



QUADRIVIA

The HPI Bulletin

Head of School Editorial

It is with something of a heavy heart that I write this introduction for *Quadrivia* for the last time. It's been a pleasure to be able to celebrate in *Quadrivia* all the wonderful work undertaken by colleagues in HPI over the last three and a half years. A particular highlight of the last few weeks was the very well-attended [HPI Annual Public Lecture](#), which was delivered by an UQ History alumna, Professor Ann McGrath AM, of the Australian National University. Professor McGrath's lecture was on the topic of 'Lost Worlds, Discovery Narratives, and Australia's Deep History', and it was a pleasure to welcome her back to UQ. I was also fortunate to attend an excellent talk at the Queensland Museum by James Donaldson, senior curator of the R.D. Milns Antiquities Museum, on the collecting of antiquities by soldiers of the First World War. This was a fascinating talk showcasing some of the wonderful objects in the Museum's collection. We also feature interviews with some of our staff members and HDR students, celebrate some important publications, and recognise the crucial educational work of Dr Tom Aechtner's teaching through the world's first open online course devoted to understanding vaccine hesitancy. This issue of *Quadrivia* is also a sad one, as we mourn Associate Professor Chi-Kong Lai, a long-serving member of the History staff and a dearly missed colleague. I am very proud to have had the privilege of being your Head of School and leading the HPI community through some exciting and challenging times. I look forward to keeping abreast of your work and engagement through *Quadrivia*, and wish HPI all the very best in the years ahead.



Professor Megan Cassidy-Welch (Head of School)

New Head of School for HPI

Congratulations to Associate Professor Lisa Featherstone, who has been appointed Head of School for Historical and Philosophical Inquiry for a one-year term starting next month.

No stranger to the School, Associate Professor Featherstone has been on the School Executive since 2015 and is currently Deputy Head of School and History Convenor.

She is a gender historian whose work focuses on sexuality, medicine, and the law. Her current

work, on sexual violence in our recent past, considers ideas of trauma and agency for women and children.

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HPI Transitions: Professor Megan Cassidy-Welch

Following the magic of monastic spaces...

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Vale Associate Professor Chi Kong Lai

Chi Kong was more than just a larger-than-life character. He was extraordinarily open-hearted, always keeping an eye open for how he could help others, whether friends made when he was himself a student, his own students, his colleagues, or his many friends from different circles, with whom he seemed to be in constant contact over his phone. The astonishing number of floral tributes that arrived at his funeral showed how many lives he touched, and how widely he will be missed. Our deepest sympathies are with his wife Pui Ching, who always stood by his side and unfailingly supported him. We shall feel his loss for the rest of our lives. May his memory be eternal!

[Read more](#)



Objects of War: The First World War Antiquities Project

Over the past 12 months, Queensland Museum and The University of Queensland's RD Milns Antiquities Museum have been researching the antiquities that were collected during the First World War. Objects collected by soldiers' function as repositories of memory and meaning, and for us today, they tell us much about the collecting practices prevalent in the First World War.

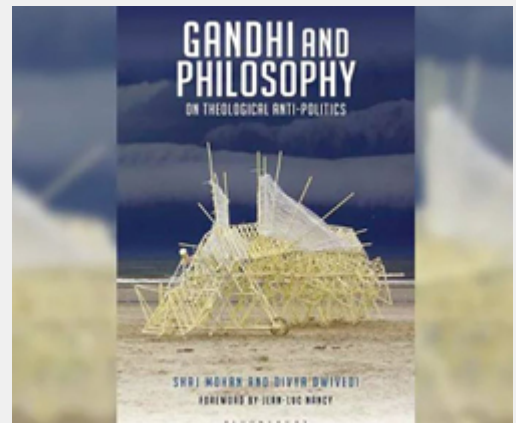
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Reflections on freedom and responsibility in Gandhi and Philosophy

In a recent issue of *Positions: Asia Critique*, Associate Professor Marguerite La Caze reflects on Shaj Mohan and Divya Dwivedi's new book, *Gandhi and Philosophy: On Theological Anti-Politics*, London: Bloomsbury, 2019. They set out Gandhi's thought as a consistent philosophy that they challenge, and argue that the fight for freedom and resistance to suffering implies experimentation with means and ends.

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When French Historians of Ancient Greece Conquered the World

Australians continue to study the celebrated funeral oration attributed to Pericles at school and at university. Often the French are surprised to learn this. For them Australia is simply a distant land with fierce bushfires and very strange animals. Yet studying ancient Greece in Australia dates back to the arrival of Europeans two centuries ago.

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A History Manners and Civility in Thailand, Patrick Jory

We know that in eighteenth and nineteenth century Europe there was an outpouring of guidebooks, manuals, and even novels on the subject of manners, etiquette, and civility. What is less well-known is that a little later in many parts of Asia at a time of great social change there was a similar general concern with the broad question of how to behave. Read more in Associate Professor Patrick Jory's latest book from Cambridge University Press.

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HPI in focus: Dr Estelle Strazdins

A Greek Cultural Historian who sees artefacts as living memory and identity.

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Online Course Responds to Global Health Threat

In 2019 the World Health Organization listed vaccine hesitancy as one of the top ten threats to global health. In February 2021, Dr Tom Aechtner, Senior Lecturer in Studies in Religion, launched the world's first open online course dedicated to understanding antivaccination and vaccine hesitancy, to address this threat ([AVAXX101](#)). His course and research has since featured on ABC Radio Mornings, [ABC National Radio](#), [ABC Science](#), the Courier Mail, the Daily Telegraph, [News.com.au](#), and the [Campus Morning Mail](#).

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HPI in focus: Dr Kit Morrell

Roman historian guides students through evidence, curiosity, and occasional silliness

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HPI and the Queensland Atlas of Religion welcomes new HDR Students

The School's Queensland Atlas of Religion project, a partnership with the State Library of Queensland funded by an ARC Linkage grant, welcomes new HDR students!

With this exceptionally capable group of postgraduate researchers in place, the fieldwork, research and interviews to generate the essential data for many Queensland Atlas of Religion entries will be well underway in the course of 2021.

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Honorary Research Fellow News

Our School thrives through the collegiality and prodigious productivity of our esteemed honorary staff. Congratulations to Honorary Professor in Classics Trevor R. Bryce for receiving the 2020 Museo Liceo Egipcio (León, Spain) [History Award](#); to Emeritus Professor in history Paul Crook for publishing *Debating Faith: Essays on Science, Religion and Secularism* with [Boolarong Press](#); and to Honorary Research Fellow in History [Dr Virginia Thorley](#) for publishing five articles in less than a year, including *Embodied mothering: Valuing breastfeeding in a neoliberal age* in *Breastfeeding Review*.

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