

Anthropology, School of Political and Social Inquiry

Annual Report for 2007

Academic staff

Monash Anthropology attracted additional externally-funded and University-funded Research Fellows in 2007. The continuing academic staff of 2.8 full-time equivalent (FTE) rose to 7.7 FTE for the year through the recruitment of these Postdoctoral and Research Fellows.

Academic staff consisted of core teaching and research staff Dr Penny Graham (0.8), Dr John Bradley (0.5), Dr Brett Hough (0.5), and Dr Matt Tomlinson (1.0); Monash-funded Senior Research Fellow Dr Thomas Reuter (1.0); ARC Postdoctoral Fellows, Dr Trudy Jacobsen (0.5), Dr Julian Millie (1.0), and Dr Jemma Purdey (0.5); Faculty of Arts Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Ceridwen Spark (0.4); School of Political and Social Inquiry Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Sara Niner (0.5); and two six-month full-time DEST Endeavour Award Postdoctoral Fellows, Dr Bianca Smith and Dr Dewi Jayanti.

Dr Julian Lee, sessional tutor in Anthropology in semester 1/2007, was selected for a new continuing Lectureship in International Studies at Monash University Malaysia. He took up the appointment in July 2007.

Research funds

In 2007, Monash Anthropology attracted \$376,245 in external research funds. These include national and international competitive grants as well as a successful tender for a research consultancy.

National and international competitive grants

Australian Research Council Discovery Project success continued, with two new grants awarded in 2007.

Dr Matt Tomlinson was awarded \$142,834 for his project, *God, Blood, Country: an Ethnographic Study of Christian Institutions and Political Processes in Fiji*.

Dr Thomas Reuter (with Gregory Acciaioli of the University of Western Australia) was awarded \$260,000 for the project, *Revitalisation Movements in Contemporary Indonesia: Nativist Re-workings of Custom and Religion in Reaction to Decentralisation, Islamisation and Globalisation*. Of this funding, \$193,661 comes to Monash, supporting 50% of Dr Reuter's salary as a Senior Research Fellow for a three-year period.

Anthropology now hosts five Discovery Projects, with ARC Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships awarded to Dr Trudy Jacobsen in 2005 and to both Dr Julian Millie and Dr Jemma Purdey in 2006.

Dr Trudy Jacobsen was awarded \$240,000 for her ARC APD project *Sexual contracts in Burma and Cambodia: Intersections of Desire, Duty and Debt*. She joined Monash

from March 2006 and took leave to lecture at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, from 13 November 2007 to 11 May 2008.

Dr Julian Millie was awarded \$253,090 for his ARC APD project Preaching Islam in Indonesia: Politics, Performers and Publics. He joined School PSI from 7 April 2007. He then completed the major period of ethnographic field research for this project in West Java.

Dr Jemma Purdey was awarded \$238,826 for her ARC APD project, Scholarship on Indonesia in Australia and its implications for foreign policy, jointly in School PSI and the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, Monash Asia Institute from 31 July 2007.

Dr John Bradley with Dr Amanda Kearney, Monash Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies (CAIS), received \$26,000 from the Sidney Myer Foundation to continue their research projects in Borroloola in the Northern Territory.

Dr Thomas Reuter (with colleagues Dr Batterbury, Dr Palmer and Professor Langton at the University of Melbourne) received US\$40,000 from the United States Institute for Peace for research on land tenure and poverty issues in two rural districts of Timor-Leste.

Research consultancies

Dr John Bradley and Dr Amanda Kearney (CAIS) were successful bidders for a consultancy worth \$85,000 to work on the Borroloola Community Remote Learning Partnership, for the Northern Territory Government Department of Employment, Education and Training.

Research and research publications

Anthropology contributed five refereed journal articles and one book chapter to the School's DEST publications audit for 2007. These publications deal with issues in the anthropology of kinship, family, religion and politics. They relate to Indonesia, East Timor, Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

During 2007, Dr Jacobsen, Dr Millie, Dr Niner, Dr Reuter and Dr Tomlinson each had a single-authored book/monograph manuscript accepted for publication by a publishing house. This not only foreshadows five AIs for future publication audits, but also presages a significant boost to Monash Anthropology's academic reputation.

Research training:

Bachelor of Arts Honours

Five undergraduate students completed Honours degrees in Anthropology in 2007. Of these, Edwina Howell (BA Hons, Arts/Law) was awarded an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) to go on to a PhD in Anthropology at Monash.

Higher Degrees by Research

Commencements

Two new candidates commenced in 2007:

Amelia Bonea commenced her PhD, taking up a Monash International Postgraduate Research Scholarship, MIPRS, and a Monash Graduate Scholarship, MGS, on, *The education of Indians in colonial Fiji: language policy, discourse and identity* (supervisors M. Tomlinson and I. Copland).

Kevin Riley commenced his PhD project, on, *In the world, but not of the world: resistance and accommodation to secularisation within the Seventh Day Adventist Church* (supervisors J. Bradley and M. Tomlinson).

Completions

Two candidates submitted their theses and passed the examination for the PhD:

Petra Andits completed her PhD with the thesis, *'The bridges of ambivalence: Australian Hungarian discourses after 1989'* (supervisors D. Cuthbert and B. Missingham).

Lugina Setyawati completed her PhD with the thesis, *'Malay resurgence and its implications for Indonesian unity and democracy: a case study of decentralisation in Riau, 2000-2004'* (supervisors P. Graham and S. Blackburn).

PhD scholarships awarded

Three new applicants won scholarships in the October round. Two received offers of an APA and one international applicant (coming from the University of Heidelberg) was awarded a MIPRS and a MGS.

Teaching

Faculty of Arts Dean's Teaching Award

Matt Tomlinson received one of the Dean's inaugural Teaching Awards, recognising excellence in teaching within the Arts Faculty. John Bradley was one of three other School PSI teaching staff also nominated for this award.

Enrolments

As of March, units taught by Anthropology academic staff had enrolments of 797 (including 76 on campus in South Africa and Malaysia). Excluding the overseas campus enrolments, our teaching EFTSU thus continued the rising trend of recent years to reach 90.

This returns Anthropology teaching EFTSU to a level not seen since 2001 when the teaching EFTSU were 89 at a time when 5 full-time academic staff were employed in teaching positions (staffing in 2001 = 1 level A, 1 level B, 2 level C, and 1 level D).

Curriculum development

In a continuing review and rejuvenation of Anthropology's undergraduate offerings, three new units were developed and approved in 2007, by the Arts International Studies Curriculum Steering Committee and the Arts Education and Student Experience Committee (ESEC), respectively as required, for introduction in 2008.

These new units are:

ANY3520/ANY4520 Theorising Culture

ANY2140/ANY3140 Polynesia: Great Anthropological Debates

INT2075/INT3075 Faith in the Future: Religion & Spirituality in a Globalising World

Internship program for undergraduates

Monash Anthropology joined the Aurora Native Title Internship Program, see <http://www.auroraproject.com.au/About.htm>

Since its inception through till mid 2007, 189 law and 10 anthropology/social sciences students from 27 Australian universities had participated in the program, with over 700 students applying for these internships. In the winter 2007 selection round, 17 anthropology and social sciences students applied from 8 Australian universities and 2 overseas universities. The Monash University applicant, an anthropology graduate Aislinn Martin, was successfully interviewed, selected and completed her placement at the Northern Land Council (NLC).

Aurora Program Director Richard Potok visited Monash to meet with anthropology staff. He expressed his thanks to Dr Bradley, Dr Kearney and the Faculty of Law's Melissa Castan for their assistance with the Aurora program, interviews and selection.

Monash Anthropology Seminar Series

The seminars were disciplinary-focused and well attended with 12-25 academic staff, postgraduate students and some Honorary Research Associates actively participating.

To develop an anthropology research community, based on intellectual engagement and exchange, the series focused on seminar presentations by Monash Anthropology's PhD candidates (2), Postdoctoral Fellows (3) and academic staff (3). To these, the series added a few seminars by high-profile invited scholars and Visiting Professors (5), who included renowned and prize-winning ethnographic filmmakers.

Anthropology Museum

Acquisitions

The Museum accepted a small, discrete collection of artefacts in good condition, dating from the 1920s and 1930s, from Vanikoro, Santa Cruz, Solomon Islands. Former Monash staff member, Neil Courtney, made the donation by Deed of Gift. The supporting documentation includes journals and photographs taken by members of his extended family, who collected the artefacts while living and working in Santa Cruz. The photographs are considered valuable for ascertaining provenance and will provide narrative background for future exhibitions. Drs Sharon and Matt Tomlinson and A/Prof Ian McNiven assessed the collection and recommended its acquisition.

Exhibitions

Richard Overell, Rare Books Librarian, approached the Museum to lend artefacts to show at an exhibition of material from the Rare Book Collection on "The Pacific". This exhibition of around 100 items ranges from the early eighteenth-century to the early twentieth-century. It covers European discovery and exploration of the Pacific, the activities of the missionaries, traders and blackbirders, as well as accounts by those who visited for pleasure, see <http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/exhibitions/pacific/>

Matt Tomlinson gave the opening address for launch of this Exhibition, which runs from 27 September, 2007 - 29 February, 2008.

Conference participation

Anthropology staff and graduate students presented their research at numerous conferences here and overseas, notably the annual conferences of the Australian Anthropological Society (AAS), the American Anthropological Association (AAA) and the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) in Boston, as well as the International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS5) in Kuala Lumpur, the European Southeast Asian Studies (EuroSEAS) conference in Naples and at the Royal Society in London.

John Bradley participated in the Northern Territory Sea Ranger conference planning meeting and later the Northern Territory Sea Rangers Conference. He was a keynote speaker at an UNESCO Experts Meeting (Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems). He was also the keynote speaker at the Australasian Teachers of Social Sciences (High School and Primary School) conference in Melbourne.

Service to the University

Brett Hough co-convened the Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA) Indonesia Council biennial conference, held at Monash University's Caulfield campus.

Brett Hough and Trudy Jacobsen served on the University's Standing Committee on Ethics in Research on Humans (SCERH).

Penny Graham continued as Executive Director, Monash University Herb Feith Foundation, managing its Board and Fundraising Committee. As Director of the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies in the Monash Asia Institute, she raised a further \$100,000 to support its next annual Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Thomas Reuter developed the concept for a Monash Future Council, a new initiative supported by Dean of Arts, Prof Rae Frances, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Prof Edwina Cornish, and chaired its inaugural meeting on 22 November.

Thomas Reuter continued as a member of the Executive Committee of the World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA).

Service to the community

John Bradley accepted an invitation from ABC Television to make a *Compass* program, based on his research in the Borroloola in the Northern Territory.

Trudy Jacobsen convened the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies weekly seminar, which is research-oriented, but also open to the public.

Penny Graham convened the 5th annual Herb Feith Lecture, supported by Radio Australia at the ABC Iwaki Auditorium.

Thomas Reuter convened the Annual Indonesia Lecture Series, for which a panel of speakers addressed the theme “10 Years of Political Reform in Indonesia: Reasons for Hope”.

Appendix

2007 Publications (DEEWR category in parenthesis)

Book chapters (B1)

Sara Niner, ‘Martyrs, heroes and warriors: the leadership of East Timor’, in Damien Kingsbury and Michael Leach (eds) *East Timor: beyond Independence*, Monash University Press, pp. 113-128.

Journal articles (C1)

Julian Millie, ‘Supplicating, naming, offering: *tawassul* in West Java’, *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 39 (1): 107-122.

Ceridwen Spark, ‘Family man: the Papua New Guinean children of D. Carleton Gajdusek’, *Oceania* 77 (3): 355-369.

Matt Tomlinson, ‘Everything and its opposite: *kava* drinking in Fiji’, *Anthropological Quarterly* 80 (4): 1065-1081.

Matt Tomlinson, ‘*Mana* in Christian Fiji: the interconversion of intelligibility and palpability’, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 75 (3): 524-553.

Matt Tomlinson, ‘Publicity, privacy, and “happy deaths” in Fiji’, *American Ethnologist* 34 (4): 706–720.