

Newsletter

The Centre for the History of European Discourses

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Editorial

The Newsletter of the Centre for the History of European Discourses is published once a year. It circulates news about the centre's staff, affiliates and postgraduate students. It promotes our functions and events and those of affiliated centres and research groups. The next Newsletter will be during May 2012. All submissions should be sent to v.carmichael@uq.edu.au.

From the Director

There have been two events of particular significance for the centre in recent months. The first of these is the appointment of Peter Harrison, who is currently Andreas Idreos Professor of Science and Religion and Director of the Ramsey Centre at the University of Oxford. Peter Harrison has been appointed Professor of Science and Religion in the centre. He has also been offered and accepted the directorship of the centre. He will take up his position at UQ in early October, at which time Peter Cryle will begin a period of pre-retirement leave.

The second major development has been the creation of the ARC Centre of Excellence in the History of the Emotions, led by scholars based at the University of Western Australia. UQ will be a significant player in the new centre, with a node under the direction of Professor Peter Holbrook involving a number of other scholars in the Arts

Faculty, including Dr Marina Bollinger. This new group has research interests close to the centre, and its development can be expected to open up new opportunities for collaboration. The first fruit of collaboration is already visible in the centre's public seminar series for 2011, which will be devoted to Reason and the Passions in early modern Europe.

Public Seminar Series

Second Semester 2010 - Issues in the History of Sexuality



Peter Cryle organised our Semester 2, 2010, public seminars entitled "Issues in the History of Sexuality". The series began with Mark McLelland's "Kissing is a Symbol of Democracy! Dating, Democracy and Romance in Japan during the Allied Occupation 1945–1952" followed by Marina Bollinger's "Hearts and Minds: Morality, Eros, and Theories of Desire in Seventeenth-Century Britain,"; Yorick Smaal's "It is one of those things that nobody can explain': Male Homosexuality, Medical Discourse, and the Queensland Courts,

1939–1948,”; Nikki Sullivan’s “Birds do it, bees do it, and even educated fleas do it’: Queer(ing) Animal Sex and the Matter of the (Non) Human,”; Emily Wilson’s “Medical Attitudes towards Homosexuality: British influence in Australia,” and ended with Elizabeth Stephens’ seminar “Technologies of the Self and Power: Sex, Self-Making and Normalisation.”

Semesters One and Two, 2011 - Reason and the Passions

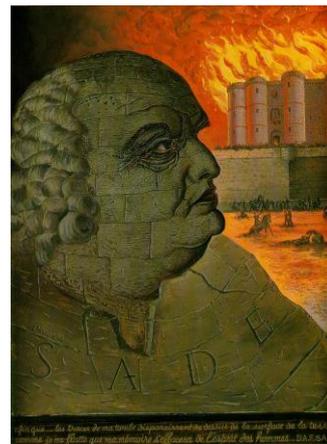


The centre’s public seminar series this year is being held in collaboration with the UQ node of the new ARC Centre of Excellence, the Centre for the History of the Emotions, and will run across both semesters. This represents the first collaboration between the two centres. The series, on “Reason and the Passions,” has featured a number of eminent scholars, including Stephen Gaukroger (University of Sydney), Ian Donaldson (University of Melbourne), Valerie Traub (S W Brooks Visiting Fellow in English in EMSAH, University of Michigan) and Richard Strier (Lloyd Davis Memorial Visiting Professor in Shakespeare Studies in EMSAH, University of Chicago). The series is organised by Marina Bollinger (CHED) and Peter Holbrook (CHE).

Conferences

Transgression and Discipline in the History of Sexuality – Prato, Italy September 2010

This conference, organised by Peter Cryle, continued the centre’s tradition of conferences held at the Monash Centre in Prato, Italy.



The conference questioned the effects of a modernist discourse of transgressive fluidity on contemporary critical practice, and examined carefully the place of transgression and discipline in earlier times.

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

Papers and lead discussions were given by Peter Cryle, Elizabeth Stephens, Heather Wolfram, Marina Bollinger and Martyn Lloyd, joined by international scholars, who included Lesley Hall, Lisa Downing and Robert Gillett. They presented their work and contributed to lively discussions of the very nature and possibilities of a history of transgression.



Dinner out in Prato, 2010.

Sensibilité: The Knowing Body in the Enlightenment

In December 2010, HPRC hosted the Australasian Society of Continental Philosophy annual conference (ASCP 2010). The conference, themed Affect, brought together paper-givers from a broad section of the humanities. A major component of this conference was a specialist stream sponsored by the centre and organised by one of the centre's post-graduate students, Martyn Lloyd.

The stream, *Sensibilité: The Knowing Body in the Enlightenment*, focused on the intellectual history of the Enlightenment, and specifically on the period's response to the questions of affect, embodiment and knowledge. Professor Anne Vila, of the Department of French and Italian at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was the keynote for the stream. Anne is a specialist in the eighteenth-century French novel and theatre, in the body in literature and medicine, and in the culture and philosophy of the Enlightenment. Her keynote address placed intellectual history at the centre of the conference's broader agenda. Entitled "Emotions, Intellection, and the 'Cerebral' Self in Eighteenth-Century France," it focused on the way the concept of sensibility reshaped the French Enlightenment persona of the knowledge-seeker, by

introducing a model of the thinking process which, although not necessarily materialist in its philosophical orientation, was nonetheless grounded in the body in a very dynamic way.

The stream continued with papers given by Martyn Lloyd, a former centre UQ post-doc, Alexander Cook, Jordan Taylor, Bridget Orr, and Annette Larrea. Professor Stephen Gaukroger opened the stream on the second day with a paper on "Hume's Sentimental Naturalism." The day continued with papers given by Peter Otto, Jonathan Lamb, Justin Clemens, and Romana Byrne.

Within a large continental philosophy conference the stream successfully brought together the histories of philosophy, literature, and medicine in a way which resonated with contemporary interest in questions of embodiment and affect. The event demonstrated the location of the centre at the nexus of philosophy and history, and at the centre of humanities research in Australasia.

A proposal for the publication of the papers in an edited collection is currently being considered by Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century published by the Voltaire Foundation at Oxford University.

Publications

It has been another productive year for our research team. The following is a list of all the publications published in 2010 and scheduled for publication during 2011.

Heather Wolfram:

"An Object of Vulgar Curiosity: Legitimizing Medical Hypnosis in Imperial Germany," *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*,

Advanced copy published online 10 November, 2010.

Peter Cryle:

Edited with Lisa Downing a special issue of *Psychology and Sexuality* in *The Natural and the Normal* with contributions from several of the centre's members.

Frigidity: An Intellectual History (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), co-authored with former CHED Postdoctoral Fellow Alison Moore (now at UTS).

Chiara Beccalossi:

Female Sexual Inversion: Same-Sex Desires in Italian and British Sexology, ca. 1870-1920 (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011).

A Cultural History of Sexuality in the Age of Empire (London: Berg, 2010), co-edited with Ivan Crozier.

Ryan Walter:

A Critical History of the Economy: On the Birth of the National and International Economies (London and New York: Routledge, 2011).

Elizabeth Stephens:

Anatomy as Spectacle: Public Exhibitions of the Body from 1700 to the Present (Chicago and Liverpool: Liverpool UP, 2011).

The Archival Imaginary. Special issue of *Australian Feminist Studies* 25.64 (2010), co-edited with Susan Stryker.

"An Unfettered Capacity for Degeneracy': The Perverse Origins of Heterosexuality," in Ivan Crozier and Chiara Beccalossi (eds.), *Cultural History of Sexuality Volume Five: Sexuality in the Age of Empire*. (London: Berg, 2010), pp. 27-42. Co-authored with Chad Parkhill.

"The Normalisation of 'Sexual Hygiene: Early Twentieth-Century Public Sexual

Health Campaigns," *Psychology and Sexuality* 1.3 (2010), pp. 262-74.

"Queer Memoir: Public Confession and/as Sexual Practice in Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick's *A Dialogue on Love*," *Australian Humanities Review* 48 (2010), pp. 31-40.

"Venus Anatomised: Gynomorphic Waxworks as Medical Archives of the Female Body", *Australian Feminist Studies* 25.64 (2010), pp. 133-46.

Philip Almond:

England's First Demonologist: Reginald Scot and 'The Discoverie of Witchcraft' (London: I B Tauris, 2011).

Ian Hunter:

"Scenes from the History of Poststructuralism: Davos, Freiburg, Baltimore, Leipzig", *New Literary History*, 41 (2010), pp. 491-516

"Kant's Regional Cosmopolitanism", *Journal of the History of International Law*, 12 (2010), pp. 165-88.

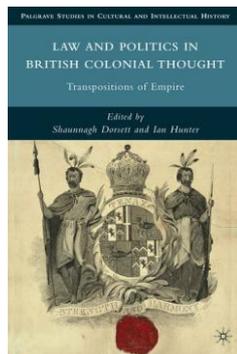
"Natural Law as Political Philosophy", in Desmond Clarke and Catherine Wilson (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy in Early Modern Europe* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), pp. 475-99.

"Global Justice and Regional Metaphysics: On the Critical History of the Law of Nature and Nations", in Shaunnagh Dorsett and Ian Hunter (eds), *Law and Politics in British Colonial Thought: Transpositions of Empire* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010), pp. 11-29.

"Die Geschichte der Philosophie und die Persona des Philosophen," in M. Mulsow and A. Mahler (eds.), *Die Cambridge School der politischen Ideengeschichte* (Berlin: Suhrkamp, 2010), pp. 241-83.

“Vattel’s Law of Nations: Diplomatic Casuistry for the Protestant Nation”, *Grotiana*, 31 (2010), pp. 1-33.

Shaunnagh Dorsett and Ian Hunter (eds.), *Law and Politics in British Colonial Thought: Transpositions of Empire* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010).



Simon During:

Exit Capitalism: Literary Culture, Theory and Post-secular Modernity (London and New York: Routledge, 2010).

“The Mundane against the Secular”, in Craig Calhoun, Jonathan van Antwerpen and Michael Warner (eds.), *Varieties of Secularism in a Secular Age*, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press 2010), pp. 205-26.

Summer Research Scholarship

As in previous years the centre offered two summer research scholarships. Rebekah Oldfield’s summer scholarship project on sex and the sacred in Donne’s poetry and theology was supervised by **Marina Bollinger**. Geoffrey White’s project on Islam and non violence was supervised by **Philip Almond**.

Research Leave

Ryan Walter has just returned from a six month institutional visit to the University of Bologna, hosted by the Faculty of Political Science.

Chiara Beccalossi will soon return from a semester-long visit to Birkbeck at the University of London, where she has been teaching an MA course in the history of medicine.

Peter Cryle has spent March and April 2011 at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, undertaking research for his ARC project on the critical genealogy of normality.

Visitors to CHED

In May 2010 the centre welcomed visiting scholar **Wendy Grace**, from 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.

UQ Postdoctoral fellows

Ryan Walter attended the Australian Political Science Association Conference in Melbourne in September of this year. His panel session examined the influence of Foucault's work in spurring

historiographical revision in three areas: the history of economic thought, the history of international thought, and the history of patent law. In October Ryan left for Italy, where he started work on his next book in conversation with colleagues at the University of Bologna.

In August 2010, **Heather Wolfram** attended the European History of the Human Sciences Conference, which was held in Utrecht. She was part of a symposium, made up of three panels, which focussed on the relationship between psychical research and psychology in different national contexts. The papers, which discussed psychical research in Britain, France, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Spain and the United States, are now forthcoming in a special issue of *History of the Human Sciences*.

Whilst in Europe, Heather also spent time at the State Library of Berlin and at the State Archives in Munich, where she collected material for a new work on crime and hypnosis in the late nineteenth century.

Marina Bollinger is co-convenor of the year-long CHED seminar series *Reason and the Passions* (2011). She attended a symposium with guest speaker Professor Simon Schaffer at the University of New South Wales in July 2010. During August she presented a seminar at the centre's public seminar series 'Histories of Sexualities'. During February she attended the Professor Michael Hunter Symposium at the University of Sydney and the University of New South Wales.

Arrivals and Departures

Marina Bollinger arrived in June to begin her three year UQ Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Centre. Her research

interests include early modern philosophical, political, and religious thought; the history of historiography, feminism, and secularisation; the critique of anachronism; genealogical methodology, historical contextualism; continental philosophy, and feminist ethics. Her doctoral thesis (History, University of Sydney, 2010) drew these interests together by undertaking a genealogy of the distinction between sex and gender.

Roz Berg, the centre's manager for the last three years, resigned in June to move to Victoria. The New Zealand contingent in the centre increased to three when **Vonne Carmichael** accepted the position in mid June. Vonne has an eclectic career that includes ten years at the University of Auckland.

Two of the centre's current Postdoctoral Fellows have recently accepted continuing teaching and research positions elsewhere.

Ryan Walter will take up a position as Lecturer in Political Theory at the School of Political Science and International Relations, ANU, in July.

Heather Wolfram will take up a position as Lecturer in Modern European History at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, in June.

Knox Peden, a recent PhD from Berkeley, has accepted a UQ Post doctoral Research Fellowship and is scheduled to arrive during June.

Other News and Events

UQ Research Excellence Award

Elizabeth Stephens won an UQ Research Excellence Award for 2010. She received \$80,000 for a multi-disciplinary project assessing the cultural impact of new medical imaging technologies.

As part of this work, Elizabeth will convene a symposium on “The Digitised Body: the Cultural and Clinical Impact of New Medical Imaging Technologies” on August 30-31 of this year. More information about this program will soon be available on the centre’s website.



Elizabeth is in the front row second from the right.

Workshops

Culture and Democracy

As part of his current APF project, Simon During organised a national workshop on “Culture and Democracy.” The participants included Professor Paul Patton, University of New South Wales, Associate Professor Catherine Driscoll, University of Sydney, Dr Justin Clemens, University of Melbourne, and local participants who included Dr David Pritchard from HPRC and Dr Mark Andrejevic from CCCS.

Master classes

The centre continued its tradition of biannual master classes with two sessions held in 2010, both organised by **Elizabeth Stephens**. The first was held by Ulrika Dahl, Chair in Gender Studies Södertörn University in Stockholm, and author, with Del LaGrace Volcano, of *Femmes of Power: Exploding Queer Femininities*. Professor Dahl’s masterclass was on the topic

“(Re)Figuring Femme Fashion”. The second was held by Nikki Sullivan, Director of the Somatechnics Centre and Associate Professor of Critical and Cultural Studies at Macquarie University. Professor Sullivan is the author of *A Critical Introduction to Queer Theory* and *Tattooed Bodies: Subjectivity, Textuality, Ethics, Pleasure*. Her master class explored the use of somatechnics as a critical practice.

Invited and keynote speakers

Simon During was invited to present the following five guest lectures or keynote addresses:

“Critique, conservatism and the delegitimization of social democracy”, at the School of English, Media and Performing Arts, University of New South Wales, August 2010;

“Patrick White and the problem of literary value”, a keynote address for the “Modernist Impact/Critical Futures” conference, King’s College, London and Institute of English Studies, University of London, June 2010;

The Ward-Phillips Lectures at University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, a three lecture series on Literature and Democracy: 1. “Can literature be democratic?”, 2. “Howard’s End and mystical democracy”, 3. “Saul Bellow and the antimonies of democratic experience,” April 2010;

“How to live in endgame capitalism”, a talk to the Theory, Religion and Culture Seminar, Columbia University, New York, April 2010;

“Refusal or reform? Political ethics in endgame capitalism”, a talk to the Department of Gender and Cultural Studies at the University of Sydney, August 2010.

Elizabeth Stephens was invited to give a paper on "The Fairground as Clinic: Popular Anatomical Exhibits in the Nineteenth Century" at "A Congress of Curious Peoples" during the 2011 Coney Island Spectacularium. Elizabeth also presented papers at the "Queer Paradigms" conference at Griffith, on a panel that included Peter Cryle and a centre UQ doctoral student Chad Parkhill; the Cultural Studies Association of Australasia conference at Byron Bay; the "Erotic Screen and Sound" conference at Griffith; and the "Medicalisation of Sex" conference in Vancouver.

Philip Almond was invited to give a seminar on "The Critique of Miracles in Elizabethan Theology" at the Michael Hunter symposium at University of Sydney and University of New South Wales, February, 2011.

Blog forums and online interviews

Simon During was interviewed for the Social Science Research Council of America's website "Immanent Frame" in December 2010:

<http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2010/12/10/ending-game-capitalism-an-interview-with-simon-during/>.

And in June 2010 he moderated an online forum, "On Repeat", for the Guggenheim Museum, New York.

<http://www.guggenheim.org/new-york/interact/online-forum/on-repeat/>.

Alberico Gentili Conference, San Ginesio, Italy

In September 2010 **Ian Hunter** presented a paper at the Alberico

Gentili conference in San Ginesio Italy. The event formed part of a series marking the 400th anniversary of the early modern jurist's death in 1608. Co-sponsored by the Centro Internazionale Studi Gentiliana and the New York University Law School, the theme was the relations between justice, war, and empire in Gentili's works on international law and Roman law. Ian presented a paper comparing Gentili's treatment of war and justice with that of the 18th century Swiss diplomat-jurist Emer de Vattel. Among the other speakers were Professors Benedict Kingsbury and Lauren Benton of NYU Law School, Professor Annabel Brett (Cambridge) and the Finnish diplomat-jurist Professor Martti Koskenniemi.



The picture is of the statue of Gentili erected in the San Ginesio's Piazza Gentili in 1903. This statue was one of a series produced to celebrate an array of Italian heretics as part of an anti-clerical masonic campaign at the beginning of the 20th century.