

EMERITUS

The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine

Come and join The Gathering

The Gathering is a two-and-a-half-day celebration of Australia's First Nations composers and guests from the near Pacific. The event features cultural sharing and enrichment through performances of composed and scored music, discussions on creative practice, and opportunities to build new cultural and industry connections. Resident ensembles include Ensemble Offspring and Ensemble 3. Other notable contributors include Christopher Sainsbury, Nardi Simpson, Will Kepa, Opeloge Ah Sam, Dr Robin Ryan Cruse and Ossie Cruse.

This is an inclusive event, open to all, and particular encouragement to attend is extended to music scholars, graduate students, Australian and Indigenous studies scholars, and arts and culture professionals.

The conference will begin on Thursday, November 27 at 2pm, followed by a Welcome Dinner at 6pm. Sessions continue on Friday and Saturday, 9.30am–5.30pm.

In conjunction with the conference, three evening concerts will be held as part of The Gathering: Thursday, Nov 27 at 7.30pm – Open Mic at the First Nations Composers Gathering (Wig and Pen Room, ANU School of Music); Friday, November 28 at 7.30pm – Singing Stone (The Street Theatre); and Saturday, November 29 at 7.30pm – Nucoorilma (The Street Theatre). These concerts are open to the public.

For more information and registrations visit
<https://music.cass.anu.edu.au/events/gathering>.

Diary dates

ANU Meet the Author events

ANU/Canberra Times Meet the Author events are held in association with Harry Hartog Bookshop. Unless otherwise stated all events are free and at

6pm in the Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre, formerly known as the Kambri Cultural Centre. Books are available for purchase before and after each event. Pre-event book signings will be available from 5.30pm and again after the event. Registration is required and can be made at Registrations at anu.edu.au/events/meet-the-author-series. In line with ANU's COVID policy, masks are no longer required. Enquiries to the convenor, Colin Steele, at colin.steele@anu.edu.au. The Symposium by University House wine bar (Shop 13, 152 University Avenue, Acton, next to the cultural centre) will be open for dining after the events. No bookings necessary. Food and wine details at <https://unihouse.anu.edu.au/eat/symposium/>.

November 19: Helen Garner, Chloe Hooper and Sarah Krasnostein will be in conversation with Beejay Silcox on their new book *The Mushroom Tapes. Conversations on a Triple Murder Trial*. Cinema ANU.

November 21: Bryan Brown will be in conversation on his new novel *The Hidden* with Alex Sloan. Vote of thanks by Anna Creer. Cinema ANU.

November 25: Sean Kelly will be in conversation with Amy Remeikis on the 100th *Quarterly Essay: On belief in politics*. Vote of thanks by Allan Behm. T2 ANU.

December 2: At 6.15pm, Niki Savva will be in conversation on her new book *Earthquake: Signposts to the election that shook Australia* with Kerry Anne Walsh. Vote of thanks by Mark Kenny. TBC Cinema ANU.

2026

February 3: Editors Michelle Grattan, John Halligan and John Hawkins will be in conversation with Frank Bongiorno on their book *The First Albanese Government. Governing in an age of disruption and division, 2022–2025*. Cinema ANU.

February 26: Andrew Leigh will be in conversation on his new book *The Shortest History of Innovation*. Cinema ANU.

March 4: Louise Milligan will be in conversation on her new novel *Shellybanks*. Cinema ANU.

March 10: Amy Remeikis in conversation on her new book *Where It All Went Wrong: The case against John Howard*. Cinema ANU.

March 16: Michael Wesley will be in conversation on his new quarterly essay *On Australia and Asia*. Cinema ANU.

March 25: Stephanie Alexander will be in conversation on her 30th anniversary edition of *The Cook's Companion*. Cinema ANU.

April 1: Patricia O'Brien will be in conversation with Frank Bongiorno on her new book *Errol Flynn. The True Story of Australia's Hollywood Icon*. Cinema ANU.

April 14: Candice Fox will be in conversation on her new novel *Redbelly Crossing* with Chris Hammer. Cinema ANU.

April 21: Susan Lever will be in conversation on her new biography of A.D. Hope. Cinema ANU.

April 28: Desmond Manderson will be in conversation on his new book *High Time: How Australia Changed Its Mind About Illegal Drugs*. Cinema ANU.

ANU Art Collection: Conjunction

Recent philanthropic gifts and acquisitions provide an opportunity to revisit artworks in the collection in a new light, adding to the dynamic and multifaceted story of Australian art. Over the past few years, the ANU Art Collection has been fortunate to receive a number of extraordinary donations. In this exhibition, curators Tony Oates and Oscar Capezio explore the possibilities of the evolving collection and celebrate the support and friendship of the [ANU Drill Hall Gallery](#), where the exhibition is on until December 21.

Obituaries

Christabel Young

July 19, 1939 – January 2, 2025

Christabel Young attended East Adelaide Primary School, and later Norwood High School, where she regularly was top of the class. At the State Leaving exams she came second and ninth in the two mathematics subjects.

At the University of Adelaide Chris gained a Bachelor of Science degree with honours in maths, with some science subjects and later economics. She greatly admired Professor Renfrey Potts, her lecturer in applied maths, who praised her maths sense and encouraged her aspirations. She and her contemporary Muriel Grace were the first two women at the University of Adelaide to gain honours maths degrees.

Professor Barnes arranged a job for her at the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Adelaide office through his friend, Ron Fergie. Here she discovered demography, and this became her passion as she was fascinated at being able to apply her maths skills to living people. She was invited to join the ABS in Canberra, which was an exciting step up.

In addition, Vic Pickering, her supervisor, organised for Chris and a couple of others to do a reading course with Professor Mick Borrie and to enrol in a part-time master's course. Professor Borrie then invited her to enroll as a PhD student in demography at ANU, with himself and Dr Norma MacArthur as her supervisors. Lister Hopkins at ABS also encouraged her studies. Professor Borrie remained a faithful mentor for the rest of her career.

With her husband Reg's encouragement, Chris went back to work about four months after the birth of both of her sons, as a Research Fellow in the Demography Department, Research School of Social Sciences at ANU. At first she stayed only from 1970 to 1978, because in those days it was not permitted to hold a non-tenured position in the Institute of Advanced Studies for more than eight years.

In the 1970s, Chris was a stimulating member of the team working on the data from the ANU Demography Department's Melbourne Survey. This was a landmark sociological survey of some 3,000 women and their family-building experiences. It was carried out in an era when some of the ABS staff claimed that the department should not be allowed access to an ABS sampling frame because it was indecent to ask women about their contraceptive practices.

During her absence from the Department of Demography from 1979 to 1984, she was welcomed into the Department of Sociology at ANU in a series of temporary positions under the inspiration of Professor George Zubrzycki. There she undertook some part-time lecturing, but mostly consultancies with various government departments and agencies, including Education, Immigration and the Australian Institute of Family Studies. She was also the demographer working with Professor Tony Vinson on his Inquiry into Welfare Services in the ACT.

Subsequently, the ANU changed its rules and allowed non-tenured persons who had been absent from more than three years to again hold positions in the Institute of Advanced Studies. She was allowed to return to the Department of Demography in 1985 as a Senior Research Fellow. Through two such appointments, and a period as a Visiting Fellow combined with consultancies for three years in between, she was able to stay until December 1998. These consultancies included the Commonwealth Departments of Immigration and Employment, Education and Training; the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

During her academic career her publications included around 32 journal articles, 34 chapters in demographic compilations, 10 monographs, seven Demography Department working papers, 18 invited reviews of academic books, and a few newspaper articles. She specialised in research on Australian demography, notably the mortality patterns of cohorts, the family life cycle, the female labour force, children leaving home, the demography of the ACT, population growth and projections, and the characteristics of selected ethnic groups in Australia. Her innovative work on the family life cycle earned her international acclaim and she came close to owning the topic within demography.

Chris participated in several government committees and inquiries, preparing commissioned papers, submissions and giving evidence before inquiries, including the National Population Inquiry 1973, the Royal Commission on Human Relationships 1976, the House of Representatives Standing Committee for Long Term Strategies, Patterns of Urban Settlement, 1992 and the House of Representatives Inquiry into Australia's Population Carrying Capacity 1994. Several of her PhD students had successful careers in demography, notably Peter McDonald and Alan Lopez.

She spoke at many conferences in Australia and overseas. Conference trips abroad included Helsinki, London, Wiesbaden, West Berlin, Budapest, Taormina (Sicily), and Wellington (NZ).

Chris became a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia in 1994. She was a member of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) for many years, and a long-standing member of the Australian Population Association.

She left the Demography Department at the end of 1998. At her farewell party Chris said, "Being an academic in the research school is the most wonderful way of having a career – the enormous challenge and satisfaction of research and writing. I could not have imagined anything I would have rather done."

However, she also referred to her frustration in trying to make journalists understand the mathematics of demography. With her family background in newspapers, she tried very hard to explain some of the basic mathematical findings to them, but often her work was misunderstood and misreported, or twisted to serve some political agenda.

In 2006 the Australian Population Association established the Christabel Young Research Scheme to provide grants to encourage and support academic research in demography.

Many of her colleagues felt the way in which she had been treated during her career at the ANU represented an example of academic and administrative sexism and that, had she been a man with the same record of academic achievements and acclaim by her peers she would have been appointed a professor long before her eventual departure.

In December 1992, ACT Chief Minister Rosemary Follett invited Chris to join the inaugural ACT Electoral Commission, a post which she held until she resigned in September 2010. She found this to be a very satisfying role, and a refreshing change from academia. She was especially inspired to be working with ACT Electoral Commissioner Phil Green and the successive chairmen, Graham Glenn and Roger Beale. When she resigned, Beale said, “Dr Young’s careful consideration of issues that arose has been highly regarded.”

Looking back, Chris felt she had been fortunate to have been inspired and encouraged in her career by some special people along the way. These included: her high school maths teacher, Click Shearer; Professor Renfrey Potts from the University of Adelaide Maths Department; Vic Pickering and Lister Hopkins from Canberra ABS; her husband, Dr Reginald Turton (who was her greatest supporter); Professor Mick Borrie, Dr Norma Macarthur, Dr Lado Ruzicka, Professor Jack Caldwell, Dr Lincoln Day and Professor George Zubrzycki. She felt blessed by their encouragement, guidance and belief in her.

Helen Ware

This biographical note is based on the eulogies by her sons at her memorial service and they are thanked for their permission to use this material.

Items of interest

Are berries safe to eat? How worried should I be about the pesticide dimethoate?

By: Ian Musgrave, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology, University of Adelaide.

Australia’s regulator has suspended use of a common pesticide used on blueberries, raspberries and blackberries known as dimethoate.

But this year-long suspension isn’t due to any new information about the pesticide itself. Rather, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) says it’s because we’re eating more berries so our potential exposure has increased.

Read more at theconversation.edu.au.

How do “AI detection” tools actually work? And are they effective?

By: T.J. Thomson, Senior Lecturer in Visual Communication & Digital Media, RMIT University; Aaron J. Snoswell, Senior Research Fellow in AI Accountability, Queensland University of Technology; and James Meese, Associate Professor, School of Media and Communication, RMIT University.

As nearly half of all Australians say they have recently used artificial intelligence (AI) tools, knowing when and how they’re being used is becoming more important.

Consultancy firm Deloitte recently partially refunded the Australian government after a report they published had AI-generated errors in it.

A lawyer also recently faced disciplinary action after false AI-generated citations were discovered in a formal court document. And many universities are concerned about how their students use AI.

Amid these examples, a range of “AI detection” tools have emerged to try to address people’s need for identifying accurate, trustworthy and verified content.

But how do these tools actually work? And are they effective at spotting AI-generated material?

Read more at theconversation.edu.au.

Bookshelf

Disrupting, Decentring and Diversifying Languages and Cultures in Australian Universities

Edited by: Adriana Díaz, Barbara E. Hanna, Samantha Disbray, Anna Mikhaylova and Grace Yue Qi

Series: LCNAU Studies in Languages and Cultures

Free downloads at press.anu.edu.au.

How can languages and cultures in Australian higher education be disrupted, decentred and diversified? Contributors to this volume advance theoretical, critical (self-)reflections and position papers, pedagogical explorations of classroom practice as well as data-driven empirical investigations to challenge, resist and stretch how languages and cultures are both taught and imagined in research.

From metaphorical conceptualisations of knowledge production, discussions of virtual reality, and innovation and creativity viewed through the lens of Indigenous epistemologies, to language learning curricula designed to challenge heteronormativity and cisgenderism, and a reconceptualisation of the role of language educators as designers, each chapter emphasises the vital role of innovation as the driving force of positive disruption.

What emerges here is the resilience and adaptability demanded of languages and cultures researchers and educators as they navigate an ever-shifting educational landscape. Taken as a whole, this volume serves as a testament to these scholars' collective capacity to adapt, evolve, embrace and actively drive change, fostering a more diverse, equitable and inclusive future for their field.

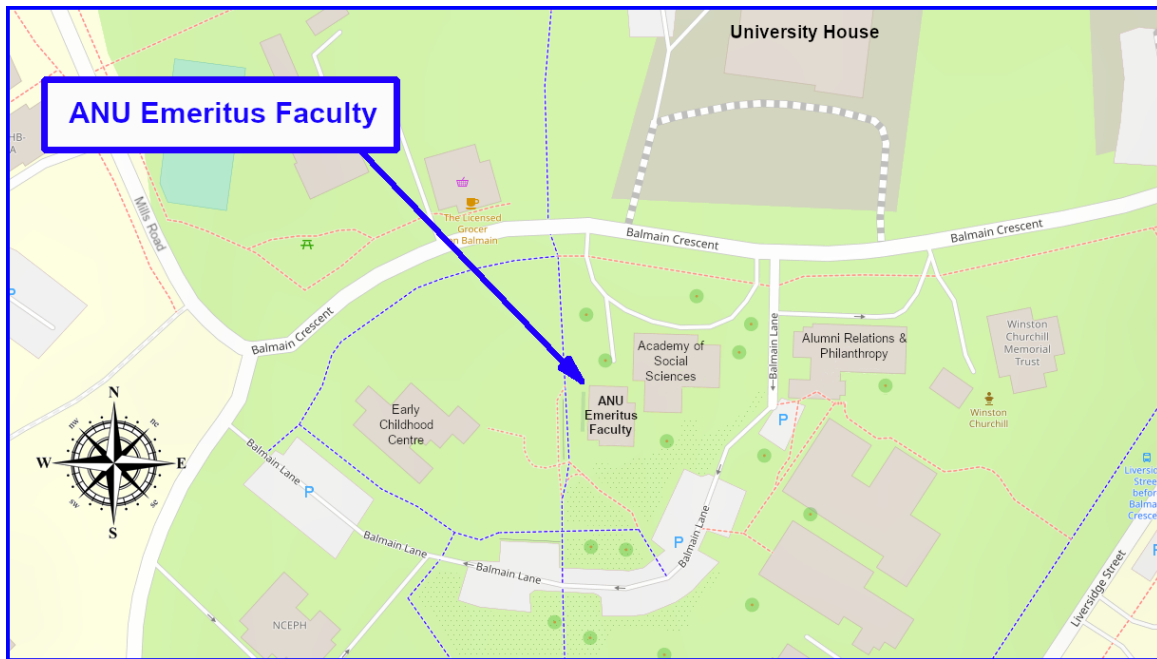
Administration

Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings

Requests to book the Molony Room should be addressed to the Secretary of the ANU Emeritus Faculty, Jan O'Connor, at jantanress@gmail.com or 6247 3341.

Finding the Molony Room

The Molony Room is at 24 Balmain Crescent, on the south side of Balmain Crescent almost opposite University House. It is Building 1c on <https://tinyurl.com/yckuknbj>, set back between 22 Balmain Crescent (the Acton Early Childhood Centre) and 26 Balmain Crescent (the Academy of the Social Sciences). 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>



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