



MACQUARIE
UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF ARTS



CMH

CENTRE FOR MEDIA HISTORY

FACULTY OF ARTS

ANNUAL REPORT
2008-2009



CENTRE FOR MEDIA HISTORY

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Introduction

The Faculty of Arts at Macquarie University is home to Australia's first centre dedicated to conducting and fostering research on the interactions between media and history. Established in mid-2007, the Centre for Media History is interested in the history of the media, history in the media, and history and the media.

Macquarie University has nationally and internationally recognised strengths in the field of media history, including the history of the press, radio, television, film, censorship and public opinion, and in representations of history in film and broadcast media. The Centre for Media History's members, drawn from the Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations, the Department of Media, Music and Cultural Studies, the Department of English, the Department of Sociology and the Department of Linguistics have distinguished publication records and have been involved in the production of innovative television series, documentaries and films.

The Centre for Media History aims to:

- foster interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the media;
- support research and teaching of excellence in the field of media history;
- produce research in which our understanding of the past informs the important questions about contemporary media institutions, genres, audiences and policy;
- and provide a stimulating and supportive environment for postgraduate students and research fellows.

Advisory Board

The Advisory Board gives to the Centre for Media History's Management Committee, Director and Deputy Director advice, counsel, opinion, strategies, information and guidelines on matters relevant to opportunities for research into, and the study of, media history.

The members are:

- Professor Judyth Sachs (Chair and Deputy Vice-Chancellor/Provost)
- Professor Christina Slade (Deputy Chair and Dean of Humanities)*
- Dr Michelle Arrow (Management Committee)
- Angelos Frangopoulos (CEO, Sky News Australia)
- Kirsten Garrett (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)*
- Professor Murray Goot (Management Committee)
- A/Professor Bridget Griffen-Foley (Director)
- A/Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington (Deputy Director)
- Dr Darryl McIntyre (Director, National Film and Sound Archive)**
- Professor Graeme Turner (University of Queensland)
- Bruce Wolpe (Director, Corporate Affairs, Fairfax Media)*

* resigned

** new member

A meeting was held on 30 April 2009. Professor Turner agreed to replace Professor Slade as Deputy Chair.

Members

Core Members

- Associate Professor Bridget Griffen-Foley (Director), Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations
- Associate Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington (Deputy Director), Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations
- Dr Michelle Arrow, Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations
- Harvey Broadbent, Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations
- Professor Murray Goot, Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations
- Professor Christina Slade, Dean, Division of Humanities*

* resigned from Macquarie University in late 2008

Associate Members

- Dr Maree Delofski, Department of Media, Music and Cultural Studies
- Bruce Dennett, Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations
- Dr Peter Doyle, Department of Media, Music and Cultural Studies
- Sandey Fitzgerald, Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations
- Elisabeth Gould, Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations
- Kyle Harvey, Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations
- Madeleine Hastie, Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations*
- Dr Justine Lloyd, Department of Sociology
- Virginia Madsen, Department of Media, Music and Cultural Studies*
- Associate Professor Kathryn Millard, Department of Media, Music and Cultural Studies
- Dr Nicole Moore, Department of English
- Alec Morgan, Department of Media, Music and Cultural Studies*
- Tom Murray, Department of Media, Music and Cultural Studies
- David Myton, Coordinator, Public Relations/Macquarie Institute for Innovation
- Don Perlgut, Department of Media, Music and Cultural Studies*
- Associate Professor John Potts, Department of Media, Music and Cultural Studies
- Claire Scott, Department of Linguistics
- Margaret Van Heekeren, Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations /Charles Sturt University
- Can Yalcinkaya, Department of Media, Music and Cultural Studies

* new Associate Member

Management Committee

The members are:

- Professor Murray Goot (Chair)
- Dr Michelle Arrow
- Harvey Broadbent
- Associate Professor Bridget Griffen-Foley (Director)
- Associate Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington (Deputy Director)
- Professor Christina Slade*
- Margaret Van Heekeren (representing Associate Members)

* resigned from Macquarie University in late 2008

Meetings were held on 3 July 2008, 26 November 2008 and 7 April 2009. The next meeting is scheduled for 3 August 2009.

Honorary Associates

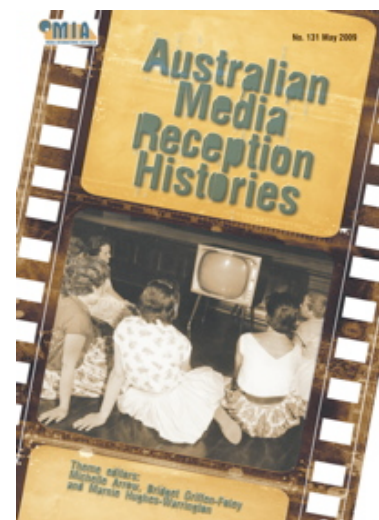
Honorary Associates provide opportunities for linkages and exchanges with more established media history centres internationally, and are available for advice about current international research, conferences and funding opportunities. The Centre's Honorary Associates are:

- Professor Robert C. Allen, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- Dr Jerome de Groot, University of Manchester*
- Professor Annette Hill, University of Westminster
- Professor Michele Hilmes, University of Wisconsin Madison
- Dr Chandrika Kaul, University of St Andrews
- Associate Professor T. Mills Kelly, George Mason University
- Professor Sonja de Leeuw, Utrecht University
- Professor Tom O'Malley, University of Wales Aberystwyth
- Professor Iain McCalman AO, University of Sydney
- Dr Simon J. Potter, National University of Ireland Galway
- Professor Brian Shoosmith, University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh
- Professor Sean Street, Bournemouth University

*new Honorary Associate

Events

Dr Michelle Arrow, A/Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington and A/Professor Bridget Griffen-Foley convened Histories of Australian Media Reception: A Colloquium on 26 September 2008. Twenty-one scholars, including seven members of the Centre, attended the invitation-only event at the State Library of New South Wales. The colloquium produced an edited selection of refereed papers for a special issue of *Media International Australia* in May 2009, which was launched on 3 June in the



The CMH colloquium's special edition of *Media International Australia*

Australian History Museum at Macquarie University.

The Australian History Museum at Macquarie University acquired a complete run of the *Australian Women's Weekly* since 1981. To celebrate the magazine's arrival, the Centre joined with the Museum to host an informal lunch, attended by the Interim Executive Dean of Humanities, Associate Professor Ingrid Day, on 5 November 2008.

The Centre joined with Central Queensland University to host the launch of A/Professor Denis Cryle's *Murdoch's Flagship: Twenty-Five Years of the Australian Newspaper*. The book was launched by the chair of the Australian Press Council, Professor Ken McKinnon, in Sydney on Thursday 4 December 2008.



CMH launch: Bridget Griffen-Foley with author Denis Cryle

On 25 March 2009 the Centre co-sponsored a seminar in the Department of Modern History's 'Histories on Wednesday' series: Ian Hoskins (North Sydney Council Historian): 'Being Ken Burns: Film making and local history in the digital age'.

On 3 July 2008 the Management Committee resolved to contribute \$5,000 towards the organisation of the 10th anniversary Australian Media Traditions conference, to be held in Sydney from 23-25 November 2009. Drs Penny O'Donnell and Anne Dunne from the University of Sydney will act as convenors, with the Centre to be promoted as the principal sponsor: <http://conferences.arts.usyd.edu.au/index.php?cf=27>

In September 2008 Dr Hugh Slotten of the University of Otago asked if the Centre would support a workshop entitled 'Crossing Borders: Communication Technology, Media, and Globalization in Historical Perspective' in May 2010, organised from the US side by Dr Michael Krysko at Kansas State University and Dr Slotten, A/Professor John Stenhouse and Professor Lloyd Davis at the University of Otago. The Centre agreed to co-sponsor the Sydney leg of the workshop should Dr Slotten's application for National Science Foundation funding (US\$52,453) be successful.

Competitive grants, fellowships and awards

- In September 2008 Tom Murray's film, *In My Father's Country*, made as part of his PhD at Macquarie University (supervised by Kathryn Millard, Michelle Arrow and Marnie Hughes-Warrington), won the Australian Directors Guild award for Best Direction in a Documentary Feature.
- In October 2008 Professor Murray Goot received an Australian Research Council Discovery grant and Australian Professorial Fellowship (\$685,000, 2009/10- 2013/14) for 'Remaking Australian Politics: Electioneering from the 19th Century to the 21st'.
- In November 2008 A/Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington was presented with the 2008 Prime Minister's University Teacher of the Year award (\$50,000) at a ceremony at Parliament House, Canberra.

- In June 2009 the Centre (via A/Professor Griffen-Foley) was awarded an ARC Cultural Research Network grant for \$19,447 to fund a Media Archives Project pilot study.
- In 2009 A/Professor Griffen-Foley sponsored an application for a Macquarie University Research Fellowship.

Media Archives Project

A key obstacle to researchers in the field of Australian media history has been the uneven nature of archival holdings, especially concerning the commercial news media. The Centre for Media History has taken a leadership role in addressing this situation, initiating a Media Archives Project. The project aims to encourage and support the press, radio and television industries to preserve, make available, digitise, or deposit archival material in existing repositories. Locating, identifying and helping to preserve and make accessible this material will be of invaluable significance to scholars working in a wide range of other fields, for the Australian media documents the Australian people speaking and thinking.

The ARC Cultural Research Network has granted \$19,447 to fund a pilot study. A project officer in Sydney is to be employed to: investigate how best to update existing archival listings; identify some material of social and cultural heritage significance, including print and audio-visual material held by individual hobbyists, enthusiasts and media industry veterans; and locate some archival treasures. The pilot study will enable the Centre for Media History to meet with industry leaders in Sydney to explain the significance of archiving for the industry; conduct an environmental scan of media archives and their condition; help identify archival material at risk of physical deterioration or disposal; facilitate communications between media practitioners and existing collecting institutions; and expand the capacity of the CRN's Australian Media History Database.

The pilot study will focus on all forms of media across Sydney; if the pilot is judged to be worthwhile further funding will be sought from other sources so that the work can be extended to other cities and to regional and rural Australia. In-kind assistance from the National Film and Sound Archive has been pledged, and is also expected from organisations such as the Performing Arts Centre, the Noel Butlin Archives Centre, the National Archives of Australia, the National Library of Australia, and state libraries.

Linkages

Members of the Centre are playing an active role in one of the Concentrations of Research Excellence (CORE) at Macquarie University. Professor Murray Goot and A/Professors Bridget Griffen-Foley and Marnie Hughes-Warrington are members of the Social, Cultural and Political Change CORE. The CORE encompasses World History, International Relations, Gender/Post-Colonial History and Media and the State.

The Centre is a member of the International Association for Media and History.

An entry for the Centre has been included in the online database of the Asia Pacific Directory of Academic and Research Associations.

Website and promotion

<http://www.humanities.mq.edu.au/cmh>

The website includes information about members, news, events, media mentions, courses and resources; links to related sites, including information about *A Companion to the Australian Media* and a downloadable flyer.

The number, duration and source of hits to the site are monitored by Google Analytics. In addition to Australia, hits have been received from Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mauritius, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, the UK, and the USA.

The website has been promoted via a range of listservs, in Australia and overseas, and members are encouraged to include the Centre's address beneath their email signatures.

Individual members of the Centre have provided expert commentary to the media, and their research projects and activities have received considerable media coverage. A list of 'media mentions' appears on the Centre's website:

<http://www.humanities.mq.edu.au/cmh/media>

Thanks

I am grateful to Matthew Bailey for his administrative work on behalf of the Centre and Michael Virata for regularly uploading new information to the Centre's website. Mr Virata left Macquarie University in June 2009 and I wish him well.

Associate Professor Bridget Griffen-Foley

Director

30 June 2009