



QUADRIVIA

The HPI Newsletter

JUNE 2017

Head of School's Report

In the hustle and bustle for what we get through each day and each week - lectures, media engagements, administrative tasks, meetings, and endless emails - it can at times be hard to see the big picture. It's usually around School Retreats that I spend most of my time reflecting on the 'bigger game', but given that my tenure as Head of School is drawing to a close, and given that I am in the middle of conducting a number of appraisals, I've been mulling over such matters a little more in recent times than normal.

Two things always strike me - the first being the quality of our staff and the extent of their achievements, across the board. SECaT measures are imperfect and our results are always a little uneven, but it's clear that we give our students great experiences through dedicated and innovative teaching. The last batch of SECaT results revealed only a very few areas of concern, and many staff are experimenting with and developing new pedagogical methods to enhance what we offer those who study with us.

And we balance this with some great research. There has been a flurry of publications from staff members in recent times, particularly in the form of monographs, either recently published or now in press. Such was the rush of monographs that we decided to have a special celebration to mark them, although we had to cancel this due to time overruns in the re-painting our corridors. But alongside other achievements - such as Tom Aechtner recently being awarded a Westpac Fellowship to the value of \$600, 000 and David Pritchard attaining a Fellowship at Strasbourg, such publications provide yet more testimony to the quality of the research coming out of HPI.

And this research matters - for vaccination programmes aimed at eradicating diseases, for those puzzling over how to lift Indigenous educational attainment, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and to many others. More now than ever, it seems to be, we are producing quality research that will have impact, which

aligns us nicely with the University's strategic priorities. Those strategic priorities evolve and change, but they always centre around high quality research and a great experience for our students. So we are well placed. At the recent Vice-Chancellor's Management Retreat, it was satisfying to note that in many areas such as collaborative teaching arrangements and impactful research, we are already well-down the path that the University would like us to head.

As you are all no doubt well aware, my term as Head of School finishes at the end of June. Professor Alastair Blanchard will assume the reins for a few months before handing over to our new Head of School, Professor Megan Cassidy-Welch. She will have her challenges but will also have an enormous pool of variegated talent to draw from, and a noble mission to pursue.

Personally I would like to thank everyone for their co-operation, assistance, and support over the last four years. It's been an honour and (often) a pleasure to serve as HoS. Finally, this edition contains an obituary for Associate Ed Conrad, who passed away in April. Ed was a long-serving and much loved member of the Studies in Religion department and discipline. Our sympathies to his friends, family members, and former colleagues.

In Memorium - Edgar Conrad



I am very pleased to write a few words in memory of my friend Edgar Conrad. Ours was a friendship that we sustained over forty years since we first met at a conference of The Australian Association for the Study of Religion in 1977. This was Ed's first year in Australia having just joined the new department of Studies in Religion at UQ.

QUADRIVIA

The HPI Newsletter



Ed came to UQ with a pretty mint fresh PhD from Princeton Theological Seminary as a specialist in Hebrew and the Hebrew Scriptures (aka the Old Testament). He was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1984 and to Associate Professor in 1991. He retired from UQ in 2005 but continued his academic activity as an honorary research fellow.

I was fortunate to join Ed at UQ. The then Head of Department, the late Dr Ian Gilman, and the new inaugural Professor Frank Andersen were both generous enough to allow Ed and me and two other early career colleagues - Michael Lattke and Richard Hutch - to create the sort of Studies in Religion Department we envisaged as fulfilling the goals of the study of religion in a secular University.

Ed, for his part, was intellectually deeply engaged throughout his career in how to teach Biblical Studies within the secular context. It led to his eventually being in the vanguard of an international movement to move the study of the Biblical text from the historical and philological disciplines in which it had been grounded to an engagement between the Bible and Literary Criticism and Cultural Studies. This led to what is now generally recognised as his ground-breaking book 'Reading Isaiah' (1991) and his commentary on Zechariah (1999). Along with his books went a significant number of articles published in the leading international journals for the Hebrew Scriptures, notably *Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft*, *Journal of The Study of the Old Testament*, *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, and *Vetus Testamentum*. He also served as Vice President (1985-7) and President (1988-9) of the Australian Association for the Study of Religion.

It is perhaps ironical that moving away from the historical-critical approach to the literary and cultural, Ed's work became topical among more conservative Christian scholars, especially in South Korea - the consequence of Ed's fostering of Korean HDR students in Biblical Studies. So *Reading Isaiah* has been translated into Korean, as have other series of lectures that Ed gave in Korea. Ed's 'Korean connection' gave him much joy and personal satisfaction.

Ed was a very good scholar and a far better Hebrew specialist than he ever gave himself credit for. And like many of his colleagues teaching ancient languages, he taught Hebrew for the love of it (and not for the workload points). Those were the days when the Department of Studies in Religion taught Hebrew, along with Greek, Sanskrit, Pali, and Arabic.

Was research and writing his first love? I don't think it was. Ed loved undergraduate teaching and was good at it. But it was in the space of HDR supervision that Ed most thrived. His mentorship of HDR students and their success was a great joy to him. In this area, he was a genuine innovator - both of group supervision and of peer mentoring. This was recognised by UQ in 2002 when he received an Award for Excellence in Research Higher Degree Supervision.

Over the course of his career, Ed supervised 18 PhD students to completion and over 50 Honours, Masters Research, and Masters coursework students.

Ed also willingly accepted managerial responsibilities. He was Head of the Department of Studies in Religion from 1994-5, chaired the Arts Faculty Postgraduate Studies Committee from 1996-2000, and was Director of Postgraduate Studies in Religion from 1989-2000, as well as making significant contributions to the administration of Theological Education in Queensland more generally.

Above all, he was a major contributor to the success of Studies in Religion at UQ throughout his career. He and I never had a cross word over forty years of friendship - a testimony to the strength of our friendship but more to his patience. He was well known and admired not only within the Department and later the school but also in the Faculty and at the highest levels of University management. He was the sort of collegiate citizen that modern academic staff are encouraged to be. In short, he was a contributor at all levels of academic life, a man whose contribution to academia in general is much to be valued and admired - a 'team player'. He was in short a good, kind, and generous man - not a bad epitaph that!

Richard Hutch - Northern India tour

Richard Hutch toured Northern India during most of last November and December. He was asked to speak to the group of twenty Australian tourists he was with once they discovered he was a retired studies in religion scholar. Two talks were given: the first one, was about the life of Mohandas Gandhi as a religious and political leader. It took place in the gardens adjacent to the site of Gandhi's cremation ground in old Delhi, now a national monument. The second talk took place at night on a small boat floating on the Ganges river only metres away from the burning funeral pyres on the Ghats (steps) leading down to the river's edge - this is the sacred city of Varanasi.

The focus was on the meaning of death amongst the Hindu population of India. Richard himself learned how to tie a turban while cruising the Ganges for several days in a riverboat, taking cooking lessons and visiting villages near Kolkata. He also came up close to a Bengal tiger whilst on Safari in a small open jeep in the Rathambhore National Park. Good thing the tiger already had its kill for the day stashed away nearby! Richard Hutch's article, 'Why Sport is a spiritual experience and Failure can help' was published in *The Conversation*, October 20, 2016.

Atonement in the Ethical Restoration Project

Dr. Terrilyn Sweep, Philosophy, Research Assistant, Ethical Restoration project. At the beginning of December 2016,

QUADRIVIA

The HPI Newsletter



Marguerite La Caze hosted the second of her roundtables as part of the ARC grant project 'Ethical Restoration after Oppressive: a philosophical account'. This second roundtable on 'Atonement' followed on from a successful December 2015 roundtable that explored maintaining and restoring 'Trust' after conflict. These roundtables were possible because of the ARC grant, as well as the generous contributions of the European Philosophical Research Group and the Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities.

Our speakers in 2016 included Dr Magdalena Zolkos from ACU, Sydney; Dr Daniel Brennan from Bond; Dr Annie Pohlmann from UQ; and Elese Dowden, who is working on a PhD on tradition which centres on the return and restoration of former relationships. Annie Pohlmann spoke about the struggle to have past atrocities acknowledged in Indonesia. Her concern is that lack of acknowledgement sews the seeds for renewal of violence and the continuation of a cycle of oppression. Daniel Brennan talked about 'turning away from suffering' to something else 'worthy of turning to' as a possible way of combatting oppression, and used Thomas Keneally's *Bring Larks and Heroes* to illustrate his point. Elese Dowden spoke on 'Atonement in Aotearoa' and argued that there is a need for interpretation and greater fulfillment of the Treaty of Waitangi and for a general apology to Maori in New Zealand.

Marguerite's presentation argued that atonement needs to be focussed primarily on the harm that has been done to victims and survivors, not only relationships, and that ethical transformation should be an objective of atonement. These points were made in the Australian context of the 'stolen generations'.

To 'atone' for putting our enthusiastic participants through a day of hard discussion we served up afternoon tea and a relaxing dinner at Hawken Village for our guests. For more information on the [project](#) visit our webpage.

World Philosophy Day

Merle Thornton became a public figure in 1965 when she and Rosalie Bogner chained themselves to the bar rail at the Regatta Hotel to protest for women's rights; a landmark moment for women's rights in Australia. At the time, Merle was a post-graduate student and taught Philosophy at the UQ, and one month later established the Equal Opportunities for Women. In 1973 she helped to set up women's studies as a discipline at UQ; the first in Australia. In 2015 she was awarded Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in recognition of her advocacy for women and Indigenous rights and contributions to the arts as a writer and director.

Fifty-one years later, Merle was one of two special guests at World Philosophy Day at UQ on Thursday 17 November 2016. The other was Mary Graham, a Kombu-merri woman who has served on the boards and committees of many

Aboriginal organisations, worked in Native Title negotiation, and lectured on Aboriginal history, politics, and comparative philosophy at UQ and other Australian educational institutions. Mary is also Associate Adjunct Professor in UQ's School of Political Science and International Studies, and Doctor of the University, QUT.

The discipline of Philosophy has been active in promoting philosophy as a way of life through teaching, research, and community engagement, which is reflected in the choice of speakers, who are recognised as having made significant contributions to academic life and the wider community. They represent different ways that philosophy can affect personal lives and engagement with the world.

A range of activities were held on the day. Alex Varlakov who suggested the theme for the opening session, a symposium on pop culture and philosophy, chaired a lively discussion with fellow PhD students who selected three topics that everyone has, no doubt, seriously pondered! George Nguyen presented on game theory and Dr Who, Michael Vincent on the Facebook 'like', and [Elese Dowden](#) speculated on the possibility of an existential relationship between Kim Kardashian and Jean-Paul Sartre.

What do a surfer, gamer, and guillotine have in common? Answer: Albert Camus, the topic of a Round Table conversation. This session was chaired by PhD student Adrian Moore, who has a penchant for studying Camus. Panelists [David Brennan](#), from Bond University, and HAPI staff member [Marguerite La Caze](#), and recent PhD graduate Liam Miller offered their philosophical views on how to cope with life in an absurd world.

Merle's public lecture on '[Sex, Feminism and Philosophy of Life](#)' was introduced by Rachel Nolan, former Queensland State MP and adjunct senior Lecturer in Philosophy. Merle showed a series of short ABC Four Corners documentary reports from 1965, and spoke about her experiences. She was also interviewed on [Life Matters](#) on ABC Radio National and on [Radio Reversal](#) ZZZ.

For the final session, Merle joined Mary for a panel discussion: 'Three Wise Women', launched by Freya Matthews (Adjunct Professor of Environmental Philosophy at Latrobe University), via a specially prepared video [Wisdom from the Mount](#). PhD student [Simone Thornton](#) proposed the idea of bringing Merle, Mary and Freya together in discussion with [Michelle Boulous Walker](#). Simone played an integral role in organising this session, and liaised with and played host to Merle and Mary while they were in Brisbane. Michelle conducted a relaxed [interview](#) in an intimate setting in which



QUADRIVIA

The HPI Newsletter



both women exchanged ideas on philosophy as a way of life.

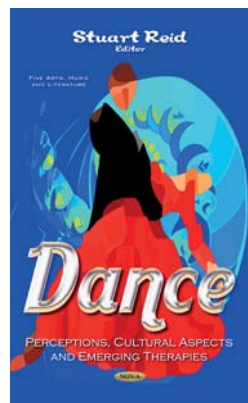
World Philosophy Day is an important date on the philosophy calendar. Established by UNESCO in 2005, and celebrated at UQ since 2009, it provides opportunities to bring together philosophy students and staff, the UQ alumni community, visiting scholars and the public to engage with ideas that are relevant to people's lives.

Last year's event was an opportunity for Mary and Merle to meet for the first time, and to develop professional relationships with a view to creating networks and collaborative projects.

New Publications

Thorley V, Sioda. Selection criteria for wet-nurses: ancient recommendations that survived across time. *Breast feeding Review* 2016 (Nov): 24(3): 13-24.

Flower, L. (2017). 'The influence of cultural perceptions in the development of dance and their connection to peak performance spiritual lived experiences' in Reid, S (ed.) [Dance: Perceptions, Cultural Aspects and Emerging Therapies](#). New York: Nova Science Publishers.



Murray Johson's 'The Beerburum Experiment: A History of Australia's First World War One Soldier Settlement' launched at Caloundra library by the Honourable Andrew Wallace, Federal Member for Fisher on 29 October 2016.

Michael Stewart has a number of publications coming out: 'The Dangers of the Soft Life: Manly and Unmanly Romans in Procopius' Gothic War', *Journal of Late Antiquity* 10.2

'Review of Kate Cooper & Conrad Leyser, eds. *Making Early Medieval Societies: Conflict and Belonging in the Medieval West, 300-1200*'. *Journal of Social History* 51.2 (Winter, 2017)

"Review of Michael Psellos, Psellos and the Patriarchs: Letters and Funeral Orations for Keroullarios, Leichoudes, and Xiphilinos." trans. Anthony Kaldellis and Ioannis Polemis, *Parergon* 33.2

"Review of R. W. Burgess and Michael Kulikowski, *Mosaics of Time: The Latin Chronicle Traditions from the First Century BC to the Sixth Century AD. Volume I, A Historical Introduction to the Chronicle Genre from its Origins to the High Middle Ages*." *Parergon* 34.1

Joel Katsov's paper, 'On the emergence of American analytic philosophy' in the *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* generated quite a bit of online discussion on

prominent philosophy blogs around the world. Follow the blogs:

'How journal capture led to the dominance of analytic philosophy in the US' - review

'The disappearance of modern Indian philosophy from 'Mind' and the 'Philosophical Review' - guest post Joel Katsov

'The rise of (American) Analytical Philosophy and Journal Capture' - guest post Joel Katsov.

Medicine after the Holocaust

Dr Darren O'Brien recently returned from a visit to Germany and Poland with a study group led by Professor Sheldon (President) Rubinfeld and Dianne Merrill (Director) of the Houston based [Center for Medicine after Holocaust](#) (CMATH) organisation. Principal historians of the Hadamar psychiatric hospital museum led lectured. The hospital museum located near Frankfurt was one of six, so-termed 'euthanasia' killing centres operated by the Nazis during WWII. Approximately 15,000 people so-called 'life unworthy of life': disabled, mentally handicapped, schizophrenics, Jews, as well as Soviet and Polish forced workers were murdered in gas chambers constructed in the basement of the hospital.

The CMATH group itinerary involved a study day at the Auschwitz main camp, a study day at the former prisoner 'infirmary' in the Auschwitz Birkenau camp, and a visit to the medical examination Block 20. Principal historians for the Auschwitz museum and archive led the lecturers.

Darren continued his journey onto Israel where he presented a paper titled 'Roles of Nurses and Midwives and their representation in the scholarship of the Holocaust at the [Second International Scholars Workshop on Medicine after the Holocaust](#) held in Western Galilee.



Darren O'Brien Auschwitz I - main camp Oświęcim, Poland

QUADRIVIA

The HPI Newsletter



Conference news

Aaron Ghiloni attended the Religious Education Association's annual meeting held in Pittsburgh in November 2016 where he gave a plenary response titled 'Can Cosmopolitanism Work Religiously? A Response to David T. Hansen'. Watch the video. At the same conference, Aaron also gave a paper titled, 'Hope, War, and Education: A Deweyan Analysis'.



Aaron Ghiloni at the Religious Education Association annual meeting

Also in November, Aaron gave a paper at the American Academy of Religion Annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas. The paper was titled, 'If anyone travels on a road in search of knowledge': Islam and Educational travel'.

PhD student, Sameema Zahra was selected for the Queensland/NZ student exchange programme for 2016 where she travelled to the University of Auckland and presented a paper titled 'Violence, Values, and Women'. Sameema had the opportunity to network with Faculty members who provided her valuable feedback on her work. She commented that the student exchange programme was an enriching experience.

At Monash University, Sameema attended the conference 'Women and Philosophy: History, Values, Knowledge', which was organised by the International Association of Women Philosophers. Sameema presented her well-received conference paper titled, 'Women in the work of Qurratul Ain Haider: An Odyssey of Identity, Patriarchy and Migration'.

HDR completions

MPhil History

Willy Bach: 'Collaboration of Britain, Australia, and New Zealand in the Second Indochina War, with particular focus on Laos, 1952-1975. Principal: Dr Patrick Jory. Associate: A/ Professor Chi-Kong Lai.

Jessica Hudepohl: 'Til Death Do Us Part: The effects of

adultery, divorce and remarriage on the Merovingian Kingdom'. Principal: Dr Kriston Rennie. Associate: Professor John Moorhead

PhD History

Jessica Johnson: 'Soldiers of misfortune: Korean War Veterans in American Culture'. (No amendments required). Principal: Professor Chris Dixon. Associate: Professor Peter Spearritt.

Jacqueline Ryan: 'We'll show the world: Expo 88'. Principal: Professor Peter Spearritt. Associate: Dr Geoff Ginn.

Onanong Thippimol: 'A history of Shariah Law in Aceh: Debates and Political Struggles among the Acehese Ulama'. Principal: Dr Patrick Jory. Associate: Associate Professor Helen Creese.

Wu Xiaolu: 'Urban development and everyday life of ordinary labourers in wartime Chongqing'. Principal: Associate Professor Chi-Kong Lai. Associate: Dr Patrick Jory.

PhD Philosophy

Stephen Kemp: PhD Philosophy

Title: Ethical issues of the commodification of childcare

Principal: Dr Julian Lamont

Associate: Dr Dominic Hyde

Liam Miller: 'Playing with your self: A philosophical exploration of attitudes and identities in Games'. Principal: Dr Gilbert Burgh. Associate: Dr Aurelia Armstrong

Sally Shrapnel: 'Using Interventions to Discover Quantum Causal Structure'. Principal: Professor Phil Dowe. Associate: Professor Gerard Milburn.

PhD Studies in Religion

Lex McMillan: 'Persons, divine and human, and therapy: A critical correlation between a Trinitarian analogy of persons and narrative therapy'. Principal: Associate Professor Neil Pembroke. Associate: Associate Professor Rick Strelan

Wesley Redgen: 'Galatians and Acts 13:13-14:23 – The Situation in Galatia in the Light of Jewish-Roman Relations in Claudian Galatia. Principal: Associate Professor Rick Strelan Associate: Dr Bruce Winter.

Congratulations to you all.



QUADRIVIA

The HPI Newsletter



Academic milestones & progressions

Congratulations to our colleagues for their academic progressions

- Lisa Featherstone - confirmation of employment
- Claudio Mazzola - promoted to Level B
- Mei-Fen Kuo - awarded Visiting Fellowship at the Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica
- Edith Foster - Classics and History appointment
- Caillan Davenport - promoted to Level C
- Kriston Rennie - promoted to Level D
- Romain Fathi - Teaching and Research post at Flinders University

Teaching and Learning Awards

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Award for Tutors

- Renee England
- Romain Fathi
- Michelle Pfeffer
- Laura Roberts

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Award for Early Career Teaching Excellence

- Tom Aechtner

Commendation for Program Innovation

- William Holbrook & colleagues in the Classics and Ancient History Society

Discovery Early Career Researcher Award

- Peter Evans

UQ Awards for programs that enhance student learning.

Awarded for the Critical Thinking Project

- Deb Brown
- Dominic Hyde
- Peter Ellerton

Movers & Shakers

- Shushma Malik - teaching and research position at University of Roehampton
- Matt Farr - three-year lectureship at University of Cambridge
- Caillan Davenport - Macquarie University

Fellowships & Prizes

- Alastair Blanshard - Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities
- Tom Aechtner - Westpac Research Fellowship
- David Pritchard - second Fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of Strasbourg
- Romain Fathi - awarded a Solemn Prize by the Chancellery of Paris' Universities.

Just In

In Memorium - Willy Bach

We have just received news from his partner, Rowan Eisner, that Willy Bach, a recent MPhil student in History in HPI, has passed away in the UK after a long illness.

Willy was well-known and much-liked around the School during his candidature here. He had just passed his examination for his MPhil thesis and was awarded his degree late last year.

The story of Willy's MPhil actually began in Southeast Asia half a century ago. In 1966 Willy served in the British army as a sapper and was posted to northeast Thailand where he worked on the construction of an airfield. At the time he was told that it was to help in the development of the northeast, the poorest part of the country. Only later did he find out that the real purpose of the airfield was to assist in the secret bombing of Laos, an operation coordinated by the CIA. Between 1964 and 1973 US forces dropped over 2 million tons of bombs on Laos, making it the most heavily-bombed country in history per capita. An estimated 80 million (sic) unexploded bombs remained in Laos following the end of the war, which even today continue to kill and maim people, many of them children.

Using declassified archival documents Willy's MPhil thesis investigated the collaboration of British, Australian, and New Zealand forces in the CIA's secret war in Laos.

Willy hoped that in some way his thesis could help compensate for his involvement in this complicated and devastating war. Parts of the thesis have recently been published on the Australian history website, Honest History, and Willy was preparing to publish the thesis as a book when he passed away.



QUADRIVIA

The HPI Newsletter



Willy was a larger-than-life person. He was warm, friendly, courteous, funny, sensitive, and generous. He was a keen cyclist, and would often cycle in from West End to UQ for meetings about his thesis. He had a healthy cynicism about politics and politicians, particular when it came to waging war. He had a long history of supporting human rights causes and had worked in this field in Africa and Central America. He was a member of numerous anti-war organisations including Veterans for Peace, the Campaign Against Arms Trade, and the Campaign for an Iraq War Inquiry.

Willy was also an accomplished and widely-published poet. His poetry gave him the opportunity to express the passion and emotion that is necessarily muted in academic writing. His themes tended to be on war, conflict, and human rights issues in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. A number of poems written about the time he worked on the airfield in northeast Thailand were featured on ABC Radio National's [Poetica](#) programme in 2002. In the programme Willy also recounted his extraordinary life, including his Jewish father's narrow escape from Nazi Germany and his difficult experience growing up in the family's adopted country, England.

Willy will be greatly missed. Our deepest condolences go to Rowan and his family.



Willy Bach

HDR & Honours achievements

Anna Temby and Gemmia Burden have been awarded the Australian Historical Association/Copyright agency Bursary. The bursary is to assist with costs associated with travel to the AHA conference in Newcastle in July 2017. The bursary has an attached mentoring program, where they are paired with an academic working in their field to get their assistance in preparing their papers for publication after the conference.

Anna's thesis is about the construction and use of public

space in late-colonial, early twentieth century Brisbane, looking at the governmental management of public space as a means of social ordering and control.

Gemmia's work explored the Queensland Museum's construction of Aboriginality c1859-1917 through their collection and use of Aboriginal artefacts and remains.

We look forward to hearing about their experience in a future Quadrivia edition.

Studies in Religion student Jessica White was awarded the 2016 Michael Lattke Honours Prize in Studies in Religion. She received the prize for her outstanding thesis project 'Explicit and Implicit Discourses of the Body in Brisbane Modern Yoga Teacher Training Programs'. The prize was established in 2013 to encourage and reward excellence in Studies in Religion (Religionswissenschaft). It is maintained by a generous annual gift from Dr Irmaud Pettersson and Emeritus Professor Michael Lattke, the latter whom taught in the The University of Queensland's Department of Studies in Religion the latter of whom taught in The University of Queensland's Department of Studies in Religion and its successor, the School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics, from 1981 to 2007.

