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November 2008

Editorial

The Newsletter of the Centre for the History of European Discourses is published twice a year. It circulates news about CHED staff, affiliates and postgraduate students. It promotes CHED functions and events and those of affiliated centres and research groups.

The next CHED Newsletter will be published in May 2009. All submissions should be sent to the editor, Roz Berg: rozberg@uq.edu.au.

From the Director

The second half of 2008 has seen several events which testify to the Centre's continued growth: four major conferences is the greatest number run by CHED in a year. And they were all great successes.

The "season" started with the biennial Rudé Seminar in French History, an Australasian-based event which brings together French Historians from around the world.

In August, the 400th anniversary of Milton's death saw CHED post-doctoral fellow, and Milton Scholar Ben Myers host a Symposium on Milton's place in intellectual and cultural history.

Finally, two consecutive conferences were held by CHED in the attractive and efficiently run Monash Centre, in Prato, Italy.

CHED will experience nett growth in staff in 2009 with the addition of two Post-Doctoral Fellows and the likely addition of one ARC Professorial Fellow.

Additional growth in CHED has seen increasing pressure on our administration staff: Roz, our outstanding project officer has been joined for one day a week by an administrative assistant.

Recent CHED Seminars and Conferences

During the second semester of 2008 CHED staff convened or co-convened four major conferences.

In July, CHED took on the responsibility and the pleasure of holding the Sixteenth **George Rudé Seminar in French History and Civilisation**, which had never before been held in Brisbane.

Conference highlights included keynote speakers Colin Jones (Queen Mary, University of London), who presented a paper demonstrating some of the finest work in French cultural

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Centre for the History of European Discourses

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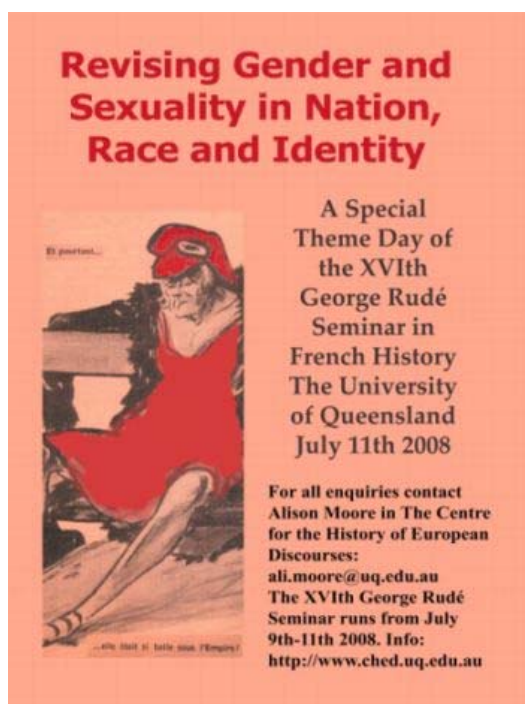
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history today, entitled 'How Not to Laugh in the French Enlightenment: the Saint Aubin *livre de caricatures*'. Christine Bard (Université d'Angers) presented an elegant paper on women's adoption of pants from the French Revolution to contemporary times, 'Le Pantalon: une histoire politique, de la révolution française à nos jours'.



At a panel on Medical Histories of Sexuality Peter Cryle spoke on "Female impotence" in Nineteenth-Century French Medical Writing' and Chiara Beccalossi, who recently joined CHED as a Postdoctoral Fellow, spoke on 'Parent-Duchâtelet: the Popularisation of the "Tribade-Prostitute" Figure in Medical Debates'.

Former CHED researcher now member of the ANU, Alexander Cook presented on the 'Enlightenment, Empire and Espionage in France at the End of the Eighteenth-Century: the Case of Constantin-Francois Volney'.

The conference concluded with a one-day seminar on the special theme: *Revising Gender and Sexuality in Nation, Race and Identity*. This day brought together scholars working on questions of gendered and sexual meaning represented in French ideological sources that were not specifically conceived as texts about sex. Keynote speaker Fabrice Virgili (Université de Paris 1, Sorbonne) spoke on 'Reconstruire une France virile, 1944-1945', providing an overview of sexualised themes and gender politics in the Nazi Occupation of France and the postwar Liberation. Alison Moore spoke on 'The Erotic Republic', and CHED affiliate Sarah Ferber gave a paper entitled 'No Sex, Please, We're Possessed: Two Seventeenth-Century Adult Male Demoniacs'.

A number of papers from the conference are currently being collated, edited and reviewed for publication in *French History and Civilization: Papers from the George Rudé Seminar*. Alison Moore is also editing a special volume, *Revising Gender and Sexuality in Race, Nation and Identity in France: 1600-2000*, which includes some revised papers from the conference and other articles received in response to a call for papers distributed internationally.

In August, and in association with the University of Queensland's School of English, Media Studies and Art History (EMSAH), the Shakespeare Round Table, and the ARC Network for Early European Research, held a symposium on **Milton in Intellectual**

and Cultural History. The conference, marking the 400th anniversary of Milton's birth, focused both on Milton's relation to his own intellectual and cultural contexts, and on his continuing role in the formation of modern intellectual and cultural traditions.

Commencing with a public lecture presented by Professor Stephen Fallon (University of Notre Dame) entitled 'Why Milton Is Not a Religious Writer', the symposium continued with two days of strong papers including one from conference organiser and CHED researcher Benjamin Myers who spoke on 'The Invention of Reason: Milton and the Theology of Secular Politics.'

From 8 to 10 September, in Prato, Italy, CHED organised and led a conference on **The Natural and the Normal in the History of Sexuality**. The conference was characterised by its long historical range, with specialists from the sixteenth century through to the present focussing on the cultural and intellectual history of the 'natural' and the 'normal' as concepts that changed in quite striking ways over that time. Participants in the conference included some of the most distinguished scholars in the field, notably Valerie Traub (University of Michigan) who spoke on 'The Nature of Norms in Early Modern England', Annamarie Jagose (University of Auckland) who presented a paper entitled 'How to have Normal Sex: The Twentieth-Century Career of Simultaneous Orgasm', and Lisa Downing (University of Exeter) who

spoke on "'Normophilia": Diagnosing Sexual Normality in Late Twentieth-Century Anglo-American Sexology'.

CHED staff were well represented: Peter Cryle presented on 'The Concept of "Normativity": Foucault's use of Canguilhem', Elizabeth Stephens spoke on 'Secret Diseases and Public Shaming: Sexual Health Campaigns as Normalising Technologies', Alison Moore on 'Masochism and Gender Normalcy in Interwar Psychoanalysis', and Chiara Beccalossi on 'The Cult of "Normality": Italian Psychiatry and Sexuality c.1880-1910'.

CHED affiliates Caroline Warman (Jesus College, Oxford), Lisa O'Connell (Queensland), also presented.

An edited collection of the papers will be offered to a leading journal in the field.

Also held at the Monash Centre, Prato, in May the third and final symposium in the 'Persona of the Philosopher' series, **Subject, Persona, Office: Methodological and Historiographical Issues** was held.

Co-organised by CHED's Ian Hunter, CHED Honorary Professor Conal Condren, and Stephen Gaukroger (Sydney), the symposium discussed the methodological and historiographical implications of the concepts of intellectual persona and office for work in the field of intellectual history.

The role of these concepts remains unfocussed and uncertain for many practitioners. This is no doubt because their use in this field is somewhat

novel and underdeveloped, with a significant degree of obscurity surrounding their current significance and future potential. The symposium represented an attempt to clarify this obscurity.

CHED is planning to publish the papers as the special issue of a journal.

And finally, on the 29th of October several of the CHED post-graduate students presented at the **CHED Post-Grad Mini-Conference**. Martyn Lloyd presented a paper on 'Rousseau's(Condillacian) Epistemological Dual-ism', Kim Hajek spoke on 'The Notion of Progress in Hypnotism as Constructed through Late Nineteenth-Century Scientific and Literary Texts', and Chad Parkhill spoke on 'Heterosexual Jouissance?: Research Notes towards a New Understanding of 'Girl-Girl' Pornography'.

The conference was organised by CHED's Chiara Beccalossi.

Upcoming CHED Seminars and Conferences

After a pause in 2008 to allow the Cultural History Project to establish itself, CHED will resume its series of public seminars in early 2009. From March to June, the series will be devoted to topics in the intellectual history of medicine, and will be organised by Peter Cryle and Chiara Beccalossi. The second series, to be organised by Ian Hunter and Philip Almond, will be on 'New Developments in Intellectual History.'

In April 2009, once again at the Monash Centre, Prato, Italy CHED and the Faculty of Law, Victoria University of Wellington, will hold a conference entitled **Transpositions of Empire**, a symposium in legal and intellectual history focussing on historiographic approaches to the translation of juridical and political thought in colonial contexts.

This symposium seeks to investigate the ways in which juridical and political ideas, forms and institutions moved across the space of Empire and were translated, adapted or transformed in their new colonial locations. Its key focus will thus be on the manner in which juridical and political discourses, already highly contextual in their European homelands, were reworked by administrators and jurists to fit often-unanticipated colonial circumstances.

In the course of 2010, CHED will hold a seminar around the work of Martin Jay: **On Lying in Politics**.

The conference aims to explore an array of historical and philosophical issues associated with the phenomenon of lying in politics. In recent years, it has become a familiar lament that lying has become endemic to contemporary politics and politicians the inventors and manipulators of new forms of deceit. Politics, we seem to assume, should be a realm in which truth-telling is automatically the highest good. Yet a brief glance at the history of political theory gives us reason to be wary of this contemporary shibboleth. Ever since Plato's assault on Odyssean cunning and Sophistic

rhetoric, counterposed to his defense of 'noble lies' by a political elite, the legitimacy of persuasion, hypocrisy, secrecy and lies has been a hotly contested theoretical and practical issue. As Hannah Arendt reminds us, truthfulness has rarely counted among the political virtues, and lies have regularly been regarded as justifiable tools in political dealings. In his current research, Martin Jay explores the fate of truth-telling and lying in the history of political theory. Drawing on Arendt, Lefort, Rancière, Derrida and other contemporary theorists, he challenges the complacent assumption that lying, secrecy, or hypocrisy are anathema to an open, pluralistic democratic polity. Jay entertains the controversial idea that while the search for perfect truth and transparency may be politically damaging, duplicity, at least in some of its guises and genres, is a uniquely democratic political virtue. 'Democratic fabulation' as he puts it 'must allow a thousand mendacious flowers to bloom'. This recovery of the virtue of mendacity, he claims, is one of the final chapters in the modern desacralisation of politics.

Keynote Speaker will include: Professor Martin Jay (University of California) and Sidney Hellman (Ehrman Professor of European History, University of California).

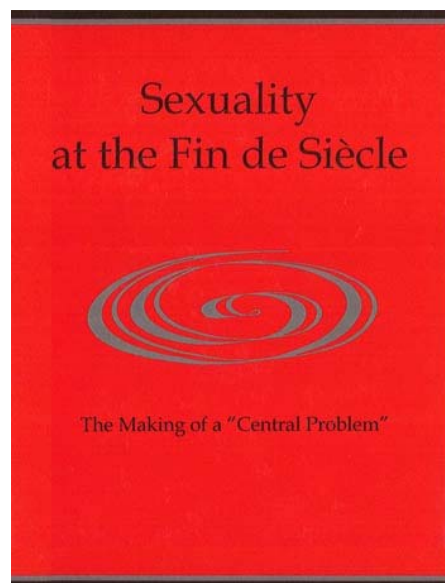
Other speakers will include CHED's Ian Hunter and Michael Ure, and CHED affiliates Richard Devetak and Marguerite La Caze, as well as Michael Janover (Monash) and Justine McGill (Sydney).

New Staff in CHED

Two new UQ Postdoctoral Fellows will be joining CHED in January 2009: Dr **Heather Wolfram**, whose position will be shared with HPRC, and Dr **Ryan Walter**, whose position will be shared with the School of Political Science and International Studies in SBS.

Professor **Simon During** was successful in winning an Australian Professorial Fellowship in the last ARC Discovery round. It is anticipated that he will join CHED in the course of 2009. His appointment is expected to produce new opportunities for cooperation between CHED and EMSAH.

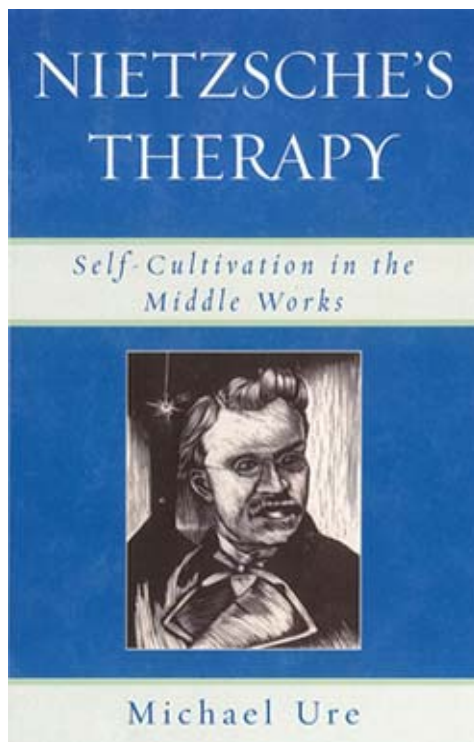
Recent Staff Publications



Following the successful 2005 conference, CHED is pleased to announce the release of its latest

publication: *Sexuality at the Fin de Siècle: The making of a 'Central' Problem* (University of Delaware Press: 2008). The text, edited by Peter Cryle and Christopher Forth, includes papers from CHED research staff **Elizabeth Stephens, Alison Moore** and **Peter Cryle**. It also has papers by Christopher Forth, Jonathan Marshall, Heike Bauer, Carolyn Dean and Vernon Rosario.

CHED would like to congratulate **Michael Ure**, CHED postdoctoral research fellow, for the recent launch of his first book *Nietzsche's Therapy: Self-Cultivation in the Middle Works* (Lexington Books: 2008).



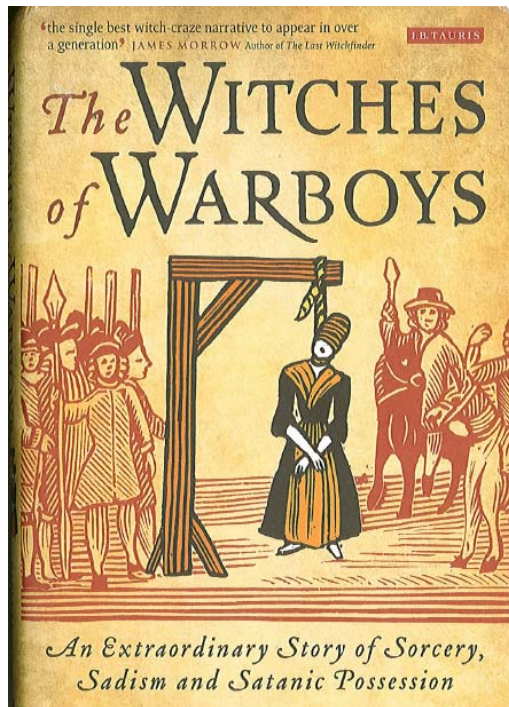
In this critically acclaimed work Michael rereads Nietzsche's unduly neglected 'middle period', returning to us a 'congenial' Nietzsche, a great psychologist of the pathologies of

human vanity and wounded narcissism, and a philosopher of modesty and probity. Michael explores, that is, Nietzsche's ethics of self-cultivation and demonstrates Nietzsche's significant connections with the Stoics before him, and with Freud and Foucault after him. By framing Nietzsche as a subtle analyst of the soul's pathos and pathologies, the book illuminates the kinship between Nietzsche's ethical perspective and the ancient and modern therapies of desire, and demonstrates that in the free-spirit trilogy, far from advocating an aesthetic or narcissistic conception of self-creation, Nietzsche proposes a form of self-cultivation that aims to understand and treat the pathologies of narcissism.

The book was launched by Michael Janover from the School of Political and Social Inquiry, Monash University, at a well attended function during the Australian Political Science Association conference held in Brisbane in July 2008.

Congratulations also to **Philip Almond**. The semester saw the paperback release of his text: *Adam & Eve in Seventeenth-Century Thought* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008, paperback edition).

His new book *The Witches of Warboys* (London: I.B.Tauris, 2008) has been shortlisted for the Katherine Briggs Folklore Award.



The following publications by CHED staff have also appeared in recent months.

Elizabeth Stephens:

‘From Perversity to Abnormality: Redefining Pleasure and Pain at the *Fin-de-siècle*.’ *Pleasure and Pain in Nineteenth-Century France*. Ed. David Evans. Amsterdam and New York: Rodopi, 2008. 201-12.

‘Anatomies of Desire: Female Bodies in Fin-de-Siècle Anatomical Museums.’ *Fin de Siècle Sexuality: The Making of a Central Problem*. Ed. Peter Cryle and Chris Forth. Newark: Delaware University Press, 2008. 25-41.

“Pathologizing Male Fluidity: Spermatorrhoea and the Treatment of Male Sexual Disorders.” *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 17.3 (2008). 421-38.

Alison Moore:

‘Fin de Siècle Sexuality and Excretion’. In Peter Cryle and Christopher Forth (eds.), *Fin de Siècle Sexuality: the making of a central problem* (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 2008), 125-139.

‘Pathologising Female Sexual ‘Frigidity’ in Fin-De-Siècle France, or how absence was made into a thing’. In David Evans and Kate Griffiths (eds), *Pleasure and Pain in Nineteenth-Century French Literature and Culture* (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2008), 191-204.

Ian Hunter:

‘The Shallow Legitimacy of Secular Liberal Orders: The Case of Early Modern Brandenburg-Prussia’, in Geoffrey Levey and Tariq Modood (eds), *Secularism, Religion and Multicultural Citizenship*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

‘Talking About My Generation’, *Critical Inquiry*, vol. 34, 2008, pp. 583-600.

‘The Desire for Deconstruction: Derrida’s Metaphysics of Law’, *Communication, Culture & Politics*, vol. 41, 2008, pp. 6-29.

Peter Cryle

With Christopher Forth, ‘Introduction: The Making of a Central Problem’ in Peter Cryle and Christopher Forth (eds.), *Fin de Siècle Sexuality: the making of a central problem* (Newark:

University of Delaware Press, 2008), pp 9-24.

'The Aesthetics of the Spasm,' in Peter Cryle and Christopher Forth (eds.), *Fin de Siècle Sexuality: the making of a central problem* (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 2008), pp 77-92.

Chiara Beccalossi

'Havelock Ellis: Sexual Inverts as Independent Women', in Mary McAuliffe and Sonja Tiernan (eds.) *Tribades, Tommies and Transgressives: History of Sexualities*, Vol. I (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2008), pp. 211-28 [isbn: 9781847185921].

Visitors to CHED

Alistair Rolls from the French program at the University of Newcastle is currently visiting CHED during a sabbatical and, having spent two months as a visiting scholar at Nottingham Trent University. During his visit he will be working on two edited volumes: *Mostly French: French (in) Detective Fiction* (Newark: University of Delaware Press, forthcoming) and *Hexagonal Variations: Difference, Plurality and Cultural Change in Contemporary France* (co-edited with Murray Pratt and Jo McCormack).

Summer Scholarships

Applications were recently processed for the CHED summer scholarships. Interest was keen this year with seven applications received from under-

graduate students keen to engage in a short 'apprenticeship in intellectual history'. The two successful applicants, Robyn Kath and Emily Duthie will commence on the first of December.

European Philosophy

Professor Ghassan Hage from the University of Melbourne visited the European Philosophy Research Group (EPRG) and presented a paper entitled 'Taking Hegel to Cronulla beach: From Recognition to Negotiation.' Ghassan is an established associate of the EPRG, having been the keynote speaker at the 2006 Lévinas Centenary Conference.

The EPRG Reading Group continues under the organisation of Martyn Lloyd with a few hearty souls hoping soon to finish Hegel's notoriously unreadable *Phenomenology of Spirit*. The group will commence 2009 by temporarily joining with the analytic philosophy reading group *The Married Bachelors* to read about and discuss the meaning of the 'Analytic / Continental' divide. Interested parties please contact Martyn Lloyd (m.lloyd@uq.edu.au).

Other News

Notwithstanding all of his other activities, Ian Hunter has been keeping a very high profile this semester. An interview with Ian was recently published in:

'Another Way of Being an Intellectual': An Interview with Ian Hunter. Noel King,

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Communication, Culture & Politics, vol. 41, 2008, pp. 47-62.

And Ian also presented several conference papers and public lectures:

‘Theory and Practice in the Natural Law of Christian Thomasius.’ Public Lecture, Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für die Erforschung der europäischen Aufklärung, Martin-Luther-Universität, Halle-Wittenberg, 28 October 2008.

‘Kant’s Cosmopolitanism from an Historical Point of View.’ Emphasis Seminar, Birkbeck College, UCL, 25 October 2008.

‘Theory and Spirituality in the Humanities Academy.’ Public Lecture, University of Sussex, 23 October 2008.

‘The Secularisation of Reason in Thomasius’s Natural Law.’ History of Political Ideas Seminar, Institute for Historical Studies, University College of London, 15 October 2008.

‘The Regional Character of Kant’s Cosmopolitanism.’ History of International Thought Conference, University of Sydney, 17 July 2008.

‘The Spirit of Theory in the University.’ The Future of the Sixties Conference, University of California Irvine, 25-26 April 2008.

During the Brisbane Writers Festival, and in the company of CHED affiliate and member of the EPRG Dr Michelle Boulous Walker who also appeared, Ian spoke on a panel to discuss Clive

Hamilton’s new book, *The Freedom Paradox*.

Finally, in October, Ian took part in a symposium on his recently published monograph on Christian Thomasius, *The Secularisation of the Confessional State* (Cambridge University Press: 2008). His book was made the focus of the Symposium on New Work in Intellectual History, Sussex Centre for Intellectual History, University of Sussex, 24 October 2008.

A paper has also been recently presented by Alison Moore: ‘Does Cultural History have a History?’ at the HPRC *History in the Making* seminar.

Alison Moore and Elizabeth Stephens also attended the *Queer in Europe Conference* held in Exeter where Elizabeth presented on ‘Queer Bodies: Contemporary French Theories of (Inter)corporeality.’

Elizabeth presented two further papers: in March, “Touching Encounters: Queer Studies in Translation,” at the Rhetoric of the Other Conference, University of Illinois; and in August, “Staging Difference: Performing Arts as a Queer Space” at the Queer and Subjugated Knowledges Symposium at the University of Western Sydney.

In 2009 CHED, in conjunction with UQ’s graduate school, will be pleased to provide a subsistence-level scholarship for Martyn Lloyd in the final run to completion of his PhD.

One of Phillip Almond's M.Phil students, Bryan Gadd, has completed. His thesis is entitled 'the Theology of Daniel Featley'.

And finally: there is perhaps no better indication of the continued growth of CHED than the increasing administrative workload which our researchers generate and which has

now become too large for one person, even one as professional and dedicated as CHED's project officer Roz Berg. So Roz was joined in the second half of 2008 by Martyn Lloyd. Martyn has assisted in the running of conferences, and undertaking various administrative tasks under Roz's supervision.