

# RESEARCH artefact

School of Arts & Sciences, UNDA Sydney, 2017 Issue: 1

## Research in print

*Summaries from the latest staff publications*

### Role of play in Aboriginal life

The authors explain the role and significance of 'muck-about' play and making fun in Aboriginal life, and introduce the concept of Darn Najun Burri, which emphasises empathetic engagement with others and the capacity to imagine oneself in the place of the other. The authors suggest that Darn Najun Burri's connection with the concept of grace and an imperative towards gratitude and counting one's blessings can usefully guide the pedagogy of early childhood educators.

Adapted from: Proud, D., Lynch, S., à Beckett, C., & Pike, D. (2017). 'Muck-About': Aboriginal conceptions of play and early childhood learning. In Lynch, S., Pike, D., & à Beckett, C. (Eds.) *Multidisciplinary perspectives on play from birth and beyond*. Singapore: Springer.

### Domestic violence

Although the mental health effects of domestic violence are well established, there is a dearth of literature about the demographic characteristics of frontline workers and their preference of therapeutic approaches in engaging with victims of domestic violence from Australia's Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities. The authors collected data from frontline workers associated with medical organisations in New South Wales (N=60) about demographics and their preference for Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) or Person Centred Therapy (PCT) therapeutic approaches. The results of the multivariate tests did not find the main effects of any of the demographic factors to be significantly associated with a preference for CBT or PCT based therapeutic approaches. However, follow-up tests indicated that the PCT Perception Score was significantly different according to gender and years of experience of the respondent.

Adapted from: Dedeigbo, O., & Cocodia, E. (2017). Domestic violence in Australia's CALD communities: Association between

demographics of frontline workers and selected therapeutic approaches. *Asia Pacific Journal of Advanced Business and Social Studies*, 3(1), 270-279.

### Death comes to Pemberley

This essay analyses the BBC Masterpiece production of *Death Comes to Pemberley* in the context of a proliferating field of gothic, horror, and paranormal adaptations of Austen, focusing on the gothic as a means of addressing issues of history, gender, and power. It argues that if historical identities are about control and order, and the ordering of time is a means of identity formation, then the writing of history should therefore be considered as a means of producing disciplined historical subjects. In this case, there may well be a liminal aspect to the anarchic, playful, and female-centred rewriting of history that is found in Jane Austen story worlds, which, in their popular gothic manifestations, seem increasingly bent on tearing history from its roots.

Nelson, C. (2016). Spooky Jane: Women, history, and horror in *Death Comes to Pemberley*. *Adaptation-the Journal of Literature on Screen Studies*, 9(3), 377-392.



Source: [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)



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## Welcome to 2017

Well it has been a bumper start to 2017 with the release of a number of staff publications. Deborah Pike's monograph *The Subversive Art of Zelda Fitzgerald* (University of Missouri Press, 2017) is now out, as is the book she co-edited with UNDA colleagues Sandy Lynch and Cynthia à Beckett, *Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Play from Birth and Beyond* (Springer, 2017). Arts and Sciences staff Anna Kamaralli, Camilla Nelson and Ari Mattes also contributed chapters to the text. You can read extracts from both of these texts in this issue of *Artefact*, along with an interview with Deborah Pike.

In HDR news, we have a new HDR rep to the School Research Committee, Kiara Pirola. Kiara will help coordinate various HDR activities in the School, and currently contributes a column to the Monthly Research Update e-newsletter. You can find out more about Kiara in this issue's "Interview with an HDR student". I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing HDR representative Sophie Boffa, who worked hard to represent HDR issues on the SRC. Sophie has now submitted her PhD and is moving on to greater things.

Enjoy the issue!

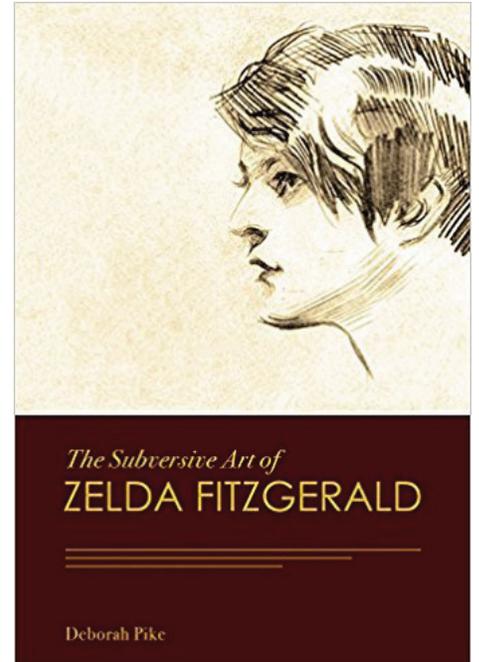
**Dr Christine de Matos is a Senior Lecturer in History and the Associate Dean, Academic Development and Research.**

## Zelda Fitzgerald

This book gives light to the multiple artistic expressions of Great Gatsby-writer's wife as modernist vanguard.

Best-known as an icon of the Jazz Age and the unstable wife of F. Scott, Zelda Fitzgerald has inspired studies of her life and work that often perpetuate the myth of the glorious-but-doomed woman. Pike rehabilitates the literary and artistic status of Zelda Fitzgerald by reassessing her work in light of previously unpublished sources. Fitzgerald's creative output was astonishing, considering the conditions under which she lived and the brevity of her life: she produced dozens of short stories, several journalistic pieces, a play, two novels, and hundreds of pieces of art. Pike draws upon critics, theorists, and historians to illuminate Fitzgerald's work as dynamic, subversive and highly modernistic.

Pike, D. (2017). *The Subversive Art of Zelda Fitzgerald*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press.



## Conference reports

### 2016 Australasian Council for Undergraduate Research Conference, 27-28 October 2016

*Sarah Bell (Masters by Research student)*

In October last year, I was honoured to represent the university at the 2016 Australasian Council for Undergraduate Research Conference at Central Queensland University, Rockhampton. Undergraduate, Honours, and first year Masters students from around Australia gathered for the three day conference centred on the themes of social justice, innovation, and student voice. The annual conference gives undergraduate and early level postgraduate students the opportunity to present their research projects and discuss their specialist knowledge amongst fellow

budding academics, thus introducing them to a wider research community within Australia.

I presented the findings of my honours research about representation of Australian Army Nurse Service Prisoners of War under the Japanese in print news and entertainment. As a social justice issue,



ACUR conference (Photo: Sarah Bell, 2016)



*Could you tell us briefly about your PhD thesis?*

I completed my PhD at the University of Sydney. It was an archaeology of the creative oeuvre of Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald, wife of the famous American writer, F. Scott Fitzgerald. Much of her writing remains unpublished, so it was fascinating to look at the archives in Princeton where all her papers, letters, diaries and novel drafts were kept. Fitzgerald was a prolific painter as well so my study includes an examination of her artworks. Not much had been done on her work previously and I felt there was a story there. She was certainly a woman of high intellect, talent and artistic merit. (I don't think Woody Allen got it right in *Midnight in Paris*.)

*How would you explain the broader significance of your research to an educated layperson?*

I used quite a layered approach in relation to interpreting her work – the philosophy of Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari - in particular their conception of 'minor literature' - were very helpful for me, so too psychoanalytic phenomenology, post-structuralist feminist ideas of language. My thesis was also historically-embedded, and evaluated of some of the social, economic, artistic, medical and psychiatric forces at work during the period in which Fitzgerald lived. This certainly impacted her writing and life.

# Deborah Pike

## Interview with a researcher



I am fortunate that this work – somewhat revised – will appear in a book coming out shortly, called *The Subversive Art of Zelda Fitzgerald*, published with the University of Missouri Press.

*What is your current research focus?*

I am working on a book for Bloomsbury academic which is focused on overlooked writers of the modernist period – that is roughly – the late 19th to mid 20th Century. It's called *Modernism Beyond the Canon*. I am also working on a paper based on interviews of leading figures in the humanities at universities.

I am synthesizing some of their ideas and trying to come up with a picture of the future of English studies at university. I also enjoy devoting my time to some creative work.

Recently a collaborative book I co-edited on the topic of play has appeared.

*What is the cutting edge in your field and how does your work extend/relate to it?*

In terms of modernist studies, there is very much a transnational turn – there is a huge interest in global modernism and the networks of modernism, modernism and translation. My work is in sync with this to some extent – certainly in the project to broaden the field of study to look at 'minor' writers of the early 20th C and the role they played in shaping aesthetics, the evolution of modernism, and I daresay, history, is in keeping with this 'turn'

*How has your research influenced your teaching?*

I definitely think it has influenced my teaching. I do bring new topics of study into my classes, based on my research.



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**We welcome your feedback and contributions which can be sent to [philip.dennett@nd.edu.au](mailto:philip.dennett@nd.edu.au)**



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historians must consider the ethical and social obligations involved in deciding where the responsibility lies when representing a community that has all passed on, and how to rectify misrepresentation, if at all. Is it important for historians to highlight discrepancies between media reports and adaptations of their stories and the self-representations of the nurses? Is it the sole responsibility of historians to tell a community's story, or can it be shared with a methodologically conscious film and theatre? These are all questions that are yet to be answered, and are far beyond the capabilities of an honours level thesis to definitively answer. However, the ACUR conference gives students the opportunity to not only contribute their own research, but learn which questions to ask of others and inspire further inquiry. This has been an invaluable experience for me as a first year Masters student, and I would encourage all undergraduate and early postgraduate students with a passion for research to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

### **Being Human: Lessons from Science, Nature and Bowen theory, Center for the Study of Natural Systems and the Family, Houston, 17-18 February 2017**

*Linda MacKay*

In February, I presented a paper entitled, "The challenges of co-regulation and differentiation of self in non-kinship care from a Bowen family systems lens" at the Being Human Symposium in Texas. My paper was presented following an intensive two-day immersion in the multi-million dollar NIMH-funded research project being conducted by Prof Elizabeth Skowron and her team based at The Prevention Science Institute at the University of Oregon in Eugene. Prof Skowron is continuing her study on the effects of stress on parents and children; her work is ground-breaking as it effec-

tively establishes a link between physiological indicators of stress as it relates to parenting behaviour and child maltreatment and how differentiation of self (that is, the ability to act with emotional maturity under stress) affects these outcomes. Her most recent research to which I was exposed in Oregon (YES!!!!!!!!!!!! VERY EXCITING!!!!!!!!!!!!) has also established that parents who engage in both neglecting and maltreating behaviours also show much higher levels of physiological arousal than non-maltreating parents when their children demonstrate more affiliative and trusting behaviour towards them. In other words, heightened levels of anxiety appear to contribute to these parents withdrawing from contact with their children, as opposed to setting responsible limits or showing care and affection.

My own research interest relates to my role providing clinical supervision to a multi-disciplinary team of clinicians working with families with children who have been placed in out-of-home care (OOHC) and their foster parents (I am only half-time at UNDA). To date, there has been little or no research that has been conducted to measure the regulatory capacities of non-kinship carers, the related co-regulatory capacity of foster children, and more specifically, indigenous children in the Australian context, for whom it is not uncommon to have in excess of six or seven OOHC placements before ending up in residential care.

So my presentation very much benefited from not only my visit with Prof Skowron, but also from the fascinating presentations of the two keynote speakers of the Being Human Symposium, Dr Melvin Konner, who is Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor in the Department of Anthropology and the Program in Neuroscience and Behavioural Biology at Emory University, and Dr Joanne Bowen, who is a Research Professor of Anthropology at the College of William and Mary. Both of these speakers focussed on their re-



**(L to R) Linda with Prof Elizabeth Skowron, and two of her team amazingly talented researchers, Felicia Gutierrez, and Rose Jeffries**

search related to forces active in human evolution and adaptation. Both academics spoke about the effects over time and generations of the change from subsistence to commodity-based living and the reciprocal effects of this on different human systems and the environment. In having to adapt to conditions that created prosperity for a few and hardship and adversity for many, there are common cross-cultural indicators of where these adaptations are being felt at the level of human physiology and functioning, particularly in marginalised groups. This is so relevant for work with many families and particularly for work and research undertaken with indigenous populations. Further, I received very constructive feedback from audience members as to my research design for my initial pilot project. So I have returned to Sydney, excited, inspired, daunted, overwhelmed and, most importantly, more motivated to continue this thinking, planning and funding application process!

### **Austin Film Festival and Writers Conference 13-20 October 2016**

*Marco Ianniello*

In October 2016 I attended the Austin Film Festival and Writers Conference, which has been running for 24 years and "furthers the art and craft of filmmaking by inspiring and championing the work of screenwriters, filmmakers and all art-



ists who use the language of film to tell a story” (AFF website, 2016).

The conference featured my Screenplay (Original TV Pilot) Competition entry, which I co-wrote with Dr Hannah Iannielo. The Pilot Screenplay placed in the top 10% of entries (where there were over 9000 entries worldwide). As a screenplay competition writer I gained privileged access to the conference experience, from writer’s workshops with Hollywood writers, showrunners and producers, to a range of intimate round tables with leading screenwriters and practitioners discussing the art and craft of screenwriting. It was a truly immersive and inspiring conference experience.

**The Australian Sociological Association “Cities and Successful Societies”, 28 November-1 December 2016, ACU Melbourne; and “Symposium on Transnational People-Movement and Social Rights”, 12-13 December 2016, USyd.**

*Louise St Guillaume*

I attended two conferences in November and December last year. The Australian Sociological Association (TASA) is “committed to promoting sociology in Australia, facilitating the teaching of sociology and sociological research, and enhancing the professional development of ... members” (TASA, 2017). It is “one of the largest social science associations in Australia” (TASA, 2016,) and its annual conference is an opportunity for members to meet, present research and discuss important ideas. TASA has thematic groups which members who are working in similar areas can join. The annual conference presents an opportunity for the thematic groups to meet, plan future projects and discuss new research developments. As I was to take over as convenor of the teaching sociology thematic group this year, I attended the conference to meet the former

convenors, thematic group members and attend thematic group sessions/ events.

The Symposium on Transnational People-Movement and Social Rights examined the rights of various groups of migrants in several different contexts. The intimate gathering explored the rights of those seeking asylum and migrant workers, those who are forced to move and those who move voluntarily, and generally explored questions about governance and transnational movement in a context where many people are on move. The Symposium heard from Professor Stephen Castles, who presented a stimulating keynote address. Fellow colleague Ellen Finlay and I presented a paper on the production of impairment under Australian migration controls in Nauru.

**Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (ANZAMEMS) Conference, 7-10 February 2017**

*Karen McCluskey*

In early February I presented a paper at the annual ANZAMEMS conference at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand. This is the Australia and New Zealand Association for Mediaeval and Early Modern Studies, the largest network of scholars working in this field across Australian/New Zealand and recognised worldwide. Indeed, we had an international cohort of speakers and papers addressing a varied assortment of historical problems from East to West, North to South. Even though the ANZAMEMS platform is not necessarily global history, at the Wellington conference this current trend in historical studies was well apparent. My own paper, “From local obscurity to civic heroes: the elevation of domestic saints and ‘beati’ in Venice in the seventeenth century”, was much more narrow in its purview. Extending some thoughts from a book I’m currently writing on Venetian hagiography, I explored the legacy of mediaeval



**Botanic Gardens, Wellington. [Photo: Karen McCluskey, February 2017]**

‘new saints’ in Venice in the seventeenth century. It was my first visit to New Zealand and Wellington was lovely, even if predictably cold and rainy. The people of New Zealand are very welcoming and friendly; I’d love to go back and explore further!!! Highlight of the trip: exploring Wellington’s beautiful Botanic Gardens (see pic).

**Berlinale Talents, 11-16 February 2017, Berlin**

*Tony Radevski*

In February 2017, I had the incredible opportunity to participate in Berlinale Talents, representing Australia as a writer/director.

This year, Berlinale Talents welcomed 250 emerging film professionals, chosen from 2711 applicants and 71 countries, across all filmmaking disciplines. Now in its 15th year, it is an initiative of the Berlin International Film Festival and runs concurrently with the festival. Exploring the theme “Courage: Against All Odds”, the Talents participated in a six-day programme featuring over 100 events.



Forty participants with projects in development were selected for Project Labs in the categories of documentary, fiction and short film. I was fortunate enough to have my new film script, *Risen*, chosen for the Short Film Station.

Upon touching down in Berlin, you get an immediate sense of the cultural importance of the Berlin Film Festival to its people and its city. The spirit of the festival is palpable in the minus 5 degree air (FYI going from a 45 degree Sydney summer to subzero temperatures in 24 hours does very strange things to your body. A good chapstick is mandatory!).

I spent most of my time with the Short Film Station participants as well as my individual mentor, who workshopped my project with me. Not only was the development process invaluable for my own script, the cultural exchange was equally beneficial. I learnt so much about the filmmaking process in many countries, from Nepal, to Jordan, to Norway.

We were introduced to Short Film Station alumni from previous years, who were in Berlin presenting their films to the festival. We also had opportunities to meet with film festival selectors, funding bodies and distributors.

Our comprehensive development workshops led to a final “pitch” session at the end of the six days, where we presented our projects to a large audience of pro-



Tony Radevski in Berlin, February 2017

ducers and other Talents.

Leaving Berlin, I not only had a clearer direction for my project, I felt a reinvigorated sense of determination, inspiration and nerve. Collaborating with other practitioners on an international level opened me up to unexpected ways of working and thinking that will continue to inform my own work.

The currywurst wasn't too bad either.

## Monkeys in the archives, and other tales

### Conference for the Indian Association for the Study of Australia (IASA), Eastern Region, Kolkata, 4-5 February 2017

*Christine de Matos*

In late January and early February I travelled to India with a colleague from the University of Wollongong, Dr Rowena Ward, to do some research on Japanese civilians interned in British India during the Second World War. On arrival at the National Archives in Delhi we were met by guards and monkeys, the latter hanging out on the high fence that surrounded the complex. I immediately suspected that this was going to be no ordinary archival experience.

Usually the worst I have to contend with in my research is a lost file or dust in the nostrils. By the end I had been forced to share my banana with one very determined monkey, been escorted out of the archives by an armed guard for having the wrong day pass, and had the back of my leg chewed on by a possibly rabid monkey, and possibly because I did not share my banana with him.

After almost two weeks in Delhi we then made our way to Kolkata to the Indian Association for the Study of Australia (IASA), Eastern Region, conference. The presenters included academics from Monash, Wollongong and UNSW in Australia, and both academics and HDRs from universities around West Bengal.

I had not anticipated the great level of enthusiasm for research on Australia in India, especially in Australian literature and Aboriginal studies. The scholarship presented, particularly from HDRs, was very impressive, and showed a level of enthusiastic engagement with Australian history, issues and literature that is often sadly hard to find at home.

Our own conference paper compared the internment of Japanese civilians in Australia (Loveday, Tatura, Hay) with those in India (Purana Qila in Delhi, Deoli in Rajasthan), and the attempts of the (British) Indian and Australian governments to influence London's negotiations with Japan to arrange an exchange of interned civilians in 1942.

The HDR students on the panel I chaired made me feel like a rock star, with mobile photos galore. I left feeling that we really should engage in more collaborative research with institutions and organisations around the Indo-Pacific region, just like this one – and I don't just mean for the photo opportunities. Though I would advise those planning to go to an archives ruled by sacred monkeys that it is



Mothers and babies outside the National Archives, Delhi [photo: Christine de Matos, 24 January 2017]

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good idea to leave the bananas at home.

### New Beginner's Text in International Relations

Dr. John Rees, A/Prof of Politics and International Relations, has written a chapter on 'Religion and Culture' in a new beginner's textbook titled *International Relations* which was released in January. This innovative open access text is authored by leading scholars writing for a pre-university audience. Publishers report that the book was downloaded 6000 times in the first two and a half weeks. A published authority on religion in international relations, John is the Convenor of the Religion and Global Society Program at the ND Institute for Ethics and Society. John will be teaching PL3000 Religion

#### Got an article idea?

We're looking for contributions for the next issue – email your idea to the Editor at:  
[philip.dennett@nd.edu.au](mailto:philip.dennett@nd.edu.au)



Philip Dennett, Editor

## Symposium: The Politics of Religious Freedom in the Asia-Pacific



In September last year the Institute for Ethics and Society (IES) hosted the 2016 Religion and Global Society Lecture delivered by Professor Elizabeth Shakman Hurd from Northwestern University. The RGS Lecture also functioned as the keynote address for a two-day research symposium held at the Notre Dame Darlinghurst Campus (Sept 14-15) on the theme 'The Politics of Religious Freedom in the Asia-Pacific'.

A large audience attended the RGS Lecture to hear one of the world's leading scholars of religion and international affairs speak to the theme 'The New Global Politics of Religion'. Drawing on her acclaimed book *Beyond Religious Freedom* (Princeton University Press, 2015), Prof Hurd defined the role and significance of religion in international politics today. With particular attention on the persecution of the Rohingya community in Myanmar, she raised important questions about the intent and effectiveness of international policy approaches on important issues such as religious freedom. A vibrant Q&A followed, including questions from the many Notre Dame students attending.

Dr. John Rees, A/Prof of Politics and International Relations (Arts & Sciences) and Convenor of the IES Religion and Global Society Program, described the two day symposium as 'a unique opportunity for research collaboration between scholars of international relations, history, philosophy and law to critically examine the politics surrounding religious freedom in our region'. Select papers from the symposium will be published in a 2017 special issue of the leading journal *Religious and Political Practice*.



# Kiara Pirola

## Interview with an HDR student

*Could you tell us briefly about your thesis?*

My thesis is an International Relations thesis in the subfield of Religion in IR. My research question analyses the Papal diplomatic activity of Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis in Mexico, and to what extent it is shaped by 'religious' and 'secular' interests.

*How would you explain the broader significance of your research to an educated layperson?*

Religion in International Relations is a growing field that has long been fascinated by Popes and the Catholic Church as political actors. I'm aiming to contribute a framework of 'Catholic Foreign Policy' to the discipline as a way of critically engaging with Papal Diplomacy that allows the Pope to have both 'secular' and 'religious' interests, and that gives a nuanced picture of how the Catholic Church (and other organised religions) operate in world politics.

*What is your current focus?*

I'm currently in the Literature Review phase with an eye to beginning to frame the concept of 'Catholic Foreign



Policy' soon, before moving on to analysing each of the Popes in turn.

*What is the cutting edge in your field and how does your work extend/relate to it?*

Religion in International Relations has been a very vibrant and fruitful area of study that seeks to add to the depth of our understanding about how the world works, and this is where my thesis fits in. By understanding how the Pope and the Catholic Church as an institution operate as religious actors in a 'real world' driven by discourse and power dynamics, I can contribute to a better understanding of how religious institutions more broadly understand their

place in this system, and how they interact and influence (or not) other actors in international relations such as nation-states and international organisations.

*What do you hope to do when you finish your degree?*

I've chosen to pursue a PhD as my 'academic apprenticeship' and want to pursue a career that involves writing, researching, teaching and policy work, should the opportunity arise.



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