



No. 5

May 2010

Editorial

The Newsletter of the Centre for the History of European Discourses is published twice a year. It circulates news about CHED staff, affiliates and postgraduate students. It promotes CHED functions and events and those of affiliated centres and research groups.

The next CHED Newsletter will be published in November 2010. All submissions should be sent to g.kelly3@uq.edu.au.

From the Director

CHED's complement of ARC Fellows has greatly increased since our last newsletter. In addition to Ian Hunter, an ARC Professorial Fellow of long standing, we now boast two other fellows. Simon During has arrived from Johns Hopkins University and settled in as our second Professorial Fellow, while Elizabeth Stephens has taken up the ARC Research Fellowship which she was awarded in late 2009. We hope earnestly for further success in the 2010 round.

After providing me with sage council on a range of difficult and delicate

matters since the inception of CHED, Ian Hunter has recently relinquished the role of Assistant Director. Elizabeth Stephens has become Deputy Director. This is effectively an apprenticeship in research management for Elizabeth, and she is setting about this with her usual energy and intelligence.

With great regret, we have had to bid farewell to Michael Ure, who will be returning to Monash University to take up a position there. Michael has been remarkably productive during his time at CHED, producing studies of Nietzsche that have made him a scholar of international standing, and helping to raise CHED's profile in prestigious institutions such as Berkeley.

We are also about to say goodbye to our Centre Manager, Roz Berg, who has enriched CHED with her personal warmth and her loyalty to our collective enterprise. Roz will be moving to Victoria to take on a new phase in her life. We believe that Roz has now fully integrated the value we attach to publication outcomes, and we confidently expect that she will one day send us a novel that we can display in the CHED cabinet.

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Recent CHED Events

On Lying in Politics – Martin Jay Lecture



Organiser: Michael Ure.

In February 2010, CHED HOSTED a seminar around the work of Martin Jay: **On Lying in Politics**.

The seminar addressed the issue of lying in politics through a range of philosophical, ethical and historical questions: that of lying as a creative, generative political act; of normative standards for states, their agents and individuals; of different traditions of political theory's understanding and evaluation of mendacity; and of the relation between lying and delusion.

The keynote speaker was Professor Martin Jay of the University of California. Other speakers included Michael Levine, Kim Huynh, Fiona Jenkins, Marguerite La Caze, Justine

McGill, and Matthew Sharpe. Professor Jay's research was published this year as *The Virtues of Mendacity*, by University of Virginia Press.

Semester One 2010 Public Seminar Series: Anachronism in Intellectual History



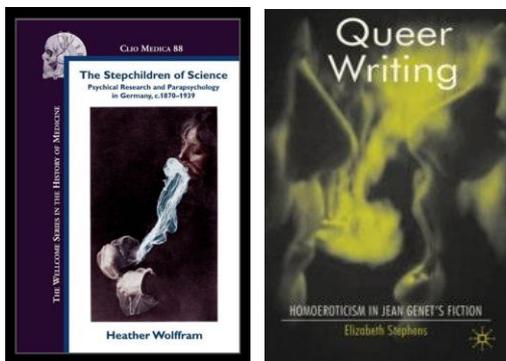
Organiser: Ryan Walter.

The first semester public seminar series, Anachronism in Intellectual History, has provided the opportunity to consider methodological issues in intellectual history from the perspective of multiple disciplines, including a number outside CHED's usual suite. In particular, Andrew Leach opened the series by examining the role of productive anachronism in architecture, while Richard Yeo described the non-scientific context of seventeenth-century scientific culture. The series features three visiting speakers, Ben Myers, Alastair Blanshard, and Conal Condren.

Joint Book Launch



Dr Heather Wolfram (left) and Dr Elizabeth Stephens (right).



In May 2010 CHED celebrated the publication of Elizabeth Stephens' *Queer Writing: Homoeroticism in Jean Genet's Fiction* and Heather Wolfram's *The Stepchildren of Science: Psychological Research and Parapsychology in Germany c. 1870-1929*. The book launch held at the Centre was well attended by colleagues and friends.



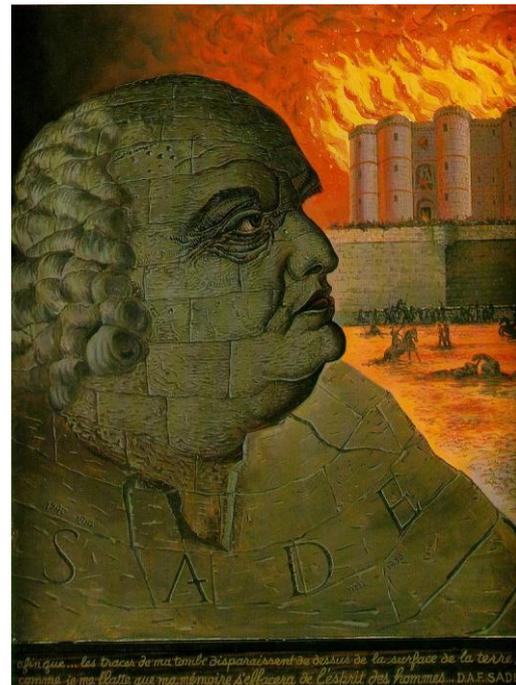
Upcoming CHED Events

Semester Two 2010 Public Seminar Series: Issues in the History of Sexuality.

In Semester 2, 2010, CHED will hold a series of public seminars entitled "Issues in the History of Sexuality". Speakers will include Mark McLelland (Wollongong) and Nikki Sullivan (Macquarie), as well as CHED's Elizabeth Stephens and Marina Bollinger. A full program will be published in the near future.

Transgression and Discipline in the History of Sexuality, September 2010

Organizer: Peter Cryle.



Continuing our tradition of conferences held at the Monash

Centre in Prato, Italy, this conference will question the effects of a modernist discourse of transgressive fluidity on contemporary critical practice, and examine carefully the place of transgression and discipline in earlier times.

Historical inquiry will be undertaken by asking questions about just what has counted as transgression and discipline in the past. The second phase of the conference will develop a critique of modernism that bears on the use of metaphors of fluidity and fixity in contemporary writing.

Recent Staff Publications

The following publications by CHED staff have appeared in recent months:

Heather Wolfram

The stepchildren of science: psychical research and parapsychology in Germany, c. 1870-1939. Amsterdam: Editions Rodopi, 2009.

“Crime, clairvoyance and the Weimar police”, *Journal of Contemporary History* vol 44, no 4, 2009: 581-601.

“In the laboratory of the Ghost-Baron: Parapsychology in Germany in the early 20th century”, *Endeavour* vol 33, no 4, 2009: 151-156.

“The Nazi Occult and The Castle in the Forest: Raw History and Fictional Transformation” in John Whalen-Bridge (ed.) *Norman Mailer's Later*

Fictions: Ancient Evenings through Castle in the Forest (Palgrave Macmillan 2010)

Simon During

Exit Capitalism: literary culture, theory and post-secular modernity, Routledge 2010.



“The Mundane against the Secular”, in *Varieties of Secularism in a Secular Age*, eds. Craig Calhoun, Jonathan van Antwerpen and Michael Warner. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 2010: 105-226.

“Charlatanism and resentment in London’s mid-eighteenth-century literary marketplace”, in *Bookish Histories, Books, Literature and Commercial Modernity*, eds. Paul Keen and Ina Ferris. London: Palgrave 2009: 314-326.

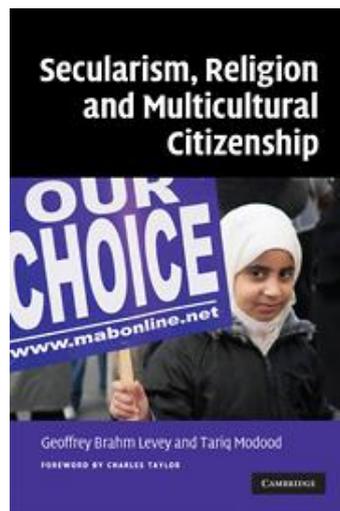
“Regency London”, in *The New Cambridge History of English Literature: the Romantic Period*, eds.

James Chandler and Marilyn Butler. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009: 335-356.

"The Limits of Culture", in *Culturalisms*, edited by Diana Brydon, James Meffan and Mark Williams, special issue of *New Literatures Review*, nos 45/46 (2009): 23-40.

Ian Hunter

"The shallow legitimacy of secular liberal orders: The case of early modern Brandenburg-Prussia", in *Secularism, Religion and Multicultural Citizenship*, eds. Geoffrey Brahm Levey and Tariq Modood. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009: 29-55.



'Postmodernist histories', *Intellectual History Review* vol 19 no 2, 2009: 265-279.

"The Man and the Citizen: The Pluralisation of Civil Personae in Early Modern German Natural Law", in

Anna Yeatman and Magdalena Zolkos (eds), *Security, State and Subject Formation*, New York: Continuum Books, 2010), pp. 16-35.

Philip Almond

"John Mason and his Religion: An Enthusiastic Millenarian in Late Seventeenth-Century England", *The Seventeenth Century* vol 24, no 1, 2009: 156-176.

"John Napier and the Mathematics of the 'Middle Future' Apocalypse", *Scottish Journal of Theology* vol 63 no 1, 2010: 54-69.

"King James I and the Burning of Reginald Scot's *The Discoverie of Witchcraft*: The Invention of a Tradition', *Notes and Queries* vol 254 no 2, 2009: 209-213.

Elizabeth Stephens

"Spectacularised Bodies: From the Popular Anatomy Museum to *Body Worlds*", *The Body Divided*, ed. Helen McDonald. London: Ashgate, 2009.

The Archival Imaginary (co-edited with Susan Stryker) Special issue of *Australian Feminist Studies* (2010).

"Venus Anatomised: Gynomorphic Waxworks as Medical Archives of the Female Body." *Australian Feminist Studies* (2010).

Upcoming Publications

Transpositions of Empire Publication

In April 2009 CHED co-sponsored another of its Prato symposia, working in collaboration with the Faculty of Law at the Victoria University of Wellington. The symposium — Transpositions of Empire — was co-convened by Ian Hunter (CHED) and Shaunnagh Dorsett (VUW) and brought together a group of leading international specialists to discuss the translation of British legal and political thought into colonial settings. The co-convenors have since edited the papers for publication under the title *Law and Politics in British Colonial Thought: Transpositions of Empire*, due to appear later this year as one of the first volumes in the new Palgrave/Macmillan series, Palgrave Studies in Cultural and Intellectual History.



Some flavour of the historical issues canvassed is provided by the cover image. The image displays the coat of arms that the French Baron de Thierry (1793-1864) designed for himself as the self-appointed — and historically disappointed — sovereign of New Zealand.

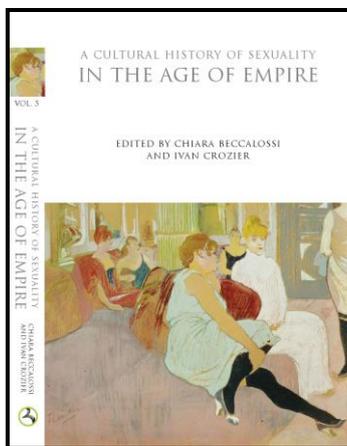
Nature and Normalcy

The special issue titled “The Natural and the Normal in the History of Sexuality” is being edited by Peter Cryle (CHED) and Lisa Downing (Exeter). It will appear in the journal *Psychology and Sexuality*. It consists of seven contributions by scholars from Australia and the UK, including CHED’s Chiara Beccalossi, Peter Cryle, and Elizabeth Stephens. These papers were first delivered at the CHED conference held in Prato in 2008, and set out to explore the discursive specificity and evolving meanings of the terms “natural” and “normal” in relation to sexual behaviour and fantasy in European and American writings (religious, medical, psychological, literary) from the sixteenth to the twenty-first centuries.

A Cultural History of Sexuality in the Age of Empire

The nineteenth century saw intense urbanisation, the development of a consumer culture, the formalisation of gender roles, the solidification of class structures, and various encounters with the exotic customs of the colonies. All contributed to enhance

sexual anxiety among the middle classes. In response, new social conventions, sanitary prescriptions, practices of self-control, and policies of sex regulation and education were developed as a means to control disorderly sexual behaviour. At the same time, though an ideology based on sexual respectability was largely promoted throughout society, significant individuals and subcultures often challenged both the principle and the practice of such morality.



The fifth in the six-volume *Cultural History of Sexuality* series, this collection of nine works edited by Chiara Beccalossi (CHED) and Ivan Crozier (Edinburgh) explores the history of sexuality in the nineteenth century, and includes contributions by Chiara Beccalossi, Elizabeth Stephens and Chad Parkhill.

Visitors to CHED

In May 2010 CHED welcomed visiting scholar **Wendy Grace** of the University of Western Australia. Her PhD, entitled "Michel Foucault's Power: A

History of Sexuality Beyond the Desires of French Psychoanalysis", consolidates a long-standing passion for Foucault's work going back to the 1980s, and a keen interest in his place in French post-war intellectual history. Dr Grace's other main interest is eighteenth and nineteenth-century sexuality, with particular focus on the sexualization of the breast during this period and its relationship to the expansion of mercenary breast-feeding, as well as the emergence of male forms of contraception. Her work seeks to revisit the Freudian understanding of hysteria in the light of Foucault, examining the connection between the diagnosis of neuralgia, medically-induced addiction to drugs such as morphine, and Freud's understanding of hysteria.

Other News and Events

Professor **Philip Almond** has been reappointed to the Queensland Government Ministerial Advisory Panel (Higher Education) for the year 2010. Professor Almond has also become a member of the Committee of the newly formed Religious History Association, a combination of the former Association for the Journal of Religious History (founded 1967), and the Religious History Society (founded 1998).

In recent months Professor **Simon During** has been invited to present a number of talks and lectures internationally. These include the Ward-Phillips Lectures at the

University of Notre Dame, an invited talk on “How to live in endgame capitalism” at the New School in New York, a seminar on “Myths of Secularism and the Sacred” and a workshop on “Sights of Enchantment: Magic, Vision, Metaphor” at Columbia University, as well as an invited lecture at Cornell’s School of Criticism and Theory entitled “Is academic literary criticism a failed project?”, and an invited talk at Yale’s English Department entitled, “Loving People: *Howards End* and the History of Democracy”.

During 2009 Professor **Ian Hunter** was invited to present the keynote address at the annual symposium of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. This was a particularly significant occasion as the symposium, “Taking Stock”, marked the 40th anniversary of the symposium series. Prof Hunter’s address, “Theory Time: On the History of Poststructuralism”, was drawn from his ongoing History of Theory project. It will appear in the Academy Proceedings during 2010 and, in a slightly different form, in the journal *New Literary History*, under the title “From the Theory of Theory to the History of Poststructuralism”.

As the newsletter goes to press, Ian Hunter has just accepted an invitation to co-present a keynote address at the annual conference of the British Society for the History of Philosophy, to be held at the University of Sussex in March 2011, where he will be sharing the podium with Professor

Quentin Skinner. Ian Hunter’s lecture, “Kant’s Enlightenment”, will be drawn from the book on Kant on which he is currently working.

Barry Hindess Celebratory Symposium

Timed to coincide with his 70th birthday, in July 2009 a symposium was held in Melbourne to honour the life and work of Professor Barry Hindess, recently retired from the Research School of Social Sciences at the ANU. Barry has been a stalwart friend and supporter of CHED since its inception. This made it a particular pleasure for Ian Hunter and Ryan Walter (a former student of Barry) to attend the event, where Professor Hunter presented a paper, “Terror, Reason, and History”, discussing the relation between theoretical and historiographic approaches to terrorism in Barry’s recent work. Other presenters included Tim Rowse, Mitchell Dean, Peter Beilharz, Duncan Ivison, John Uhr and Carol Johnson. It was striking that despite his recent serious illness, Barry provided impromptu responses to each of the papers as they were delivered, displaying the incisive insight and quiet irony that are so characteristic of both the man and his work. The papers will appear towards the end of 2010 in a special issue of the journal *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political*, edited by Baogang He of Deakin University, who also convened the symposium.