



QAR PROJECT UPDATE 6: August 2022

We hope you enjoy this latest update on research for the Queensland Atlas of Religion, a project between the University of Queensland and the State Library of Queensland, supported by the Australian Research Council.

We last sent out an Update back in December 2021, and this is the sixth that has been issued so far. As we look ahead to the public launch of our main project outcome – the *Queensland Atlas of Religion* website, universally accessible via the internet as a free public resource – we are aiming to provide news of our work, our contributors and partnerships as it all comes together.

You will probably have received this through our mailing list. If you are not on our mailing list, please contact us via the details below and we look forward to welcoming your input.

Community Reference Group

New contributors and interested parties are very welcome to become involved, either through writing content, contributing to data or source collection, or by joining the Community Reference Group.

Please email either Geoff Ginn (g.ginn@uq.edu.au) or Adam Bowles (a.bowles1@uq.edu.au).

You can also contact Jess White, the Project Co-ordinator (working two days per week at present, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays), at qarel@uq.edu.au.

The QAR showcase event originally planned for August 2021 at last got underway on May 19 at State Library. With lockdown complications last year, and flood challenges and delays this year, it has not been an easy time!



But through the hard work and persistence of SLQ staff and especially Tamara Crew, the event was finally delivered and proved a great success: research presentations (starting with Geoff Ginn, *above*, explaining his work at the Abbey Church, Caboolture) on five QAR entries and the unveiling of the current design for the QAR website to be launched in 2023. Other presents were Adam Bowles, Jess White, John Grimes and Lisa Daunt.

Called **Belief and Belonging: Queensland Stories**, the event drew over seventy registrations with excellent attendance at State Library's small auditorium at South Bank. It was recorded and live streamed; questions and discussion followed the presentations using 'Slido', the SLQ's online messaging app. You can see the recording of that event on Vimeo [here](#).

Editorial update

With written contributions now being sourced by researchers in a range of topic areas, we are keen to continue the process of identifying topics and authors as the online QAR takes shape in the coming eighteen months. This schedule will require us to commission approximately eight draft entries every two months, in order to have sufficient entries to launch the first iteration of the Atlas online in late 2023.

So we are delighted that the following eight authors and topics (working titles only at this stage) are now in the editorial review and revision phase:

Val Cooms, The Missionary Impulse in Early Colonial Queensland
Ray Kerkhove, Avatar's Abode, Kiels Mountain
Jennifer Creese, The Brisbane Synagogue
John Grimes, The Merrington Peace Chapel
Robert Hogg, Benjamin Glennie
Shaina Rother, The Jewish Presence on the Gold Coast
Bill Metcalf, The Brisbane Society of the New Church
Marcus Harmes, Church Music and S John's Anglican Cathedral.

Planning for a second and third round of commissioned entries is now underway, including topics such as the Communal Kitchens of Brisbane's Gurudwaras, the Abbey Church and community at Caboolture, the Vinayakar temple in South Maclean, and Aboriginal Missions of Western Cape York.

New Research Institute

QAR project leader Adam Bowles joined distinguished company on-stage at the recent dedication and opening of the Swaminarayan Research Institute, associated with the Swaminarayan temple in Kingston.

This Hindu reform tradition was established in the region of Gujarat in India the early 19th c.. Its founder, Sahajanand Swami, was given the title Swaminarayan and his followers regard him to be a manifestation of Krishna and the Supreme Being (*Purushottam*).

As one of the distinguished guests on this occasion, Adam was invited on stage to share a few words, as well as receiving blessings and



Swaminarayan Temple, Kingston. August 2022

gifts from the visiting Swami. Adam's reflections on the Institute's work in encouraging Sanskrit were very warmly received. Other guests included Dr Ashutosh Misra (Editor-in-Chief of *India News* and none other than the husband of our wonderful colleague Sweta here at UQ) and the local MP, the Federal Treasurer Dr Jim Chalmers.

Evidently a very popular local member, Dr Chalmers was fulsome in his praise of Brisbane's Swaminarayan community. As reported in the online *India News*, "Dr Chalmers stated that if "all Australians share this value of kindness and warmth towards each other, there will be love and harmony all over, and we as a nation can do anything", which was met with rapturous applause from the audience."

Read the article [here](#).



Swami Bhadreshdas, the Hon. Dr Jim Chalmers and Dr Adam Bowles, Swaminarayan Temple, August 2022

Affiliated researchers

As entries are commissioned for the online QAR, the project is welcoming new contributors and their content ideas. Among others introduced in previous Updates, we are

excited to now be working with researchers like Robert, Julia and Jennifer.

As a result of a mid-life crisis, **Dr Robert Hogg** completed an MA in Australian Studies at the University of Queensland in the School of English, Media Studies and Art History in 2001. He commenced a PhD in what was then the History Department at UQ in 2002. During his research he also tutored and lectured extensively in Australian history, world history and the history of sexuality. He completed his PhD in 2007 and subsequently published his thesis as *Men and Manliness on the Frontier: Queensland and British Columbia in the Mid-Nineteenth Century* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2012). In 2013 he was awarded a QANZAC Fellowship by the John Oxley Library, and in 2017 he received an Army History Unit grant to conduct research in Canada, a project which is ongoing.



Robert has taught extensively in UQ's School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry, and School of Communication and Arts, as well as at Griffith University and ACU. Versatility has been his hallmark: as well as Australian history he has taught courses on the European Union, European fascism, and management communication. He formally retired in 2020 and now teaches Australian history and the history of sexuality and gender at the University of the Third Age. For the QAR, Robert is working on an entry exploring the career of Anglican clergyman Benjamin Glennie, the 'Apostle of the Downs', in the mid-colonial era.

Julia Mortensen is an early career historian, a UQ History graduate who currently works as a genealogist for Community and Personal Histories within the Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Her work particularly focuses on archival research for Native Title claimants.



Julia's Honours thesis, which examined urban Aboriginal history in south-western Queensland, was awarded the 2021 Paul Crook Honours Thesis Prize for the best thesis submitted to the UQ

History program that year. She is also a founding associate editor of the UQ History Society's research journal *Footnote Journal*. Julia is currently living on Thursday Island and her interests range from Australian, British and German social history to listening to podcasts while walking her dog.

For the QAR, Julia is commencing initial research on the history and contemporary significance of the Quetta Memorial Church and precinct.

Dr Jennifer Creese first began her research with the Queensland Jewish community as an Honours student in UQ History program in 2013, where she completed an archival and oral research project on women's historical contributions to communal life in Brisbane's Modern Orthodox Jewish community during its first century (1865-1972). Building on this, she was invited in 2015

to work with the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies to coordinate efforts to commemorate and celebrate its 150-year anniversary. This culminated in publication of her book *Jewish life in Queensland: Celebrating 150 years*



since 1865 (Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies, 2016), a sweeping overview of Jewish communal history from early convict settlement at Moreton Bay right up to the 21st century, covering the whole state, from Cooktown to Charleville to Coolangatta.

Jennifer then completed a PhD in The University of Queensland's School of Social Sciences in Anthropology, where she conducted

ethnographic research with the contemporary southeast Queensland Jewish community to explore how community leaders and individuals make space for Jewish identity as part of living in multicultural Queensland society.

Now working as a lecturer at the University of Leicester in the UK, Jennifer continues to research experiences of migration in Ireland and the United Kingdom, and remains involved in Jewish Studies in Australia. She is editor of the *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* and an affiliate of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies, and is currently working on the manuscript for a new book, *Jewish Identity in Australian Multiculturalism*, based on her doctoral research. She continues to work in partnership with the Queensland Jewish community remotely, supporting and mentoring emerging historians, and writing and researching on local Jewish history in collaboration with community heritage officers and leaders.

UQ 'Milestones'

The hard-working higher degree research (HDR) students for the QAR are all negotiating the challenges of their 'milestones' (some call them 'millstones'...) at the moment. These are important checkpoints on their progress towards completion and submission of their theses for examination. While intended to be supportive and an opportunity for critical reflection and helpful advice, they are not surprisingly quite a big moment in the long journey of an HDR candidate.



Prabuddha Mukherjee and Zerrin Afza will have theirs in the very near future – in mid-August, Jerrold Cuperus gave a great presentation explaining his investigations of Pentecostalism in various southeast Queensland settings, and particularly the mediated character of Pentecostal services through sophisticated technical production. It is fascinating work, and like the other PhD and MPhil candidates in the project it's great to see such original and compelling research coming together.

The QAR Website...

Here's a sneak preview:



Find us on Instagram

Our social media presence is a work in progress, as we source images and places of religious significance, stories and associations throughout Queensland. Search for qarel uq, or 'Queensland Atlas of Religion'.

Interested? Get in touch

For further information about the QAR project go [here](#). To get involved or to make suggestions, please email: Geoff Ginn (g.ginn@uq.edu.au) or Adam Bowles (a.bowles@uq.edu.au).

Jess White, the QAR project administrator, can be contacted at: qarel@uq.edu.au.

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