Editorial

The CHED Newsletter is published twice a year in February and August. It circulated news about CHED staff, affiliates and postgraduate students. It reports on the activities of the different research concentrations in CHED, which include the History of Sexuality, the History of Political Thought, and European Philosophy. It also promotes CHED functions and events, along with other items of interest.

All communications should be sent to the Newsletter editor, Simon Duffy (sbd@uq.edu.au).

From the Director

Professor (now Emeritus Professor) Philip Almond joined CHED during the second half of 2005. We are delighted to have the benefit of his academic experience, and even more delighted at the prospect that his work on the history of religion in the early modern period will intersect productively with Ian Hunter’s. We are also about to welcome two new Postdoctoral Fellows, Dr Alex Cook and Dr Ben Myers. Alex’s interest in British and French intellectual history will allow him (nay, require him!) to make a special contribution to our centre by bridging between the history of political thought, led by Ian Hunter, and my own work on the history of pleasure in eighteenth-century France. Ben’s field is the work of dissenters, including Bunyan and Milton, in early modern England. He will work alongside Philip Almond, and contribute to Phil’s ARC-funded project on Protestant apocalypticism in early modern England.

In August 2005, we hosted a conference entitled ‘Sexuality at the Fin-de-Siècle: The Making of a “Central Problem”’ which was considered a great success by all who attended. We were delighted to welcome such eminent scholars as Carolyn Dean, Vernon Rosario, and Martha Vicinus. It should be noted that there is currently a long waiting list for membership of the Carolyn Dean Fan Club (Brisbane Branch). A selection of papers presented at the conference ‘Charlatanism in the Age of Reason’, held at the Monash Centre in Prato in September 2004, is due to appear later this year as a special number of Cultural and Social History.

In the second half of 2005, our seminars on the History of Theory were a great public and intellectual success. A report on the series by Ian Hunter, who had the initial idea and followed it through with detailed planning, appears separately in this newsletter.

The most striking change in CHED in the course of 2005 was also the most superficial one. After spending about seven months of exile and mortification in Space Bank Number 1, we returned to occupy the newly renovated Forgan-Smith Tower, along with colleagues in the Australian Studies Centre and the Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies. The opening of the new Faculty of Arts research precinct was a well-attended occasion, and an opportunity for us to point to the collective achievements of the three Faculty Centres.

Peter Cryle
Director
p.cryle@uq.edu.au
CHED News & Staff

Publications

Philip Almond was awarded an ARC Discovery grant for his work on ‘Protestantism, Apocalypticism and the Book of Revelation in English Thought, 1550 - 1800.’ [Congratulations!!]

His 1988 ‘The British Discovery of Buddhism’ is to be soon re-published by Cambridge University Press in paperback.

And a recent publication:


Brett Bowden’s recent publications include:


Welcome to new postdoc Alex Cook. He did his graduate work at Cambridge University, where he studied aspects of French Revolutionary political thought and its reception across Europe. He has published on a range of themes in European, Australian and Pacific history, as well as on public history and the media. At CHED his work will centre upon a project tentatively titled: ‘The Politics of pleasure in eighteenth-century Europe’. Its aim is ‘to analyse the role that changing conceptions of (and attitudes to) pleasure came to play in a range of political, moral, economic and religious debates during the long eighteenth century. It seeks to highlight the significance of those debates for our understanding of the social dynamics of the period, and to reflect upon their connections with the way Western societies approach these questions today.’ His recent publications include:


Michael Davis was nominated as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. His publications this year include:


Simon Duffy’s recent publications include:


Congratulations to Dr Tiina Lammervo who graduated in November 2005 with her doctorate in Applied Linguistics from the Centre for the History of European Discourses
Forgan-Smith Building
The University of Queensland, Qld 4072
Tel: +61 (0)7 3346 9492; Fax: +61 (0)7 3346 9495
Email: ched@uq.edu.au  Web: http://www.ched.uq.edu.au
CRICOS Provider No:00025B
School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies at UQ. The title of her thesis was: Language and culture contact and attitudes among first generation Australian Finns.

Alison Moore has had the following pieces recently published:


Elizabeth Stephens has had the following pieces recently published:


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**Postgraduates News**

Welcome to Juliana Merçon and Jason Cullen. Their postgraduate research is being supervised by Simon Duffy and Aurelia Armstrong in the Philosophy Program of the School of HPRC. Juliana’s project title is: ‘Politics of affects: responses to the intolerable’, and Jason’s project title is: ‘Visuality, Visual Technology and Everyday Life’.

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**Summer Vacation Research Scholarships**

This year CHED offered two Summer Vacation Research Scholarships to students who have completed three years of study in Arts, and who are planning to do honours or a research higher degree. The scholarships allowed Rodney Catling and Håkan Sandgren to undertake research work under the supervision of members of the Centre.

Rodney Catling is a student in the School of Contemporary Studies at UQ Ipswich. He has been working closely with Peter Cryle and Elizabeth Stephens. His research will lead into his Honours project on the intersection of queer theory and queer identity politics in the recent Australian anti-capitalist movement.

Håkan Sandgren is a student who has just completed a bachelor’s degree with a double major in Studies of Religion. He is starting an honours year in which he is going to study the influence Father Bede Griffiths, OSB, has had on Australian religious life and religiosity. At CHED Håkan has completed work for Ian Hunter, Phil Almond and Simon Duffy that he reports ‘has not only provided knowledge of the research process but also provided inspiration and enjoyment. I have received guidance that will be invaluable in the year of study ahead and further into my academic endeavours’.

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**Affiliates News**

CHED has a number of active Affiliates, within The University of Queensland, as well as nationally and internationally. The items below have been submitted by Affiliates. To find out more about Affiliates, please follow the ‘CHED’s affiliates’ link on the CHED homepage: http://www.ched.uq.edu.au

Welcome to those with whom CHED has recently established an affiliation:
Andrew Buck (Macquarie University)
Alan Corkhill (SLCCS, UQ)
Carolyn Dean (Brown University)
Lisa Downing (Queen Mary, University of London)
Mark Finnane (Griffith University)
Jack Fruchtman Jr. (Towson University)
Greg Hainge (SLCCS, UQ)
Chris Laursen (Department of Political Science, Uni of California, Riverside)
David Lemmings (Uni of Newcastle)
Iain McCalman (Humanities Research Centre, ANU)
Paul Pickering (Humanities Research Centre, ANU)
Caroline Warman (Jesus College, Oxford)
Richard Yeo (Griffith University)

Congratulations to Sarah Ferber (UQ) who was awarded an ARC Discovery Grant for a project on ‘Medicine and Culture: Bioethics in Historical Perspective, 1850 to the present’. Sarah’s recent publications include:


Marguerite La Caze
Articles published in 2005:


And international conference presentation: 'Thinking through ethics and politics with Kant and Derrida,' *Society for European Philosophy Conference*, University of Reading, UK, 2005.

Cary J. Nederman (Texas A&M University) ‘I am on a research leave from January-June 2006, during which time I will be finishing work on a number of essays and books, as well as beginning to write a new monograph on Machiavelli and the Middle Ages.’

Recent Publications:

‘Herding Cats: The View from the Volume and Series Editor.’ *Journal of Scholarly Publishing* 36 (July 2005), 221-228.


**Takashi Shogimen** was a Visiting Professor at the Department of History in the University of Helsinki, Finland, in May 2005. He coordinated the course on cross-cultural history of political ideas with Dr Vasileios Syros of the History Department, University of Helsinki.

In September, 2005, Takashi Shogimen was awarded a Marsden Award from the Royal Society of New Zealand for his new research project on ‘Medicine and the Body Politic: An approach to the global history of political thought’.

In December 2006, Takashi is organising a symposium entitled *European Political Thought in Dialogue with Asia*, to be held at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. For further details, he may be contacted at takashi.shogimen@stonebow.otago.ac.nz.

In 2005, Takashi Shogimen published:


The project will result in an edited book containing essays by all the participants. This book will aim to make a significant contribution to the history of sexuality by drawing together work by literature and cultural studies scholars whose work is historically informed and cultural historians whose work encompasses literary and visual media. In this way a deeper claim can be made to understanding sexuality as constructed simultaneously through cultural practices and institutional agendas.

Current participants in the project are:

Prof Peter Cryle, Director of the Centre for the History of European Discourses;

Dr Alison Moore, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at CHED;

Dr Elizabeth Stephens, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at CHED;

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**Femininity and Constructions of Sexual Pathologies, 1730-1920**

The History of Sexuality concentration within the Centre for the History of European Discourses is currently working on a large research project that examines both medical constructions and literary representations of sexual pathologies associated with femininity. The aim of this project is to produce a set of detailed studies covering a quite long historical period (from about 1730 to about 1920) and a wide range of genres and media (including literary, medical, and philosophical texts, as well as photographs, artworks and medical illustrations), in order to highlight the complex and often intermittent history of such so-called feminine sexual pathologies as hysteria, frigidity, nymphomania, and lesbianism.
Dr Heike Bauer, Lecturer in English, School of Arts, Communication and Culture, Nottingham Trent University.

Dr Lisa Downing, Reader in French Discourses of Sexuality, Queen Mary, University of London;

Dr Caroline Warman, Fellow and Tutor in French at Jesus College, Oxford.

Researchers interested in participating in this project are invited to contact the chief investigator, Professor Peter Cryle at the following address: p.cryle@uq.edu.au

A first planning meeting of members of this group will be held in Edinburgh just before the annual conference of the Société des Dix-Neuviémistes. A three-day workshop involving presentations of working papers will be held at the Monash University Centre in Prato (Italy) from 29 September to 1 October 2006.

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**EPRG News**

The European Philosophy Research Group (EPRG) is a group of scholars working in modern and contemporary European philosophy between CHED and the School of HPRC at The University of Queensland.

Members are:
Dr. Michelle Boulouse Walker
Dr. Marguerite La Caze
Dr. Aurelia Armstrong
Dr. Simon Duffy

An EPRG Reading Group meets fortnightly from 10am-12pm in Room E319 of the Forgan Smith Building. The group first met during first semester last year, where it focussed on reading some of the work of Alain Badiou. During second semester 2005, the group selected readings on the theme of love and on the theme of critical theory and the Frankfurt School. Currently the group is reading on the theme of Politics. Anyone who is interested is most welcome to come along. For further details contact Simon Duffy (sbd@uq.edu.au).

EPRG held two extra-ordinary Reading Group sessions on Spinoza during December to profit from the presence of Minna Koivuniemi, a Finnish philosophy PhD student visiting from the University of Uppsala and the centre of Spinoza studies in France, the ENS-Lyon. Notable attendees were philosophy affiliate Deb Brown and Calvin Normore, Honorary Prof in the Philosophy Program.

A one day MSCP Workshop in Melbourne was attended by Minna Koivuniemi and Simon Duffy. The workshop was on ‘Spinoza and the Infinite’ and was held at the University of Melbourne on 9 December, 2005. It was put on by the Melbourne School of Continental Philosophy (MSCP), and included papers by Jon Roffe and Justin Clemens.

On Friday 11TH November 2005, the EPRG held a one-day conference in honour of the centenary of Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1985). Papers were presented by Joe Hardwick, Greg Hainge, Paul Crittenden, Jennifer Ang Mei Sze, Diane Josey, Michelle Boulouse Walker and Marguerite La Caze, discussing aspects of Sartre’s work such as his novel Nausea, his views on violence, on racism, on ethics, on revolution, and on the human condition.

**EPRG Invited Speakers** in Semester II, 2005:

**Rosalyn Diprose**, University of NSW
‘Derrida and the Extraordinary Responsibility of Inheriting the Future-to-Come’

**Andrew Schaap**, University of Melbourne
‘Politics, forgiveness and the invocation of polity’
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**Havi Carel**, Australian National University
‘Heidegger on Being-towards-Death’

**Forthcoming EPRG events**

Emmanuel Levinas Centenary Conference
30 June-1 July 2006: The University of Queensland.

In 2006 we celebrate the centenary of Emmanuel Levinas’ birth. To mark this occasion, the **European Philosophy Research Group** (EPRG) at the University of Queensland is hosting an international conference on Levinas’ work. The conference participates in a series of world-wide events designed to commemorate Levinas’ work. Professor David L. Clark (McMaster University) will be among the invited speakers, with others to be confirmed.

Born in Kaunas, Lithuania in 1906 to Jewish parents, Levinas initially studied at Strasbourg, and then later at Freiburg where he encountered the phenomenological thought of both Edmund Husserl and Martin Heidegger. Heidegger’s *Sein und Zeit* (1927) was to have a lasting influence on his thought, though in a rather creative fashion. He was, along with others such as Maurice Merleau-Ponty, responsible for bringing phenomenological themes to prominence in the French philosophical world where he worked until 1995. Levinas’ work ultimately challenged Heidegger’s philosophy, and indeed the Western tradition as he saw it, for neglecting the fundamentally ethical dimension of human being. His work on ethics as first philosophy and our ethical responsibility for the other remains today an incisive critique of Western ways of being. Levinas reminds us that traditional ontology reduces the all important ethical relation with the other to a theoretical or cognitive relation to self. His notion of the ‘face to face’ encounter seeks to undo this by foregrounding ethics as first philosophy. Simply put, we come into being in and through our relation with the other.

Levinas’s thought continues to influence new generations of critical scholars, many who work well beyond the borders of philosophy as it is traditionally defined. It is our hope that the conference will reflect this diversity and in so doing provide fertile ground for exchange and conversation.

Further information, including call for papers and dates for abstracts, will be available early in 2006. Preliminary inquiries to Michelle Boulous Walker at mbw@uq.edu.au

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**CHED Seminars – History of Theory**

CHED is currently mid-way through the History of Theory Seminar. Conceived and organised by Ian Hunter with he assistance of Brett Bowden, the seminar has attracted some of Australia’s most well-known humanities scholars and has drawn large attendances.

The seminar is designed to focus historical reflection on the ‘moment of theory’, understood as the period beginning during the 1960s when various kinds of hermeneutic and philosophical reflection problematised a variety of supposedly ‘pre-theoretical’ knowledges. ‘Theory’ is now a major industry, particularly in the North American humanities academy, as can be seen from its elevation to omnibus status in the *Norton Anthology of*
Theory and Criticism. But it is also now subject to significant criticism, ironically enough for its orthodoxy, as can be seen in the counter-omnibus, Theory’s Empire. Rather than joining the pro and con espadilles, the seminar invites speakers to undertake intellectual-historical reflection on the emergence, development and transformation of the humanities ‘theory boom’.

During semester 2 2005 papers were presented by Simon During, Ian Hunter, John Frow, Conal Condren, Barry Hindess and David Saunders, on topics ranging from the emergence of theory in the early British New Left, through its role in cultural studies, to the development of critical legal theory.

Semester 1 2006 will see presentations by Anne Freadman, Genevieve Lloyd, Leela Gandhi, Paul Patton, Peter Cryle and Wayne Hudson.

For further details, visit the Seminar webpage:

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**CHED Public Lecture 2005—Andrew Benjamin**

CHED in conjunction with the Architecture / Theory / Criticism / History research group and the School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies welcomed Professor Andrew Benjamin in August 2005. Andrew Benjamin is Professor of Critical Theory in Architecture and Design, University of Technology, Sydney and the author of many books including, in recent years, Walter Benjamin and Art (Continuum Books 2005), Disclosing Spaces: On Painting (Clinamen Press 2004), Philosophy’s Literature (Clinament Press 2001) and Architectural Philosophy (Athlone Press 2000). Professor Benjamin gave two talks whilst visiting the University of Queensland, ‘Porosity at the Edge: Working Through Walter Benjamin’s Naples’ for ATCH and ‘Boredom and Distraction: The Moods of Modernity’ for CHED. Both events were very well attended and audiences were treated to renditions of Professor Benjamin’s incredibly dense thought which always remains nonetheless accessible and poetic, never more so than when Professor Benjamin presents his work in person with obvious enthusiasm. Whilst in Brisbane Professor Benjamin also launched the four edited collections or monographs to be published by members of SLCCS’ French Program in 2005 including CHED affiliate Larry Duffy’s study Le Grand Transit Moderne: Mobility, Modernity and French Naturalist Fiction.

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**Enlightenment Research Network**

The aims of the Enlightenment Research Network (ERN) are:
- To facilitate collaboration between Australian scholars to develop the capacity for innovative research in Enlightenment studies; and,
- To promote collaboration between Australian and international scholars with a view to gaining access to competitive funding for Network projects through international funding agencies.

Phase one in the construction of the Enlightenment Research Network will be to
circulate a questionnaire to interested participants. The purpose of the questionnaire will be to gauge the extent and scope of interest among ERN participants. The data collected will be used to establish a database of Network members.

Phase two will involve canvassing ERN members for an initial opinion about Network activities and to identify research nodes for the Network. The definition of specific research projects will be important in managing and establishing the parameters of the Network’s activities. The research projects will be congruent with the interests of the Network participants and developed in consultation with all members.

Phase three will involve assigning Project Convenors and Teams to the research nodes with a view to developing the projects for major funding. Publication of Network projects in the Enlightenment World series (http://www.pickeringchatto.com/enlightenmentworld.htm, published by Pickering & Chatto), will be encouraged.

If you would like to register your interest in ERN and to receive the Network questionnaire, please contact the Network Convenor, Michael T. Davis (m.davis5@uq.edu.au).

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**Upcoming Events**

**Emmanuel Levinas Centenary Conference**

30 June - 1 July 2006: CHED/EPRG will host a conference celebrating the centenary of Emmanuel Levinas’ birth. Further information, including call for papers and dates for abstracts, will be available early in 2006. Preliminary inquiries to Michelle Boulous Walker at mbw@uq.edu.au

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**Seminar on the History of Political Thought**

7 August 2006: CHED will be hosting a seminar on the history of political thought, to be led by Prof. Cary Nederman of the Texas A & M University. Professor Nederman is a well-known historian of medieval and early modern political thought, but is currently working on political thought in different national contexts. The seminar will focus on the comparative history of political thought, including the use of European political categories in colonial settings. Numbers are limited, so those interested in attending should leave their name and details with Tiina Lammervo (t.lammervo1@uq.edu.au). Further information will be posted on the CHED web-page closer to the event.

**The Persona of the Philosopher in Eighteenth-Century Europe**

6-8 October 2006: This is an ARC funded international seminar being organised by Ian Hunter, with the assistance of Conal Condren (UNSW) and Stephen Gaukroger U. Syd.), to be held at the Monash Centre in Prato.

This seminar is the sequel to a 2004 seminar on the Persona of the Philosopher in Early Modern Europe. (CHED 7-8 July 2004, papers forthcoming with Cambridge University Press under the title The Philosopher in Early Modern Europe: The Nature of a Contested
Identity). The central theme is continuous: to investigate the manner and extent to which what counts as philosophical knowledge is dependent on the cultivation of a special philosophical persona — a particular way of conducting the self and shaping the intellect — in accordance with the norms or ‘office’ supplied by a particular institutional setting.

This is an intensive seminar attended by experts in the field, with a small number of auditors. For further information, see the seminar web-page on the CHED site.

**Femininity and Constructions of Sexual Pathologies, 1730-1920 Workshop**

29 September - 1 October 2006: A three-day workshop involving presentations of working papers will be held at the Monash University Centre in Prato (Italy).

**Deadline for Next Edition**

The deadline for submissions for the next edition of the CHED Newsletter is 23rd July 2006. Items of interest should be sent to the Newsletter editor, Simon Duffy (sbd@uq.edu.au). Please keep your articles brief. CHED reserves the right to edit all submissions.