



THE UNIVERSITY OF
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SLAMmag

SLAMmag is the electronic magazine of the School of Literature, Art & Media (SLAM) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, providing updates on the activities of the School and celebrating our research and teaching achievements.

In this issue:

- Head of School welcome
- School news and events
- Department news and events

Head of School welcome

As the year draws to a close and we go to press some pieces of late-breaking news deserve our attention and congratulations. All SLAM applicants for promotion this year were successful, and I warmly congratulate Megan LeMasurier, Olaf Werder and Stephen Whiteman on their promotion to senior lecturer, Rebecca Johnke on her promotion to Associate Professor, and Dan Anlezark on his promotion to Professor. Marcus Carter has just been announced as SLAM's first SOAR fellow - an excellent thing for him and for the School. So, lots for us to celebrate as a collective.

This is my last HoS welcome for SLAMmag (she says, painfully conscious of having used these words before...). I am confident that Professor Gerard Goggin, who has kindly agreed to step into the role over the next six months, will provide excellent transitional leadership until we welcome Professor Umberto Ansaldo from Hong Kong University as our new HoS in mid 2018.

Wishing everyone a happy and peaceful break, and some proper holiday time over the summer.



Professor [Vanessa Smith](#)

news

2017 FASS Teaching Awards

The FASS [Teaching Excellence Awards](#) ceremony was held in MacLaurin Hall on 6 November. Following the presentations and speeches, guests were treated to canapés and musical entertainment from a three piece ensemble from the Conservatorium of Music.



SLAM recipients were:

Teaching Excellence:
Mark Di Vitis (Art History)
[Huw Griffiths](#) (English)
[Brigid Rooney](#) (English)

Dean's Citations for Excellence in Tutorials:

Georgia Carr (Linguistics)
Ella Collins-White (Writing Studies)
Alex Cubis (Writing Studies)
Karla Elias (Writing Studies)
Wyatt Moss-Wellington (Writing Studies)
Cressida Rigney (Studies in Religion)
Margaret Van Heekeren (Media & Communications)

Congratulations to all the awardees.



Brigid Rooney and Huw Griffiths receiving their awards from the Dean

news

2017 FASS Teaching Awards cont'd



Georgia Carr, Karla Elias and Margaret Van Heekeren (above) and Wyatt Moss-Wellington (below left) receiving their awards from the Dean



news

Postgraduate Information evening

The recent FASS postgraduate information evening was a big success, with healthy representation from across the School. Who could resist these smiling faces?



news SLAM news

School Teaching Day 2017

Words by Robert Crompton

Head of School, Professor [Vanessa Smith](#), invited colleagues to participate in the first ever SLAM Teaching Day, an event held on 26 September to recognise the teaching efforts of staff, to share ideas, and to look at the different kinds of teaching to be undertaken in the new curriculum.

Drs [Isabelle Hesse](#) and [Bunty Avieson](#) gave a presentation on the First Year Co-Coordinator Program. Isabelle also presented on the benefits and issues related to using video close readings as an alternative to written assessments.

Dr [Susan Potter](#) introduced colleagues to the New Film Studies major, and to the 'Thinking in Film' project, which aims to create a progressive series of interactive and collaborative assessments across the Film Studies major, in which students think critically about cinema via the audiovisual forms and logics of film itself.

Dr [Christopher Hartney](#) introduced the 'Mapping Cultural Objects' project, which invites students to engage in 'geo-located learning' by mapping the details of culturally significant locations with Internet resources.

Professor [Mark Ledbury](#) shared his enthusiasm for the benefits of experiential and object-based learning in Art History, exemplified by his recent field trip with Art History students to Paris.

Dr [Jane Gavan](#) and Professor [Peter Marks](#) discussed peer mentoring, and

described some of the many ways that academics can explore opportunities to connect and co-develop teaching.

Professor [Nick Enfield](#) presented on the benefits of employing students as partners in educational innovation. Learn about the project [here](#).

Dr [Frances Di Lauro](#) described the development of her new OLE, which trains students to create a quality feature article in Wikipedia. The unit, developed with Drs [Rebecca Johnke](#) and Jennifer Dowling, received an Innovative Practice Award at the 2017 International Conference on Open and Innovative Education.

FASS Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs), Dr [Melissa Hardie](#), gave a progress report on the development of the 4th year project units being implemented as part of the Bachelor of Advanced Studies.

FASS Educational Designers Jubin Dedaniya and Dr Jennifer Dowling gave an energetic presentation on the transition to Canvas LMS in 2018.

Lively question-and-answer sessions followed all of the presentations. The event exemplified the warm, collegial atmosphere that we are lucky enough to enjoy in SLAM, and provided an excellent opportunity to learn what colleagues across all the disciplines are doing in classes and curriculum. The School's Teaching Day also gave SLAM staff a chance to welcome and exchange ideas with our new colleagues from Sydney College of the Arts.

news

SLAM New Faces

Belinda Castles



I am very pleased to be joining the English department as a Lecturer in Creative Writing, after recently returning to Australia from teaching at the University of Exeter. I'm looking forward to working with students and colleagues at Sydney as well as developing my projects: a novel on literary envy, a creative writing guide based on Australian fiction, and walking workshops for writing students. Aside from writing and teaching, I have worked as an editor for many years.

My writing and research interests are place, memory, family histories and reading as a writer. Previous novels are *Hannah and Emil*, *The River Baptists* and *Falling Woman* and in 2018 my new novel *Bluebottle* will be published by Allen and Unwin. In my free time I like to walk and swim in our beautiful city.

James Kane

Having worked as a sessional teacher at the University since mid-2016, I'm excited and very grateful to have the chance to join the Department of English as a full-time Lecturer for 2018.

As a medievalist, my research cuts across various disciplines, but I have a particular interest in history, language and literature. I recently completed my PhD at the University of Cambridge, where I investigated the evolution of medieval crusade terminology across various western languages from c.1095 to c.1250. I'm currently turning my thesis into a monograph and developing a new project on multilingualism and the crusades.

Working back in SLAM, where it all began for me as an undergraduate in Medieval Studies 10 years ago, has been a wonderful homecoming. I can't wait to start exploring medieval English language and literature with next year's students.



news

SLAM New Faces

Mark Post



I am a newly appointed continuing Lecturer in the Linguistics Department. As a descriptive linguist I work on all aspects of language structure, but primarily focus on morphology and syntax. I'm mainly interested in minority "hill languages" of the Mainland Southeast Asian and Eastern Himalayan regions, and especially in reconstructing the evolution of language grammars in these regions in relation to discourse-functional and (other) cultural features.

My most recent book is [The Tangam Language](#) (2017, Brill), which documents and describes a language spoken by only 150 hill-tribespeople living in the Indo-Tibetan border region. My wife, Yankee Modi - an indigenous linguist from the same region - collaborated with me on this and a number of other projects. When not working through our language data, we spend most of our time trying to placate our two young sons, Christopher and Alexei, and/or bushwalking, cooking or gardening.

Jolynna Sinanan

I am delighted to be a part of and contribute to MECO as a new Research Fellow in Digital Media and Ethnography for the next three years. I will be joining the University of Sydney from RMIT University in Melbourne, where I have been a Vice Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Digital Ethnography Research Centre and the School of Media and Communication. Prior to this position I was a Research Fellow in Anthropology at University College London. Throughout these fellowships, I completed the co-authored volumes *Webcam, How the World Changed Social Media* and *Visualising Facebook* and my own monograph *Social Media in Trinidad*. I'm very much looking forward to beginning new ethnographic research in Queensland on long distance commuters in the mining industry and uses of digital media with their families.

Much of my spare time is spent harassing my cats and avoiding social media.



Department of Art History

Words by Dr [Catriona Moore](#) | Chair of Department

Six students from Art History were chosen to deliver public talks *in situ* at the Art Gallery of NSW during the Gallery's popular, weekly 'Art After Hours' events programme. 'Sydney Students Speak' is a competitive, professional development program and an exciting opportunity for our senior undergraduate and postgraduate students to get hands-on experience with industry professionals. Speakers Joy Santos, Soo-Min Shim, India Urwin, Anna Honan, Antony Skinner and Imogen King were coached in public speaking by Art History lecturer and co-convenor of the programme Dr Mark De Vitis, along with the Gallery's public programming staff. The students have the opportunity to turn their talks into an [Art Set](#), an online content platform hosted on the Gallery's website, and the Gallery plans to further expand this successful professional development opportunity in 2018.

In October four exhibitions curated by Masters in Art Curating students, and featuring work by SCA Masters in Contemporary Art students, opened at SCA to great success. A concurrent MAC exhibition was curated in Fisher Library, in the glass vitrines that run on the outside of the stairs. Other curatorial ventures included the *Exposures* photography prize and a curatorial exchange between Verge Gallery and George Paton Gallery Melbourne. The allied shows showcased work produced as part of 'Curatorial Lab', an unofficial capstone of our Masters in Art Curating. These successful events exhibited the high calibre of the University's art and curatorial professionalism, prompting all our host venues to express their enthusiasm for a repeat performance in 2018. Well done to the 20 curators and 19 artists involved, and to programme coordinator Dr [Donna Brett](#).

In October we also hosted the trail-blazing symposium 'Gender in South East Asian Art Histories'. This event helped to establish the parameters of current research and develop inter-disciplinary and transnational frameworks. Convenors Dr Yvonne Low, Dr Clare Veal, Dr Roger Nelson and Dr [Stephen Whiteman](#) brought together early career and more established scholars working in the areas of pre-modern, modern and contemporary Southeast Asian art and architecture, asking participants from across the region to consider new historiographical and methodological approaches that are brought to the fore when attending to questions of sexuality and gender. The highly successful symposium was supported by the Australian Asian Studies Association of Australia, the Power Institute, the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, SLAM and FASS. It included a Masterclass with Professor Ashley Thompson, and was closed with the launch of Dr Wulan Dirgantoro's book, *Feminism and Contemporary Art in Indonesia*.

The Department said farewell to Professor Jennifer Milam with *Serious Play*, a symposium in her honour. She is taking up a new position at Melbourne University in 2018. Many colleagues know Jennifer as a leading light and generous collaborator in multiple FASS research networks, including the [Sydney Intellectual History Network](#). The symposium celebrated her contributions with a day of wonderfully wide-ranging papers from former students, research associates and colleagues. Papers addressed early modern and Enlightenment topics from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, from art history to fashion, and from architecture and garden design to early modern science and the history of ideas.

Celtic Studies

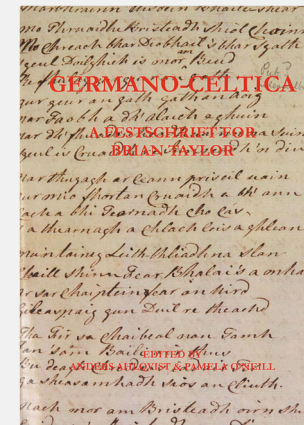
Words by Professor [Jonathan Wooding](#) | Sir Warwick Fairfax Chair of Celtic Studies

Planning is now well in progress for the [23rd Australasian Irish Studies Conference](#), which will be held between 27 and 30 November 2018. Celtic Studies is proud to be hosting this conference, with its long history of distinguished scholarship. The conference will showcase a diverse programme. One element, pioneered at the previous conference (Adelaide 2015) will be a colloquium (Tionól) through the medium of the Irish language, which will be held on the morning before the main conference opens. A special symposium on the Celtic-revival artwork of the Melocco Brothers of Sydney (including the celebrated crypt of St Mary's Cathedral) will also form part of the events.

We continue to be grateful for the ongoing generosity of our sponsors. Mr Warwick Grigor has made possible a regular programme of teaching in Scottish Gaelic, while the scholarship fund endowed by Mrs Rosemary Samios OAM has allowed a number of students to maintain their interest in Gaelic through further studies in Scotland. We have also recently benefited from grants from organisations in the Welsh community to support teaching of the Welsh language. With these generous gifts Celtic Studies is able to sustain teaching in the languages that are fundamental to research study in the field.

Recent publications

Anders Ahlqvist and Pamela O'Neill. *Germano-Celtica: A Festschrift for Brian Taylor.* (2017, The Celtic Studies Foundation, University of Sydney).



Department of English

Words by Professor [Peter Marks](#) | Chair of Department

The department recently hosted a half-day symposium on one of the greatest American writers of the last century, John Ashbery. 'John Ashbery: A Celebration October' presented papers from and held a roundtable discussion with a range of Sydney academics on aspects of Ashbery's poetry and prose.

Associate Professor [Dan Anlezark](#) was recently elected to the 2018 ARC College of Experts.

Eileen Chong, a Masters of Creative Writing graduate mentored by [Judith Beveridge](#), has published a new book of poems, *Another Language*, in the Brazier Series of Australian Poets by George Braziller, New York, 2017. Her 2016 book, *Painting Red Orchids*, is currently shortlisted for the Poetry Prize in the Prime Minister's Literary Awards 2017.

Jack Cox's widely praised first novel, *Dodge Rose* (Dalkey Archive/Text) was shortlisted for the Voss Literary Prize 2017 awarded by the Australian University Heads of English. It was also shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Awards and the UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing 2017. Jack graduated from the University of Sydney with First Class Honours in English. *Dodge Rose* was submitted originally as a creative MPhil in English, supervised by Associate Professor [Kate Lilley](#).

The department recently awarded the inaugural Janet O'Connor Postgraduate Scholarships. Janet O'Connor had been a mature-age student and tutor in the department who in her will bequeathed a generous sum in order to assist two outstanding female students per year to undertake either a Master of English Studies or a Master of Creative Writing. The first two recipients were Julie McElhone and Annette Freeman. They can be seen in the accompanying photograph second from left and on the right respectively, along with Janet O'Connor's husband, Don Adams, and her niece, Jennifer O'Brien.



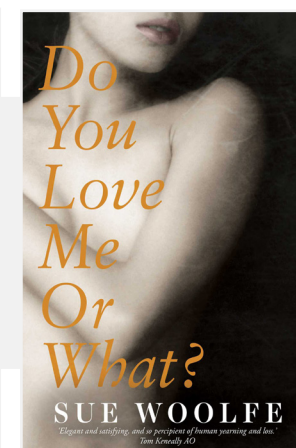
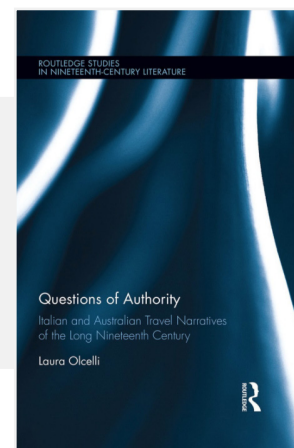
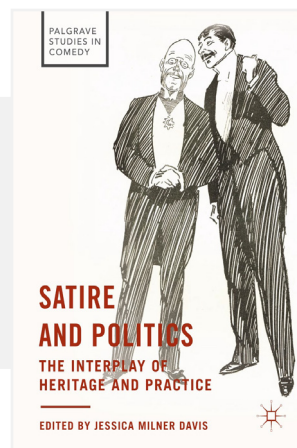
Recent publications

Jessica Milner Davis (Ed.). [Satire and Politics: The Interplay of Heritage and Practice](#). (2017, Palgrave Macmillan).

Michelle De Kretser. [The Life to Come](#). (2017, Allen & Unwin).

Laura Olcelli. [Questions of Authority: Italian and Australian Travel Narratives of the Long Nineteenth Century](#). (2017, Routledge).

Sue Woolfe. [Do You Love Me or What?](#) (2017, Simon and Schuster).



Department of Linguistics

Words by Associate Professor [Monika Bednarek](#) | Chair of Department

Awards

We warmly congratulate Ms Georgia Carr on receiving a Dean's Citation for Excellence in Tutorials with Distinction. As a tutor for several Linguistics subjects, she has been a great asset to the Department.

Our undergraduate student representatives Giacomo Rotolo-Ross and Lorraine Aloan received Student Leadership Awards for a major contribution to the Department of Linguistics. In collaboration with [Monika Bednarek](#) they developed important information on career paths and skills for Linguistics majors.

Monika Bednarek was a finalist for the 2017 SUPRA Supervisor of the Year Award, which aims to promote, recognise and reward excellence in higher degree research supervision at the University of Sydney as nominated and judged by research postgraduates.



Georgia Carr (second from left) celebrating with colleagues at the FASS Teaching Excellence Awards event

Conferences

In September, [Ahmar Mahboob](#) and Joseph Osoba (University of Lagos, Nigeria) organised the 11th International Free Linguistics Conference at the University of Lagos. This was the first international conference to be hosted by the Department of English at UniLag, in almost 30 years. Over 50 participants from across Nigeria as well as academics from Ghana, Uganda, Mauritius, and Malaysia attended the conference, with new networks established and plans outlined to carry out collaborative research projects.

Research news and Publications

On 8 November the Department held an epic 'Linguistics book launch', where linguists from the department and beyond launched several recent publications:

Ahlqvist, A., McLeod, N. and O'Neill, P. (eds) *Australian Celtic Journal*. Volume 14. (2017).

Bednarek, M. and Caple, H. (2017) *The Discourse of News Values: How News Organisations Create Newsworthiness*. (2017, Oxford University Press).

Dreyfus, S., Humphrey, S., Mahboob, A. & Martin, J. R. (2016). *Genre Pedagogy in Higher Education: The SLATE Project*. (2016, Palgrave Macmillan).

Doran, Y. J. *The Discourse of Physics: Building Knowledge through Language, Mathematics and Image*. (2017, Routledge).

Enfield, N. J. and Sidnell, J. *The Concept of Action*. (2017, Cambridge University Press).

Enfield, N. J. and Kockelman, P. (eds) *Distributed Agency*. (2017, Oxford University Press).

Lai, L., Mahboob, A. and Wang, P. *Multiperspective Studies of Language: Theory and Application*. (2016, Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press).

Mahboob, A., & Elyas, T.. *Challenges to Education in GCC during the 21st Century*. (2017, Gulf Research Center).



Linguistics book launch

[Nick Enfield's](#) book [How We Talk](#) was published by Basic Books in November 2017. An [excerpt](#) was published in the *Wall Street Journal*.

Nick's co-authored book [The Concept of Action](#) (with Jack Sidnell) has just been published by Cambridge University Press in the series *New Departures in Anthropology*. The book, which offers a new analysis of speech acts, is [featured](#) in a book symposium in the open access journal *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*.

[Monika Bednarek](#) was awarded a Multidisciplinary Arts and Social Sciences Inaugural Fellowship (FASS MASSIF) for her project 'Discourses of diabetes in the Australian news media'. The purpose of the FASS MASSIF scheme is to support the development of research synergies with major whole-of-university multi-disciplinary research initiatives and assist researchers in building competitive track records that support their career progression. Monika will be collaborating with the Charles Perkins Centre.



Community engagement, outreach, education

[Gwen Hyslop](#) was invited to teach a course on Tibeto-Burman languages in a typological perspective, as part of a summer school at the Centre of Excellence on the Dynamics of Language at ANU in November.

[Ahmar Mahboob](#), Jakelin Troy (Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research, University of Sydney), and Shirley Dita (De La Salle University, the Philippines) visited the Torwali community in Bahrain and Kalam valleys in Swat, KP, Pakistan. Torwali is one of the 35 minority languages spoken in mountains of northern Pakistan and KP. In Swat, they learned about the various linguistic and other community-based work being carried out by activists and NGOs in the region, often with no support from local academics, researchers, or government. The group then travelled to Karachi, where they were invited to give keynote/plenary talks at the 3rd International Conference of the Linguistics Association of Pakistan (ICLAP).

Visitors

Several visiting scholars have recently presented their research in our seminar series, including Professor Catherine Travis (ANU) on “Language, variation, change, ‘n that: General Extenders in Sydney English” and Dr Tania Fahey Palma (University of Aberdeen) on “‘Shall we start?: Examining Shared Repertoire in Cancer Multidisciplinary Team Meetings”. We were also delighted to have heard from guest speakers Professor Katherine Demuth (Macquarie University), Professor Daniel Tor (Tel Aviv University), and Dr Mark Post (UNE).

Linguistic exploration trip to Pakistan – call for participants

[Ahmar Mahboob](#) is currently working with Professor Troy, Professor Dita and colleagues from Pakistan to organise a 2-week Linguistic Exploration trip of the northern areas of Pakistan followed by a 3-day Symposium in Gilgit, Pakistan, in October 2018. Please do feel free to [contact Ahmar](#) if you would like to be part of the group planning these events.

Recent publications

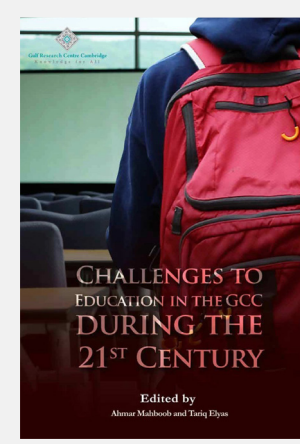
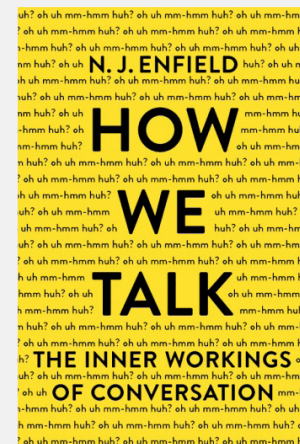
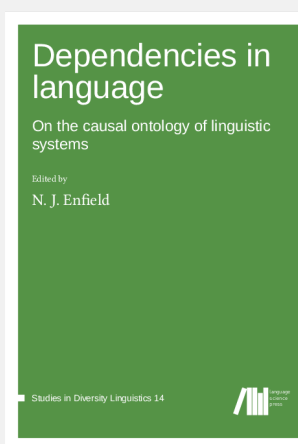
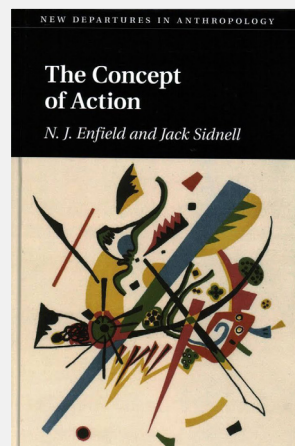
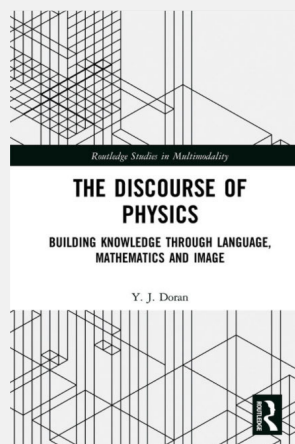
Yaegan Doran. [The Discourse of Physics: Building Knowledge through Language, Mathematics and Image.](#) (2017, Routledge).

Nick Enfield and Jack Sidnell. [The Concept of Action.](#) (2017, Cambridge University Press).

Nick Enfield (Ed.). [Dependencies in Language: On the Causal Ontology of Linguistic Systems.](#) (2017, Language Science Press).

Nick Enfield. [How We Talk: The Inner Workings of Conversation.](#) (2017, Basic Books).

Ahmar Mahboob and Tariq Elyas (Eds.). [Challenges to Education in GCC during the 21st Century.](#) (2017, Gulf Research Centre).



Department of Media & Communications

Words by Dr [Alana Mann](#) | Chair of Department

MECO has finished the year on an intellectual high with students engaging in Masterclasses with world leaders in media and launching an inspiring range of publications.

Masterclasses

MECO held a Masterclass event on 2 November with Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter David Cay Johnston (visit supported by SSSHARC, including a Sydney Ideas lecture on 'Trump's U\$A'). Described by the *Washington Monthly* as 'One of America's most important journalists', and author of Political Biography of the Year (Britain), *The Making of Donald Trump* (2017), David volunteered three hours of his time to present a lecture looking back over his colourful career. He was interviewed by MECO lecturer [Alison Ray](#) about the practice of investigative interviewing, and provided feedback to students' work-in-progress. Over 20 students and staff attended, including a selection of brave MECO students who presented their writing projects onstage to benefit from David's expert feedback. Emeritus Professor Rod Tiffen from Government and International Relations – himself an expert on Rupert Murdoch's media empire - closed the event in conversation with David about the state of the media under Trump's presidency. The event was filmed by SLAM's Digital Media Unit to provide teaching material for MECO journalism and writing courses in future years.

On November 30 [Benedetta Brevini](#) and [Alana Mann](#) convened a workshop for MECO students with international environmental communication expert, Associate Professor Kari Norgaard (University of Oregon) on the topic - *Between Eco Terrorism and Denialism: What Role for Communication?*. Students presented their work on topics ranging from Strategies of Denial: How

Audiences Engage in Online Climate Change Discourse, the Role of Ideology in the Media's Coverage of Coral Bleaching leading up to the 2016 Election, and Measuring Greenwashing in the Australian Energy Debate. Kari's visit was funded by SSSHARC as part of the *Anastasia Project*, a creative endeavour led by the Sydney Environment Institute's Deputy Director, Michelle St Anne.

Immersive Learning Lab

In October, students in ARIN6904 Mobile Media and Games were the first cohort from the Faculty of Arts to experience the new 'Immersive Learning Lab' based in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies. This facility has 26 high-powered computers, each with their own Oculus Rift Virtual Reality (VR) headset. Students experienced 6 different types of VR content (Oculus First Touch, Tiltbrush, VR Film, Facebook Spaces, Bullet Train and i8 Photogrammetry) to critically assess the advantages and disadvantages of the VR medium, as well as explore content on a Microsoft HoloLens Augmented Reality (AR) device. VR and AR are emerging gaming technologies, but they also integrate with some of the key critical issues around mobile media and their registration of space and location; the growing ubiquity of technology in our daily lives; and questions around social isolation and connectedness. MECO lecturer [Marcus Carter](#) recommends anyone interested in using the Immersive Learning Lab get in touch. "While students loved the hands-on interactive experiences my step count on those two days was pretty high as I spent the entire time running around helping students work out how to use the headsets! By the second week though, students were comfortable with the technology and excited to discuss it, and we had no issues across 180 students that prevented them using the technology".

New publications

Congratulations to [Jonathon Hutchinson](#), whose book *Cultural Intermediaries: Audience Participation in Media Organisations* launched on 24 November. It is intended to provide an explicit overview of how one notable media organisation, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), incorporates participation into its production methodology, while maintaining its role as a public service media organisation. The book provides several case studies of successful audience participation across socially motivated projects. The book also provides an updated framework to understand how cultural intermediation can facilitate authentic audience participation in media organisations.

The book also interrogates the existing theories of convergence culture and audience engagement within the media and communication disciplines,

by providing grounded examples of social media use as a social mobilisation tool within the media industries. As digital influencers garner large audiences across platforms such as YouTube and Instagram, they sway opinions and tastes towards often commercial interests. However, this everyday social media practice also presents an opportunity for socially and morally motivated intermediaries to impact on public issues.

Congratulations also to [Benedetta Brevini](#) on the publication of *Carbon Capitalism and Communication: Confronting Climate Crisis*, described as “a comprehensive, authoritative, one-stop, overview of the current state and future challenges for research and debate on communication and climate crisis”. The book was launched on 4 December at a special Sydney Ideas Events, in conjunction with the Sydney

Environment Institute and the Post-Truth Initiative, and funded by the University’s Sydney Research Excellence Initiative (SREI).

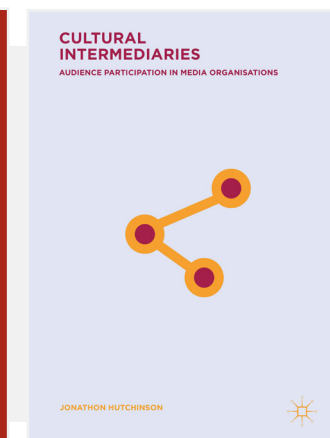
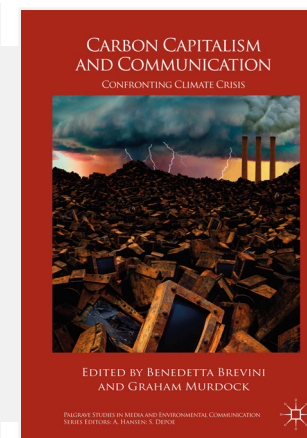
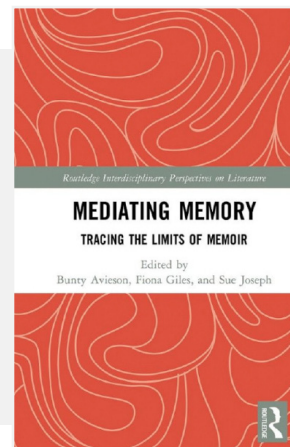
On 27 November MECO researchers joined colleagues from the Department of Government and International Relations and Sydney Law School to launch [Digital Rights in Australia](#) at a packed Sydney Ideas event. The report investigates the ethical and legal challenges Australians face in using digital, networked technologies and the debates they are having about how to best manage their transformative impacts. Co-authored by Professors Gerard Goggin, Ariadne Vromen and Kimberlee Weatherall, Drs [Fiona Martin](#) and Adele Webb, and Lucy Sunman and Francesco Bailo, the report was supported by the University’s SREI.

Recent publications

Bunty Avieson, Fiona Giles and Sue Joseph (Eds.). [Mediating Memory: Tracing the Limits of Memoir](#). (2017, Routledge).

Benedetta Brevini and Graham Murdock (Eds.). [Carbon Capitalism and Communication: Confronting Climate Crisis](#). (2017, Palgrave Macmillan).

Jonathon Hutchinson. [Cultural Intermediaries: Audience Participation in Media Organisations](#). (2017, Palgrave Macmillan).



Centre for Medieval & Early Modern Studies

Words by Associate Professor [Daniel Anlezark](#)

Lunchtime Lecture

Emeritus Professor [Anders Ahlqvist](#) (Foundation Sir Warwick Fairfax Professor of Celtic Studies at the University of Sydney) presented a lecture on 13 November entitled 'Celtic Influence on English for, against, and/or why not?'. Associate Professor [Daniel Anlezark](#) (Director, Medieval and Early Modern Centre) introduced the lecture and provided the forum on behalf of the Medieval and Early Modern Centre. The lecture discussed the geographical reasons for the influence of Celtic languages over English and a number of linguistic features in common between the two languages that support that idea.

The lecture was attended by about 40 people, many of whom knew that the talk was to herald a festschrift for Brian Taylor. (See Publications section below.)

Publications

A number of publications by MEMC members or associates have appeared in the past few months:

[Juanita Feros Ruys](#), 'From Virtue Ethics to Emotional Intelligence: Advice from Medieval Parents to Their Children', in *Affect, Emotion, and Children's Literature: Representation and Socialisation in Texts for Children and Young Adults*, ed. Kristine Moruzi, Michelle J. Smith, and Elizabeth Bullen (London: Routledge, 2017), pp. 19-32.

Anders Ahlqvist's and Pamela O'Neill's edited collection, *Germano-Celtica: A Festschrift for Brian Taylor*, was launched after the presentation by Anders Ahlqvist on 13 November, mentioned above.

Associate Professor Brian Taylor's contributions to Germanic and Celtic studies and his attributes on a personal level were praised in the Preface by the editors and in three contributions by his son, Alasdair Taylor, Aedeen Cremin (founder and director of the program in Celtic Studies at the University of Sydney) and Sybil Jack (former Dean of the Faculty of Arts). Various colleagues and former pupils also contributed essays. Many of these are actively involved in the Centre, but others came from elsewhere in Australia, and also from Balliol College Oxford, Swansea University, University of Bristol, University of Edinburgh, University of Nottingham and Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. As the organisers and attendees were hoping, the secrecy of the Festschrift was kept from Brian until the revelation on the day.



Anders Ahlqvist and Brian Taylor
Image courtesy Kate McAllan

Presentation

[Penelope Nash](#) (Honorary Associate, MEMC) spoke to the Women's Action and Information Group at Lane Cove Library about her recent publication *Empress Adelheid and Countess Matilda: Medieval Female Rulership and the Foundations of European Society*. The presentation included a wide-ranging discussion of the issues that faced medieval women and their relative ability to retain their wealth and power.

Audrey Meaney Prize - 2016 (awarded in 2017)

The Audrey Meaney prize for 2016 for the University of Sydney was awarded to a winner and a runner-up from a selection of high-quality essays broadly covering Medieval and Early Modern topics. Lucy Sharp (Department of History) was awarded the prize for her essay on patron-client relations in Renaissance Florence. The runner-up was Laurel Hooper (Department of Italian Studies) for her essay 'Love and Conversion Poetics in Dante's *Commedia*'. The Audrey Meaney Prize is administered by the Sydney Medieval and Renaissance Group on a yearly basis to a second- or third-year undergraduate student attending a university in the Sydney area.

Audrey Meaney's academic career included posts at the University of Sydney and Macquarie University. She took a leading role in founding the Sydney Medieval and Renaissance Group and the Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

Department of Studies in Religion

Collated by Professor [Carole Cusack](#) | Chair of Department

Departmental Seminars

The Department runs a regular research seminar for staff and graduate students. The seminars in Semester 2 were:

1 August: [Breann Fallon](#) (Teaching Fellow, Studies in Religion): “Violence of Mind, Body and Spirit: An Investigation of Spiritual and Religious Responses Triggered by the Sexual Violence of Genocide”.

15 August: Emeritus Professor [Garry W. Trompf](#) (Studies in Religion): “Islands, the Humanities, and Environmental Conservation”.

5 September: Benn Banasik (PhD candidate, Studies in Religion): “Apophatic Gaming: The perpetual Journey to ‘catch ‘em’ all’. An exposition of the never-ending game phenomenon through the apophatic lens of Jean-Luc Marion and Gregory of Nyssa”.

19 September: Laura Sumrall (PhD candidate, History and Philosophy of Science): “The Priest, the Physician, and the Regurgitated Knife in Early Modern Medicine”.

3 October: Laura Dyason (PhD candidate, Studies in Religion): “‘Spoiled for the World’: The Consequences of the Doctrine of Separation for Former Members of the Exclusive Brethren”.

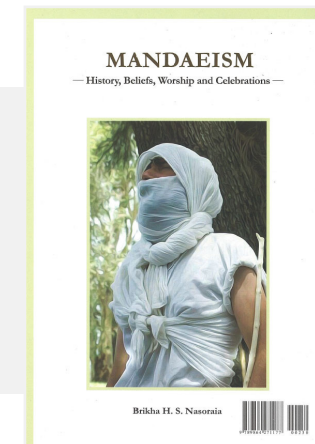
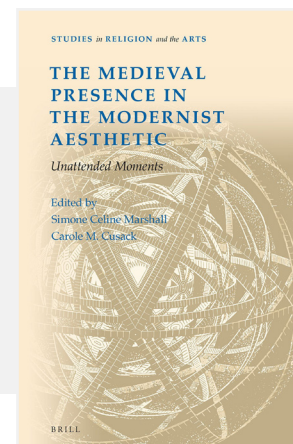
17 October: Cressida Rigney (PhD candidate, Studies in Religion): “Food and the Sunburnt Country on Which It Grows”.

31 October: Associate Professor [Mark Byron](#) (English): “The Aristotelian Crescent: Medieval Arabic Philosophy in the Poetics of Ezra Pound”.

Recent publications

Simone Marshall and Carole Cusack (Eds.). [The Medieval Presence in the Modernist Aesthetic: Unattended Moments](#). (2017, Brill).

Brikha Nasoraia. *Mandaeism: History, Beliefs, Worship and Celebrations*. (2017, Weber International).



Studies of Religion Students from Willoughby Girls High School Visit the University

Words by [Christopher Hartney](#)

Carrol Quadrio, a former student of the Department of Studies in Religion, discovered on 10 November this year what a rich site for learning our University really is. Ms Quadrio has taken up a new role as teacher of Studies of Religion at Willoughby Girls' High School. Studies of Religion is a Stage 6 (Years 11 and 12) unit of learning that takes students through the history of global religions. It is a popular subject for senior high school students, which often outstrips subjects such as Modern History in terms of enrolments. Facing the challenge of teaching Hinduism to her students, Ms Quadrio contacted her former lecturers [Carole Cusack](#) and [Chris Hartney](#) to see if they could help.

As part of their community engagement, Carole and Chris were delighted to prepare a study morning for the 35 students who visited campus. Chris Hartney, who is also author of the Cambridge textbook that is used at Willoughby Girls' High, gave an overview lecture that focused on the nebulous nature of Hinduism and how one could identify and discuss some of the central features and attitudes of this diverse faith system. Carole showed a fifteen-minute clip from Peter Brook's film of the Indian epic, *The Mahabharata* (1989). The students were absorbed by the dramatic scene where King Yudhisthira gambles

away his kingdom, his brothers, himself, and finally his wife, Draupadi. Carole used this clip to unpick, through a fascinating question-and-answer session, various problematics concerning religion and ritual, and issues of purity, and gender.

Ms Quadrio then took her students to meet with the Hindu chaplain, who gave a short talk about the Hindu student experience at the University of Sydney and fielded questions from the girls. They then lunched at an Indian restaurant in Newtown before returning to their school. Carole and Chris were able to supply the students and Ms Quadrio with extra scholarly resources, PowerPoint slides on Hinduism, and additional discussion questions. High School/University events such as this study morning can help raise the academic standards at schools and give teachers better paths to approach difficult subjects. When students have the chance to meet both academics and believers, such as the Hindu chaplain, their awareness of the cultural sensitivity required to study someone else's religion is heightened.

Reports from Willoughby Girls' High after the event were very positive, with the students saying it had been one of the best study excursions they had in 2017.



Illustration: "At the end of *the Mahabharata*, the gambler-king Yudhisthira is offered ascension to heaven, but he must leave his dog behind. The king refuses to abandon his four-legged companion." Reproduced: Wikimedia Commons.

Words by Essi Mäkelä

Visiting Researcher: Essi Mäkelä (University of Helsinki)

It is my pleasure to work for two months as a visiting scholar in the Department of Studies in Religion at the University of Sydney. I am enrolled at the University of Helsinki where I am working on a PhD on registering of new and pagan religious communities in Finland. My cases include the Wiccan society, the Pastafarian Church, the Fenno spiritual Karhun kansa (Finnish for “People of the Bear”), the Erisian Movement and a group of Ásatrú seeking to formalise their organization. I am here to meet other researchers interested in similar religious movements and to get a glimpse of the Australian perspective on marginal religious communities.

My research focuses on how the members of the communities view the registration process and their own spiritual practice and community within the wider context of registered communities and churches. I am also interviewing the evaluative board members on their work within the process. In Finland you don't have to register a community to practice a religion, but registration opens doors: for example, the right to conduct marriages; teach religious education at schools; receive tax exemptions; and, importantly, the community is imported into the population registry. So registering a religious community means it will be visible in the statistical surveys that use the population registry as a basis for their

evaluation of the Finnish religious scene. This makes registration also a societal legitimization for the community.

Pagan religions have been considered either Satanic or “merely role-playing” since their emergence in the Finnish public scene in the 1970s and more so during the Finnish “Satanic Panic” in the 1990s. Umbrella organisations for pagans and practitioners of nature religions have worked for wider acceptance, but since 2003 tradition-specific communities have formed to seek further legitimization. The current arrangement has been in action since 2004 so the evaluative board is also a relatively new body, and my cases are a minority among all the registrations which are mostly concerned with the so-called World Religions. The boards have been publicly criticised for the members' close ties with conservative Christianity.

Seeing Australia has no registration of religious communities as such, but a community may seek tax-free status, for which there are criteria to define a ‘religion’, this is a great opportunity to witness a relatively different system for societal definition of ‘religion’ and how it is portrayed, for example, in the media.

Sydney College of the Arts

Words by Mr [Andrew Lavery](#) | Director and Chair of Department

A new era

9 October 2017 was a ceremonious day for SCA, as staff who were successful in their interviews were simultaneously appointed to new academic, technical and general staff roles in SLAM. This marked the end of a lengthy change process and enabled us to contemplate SCA's future in a positive frame.

We are genuinely excited about SCA's future in SLAM and the department's eventual move to the re-fitted Old Teachers College (OTC). We are grateful for the generous welcome received from our colleagues in SLAM, and more broadly in FASS. Collaborations have already formed as we plan for SCA's move to OTC and look for efficiencies between departments. We are looking forward to many more collaborations in teaching and research as collegial relationships develop.

Degree shows opened

At Rozelle campus, SCA opened its 2017 undergraduate degree show on 21 November. This was a remarkably strong showing of student work across SCA's specialisms. It was our pleasure to welcome a cohort of our SLAM colleagues revelling in the opening atmosphere. SCA's postgraduate degree show, opened on 7 December. Despite smaller crowds than the undergraduate degree show, this exhibition was of the finest quality, as it showcased the creative research of many established and emerging artists.

Campus relocation project

In the previous SLAMmag you were briefed on SCA's engagement in project user groups for the fit-out of OTC and the Badham Building. A range of committees have been working closely with Campus Infrastructure Services and architects Ashton Raggatt McDougall. The Badham building has since been dropped from the scope, with the equivalent space being made available in OTC. With this change confirmed, the footprint of SCA's specialisms in OTC is nearing completion, with staff now focusing on gathering necessary information for the architects' design brief. We continue to make some difficult decisions concerning what equipment to bring and what to leave behind, but there is nevertheless excitement amongst staff about the opportunity to newly fit out studios and galleries in novel ways.

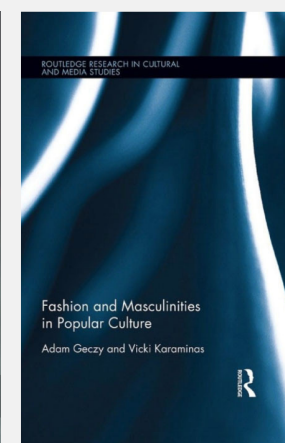
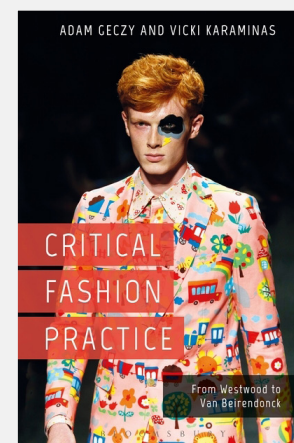
New appointments

As this edition of SLAMmag goes to print, SCA is finalising five academic appointments to serve specialisms in Screen Arts, Photography and Painting. Technical staff appointments have also been made in the General Workshop and Painting Studio. SCA looks forward to welcoming these staff and enjoying the expertise and diversity these new colleagues will bring to their various specialisms.

Recent publications

Adam Geczy and Vicki Karaminas. [Critical Fashion Practice: From Westwood to Van Beirendonck](#). (2017, Bloomsbury Academic).

Adam Geczy and Vicki Karaminas. [Fashion and Masculinities in Popular Culture](#). (2017, Routledge).



Department of Theatre & Performance Studies

Words by [Mark Seton](#)

Wellbeing of all performing arts professionals is officially on the agenda

On 13 November, more than 170 people – producers, production company staff, directors, stage and screen crews, actors, musicians, dancers, circus performers, writers, theatre makers, psychologists, counsellors, yoga teachers, osteopaths, doctors, etc. – attended How Can the Show Go On?, a Performing Arts Wellbeing Summit which was developed and implemented by the NSW Performing Arts & Screen Wellbeing Working Group, made up of dedicated industry volunteers. The Summit was produced by Theatre Network NSW and was made possible through the support of Sydney Opera House and Create NSW.

The 2013 research collaboration of Dr [Ian Maxwell](#) and Dr [Mark Seton](#) (TaPS Honorary Associate) and Dr Mariana Szabo (School of Psychology) with Equity Foundation resulted in the first national Actor Wellbeing Study, an international first in terms of both substantial quantitative and qualitative research into actors' wellbeing. The findings of this study were frequently cited during the Summit, alongside findings from a subsequent broader study of other performing artists and workers, conducted by Entertainment Assist and Victoria University in Melbourne. Together, these two studies provided

the evidence base the industry needed to initiate and implement this crucial Summit.

The award-winning Australian television and film actress, Deborah Mailman, recorded a special video message in support of the event: “We all know the saying ‘The Show Must Go On’ and the levels of passion, creativity and commitment that often underpin that phrase. Television actor Lex Marinos was the MC for the day’s program that included a NSW sector roundtable led by Entertainment Assist and Everymind to identify Australian Alliance for Wellness in Entertainment (AAWE) priorities. The summit also included panels and workshops, as well as practical and inspiring examples of industry and individual approaches to improving wellbeing. The day was designed for the sector and for those who support them to come together, learn from one another and determine a better future.

The NSW Performing Arts & Screen Wellbeing Working Group will review the conversations and suggestions made during the Summit and determine next steps and strategic actions.

In The Rex

Words by Kirstin Bokor

Artist-In-Residence Program

- 3-15 October. The Rex Cramphorn Studio was an absolute hive of creative activity. TaPS proudly hosted a selection of artists involved in the **Liveworks Festival** (a festival of experimental art from 19-29 October), run by Performance Space, live at Carriageworks.

- [Rhetorical Chorus](#) by **Agatha Gothe-Snape** (a Performance Studies graduate)
- [Day For Night](#) - various artists
- [The Future Leaks Out](#)

- 30 October - 12 November. **The 99% Project**

The '99%' project is a group of 6 artists (mostly women performers trained in movement and voice with diverse cultural and linguistic heritage, a video artist and creative sound tech working with the director/deviser, Yana Taylor). The 6 artists involved in this research development phase are: Concept, Direction, Screen archival research and Design – Yana Taylor (post-graduate from TaPS); Performer/actors – Valerie Berry, Nancy Denis, Tariro Mavondo, Kenneth Moraleda; Video Artist – Sean Bacon.

With personal styles of leadership, international and Australian, from the archive of film, video and radio as starting points, Yana is devising an intimate multi-screen performance. Despite assertions about how leaders are selected on merit – cameras and microphones intervene shaping perception of trustworthiness and authority. The selected comportment of bodies carries cues to culture and belonging.

The '99%' project re-stage and re-mix performances of high-profile international and historically significant leaders captured on film, in photos and audio recordings from the 20th and 21st century verbatim-style, in an intimate multi-screen media studio type setting for theatres and galleries. Art form-wise they are extending 'headphone verbatim theatre' to encompass film in a cross-arts sound and choreographic practice. Performers worked off the distinctive 'voice prints' rather than written transcripts.

This phase of '99%' project was creative research in a workshop mode. The artists developed the vocabulary and techniques with the audio equipment for their response to the archival recordings of voice samples, and developed their familiarity with performing bodily to archival film of leaders' public speeches and presentations. The process could be thought of as similar to the preparation a choreographer requires in building with their dancers the necessary vocabulary and capacities from which to compose a whole performance.

- 13-26 November. The project **Martin del Amo** undertook during his two-week residency forms part of his recent Sidney Myer Creative Fellowship (2016/17). Martin has been revisiting past works by reflecting on them through writing, and from this building a foundation from which to explore new choreographic strategies and compositional methodologies. During his residency at The Rex, Martin focused on reworking a short solo piece he created 20 years ago (*A Severe Insult to the Body*, 1997) and investigated how it now sits within his current practice, both physically and conceptually.



Photo courtesy Heidrun Löh

Endeavour Executive Fellowship for professional cultural exchange

Nick Leavens is a New York City based director, writer, consultant, and producer, in theatre, film/television, and live events. TaPS recently hosted Nick, who was the recipient of an Endeavour Executive Fellowship for professional cultural exchange. During his time in Sydney we connected Nick with: Bell Shakespeare Co., discussing capital campaign strategy, donor relations, and board development; Lee Lewis at the Griffin Theatre on arts advocacy

as it relates to long-term programming and community outreach; Eamon Flack at the Belvoir Theatre on refining the artistic mission/perspective to inform programming, commissioning, and public engagement; Playwriting Australia's executive team on translating their strategic plan into an actionable staffing plan; and the department's own [Paul Dwyer](#) as dramaturg on *Grace Under Pressure*.

Department of Writing Studies

Words by Dr [Frances Di Lauro](#) | Chair of Department

As spring moves into summer and the winding down of teaching allows a little breathing space, there are many tidings to be celebrated amongst the Writing Studies' staff for their accomplishments over the past few busy months.

In September, [Bronwen Dyson](#) and Gisela Håkansson travelled to Ludwigsburg, Germany, for the 17th International Symposium on Processability Approaches to Language Acquisition, presenting their study, "What light can be shed on the assessment of English as an Additional Language by comparing the concept of Grammatical Metaphor in Systemic Functional Linguistics with the stages in Processability Theory, a theory of second language processing?". At the International Writing Centre's Association Conference in Chicago in November, [Susan Thomas](#) delivered her paper, "Never Say Never Again: The Writing Centre as WAC/WID Safehouse".

Sessional tutors have also had a remarkably productive and fruitful semester, with major publications, conferences and recently completed projects and degrees.

Kim Wilkins published her article "'I don't know who I am most of the time': Constructed Identity in Todd Haynes' *I'm Not There*" in *Film Criticism* (41.1), and has also presented conference papers at the "American New Wave: A Retrospective" conference at the University of Bangor, Wales, and at Sydney University's own "Camera-Stylo" conference. Last but certainly not least, Kim has also completed her first book, [American Eccentric Cinema](#), to be published by Bloomsbury in August 2018, in which she offers a new approach to popular but non-mainstream contemporary films, as an alternative to the "quirky" and "ironic" descriptors that typically characterise their reception.

Warmest congratulations to our recent submitters and awardees: Megan Ivory submitted her Master's thesis on philosophy of science in October, and eagerly awaits admission into a PhD program, and both Lucinda Holdforth and Wyatt Moss-Wellington have had their doctorates awarded unconditionally and unanimously by their respective examiners.

Our sessional tutors were also well-represented at the FASS Teaching Award Ceremony in November, with Dean's Citations for Excellence in Tutorials being awarded to Ella Collins-White, Alex Cubis, Karla Elias and Wyatt Moss-Wellington. For pics from the ceremony, see the News pages at the front of this edition of SLAMmag.

The Department's fortnightly research seminars have hosted a diverse and engaging scope of topics and disciplines this semester, with current staff projects ranging from medieval literature to contemporary ecocriticism. In October, Ella Collins-White shared with us her work on experimental writers, "How an Absence Becomes a Presence: Acts of Cognition in Jess Stoner's *I Have Blinded Myself Writing This*", and Wyatt Moss-Wellington presented an extract from his doctoral research, "Abject Humanism in Tom Perrotta's Film Adaptations". In early November, Jordan Church presented "The Play of Elves: Supernatural Peripheries and Disrupted Kingship in Layamon's *Brut*", which is also due to be published as an article in *Philament* (24: "Peripherality") early next year. An insect-theme has united our two most recent presentations in November, with Megan Ivory's "Fruit Fly Models of Schizophrenia: a philosophical account" followed by Adam Gall's work on the complications of ecocriticism, in "Domestic Infestation: Argentine ants and the problem of analogy". The interdisciplinary range of these projects is a real testament to the diversity of the Department's current members.

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- Art History
- Celtic Studies
- English
- Linguistics
- Media and Communications
- Medieval and Early Modern Studies
- Museum Studies
- Studies in Religion
- Sydney College of the Arts
- Theatre and Performance Studies
- Writing Studies