

The Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies

The University of Queensland

2000 Annual Report

The Director took up his position in December, 1999, and the Centre officially commenced operation in January 2000. Staff did not have a physical location until the start of February, when the Director moved into offices on the 7th Floor of the Duhig Tower, Social Sciences and Humanities Library. The Director is most appreciative of the support he has received from library staff, particularly the University Librarian, Joan Foote, and Fiona Marshall, in moving the CCCS into library space. The Director and the staff of the CCCS also appreciate the efforts of the Executive Dean, the Vice-Chancellor, and Robyn McDougall – all of whom have contributed to making the CCCS space attractive, functional and prestigious.

The CCCS' first Project Officer, Katie Connolly, commenced work in mid-February but resigned her position in July as she was moving interstate. The CCCS' current Project Officer, Andrea Mitchell, took up her duties in mid-July. She is a part-time PhD candidate in the Department of English, and has expertise in cultural studies and other traditions of communications research, as well as a strong administrative background. She has carried the bulk of the burden of running the CCCS events in December, 2000, and has proved to be an outstanding appointment to this position.

University of Queensland Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr Mark McLelland, arrived from Hong Kong in April and has made a substantial contribution to the CCCS' work over the year. Mark has administered the seminar program for the History of Sexualities research concentration, he has formed collaborative relationships with staff in Asian Languages and Studies, and he has published prolifically from his doctoral thesis. A Start Up Grant has enabled him to develop this work on homosexuality in Japan into an analysis of on-line minority communities in Japan. There is great international interest in his work and he has been invited to present at the prestigious Asian Studies conference in Chicago in 2001. In a further joint initiative with Peter Jackson from the Research School of Social Sciences at the ANU, Mark has convened a one-day seminar in Sydney on the topic 'Asia-Pacific Queer'. This seminar is aimed at building up a network of scholars working on the Asia-Pacific area with an interest in issues of sexuality. The Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras has sponsored the event, and speakers will include Denis Altman and Ien Ang. Mark, too, has proved an outstanding appointment to the Centre, and the Director is grateful to Professor Paul Greenfield for his support of this position.

Dr Frances Bonner was the inaugural Faculty Visiting Fellow in 2001, and has demonstrated the value of this style of appointment. Working in the CCCS on a regular basis, Dr Bonner has made substantial progress on her book project: she is looking to submit it to the publisher during Semester 1, 2001. This project could not have been completed in this time without the support provided by the Faculty Visiting Fellowship

Occasional appointments to the CCCS over the year have included Faculty of Arts postgraduate students John Gunders and Susan Luckman, both as research assistants to Professor Turner, and a series of postgraduate students, including Sinta Widarsito and Shana Tacon, as administrative support for the conferences. In second

semester, all desks were occupied most of the time, and there was some pressure on space as the CCCS was an extremely active place. As demand for the fellowship programs develop, the need for a further office (there are currently four single occupant offices, and one large shared office) will become an issue to be managed carefully to ensure visiting staff have the best possible environment in which to work.

CCCS Events for 2000: Television

Each year the CCCS will select a theme to connect its various activities over the year. The theme for 2000 was 'Television', and it was developed in two major events: an international conference for those working in television studies, entitled 'Television: Past, present and futures'; and a 'Master Class' for postgraduates and early career researchers working on television. The conference ran from December 1-3, and the Master Class from December 7-11. A total of over 200 registrants were involved in these events, most from outside Queensland and many from overseas. They created a highly visible set of inaugural events for the Centre and attracted a great deal of interest from the university sector and from the media. Response from those who attended was uniformly positive – about the event, about the Centre, and about the University of Queensland as a venue and intellectual environment. The international publications resulting from the 'Television' events will help to further establish the name of the CCCS internationally.

'Television: Past, present and futures'

The conference was an outstanding success, incorporating contributions from the television industry (from Foxtel, the Nine Network, the ABC, the SBS, and the Australian Broadcasting Authority) as well as a large number of eminent scholars working in the field from the US, the UK, Europe, New Zealand and Australia. There was widespread media coverage of this event on radio and in the newspapers, particularly in Radio National's *Media Report*. Representatives of the relevant secondary school teachers associations (the Australian Teachers of Media, and the English Teachers Association) were offered concessions to attend and have since contacted the CCCS to record their appreciation and congratulations on the event. The Key Centre for Cultural and Media Policy sponsored a plenary panel on television and cultural policy and brought Prof Philip Schlesinger from the UK to speak. Rydges Hotel, Southbank, provided sponsorship support.

Approximately 180 registrants attended and almost one hundred papers were presented in parallel sessions. In addition to the plenary sessions from the keynote speakers (US visitors Professors Spigel and Fiske, and Professor Hartley from QUT), there were also panel sessions on current affairs television, television and new media, and television and cultural policy. Roughly 30% of the presenters were from outside Australia.

Selected papers from this conference will be published in a special issue of *The International Journal of Cultural Studies* in 2001, and in a special issue of *Television and New Media* in 2002. These special issues will be edited by the Director, Graeme Turner.

The Television Master Class

The Television Master Class brought 27 postgraduate students and junior academic staff together for five days of seminars with leading scholars in television studies from Australia and overseas --: John Fiske, Lynn Spigel, Catharine Lumby, Chris Barker – as well as leading figures within the academic community in Brisbane (which is exceptionally strong in this field at present) – John Hartley, Stuart Cunningham, Tom O'Regan, Graeme Turner, Francis Bonner and Alan McKee. We

attracted registrants from NSW, Victoria, Tasmania, and Queensland, as well as several from the US. This was a unique experience for all concerned, and universally appreciated by those attending. Although this is a new style of event and does not easily fit into the funding guidelines currently used by departments, it proved to be an exceptionally useful format for this particular constituency. It also proved to be an event the presenters enjoyed. The CCCS plans to develop this model of event as a means of offering young researchers an important developmental experience, and of promoting the University of Queensland as a research environment for postgraduate study. It is also likely that a book length project based on these seminars will eventuate; international publishers, Routledge, Edward Arnold, and Sage, have all expressed interest in conversations with the Director during his recent trip overseas.

Other CCCS Events in 2000

'On the Beach'

The CCCS acted as host for the annual conference of the Cultural Studies Association of Australia, December 4-6, on the theme of 'On the Beach'. Approximately 160 delegates attended and over 100 papers were presented. The CCCS did not play a part in the programming, but simply acted as the conference office in support of a local organising committee. While the work of the CSAA is directly relevant to the work of the CCCS and so this arrangement was appropriate, there were difficulties in dealing with the national organisation. Consequently, while the conference was a success and thus does bring credit to the CCCS, this is not a model for our activities in the future. There is a danger that the Centre will devote too much of its time and resources to running conferences for organisations that could easily find ways to run them without our assistance. The CCCS also underestimated the cost of running a conference post-GST (the GST has greatly increased the time involved in conference administration); clearly, full cost recovery is necessary for future arrangements but this would mean charging something very close to a commercial rate.

Occasional Faculty Seminars

While there is not a formal seminar program in place at this point, the CCCS did host a number of occasional seminars from eminent visitors in 2000. These were very well attended, averaging around 50, and much appreciated as an opportunity for cross-departmental and interdisciplinary discussion and debate.

Professor John Hartley (QUT), 'Towards A Republican Television Studies: or why television is too much like Irish dancing', May 11.

Professor Frances Ferguson (Johns Hopkins) 'Reviving Oedipus: Sex, Generations and Justice'. Jointly hosted with Griffith University's Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities. May 26.

Dr Scott McQuire (Deakin University) 'Unstable architectures: the impact of the electronic media on notions of public and private space'. Jointly hosted with the Key Centre for Cultural and Media Policy, Griffith University. September 15

Arts Faculty Public Lecture Series

The CCCS presented a series of public lectures devoted to the current research of Arts Faculty staff. At the invitation of the Director, individual members of the

Faculty outlined a recent research project or issue in an evening lecture held in the foyer of Mayne Hall. Refreshments were provided after the lecture. This is the first time such a series has been held, and academic staff appreciated the opportunity to present their work to the community. Audience interest has been pleasing, averaging around 75 over the series, although attendance is still drawn predominantly from the university community at this stage. Nevertheless, it is clear that there are many in the university community who will benefit from learning more about the nature and value of humanities research. All the lectures excited mainstream media attention, and an edited version of Martin Duwell's lecture was published in *The Australian's Higher Education Supplement* (October 11, 2000).

The CCCS is grateful for the support of the University of Queensland Alumni Association and the University's Protocol Office. This support enabled us to present these lectures free of charge.

The full list of the series for 2000 is as follows:

Assoc Prof Anne Freadman (Romance Languages) 'The Green Tarpaulin: Telling the story of the Ryan hanging' (30 March)

Prof Philip Almond (Studies in Religion), 'Is "religion" a good idea? Religious pluralism in the 21st century' (20 April)

Dr Margaret Maynard (Art History) 'The Dress that Saved Sydney: Australian Fashion and the Global Arena' (May 18)

Dr Lynne Hume (Studies in Religion) 'Do Spirits Exist? Exploring altered states of consciousness and anomalous experiences' (July 20)

Dr Martin Duwell (English) 'Poetry and the Universities' (24 August)

Dr Robert Cribb (History) 'Are political killings genocide?' (12 October)

Research concentrations development programs

As part of the Faculty's development of research concentrations, the CCCS has taken on the responsibility for assisting two groups: the History of Sexualities group, and the Asian identities group. The CCCS will support their activities for two years (2000-2001) in order to help generate some momentum for collaborative work. The character of this support ranges from administering regular colloquia or seminars for interested staff, to providing Visiting Fellowships to prominent academics in the field, to partnering the research concentration in mounting an event such as a conference or symposium. It is hoped that, in conjunction with the Director, the leaders of these groups will generate research grant proposals or publication outcomes from the two year program of support.

The History of Sexualities Research Concentration

This group included staff from the Departments of Asian Languages and Studies (Prof Louie, Dr Low) English (Drs Dale, Levy and O'Connell), Romance Languages (Prof Peter Cryle and Dr Exposito-Martinez), History (Drs Ferber and Moore) and the CCCS (Dr McLelland). It has met on five occasions, with a total of eight

presentations from participants. Collaboration is now occurring in two areas: one involving Prof Louie and Drs Low, Moore and McLelland on masculinities, and one involving Prof Cryle and Dr O'Connell on the Libertine Enlightenment.

The Director of the CCCS and Prof Cryle submitted a joint application to the Humanities Research Centre at the ANU requesting HRC support for a symposium on the topic of 'The Libertine Enlightenment' in 2001. (The HRC's theme for 2001 is The Enlightenment.) This application has been successful with the HRC providing \$2500 in cash in addition to funding one of their research fellows to present their work at the conference. The conference is listed as an HRC event for 2001, and has already attracted overseas interest. The CCCS will fund one eminent French scholar to speak at the conference, and Professor Cryle has also been successful in gaining support from the French government for a second eminent French scholar to attend. A third eminent presenter, with a British studies research orientation, will be added to the program. The conference will be held in September, 2001, and a number of the research concentration will be involved in the conference committee.

Asian Identities Research Concentration

This is a smaller group, and is focused around an ARC project lead by Dr Helen Creese and involving Dr Morris Low and Prof Kam Louie. The group held its first small symposium on Asian masculinities in December 2000, and the CCCS has agreed to support a larger conference on the topic of 'Asian Diasporan Identities' in December 2001. The CCCS will fund two keynote speakers, Dr David Parker (University of Birmingham), who will take up a Visiting Fellowship in the Centre, and Prof Ien Ang (UWS). Mark McLelland will hold a second meeting of his Asia-Pacific Queer research group as an ancillary event, and the CCCS will provide support for this event as well.

The core group working in this field has largely been confined to the original three but there is potential for greater cross-departmental contact. Interested parties include Dr Mark McLelland as well as a number of staff working in Asian history such as Dr Robert Cribb. The December conference will involve new contributors to the organisation: Dr Tseen Khoo, Dr Yuriko Nagata, and Dr Guy Ramsay (all from Asian Languages and Studies). It is expected that the conference will generate a surplus, and the CCCS is encouraging the group to use this surplus to further fund activities in this area of research concentration.

Faculty Research Development

The Director of the CCCS is the Research Director for the Faculty of Arts, Chair of the Faculty Research Committee, and the Faculty representative on the University's Research Committee. He is the point of contact for advice on research related matters for staff throughout the Faculty, and serves as the Faculty coordinator for ARC and other external grant schemes as well as for internal schemes such as the Small Grants and New Staff Start-Up Grants. He serves on numerous selection committees for postgraduate awards, research excellence awards, and overseas student awards, as the Arts Faculty representative. A research mentoring process has now been included in the induction of new staff into the Faculty, and the Director will meet all new staff to discuss their research needs and to help shape their research careers at the University of Queensland.

Visitors to the CCCS in 2000

There are three categories of visitor to the CCCS. *Visiting Fellows* are appointed by invitation, and are intended to contribute substantially to a series of activities over a concentrated period of residence here. Normally this would include presentations at a conference, symposium or seminar program as well as conferring with interested staff and postgraduate studies. Visiting Fellows come from outside Brisbane, and in most cases from overseas, and are a valuable means of enriching the research culture of the Faculty. *Faculty Visiting Fellows* are appointed through a yearly round of applications from members of the Faculty of Arts who wish to spend a semester partly or wholly in the CCCS. The CCCS allocates \$6000 to buy out all or part of the Faculty Visiting Fellow's teaching for the semester concerned. In return the Fellow works on a specific project with a clear publication outcome, occupies their office in the CCCS several days a week, and presents their work in a dedicated seminar or other CCCS event. One Faculty Visiting Fellowship per year is reserved for an Early Career Researcher; in 2000 there were no such applications but for 2001 Dr Sarah Ferber has been awarded that fellowship. Finally, there are *occasional visitors* who may be partly funded by the CCCS to present seminars, lectures or other activities over the year. These visits have been generated by Faculty staff proposals, and may be jointly funded with other institutions in Brisbane such as the Key Centre for Cultural and Media Policy.

Visiting Fellows 2000

Emeritus Professor John Fiske (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Among the leading international figures in television studies, semiotics, and cultural studies over the last two decades.

Professor Lynn Spigel (University of Southern California)

A cultural historian, who has written outstanding work on the introduction of television to the suburban home in the USA

Associate Professor Catharine Lumby (University of Sydney)

Journalist, columnist and academic, the convenor of the media and communications program at the University of Sydney, and an influential commentator on contemporary trends in 'tabloid' television.

Faculty Visiting Fellow 2000

Dr Frances Bonner (University of Queensland)

Seconded from the Department of English to complete a book contracted to Sage (UK), called "*Ordinary*" *Television*.

All four of this year's Fellows contributed presentations of their work to the themed events: the 'Television' conference and the Television Master Class. Dr Bonner also convened the organising committee for the 'On the Beach' conference.

Other visitors

Visitors, either wholly or partially funded by the CCCS or event sponsors, who contributed to CCCS activities during 2000 include the following:

Professor Philip Schlesinger (Stirling University)

Dr Chris Barker (University of Wollongong)

Prof David Buckingham (University of London)

Dr Scott McQuire (Deakin University)
Professor John Hartley (QUT)
Professor Tom O'Regan (Griffith)
Professor Stuart Cunningham (QUT)
Mr Chris Masters (ABC TV, Sydney)
Mr Hugh Riminton (The Nine Network, Sydney)
Mr Mark Furness (Foxtel, Sydney)
Mr Richard Fidler (ABC TV, Sydney)
Mr Jonathan Levy (Federal Communications Commission, USA)

CCCS Staff Publications in 2000

This has been an exceptionally strong opening performance from CCCS staff, with three monographs appearing, as well as four book chapters and eight refereed articles. The public profile of these publications has been high. *Fame Games* has been reviewed in the national press, discussed in several dozen radio interviews, and was the subject of feature articles in *The Bulletin* and *The Courier-Mail*. Mark McLelland's book, *Male Homosexuality in Modern Japan*, has also been the subject of media interest in Australia, and has been reviewed very favourably in *The Japan Times*. He is now negotiating a contract for a second book, co-edited with Nanette Gottlieb from Asian Languages and Studies. Graeme Turner has continued as editor of Australia's premier media journal, *Media International Australia incorporating Culture and Policy*. Project Officers are not normally expected to publish in academic contexts, but Andrea Mitchell's comparative study of the television coverage of the Olympics has made a substantial contribution to the academic debates around the Sydney Olympics.

Graeme Turner

Monographs

Graeme Turner and Stuart Cunningham (eds.) *The Australian TV Book* (St. Leonards, N.S.W.: Allen and Unwin, 2000)

Graeme Turner, Frances Bonner and P.David Marshall, *Fame Games: The production of celebrity in Australia* (Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000)

Chapters:

'Studying Television' in Turner and Cunningham (eds.) *The Australian TV Book* (St. Leonards, N.S.W.: Allen and Unwin)

'Television news and current affairs: Welcome to *Frontline*' in *The Australian TV Book*.

Refereed Articles:

'"Media Wars": Journalism, cultural and media studies in Australia', *Journalism*, 1:3, pp.353-365

'Talkback, advertising and journalism: A cautionary tale of self-regulated commercial radio', *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, 3:2, pp. 247-255.

Keynote and invited addresses

'Ethics, Entertainment, and the tabloid: talkback radio in Australia', keynote address, Australian and New Zealand Communications Association conference, July, Ballina, NSW 2000.

'Celebrity, journalism and promotional culture' Visiting Professorial Address, School of Arts, Media and Design, University of Sunderland, UK, June 2000

Editorial:

Editor, *Media International Australia incorporating Culture and Policy*, Issues 95-98, 2000

Mark McLelland

Monograph

Mark McLelland, *Male Homosexuality in Modern Japan: Cultural myths and social reality* (Richmond, Surrey: Curzon, 2000).

Chapters

'Gay Identity in 1990s Japan,' in: Proceedings of the 14th World Congress of Sexology, Editrice Compositori: Bologna, 2000, pp. 93-97

Refereed articles

'Male Homosexuality and Popular Culture in Modern Japan,' *Intersections: Gender, History and Culture in the Asian Context*, issue 3, January 2000

<http://www.she.murdoch.edu.au/intersections>

'The Love between "Beautiful Boys" in Japanese Women's Comics,' *The Journal of Gender Studies*, v. 9, n. 1, March 2000, pp. 13-26

'No Climax, No Point, No Meaning? Japanese Women's "Boy-Love" Sites on the Internet,' *Journal of Communication Inquiry*, 24:3, July 2000, pp. 274-291

'Out and About on Japan's Gay Net,' *Convergence*, 6:3, September 2000, pp. 16-33

'Interview with Samshasha, Hong Kong's First Gay Activist and Author.

Annotated and Introduced by Mark McLelland,' *Intersections: Gender, History and Culture in the Asian Context*, issue 4, September 2000;

<http://www.she.murdoch.edu.au/intersections>

'Is there a Japanese "Gay Identity?"' *Culture, Health and Sexuality*, 2:4, Autumn 2000, pp. 459-472

Book Reviews

Review of *Queer Japan* by Barbara Summerhawk et al., *Sexualities*, v. 3, n. 1, Spring 2000, pp. 150-153

Review of *Adult Manga: Culture and Power in Contemporary Japanese Society*, by Sharon Kinsella, *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies*, 2:2, 2000, pp. 162-165

Andrea Mitchell

Chapter

(with Helen Yeates) "Who's Sorry Now: Drugs, Sports and the Media towards 2000". *The Olympics at the Millennium: Power, Politics and the Olympic Games*. Eds. Kay Schaffer and Sidonie Smith. New York: Rutgers University Press, 2000: 197-212.

Reviews

Ngay Janijirr Ngank: This is My Word by Magdalene Williams. *Journal of Australian Studies*. No 64. 2000: 249-250.

The Olympic Games: A Social Science Perspective by K. Toohey and A. J. Veal. *MIA* 97 (Nov) 2000: 173-174.

Sport, Culture and the Media. by David Rowe. *M/C Reviews* 19 June 2000.

<<http://www.api-network.com/mc/reviews/words/unholy.html>>.

Sport, Culture and the Media by David Rowe. *Metro* 124/125 2000: 169-171.

"Interview with Phil Thomson, SOLID's director" *M/C Reviews* 3 Oct 2000

<<http://www.api-network.com/mc/reviews/features/brisfest2000/solid1.html>>.

Editorial

Ed. *M/C Reviews* Special Feature "The Olympics". 12 Review Articles 18 October, 2000.

<http://www.api-network.com/mc/reviews/features/index.html>