



QUADRIVIA

The HPI Bulletin

Head of School Editorial

As I write this, HPI is ramping up for our annual Research Celebration, where we join together to acknowledge all of the hard work of staff, postgraduate students and honoraries, in driving new scholarship in the Humanities. Reading the list of monographs in this volume of *Quadrivia*, I cannot help but marvel at the variety of work we do in HPI, and how it keeps coming, despite all of the challenges of the global pandemic.



While research remains a passion, HPI is also dedicated to teaching. I'm delighted to announce that Dr Ryan Williams has been acknowledged with a "[Commendation for Teaching Excellence](#)", at the UQ Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, for his work in Studies in Religion. It is a brilliant outcome for Ryan and for the School – it always gives me such pleasure to know that HPI really punches well above its weight in teaching excellence. And for every award received, I know there are dozens of other top quality teachers, working away across the Disciplines.

Now might also be a good time to share some exciting news. In 2023, HPI will welcome the Gender Studies Minor to our suite of offerings. HPI already has a strong presence in the Gender Studies curriculum, but now we will be able to shape the discipline more completely. We look forward to hiring in the New Year, and to working together to produce a quality experience for students and researchers.

Meanwhile, staff have been busy with all manner of outreach programs. You can read more about them across *Quadrivia*, but it has been outstanding to welcome so many school students back on campus, through the Critical Thinking Project's multiple programs, and via World Religions Symposium and Philosophy Day. I have attended some of these sessions, and it is great to see younger students grappling with difficult concepts and ideas, and enjoying themselves at the same time. I especially liked hearing young people reconsider their career choices, and making plans to major in our programs.

It was exciting, too, to attend the launch of *Wondrous Machines*, a new exhibit in the RD Milns Antiquities Museum. This exhibit, curated by Dr Janette McWilliam, Dr Duncan Keenan-Jones, Associate Professor Pauline Pounds, Mr James Donaldson, Ms

Charlotte Mann and Dr Marie Boden, brought together scholars from across the campus and across the globe, to share their love of engineering and robotics, both old and new! The highlight was the reproduction of Hero of Alexandria's *automon*, a self-animated and self-propelling ancient Dionysiac shrine created in the first century CE. We would like to thank the QUEX Institute (UQ and Exeter), for the funding that made the exhibit possible, as well as the generous support of the many donors to the Museum.

As we wrap up teaching for the year, it is not surprising that staff are looking forward to some down time over summer, for both research and some relaxing too. Wishing you all the best for the forthcoming holiday season, and we will see you back, refreshed, in 2023!

Professor Lisa Featherstone

Head of School



Meet Boba and Laura! HPI In Focus, Critical thinking projects outreach

What does a gerbil, a duck, a goose, and critical thinking have in common? Laura Pham! Meet Laura, Project Coordinator for the Critical Thinking Projects under the supervision of Prof. Deb Brown and team. Her passion for animals matches her passion for schools outreach. Read more about Laura and her research [here](#).

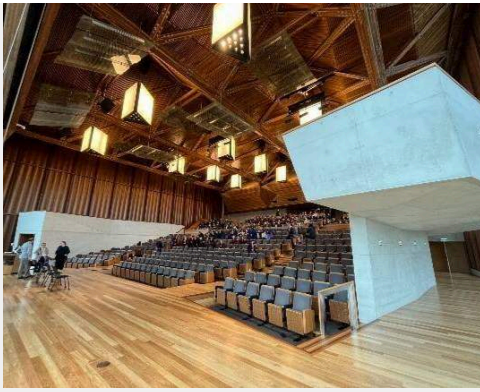
Not one, but two accolades! Dr Maxwell Brierty

Congratulations to Dr Maxwell Brierty for being awarded not just one but **two** elite scholarships! Well done Max! The first is to attend Harvard for a one year visiting scholar fellowship funded by the [American Australian Association](#) and the [Aurora Foundation](#), where Max will have the opportunity to examine “one of the most significant collections of Aboriginal cultural materials outside of Australia at Harvard University’s Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology”. The second is from the [Monica Clare Research Fellowship](#), at the State Library of Queensland for a project entitled *Mipa Mipumani: The Colonisation of Kullilli Country in South-West Queensland*. Read more about Max and his work [here](#).



World Religions Symposium 2022 – back in action

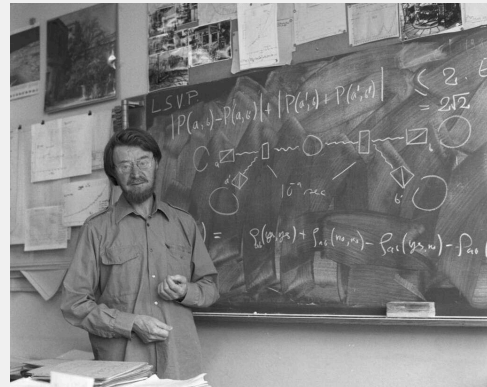
In July Studies in Religion hosted the World Religions Symposium with 246 students from 13 schools. It was a terrific day, “faultlessly organized”, with much generous feedback afterwards: “*The sessions extended students’ understanding of aspects of specific religions and associated historical and cultural issues and the day gave them an invaluable taste of what it’s like to be a university student...Students were energised by*



what you conveyed about religion in the world, academic life and the value of studying Humanities!"

How philosophy turned into physics – and reality turned into information

The Nobel Prize in physics was awarded this year “for experiments with entangled photons, establishing the violation of Bell inequalities and pioneering quantum information science”. Dr Peter Evans examines the philosophical debate that underpins this crucial experimental work, and the key role played by John Bell in transforming this debate from philosophy into physics, in a timely piece in [The Conversation](#).



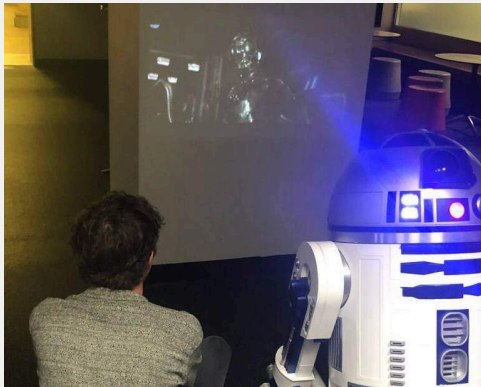
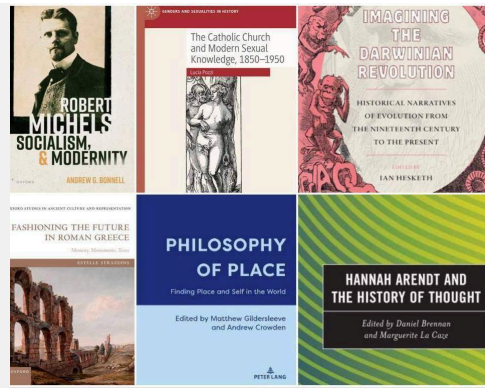
Book Prize and Awarding Brains

Congratulations to Studies in Religion’s **Assoc. Prof. Tom Aechtner** will receive the [International Society for Science & Religion’s book prize](#) for best books in Science and Religion in 2021 for his [Media and Science-Religion Conflict: Mass Persuasion in the Evolution Wars](#). Congratulations to **Prof. Deb Brown** and her team for winning the inaugural Great HASS Debate – *Brains or Beauty: What matters most in life?* Using their powers of persuasion, they swayed the majority of the audience to vote in favour of... BRAINS!

Congratulations also to **Assoc. Prof. Andrew Crowden** for his recent appointment to the Advisory Group to the Australian Health Biobank (AHB).

Dreams of a Sabbatical: HPI Recent Books

Many congratulations to Assoc. Prof. **La Caze** for her [co-edited collection of work on Hannah Arendt](#); to Assoc. Prof. **Ian Hesketh** for his collection entitled [Imagining the Darwinian Revolution](#): Historical Narratives of Evolution from the Nineteenth Century to the Present; to Dr **Matthew Glidersleeve** and Assoc. Prof. **Andrew Crowden** for [Philosophy of Place](#): Finding Place and Self in the world; to Assoc. Prof. **Andrew Bonnell** for his book in the Oxford Studies in Modern European History, [Robert Michels, Socialism, and Modernity](#); to Dr **Estelle Strazdins** for her book in the Oxford Studies in Ancient Culture & Representation series, [Fashioning the Future in Roman Greece: Memory, Monuments, Texts](#); to **Dr Lucia Pozzi** for her book [The Catholic Church and Modern Sexual Knowledge, 1850-1950](#).




Wondrous Machines Exhibit - RD Milns Antiquities Museum

On the evening of October 7th, we were very excited to open our major exhibition 'Wondrous Machines: Hero of Alexandria's Ancient Automata.' Not only is the exhibition the first of its kind for the R.D. Milns Antiquities Museum, bringing together colleagues from across the University from Robotics, ITEE, and Classics and Ancient History (UQ and Exeter), but it is the first major exhibition opening since COVID. We were also very lucky to have some special guests, including... R2D2. Read more about the event [here](#).

News from our Honoraries

Our School thrives through the collegiality and prodigious productivity of our esteemed honorary staff. Many congratulations to **Ian Kemish** for the launch of his book [The Consul](#); to historian **Marion Stell** for her publication of [The Bodyline Fix: How women saved cricket](#); to **Jonathan Richards** for his work on the [Frontier Wars](#) in the Queensland heritage archives; to **Frances Gray**, Honorary Senior Research Fellow for submitting her manuscript to Routledge UK entitled *Epiphany, Individuation and Human Flourishing: Nature, Beauty, Art*; To **Paul Turnbull**, Honorary Professor, for his work on truth-telling and Australia's colonial past, including his contribution Museums, Colonialism and the Indigenous Ancestral Dead' (forthcoming in *Mumien und andere menschliche Überreste: ethische Herausforderungen für Forschung und Ausstellung*, Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung, Wuerzburg); to **Aaron Ghiloni** for being published in [SBS Arabic](#) for his work on Muslim-Christian dialogue; to **Virginia Thorley** for her [contribution](#) to the Core Curriculum for Interdisciplinary Lactation Care; to honorary Associate Professor in history, **William Metcalf**, for his book [Brisbane: Utopian Dreams and Dystopian Nightmares](#); to **William Grey** for his course on '[Thinking about the future](#)'; and to **Joost Coté** for [publishing an anthology](#) with the complete writings of pioneering nationalist and feminist Kartini, translated from Indonesian and published by Monash University Press.





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