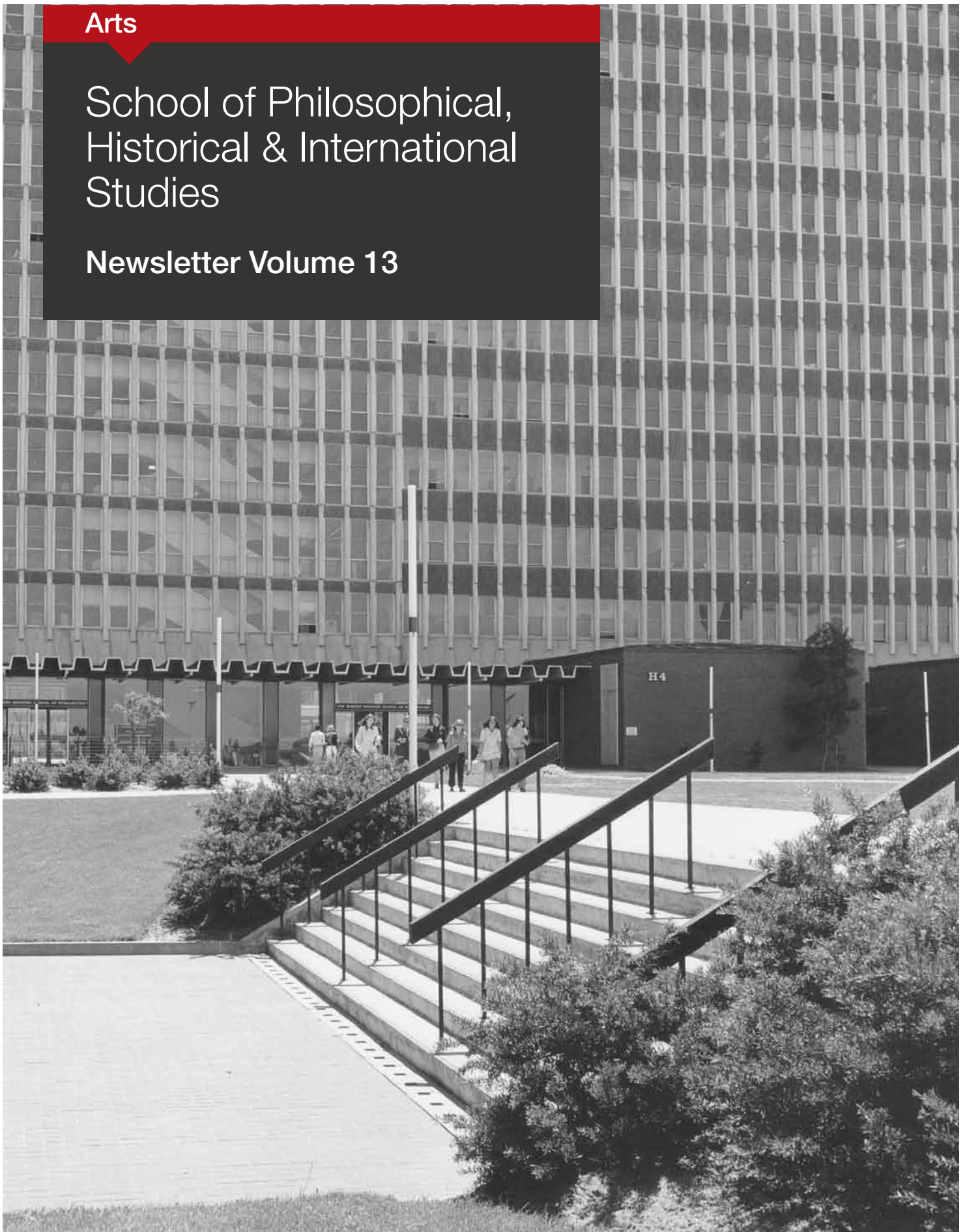




Arts

## School of Philosophical, Historical & International Studies

Newsletter Volume 13



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## Staff News

### Welcome to

Dr. Clare Corbould who joined the History Department as an ARC Larkins Fellow and who will teach into the American History Program here in the Department.

Dr. Megan Cassidy-Welch a Medieval Specialist who has joined the Department as a ARC Future Fellow.

Dr. Kate Murphy has been appointed as a Lecturer in Contemporary History from Semester 2, 2011.

Kate Quinn Project Officer for the Australian Generations Project, an ARC funded Oral History Project headed by Al Thomson.

ACJC has appointed Karen Auerbach for a 3 year lectureship in Jewish studies beginning second semester this year. Karen is an historian who works in the area of Polish-Jewish history. Her doctorate from Brandeis studied the Jewish families of an apartment block in postwar communist Poland and she is currently writing a cultural history of Warsaw through the prism of nineteenth and twentieth century Jewish booksellers and publishers.

Dr. Ben Fraser has been appointed as an Assistant Lecturer in the Philosophy Department.

### Congratulations

Meaghan Katz and Mia Tracey, Sessional History and International Studies tutors who have taken up lecturer positions in the DOTS program at the Gippsland Campus. This program supports Year 12 students and provides a pathway into degree programs at Monash University.

ACJC Lecturer Nathan Wolski has moved to Israel for a three year secondment to translate one of the most important works of medieval Jewish literature.

### Farewell

#### Professor Mark Peel

Professor Mark Peel (History) moved to the UK in 2009 to take up a position at the University of Liverpool and has now officially resigned from Monash. Mark will retain his strong sense of connection with Monash and will visit during August this year where he will continue to collaborate with Monash colleagues on several projects.

#### Jason Taliadoris

In trimester 1 2011, Jason will teach Restitution (a little-known remedy available in cases where someone receives a windfall at the expense of another, often called 'unjust enrichment') and in trimester 3, will teach Statutory Compensation Schemes (statutory compensation schemes for personal injuries, such as workplace and transport accidents).

Despite not exactly knowing what the rest of 2011/2012 brings, Jason anticipates he will teach into first year law subjects such as Law, Justice, & Civil Society (an introductory subject to law) and possibly a subject Human Rights in Australia.

Jason will continue to research in the field of medieval legal, political, and intellectual history, although venturing also into aspects of the legal areas just mentioned.

We are pleased that Jason will remain an Adjunct Research Associate with SOPHIS, and thanks to Peter Howard will remain an associate of the Prato Consortium for Medieval & Renaissance Studies.

Jason commented upon his departure 'I hope to retain my intellectual and social links with SOPHIS in particular and Monash University more broadly. It has been a privilege being part of SOPHIS since I joined it in April 2008', it is sad to be leaving such talented, generous, and giving colleagues, but exciting all the same to embarking on this new challenge'.

### International Papers

#### Peter Howard – University of Toronto

Dr. Peter Howard recently presented the annual Etienne Gilson Lecture at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, University of Toronto. This lecture series, was established in honour of the Institute's founder and invites a senior medievalist annual to present the lecture. Peter's 2011 lecture was entitled *Aquinas and Antoninus: A Tale of Two Summae in Renaissance Florence* was delivered on 29 March 2011 at the University of St Michaels College.

#### Seamus O'Hanlon - Monash Malaysia

Dr. Seamus O'Hanlon, Director of the International Studies Program visited the Monash University Sunway Campus where he lectured on *Tales of Ordinary Landscapes*. Whilst at Sunway, Seamus also met with International Studies staff and students to discuss the International Studies Program and further strengthen ties between Sunway and Australia.

# Barbara Caine



## Were you a student at Monash in the 1990s?

As many of you may know, Professor Barbara Caine left Monash University at the end of 2010 to take up a post at the University Sydney as Head of the School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry (SOPHI).

Barbara spent 15 years at Monash (1995-2010) as Professor of History and ARC Professorial Fellow. During this time she published four books: *English Feminism* (1997), *Gendering European History* (with Glenda Sluga) (2000), *Bombay to Bloomsbury: the Stracheys, c 1850-1950* (2005) and *Biography and History* (2010). She also produced many articles and several edited works: the most recent one, *Friendship a History* (2009, Equinox Press), a social history examining the meaning and importance of Friendship from classical to more recent times, featured the work of many of Barbara's colleagues here in the Department.

Barbara has had a big impact on History at Monash. As Head of School for nine years, she provided crucial leadership during a period of administrative restructuring, led the reorganization of the undergraduate curriculum, and played a key role in the development of the immensely successful International Studies sequence. Barbara also introduced a popular Masters coursework programme in Biography and Life Writing that has led many students to continue on to postgraduate research. Always innovative in her thinking, she pioneered the induction seminars for new research students and the very successful reporting-back days that gave students valuable feedback on their work. She also established research support groups for staff: a forum for presenting and getting feedback on drafts of articles and grant applications that has fostered Monash History's already collegial character.

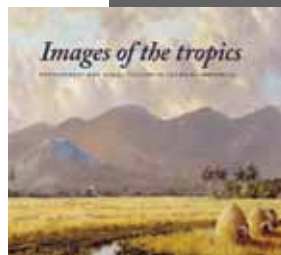
Barbara is highly esteemed as a research supervisor and recently jointly won the 2010 Faculty of Arts Award for Excellence in Higher Degree by Research Supervision (with Dr Alison Ross ECPS). In the last 5 years alone Barbara supervised 14 PhD and MA candidates in various capacities and in total supervised 28 Monash candidates to completion.

Friends and colleagues gathered in early December 2010 to farewell Barbara and her husband Larry.

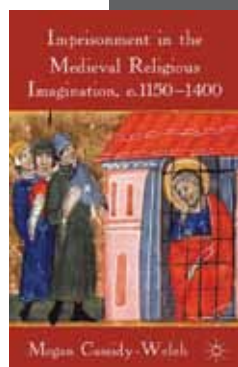
Barbara will continue to collaborate with her Monash history colleagues on a history of women's letters and letter-writing in Europe. She has also begun work on an ARC funded project on the history of biography and autobiography in the British World.

**David Garrioch**

***Images of the Tropics - Environment and visual culture in colonial Indonesia***  
Susie Protschky,  
KITLV Press, 2011



***Imprisonment in the Medieval Religious Imagination c. 1150-1400***  
Cassidy-Welch,  
Palgrave MacMillan  
2011



The 1990s were a time of enormous change for tertiary education in Australia. The introduction of HECS in 1989 heralded the end of free university education, and the impact of government reforms saw many universities grow larger through mergers and the increased participation of international students. Shifts towards part-time study and more dependence on paid work impacted on student culture and campus life, while new technologies changed the nature of teaching and learning. Were you a student at one of Monash's campuses in this important period? If so, Professor Graeme Davison and Dr Kate Murphy would like to hear your story.

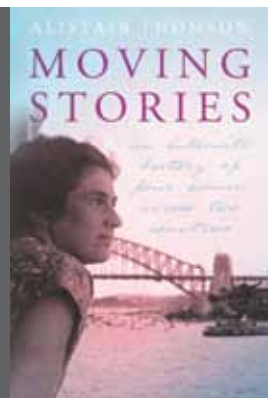
Davison and Murphy are writing a history of Monash University, to be published next year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first intake of 347 students at Clayton in 1961. The history will span the founding of Monash in post-war prosperity; the baby boom and growing demand for higher education; the student revolt of the late 1960s and early 70s; and the reforms that have transformed Monash into Australia's largest and most international university.

The authors are seeking written contributions, in the form of memoirs, short or long, suggestions on sources, and photographs from alumni of the 1990s. For more information and guidelines for written submissions contact Graeme Davison or Kate Murphy

Email: [historyofmonash@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:historyofmonash@arts.monash.edu.au)  
Telephone: +61 3 9905 1184

## Recent and Forthcoming School Publications

***Moving Stories: An intimate history of four women across two countries***  
Alistair Thompson,  
University of  
NSW Press, 2011



***The Letters of Margherita Datini (1384-1410)***  
Carolyn James  
Published in the series  
*The Other Voice in Early Modern Europe*  
edited by Albert Rabil  
and Margaret King  
2011



## Bain Attwood

Australian Studies at  
Harvard University  
2012/2013



The Australian Nominating Committee recently announced the appointment of Professor Bain Attwood to the Gough Whitlam and Malcolm Fraser Chair in Australian Studies at Harvard University for the 2012-2013 academic year.

The chair was established by the Australian government in 1976, and renamed last year in recognition of these two prime ministers who, from opposite sides of politics, negotiated and endowed this important initiative.

Bain will be appointed to the History Department in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard.

Chair of the Australian Nominating Committee for the Harvard Chair, Professor Stuart Macintyre, said: 'Bain Attwood is an outstanding scholar in Australian Aboriginal history and we are excited that Harvard has been able to appoint him.'

'In a number of prize-winning books Professor Attwood has contributed to the understanding of Aboriginal history, and explored how it has changed the ways we see this country's history. His breadth of perspective and acuity of judgement provides an original perspective on the international field of Indigenous Studies, and will enhance his teaching at Harvard.'

Commenting on his appointment, Bain said: 'It is a great honour to be appointed to this chair and to be following in the footsteps of so many fine scholars.' He also joins two other Monash University historians appointed to the chair. Graeme Davison held the chair in 1988-89, and John Rickard in 1997-98.

Bain looks forward to teaching courses at Harvard that will examine historical issues about colonisation and indigenous history and investigate why these have taken both similar and different forms in the settler societies of Australia and the United States.

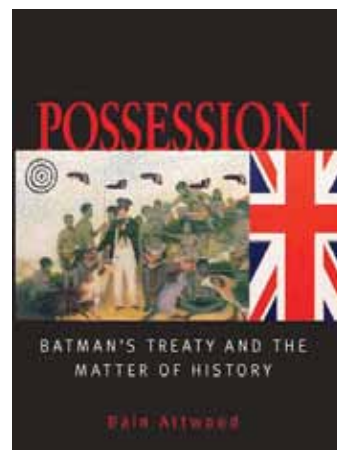
'I'll also be organising a conference about the ways in which Anglophone settler states have treated indigenous people's historical claims regarding sovereignty and land,' Bain said. 'In doing this, I hope to consolidate and develop a collaborative dialogue between American and Australian scholars that has been forged by some of my predecessors at Harvard.'

Dean of Arts, Professor Rae Frances, remarked that this appointment was a fitting recognition of Bain's outstanding scholarship in Aboriginal history. 'I hope that his time at Harvard will also build research collaborations in Indigenous Studies,' Professor Frances said.

For further information, see -  
<http://harvaus.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do>

Congratulations must also go to Bain who received the Australian History Prize during the 2010 NSW Premier's History Awards Gala Dinner for his book *Possession: Batmans Treaty and the Matter of History* (2010 Miegunyah Press)

The judges hailed Bain's book, which considers the only treaty document drawn up in Australia between settlers and Aboriginal people and the many stories about it, as "an outstanding contribution to Australian history", and described it as "meticulously researched", "wide-ranging" and "masterfully crafted".



Several Monash authors have won one of the New South Wales Premier's History Awards, including David Garrioch, Raelene Frances and Bruce Scates, Robin Gerster, Maria Nugent and Christina Twomey.

## Cecilia Hewlett

Receives fellowship  
from Villa I Tatti for  
2011/2012



Cecilia Hewlett has received the Hanna Kiel Postdoctoral Fellowship for the 2011/2012 academic year at Villa I Tatti, The Harvard University Centre for Italian Renaissance Studies. Villa I Tatti awards fifteen fellowships on an annual basis for advanced research in the Italian Renaissance. Cecilia is following in the footsteps of Bill Kent, Peter Howard, Nicholas Eckstein and Carolyn James in winning this fellowship.

Fellows live and work in Florence for the duration of the fellowship and Cecilia will take up her fellowship from 1st July this year. Whilst in residence, Cecilia will be working on a major research project entitled *Miracles Markets and Militia: Peasants on the Move in Renaissance Tuscany* that will examine the factors contributing to mass peasant mobilisations throughout this period.

Cecilia gained her PhD from Monash History Department in 2005 and is the author of *Rural Communities in Renaissance Tuscany: Religious Identities and Local Loyalties* (Brepols, 2009). She is currently Director of the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) and prior to this, was Associate Director of the Monash Centre in Prato.

The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies at Villa I Tatti - the villa bequeathed to Harvard in 1959 by the art historian Bernard Berenson - is devoted to advanced study of the Italian Renaissance in all its aspects.

For more information, see - <http://www.itatti.it/>

# ARC Future Fellows

Congratulations to two of our Philosophy staff, Jakob Hohwy and Rob Sparrow who both secured ARC Future Fellowships in the 2010 ARC Round. We also welcome External ARC Future Fellow Megan Cassidy-Welch to the History Department.

## Megan Cassidy -Welch

History



### War and Memory in European Culture : A Long Perspective

Megan recently joined SOPHIS in the Department of History as an ARC Future Fellow (2011-2015).

Megan's fellowship project, entitled *War and Memory in European Culture: A Long Perspective*, examines the ways in which the thirteenth-century crusades were integrated into European cultural memory. Using case studies from France, Germany, Spain and Italy, the project will both analyse how memories of war were created in a premodern context, and consider the deep historical roots of war memory itself.

Megan works broadly in the area of medieval cultural history, with a particular focus on the thirteenth-century west. Her most recent book is *Imprisonment in the Medieval Religious Imagination*, c. 1150-1400, published by Palgrave MacMillan this year. Prior to joining Monash, Megan held continuing positions as lecturer in medieval history at the University of Melbourne and at the University of Tasmania, and an ARC postdoctoral fellowship. Her previous ARC research concerned displaced people after the Albigensian crusade. Megan is also secretary and past president of the Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (ANZAMEMS), and serves on various editorial boards.

When not writing about the crusades, Megan attempts to spark in her two sons an interest in medieval things: she does this by taking them to cathedrals and castles in Europe, and to the MCG to cheer for the Crows (her) and the Pies (them).

## Jakob Hohwy

Philosophy



### The Human Mind in Prediction: Conceptual, Experimental and Practical Implications of the Theory that the Brain is a Hypothesis-tester

The relation between the mind and the body is investigated through analysis and experimental studies of the idea that the human brain is essentially a hypothesis-tester. This radically changes our understanding of experience, self and belief, and may lead to clinical and technological discovery and innovation.

"I am trying to straddle philosophy and neuroscience. These are very different disciplines and it is very time consuming to get things to gel, both theoretically and in terms of practical issues.

In the last few years I have had to delay or shelve many projects simply because there isn't enough time. This fellowship now frees me up to pursue fully this interdisciplinary agenda. Now I can capitalise on groundbreaking advances in theoretical neuroscience and explore their impact across disciplines.

It is extremely exciting to win this fellowship. I can now really expand our research group where we, as something very rare in philosophy, conduct empirical, 'neuropsychological' experiments. It makes such a difference after years of doing purely theoretical research to be encouraged to break the mould and help change the conception of what philosophy can be."

## Rob Sparrow

Philosophy



### A New Ethics for the Development and Application of Genetic Technologies in a Pluralist Society

New technologies for prenatal testing and pre-implantation genetic diagnosis will soon grant us an unprecedented power to choose our children's genes. This project will develop an ethical framework to govern the development and use of these technologies and thus help ensure that future Australians enjoy a healthy start to life.

"The project combines my interests in political philosophy and bioethics. I am hoping that looking to debates in political theory about multiculturalism, about education, and about the proper role of the state will allow me to make some progress in arguments about human enhancement in bioethics, which are currently stuck in a not-terribly-interesting dispute between conservatives and liberals.

Perhaps the best thing about being awarded this Fellowship is that it will allow me the opportunity to travel internationally to conduct and promote my research. One of the disadvantages about working in Australia is being so far from the US and Europe. Being able to spend an extended period at bioethics centres at the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Tokyo, and at Oxford will be wonderful.

These latest results also show, I think, just how strong philosophy and bioethics are at Monash: we now have three Future Fellows in the Philosophy Program within the School.

Nobody achieves results in research by themselves, of course, and I am very grateful for the support I have had from the Director of the Centre for Human Bioethics, Justin Oakley, since I've been at Monash - as well as from my other colleagues in the School and the Monash and Arts Research Offices."

# What's On

Tuesday 14 June 2011

## Egypt After Tutankhamun with Associate Professor Colin Hope

Time: Lectures begin at 6:30pm sharp  
Venue: Museum Theatre, Melbourne Museum. Nicholson Street, Carlton  
Bookings: Essential, please visit Exhibition Website at:  
<http://museumvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/whatson/tutankhamun-tuesdays/>

Thursday 30 June 2011

## Making Digital Histories: The Old Bailey Proceedings Online as Public History

Professor Robert Shoemaker (University of Sheffield) director of the The Old Bailey Proceedings Online Project will discuss digital histories as a form of public history. A panel featuring Shane Carmody (Director of Collections & Access State Library of Victoria) will further discuss how dispersed digital resources are linked in local projects.

Time: 5:30pm -7pm  
Venue: Experimedia, State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street Melbourne (via front entry)  
Bookings: Essential, admission is free, phone: **(03) 8664 7099** or email: [bookings@slv.vic.gov.au](mailto:bookings@slv.vic.gov.au)  
Online: <http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/event/new-directions-digital-histories>

Tuesday 26 July 2011

## Tutankhamun's Wardrobe with Dr. Gillian Bowen

Time: Lectures begin at 6:30pm sharp  
Venue: Museum Theatre, Melbourne Museum. Nicholson Street, Carlton  
Bookings: Essential, please visit Exhibition Website at:  
<http://museumvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/whatson/tutankhamun-tuesdays/>

Wednesday 03 August 2011

## Monash Israel Oration: AMOS OZ. Israel: Peace, War and Storytelling

The 2011 Monash Israel Oration will be delivered by well known Israeli author and journalist Amos Oz . A professor of literature at Ben Gurion University in Be'er Sheva, Amos Oz is among the most influential and well-regarded intellectuals in Israel.

Time: 7pm to 8pm  
Venue: Melbourne Town Hall, Swanston Street Melbourne  
Bookings: Essential via:  
<http://wheelercentre.com/calendar/event/amos-oz-israel-peace-war-and-storytelling/>

Tuesday 06 August 2011

## Forgotten Landscapes with Dr. Elizabeth Bloxam

Time: Lectures begin at 6:30pm sharp  
Venue: Museum Theatre, Melbourne Museum. Nicholson Street, Carlton  
Bookings: Essential, please visit Exhibition Website at:  
<http://museumvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/whatson/tutankhamun-tuesdays/>

Thursday 11 August 2011

## Making Identity: creating a new exhibition at the Immigration Museum

How do people find a sense of belonging in contemporary Australia? Dr Moya McFadzean, Senior Curator, Migration will discuss the making of a new exhibition at the Immigration Museum. Identity: yours, mine, ours looks at questions of personal identity in contemporary Australia and explores who we are, who others think we are /& what it means to belong.?

Time: 5:30pm -7pm  
Venue: Experimedia, State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street Melbourne (via front entry)  
Bookings: Essential, admission is free, phone: **(03) 8664 7099** or email: [bookings@slv.vic.gov.au](mailto:bookings@slv.vic.gov.au)

Thursday 15 September 2011

## Margherita Datini and Her World - A Public Lecture by Carolyn James

To celebrate 10 years of Monash University Centre in Prato Carolyn James will present research on the Letters of Margherita Datini. This event will also feature renaissance music and a reading of the letters.

Time: 5:30pm -7pm  
Venue: Village Roadshow Theatre, State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street Melbourne (via Entry 3 LaTrobe Street)  
Bookings: Essential, admission is free, phone: **(03) 9902 0116** or email: [kerrie.alexander@monash.edu](mailto:kerrie.alexander@monash.edu)

Thursday 06 October 2011

### Talking About Australian Generations: Making Oral History

Australian Generations, one of the nations most ambitious oral history projects will interview 300 Australians from between 1930 and 1990 to explore the changing experience of everyday life and the significance of generational memory and identity. A panel featuring Al Thomson (Monash University); Kevin Bradley (National Library of Australia) and Michele Rayner (ABC Radio National) will discuss issues in recording life stories across the country and with different age groups, and about creating an online digital history archive and national radio history series.

Time: 5:30pm -7pm

Venue: Experimedia, State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street Melbourne (via front entry)

Bookings: Essential, admission is free, phone: **(03) 8664 7099** or email: **bookings@slv.vic.gov.au**

Friday 07 October to  
Sunday 09 October 2011

### Communities of Memory - 17th National Oral History Association of Australia Conference

Registrations now Open, with early bird registration rates available to 30 June 2011.

Conference Program features pre conference workshops, public lectures and a number of panels including the Art of Interviewing for Film, Oral History & Performance, Forgotten Australians, When Trauma Intrudes and Intergenerational Digital Histories.

Our keynote speakers include

- Steven High: Chair in Public History and co-director of the Center for Oral History and Digital Storytelling at Concordia University, Montreal;
- Nathalie Nguyen: Australian Research Fellow, University of Melbourne;
- Peter Read: Australian Research Council Professorial Fellow, University of Sydney.

Time: 9am to 5pm daily

Venue: Conference Centre, State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street Melbourne (via front entry)

Information: <https://sites.google.com/site/communitiesofmemory/>  
or email: **kerrie.alexander@monash.edu**

Monday 10 October 2011

### Vanishing Neighbourhoods: Oral History, Museums and Urban Change - Professor Steven High

Centre for Oral History & Digital Storytelling, Concordia University, Montreal

Steven is currently working with a local museum on an exhibition on *les quartiers disparus* or 'vanishing neighbourhoods' using oral history to explore 'urban change' (working class neighbourhoods demolished to make way for freeways, government complexes and parking lots). The methodology, 'memory clinics', involves small groups of former residents, old insurance maps, expropriation photos, as well as the walking interview. Steven will discuss the building of this new exhibition.

Steven High is Chair in Public History and co-director of the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling at Concordia University, Montreal, Canada. His publications include *Corporate Wasteland: The Landscape and Memory of Deindustrialization* (2007).

See: <http://storytelling.concordia.ca/oralhistory/index.html>

Time: 6pm to 7pm

Venue: Age Theatre, Melbourne Museum

Bookings: Admission is Free, all welcome to attend. Bookings will open August 2011.

Enquiries: **kerrie.alexander@monash.edu**

Thursday 10 November 2011

### Why is History Important? Twenty Years of Professional Historians

A panel of Professional Historians will reflect on twenty years of professional history in Victoria and their work in a range of fields – from writing commissioned histories and reports, assessing heritage significance, and completing oral history projects, to careers in the media, museums and the government sector.

Time: 5:30pm -7pm

Venue: Village Roadshow Theatre, State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street Melbourne (via front entry)

Bookings: Essential, admission is free, phone: **(03) 8664 7099** or email: **bookings@slv.vic.gov.au**

Advance Notice - November 2011

### Inaugural Louis Green Lecture – Keeping Notes in Early Modern England: empirical sensibility and Hippocrates' complaint - Professor Richard Yeo

An annual lecture in honour of the late Professor Louis Green on intellectual and social history. This annual lecture endowed by Professor Wallace Kirsop is organised by Department of History and the School of Languages, Culture and Linguistics.

Details tba. please email: **kerrie.alexander@monash.edu** to receive information on this lecture.



**Menzies Building circa 1970**  
Image courtesy of Monash University Archive

On 2 March 2011 the last escalator in the Menzies Building carried its last passengers. Soon afterwards it was dismantled to be replaced by additional lifts located in a new tower wedged between the original building and the south wing. For almost fifty years, the escalators have been the most memorable feature of Monash's most iconic building. Shortly after I came in the early 1980s, I visited the United States where I ran into an old friend at the University of Chicago, just back from a tour of Australian universities. 'Oh Monash', he said, pausing to consult his mental travel notes, 'you mean the one with the escalators?'

To the original inhabitants of the Ming Wing, the escalators symbolised Monash's determination to be modern. 'I had only seen escalators before in department stores', Professor Ian Copland recalls, 'and I couldn't recall any that connected nine floors. What is more, they offered quick and easy access (and in those days the only access because student's weren't allowed to ride the lifts). I was an instant fan.'

From the beginning, Monash's founders had wanted a big modern building that would signal to its students a willingness to break with tradition and offer them a wide view of the world. In the late 50s glass towers like the UN Building symbolised the hope of human betterment. Monash's tower would advertise the arrival of the new university to motorists driving home along Dandenong Road. At night, riders on the escalators would be visible to motorists through a glassed section that ran up the building's south side, before the the new wing was built.

The Ming Wing grew even bigger than the university's founders had intended. Monash was originally designed as a university of science and technology, so most of the site at Clayton was allocated to laboratories, workshops, lecture theatres and offices for the technical faculties. Arts, commerce, education and law got only one-seven-storey building near the Wellington road entrance. But before the first students arrived, the government's priorities changed: instead of a university of science and technology, Monash would become a 'fully-balanced university' with its largest enrolments in arts and commerce. The only way to accommodate the expected 5500 students was to make the big tower bigger still. In August 1960, Matheson agreed that the humanities building should be raised to twelve stories. Monash's boldest building was a monument, not to the foresight of Monash's founders, so much as their myopia.

Modernist theory said that form should follow function. The most traditional form of university architecture was the quadrangle: a hollow square of two or three-story buildings serviced by staircases and linked by pathways across a grassy common space. As students and academics moved from class to class or from meeting to meeting they constantly bumped into each other, creating opportunities for spontaneous discussion and debate. The architects of the Ming Wing, Eggleston, Macdonald and Secomb, overthrew this tradition. Its form—a long thin, multi-storey slab—was certainly modern but its functionality was harder to discern. Its long central corridors were aesthetically dreary and uncongenial to the habits of academics, 'chronically talkative [and] sensitive to disturbance'. The only patterns of movement within the building were orthogonal—up/down—east/west—obliging its inhabitants to walk long distances between outside lecture theatres and inside tutorial rooms, and from one department to another.

Every hour, at the changeover of classes, the architects calculated, approximately 1675 persons would enter or leave the building within a space of ten minutes. It would take thirteen high-speed lifts or eighteen escalators to do the job. The escalators were cheaper, moved more people more quickly, took less space and cost less to maintain, or so it was said. The old Melbourne engineering firm Johns and Waygood, whose managing director Peter Johns sat on the Monash Council, won the tender to build them. Like other features of the modern urban landscape—the drive-in, the regional shopping centre, the highway interchange—Monash's escalators were an application of Henry Ford's production line, a model of industrial organization that programmed human activity into machine-like sequential movements.

While Monash's students could move freely from building to building, once they entered the humanities building, they were 're-shuffled into a different pattern'. Instead of bumping into people, and pausing for an interesting conversation, they waved to them as they passed, one on the up- and the other on the down-escalator, shouting 'we must have coffee some time'. As the architectural historian Conrad Hamann acutely observed, the building represented 'an architecture of the beehive or compound eye telling those who enter that they are small, that they are to work and study in vast numbers'.

Whether the students actually felt so intimidated by the building I'm not so sure. Along those dreary corridors the academics created more welcoming spaces, humanising the industrial logic of the building itself. Over the years, thousands of new students have arrived and ridden the escalators up to their first tutorials on Medieval history or Greek philosophy, Macroeconomics or Accountancy I. In an era when the university was the gateway to social mobility, the Monash escalators were a powerful metaphor. I like to visualise an Indian file of Monash notables—politicians Peter Costello and Simon Crean, Reserve Bank governor Ian Macfarlane, theatre director Elijah Moshinsky, science fiction writer Damien Broderick, student politician Albert Langer, ratbag journalist Pete Steedman, philosopher Peter Singer—ascending the Monash escalator to fame and fortune. The ascent was not always smooth: in 1969 Law/Economics student Julian Burnside was fined \$4 for stopping the escalators in a moment of lawlessness during Monash's annual 'Farm Week'.

The escalators have long lost their modernist gleam. For years, they have been in an almost permanent state of dilapidation, with whole flights out of action for weeks on end. They have caused too much frustration and inconvenience to feel sentimental about their long-overdue retirement. There were times, not long ago, when it seemed the death of the escalators might condemn the building itself. Would it suffer a similar fate to the famous Pruitt-Igoe apartment block in St Louis, whose spectacular demolition in 1972 sounded the death-knell of high modernism? Or be turned into apartments for graduate students?



**Menzies Escalators by Graeme Davison**  
Image courtesy of Monash University Archive

But against the odds, the Menzies Building, sans escalators, and with a welcoming new foyer, will survive into a new era. While he doesn't lament the last escalator, Ian Copland admits to just a twinge of nostalgia. Too troublesome to keep alive, the escalators are too important to forget. When she heard the news of their imminent demise, one of the newest inhabitants of the building, Dr Kate Murphy, persuaded Dean Rae Frances that at least a few steps of the last flight should be rescued and displayed sculpturally in the foyer of the new building. Future students may not be able to ride the escalators, but they will be able to remember those who did.

Graeme Davison and Kate Murphy are writing a new history of Monash to mark the 50th anniversary of arrival of the first students in 1961. Entitled *The University Unlimited*, it will be published early in 2012.



**The view from the new Menzies Building lifts - looking over the SE**

**Datini Archive above and image of Margherita Datini (right) from the book: *The Letters of Margherita Datini (1384-1410)* (an annotated translation with critical introduction of the 250 letters of Margherita Datini) by Carolyn James and Antonio Pagliaro published in the series *The Other Voice in Early Modern Europe* edited by Albert Rabil and Margaret King University of Chicago Press, 2011 - Images courtesy of Carolyn James and Antonio Pagliaro**

## Late-Medieval Prato and the Letters of Margherita Datini

Carolyn James



Just a five-minute walk from the Monash Centre in Prato, which will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year, is the still imposing, late-medieval house of the wealthy merchant Francesco Datini (c.1335-1410). Now the State Archive of Prato, the building houses, among its other documentary riches, the business records of its original owner. Some 600 account books and over 150,000 letters throw light on almost every aspect of Datini's mercantile empire that stretched from Tuscany to Provence and beyond to Spain. As well as the

thousands of letters exchanged by Datini's business partners and employees, the archive preserves over four hundred letters between the merchant and his Florentine wife, Margherita Bandini.

Later this year Margherita's 252 letters to her husband, written mostly in the 1390s, will be published in English translation for the first time in the well-established series *The Other Voice in Early Modern Europe*, edited by Albert Rabil and Margaret King. I have completed this work in collaboration with Antonio Pagliaro, a colleague from La Trobe University, and we have spent many hours considering how best to translate these colloquial late-fourteenth-century Tuscan letters - dictated by a semi-literate woman to a male scribe - into an appropriate register of English. Our analysis shows that despite a lack of formal training, Margherita took firm authorial control of the dictation process. Her correspondence, therefore, provides interesting evidence about how an intelligent and determined woman successfully adapted the mercantile letter, a dynamically evolving and ubiquitous sub-genre of epistolary writing, for her own purposes. Margherita's letters provide a vivid portrait of her rather unconventional marriage and narrate in detail the pleasures and challenges of everyday life in a period afflicted by political instability and recurrent waves of plague that kept alive memories of the Black Death which had swept Europe with such horrific devastation in 1348.

The letters also reveal Margherita's important role in protecting and promoting her husband's economic and political position and provide evidence about how the medieval household was linked to larger kinship, neighbourhood and friendship networks. It is now clear that women played a crucial role in creating and bolstering these ties and exerted considerable informal influence through them.

To celebrate the launch of this book and to mark the 10th anniversary of the Monash University Centre Prato we will be hosting a public lecture entitled 'Margherita Datini and her World' on September 15 2011 at the State Library of Victoria (see What's On for further information).



## Australian Generations Oral History Project

Kate Quinn

## Making History - Museum Victoria and Monash Historians

## Celebrating Twenty Years of Professional Historians in Victoria



Work on the 2010-2014 ARC Linkage Project Australian Generations: life histories, generational change and Australian memory, is on track with the recruitment of key personnel now complete. February saw the appointment of two PhD candidates, Cath McLennan (at Monash) and Nicole Curby (at La Trobe) and Project Officer, Kate Quinn. The research team consists of Chief Investigators Professor Alistair Thomson, Dr Seamus O'Hanlon, and Associate Professor Christina Twomey, along with colleagues from La Trobe University Associate Professor Katie Holmes and Associate Professor Kerreen Reiger. Partner Organisations are represented by Kevin Bradley (Senior Curator, National Library of Australia) and Michelle Rayner (Executive Producer, ABC Radio National).

Early 2011 also saw the recruitment of 16 experienced oral historians from across Australia who, along with the research team and PhD candidates, will undertake a total of 300 interviews with Australians born between 1920 and 1990, rural and urban, male and female, the recently arrived and people whose families have lived in Australia for many years - the Australian Generations oral history project proposes a generational reinterpretation of Australian history. The interviews will be carried out over the next two years.

As Professor Thomson explains, 'Dramatic social, technical and environmental changes in the past century mean that Australians born in the 1920s may have distinctive experiences and expectations, for example of family, faith or place, by comparison with Australians born in the 1950s or the 1980s. We aim to explore the formation and significance of Australian generations.'

If you would like to learn more about this project or register your interest in participating, go to [www.arts.monash.edu.au/australian-generations](http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/australian-generations) or contact Project Officer Kate Quinn on 03 9905 2206 or [kate.quinn@monash.edu](mailto:kate.quinn@monash.edu)

Museum Victoria recently launched the Making History Website in partnership with The Monash University Institute for Public History. Making History is an online space setup to engage and challenge Victorian school students to create a shared personal, family or community history and to access and ultimately contribute to Museum Victoria's online collection. Using the interactive website, each participating student is guided to produce a short online digital history.

Along with a number of historians and museum curators, three Monash Historians, Graeme Davison, Al Thomson and Seamus O'Hanlon, provide expert video commentary on conducting historical research in relation to the four Making History themes: Living with Natural Disasters; World Events, Local Impacts; Migration and Cultural Identity; and the Family Album.

These expert commentaries give students an overview of the role of historians and the sources and tools they use to gather information. Al Thomson discusses how to make and prepare oral histories and gives an example of what an 'interview day' might look like. Graeme Davidson discusses the importance of world events through his research on the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, whilst Seamus O'Hanlon discusses family histories and the use of photographs & digital technology.

This project is now being rolled out to all schools in Victoria. Seamus, Al and Graeme have all recently participated in 'Elluminate' web conference discussions with pilot project schools in metropolitan and regional areas of Victoria to further discuss the challenges of historical research with students. In these sessions, students were given the opportunity to ask questions based on their own personal projects.

The project was funded and supported by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. In 2012, a new Monash History unit, 'Making Histories', will use the project resources to teach Monash undergraduates to make digital histories and reflect on the history-making process.

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/discoverycentre/websites-mini/making-history/>

In 2011, the Professional Historians Association of Victoria (PHA (Vic) celebrates the twentieth anniversary of its official launch at what was then Monash University's City Centre. The beginnings of PHA (Vic) can be traced back to the Master of Public History course first offered by the Monash School of History in 1988. Early graduates of this course, wishing to continue to meet and discuss issues in the realm of public history, gathered for regular discussions and, in the late 1980s, began to work towards forming a professional association for historians working outside of the academy.

The Monash School of History, and particularly Professor Graeme Davison, provided the fledgling association with much support and encouragement and the links between the association and the Monash Institute for Public History remain strong today.

Graduates of Monash's Master of Public History course have continued to swell the ranks of PHA (Vic) over the last twenty years. Membership has grown to over 145 in 2011, making PHA (Vic) the largest Professional Historians Association in Australia. Members work in a range of fields - from writing commissioned histories and reports, assessing heritage significance, and completing oral history projects, to careers in the media, museums and the government sector.

To celebrate this 20th anniversary milestone and to reflect on twenty years of professional history, the PHA (Vic) will present a seminar entitled *Why is History Important? Twenty Years of Professional Historians*. This seminar will be at the State Library of Victoria on November 10, 2011, and is part of the Making Public Histories seminar series jointly offered by the Institute for Public History, the State Library of Victoria and the History Council of Victoria.

Jill Barnard, President, PHA (Vic)  
Website: [www.phavic.org.au](http://www.phavic.org.au)

# Archive fever in the great bog of Europe: Research travel notes from the Netherlands

Susie Protschky



Mauritshuis, Royal Picture Gallery  
All Images courtesy of Susie Protschky

A foreign visitor to the Dutch Republic during the seventeenth century once remarked disdainfully that the Low Countries were the 'great bog of Europe'. At that

time, a substantial part of what is now the west and north coast of the Netherlands was rather swampy, as it was being reclaimed from the sea. In the intervening centuries, the Dutch have refined hydraulic engineering and water management to the extent that, apart from marvelling at the apparent absurdity of a dike that's channelling water past you at shoulder height, most people wouldn't notice that much of the Netherlands is below sea level. The damp and drizzly climate is a more subtle (and frequent) reminder of the Netherlands' geography. That's the part I blame for coming down with a fever in the Netherlands in November last year, half-way through a ten-week research trip for my ARC-funded project on the cultural influence of the Dutch monarchy in the Netherlands' overseas colonies.

Fever was only one of the symptoms of a particularly nasty throat infection that kept me in bed for a fortnight and left me with a pernicious cough for the second half of my trip. Numerous scholars have written on aspects of 'archive fever', as a metaphor for a condition that results from relying on certain venerated technologies for storing and preserving knowledge, and in more literal terms, as the physical effects of exposure to dust, poor ventilation and other hazards that custodial institutions often foster in their storage and reading facilities. Moping around in bed, waiting for the antibiotics to take effect so that I could get back to work, I began to reflect on what I'd done for the first month of my trip. Much of that period was spent in the National Archives and the Royal Library which, together, comprise a utilitarian and rather ugly complex adjacent to the central train station in The Hague. Both were filled with goodies, but archival etiquette prevented me from whooping and punching the air whenever I came across something truly exciting. Instead, in deference to the people studying around me, I found myself modifying all my activities to maximise stillness and silence, to the extent that I would wince whenever the view-finder of my camera (or my pillage-instrument, as I fondly came to think of it) whirred softly as it adjusted the focus before snapping copies of documents for my expanding file of records.

Thinking over it again, I realised that the only sounds not of my own making had been the coughs and splutters of fellow researchers – an alarming number of them, I suddenly recalled. Images of surfaces that I had recently touched flashed through my mind – the keyboards at the search computers, the handles on doors into reading rooms, the archive boxes that passed through multiple sets of hands on their way from the vaults (as I liked to think of them) to the front desk where I picked them up. I felt dizzy imagining the melange of pathogens those objects must have been smeared with. Then I recalled the flurry of cyclists around the archives, the station – everywhere, in fact, that one goes in the Netherlands – traffic that persists unabated even through the incessant drizzle that begins to fall at the end of autumn. Cyclists in the Netherlands will nonchalantly commute through the rain on their rickety bikes, one hand holding two bags of shopping and the other grasping a mobile phone which they text on while they steer. No-one seems to use umbrellas (except for foreigners like me). Consequently, there's a high tolerance for dampness on one's person in the Netherlands. Aren't they

going to catch cold? I used to wonder. Suddenly the coughs and sniffles that broke the otherwise rigorous silence in the archives seemed to make sense. Or was it the silence that was disrupting the sounds? What kind of fever was I suffering from – a medical kind, or the variety induced by an over-heated brain bubbling over in isolation? I popped another panadol and had a nap.

Two weeks later, acutely aware that I was running behind schedule, I arrived expectantly on the steps of the *Koninklijk Huisarchief* (Royal Family Archive, image below). I still felt ordinary and my voice was croaky from the constant coughing, so I'd packed a stash of Strepsils to keep me quiet. Little did I know that the cure to archive fever was nigh.

The *Huisarchief* was on the other side of town from the depressing complex near the station. To get there required a half-hour walk that I never tire of into the old centre of The Hague, past the *Mauritshuis*, a mansion built in the mid-seventeenth century with colonial money earned from trade in sugar and slaves by Johan Maurits van Nassau-Siegen, a nobleman who served as Governor of the West India Company possessions in Brazil during the brief period when it was a Dutch colony. (The house is now a public gallery with some very famous paintings in it, including Jan Vermeer's beautiful *Girl with a Pearl Earring* and *The View of Delft*). Across the road is the *binnehof* ('inner court') where the Dutch parliament had met since the thirteenth century. Johan Maurits' cousins, the Princes of Orange, had their residence nearby. My destination was the compound of the *Paleis Noordeinde* (North End Palace), built by their descendants.



The royal family archive holds all the private collections of the House of Orange, from those of the present queen (which will remain closed until several decades after her death) back to her thirteenth-century ancestors, who lived long before the dynasty became a princely family and then a monarchy. The small reading room where I did my work was hung with paintings of Dutch kings and queens and their consorts, and the window overlooked the grounds beside the royal stables. Every day I heard the rhythmic crunch of hoofs across the gravel path outside as the horses were exercised – a sound that the nineteenth-century builders of the archive would have taken for granted but which, to me, was charming because it was novel. In the reading room, trolley after trolley of boxes, scrolls and photo albums was wheeled in, each more fabulous than the last in my eyes partly because, as one of the bemused archivists told me, no-one else had expressed an interest in them before. Fortunately, unlike the archives on the other side of town, at the *huisarchief* I was able to share my excitement with other historians who drifted in and out of the reading room. Because the space was so small, we could hardly avoid introducing ourselves to one another. It turned out that three of my 'room-mates' had been commissioned to write new biographies of Kings Willem I, II and III to be published for the bicentenary of the monarchy's installation in 2013. (The two researchers working on Willems I and II were both called 'Jeroen', so I adopted everyone else's habit of referring to them as 'Willem One' or 'Willem Two' to distinguish between them.) They were most amused to find an Australian working on 'their' monarchy. Soon we were chatting about our projects and sliding our materials across the desk to one another. Who knew archival research could be so much fun?

A fellow historian once remarked to me that sustained periods of archival research were the closest that modern scholars could come to having a 'monastic experience'. (This assumes, of course, that you want one.) So I had to laugh when a doctor recently told me that the croaky voice I haven't entirely been able to shake since my return from the Netherlands in mid-December 2010 is the result of my vocal chords maladaptating to the infection I developed over there. Can cumulative bouts of archival fever – both the physical and the psychological kind – condition a gradual lapse into monastic silence? Reflecting on the two halves of my research trip – the isolated beginning, and the convivial end – it seems the best medicine for avoiding that outcome is to keep research sociable. And pack a few antiseptic wipes.

# Postgraduate News

## Conference News

John D'Alton, a PhD candidate in history at Monash, recently presented at two conferences. At the annual conference of the Australian Early Medieval Association at the University of Western Australia (November 18-19) he delivered a paper on *The Courage of Hallaj*, interpreting Hallaj's actions in light of Peter Brown's concept of the holy man in late antiquity.

John also delivered a paper at the Islamic Studies Postgraduate Conference at Melbourne University (November 15-17), titled *Jihad in Pre-Islamic Syriac Christian and Early Sufi Muslim Usage* provoking much discussion given its apparent significance for Muslim-Christian dialogue.

## 3 Minute Thesis Competition

This competition is an exciting transnational competition for HDR students from Monash Australia and Monash Malaysia. The competition hopes to provide current students with the opportunity to develop academic and research communication skills and to share the importance and potential impact of their research with colleagues and the broader community.

Every university in Australia is participating - we are hopeful some of our postgraduates will take the opportunity to participate and wish them well - registrations close 15 June, 2011.

Further Information:

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/research/graduate-research/current-students/grants-prizes/three-minute-thesis.php>

## Achievements and Awards

In January and February Monash PhD candidate in History Andrew Junor spent six weeks at the National Library of Australia on a Summer Scholarship. Andrew researched how Australians of the 1980s from diverse social and geographical backgrounds remembered the eating habits of 1930s Australia, drawing primarily upon the Library's extensive oral history collections. This study ties in with Andrew's broader doctoral research on mid-twentieth century Australian food culture.

Katie Dyt, Master of Arts awardee from SOPHIS, has been awarded both the 2010 Faculty of Arts Best Masters Thesis Award and a Vice-Chancellor's Commendation for Masters Thesis Excellence. Katie's thesis, *Against the Stream: Buddhism, Marxism and Gender in the Narrative of a Vietnamese Nun*, was esteemed by the examiners as an original and sophisticated work. The masters project was supervised by Dr Jane Drakard.

Dr Kay Dreyfus has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy with her thesis *Silences and secrets: the Australian experience of the Weintraub Syncopators*. In late 2010 Kay received a Postgraduate Publications Award to publish this thesis.

## Blackboard – not just for Undergrads!

SOPHIS postgraduate students are invited to take advantage of a new postgraduate Blackboard site that offers a convenient portal to a variety of relevant resources. It provides postgrads with links to the resources that may be relevant to their candidature, and it also opens out upon the wider Monash research community. Students can readily access research and Monash employment news, library and research information, news from Eras, and they can access meeting information and materials for the increasingly popular readings groups. For first years or continuing postgrads, coursework and research, the Blackboard site promises to be a useful tool for all.

## The Medici in the Fifteenth Century Signori of Florence? - 2011 Conference

Peter Howard

Villa I Tatti is pleased to announce its 2011 conference, *The Medici in the Fifteenth Century: Signori of Florence*, organized by Robert Black and John Law. This will be held on 12th October (at the Monash University Prato Centre) and on 13th and 14th October (at Villa I Tatti). This interdisciplinary conference will consider to what extent the fifteenth-century Medici conformed to the signorial pattern of North and Central Italy and to what extent their regime represented continuity with communal and republican traditions.

The two leading British historians of Renaissance Italy – Philip Jones (d. 2006) and Nicolai Rubinstein (d. 2002) – engaged in an unspoken dialogue regarding the status of the Medici in fifteenth-century Florence: the former was inclined to assimilate Florence and the Medici to the despotic paradigm, whereas the latter tended to look for continuity with the republican and communal past. There has been surprisingly little published scholarly debate on this important question, particularly from a comparative perspective. All speakers at the conference will compare the fifteenth-century Medici with other Italian regimes or with earlier Florentine regimes.

This event constitutes part of the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Monash University Center in Prato and the 50th anniversary celebrations of the The Harvard University Centre for Italian Renaissance Studies in Florence.

Further information and the program can be found at:

<http://www.itatti.it/Announcements/2011%2005%2006%203.html>

# Prato Consortium for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

Emma Nicholls

In January of this year, staff and postgraduate students from Monash's History Department travelled to Prato, Italy, to participate in another early and exciting step in the life of the Prato Consortium for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Hosted by the Monash University Centre in Prato, the Consortium (PCMRs) brings together a number of institutions with traditional strengths in Medieval and Renaissance studies.

Monash University, a leading member of the Consortium together with a number of Institutions including Edinburgh University, University of Warwick, University of Toronto, University of Durham and the Archivio di Stato di Prato aims to pool the resources and considerable expertise of members of each of these institutions and to foster new opportunities for collaborative teaching and research.

For Australian postgraduates such as myself, this venture promises a formal structure through which to link to an international community of researchers with outstanding expertise in the field. The week long series of workshops and seminars held at Monash's Palazzo Vaj in January were one of the first tangible and rewarding manifestations of this kind of collaboration.

From Monash University, ARC Post-Doctoral Research Fellow Jason Taliadoros accompanied honours student Felicity Coleman and postgraduates Anne Holloway, Natasha Amendola and myself to Prato, while Drs Jill Burke and David Rosenthal led a larger contingent of coursework and research postgraduates from Edinburgh University. We were met in Prato by Professor Michèle Mulchahey, the Leonard E. Boyle Chair in Manuscript Studies at the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies in Toronto, and Professor Sharon Strocchia of the History Department of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

All these scholars generously shared insights into their research practice and some of the practical, creative and technical aspects of doing history. The evident enthusiasm of all of the academics brought together by the PCMRs for their field, and their warm welcome of all of us to it, was a definite highlight of the week. Their warmth and good humour spilled over to the 30 or so participating students. Sunday evening, when we all came together for the first time at David Rosenthal's favoured pizzeria in Florence, was the first of many very convivial and lively gatherings. We are all hopeful that through such intensive, face-to-face collaboration, lasting connections with post-graduates and researchers from around the world will have been forged.

While the majority of the group spent their days in Florence with David and Jill, a small group of research postgraduates had the opportunity to work closely with Michèle Mulchahey on the skills required to read and make intelligent use of medieval manuscripts. This is precisely the kind of training which is often difficult to gain in Australia, where our access to the archives is so restricted. For me and, I know, the other postgraduates present, the chance to gain an introduction to manuscript studies from a world expert was one of the most valuable aspects of the week. Of course, the few days we had with Michèle were far too brief to do any kind of justice to the topic. Nonetheless, her introductions to Latin palaeography, diplomatics and codicology were clear and broad-ranging without seeming superficial and gave us some immediately useful insights.

As a side note, to our great delight - even more so after having had the opportunity to meet and learn from her in person - Anne Holloway and I will have the opportunity to work with Michèle Mulchahey again this year, as we have both been accepted into the PIMS Diploma Programme in Manuscript Studies at the American Academy in Rome.

During the northern hemisphere's summer semester, we will join 18 other postgraduates and early career researchers from around the world similarly attracted by the Pontifical Institute's reputation for providing the best possible training in manuscript studies. Apart from all the intellectual enticements, with a Melbourne winter just around the corner, the prospect of a northern summer spent making our way between the American Academy's beautiful estate on the Janiculum hill and the Vatican Archives below seems particularly tempting just now!

For all of the participating students from Monash, the distance between Australia and Italy was made less financially burdensome by the Bill Kent Prato Prize, awards made in honour of the late Professor Bill Kent, who among so many other things, was the Founding Director of both Monash Prato and of the Consortium. The enormous contribution of Bill Kent, beloved and missed by so many, to Renaissance studies, Monash University, the Monash University Centre in Prato and so many other forums for intellectual engagement, friendship and collaboration of course far exceeds what this brief article is able to acknowledge. It did seem very fitting, though, that the majority of the week's seminars took place in the newly founded Bill Kent Library at Palazzo Vaj, spurred on by the memory of Bill's spirit and encouragement.

The organisational effort and vision required to co-ordinate so many different participating students, staff and institutions have been considerable. Along with all of the aforementioned academics, Cathy Crupi, other members of the Monash Prato Centre and Hannah Fulton all provided much appreciated administrative support. Particular thanks, though, must go to Monash's Peter Howard, the current Convenor of the Consortium. His drive and commitment were crucial to bringing January's seminar and workshop series to fruition. I think I can speak for all of us when I say that, as far as the students are concerned at least, the efforts of all really have paid off enormously.



**Anne Holloway, Natasha Amendola, Professor Michèle Mulchahey, Emma Nicholls and Felicity Coleman in the Bill Kent Library at Palazzo Vaj**  
Image courtesy of Emma Nicholls

## Excavations at Mut el-Kharab, Dakhleh Oasis Egypt

Colin A. Hope

Excavations were conducted at the site for three weeks in January – coinciding with the ‘Revolution’, which, although followed avidly by all, affected little our programme, much to the surprise of Australian government officials!

We focused work in the centre of the ancient site, the temple complex of Seth, Lord of the Oasis. While the temple was dismantled in antiquity, we did find further sections of its walls set upon clean sand, overlying deposits predating its construction by at least 1500 years. These derive from a settlement of the Early Dynastic Period to early Old Kingdom (c. 2800-2500 BCE). Some decorated blocks from the temple’s walls were found, one of which preserves part of the name of King Seti I (1294-79 BCE) reused in a later structure. What may have been magazines were also located, in which large quantities of ceramics and prestigious objects were found, and an archive of about 100 ostraka – potsherds inscribed in ink in the ancient Egyptian hieratic and demotic scripts. Some of these are complete texts and of substantial size; they likely all date to the first millennium BCE.

Study also commenced of what we identify as a tower, constructed within the temple compound probably in the late third century BCE, reflecting a probable use of the site by the military. The walls around the temple are up to 8m thick and thus ideal for defensive purposes should a threat arise.

The work was funded through Monash University, and the team comprised staff and students from the centre for Archaeology & Ancient History at Monash, students from La Trobe and Auckland Universities, other Australians and Egyptians.



**Trench 29 showing remains of stone walls on yellow sand over brown early deposits**  
Image courtesy of Colin Hope



**Trench 29 showing some of the inscribed potsherds, a faience jar and a copper stamp**  
Image courtesy of Colin Hope

## Deir Abu Metta, Dakhleh Oasis, Egypt

Gillian Bowen

In early January, staff and students from the Centre undertook the fourth field season of excavation at Deir Abu Metta, the site of a mud-brick church, a tower to its west, and a small settlement. Work continued in the north-east nave where we exposed several sub-floor walls and were able to ascertain that two occupational phases predate the building of the church. These early structures continue to the north of the church but their nature cannot be determined because of the poor state of preservation. Five pit graves were cut into the floor and walls north of the church. Other intrusive graves were found in two adjoining rooms of the tower; they had been dug following the abandonment of the building.

This season we achieved one of our major objectives; we were able to demonstrate that the church and the tower are contemporary. The function of the tower, however, remains elusive but it was probably part of a monastic establishment associated with the church. Ostraka retrieved from the tower might shed light on activities there. They await translation but the names Alexandros, Apa Jacob, Paulos, Solomon and Abraham are easily read. The texts are written in Sahidic Coptic and are dated by Iain Gardner, University of Sydney, from the late 4th and throughout the 5th century. The ceramics assemblage is dated by Colin Hope from the 4th –6th centuries. We can now say with confidence that the church was built in the 5th century making it one of the earliest triconch churches to survive in Egypt. The site appears to have been abandoned in the late 6th or early 7th century.



**The church of Deir Abu Metta looking north-east** - Image courtesy of Gillian Bowen



**Coptic ostrakon from Deir Abu Metta with the names Paulos, Solomon and Abraham**  
Image courtesy of Gillian Bowen

## The Wadi Hammamat Greywacke Quarries, Eastern Desert, Egypt

Elizabeth Bloxam

The first archaeological survey for over 50 years of the ancient greywacke quarries in the Wadi Hammamat was undertaken by a multi-disciplinary team, directed by Elizabeth Bloxam (Monash University) in co-operation with the Institute of Archaeology (University College London) and the Supreme Council of Antiquities Ancient Quarries and Mines Department. Greywacke has been exploited from the Wadi Hammamat region from at least the Predynastic (4th millennium BC) to the late Roman Period (4th AD).

Mapping the large amount of inscriptions left by the quarry workers into the ancient quarry landscape and identifying the earliest phases of greywacke quarrying linked with the production of prestige ornamental objects were the objectives of this first season. Four hitherto unknown Early Dynastic (and probably Pre-dynastic) quarries for the production of ornamental palettes and bowls were located at high elevations on the ‘Beken Mountain’.

## International Archaeology Conference

Housing and Habitat in the Mediterranean World: responses to different environments

A connection between production of these objects with the 1st Dynasty royal funerary complexes at Abydos is suggested. Fire-setting in extracting greywacke was identified, this evidence having important implications on a still overlooked technology in the quarrying of hard stones in the Dynastic period. Previously unrecorded rock art panels and additional hieroglyphic inscriptions were identified and so adding to the panoply of petroglyphs linked to over 4000 years of greywacke quarrying. A second season of work in November 2011 will include excavation of two areas of Dynastic period settlement that are threatened by increasing rainfall and flash-flooding in the region.



**Middle Kingdom 2nd millennium BC inscription recording an expedition to the quarries**  
Image courtesy of Elizabeth Bloxam



**Partially worked objects in the quarries: a naos and table - late Roman to Graeco period**  
Image courtesy of Elizabeth Bloxam

Monash University Centre, Prato  
29 June to 1 July, 2011

Organised by the Centre for Archaeology & Ancient History and Monash University and Suprintendenza Archaeologica per la Toscana.

The purpose of the conference is to investigate the social, cultural and environmental aspects of housing in the Etruscan, Greek and Roman worlds of the Mediterranean basin, looking at habitat and urbanisation. The themes of the conference will deal with the development and internationalisation of domestic architecture in the Mediterranean, the transformation and diffusion of different housing styles, the implications for the social interaction, and the adaptation to regional environments of Classical models of housing.

Conference website:

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/archaeology/news-and-events/conferences/housing-habitat-2011.php>

## Where in the World - Undergraduate Units

**Dante's Medieval World** explores the cultural innovations, religious revivals and political confrontations that took place in the urban communities of medieval Europe during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Dante's Medieval World takes an interdisciplinary view of this dynamic period, exploring the political, social, spiritual, and artistic milieus pertaining to il sommo poeta—'the supreme poet'—Dante Alighieri (1265–1321) and contemporaries. Taught in the historic town of Prato and its environs, this course offers a unique opportunity to understand Dante's literary accomplishment and political activities through direct experience of Dante's Tuscany and surrounding regions. The horizons of the course extend also beyond Tuscany, in order to offer an understanding of those conditions that influenced Dante's thought in the context of the broader sweep of European medieval history. The course itinerary includes field trips to Italian cities and towns with strong medieval traditions, such as Pisa, Lucca, Bologna, Volterra and San Gimignano, as well as Florence.

**Dante's Medieval World is convened by Constant Mews and Carolyn James from 18 November to 16 December, 2011, at the Monash University Centre in Prato.**

**Seeking Justice: South Africa and Rwanda** will bring together students from Monash campuses in Australia and South Africa to study the contemporary histories of post-genocide and post-conflict societies, through two specific cases: the South African approach after apartheid; and local and global responses to the Rwandan genocide. Held in the winter semester as a two-week intensive, students will spend a week in Johannesburg and a week in Rwanda exploring public debates on memory and justice through visits to memorial sites and museums. Places to be explored include Soweto, the Apartheid Museum, Constitution Hill, the Murambi genocide memorial and a Gacaca village trial.

**This course is convened by Associate Professor Mark Baker and Professor Simon Adams and will be taught from Friday 1 July to Sunday 17 July, 2011.**

For details on all Monash Abroad Courses visit the website at:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/students/studyabroad/programs/index.html>

## Contact Us

Editor: Kerrie Alexander  
School of Philosophical,  
Historical and International  
Studies  
Level 6, Building 11, Clayton  
Campus Wellington Road,  
Monash University VIC 3800

Phone: **(03) 9905 2172**

<http://www.arts.monash.edu./sophis>

Email: [arts-sophis-enquiries@monash.edu](mailto:arts-sophis-enquiries@monash.edu)

## New From Monash University Publishing

[www.publishing.monash.edu](http://www.publishing.monash.edu)

On 3 June 2011 Monash University Publishing launched a new book by one of our colleagues in NCAS:

*Up from the Underworld: Coalminers and Community in Wonthaggi 1909 – 1968* by Andrew Reeves, Monash University Publishing 2011.

MUP also currently planning to reprint several popular History books by Monash Historians including:

*Anzac Memories: Living With the Legend* by Alistair Thomson

*"My Country": A History of the Djadja Wurrung 1837-1864* by Bain Attwood

All Monash University Publications are available for purchase and/or download from their website.

Enquiries:  
[sarah.cannon@monash.edu](mailto:sarah.cannon@monash.edu)

## Tutankhamun Tuesdays - Public Lectures 2011

A series of Public Lectures presented by staff from the Centre for Archaeology & Ancient History will be held from May to August 2011 at the Melbourne Museum in conjunction with the Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs Exhibition.

Venue:	Museum Theatre, Melbourne Museum Lectures begin at 6:30pm sharp.
Bookings:	via Melbourne Museum Exhibition website at <a href="http://museumvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/whatson/tutankhamun-tuesdays/">http://museumvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/whatson/tutankhamun-tuesdays/</a>
3 May	Tutankhamun's Tomb: its discovery and significance (Colin Hope)
17 May	Tutankhamun's Egypt: the golden age (Colin Hope)
31 May	Who was Tutankhamun? (Colin Hope)
14 June	Egypt after Tutankhamun (Colin Hope)
26 July	Tutankhamun's wardrobe (Gillian Bowen)
9 August	Forgotten Landscapes (Elizabeth Bloxam)

## Making Public Histories Seminar Series 2011

This Seminar Series explores issues and approaches in making history, public history and heritage and is open to anyone interested in historical representation in contemporary society.

Venue:	Experimedia State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street (until August) Village Roadshow Theatre, State Library Entry 3 Latrobe St (from September)
Time:	5:30pm to 7pm
Bookings:	Email: <a href="mailto:bookings@slv.vic.gov.au">bookings@slv.vic.gov.au</a> or phone: <b>(03) 8664 7099</b>
10 March	Beyond the Kitchen: Australian Women food writers in a changing society
14 April	Remembering the Dunera with Emeritus Professor Ken Inglis AO
30 June	New Directions in Digital Histories: The Old Bailey Proceedings Online as Public History with Robert Shoemaker and Shane Carmody
11 August	Making Identity: creating a new exhibition at the Immigration Museum
6 October	Talking About Australian Generations: Making Oral History
10 Novem.	20 Years of Professional Historians

## Communities of Memory - Oral History Association of Australia 17th National Conference

**7 - 9 October 2011, State library of Victoria, Melbourne**

Keynote Speakers: Steven High, Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling, Concordia  
Nathalie Nguyen, The University of Melbourne  
Peter Read, University of Sydney

Pre/Post Conference program includes:

- Workshops on Recording Techniques, Video Recording, Digital Storytelling, Engaging People on the Margins and Interpreting Memories (Thursday 6 Oct)
- Vanishing Neighbourhoods: Oral History, Museums and Urban Change - a public Lecture by Steven High on Monday 10 October at 6pm at Melbourne Museum

Early Bird Registrations are now open to 30 June 2011. All program and registration information is available on the conference website at:  
<https://sites.google.com/site/communitiesofmemory/>

Please email: [kerrie.alexander@monash.edu](mailto:kerrie.alexander@monash.edu)  
if you would like to join the conference mailing list.