CCR to the Fore in Key ARC Funding Announcements

Researchers from CCR are members of teams that succeeded with three applications for prestigious grants under the Australian Research Council (ARC) National Competitive Grants Program announced during September 2007.

Climate change: a global threat

Dr Fiona Cameron, a CCR research fellow, is the first named Chief Investigator (CI) on a new ARC Linkage project that promises to be of enormous significance for Australia and the world. With funding of almost $600,000 over three years, the project, *Global Citizenship and the Agency of the Museum Sector in Climate Change Interventions*, is one of the largest in the current round.

The project's core subject matter, climate change, could hardly be more topical or vital. Its objective is to help equip museums to be resources that allow information seekers who visit them, either in person or virtually, to become informed participants in the climate change debate.

CCR members Professor Bob Hodge, Associate Professor Brett Neilson and Dr Juan Salazar will also be Chief Investigators on the project (in addition, several CCR general staff will provide administrative support). The other project CIs are Professor Jann Conroy of the UWS Centre for Plant & Food Science and Professor David Karoly of the University of Melbourne.

Partner Investigators are Carolyn Meehan of Museum Victoria, Sebastian Chan of the

Powerhouse Museum, Lynda Kelly of the Australian Museum, Professor Graham Durant of Questacon: the National Science & Technology Centre Canberra, Wayne LaBar of the Liberty Science Center, New Jersey USA, and Dr Richard Sandell of the Department of Museum Studies at the University of Leicester, United Kingdom. Dr Cameron was instrumental in pulling together this powerful team of researchers and for the early project management work that contributed to the proposal's success.

The other new grants funded under the ARC Discovery Program are:

The City after Dark: the Governance and Lived Experience of Urban Night-Time Culture has as researchers CCR member and Head of UWS's School of Social Sciences, Professor Deborah Stevenson, CCR Director Professor David Rowe, and Professor Stephen Tomsen, Professor in Criminology and Criminal Justice, School of Social Sciences. The project will explore the ways in which people use, and interact with, urban spaces after dark in inner-city Sydney.

Triple Celebration at November Function

At CCR headquarters on 23 November 2007 staff and postgraduate students, together with university colleagues and community and industry partners, celebrated three important milestones in the life of the research centre.

The first was the completion of the second and penultimate stage of the move to CCR's new offices in building EM from the old base in the demountable building located near the campus oval. Stage two saw the occupation of the 'penthouses' on level one and some of the offices in the western wing that were formerly occupied by the School of Social Sciences. The final and third stage would see the 'West Wing' fully taken over by CCR in December 2007.

The successful refit and move-in marked the culmination of twelve months of strenuous and unremitting work by CCR Centre Coordinator

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- Cultural Researcher Divides Time Between Hong Kong & CCR
- Sydney-Berlin Symposium
- New Digital Research Servers
- UNESCO Funded Project
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Leading Cultural Researcher Divides Working Year Between CCR and Hong Kong

With a nod to Bruce Brown's seminal surfing movie of the 1960s, Professor Meaghan Morris describes with a smile the life she has led in the past two years as the 'endless almost summer'. During that period she has spent the first semester each year, corresponding with the northern spring, at the Lingnan University in Hong Kong. But come the spring semester at UWS, Professor Morris comes to Sydney and the Parramatta campus of the Centre for Cultural Research.

Despite the biannual relocation challenges, Professor Morris has found this migratory pattern very stimulating and rewarding so far, and believes that the arrangement will become even better in the future. For her, much of the appeal comes from the diversity of the two positions she holds, which she enjoys in equal measure. At Lingnan, she is the full-time chair professor of Cultural Studies, with all the administrative and supervisory responsibilities that such positions carry.

At CCR, her role is different, perhaps similar to what used to be called a 'reader' in the old English university system. She conducts research, thinks things over, and 'writes slowly, reflectively'. At the same time, as a leading figure in cultural research world-wide, Meaghan is much in demand for public engagements while in Australia. She also provides a key mentoring role for young academics working and studying at CCR.

Professor Morris's research interests include film and media, historical cultural studies, gender, nationality and globalisation, and Australian and Asia-Pacific popular culture. She has published very widely, and her most recent book is *Identity Anecdotes: Translation and Media Culture* (Sage, 2006). One of the key objectives of her work at CCR is to further this record of significant research publication.

Professor Meaghan Morris

The last full-time appointment in Australia for Professor Morris was at the University of Technology, Sydney, from 1994 to 1999. She began working at Lingnan in 2000, and thus missed by a few years being a Hong Kong academe under the British administration.

As for the 'new' Hong Kong, she finds it extremely stimulating and the public life of an academic there agreeable. In spite of a number of recent crises, including a recession and the SARS epidemic – even a spate of shark attacks in the harbour and nearby waters – Hong Kong is doing very well, she believes. The people are increasingly confident about the union with mainland China, while maintaining many cultural expressions of the recent past, such as horse racing and gambling – industries in which many expat Australians work.

During November 2007, Professor Morris ran three early career researcher (ECR) mentoring workshops at CCR. They looked at the realities, practicalities and possibilities of what it means to be an ECR today, covering such issues as doing cultural research outside CCR, tips on publishing, and securing work overseas.

Professor Morris said that she wanted to stimulate discussion at the workshop on how ECRs could move their careers holistically – without focussing on the customary managerial, dollar-driven 'how to get a grant' aspects. The sequence of three workshops meant that Professor Morris and the attendees were each able to share experiences of their own personal encounters with academe and intellectual work.

Participants described the workshops as extremely useful, dynamic and energising. It is expected that similar workshops will be held in 2008.

It follows a pilot study in Parramatta of the same name funded by a UWS Urban Research Initiative grant.

'The stimulation of a night-time economy can deliver great cultural, social and economic benefits to Australian cities, or result in social disruption and disputation, assaults, and serious injuries that drain criminal justice and health resources', Professor Stevenson has observed. 'The promotion and regulation of the city at night is amongst the most important issues facing communities, private enterprise and governments around the globe…[The project] will address competing uses of urban space and the levels of planning and regulation required to foster after-dark leisure and minimize alienation amongst different interest groups.' The multidisciplinary research team will analyse how night-time culture in inner Sydney has changed over the last 15 years. It will also explore what effects these changes may have had on social and cultural diversity in the '24-hour city'.

Professor Rowe is also a CI on the Discovery grant, *Struggling for Possession: the Control and Use of Online Media Sport*, with Dr Brett Hutchins of Monash University, which is the administering institution.

This project is an extension of Professor Rowe's research into popular culture, media and sport, especially of his recent ARC research on global sport television and the role of Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation. It will examine the place of sport content located in new media environments as the intellectual property of media companies in relation to citizens' rights to access it and generate it for themselves.

As the project synopsis emphasises, there is a pressing need for this research, 'with regulatory authorities already expressing concern over the locking up of exclusive content rights by major media companies.' With the addition of these new grants, CCR members are now working on more than twenty ARC-funded projects.

(*This article draws on material first published in UWS 'Research Directions'*)

Australian Government

Australian Research Council

Down-*Unter Den Linden:* Berlin meets Sydney at *Oktober(talk)fest*

The Centre for Cultural Research, in association with the Urban Research Centre, convened a high-profile symposium *Liquid Cities: Berlin and Sydney in Conversation* **at the Customs House Sydney from 4 to 6 October 2007.**

The symposium was part of the GERMANY FACES AUSTRALIA festival. Sponsored jointly by the Goethe Institut Australien, the City of Sydney Council, the University of Sydney and the German Consular General Sydney, GERMANY FACES AUSTRALIA was a six week celebration of German art and culture.

CCR's Professor Ien Ang, Professor Helen Armstrong and Dr Fiona Allon gave papers at the well-attended event. Guest speakers included John Whitehouse, partner in Minter Ellison Lawyers and Helen Trinca, editor of *The Australian Magazine*.

Many of the sessions paired papers on similar themes in the context of the cities of Berlin and Sydney; for example, as 'cities of immigrants' and 'cities of sin'. The Sydney version of the 'sin' theme was discussed by Peter Doyle of Macquarie University. Dr Doyle created the bodgie underworld spiv Billy Glasheen, antihero of the picaresque post-war Sydney-set novel *Get Rich Quick*.

Dr Doyle also curated the exhibition City of Shadows: Inner city crime and mayhem, 1912-1948, which examined inner-Sydney in the first half of the twentieth century via police crime and accident scene photographs.

Frau Adrienne Goehler, formerly Senator for Science, Research and Culture, based in Berlin, delivered the keynote address at the Liquid Cities CITYTALK, a satellite event held at the City Recital Hall, Angel Place. Robert Whitehead of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and Amrita Cheema of SBS Television were the co-respondents.

The symposium concluded on an informal and pleasurable note on day three (Saturday). Participants joined one of three meandering walks, led by local artists, under eucalypts rather than lindens, around harbourside Sydney to 'mystery' destinations.

The symposium received widespread press coverage. Dr Allon, the Convenor, was quoted at length in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, warning city planners against precipitately bulldozing their seamier quarters, such as Sydney's King's Cross, which have traditionally been incubators of Bohemian creativity: 'We need to look at the value and charm of our derelict, run-down spaces. They have a real charm and I think people need to value them,' [Dr Allon] said. 'A static city is really a dead city and if you don't have spontaneity, you don't have life.' Too much tidying could lead to a sense of soullessness, she said.

CCR researchers and their German colleagues at work in the Centre's Discovery Meeting Room

Dr Allon said reforming liquor licensing laws could encourage night-life and allow for an organic revitalisation of unused spaces, but that was not the whole picture. Dr Allon also featured on page one of the popular afternoon commuter newspaper, *mX*.

The Liquid Cities symposium coincided with an exchange visit to the CCR by a team of researchers from two German universities. A workshop at CCR's Parramatta campus, attended by postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers from Berlin's Free University and the University of Potsdam, and CCR members and students, immediately followed the Sydney event. Several of the German visitors had given papers at the symposium.

The visit to Sydney by the German team followed one by UWS staff to Berlin in 2006. An ARC Linkage International grant for the project *Open Cities*, together with German-end funding, made the exchanges possible.

The Sydney workshop renewed face-to-face collaboration on project themes that include urban citizenship and transnationalism in the two 'global' cities, the contemporary city as a site of contested cultural and political identities, and a comparison of the two cities' European Union and Pacific Rim nation contexts.

Both CCR and its German collaborators anticipate more joint projects will be propagated as a result of this international research initiative.

LIQUID CITIES BERLIN/SYDNEY

Artwork from the Liquid Cities Symposium: Berlin architecture

Leading Taiwanese Academic and Civil Servant Visits CCR

Professor Sebastian Liao held an appointment as Visiting Professor at CCR from the middle of 2007 to early 2008 as part of the Centre's Internationalisation initiative. An informal afternoon gathering of members and staff welcomed him to CCR in early August.

Professor Liao is Professor of English and Comparative Literature in the Dept of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the National Taiwan University. He also served, from 2003 to 2006, as Commissioner of the Dept of Cultural Affairs of the Taipei Municipal Government. He has previously held fellowships at prestigious universities in the USA, and has been chief editor for academic journals such as *Studies in Language and Literature* and the *Journal of Anglo-American Literature.*

Professor Liao has researched and written on a diverse range of cultural subjects, including Taiwanese literature, film, nativism, cultural identity, the politics of aboriginality, the politics of language, avant-garde art, postcoloniality, globalization, and Chinese alternative modernity. His current research is on modernity, transnationality and cultural policy in Taiwan, which, *inter alia*, involves a critical evaluation of his ministerial experience.

While at CCR Professor Liao has engaged in discussions with CCR staff and students about similarities and differences between the Taiwan and Australian cultural policy context. Sebastian also presented a seminar in September and held discussions with CCR industry partners, including local government and cultural institutions. His visit and collaborations added impetus to CCR's research strategy of increasing its engagement with the Chinese-speaking world.

While working at CCR Professor Liao prepared a chapter that will appear in a book on international cultural policy being edited by professors David Rowe and Deborah Stevenson.

Professor Sebastian Liao (right) with CCR's Professor David Rowe (Photo Maree O'Neill)

Mapping Cultural Diversity via Cyberspace

Professor Ien Ang and a multi-disciplinary team of researchers from the Centre for Cultural Research are coming together with academics from Mumbai and Singapore to explore the development of a Cultural Diversity Digital Atlas through funding from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

'Researchers and organisations such as UNESCO have a desire to monitor and promote cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue as a means of supporting development and social harmony in an increasingly globalised world', says Professor Ang. 'Big cities are the places where the reality of cultural diversity is most visible. This project will develop an online, searchable, web-accessible map or atlas that can assist people in different cities in different parts of the world to present their experiences of cultural diversity, promote communication between and within them, and help them to learn from each other regardless of where they live.

This project will bring together experts from three strategically important multi-cultural and ethnically diverse cities in the Asia Pacific region to scope out the feasibility of such a map, called the Cultural Diversity Digital Atlas.'

The multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural research team will conduct workshops to clarify the digital atlas concept, determine its technical features and capabilities, and build a prototype using the cultural profiles and stories of Mumbai, Sydney and Singapore. The researchers will work together with colleagues from the Archaeological Computing Laboratory at the University of Sydney, who have extensive experience in digital mapping methods.

The prototype will then be tested as a practical online tool to promote cultural diversity, pluralism and the intercultural exchange of experiences and ideas. This project will employ innovative uses of media and technology to assist communication and dialogue between civilisations and cultures, and will therefore contribute to a growth in mutual respect, understanding and peace between and within nations.

(*This article was originally published in 'UWS Research Directions'*)

Italian Research Fellow Defies 'Incidente' to Return to CCR

It did not happen in Rome, and its aftermath certainly proved to be no holiday, but Associate Professor Sandro Mezzadra had his own Italian motor-scooter adventure during the European 'away season' between his 2007 and 2008 visits to CCR funded by the UWS Eminent Researchers Visitors Scheme (ERVS).

Professor Mezzadra broke his fibula in two places in an accident at a set of lights while scootering in Bologna, the capital of the Emilia-Romagna region in Northern Italy. When he arrived in Sydney some months later he was still wielding a cane as a legacy of the accident. Nevertheless, these circumstances did nothing to curtail the intensive schedule of activities planned for his three months in Sydney. Highlights included:

- Preparing, with CCR collaborator Associate Professor Brett Neilson, a research grant proposal 'The Constitution of Culture: Europe seen from Asia' to the European Union's seventh framework (FP7) research program. Professor Mezzadra is recognised as a leading researcher in Europe and already holds two grants funded by the EU.
- Co-authoring, also with Brett Neilson, a text entitled 'Border as Method or the Multiplication of Labour'. The text is now being prepared as a book proposal, and was given at the CCR Seminar Series on 13 December. Professor Mezzadra has meanwhile completed a book of his own: *La condizione postcoloniale: Storia e politica nel presente globale (The Postcolonial Condition: History and Politics in the Global Present).*
- Participating as an invited guest in the New Mobilities Workshop, 7-9 December, Centre for Contemporary Art and Politics, College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales. He also gave a paper, *The Global Borders of Mobility*, at a symposium on the same topic a week later.

In second semester 2008 Professor Mezzadra will return to CCR for his third and final tour of duty under the ERV scheme.

Left: Precarious employment indeed. Professor Mezzadra's recent book. Right: Professor Mezzadra at a recent CCR event (Photo Maree O'Neill)

CCR Seminar Series 2008

| DATE	SPEAKER	PAPER TITLE
13 Mar 2pm start	**Professor Charlotte Brunsdon** Professor of Film & Television Studies, University of Warwick, UK	Approaching the Cinematic City: Three London Journeys
	Professor David Morley Professor of Communications, Department of Media and Communications, Goldsmiths College, University of London, UK	Towards A Materialist Communication Studies
28 Feb 2pm start	**Dr Marta Herrero** School of Law and Social Science, University of Plymouth, UK	Selling National Art in the Auction Market
13 Mar 2pm start	**Dr Sharon Chalmers & Dr Amanda Rosso-Buckton** CCR, UWS	'Are you talking to me?' Negotiating the Challenge of Cultural Diversity in Children's Health Care
	Dr Cameron McAuliffe CCR, UWS	Negotiating Nation and Religion in the Iranian Diaspora: A Multicultural Question?
17 Apr 2pm start	**Dr Kylie Brass & Professor David Rowe** CCR, UWS	Knowledge Limited: Public Communication, Risk and University Media Policy
	Reena Dobson CCR, UWS	Everyday Mauritius and the Ethnic Imaginary
15 May 2pm start	**Dr Ron Burnett** President, Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, Vancouver, Canada	Emerging Technologies and Social Networks
	Associate Professor Kaye Shumack School of Communication Arts, UWS – on placement at CCR	Digital Storytelling as Experience Design
12 June 2pm start	**Dr George Morgan** CCR, UWS	Aboriginal Youth Culture and Urban Regeneration in Redfern-Waterloo
	Associate Professor Greg Noble CCR, UWS	Who do they think you are? From the Politics of Recognition to the Sociability of Acknowledgement
19 June 3pm start	**Professor Don Ihde** Distinguished Professor, Department of Philosophy, SUNY, Stony Brook, NY, USA	Do Things Speak? Material Hermeneutics
26 June 2pm start	**Dr Rachel Pain** Department of Geography, University of Durham, UK	The Perspectives of Asylum-Seeking and Refugee Children in the UK: Presentation I
	Dr Peter Hopkins School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, University of Newcastle, UK	The Perspectives of Asylum-Seeking and Refugee Children in the UK: Presentation II
17 July 2pm start	**Dr Zoë Sofoulis** CCR, UWS	Water Users, Practices, and Infrastructures of Consumption: Developments in the Pipelines (North & South)
	Dr Jane Mills Australian Film, Television & Radio School	Cinema, Cultural Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue
14 Aug 2pm start	**Dr Megan Watkins** CCR, UWS	Habit, Affect and the Literate Body
	Dr James Arvanitakis CCR, UWS	Understanding the Heterogenous Nature of Citizenship: A Case Study of Citizenship Deficits and Surplus
11 Sep 2pm start	**Dr Elaine Lally** CCR, UWS	Digging in the Digital Dust: Messing Around with Dirty Data and Cluttered Code
	Professor Garry Whannel Centre for International Media Analysis, Research and Consultancy (CIMARC), University of Bedfordshire, UK	Topic to be advised
16 Oct 2pm start	**Beatriz Cardona** CCR, UWS	Anti-ageing ideologies and practices in Australia: local and global trends to redefine ageing
	Sarah James CCR, UWS	Complexity and Consultation: Indigenous, Settler and Migrant Participation in Urban Planning on Sydney's Western Fringe
13 Nov 2pm start	**Associate Professor Brett Neilson** (CCR, UWS), **Professor Sandro Mezzadra** (UWS ERVS visitor, University of Bologna, Italy) & **Dr Rutvica Andrijasevic** (Centre on Migration, Policy and Society, Oxford University, UK)	Precarious Employment, Differential Inclusion and the Proliferation of Borders
27 Nov 2pm start	**Dr Fiona Cameron** (CCR, UWS), **Professor Bob Hodge** (CCR, UWS), **Dr Juan Salazar** (CCR, UWS), **Associate Professor Brett Neilson** (CCR, UWS) & **Professor Jann Conroy** (Centre for Food and Plant Research, UWS)	Panel Presentation: Hot Science, Global Citizens: The Agency of the Museum Sector in Climate Change Interventions
18 Dec 2pm start	**Professor Meaghan Morris** CCR, UWS	Topic to be advised
	Dr Fiona Allon CCR, UWS	The Redistribution of Risk: You can bet your house on it

CCR Book Launches

The CCR Seminar Series event on 18 October 2007 was also the occasion for the local launch of the book *New Media Worlds: Challenges for Convergence*. Oxford University Press has published the book, which CCR's Associate Professor Virginia Nightingale and Dr Tim Dwyer (once of UWS, now at the University of Sydney) edited, as well as contributing several chapters.

'Using a combination of case study materials, theoretical reflection, and critical analysis, *New Media Worlds* explores four central issues for the study of new media and their impact on user communities:

- The Impact of Convergence on Traditional Media: The text explores the implications of media convergence for everyday media use and for the policy context.
- Activism: Case studies investigate how user communities with special access needs are ensuring that they are not denied access to the emerging world of media.
- Access: Overviews of controversial issues introduce the debate as to which social and cultural groups most benefit from new media policies.
- Participation: The text examines how media modifications structure audience perception.' (*publisher's description*)
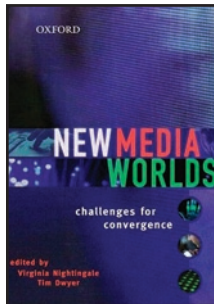
The book *Theorizing Digital Cultural Heritage: A Critical Discourse*, edited by CCR Research Fellow Dr Fiona Cameron and Sarah Kenderdine of Museum Victoria, was launched at the Museum of Sydney on 9 October 2007.

Professor David Rowe, the Director of CCR, welcomed guests to the launch, before handing over to Dr J Patrick Greene, the Chief Executive Officer of Museum Victoria, who delivered the keynote address.

'In *Theorizing Digital Cultural Heritage*, experts offer a critical and theoretical appraisal of the uses of digital media by cultural heritage institutions. Previous discussions of cultural heritage and digital technology have left the subject largely unmapped in terms of critical theory; the essays in this volume offer this long-missing perspective on the challenges of using digital media in the research, preservation, management, interpretation, and representation of cultural heritage.

The contributors – scholars and practitioners from a range of relevant disciplines – ground theory in practice, considering how digital technology might be used to transform institutional cultures, methods, and relationships with audiences.' (*publisher's description*)

On 3 December, the Mexican Ambassador to Australia, Mrs Martha Ortiz de Rosa, launched the book *Globalization and Regionalization: Views from the Pacific Rim*, edited by Professor Stephanie Lawson (Macquarie University) and Dr Wayne Peake (CCR).

The launch took place at the Chancellory, UTS. Others to speak at the launch were Professor David Goodman, Pro-Vice Chancellor International at the University of Technology Sydney and Professor Stephanie Hemelryk Donald, Director of the Institute for International Studies (IIS), UTS.

The event commemorated the publication of this book and also the three sister volumes that preceded it. Dr Peake also co-edited the second volume, with Dr Kate Barclay of IIS.

The series was the culmination of a research collaboration focussing on the Pacific Rim – from several disciplinary aspects – organised by UTS and the University of Guadalajara, Mexico. Contributors to the series were academics from educational institutions across the globe including Oxford University, UTS, University of Guadalajara, University of Sydney, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Australian Defence Force Academy, Kagoshima University, New School University New York and Flinders University.
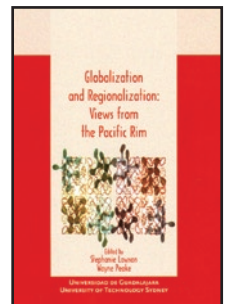
Professor Kay Anderson Inducted in ASSA

In November 2007 the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA) inducted CCR's Professor Kay Anderson as a fellow at the Great Hall in University House, Australian National University, Canberra.

The Academy is an autonomous, non-governmental organisation, devoted to the advancement of knowledge and research in the various social sciences. It consists of 471 fellows who have been elected by their peers on the basis of having made a distinguished contribution to one or more disciplines of the social sciences. This is the pinnacle of recognition in this field in the Australian context.

The president of the Academy, Stuart Macintyre, Ernest Scott Professor of History at the University of Melbourne and Australia's highest profiled academic historian and author of *The History Wars*, inducted Professor Anderson into the Academy. Since 2004, Professor Anderson has also been an Academician of the Academy of the

Social Sciences (United Kingdom). The (in 2008, 463) Academicians are elected to this Academy also by virtue of their eminence in one or more of the social sciences.

Professor Stuart Macintyre welcomes Professor Kay Anderson to ASSA

Maree O'Neill and the Centre's administrative staff. To commemorate this watershed event a Housewarming Party was held.

The second milestone was the annual renewal of a get-together between CCR and its partners in industry to acknowledge the importance of community engagement. The presence of representatives of business, local government and cultural institutions was indicative of their close working relationship with CCR.

The last but by no means least 'cause for applause' was a raising of glasses to endorse the University's recognition of Professor Ien Ang, CCR's inaugural Director, as recipient of the title 'distinguished professor'. Ien is the first UWS academic to have this honour which was conferred by UWS Vice Chancellor Janice Reid.

CCR Director David Rowe gratefully accepts a plaque from The Most Venerable Thich Phuoc Hue, President of the United Vietnamese Buddhist Congregation in Australia. UWS Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) Professor Andrew Cheetham and Founding CCR Director Professor Ien Ang look on (Photos R Dobson)

Professor David Rowe, CCR's current Director, praised Professor Ang's work for CCR and UWS, and her contribution to cultural discourse in Australia and overseas.

Professor Ang is currently an ARC Professorial Fellow. Her books, including *Watching Dallas*, *Desperately Seeking the Audience* and *On Not Speaking Chinese*, are recognised as classics in the field of cultural research and her work has been translated into many languages, including German, Korean, and Spanish.

As a prominent academic and public commentator in Australia and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, Ien is frequently invited to deliver keynote addresses in Australia and across the globe.

Professor Ien Ang receives a floral tribute from her CCR colleagues

Advantage Server: E-Researchers Big Winners as CCR 'Jumps the 'Net'

The Centre for Cultural Research is installing new technology infrastructure at its Parramatta campus headquarters that will greatly enhance its research interaction and collaborative capability in the 'digital' humanities. Its users will be able to digitally document, represent and map culture.

Dr Elaine Lally, Senior Research Fellow and Assistant Director of CCR, has been leading the establishment of the research platform. Dr Lally says that the research servers, which will be accessible on the internet, will make inter-institutional collaborations much easier. She also predicts that the new infrastructure is likely to increase the number of CCR's partners, who will be attracted by the next-generation technology and CCR's expertise in its use.

According to Dr Lally, 'the infrastructure development will support research collaboration and project management across the range of CCR's activities, improving coordination and cooperation within research teams, and will allow more direct involvement of partner investigators and industry collaborators in research projects.

It will allow CCR to promote its research and its outcomes, significantly increasing its impact. A flow-on benefit will be greater community engagement with CCR research.'

When complete the platform will provide a state-of-the-art e-research facility that will include two servers, one to provide a common workspace and communications for CCR and its collaborators, the other to manage databases, provide a digital repository, and host web-based projects. It will also feature digital multimedia studios that will be transportable and capable of capturing data 'in the field.' The new servers will:

- Enable audio/video hook-ups to anyone with a webcam; a major breakthrough for postgraduate supervision;
- Host podcasts and provide online storage; multiple camera coverage can be edited and mixed;
- Provide dedicated web sites for CCR research projects.

Among the initiatives that the new infrastructure will host will be a digital cultural atlas of Western Sydney that CCR is co-developing with several partners including Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC), Information and Cultural Exchange (ICE), and Blue Mountains City Council; a repository for the 'Reconceptualising Heritage Collections' project that CCR is conducting with the Powerhouse Museum, and a new ARC Linkage grant that will analyse the role of museums as information providers in the vital climate change debate.

Dr Lally said that the new development will enhance the learning experience of CCR's research higher degree students, because collaborations with established researchers and industry partners will become more streamlined, and multimedia disseminations readily achievable.

Oliver Sarpong, an IT officer with CCR, is installing and developing the infrastructure. CCR recruited and employed Oliver through 'Cooperative Programs', a UWS initiative that links high achieving UWS students with a large number of organisations, most of which are located in western Sydney.

The UWS College of Arts is providing financial support for the infrastructure.

'Looks like a job for Agent 13, Max'. Oliver Sarpong during the early stage of the server installation (Photo M O'Neill)

New Postgraduate Liaison Officers at CCR

Joanna Winchester and Takeshi Hamano have taken over from Jayde Cahir and Sarah James, who featured in Research.Culture vol 3, as CCR Postgraduate Liaison Officers. Jo reports here on what the new team have been up to.

In July 2007, Jayde Cahir and Sarah James hung up their Postgrad liaison boots and, since then, Takeshi Hamano and I have attempted to follow in their rather large footsteps. We decided to continue with the monthly reading group that they had begun, as this gives us the occasion to meet regularly with other postgrads and share our thoughts about particular academic articles and issues. The biannual CCR Postgraduate seminars continue this year, commencing with the first in May 2008. A regular 'social' event has also been scheduled and has had unprecedented interest!

In November 2007, we were able to secure the services of Associate Professor Greg Noble and Dr David McInnes to run a methodology workshop. Centred on issues related to 'difficult' communities, Greg and David outlined their personal experiences and allowed postgraduates to discuss problems that they have encountered in their own research. The workshop was well attended by postgraduates and all felt it to be an invaluable session.

Overseas 'postings'

CCR postgrads continue to circle the globe. Jayde Cahir visited Linköping University, Norrkoping, Sweden from 2 September to 15 October 2007. She attended and presented her research during 'Doreen Massey Lectures' held at ACSIS on 3-5 October. Jayde also presented her research at Telenor's Research and Innovation Centre in Forenbu, Oslo. Jayde believes that the experience of delivering conference papers to an international audience and the feedback she received were both invaluable for her academic development and current research project. Other postgrad movements overseas included:

- Adam Trau, Garth Lean and Ashley Harris, who attended masterclasses in Paris and Kathmandu in 2007;
- Georgina McClean, who attended a conference in Amsterdam on Diversity in July;
- Cristina Wulfhorst, who gave a paper at *Now: An International Conference on cultural studies* at the University of East London in July;
- DCR student Jioji Ravulo, who attended the *6th Annual Australian and New Zealand Youth Health Conference* in Christchurch in September;
- Laura Calderon, who took part in a workshop on transformative dialogues in Vancouver in November;
- Cheryle Yin-Lo, another DCR student, who attended a masterclass in Paris in December on natural and cultural heritage management, and Justine Humphrey, who gave a paper at the TASA –SAANZ Joint Conference in Auckland;
- Diana Collett, a DCR candidate, who undertook fieldwork in Singapore in January 2008;
- Beatriz Cardona, who attended the *21st European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine and Healthcare* in Cardiff in August.

We have had an excellent start to 2008 with a Masterclass of our own (supported by the ARC's Cultural Research Network) conducted by Professor David Morley, which was attended by postgraduate students and early career researchers from CCR, and others from all over Australia. Professor Morley, from Goldsmith's College, University of London, UK, presented a concise insight into his research directions and gave a thorough response to each student's research projects. Masterclasses are a chance for postgraduate students with similar research concerns to discuss their projects with each other and renowned academics.

Takeshi and I were successful in obtaining a bursary from the Cultural Studies Association of Australasia to convene a postgraduate conference, which will be matched in funding by the Centre for Cultural Research. We decided that a postgraduate conference that provided travel support for New Zealand and interstate Australian students would be an excellent opportunity to share our research with future colleagues. The conference, titled *Contact: an Interdisciplinary Challenge for Cultural Studies* is scheduled for 25-26 September 2008 at the Parramatta campus, and is open to all postgraduate students.

Joanna Winchester

Master and class: Professor David Morley (in dark blue) with CCR postgraduates, January 2008

Research Transit Lounge: Recent CCR Internationalisation Initiatives

Associate Professor Greg Noble was in the UK during September 2007 forging new links and developing existing collaborations. These included working with CCR International Research Collaborations Scheme (IRCS) grant co-researcher, Prof John Eade of Roehampton University, UK. Greg also met with Dr Peter Hopkins (University of Newcastle, UK), who will present in the CCR Seminar Series on 26 June.

Associate Professor Brett Neilson was in Milan, Italy, during the Christmas-New Year period working on FP7 grants with EU-based colleagues, including Prof Sandro Mezzadra at the University of Bologna.

Zoe Sofoulis was in the USA in the latter half of 2007. She presented several papers during her visit. One of her presentations at the University of North Texas's 'Women Art Technology' lecture series was picked up by the *Dallas Morning News*.

The Asia Media Research Centre (AMRC) invited Professor David Rowe to speak at the Communication University of China in 2007. This initiative prompted a return visit by AMRC researchers to CCR in September 2008, when they will take part in a symposium, *After Beijing, Approaching London: Global Cultural Politics and the Olympics*, to be convened by Prof Rowe. These events will also be part of the program of UWS International Research Initiatives Scheme (IRIS) visitor, Professor Garry Whannel from the University of Bedfordshire, UK, and of CCR IRCS visitor Prof Toby Miller, University of California, USA. It is anticipated that other international- and Australia-based researchers in this field will attend.

Professor Kay Anderson spent a week in Canada's Frozen North as Queen's University's 2008 Visiting Women's Scholar. She presented a public lecture, a graduate seminar in Geography, Q&A sessions for a number of graduate and undergraduate courses including some for the History Department, and met individually with graduate students and faculty members. She discussed international research collaboration schemes and project ideas, talked to the Queen's Supporting Women in Geography Group, and was a discussant at the international, interdisciplinary workshop 'Rethinking the Great White North', held 1-2 February at the Confederation Hotel, Kingston.

Professor Anderson (left) with Professor Anne Godlewska