Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies

Annual report, 2004

Introduction

This was another active and productive year for the CCCS. The highlights are as follows:

- The external review of the Centre was conducted on the 22-23 March 2004. External members, Prof Ien Ang (UWS) and Prof Margaret Harris (Sydney) joined the Executive Dean, Professor Alan Rix, and internal member, Professor Robert Dixon (EMSAH/ASC), to conduct this review. The result was an exceptionally positive report with helpful advice for developments in the future.
- Most importantly, a further five years funding for the CCCS was recommended. The Vice-Chancellor and the Executive Dean have formally agreed to provide $125,000 each for five years to support the CCCS's activities.
- A second major achievement which occupied the Centre from January through to March in 2004 was the preparation of the application (and the accompanying website) for an ARC research network. The Director, Professor Graeme Turner FAHA, convened the successful bid for the Cultural Research Network, which was granted $1.75 million in ARC funds over five years.
- An innovative 75% research and 24% teaching fellowship was established in conjunction with EMSAH for Dr Melissa Gregg.
- The occasional seminar and public lecture series continued, with the move to the Mayne Centre for the lectures helping to build attendances significantly. The major activity of the year, the Internet Master Class, attracted much praise from its participants.
- Subsequent to the review of the CCCS, a significant upgrading of administrative support has been accomplished.
- Finally, CCCS staff were also prominent at the CSAA conference in Perth which followed immediately: Prof Turner presented one of the plenary addresses and Melissa Gregg contributed to one of the most well received panel presentations of the conference.

Events

Public lectures

The public lecture series prospered during 2004, with the move to the Mayne Centre proving very popular as attendances rose significantly. The only problem facing the series now is that the size of the audiences being attracted is beginning to be a concern for the gallery staff, and some lectures in future may have to be moved to larger venues. The Centre's 2004 lecture program continued its tradition of promoting the dynamic research culture of the arts and humanities at the University of Queensland in order to demonstrate the value of this research to the university and the community at large, while also showcasing the work of distinguished visitors to the campus. Professor Vera Mackie,

an ARC Professorial Fellow (University of Melbourne), and Professor Mark Poster (University of California) were among the distinguished visitors to be featured in our program. The presenters and topics are listed below:

Prof Vera Mackie - 22 April 2004
Three Men and a Camera: Mishima, Media, and Masculinities

Prof Phil Hayward - 19 May 2004
Special lecture in conjunction with MSAQ & QCGU : Facilitating Heritage: Agendas for active research in local music cultures

Dr Michele Pierson - 27 May 2004
Who Cares About Experimental Film?

Prof Robert Dixon - 5 August 2004
Travelling Mass-Media Circus: The Spectacular Career of Frank Hurley

Dr Aileen Moreton-Robinson - 9 September 2004
Whiteness Matters: Indigenous Studies and Australian Studies.

Prof Mark Poster - 7 October 2004
Identity Theft, or What's the Use of Having an Identity?

Occasional seminars

The CCCS Seminar series commenced on 23 April with Dr Tomoko Aoyama (UQ), Mr Romit Dasgupta (UWA), Prof Vera Mackie (Curtin), Dr Mark McLelland (UQ), and Dr Yuriko Nagata (UQ) contributing to a Genders, Transgenders and Sexualities Workshop. Speakers from Perth were brought to Brisbane by the Arts Faculty's Research Concentration in Asian Identities. Contributors to the series included Professor Tony Bennett from the Open University (UK) and Professor Meaghan Morris, from Lingnan University in Hong Kong. The list of seminars follows:.

Prof Tom O'Regan - 20 May 2004
Hollywood, Location and Globally Dispersed Production

Genders, Transgenders and Sexualities in Japan - 23 April 2004
(in conjunction with Arts Faculty's Research Concentration in Asian Identities)

Prof Tony Bennett - 14 July 2004
Civic Laboratories: Museums/the Fabrication of Cultural Objects/Self-Governance

Dr Juliana de Nooy - 23 Sept 2004
The insistent retelling of twin tales

Dr Mandy Thomas - 24 Sept 2004

'Interdisciplinarity'
UQ Research Week Event co-sponsored by the School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies

Dr Graham St John - 21 Oct 2004
Off Road Show: 'Feral Theatre' in the Outback

Profs Meaghan Morris and Graeme Turner - 09 Nov 2004
Meaghan Morris in conversation with Graeme Turner

Dr Goggin & A/Prof Newell - Disability Seminar - 11 November 2004
Disability, Power and Justice in Australia: An Audit

Internet Master Class

This was the major event for the year. Twenty five participants from Australia and overseas spent three days working through issues related to internet research. Keynote presenters included the CCCS' Dr Gerard Goggin, former CCCS research fellow, Dr Geert Lovink, now of the University of Amsterdam, and Dr Lisa Nakamura, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Other presenters included the CCCS dr Mark McLelland, and EMSAH postgraduate student Sue Morris. University of Queensland students were provided with discounted places, and several schools from the Arts Faculty supported their students to attend. The feedback on the class was very positive indeed, and the mix of early career researchers, postgraduate and more experienced presenters worked very well. The class was convened by Gerard Goggin and Geert Lovink, and administered by Andrea Mitchell. It helped to demonstrate the amount of expertise available at the University of Queensland in this new area of research.

Visitors

The transgenders seminar and the internet master class were responsible for a number of visiting scholars and visiting research fellows spending time at the Centre, presenting papers in occasional seminars, giving public lectures, and progressing their research.
Prof Vera Mackie, University of Melbourne
Dr Romit dasGupta, University of WA
Prof Phil Hayward, Macquarie University
Prof Tony Bennett., Open University UK.
Prof Paul Du Gay Open University UK
Prof Meaghan Morris, Lingnan University. Hong Kong
Dr Geert Lovink, University of Amsterdam
Dr Lisa Nakamura, University of Wisconson-Madison, USA
Prof Mark Poster, University of California, Irvine, USA.

Faculty Fellows

The Faculty Research Fellows are provided with teaching relief for a semester in order to bring a research or publication project to completion. They are asked to spend part of this time working in the CCCS, contributing to its seminar program and its other activities. Applications are invited from every school within the Faculty of Arts, with at least one grant per year allocated to an Early Career Researcher. These fellowships are only available to full-time staff in the Faculty of Arts at The University of Queensland. In 2004 we varied the application process, calling for applications for 2005 and 2006, or up to 18 months in advance. This was done in order to allow Schools more planning time to organize the teaching relief that goes with these fellowships. Allocations of four fellowships were made for 2005 and 2006, so there is room for a further two fellowships in 2006. There will be a further call in 2005 for applications for 2006 and 2007.
The Faculty Visiting Fellows for 2004 were Dr Margaret Henderson (Contemporary Studies), Dr. Chi-Kong Lai, (History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics), and Dr Geoff Wilkes, (Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies). All were working on book length projects which have been successfully completed.

Administration

Among the consequences of the review was the agreement from the Executive Dean to fund a .5 administrative appointment at HEW 3 in order to take up the administrative and clerical load currently borne by project officer Andrea Mitchell and short term casual staff Lisa Gunders and Elizabeth Tomlinson. Ms Rebecca Ralph took up the position in late 2004. In addition, the Centre was able to resize Andrea Mitchell's position to HEW 6, which comes closer to recognising the level of responsibility she carries. Consequently we have retitled her position so that she is now the Centre Manager. Further additions to administrative support will be consequent upon the network funding in 2005.

Postgraduate training

The Centre currently provides research supervision to16 graduate students in three Schools and two Faculties. One of the recommendations of the external review was that the CCCS should play a more active role in the postgraduate environment. While the review recognized that the CCCS had been instructed to leave postgraduate affairs to the Schools, they pointed out that a research centre must include postgraduates in its activities. The CCCS welcomed that advice and established a monthly forum for students in media and cultural studies convened by the Director and Dr Gregg, Members of the Centre have also contributed to graduate courses in EMSAH and other schools over 2004.

Staff movements

Dr Geert Lovink, as noted earlier, left the CCCS in December, 2003, for a position at the University of Amsterdam; he has maintained connections with the Centre in his new post and returned to co-convene the Internet Master Class with Gerard Goggin. Another new postdoctoral fellow joined the CCCS in 2004: Dr Melissa Gregg has moved from Sydney to take up an innovative fellowship which divides her time between research (75%) and teaching in EMSAH (25%) over four years. She will be working on a book from her PhD

and developing a project for an ARC application dealing with new media and feminism. Her fellowship is jointly funded by the University postdoctoral fellowship scheme and EMSAH. Dr Gerard Goggin took up his ARC ARF fellowship in April and has finalised a telecommuting workplace agreement to allow him to work primarily in Sydney for the next twelve months. This arrangement will facilitate closer connections with likely industry partners and industry lobbies, something which will enhance the project significantly. The arrangement will be reviewed in 2005.

Staff activities

Professor Graeme Turner

This year was the last year of the Director's service on the ARC College of Experts, but he began a three year term as President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities in November. As a result of his appointment as convenor of the ARC network, in December 2004 he stepped down from his role as Faculty Research Director, a role he had filled for five years. The conclusion of his term coincided with a major improvement in the ARC grants performance for the Faculty –with ten successful grant applications in the 2004, double the number of the previous year.

A major activity in 2004 was the preparation of the ARC networks application which took up the majority of his time from December 2003 through to early February. It involved coordinating 43 researchers for a meeting at UQ in January, the development of the network website, and the writing of the application. In addition, Professor Turner had an unusually active overseas schedule. He is the external examiner for the Cultural Studies program at Lingnan University in Hong Kong, and he visited there in January to discharge those duties. He also presented a keynote paper at a symposium on globalisation, interdisciplinarity and culture, and a series of lectures, at the University of Toronto in March; while there he also spoke at McMaster University. He returned to Hong Kong in May to speak at the Asian Urban Imaginaries research symposium at Lingnan and began talks about possible research and network collaborations with researchers in Asian cultural studies. He also consulted on networking and collaboration opportunities with Prof Paul Du Gay and Prof Tony Bennett (both from the Open University, UK) during their visits to the CCCS. He collaborated on a joint application for an ARC Centre of Excellence with Prof Howard Morphy of the CCRC (ANU) and Prof Margaret Harris of the RHSS (Sydney), which was unsuccessful.

Professor Turner benchmarked the Gender Studies Department at the University of Sydney in June, and presented seminars on humanities research applications to staff at QUT, Griffith, Macquarie University, Southern Cross University and the University of Wollongong. He contributed to the CHASS Humanities on the Hill event, and the Special Projects symposium on Humanities Research Collaborations at UWS. For UQ, he chaired the review of the UQRDG program, and served as a member of the working party examining the means of evaluating research quality for the DVC (Research). He furthered served the University as the Chair of the Faculty Research Committee, a member of the Faculty Executive, Faculty Postgraduate Studies Committee, University Research Committee, Academic Board, and the Research Directors group.

The Director's latest book, *Understanding Celebrity*, was published by Sage (London) in May, and launched at the ANZCA conference in Sydney in July. He also completed the manuscript from his long running research project on Australian television news and current affairs (the subject of an ARC grant in the late 1990s) as a monograph to be published in 2005 by the University of NSW Press. He began preparation of a fourth edition of his co-edited (with Stuart Cunningham) textbook, *Media and Communications in Australia*, for publication in late 2005. In addition, his ARC funded talkback project is continuing. Taping off air was accomplished with the assistance of Rehame in April and this material has been transcribed and analysed by research assistants Elizabeth Tomlinson and Susan Pearce. In conjunction with Richard Fitzgerald and Maureen Burns from EMSAH he contributed to a panel presentation on talkback radio at the Cultural Studies Association of Australia conference in Perth in December. Over the year he responded to numerous requests for media interviews on this topic and on the topic of the celebrity book.

Dr Gerard Goggin

Dr Gerard Goggin continued working on a range of projects, which entail conducting fieldwork on telecommunications, new media, and Internet policy, industry, and consumption (principally in Sydney).

In March 2004, Gerard delivered the manuscript of his edited collection *Virtual Nation: The Internet in Australia* (UNSW Press, August 2004). This is a publication outcome from the 'Cultural History of the Internet' project. He continues to conduct further research and prepare a second book, *Networking Imaginings: A Cultural History of the Australian Internet* (which is under consideration by UNSW Press). He will give a seminar at Contemporary Studies, UQ Ipswich on 'The Internet and Postcolonialism', and has been invited to submit a paper on this topic to a special 'Digital Culture' issue of *Postcolonial Studies*.

In April 2004, Gerard commenced his five-year Australian Research Fellowship from the Australian Research Council to study 'mobile phone culture'. Already his work in this area has received considerable attention. In July 2004, he was an invited keynote speaker at the annual Telstra Consumer Consultative Council on 'Mobile and Wireless Cultures'. He has been invited to serve as a judge on the Mobile Marketing Council Awards. A proposal for a book on *Mobile Culture* has very well received by international publishers, and he is likely to sign a contract with Routledge in August 2004. Gerard has also been invited to give a seminar in the Centre for Public Culture and Ideas, Griffith University, in November 2004, on the topic 'Mobile Phones and Cultural Theory'. Gerard is editing two special issues of scholarly journals on aspects of mobiles: an 2005 issue of *Southern Review* on 'Histories of Mobile Telephony', and a 2006 issue of *Continuum: Journal of Media & Cultural Studies* on 'Mobile Phone Culture'. Finally, Gerard has been collaborating with other leading researchers on a landmark strategic research framework for Australia on social and cultural aspects of mobiles, under the auspices of the Academy of the Social Sciences of Australia (with participation from the Academy of the Humanities) and the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association.

One of Gerard's main activities this year is the organisation of the CCCS masterclass on Internet studies to be held on campus in December 2004. Already this

event has attracted much attention from PhD students and early career researchers, and includes leading international and national researchers as presenters.

Gerard continued his 'Culture of Services: New Media' research, funded by a UQ Research Development grant, focussing on new mobile phone services. In October 2004, he will undertake a two-week trip to Hong Kong to finish research for this project. Gerard also continued his ARC Linkage project on the take-up of broadband services in Northern NSW and the ACT, which has been received with much interest by the scholarly, industry and policy communities. Lucy Cameron, the PhD investigator on this project, is expected to submit her PhD in April 2005. Gerard has commenced as an Associate Supervisor on Sue Morris's UQ PhD on computer gaming.

Gerard continued his work in the area of disability studies, working with collaborator Associate Professor Christopher Newell, University of Tasmania. They secured a contract for a second book on disability — *Disability in Australia: Exposing a Social Apartheid* (UNSW Press, October 2004), which they delivered to the publisher in May 2004. Justice Michael Kirby has provided the foreword to the book, which will be the subject of a CCCS seminar in November 2004. Gerard and Christopher have a number of projected articles in international journals, and are editing a 2005 special issue of the lead North American journal *Disability Studies Quarterly* on the topic 'Disability and Technology'.

In the first semester of 2004, Gerard gave guest lectures in courses at UQ and the University of NSW. Gerard serves on the editorial boards of *Continuum: Journal of Media and Cultural Studies* and *Scan: Journal of Media Arts and Culture*, and has recently been invited to join the board of *Media International Australia*. He continues to serve as a Public Member on the Telephone Information Services Standards Council, and recently was invited to join the Disability Studies and Research Institute.

Dr Melissa Gregg

Since beginning work at the CCCS in February 2004 Melissa has successfully applied for a New Staff Start-up Grant, developed publication opportunities from her PhD, presented her work at a major international conference in the United States and taught in the School of English, Media Studies and Art History. Melissa has had three articles published in *Antithesis, Cultural Studies Review* and *Cultural Studies* and her PhD examination reports have been returned, recommending that it be passed, and providing exceptionally positive feedback. Graduation is imminent. She is currently working on revising the PhD for publication in book form and her proposal has so far received interest from Blackwell and Sage Publishers in the US. She is applying for an Early Career Researcher Grant to help fund the extension of the research required to bring this project to fruition.

Domestically, Melissa has had three abstracts accepted for conferences later in the year: the 'Italian Effect' Conference at The University of Sydney in September, the 'Dialogues Across Cultures' Conference in Melbourne in November, and a panel organized with colleagues in Brisbane, Sydney and London for the Cultural Studies Association of Australasia conference in Perth this December.   As well as teaching Cultural Studies Theory in Semester 2 she is also working with Graeme Turner to develop a regular symposium for cultural studies postgraduate scholars at UQ and QUT.

Dr Mark McLelland

Mark returned from a research trip to Tokyo in January 2004 during which he had been exploring collaborative opportunities with researchers into transgender culture at Tokyo's Chuo University. The first months of the year were spent completing his new ARC-funded monograph which will be published by Rowman & Littlefiled as *Queer Japan from the Pacific War to the Internet Age* in early 2005. In April he traveled to Perth (UWA) to participate in a Japanese Genders and Sexualities workshop which was held once more that same month at the University of Queensland. In May he attended the Queer Matters conference in London where he had organised five panels of Asia-Pacific Queer research and in June he attended the Asian Studies Association of Australia conference in Canberra where he had organised a further three panels. In July he flew to Melbourne to participate in the seminar 'Perverse Transits' held by the School of English with Cultural Studies. During this time he was also working on his co-edited book *Genders, Transgenders and Sexualities in Japan* which will be released by Routledge early in 2005. Mark is also one of the convenors of the 2005 Bangkok 'Sexualities, Genders and Rights in Asia: The First Asian Queer Studies Conference' and has been putting in a considerable amount of time into organising this event.

Mark has also been working with his research assistant Tomoko Kashiwagi on compiling a Japanese excel database cataloging his extensive collection of articles relating to minority sexualites collected from Japan's postwar press. Mark hopes to apply to the ARC in the next funding round for a grant to support a new monograph based on this collection and also to be able to attract a PhD student to work with him, focussing particularly upon women's same-sex sexuality in the early postwar period in Japan.

Dr Graham St John

In this period, UQ postdoctoral research fellow Dr Graham St John continued research on post-rave youth subcultures and new Australian countercultures for the project 'Australian Sound Systems: New Youth Counter-Cultures and the Search for Belonging'. He conducted field research in southern Tasmania, Sydney, Canberra, Lake Cowal NSW, and Port Augusta and Alberrie Creek South Australia, conducted 28 interviews and established and maintained good research communications with several community and indigenous organisations. The period saw the initial development of a project idea that will become the basis for an application for an ARC ARF in 2006 at the CCCS under the supervision of Prof Turner. The project explores the impact of recent historical and environmental sensibilities on Australian identity, investigating the role of cultural performances in the generation of nascent understandings of Australian place and self.

The period has seen the publication of an edited collection *Rave Culture and Religion* (London, New York; Routledge) to which Graham contributed a full length introduction and two chapters, and the successful contracting of two further books: the monograph *Technomad: The Global Pathways of Post-Rave Counterculture*; and the edited collection *Victor Turner and Contemporary Cultural Performance* (both to be published by Berghahn).   He has also submitted two book chapters and three journal articles for review. These are: 'Making a Noise – Making a Difference: Techno-Punk and Terra-ism', for E. Hardman, B. Holtzman and A. O'Connor (eds) *Punk and Hardcore: Contemporary Approaches*; 'Madder than Max: Earthdream Tactical Circus' for *Off the*

Radar: A Direct Action History of Australia; 'Off Road Show: Techno, Protest and "Feral Theatre"' for *Continuum: Journal of Media and Cultural Studies;* 'Outback Vibes: Sound Systems on the Road to Legitimacy' for *Postcolonial Studies: Culture, Politics, Economy*; and 'The "Protestival": Reclaim the Streets and Tactical Dance', for *Peace Review: A Journal of Social Justice.* Two digizine articles were published: 'Last Night the Mystery Saved My Life' *En-Trance* No 5 February 2004, and 'The land of the Long White Sock' *Undergrowth* # 2 June 2004 (Terra Poetica). Graham is also in the process of editing a special edition of the journal *Culture and Religion* on Rave and Religion to be published in 2005.

Ms Andrea Mitchell

This was a busy year for the Centre's Project Officer/Centre Manager, starting off with the January Networks meeting, and currently organising to fill the approved receptionist/administration position. Earlier in the year, Andrea helped induct the new staff member, Melissa Gregg, and organised various resources relating to her position. Resizing and renaming the Project Officer's position has been successfully finalised, with the position now classified as Centre Manager, HEW Level 6, full time/continuing.

The Centre's website has been updated and changed over to the UQ Online Content Management Publishing System. Most Centre research staff have now been trained in this system and this should free up some administrative staff time by allowing research staff to make their own changes/corrections to individual staff profiles and publication outputs, and help with the currency of the web information. Documentation for the 5 year Review took up some administrative time earlier in the year, as did organising the first Advisory Board meeting, which took place in July. Andrea has also been working with Debbie Browne, the Faculty Finance Officer, on new financial reporting tools to enable quicker and easier management of the increased number of grants that need to be managed, and staff are being encouraged to change over to the new system in order to track their budgets more conveniently. She is also involved with the administration and planning for the Internet Master class at the end of the year. She continues to represent the Faculty on the Events Registration System User group.

Current Grants

Graeme Turner, ARC Discovery, 'Talkback Radio in Australia: Content, audience, influence', $77,550
Graeme Turner, ARC, **Cultural Research Network,** $1.75million
Gerard Goggin, ARC ARF
Mark McMcLelland, ARC APD
Mark McLelland, UQ ECR
Melissa Gregg UQ NSSG
Graham St John UQ ECR

CCCS 2004 Publications

Graeme Turner

Books

Graeme Turner, *Understanding Celebrity,* Sage, London, 2004.

Chapters in Scholarly Books

Graeme Turner "Audience Decline" in J. Sinclair (ed*.) Contemporary World Television* J.Sinclair, BFI, London 2004.

Graeme Turner "Television and Democracy: Threats and Opportunities' in J.Sinclair (ed.) *Contemporary World Television*, BFI, London, 2004.

Invited presentations, keynotes etc

"The Antipodean Everyday", plenary panel presentation, CSAA annual conference, Murdoch University, Perth, December, 2004.

'Globalisation, national cultures and cultural studies: the Australian context', invited plenary address, Globalism and Cross-Talk: An Interdisciplinary symposium, The Munk Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto, March, 2004.

"Shrinking the borders: globalisation, culture and belonging', invited address, Urban Imaginaries: An Asia-Pacific Research Symposium, Lingnan University, Hong Kong, May, 2004.