almost exclusively with European art music, ethnomusicology was pressed into service. First, it was an umbrella term charged with the task of surveying all the rest of the world's music. Later, the field expanded, at least in the minds of some, to include all music, even European art music. There was still a feeling that something of consequence was omitted, and zoömusicology was the word scratching the itch.



Hollis Taylor with composer Harri Viitanen.

Coined in 1983 by French composer François-Bernard Mâche, zoömusicology could be considered as the study of the musical aspects of animal sounds. According to Mâche, "If it turns out that music is a widespread phenomenon in several living species apart from man, this will very much call into question the definition of music, and more widely that of man and his culture, as well as the idea we have of the animal itself." On the twenty-fifth anniversary of this word, Professor Dario Martinelli convened the world's first conference devoted to zoömusicology, which he defines as the "aesthetic use of sound communication among animals."

The event was co-hosted by the Sibelius Academy at the Kallio-Kuninkala estate about thirty minutes north of Helsinki. Martinelli invited both musicologists and biologists to participate, with the focus all on one species, the nightingale. NightinGala was an eclectic event comprising a concert and a series of seminars. The time of the festival coincided with the very period when nightingales migrate to Finland and can often be heard in the night singing their songs. (This time of year, "night" consists of just a few hours of twilight.)

The concert was one of the highlights, beginning with the self-described folk musician Kristiina Ilmonen. Her piece was based on influences from birdsongs and their presence in folk traditions. Her trio (wind instruments, voice, and kantele, the Finnish national instrument), broke stereotypes: the vocalist mined a

variety of extended techniques; the kantele, a zither-like instrument, was electric; and the flutist (Kristiina) employed ancient Finnish reed instruments alongside a contemporary overtone flute (with no holes for fingers) made from PVC pipe; and, most noticeably, free improvisation was rife. When I challenged her on the avant-garde nature of her music despite the "folk" label, she smiled and said, We here in Finland have a strong folk music tradition, and it's contemporary—folk music is being constantly refreshed and renewed.

Another featured composer that evening was Harri Viitanen, who is known as Finland's Olivier Messiaen, both because he is a composer who uses birdsong in his music and because of his expertise as an organist (Helsinki Cathedral). In studying astronomy, ornithology, and the latest data technology, Viitanen has developed an impressive personal compositional language. Four mounted speakers surrounded the audience for his taped piece Katharsis.

If you find yourself in Helsinki, Emu Lehtinen, owner of Digelius Records, stocks recordings of Kristiina Ilmonen and Harri Viitanen. But business is a distant second--he'd rather enchant you with stories of the Swinhoe's snipe Gallinago megala and subsequent invasion of twitchers.--Hollis Taylor (www. hollistaylor.com)

Submitted by Hollis Taylor

Research partners yield positive reward

How do schools prevent violent or anti-social behaviour? Researchers from the School of Education and Centre for Educational Research are able to shed some light on how Western Sydney schools are dealing with this increasingly disturbing development. Researchers Mary Mooney, Alex Yeung, Katrina Barker, Brenda Dobia, Anne Power and Kevin Watson investigated a new approach to positive and preventative practices of behavioural management. This systemic school-wide approach is called Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) and is being implemented across the DET Western Sydney Region (WSR) schools. Over the past 12 months the implementation of this approach has been investigated as well as the transferability from its United States origins. The humble beginnings of this research project can be traced back to a meeting of the Committee of Cooperation, co-chaired by Steve Wilson (Head of the School of Education) and Lindsay Wasson (Regional Director of the Western Sydney Region. As a result of preliminary discussions and briefings, the research took shape with the successful application for a UWS Research Partnership grant. Panthers on the Prowl Community Development Foundation is the second partner organization. Maintaining a collaborative partner relationship throughout the project was achieved through the establishment of a Research Management Committee chaired by Gail Wykes, a WSR School Education Director whose portfolio includes PBL.



The UWS researchers met monthly with the other DET members of the committee – Jill Schofield (PBL Coordinator), Anne Denham (PBL Officer), Gerry McCloughan (School Development Officer) and Eric Jamieson (Principal and member of the PBL Regional Leadership Team).

Celebrating the launch of the PBL Research Report was a well-deserved positive reward for the research partners. Joining the event at the Ward library on 10 April were the participant schools, PBL school coaches, Regional DET staff, SOE and CER academics. Associate Professor Peter Hutchings accepted the report on behalf of the College of Arts UWS, Lindsay Wasson for the DET and Richard Booth received the report for Panthers on the Prowl.

Submitted by: Mary Mooney

From left: Richard Booth (Panthers), Mary Mooney (SOE), Jill Schofield (DET), Lindsay Wasson (DET WSR Regional Director), Peter Hutchings (CoA, Assoc Dean Academic).

CCR gains offshore funding for International Exchange Program

The College of Arts' Centre for Cultural Research (CCR) and a Swedish collaborator, the Advanced Cultural Studies Institute of Sweden (ACSIS) of Linköping University, have obtained funding for a ground breaking staff and student exchange program.

The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT) will provide the substantive funding of 400,000 SEK (Swedish Kroner) – about \$AU64,000 per year for the Program, which commences in second semester 2008 and ends in first semester 2012.

The title of the Program is Culturalisation and Globalisation: Advancing Cultural Research in Sweden and Australia. It will focus on four areas: cultural policy and cultural production; uses of history and museums; urban tourism; and media and popular culture. Both partners

are confident that the program will develop a strong and multilevel collaboration in research and higher education between the two research sites.

Under the bilateral arrangement, contingents from CCR will travel to the ACSIS campus in Norrköping Sweden later in 2008, twice in 2010, and for the final workshop in 2012. The Swedish researchers will come to Sydney twice in 2009, and twice more in 2011. The programme will expand on an existing arrangement between CCR and ACSIS, under which each year one higher degree research (HDR) candidate from each institution received funding to conduct research at its overseas partner.

In the new program each exchange will include up to four delegates, including one senior researcher, a mid or early career researcher, and either one or two HDRs. The HDRs will stay for four to six weeks, while the senior researchers will visit for about a week on each occasion.

The visit will be organised around a research workshop, and every second exchange will include a doctoral workshop or master class provided by the host institution, some of which will involve internationally recognised researchers and scholars from other universities.

The Director of CCR, Professor David Rowe, is enthusiastic about the new exchange program. "STINT grants are highly competitive, with fewer than one in three funded in 2008. The Swedish Foundation was very impressed with the research accomplishments and plans of the research team", he said. "CCR, supported by the College of Arts, has been pursuing a vigorous internationalisation strategy over the last two years. It is especially pleasing to see a multi-year program like this get off the ground, and to develop a deep and extensive research partnership with a Scandinavian university in the field of Cultural research".

Submitted by Wayne Peake

Upcoming Professorial Lecture with Prof Jack Barbalet, School of Social Sciences, 15 October 2008.

"Is Self Interest Enough? Sociology in Market Society".

ABSTRACT

The concept of self interest has been core to European understandings of individual motivation and behaviour at least since the seventeenth century. It remains today central for homo economicus and integral to the notion of rational action. While sociology as a discipline has in many ways developed through critical engagement with this and associated ideas, the incompleteness of its resolution of concern with them indicates the resilience of self interest in both popular and academic discussion. It is not enough to point to evidence of selfless or other-interested behaviour because they are readily assimilated into accounts premised on self interest. Otherinterestedness can be regarded as a qualifying trait of self interest or as an external constraint on it, leaving the basic structure of self interest intact. Neither is it sufficient to point to the social structural and interactional preconditions of self interest. Such accounts step over rather than provide an alternative to those premised on self interest: indeed, they tend to leave the question of action itself in doubt. In this lecture a quite different approach to self interest will be taken, that summarizes Jack Barbalet's recent and current research, which

examines insufficiently articulated assumptions concerning personal identity in the nature of 'self' as well as inadequately understood aspects of 'interested' action. The approach offered here encourages an appreciation of the complexity of the concept and experience of self and identity and the temporality of action in which orientation to future outcomes is germane. Additionally, it will be shown that the goals of action or the preferences of the actor are not necessarily know prior to an action but emerge through it. The resulting transformation of the concept of self interest is foundation to a sociology of markets and economy.



PRESS RELEASE

The Magic Jungle World Premiere by Australian Composer Jean Bunton
At Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall
For the 2008 Hong Kong International Arts
Carnival



The City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong (CCOHK), whose Founder and Artistic Director, is Australian Leanne Nicholls, will present the World Premiere of The Magic Jungle written by School of Communication Arts Doctor of Creative Arts student, Jean Bunton.

The Magic Jungle premieres on Saturday 19 July at the prestigious Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall as part of the 2008 Hong Kong International Arts Carnival with the CCOHK under conductor Bill Connor, who has previously worked with Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, and has also orchestrated the work.

Jean Bunton, originally from England, lived in Hong Kong for twenty-three years before coming to Australia; she started studying music at the University of Western Sydney and is currently undertaking a Doctorate in Composition with Dr Bruce Crossman and Dr Diana Blom.

The Magic Jungle is a sixty minute piece written for chamber orchestra, narrator, two children actors/singers and a singing monkey. Through a series of adventures Max the Monkey takes Rosie and Tim to his home in The Magic Jungle. Here they discover that every animal in the jungle can play a musical instrument.

The musical with its narration, lively music, songs and special effects, provides children as young as three and above, with an unforgettable introduction to the instruments of the orchestra.

Leanne Nicholls, Founder and Artistic Director of the orchestra, commissioned Bunton to compose a musical for the orchestra based on a jungle theme. Nicholls' commented "the biggest surprise has been the response to the show with tickets sold out in just two weeks."

Bunton has also worked with Nicholls before on projects related to her academic work at UWS. Bunton explains "Last year I collaborated with the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong in a CD recording entitled Sing the Sounds of English. The CD is a collection of twenty-seven songs which contain all forty-four phonemes of the International Phonetic Alphabet. The songs are especially designed to help Chinese children learn English pronunciation in a fun way."

The CD sing the Sounds of English, a part of Bunton's 2006 honours work at the University, will also be launched at the world premiere of The Magic Jungle.

Bunton has worked as a writer of educational children's books, published by Pearsons (North Asia), Commercial Press (HK) and more recently by The People's Educational Press, Beijing before undertaking her practice based doctorate at UWS.

College of Arts Conference

Research Matters – Making a Difference

Saturday 11 October 2008

Bankstown Campus

Put this date in your diaries.