



**Newsletter October 2004**

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

With over 350 members (more than 100 of them from New Zealand), CSAA is now one of the most significant collegial networks in Australasia. Its strength, I think, is its general openness to new ideas, new concepts, new ways of thinking. As such, CSAA conferences have for more than a decade served as important proving grounds for practically every new development in cultural studies. We are now faced with the 'happy' situation of holding conferences that are literally too big for the three days allotted to them. This year's conference in Perth promises to be an absolute feast – the organisers received some 250 offers of papers and had a very difficult job of deciding how to accommodate such a rich selection.

This has prompted the CSAA executive to begin thinking about the future of our conferences – do we want them to continue to grow and if so how do we accommodate the logistics? Do we increase the length of the conference by a day? Do we decrease the time for each paper from 15-20 minutes? Do we cut out the lunch break or run sessions in the evening? If we want to preserve their (almost) boutique status, then at what cost do we keep numbers small? These questions cannot be answered in a once and for all fashion and will need to be revisited as circumstances change. But for now, the direction CSAA sees itself going is as follows: we will keep with the 3 day format for the conference, we won't trim speaking times, and we will try to be as inclusive as possible.

One of the more successful innovations in the conference format introduced by the CSAA in recent years has been the 'panel', which is effectively a self-organising themed session. The only downside with the panels that we can see is that are 'one-off'. So starting in 2005, we are going to develop the idea of 'discussion groups' to enable greater continuity not only between separate conferences, but in the yearlong gap between conferences as well.

So what is a 'discussion group'? It will be a mini-association within CSAA. Every discussion group will be listed on the CSAA website and all members will be able to tick a box and join. This will facilitate on-line contact. In addition, every discussion group will be allocated a panel session at the conference and will be able to put out their own call for papers. Larger discussion groups will be given more than one session to organise. Perhaps the key issue is discussion groups will not be expected to tie their sessions directly to the conference theme. We hope CSAA members who perhaps don't attend conferences as regularly as they'd like because the themes aren't always to their taste will seize this as an opportunity to make sure every year there is at least one corner of the program that is in their area.

Ian Buchanan  
President, CSAA  
Charles Darwin University

## REPORTS & REVIEWS

### **Report from the CHASS (Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences) Inaugural AGM, National Press Club, Canberra, June 16, 2004**

Based upon the 10 year old Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS) which has successfully positioned itself to have the ear of government (witness the The Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council), CHASS has been brought into being in order to more systemically lobby for a better deal for our corner of the paddock. Having availed myself of an offer by UniSA to be sent along to the initial gathering of this embryonic organisation, I was able to act as the CSAA representative at CHASS' inaugural AGM; the CSAA having paid the \$100 to be a 'Founding Member' which entitled us to keep an eye on events and hold voting rights at this inaugural meeting.

The full program for CHASS actually ran over 2 days. Firstly an afternoon of welcomes and some rather painful—but occasionally entertaining—briefings from staffers, media reps, senior public servants and politicians themselves. Then on the 16<sup>th</sup>, around 200 of us descended upon Parliament for a series of one-on-one, or two-on-one meetings with MPs. This was followed by a decamping to the National Press Club where Iain McCalman, President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, gave a wonderful address which would have functioned far more effectively than the briefings as an inspirational 'call to arms' prior to our lobbying meetings (a transcript is available from the CHASS website

<http://www.chass.org.au/news/items/McCalman160604.pdf>).

Thus fed and inspired, we adjourned for the more contentious task of actually setting up this new organisation. Details regarding the board and CHASS' mission are available from their website: <http://www.chass.org.au/>.

From a CSAA point of view, in some ways many of our members (especially those already walking the walk and talking the talk of policy, Linkages and the 'real world'), are well placed to benefit from the sort of tack this organisation will probably take. For example, the morning in Parliament started off with 'breakfast with Brendan' (Nelson) and the launch of Ien Ang and Elizabeth Cassity's 'Attraction of Strangers: Partnerships in Humanities Research' brochure and report. Jointly published by the Centre for Cultural Research, UWS and the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and featuring examples of Linkage projects from UWS (Sofoulis, Noble and Redshaw) and QUT (Cunningham, Flew, Jones, Zelenko and Chen), the brochure showcases the sorts of possibilities open for humanities and social sciences Linkage projects (with the NRMA and Kids Help Line respectively) for those of us engaged in cultural research. They're also the sorts of 'applied' research projects the government would like to see more of us pursuing, which gives rise to one of the key criticisms I've heard being levelled at this new representative organization: namely that its focus will be on pursuing such a government-friendly line at the expense of plugging the merits too of more 'pure' forms of Humanities and Social Science research. A debate close to the heart of many a CSAA member I'm sure.

Williams Willing, Indigo, 'The Adopted Vietnamese Community: From Fairytales to the Diaspora', in *Special Edition - Viet Nam: Beyond the Frame, The Michigan Quarterly Review*, Fall & Winter Edition, 2004.

Williams Willing, Indigo, 'America's Adopted Vietnamese', in *Journey of Youth: Vietnamese Community – Hanh Trinh Tuoi Tre*, Ngan Thong Publications, Montreal, Canada. 2004: 138-147.

#### **Other members**

Bloustien, G. *Girl Making* Berghahn: Oxford, 2003.  
(please contact Gerry if you'd like to review this)

Carter, C., & Weaver, C. K., *Violence and the Media* Open University Press: Buckingham, 2003.

Carter, D. (ed) *The Ideas Market: An Alternative Take on Australia's Intellectual Life* Melbourne University Press. Contributors include David Carter, Paul Gillen, Catharine Lumby, Ken Wark, Mark Davis, Tania Lewis and Alan McKee.

Casey, M., *Creating Frames: Contemporary Indigenous Theatre 1967-97* University of Queensland Press, 2004.

Craig, G., *The Media, Politics and Public Life* Allen & Unwin, 2004.

Dunbar-Hall, P and Gibson, C., *Deadly Sounds, Deadly Places: Contemporary Aboriginal Music in Australia*, UNSW Press, 2004.

Peter Eckersall, Tadashi Uchino and Naoto Moriyama (eds) *Alternatives: Debating Theatre Culture in an Age of Con-fusion* Peter Lang: Brussels, 2004.

French, L. (ed.) *Womenvision: Women and The Moving Image in Australia* Damned Publishing, 2004.

Goggin, G. (ed) *Virtual Nation: The Internet in Australia* UNSW Press, 2004.

Goggin, G. and Newell, C., *Disability in Australia: Exposing a Social Apartheid* UNSW Press 2004.

Milner, A. *Literature, Culture and Society* second edition, Routledge: London, 2004.

Speck, C., *Painting Ghosts: Australian Women Artists in Wartime* Craftsman House/Thames and Hudson: Melbourne, 2004.

Turner, G., *Understanding Celebrity* Sage: London, 2004.

Check out 'Action' and 'Haunted', issues 10/1 and 10/2 of *Cultural Studies Review* edited by Chris Healy and Stephen Muecke (contributions from CSAA members)

And check out the latest issue of *Continuum*!

On a definite positive note, yours truly on behalf of the CSAA, managed to get up unchallenged—indeed I think it was the least contentious part of the whole AGM she-bang—an amendment to the Constitution which ensured that when the fee structure is finalised, Associations will only be charged a per person rate on Australian-based members, not those off-shore given CHASS' nation-specific mandate (the fine print had previously simply had the rate based on number of members). A small victory, and one so supported I had a seconder across the room before the end of my proposal, but one likely to offset a possible walk-out by non-Oz members. How to factor this fee into our membership rates is a bridge to cross when and if we agree to join on a more permanent basis, for the CSAA is yet to take its engagement with CHASS any further than this. When the time comes that CHASS has finalised its fee and membership structure, whether or not we'll sign up is a debate that I imagine will be played out among the membership, possibly with a 'call for comment'/feedback going out to members via email, which will be preceded by a vote of the Executive, possibly at our own AGM where the issue will be on the Agenda regardless of the CHASS timeframe. The pressure for CHASS to get Associations financially onboard asap has been somewhat offset by Nelson's commitment to provide \$200,000 p/a for the next 4 years, but as the dust settles I'm sure we'll receive the call.

Susan Luckman  
CSAA Secretary  
University of South Australia

## Conference Report: Crossroads 2004

The Fifth International Crossroads in Cultural Studies Conference was held June 25-28 in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois with the theme *Policing the Crisis*. This was also the title of one of the key texts to emerge from the highly influential early period of the Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies (CCCS) and had a great deal to do with why I made my first ever trip to the States. By the end of the conference it was also why I felt a bit disappointed by the event. Thinking about it now I put my reservations down to the implications evident in the conference mandate, where cultural studies scholars were invoked as having 'a moral obligation to police this crisis' and that right now 'to remain silent is to be in collusion with this immoral political regime'. Should it be unclear, the crisis at issue here is that of Bushism, and what concerns me about such a mandate is the unenviable and restricted role it sets for cultural studies. If anything, the idea that scholarship should be conducted as part of a battle of morals feels like another indication of how successfully the Republicans have colonized the political imagination to accord with their own interests.

Norman Denzin opened the conference describing Stuart Hall, Larry Grossberg and Meaghan Morris as the 'three pillars' of cultural studies in the United States. While this became the source of quite a few jokes over the next few days, when combined with the conference mandate it added to the sense of heroism and magnitude underwriting the event. Context might have something to do with this though: the same week we were in Illinois, the handover of power to Iraq took place, Saddam Hussein went on trial and Michael Moore's film opened in cinemas. Each night, batches of delegates headed off to *F-911* which added an extra buzz and even a degree of urgency to the usual conference talk. Perhaps it was these elements that created the possibility for thinking that the priorities of American politics currently do affect the rest of the world. But when the critique of US-centrism was finally raised in one of the plenaries, I felt a sadness and an awful paralysis. As a well trained cultural studies graduate familiar with reading about these outbursts during the 1990 Illinois meeting, even this necessary attack was expected and almost procedural.

Highlights over the four days included Grossberg's plenary address which, in the spirit of Stuart Hall, urged us to supply an adequate 'political history of the present'. While I had some reservations about his tactics ('I no longer teach rock n' roll, I teach neo-liberalism, because that's what today's students care about'), the argument that political and economic concerns must stand alongside the cultural in our studies was an important lesson imparted from the CCCS publication. Yet correcting the emphasis too much the other way does risk abandoning the vital cultural politics of multiculturalism, hybridity and sexuality—the politics that matter to the 80 million or so 'marginal' identities in the US Toby Miller pointed out in his provocative paper, 'The People of the United States Cannot be Trusted'. Meaghan Morris's keynote on South East Asian regionalism, aesthetics and cinema was also a nice reminder of how many vast populations exist far away from the radar suggested by much of the conference polemic, and that the rule of Empire so keenly felt now is only a small part of a history of ruling powers that rise and do eventually fall.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Postgraduates' Publications

Albury, K. 'Pornography' in *Social perspectives in sex and sexuality: an Introduction* Gail Hawkes and John Scott (eds) Oxford University Press, 2004.

Brunt, Shelley D. "The Kôhaku Song Competition: A Community in Performance", *Context: A Journal of Music Research*, Issue 24.

Gomes, Catherine. "Femininity in Martial Arts Cinema." *Graduate Journal of Asia Pacific Studies* 2, 1 (2004).

Iocco, M. and Hickey-Moody, A., 'Christ Kid, You're a Weirdo': the aural construction of subjectivity in Bad Boy Bubby, in *Screen, Music, Identities: Australian Film Soundtracks of the 1990's and 2000's*. ed. R. Coyle. Sydney: AFTRS, 2004.

Jones, Meredith 'Architecture of the Body: Cosmetic Surgery and Postmodern Space,' in *Space and Culture* 7, 1, February 2004

Jones, Meredith 'Mutton Cut Up as Lamb: Mothers, Daughters and Cosmetic Surgery,' in *Continuum*, forthcoming 2004.

Kenway, J, Kraak, A with Hickey-Moody, A., *Masculinities beyond the Metropolis* Palgrave, 2004.

Massie, R., "Hypercreature Rhizome: A Performative Work" in *Cultural Studies Review*, 10:1, 2004, pp 61-79.

Riggs, D.W., 'Challenging the monoculturalism of psychology: Towards a more socially accountable pedagogy and practice' *Australian Psychologist* 39, 2004: 118-126.

Riggs, D.W., 'The Politics of Scientific Knowledge: Constructions of sexuality and ethics in the conversion therapy literature' *Lesbian & Gay Psychology Review* 5, 2004: 6-14.

Riggs, D.W., 'The psychologisation of foster care: Implications for lesbian and gay parenting' *PsyPag Quarterly* 51, 2004: 34-43.

Riggs, D.W. & Augoustinos, M., 'Projecting threat: Managing subjective investments in whiteness' *Psychoanalysis, Culture & Society* 9, 2004: 219-236.

Riggs, D.W., 'Benevolence and the management of stake: On being "good white people"' *Philament: An Online Journal of the Arts and Culture* 4, 2004.

Riggs, D.W. & Walker, G.A., *Out in the Antipodes: Australian and New Zealand Perspectives on Gay and Lesbian Issues in Psychology*. Perth: Brightfire Press, 2004.

### **THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEW DIRECTIONS IN THE HUMANITIES**

Cambridge University, United Kingdom, 2-5 August 2005

The conference will continue in its endeavours over recent years to develop an interdisciplinary agenda for the humanities.

Included as part of the conference program will be major keynote presentations by internationally renowned speakers and numerous small-group workshop and paper presentation sessions. Participants are also welcome to submit presentation proposals, either as 30 minute papers, 60 minute workshops or jointly presented 90 minute colloquium sessions. Presenters may choose to submit written papers for publication before or after the conference in the fully refereed International Journal of the Humanities, published in print and electronic formats. If you are unable to attend the conference in person, virtual registrations are also available which allow you to submit a paper for refereeing and possible publication in this fully refereed academic journal, as well as access to the electronic version of the conference proceedings. The deadline for the first round call for papers is 15 October 2004. Proposals are usually reviewed within four weeks of submission.

Full details of the conference, including an online call for papers form, are to be found on the conference website:  
<http://www.HumanitiesConference.com>

We do hope you will be able to join us in Cambridge in August 2005.

Prof. Juliet Mitchell  
Department in Social and Political Sciences,  
University of Cambridge, UK.

Prof. Tom Nairn  
The Globalism Institute,  
RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

Some of my favourite sessions focused on the subtleties of local and case studies: the vernacular creativity of migrants in western Sydney; the affective relations to space and place in different Australian cities; the significance of sport as a locus for wider relations of power; and in particular, the very strong papers discussing the pedagogical challenges posed by conservatism. Here the number of ex-grad students from Illinois in attendance brought an extra layer of complexity to a number of sessions, as they, now established contributors to American cultural studies in their own right, were forced to deal with old supervisors reminding them of their debts to the place.

Probably the things I value most about *Policing the Crisis* as a book are its long term perspective, the level of detail in the research, its collaborative project and its conviction. It's a scholarly work that not only displays its theoretical influences but demonstrates their usefulness in a concrete situation. I've worked out why I felt weird at 'Policing the Crisis' the conference. Right now you're not *allowed* to stay silent in America. Everywhere people are either asking you questions. They're telling you more than you want to know on some things and not enough about others. So much noise, opinion, talk. It's not the place for a shy traveller. I left wondering what it would be like to work in a context where there is such an obligation to speak out all the time, to always have a fully formed opinion; how it would be possible to tune out long enough to produce quiet, deliberate, anti-heroic research. I guess this really means I left with a renewed respect for those writers in US cultural studies whose work does that, and as I said goodbye at the last party in Champaign, having celebrated a successful PhD defence, it felt like a new generation might be coming.

Melissa Gregg is Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, University of Queensland and Publicity Officer for the CSAA. She is soon to be elected the Australia-New Zealand representative for the Association for Cultural Studies (<http://www.cultstud.org>) and can be contacted for more details: [m.gregg@uq.edu.au](mailto:m.gregg@uq.edu.au)

## EDITOR'S PRIVILEGE

### What Cultural Studies is Crap at

I recently read a book on the psychology of evil by Roy F. Baumeister PhD. It wasn't a particularly earth-shattering book – in fact, it was quite unsophisticated and theoretically naïve in many ways, being one of those books written by 'PhDs' with a decent sized middle class readership in mind. But in its discussion of the ordinariness of evil and the joy of hurting, and other related issues, it struck me that was dealing directly with an issue of particular importance in the current historical context in a way that Cultural Studies couldn't even begin to consider.

It's not that Cultural Studies has completely avoided the question of evil – indeed, my own recent work on the 'Arab Other' has touched upon the ways in which whole communities of shared ethnic, geo-political or religious backgrounds are represented as evil as part of a wider array of representations of them as barbaric, animalistic, uncivilised, and so on, on the basis of crimes committed by a small number of individuals or groups. But that is the problem – Cultural Studies has focused largely on questions of *representation* rather than on the substantive causes, manifestations and consequences of what we call evil. It has sidestepped these issues and left them to philosophers and theologians as well as psychologists.

Cultural Studies might cleverly explore the ways in which evil is constructed as a category, and deconstruct it into discursive thin air; or it might show how it operates to maintain social order and relations of power; or it might disentangle the ways evil is used to frame divisions of social inequality as moral ones, reproducing ethnic and racial Others as morally repugnant. But it rarely tackles this kind of foundational question head on. Should it? Or should it refuse it as a meaningful concept, in the same way it has tended to dissolve value as a relativistic category? One problem with such a strategy is that it concedes the ground to the tabloids and shock jocks who happily bang on about 'faces of evil', 'architects of evil', and so on, to an audience who seem willing to absorb complex issues of international and domestic politics as relatively reduced questions of right and wrong.

It's not just evil that we tend to avoid – broader questions of morality are equally out of place in Cultural Studies discourse. One of my own colleagues seems to run the line that any desire to raise moral questions – like truth and trust and politicians – is an elitist pose taken by leftish intellectuals who have no appreciation of the pragmatism and cynical insight of the Australian public. It may be true, and we know any claims about what is moral, and what is not, is deeply problematic; but it seems even more problematic to abandon public discussions of moral behaviour, or to assume that people at large aren't interested in such issues, even if they do re-elect a federal government that those of us on the 'moralising left' are appalled by!

But my broader point is that issues of evil, or morality in general, are areas that Cultural Studies is pretty crap at. Maybe we should start taking an inventory of such areas, at least just to provide a map of potential PhD topics in a field close to exhausting its favoured themes. Hopefully, however, it might also redirect Cultural Studies in new and productive ways.

## THE RADIO CONFERENCE 2005

A transnational forum for radio scholars, teachers and broadcasters to be held at RMIT University City Campus, Melbourne, Australia 11-14 July 2005

The cultural impacts of radio broadcasting, and the continuing social and political importance of radio almost all over the world, are important and under-researched areas. Studies of radio - long neglected in the era of television - have been reinvigorated in many nations.

The Radio Conference 2005 in Melbourne will continue this movement toward a critical appreciation of radio. Australia's position in the south, adjacent to Asia and the Pacific, should assist in achieving broad cultural participation in the conference.

The conference will provide an international forum that aims to:

1. strengthen international links between participants; and
2. continue in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific, the processes of building co-operative networks between radio practitioners and humanities-based scholars of radio history and theory.

The Radio Conference 2005 is organized by staff at Melbourne, RMIT, La Trobe and Deakin Universities as a co-operative project.

The conference will be held at Storey Hall, RMIT University with special sessions at the University of Melbourne and La Trobe University.

Registrations including earlybird discount will be open from November 2004.

For updates visit: [www.rmit.edu.au/adc/appliedcommunication/radio2005](http://www.rmit.edu.au/adc/appliedcommunication/radio2005)

Call for papers and presentations for the conference. These can be:

- proposals for 20 minute individual papers, which will be organized into sessions of 3 papers with a chair/commentator
- proposals for round tables of several participants which would occupy a whole hour and a half session
- proposals for other kinds of presentations - performances, demonstrations, debates, etc.

Send abstracts of 300 words to: [radiopapers@rmit.edu.au](mailto:radiopapers@rmit.edu.au) by Friday 26 November 2004.

THE RADIO CONFERENCE 2005

## COMMUNICATION AT WORK

Call for papers

University of Canterbury  
Christchurch, 4-7 July 2005

The Australian and New Zealand Communication Association is now calling for abstracts for papers, panels, and workshops for the 2005 conference, Communication at Work. The conference will be held in Christchurch from 4-7 July 2005.

Keynote speakers:

Janet Holmes  
Graeme Turner  
George Cheney

Information on the keynote speakers, conference streams and how to submit a proposal can be found on:

<http://www.mang.canterbury.ac.nz/ANZCA/anzcaindex.htm>

Abstracts for all proposals are due by 15 November 2004. Full papers for those abstracts accepted for the refereed division are due by 15 February 2005. If you are a post-graduate student we encourage you to consider submitting a paper to the referred division.

Refereed post-graduate papers are eligible for consideration for the Grant Noble Award.

Education is an area I alluded to in the last issue of the CSAA Newsletter that is particularly unattractive to Cultural Studies. A few years back I submitted an article to a prestigious Cultural Studies journal – an article that used examples from education to make its theoretical point. The reviewers indicated that they liked the argument, but they didn't like the content area I was using. So the editors asked me to change the examples. I succumbed, eager for the publication, but found it intriguing that education – something we are directly involved in – should be seen as so daggy and unexciting (unless it be focused on the teacher's breast, or used to extol a reduced version of Foucauldian theory). As I suggested in the last newsletter, Cultural Studies foolishly leaves to others, and especially narrowly focused disciplinary fields, significant questions of pedagogy, even though the term is happily bandied about by Cultural Studies academics.

Affect is another area that Cultural Studies tends to be crap at, even though it has become a key concept of contemporary cultural theory. I'm not the first to point out that Cultural Studies has picked up the notion of affect in a particularly crude way – Elspeth Probyn, for example, has pointed out how we talk of 'Affect' in the singular, and as though it is capitalised. We can see this in the work of Grossberg, an otherwise quite nuanced theorist. And we can see it in the innumerable Deleuzian analyses going the rounds. And while Cultural Studies has, like the wider literature on affect, focused on shame, how would it deal with joy, anger, excitement, and so on? Further, we tend to use affect as though it is largely the consequence of the imprint of discourses on our bodies – indeed, in discussions of affect there often seems to be little that is corporeal at all. If the concept is to have any operationality, we must begin to look at affects in the way that writers such as Sylvan Tompkins have – in the plural, as categories of sensuous embodiment, and as tools for exploring the social/biological interface.

Some time ago, Andrew Murphie asked on a Cultural Studies list whether there had been any attempt to develop a Cultural Studies approach to the brain. This is a really exciting idea, but one which is completely daunting. Would such an approach replicate a kind of soft evolutionary psychological perspective on the brain, or would it, as I would prefer to think, take on that body of work?

Cultural Studies likes to think of itself as being able to take on any issue once considered the preserve of disciplines that perceive themselves as neatly bounded. We like that feeling of disrupting comfortable assumptions and arbitrary boundaries. Yet how challenging are we? Our list of what we take on is surprisingly narrow. What we put aside can be far more interesting.

So I repeat my suggestion – let's begin making an inventory of the things we do badly, or ignore, or just get wrong. It might make Cultural Studies a lot more invigorating.

Greg Noble  
Centre for Cultural Research  
University of Western Sydney.

## SPACES FOR CULTURAL STUDIES

### Monthly MACS launched in Brisbane

Monthly MACS is a new cross-institutional network of early career researchers, postgraduate students, postdocs, RAs and sessional staff working in Media and Cultural Studies across Brisbane. Our meetings aim to provide a regular platform for discussing issues which relate to these roles as well as an opportunity to contribute to wider debates taking place in the field. So far there have been two meetings of the network. The first, 'What I did on my holidays', featured reports from recent conferences with Melissa Gregg (UQ), Amanda Roe (UQ), Ellie Rennie (QUT) and Jean Burgess (QUT) as speakers. The second, 'Negotiating Transitions', discussed some of the issues involved in moving from an original disciplinary or employment background to producing research in Media and Cultural Studies, and featured Stuart Glover (QUT/UQ), John Gunders (UQ) and Rea Turner (Griffith) as speakers.

The idea for the MACS network arose from a sense that PhD students and junior staff are often at a distance from existing forms of collaboration between researchers in different universities within the one city. While much emphasis is placed on the end product of research, and there are plenty of avenues for presenting and publishing our work, the early stages of an academic career involve particular anxieties that can be ameliorated with the support of a community of peers. The MACS group is an attempt to create a space for discussing everything to do with our work *aside from* the end product, to share accumulated knowledge and resources to gain insight into the options available within our field of research.

Brisbane has played a strong role in the history of Media and Cultural Studies in Australia. The MACS initiative is one way to make sure the field remains visible to new cohorts of students while retaining the facilitative and collegial role that can distinguish it from other academic career paths.

Melissa Gregg  
Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies  
University of Queensland

Further information:

Body Modification Conference Committee  
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## **BODY MODIFICATION: MARK II**

21-23 April 2005, Macquarie University

Following the great success of the first Body Modification conference in April 2003, and the requests we have received to host another conference, we are pleased to announce: Body Modification Mark II.

Abstracts are invited for this international conference to be held at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia, 21st - 23rd of April, 2005. Abstracts should be 300-500 words and should be forwarded to Dr Nikki Sullivan at the address listed below. Proposals for panels and for performance pieces are welcomed. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer any financial assistance to conference participants.

Once again, the aim of this conference is explore the many and varied ways in which bodies are modified, selves are formed and transformed, and culturally specific knowledges and practices are mediated and transfigured. We hope to include a wide range of interdisciplinary approaches to the question of what constitutes body modification, as well as performative and visual presentations.

Possible topics:

- 'non-mainstream' body modification (tattooing, piercing, scarification, branding)
- body sculpting (corsetry, dieting, body-building, binding, constriction, negation, elongation, etc)
- performance art
- body politics
- transformative rituals
- body modification in non-Western cultures and/or in other historical epochs
- transgender and/or transsexualism; intersex
- cosmetic surgery
- fatness; anorexia; eating
- technology and the body (enhancement technologies, cyborgs,
- nanotechnology, reproductive technologies, transplants, implants, cloning, ethics)
- virtual bodies
- 'self-mutilation'
- fashion
- illness; pain
- sadomasochism; fetishes; bodies and pleasures
- pregnant embodiment
- the racialization of the body; hybrid bodies
- monstrosity; the normalization of 'deformed' bodies
- ageing
- addiction
- reading/writing the body
- intercorporeality
- war; violence; torture; terrorism; imprisonment.

Deadline for abstracts: 1st November, 2004

## **Centre for Everyday Life - Murdoch University**

The Centre for Everyday Life (CEL) is a University research centre at Murdoch University, located within the Division of Arts and the School of Media, Communication and Culture.

The newly-formed CEL brings together skilled researchers with a broad range of expertise in everyday life. Everyday life is an increasing topic of interest in academic research, government policy, political rhetoric, business strategy, advertising and creative industries. The CEL connects theoretical and intellectual interests with wider community concerns and areas of practical application. The CEL can offer independent and interdisciplinary research skills to governmental agencies, community groups and business.

The CEL supports and encourages research in everyday life, organizes seminars and conferences, and hosts a weekly 'Pubtalk' public forum in the Fremantle Hotel. The CEL wishes to involve postgraduate students, providing a wider range of support than the supervision relationship and opening opportunities to present work, publish and become involved in research projects.

Mark Gibson  
Murdoch University

In the next issue of the CSAA Newsletter, we will feature institutions central to the existence of Cultural Studies in New Zealand. Please send any ideas to me - Greg

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Scholarships In Health, Sexuality & Culture At UNSW

The National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR) in the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences at the University of New South Wales is pleased to announce several scholarships for postgraduate work in its new postgraduate program in Health, Sexuality and Culture:

#### The Consortium Scholarship for Doctoral Research in Hepatitis C

A three-year scholarship of \$23, 556 per annum available to Australian nationals and permanent residents

#### Six Consortium Scholarships for our Masters by Research program

A two-year scholarship of \$6000 per annum available to Australian nationals and permanent residents

#### The NCHSR Scholarship for Social Research on Sexual Health

A two-year scholarship of \$6000 per annum available to international and Australian applicants to the Masters by Research degree

The National Centre in HIV Social Research is internationally recognised for its contribution to social understandings of the HIV epidemic among gay men, with a growing body of work on drug use, gender, and medical technologies. It works closely with communities affected by AIDS and Hepatitis C and promises a dynamic interdisciplinary environment. Much of the research at the centre is oriented to the needs of practitioners working in the policy field. There is also the scope to conduct more conceptual inquiry into questions of bodily and erotic practice or the practices of medicine. While the core work of NCHSR has to do with HIV and Hepatitis C, we welcome postgraduate proposals on any aspects of the social study of sex or drugs, including issues of gender, embodiment, medicine, technology, culture and globalisation.

The Masters program gives students the empirical skills necessary to participate in the global field of sex and/or drug research, as well as an understanding of critical debates in social theories of sex, drugs and the politics of medicine. It is this mix of practical empirical skills and critical understandings that makes Health, Sexuality and Culture at UNSW unique.

For further details visit <http://nchsr.arts.unsw.edu.au/>

or contact Kane Race <k.race@unsw.edu.au>

Ph: + 61 2 9385 6411

## EVERYDAY TRANSFORMATIONS: THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY QUOTIDIAN

Annual conference of the Cultural Studies Association of Australasia,  
Perth/Fremantle, 9-11 December 2004

New technologies, increasing work pressures, changing gender roles and family structures, increasing flows of refugees and asylum seekers, concerns about security, environmental risks, the escalating speed and complexity of social transactions – everyday life is today a terrain of rapid and unsettling change. Yet it retains associations also with pattern, order, routine – the familiarity of a favourite soap opera or talk show, the ordinary pleasures and irritations of shopping, cooking, negotiating traffic, managing domestic life.

How should cultural studies address questions of everyday life in the twenty-first century? The field can claim a rich tradition of work in the area, from ethnographies of street subcultures and shopping centres to writing on television and popular magazines. But everyday life has been transformed in significant ways since the time of many of the founding contributions. What remains relevant today in the study of everyday life? To what extent do we need new concepts and categories?

Transformations have also occurred in cultural studies' motivations for engaging with everyday life. The everyday is a major point of intersection for many of its intellectual tributaries, including British cultural studies, feminism, semiotics, European surrealism, situationism, psychoanalysis and ethnomethodology. Yet the context for each of these has been affected by major shifts in the location of cultural studies, the nature and priorities of higher education, by the increasing market orientation of mainstream institutions and by conservative attempts to lay claim to the 'ordinary' and 'mainstream'. What do we seek now in engaging with the everyday? What understanding of this engagement is most appropriate for the times?

Keynotes:

Ben Highmore

Dede Oetomo

Zoe Sofoulis

Steve Kinnane

Graeme Turner

For more information, visit the website:

[http://wwwmcc.murdoch.edu.au/cfel/csaa\\_conference.htm](http://wwwmcc.murdoch.edu.au/cfel/csaa_conference.htm)

Or contact Mark Gibson at

[mgibson@central.murdoch.edu.au](mailto:mgibson@central.murdoch.edu.au)

or at : School of Media, Communication and Culture  
Murdoch University  
South St, Murdoch  
WA 6150

Or check out the CSAA website!

## A MASTERCLASS ON CONTEMPORARY RESEARCH IN CRITICAL INTERNET STUDIES

Brisbane 6-8 December 2004

Convened by the Centre for Critical & Cultural Studies University of Queensland - St Lucia Campus, Brisbane, Australia.

Internet studies is a dynamic and innovative interdisciplinary field of research, which engages in new ways with cultural technologies, literacies, histories, and identities. Aimed at doctoral students and early career researchers from a wide range of disciplines, Internet Class 04 will be a unique masterclass event featuring leading international scholars in critical Internet studies. With a strictly limited enrolment, Internet Class

04 offers the opportunity for participants to:

- . hear first-hand about the best, new practices in contemporary Internet research;
- . extend their knowledge of concepts, methods, and theories relevant to Internet studies;
- . identify and discuss challenges, trends, and opportunities in Internet studies.

Confirmed presenters include:

Lisa Nakamura, University of Wisconsin-Madison, author of *Cybertypes: Race, Ethnicity, and Identity on the Internet* (2002) and *Visual Cultures of the Internet* (2005)

Geert Lovink, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam Polytechnic, and CCCS, UQ author of *Dark Fiber* (2002) and *My First Recession* (2003)

Roger Clarke, consultant in strategic and policy aspects of electronic business, information infrastructure, dataveillance and privacy, and Visiting Professor in eCommerce at the University of Hong Kong, Visiting Professor in the Cyberspace Law & Policy Centre at UNSW, and Visiting Fellow in Computer Science at ANU.

Mark McLelland, CCCS, UQ, co-editor of *Japanese Cybercultures* (2003) and author of *Queer Japan from the Pacific War to the Internet Age* (2005)

Sue Morris, School of English, Media Studies and Art History, UQ, expert on online computer gaming culture

Gerard Goggin, CCCS, UQ, editor of *Virtual Nation: The Internet in Australia* (2004), co-author of *Digital Disability* (2003).

Registration spaces are still available but numbers are capped, so please register to avoid disappointment. Registration cost (GST Inclusive) includes lunch and other refreshments and evening lecture/ book launch by Kim Anderson.

Registration Rates:

UQ Post graduate student only \$330.00

Non UQ-PG/Unwaged \$363.00

Waged/Staff \$429.00

For more information and registration, please visit the website,

<http://cccs.uq.edu.au/events/internetclass/>

Or contact Andrea Mitchell ([a.mitchell@uq.edu.au](mailto:a.mitchell@uq.edu.au)) or Gerard Goggin

([g.goggin@uq.edu.au](mailto:g.goggin@uq.edu.au)).

## Gender And Culture Postgraduate Programs At The University Of Sydney

The Department of Gender Studies at the University of Sydney is the leading centre for research into gender and culture in Australia. Renowned internationally for interdisciplinary research and teaching in feminist, gender and cultural studies this is the only department in Australia to have both gender and cultural studies in the one department.

Chaired by Professor Elspeth Probyn and with some of Australia's foremost academics and theorists on staff, the Department of Gender Studies provides a challenging and rigorous academic environment.

As of 2005 we are offering new coursework programs ranging from Graduate Certificates, Graduate Diplomas and two variations of a Masters degree, one by coursework and one by research. Our new coursework Masters allows for a combination of courses and the opportunity to develop a thesis project in the area of your choice.

The teaching and supervisory strengths of the Department's academic staff include media and cultural studies, philosophy, critical race studies, visual culture, sociology, literature, post colonial theory and cultural history.

For more Postgraduate information please contact:

Dr Catherine Driscoll  
Postgraduate Co-ordinator  
Department of Gender Studies  
University of Sydney  
Room K4.06, Level 4  
Main Quadrangle  
[catherine.driscoll@arts.usyd.edu.au](mailto:catherine.driscoll@arts.usyd.edu.au)  
+612 9036 9503

and you will also find more information on our website:

[www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/gender](http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/gender)

## FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES AND OTHER EVENTS

### THE BODY POLITIC: RACIALISED POLITICAL CULTURES IN AUSTRALIA

Australian Studies Centre, University of Queensland  
Brisbane, 24-26 November 2004

"The Body Politic" conference is focused on multiculturalism and race politics in Australia. Given global developments and pressing debates on issues of multiracial societies, this timely conference aims to generate engagement with various formations of racialised, politicised cultures.

Keynote and other sessions will focus on:

- \* racialised community activism and political cultures
- \* Indigenous cultural production and social politics
- \* ethnic community policy, media and representation
- \* gender and ethnicity in cultural production
- \* contemporary Australian multiculturalisms
- \* Asian-Australian creative arts
- \* politics of asylum seeker and refugee representation
- \* comparative Indigenous studies and law
- \* formations of whiteness
- \* negotiating hybrid and racialised identities

REGISTRATION FORM NOW ONLINE:

1. Go to <http://asc.uq.edu.au>
2. Run mouse over "News and Events" and click on "Event registration".
3. Choose the conference.

For more information, please email [tseen.khoo@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:tseen.khoo@arts.monash.edu.au)

The Body Politic conference is also kindly supported by the:

- \* National Centre for Australian Studies (Monash University, Vic)
- \* UQ Faculty of Arts "Asian Identities Research Concentration"
- \* UQ Asian Studies Centre (School of Languages & Comparative Cultural Studies)

## SPEAKING THROUGH CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

Call for Abstracts and Registration

Institute of Australian Geographers Cultural Geography Study Group Annual Conference  
December 2-3, 2004 University of Tasmania, Hobart.

This two-day conference will bring together cultural geographers to focus on the various ways in which 'the cultural' has enabled geographical research agendas and facilitated the articulation of multiple academic and non-academic voices.

Abstracts are welcome on the following themes:

- constructions of 'the cultural'
- speaking out through 'the cultural': multiple voices and agendas
- the practice of cultural geography
- non-representational theory and 'the cultural'
- the researcher and the researched: roles and identities in cultural geographical research.

A major aim of this conference is to provide a forum for postgraduate students, academics and other researchers to discuss their work and ideas in a collegiate and supportive environment. Thus, participants may submit abstracts on an element of their thesis topic or recent research project, irrespective of the above themes. Discussion pieces or commentaries are also just as welcome as papers on particular case study-based projects. Workshops are planned for the second day of the conference on publishing, writing and career development in cultural geography.

Please register for the conference and/or submit your abstract online at [http://www.geol.utas.edu.au/geography/iag\\_form.htm](http://www.geol.utas.edu.au/geography/iag_form.htm) by Friday November 5. If submitting later than this date, please email Chris Gibson at the email address below for further information.

A link from that website also outlines accommodation options in Hobart. Please contact [Chris.Gibson@unsw.edu.au](mailto:Chris.Gibson@unsw.edu.au) <<mailto:Chris.Gibson@unsw.edu.au>> or [Elaine.Stratford@utas.edu.au](mailto:Elaine.Stratford@utas.edu.au) <<mailto:Elaine.Stratford@utas.edu.au>> if you have any questions about the conference.

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