History Chair’s Report

Looking back on a busy year of teaching, research and public engagement...

The History discipline has had a very successful and memorable year. Four of our five new Hansen appointees began at the start of the year—Professor Mark Edele and Drs Jenny Spinks, Una McIlvenna and Kat Ellinghaus. The visionary Hansen gift has already infused new energy and components into our History programme. With two new appointments in early modern history we are noticing already our new strength there, and it was gratifying to see some of our top honours theses this year coming from the early modern European area. We have been busy through the year thinking about curriculum reform—a process led by Mark Edele and an enthusiastic working group. Some new subjects will appear in 2018 and 2019. Associate Professor Ara Keys led a group developing role-play in history teaching and components of that will start to appear in some of our subjects from 2018. History continued its very active engagement programme—highlights included the very large audiences at Tom Griffiths’ Ernest Scott lecture in September (this a very successful co-presentation with the History Council of Victoria) and Mark Edele’s professorial inaugural lecture in October on the Russian Revolution.

Far too much has happened this year to list here—but it is worth mentioning the growing success of the Friends of History at Melbourne Facebook page, which now has over 1,100 followers. Following that page is a great way to stay in touch and hear about events, achievements and news on a regular basis. Thanks to Beth Marsden, who has provided excellent assistance to Drs Julie Fedor and Catherine Kovessi in compiling the text, a broad selection of the year’s highlights are also gathered together in this newsletter.

Three colleagues leave us at the end of 2017. Professor Kate Darian-Smith has accepted a position as the inaugural Pro Vice Chancellor for Arts, Law and Education at the University of Tasmania. A graduate of the University of Melbourne in History and in Education, Kate accepted a position here after time at the Menzies Centre in London. She began at Melbourne in 1995 with a joint appointment in History and the Australian Centre, and was promoted to professor in 2006. In recent years she has been concurrently Professor of Australian History in SHAPS and Professor of Cultural Heritage in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning. She has had many senior leadership roles at Melbourne including Deputy Dean and Associate Dean International, Director of the Australian Centre, Head of School of Historical Studies and of the discipline of History; she is currently the editor of Australian Historical Studies and sits on the ARC College of Experts. Her list of research achievements is long and distinguished, including important and innovative work in recent years on childhood, World War II, school design and memory studies. The esteem in which her research is held is reflected in the long list of research grants to projects she has led or participated in. Her role as postgraduate supervisor has been an important element of her career at Melbourne and she has supervised a long list of masters and PhD students. She has an international reputation and has been much involved with the promotion of Australian Studies in Asia, especially in Japan. We all wish Kate very well in her new job, happy at least in knowing that she will retain some connections with our History program into the future.

Dr Simon Creak has been replacing Kate McGregor in the teaching of south-east Asian history while she was on a Future Fellowship. Simon has been a wonderful colleague and will be sorely missed as he leaves us to take up a position at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Dr Volker Prott has also been an excellent colleague for the past few years replacing Julie Fedor (who was on a DECRA postdoctoral fellowship) in teaching modern European and international history. Volker leaves us at the end of 2017 for a position at Aston University in Birmingham and we will also miss his cheerful and stimulating presence. We are also grateful for the valuable contribution made by sessional lecturers, especially Dr Jennie Jeplesen, Dr Meighen Katz; Dr Mathew Turner; and Dr Gabriela Welch.

There were so many major publications this year that to single out a few is difficult—but special mention should be made of these important monographs:

- Kat Ellinghaus, Blood Will Tell: Native Americans and Assimilation Policy (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2017);
- Stuart Macintyre, André Brett and Gwilym Croucher, No End of a Lesson: Australia’s Unified National System of Higher Education (Carlton: Melbourne University Press, 2017);
- Sean Scalmor, On the Stump: Campaign Oratory and Democracy in the United States, Britain and Australia (Temple University, 2017);

We are all looking forward to an equally busy and successful 2018.

Professor David Goodman
History Discipline Chair
A new bronze plaque has just been installed on Professors Walk, honouring Emerita Professor Patricia Grimshaw AO. This is one of twelve new plaques recognising the recipients of the 2017 University of Melbourne awards. The awards acknowledge staff who have made an outstanding and enduring contribution to the University and its scholarly community. Pat’s plaque, which is located near the entrance to University House, describes her as a ‘Pioneer in women’s history; eminent research leader; respected mentor of students and colleagues’.

In another important mark of recognition, Professor Joy Damousi was elected President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities in 2017—a post reflecting Joy’s high standing and leadership in the scholarly community.

Brigid O’Farrell White (pictured left) has won a 2018 Rhodes Australia at Large Scholarship for postgraduate study at the University of Oxford. In 2016 Brigid completed a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) with a double major in History and Politics/IR, receiving First Class Honours. She won the Dwight Prize for History for her Honours thesis, written under the supervision of Associate Professor Ara Keys, which explored how the rivalry between two senior members of the Nixon administration hampered diplomatic efforts to reach an Arab-Israeli peace settlement from 1969 to 1972. Ara Keys comments that Brigid was ‘a student who always stood out as someone who sought out challenges. On the basis of a brilliant reading of carefully excavated sources, Brigid made a compelling case that Kissinger sabotaged a genuine chance for peace in the Middle East.’

Since graduating from Melbourne, Brigid also completed Arabic language courses in Cairo, travelled in the Middle East, and worked for the State Government on the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Another of our students, Emma Shortis (pictured right), has been awarded a Yale University Fox International Fellowship. While at Yale, Emma will be working on her PhD project which examines how major shifts in international environmental politics are achieved. Specifically, her research tackles a case study of great significance in the history of environmental protection: the abandonment of a nearly completed international agreement that would have allowed mining in the Antarctic, in favour of a new agreement guaranteeing the comprehensive environmental protection of the entire continent.
Major Public Events in 2017

Highlights of a year in History...

In 2017, the Kathleen Fitzpatrick Lecture was presented by the distinguished historian, Lynn Abrams (pictured), Professor of Modern History at the University of Glasgow. Professor Abrams’ work focuses on modern gender relations in Britain and Europe and on the practice and theory of oral history. Her lecture, titled ‘Feminographies: Narrating the Female Self in the Feminist Age’, was a fascinating exploration of feminist oral history practice. Professor Abrams’ visit was part of a fruitful exchange and collaboration relationship between SHAPS and the School of Humanities at the University of Glasgow, a relationship now in its second year.

The winner of the Ernest Scott Prize in 2017 was Professor Tom Griffiths for his book The Art of Time Travel: Historians and their Craft (Black Inc., 2017). Professor Griffiths’ books and essays have won prizes in history, science, literature, politics and journalism including the Douglas Stewart Prize, the Eureka Science Book Prize—and the 1997 Ernest Scott Prize—as well as the Prime Minister’s Prize for Australian History. In his Ernest Scott Lecture, ‘The Craft of History in the Age of Fake News’, Professor Griffiths argued for the need for self-critical history in the era of ‘alternative facts’. This lecture was co-hosted with the History Council of Victoria, in a successful partnership that we look forward to continuing this year.

During the July school holidays, the Faculty of Arts presented the VCE Winter School, for the fourth consecutive year. It offered students in years 10, 11 and 12 an unparalleled opportunity to prepare for their History Revolutions, Australian History, Literature, Italian and French exams with expert academics in their fields. Overall, 433 VCE students studying history enrolled in either the Revolutions or Australian History programs, representing 307 schools across Victoria. The Winter School history program began with an exploration of the nature of revolutions with Professor Peter McPhee, followed by individual lectures on each of the four revolutions; French, Russian, Chinese and American. Similarly, the Australian History Winter School program consisted of a team of experts who guided students through the key themes of Australian History and received specialist advice on what makes an excellent performance on the Australian History exam.

In 2017, the Faculty of Arts engagement team brought together scholars working in the field of Italian studies across the University to present the Senses of Italy series of evening lectures, aimed at alumni, to explore the notion of ‘what is Italian’ through an historical journey of the five senses: scent, sight, sound, taste, and touch. Held over five consecutive weeks in October, this program brought to life aspects of Italian culture, history, art, film, literature, music, and food of significant moments throughout Italian history. Drs Catherine Kovesi and Antonio Artese launched the series with their presentation on ‘The Scents of Italy: A multi sensorial immersion into the history of the perfumes of Italy.’ In the first half of the session, Catherine Kovesi revealed the history of Renaissance perfumes, their producers, as well as some of their famous clients, and introduced the audience to the new practitioners of this ancient craft in the cities of Venice and Florence. In the second half, Antonio Artese, composer, pianist, and olfactory specialist at the Florentine perfume house Aqua Flor and its Parlor of Essences provided a multi sensorial performance immersing the audience in colour, sounds, and fragrances, and provided all attendees with a special Aqua Flor gift.
The theme for the **2017 SHAPS Public Lecture Series** was ‘Love’. This theme was chosen to align with the series of events on this theme conducted this year by the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions (CHE), including a major exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria, ‘Love: Art of Emotion 1400-1800’. History’s contribution to the series was presented by **Professor James Grantham Turner** (University of California, Berkeley). This event was co-hosted and generously supported by CHE. The series also featured lectures by **Professor Raimond Gaita** (Philosophy), and **Associate Professor Marguerite Johnson** (University of Newcastle).

The **2017 Greg Dening Memorial Lecture** was delivered by **Professor Joy Damousi**. In a lecture titled “Out of Common Humanity”: Humanitarianism, Compassion and Efforts in Australia to Assist Jewish Refugees in the 1930s, Professor Damousi explored the attempts of a ten-year-old Australian pen-pal and her family from Colac, in Victoria, to bring Edith Roll, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl from Vienna, and her family to Australia.

Last but not least, a large—indeed, record-breaking—audience was present for the **Inaugural Hansen Lecture** delivered by **Professor Mark Edele** (pictured), the inaugural Hansen Chair in History, on the topic of ‘The Russian Revolution after 100 Years’.

Selected recordings, transcripts and other texts associated with these lectures can be found via the links below:

Vale Associate Professor Tracey Banivanua Mar


All of us in the history community of Melbourne and historians throughout Australia were deeply saddened to learn of the death on 19 August of Tracey Banivanua Mar at the age of 42 years. Tracey, an outstanding historian of colonialism and postcolonialism in Australia and the Pacific region, was an Associate Professor at La Trobe University. She was an inspiring teacher, a generous supervisor and mentor, a loyal colleague, and a person of impressive personal integrity. I was privileged to teach her when she was an undergraduate student at the University of Melbourne and to co-supervise her doctoral thesis. I remained her friend after she left the university, learned from her, and watched her emergence as one of Australia’s foremost historians with the utmost admiration.

Tracey Banivanua Mar was proud of the Fijian heritage that shaped her identity as an individual and as a scholar. She was born in Lautoka, Fiji, on 21 August 1974, daughter of Gillian Arden Mar and Josaia Banivanua Mar. Through her father, Tracey was a member of the yavusa (clan) Nasau of the island of Moala in the province of Lau. She had two sisters, Sera Lewanuya Banivanua Mar and Lina Banivanua Mar. The family shifted to Melbourne in 1980. Tracey attended Ballarat Grammar School for her secondary schooling.

Tracey began a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Melbourne in 1992. Her teachers identified her as a brilliant student who should be warmly encouraged to continue her studies in history. I recall vividly a meeting with her at which, on the basis of her fine third year results, we recommended she proceed to a fourth-year honours degree. She hesitated, questioning her abilities with a characteristic but totally unwarranted modesty; her teachers were delighted when she made the decision to continue. When selecting a thesis topic Tracey was attracted to the island of her birth and produced a wonderful thesis, entitled ‘Cannibal Discourse: Colonial Representations and Imagery of Fijians in the Nineteenth Century’. She graduated B. A. (Hons) with first class results in 1995, and was awarded a Commonwealth Postgraduate Award that funded her postgraduate research. Patrick Wolfe was her primary doctoral supervisor, to whom she paid tribute for his intellectual influence on this and subsequent research directions. She graduated PhD in 2001, and was awarded the University’s Dennis Wettenhall Prize for the best thesis in Australian history.

Tracey’s thesis topic was in an area she would make her core interest: settler colonialism in its many guises and Indigenous peoples’ agency within it. Her focus was the experiences of the Melanesian labourers who were recruited to work in the sugar plantations of Queensland. Some were her relatives. Tracey rewrote the thesis as the monograph, Violence and Colonial Dialogue: the Australian-Pacific Indentured Labor Trade, which the University of Hawaii Press published in 2007. This body of work, which revised and enriched our understanding of this fraught instance of Australia’s engagement with the Pacific, was research of outstanding originality, the impact of which has been extensive nationally and internationally. Within Pacific history it marked a distinctive turn that, in combination with initiatives of other young scholars, stimulated new ways of viewing the past that complicated accepted histories. A remarkable feature of Tracey’s work was her insistence on presenting the narrative of colonial regimes of power from the perspective of the Pacific islanders, avoiding their relegation to passive victimhood status. She did so by astute and sensitive readings of underexplored public records and oral histories, in the absence of extensive personal writing. It was exciting research by any standards.

Vale Associate Professor Tracey Banivanua Mar
Tracey was an energetic and dedicated participant in all avenues of the academic project. She received her first lectureship at the University of Melbourne in Pacific and Australian Indigenous History that she held from 2003 to 2006. Her success in this position was grounded in her positive collaboration with Indigenous scholars teaching and researching on campus. In 2007 she relinquished this post for a lectureship in Transnational and Colonial History at La Trobe University where her talents flourished in every aspect of academic work. Her outstanding teaching earned her the strong appreciation of countless undergraduate students and her postgraduates. Among her many professional duties she participated actively in symposia and organised some notable forums for the discussion and debate of the new perspectives her research had stimulated. These initiatives were enriched by the attendance of respected scholars from outside Australia, many of them Indigenous, whose presence helped internationalise our networks. Most notable was the 2015 conference Race, Mobility and Imperial Networks: Charting the Transnational Asia-Pacific World 1800-2015. Tracey rose swiftly to the level of senior lecturer and then to associate professor at a relatively early age, and won a prestigious Australian Research Council Future Fellowship.

Through all this activity, Tracey continued to research and publish challenging studies that informed understandings of the interconnectedness through travelling and migrations that marked the lives of Pacific communities under colonialism. Some of this was undertaken collaboratively as she brought other scholars’ work to prominence through her editing commitments, enabling constructive partnerships with like-minded scholars. Already as a postgraduate student she had co-edited with Julie Evans Writing Colonial Histories: Comparative Perspectives (University of Melbourne, 2000). The collection she co-edited in 2010 with her fellow student and close friend, Penny Edmonds, Making Settler Colonial Space: Perspectives on Race, Place and Identity, with the British publisher, Palgrave Macmillan, was a strong intervention in current debates. She published highly influential journal articles that constituted cutting-edge analysis, widening her range to comparative studies of Australian Aborigines, the peoples of Oceania, and New Zealand Maori.

That not only did Indigenous peoples shape their lives under colonialism but took into their own hands colonialism’s end was made clear in Tracey’s last book, Decolonising the Pacific: Indigenous Globalisation and the Ends of Empire, that appeared with Cambridge University Press in 2016. This further original exploration of colonialism in the Pacific became the focus of a forum in the Journal of Pacific History later that year, testimony to the standing she had reached among scholars of Oceania. It was a great personal pleasure that Tracey in that year won the prize that Australian Historical Studies inaugurated in my name with her paper ‘Shadowing Imperial Networks: Indigenous Mobility and Australia’s Pacific Past’ (Australian Historical Studies, 46, 3, 2015, 340-55).

Right up until her death Tracey pursued her involvement in her work and students with remarkable rigor, resilience and generosity. We lost a wonderful colleague and dear friend when, just two days before her 43rd birthday, she succumbed to the cancer she had fought so bravely. Her grief at knowing she was leaving her beloved family, her husband Nicholas Volk and their two young children, Eva and James, was profound. She leaves a legacy that will stand untrammeled for many years to come, and a place in our hearts forever.

Emerita Professor Patricia Grimshaw
Learning of Jacques Adler’s death, as a gloomy morning dawns in Paris, I am deeply saddened. Jacques triumphed over many obstacles. Brought from Poland to France with his family to escape the Nazis, he entered the Resistance. In 1947, he came to Melbourne and opened a very successful bakery in the city. He retired around 1970 and embarked on a quest for learning, which had been so long delayed by circumstances. He undertook a BA at Melbourne. Suzi Ehrmann, John Foster, Peter McPhee, Alison Patrick and I (after I arrived in 1974) were among those who had the pleasure of teaching him. Jacques then undertook a PhD, of which John Foster and I were the supervisors. Jacques had a clear idea of what he wanted to do. The Vichy regime’s anti-Semitic legislation had forced French Jews to control the Jewish community through an organisation called the Union générale des israélites de France (UGIF). Using his experience from the underground, Jacques undertook a meticulous study of the UGIF records. In 1982, he submitted his successful Melbourne PhD, ‘The Jews of Paris and the “Final Solution”: Communal Response and Internal Conflicts, 1940-1944.’

A French version of the thesis was published by Calman-Levy (Paris) in 1985: ‘Face à la persécution: les organisations juives à Paris de 1940 à 1944’. The English version was published by Oxford University Press in 1987. As H.R. Kedward noted (EHR 106 [1991]: 749-50), the book displayed ‘objective scholarship ... enormously enhanced by the threads of remembered history,’ particularly on the thorny questions of the tensions between native and immigrant Jews and between the UGIF leaders and the Resistance. Adler had good reason, as a resistance activist, to condemn all those who took part in the hypocrisy of Vichy’s institution [the UGIF], but he does not do so; rather he leaves the reader to decide whether Jewish compromise with Vichy was avoidable or not.

In later years, Jacques continued his research. With great generosity of spirit, he sought to understand the position of the Catholic Church and of Pope Pius XII (1939-1958), refusing to take the easy path of simply condemning their positions. Jacques’ enthusiasm for learning continues in his family. His daughter Louise Adler is Director of Melbourne University Publishing. In 2014, his granddaughter Mira Adler-Gillies completed a PhD supervised by Peter McPhee on a subject dear to Jacques’ heart: ‘Collectivism or Cooperation? The Contest for Meaning in the French Socialist Movement 1870-1890.’

Professor Chips Sowerwine
Research News

Highlights of a year’s research activities...

Kathleen Fitzpatrick ARC Laureate Fellowship Project ‘Child Refugees and Australian Internationalism 1920 to the Present’

The project team had a busy and productive 2017. Lead researcher, Professor Joy Damousi (pictured above) was the Simon Visiting Fellowship at the University of Manchester (during which she led a masterclass, and gave staff seminar and keynote papers), and received a LASP ARC Grant to investigate the Humanities workforce. Professor Damousi also gave the 2017 annual Greg Dening Memorial Lecture (see under Highlights of the Year above) and presented a range of papers to Jewish and Greek community groups. PhD student Niro Kandasamy (pictured right) has been awarded a Student Visitor Fellowship at the Refugee Studies Centre at Oxford University and Rachel Stevens, a researcher on the project, has been awarded an NLA Fellowship, to research Australia’s response to refugees from Bangladesh. In August Benjamin Thomas White, a researcher from the University of Glasgow, was hosted by the Project in order to undertake collaborative projects on histories of refugees.

The project, and those involved in it, have been working on a range of engagement projects. Mary Tomsic is working with Kids’ Own Publishing and the History Teachers Association of Victoria to develop resources for primary and secondary teachers to support the use of books written by children and their families in Traralgon who are from a South Sudanese refugee background. Financial support for this work has come from the Melbourne Humanities Foundation (UoM) and the Scanlon Foundation. Mary and Joy are also working with Fitzroy Primary School to support the development and implementation of a pre-foundation program to support the school’s diverse student population and—together with colleagues in the Faculty of Music—to organise a Lullaby Playgroup, which has been funded by the Victorian Women’s Trust and the Dennoch Fund and Vanraay Family Fund, sub-funds of Australian Communities Foundation, Melbourne Humanities Foundation and Scanlon Foundation. Postgraduate student Anh Nguyen was involved in producing an exhibition in May, ‘Vietnamese Here: Contemporary Art & Reflections’ (see further Postgraduate Research News below), while other researchers have published articles in The Conversation and Overland, and appeared at the Wheeler Centre and on various radio stations. The group has also produced a range of publications, featured elsewhere in this newsletter.
Arc Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions (CHE)

The most prominent and significant project in 2017 for SHAPS members in the Melbourne node of the ARC CHE was the exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria, ‘Love: Art of Emotion 1400-1800’. The collaborative exhibition was four years in the planning, and opened on 30 March by Tony Ellwood, Director of the NGV, Prof. Liz Sonenberg, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research, University of Melbourne, and Prof. Andrew Lynch, Director of the ARC Centre, and also included a wonderfully learned and witty lecture by Dr Lisa Beaven, a member of SHAPS in the Melbourne node of CHE. The exhibition ran from 31 March–18 June 2017, received wide publicity in the press, radio and television, and was visited by large numbers of the general public.

‘Love: Art of Emotion 1400-1800’ explored love’s varied manifestations across the realms of human experience in early modern times, including familial relationships, religious devotion, friendship, altruism, patriotism, narcissism and materialism. It demonstrated these through more than 200 objects from the NGV’s vast collections—paintings, sculpture, prints and drawings, tapestries, earthenware and porcelain—as well as functional objects such as wedding chests, furniture and jewellery.

Angela Hesson was curator of the exhibition and she uncovered large numbers of objects in the NGV, some of which had never been exhibited and others not for many years. Angela, the NGV Curator in the Decorative Arts, Matthew Martin, and myself, also edited a major catalogue, a project through which we were able to reassess and explore some of the objects on display in quite new ways, and also to correct earlier scholarship. The catalogue included six substantial essays written by different local and international experts on topics such as Myths of Love, Bodies of Love and Spaces of Love, which explored and contextualised many of the objects in the exhibition.

An international symposium related to the exhibition was held on 4-6 May, partly at the University and partly at the NGV. It included 22 speakers over the three days, with visiting international scholars, as well as speakers from the NGV, the University of Melbourne and other Australian universities. The symposium focused on particular objects in the NGV collection and also explored the strategies artists used to express and arouse feelings of love. These included gesture and facial expression, colour and shape, the context of place and narrative and the representation of bodies. These artistic devices served to create new understandings of love, which in turn influenced developments in the religious, political, cultural and domestic spheres.

Part of the ARC’s agenda is that projects such as ‘Love’ are not meant to benefit academics and scholars alone. Numerous lectures and floor talks were held for the general public, as well as three very successful and well-attended Masterclasses organised by the Faculty of Arts. In addition, our Education & Outreach Officer, Penelope Lee, together with staff from the Education Unit of the NGV, organised workshops for tertiary Music Composition and Creative Writing students, further sessions for senior secondary English students, and a three-day tour to primary schools in the Western District—all to bring some of the riches of the NGV to the young, and to encourage them to consider the complex role of love and other emotions in everyday lives.

Charles Zika
Chief Investigator, CHE
Professorial Fellow, SHAPS

Melbourne History Workshop

Melbourne History Workshop was formally constituted at the beginning of 2016 by Professor Andrew May, along with a number of his University of Melbourne postgraduate and Honours students with a particular interest in urban history, public history, and digital and new media methodologies. The workshop also welcomes the involvement of staff from the eScholarship Research Centre, the Faculty of Arts Social & Cultural Informatics Platform, and affiliated industry professionals who have previously worked with Professor May. The broad aim of the workshop is to undertake targeted projects related to the history of the city of Melbourne, to develop civic-minded and practically engaged relationships with community and institutional interest groups, to provide a hands-on environment for students in terms of professional development and work-integrated learning, and to discuss current work undertaken by its members.

In the first two years of its existence, the group has completed a number of exciting and diverse projects that have utilised the varied talents of its members. These include the ongoing Block XI project, which uses historic images, data and other interpretative materials to build a layered digital map to explore historical change over time in a specific Melbourne city block, bound by Swanston, Collins, Russell and Bourke Streets. The historical research informed the work of 2016 Melbourne City Council artists in residence (photographer Zoe Ali and author Christos Tsiolkas) in their exhibition City Songs. Held at Melbourne City Gallery (February to April 2017), the exhibition explored the site of the Block XI project in pictures and text, complemented by a small historic display and catalogue essay developed with the assistance of members of the Melbourne History Workshop.

Other projects completed in 2017 include the first phase of the digitisation of Melbourne’s Sands & Kenny and Sands & McDougall directories from 1857 to 1880. These volumes are an invaluable source of information about businesses and people in the city of Melbourne and reflects the expansion of the metropolis and development of its social and commercial life.
Another major output for the group was the Everyday War website, launched in May 2017. Curated by Professor May and Nicole Davis (pictured), the project involved digitisation of almost 7,000 individual pages from the City of Melbourne’s Town Clerk’s Correspondence related to the experience of World War I in the city, and a co-authored research publication. The website, which contains a wealth of information for researchers, has proved of great interest to family historians, academics and school students, and in October 2017 was shortlisted for a Victorian Community History Award.

Another exciting venture was also launched, the Melbourne History Workshop’s My Marvellous Melbourne, a regular half-hour podcast that features a selection of stories about the people, processes and institutions that make up the rich history of Melbourne.

Further information about the Melbourne History Workshop can be found on its website: [https://melbournehistoryworkshop.com](https://melbournehistoryworkshop.com)

The Experience of Becoming a Mother in Australia since 1945

Dr Carla Pascoe commenced her Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) in SHAPS in 2016, after she was awarded funding by the Australian Research Council to conduct a six-year project on the history of Australian mothering since 1945. Over the past two years, Carla has completed 40 oral history interviews with a variety of Australian women about their experiences of becoming a mother. She has presented her early findings at six Australian and international conferences and published in the Journal of Australian Studies. With colleagues, she is currently preparing an edited collection on Australian mothering, a special ‘parenting’ issue for the journal Oral History and an edited collection on historical children’s voices. On 15-16 February 2018 she is convening the symposium Australian Mothering in Historical and Contemporary Perspective, which will bring leading historians and sociologists together with government and not-for-profit organisations to discuss Australian mothering in the present and the past.

La Trobe’s Garden City and the Lost Sculptures of Fitzroy Gardens

Dr Monique Webber (pictured) was awarded the State Library of Victoria La Trobe Society Fellowship in 2017. Her project recovers the extensive sculptural programme that ornamented the Fitzroy Gardens in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Through Charles La Trobe’s early ideals for Melbourne, it inquires into the prevailing attitudes that shaped the landscape. Combining both classical and modern art and history, this research uncovers an important chapter in Melbourne’s cultural development and questions how memories of the city can impact on its contemporary meaning.
Emotions, Objects and Connections with the University of Manchester

Researchers working on material culture and the history of emotions at Melbourne met with colleagues at the University of Manchester this July to develop further, and expand on them to build an international network over the next several years. A two-day workshop under the stewardship of historian Dr Sasha Handley from the University of Manchester was held at both the Whitworth Art Gallery and the John Rylands Library, two of Manchester’s most stunning heritage venues. Plans were also made for a 3-day workshop to be held at Melbourne in April 2018. This workshop will feature Professor Evelyn Welch (Kings College London) as its prestigious guest speaker, supported by the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions.

Dr Jenny Spinks and Dr Una McIlvenna, who received funding from the Manchester-Melbourne consortium to fund this collaboration, share a strong interest in the role of objects and emotions in history. For example, Jenny Spinks is studying an engraved illustration within a 1606 travelogue book held at the John Rylands Library, Manchester, which shows a royal signet ring in a scene of ritual worship in Ceylon (modern-day Sri Lanka). She is interested in how objects can be emotionally resonant but still sometimes mysterious and opaque to early modern audiences, to modern researchers working outside their fields for curatorial projects, and to wider modern audiences coming to material for the first time. Meanwhile Una McIlvenna is comparing nineteenth-century working songs in Melbourne and Manchester, two cities that expanded enormously during that period. She is interested in what kinds of work are depicted in the songs and the way that the rhythms of the labour—the sounds of the loom, the clipping of the sheep shears—are woven into these songs of work, and how the emotions of work can be continued outside of the workplace in this way.

School funding from the Manchester-Melbourne consortium will help to fund Manchester environmental historian Dr John Morgan’s travel to Melbourne for the April workshop, and funded Una McIlvenna’s travel to Manchester. The whole project builds on existing connections also forged by Dr Lisa Beaven, Dr Angela Hesson and Professor Charles Zika—all History staff based in the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions—and a larger group of academic, library, gallery and museum staff from the two universities, including Professor Stephanie Trigg from the School of Culture and Communications. This cross-disciplinary, multi-layered Manchester gathering was extremely successful and inspiring, and we expect the Melbourne event to build on the fascinating work that has already been done.

Slavery in British Guiana in the Age of Abolition, 1804-1834

We have very few sources that allow us to understand how enslaved people thought about enslavement. Professor Trevor Burnard’s ARC Discovery Project approaches this question via a remarkable set of sources: the 14-volume Fiscal Records held at the National Archives in Kew, London. The Fiscal was a high judicial officer able to hear slave complaints, and so this set of sources can give us an idea of what slaves felt were their rights and duties under enslavement. Professor Burnard is examining the records related to Berbice, a colony in the north-east of South America that became in 1831 part of British Guiana. His research will result in a series of interlinked articles and a book, concentrating on female slaves’ experience of slavery in a particularly brutal and intense slave society.

To date, one article has resulted from the work, published in New West India Guide in 2017, with two forthcoming in Pacific History Review and (with Kit Candlin of Newcastle who has worked on this project) in the Journal of British Studies. The latter deals with the slave holdings and ideas about slavery held by Britain’s largest early nineteenth century slave owner, Sir John Gladstone. The nature of the project also reflects on methodology: how do we treat testimony from and about slaves when such testimony usually comes from slave owners or the imperial state? Reflections on that topic were canvassed at a workshop in London this July which will lead to an edited book with Routledge.
History, Memory and Social Movements

In July 2017, Associate Professor Sean Scalmer and Professor Stefan Berger (Ruhr University) co-hosted a conference as part of their ongoing collaborative project, aimed at bringing the fields of social movement history and Memory Studies into more active dialogue. History PhD candidate Kate Davison reports on the conference:

Renewed disputes over public memorial statues at the heart of grassroots responses to neo-Nazi mobilisations within and beyond the United States have once again signalled the need for historians to better come to terms with the connections between memory, social movements and memorialisation. This was the aim of the “History, Memory and Social Movements” conference held at the Institute for Social Movements at Ruhr University, Bochum in July 2017.

Across the two days, seventeen papers in total were presented, grouped into themed panels. Some were organised according to type of social movement, spanning the labour movement, anarchism/syndicalism, communism, peace movements, environmental and urban movements, grassroots commemorative movements, and movements for gay or LGBTIQ rights. Others were organised around theoretical or methodological concerns. A number of presentations focused on movements memorialising actual victories, such as Associate Professor Sean Scalmer’s exploration of commemorative rituals marking the achievement in 1856 of an eight-hour working day by the Australian labour movement, which among other things took the form of annual festive parades and celebratory picnics. These rituals often reflect dominant prejudices (Chinese Australians were excluded) but also serve the creation of a common and unified identity by those who are included. Exclusion and inclusion in labour movement memory was also the theme of Dr Liam Byrne’s paper, which zoomed in on personal memory and the use of memoirs by activists, particularly women, as political interventions and correctives to collective memory.

Indigenous Cadet Scheme

The History Program was very fortunate this year in having Jaye Early (pictured), a Melbourne-based artist in the final stages of his PhD in the Visual Arts Program at the Victorian College of the Arts, to work with Hansen Lecturer Dr Kat Ellinghaus under the Faculty of Arts Indigenous Cadet scheme. The Indigenous Cadet Scheme is part of a Faculty initiative, in line with the University’s Reconciliation Plan, to increase the recruitment and retention of Indigenous staff and students. Jaye assisted Kat in the development of a new undergraduate subject, Global Histories of Indigenous Activism, and together with Dr Leonie Stevens worked on her ARC Discovery Project The Burden of Freedom? Aboriginal Exemption Policies in Australia. His insights, company and interdisciplinary knowledge will be sorely missed.

Memory and Authoritarianism: The Struggle for the Past in Putin’s Russia

Dr Julie Fedor’s ARC DECRA project (2015–17) has explored the shifting meanings invested in violent death in Russia in recent decades, and the connections between these narratives of the past and the emerging state ideology. The project has several different strands, with subprojects investigating such topics as the history of the KGB summerhouse settlement built on the edges of a mass grave on the outskirts of Moscow in the late 1950s, and its ‘rebranding’ in the Putin era as a site of nostalgia for Soviet security elite privilege; representations of past and future wars in the works of contemporary Russian tabloid journalists; changing practices linked to commemorating and narrating soldiers’ deaths in Afghanistan, Chechnya, and Ukraine; and the symbolic trappings of the new Russian nation that is currently under construction.
Another major conference focus was the environmental, urban and peace activism of the 1970s–80s. History PhD candidate Iain McIntyre’s presentation outlined cultural memory strategies employed by activists, such as song and music, both as memorialisation and galvanising techniques. The urge to move our discussions beyond manifestations of mourning, trauma and loss within social movements to paying more attention to those of positivity, hope and optimism was taken up repeatedly throughout the conference. In the movement for gay rights explored by History PhD candidate Kate Davison, hope, optimism and organising strength has been drawn precisely from the practice of ‘reclaiming’ symbols of past trauma such as the pink triangle, used transnationally from the early 1970s as a central motif for public memorials to homosexual victims of the Holocaust. Similarly, rituals commonly associated with mourning, such as wreath-laying, were utilised in the 1980s by gay and lesbian activists from Melbourne and Sydney to Ravensbrück and Sachsenhausen as a protest strategy to politically demonstrate the continuities in past and present oppression.

Social movement historians are just beginning to fully investigate the role of memory in past political traditions, events and organisations. The presentations at this conference demonstrated how memory, memorialisation and commemoration have been key tools within social movements and discourse throughout the nineteenth, twentieth, and into the twenty-first centuries, and have performed a variety of political, practical, social, moral, emotional and other functions.

Kate Davison
New Books by History Staff, Fellows and Graduates

The latest crop of the fruits of our research...

- Katherine Ellinghaus, *Blood Will Tell Native Americans and Assimilation Policy* (University of Nebraska 2017)
- Darius von Guttner Sporzyński, *Święte wojny Piastów (Holy Wars of the Piasts)* (PWN 2017)
- Darius von Guttner Sporzyński, *Writing History in Medieval Poland: Bishop Vincentius of Cracow and the ‘Chronica Polonorum’* (Brepols 2017)
- Kate Darian-Smith and Julie Willis (eds), *Designing Schools: Space, Place and Pedagogy* (Routledge 2017)
- Catherine Driscoll, Kate Darian-Smith and David Nichols (eds), *Cultural Sustainability in Rural Communities: Rethinking Australian Country Towns* (Routledge 2017)
- Mark Edele, Sheila Fitzpatrick and Atina Grossmann (eds), *Shelter from the Holocaust: Rethinking Jewish Survival in the Soviet Union* (Wayne State University Press 2017)
- Julie Fedor, Markku Kangaspuro, Jussi Lassila and Tatiana Zhurzhenko (eds), *War and Memory in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus* (Palgrave 2017)
- Bridget Griffen-Foley and Sean Scalmer (eds), *Public Opinion, Campaign Politics and Media Audiences* (MUP 2017)
- Val Noone (ed.), *Nicholas O’Donnell’s Autobiography* (Ballarat Heritage Services 2017)
Teaching News and Innovation

Pioneering new methods for inspiring students of history...

Hansen Teaching Initiative: Object Based Learning

When most people imagine historians doing research, they picture them squinting at printed tomes and sneezing their way through dusty archives. But insights about the past can come from many kinds of sources. This year, three Hansen lecturers, Drs Jenny Spinks, Una McIlvenna and Kat Ellinghaus joined with Fiona Moore and other members of the Cultural Collections team from around the University to bring an element of ‘object based learning’ to all their undergraduate teaching. Object based learning brings non-textual sources—material culture of all kinds—to the classroom. It asks students to connect with the past through images, relics, prints, paintings, and every day objects and prompts them to think about the different kinds of information to be gleaned from items from the past.

In the History Honours subject Sourcing Emotions: Texts, Concepts, Histories, Una led a session on ‘Sexuality, Gender and Emotions’. For this she teamed up with Rachel Buchanan, the lead archivist on the Germaine Greer collection, and the Baillieu Special Collections Librarians to think about how the objects and documents one finds in the archives can be infused with stories and emotions of sex and desire and/or notions of gender roles, and importantly, how students as researchers can learn to consider their own—often powerful—emotions when confronted with these objects. Rachel was able to bring in actual archival boxes and talk students through the practical experience of archival research, how to appropriately handle these valuable documents, and to speak from her own experience about what it’s like to work with often shocking material. Students were also able to browse through original editions of The Lady Magazine from the eighteenth century (one of whose regular readers was Jane Austen herself), which were revealing about how ideals of feminine domesticity and education have changed over the centuries.

In another Honours seminar on the Long History of Globalisation, students working with Jenny Spinks took inspiration from the display cabinets in Arts West to design their own exhibits as one assignment for the course. Fiona Moore and other colleagues from the Object-Based Learning and exhibition team in Arts West talked students through the excitement and pitfalls of conveying historical ideas using material culture. The sky was the limit for this virtual exhibition, with students able to virtually ‘curate’ objects from anywhere in the world. Objects from teapots and footballs to banknotes and nutmeg all made their way into virtual exhibits examining, celebrating and critiquing the ways that globalisation has changed history.

Each week in the third year subject History of Violence, Jenny Spinks and Kat Ellinghaus presented an ‘Object of the Week’ that offered a different perspective on the topic under discussion. When studying the Holocaust, for example, students discussed the display of human hair in the Auschwitz museum and debated the ethics of museum curatorship. In the week on the bombing of Hiroshima they contemplated Shigeru’s lunchbox (pictured), found clutchéd to the body of a first-year student at Second Hiroshima Prefectural Junior High School on 9 August 1945.

History of Violence students (pictured, with Jenny Spinks) also enjoyed a visit to the Baillieu Library’s incredible print collection and enjoyed the opportunity to analyse up close priceless prints from the early modern period. Being given access to the University’s cultural collections not only helped students realise the incredible sources at their fingertips but, as one student put it, discussing ‘how the objects affected us as enabled us to connect more emotionally to histories of violence’.

Emotions were also in play in Kat Ellinghaus’ second-year subject Australia in the World, when Katie Wood and Sophie Garrett from the Archives arrived in tutorial rooms carrying boxes of material from the Malcolm Fraser collection that related to the issue of refugees. It was an intense experience for students to actually handle documents relating to Fraser’s increasing frustration with the Liberal Party’s stance on refugees, contributing to his eventual resignation from the party in 2010. As well as offering students new ways of learning history, Kat, Una and Jenny hope that by moving beyond textual sources they will inspire a passion for the past in a new generation of historians.
Historical Role-play: Reacting to the Past

Led by Associate Professor Ara Keys, History staff have begun experimenting with Reacting to the Past games, a role-play pedagogy that is widely used in the United States and Canada. A workshop in February and a two-day conference in November explained how to use these games and what their benefits are. The games place students in moments of historical controversy, assign each student a historical character, and then require students to achieve objectives through negotiation and persuasion. Ara Keys ran a game about the 1968 Chicago Democratic National Convention in her U.S. history class. She describes the enthusiastic student response as 'magical'. Next year Associate Professor Kate McGregor and Dr Una McIlvenna will teach a class devoted to two games, one about Reformation England and the other about the partition of India.

Pictured is a tableau showing Justice (Dr Jennie Jeppesen) and Peace (Dr Una McIlvenna) victorious over Capitalism (Dr Mary Tomsic) at the two-day Reacting to the Past workshop, led by Tom Buchanan (University of Adelaide) and Associate Professor Ara Keys. Participants were given the opportunity to get into character and to engage with the game ‘Greenwich Village, 1913: Suffrage, Labor, and the New Woman’.

For a video with more information, follow the link: https://vimeo.com/238344537/41d1f92d66

Simulating Refugee Appeal Tribunals

Associate Professor Richard Pennell has designed a new form of assessment for teaching modern Middle East history: a simulation exercise in which students role-play an expert witness in a refugee appeal tribunal. In the exercise, which is modelled on real-life situations and structures, students must produce a report on an individual refugee’s case, including historical background on country of origin. Students can choose from around twenty cases, each of which is based on a real-life (anonymised) case. This form of assessment offers a way of bringing students closer to the events and people they are studying; it encourages them to reflect on the impact that political events have on individual lives, and to connect their research to important real-life issues; and it enables them to acquire experience in conducting research under institutional constraints demanding high levels of accuracy and rigour.

More detail can be found in Richard Pennell’s article, ‘Making the Foreign Past Real: Teaching and Assessing Middle Eastern History in Australia’, Review of Middle East Studies 51: 1 (2017).
Blended Learning for ‘Rebels and Revolutionaries’

The second-year undergraduate subject ‘Rebels and Revolutions’ is a comparative political history course that introduces students to the careers of major revolutionaries and to the political methods they have adopted in the quest for change. Learning and Teaching Innovation funding allowed the subject coordinator, Associate Professor Sean Scalmer, to transform the course from a lecture and tutorial based form to a version of ‘blended learning’ that encompassed online lectures and quizzes and two-hour seminars organised around group work, role playing, and debates. One special feature of the course was a greater emphasis on working with primary sources.

Students were supplied with a greater number of primary sources to examine every week (conventionally 4 or 5). One of the assessment tasks also required students to independently locate their own primary source on a weekly topic, to present it to class, to raise historical questions for debate, and then to compose a written analysis for assessment. Students were supported by a specially curated website and by a seminar devoted to the location and analysis of primary sources (in which they worked through examples, guided by library staff and History staff).

Multi-Platform Learning

Dr Catherine Kovesi was a recipient of a University Learning and Teaching Initiative Grant with the objective to re-envision three of her History subjects using interactive Blending Learning as a framework. The subjects were varied: one taught overseas in Venice, the other a compulsory Honours subject on Globalisation, and the other an undergraduate subject on Renaissance Italy. Catherine aimed to engage students both in the learning process and assessment components of the subject; to make them active learners with a range of teaching and learning outcomes that they could apply both in and out of the Academy—from standard essay writing, to online group-based activities, and digital story telling skills.

Combining lectures and tutorials into interactive ‘lectorials’, Catherine utilized a series of video-clips, music, object-based learning, fully downloadable eBooks, and highly engaging LMS sites with a range of integrated resources including subject-dedicated library guides. She developed these in consultation with Special Collections and the University Archives, and with the assistance of Tom Hyde in the library and constant mentoring from Meredith Hinze in the Arts e-learning team and the University Learning Environments Team. It has led to new ways of engaging and evaluating group work through the use of online shared blackboards for group work (Padlet), real-time Polls to assess student comprehension during class (Poll Everywhere), and new methods of class involvement in a range of activities involving object based learning using precious manuscripts and early printed books in the library’s collections, and documents and artefacts from the University Archives. It has also stretched students out of their comfort zone with the requirement to produce a filmed digital story-telling journal (Vlog), and Instagram as a historically curated visual storyboard, both used as components of their assessment.

Catherine says that the grant gave her the time and resources to think deeply about her teaching praxis, and what might be needed to engage digitally literate students of the 21st century. Above all she was concerned not to introduce new technology for its own sake, nor to ‘flip’ simply because it is the teaching mode of the moment. Instead she strongly believes that we must meet with, and engage, students in the media in which they operate, and then push them out of their comfort zone within those same media. Despite students’ enormous facility and ease in using such media, she found that they tend to use them at a superficial level and need to be challenged to apply the highest standards of intellectual rigour both to online research and to their use of new media to showcase their own work. She has been delighted with the results so far, and the work is ongoing.
Recent History PhDs

Profiling the latest cohort of doctoral researchers in History...


Drawing primarily upon an original archive of oral history interviews, my PhD thesis presented a woman-centred history of the Indonesian occupation of East Timor by focusing on the everyday lives and experiences of East Timorese women. By analysing the ways in which women remember, narrate, and conceptualise the occupation, it revealed the pervasiveness of violence—as well as its gendered and gendering dynamics—within the social and cultural ‘everyday’ of life in occupied East Timor. The subsequent book manuscript, *In Women’s Words: Violence and Everyday Life during the Indonesian Occupation of East Timor, 1975–1999*, will be published by Sussex Academic Press in 2018.

Bronwyn Reddan, ‘Scripting Love and Gender in Fairy Tales by French Women Writers, 1690–1709’

Between 1690 and 1709, more than one hundred fairy tales were written by French authors. Women writers created two-thirds of this corpus, and their tales developed emotion scripts that challenged the patriarchal politics of courtship and marriage in seventeenth-century France. My thesis focused on the scripts for love in tales by Marie-Catherine d’Aulnoy, Marie-Jeanne Lhéritier, Catherine Bernard, Henriette-Julie de Murat, Charlotte-Rose de La Force, Catherine Durand, and Louise d’Auneuil. Love is the central theme in their fairy tales, but they do not develop a single perspective on love, nor do they offer a definitive answer to the question of whether love has a positive effect on the lives of women. In questioning the idealisation of love as the ultimate happy ending, each author developed different scripts for the performance of love in courtship and marriage. I argue that these scripts provide evidence of the formation of a literary emotional community engaged in a conversation about the gendered effects of love. Each author developed her own scripts for love and proposed different strategies for negotiating the gendered power imbalances in the social structures that shaped the lives of the authors and their contemporary female audiences.

Joel Barnes, ‘The Tragedy of the Common Law: The Ancient Constitution in the Age of Reform, 1830-1909’

My PhD thesis was on ‘ancient constitutionalist’ discourse in nineteenth-century British radical and reform politics, focusing particularly on debates over the extension of the franchise. Ancient constitutionalism was a variety of political argument from precedent—a distinctive type of ‘use of the past’—that developed out of forms of reasoning characteristic of the common law. In the thesis, I focus especially on those excluded from the political system—popular radicals, Chartists, and later women’s suffrage campaigners—who made legal-historical arguments central to their cases for democratic reform. What these groups saw as a more democratic medieval or early modern past was both a device of political rhetoric, and an impetus to serious historical investigation that generated novel interpretations of constitutional history. The thesis is the first in-depth account of this phenomenon in nineteenth-century context.

In researching and writing the thesis, which was completed under the supervision of Professors Stuart Macintyre and David Goodman, I made several trips to London and elsewhere in the UK for archival research purposes, and was lucky enough to spend time as a visiting graduate student at King’s College London. Along the way, a project which was originally motivated by an interest in the capacity of the past to limit the possibility of structural change, became one more about people’s creative capacities to use the past to imagine different futures. That these capacities are many and varied is a finding that is pertinent to anyone engaged in writing and teaching history today.
Volkhard Wehner, ‘The German-speaking Community of Victoria between 1850 and 1930’

I came to SHAPS in mid-2014—surprised but very pleased the School had taken me on. It was decades since I had done a B.A. (Honours) and a partial M.A. A few months into my candidature I started to get some misgivings about my topic. Was it really relevant? It struck me that the German communities in South Australia and Queensland were so much larger. In Victoria, German-speakers scarcely reached two per cent of the population, even though prior to World War I they were the largest ethnic group after the English, Scots and Irish. In the end I persisted, and I’m glad I did. The complexities of a small but remarkably influential immigrant group were certainly worth exploring. I could compare Victoria with South Australia, and go further afield, drawing on the extensive research by scholars examining similar communities in North and South America. Nobody had previously looked at Victoria as I was. For example, I had the opportunity to hypothesize and then prove why the rural part of Victoria’s German community showed such resilience that helped it to survive, in contrast to the urban part.

I had done a good deal of ‘historical’ writing before I was accepted into the PhD programme. But after coming here I experienced a steep learning curve on how to conduct historical research. I owe it to both of my supervisors—Prof. Andrew May and Dr Julie Fedor—to wean me off my natural inclination to ‘tell a story’ and to adopt a more rigorous approach to research and writing. ‘Establish clear signposts of your argument and intentions at the start of a chapter, and then prove it’; I can still hear Andy urging me. And ‘don’t editorialize!’ I learned to argue objectively, to establish a hypothesis and to set out to prove it; to challenge or endorse other writers fairly, without bias, and to distinguish between real research and mere polemics. To my surprise my endeavours were recognized when in 2015 I was awarded the Rodney Lloyd Benjamin Prize for one of my essays. Although a latecomer to the University, I feel the 3½ years in the ‘care’ of SHAPS have turned out to be not only very stimulating but also among my happiest.

Natasha Szuhan, “‘Survival of the Fittest in Contraceptives’: Charting the British Family Planning Association’s Scientific and Medical Efforts to Standardise Contraception, 1920-1969’

My doctoral dissertation analyses how the British National Birth Control Association, later known as the Family Planning Association fought to medicalise contraceptive technology and methodology in the early to mid-twentieth century. This was achieved through a process of standardisation, which ultimately encompassed every aspect of their influence and activity. This ranged from individual contraceptive products, to clinical trials and practices, doctor-patient interactions, record keeping, lay education and therapeutic guidance, and the development and implementation of a medical training syllabus for doctors and nurses. I argue that these groups realised quickly that they could exert great influence from the practice of effective scientific standardisation of their contraceptive policies, technology and procedures. Self-regulation, enough agitation and expansion allowed the Association to prove contraception was ultimately medico-social, as opposed to either medical or social, which had been the argument of the medical profession and government for the majority of the century.

My thesis traces representations of the controversial British new town, Milton Keynes, in British media and popular culture between 1967-1992. It finds that the town was interpreted as a symbol of positivist technocratic state planning, and became implicated in political narratives of post-war national decline and crisis during the 1970s. After 1979, the town’s reputation as an ahistoric, inauthentic and failed landscape reflected neoliberal readings of the post-war state, as well as deeper anxieties about post-imperial landscape change. My work concludes that historicising the meanings of contentious post-war planned spaces like Milton Keynes helps trace wider histories of cultural attitudes to valuable landscapes, and through this, of the role of landscape in shaping and containing ideas of national identity.

Keir Wotherspoon, ‘Convergence and Divergence: The Radical Origins of the Network Revolution and its Tranformation of the Public Sphere’

In my PhD thesis, which I submitted in May 2017, I wanted to incorporate into how we think about the public face of radicalism in the 1960s the story of the emerging networked condition that came about through the fusion of countercultural idealism and cybernetics. The thesis examined how political radicals and cultural rebels in the U.S. grappled with the question of how to make a democratic public sphere in the face of what they saw as a degraded and atomised mass culture. There is a tendency to think of the Sixties as a period that produced lots of worthy criticism but not many solutions. I found the opposite was true—the people and groups I studied were hugely inventive in creating alternative systems and platforms to transform public life. The groundwork laid by these diverse media experimenters really defined the democratic optimism about distributed communications networks evident in Silicon Valley. We are still, in some ways, living with their legacies—both in the breadth of their vision and its shortcomings and weaknesses.

Now that it’s over, some self-flagellating part of me misses the bleary midnight Skype supervision meetings between Melbourne and London. But submitting is a much more satisfying feeling, and my supervisor Professor David Goodman and secondary supervisor Associate Professor Ara Keys have been very encouraging about ploughing on with new projects. Finishing the thesis has made way for other things. Just this week, I welcomed my second child into the world and in January, I’ll start work at the University of Warwick’s Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies, where I’ll be teaching (among other things) a module on the themes of my thesis. So now I get to indoctrinate new generations about the Sixties transformation of the public sphere!

Julie Patricia Johnson, ‘Revolutionary Justice in Lyon, 1789–93: The case of Jean–Jacques Ampère’

After nearly four years working with amazing mentors like Professor Peter McPhee, Dr Julie Fedor and Dr Steven Welch I can now officially call myself Dr Julie P. Johnson. My research looked at the history of Lyon during the French Revolution, focusing on the elected judges of 1792 to 1793 and their influence on political conflicts, which led to a bloody uprising and confrontation with the revolutionary government at the time. This history was investigated through the study of a particular justice, Jean-Jacques Ampère. The thesis was accepted with recommendations to publish by some eminent international scholars in the field of modern European history and I graduated at a beautiful evening ceremony on campus on 3 August. My first significant publication is a chapter about the intellectual background of Ampère which will appear in a book published by the Oxford University Studies in Enlightenment series in February 2018 and entitled Moving Scenes: The Circulation of Music and Theatre in Europe, 1700–1815.

I have since been widening my research perspective on the French Revolution to other provincial cities like Marseille and Nevers with a view to comparing the experiences of those elected to the new system of justice in the revolutionary decade. I had an exciting final semester as associate teacher in European history and have also been applying for postdocs, pursuing publishing opportunities, and enjoying the life of a historian!
Recent Appointments for our Graduates

Proving there is life after the PhD...

In May 2017 Dr Alexandra Dellios (pictured) was appointed to a 5-year lectureship at the ANU’s Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies. Alex was awarded her PhD in History at Melbourne in 2015.

In January 2018 Dr Keir Wotherspoon, who completed his PhD in History in 2017, will commence a Teaching Fellowship at the University of Warwick’s Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies, where he will be teaching into the Centre’s MA programme.

Following her graduation in 2017, Dr Hannah Loney completed a six-month position as Lecturer in Politics at the Australian Catholic University. In January 2018, Hannah commenced a three-month Asian Studies Association of Australia Postdoctoral Fellowship, hosted by SHAPS.

Another graduate moving to Canberra in 2017 was Dr Tom Rogers (pictured), who was appointed to a post at the Australian War Memorial, where he will be working as Historian in the Military History Section. Tom completed his PhD at the University of Melbourne in 2014, winning the Faculty of Arts Dennis-Wettenhall Prize for the year’s best thesis in Australian history.

Dr Thomas Kehoe is now entering the second year of a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in the School of Humanities at the University of New England. He completed his PhD at the University of Melbourne in 2015, writing on crime and social control during the US military government of Germany after World War Two. His postdoctoral project expands an interest in historical criminology by exploring the development of American thinking about social control during military occupation through the 19th and 20th Centuries. He is currently working on the first part of this very large project. This stage examines whether the methods employed after World War Two emerged from the early 19th Century or from inter-war (1919-1939) interest in the military science of overseas operations.

In July 2017 History PhD candidate Shan Windscript was employed by the University of Auckland as Professional Teaching Fellow to teach a second/third year subject, Mao Zedong, Revolution and China. During her teaching residency, Shan lectured and tutored 70 undergraduate students, besides giving a guest lecture to postgraduate students in Asian Studies and delivering a History seminar talk.

Another of our recent PhDs, Dr Charlotte-Rose Millar (pictured), is currently a Conversions in the Early Modern Period Fellow at the University of Cambridge’s Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH). Her project examines ghost stories in post-Reformation England and how they can deepen our understanding of conversion narratives, in a religious sense and also through an examination of the changing emotional character of these experiences. More detail on the project is available here: http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/people/profile/charlotte-rose-millar.

Former SHAPS McKenzie Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Samia Khatun recently left Melbourne to join the University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh (ULAB), one of the forerunners in a new thriving private university sector that has emerged across South Asia in the last decade. Dr Khatun has been hired by ULAB to develop a history curriculum and is currently working on developing a history minor and major for students in the General Education Department at ULAB.
The increasingly vibrant SHAPS Fellows’ group was established in 2005. The following excerpt is taken from the Report on the Fellows’ Annual Research Day in 2017.

Our 2017 Fellows’ Research Day saw an unprecedented number of papers presented and a record number of attendees. Professor David Goodman opened the day, followed by nine papers covering an eclectic range of subjects. Helen Davies revealed the remarkable life and curious death of the French personality Nanci Rodrigues. Wendy Dick explored aspects of the last UK convict ship, the Hougoumont, which arrived in Western Australia in 1868, looking especially at its sixty-two political prisoners. Jean Ely pondered whether any good had come out of the Tasmania Constitution, while Linda Notley revealed to the audience a range of websites she was able to access in her research on William Hull and his part in Victoria’s separation. June Factor presented the audience with the stories of pioneer researchers of the presentation of Australian children’s folklore writers and Richard Trembath posed the question of whether complementary medicines and courses to achieve accreditation to sell them was new learning or pseudoscience. Continuing the theme from 2016 of remembering the events of the First World War, three papers marked the years 1916-17. Stephen Wheatcroft presented a highly enlightening paper on the causes of the Russian Revolution and their significance in world history. Cecily Close explored the limitations of publishing in wartime conditions in Melbourne in 1917, and Fay Woodhouse delivered a short address on Guido Baracchi, a student radical at the University of Melbourne. Baracchi was censured for his protest against Australia’s part in the First World War and soon after ceased his activism. Once again, Chips Sowerwine provided an astute summary of our 2017 Research Day.

Alongside the monthly seminar series and the annual Fellows’ Research Day, Fellows are engaged with the wider community of Melbourne’s historians, as well as bestowing academic prizes to students of History. Future events and projects of the SHAPS Fellows’ group will be featured on the Friends of History at Melbourne Facebook page and the SHAPS website.
Dr Caitlin Mahar (pictured) won the 2016 Dennis-Wettenhall Prize for her PhD thesis, ‘The Good Death: Historicising Euthanasia in Australia’, which traced the rise of euthanasia activism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in the context of changing conceptions of the good death, dying and suffering. The examiners found that the thesis represented ‘a significant contribution to the history of medicine and the death in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries’, presenting ‘a compelling, nuanced argument’, demonstrating ‘thoughtfulness and acuity’, ‘opening new directions in historical medical scholarship’ and ‘pushing the boundaries of our understanding in important ways’. One of the examiners described it as ‘a very fine social and cultural history of medicine and one of the best theses, of the many, that I have examined’. Dr Mahar is currently teaching history at Swinburne University of Technology and pursuing research interests around the medicalisation of pain and dying.

The winner of the 2016 Wyselaskie Scholarship for History and the 2016 Dr Rodney Lloyd Benjamin History Prize was History PhD candidate Andrew Black (pictured). He comments, ‘I am interested in examining the Country-National Party as a grassroots political movement as well as a parliamentary force in Victorian politics. It has been a wonderful and exciting experience to break new ground in our understanding of Victorian political history and of rural political history more widely.’

Toby Nash (pictured) was awarded the 2016 Greg Dening Memorial Prize. Toby writes, ‘To me, not having been in academia or at the University of Melbourne for very long, Greg Dening is more of a legendary figure. But his presence is still apparent, his name echoes around in the corridors of the History Faculty at Melbourne University to this day. This is my first ever award in a postgraduate academic setting and the reception of this award has encouraged me more than ever to aim high, work hard and to continue to pursue my passion for writing, researching and talking about history.’
In 2017 PhD candidate Jimmy Yan (pictured) was awarded the Irish Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand (ISAANZ) Postgraduate Essay Prize. Jimmy won the prize for his work examining the imposition of UK passport controls in the wake of the ‘Liverpool Incident’ of November 1915, a chauvinistic riot on the Liverpool docks against Irish emigrants in the final weeks of voluntary recruiting in England, Scotland and Wales. The essay was published as an article, entitled “No Escape”: Irish Diaspora, the November 1915 Conscription Crisis and the Origins of Wartime British Passport Controls, in the July 2017 edition of the Australasian Journal of Irish Studies.

History PhD candidate Shan Windspeed won a number of awards in 2017. In February, she won two awards for her PhD project: a fellowship from the Esherick-Ye Foundation (California) and a travel grant from the Association of Asian Studies (Ann Arbor). Shan also won First Prize in the New Zealand Asian Studies Society (NZASIA) Conference Best Postgraduate Essay competition, for her paper “How to Write a Diary”: Guidebooks and the Making of Socialist Subjects in Mao’s New China, which she presented at the 22nd NZASIA International Conference, at the University of Otago in Dunedin.

History PhD candidate Michael Francis (pictured) was awarded the 2017 Ian Robertson Travel Prize to support his research travel to Rome, where he will spend three weeks reviewing collections in the Propaganda Fide Historical Archive. This research will be part of Michael’s doctoral thesis examining the relationship between the Catholic Church and the Commonwealth Government in the formation of policies affecting the lives of indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory from 1900 to 1950.

Sam Watts was awarded a travel grant by the College of Charleston’s Carolina Low Country and Atlantic World program, to support his participation in the conference ‘Freedoms Gained and Lost: Reconstruction in the Atlantic World’ in Charleston, South Carolina, in March 2018. At the conference Sam will present some of his current PhD research, in a paper on ‘Reconstruction Justice: African American Police Officers and the Politics of Urban Space in Charleston and New Orleans’.

Additional student successes are listed below (under Postgraduate Research News).
Paul O’Shea (pictured) was the winner of the Margaret Kiddle Prize in 2016, awarded annually for the best final honours essay in History. Paul was awarded the prize for his thesis which explored the contest over the history of the nation in post-authoritarian Indonesia, with particular attention given to the way in which both state and non-state actors have sought to promote particular Indonesian figures as heroes and/or victims in order to advance a desired interpretation of Indonesian history.

The examiners praised the thesis as ‘an excellent piece of work’ showing ‘great promise... and an excellent grasp of historical complexity’, and ‘powers of critical analysis and independent thought’. They found that Paul had used his sources, many of them in Bahasa, ‘with sensitivity and nuance’, and called the thesis ‘a pleasure to read’.

Paul is currently completing his Master of Teaching (Secondary) at the University of Melbourne, specialising in the teaching of History and Indonesian language.

Alice Thompson (pictured) received the Brian Fitzpatrick Prize for Best Honours Thesis in Australian History for 2016. Alice’s thesis explored the Petrov Affair of 1954-55 through an analysis of the experience of Meanjin editor Clem Christesen, approached through archived correspondence and excerpts from Meanjin. The examiners praised Alice’s work as ‘thoughtful and sophisticated’, based on an ‘impressive range of research’ and of a ‘high literary standard’.

Jason Smeaton (pictured) won the Jessie Mary Vasey Prize for Best Fourth-Year Women’s History Essay in 2016 for his Honours thesis which examined the status and public recognition of nurses with the Australian Army during the Great War. The thesis argued that the position of nurses in the military, and the attitude towards their service during the war, was ambiguous. Jason writes, ‘Studying History at Melbourne surrounds you with engaging subjects and inspiring mentors. It provides you with challenges and opportunities that develop and refine your skills.’

Our History prizes are not formally awarded until the following year. We therefore take this opportunity to list the recipients of the 2016 prizes in History.
Neville Yeomans (pictured) was awarded both the 2016 R. G. Wilson Scholarship for Third Year and the 2016 Marion Boothby Exhibition. The R. G. Wilson Scholarship is awarded annually for the best all-round performance by a third-year student in history, and the Marion Boothby Exhibition goes to the student with the highest mark for an essay in the field of British history in the given year. Examiners of Neville’s work found it ‘outstanding’ and characterised by ‘delightfully surprising connections’.

Ilaria Bigaran (pictured) also won two prizes: the 2016 Felix Raab Prize (for work in early modern European history) and the Jessie Mary Vasey Prize for Best Third Year Women’s History Essay. The prizes were awarded for Ilaria’s essay exploring Renaissance humanist attitudes to learning for men and women by examining the 1415 treatise by Francesco Barbaro ‘On Wifely Duties’. The examiners found Ilaria’s work to be ‘brilliant… displaying a degree of intellectual maturity that is outstanding for an essay at this level.’

Another double prize winner was Sophie Ward (pictured), who won both the 2016 Mary O’Donoghue Prize (for the best undergraduate essay in Irish Studies), and the 2016 Donald Mackay British History Prize (for the highest mark in a second-year British history subject). Sophie’s winning essay was entitled ‘Only a Girl on a Bicycle: The Role of Women in the Irish Revolution.’ Her work was praised by examiners as ‘perceptive and engaging’, ‘nuanced and insightful’, and demonstrating a ‘very high level of research’.
The winner of the 2016 Gyles Turner Prize for Australasian history was Bronwyn Beech Jones (pictured). Bronwyn’s winning essay examined the vote of property-owning women in the 1864 Victorian legislative election. Examiners found Bronwyn’s essay to have ‘an original argument and writing elegant in style’, as well as ‘an excellent use of primary sources, including the colonial press’.

The winner of the 2016 Laurie R. Gardiner Prize, awarded annually for the best undergraduate essay in early modern British history, was Isabel Trinca. Isabel won the prize for her essay deconstructing historical understandings of the life of the pirate Captain Samuel Bellamy.

Isabel completed her Arts degree in 2016 and is now studying law through the Melbourne JD. She reflects on her history major:

‘Although ultimately I hope to practise law, the skills I learned and applied throughout my history major will always be invaluable to me as they allowed me to develop a greater ability to think, read and write critically. Furthermore, I shall never lose my passion for being a student of history, even outside the lecture theatre. I know I shall continue pursuing this passion, and the humanities more generally, in the coming years.’

The Donald Mackay History Prize for 2016 was won by Jack Garton (pictured). Jack won the prize for his essay on the 1972 United States election, for the second-year subject ‘American History: JFK–Obama’. Associate Professor Barbara Keys said of Jack’s essay, that it was ‘rare to encounter an essay that shows such a high degree of refinement’. Jack is currently on an exchange program at Freie Universität in Berlin, studying European Union and North African politics, and German language.

Hamish Clark was awarded the 2016 Rosemary Merlo Prize for Second Year. Hamish won the prize for his work, submitted as the final essay in the subject ‘Modern Southeast Asia’, on the Japanese occupation of Thailand. The examiners describes Hamish’s work as ‘a superb essay whose author displays deep engagement both with primary historical (including Japanese-language) materials and with the secondary historiography.’ Hamish is currently in the third year of his History degree, with a view to starting Honours in 2018.

David Tran (pictured) was the winner of the 2016 Exhibition for First-Year History, awarded annually for the best all-round performance by a first-year student of History. In 2016 the prize was awarded jointly to David Tran and James Steward. David says of his experience studying history at Melbourne, ‘History is an inherently collective experience and for that, I think history is a great subject to study for anyone even remotely interested in how the world works and has worked in the past.’

Winner of the 2016 Rosemary Merlo Prize for First Year, awarded annually for the best first-year History essay, was Joshua Barnes, for who won the prize for an essay for the subject ‘Age of Empires’. The examiners praised Joshua’s essay for having presented ‘a very strong argument… navigating smoothly between primary material and historiographical sources… in prose that is measured, authoritative, and convincing’.

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The History Postgraduate Association (HPA) is the representative body for all research students in the history department. Our elected committee currently consists of Nathan Gardner, Jimmy Yan and Andrew Black (pictured clockwise from top). This semester, we took part in the Graduate Student Association campaign that successfully renegotiated the terms of proposed changes to the Graduate Research Training Policy in favour of students with medical and personal grounds for requesting a late thesis submission date.

Beyond representing the interests of history postgraduates to the university and faculty, we’ve organised a series of weekly afternoon tea events at which PhD candidates have had the chance to present their research in a welcoming and informal environment. Speakers this semester have included Max Kaiser, whose paper examined the past and present of Jewish anti-fascism, and Mia Martin Hobbs, who spoke on ‘Australian War Veterans Confronting Vietnam at Peace: Nostalgia and Reality since the 1980s.’ In the lead-up to Work In Progress Day, we hosted the esteemed Berkeley historian Brian DeLay, who presented a professional development workshop on creating and delivering presentations. We are, above all else, most well known in the department for organising regular social events. These include the Welcome Back drinks and the Snifters Dinner, held at the beginning and end of each semester. This semester’s Snifters Dinner was held at Trotters Bistro on Lygon Street. We’d like to thank everyone for coming and particularly Dr Kat Ellinghaus, the guest speaker on the night, for her lively talk on getting through a PhD!

We look forward to welcoming new history postgraduates into the cohort in 2018.

Nathan Gardner, Jimmy Yan and Andrew Black, for the HPA Committee
New Undergraduate History Society

Announcing a new undergraduate initiative, mentored by our Hansen appointments...

One of the most exciting new developments in the History programme in 2017 was the establishment of a brand-new undergraduate History Society. Hansen Senior Lecturer in History, Dr Jenny Spinks, scoped out student interest in mid 2017 and was impressed by the large number of students keen to get involved and to help shape history at the University of Melbourne. One lunchtime meeting later, and a new Society was on its way.

‘Students were keen to connect with each other at social events, to launch a publication for undergraduate history writing, and to support each other in their studies,’ Dr Spinks notes. History PhD candidate Bethany Phillips-Peddlesden and new Hansen Lecturers Drs Kat Ellinghaus and Una McIlvenna helped out at the first lunchtime session and were excited by the range of ideas flying around the room in Arts West. There were dozens of volunteers keen to take the next steps in this student-led initiative. Three interim co-presidents (Jamie Cheuk, Kelsey Hayes and Victoria Poppins) energetically took on the challenging task of setting up the new Society with the help of an executive team. The group gathered student signatures, organised meetings and held social events. By the of semester 2 they had established a student union-supported History Society, ready to take on a higher profile in the new year.

Plans are now underway for activities in 2018. Jade Smith is at the helm as the new president, working with an executive team of history students from across all years of the undergraduate degree. A dedicated trio of co-editors (Joseph Aharfi, Michael Anderson and Danielle Scrimshaw) will be working with a second group on a brand-new undergraduate history publication. There are plans afoot for O-week activities, film and quiz nights, and supportive group study sessions, alongside other developments. Watch this space!

History’s committed and energetic undergraduate students have created a new way to connect with each other and to share their passion for history. The future of history is in good hands.

The images show student and staff at the inaugural History Society lunchtime get-together (clockwise from top: Jenny Spinks and Bethany Phillips-Peddlesden; Kat Ellinghaus, Jen McFarland, Una McIlvenna, and Victoria Poppins).

Note: if you are a current student, watch out for new announcements on the History Society in early 2018. Enquiries can be sent to unimelbhistorysociety@gmail.com
The programme for the 2017 WIP Day promised a day that was innovative, exciting and engaging. The first session examined the potential of Twitter in the world of academia, and featured presentations from Mike Jones, Lauren Pikó and James Lesh. The sessions following morning tea saw many first-year PhD candidates deliver their first papers, as well as several PhD completion presentations, while a creative panel included Pecha Kucha and performative presentations. The summative session ‘Creative Research with the Orbweavers’, was structured around the music of local Melbourne folk band the Orbweavers. A cross-school panel comprising Kate Allan (HPS), Grace Barrand (CCMC), Sinead Manning (C&A), Dr Lauren Meath (Jewish Studies) and Henry Reese (History), responded to the historical themes of the songs written and performed by Marita May Dyson and Stuart Flanagan (pictured). This session proved to be a fascinating examination of the confluence of history and creativity, and served as a thought-provoking conclusion to a fantastic day of presentations, performances and ideas.

Beth Marsden

For WIP day this semester I did a performance of a scene from a 1953 play called ‘Traitor Silence’. It was written in 1953 by the young gay Jewish Communist Laurence Collinson and was never performed nor subsequently published. After unearthing it in the course of my PhD research the WIP day performance represented its first ever live reading—64 years after it was written. The play’s plot revolves around a thinly veiled depiction of the Walter Gieseking affair where the ABC brought out a Nazi (or at least collaborator) pianist on tour. The left wing Jewish Council to Combat Fascism and Anti-Semitism staged a controversial protest at the airport on his arrival. In Collinson’s version, the protagonist is a young fairly apolitical Jewish violinist whose conscience is stirred by the whole affair: he has to make hard decisions, endanger his career, go against the ABC and conservative forces in the Jewish community. My PhD project is a history of Australian Jewish antifascism in the 40s and 50s and this play encapsulates a great deal of the themes I am exploring. I am very grateful to my friend and fellow SHAPS PhD student Fregmonto Stokes (pictured left) for acting in the scene and helping to develop the performance.

Max Kaiser
I originally created this piece for an environmental history workshop at ANU in May 2016 where we were asked to perform our PhD project in 15 minutes. I love working with oral history materials but sometimes find it frustrating that the nuances of people’s memories and experiences which are captured in the interview recording are often lost or flattened in an effort to place it in a written historical account. I wanted to dedicate more time to listening to these memories and honour the stories that I had been told so I chose one woman’s interview and created a verbatim theatre/dramatic monologue account based purely on her words. It proved to be a really insightful way to understand her story and experience. Memorising her words made me pay more attention to her unique patterns of speech and the way this was different from my own. WIP day was a great opportunity to revisit the material in this format, and reminded me of the importance of really listening deeply and carefully to the unique experiences and memories of others.

Gretel Evans

When I arrived at my first Work in Progress day on a sunny October morning, I was full of nerves for my approaching confirmation presentation and I thought I would find it difficult to concentrate on anything else. Yet, the first session of the day proved a convenient distraction. James Lesh gave a crash course on the basics of Twitter for the uninitiated (of which I was most certainly one), Mike Jones talked about the social media platform’s promotional value as an aspiring academic, and finally, Lauren Piko discussed how Twitter has helped her to form relationships in academia. A particularly interesting discussion arose during the post-panel questions, around the ethics of tweeting at academic conferences. A questioner noted that conferences were traditionally risk-free spaces, where academics could ‘try out’ ideas without fear of reproach. This generated a conversation among the audience about the public nature of Twitter and whether it was right to ask audiences to refrain from tweeting during conference talks. It can be a space for debate, for sharing knowledge, and for forming relationships, professional or otherwise.

Anton Tarrant Donohoe-Marques

Hong Kong University Spring Symposium

An intensive one-day symposium bringing together scholars from Hong Kong, France, the United Kingdom and the United States as well as two of us from the University of Melbourne, the HKU Spring Symposium is now in its ninth year. Xavier Ma and Sonia Randhawa were able to take part thanks to support from the History Programs at Melbourne and at HKU. Papers presented were primarily focused on East Asian, though there were papers from India and Southeast Asia in the mix. As summarised by Northwestern University’s Professor Haydon Cherry, there were two overarching themes. One was the material nature of the history that was presented across the papers. Examples included looking at the physical traffic of ox-carts and their drivers in Edo city in the Seventeenth Century, to the transformation of Hong Kong’s ‘naturescape’, the interaction between colonial and Chinese conceptions of the ‘natural’ landscape. The second overarching theme was that of the centrality of the human body, both in life and death—Chinese death practices in the colonial era; the spread of dengue fever in the eyes of a colonial doctor; or, of course, Xavier Ma’s paper on the perception of miners’ bodies by Chinese intellectuals and its evolution prior to and during the revolutionary period.
Altogether 20 papers were presented over the course of the day, and were discussed well into the evening and the following day. On the Friday, HKU hosted a lunch for participants, which was followed by a seminar by Haydon Cherry on how Marxism entered the central Vietnamese lexicon prior to the rise of Ho Chi Minh through the biography of Day Duy Anh. I was particularly interested to hear how women’s magazines were used by his wife to surreptitiously promote Marxist ideas, interspersed among articles on fashion and cooking—something which both resonates and contrasts with my own research, which deals with the evolution of hegemony in the women’s pages of the Malay press in Malaysia from 1987 to the late 1990s. From my own research standpoint, the importance of the media and the echoes of current vocabulary with those of a wide variety of standpoints was interesting. From research on refugees in the period around the Second World War to research on the development of ‘foodie-ism’, the centrality of the media seemed to me to be another theme that ran through much of what was presented—how we democratise, alienate and desire through various forms of media, and how the form of media can shape those interactions.

Sonia Randhawa

Asian History at Melbourne

For PhD students working in the area of Chinese history at the University of Melbourne, the Year of the Rooster has been full of achievements. Xavier Ma is about to submit his thesis [Ground for Knowing: Minerals, Mining Science, and the Making of China’s Territory (1860-1937)] and was awarded one of only two dissertation writing-up awards offered by the US-based D. Kim Foundation for the History of Science and Technology in East Asia; Shan Windscript, who is researching diary writing during the Cultural Revolution, was recruited to teach a semester’s course in Chinese history at the University of Auckland; Katherine Molyneux, who is working on small businesses in Nanjing during the Mao years, won a Hamer scholarship, which took her to Nanjing University for language study (and some archival research on the side); Nathan Gardner, himself a Hamer Nanjing alumnus, embarked on his first year of PhD research in Australian Chinese community formations as the proud holder of the inaugural Hansen Trust PhD Scholarship in History. Also in the corridors this year was Amanda Chanyi Yang, a visiting PhD student from Nanjing University, who has been auditing classes and working on a thesis on environmental history under Professor Kate Darian-Smith.

Coming up through the ranks are some honours students working in Chinese history. Irene McInnis received a first-class result for an honours thesis on memoirs of the Cultural Revolution, and Luke Yin is halfway through a thesis on the Treaty Port of Ningbo (his home town). Currently working on their honours thesis proposals are Lotte Wong, interested in the area of cultural heritage and conservation, and Conna Speelman, interested in China during the Cold War. There are plans to strengthen Asian history in the programme to meet the demand to learn more about this region. Student engagement in the area is epitomised by the ambitions of one of our top third-year students, Hamish Clark, who has been studying Japanese alongside history and will next year be researching an honours thesis on comparative education practices in Japan and China in the 1950s. Already in our honours program we have Bronwyn Beech Jones, with advanced Indonesian language capacity, working on a thesis on an early women’s press in Sumatra. In recent years we have been attracting postgraduate students to work on Asian history, from the region and beyond, particularly from China and Malaysia. In 2018 two new international PhD student will join us to work on modern Indonesian history: Paula Hendriks from the Netherlands and Ravando Lie from Indonesia.

The image shows Chinese history PhD candidate Shan Windscript (centre) with incoming honours students Hamish Clark and Conna Speelman, in Shanghai towards the end of a history subject taught at Nanjing University. Shan was tutor in the subject.
‘Vietnamese Here’ Exhibition

In June 2017, to celebrate over 40 years of Vietnamese refugee presence in Melbourne, History PhD candidate Anh Nguyen (pictured, with [L-R] Niro Kandasamy and Joy Damousi) curated an exhibition of contemporary Melbourne based Vietnamese artists and writers, some of whom are interviewed for her PhD about the success and challenges of Vietnamese child refugees in Australia and the discourse of historical memory and the place of Vietnamese in Australian contemporary culture today. The exhibition, entitled ‘Vietnamese Here: Contemporary Art and Reflections’, was held at Lulu’s Café and Gallery in North Melbourne.

More detail on the exhibition can be found here: http://go.unimelb.edu.au/ijf6

History and Heritage of the Australian Shopping Arcade

From August to October 2016, I spent six weeks conducting research in Europe and the UK, thanks to the award of a Norman Macgeorge Scholarship, which provides higher degree students in a variety of disciplines to undertake overseas research trips. My visit had several aims, particularly contributing towards my PhD research, which focuses on the history and heritage of the nineteenth-century Australian shopping arcades, including their broader global context. In the seven-week trip I visited almost fifty European and British arcades in eleven cities through five countries, contributing to my understanding of these sites and the connections between these European sites and the Australian examples at the centre of my research. During this time, I also presented work at the biennial European Association for Urban History conference in Helsinki, spent a significant amount of time in archives in the United Kingdom, conducting further research for my thesis, and represented the Melbourne History Workshop presenting a public lecture at Birmingham University on our recent project, The Everyday War.

Nicole Davis
The History of Chinese-Australian Community Organisations

It has been an enormous honour to be the first recipient of the Hansen Trust PhD Scholarship in History and I feel deeply indebted to the generosity of Jane Hansen and Paul Little. I will always recognise the award as a great privilege and will never take for granted the opportunity it has allowed me to pursue my passion for history. As an expression of my gratitude, I have striven to fill as much into my first year as I could. First and foremost, I have begun researching the histories of Chinese-Australian community organisations for my thesis. Through archival research and face-to-face interviews across the country, I hope to offer an insight into the role identity and memory has historically played in the formation, diversification and participation of these community organisations. Alongside this and first year course work, I have undertaken additional Chinese language subjects and attended seminars and workshops to discuss migration, memory and identity formation. I have also been very fortunate to work with the inaugural Hansen Chair in History, Professor Mark Edele, providing assistance to him and the Hansen Senior Lecturer in History, Dr Jenny Spinks, in their reform of the history curriculum. Another great privilege I have had this year was to become the president of the History Post-Graduate Association. As part of this role, I have greatly enjoyed attending staff meetings; advocating on behalf of students’ interests and learning the workings of the school and faculty. Other experiences in this role included organising visiting scholar Brian DeLay to speak with students of history and other schools within SHAPS about creating and delivering presentations—which many of us first-timers found quite useful in the lead up to our Work In Progress Day presentations.

As my first year of PhD studies draws to a close, I am grateful for all I have been able to experience during that time. Similarly, I am eager to fill my next year with even more new experiences; teaching history, giving papers and interviewing people across Australia. For all of this, I am and will always be thankful to Jane Hansen and Paul Little for their generosity and look forward to welcoming the next recipient of the Hansen Trust PhD Scholarship to the history community at the University of Melbourne.

Nathan Gardner
Late Nineteenth-Century British Imperial Policy towards India

I graduated from Peking University in 2015 with an MA in History and started my PhD studies in 2016, under the supervision of Professor Andrew May. My research focuses on British imperial policy towards India in the late nineteenth century. Apart from undertaking my own doctoral research, I am a member of the Melbourne History Workshop, and served for the Melbourne Historical Journal in the 2016 editorial collective. These activities have introduced me to the academic culture in Australia and broadened my horizons. Furthermore, the weekly History Brown Bag Seminar presents the latest research from Australian and international scholars of the highest calibre, always keeping me curious and motivated. After my doctoral studies, I plan to embark upon an academic career and to further my research into questions about the encounters between Western and Eastern civilisations against the imperial background in the nineteenth century.

Weiyan Sun (pictured)

New History Website: Maintain Your Rage

In October 2017 current SHAPS postgraduate Emma Shortis, and recent graduates Chloe Ward and Liam Byrne, launched a new website, Maintain Your Rage

www.maintainyourrage.com.au

The site aims to bring a historical perspective into the contemporary, delving deeper in discussions of politics and culture than other forums will allow. Our intention is to foster an ongoing conversation about the state of the world, and demonstrate how a historical perspective can help explain issues that too often are only discussed in a shallow manner in the media. A place for comment and opinion, cultural observation and social critique, Maintain Your Rage invokes the spirit of Gough Whitlam as we discuss the issues that shape our world today.

Historical Photography Exhibition

In July 2017 William More Galleries hosted an exhibition by History PhD candidate Elizabeth Gertsakis, entitled ‘Girls in Our Town: Women in the Shadow of “The Magnificent Empire”’. The exhibition used historical photography images from Elizabeth Gertsakis’ collection of Balkan women of diverse ethnicities and beliefs, to visually designate a point of commencement for continuing trans-generational survivor memory, refugee memory, and migrant memory. The images were taken in the early twentieth century in the Southern Balkans, Northern Greece; in particular, from the town of Florina and Monastir Prefectures. The exhibition focused on an orientalist Florina and its multiple ethnic communities as a typical Balkan town in the later stages of the decline of Ottoman rule in the Balkans. It concentrated on images of women, since it is traditional the female gender that carries the function of ritual and memory in relation to culture and identity and the idea of belonging.

Elizabeth Gertsakis is writing a PhD on the political uses of photography in the Southern Balkans and Northern Greece in 1903–18.