

**Emergent Voices
Postgraduate Symposium 2007**

Symposium Abstracts

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Cinematique Intent: Multiculturalism in Australian and Malaysian Cinemas

Badrul Abu Hassan

With the emergence of a Malaysian-centric cinematic practice, the nation begins to engage itself with a new dynamics of the Malaysian imaginary. The emergence of such important visual culture as this is a manifestly post-Mahathir phenomenon, in which a new legion of critical filmmakers fully used the opportunity to make inroads into previously uncharted or barred socio-political terrains. For a very small industry, this galvanising social movement is provocative, counter-hegemonic, resistant in nature and content; and yet, it does not seem to be antithetical to the global or the local. Via cinematique-intent, a nation is moored between its official project of a multiculturalist and unified Malaysian nation and the everyday consciousness of its diverse citizens who inhabit multiple spaces and norms. The question is to what extent can a 'divisive' multicultural setting that is Malaysia, be resolved and promulgated virtually on the basis of cinematique-intent alone? This has perhaps raised an interest in Australia's now defunct policy of multiculturalism and through its cinematic constructions despite the obvious irreconcilable historical differences with Malaysia. Particularly, the articulations of ethnicity and religiosity presumably in celebration of ethnicised yet 'minority' identities that have been found in a range of non-Anglo-Celtic Australian cinemas may inform the extent to which everyday-defined multiculturalism has managed to contest or even suppress the cultural hegemony of Anglo-Celtic Australia. Thus, it will be significant to explore whether cinematique-intent may become a construct and (developed) as the paradigm for examining the dynamics and difficulty faced by the filmmakers in both national contexts, albeit such exercise and its implications would be largely confined to the realm of their and our 'imagined-nations'.

Dolly and the Tweenies: Childhood and 21st Century Consumer-Media Culture

Fiona Brooks

Childhood in contemporary society is considered to be under threat from a so called 'consumer-media culture'. The aim of this study is to develop an understanding of the identity options the 'consumer-media' presents to a new marketing phenomenon, the 'tweenies'. The research study undertakes a descriptive, content and discourse analysis of the resources presented in four *Dolly* magazines from 2006. By analysing the identity options presented it has also been possible to consider the range of identities that are *not* included. The discourse analysis discusses how the 'active healthy self' is being defined in *Dolly*, as an 'artefact of consumption'

Babelicious Borgs: The Gendered History of the Female Cyborg

Kat Cain

The iconic symbol of the cyborg is representative of the complex human-technology relationship, indicative of how technology interfaces with, transforms and impinges on cultural composition. The cyborg operates as a marker of catalytic social eras, signalling major turning points in human history, materialising out of anxiety experienced in human-technology fusions. Imagery of technology reveals how technology relates to matters of ideology and to categorisations of gender. By studying images of female cyborgs I highlight the link between visual representation and ideological context. I maintain that femborg is often imaged as a sexualized, fetishised body in order to control fear of the Other (both technology and women).

Iraqi Women's Warblogs: Writing the Self, Writing History in Cyberspace

Perri Campbell

In 2003 George W. Bush launched a military and political campaign to democratise Iraq. Under new democratic conditions the Bush administration claimed Iraqis would be afforded greater freedom and that terrorist attacks would decrease. After four years of violent conflict women in Iraq report intimidation, injury and the threat of death in their everyday lives. A number of women's accounts of life in post-Saddam Iraq have been located in cyberspace. These commentaries are known as 'weblogs' and offer a rare insight into the everyday lives of Iraqi women. This document will explore the proposition that weblogs offer some Iraqi women the possibility of writing a self: a self that emerges in tension with the self that emerges from other fields of possibility such as the family, the workplace, the market, and the religious or tribal group (Foucault, 1994: 291).

Representations of femininity in online girl cultures

Amy Dobson

This paper presents some preliminary theoretical considerations arising from my doctoral research on young women's self representation on the Internet. In the paper, I explore the way in which 'traditional' media (television and print) are viewed and used by female consumers, and the way in which Internet culture is viewed, used and consumed by young women today, and the implications of this for the way in which women's relation to popular culture and media are understood and theorised.

Legal Ramifications of Virtual Worlds; An Introduction and Overview

Lloyd England

This talk will discuss legal implications for emerging virtual world communities and technologies. Areas covered will include intellectual property issues, jurisdictions for complaint resolution, income/CGT tax implications and the potential for unregulated other unlawful activities including personal abuse and money laundering.

Viable democracy? Local Government and the Connected Citizen

Julie Freeman

This research project investigates the mechanisms, frameworks and impact of local government policies upon the civic and political participation of citizens through networked communication technologies. While information and communication technologies (ICTs) can facilitate the role of government, their use can be far from democratic and can contribute to civic dissent. This research highlights the role that local governments play in the enhancement of democratic practices and consciousness, and illustrates the challenges faced by both governments and citizens in the use of new communication technologies for methods of political communication.

Companion Animal Bonding and Enhanced Human Health: Does Dissociation Reveal Two Underlying Mechanisms?

Jacqueline Gately

This study investigated whether the relationship between dissociation and human-companion animal bonding previously observed in a small sample of highly dissociative and highly pet attached veterinary technician students (Brown & Katcher, 2001) could be replicated in a more representative sample, and when assessed using statistical procedures

better suited to the non-parametric variables under investigation. A sample of 2038 male and female participants spanning a wide range of ages, professions, levels of education and species of pet completed the Dissociative Experiences Scale (DES; Bernstein & Putnam, 1986) and the Lexington Attachment to Pets Scale (LAPS; Johnson, Garrity & Stallones, 1992) via an Internet-based questionnaire. The results provided support for a relationship between dissociation and human-companion animal bonding in the general population, and support for a two-pathway dissociative model proposed to explain the link between human-companion animal bonding and enhanced health.

A Minor Change? Minor Party Mobilisation and the Australian Senate

Zareh Ghazarian

Two distinct types of minor party clusters have been discernable since the shift to proportional representation in the Senate since 1949. The first cluster is that of parties created by organisational fracturing of either major party. Since the 1980s however, Australian politics has seen a growth in the second cluster of minor parties, that of 'issues-competition'. These parties have emerged based on clearly defined values that appeal to sections of the community. This paper discusses these value parties and argues that minor parties based on organisational fragmentation of the major parties are in decline as the issue-competition emerge.

Netpeace in Multifaith Societies

Anna Halafoff

This paper will examine the impact of global crisis events such as 9/11, 7/7 and the Bali bombings on the interfaith movement in the US, UK and Australia. Following these events, interfaith initiatives have increasingly focussed on issues of security and social cohesion. Drawing on data gathered from interviews conducted with interfaith leaders and scholars, this paper presents a preliminary analysis of how multifaith networks can contribute to countering global risks, including terrorism, poverty and global warming. At a time when concerns regarding religion's role in conflict are prevalent, the findings of this study are of critical importance to communities and policy makers concurrently

The use of the fertility issue in the Australian campaign for paid maternity leave

Genevieve Heard

Australia lags behind the developed world in its provision of legislated paid maternity leave entitlements. This is despite the Government's stated concern over low fertility.

This paper considers the use of the fertility issue in the debate over paid maternity leave in Australia. I argue that the issue has been utilized by feminists and conservatives alike for ideological gain. I examine how and why its use became the downfall of the recent campaign for legislated paid maternity leave entitlements.

I conclude that the push for paid maternity leave needs to prioritize gender equity as its goal, rather than seeking to capitalize on windows of opportunity provided by concern over low fertility.

How has Australia's history influenced young adults' understanding of Australianness?

Davina Lohm

This study of young adults in an outer eastern Melbourne suburb suggests that Australia's history has shaped their understanding of Australianness. However rather than developing a sense of national identity through reflecting upon past glories that have united the population they critically considered the past. Rather than Australians being tied to an image that had been inherited from a long established past the respondents saw Australians as having the freedom to create an image that reflects the values that they regard as being imperative aspects of Australianness.

War without End? A Social History of 1000 Years of Anti-Islam Discourse

Jonathan Lyons

The years since 9/11 have seen the West heave more closely to its familiar historical trajectory, one dating back at least a millennium. This is, of course, the running contest with the world of Islam. Underpinning this phenomenon is a consistent anti-Islam discourse whose roots lie in propaganda crafted in the shadow of the First Crusade.

How has the West's anti-Islam discourse persisted, even thrived, for one thousand years? Which social groups benefited from excising from the history books the enormous Arab cultural contribution to the West? Who benefits from perpetuating these ideas? And how can we best account for the nature of relations between Islam and the West, since the Prophet Muhammad?

By revealing the distortions in the historical narrative we can fashion a more accurate reading of relations between Islam and the West. This suggests that we might shift the problem from one of inter-cultural rivalry to one of intra-cultural contest.

There's More to Life Than Sex And Gambling: Why Educational Institutions Should Not Disregard Second Life

Debbie McCormick

Given the amount of negative press it attracts one could be forgiven for assuming that 3D virtual world Second Life is either a 3D Sodom and Gomorrah or a waste of time. However if you dig a little deeper you will discover the extensive research that is taking place 'inworld'. An enthusiastic and growing group of researchers and educators from universities and colleges around the globe are teaching in, and researching ways in which Second Life can be used as an educational and collaborative tool to provide rich, immersive and engaging experiences. On 25 May 2007 the inaugural Second Life Best Practices in Education: Teaching, Learning and Research conference hosted 1300 attendees from all over the globe. The conference was conducted entirely 'inworld' (in Second Life). The research presented at this Symposium will comprise of an overview and basic introduction for researchers who are new to the educational possibilities and potential of Second Life. The research was founded on my personal observations and experiences as a 'newbie' (new user) of Second Life, gained while researching, planning and developing an education pilot project to be conducted in the environment in July 2007.

Women Entrepreneurs

Kylie Moppert

The gendering of business and entrepreneurship has real consequences for women who seek to be entrepreneurs. An invisible masculine hegemony is reinforced by normative beliefs, and 'good business' is associated with a sex-role stereotyped, decisive, action

oriented business man. In addition 'boys clubs' continue to exclude women who must negotiate this delicate terrain without alienating themselves from potential business stakeholders: partners, customers, suppliers, financiers, regulators etc. My research explores how Australian women entrepreneurs negotiate this environment to achieve their business goals. Using in depth interviews and discourse analysis the study is designed to contribute to the knowledge of women entrepreneurs' gendered experiences.

Dyeing for Life: intermediaries, artisans and their market in India

Liz Oley

I will present an overview of my work-in-progress based on fieldwork in India examining the revival of natural dye practice in hand-loomed textiles. My discussion will focus on the interventions of intermediaries to provide livelihood and empowerment for artisans and the resulting transformation of "traditional" handicrafts to appeal to contemporary tastes. Through selected case studies, I will examine the activism of individuals working to enhance the ability of rural artisans to compete in a marketplace from which they are socially, culturally and geographically distant.

Agamben vs Foucault: Whose Sovereignty Rules?

Keith Redgen

Agamben presents a type of sovereignty in this post-modern world powerful enough to permanently suspend all substantive rule of law, indeed liberal democracy as such, in a general and permanent 'state of exception'. Power thus would seem intensely concentrated and not in any way the property of the people, who have been abandoned, reduced to 'bare life'. This seems entirely at odds with Foucault's well known thesis that sovereignty as the centre of power and law has not been in play for several hundred years, and that power is now a matter of what circulates precisely through the people as bio-power or governmentality. Both views seem to have great explanatory value, especially in a world seemingly increasingly dominated by both the increasing role of emergency powers, along with ever more powerful forms of normalization. How if it all can these exemplary positions be reconciled, or at least be simultaneously drawn upon to more clearly think the contemporary world?

The ethics of book-length journalism

Matthew Ricketson

One particular ethical issue that arises in the practice of book-length journalism is in the tension between the way in which a work may be presented and the way the reader experiences the book. Book-length journalism is about real events at a real point in time; within the constraints of what is possible, it presents a true story. Some journalists choose to present their true stories in a narrative form. That is, the book may read like a novel but is actually a true story. When people read a novel they enter what novelist and critic John Gardner called the "fictional dream" state. What is this state of mind and what ethical issues does it pose for the writer of book-length journalism?

Shape and Spirit in Alice Walker's "The Color Purple".

Helen Rust

In this talk, I show how the separation and reunion of the two sisters, Celie and Nettie, can be read as the dissociation and reintegration of The inner self, the spirit in Walker's terms, and the ability to present he self to others, the shape. Pairs of sisters in folktales have been read by Jungians as figures for feminine duality. Walker's use of folktales and the influence of Jung on her work are both under-researched topics. Here, I analyze two brief anecdotes from Nettie's letters which set up Walker's psychological vocabulary. Using one letter each from Celie and Nettie, I then demonstrate that Celie writes as an inner self, cut off from her addressee, and Nettie writes as one competent in the wider world but separated from her home and family. Finally, I show how their reunion is written in terms of the two aspects of the self mirroring and merging. Walker has previously been shown as seeing folk beliefs and medicine as having psychological value. My findings suggest that aspects of folktales in her work can be read as metaphors for the workings of the psyche.

Putting illness in context

Kate Seer

Endometriosis is a chronic gynaecological condition suffered by as many as 6–10 % of premenopausal women. A number of studies have examined women's experiences with endometriosis and it has been found that women suffer physical, social and emotional dislocation and a reduced quality of life. Whilst such studies offer important insights into our understanding of the disease, most scholars fail to consider how prevailing ideas about endometriosis and biomedicine impact upon women's experiences of endometriosis. In this paper, I present a summary of findings from my thesis. I argue that we cannot understand women's experiences of endometriosis without also taking into account the contemporary sociocultural context of health and medicine. These are profoundly implicated in and complicate women's lived experiences of the disease

Adorno's perspective on musical listening: the typology of the listener

Michael Walsh

This paper will briefly consider Adorno's typology of the listener (Adorno 1976) and seek to compare and briefly contrast it with Adorno's earlier publications concerning the state of musical life in contemporary society. The paper finds that Adorno's contribution to the study of musical listening while never consistent or clear-cut is particularly significant. The paper then moves on to conclude that the typology and more generally Adorno's writing on the listener must be understood within the context of his own output in order to extract and accordingly, appropriate the functional elements of his thought for use in contemporary studies on musical listening

A Taxonomy of Contexts

Ben Whiteley

'A common theme in much contemporary ethical thinking about the practice of moral deliberation is an insistence on the need to 'pay attention to context', particularly in discussions of particularism, contextualism and practical reason. But for all this attention, the question is rarely asked 'what is this context?' Where the question is posed, too often the answer is given in narrow or limited terms. The current paper seeks to clarify this question of context by laying out the various 'levels' of context that appear in the literature and inquiring into their moral significance, with a particular eye to ongoing debates about the concept of value pluralism'.

Considering learning stations for active e-learning design

Julie Willems

Technology provides educators with the possibility to think outside the box: to be visionaries in devising new designs for e-learning environments that move beyond didactic instructional approaches that focus on delivery of content, to designs that engage the learner actively. It also provides the opportunity for educators to consider their students' diverse approaches to learning. This paper considers the incorporation of learning stations in e-learning designs as a means for students to engage in quality learning and to promote the construction of meaning.

Dinner details:

Samsara Restaurant

Pinewood Shopping Centre

Blackburn Road

Mt Waverley 3149

Melways: 70 H5

Registration:

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/psi/news-and-events/register.php>