

# QUADRIVIA

The HPI Bulletin

## Head of School Editorial

Professor Megan Cassidy-Welch (Head of School)

The very first thing I want to say in this editorial is 'Thank you' to our HPI community.

Since the last issue of *Quadrivia* (in November 2019), life in HPI has been completely transformed. None of us could have imagined then the changes to our world and our work as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have had to move our teaching online with very little notice; access to research resources has been reduced or postponed; our rich calendar of conferences, symposia, seminars, and public events has been put on hold. Even the usually lively corridors of the Forgan Smith have been almost completely empty as we work from home. Yet all HPI's staff have done a tremendous job to keep things going during these strange days, especially in the teaching space, but also through continued publication, planning for future events, the quick development of new ways of communicating and bringing our work to the public. That there is still so much to report on our achievements is testament to our staff across all areas of the School, so I hope that you all enjoy reading our latest news from the disciplines and beyond. As I write these words, there are signs that things might be starting to return to a more recognisable reality. We shall see!



## After the Plague: Insights from Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern History

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, HPI luminaries Alastair Blanshard, Amelia Brown, Beth Spacey, and Karin Sellberg joined together for a webinar 'After the Plague: Insights from Ancient, Medieval, and Early Modern History' on Wednesday 10 June. It was well-attended, with over 200 virtual attendees.

[Watch the webinar online](#)





## How Medieval Writers Struggled to Make Sense of the Black Death

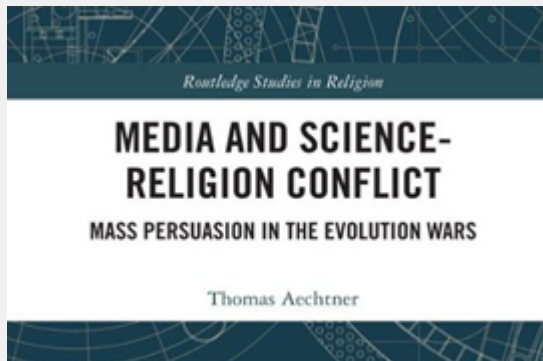
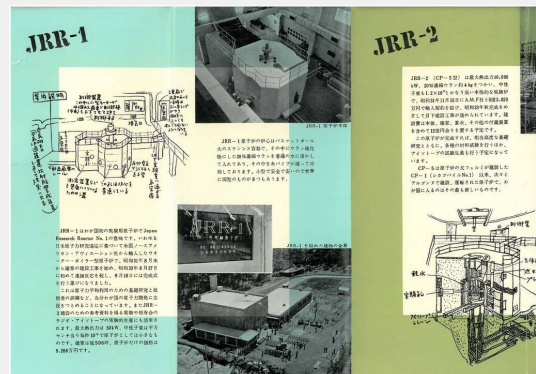
Associate Professor Kriston Rennie reflects on the COVID-19 pandemic through a historical lens in a timely piece in *The Conversation*. “The Black Death inspired medieval writers to document their era of plague. Their anxieties and fears are starkly reminiscent of our own even if their solutions differ.”

[Read more](#)

## Visualising Nuclear Power in Japan

History@UQ is delighted to announce a forthcoming book by Associate Professor Morris Low, *Visualizing Nuclear Power in Japan: A Trip to the Reactor*. This important new work examines the ways Japan imagined and reimagined its own relationship to nuclear power in the years after World War II.

[Read More](#)



## Vaccine Uptake Challenges and Mass Persuasion

Tom Aechtner, Senior Lecturer in Studies in Religion, recently discussed vaccine uptake challenges among a panel of experts exploring: [Precedents for the Unprecedented: COVID-19 Historical Perspectives](#). Tom Aechtner is also pleased to announce the publication of his latest book, *Media and Science-Religion Conflict: Mass Persuasion in the Evolution Wars*. The book examines why religion-science skirmishes known

as the Evolution Wars have persisted into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by considering the influences of media and mass persuasion.

[Read more](#)

## History Postgraduates: Inspiring and Invigorating New Research

It is exciting to see the range and scope of postgraduate research coming out of History at The University of Queensland. It is timely to highlight the diverse research of three recent graduates in History, supervised by staff in both the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry (HPI) and the Institute of Advanced Humanities (IASH). These emerging scholars cross time and place, from the



local to the global, and from the recent past to the distant past. And intriguingly, all three researchers make significant impacts on not just historical thinking, but on our contemporary views of the world.

[Read more](#)

## Exhibits in Minutes: The RD Milns Antiquities Museum

### Exhibits in Minutes

While our [RD Milns Antiquities Museum](#) may be closed at the moment, we are committed to bringing the best of the Museum to you. In this video, Dr Amelia Brown presents one of her favourite pieces in the RD Milns Antiquities Museum, a statue head of the goddess Aphrodite

[Read more](#)

### UQ Ancient World Study Tour

On January 6, just a few short months ago, 25 students of Ancient History, Archaeology, Education, Museum Studies and Art History from UQ met up with UQ Senior Lecturer Dr Amelia R. Brown and recent UQ Classics PhD Dr Annabel Florence in Athens, Greece.

[Read more](#)



### Sobering Lessons about War and Peace

During his recent fellowship in France, Associate Professor David Pritchard reflected on the meaning of Remembrance Day for Australia and France, publishing an opinion piece in the leading French newspaper, *Le Figaro*, on 11 November 2019. The opinion piece explores how the history of an ancient warlike democracy, such as classical Athens, helps us to understand better the pros and the cons of our own foreign policies today. Associate Professor Pritchard begins with a reflection on his own great-grandfather, who survived the Gallipoli campaign, during the First

World War, only to be injured defending France on the Western Front.

[Read more](#)

### Taking learning outside the classroom

Places of worship may have taken a hiatus due to COVID-19 restrictions worldwide, but Studies in Religion has had a long history of teaching students through embodied and place-based learning that will resume again soon. Ryan Williams, Lecturer in Studies in Religion, recently explored

students' experiences of place-based learning and what wider learning in the humanities achieves for students in their career trajectories, personal development, and wider living in multicultural Australia. The research involved collaborating with students and raised money for charity. [Listen here](#)  
[Read more](#)



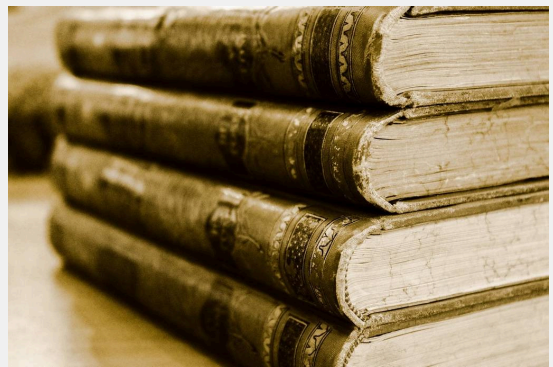
## ARC Grant Success

Dr Peter Ellerton is part of a team that was successful in obtaining ARC Linkage Funding (just announced a couple of days ago) for a project on 'Exploring Problem Based Learning in schools'. Congratulations Peter!

[Read more](#)


## Honorary Research Fellow News

HPI is pleased to showcase the recent publications of Honorary Research Fellows [Lynne Hume](#) (on [Religious Dress](#), [Spiritual Black](#), [Dress and Anthropology](#), [Anthropology and Religion Studies: A Personal and Academic Symbiosis](#), [Tristan Dunning](#) on [Palestine's Ongoing Nakba](#), and Michael Stewart on [Masculinity, Identity, and Power Politics in the Age of Justinian](#). Many congratulations to Virginia Thorley on winning "[Best Research Article with Practical Focus](#)"



## In Memoriam

HPI mourns the loss of two former staff members in the discipline of Classics and Ancient History, [Emeritus Professor Robert D. Milns](#) and [Associate Professor John Whitehorne](#). Both made wonderful contributions to their fields and to the School in many ways. They will be sorely missed, and the School extends its deep sympathies to their families.



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