



CENTRE FOR MEDIA HISTORY
DIVISION OF HUMANITIES

ANNUAL REPORT
2007-2008



CENTRE FOR MEDIA HISTORY

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Introduction

The Division of Humanities 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, the Department of Politics and International Relations, the Department of Media and the Department of English, 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)
- Dr Paolo Cherchi Usai (Director, National Film and Sound Archive)
- Angelos Frangopoulos (CEO, Sky News Australia)
- Kirsten Garrett (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)
- Professor Murray Goot (Management Committee)
- Dr Bridget Griffen-Foley (Director)
- Dr Marnie Hughes-Warrington (Deputy Director)
- Professor Graeme Turner (University of Queensland)
- Bruce Wolpe (Director, Corporate Affairs, Fairfax Media)

The first meeting was held on 15 April 2008.

Members

Core Members

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

Associate Members

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

* denotes 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)

Meetings were held on 26 July 2007, 14 November 2007 and 20 February 2008. The next meeting is scheduled for 3 July 2008.

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
- Professor Michele Hilmes, University of Wisconsin Madison
- Dr Chandrika Kaul, University of St Andrews
- Associate Professor T. Mills Kelly, George Mason 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

Events

Following the first Management Committee meeting on 26 July 2007, drinks were held to mark the launch of the Centre.

- In Semester 2, 2007, the Centre hosted two research seminars/afternoon teas, each featuring a PhD student and a more senior scholar:
 - Film and history seminar, 5 September 2007: Bruce Dennett (PhD candidate, Macquarie University): 'Starting with the Opening Credits: The Genesis of Cinematic Images of Indigenous Australia'; and Alec Morgan (Department of Media, Macquarie University): 'Redesigning the Past: The Making of *Hunt Angels*'.
 - Press history seminar, 14 November 2007: Claire Scott (PhD candidate, Macquarie University): 'Reporting Armistice: Accounting for Variation in a Century of Meaning-making'; and Associate Professor David McKnight (University of New South Wales): 'The Cultivation of a Conservative Commentariat: The Case of News Corporation'.
- The Centre supported the staging of Making Feminist Histories of the Seventies: An *Australian Feminist Studies* Symposium on 26 October 2008, which was organised by Dr Michelle Arrow and hosted by the Centre for Cultural History at Macquarie University.
- The Centre hosted the Sydney leg of the visit to Australia of the well-known American film and media historian, Professor Robert C. Allen. On 13 March 2008 Professor Allen presented a free public lecture, entitled "'Going to the Show": Representing the Spatiality of Film History' at the State Library of New South Wales. The following

- day he conducted a workshop with Macquarie post-graduate students in the Department of Modern History.
- In Semester 1, 2008, the Centre co-sponsored two seminars in the Department of Modern History's 'Histories on Wednesday' series:
 - 9 April 2008: Dr Paul Arthur (Australia Research Institute, Curtin University of Technology): 'From Memory to Mashups: History in Cyberspace'.
 - 21 May 2008: Dr Jonathan Walker (Department of History, University of Sydney): 'Pistols! Treason! Murder!: A Multimedia Assassination'.

Competitive grants and fellowships

- In January 2008 the Centre (via A/Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington) was awarded \$20 561 under the Macquarie University Strategic Infrastructure Scheme for A Media Reception Database and Facility for the collection, management, and collaborative analysis of oral data.
- Individual Centre members have also received research grants/fellowships:
 - In conjunction with academics at the University of Sydney, Dr Maree Delofski was awarded an Australian Research Council Discovery grant (\$185,000, 2008-2010) for 'Sierra Leone and Australia: A Case of the Vanishing Twin'.
 - A/Professor Bridget Griffen-Foley was awarded an Australian Research Council Discovery grant and Queen Elizabeth II fellowship (\$530,000, 2008-2012) for 'From Print to the Internet: The Media in Australia since 1803', with *A Companion to the Australian Media* as the central output. Macquarie University is offering a Research Excellence Scholarship of 3.5 years for a PhD candidate to be attached to this project.
 - Kyle Harvey was awarded a Visiting Researcher Stipend (US\$2,000) to conduct archival research at UCLA's Film and Television Archive for his doctoral research on 'Media Reception and Nuclear Politics in 1980s America'.
 - In conjunction with academics from five European Union universities, and associates from the BBC, Reuters and Al Jazeera, Professor Christina Slade was awarded EU1.25 million over three years under the European Union Framework 7 initiative for 'Media & Citizenship: Transnational Television Cultures Reshaping Political Identities in the European Union'.
- In 2008 A/Professor Griffen-Foley sponsored an application for a Macquarie University Research Fellowship.

Concentration of Research Excellence

Members of the Centre are playing an active role in one of the new Concentrations of Research Excellence (CORE) established at Macquarie University. Professors Murray Goot and Christina Slade, 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.

International linkages

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

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

Designed by the Centre for Flexible Learning, the website went live in July 2007 and is regularly updated. It 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.

Promotion

The Centre's flyer was distributed to all delegates to the Australian Media Traditions Conference at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst on 22-23 November 2007.

In December 2007 a media release concerning the establishment of the Centre, and the award of an ARC grant to A/Professor Bridget Griffen-Foley for *A Companion to the Australian Media*, was despatched to a range of media outlets. A/Professor Griffen-Foley was interviewed about the establishment of the Centre by David Myton for 2SER-FM on 6 December 2007, and by ABC Radio National's *Media Report* on 3 April 2008.

Articles about the establishment of the Centre appeared in the *Australian* on 21 February 2008, and in the *Macquarie Globe* on 20 March 2008.

In addition, 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>

Associate Professor Bridget Griffen-Foley

Director

30 June 2008