

Emeritus Faculty Australian National University



Ph.B Arts (Honours) unit in Human Rights

Seven members of the ANU's Emeritus Faculty and other academics have agreed to give seminars in the course on human rights, as part of the Humanities Ph.B course.

Professor Richard Johnson is taking responsibility for the Humanities Ph.B course, and Dr Jeremy Shearmur is in charge of a course offered in philosophy that would be open for other honours students.

In today's political climate, human rights – once thought to be as beyond question – are now the subject of wide ideological debate. Events in Iraq, Guantanamo Bay, in the family home, in detention centres and on Indigenous land make this course relevant to contemporary Australia.

The United Nations concludes, this year, its Decade for Human Rights Education. Under the UN umbrella, human rights are marked by a number of international days. June 20 was World Refugee Day reminding people and their governments that refugees and those seeking refuge have human rights. Other significant and, unfortunately, very relevant days include the International Day in support of Victims of Torture (June 26); International Day for Tolerance (November 16); International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (December 2); Human Rights Day (December 10) and International Migrants Day (December 18).

The course

Week beginning July 19 - Jeremy Shearmur's opening remarks as Head of Philosophy.

July 26 - Fred Langman: "Disputed Rights"

August 3 - John Molony: "The prerogative of the people in the context of Eureka" (150th anniversary of Eureka, December 3)

August 10 - Hilary Charlesworth: "Rights and international law"

August 17 - Beryl Rawson: "Family, household and rights in classical Rome"

August 24 - Half-time reflection and evaluation; Jeremy Shearmur.

August 31 - Tony Johns: "Human Rights in Islam"

September 7 - Dick Johnson: "Education a right, or a privilege? A historical perspective"

September 28 - Thomas Mautner: "What are rights?" A philosophical approach

October 5 - T.Mautner "What are rights?" A philosophical approach continued

October 12 – Jeremy Shearmur - final reflection and evaluation, preferably with all speakers and students.

Dr Jeremy Shearmur is the central contact for the course on **(02) 6125 2792**

Older professors just stick around

The following article is reprinted from the *New York Times* [with the occasional change to local spelling]

From a New York Times correspondent, New Haven

IN the 10 years since the federal law eliminating mandatory retirement took effect, universities have faced a conundrum: namely, how to encourage senior professors to step aside to make room for younger instructors.

At institutions like Yale University, where senior faculty enjoy status and economic success unmatched by most of their academic peers, it can be particularly difficult to make emeriti out of perfectly happy, if greying, instructors. So Yale has begun to approach this delicate issue from a new perspective, encouraging professors to retire, but stick around.

Last year, the university opened the Henry Koerner Centre for Emeritus Faculty, which serves as a base for Yale's 300 retired professors and administrators - 100 of whom still live in or around New Haven.

According to Dr. Bernard Lytton, an emeritus professor of surgery at Yale and director of the centre, "The purpose of this place is to bring emeriti back into the mainstream life of the university."

Added Charles Long, the deputy provost at Yale: "What we've had to do is make retirement as inviting as possible. For us, that's one of the needs the Koerner Centre has filled."

The centre's participants, who range in age from 65 to 85, are just beginning to hatch ideas about how best to stay involved with the campus, but the early programs signal an effort consistent with the two academic mainstays of intellectual and social events, both with and without students.

Retired professors, who sometimes maintain a part-time teaching schedule at Yale, can

apply to use one of the centre's 12 offices for two years. There, they may write, meet with students or, if the class enrollment is small enough, conduct classes.

The centre also assists emeriti in arranging part-time teaching assignments and spots as

guest lecturers at the university. Support for continuation of scholarly writing and research is available, as well as computer assistance.

Dr. Lytton is also overseeing a small but growing roster of emeritus-only events, including a lecture series called Intellectual Trajectories, in which retired professors discuss their scholarship paths.

The building itself is a nod to Yale's past. The three-story structure is the oldest house in New Haven, built in 1767 by a grandson of the Rev. James Pierpont, a founder of Yale. It was a private residence until deeded to the university in 1920; since then the site has served as the Yale Faculty Club, the university's undergraduate admissions office and a visitor's centre. It sits on the edge of the New Haven Green, a short walk from the main undergraduate campus.

In 1999, Joseph Koerner, a 1980 Yale graduate, and Lisbet Rausing gave Yale \$10 million to establish a program that would give emeriti a base from which to ensure their involvement in campus life. (Professor Koerner, an art history professor at Harvard University and the son of the artist Henry Koerner, declined interview requests, as did Ms. Rausing.)

The gift from Professor Koerner and Ms. Rausing resulted in a major renovation of the Pierpont house, which now features restored offices and an expansive living room that serves as a central meeting place and a library.

It is here that every afternoon sherry is served, because, as David Apter, an emeritus professor of sociology and political science at Yale, put it, "Intellectual life depends on some degree of liquid refreshment."

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Of course, it also depends on a degree of serious scholarship. On an afternoon in early March, Jerome Pollitt, emeritus professor of classical archaeology and art history, sat in his third-floor office, where he reviewed notes for a series of lectures he was commissioned to give on a cruise ship in Italy next month. Professor Pollitt, who retired from Yale in 1999 - 37 years after arriving - said the centre had helped pull him back on to campus more frequently than in the years immediately after retirement.

"Whenever you come back as an emeritus, you get the feeling you're hanging over the young people's shoulders," Professor Pollitt said. "I'd resolved I wouldn't hang around here like a ghost after retirement."

So Professor Pollitt, who lives nearby in Woodbridge, Connecticut, drove into New Haven primarily to use Yale's library for research and to take in occasional lectures and exhibitions.. "This is nice to have," he said of the centre, "because it gives you a place to connect with the university, as opposed to the department you worked in."

Dr. Lytton said few, if any, universities can boast similar programs. The University of Southern California, Emory University and Columbia University have programs for emeritus professors, but, said Dr. Lytton, "none of them have a facility like ours, or the resources we have."

The Koerner Centre adds to an already substantial list of benefits for Yale's emeritus professors, including health insurance, free lunches and annual salaries averaging \$80,000, which can be modestly augmented with a part-time teaching schedule. According to Patricia Dallai, the Koerner's executive director, it is still too early to tell how many potential retirees the centre will attract.

"Retirements that are happening now probably were decided at least a couple of years ago," Ms. Dallai said. "But my goal is that we'll be seen as that connection to the university in the future."

That connection is a welcome attraction for many emeriti. According to Professor Apter: "In the past when you retired, from the university's point of view, you were dead. You'd get a party, and off you went."

As Professor Apter sat in his office at the centre overlooking a courtyard recounting a career in which he witnessed political upheavals in several nations - experiences perhaps rivaled in other offices in the building - it became evident that the Koerner Centre has collected perhaps an extraordinary combination of smarts and wisdom.

Professor Apter thinks that the current generation of retired professors, in particular, possesses qualities that other generations lack, because many of his colleagues came to academia after surviving the Depression and World War II. His was also the generation of faculty members that brought greater ethnic diversity to a teaching staff that, Professor Apter said, had been "classically Ivy League." The fact that so many of his colleagues took part in what he characterised as "the enormous transition of the university" perhaps makes it more likely that they will gravitate toward each other in a place like the Koerner Centre.

"The centre will anchor the senior faculty in the university," he said. "That's very different than the way it was before."

Making the most of the benefits

Emeritus Faculty members can use their Membership Card to enjoy the following benefits:

- Library borrowing rights for \$50 per annum.
- Purchase of packs of one-day parking 'scratchies' from Parking Administration in the Yencken Building which entitle you to park all day in Permit Parking spots at ANU for \$2 a day.
- Staff discounts from PCTech.
- The right to use University House Library facilities.
- The right to apply for membership of one of the ANU National Institutes.

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Special \$2 tickets to concerts given by the ANU School of Music. (This does not apply to concerts provided by outside organisations in Llewellyn Hall.)

Members can keep abreast of developments in the Emeritus Faculty through its website, <http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/> Please ensure your details are up-to-date; in particular, advise if your e-mail address changes so that we can keep you informed of activities.

ANUEF Committee

The following members were declared elected at the ANUEF's annual meeting in December with the following portfolios:

Statutory Officers:

Chair:	John Molony
Deputy Chair	Peter McCullagh
Treasurer	Peter Scardoni
Secretary	Mac Boot

Other Officers:

Committee.

ACT Government Project Leader

John Sandeman

ANU Civic Interface Project Convenors Beryl Rawson and Judith Slee

Events Officer	Giles Pickford
Media Officer	Ian Mathews
Web Site Officer	Nik Fominas
Membership Officer	Bruno Yvanovich

Recent members

Michael Flynn
Geoff Henry
Ian Rae
John Ritchie
Jan Robbins
Verna Rosling
David Walsh

ANUEF Lecture Series 2004

Not death -- it's taxes and university fees

The most recent in the ANUEF's lecture series was held on **June 17**, when Tim

Curtin spoke on "*Taxes and University Fees*".

In his abstract, he writes, "HECS amounts to double taxation, because on average graduates already pay higher income taxes on their higher than average earnings. HECS also constitutes discriminatory taxation on investment in human capital when compared with investment in other assets, since upfront and interest costs of the latter are tax deductible, unlike HECS fees and interest. These defects can be remedied by giving universities full powers to charge fees, treating fees paid upfront as tax credits against income tax liability, and providing non-refundable scholarships to those from households not paying enough tax to benefit from tax creditable fees."

Tim Curtin was educated in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and England (LSE). After economics lecturing at the Universities of Zimbabwe and York (UK), he spent many years working in various African countries, latterly on aid programs of the European Union. In 1988 he became a World Bank adviser in the Papua New Guinea Treasury. He left PNG for Canberra in 1999. He has published widely on the economics of financing higher education.

Unfinished business on Norfolk Island

On July 15 Maev O'Collins will give a lecture on *Norfolk Island and the Commonwealth of Australia: Continuing the Uneasy Relationship*

She writes, "The background to this talk is my research into the socio-political context of the final transfer in 1914 of authority for Norfolk Island from Britain to the Commonwealth of Australia. Since then, Norfolk Island's special status and unique form of governance have often been seen as 'unfinished business'.

This has been reflected in a number of reports and commissions of inquiry, and in the intermittent attempts made by successive Australian Governments to enact legislation to bring Norfolk Island into line with other Australian territories. **Continued next page**

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Currently the debate is continuing, as Norfolk islanders try to maintain their cultural and historical identity.

“The ambiguous relationship between Norfolk Island and Australia may also be seen as a microcosm of Australia's current relations with other small independent nations in the South Pacific.

“On 3 December 2003, the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia's Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories tabled an initial report on governance and financial sustainability on Norfolk Island. (*Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? Inquiry into Governance on Norfolk Island, December 2003*).

“My paper considers the recommendations of the report and the reactions of the Norfolk Island Government and other members of the community. As a mainland Australian, who has visited Norfolk Island on several occasions, and conducted archival research into the history of the political and administrative relationship between Australia and Norfolk Island, it is sobering to note that the lessons of history are so difficult to learn. While many of the recommendations are eminently reasonable, there is a need to establish a less adversarial mechanism for ongoing consultation between the Commonwealth and Norfolk Island governments.

References

O'Collins, M. 2002, *An Uneasy Relationship: Norfolk Island and the Commonwealth of Australia*, Canberra, Pandanus Books.

Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, 2003. Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories, *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? Inquiry into Governance on Norfolk Island*, Canberra. Submissions can be accessed from the Committee website: www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ncet/NorfolkGov/index.htm

After undergraduate studies in Australia, Maev O'Collins completed a Doctorate of Social Welfare at Columbia University, New York. From 1972 to 1989 she taught at the University of Papua New Guinea and was appointed Professor of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology in 1979. She

received an MBE in the Papua New Guinea Honours List in 1987 and was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus by the University Council in 1989. Her monograph, *Social Development in Papua New Guinea: 1972-1990*, was published in 1993 by the Department of Political and Social Change, Australian National University. Now living in Canberra, she is a Visiting Fellow with the Department of Political and Social Change, Australian National University, and an Adjunct Professor at the Australian Catholic University Signadou Campus. *An Uneasy Relationship: Norfolk Island and the Commonwealth of Australia*, was published in 2002 by Pandanus Books.

The next edition of the ANU Emeritus Faculty Newsletter will be published in September-October

Recent lectures

HIV/AIDS

Recent addresses in the ANUEF Lecture Series included one by Gordon Ada on “Vaccine Usage and Development: with an update on the HIV/AIDS vaccine situation”, held on 15 April 2004

The use of many vaccines, especially childhood vaccines, has had a major effect on the health and survival of millions of recipients. Slowly but surely, many statements of the anti-vaccine lobby are being discredited. But there are many diseases for which we do not yet have vaccines, including HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. The most urgent is HIV and the talk will report on recent developments.

On March 18 Fyfe Bygrave spoke on “*Growing Australian Red Cedar: The Tree of Australia's History*”. Australian Red Cedar is one of the world's most valuable timber trees. They have been logged out over the past 200 years such that few remain today. Efforts to establish plantations is thwarted by an insect that damages the tree.

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This insect cannot be controlled despite much research on the insect and the tree. Despite this, we have been able to grow the tree in plantation. This has potential economic benefits as well as important consequences for biological conservation.

Future lectures will be held on:

July 15
August 19
September 16
October 21
November 18
December 9

For more information, contact:

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E-mail: giles.pickford@bigpond.com

ANUEF lecture archive

The ANU Emeritus Faculty Lecture Series has an interesting record since it began in 2000 and includes lectures:

2000

8 June: Peter Baume, Chancellor of the ANU 'The Future of Australian Universities in General and the ANU in Particular' (The Official Launch of the ANU Emeritus Faculty)
7 July: Gordon Ada 'Progress Towards a Vaccine to prevent AIDS'
16 August: John Molony 'The Native Born: a book launch'
11 October: Mike Gore 'Reaching out'

2001

14 February: Colin Steele 'Have Libraries a Future in the Internet Era?'
21 February: Vadim Ogarev 'Soviet Science Before: Russian Science Now'
14 March: Adrian Gibbs 'The Great Influenza Pandemic of 1918'
24 March: Ken Inglis 'The ABC'
20 June: Roland Rich 'Democracy'
15 August: Ben Selinger 'Why there are no Social Sciences and why it is a good thing'
12 September: Annabelle Bennett 'A Pro-Chancellor's view of the ANU'
17 October: Wendy Brazil 'Was this done well? Whither Alexandria?'

2002

20 February: Ian Hancock 'John Gorton'
20 March: Barry Ninham 'Flaws in the Fabric: Why Physics and Chemistry have never contributed generally to the Biological Sciences'
17 April: Bruce Pollard 'The ANU Residences'
15 May: Tim Prowse 'Nugget Coombs: the Cold War Years'
19 June: Eric Fry 'The Birth of the ANU: a personal history'
17 July: Anthony Proust 'Surgeon John White's Journal of a Voyage to New South Wales 1787-1799: a review'
21 August: Ian Grigg 'The ANU Endowment for Excellence'
18 September: Adam Shoemaker 'Living Treasures: rediscovering the Faculty of Arts'
20 November: Giles Pickford 'The Birth of ATEM: the Principle of Subsidiarity, Love and other Ideals'

2003

19 March: David Jenkins 'Human Behaviour and Parasite Transmission'
16 April: Derek Scales 'Aldous Huxley and France'
21 May: John Molony 'The Many Faces of Ned (with some reference to Peter Carey)'
18 June: Peter Stewart 'Adrift – Canoeing the Murray and Darling' (an illustrated talk)
16 July: Susan Stockmayer 'Science on a Shoestring: a Traveller's Tale'
6 August: Jim Griffin 'John Wren: A Life Reconsidered'
20 August: Graham Durant 'Science Communication: beyond understanding' (The 2003 ANUEF Public Lecture, part of the Australian Science Festival)
15 October: Anthony Proust 'A Companion to the History of Medicine in Australia'
29 October: Jerzy Zubrzycki 'On the Condition of the Working Class 1891-2002 (Thoughts on a Papal Encyclical)'

2004

18 March: Fyfe Bygrave 'Growing Australian Red Cedar: The Tree of Australia's History'
15 April: Gordon Ada 'Vaccine Usage and Development: with an update on the HIV/AIDS vaccine situation'

ANUEF Lecture Series.

Is on the web:

<http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/events.html>