University of
Western Sydney

reSearch.matters

ARC Success for the College of Arts

Dear Colleagues,

Our final reSearch.matters for 2010 includes a list of recent HDR graduates – congratulations to the candidates and their supervisors. The College continues to outperform the sector in completions.

Let's also congratulate our authors. Approximately 28 books authored by academic staff were published during the last 18 months.

Looking forward to a successful 2011.

Professor Michael Atherton
Associate Dean (Research)

The Minister for Innovation, Industry and Research announced on 25 October, the Australian Research Council (ARC) major grants programs for 2011.

CENTRE FOR CULTURAL RESEARCH
Prof Kay J Anderson 'Decolonising the human: towards a postcolonial ecology'

Prof Tony Bennett, Dr Fiona R Cameron, Dr Rodney Q Harrison, Dr Conal P McCarthy , Prof Nelia S Dias, Dr Ira S Jacknis 'Museum, field, metropolis, colony: practices of social governance'

CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH
Prof Christine Halse, Prof Janice E Wright, A/Prof Michael Kohn, Dr Sloane Madden, Dr Desiree L Boughtwood 'A socio-cultural analysis of eating disorders among pre-teen boys and girls'

A/Prof Kerry H Robinson, A/Prof Moira M Carmody, Dr Suzanne J Dyson 'The tensions for parents, educators and children in building a sustainable culture of ethical and respectful relationships early in life'

MARCS AUDITORY LABORATORIES
Prof Denis K Burnham, Prof Usha Goswami 'The seeds of literacy in infancy: empirical specification of the acoustic determinants of language acquisition'

Dr Tamara L Watson 'Identifying the basis for perceptual stability and perceptual omission during saccadic eye movements'

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION ARTS
A/Prof Anna Gibbs, Dr Maria Angel, Prof Joseph P Tabbi 'Creative nation: writers and writing in the new media arts'

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Prof Kevin M Dunn, Dr Heather MacDonald, Dr Yin C Paradies, Dr Rae Dufty 'Ethnic discrimination in the private rental housing market'

WRITING AND SOCIETY RESEARCH GROUP
Dr Christopher S Andrews 'Spanish America: literary laboratory'

DISCOVERY INDIGENOUS RESEARCHERS DEVELOPMENT – CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH
Ms Bronwyn Bancroft, Prof Rhonda G Craven, Prof Michael J Atherton, A/Prof Hart K Cohen 'The passion, power, and politics of Aboriginal Art: established artists and emerging NSW women artists' perceptions and representational bias in collections'

Mr Anthony W Dillon, Prof Rhonda G Craven, Dr Gawaian H Bodkin-Andrews, Dr Alexander S Yeung 'Measurement matters: analysis of potential methodological and discrimination biases in assessments of medication treatments for ADHD, and stakeholder views'

ADMINISTERED BY OTHER INSTITUTIONS
Dr Julie Thorpe 'World War One Refugees in Austria Hungary and the international community, 1914 1923' – Administering Organisation: ANU

Visit to Luang Prabang, Laos

Russell and Robyn with the Director Mr Bounnhang and Mr Ramsy Sitthirath of the World Heritage Centre responsible for Luang Prabang

Dr Russell Staiff and A/Prof Robyn Bushell spent a month in July in Laos undertaking research as part of a UWS IRIS grant *'Theorising the Entangled Relationships between World Heritage places, local people visitors and industry: a case study in Luang Prabang, Laos PDR.'*

Their work examines the socio-cultural and political dynamics of everyday life in Luang Prabang Laos, where the global and the local are in constant interplay and tension through the economic forces of international tourism and international institutional presences as a UNESCO World Heritage city. They worked with a number of stakeholders – the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Laos Tourism Department, local community, businesses and educational providers. The

research examines Luang Prabang as a 'cultural system' which is complex, dynamic, complicated to produce a thick description of the many entangled relationships that are in play. This will help to understand the relationships between economy, place, local stakeholders, cultural production including food and goods, religious significance, tangible and intangible heritage values to better understand the potential and challenges created by tourism in World Heritage destinations to deliver desirable outcomes.

Russell and Robyn have been invited to write an article for the special UNESCO publication being produced to mark the 15 year celebration of Luang Prabang as a World Heritage site.

Of Slumdogs And Whitetiger

--. And now we present to you: "The Global Indian"!

Mridula Nath Chakraborty, a postdoctoral research fellow with the Writing and Society Research Group, College of Arts, was recently invited by the Australian National University's College of Asia and the Pacific to present a paper in their South Asia Studies seminar series. Her paper titled "Of Slumdogs And Whitetiger --. And now we present to you: "The Global Indian"!" offe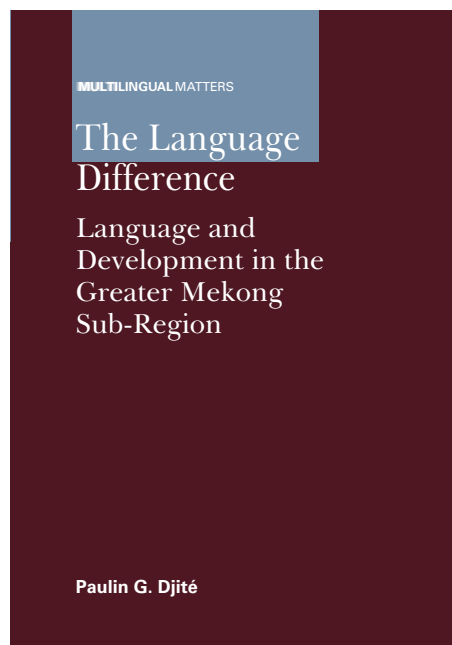red an analysis of two different narrative texts about India: Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger* (Man Booker Prize 2008) and Danny Boyle's 2009 Oscar win-fest, *Slumdog Millionaire*. The paper offered a literary and cultural understanding of the West's focus on Indian slums, as was evidenced by the recent (harsh) spotlight on the world's largest democracy during the Commonwealth Games. This interest plays out in various popular culture fora like the "Hamish and Andy go to india" television series, television commercials like Cole's "How to feed your family under ten dollars" and go to India at the same time, and the more serious and considered two-part series of *Grand Designs* where BBC journalist, Kevin Cloud, offers his own take on "Slumming It!" in Dharavi, Asia's largest slum cluster that is also a hub of small industrial activity.

The paper was a point of entry into discussions about the new exotic face of India via what has been variously termed as poverty-porn, half-Boyled cinema, cinema-of-the-deprived, literary tourism ventriloquizing others' suffering, the dark truth about India's have-nots versus the high glamour of India's economic growth story etc. Apart from the usual cultural politics of representation, questions of authenticity and originality, what is interesting about this discussion is the way it has divided critics, mainly from the elite intelligentsia in India. The much-vaunted process of self-examination that contemporary India is supposed to embark on in this global battle for the inheritance (of loss?) has devolved into navel-gazing on the part of most of the critics and commentators attuned to global publishing/filming regimes and its [English] language/cash wars. In her examination of the new face of India, namely the poverty-and-adversity-stricken but wildly entrepreneurial agent who will deliver hope and succour in these recessionary times, Mridula Nath Chakraborty also posed her own questions about the 'global' Indian. Who is this exotic and elusive creature, where does it reside and how does it complicate the gaze, both from the new centre that India is, and its margin, the bigger, outer world? How do we envision the exotic when all presumptions about its putative other, the native, have been turned upside-down, when these two are at open war within the hierarchic, class-and-caste-riven babel that is contemporary, self-celebratory India?

The Language Difference

Language and Development in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region

by Paulin G Djite

MULTILINGUAL MATTERS

The Language Difference

Language and Development in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region

Paulin G. Djité

Language is a sensitive issue in the developing world, because language choice and behaviour are integral to the social, economic and political stability of multicultural societies. To what extent does this argument hold? Does language make a difference when it comes to development, and is there a perceptible difference in development between countries that is attributable to their choice of language? This book sets out to answer these questions by investigating how language has been and is being used in four countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (i.e. Cambodia, the Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam), especially in the critical areas of education, health, the economy and governance.

CCR Researchers Visit the Shanghai Expo

Part of the CCR team of researchers in Shanghai

Between June and September this year, a team of thirteen researchers from the Centre for Cultural Research travelled to China to undertake fieldwork at the Shanghai Expo World Fair. The project investigated the ways in which the Shanghai Expo addresses and reveals questions of urban sustainability, a rising China, the cultural politics of nations, civic governance, as well as the possibilities and limitations of international, cross-cultural forums for solving planetary challenges.

In bringing together a like-minded group of CCR researchers, the project has several interconnecting elements. An edited collection is now at the proposal stage, and videodocumentaries, photographic essays, and a public event are all in the works.

The expo was the largest World's Fairs ever to be held; it attracted a staggering 450,000 people per day, which peaked at over 1 million people on a single day towards the end of the Fair! With temperatures hovering around 37C, fieldwork was intense and sweaty. The research team were not a pleasant group to meet on the underground. But members persevered, and worked frantically snapping pictures of text, jumping queues, stamping passports, making notes and sharing observations, and captured more than 25 hours of video footage, for a mini-doc series on the Expo.

On Friday 29th October 2010, a workshop was held in CCR, which brought together everyone who is working on the project for a day of presentations and discussion. The day provided an excellent opportunity for draft chapters to be discussed and critiqued and represented a significant step forward in the production of an edited volume. Publishers for the volume are now engaged.

Dr Dominique Estival

from MARCS Labs was one of the 'Focus speakers' at the 4th Annual International Free Linguistics Conference

9-10 October 2010, at the University of Sydney
http://www.freelinguistics.org/

In her talk entitled "EL2 Pilots in the Australian General Aviation environment: radio mis-communication", she presented her research on the linguistic challenges of effective radio communication in General Aviation, especially for pilots from a non-English language background.

Communicating effectively via the radio is a challenging task for most pilots: "Between 1976 and 2000, more than 1,100 passengers and crew lost their lives in accidents in which investigators determined that language had played a contributory role." (Matthews, 2004). This is even more challenging for non-native speakers of English, who are required to master not only a second language but also "Aviation English" in order to communicate with both Air Traffic Control (ATC) and other pilots.

A preliminary study of GA pilots in Bankstown (Estival & Molesworth, 2009) investigated the extent to which the English language proficiency of pilots whose native language is not English affects their ability to effectively communicate with ATC and its potential impact on safety outcomes. A second study in the wider Sydney basin confirmed that while there is some evidence that the use of English as a second language may contribute to communication difficulties, pilots of all backgrounds and qualification levels experience communication difficulties. Both groups rank communication with ATC as the least challenging task and understanding other pilots as the most challenging task in aviation communication.

The goals of the research are two-fold: to investigate potential miscommunication between ATC and pilots, e.g. pilots misunderstanding a clearance given to another aircraft as being meant for them, and to identify ways of alleviating ATC-pilot communication difficulties For instance, linguistic features such as intonation, rhythm and pauses are particularly problematic for radio communication but not adequately addressed in the English Language Proficiency test for pilots who non-native speakers of English. Solutions to the problems include teaching better communication strategies and the use of technologies to make ATC and pilots aware of potential communication problems.

Dominique is both a linguist and a flight instructor, combining her interest in language and her passion for flying.

Visiting Professor, Mary Kellett

Director of the UK's Open University Child Research Centre

L – R: Jan Falloon, Mary Kellett and Jan Mason

Jan Falloon and Emeritus Prof Jan Mason with Prof Mary Kellett. Mary, whose presentation at the 2009 Symposium 'Children as Experts in their Own Lives: Child Inclusive Research' created considerable enthusiasm amongst attendees, has returned to Social Justice Social Change Research Group to continue the work she commenced last year. Mary will be conducting a workshop on the 'What and How of Children as Researchers' for SJSC and other researchers in childhood. She will present a seminar on barriers to and benefits of child-led research. Mary will also present on her work to an ARACY organized access grid network, which will enable academics in the childhood area in all Australian states to be part of a discussion on children as researchers. Dr Ainslie Yardley, Jan Falloon and Jan Mason, will be discussing with Mary ways of moving forward with funded projects in child-led research and through participating in the international network on child-led research, in which Mary is a key player. In particular, Dr Yardley is enthusiastic about exploring possibilities of building on her collaboration with Picnic Point Primary School, which resulted in a unique presentation to last year's symposium.

The engagement of SJSC researchers with Mary Kellett places SJSC and UWS in a leadership role in Australia in the area of child-led research.

Congratulations to the following graduates from September 2010 ceremonies.

Doctor of Philosophy
Mark Antoniou
One Head, Two Languages: Speech Production and Perception in Greek-English Bilinguals

Doctor of Philosophy
David Arness
Decreased Inhibitory Control in Mental Fatigue, and Meditation as a Tool for Recovery and Prevention

Doctor of Philosophy
Dorottya A'Tol
NGOS AS NORM - CONSTRUCTORS: The Human Rights Activism of Asian NGOS and their Role in Shaping the Regional Human Rights Discourse

Doctor of Philosophy
Stephanie Baker
Zidane in Tartarus: A Neoaristotelian Inquiry into the Emotional Dimension of Kathartic Recognition

Doctor of Philosophy
Abdulfattah Bostanji
Legal Translation in Saudi Arabia: A Contrastive Analysis of Linguistic Challenges Encountered by Practitioners

Doctor of Philosophy
Reena Dobson
'The Most Cosmopolitan Island under the Sun'? Negotiating Ethnicity and Nationhood in Everyday Mauritius

Doctor of Philosophy
Linda Finger
Beyond Bullying Primary Schools Program: Implementing an Effective Whole-school Program to Manage Bullying, Enhance Prosocial Behaviour and Boost Student Well-being in the Upper Primary Grades

Doctor of Philosophy
Dongqing Fu
Making Higher Education Policy for the International Recognition of Academic Qualifications: The Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement as a Vehicle for Student Mobility

Doctor of Philosophy
Maree Gruppetta
The Life Journey of Gifted Adults: a Narrative Exploration of Developmental Differences

Doctor of Philosophy
Adrian Hale
Reading Biography: The Democratisation of Biography and Contested Ownership of Memories and Narrative

Doctor of Philosophy
Shaun Halovic
Perceiving Emotions through the Kinematics of Gait and the Influence of Adaptation Aftereffects

Doctor of Philosophy
Ashley Harris
Everyone Has a Story to Tell: Exploring the Associations and Connections Made by Visitors at a Zoo, Art Gallery and Two Museums

Doctor of Philosophy
Sarah Heinrich
Kindergarten CoP Communities of Practice in the Transition to School

Doctor of Philosophy
Dianne Jackson
A Place to 'be': The Role of Supported Playgroups in Creating Responsive, Social Spaces for Parent and Child Wellbeing

Doctor of Philosophy
Christa Lam
The Influence of Infant Hearing Loss on Mother-Infant Interaction: Implications for Infant-Directed Speech, Responsiveness and Vocabulary Development

Master of Education (Honours)
Ye Li
Language Teacher Identity Construction: A Narrative Self-Study

Master of Education (Honours)
Xi Jun Mao
An Investigation into Appreciative Approaches to Pedagogy: The Perspective of a Volunteer Teacher Researcher in Language Classrooms in NSW Public Schools

Doctor of Philosophy
Ben Morrison
Profiling the Profiler: Exploring the Role of Cues in the Development of Expertise within the Domain of Offender Profiling

Master of Science (Honours)
Michael Patterson
An Inquiry into Animism as a Source of Meaning in Response to Radical and Disruptive Non-ordinary Experiences

Doctor of Cultural Research
Jioji Ravulo
The Development of Anti-Social Behaviour in Pacific Youth

Doctor of Philosophy
Khazriyati Salehuddin
The Acquisition of Numeral Classifiers by Malay Children

Doctor of Philosophy
Kell Tremayne
Social Value Orientation and Contextual Cues Influence Co-operation and Trustworthiness

Doctor of Philosophy
Janette Welsby
Our Stories: Women, Life and Intellectual Disability

Master of Education (Honours)
Jing Jing Weng
Magic Moments: A Second Language Teacher's Zone of Professional Development

Master of Education (Honours)
Ting Wu
Teacher Engagement in Second Language (L2) Classrooms: Teacher-as-Researcher

Master of Education (Honours)
Xin Xin Xu
Environmental Education as a Cross-curriculum Perspective in Teaching Mandarin: Implications for Environmental Worldview

Doctor of Philosophy
Yumiko Yamaguchi
The Acquisition of English as a Second Language by a Japanese Primary School Child: A Longitudinal Study from a Processability Viewpoint

Master of Education (Honours)
Wen Yuan Zhang
Journey to the West: Reading Communicative Language Teaching in Australia

Master of Education (Honours)
Minmin Zhang
A Bilingual Second Language Teacher Teaching Bilingually: A Self-study

10th PALA International Symposium

The 10th International Symposium on Processability Approaches to Language Acquisition (PALA) was hosted by the School of Humanities & Languages and the Interpreting and Translation Research Group on 19-21 September 2010 at Parramatta campus. Research related to processability, bilingualism, and second language acquisition was presented focusing particularly on advanced language learners and users such as interpreters and translators. The conference was a great success with 60 registered attendees, representing 33 Universities from around the world: 2 from Africa, 5 from the Middle East, 2 from North America, 8 from Asia, 5 from Europe and 8 from Australia.

Dr Bruno Di Biase, Symposium chair, opened the proceedings by giving an insight into the origins of the symposium at UWS Bankstown in 2000, the first year of the new millennium, with a small band of a dozen or so processability enthusiasts and three international visitors, and its steady development over the last decade constantly exploring and testing out new avenues in Second Language Acquisition research in an effort to establish, through empirical investigation, what may be actually universal and what is language-specific in language learning, while meeting around the globe in Germany, Malta, England, Italy and Australia (in turn UWS, Deakin and ANU).

Professor Manfred Pienemann, Paderborn University, Germany and Newcastle (UK)

Professor Manfred Pienemann, founder of Processabilty Theory (1998), Gisela Håkansson (Lund, Sweden), Jörg-U. Keßler (Ludwigsburg, Germany) and Satomi Kawaguchi (UWS) provided the keynote addresses illustrating current trends and applications in SLA along with other International presenters from 13 Universities. The School was well and proudly represented by two new PhDs (Kenny Wang and Yumiko Yamaguchi), two current HDR students (Lucija Medojevi and Karoline Wirbatz) and one Honours student (Kristine Shead) all of whom competently presented their research. After review some of the Symposium papers will hit the press with Benjamins' new *PALART* book series.
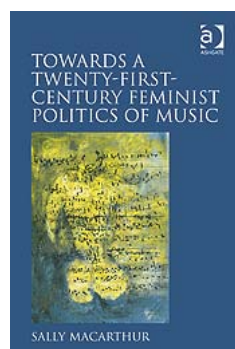
Book

Kawaguchi, S. (April, 2010). *Learning Japanese as a second language: A processability perspective.* New York: Cambria Press

Dr Satomi Kawaguchi's book describes the acquisition of Japanese as a second language. It presents processability theory-based hypotheses accounting for the development of Japanese morphology and syntax tested for on a large body of naturalistic data including 4 longitudinal studies and one cross sectional study. All participants are UWS students. The framework for the acquisition of Japanese developed in this book is being used to assess Japanese L2 and Bilingual first language development nationally and internationally.

Book

Towards a Twenty-First-Century Feminist Politics of Music

By Sally Macarthur

Towards a Twenty-First Century Feminist Politics of Music opens up a new way of thinking about the absence of women's music. It does not aim to find 'a solution' in a liberal feminist sense, but to discover new potentialities, new possibilities for thought and action. Sally Macarthur encourages us, with the assistance of Deleuze, and feminist-Deleuzian work, to begin the important work of imagining what else might be possible, not in order to provide answers but to open up the as yet unknown. The power of thought – or what Deleuze calls the 'virtual' - opens up new possibilities. Macarthur suggests that the future for women's 'new' music is not tied to the predictable and known but to futures beyond the already-known. Previous research concludes that women's music is virtually absent from the concert hall, and yet fails to find a way of changing this situation. Macarthur finds that the flaw in the recommendations flowing from past research is that it envisages the future from the standpoint of the present, and it relies on a set of pre-determined goals. It thus replicates the present reality, so reinforcing rather than changing the status quo. Macarthur challenges this thinking, and argues that this repetitive way of thinking is stuck in the present, unable to move forward. This book sets out to develop a new conception of subjectivity that sows the seeds of a twenty-first century affirmative, feminist politics of music.

Breaking Through the Language Barrier

The UWS Interpreting and Translation Research Group (ITRG) engages with refugee and immigrant women in South Western Sydney to combat domestic and family violence

The difficulties in dealing with domestic and family violence are not limited to a particular country, language group, or culture. But there is no doubt that not speaking the dominant language of the place where you live makes seeking help and support all the much more difficult. A collaborative project between our Interpreting and Translation Research Group and the Immigrant Women's Health Service operating in Sydney's south west aims to address some of the problems in this area for women from emerging language groups.

Funded for **$99,557.66** by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, Office for Women's Policy through their Domestic and Family Violence Grants program, the research project *Breaking through the language barrier: empowering refugee and immigrant women to combat domestic and family violence through cultural and language training* is identifying emerging language groups in south west Sydney, reviewing language services available to them and developing a course related to DFV for 40 women from the identified communities. With its expertise in interpreting,

the ITRG will also deliver a course to develop a number of these women into future professional interpreters for their language groups.

From a research perspective, this project will also serve to evaluate the effectiveness of delivering interpreting training through non-language specific courses. The findings will be significant for the development of interpreter training programmes aimed at emerging language communities, as well as to the well established interpreting and training programme ran by our School of Humanities and Languages.

We are proud to be able to make a positive contribution to the newer communities in Greater Western Sydney by working with the Immigrant Women's Health Service, an organisation which has been providing support to immigrant and refugee women in our area for over 20 years.

For more information on this project led by Associate Professor Sandra Hale, contact Silvia Martinez, Research Officer, at s.martinez@uws.edu.au. For more information on all research projects and events ran by the ITRG, visit our website at www.uws.edu.au/itrg

Welcome

Annette McLaren

Senior Project Development Manager
The Dean's Unit

Prior to her commencement at UWS, Annette was the Team Leader for Humanities and Social Sciences in the Research Office at the University of Sydney. She held this role for 5 years. The aspect of her previous role she most enjoyed was her engagement with researchers and research development; this is something she can pursue more fully in her current position. At UWS Annette is providing support across the College for research development. This includes developing programs to support research writing, research infrastructure development and working with individual researchers on specific grant applications. Currently the College is running a series of grant writing workshops for researchers submitting in the next Discovery round. These workshops provide the opportunity for researchers to gain input from those outside their discipline as well as their direct colleagues. Annette will also be aiming to develop research partnerships both within the University and externally.

This current role is not Annette's first engagement with UWS. She has previously worked here as a tutor in the School of Humanities and Languages and is a currently completing her PhD within that School.

Book

Reconciling Community and Subjective Life

Zolkos, M. (2010) *Reconciling Community and Subjective Life. Trauma Testimony as Political Theorizing in the Work of Jean Améry and Imre Kértesz*. Continuum, New York.

This is an examination of the difficult interplay between the collective pursuit of justice and reconciliation on one hand and the individual subjective experience of trauma on the other, proposing that it be thought as a potentially productive tension. To do so, Zolkos looks at how texts from Jean Améry and Imre Kertész

speak to the question of the politics of the past and, ultimately, to the post-foundational notions of community and justice.

The text works with issues of reconciliation at a theoretical level that bring together insights from political theory, trauma studies, holocaust studies, history and literary theory. The book has the greatest relevance for the critical reconciliation theory, as well as for those working on the concept of community within the continental tradition.

Sydney Consortium

The Sydney Consortium will begin in 2012 as an MA coursework degree compatible with a model developed and run by the London Consortium since 1993 (see www.londonconsortium.com). That is, the degree will be concerned with artistic, cultural and theoretical practice through collaborations between the University and cultural institutions in Greater Sydney. While the Sydney Consortium will interact closely with the London Consortium (exchanges of students and staff will be developed), the Sydney Consortium will be autonomous from London. It will adapt itself to the cultural landscape of Sydney; develop links with cultural institutions both in Western Sydney and Sydney City and make use of the research strengths of UWS.
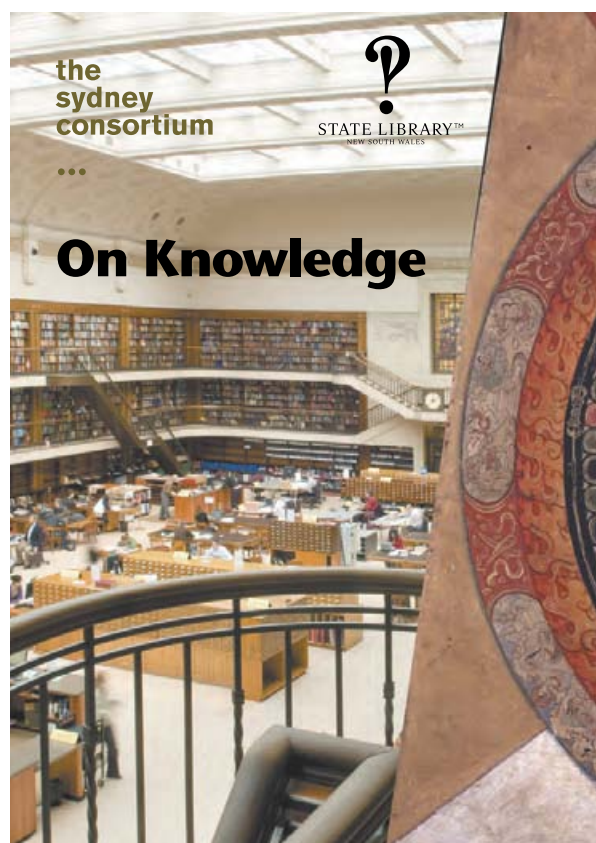
The task at hand is to establish the Sydney Consortium and, in order to attract students and develop our links with partners, make it an idea that is tangible. In order to do this we have begun by staging pilot events with partners, which in turn were offered in response to ideas or problems set by those partners. On

September 11, 2010 the event 'Biodiversity and the Arts' took place at the Australian Museum. The first question that posed itself when we were asked, by the Australian Museum, to stage this event is how can the arts and biodiversity be linked. We answered this with 'the imagination', underlining how coming to terms with the problems that confront us requires us to imagine them sufficiently well, and pointing out how art can help with this process. The event was themed around three things it is difficult to imagine: a) the world and everything in it, b) how things go together and c) that things end. We opened up these ideas to creative interaction by inviting distinguished poets and artists as well as academics from a range of disciplines (biology, astronomy, cultural studies, philosophy, literature) to address them.

The second event was 'On Knowledge', which took place in the great reading room of the Mitchell Library of the State Library of NSW on October 17, 2010. The event formed part of the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the

State Library. In response we invited speakers from a range of disciplines (a philosopher, a classical scholar, the Mitchell Librarian, a sociologist and a novelist and literary critic) as well as artists (an actor reading from Patrick White's The Solid Mandala, and a musician) to consider the nature of knowledge: how we know, and how we access and pass on what we know.

Part of the idea for both events is to offer not only the events, but also multimedia content drawn from them. To this end we are currently editing together a range of materials to be broadcast on TVS and posted in various forms on the Internet, through You Tube and the websites of our partners. The ads for the events offer a taste of the kind of work we are trying to develop. Further details on these events including links to the event sites and video ads can be found at: http://www.uws.edu.au/writing_society/writing_and_society/partnerships_and_collaborations/the_sydney_consortium

the sydney consortium ...

Biodiversity and the Arts

Australian museum
nature culture discover

the sydney consortium ...

STATE LIBRARY™
NEW SOUTH WALES

On Knowledge

Academic wins prize for best paper in political science

Professor Tim Rowse from the Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy was recognised at the Australian Political Studies Association Conference in September for his paper on the contemporary politics of Indigeneity.

Tim was awarded the annual 'Henry Mayer Prize' for the best paper to appear in the Australian Journal of Political Science in 2009. His winning paper is: 'Official statistics and the contemporary politics of Indigeneity' Australian Journal of Political Science 44(2) June, 2009, pp.193-211. Tim says the award recognises that his work as a historian is also relevant within the discipline of political science.

In 1970, as a second year undergraduate at the University of Sydney, Tim was a student of the late Henry Mayer, and he has long admired him. Henry Mayer's textbooks on

Australian Politics led the way in the study of Indigenous issues within Australian Political Science. Mayer also encouraged his students to be sensitive to subtle conceptual distinctions in political thought

"My paper discusses how Indigenous intellectuals in Australia and New Zealand have used official statistics about the continuing socio-economic disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. I argue that their access to the statistics of inequality encourages them to talk about and think about 'social justice' as if it were largely a matter of

ending these disparities - 'closing the gaps'," says Tim.

"This is significant, if we take a moment to consider that other ways of thinking about social justice are possible - for example social justice as a respectful relationship between different cultures, and social justice as a political settlement between peoples (such as in a treaty)."

"My paper shows that Indigenous intellectuals are aware that there are subtle differences between these co-existing notions of 'social justice', but these intellectuals are pulled continually towards the way of thinking about social justice that is powerfully conveyed by official statistics - social justice as disparity.

New Approaches to Human Security in Asia

David Walton, from the School of Humanities & Languages, was recently appointed as co-project manager of the above research project (with Professor Bill Tow, ANU).

The project is run through the Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security (CEPS) at the ANU and has received $30, 000 funding from the Japan Foundation for this year (year 2 of a three year project).

Overview of project
The Human Security in Asia project is designed to measure the extent to which Australia, China and Japan as concerned proponents of human security politics can coordinate viable

human security approaches in their national planning. The project involves leading scholars in the field from Japan (Tokyo University and Osaka University) China (Fudan University) and Australia. A workshop has been held in Osaka (September 2009), Canberra (September 2010) and the third workshop will be held in Shanghai (September 2011). After extensive discussion conducted at the Osaka workshop, it was decided that construction of a distinctly 'Asian' human security paradigm was best served by compiling a focused data base incorporating English (initially), Japanese and Chinese language sources.

Innovative Integration at UWS Mental Wellbeing Conference

The highly successful School of Psychology Mental Wellbeing Conference staged at the Sydney Convention Centre on 15th and 16th September this year was attended by around 200 stakeholders from the mental health and wellbeing areas, including consumers and carers, a cross section of mental health practitioners, researchers and policy makers from around the world.

Keynote speaker Professor Peter Tyrer from the United Kingdom attracted a very large audience to his address on "The road to recovery for people with chronic mental illness", and he was subsequently interviewed on this topic by Natasha Mitchell of ABC Radio's "All in the Mind". Neurologist and addiction medicine specialist Professor Jon Currie from St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne also gave a colourful and highly informative address on the optimal treatment of addictions.

Professor Beverley Raphael spoke of the challenges facing mental health in the future and Professor Gabriele Bammer from ANU discussed the possible use of integration and implementation sciences.

A session on Body Image and Wellbeing chaired by Professor Jane Ussher attracted great interest and discussion. Professor Phillipa Hay began the session by addressing Body image and sense of self, followed by a number of short presentations on a variety of image and wellbeing topics.

Professor Michael Atherton and UWS colleagues – Alan Lem, Alison Creighton, Kirstin Robertson-Gillam and Hart Cohen - presented an engaging symposium on "Directions in Music Therapy and Music and Wellbeing at UWS" which was very well received by the attendees.

Professor Atherton and Garth Paine also demonstrated some of the musical language research being conducted at UWS through a "Bowl Chant" at the official opening, performed with Tibetan prayer bowls, bells, electronic singing bowls and other unusual instruments, appropriately accompanied by thunder claps from the storm outside.

Symposium at the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading (SSSR)

Dr Heather Winskel from the School of Psychology was joint coordinator and chair with Prof. Prakash Padakannaya, University of Mysore, India of a symposium at the 17th Annual Meeting for the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading (SSSR) conference held in Berlin entitled "Reading and writing in lesser known languages" http://www.triplesr.org/conference/10conf.php. The papers in this symposium included learning to read and write in the alphasyllabic Ge'ez (Tigrinya and Tigre languages) and alphabetic Latin (Kunama and Saho) scripts of Ethiopia, Chitonga in Zambia, Maltese-English bilingual children in Malta, as well as Thai and Persian. The symposium presented the latest research on reading/writing in languages and orthographies that are hardly represented in the otherwise vast literature. Current theories and models of reading are largely based on studies conducted on Indo-European orthographies and predominantly in one language namely English. By including these lesser studied languages we can build more comprehensive and representative universal models of reading/writing mechanisms and processes. Moreover, this research enables us to delineate between what processes are universal or common across languages and what is shaped by the characteristics of the particular language or orthography.