

## Research Review January – March 2016

# Australia-Asia-Pacific Institute



ABOVE: AAPI contingent at the 'Go Between, In Between: Borders of Belonging' Conference, University of Barcelona, January 2016. From left, Thor Kerr, Suvendrini Perera, Anna Haebich, Elfie Shiosaki, Rachel Robertson, Linda Briskman (former AAPI member, now at Swinburne University) and Baden Offord. See pages 3 and 7. (Photo courtesy C. Macfarlane.)

### FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the institute's first *Research Review* for 2016. As always we report on the research and related activities of our members, highlighting their publications and the many forms of interaction in which they are involved.

The new official research environment emphasises the impact of our work beyond the academy, something that has always been a feature of AAPI activity. As this review demonstrates, we continue to engage with communities, governments and businesses at state, national and international levels.

In this issue we introduce a feature that we hope will become a regular item on the human aspects of academic research. Susan Leong writes about the trials and tribulations of HDR research and thesis writing. The gain is worth the pain! This is worth stressing as there are indications that the ever-increasing demands placed upon researchers are beginning to deter able students from taking up an academic career.

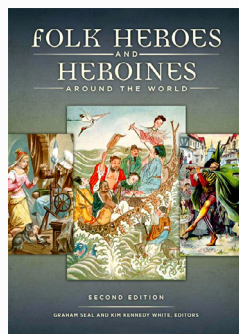
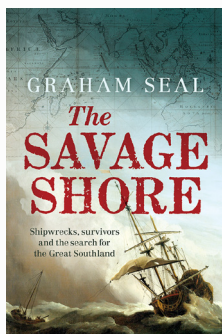
We hope you enjoy reading this review. Please feel free to pass it on through your networks. Our next edition will be in early July.

*Graham Seal*

**Director**

Australia-Asia-Pacific Institute

### PUBLICATIONS



#### Books

**Seal, Graham.** *The Savage Shore: Extraordinary stories of survival and tragedy from the early voyages of discovery to Australia.* London: Yale University Press, 2016.

**Seal, Graham and Kim Kennedy White (eds).** *Folk Heroes and Heroines around the World.* Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO/Greenwood, 2016 (2nd edition).

#### Book chapters

**Bennett, Dawn and Pamela Burnard.** "Human capital career creativities for creative industries work: Lessons underpinned by Bourdieu's tools for thinking." In *Higher Education and the Creative Economy: Beyond the campus*, edited by Roberta Comunian and Abigail Gilmore, 123–142. London: Routledge, 2016.

**Byrski, Liz.** "Speaking Like to Like: Reorientation in women's fiction on the road to liberation." In *Re-Orientations: Translingual Transcultural Transmedia. Studies in narrative, language, identity, and knowledge*, edited by John Hartley and Weiguo Qu. Fudan University Press, 2016.

**Dolin, Tim.** “Connectivity and critical reading in the late age of literature.” In *Re-Orientation: Translingual Transcultural Transmedia. Studies in narrative, language, identity, and knowledge*, edited by John Hartley and Weiguo Qu. Fudan University Press, 2016.

**Haebich, Anna.** “Bishop Salvado’s vision of Aboriginal mission work in the Victoria Plains of the colony of Western Australia.” In *Rosendo Salvado e o mundo aborixe de Australia*, edited by R. Maiz and T. Shellam, 117–140. Cultural Council of Galicia Santiago de Compostela, Spain: Mediateca, 2015.

**Leong, Susan.** “A Right and Not a Privilege: Freedom of expression and new media in Malaysia.” In *The Routledge Handbook of New Media in Asia*, edited by Larissa Hjorth and Olivia Khoo, 155–164. London: Routledge, 2016.

**Leong, Susan.** “Provisional Business Migrants to Western Australia, Social Media and Conditional Belonging.” Invited book chapter in *Media and Communication in the Chinese Diaspora: Rethinking Transnationalism*, edited by Wanning Sun and John Sinclair, 184–202. London: Routledge, 2016.

**Perera, Suvendrini** and Annette Seeman. “Impolitical Mandate.” In *Time, Temporality and Violence in International Relations: (De)fatalizing the Present, Forging Radical Alternatives*, edited by Anna M. Agathangelou and Kyle D. Killian, 119–28. New York: Routledge, 2016.

**Scott, Kim.** “The Embrace of Story.” In *Re-Orientation: Translingual Transcultural Transmedia. Studies in narrative, language, identity, and knowledge*, edited by John Hartley and Weiguo Qu. Fudan University Press, 2016.

### Journal articles

**Bennett, Dawn;** Rowley, Jennifer; Dunbar-Hall, Peter; Hitchcock, Matthew, and Diana Blom. “Electronic portfolios and learner identity: A case study in music and writing.” *Journal of Further and Higher Education*, 40, 1 (2016): 107–124, doi: 10.1080/0309877X.2014.895306.

**Bennett, Dawn;** Sunderland, Naomi; Bartleet, Brydie-Leigh, and Anne Power. “Implementing and sustaining higher education service-learning initiatives: Revisiting Young et al.’s organizational tactics.” *Journal of Experiential Education*. Published Online First, 2016, doi:10.1177/1053825916629987.

**Champion, Erik.** “Entertaining the similarities and distinctions between serious games and virtual heritage projects.” *Entertainment Computing*, 2016.

**Dolin, Tim.** “A Moabite among the Israelites: Ruth, religion, and the Victorian social novel.” *Literature and Theology: An international journal of religion, theory and culture*, 30, 1 (2016): 67–81, doi 10.1093/litthe/fru062.

**Jones, Roy;** Jones, Tod, and Michael Hughes. “Heritage designation and scale: A world heritage case study of the Ningaloo Coast.” *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 22, 3 (2016): 242–260.

**Kerr, Thor** and Shaphan Cox. “Media, machines and

might: Reproducing Western Australia’s violent state of Aboriginal protection.” *Somatechnics* 6, 1 (2016): 89–105, doi: 10.3366/soma.2016.0176.

**Leong, Susan** and Terence Lee. “Malaysia disconnecting from online freedoms.” *East Asian Forum*, 18 March 2016.

### Encyclopedia entry

**Zhang, Grace.** “Chinese xiehouyu (sayings).” In *The Routledge Encyclopedia of the Chinese Language*, edited by Chan Sin Wai, 395–407. London: Routledge, 2016.

### Other writing

**Baker, Janice.** Book review: “Exits to the Posthuman Future; The Posthuman, and Posthumanism”. In *Thesis Eleven*, 132 (February 2016): 121–125, doi:10.1177/0725513615596402.

**Hartley, Lisa** and **Caroline Fleay.** “FactCheck Q&A: Do refugees cost Australia \$100m a year in welfare, with an unemployment rate of 97%?” *The Conversation*, 15 February 2016.

**Kerr, Thor.** “Review Essay” [Andrew Perrin, *American Democracy*, 2014 and Ingrid Volkmer, *The Global Public Sphere*, 2014]. *Continuum*, 22 February 2106, doi: 10.1080/10304312.2016.1141865.

**Jones, Tod** and **Greg Grabasch.** “Four ways Western Australia can improve Aboriginal heritage management.” *The Conversation*, 22 February 2016.

**Jones, Tod.** Book review of: Thor Kerr, *To the Beach*, UWA Publishing 2015. *Australia-Asia-Pacific Institute*, 2016.

**Seal, Graham.** Review of Peter FitzSimons, *Ned Kelly*. Bantam Press, London, 2016. In *BBC History Magazine*, March 2016.

### Book reviews

**Houseman, Tom.** “Won’t you be my neighbour? Understanding resistance to neighbourhood densification.” Review of Shohreh Nematollahi, **Reena Tiwari**, and David Hedgecock. “Desirable Dense Neighborhoods: An environmental psychological approach for understanding community resistance to densification” (*Urban Policy and Research* 2015). In *Chicago Policy Review*, 15 February 2016.

### Book launch

*Purple Prose: An anthology of women’s writing* (Fremantle Press, 2015) edited by **Liz Byrski** and **Rachel Robertson** was officially launched at the *Perth Writer’s Festival* on Saturday 25 February 2016.

*Purple Prose* introduces fifteen new works of non-fiction by Australian women writers, each responding to the colour purple. In their hands, purple takes on many meanings. From a story about King George’s coronation gown to pigeon fanciers and the Dockers’ Purple Haze. This anthology features new works by Amanda Curtin, Lily Chan, Hanifa Deen, Sarah Drummond, Lucy Dougan, Tracy Farr, Deborah Hunn, Natasha Lester, Toni Jordan, Anne Manne, Rosemary Stevens, Annamaria Weldon and Jacqueline Wright. Read the *Westerly* + *The West Australian* book reviews.



## PRESENTING RESEARCH AND CREATIVE WORK

### Conferences, keynote presentations, seminars, workshops and public talks

**Ali Mozaffari**, 'Reclaiming Islamic heritage through the image of traditional habitat.' Paper presented at the [Liberal Arts International Conference \(LAIC\) 2016](#), Texas A&M, University of Qatar, Doha, 31 January–3 February 2016.

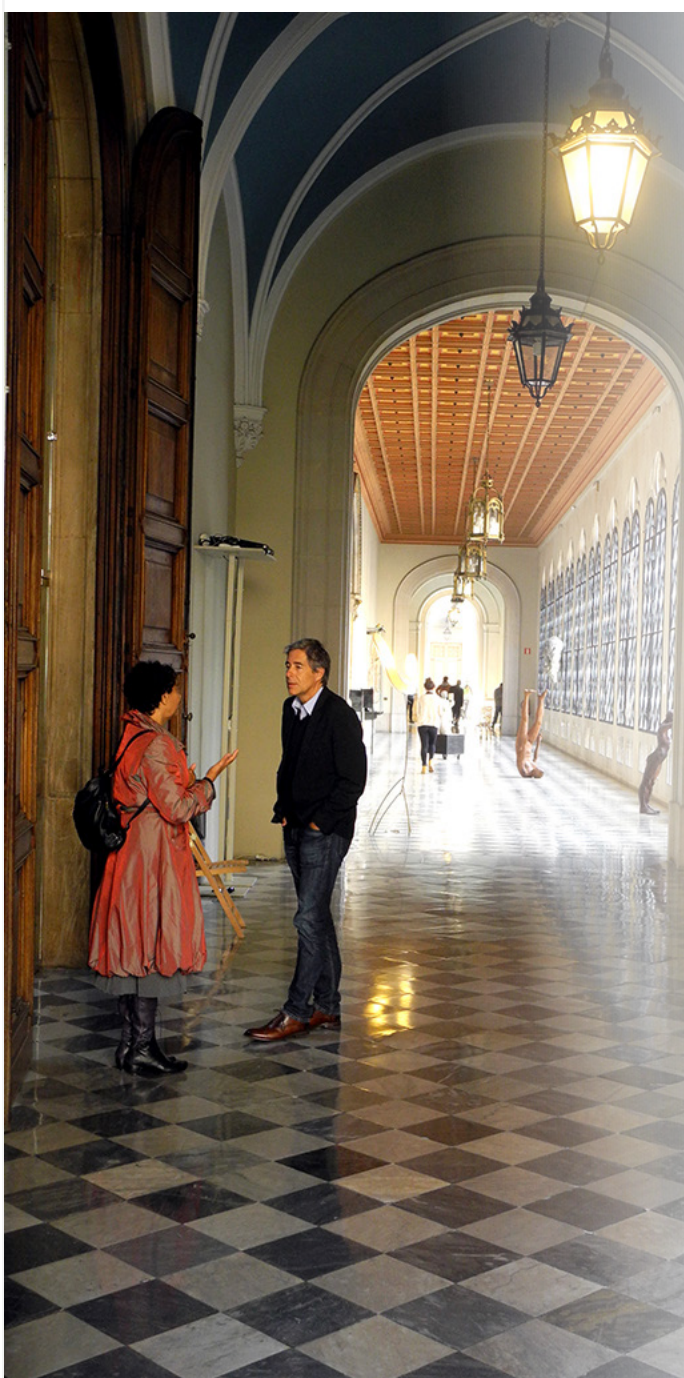
**Anna Haebich**, 'A Interpretación Musical Na Misión De Nova Nursia Ata 1900'. Paper presented at the launch of *Rosendo Salvado e o mundo aborixe de Australia*, Cultural Council of Galicia, Spain, 28 January 2016.

**Anna Haebich**, 'Gifts of Noongar theatre performance'. Keynote address, [Go Between, In Between: Borders of Belonging Conference](#), University of Barcelona, Spain, 18–22 January 2016.

**Anna Haebich**, 'Dancing out of the shadows: Performing Indigenous belonging.' Presentation within the Cultural Struggle of Australia: Negotiating Belonging (I) Panel, [Go Between, In Between: Borders of Belonging Conference](#), University of Barcelona, Spain, 18–22 January 2016.

**Baden Offord**, Chair, The Sixteenth Doireann McDermott Lecture: 'Gifts of Noongar theatre performance' presented by Anna Haebich at the [Go Between, In Between: Borders of Belonging Conference](#), The University of Barcelona, Spain, 18 January 2016.

**Baden Offord**, Chair, Curtin University Featured Plenary panel II, 'Cultural Struggle of Australia: Negotiating Belonging'. [Go Between, In Between: Borders of Belonging Conference](#), The University of Barcelona, Spain, 21 January 2016.



**Baden Offord**, 'Of cul-de-sac champions, civilization, hidden curriculum and Aussie Rules'. Presentation within the Cultural Struggle of Australia: Negotiating Belonging (II) Panel, [Go Between, In Between: Borders of Belonging Conference](#), University of Barcelona, Spain, 21 January 2016.

**Baden Offord**, Plenary Speaker, 'Closing Panel'. [Go Between, In Between: Borders of Belonging Conference](#), The University of Barcelona, Spain, 22 January 2016.

**Baden Offord**, Chair, 'Reimagining Australia', a keynote presentation by Graeme Innes, Chair of the [Attitude Foundation](#) and former Australian Disability Discrimination Commissioner. Held at Curtin University, 29 February 2016.

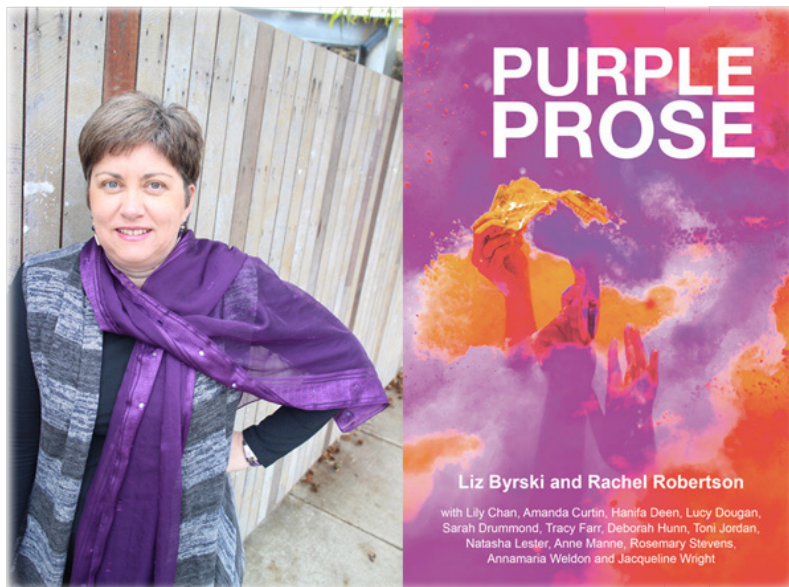
**Dawn Bennett** with Cat Hope and David Hawkins, 'Creatives and the small end of town'. Panel presentation, Humanities Industry Research Forum, Curtin University, 18 March 2016.

**Dennis Rumley**, 'One Belt, One Road: Some implications for Australian national development'. Paper presented at Building the "Belt and Road": Connection, Innovation and Sustainable Development International Think Tank Association Forum'. Hosted by the China Center for Contemporary World Studies, Shenzhen Municipal Government and Fudan University and organised by the Development Research Center of Shenzhen Municipal Government. Held at the Shenzhen Wuzhou Guest House Shenzhen, China, 22–23 February 2016.

**Liz Byrski**, 'Shared Narratives'. Panel discussion together with Melinda Tognini, Rosemary Sayer and Alice Nelson (chaired by Bruce Russell) on stories told in the oral tradition. Perth Writers Festival, Saturday 20 February 2016.

**Nonja Peters**, 'The Dutch in Western Australia: Maritime, Military, Migrant and Mercantile connections from 1616–2016'. Presentation at the Vincent Library, Leederville, 24 February 2016.

LEFT: Suvendrini Perera with Baden Offord, Barcelona (photo courtesy of Christopher Macfarlane).



**ABOVE:** *Purple Prose* co-editor, Rachel Robertson (photo courtesy of Claire Miller, Fremantle Press).

**Elfie Shiosaki**, 'Reclaiming the voices of our ancestors: The legacy of Noongar cultural struggle in the Western Australian archive'. Presentation within the Cultural Struggle of Australia: Negotiating Belonging (II) Panel, *Go Between, In Between: Borders of Belonging Conference*, University of Barcelona, Spain, 18–22 January 2016.

**Erik Champion**, co-ordinator, 'The Situation Engine: Hyper-immersive digital technologies for student learning'. Presentation by Sidney Newton and Russell Lowe (UNSW), the HIVE, Curtin University, 22 February 2016.

**Erik Champion** with Lise Summers and Paul Nicholls, 'Recognising and developing industry partnerships with galleries, museums, and libraries'. Panel presentation, Humanities Industry Research Forum, Curtin University, 18 March 2016.

**Graham Seal**, convenor, 'Folklore and Family History' Workshop. *Cygnets Folk Festival*, Tasmania, 9 January 2016.

**Graham Seal**, convenor, 11th National Folklore Conference, National Library of Australia, Canberra, 24 March 2016.

**Janice Baker**, 'Pilbara Dirt: Rock ontology and the rhetoric of big mining in Western Australia'. Precarium presentation, Critical & Cultural Studies Stream, Faculty of Humanities, Curtin University, 17 February 2016.

Kay Hartwig, Georgina Barton, **Dawn Bennett**, Sonia Ferns, Liz Jones, and Anna Podorova. 'The international student experience: challenges and opportunities of work placements.' Presentation at the *Asia-Pacific Association for International Education 2016 Conference*, Melbourne, 29 February–3 March 2016.

**Kim Scott**, performer reading, *Home: Our Place. Our Songs. Our Stories*. Perth Festival opening event, 13 February 2016.

**Liz Byrski**, 'In Love and War'. Book reading and discussion, with *The West Australian's* William Yeoman on Byrski's 2015 publication, *In Love and War: Nursing Heroes*, accompanied by music from the World War II era. Perth Writers Festival, Friday 19 February 2016.

**Rachel Robertson** with Deborah Hunn, 'International Women's Day Reading and Talk' featuring *Purple Prose: An anthology of women's writing*, Fremantle Library, 8 March 2016.

**Rachel Robertson**, 'Baby Gammy: Disability, bodies and borders'. Presentation within the Cultural Struggle of Australia: Negotiating Belonging (II) Panel, *Go Between, In Between: Borders of Belonging Conference*, University of Barcelona, Spain, 18–22 January 2016.

**Rachel Robertson**, chair, 'This suburban life.' Forum with Tony Birch, Steven Carroll and Martin McKenzie-Murray, Perth Writers Festival, Friday 19 February 2016.

**Rachel Robertson**, chair, 'In the storyteller's hands'. Forum with Laura Barnett, Debra Adelaide and Iain Pears at the Perth Writers Festival, Sunday 21 February 2016.

**Suvendrini Perera**, 'Now little ship, look out!'. Presentation within the Cultural Struggle of Australia: Negotiating Belonging (I) Panel, *Go Between, In Between: Borders of Belonging Conference*, University of Barcelona, Spain, 18–22 January 2016.

**Thor Kerr** (with Shaphan Cox), 'Border security in settler publics: Confinement of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples'. Paper presented by Thor Kerr within the Cultural Struggle of Australia: Negotiating Belonging (II) Panel, *Go Between, In Between: Borders of Belonging Conference*, University of Barcelona, Spain, 18–22 January 2016.

**Thor Kerr** (with Hyeonseo Lee, Masha Gessen and Janet DeNeefe), 'Silenced'. Discussion on censorship chaired by Krishna Sen, Perth Writers Festival, Sunday 21 February 2016.

## RESEARCH MATTERS

### Recent grant successes

**Anna Haebich** and **Elfie Shiosaki** (with Michelle Johnson, Sue Anderson and Lorina Barker), \$7,895 Curtin University Operational Research Support (ORS) funding for the 2016 project: *Our stories, our way: Collaborative methodology for Indigenous oral history*.

**Caroline Fleay** and **Lisa Hartley**, \$47,514.69 Australian Red Cross funding towards the 2016–2018 project: 'Australian Red Cross 'In Search of Safety' (ISOS) community education program evaluation.

**Erik Champion**, \$2,500 AAPI funding towards participation in the 11th East-West Philosophers' Conference (University of Hawaii, May 2016) and towards editing of the forthcoming Routledge publication, *Phenomenology, Place and Virtual Place*.

**Grace Zhang**, \$2,500 AAPI funding and \$2,535.78 School of Education RATLD scheme support for the development of an ARC grant application.



**Tod Jones**, \$13,200 funding from the Cooperative Research Centre for Remote Economic Participation for an evaluation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Economies Project.

**Tod Jones**, \$2,360 AAPI Special Project Seed Funding towards the research project: The impact of Urban Indigeneity: a comparative analysis of Perth, Beersheba and Pokhara.

### New AAPI research projects

**Anna Haebich** and **Elfie Shiosaki** (with Michelle Johnson, Sue Anderson and Lorina Barker): [Our stories, our way: Collaborative methodology for Indigenous oral history](#).

**Caroline Fleay** and **Lisa Hartley**: [Australian Red Cross 'In Search of Safety' \(ISOS\) community education program evaluation](#).

**Graham Seal** (with Rob and Olya Willis, National Library of Australia): [Western Australian folklife project](#).

**Liz Byrski**, **Rachel Robertson**, **Anna Haebich** and **Dawn Bennett** (with Prof. LUO Yirong and Prof. LIU Jing, Ocean University of China; Prof. Imelda Whelehan, University of Tasmania; Assoc. Prof. ZHANG Nan, Fudan University, China; Assoc. Prof. ZHOU Xiaojin, Shanghai University of International Business and Economics; Dr Bonita Mason and Dr GONG Qian, Curtin University): Representations of ageing women in Chinese and Australian writing.

**Rachel Robertson** (with with Dr Kylie Cardell, Flinders University): [Special Issue of TEXT journal – The Essay](#).

**Reena Tiwari**: [Wanted Rhythmanalysts](#).

### Precaria net

Focusing on fresh research directions around the provocation of 'precariousness', this initiative is part of the Critical and Cultural Studies Stream (led by **Suvendrini Perera**) of the Australia-Asia-Pacific Institute (AAPI) at Curtin University.

Funded by AAPI, other members include **Anna Haebich**, **Baden Offord**, **Caroline Fleay**, **Christina Lee**, **Janice Baker**, **Lisa Hartley**, **Rachel Robertson**, **Susan Leong**, **Thor Kerr**, and **Yorgia Woldeyes**.

The eleven members are located in a range of disciplines in the Humanities ranging from Cultural Studies and Human Rights to Media Studies and Creative Writing. The group holds [Monthly Reflections](#) every third Wednesday and is working towards a research event in late 2016.

The [Precaria.net website](#) features a number of resources 'for the art of living precariously', including 'Writing for research' and 'Writing in a second language'.

Further enquiries: [susan.leong@curtin.edu.au](mailto:susan.leong@curtin.edu.au)

### Launch of the Curtin Critical Disability Studies Network

The Curtin Critical Disability Studies Network was launched with a keynote presentation on 'Reimagining Australia' by Graeme Innes, AM, LLB, FAICD, Chair of the Attitude Foundation and former Australian Disability Discrimination Commissioner, on 29 February at Curtin University.

The Network – with AAPI members **Baden Offord** and **Rachel Robertson** among the steering committee – aims to develop relationships and support for researchers in the critical disability studies field both within and outside Curtin University. It has particular strengths in critical and literary disability studies, disability and human rights, and the emerging areas of disability media studies and disability and popular culture. Enquiries to the Convenor, [Katie Ellis](#).

### Call for papers: International Association of Australian Studies (InASA) Conference

Hosted by: The Centre for Human Rights Education; the Australia-Asia-Pacific Institute, and the School of Media, Culture and Creative Arts at Curtin University.

This year's InASA 2016 conference – 'Re-imagining Australia: Encounter, Recognition, Responsibility' – will offer the opportunity of addressing the intensification of overlapping, interpenetrating and mixing of cultures and peoples in everyday life in Australia, and how public culture and experience are increasingly re-imagined through intense conversations and inter-epistemic dialogue. Within this conversation there is a compelling need to acknowledge the divisive and violent effects of securitisation, xenophobia, racism, Islamophobia, misogyny, ablism, homophobia among other things.

Opportunity: conference travel bursary for HDR candidates

InASA is offering a conference travel Bursary to HDR candidates to assist attendance at the 2016 conference. These bursaries are up to \$700 per applicant and provide financial assistance to cover travel and accommodation to attend the conference. [Further details](#).

### PROFESSIONAL & EDITORIAL APPOINTMENTS

#### Dawn Bennett

Editorial Board member, *Heroism Science: Promoting the transdisciplinary study of heroism in the 21st century* (USA).

Editorial Board member, *Journal of the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition*.

Reference Group member, Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching: Creating an effective, accessible and sustainable digital repository.

Steering Committee member, [Office for Learning and Teaching 2016 national conference](#).

#### Dennis Rumley

Member, [The Silk Road Think Tank Association \(SRTA\)](#), China.

#### Graham Seal

International Advisory Board member of *Folklore*, journal of [The Folklore Society](#) (UK).

Editorial Board member, *Heroism Science: Promoting the transdisciplinary study of heroism in the 21st century* (USA).

## Timothy Doyle

Emeritus Professor, [Philosophy, International Relations & Environment](#), Keele University, UK.

## AAPI APPOINTMENTS



### New Management Committee member: Susan Leong

Dr Susan Leong, from Curtin's School of Media, Culture and Creative Arts, has joined the AAPI Management Committee as its ECR representative.

Susan's research focuses on Asian (New) Media and Migration/Diaspora studies and her publications include *New Media and the Nation in Malaysia* (Routledge, 2013); "A Right and not a Privilege: Freedom of Expression and New Media in Malaysia" (*The Routledge Handbook of New Media in Asia*, 2016), and "Provisional Business Migrants to Western Australia, Social Media and Conditional Belonging" (*Media and Communication in the Chinese Diaspora: Rethinking Transnationalism*, 2016).

More detail on the [AAPI Research projects page](#) and on Susan's [Academia Out West](#) website.

### New AAPI member: Erik Champion

Joining AAPI this year is Erik Champion, Professor of Cultural Visualization at Curtin University. An international scholar, known for cutting-edge research, Erik writes on the construction of virtual environments, the use of computer gaming in learning,

game-style interaction and design, interactive narratives, and architectural visualization in the context of past cultural contexts of heritage, history, and archaeology.



Prior to joining Curtin in 2013, Erik was a project leader of [Digital Humanities Lab Denmark](#), a consortium of four Danish Universities, with a 5-year 30 million DKK national infrastructure project. Here he worked with EU research infrastructures and projects acting as the 'Research and Public Engagement' leader for [DARIAH.eu](#).

Erik's recent publications include: *Critical Gaming: Interactive History And Virtual Heritage* (London: Routledge, 2015) and "Entertaining the similarities and distinctions between serious games and virtual heritage projects" (*Entertainment Computing*, 2016).

View [Erik's BLOG](#) for further information.

### New AAPI associate member: Liz Byrski

Well known novelist, Liz Byrski is the Director of Curtin's [China Australia Writing Centre](#) and a member of the University's [The Writing Network](#).

Liz is an author, non-fiction writer, former journalist, and ABC Radio broadcaster and executive producer with more than fifty years experience in the British and Australian media.

She is the author of eight novels, including *Gang of Four* and *Bad Behaviour*, and a dozen non-fiction books including the memoir, *Remember Me*; *Getting On: Some Thoughts on Women and Ageing*; *In Love and War: Nursing Heroes*, and most recently, her co-edited anthology with Rachel Robertson, *Purple Prose: An anthology of women's writing* (Fremantle Press, 2015).

Liz has published articles on ageing, feminism and women's writing in academic journals and books, and personal essays in anthologies. Her books have been published in the UK, France and Germany and her articles and essays have appeared in national and international publications. She has won several awards for her work as a print journalist, broadcaster and writer, has worked as an advisor to a minister in the Western Australian Government, and is a former President of the WA Women's Advisory Council to the Premier.



View [Liz's BLOG](#) for further information.



## PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT



### AAPI member to contest Federal Election

AAPI member **Dr Thor Kerr** was preselected in March 2016 by the [Western Australian Greens](#) for the seat of [Tangney](#) in the upcoming Federal election.

The media and cultural studies researcher is known for his work on the environmental politics of urban planning as well as the criminalisation of Aboriginal activists in Perth. Recent publications include: *To the Beach: Community conservation and its role in sustainable development* (UWA Publishing, 2015) and “Media, machines and might: Reproducing Western Australia’s violent state of Aboriginal protection” (*Somatechnics*, 2016).

Thor said he is “excited to have been preselected for the seat” and is “looking forward to engaging the diverse electorate in a critical discussion of public policy”.

Thor served on AAPI’s Management Board in 2015 and represented the Institute at the Annual Meeting of the Australasian Consortium of Humanities Research Centres held in Auckland last November.

The preselection was announced on 9 March with Greens Senator Rachel Siewert saying, “Thor would bring to the Federal Parliament a depth of understanding on a range of important issues”.

More information on [Twitter](#), on [Facebook](#), on [Thor Kerr’s \(Subject + Object\) website](#) and in a [feature article](#) in the *Canning Times*.

### China Australia Writing Centre (CAWC) hosts Visiting Fellows from three Chinese Universities

The first research project of the [China Australia Writing Centre \(CAWC\)](#) was launched in March with a visit from Chinese colleagues from Fudan University, Ocean University of China and the Shanghai University of International Business and Economics. Professor Imelda Whelehan from the University of Tasmania led the discussions with **Dr Liz Byrski** (Director of CAWC). The project, entitled ‘Representations of Ageing Women in Chinese and Australian Writing’, will examine contemporary representations in all forms of writing, comparing and contrasting these with lived reality both observed and experienced. Delegates were enthusiastic about the planned collection which will combine scholarly research on the subject with original creative work. There are also plans for journal editions, and a major grant application.

### AAPI contingent at international conference in Spain

AAPI members, **Baden Offord, Anna Haebich, Suvendrini Perera, Thor Kerr, Rachel Robertson** and **Elfie Shiosaki** represented Curtin University in two Plenary Panels on the topic of Cultural Struggle in Australia at the ‘[In Between, Go Between: Borders of Belonging](#)’ International Conference held in Barcelona from 17–22 January 2016.

The interdisciplinary and intercultural emphasis of the conference, which was co-convened by Baden Offord, brought scholars, writers, artists, cultural theorists, historians and thinkers from across the world into dialogue and conversation. [View more information](#).

**IMAGE RIGHT:** University of Barcelona entrance (courtesy of Christopher Macfarlane).



### AAPI researcher partaking in bilateral consultations in Japan

**Alexey Muraviev**, Head of the Department of Social Sciences and Security Studies was one of three Australian academics selected by the [Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs \(MOFA\)](#) to participate in high level bilateral consultations in mid-March. The consultations were part of the ongoing strategic dialogue between Australia and Japan and aimed at fostering closer relations between the two nations. Alexey’s itinerary included meetings with senior staff of MOFA and the [Defense Ministry](#), visits to headquarters of major defense corporations, a visit to Hiroshima and meetings with nuclear bombing survivors.

## The Mosaic Project: creative practice in four different places

**Rachel Robertson** undertook on-site research for [The Mosaic Project](#) — a collaboration between an essayist (Robertson) and a poet (Professor Paul Hetherington, University of Canberra). The project involves on-site creative practice in four different places, exploring the lyric essay as a literary genre by theorising it as mosaic-like in terms of its form and patterning. This phase of the research was undertaken in Rome, Venice and Barcelona from 8–23 January 2016.

## International jury member: effective use of public space in Iran

**Ali Mozaafari** was invited by the Tabriz Urban Railway Organisation to be a [Jury Member](#) for their competition for the [interior and entrance design of STATION NO 7](#) at Tabriz University in Iran. This is the first in a series of three international competitions aimed at improving the spatial quality of stations throughout the Tabriz metro network through a focus on heritage, creative thinking, design strategies, responsible use of – and connections between – public space, including a consideration of the needs and conditions of disabled and older citizens. Ali has also received an invitation to be a Jury Member on their second competition in mid-June.

## Hosting writer in residence at Curtin University

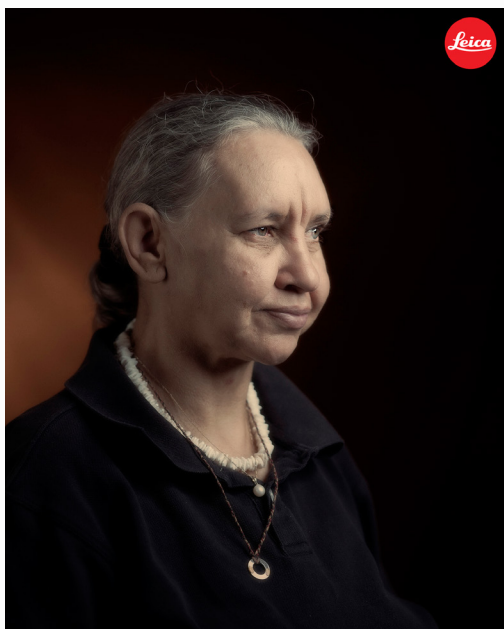
**Rachel Robertson** hosted a visit by [Dr Wayne Price](#) from University of Aberdeen as part of the [Aberdeen Alliance creative arts strand](#). Dr Price was writer in residence at Curtin from 29 February until 18 March 2016 and gave a MCCA Research Seminar, a Masterclass for HDRs, spoke to writing undergraduate students and participated in discussions with academics from Curtin and from three Chinese universities and University of Tasmania. A joint PhD and Masters by coursework program will be developed between Aberdeen and Curtin in the creative writing areas.

## MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS & COVERAGE

**Caroline Fleay** was interviewed by Ann Arnold for [‘Fazel Chegeni’s Australia: Why did a refugee spend his last days in detention?’](#), *Background Briefing*, ABC Radio National, 28 January 2016.

**Dennis Rumley** was interviewed on various Australia-China matters for local Shenzhen television when in China for the ‘Building the Belt and Road: Connection, Innovation and Sustainable Development’ Conference held at the Shenzhen Wuzhou Guest House, 22–24 February 2016. Dennis was also featured in ‘City strengthens ties with belt and road countries’, *Shenzhen Daily*, 24 February 2016.

**Kim Scott** was featured in Matthew Westwood, ‘Festive welcome to west country’, *The Australian*, 16 February 2016. Kim was one of 500 performers brought together for the Perth Festival opening event on 13 February 2016.



**Nonja Peters’** research with Geert Snoeijer was featured in ‘De Weeskinderen van de VOC’ [‘Orphans of the VOC’] in a series of newspapers, a.o., *Leidsch Dagblad* (Netherlands), Saturday 26 March 2016. The feature article focuses on the forthcoming ‘Orphans of the Dutch East India Company photographic and oral history exhibition’ conceptualised by Dutch photographer Geert Snoeijer (C1) together with Nonja, Dr Aone van Engelenhoven (Indonesia, University of Leiden) and Dr Bart de Graaff (independent lecturer, South Africa).

The photo at left, to be included in the exhibition, is of Bethany Mallard: Aboriginal oral tradition supports the claim that Mallards like Bethany make about their Dutch heritage. Bethany’s grandfather, who was photographed with the figurine from the bulkhead of the *Zuiddorp* is among those who passed on the story to his grandchildren. Many stories also abound about Aboriginal children on Murchison and Tamala Stations used to play with coins found at the *Zuiddorp* shipwreck site (photo courtesy [Geert Snoeijer](#) ©).

**Reena Tiwari** was interviewed for her research on rhythmanalysis for Radio Fabrik’s monthly radio essay program in Salzburg, Austria, ‘[Geographical Imaginations: Brief Expeditions into the Geographies of Everything and Nothing](#)’. The program self-identifies as a ‘public’ geography project for two reasons: a) to collaborate with local and regional groups/projects to bring to light existing geographies and b) to engage with academic/professional geographers to bring their work to a wider audience. Past guests on Season One Episodes have included Doreen Massey, Veronica della Dora and Christopher Gaffney. Aired on 24 January 2016 as [Episode 15 WANTED: Rhythmanalysis](#), the initial part of Reena’s hour-long interview is an introduction to the concept of rhythms and the latter part is applying the concept to real projects.

**Thor Kerr**, ‘Green says he can do better for Tangney’, *Canning Times*, 15 March 2016, p. 3.

**Thor Kerr**, ‘Kerr throws down challenge to Jensen’, *Melville Times*, 15 March 2016, p. 12.



## TIPS FOR POSTGRADS AND HDRS

### What they DON'T tell you before you embark on a PhD!

Dr Susan Leong, MCCA, Curtin University

Well, if you thought that working on a PhD was about spending three years (or more? Yay!) reading and writing about your pet topic, you're wrong. The first thing they don't tell you is that editing will be much more important than writing. Yes, you will spend hours writing but even more hours proofreading, checking the facts and testing the strength of every claim you make—never mind that you know this, how do you know this?

This has the effect of making some labour over a paragraph a day perfecting and polishing while others dash off 1,000 words in the same time, certain 'it'll be edited anyway'. Either way, editing is going to be hard, on you and your supervisors but mostly, on your 'magnum opus'. To survive you must learn how to kill your precious darlings, detach your creative pride from your brainchild and cast a beady eye over every last detail. It's painful work but necessary and once done will vastly improve the final thesis.

What else do they not tell you? That working on a PhD is a solitary intellectual business where you'll be besieged with questions and swimming in a sea of unknowing. The task will seem enormous but its contours will reveal itself eventually if you keep reading, thinking, writing and, this last is important, talking about the ideas and issues you're trying to work out. Your supervisors are more like lifeguards at the beach than a lifesaver. They will point out how, when, and why, what you shouldn't do certain things but you're the one that has to tread water or swim to keep afloat.

Apart from your supervisors, find people you care to have meaningful conversations with about whatever you're wrangling with. It need not be the same few every time and frankly, it is probably healthier to talk to different people about different ideas on different occasions. The important thing is to actively search for that willing listener who will have a dialogue with you. Talking about your thesis is like teaching, it forces you to articulate your thoughts so someone else can understand it. Once they're clarified writing comes easier. Keep them to yourself and even the smallest snags can seem insurmountable.

Just remember to listen carefully when others speak because if you hear the same advice about limiting the scope of your thesis topic 9 times out of 10 when you describe your thesis to others, it's probably something you should seriously consider. When you write a thesis, you're picking up the skills that will help you embark on the infinite adventure of satisfying your intellectual curiosity but your thesis is a finite project. Make sure you separate the two and not let the first turn the second into a never-ending chase.

You should also expect few of your friends and family to fully grasp what you're doing in the next 3 years or so. Even fewer will get why you want to spend your time on theory. Be prepared to spend every family gathering explaining why you are still studying and what you are trying to achieve. It's fine not being understood by everyone.

And then there is the issue of money. Unless you have independent means or a trust fund you should know working on a PhD will leave your finances in a dire state. It's an all-absorbing solo exercise that tends to crowd out the work you would normally do for a living. A scholarship helps but if you haven't realised it yet, they are increasingly rare. I started my PhD in 2004 on a part-time basis because I missed out on a scholarship the first time round. It was only after being awarded the scholarship that I was able to work full-time on my thesis. Even then, I had to continue teaching to make my mortgage payments.

What many postgraduates do end up doing is enter into the world of sessional teaching. That means casual teaching, if you're lucky, in areas related to your research. As casual work goes, the hourly rate is attractive and you will, in fact, be serving an apprenticeship in tertiary teaching. It's necessary experience if you want to land a position as an academic post-PhD and as I mentioned earlier, useful for externalising what you know in clear, simple language.

What they don't tell you is how easy it is to fall into that abyss of casual teaching work and never come back out for air. Teaching is a giddy, gratifying performance that can be very seductive. When you're teaching, you're in charge, when you're writing your thesis, it can feel like you're free falling. Easy to see which option appeals more. To complete that PhD though, manage what teaching you take on but always place your main objective – working on your thesis – front and centre.

If you remain undeterred and stoic about what lies ahead, here's a final thing you should know about embarking on a PhD: you won't come out at the other end of this process the same person. Change is inevitable but then maybe that is why you started a PhD in the first place.

Speaking as someone who was a mature-aged candidate, every part of the process of working on my PhD is looked back on with fondness, even those days when I felt like I was swimming against a tide of theory mud. Not only have I learnt how to think, read and write critically, I also learnt how to question and these are the attributes that have taken me from an adjunct postdoc and a tenured position in teaching to my current Curtin research fellowship.

It's been seven years since I completed my PhD and I still don't know what the future will bring but I am confident, to paraphrase Socrates, that so long as I get to ask the questions life will be worth living. I still find it hard some days, especially when viewing television (I am a media scholar, ahem!), to switch off the critical voice that says, "oh, what tosh!" but I wouldn't trade the knowing for not knowing.

See more information on Susan's [Academia Out West](#) website.

**2016**  
**AAPI RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES**

**Seminar 1**

**Title:** Emerging architecture: Re-inventing the village in the sky?  
**Speaker:** Dr. Joo Hwa (Philip) Bay, School of Built Environment (SOBE), Curtin University  
**Date:** 12.30–1.30pm, Monday 7 March  
**Venue:** Health Sciences Boardroom (400:405) Curtin University

**Seminar 2**

**Title:** Western Australia's disappearing 'shackie' settlements: A heritage or a memory?  
**Speaker:** Emeritus Professor Roy Jones, Faculty of Humanities, Curtin University  
**Date:** 12.30–1.30pm, Monday 4 April  
**Venue:** Health Sciences Boardroom (400:405) Curtin University

**Seminar 3**

**Title:** Lina Bo Bardi - Landscape Architect  
**Speaker:** Dr Annette Condello, School of Built Environment (SOBE), Curtin University  
**Date:** 12.30–1.30pm, Monday 2 May  
**Venue:** Health Sciences Boardroom (400:405) Curtin University

**Seminar 4**

**Title:** Kalla yarnimg at Matagarup: Televised legitimization and the limits of heritage from below  
**Speakers:** Dr Thor Kerr, School of Media, Culture and Creative Arts, and Dr Shaphan Cox, Department of Planning and Geography, SOBE, Curtin University  
**Date:** 12.30–1.30pm, Monday 6 June  
**Venue:** Health Sciences Boardroom (400:405) Curtin University

**Seminar 5**

**Title:** Native colonisation: Education and the economy of violence against tradition in Ethiopia  
**Speaker:** Dr Yirga Woldeyes, Centre for Human Rights Education, Curtin University  
**Date:** 12.30–1.30pm, Monday 1 August  
**Venue:** Health Sciences Boardroom (400:405) Curtin University

**Seminar 6**

**Title:** Fading lights: Australian POWs and BCOF troops on Japan, 1945-52  
**Speaker:** Dr Stuart Bender, Department of Screen Arts, MCCA, Curtin University  
**Date:** 12.30–1.30pm, Monday 5 September  
**Venue:** Health Sciences Boardroom (400:405) Curtin University

**Seminar 7**

**Title:** Living with relics: The rise of Majapahit heritage and community conflict in Trowulan, East Java  
**Speaker:** Dr Tod Jones, Department of Planning and Geography, Curtin University  
**Date:** 12.30–1.30pm, Monday 3 October  
**Venue:** Health Sciences Boardroom (400:405) Curtin University

**Seminar 8**

**Title:** The rise and return of the Indo-Pacific: Oceans, seas and civilisational linkages  
**Speaker:** Professor Timothy Doyle, Distinguished Research Fellow, Australia-Asia-Pacific Institute (AAPI), Curtin University, and Professor of Politics and International Studies, University of Adelaide  
**Date:** 12.30–1.30pm, Monday 7 November  
**Venue:** Health Sciences Boardroom (400:405) Curtin University