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Editor: Ian Mathews

Ph: 02 6281 4025

M: 0412 487586

E: ian.mathews7@bigpond.com

Assistant Editor: Kevin Windle

E: Kevin.Windle@anu.edu.au

Design: Kimberley Gaal

E: ksgaal@hotmail.com

ANUEF Office

Ph: 02 6125 5300

F: 02 6125 5262

W: www.anu.edu.au/emeritus

Meetings venue:

Molony Room

24 Balmain Crescent

Acton

Location map:

www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/anuef_location_map.html

University of Wollongong accepts Ramsay offer – ‘learning from others’

THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG (UOW), which has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation, has asked (and answered) itself the question:

DID THE RAMSAY CENTRE ONLY CHOOSE UOW BECAUSE ANU WITHDREW LATE IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS?

Its on-line answer is:

“No. The Ramsay Centre have [sic] made it very clear in its public statements that our excellence in teaching was a key factor in our selection. It is also important to note that it has been publicly reported that negotiations with Sydney University and the University of Queensland, are still ongoing”. The UOW’s statement and “Frequently Asked Questions” and their answers address some of the stated objections which led to the ANU rejecting the Ramsay Centre’s proposals including choice of staff and invigilating some lectures. The University of Wollongong’s statement includes the acknowledgement, “In our approach to engaging with the Ramsay Centre, we learned from the experience of other institutions.”

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN WESTERN CIVILISATION: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED—UOW RESPONDS ON RAMSAY CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

The rest of UOW’s statement and “Frequently Asked Questions” reads:

“On Monday, 17 December, 2018, the University [of Wollongong] announced that it had reached an agreement with the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation to offer a new Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation, to be taught in a newly created School of Liberal Arts in the Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts.

“The Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation was launched in 2017 following a generous endowment by the late Australian businessman Paul Ramsay AO. Mr Ramsay, who founded Ramsay Health Care, sought to invigorate the study of humanities and liberal arts in Australia and promote interest in, and awareness of, western civilisation.”

UOW’s website (<https://media.uow.edu.au/news/UOW254901.html>) says, “Many people have asked questions about this decision. Answers to the most frequently asked questions are below.”

When did UOW begin negotiations with the Ramsay Centre?

In response to a call from the Ramsay Centre, UOW among about ten universities, submitted an Expression of Interest in early November 2017 to be a partner university. In early September 2018, UOW was invited to make an

initial presentation to the Ramsay Centre Board. It was not until late October 2018 that negotiations began with a view to a partnership. A Memorandum of Understanding between UOW and the Ramsay Centre was concluded and signed on Friday, 14 December, 2018 and announced on the first business day afterwards, Monday, 17 December, 2018.

Why were current staff not consulted about this agreement?

UOW joined about ten universities in responding to the Ramsay Centre's call for Expressions Of Interest over a year ago. Confidentiality was a condition of responding to that EOI and UOW has respected that condition throughout discussions. In our approach to engaging with the Ramsay Centre, we learned from the experience of other institutions. UOW established a small team to undertake constructive discussions, which addressed all matters related to academic freedom, governance and autonomy from the outset.

Our confidential approach allowed our discussions with the Ramsay Centre to be frank and productive. This was important to establishing firm foundations for a successful partnership.

- In addition, UOW's approach of establishing a dedicated school with academics and support staff recruited specifically to deliver this program means:
- There will be no impact on the employment arrangements of existing staff in other schools or faculties;
- There will be no impact on academic freedom for existing staff because no one will be asked to teach this new program against their objections; and
- It will not negatively impact on the delivery of other programs or courses and will positively contribute to enrolments as students from this program must undertake a major from elsewhere within UOW and can opt to take a double degree.

UOW enters into many MOUs following confidential discussions. In these conditions, it is not unprecedented or unusual for confidentiality to be respected when establishing such agreements.

What will the partnership with the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation involve?

Our partnership with the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation will enable:

- Establishment of a new Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation degree
- Creation of a School of Liberal Arts in the Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts
- Recruitment of ten world-class academics, and support staff, specifically to deliver this program
- Refurbishment of dedicated facilities for the new School of Liberal Arts
- 150 scholarships
- International study opportunities for participating student
- A summer school and visiting speakers' program.

Will UOW be publishing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ramsay Centre?

The Ramsay Centre is making a very generous and significant philanthropic gift, one that is unprecedented in the study of humanities in Australia. UOW has been the beneficiary of other philanthropic gifts and it is normal practice to uphold confidentiality when entering into discussions with a philanthropic partner.

UOW does not normally publicly release MOUs. The ownership of these documents is shared by the signatory organisations and publishing them raises commercial confidentiality implications for all parties that must be considered carefully. This MOU is similar in these respects to many other MOUs signed by the University each year.

As has been publicly reported, the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation is still engaged in discussions with other universities, so the public release of our MOU would have implications for those negotiations. Any decision to publicly release the document would require the agreement of all parties.

The MOU is not being published at this time due to these considerations, but this does not preclude a review of this decision by both parties at an appropriate time in the future.

Can students undertake another degree in addition to the Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation?

Yes, students will be able to study the Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation as a single degree, choosing a major from elsewhere in UOW, or opt to take a double degree. Further details will be worked out in the early months of 2019.

Who is designing the curriculum of the Bachelor in Arts in Western Civilisation?

The curriculum for UOW's version of this degree was designed by UOW academics in line with broad requirements outlined in the initial call for EOIs. Senior Professor Dan Hutto is the principal architect. Feedback was sought from

Ramsay Centre academics, and the only substantive change from this feedback was to reduce the number of subjects required in order to create space for students to take a second major or a double-degree. Feedback was not sought from the Ramsay Centre Board, nor have any members of the Ramsay Centre Board offered any feedback on the curriculum or made more specific demands.

Will the new degree be promoting Western civilisation over others?

Our program respects and values non-Western cultures, civilizations and traditions of thought. Celebrating the greatest achievements of the Western civilization is not, nor should it in anyway encourage anyone to denigrate the great achievements of other cultures or traditions.

To focus on the best of the West is not to say the West is best.

Right from the beginning of the study, students will be introduced to the contributions of other cultures and traditions and their influence on the West. We will ensure that non-Western and under-represented voices and perspectives are acknowledged and brought into the conversation within specific subjects.

The new liberal arts degree is a purely educational enterprise not a political one. We will actively guard against it becoming a vehicle for encouraging or prosecuting culture wars.

Students will have ample opportunity to deepen their understanding of non-Western cultures' perspectives, delve further into alternative readings of the traditional Western canon, and examine the politics and history of Western states—including the consequences of colonialism and imperialism—by combining their BA in Western Civilization with a major study of other humanities, arts and social science disciplines at UOW.

When will the curriculum be made public?

Once the curriculum has been finalised and approved, we will be making it public. We anticipate this to occur in the early months of 2019.

What is distinctive about the Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation?

We have designed a curriculum that takes students on a chronologically ordered journey through great periods and epochs of intellectual and artistic change in the West. At each stage of their journey, students will engage directly – in depth and detail – with exemplary classic works and masterpieces of Western art and literature. They will not learn about these works in a second-hand manner, they will learn directly from them. They will cultivate open, critical minds along the way. Far from studying the remains of dead authors, our ambition is to put students into live conversation with the great minds of the past and to enable them to see the contemporary relevance of what those minds have to say to us today.

In addition to a focus on classic intellectual and artistic works, philosophical reflection and analysis are the very heart of our program. By joining the great conversation, our students will begin to question what they wouldn't normally question. Whole subjects in our curriculum will be devoted to dealing with topics in ethics, aesthetics, philosophy of religion and political philosophy. Students will become acquainted with foundational epistemological and metaphysical debates such as those between rationalists and empiricists, idealists and realists. They will confront questions about the nature of the self, truth and reason. The new BA will add a rich new dimension to our current educational offerings.

What kind of student will take the new degree?

Students who are intellectually curious and interested in asking questions about received views and assumptions. Our liberal arts program takes inspiration from the American Philosopher, Robert Hutchins, placing an updated version of his idea of the great conversation at its heart. In such a conversation, Hutchins wrote in 1952, "Nothing is to remain undiscussed. Everybody is to speak [their] mind. No proposition is to be left unexamined."

For example, students will be confronted with questions about the very idea of Western civilization and its influences on contemporary thought and practice. A major aim of the degree is get students to ask fundamental questions about what they are studying and to give reasons for the views they adopt.

Our ambition is to instil a spirit of open questioning in all of our students and to equip them to reason about and evaluate possible answers to those difficult questions.

As with our other arts and humanities offerings, they will learn how to think, not what to think.

How will it prepare students for their future career?

Students graduating from this liberal arts degree will have enriched life prospects. The new BA will create erudite and articulate graduates – creative and critical thinkers – with rich first-hand knowledge and engagement with classic works of thought and art. They will have cultivated the intellectual skills and virtues needed for engaging in reason, discussing, analysis and argument.

We expect many of our graduates will go on to be leaders in the knowledge economy through sectors including civil society, business and government. We aim to ensure that these graduates are diverse in background, and that they leave us ready to tackle the challenges facing Australia and the world.

Will this degree and its scholarships only benefit privileged students?

UOW has a long history of attracting students who are the first in their family to attend university or who come from non-traditional backgrounds and who go on to succeed in higher education. This aspect of our University is viewed positively by the Ramsay Centre.

We will be recruiting students with high academic achievement to the degree program. We will also be actively seeking students who meet the academic requirements and who are from outside traditional catchment areas and from non-traditional backgrounds. The program will have a dedicated student recruitment officer to support this aim.

Who will teach the new degree?

Over 2019 to 2021, we will hire nine academics to teach the new degree. We will be conducting a global search for the best academic talent. These colleagues will have regular academic contracts, including normal loading for research, and will accrue research leave entitlement at the normal rate.

What influence will the Ramsay Centre have on curriculum content, staff hires, and/or student recruitment?

In their original call for expressions of interest, the Ramsay Centre stipulated that the course they were seeking to fund must primarily, though not exclusively, focus on great works of Western thought and art, ranging from the classical period to the present, and be taught in small classroom settings. Our curriculum conforms to these requirements. We have also responded to feedback from Ramsay Centre academics on the need to limit the new course to 16 subjects, so as to give space for students to undertake a major or a double degree. Other than requiring these broad aspects of course design and content, the Ramsay Centre has not stipulated how we have constructed our curriculum.

Academic appointment panels will be chaired by either the Vice-Chancellor or the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Law, Humanities and Arts, depending on the level of the position being filled. The Ramsay Centre will have input by having representatives on those panels alongside UOW members, but these representatives will not chair the panels; they will not be a majority; nor will they have any overriding deciding vote. It is intended that panel decisions will be made by consensus. None of these arrangements are unusual for academic appointment panels at UOW.

Student recruitment will be controlled and administered entirely by UOW. A Ramsay Scholarship panel with members appointed by the Ramsay Centre and UOW will award the scholarships; this panel will be chaired by the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts.

Will the Ramsay Centre be monitoring classes?

The Ramsay Centre will not be monitoring classes at UOW. Ramsay Centre staff will be invited to visit UOW to observe in person the facilities and our activities. This may include observing some classes but this will not be for the purpose of assessing individual academics or teaching quality. We will draw on UOW's normal quality assurance processes to generate data for annual reports to the Ramsay Centre on the Bachelors in Arts in Western Civilisation.

STATEMENT FROM RAMSAY CENTRE

Ramsay Centre CEO Professor Simon Haines made the following statement:

As part of a philanthropic gift to the Humanities in Australia, the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation has today signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Wollongong (UOW), to fund a new BA degree in Western Civilisation, and a related scholarship program.

This is the first university partnership for the Centre, which was created with an endowment from the late Paul Ramsay AO, founder of Ramsay Health Care. The Centre seeks to advance education through study and discussion of western civilisation, including through university partnerships. It is currently in discussion with several other universities, including within the Group of Eight.

Worth upwards of \$50 million over 8 years, the partnership will also fund 150 undergraduate scholarships, and the hiring of world-class educators.

We are delighted to be partnering with the University of Wollongong. The negotiations have been conducted in a highly collegiate and mutually respectful manner over the last twelve months. Together we are excited about the wonderful opportunity for students in the Humanities this partnership presents.

The BA (Western Civilisation) will comprise 16 newly created subjects, leaving room for students to take an outside major or double degree. Students will study the great texts of western civilisation in small groups.

We have always said that the success of the degree would depend on the quality of the teaching and UOW attaches great importance to teaching standards and quality.

UOW's Western Civilisation program will be directed by Professor Daniel Hutto who is a gifted and passionate educator, committed to hiring world-class scholars and teachers into the program.

Students will benefit from UOW's emphasis on teacher quality and student engagement. In 2018 the Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) ranked UOW as the number one NSW university. It also ranked UOW as NSW's best university in eight study areas including the humanities and law.

The University of Wollongong is a university on the rise, ranked equal 10th in Australia in the 2019 Times Higher Education World University rankings and 30th in the world in the Times Higher Education Young University rankings.

‘No-deal Brexit’ a grim outlook for UK universities

BRITISH UNIVERSITIES face the threat of going bust in the wake of a [no-deal](#) Brexit, a leading think tank has warned, according to a report in the UK Independent newspaper

Vital UK research – including projects that are developing cancer treatments and combatting climate change – could be “compromised” if Britain leaves the EU without a deal, university leaders have said.

It comes as the Russell Group, comprising the most selective universities in the UK, revealed that the number of EU students enrolling in their institutions has fallen for the first time in five years. A predicted fall in EU student numbers and a potential loss of research funding due to a no-deal Brexit could hit universities' finances. It is understood some institutions could be forced to seek a government bailout to stay open.

Groups representing more than 150 [higher education institutions across the UK](#) have written to MPs warning that leaving the EU without a deal is one of the “biggest threats” the sector has ever faced. The letter calls on the government to urgently ensure that universities do not miss out on access to EU funding schemes – which they say are worth €1.3bn to the UK – in the wake of a no-deal Brexit.

University leaders warn that a no-deal Brexit could lead to “an academic, cultural and scientific setback from which it would take decades to recover”, adding that world-leading academics, researchers and EU students could leave for countries where access to EU research programmes are not at risk. The warnings came [after figures revealed](#) that the total debt owed by the sector UK-wide rose to £10.7bn over the past year as competition to recruit students has intensified.

Nick Hillman, director of the Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) think tank, said he was concerned about the financial future of the university sector because of the negative impact of Brexit, as well as a fall in the number of 18-year-olds and the government's review into tuition fees. Analysis for the think tank has predicted a 57 per cent drop-off in incoming EU students. He said, “A no-deal Brexit would mean even more upheaval than other forms of Brexit for the sector. I do think a small handful of universities could get close to the wire this year. But there are many shades of grey between being solvent and going bust, including takeovers, mergers and bailouts. No British university has ever gone bust. It could happen for the first time this year.”

He added that the government would probably have to intervene to stop a large higher education institution from going bust.

His comments come after the higher education regulator in England, the Office for Students (OfS), said in November that universities that are [not financially sustainable would not be bailed out](#). The warning followed reports that a number of universities were on the verge of bankruptcy.

Sir Anthony Seldon, the vice-chancellor of the University of Buckingham, has warned that a no-deal Brexit could contribute to the financial failure of at least ten universities in the UK. He told The Independent, “It will make the recruitment of students only more difficult and it is insane for the country. If Brexit is to happen then it has to happen in a way that allows the continuities to continue, because if we damage the university sector the whole country will suffer. Universities are often the powerhouses of some of the most left-behind areas of this country and some of them are the most vulnerable.”

Sir Anthony added: “The ones that will close will be in the areas of greatest social and economic need. The damage that will do will be immense to the social fabric of this country and the economy of those regions.”

New figures released by the Russell Group show that the number of EU students enrolling in the leading UK institutions in the 2018-19 academic year fell 3 per cent from the previous year.

The number starting taught postgraduate courses – such as those taking taught masters – fell by 5 per cent, while those starting postgraduate research courses – such as PhD students – fell by 9 per cent, the same as in 2017-18, according to data.

Dr Hollie Chandler, the Russell Group's senior policy analyst, said: "It's fair to assume that uncertainty over Brexit and the UK's future relationship with Europe could be a significant factor. The drop in postgraduate research courses is especially troubling – these students contribute directly to the UK's research capacity. If we leave the EU without a deal, the uncertainty felt by prospective European students will only get worse."

Professor Dame Janet Beer, president of Universities UK, said, "We are home to one of the best research systems in the world, attractive to stellar academics, top students and global partnerships, and we must not let this be compromised by a no-deal Brexit. Time is running out to make decisions on issues which will ultimately affect the country and society as a whole."

Robert Halfon, Conservative MP and chair of the Education Committee, said: "With the UK leaving the EU, there is all the more reason to ensure that our universities are fit for the future and focused on meeting the country's skills needs. Our committee's report on value for money in higher education outlined how they can play a significant role in filling skills gaps and boosting productivity by promoting degree apprenticeships and improving access for disadvantaged students. By focusing on a more skills-based future, our universities can ensure they remain among the world's best performing institutions."

Eleanor Busby in the *Independent*, January 4, 2019,

WHO establishing expert panel on standards for human gene-editing

THE UN'S WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION is establishing a global multi-disciplinary expert panel to examine the scientific, ethical, social and legal challenges associated with human gene-editing (both somatic and germ cell). The panel will review the current literature on the state of the research and its applications, and societal attitudes towards the different uses of this technology. WHO will then receive advice from the panel on appropriate oversight and governance mechanisms, both at the national and global level. Core to this work will be understanding how to promote transparency and trustworthy practices and how to ensure appropriate risk/benefit assessments are performed prior to any decision on authorisation.

The recent application of tools such as CRISPR-Cas9 to edit the human genome have highlighted the need for the development of standards in this area. WHO's expert working group will work in a consultative manner and build on existing initiatives. As WHO proceeds, it is liaising with relevant UN and other international agencies, and is in communication with Academies of Science and Medicine as well as with bodies that have produced previous reports.

WHO will be approaching leading experts in the world, and publishing the membership of the panel when it receives responses and assesses conflicts of interest.

For more information, access: <https://www.who.int/ethics/topics/gene-editing/en/>

Diets lacking essential vitamins and minerals

NEW RESEARCH LED BY UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS with CSIRO, the International Food Policy Research Institute and others shows that unless we act now in making vegetables, fruits, nuts, seeds and pulses more available and affordable, serious micronutrient inadequacies will persist globally along with continued under-nutrition in the poorest regions of the world.

An analysis of the trajectory of diets across the globe from now until 2050 has been published in Nature Sustainability. It shows worldwide human diets are lacking in vitamins and minerals essential for proper growth and development. Widespread inadequacies in calcium, vitamin D, vitamin E and folate are likely to continue into the future.

For some of the poorest countries in the world, the study projects continued inadequacies in iron, zinc, and vitamins A and K. The World Health Organisation estimates more than two billion people suffer from 'hidden hunger' or micronutrient deficiency. The effects of severe micronutrient deficiencies include stunting of growth, a weaker immune system and impaired intellectual development. The study found that while micronutrients are lacking, nearly all countries in the world have more than adequate carbohydrate and protein available.

CSIRO Nutrition Systems Scientist Dr Jessica Bogard is one of the authors of the study. She said the findings reinforced the importance of encouraging a shift from carbohydrate-rich staples to a more diverse diet worldwide. “Global food security is not just about providing adequate calories,” Dr Bogard said. “A person can consume too many calories but still be malnourished”.

Not surprisingly, in Australia, like many high-income countries, overconsumption is a concern, with diets above the recommended intake for alcohol, saturated fat and added sugar.

A 2017 study by CSIRO found that four out of five Australian adults were not eating enough fruit and vegetables to meet Australian Dietary Guidelines. The biggest factors affecting food and nutrition security in the future, according to this new research, are climate change, increasing incomes and evolving diets.

“A change in the climate combined with a change in people’s diets, as they begin to earn more, will ultimately impact on our agricultural systems and what gets grown where,” Dr Bogard explained. “Improving farm productivity and economic growth alone is not going to be enough to achieve nutritional security now and into the future; we must refocus our efforts on dietary quality rather than quantity.”

In all countries, including Australia, the authors recommend better aligning agriculture with nutritional needs by investing in the availability and affordability of nutrient-rich foods, including vegetables, fruits, pulses, nuts and seeds. In many developing countries this must also include a focus on nutritious animal-source foods. Complementary interventions throughout the food system, such as reduced waste, and efforts to promote healthy food environments will also be needed.

High-resolution data from the study on nutrient adequacy across the globe is available here: <https://impactnutrients.ifpri.org/nutrientModeling/>

Analytics platform designed to change agricultural practice

THE CSIRO and rural technology start-up Digital Agriculture Services (DAS) have launched an innovative new platform that combines artificial intelligence, machine learning and cloud-based geospatial technology to deliver reliable, independent and robust farm data and analytics.

The Rural Intelligence Platform is the first software to comprehensively assess and monitor rural land anywhere in Australia, drawing on information from trusted data sources on productivity, water access, yield, land use, crop type, rainfall, drought impact and more.

CSIRO Agriculture and Food Deputy Director, Dr Michael Robertson said, “The platform brings together in one place and refines a range of technologies developed by CSIRO in order to provide a picture of what has happened on a property over the years as well as the current situation.”

The platform uses satellite imagery to track paddocks and their performance over time. Information from Australia’s digital soil map is incorporated and climate information interpreted to show drought, frost, heat stress for livestock and other risks.

DAS estimates that annually around \$125 billion in agricultural economic decisions in Australia are based on unreliable or incomplete data.

“The Rural Intelligence Platform will help the agribusiness community calculate the risks associated with certain investments or management decisions,” Dr Robertson said. “The platform provides accurate information that can help to identify vulnerability or the most promising options for investment that will build resilience. This is a whole new model for rural analytics which will make it easier to quantify risk and prepare for challenges like climate volatility and change.”

The Rural Intelligence Platform analyses data from a range of sources using machine learning algorithms to make sense of the data with a clarity that wasn’t possible before.

The platform incorporates an AI-initiated Automated Valuation Model that is capable of valuing rural properties instantly with up to 90 per cent accuracy. Previously this was only possible for residential properties, where there are a wide range of valuation and analytic tools for real estate.

Since it was established in partnership with CSIRO in 2017, Melbourne-based DAS has secured a total of \$4.25 million in funding from founding equity and R&D partner CSIRO, Australian ASX-listed agribusiness Ruralco and private investors. DAS is already working closely with a number of leading companies to pilot the Rural Intelligence Platform, with some of the strongest uptake coming from the property, financial services and insurance sectors.

DAS CEO Anthony Willmott said, “Digital agriculture is far more than just on-farm technology, it’s also about improving off-farm decision-making and this platform lays the foundation for Australia to become a leader in new generation agricultural analytics. This is about supporting the ecosystem that supports the farmer – ensuring that farmers, business, policy-makers and anyone invested in the agricultural ecosystem has the right rural data to make more informed decisions.

‘Ram raid’ on university research

CUTS OF \$328.5 MILLION to research funding were in the Government’s mid-year Budget update — a move that will damage Australia, according to Universities Australia.

Universities Australia Chief Executive Catriona Jackson said such deep cuts to university research were “a ram raid on Australia’s future economic growth, prosperity, health and development.” The cuts were more than double the amount anticipated as the research community braced for cuts foreshadowed by Education Minister Dan Tehan. Even before these cuts, Australia’s Government spending on R&D was forecast to plunge to a four-decade low of half a per cent of GDP this year — setting loud alarm bells ringing.

Ms Jackson went on, “Every day, Australians right across the country – from farmers to families with young children – benefit from research breakthroughs. These cuts are the wrong decision for Australia’s future — and they will rob Australians of life-saving treatments, research to help prevent floods and bushfires, and advances in almost every aspect of people’s lives.

“Over the course of this year, we have seen cuts to funding for student places at universities, a proposed new tax on student loans, and a further tax on universities who recruit global talent. And now we have this fresh blow ... to our research capability.

“The Budget is forecast to return to surplus and yet the Government has decided to cut funds to research which drives economic growth. This makes no sense.”

In December universities joined forces to launch a new campaign — #UniResearchChangesLives — to highlight how the lives of everyday Australians have been changed profoundly by university research breakthroughs. It highlights the stories of everyday Australians who have survived stroke, cervical cancer and family violence – and the university researchers who worked on breakthroughs in these fields.

The news comes as a new survey shows that the Australian public values university research and wants it to be free from political interference. “Three quarters of Australians want us to spend more on research and development as a share of our national economy than we currently do,” Ms Jackson said. “The Australian public gets it – now we need the Government to follow the public’s lead.”

Respectful Relationships Unit welcomes its manager

IN A STATEMENT to students and colleagues, Provost Professor Mike Calford and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (University Experience) Professor Richard Baker have announced the appointment of Sue Webeck as the manager of the newly established [Respectful Relationships Unit](#)

They said, “The establishment of the Respectful Relationships Unit, [announced in June 2018](#), marks an important step towards creating an ANU where all in our community experience equality and respect in all of their relationships. The Unit, led by Sue, will work across ANU to facilitate accessible and transparent processes for reporting, provide education and training to our staff and students, drive cultural change by running campaigns which challenge the drivers of sexual violence, and monitor the implementation and regular review of ANU policies, procedures and relevant strategies.

“Sue comes to ANU with 15 years’ experience in the ACT community sector. Her recent appointments include College Dean at Burgmann College and various executive and non-executive positions at Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT, Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, A Gender Agenda, and the AIDS Action Council. She is an accomplished agent of change and brings expertise in program development and implementation, policy, advocacy, community development, and case management. Sue is a passionate violence-prevention advocate and advocate for LGBTIQ communities and is committed to helping create a campus that is safe and respectful.”

Universities in vanguard to prevent sexual assaults, harassment

THE SECTOR REGULATOR has acknowledged the significant and comprehensive work by Australian universities to prevent sexual assault and sexual harassment. In a report released on January 25, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Authority notes universities are enhancing and protecting student wellbeing and safety, and “relevant standards are being effectively upheld.”

Universities Australia Chief Executive Catriona Jackson said sexual assault and sexual harassment are global and society-wide challenges – and Australian universities had taken a strong and pro-active stance against unacceptable

behaviour. “In this report, TEQSA acknowledges the comprehensive program led by UA and our 39 member universities, violence-prevention experts and students to prevent sexual assault and sexual harassment in student communities and in wider society,” Ms Jackson said.

“Universities and their frontline staff have been working to prevent sexual harassment and sexual assault for decades. Through UA’s Respect. Now. Always initiative, all 39 of our universities came together three years ago to send a very clear message about student and staff conduct and respectful relationships, and contribute to a global movement against sexual violence.

“Since August 2017, more than 800 further major actions and initiatives have been instigated by Australian universities, including enhancing student support services, university policies and prevention programs. Nationally, this work is guided by representatives of our 39 member universities, and locally by a dedicated expert-informed committee at each university. This comprehensive and collective effort has been driven by the university sector in a world-leading initiative that other nations have followed closely.”

As part of the Respect. Now. Always initiative, UA also launched a 10-point Action Plan to lead the sector’s next stages of work on this important issue. Six of 10 actions have been completed, with the other four well under way.

BOOKSHELF



Indigenous Efflorescence: Beyond Revitalisation in Sapmi and Ainu Mosir

Edited by: [Gerald Roche](#), [Hiroshi Maruyama](#), and [Åsa Virdi Kroik](#)

Published by: ANU Press

ISBN (print – rrp \$50.00): 9781760462628

ISBN (online): 9781760462635

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/IE.2018>

Indigenous efflorescence refers to the surprising economic prosperity, demographic increase and cultural renaissance currently found amongst many Indigenous communities around the world. This book moves beyond a more familiar focus on ‘revitalisation’ to situate these developments within their broader political and economic contexts. The materials in this volume also examine the everyday practices and subjectivities of Indigenous efflorescence and how these exist in tension with ongoing colonisation of Indigenous lands, and the destabilising impacts of global neoliberal capitalism. Contributions to this volume include both research articles and shorter case studies, and are drawn from amongst the Ainu and Sami (Saami/Sámi) peoples (in Ainu Mosir in northern Japan, and Sapmi in northern Europe, respectively). This volume will be of use to scholars working on contemporary Indigenous issues, as well as to Indigenous peoples engaged in linguistic and cultural revitalisation, and other aspects of Indigenous efflorescence.

Introduction to the Tibetan Language: An eTextbook for spoken and literary Tibetan

By: [Ruth Gamble](#), [Tenzin Ringpapontsang](#), [Chung Tsering](#), [Grazia Scotellaro](#)

Published by: ANU Press

Not available for purchase

ISBN (online): 9781760462611

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/ITL.2018>

This textbook includes twelve multi-media introductory lessons for Tibetan learners. There are sections that explain how to write and read the Tibetan alphabet, how to write and read Tibetan words, and easy colloquial and literary sentences. Each section includes a dialogue that is performed in videos and written down, written explanations of different aspects of the language, videos that demonstrate how to write, read and pronounce Tibetan, and exercises that will help solidify what you have learned. The book also includes links to on-line sources, including flashcards to aid vocabulary building.

Part 1 is an introduction to reading and writing Tibetan.

Part 2 builds on these skills and helps Tibetan learners develop conversational skills.

Part 3 introduces literary Tibetan by building on the commonalities between it and conversational Tibetan.

The Promise of Prosperity: Visions of the Future in Timor-Leste

Edited by: Judith Bovensiepen

Published by: ANU Press

ISBN (print - rrp \$50.00): 9781760462529

ISBN (online): 9781760462536

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/PP.2018>

For the people of Timor-Leste, independence promised a fundamental transformation from foreign occupation to self-rule, from brutality to respect for basic rights, and from poverty to prosperity. In the eyes of the country’s political leaders, revenue from the country’s oil and gas reserves is the means by which that transformation could be effected. Over the past decade, they have formulated ambitious plans for state-led development projects and rapid economic growth. Paradoxically, these modernist visions are simultaneously informed by and contradict ideas stemming from custom, religion, accountability and responsibility to future generations. This book explores how the promise of prosperity informs policy and how policy debates shape expectations about the future in one of the world’s newest and poorest nation-states.

BOOKSHELF

Aboriginal History Journal Volume 42

Edited by: Ingereth Macfarlane

Co-Published by ANU Press and [Aboriginal History](#)

ISSN (print – rrp \$38.00): 0314-8769

ISSN (online): 1837-9389

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/AH.42.2018>

In this volume, Peter Sutton provides a survey of the articles published by linguist Dr Luise Hercus (1926–2018) in *Aboriginal History*, honouring the contribution she has made to the journal since its inception. The seven articles highlight the wealth of sources that feed into historical research of Indigenous Australia. The role of performance in the events organised by the National Aborigines Day Observance Committee (NADOC) in 1957–67 in Sydney shows up the contest between state assimilationist goals and Indigenous participants' insistence on distinction, continuity and survival (Jonathon Bollen and Anne Brewster). The then radical agenda – in a protectionist policy regime – of the advocacy group, the Aborigines' Protection League in South Australia in the 1920s–30s, is examined in a detailed study of the group's campaigns and campaigners (Rob Foster). A picture of colonial reception of Aboriginal performance and the public assertion of local Aboriginal cultural priorities in 1893 Darwin is developed in the historical contextualisation of a collection of Aboriginal artefacts found in the Marischal Museum, Aberdeen (Gaye Sculthorpe). A nuanced analysis of the relationship between the Catholic Benedictine Mission at New Norcia and the Western Australian Native Welfare Department draws on the correspondence between the Abbot of New Norcia and A.O. Neville (Elicia Taylor).

A large body of reader responses to a recent online article on the deep history of Aboriginal Australia provides a way to map the strengths and weaknesses in the general Australian public's apprehension of that long history (Lynette Russell and Billy Griffiths). A spatial history argues against the concept of 'fringe camps' and for a pattern of demonstrable continuities between pre-colonial, colonial and recent Aboriginal people's favoured camp places and the locations of urban contemporary park spaces in Brisbane and townships in south-eastern Queensland (Ray Kerkhove). In the format of an interview, the themes concerning the writing of Aboriginal history and contemporary political debates that are developed in Tim Rowse's recent book *Indigenous and Other Australians since 1901* (2017) are explored (Miranda Johnson and Tim Rowse).

[Aboriginal History Inc.](#) is a publishing organisation based in the Australian Centre for Indigenous History, Research School of Social Sciences, The Australian National University.

For more information on Aboriginal History Inc. please visit aboriginalhistory.org.au.



Pacific Exposures: Photography and the Australia-Japan Relationship

By: Melissa Miles ,
Robin Gerster

Published by: ANU Press
ISBN (print – rrp \$55.00): 9781760462543

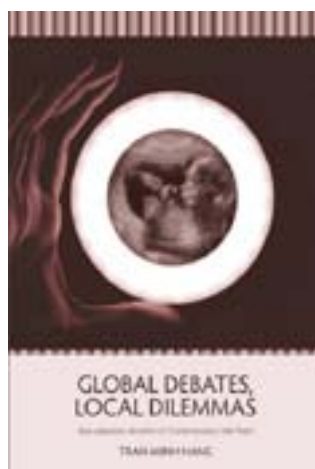
ISBN (online): 9781760462550

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/PE.2018>

Photography has been a key means by which Australians have sought to define their relationships with Japan. From the fascination with all things Japanese in the late nineteenth century, through the era of 'White Australia', the bitter enmity of the Pacific War, the path to reconciliation in the post-war period and the culturally complicated bilateralism of today, Australians have used their cameras to express a divided sense of conflict and kinship with a country that has by turns fascinated and infuriated. The remarkable photographs collected and discussed here for the first time shed new light on the history of Australia's engagement with its most important regional partner. *Pacific Exposures* argues that photographs tell an important story of cultural production, response and reaction—not only about how Australians have pictured Japan over the decades, but how they see their own place in the Asia-Pacific.

"[*Pacific Exposures*] will become a key text on Australia's interactions with Japan, and the way that photographs can inform cross-cultural relations through their production, consumption and circulation." — Prof. Kate Darian-Smith, University of Tasmania.

BOOKSHELF



Global Debates, Local Dilemmas: Sex-selective Abortion in Contemporary Viet Nam

By: Tran Minh Hang

Published by: ANU Press

ISBN (print – rrp \$48.00): 9781760462420

ISBN (online): 9781760462437

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/GDLD.2018>

The practice of sex-selective abortion is on the rise globally, stirring debates about gender inequality, medical ethics and reproductive autonomy. This book is the first ethnography to document practices of sex selection in Viet Nam. It shows how and why abortions are used to select the sex of children and how Vietnamese individuals and health professionals are implicated in this illicit and controversial practice. Telling the stories of women who have undergone sex-selective abortions, it traces their passage through sex determination and abortion decision-making phases, and investigates their experiences during and after their sex-selective abortions. It describes the turmoil experienced by individuals who undergo such abortions and explores their interactions with the spectrum of social actors and health institutions that facilitate practices of sex selection.

As the first ethnographic study on sex-selective abortions in Viet Nam, this book delves into socially sensitive terrain and sheds light on personally fraught individual experiences of reproductive agency. It documents societal responses to sex-selective abortions in Viet Nam and identifies gaps in the state's capacity to regulate reproductive desire in a market economy. A resource for researchers, it contributes to ongoing debates on sex selection and provides a framework for developing relevant social policies, interventions and support services.

“This pioneering study offers a nuanced and sensitive account of sex-selective abortion as human experience. Through thought provoking case studies, the book provides rare ethnographic documentation of the complex quandaries that arise as selective reproductive technologies are routinised across the globe.”—Tine M. Gammeltoft, Department of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen

Human Ecology Review Volume 24, Number 2: Special Issue: Addressing the Great Indoors—A Transdisciplinary Conversation

Published by: ANU Press

ISSN (print – rrp \$30.00): 1074-4827

ISSN (online): 2204-0919

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/HER.24.02.2018>

Human Ecology Review is a semi-annual journal that publishes peer-reviewed interdisciplinary research on all aspects of human–environment interactions (Research in Human Ecology). The journal also publishes essays, discussion papers, dialogue, and commentary on special topics relevant to human ecology (Human Ecology Forum), book reviews (Contemporary Human Ecology), and letters, announcements, and other items of interest (Human Ecology Bulletin). *Human Ecology Review* also publishes an occasional paper series in the Philosophy of Human Ecology and Social–Environmental Sustainability.

One for steam train buffs

Former Deputy Prime Minister, diplomat and train buff Tim Fischer gave a lecture at the National Library of Australia on January 31 for the launch of his latest book, *Steam Australia: Locomotives that Galvanised the Nation*.

For a century, from 1850 to 1950, steam locomotive haulage dominated Australia's various rail systems. Rail networks expanded and steam locomotives traversed the country during critical stages of the nation's development, including transporting soldiers to fields of conflict in two world wars. Tim Fischer took his listeners for a journey through the great tapestry of rail networks to understand how the nation was galvanised with economic growth delivered by steam. The event included an official launch of the book by Dr Brett Mason, Chair of Council, National Library of Australia.

Chifley Library progress

Following is a link to the newsletter relating to rebuilding the Chifley Library collection: [Flood Donation Newsletter](#)

DIARY DATES

ANUEF inquiries; to Craig Reynolds (creynolds697@gmail.com / Craig.Reynolds@anu.edu.au)
or ANU Events (02 6125 4144 / events@anu.edu.au)

25 to 27 June 2019: Asia Pacific Conference on Human Evolution (APCHE)

Griffith University, Brisbane

APCHE aims to bring together experts working on all aspects of human evolution in the broader Asian and Pacific regions. The conference will run for three days of general sessions including papers on palaeoanthropology, biological anthropology, archaeology, genomics and palaeogenomics, primatology, as well as the disciplines engaged in understanding the environment and site-specific contexts of human evolution, human behaviour and art.

For further information access website or email apche@griffith.edu.au

ANU/Canberra Times Meet the Author events

Further details and registrations available at <http://www.anu.edu.au/events/anuthe-canberra-times-meet-the-author-series> or 6125 4144.

Thursday 14 February, 6pm: Karen Viggers

Small Theatre, Kambri Cultural Centre

In conversation with Alex Sloan on Karen's new novel, *The Orchardist's Daughter*.

Monday 18 February, 6pm: Jane Caro

Large Theatre, Kambri Cultural Centre

In conversation with Alex Sloan on Jane's new book, *Accidental Feminists*. Vote of thanks by Jennifer Bott.

Wednesday 27 February, 6pm: Dervla McTiernan

Small Theatre, Kambri Cultural Centre

In conversation with Chris Hammer on Dervla's new crime novel, *The Scholar*. Vote of thanks by His Excellency Mr Breandán Ó Caollaí, Ambassador of Ireland to Australia.

Saturday 2 March, 1.30 to 4.30pm: A Celebration of David Stratton

National Film and Sound Archive, McCoy Circuit, Acton,

David Stratton in conversation with Meg Labrum on David's new book, *101 Marvellous Movies You May Have Missed* followed by a showing of *David Stratton: A Cinematic Life*. Conversation event is free of charge, film showing \$10. Bookings at NSFA website

Thursday 7 March, 6pm: Michelle Arrow

Small Theatre, Kambri Cultural Centre

In conversation with Frank Bongiorno on Michelle's new book *The Seventies*. Vote of thanks by Hugh Mackay.

Wednesday 13 March, 6pm: Judith Brett

Small Theatre, Kambri Cultural Centre

In conversation with Andrew Leigh on Judith's new book *From Secret Ballot to Democracy Sausage: How Australia Got Compulsory Voting*.

Wednesday 27 March, 6pm: Natasha Stott Despoja

Large Theatre, Kambri Cultural Centre

In conversation with Lieutenant General David Morrison on Natasha's new book *On Violence*.
Vote of thanks by ANU Vice Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt

Tuesday 9 April, 6pm: Rebecca Huntley

Small Theatre, Kambri Cultural Centre

In conversation with Andrew Leigh on Rebecca's new *Quarterly Essay On Politics and Progress*.

Tuesday 16 April, 6pm: Jocelyn Moorhouse

National Film and Sound Archive, McCoy Circuit, Acton

In conversation with Alex Sloan on Jocelyn's new book, *Unconditional Love: a Memoir of Film-making and Motherhood*. (This Meet the Author event precedes the opening of The Dressmaker Exhibition at the NFSA on Thursday 18 April)

Tuesday 30 April, 6pm: Troy Bramston

Small Theatre, Kambri Cultural Centre

In conversation with Paul Kelly on Troy's new book *Robert Menzies*.

All events above currently bookable at anu.edu.au/events or 6125 4144 . David Stratton bookable at NFSA website. For further information, contact Colin Steele, Emeritus Fellow, ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences, on 6125 8983 or by email at colin.steele@anu.edu.au

ADMINISTRATION

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANUEF ROOM BOOKINGS

Requests for booking the Molony Room should be addressed to Secretary of the ANU Emeritus Faculty Jan O'Connor at jantancress@gmail.com or Tel: 6247 3341

Supporters of ANU Archives can find updated news on the ANU website at <http://www.archives.anu.edu.au/news-and-events-1>

FINDING THE MOLONY ROOM

The Molony Room is on the south side of Balmain Crescent almost opposite University House. It is building 1c on <https://tinyurl.com/yckuknbj> set back between No 22 Balmain Crescent, which is the Acton Early Childhood Centre, and No 26 Balmain Crescent, which is the Academy of the Social Sciences. There are four free car parking spaces reserved for ANUEF members visiting the Molony Room in the Balmain Lane Car Park immediately south of the Molony Room. The room is marked on: <https://tinyurl.com/y7gsyqgh>



The next edition of Emeritus, the ANUEF Newsletter, will be published in March 2019.