Welcome to Issue 2 of the RSSS Post

We are well and truly immersed in academic activities for 2011 and it has been a positive start. We extend a warm welcome to a number of new staff and these are listed in this issue. The School achieved excellent results in the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative with three of our disciplines ranked at 5 (well above world class) and one at 4 (above world class) in research success. The semester has commenced with strong student enrolments in all of our disciplines and we welcome our new and returning students.

Some of the challenges in 2011 and beyond will be to maintain our ERA rankings and to increase our higher degree research and postgraduate coursework enrolments. We will be examining ways in which to do this.

Some of our key directions in 2011 include the development of a flagship research project around our four disciplines and three centres and encompassing research from the basic to the applied. The aim of this initiative is to facilitate cross-disciplinary research between the schools and centres in RSSS that is concerned with complex issues in the social sciences and that require cross-disciplinary effort to do. The initiative will also contribute to the RSSS’ research profile by fostering joint work to both produce competitive grant applications and enhance the quality of ERA and HERDC eligible publications. This will lead to positive and productive collaboration, and more on this later.

We are also exploring the potential value of a taught Master Degree Program in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. A working party has been established to determine the feasibility of such a program. It is comprised of Dr Christian Barry (Philosophy), Professor Keith Dowding (Political Science), Professor Richard Cornes (Economics) and Professor John Ravenhill (International Relations).

The Centre for the Study of Australian Politics has commenced and brings together various dimensions of research and education activities in the School of Politics & International Relations.

The Centre for Moral, Social and Political Theory in the School of Philosophy is being established to bring together moral and political theories, economic philosophy and public choice, evolution and ethics, and public policy and institutional design. It will commence in 2012.

Enjoy the RSSS Post

Adam Graycar

*RSSS Post* is published tri-annually online and as a pdf for the ANU Research School of Social Sciences.

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Cover: Participants at the PoC Workshop in Darwin, 2010
Photo: Katherine May, CAEPR.
WORKSHOPexploresindigenousnotionsofwell-being

On 2–3 November 2010 the People on Country (PoC) project team from the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) held a workshop at CSIRO in Darwin to bring together representatives from partnering Indigenous land and sea management groups, project staff, and members of the project steering committee and other affiliates. The main aim of the workshop was to explore the partnering groups' notions of wellbeing, and the wider social and economic benefits that they perceived as being generated by their land and sea management activities.

Three key themes emerged from the discussions about what underlies notions of well-being.

1. the importance of customary law and connections to Country
2. intergenerational knowledge transfer
3. landowner and community involvement in Indigenous land and sea management activities.

Underpinning all the examples and stories from the groups was the perceived binding connection between the well-being of the environment and the well-being of people.

A variety of approaches were suggested to document the wider benefits from land and sea management activities such as educational outcomes from youth involvement, individual employment outcomes, and the wider activities the Rangers undertake in their communities and regions and the communities' perceptions.

In the coming year the PoC project researchers will be working with individual partner groups to identify and research the different benefits of their work that they wish to document. The full workshop report is available from the PoC website <http://caepr.anu.edu.au/others/Report-1296543246.php>.

The People on Country, Healthy Landscapes and Indigenous Economic Futures (PoC) Project <http://caepr.anu.edu.au/poc/index.php> is a collaborative research project carried out by CAEPR, based at ANU, and is sponsored primarily by the Sidney Myer Fund, with additional support from ANU and the Australian Research Council.

A HIGH TECH SLEUTH?

Professor Richard Jones presented the second Transnational Research Institute on Corruption (TRIC) Public Lecture for 2011, at the ANU on 28 March, to an audience of professional and academics keen to hear about technological development and solutions for the early detection and prevention of corruption.

Drawing from nearly fifty years experience in IT, Professor Jones outlined system designs that could help identify any of the three points on the fraud (or corruption) triangle – motivation, justification and opportunity. By comparing developed world and developing world experiences in countries as diverse as Sweden and Kenya, he was able to highlight the data requirements for such systems.

Access and privacy issues were canvassed and, while Professor Jones believes strongly in the right to privacy, he acknowledged that people using an organisation's IT systems for corrupt purposes could not expect privacy to be a cover for their activity. Privacy and trust in an anti-corruption system's own integrity were keys to gathering data on corrupt activity. Without this trust, the required data would never come to light.

There was a good level of interest from the media before and after the lecture, with Professor Jones speaking to the Conversation, the Australian and ABC Radio National.
Michael Jones has won one of three Rhodes Scholarships for Australia-at-large to undertake postgraduate study at the University of Oxford. Michael, a combined arts/law student who completed honours in law last year at ANU, will travel to the UK in September to study politics and political theory at masters level. He hopes that the Rhodes Scholarship will assist him in furthering the community work he has done with Indigenous communities in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Looking back on the honours experience in the School of Sociology, from where I am now as a new PhD student, what stands out most for me are the challenges it involved. Fresh from the BA, I was suddenly granted the freedom to pursue my own project, and a new identity of researcher-in-training, which was exciting but daunting. During the honours year I was pushed, mentally and physically, to my limits all the while worrying whether I was good enough and whether I would succeed. However, it was in pursuing these challenges, whilst being guided by my supportive supervisor, Maria Hynes, that I had my first real taste of independent research. For the first time, I was exploring the questions that were most important to me, making a contribution to what I discovered to be a somewhat under-theorised topic of study (BDSM pornography), and engaging with quite challenging social theory. During this time, I discovered the pains and pleasures of the creative process. I watched my way of thinking fall to pieces, worked from within that space of rupture and in dialogue with an inspiring mentor and, ultimately, emerged a different thinker. It was an incredibly exciting and rewarding intellectual experience.

Now, having completed my honours degree, I find a new world of postgraduate research, publishing, conferences, and seminars before me. It seems as though the honours year was both a test and a transitional period. Whilst it was stressful, it truly does seem worth it and I am grateful to have had the experience I had here at ANU.

Other University Medallists are:

Laura Rademaker (History, now undertaking a PhD with the Australian Centre for Indigenous History)
Aaron Ashby Kirby (International Relations)
Benjamin James Power (Politics)
Luara Ferracioli is looking forward to taking up her two-year Postdoctoral Fellowship at Oxford and Princeton Universities later in the year.

‘For me this is not only a unique opportunity to work with inspiring academics at two world class universities, but to also actively engage, and learn from, two new social and political environments (US and UK). I feel honoured and extremely excited about this new opportunity,’ she said.

Luara is currently completing her PhD thesis, on the ethics of migration, at the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics.

While at Princeton and Oxford she will be working with academics interested in global governance and in making globalisation work for developing countries. More specifically, she will be working on questions associated with skilled migration from developing countries to rich countries and hopes to devise creative and feasible policy proposals to mitigate the negative effects of the 'brain drain' phenomena on the poor, while still optimising the value of remittances in the struggle against poverty.

Luara says she thoroughly enjoyed her time at the ANU, with its excellent facilities, interesting events and forums, and stunning campus. ‘I honestly enjoyed every day of my life as an ANU student and I could not think of a better place in Australia to undertake a PhD program.’

Long-term, she hopes to pursue a career in academia and continue her research on pressing global issues. ‘I would also love to continue engaging with civil society and different levels of government, ensuring that my theoretical work is applicable and responsive to the needs of those most vulnerable within society. And I want to help students to think critically and creatively, and inspire them to bring about a better world in the same way I have been inspired by my past teachers and professors at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels’

PhD candidate in History with the National Centre of Biography, Jacqui Donegan, has won a prestigious fellowship to Harvard University.

Her research explores the active associations between Australian and American food manufacturers in the early 20th century, especially those seeking alternatives to sugar.

Jacqui said she was thrilled at the opportunity to spend time at Harvard.

‘The Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship has enabled me to undertake extensive research throughout Australia and America, and this fellowship will complement that with a sustained period of primary research in the Harvard Libraries,’ she said.

‘Harvard pioneered the case study method of business analysis and as a consequence the Harvard libraries hold most of the original legal transcripts from the dissolution of business trusts from 1916.’

‘I’m also looking forward to working with a range of American historians who, like Chandler, study business organisation.’

Jacqui’s PhD thesis, The Confectionery Kings: Robertson, Allen and Hoadley, 1890–1930, is being supervised by Professors Melanie Nolan and Desley Deacon, with Adjunct Professor Raymond Evans from Griffith University as an adviser. The thesis is due for completion next year.
HISTORY: INVESTIGATING THE PAST

Since its integration in January 2010, the School of History has built an integrated culture and by all measures is thriving.

In the recent ERA rankings, we achieved the top rank of 5, one of only four History departments in the nation to do so. Our HDR numbers are increasing, currently at 41. We currently have two ARC Future Fellows, Dr Martin Thomas who joined us last year from the University of Sydney, and Dr Maria Nugent who won her Future Fellowship in the 2010 round along with a staggering three other ARC grants.

Shortly we will welcome Dr Kynan Gentry, who received one of the two CASS Postdoctoral Fellowships awarded late last year. In July we will be joined by Associate Professor Frank Bongiorno, who will take up a position in Australian history, coming to us from the Department of History and the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies at King's College London (though this will be a return to ANU for Frank, who received his PhD here in 1994). We are also in the process of appointing a lecturer or senior lecturer in 20th Century European History, with a very strong field of candidates.

The week starting Monday 11 April Dr Carolyn Strange will convene the first offering of 'The Historian's Craft', our new course for HDR students in historiography, theory and method.

In May we celebrate our annual Allan Martin Week. Thanks to a generous endowment given by the late Professor Emerita Beryl Rawson, in honour of her distinguished historian husband, each year we invite an outstanding historian to ANU for several days. This year we are truly fortunate to have Professor Annette Gordon Reed as our Allan Martin Lecturer.

PULITZER PRIZE WINNER TO SPEAK AT ALLAN MARTIN LECTURE, 10 MAY 2011

Annette Gordon-Reed, Professor of Law and History at Harvard University, and one of the United States' most distinguished Presidential scholars, is to give this year's Allan Martin Lecture on 10 May.

Professor Gordon-Reed’s lifelong interest in the slave-owning US president has led to a number of critically acclaimed books, including Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy (1997) and The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family (2008) which examines five generations of a slave family owned by Jefferson, including a number of children fathered by him. The Hemingses of Monticello won 16 awards, including the 2009 Pulitzer Prize in History, the National Book Award and the National Humanities Medal, presented by US President Barak Obama. Last year Professor Gordon-Reed was awarded a prestigious Macarthur Fellowship, in recognition of her work in dramatically changing the course of Jeffersonian scholarship.

Professor Gordon-Reed will be at the School for a week. The highlight of her visit will be the Allan Martin Lecture on May 10 where she will talk about 'Slavery at Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello'.

The Australian Centre for Indigenous History was launched in 2003 with Professor Ann McGrath as its Founding Director.

As well as offering a supportive environment for postgraduate students who have come from a variety of disciplines, the Centre conducts collaborative and individual research projects on Australian, comparative and transnational Indigenous history.

Last year the Centre was outstandingly successful in securing five ARC grants, including a Future Fellowship for Dr Maria Nugent. The grant will enable the Centre to support a Postdoctoral Scholarship and a PhD scholarship for Indigenous scholars.


Also in 2010 Tiffany Shellam’s book *Shaking Hands on the Fringe* (University of Western Australia Press), based on her PhD thesis undertaken at ACIH, was shortlisted for the Western Australia Premier’s Literary Awards and the Victorian Premier’s Literary Awards.

The Australian Centre for Indigenous History established the Minoru Hokari Scholarship in 2006 to commemorate their colleague whose untimely death in 2004 curtailed a promising career.

The scholarship offers $3000 towards conducting fieldwork in an indigenous community for projects related to Australian Indigenous history.

For more information contact Dr Shino Konishi at shino.konishi@anu.edu.au or visit [http://history.cass.anu.edu.au/minoru-hokari-scholarship](http://history.cass.anu.edu.au/minoru-hokari-scholarship)

Following in the footsteps of Princess Mary, Australians are infiltrating all levels of Danish society. Actually, Australian literature was taught at the University of Copenhagen for several decades before Mary met Fred but there’s no doubt that the Princess indirectly helped the formation of a Centre for Australian Studies at the University in 2005. Heading that lively outfit has been another Australian who has infiltrated the higher echelons of Danish society, Professor Stuart Ward, now Provost of Regensen College and the first non-Dane to occupy that august position in almost 400 years. Ward is a renowned scholar and teacher of European imperial history and the histories of the settler colonies of the British empire. The ANU and the University of Copenhagen are both members of the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU).

In February and March of this year, a small team from the Centre for Environmental History at ANU strengthened the IARU partnership through participation in teaching and scholarship at the University of Copenhagen. In 2008, Professor Tom Griffiths of the School of History was the Distinguished Visiting Professor of Australian Studies in Copenhagen, and now he is an Adjunct Professor of Climate Research there. This position, created by the university during the preparations for the UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen in December 2009, brings Professor Griffiths back to the Faculty of Humanities for several weeks of teaching each year. This year he was accompanied by Dr Christine Hansen, a PhD graduate of the School of History who is funded as an ANU-IARU Visiting Fellow, and Dr Mike Smith, an archaeologist and Senior Research Fellow at the National Museum of Australia and a Board member of the Centre for Environmental History at ANU.

Tom, Christine and Mike contributed to the teaching of a Masters course on Indigenous Australia (coordinated by Dr Claire McLisky) and they also spoke at a conference on Aboriginal relationships to land, and gave lectures in other courses. Mike and Tom also initiated a meeting of scholars at the university who are working on climate history and policy. Denmark, a nation that established many of the key concepts of archaeology in the nineteenth century, is now taking a great interest in the remarkable twentieth-century revelations of the deep human history of the Australian continent.
FEATURE: HISTORY

BIOGRAPHY AT ANU

The National Centre of Biography, located within the School of History, aims to act as a focus for the study of biography within the ANU and, more broadly, Australia. The Centre was established in 2008 with Professor Melanie Nolan as its founding director. She is also the General Editor of the Australian Dictionary of Biography. Published in 18 volumes since 1966, the ADB went online as a free resource in 2006 and attracts over 70 million hits annually.

As well as producing the ADB, the NCB currently has six PhD students and, this year, is offering History Honours students the unique opportunity of working with ADB staff as interns. The students will not only learn advanced research and editing skills but are being given the chance to write, and have published, an ADB entry and thematic essay on the ADB website.

In May the Centre is launching its new Masters in Biographical Research and Writing, while its monthly Biography Reading Group offers an opportunity for those interested in writing, and reading about, biography the opportunity to meet with published biographers in an informal setting.

On 14 April the NCB is launching a new website, Obituaries Australia, which consists of published – and extensively indexed – obituaries of Australians. In time the database will enable researchers to undertake advanced prosopographical studies.

TOGETHER THEY HOLD SIX ARC GRANTS

Between them, Drs Maria Nugent and Shino Konishi, from the Australian Centre for Indigenous History (ACIH), have six ARC grants, four of them awarded last November including, for Dr Nugent, a Future Fellowship.

Drs Nugent and Konishi also jointly edit the journal Aboriginal History, published by ANU E-Press, and last year edited a collection of essays from the Baz Luhrmann’s Australia Reviewed conference, organised by ACIH and the Centre for Historical Research at the National Museum of Australia.

With Visiting Fellow, Dr Andrew Schaap, from the University of Exeter, Dr Konishi is convening a symposium on the Aboriginal Tent Embassy at Old Parliament House, which celebrates its 40th anniversary next year. The symposium will be held at the ANU on 20-22 June. See http://acih.anu.edu.au/news/aboriginal-embassy-symposium

2011 POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

Dr Kynan Gentry is joining the History Department this month after being granted one of two Postdoctoral Fellowships awarded by the College of Arts and Social Sciences this year.

Dr Gentry's PhD thesis, completed at the University of Melbourne in 2009, looked at the interest in, and preservation of, historic sites and places in New Zealand between the late nineteenth-century and the establishment of the Historic Places Trust in 1954. His research at the ANU will focus on the use of historical narrative in the cultural politics of history-making in Australia – both historically and today – through the lenses of historic preservation and interest (or lack of) in the historical landscape.

Dr Karen Fox knocked back an overseas offer of employment to take up a two-year Postdoctoral Fellowship with the National Centre of Biography in February this year.

As well as editing entries for the Australian Dictionary of Biography, she is undertaking two research projects of her own – a history of the honours system in Australia, and a history of fame in Australia.

Dr Fox moved to Canberra from New Zealand in 2006 to undertake a PhD on 'Media Representation of Famous Indigenous Women in Australia and New Zealand' at the Australian Centre for Indigenous Studies. Last year she taught two courses for the School of History and was among the top 10 ANU teachers nominated for the UniJobs 2010 Lecturer of the Year.
ANU POLL TRACKS POPULATION GROWING PAINS

More than half of Australians want the country's population to stay at or go below current levels according to the latest ANU Poll.

The poll, Public Opinion Towards Population Growth in Australia, took a wide-ranging snapshot of Australian attitudes towards population policy, environment and infrastructure, immigration and fertility and the ageing population.

Key findings from the poll include:

- 44 per cent of Australians favour population growth, while 52 per cent want the population to remain at or below current levels;
- Opposition to population increase is broadly-based, with concerns about the effect on the economy and the environment;
- A majority of Australians think the world’s population is too large and is causing environmental damage;
- Half of the country say people should consider limiting the sizes of their families in order to minimise the impact of population growth; 16 per cent of Australians would want to see population increase through more immigration rather than through increased fertility;
- Two thirds of Australians say the ageing population will cause real problems – a majority are concerned about the government’s ability to tackle the problem and reject increased taxes as a solution.

RSSS RESEARCHERS CONTRIBUTE TO NOVEL RESEARCH ON CAREER EXPECTATIONS OF YOUTH

Dr Joanna Sikora, of the School of Sociology, led two recent major projects on career plans of adolescents. The first, commissioned by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), and co-authored with Lawrence J. Saha, also of the ANU, focused on the relationship between early career plans and adult attainments. Sikora and Saha, analysed the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) which followed a representative sample of Australian students, who were in Year 9 in 1998, between that time and 2008. They found that having ambitious career plans in high school helped young Australians to attain high status jobs earlier. Not having a career plan at fifteen was an accurate indicator of lower status employment at 24 years of age. This is the first study in Australia which showed that early career plans convey unique benefits, above and beyond those conveyed by educational plans and even university completion.

The second project, commissioned by the Directorate of Education of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, demonstrated that in over 50 countries there is strong gender segregation of science-related career plans. Earlier analyses of the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), the OECD’s survey of 15 year olds, showed that in many countries girls were as keen as boys to pursue science-related occupations. In some countries girls surpassed boys. However, Sikora in collaboration with Artur Pokropek of the Polish Academy of Sciences, demonstrated that in all participating countries girls plan careers primarily in health-related science, while boys opt for computing and engineering. This reveals the existence of strong horizontal segregation of career preferences by gender. OECD analysts will produce a larger analytical publication, i.e. a PISA thematic report, based on this report.

HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY & POLITICAL STUDIES ARE WELL ABOVE WORLD CLASS

The Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) has confirmed RSSS’s position as the leading institution for scholarship in the social sciences in Australia.

ERA assessed History, Philosophy and Political Studies as being well above world standard. Sociology was assessed as performing above world standard.

All assessments are well above the Australian average.

AWARD FOR DR BEN WELLINGS

Dr Ben Wellings was awarded the ANU Media Award for Best Emerging Talent at a ceremony in December which recognised the efforts of staff who engage with the public through the media.

ANCLAS WINS FUNDING FOR LIBRARY

The Australian National Centre for Latin American Studies has received $32,418 from the 2011 ANU Major Equipment Grant scheme to revitalise its Latin American Research Library Collection. The grant will enable the Centre to buy over 1,000 volumes – giving it the most up-to-date social science collection of its kind in the country.
ANU - VIENNA CONNECTION

The School of Philosophy has a long-standing connection with the Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research (KLI), a private, non-profit institution closely associated with the University of Vienna.

As part of its mission, KLI fosters research projects, seminars, workshops, and symposia on all aspects of theoretical biology, with an emphasis on the developmental, evolutionary, and cognitive sciences.

Three ANU philosophers will be spending time at KLI this year, including PhD candidate, Rachael Brown, who is working on ‘The generation and maintenance of behavioural innovation’ and has been awarded a Junior Fellowship at KLI.

Postdoctoral researcher, Dr Brett Calcott, who is a founding member of ANU’s Centre for Macroevolution and Macroecology, has been awarded a KLI Postdoctoral Fellowship and will be spending six months in Vienna. Kim Sterelny, Professor and Head of the School of Philosophy, will join Calcott and Brown at KLI in June for a workshop.

Calcott and Sterelny are also publishing The Major Transitions in Evolution Revisited - Vienna Series in Theoretical Biology, MIT Press (forthcoming) developed out of a previous KLI workshop.

NEW APPOINTMENT IN CAEPR

Professor Matthew Gray has recently been appointed Professor of Indigenous Public Policy based at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR). Professor Gray will provide leadership in Indigenous social policy research, teaching and outreach with a focus on the practical application of research to policy development and practice. He will also participate in the enhanced linkages between the ANU and Government policy and administration resulting from the creation of the new Australian National Institute for Public Policy (ANIPP).

Professor Gray was most recently Deputy Director of the Australian Institute of Family Studies (2005-2010) and was a member of the Ministerial Taskforce on Child Support (2004-2005) which recommended major changes to the Child Support Scheme. He has undertaken extensive research using longitudinal data on the impact over time of divorce on the social and economic circumstances of men and women.

Professor Gray completed his PhD at ANU in 1999 in the area of labour market economics. As an economist he has maintained a close interest in this field, particularly in the context of labour market participation by disadvantaged individuals and families.

He has published research on a wide range of social and economic policy issues including those related to Indigenous Australians. Professor Gray brings extensive experience in evaluating major government policies and programs having led the Australian Institute of Family Studies evaluation of the 2006 changes to the family law system and been heavily involved in evaluating the Government’s ‘Stronger Families’ Strategy. He has a strong interest in the practical application of applied research and data analysis to the policy development process.

Professor Chalmers joined the RSSS as a Federation Fellow in August 2004 to establish the Centre for Consciousness in the School of Philosophy. His particular area of research is philosophy of the mind. He is also interested in artificial intelligence and computation, in philosophical issues about meaning and possibility, and in the foundations of cognitive science and of physics.

The exhibition curator’s Christopher Chapman, will discuss with Professor Chalmers and Nick Mourtzakis, the process of creating the portrait at a special public lecture at the Portrait Gallery on 21 May, 2-3 pm.

The portrait is not yet available for public viewing but we understand that it depicts the hirsute Professor Chalmers with a bald head.
SOME OF OUR VISITING FELLOWS

**PABLO SOLER FROST**

Mexican novelist, poet and filmmaker, Pablo Soler Frost, visited the Australian National Centre for Latin American Studies in February and March. During his stay he gave public lectures on *New Tendencies in Mexican Cinematography* and *New Tendencies in Mexican Literature* which looked at the impact on Mexican literature of new technologies such as Youtube and Facebook. He also showed his film *40 Days* about a road trip across Mexico taken by three young friends.

All these events can be viewed on podcast at [http://www.anclas.anu.edu.au/node/249](http://www.anclas.anu.edu.au/node/249)

**PROFESSOR PATRICK DUNLEAVY**

Professor Patrick Dunleavy is visiting the School of Politics and International Relations from 1 March to mid-May. A graduate of Oxford University, he has been based at the London School of Economics since 1979 and holds the chair of the LSE Public Policy Group.

During his stay at the ANU he is working on two book projects, *Growing the Productivity of Public Services* (co-authored with Leandro Carrera), and *Competing for Organized Power in Firms, Bureaucracies and Politics*.

On 29 March he gave a public lecture on *Visualizing Multi-Party Competition in Plurality Rule Elections*.

**PROFESSOR ALVIN GOLDMAN**

Alvin Goldman, Professor of Philosophy and Cognitive Science at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, USA, is giving this year’s Jack Smart Lecture on 19 July. He will be talking about *Philosophical Naturalism and Intuitional Methodology*.

Professor Goldman’s principal areas of research are epistemology, philosophy of mind, and cognitive science. He is most well known for a series of naturalistic accounts of knowledge and justified belief. He also edits the journal *Episteme: A Journal of Social Epistemology*.

**DR ANDREW SCHAAP**

Dr Andrew Schapp, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Politics at the University of Exeter, England, is visiting with the Australian Centre for Indigenous History during 2011.

On 1 June he will be giving a paper (co-authored with Dr Paul Muldoon, Monash University) on *Aboriginal Sovereignty and the Politics of Reconciliation: The Constituent Power of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Australia* as part of the School of History’s Seminar series.

With Dr Shino Konishi he is convening a conference, to be held on 20–22 June, on the Aboriginal Tent Embassy outside Old Parliament House, which celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2012. Speakers include some of the original members of the Tent Embassy as well as academics and activists.


**DR ROBERT KENNY**

ARC Research Fellow at La Trobe University, Dr Robert Kenny’s prime area of research is the social history of ideas, particularly with the interconnection of religion and science.

During his visit with the School of History, in May–September, he will be researching the concept of recapitulation, as evident in the equating of the ‘child-mind’ with the ‘savage-mind’.

**DR JOHN BARRY**

Dr John Barry, Reader in the School of Politics, Queen’s University, Belfast, and Director of the University’s Centre for Sustainability and Environmental Research, is visiting with the School of Politics and International Relations from 1 February to 30 April.

On 5 April he gave a public lecture on *Green Politics in Post-Conflict Society*. 
On February 3-4, 2011, the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (The Middle East and Central Asia) hosted the 10th Biennial Conference of the Australasian Association for Communist and Post-Communist Studies (AACaPS – X), which was convened by the Centre's Deputy Director, Dr Kirill Nourzhanov.

The Conference's theme was Two Decades Without the Soviet Union: Transformations in Eurasian Space, and brought together academics, journalists and policy makers from twelve countries.

The Conference was launched by the CAIS Director, Professor Amin Saikal, with the keynote address delivered by the Hon. Bob Hawke, former Prime Minister of Australia, who provided a personal and richly-textured account of the events surrounding the collapse of the Soviet Union and China's turn towards capitalism, in which he took an active part. Mr Hawke also provided an analysis of the current geopolitical situation in the Eurasian super-continent, paying special attention to the challenges of Islamic radicalism and the dangers inherent in failing states in Central and South Asia.

The Conference's 52 papers covered a broad spectrum of topics related to the politics, international relations, economics, history and culture in Eurasia. The geographic scope of discussions encompassed the Balkans, Central Europe, the former Soviet republics, and North-East Asia. The studies addressing the trajectories of change in Russia and Central Asia were particularly well represented, highlighting the growing importance of these areas in academic and political discourse.


A landmark meeting of digital research specialists in the humanities, arts and social sciences from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Sweden took place on 22 March in the Hedley Bull Building. The event was sponsored by the Australian Academy of the Humanities with support from the National Centre of Biography in the School of History.

Hosted by Dr Paul Arthur, Deputy Director of the National Centre of Biography, the one-day workshop brought together 40 leading researchers, project directors and sector representatives. The purpose of the high-level meeting was to form the first professional association for digital scholarship in Australasia.

Two international guests, Professor Ray Siemens and Dr Patrik Svensson, presented public lectures (http://billboard.anu.edu.au/event_view.asp?id=75834). Siemens is Canada Research Chair in Humanities Computing at Victoria University and Chair of the Steering Committee of the international Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO). Svensson is Director of HUMlab, the digital research laboratory at Umeå University in northern Sweden.

Digital technologies are revolutionising data-driven research in the humanities, arts and social sciences, enabling new insights and connections that would have been unimaginable only a few years ago. As a result digital approaches are being prioritised in research organisations worldwide. In Australia there is growing demand for purpose-designed infrastructure to enable major databases and collections to be inter-connected and to underpin new modes of online collaboration and advanced data sharing.

The need for technology infrastructure on a national scale is addressed in a chapter devoted to the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences in the current Federal Government discussion paper, the 2011 Strategic Roadmap for Australian Research Infrastructure. Dr Arthur is a member of the Understanding Cultures and Communities Expert Working Group that wrote the chapter. Stakeholder comment is invited until 4 May 2011 on the discussion paper which can be found online at http://www.innovation.gov.au/SCIENCE/
LABOUR HISTORY AND ITS PEOPLE

The National Centre of Biography, in association with the Canberra branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History, is holding a conference on Labour History and Its People at the ANU, 15-17 September to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the ASLH in 1961 at the ANU.

For further information visit http://ncb.anu.edu.au/labour-history-conference

HONOUR KILLING ACROSS TIME AND CULTURE

Call for Papers

Convenor: Dr Carolyn Strange, History, 8-9 December 2011

The conference will explore honour killing across periods, places, political contexts, legal regimes and religions.

Scholars, artists and activists are welcomed as presenters.

For further information see http://history.cass.anu.edu.au/honourkillingconf

SPIR SEMINAR SERIES

The School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR) seminar series started for the year on 8 March with a seminar by Professor Kris Deschouwer on Citizens’ Perceptions on Democracy.

Seminars are held every Tuesday afternoon from 4-5.30 pm in the L. J. Hume Centre.

Details of upcoming seminars can be found on the School’s website at http://politicsir.cass.anu.edu.au/seminars

2011 JACK SMART LECTURE

School of Philosophy

Alvin Goldman, Professor of Philosophy and Cognitive Science, Rutgers, State University of New Jersey, USA

Philosophical Naturalism and Intuitional Methodology

19 July, Law Link Theatre, 4-6 pm

AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The School of Politics and International Relations is hosting the Australian Political Studies Association Conference on 26-28 September.

The Conference will be held at Old Parliament House with a postgraduate student workshop to be held on 25 September. More details will be available soon on a conference website.

SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVES ON THE 2008 NATIONAL AND ABORIGINAL TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SOCIAL SURVEY

The Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) are holding a conference, on Social Science Perspectives on the 2008 National and Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Social Survey.

The conference aims to get a conversation going between stakeholders and academics about data and research required to enhance the Social Science evidence base around Indigenous wellbeing and socioeconomic disadvantage (with a particular focus on the ‘Closing the Gap’ targets).

The conference will be held in the Haydon Allen Tank, 11-12 April

For further details see http://caepr.anu.edu.au/Seminars/conferences/conference.php

2011 ALLAN MARTIN LECTURE

School of History

Annette Gordon-Reed, Professor of Law and History at Harvard University, USA

Slavery at Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello

10 May 2011, Coombs Lecture Theatre, ANU, 6 pm

For further details see http://history.cass.anu.edu.au/event/2011-allan-martin-lecture-slavery-thomas-jeffersons-monticello

Illness in Colonial Australia has been described as an ‘innovative, richly researched study of the impact of the age-old afflictions the settlers carried and their efforts to cope with them’.

The work traces the sad, destructive impact on Aboriginal and colonists’ health of the Old World’s crowd diseases - measles, scarlet fever, influenza, smallpox and tuberculosis among them. It also tells of the attempts by mothers and medical professionals to heal and prevent disease with nursing, sanitary reform and the building of hospitals.

Professor Smith sets his account in the context of political, economic and social history. He writes with authority and wit; his book will entertain and instruct a wide range of readers, including general history students, health providers, administrators and educators.

**DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC OUTCOMES ACROSS THE INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN LIFECOURSE; EVIDENCE FROM THE 2006 CENSUS**

by Nicholas Biddle and Mandy Yap

CAEPR Monograph no 31

The authors found that across almost all standard indicators, the Indigenous population of Australia has worse outcomes than the non-Indigenous population. Despite the abundance of statistics and a plethora of government reports on Indigenous outcomes, there is very little information on how Indigenous disadvantage accumulates or is mitigated through time at the individual level.

The research that is available highlights two key findings: Firstly, that Indigenous disadvantage starts from a very early age and widens over time. Secondly, that the timing of key life events including education attendance, marriage, childbirth and retirement occur on average at different ages for the Indigenous compared to the non-Indigenous population.

To target policy interventions that will contribute to meeting the Council of Australian Governments’ Closing the Gap targets, it is important to understand and acknowledge the differences between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous lifecourse in Australia, as well as the factors that lead to variation within the Indigenous population.

**STILLNESS IN A MOBILE WORLD**

edited by David Bissell (Sociology, RSSS) and Gillian Fuller

This collection of essays on the conceptual, political and philosophical importance of stillness is positioned within a world that has increasingly come to be understood through the theoretical and conceptual lens of movement.

With contributions from leading scholars in the field, the book interweaves cutting-edge theoretical insight with empirical illustrations which examine and traverses a multitude of practices, spaces and events.

In an era where stasis, slowness and passivity are often held to be detrimental, this collection puts forward a new set of political and ethical concerns which help us to come to terms with, understand, and account for (im)mobile life.

*Stillness in a Mobile World* in an essential source of reference for both undergraduate and postgraduate students working within disciplines such as cultural studies, sociology, mobility studies, and human geography.