



QUADRIVIA

The HPI Bulletin

Head of School Editorial

It has really been the season for celebrating recently in HPI. We have had a year full of achievements, and I couldn't be prouder of everyone's hard work and dedication. It is great to see so much public recognition of our successes across Classics and Ancient History, Gender Studies, History, Philosophy and Religious Studies.

First off, congratulations to Professor Andrew Bonnell on his promotion to Level E, celebrating decades of dedication to UQ in a multitude of ways. Big congratulations, too, to Dr. Guillermo Badia on becoming a Senior Lecturer. These promotions are a testament to Andrew and Guillermo's significant contributions to HPI and UQ.



Enormous congratulations to Dr. Peter Evans on the successful ARC Discovery Project, leading a team including Professor Gerard Milburn, Associate Professor Sally Shrapnel, and Dr Katie Robertson. Success rates for ARC grants in the Humanities are low, and it is brilliant to see an early career researcher having such success on the national stage. Also in Philosophy, the CTP team has also landed a series of grants and research consultancies, including a recent collaboration with the Queensland Police Service.

I am delighted to announce that HPI had not one, but two, colleagues elected as Fellows of the Australian Academy of Humanities. Associate Professor Patrick Jory was recognised for his research on Thai intellectual history and modernity in South East Asia, and Adjunct Professor Geoffrey Gray was honored for his transformative work on the history of Australian anthropology and its impact on Indigenous knowledge and racial thought.

The HPI team has received numerous other awards and recognitions this year. Associate Professor Fiona Foley won the prestigious Alice Prize for her work *Janjari*. Chara Scroope, from Religious Studies, was awarded the Dean's Award for Outstanding HDR Theses, for her Masters work entitled "Cultivated Wisdom, Knowledge, and Discerning Insight: A Study of Jnana in the Samkhya Textual Tradition". Connor Harvey, a PhD student, won the 2023-2024 ASPG-Q Prize for Parliamentary Scholarship. Dr. Peter Ellerton was awarded the Education Sciences 2022 Best Paper Award for his co-authored article on Problem-Based Learning in STEM education.

Dr. Janette McWilliam was recognized as a Senior Fellow at the HEA awards, and Tyla Cascaes received a Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning at the UQ Excellence in Teaching and Learning Awards, and has also been made an HEA Fellow. In Religious Studies, Jerrold Cuperus was awarded a HASS Tutor Award. In Philosophy, Luke Zaphir received a Commendation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning as a tutor. The CTP team including Dr. Peter Ellerton, Professor Deborah Brown, Dr. Yael Leibovitch, Dr. Nathan Pickels, Dr. Luke Zaphir, Laura Pham, and Jacob Tangleroyal won a UQ Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award for Programs that Enhance Learning, for their work in WRIT1999: Effective Thinking and Writing.

HPI and HASS were also very well represented at the UQ Excellence Awards. Dr. Cassie Byrnes was nominated for the UQ Excellence Award as a UQ Ally, and Andrew Bonnell took out a prestigious Service Award for his long-standing work in the NTEU.

It's also been an exciting year for publications and research outputs. I can't name them all, but there is a genuine breadth and depth across the five disciplines. I will highlight just a few. The Queensland Atlas of Religion has been an enormous project, funded initially by an ARC Linkage Grant led by Associate Professor Geoff Ginn and Associate Professor Adam Bowles, and including extensive collaboration by staff, students and the community. The website is a beautifully designed, richly researched exploration of religion in QLD, in all its forms – we look forward to the formal launch at the State Library of Queensland in early 2025.

In more traditional ways, staff have produced a range of monographs, edited collections and high ranking journal articles. David M. Pritchard has edited an important new collection, *The Athenian Funeral Oration: After Nicole Loraux*, published by Cambridge University Press. Dr. Cassie Byrnes' book, *A History of Abortion and Contraception in Queensland, Australia, 1960–1989: Sex under Conservative Rule*, was published by Routledge in 2024, and looks to be already making an impact. Professor Marguerite La Caze has authored a fascinating monograph on modern global cinema and resistance to authoritarianism, *Film and Everyday Resistance*, published by Northwestern University Press (we all enjoyed the launch, too!).

Beyond all of these marvellous achievements – and the others I have not been able to list in full – I am reminded of the contribution of the Humanities to our world.

In October, I was privileged to accompany my dad on the inaugural UQ Alumni Tour to Greece, led wonderfully by the Paul Eliadis Chair of Classics and Ancient History, Professor Alastair Blanshard. My dad graduated from UQ in 1967, and I was there in Greece as his “plus one”, not in an official HPI capacity. But of course, I couldn't help but notice the power of Classics and Ancient History to engross and enchant. I had expected to meet many graduates of the BA. Instead, each night I sat down to dinner with the most diverse group, including engineers, accountants, medical doctors, website designers, a child-care worker, more than one veterinarian, and even a coder. The group included retirees, people starting their working careers, current postgraduate students, UQ professional staff and the odd academic too. The tour brought together a terrific group of people, all so keen and engaged to learn more about the Ancient World. It was a marvellous eight days. In every way, the tour was a showcase of the importance of the Humanities, the richness of our impact, and our ability to inspire.

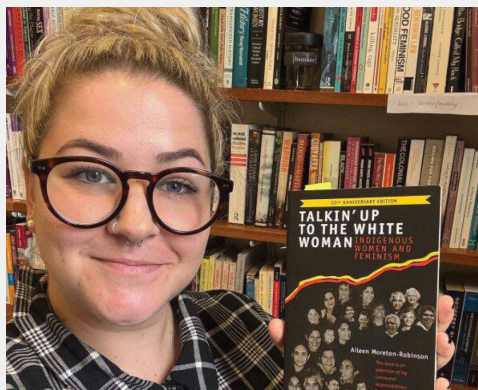
I hope you all have a wonderful holiday period, however you celebrate. In particular, I take my hat off to our outstanding team of professional staff, who make things work for us all. I'm anticipating they will all need a good rest after such a frenetic year! I, for one, plan to sit by the beach and devour some brilliant literature from around the globe - and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

With my very best regards,

Lisa

Indigenising the Curriculum in HPI

UQ's [Graduate Attributes](#) state that students graduate from UQ as culturally aware citizens. By Indigenising the curriculum, we're ensuring our graduates have an understanding of, and respect for, Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and global Indigenous peoples' values, cultures and knowledge. Colleagues in HPI have been working on this project and each issue we will feature a story about the ways our courses are being Indigenised.



By Dr Cassandra Byrnes, Course Coordinator
GEND2001.

In [GEND2001: Genders & Cultures](#), students read and listen to scholarship exclusively by People of Colour, for People of Colour. As a white lecturer on the unceded lands of Meanjin, often speaking to largely white students, this an important part of the course to emphasise—that we are de-centring whiteness.

The text I use most in my teaching to achieve this outcome is [Prof. Aileen Moreton-Robinson's Talkin' Up To The White Woman: Indigenous Women and White Feminism](#). Moreton-Robinson proposes the “subject position middle-class white woman” as the centre of white feminist thought. This is a subjectivity my students need to grapple with: while they often experience the challenges of being women or non-binary, they begin to understand that their whiteness is privileged in profound ways.

Moreton-Robinson argues that critiquing white feminism exposes “the reproduction of power relations between the white community and the Indigenous community within feminism”. So, it's tasking students with taking something they usually find empowering and accessible, and rethinking the ways in which feminism has been used to reinforce hierarchies of racialised power.

By getting GEND2001 students to recognise that, “the priorities of Indigenous women are often in opposition to and are different from those of the white feminist movement and the nation state,” they consciously think about de-centring whiteness as their starting point for all feminisms.

Meet Ellie Hughes (2024 Vice-Chancellor's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Graduate)

The UQ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Graduate Program offers opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander graduates to develop and grow as professionals by gaining valuable experience in a professional position at UQ.



Ellie Hughes worked with the RD Milns Antiquities Museum on a range of tasks relating to museum operations and was primarily focused on establishing and extending her skills as a material culture and provenance researcher. This involved in-depth research into the Museum's collection archives, correspondence with antiquities dealers and other stakeholders, and archival and book research. The results of Ellie's research are being reviewed by the Mediterranean Archaeology journal at the University of Sydney.

[Read interview](#)

Congratulations to our amazing staff and students!

Staff and Higher Degree students in HPI have been recognised for their hard work and valuable contributions across the university recently. [These awards include:](#)

- Award for Excellence in Service: Professor Andrew Bonnell
- Award for Programs that Enhance Learning: The Critical Thinking Project (Dr Peter Ellerton, Professor Deborah Brown, Dr Yael Leibovitch, Dr Nathan Pickels, Dr Luke Zaphir, Laura Pham, Jacob Tangleroyal)
- Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning: Tutors: Tyla Cascaes
- Commendation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning: Tutors: Dr. Luke Zaphir
- HEA@UQ Senior Fellow: Dr Janette McWilliam
- HEA@UQ Associate Fellow: Tyla Cascaes
- HASS Teaching & Learning Tutor Awards: Jerrold Cuperus
- 2024 Alice Prize: A/Prof Fiona Foley for Janjari
- 2023-2024 ASPG-Q Prize for Parliamentary Scholarship: Connor Harvey
- Education Sciences 2022 Best Paper Award. Dr Peter Ellerton for co-authored article on Problem-Based Learning in STEM education.
- Dean's Award for Outstanding HDR Theses: Chara Scroope for her Masters work entitled "*Cultivated Wisdom, Knowledge, and Discerning Insight: A Study of Jnana in the Samkhya Textual Tradition*"



[Read more](#)

Greece Alumni Tour

The start of October saw the inaugural UQ Alumni overseas tour of Greece. While such alumni tours are relatively common in the US, the trip represented UQ's first attempt at offering a similar international travel experience for its alumni.

The advantages for the university in offering such travel opportunities are manifold. It helps to reinforce connections with alumni. It allows the university to showcase its expertise by providing university staff to add academic enrichment to the tour. Also, it provides an opportunity to engage with non-Australia based alumni.

[Read more](#)



HPI Recent Books

Congratulations to the following staff for recent book publications:

- [*A History of Abortion and Contraception in Queensland, Australia, 1960–1989 Sex under Conservative Rule*](#) (Routledge, 2024) Cassandra Byrnes.
- [*Film and Everyday Resistance*](#), Northwest University Press, 2024. Marguerite La Caze

[Read the speech](#) delivered by A/Prof Ted Nannicelli (School of Communication and Arts) at the book launch of 'Film and Everyday Resistance' by Professor Marguerite La Caze.



RD Milns Visiting Professor Mirko Canevaro

We are very grateful for the support of the RD Milns Classics and Ancient History Perpetual Endowment Fund, which allows us to deepen the significant work done in the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry in Classics and Ancient History.

The Fund enables us to invite a distinguished Visiting Scholar to the School. In 2024, we hosted Professor Mirko Canevaro (University of Edinburgh) who presented the Friends of Antiquity Milns Visiting Scholar lecture on the subject *'Greek subjective rights? Justice, legal discourse, and legal institutions'* and the HPI seminar: *Honour(s) for Citizens: Egalitarianism and Social Distinction in Democratic Athens*. An energetic scholar, Professor Canevaro's two talks – on topics that speak to the classical world but also to many of the current concerns we face in our own society – prompted much discussion amongst students, staff, alumni and the community. [Podcast available here.](#)



Stay up to date with [Alumni Events.](#)

World Religions Symposium Tour

Each year the Religious Studies team hosts the World Religions Symposium, a high school engagement day for Year 11 students. But this year was bigger and better as the team hit the road and went on tour.

Over the course of 3 days the team engaged with more than 900 students from 28 schools in South East Queensland and for the first time ever, Cairns.

[Read more](#)



Reforming the Roman Republic Student Experience Day.

On Tuesday 9 July, Tyla Cascaes and Kit Morrell ran a Student Experience Day for

approximately 300 high school students and their teachers as part of Kit's DECRA project on 'Reforming the Roman Republic' (DE190101106). The Year 11 and 12 students participated in lectures and workshops designed to build skills in working with ancient evidence and throw the spotlight on ideas of reform and institutional change in republican Rome, as alternatives to the conventional narratives of crisis and the 'fall of the Roman republic'. Kit presented the opening and closing lectures and Kit, Tyla, and Rory McLennan led the workshop groups, with assistance from an amazing team of HDRs and undergraduate students as workshop facilitators and UQ Ambassadors. The day was a success and special congratulations go to Tyla for her exceptional performance as event organiser, including scaling-up our plans to accommodate five times as many students as we initially expected! It was wonderful to see so many students interested in Roman history all together on the UQ campus.



Events and Celebration Photos

The School has enjoyed an amazing year of exciting events.

Our most recent event was the Research Celebration and HDR Poster Showcase competition. Poster presentation, design, content, quirkiness, and overall vibes were scrutinised and evaluated. Through rigorous adjudication (over a cup of tea and sweet biscuit), attendees voted on their favourite posters, and prizes were awarded.

The 2024 winners were:

- **Best Content:** Chris White: 'Werecats, Weresnakes & Werehares: The meanings of Monsters'
- **Best Visuals:** Talia Fell: 'Women and Friendship Between Subjects'
- **People's Choice:** Tyler Horton: 'spare my soul from all the weaknesses of my sex: Christina of Sweden and Constructions of Sovereignty in Early Modern Europe'

We've collated a few photos to share of other event highlights in 2024!

[View photos](#)



2024 Publications School and Honorary Staff

It has been a busy year of publishing. Our School thrives through the collegiality and prodigious productivity of our esteemed honorary staff. Congratulations to all who have published this year.

See [2024 publications](#) from HPI and Honorary staff members (as recorded in [UQ espace](#)).



Reconstructing Early Buddhism

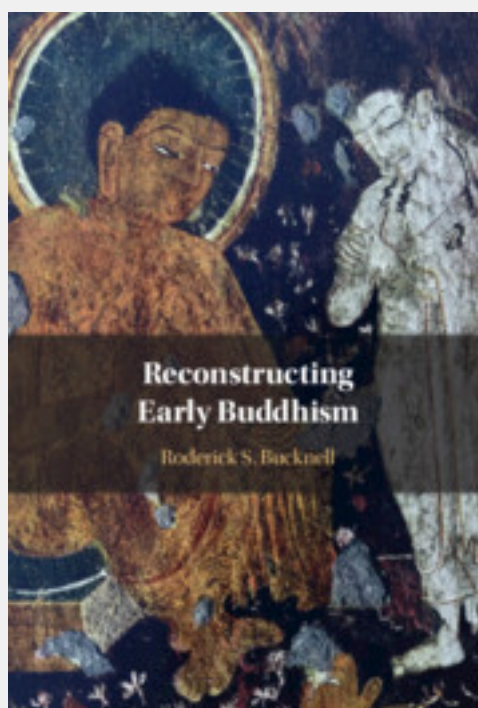
Rod Bucknell's ground-breaking analysis of the teachings of early Buddhism, *'Reconstructing Early Buddhism'* was published in 2023 by Cambridge University Press in their prestigious Studies in Religion series. The book is the fruit of years of study and meditation from when Rod Bucknell was a monk in Thailand to after he retired from teaching written Chinese and the varieties of Indian meditation at UQ.

Rod Bucknell is a long-time member of Religious Studies. In addition to writing *A Sanskrit Manual*, he compiled and published *A Dictionary of Polyphonic Chinese Characters* and at various times taught Pali, Sanskrit, Thai, and German. It was his command of Chinese that led him to compare the earliest-known Buddhist texts in Pali, Sanskrit and Chinese, identify key differences between them, and show how these could have derived from a single earlier account.

Rod's lasting impact on Buddhist studies will be in the methodology of critical textual comparison that he developed. No longer can scholars attempting to understand how Buddhism evolved during its period of oral transmission rely just on the Pali canon. Chinese and Sanskrit texts (and others coming to light in Central Asian languages like Sogdian) recording teachings of schools other than Theravada must also be taken into consideration.

Reconstructing Early Buddhism is a fitting testimony to Rod's language skills and his life-long study of Buddhism.

Read a longer version of this [tribute by Martin Stuart-Fox](#), Rod's friend and former colleague in the School.



Acknowledgement of Country

The University of Queensland (UQ) acknowledges the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands on which UQ operates. We pay our respects to their Ancestors and their descendants, who continue cultural and spiritual connections to Country. We recognise their valuable contributions to Australian and global society.

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