

Anthropology, School of Political and Social Inquiry

Annual Report for 2008

Academic staff

In 2008 the Anthropology discipline had 2.5 continuing teaching and research staff, one teaching-research fellow, one sessional lecturer in each semester, three Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Fellows and two Monash-funded Postdoctoral Fellows.

Dr Penny Graham (1.0), Dr Brett Hough (0.5) and Dr Matt Tomlinson (1.0) were joined in teaching by Dr Thomas Reuter (1.0) as well as sessional lecturers Michelle Hannah and Dr Aneela Babar, who taught the anthropology of ritual and religion and the anthropology of development respectively. ARC Postdoctoral Fellows, Dr Trudy Jacobsen (0.5), Dr Jemma Purdey (0.5) and Dr Julian Millie (1.0), continued their research, as did Faculty of Arts Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Ceridwen Spark (0.4) and School of Political and Social Inquiry Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Sara Niner (0.5).

Dr John Bradley continued teaching into the anthropology programme from his position in the Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies.

Research funds

Anthropology brought \$247,764 in external research funds into the School in 2008, almost 50% of the School's Competitive ARC Research Grant income for the year.

Competitive ARC Research Grant projects

Two new Australian Research Council Discovery Projects commenced in 2008.

Matt Tomlinson, awarded \$142,834, began his project "God, Blood, Country: an Ethnographic Study of Christian Institutions and Political Processes in Fiji". He was overseas doing research on an Outside Studies Program (OSP), January-June 2008.

Thomas Reuter (together with Dr G. Acciaioli of the University of Western Australia awarded \$260,000) commenced his part of the project "Revitalisation Movements in Contemporary Indonesia: Nativist Re-workings of Custom and Religion in Reaction to Decentralisation, Islamisation and Globalisation".

Anthropology hosts five ARC Discovery Projects, with ARC Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships awarded to Dr Trudy Jacobsen in 2005 and to both Dr Jemma Purdey and Dr Julian Millie in 2006. Dr Jacobsen's and Dr Purdey's projects are each hosted jointly by Anthropology, School PSI, and the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, Monash Asia Institute.

Trudy Jacobsen conducted research in Cambodia, Thailand and the United Kingdom for her project on "Sexual contracts in Burma and Cambodia: Intersections of Desire, Duty and Debt". From 1 January to 11 May 2008 she took leave to lecture at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Jemma Purdey continued research and writing for her project, “Scholarship on Indonesia in Australia and its implications for foreign policy”.

Julian Millie, having completed fieldwork in West Java, focussed on writing up his research project on “Preaching Islam in Indonesia: Politics, Performers and Publics”.

Australian Academy of the Humanities, Visiting Scholars Programme grant

Jemma Purdey won a grant of \$2000 to bring Professor Bob Hadiwinata to Monash University as a Visiting Scholar funded by Australian Academy for the Humanities. Professor in International Relations at the University of Parahyangan, Bandung, Indonesia, Bob Hadiwinata has a Masters degree from Monash University and a PhD from Cambridge University, United Kingdom.

International conference organisation grant

Thomas Reuter was awarded approximately US \$15,000 by the Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, New York, to hold an international symposium under the title ‘Opportunities and Challenges: Toward an Agenda for World Anthropology’ with participants from more than 20 countries in Kunming, China, in July 2009. The symposium is an initiative of the World Council of Anthropological Associations and is attached to the 16th World Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES).

Research consultancies

Sara Niner worked as an Instructional Designer/Technical Writer, on a Capacity Building Project funded by AusAID, with the Ministry of Finance, Timor-Leste Government (RDTL), April-June.

Ceridwen Spark undertook research consultancies for the Commonwealth of Australia. (in association with Professor Denise Cuthbert, Monash University) and for AusAID (with Associate Professor Martha Macintyre, University of Melbourne).

Research and research publications

In 2008, publications dealt with issues in the anthropology of gender and power, religion and ritual, migration and identity, development and questions of ethnographic method. The contexts were Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Malaysia and Australia.

Anthropology contributed 13 publications to the School’s Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) audit. These included one single-authored book (A1), eight book chapters (B1), three refereed journal articles (C1) and one refereed conference paper (E1). A further three publications (one B1, C1 and E1 by Dr J. Purdey) were submitted through the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies.

Additional publication activity involved editing or joint editing of three volumes (A3), a refereed working paper (A2), articles for non-refereed journals (C4), book reviews (C4), a bilingual edited publication (O), shorter articles for the media (O) and a

research report commissioned by an Australian government department (Ko).

Research training:

Bachelor of Arts Honours

Five students completed their Honours degrees in Anthropology in 2008.

Masters Qualifying

Allison Thatcher completed Masters qualifying with a research component on Gender, sacred knowledge and art: a case study of Banduk Marika, a Yolngu woman artist (supervisor J. Bradley).

Higher Degrees by Research

Commencements

Three new candidates commenced higher degrees by research in 2008:

Sandra Bader came from University of Heidelberg, Germany, taking up a Monash International Postgraduate Research Scholarship and a Monash Graduate Scholarship to commence a PhD on Sounds of self: the *dangdut* experience in contemporary Java (supervisors T. Reuter and B. Hough).

Edwina Howell (BA Hons, Arts/Law, Monash) took up an Australian Postgraduate Award for her PhD on the topic How do you talk to a colonised mind? The problem and pleasure of dealing in complexities: a biographical study of the activist strategies of Gary Foley (supervisors J. Bradley and M. Tomlinson).

Yuki Miyazaki from Japan commenced a PhD on Religious archipelago without god: religious activities and rituals in Japan (supervisors M. Tomlinson and J. Bradley).

Linda Hindasah from Indonesia commenced a Masters of Arts by coursework and research (66%), planning a thesis on Syariat Islam, conflict and religious violence (supervisors J. Millie and G. Barton).

Teaching

Faculty of Arts Dean's Teaching Awards

John Bradley received a Dean's Teaching Award, for 'Excellence in teaching and innovation in teaching practice'.

Edward Yates, sessional tutor in Anthropology 1020, received a Dean's Sessional Commendation, for 'Excellence in pedagogical innovation and support for students'.

Enrolments

Units in Anthropology and International Studies (taught by Anthropology academic staff) had enrolments of 794 (including 47 in Malaysia). Excluding overseas campus enrolments, teaching EFTSU in Australia matched the higher levels set in recent years.

Curriculum development

In a continuing review and rejuvenation of Anthropology's undergraduate offerings, three new units were introduced in 2008:

ANY3520/ANY4520 Theorising Culture

ANY2140/ANY3140 Polynesia: Great Anthropological Debates

Together these two units introduce a pathway from 2nd to 4th year that offers students opportunities to engage with the development of anthropological theory.

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

This interdisciplinary unit was introduced to three campuses in Australia and taken by nearly 200 students.

Internship program for undergraduates

Monash Anthropology encourages students to apply for the Aurora Native Title Internship Program, see <http://www.auroraproject.com.au/About.htm>

Monash Anthropology Seminar Series

Seminars are fortnightly during semester, disciplinary-focused and well-attended, with 12-20 people usually participating from among academic staff, honours and postgraduate students and honorary research associates.

In 2008, seminars were given by three anthropology PhD candidates, a Postdoctoral Fellow, an academic staff member, two local colleagues, two from universities interstate and four visiting from overseas. Alongside our graduate students, these speakers included renowned scholars and prize-winning ethnographic filmmakers.

Conference participation

Trudy Jacobsen was Keynote Speaker in the Early Career Researcher showcase at the 9th international Women in Asia conference: Transition and Interchange, held at the University of Queensland, 29 September - 1 October.

Ceridwen Spark convened (together with Professor Denise Cuthbert and Professor Marian Quartly) a conference entitled 'Adoption in Australia: Contemporary Cultural, Theoretical and Political Perspectives', Monash University, 3-4 July.

Matt Tomlinson convened a panel on Emblematic Religious Politics in which he gave a paper on 'Land as an emblem in Fijian Methodism', at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA), San Francisco, 19-23 November.

Julian Millie was invited to speak on 'Preaching and social difference in West Java' at an Australia-Netherlands Research Collaboration (ANRC) workshop, Studying Islam in Southeast Asia: State of the Art and New Approaches. The workshop was convened by Prof Martin van Bruinessen (Utrecht University and the International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World) and Dr Greg Fealy (The Australian National University), in Leiden, The Netherlands, 7-8 July, [link](#)

http://www.isim.nl/content/content_page.asp?n1=2&n2=1&n3=86

Thomas Reuter presented a paper on the anthropology of climate change and Lejla Voloder gave a paper on 'Negotiating religious expression and secular belonging: a case of Bosnian migrant experiences in Australia' at the conference of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth (ASA), the Australian Anthropological Society (AAS), the Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa New Zealand (ASAANZ), Auckland, 8-12 December.

Trudy Jacobsen, Dr Julian Millie, Dr Jemma Purdey, Dr Thomas Reuter gave papers at the 17th biennial conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA), entitled "Is this the Asian century?" in Melbourne, 1-3 July 2008. Trudy Jacobsen's first book, *Lost Goddesses: The Denial of Female Power in Cambodian History*, was formally launched at the conference.

Jemma Purdey gave a paper on 'Objectivity, morality, and forgetting: the academic quest to "know" Indonesia today', at the annual conference of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), held in Atlanta, 3-6 April.

Trudy Jacobsen presented a paper 'Ties that blind: the Khmei Kraom of southern Viet Nam' to the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism, held at the London School of Economics, 15-17 April.

Julian Millie gave a paper 'From sermon to print: orators and ideological contest in Bandung' to the Monash University Global Terrorism Research Centre conference, Radicalisation Crossing Borders: New Directions in Islamist and Jihadist Political, Intellectual and Theological Thought and Practice', held at Parliament House, Melbourne, Victoria, 26-27 November.

Sara Niner presented a paper 'Timor-Leste women's handcrafts and development', to the international conference on Democratic Governance in Timor Leste: Reconciling the Local and the National, hosted by the Charles Darwin University, in conjunction with the Australian National University and the Timor Institute of Development Studies, 7-8 February, link <http://www.cdu.edu.au/timorlesteconference/>

Sara Niner gave a paper on 'The contested place of women in East Timorese society' to the workshop Timor-Leste: Security, Development and the Nation-Building Agenda, Flinders University, 19-20 September, link <http://ehlt.flinders.edu.au/conferences/law/timor-leste2008/index.php>

Anthropology Museum

Dr Sharon Littlefield Tomlinson (PhD, South Asian and Islamic Art History, University of Minnesota) was invited to prepare a report on the cultural and/or historical significance of the anthropology museum collection. This was in aid of Monash University's application to the Attorney General's Department for status as a prescribed Key Cultural Institution. Dr Tomlinson noted that:

"The museum, housed in the School, contains anthropological antiquities with an affiliated archive. Through generous donations made by former staff members, scholars, and other members of the community, the museum has developed into a

significant collection consisting of about 1500 objects, highlights of which include nineteenth and early twentieth-century weapons, axes, and message sticks from Australia as well as twentieth-century fibre arts, containers, and wood carvings made in numerous cultures throughout Melanesia. The archive that supplements the main collection is also a significant collection. This archive is principally composed of images (approximately 400 original photographs, slides, and negatives) and to a lesser extent documents (about 3 linear inches of journals, letters, etc.). This material does not have any overarching unification by time period, region, subject or media. Rather, it is a record of diverse human lives and cultures, documented by anthropologists in the course of fieldwork and intrepid travellers throughout the twentieth century. The material is all unique and original – comparable images would be a rarity.”

Service to the University

Brett Hough served on Monash University’s Standing Committee on Ethics in Research on Humans (SCERH).

Penny Graham continued as a member of the Board and the Fundraising Committee of the Monash University Herb Feith Foundation.

Thomas Reuter continued to develop the Monash Future Council.

Thomas Reuter was elected Deputy Chair of the World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA) during the World Anthropology Conference in Osaka in July. WCAA, the first and only international body representing anthropology on a global scale, has as members the national anthropological associations of 25 countries, including most major associations across all continents. As Chair-elect, Dr Reuter will become the new chair when the term expires of the current chair Prof Junji Koizumi, Vice-President of Osaka University and former president of the Japanese Anthropological Society.

Trudy Jacobsen, Jemma Purdey and Julian Millie served on the committee that convened the 17th Biennial Conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA), “Is this the Asian century?” hosted by the Monash Asia Institute in Melbourne, 1-3 July. They also served as referees for the Conference proceedings.

Penny Graham, as Director, Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, Monash Asia Institute, arranged funding for two new Postdoctoral Fellows and led a selection process that resulted in the appointment of Dr Nicholas Herriman in July.

Jemma Purdey convened the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies weekly seminar series which is open to the public and the media.

In the media

ABC TV’s *Compass* profiled John Bradley in an episode screened on 13 April 2008. Entitled “The Language Man”, the programme featured John’s work documenting Yanyuwa language and culture in Borroloola in the Northern Territory, link <http://www.abc.net.au/compass/s2216608.htm>

Sara Niner was interviewed on ABC Radio National's *Late Night Live* (21 February), on 'East Timor's Post Trauma', a discussion of the political situation in Timor-Leste, following the events of 11 February 2008 - when Jose Ramos Horta was shot, Xanana Gusmao ambushed, and Alfredo Reinado killed, link <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/latenightlive/stories/2008/2169293.htm>

Sara Niner 'Major Alfredo Alves Reinado: cycles of torture, pain and violence in East Timor', *Z-Net*, 22 August, <http://www.zcommunications.org/znet/viewArticle/16583>
Dr S. Niner 'Reinado, a product of Timorese trauma', *Eureka Street*, 22 February, <http://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aeid=5664>

Julian Millie arranged for Professor Dr. Dadang Kahmad, who holds a chair in the sociology of religion at the State Islamic University in Bandung, Indonesia, to visit Monash University, in August. During this visit, Prof Kahmad gave a lecture on 'Muhammadiyah in contemporary West Java: the need for revitalisation' and was interviewed by Margaret Coffey for episodes of ABC Radio National's Encounter program on Indonesian Islam. Dr Millie acted as translator for the interview, link <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/encounter/stories/2009/2480973.htm>

Jemma Purdey is the Vice-Chair and Dr J. Millie is the Secretary of the Indonesian Resources and Information Program (IRIP) Board that publishes and manages the quarterly journal *Inside Indonesia*. Established in Melbourne in 1983, *Inside Indonesia* is the world's only online, English-language current affairs magazine specifically about Indonesia, link <http://insideindonesia.org/content/view/127/61/>

Julian Millie contributed two articles to *Inside Indonesia*, 'Where are you (not) from? Sundanese have a habit of putting each other in their places' (issue 93: Aug-Oct) and 'Angel sparks controversy: Journalists strike after West Java's most famous newspaper 'withdraws' poem' (issue 91: Jan-Mar 2008), link <http://insideindonesia.org/content/view/1058/29/>

Julian Millie was interviewed about his research on Islamic preaching for SBS radio.

Service to the community

Trudy Jacobsen was invited to address the *Extraordinary Chambers of the Court of Cambodia*, Phnom Penh, 24 July 2008, as an expert on gender in Cambodia. She spoke on 'Gender roles and gendered punishment during the Khmer Rouge regime'. Dr Jacobsen also delivered lectures in the summer programme of the Centre for Khmer Studies in Cambodia.

Sara Niner curated a month-long Timor-Leste Textiles Exhibition and organised the Forum: Meaning, Makers and Markets, drawing on her research on the development of the craft industry in Timor-Leste. Held in September in The Gallery in St. Kilda Town Hall, these events were sponsored by Monash University and the City of Port Phillip Friends of Suai, the East Timor Women's Association, the International Women's Development Agency and the Melbourne East Timor Activity Centre, link <http://www.suaimediaspace.org/2008/09/08/weaving-meanings-makers-from-east-timor/?show=gallery>

Julian Millie spent a week in Aceh in December as a guest supervisor for the Aceh Research Training Institute (ARTI). ARTI was established in response to the devastation caused to institutions training young Acehnese by the tsunami of 26 December 2004. The project is a three-year commitment between Indonesian and Australian universities, including Monash University, as part of the AusAID Aceh Rehabilitation Program (ARP), link <http://www.arti.unimelb.edu.au/>

Julian Millie selected, edited and translated with an introduction a collection of excerpts from sermons by West Java's famed Islamic preacher A.F. Ghazali (died 2000). Published as *The people's religion: the sermons of AF Ghazali*, Bandung: Cupumanik, 2008, this bilingual publication in Sundanese and English, has been favourably reviewed in the Indonesian media.

Julian Millie, working with Senior Asian Studies Librarian Dr Aline Scott-Maxwell, organised an exhibition of the Sundanese-language holdings in Monash University's Asian Studies Research Collection.

Appendix

2008 Publications (DIISR category in parenthesis)

Book (A1)

Trudy Jacobsen, *Lost goddesses: the denial of female power in Cambodian history*, Copenhagen: NIAS [Nordic Institute of Asian Studies] Press, 2008.

Working paper (A2)

Thomas Reuter, *Global trends in religion and the reaffirmation of Hindu identity in Bali*, Clayton, Vic.: Monash Asia Institute, Monash University Press, 2008 (Working Papers on Southeast Asia, no. 130).

Edited volumes (A3)

Penelope Graham (ed.), *Horizons of home: nation, gender and migrancy in island Southeast Asia*. Clayton, Vic.: Monash Asia Institute, Monash University Press, 2008 (Annual Indonesia Lecture Series, no. 25).

Susan Blackburn, Bianca Smith and Siti Syamsiyatun (eds), *Indonesian Islam in a new era: how women negotiate their Muslim identities*, Clayton, Vic.: Monash University Press, 2008.

Trudy Jacobsen, Charles Sampford and Ramesh Thakur (eds), *Re-envisioning sovereignty: the end of Westphalia?* Aldershot, Hants, England: Ashgate, 2008.

Book chapters (B1)

Bianca Smith, 'Kejawen Islam as gendered praxis in Javanese village religiosity', in Susan Blackburn, Bianca Smith and Siti Syamsiyatun (eds), *Indonesian Islam in a new era: how women negotiate their Muslim identities*, Clayton, Vic.: Monash University Press, 2008.

Jemma Purdey, 'Legal responses to violence in post-Soeharto Indonesia', in Tim Lindsey (ed.), *Indonesia: law and society*, 2nd ed., Annandale, N.S.W.: The Federation, 2008, pp. 515-531.

Julian Millie, 'Spiritual meal or ongoing project? The dilemma of *dakwah* oratory', in Greg Fealy and Sally White (eds), *Expressing Islam: religious life and politics in Indonesia*, Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, pp. 80-94.

Penelope Graham, 'Home and homeland: nation, gender and migrancy in island Southeast Asia', in Penelope Graham (ed.) *Horizons of home: nation, gender and migrancy in island Southeast Asia*, Clayton, Vic: Monash Asia Institute, Monash University Press, 2008, pp. 1-14.

Penelope Graham, 'Land, labour and liminality: Florenese women at home and abroad', in Penelope Graham (ed.) *Horizons of home: nation, gender and migrancy in island Southeast Asia*, Clayton, Vic.: Monash Asia Institute, Monash University Press, 2008, pp. 113-131.

Sara Niner, 'Women's handcrafts production in East Timor: Change for the better?' in David Mearns and Steven Farram (eds), *Democratic governance in Timor-Leste: reconciling the local and the national*, Darwin: Charles Darwin University Press, 2008, pp. 240-249.

Trudy Jacobsen, 'Beyond *apsara*: women, tradition and trajectories in Cambodian politics', in Kazuki Iwanaga (ed.), *Women's political participation and representation in Asia: obstacles and challenges*, Copenhagen: NIAS Press, 2008, pp. 149-172.

Trudy Jacobsen, 'Tep Vong, Buddhist leadership, and negotiating a "middle path" in Cambodian politics', in J.V. d'Cruz, Nathan Collier, and Gloria Davies (eds), *Political actors and ideas in contemporary Asia: profiles in courage*. Melbourne: Australian Scholarly Press, 2008, pp. 129-142.

Trudy Jacobsen, 'Conclusion', in Trudy Jacobsen, Charles Sampford and Ramesh Thakur (eds), *Re-envisioning sovereignty: the end of Westphalia?* Aldershot, Hants, England: Ashgate, 2008, pp. 349-357.

Journal articles (C1)

Jemma Purdey, 'Many voices, one life: Dealing with memory and "telling" in the biography of Herb Feith', *Journal of Historical Biography* 3, Spring 2008, pp. 56-86.

Julian Millie, '*Khâriq ul-âdah* anecdotes and the representation of *karâmât*: Written and spoken hagiography in Islam', *History of Religions* 48 (1), 2008, pp. 43-65.

Julian Millie, 'Non-specialists in the *pesantren*: the social construction of Islamic knowledge', *Review of Indonesian and Malaysian affairs* 42 (1), pp. 107-124.

Lejla Voloder, 'Autoethnographic challenges: confronting self, field and home', *The Australian Journal of Anthropology* 19 (1), April 2008, pp. 27-41.

Non-refereed journal articles (C4)

Julian Millie, 'Where are you (not) from? Sundanese have a habit of putting each other in their places', *Inside Indonesia* 93: Aug-October 2008, link <http://insideindonesia.org/content/view/1114/29/>

Julian Millie, 'Angel sparks controversy: Journalists strike after West Java's most famous newspaper 'withdraws' poem', *Inside Indonesia* 91: Jan-March 2008, link <http://insideindonesia.org/content/view/1058/29/>

Book reviews (C4)

Matthew Tomlinson, Review of *Our wealth is loving each other: self and society in Fiji*, by Karen J. Brison, *The Contemporary Pacific* 20 (2): Fall 2008, pp. 495-497.

Matthew Tomlinson, Review of *Everyday life: a poetics of vernacular practices*, by Roger D. Abrahams, *Anthropological Forum* 18 (1), March 2008, pp. 107-109.

Refereed conference proceedings (E1)

Jemma Purdey, 'Morally engaged: Herb Feith and the study of Indonesia', in A M Vicziany and Robert Cribb (eds), *Is this the Asian century? Proceedings of the 17th Biennial Conference of the ASAA*, Melbourne, Monash University Press, 2008, pp. 1-16.

Thomas Reuter 'Reading the future in Indonesia: Javanese texts of prophesy as a popular genre', in A M Vicziany and Robert Cribb (eds), *Is this the Asian century? Proceedings of the 17th Biennial Conference of the ASAA*, Melbourne, 2008, link <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/mai/asaa/index.php#acknowledgement>

Research reports commissioned by government or industry (Ko)

Ceridwen Spark (together with Prof Denise Cuthbert), Review of selected research literature (1990-present), commissioned by the Commonwealth of Australia.

Other publications (O)

A. F. Ghazali, *Agama rakyat: ceramah-ceramah AF Ghazali/The people's religion: the sermons of AF Ghazali*, selected, edited and translated with an introduction by Julian Millie, Bandung: Cupumanik publishing, 2008.

Sara Niner 'Major Alfredo Alves Reinado: cycles of torture, pain and violence in East Timor', *Z-Net*, 22 August, <http://www.zcommunications.org/znet/viewArticle/16583>

Sara Niner 'Reinado, a product of Timorese trauma', *Eureka Street*, 22 February, <http://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aeid=5664>