Asian Studies Symposium

Monday 4 February 2019
1.00pm–5.20pm
Education Building E007, Seminar Room 224

The aim of the Symposium is to highlight examples of interdisciplinary research in Asian Studies in the Faculty of Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences and Education (HASSE) at UNE. The afternoon event will offer an opportunity to build networks with international scholars and to learn more about the FASIC (Foundation for Australian Studies in China) program.

For more information or to register, contact John Charles Ryan: jryan63@une.edu.au or 6773 1817

Schedule

1.00–1.05
Welcome to the Symposium
Professor Jane Edwards, Associate Dean, Research, Faculty of HASSE, UNE

Session I: Heritage, Technology and Language

1.05–1.25
Kings of the World: The Dynamics of Khmer Centralization 900–1500 CE
Associate Professor Peter Grave, Archaeology, UNE

1.25–1.45
Asia ConneXions: Making Connections Using HD Videoconferencing
Dr Myung-sook Auh, Senior Lecturer, Creative and Performing Arts Education, UNE
Professor John Pegg, SiMERR National Research Centre, UNE

1.45–2.05
A Comparative Historical Analysis of Tamil Language Teaching and Learning in Primary Schools in Malaysia and Singapore
Dr Vegneskumar Maniam, Lecturer, Education, UNE

2.05–2.25
'It's Ours and It's Real': The Aesthetic Exchange Between Japanese Anime and European Classical Music (*by video link from UNE Sydney campus*)
Dr Paul Smith, Lecturer, Music, UNE

2.25–2.45
Greece, Rome, Japan: Findings from the 'Our Mythical Childhood' Project
Associate Professor Elizabeth Hale, English Literature, UNE

2.45–3.05
A Glimpse of Australian Studies in China and An Introduction to the FASIC (Foundation for Australian Studies in China) Research Exchange Program
Associate Professor Mamie Zhang, Business College of Beijing Union University and 2019 Foundation for Australian Studies in China (FASIC) Visiting Scholar at UNE

Afternoon Tea

3.05–3.30
[Arts Building E011, Room LG1](#), Lower Ground Floor

Session II: Environment, Media and Literature

3.30–3.50
Constructions of 'Community' in Research on Nepalese Commons
[Professor Michael Wilmore](#), Dean, Faculty of HASSE, UNE

3.50–4.10
Experiences of Indonesian Academics Publishing Internationally
[Dr Zifirdaus (Zi.) Adnan](#), Senior Lecturer, Indonesian, UNE

4.10–4.30
The Representation of Indonesian Female Politicians in the Online News Media: Barriers and Opportunities in Political Transition
[Jane Ahlstrand](#), Lecturer, Indonesian, UNE

4.30–4.50
How Asian Poetry of Enlightenment Conveys a Whole-Earth Communion with Reality
[Dr Julie Hawkins,](#) Lecturer and HDR Candidate, Philosophy, UNE

4.50–5.10
Digitising Cultural Heritage in China: Interactive Design of 'Filament Mosaic Craftsmanship' through Gaming Technology (by video link from Shanghai)
[Dr Richard Li,](#) Lecturer, Design, Shanghai University of Engineering Science (SUES) and Senior Research Fellow, Tongji University, China

5.10–5.20
Closing and discussion of possibilities for an Asian Studies Network at UNE

Paper Abstracts and Presenter Bios

1.05–1.25

Kings of the World: The Dynamics of Khmer Centralization 900–1500 CE

Associate Professor Peter Grave

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Recent archaeological work in Cambodia at the pre-modern Khmer capital of Angkor, a capital forged by 600 years of political competition between political elites, has not clarified broader patterns of regional economic interaction. An ARC-funded program from 2014–17 enabled an unprecedented scale of analysis to generate a new understanding of this relationship. Khmer rulers based at Angkor (9th–15th c CE) competed to control one of the largest and longest-lived of the pre modern agrarian polities of mainland Southeast Asia. Best known for the monuments, hydraulic works and transportation systems around its urban core, the political and economic control Angkorian elite exerted over the broader Khmer territory remains poorly understood. Through a program of provenancing and dating of Khmer stoneware and kilns (scaled to match the geo-political issues involved) we aimed to produce the first rigorous spatial, chronologically controlled reconstruction of wider core-hinterland relationships. In this presentation, I outline project outcomes.

Associate Professor Peter Grave, Department of Archaeology and Palaeoanthropolgy, HASSE, is director of the Archaeomaterials Science Hub, a flagship research area at UNE specialising in destructive and non-destructive analyses of archaeological artefacts. A new research focus is thermal dynamics and pyrotechnology. With dedicated instrumentation (high temperature dilatometry, gravimetric sorbtion, furnace, surface area, non-destructive XRF, pXRF, FTIR and INAA capacity), ASH is a lead research facility for analytical approaches to archaeological ceramics with research collections that extend from Bronze and Iron Age Turkey to early Modern mainland Southeast Asia.

1.25–1.45

Asia ConneXions: Making Connections Using HD Videoconferencing

Dr Myung-sook Auh
Professor John Pegg

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The Asia ConneXions program connects Australian schools with schools in South Korea, Japan, China and Indonesia using high definition (HD) videoconferencing for global experiences, Asian culture learning and Asian languages teaching. This program started in 2012 and is continuing. It demonstrated bridging 'the valley of death' in research by continuing the program beyond the grant period through industry collaboration and commercialisation of the program. This study reports results from a 5-year longitudinal study over 2013 to 2017, investigating whether using videoconferencing is effective for teaching curriculum goals in Australian schools. The results are from 166 Australian teachers, and the composite Mean score of their responses was 4.24 out of 5, i.e., effective. The teacher comments showed that the synchronous nature of videoconferencing facilitated students' learning outcomes. An important implication is that students' real-time interaction is a key factor for achieving learning outcomes for global experiences and Asian culture and language learning in schools.

Dr Myung-Sook Auh is a Senior Lecturer (Music) in School of Education and Program Director of the Asia ConneXions program. She has been at UNE since 2005, and her teaching areas are secondary music education and creative arts education. Her research expertise is in creativity in music, preservice music teacher education, and videoconferencing in schools. She received her PhD in 1995 from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, USA. She lectured at UNSW, UTS and University of Wollongong before coming to UNE. She has led the Asia ConneXions program since 2012, and, with Professor John Pegg, is likely to continue for many years.

Professor John Pegg is Founding Director of the SiMERR National Research Centre, and he is committed to improving educational qualities in rural and regional Australia. He has been leading the QuickSmart program for low achieving students for over 20 years, and the program was reported as one of the UNE's high impact research. He received an honorary doctorate, 'Doctor of Education, Honoris Causa', from Philippine Normal University in 2015 through his significant contribution to reforming the Philippines education system. Since 2004, Professor Pegg has overseen research projects and research consultancy grants worth in excess of $AUS 42 million.

A Comparative Historical Analysis of Tamil Language Teaching and Learning in Primary Schools in Malaysia and Singapore

Dr Vegneskumar Maniam

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This paper will investigate a comparative historical study of Tamil language teaching and learning in primary schools in Singapore and Malaysia. Both these nations have a large number of Tamil populations, and there have been living in these respected countries for more than centuries. The majority of Tamil populations in Malaysia and Singapore originated from Tamil Nadu, in India, and a significant number from Sri Lanka. For the Tamil population in Singapore and Malaysia, the maintaining of their native language is an important part of their cultural identity. At the time of the British Administration of Malaya and Singapore, the Tamil language schools were first established by the British plantation owners, Christian Missions, trade unionists and Tamil Association. However after the independence of Malaya in 1957 and Singapore's expulsion from Malaysia in 1965, both these countries policies and its outcome towards Tamil language schools and teaching and learning of Tamil language changed dramatically. In the context of Malaysia, Tamil language was predominantly taught only in Tamil vernacular primary schools up until today with a majority of these schools located in rural plantations. By contrast, in Singapore, Tamil language has become one of the languages taught in Singapore's public English medium schools. In Singapore all the Tamil vernacular schools have been closed down by the Ministry of Education, because of lower enrolment and lack of government and community support.

However, In Malaysia currently there are about 523 Tamil vernacular primary schools; with 151 schools funded by government, and the rest, 371, received partial government aids and received support from various Tamil organisations, plantation management and by few wealthy individuals. However, the analysis indicated that there is a dramatical change in student's Tamil language proficiency and teaching outcomes in Singapore and Malaysia. While students' performance in Tamil language seems to be highly successful in Singapore, in the Malaysian context their performance is going down. The majority of the students performances in Year 6, Malaysian Primary School Certificate examination results indicated poor results in Tamil language literacy test. This study also indicate that Tamil language teachers training and their teaching competence does differ between Malaysia and Singapore in various ways, which have strong implications for students' performance. A few academics have argued that closing down Tamil primary schools in Singapore does have an effect on the maintenance of Tamil culture and identity among the Singaporean Tamil population. By conducting a historical analysis, the study will highlight the positive and negative issues faced by both these countries in the teaching and learning of Tamil language in primary schools.

Keywords: Tamil Language, Vernacular Schools, Malaysia, Singapore, Comparative Education, History of Education

Dr Vegneskumar Maniam is an academic in education at the University of New England, Australia. His primary research focus is on Sociology and History of Education, especially in relation to issues of multiculturalism and sense of identity.

2.05–2.25

'It's Ours and It's Real': The Aesthetic Exchange Between Japanese Anime and European Classical Music (*by video link from UNE Sydney campus*)

Dr Paul Smith

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Anime, the dominant form of animated entertainment in Japan, occasionally draws from the canon of European art including literature, painting and music. Contemporary anime provides unique depictions of classical European culture at a time when 'historical authenticity' dominates discussions around representational politics. Anime further challenges a filmic culture obsessed with a documentarian concept of the real, and in anime's unique mode for figuring the world, the way European art is made manifest is anything but authentic. In this paper, I analyse the depiction of the male composer, Tchaikovsky, as a 13 year old girl, Chaiko, in the anime *ClassicLoid* and specifically argue that the anime aesthetic offers an artistic critique of the European canon. To provide a theoretical framework to this discussion, I draw on the productive description of 'exchange', as described by Deleuze, which locates these types of representational relationships outside the reductive dichotomy of 'original' and 'copy' in favour of a timeless flow between separate objects.

Dr Paul Smith is a composer and lecturer in music at UNE. He is also co-artistic director of Sydney-based ensemble Blush Opera. His chamber operas have been toured to numerous festivals around Australia and Singapore. In 2018, he undertook a three week residency in Armenia composing new music for toy piano and voice ahead of a keynote performance at a toy piano conference in Italy in July. He was also a contributing writer to the 2018 ABC digital series *What is Music?*. His published research considers music and anime, *kawaii* culture, and online music education.

Greece, Rome, Japan: Findings from the 'Our Mythical Childhood' Project

Associate Professor Elizabeth Hale

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In this talk I discuss some Japanese findings from the 'Our Mythical Childhood' survey of global children's culture inspired by Classical Antiquity. I'll look at manga, anime and games, and discuss some of the ways that Japanese, Greek and Roman polytheism mingle in them. I'll also consider the specificities of the Japanese marketplace that shape the production and reception of classical antiquity for young readers, viewers and gamers.

Associate Professor Liz Hale teaches English Literature at UNE (Children's, Fantasy, Nineteenth-Century) and publishes in the fields of Children's Literature and Classical Reception Studies. Since 2016 she has been leading the Australasian Wing of the 'Our Mythical Childhood' project, which investigates the reception of classical antiquity in children's literature around the world.

2.45–3.05

A Glimpse of Australian Studies in China and An Introduction to the FASIC (Foundation for Australian Studies in China) Research Exchange Program

Associate Professor Zhang Xiuqing (Mamie)

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My presentation consists of three main parts: the first addresses the status of Australian Studies in China; the second provides a brief introduction to the FASIC (Foundation for Australian Studies in China) program for Australian scholars interested in applying; and the third discusses my own teaching and research in Australian Studies in China. The specific topics covered in the presentation include the following: the 'Gang of Nine' (a group of nine Chinese scholars currently studying in Australia); relevant Australia-China exchange organisations and institutions; the scholarly work of these organisations and institutions; translation and networking activities; trends for future development of Australian Studies in China; scholarships for Australians seeking to conduct research in China; my own teaching and research in the Business College of Beijing Union University; and why I have come to the University of New England in 2019 to research Thea Astley's novel *Drylands* from an ecofeminist perspective.

Associate Professor Zhang Xiuqing (Mamie) is based at the Business College of Beijing Union University. In 2007, she received her MA in English Literature from Inner Mongolia University. She has been successfully funded by the ACC (Australia-China Council) and FASIC four times and has paid short visits to Australian universities. She is presently teaching College English and the selective course Australian Society and Culture. In 2014, she was awarded a Certificate of Excellence for a Young Visiting Scholar by Beijing Foreign Studies University and Higher Learning Training Centre of the Ministry of Education. In 2015, she was also awarded a Karen Walker Scholarship by FASIC. Her areas of interest include feminism, ecofeminism and postmodernism.

Afternoon Tea

3.05–3.30
[Arts Building E011, Room LG1](), Lower Ground Floor

3.30–3.50

Constructions of 'Community' in Research on Nepalese Commons

Professor Michael Wilmore

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This paper examines the growing literature on forest user groups in Nepal, to understand how the increasingly influential field of commons research—more specifically studies based on common property resource theory—has perpetuated the construction of a strangely ahistorical image of Nepalese rural communities and their relationship to the wider political economy of the state. The paper contributes to the critical analysis of Orientalist tropes that continue to influence the construction of Nepal and the Nepalese people in Western imaginations. It examines how these tropes may be incorporated unwittingly into social scientific research if we do not pay careful attention to the objectifying consequences of our studies and publications. I also indicate that the advice of Nobel Laureate Elinor Ostrom—who, more than anyone else has founded common property resource analysis as a field of research—has not been followed in many studies of forest user groups.

Professor Michael Wilmore is Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Arts, Social Science and Education (HASSE) at the University of New England, NSW. He has previously held a number of academic and university leadership positions in Australia and the UK. He has been a researcher on a number of projects involving extensive interdisciplinary and industry collaborations across the boundaries of anthropology, media studies, development studies and health communication.

3.50–4.10

Experiences of Indonesian Academics Publishing Internationally

Dr Zifirdaus (Zi.) Adnan

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A great deal of attention has been paid to experiences of multilingual scholars (henceforth: MLS) in trying to gain publication in international main-stream English language journals. This is due not only to research-world significance i.e. to expand knowledge, but also to practical reason to increase their participation as they can contribute 'unique' perspectives specific to their social, cultural and political contexts. However, little research has been done and reported on experiences of multicultural scholars from Indonesia, the fifth biggest country in the world in terms of population size and a member of the G20 countries economically. This study reports on preliminary stage of a three-year project funded by the Indonesian Government through it Ministry of Research and Higher Education (MRHE) using limited survey data. The central question is why has their contribution to international research publication been so low compared to smaller nations such as Bangladesh, Kenya and Malaysia. To address this question, this study uses mixed methods, combining a national survey and interviews with some of the participants in the survey selected randomly in order to explore further the results of the survey obtained through SPPS program, specifically the exploratory and confirmatory factorial statistics. Some of the findings support in previous studies, but some are new. However, since this study is still at an early stage, the findings may be inconclusive.

Keywords: Research Article, International Journal, Multicultural Scholars, Research Context

Dr. Zifirdaus (Zi.) Adnan is a senior lecturer and the Convener of the Indonesian Studies Program. After completing his UG in EFL in Indonesia, he completed his BA Honours in Asian Studies at Griffith University, Qld; MA at Melbourne University and PhD at Curtin University, WA, in Applied Linguistics/Language Education. His research interest includes genre analysis, critical discourse analysis and language teaching. He has published widely nationally and internationally including refereed articles, book chapters and books. Current project: Experience of Indonesian academics in trying gain publication internationally funded by the Indonesian Government. He has supervised a significant number of PhD students.

4.10–4.30

The Representation of Indonesian Female Politicians in the Online News Media: Barriers and Opportunities in Political Transition

Jane Ahlstrand

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In democratic Indonesia, as in most parts of the world, women in politics remain a rarity. As outsiders in the traditionally male political domain, these norm-breaking figures often become icons of political contestation in the news media. This paper presents results from a study of the representation of three prominent Indonesian female politicians during the turbulent 2014 Presidential election in the popular online news media. Using Critical Discourse Analysis as a theoretical and methodological framework, the study exposes both constraints and opportunities for women operating in politics in the democratic era, as well as evidence of political change. By emphasising their gender, the news media positioned the women in a hierarchically lower, yet politically strategic, position. In the context of political transition and rising populism in Indonesia, their apparent lower status worked to their advantage by placing them closer to a politically mobilised civil society, while marking them as different to the incumbent political elite. Representations that conformed to gender norms also added to their novelty, but ultimately constrained their levels of agency and ability to exert dominance in the political domain.

Jane Ahlstrand is a Lecturer in Indonesian at the School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at UNE. She recently completed a thesis titled *A Critical Discourse Analysis of Women, Power, and Social-Political Change in the Indonesian Online News Media* at the University of Queensland (pending conferral). Her research interests lie in gender, Critical Discourse Analysis and power relations.

How Asian Poetry of Enlightenment Conveys a Whole-Earth Communion with Reality

Dr Julie Hawkins

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This paper contemplates how the Asian Poetry of Enlightenment conveys a direct communion with Reality; it arises in the Chinese Ch'an and Japanese Zen movements, which have their roots in Taoism, Buddhism and Yoga.

Illuminative and learned, the poems present a fully developed sense of a whole-Earth relation to Reality. Similar poetry is found in India, Persia and Tibet. These ancient traditions point the reader beyond the confusion of everyday life.

The verses may be brief, yet clearly emerge from a deepened consciousness and evoke a universal wisdom, for example: "This travelling hat may look small, but when I put it on it covers the whole cosmos" (Huang-Po).

They play with paradox to guide readers out of dualistic standpoints by evoking an emergent awareness that is nondual and nonlinear.

"A strange old man stops me, looking out of my deep mirror" (Hitomaro)

Can we prepare ourselves to receive this wisdom?

Dr Julie Hawkins a lifelong interest in Art, Zen, Ecology and Cosmology, and Literature, Mysticism and Philosophy. This led from studies in Short Story Writing and Fine Arts, to a BA in Literature and Ancient History, an MLitt in Mediaeval Background, a double English Dip.Ed. (UNSW), and an MA(Hons) (UNE). She worked in Sydney teaching English and lecturing in Creative Drawing, then at UNE as a casual academic since 2010. Julie completed a PhD in Ecocriticism exploring Ecophilosophical concepts and motifs in Speculative Fiction (2014). The ecological ideas uncovered in this project led to a further PhD (submitted) entitled 'Deep Aesthetics, Ethics, Nonduality and Deep Ecology'. She has interest in researching, writing and presenting findings regarding how humans might move into a more ecospheric mode of living, and into a deeper communion with life and Earth—and expanding into further, emerging areas of research.

4.50–5.10

Digitising Cultural Heritage in China: Interactive Design of 'Filament Mosaic Craftsmanship' through Gaming Technology (*by video link from Shanghai*)

Dr Richard Qi Li

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The 'Filament Mosaic Craft' (FMC) is an important part of the intangible cultural heritage of China. In response to the rapid growth of digital technologies, FMC requires a new generation of inheritors to develop this traditional craft. At present, most digital methods of preserving traditional crafts focus on two-dimensional dynamic display or three-dimensional display based on virtual reality technologies where interaction is limited. The Kinect motion sensor technology can effectively enhance interaction between the audience and the virtual presentation of traditional craft objects and processes. This paper gives an overview of a creative approach to preserving Filament Mosaic Craft using Kinect gaming technology. This case study focuses on the example of a traditional jewellery craft and explains the design of a process involving a gaming platform to advance cultural heritage preservation. In the design of the interactive gaming-based platform, users can participate in the process of making the traditional jewellery. The design encourages users to take part in the production of silk mosaic jewellery to enhance interactivity, entertainment and learning between audiences and traditional Chinese craft production.

Keywords: Filament Mosaic Craft, Kinect, Gaming Technology, Jewellery

Dr Richard Qi Li is a scholar, artist and designer who teaches at Shanghai University of Engineering Science and also works as a senior research fellow at Tongji University in China. He received his Ph.D. degree from Edith Cowan University in Perth, Australia. His research examines aesthetic approaches to data visualisation through the combination of gaming technology and traditional Chinese philosophies. He is interested in how digital technologies enhance creativity and artistic practices and research on digital humanities. Li has exhibited his work internationally in England, Australia, New Zealand and China. In addition to authoring the book *Interpretation of Online Gaming*, he has published papers on the application of traditional Chinese aesthetics to data visualisation and environmental art in the journals *Environmental Values* and *Visual Communication*. Li's work on design theory was published in 2017 as a book chapter. Li has worked on a number of research projects funded by Chinese governmental agencies. This project is supported by Pujiang Talent Project 2018 (18PJC068).

5.10–5.20
Closing and discussion of possibilities for an Asian Studies Network at UNE