



ISAA

National Newsletter

Independent Scholars Association of Australia Inc

The Boab tree is self-sustaining; it draws on its own resources

No. 80
March 2024
ISSN 1838-319X

Print Post Approved 100011 17

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MEMBERSHIP

\$80—Full members
\$50—Concessional
\$140—Household
\$75—Concessional Household

President's Report

Welcome to the March 2024 Newsletter.

This year, the annual ISAA Conference will be held in Canberra – the details of this event are in another item appearing in this newsletter. The Research and Awards Committee has called for applications for research grants, and for the Ann Moyal Essay Prize. We are hoping for more contributions for the *ISAA Review*, to be published later this year. This will be the 25th year since the *Review* was first published, so we hope for an interesting and varied issue. Details of these three opportunities are also to be found elsewhere in this Newsletter.

I'd like to encourage ISAA members to be bold in your scholarship – and take on the challenge of discussing those developing ideas or presenting that fully formed work. The ISAA conference provides a perfect opportunity for presenting your work, and Canberra in late October can be beautiful. For those of you not quite ready for a conference presentation, Council invites you to consider presenting in our embryonic 'national program'. This will involve one-hour events through the Zoom technology – 30 minutes or so for a presentation and 20 minutes for discussion and questions. We are particularly keen to ensure that those of you who don't live in a capital city see this as a way to share your work with other ISAA members. If you are interested, please send an email with your contact details and topic to info@isaa.org.au. This program can only be as successful as the enthusiasm with which ISAA members like you take up the opportunity.

PYC Corner

Intended to Pique Your Curiosity by bringing you cultural and research works, and ideas you might not otherwise come across.

I'm writing this report for the Newsletter on International Women's Day and that has prompted me to think about sisterhood and links with other independent scholars. A friend introduced me to Laura Vivanco and her work. Laura is based in the UK. I love to dip into her website, get inspired by the projects she is working on.

You can find her website at www.vivanco.me.uk Although her academic background is in medieval Spanish literature, she is very well-known for her work on romance fiction. She does her best to publish in open access sources, so you can find links to her recent book, which is free to download (<https://www.vivanco.me.uk/node/428>). Her work exemplifies a generosity of spirit and an openness to engagement with other scholars.

Dr Hilary Yerbury
ISAA National President

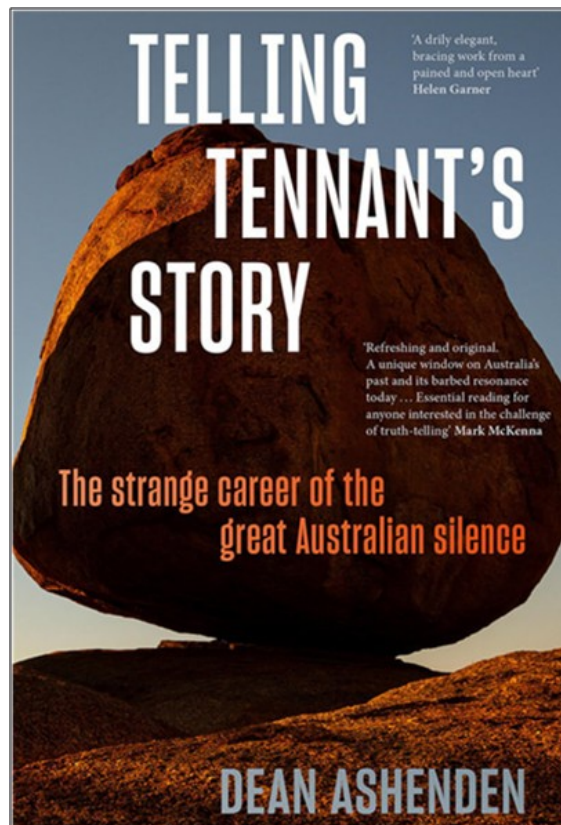
News from ISAA NSW

The first issue of ISAA NSW's *Bulletin* was distributed in January and the Committee held its first meeting for the year on 1 February via Zoom. It included reports on the November 2023 *Doing Research Meeting* at which Dr Dean Ashenden spoke about the path he took to research his book *Telling Tennant's Story*. We held and the Christmas lunch at Barracks on Barracks in December.

The first Work-in-Progress meeting for the year took place at the State Library on 9 February when Dr Ian Wilis OAM spoke about his research on *The memory of landscape of the Cowpastures in memorials, monuments, and murals*. Due to unforeseen circumstances the 'Workshop on Modern Slavery' that was to have been held in March will now be held on 15 April at the State Library.

An Open Forum will be held via Zoom on 14 June at which Dr Ron Popenhagen will speak on *Modernist Disguise: Masquerade in Modern Performance and Visual Culture*. It will be open to all ISAA members and planning for the first *Doing Research* meeting is underway with the speaker Dr Christine De Matos. Planning for the second Work-in-Progress meeting is also taking place with the speaker Michelle Cavanagh. The two Reading Groups, Public Affairs and Biography, continue to meet bi-monthly.

Dr Christine Jennett
Chair ISAA NSW



2024 National Conference—Annual Lecturer

Mark McKenna to present the Annual ISAA Lecture at the 2024 Conference

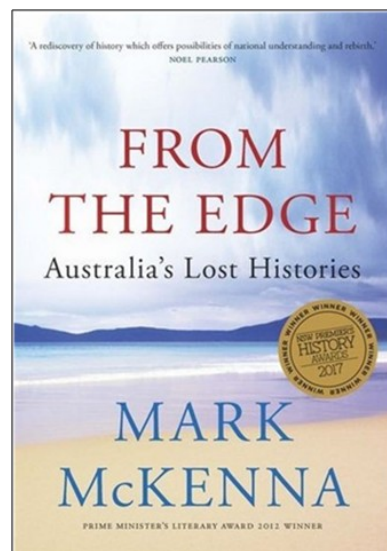


I am pleased to announce that the Historian Mark McKenna has accepted our invitation to present the ISAA Annual Lecture at the National Library of Australia on the evening of 24 October as part of the National Conference.

While the title and details of his presentation are yet to be formulated, in the spirit of the Conference, Mark will be speaking on the extent to which Manning Clark has had an influence on how Australians perceived themselves.

Mark is an ideal position to explore these issues as the author of *An Eye for Eternity; The Life of Manning Clark* (2011), the acclaimed biography of Clark. Other recent publications by him include *Return to Uluru* (2010), *Moment of Truth: History and Australia's Future* (2018) and *From the Edge: Australia's Lost Histories* (2016).

Ian Keese
Conference Organiser



2024 National Conference—Call for Papers



Image: Freedom Riders at Bowraville, February 1965 — Student Action For Aborigines protestors standing beside a bus
(State Library of New South Wales, ON 161/220, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

The Commonwealth ('Common Good') of Australia 1901-1970: its roots, development and paths ahead.

National Library of Australia, Canberra—Thursday and Friday 24-25 October 2024

By the end of the 1970s Australia was quite a different nation from that formed in 1901 when the separate colonies came together to form a commonwealth. In 1901 there was little recognition of Indigenous Australians and their long history; in most states women did not have the vote or the opportunity to hold a political office; there was a fear of the “Yellow Peril”; and it was assumed the governor general would be a British aristocrat.

At the same time in the late nineteenth century there was already a national identity being expressed in the arts and in political discourse about representative government, but it was in the first seventy years of the twentieth century that these concepts became integrated into our social and political institutions. Over the same period this process of integration was further informed by our increasing awareness of our Indigenous past and by momentous changes in the outside world.

Varieties of papers

- There would be no shortage of perspectives on which members could provide papers, and the following are only random thoughts – members are generally most creative in fitting their interests into the themes.
- Sciences: Contributions of men and women in this period; development of the CSIRO; changes in agricultural practices; contributions to medical sciences; beginnings of ecological understanding; Snowy Mountains Scheme.
- Social/Political: Developments in political and social institutions; changing role of the High Court; women in political roles; the role of minor parties; new universities; post WWII migration.
- Growing knowledge of Indigenous history: Anthropology (John Mulvaney), history of conflict, archaeology, self-determination.

2024 National Conference (cont.)

Varieties of papers (cont.)

- Arts and literature; the role of writers and visual and performing artists in developing a self-understanding.
- Philosophy and religion; Declining role of religion as part of establishment; Australian philosophers.
- The writing of History; Manning Clark; Keith Hancock, Geoffrey Blainey.

Presentation of Papers

Please note the following deadlines:

Members interested in presenting a paper are invited to send in an abstract of up to 100 words by **Friday 3 May** to be looked at by the Conference Committee.

A decision on papers will be made by 14 **June** and a Conference program will be distributed to members.

At the conference itself (**24-25 October**) members will present a 30-minute version of their paper and this will be followed by a 10-minutes discussion.

To ensure a rapid printing of the Conference Proceedings, the final papers (usually around 5,000 words) will need to be submitted by **8 November**.

In conclusion I am always happy to discuss possible topics with you and can be contacted by email keeseian@gmail.com or phone 0423 536 656.

Ian Keese
Conference Organiser

Ann Moyal Essay Prize

Dr Ann Moyal AO was a founder of ISAA and a renowned historian of science who strongly encouraged dialogue between the sciences, social sciences and the humanities. This prize is in honour of her contributions to independent scholarship. Entries for the Ann Moyal Essay Prize will be accepted until close of business 30 September 2024. The winner will receive AU\$1,000.

Entries are welcome from current financial members of ISAA. If membership has lapsed, an entry can only be accepted once the membership fee has been paid and the member is in good financial standing.

Entries must be a non-fiction essay of up to 5,000 words. Entries must be original works which have not previously been published nor awarded. Entries must not infringe upon anyone's copyright.

Entries, in the English language, must be in Word documents (.doc or .docx), any endnotes should be included in that word count, with 1.5 line spacing and in 12 pt font. Please number the pages. You may use images, but the total file size must not be greater than 3MB. Files submitted must be anonymised: that is, the author's name must not appear in the essay or on the digital file.

The following criteria will be taken into account:

- Reflection of a dialogue between the sciences, humanities and social sciences, embodying the principles of ISAA.
- Use of the genre of the essay. The purpose of the academic essay is to use reasoned discourse to persuade. It is genre used by scholars to advance the discussion of ideas.
- Clarity of the expression in the essay's thesis statement or argument.
- Innovative nature of the topic selected and the way the argument is presented.

Entrants must make the following declaration in the email accompanying their submission:

Declaration:

I hereby declare that the essay entered for the Ann Moyal Essay Prize is my own work, and has not been previously published. I have read all the terms and conditions and agree to abide by them.

Entries must be submitted online via the ISAA email address: info@isaa.org.au. Members entering will receive confirmation of receipt to the email address they used to submit the entry.

The winner will be expected to take part in an ISAA event to speak on the topic of their essay.

The winning essay will be published on the ISAA website. Copyright in the winning essay resides with the author.

The judges will be the members of the ISAA Research Grants and Awards Committee. The judges' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into about the judgements or the judging process. ISAA reserves the right not to award a prize. The judges' decision will be announced in November 2024 at a date to be announced.

ISAA Review — a new chapter or the end of an era?

This year, 2024, marks the 25th anniversary of *ISAA Review*. This is quite a milestone for a relatively small association. We acknowledge the efforts of those who have played a role in ensuring the publication of *ISAA Review* over the years.

Unfortunately, for some time, there has been a declining interest from ISAA members in submitting their research outputs and other writing to *ISAA Review*, although reading the *Review*, and contributing to it is a significant benefit of membership.

The Call for Contributions for the *ISAA Review* in the last issues of the Newsletter did not result in a trickle of contributions, just a drop or two.

Without contributions from members, there can be no publication.

**For an issue of *ISAA Review* to be published by the end of 2024, we need contributions of all types to be submitted by 30 May 2024, and the support of others to review, copy-edit, proof-read and so on.
Please consider putting your thoughts into digital words.**

Send your contributions to info@isaa.org.au. If you have any questions, please also send these to info@isaa.org.au

ISAA Review publishes the following types of contribution:

- Articles of 3,000 – 6,000 words. These will be peer reviewed.
- Opinion pieces of 1,000 words. These must accord with the principles of ISAA and decisions on inclusion will be made by the Editorial Advisory Committee.
- Creative Corner, up to 500 words. Contributions must accord with the principles of ISAA and decisions on inclusion will be made by the Editorial Advisory Committee.
- Book Reviews of 500 – 1,000 words. Ideally, books reviewed are written or edited or contain chapters by ISAA members.

*Hilary Yerbury
National President, ISAA*

ISAA Research Grants 2024

Up to two research grants at \$500 each are available for current members of ISAA. Applicants must not be in full-time employment.

Applicants are invited to submit an application:

- outlining the research they intend to do;
- describing how the grant will assist them in their research, and providing a timeline and indication of expenditure; and
- confirming that this research is not otherwise funded.
- The application should not exceed one A4 page.

Applications should be sent to ISAA's Administrative Officer
by email (info@isaa.org.au) or by post to:

Administrative Officer
Independent Scholars Association of Australia Inc
GPO Box 268
Canberra, ACT, 2601

Successful applicants will present on the topic of their research to ISAA, in one of the following ways: through a presentation to ISAA members as part of the ISAA program; through the presentation of a paper at the ISAA conference; through the submission of a paper to the *ISAA Review*.

Successful applicants must also commit to writing a short piece for a future Newsletter (about 350 words) explaining how the grant has assisted them in their research.

Successful applicants must expend their grant within 12 months of being notified of their success and submit appropriate evidence that the grant money was expended in the manner outlined in the application to ISAA's Administrative Officer.

Applications close 30 June 2024. The ISAA Research Grants and Awards Committee will present its recommendations to the ISAA Council at its meeting on 22 August 2024. Funds will be available from 1 October 2024.



Scholarly Reflections

This issue includes the following Scholarly Reflections

Deirdre Baker — *What does it take to be an independent scholar?*

Michelle Cavanagh — *The Australian Brontë Association*

Jim Hodges — *How the Universe Works: Fact and Appearance in Physics and Cosmology Part 2*

Stephen Horn — *Recommended reading*

John Moses PhD — *Forthcoming publications*

Trevor Parmenter AM, PhD — *Occasional Address to Graduates, Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of New England, Friday 8 December 2023*

The views and opinions expressed in the articles published in the Scholarly Reflections are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of ISAA.



An Old Scholar at His Desk—Style of Rembrandt van Rijn (National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC USA)

Scholarly Reflections

What does it take to be an independent scholar?



Georgina Poulter, Director, University of Queensland Institute of Modern Languages
(Photograph supplied by the author)

It's a wide world and knowledge comes in many languages

Having a curious mind, being agile and adaptive, seeking to learn and improve from sources wide and varied are some of the characteristics suggested by University of Queensland's Institute of Modern Languages (IML) Director, Georgiana Poulter. Georgiana has headed the institute since 1999 and has seen numerous changes and thousands of learners pass through its doors during the succeeding years. Since 1934 IML has offered community classes in 'any modern language for which there should be sufficient demand'. As a life-long learner herself, Georgiana believes it is her dream job, coming at the pinnacle of a long career in adult learning and teaching.

Georgiana's passion for education has been influenced by various mentors. Her interest in multilingualism was inspired by her mother, an educationalist at the Brisbane Kindergarten Teachers College who creatively taught her different languages as they travelled the world. Her interest in social inclusion and adaptation was inspired by her father, a university education lecturer and Senator to the Federal Parliament, who fought for social change. Family values and discussion helped put the cornerstone to her view of diverse cultures and the world.

An important mentor was Dr Maria Montessori, founder of the Montessori method of education. Georgiana admired her philosophy of helping children to learn by themselves, through exploration and discovery, fostering creativity, independence and curiosity. As the first teacher at the Brisbane Montessori school she started a Montessori group facilitating professional development for budding Montessori teachers; tutored with the Californian Montessori World Education Institute conducting Australia wide workshops. Completing a Bachelor of Educational Studies she continued to apply the Montessori approach to adult apprentices, especially those struggling with literacy associated with their apprenticeship training, enjoying seeing their 'aha' moments.

Her motivation stems from her desire to improve the world and empower others, believing education is the key to social change and personal growth. She is interested in political issues and admires self-taught public intellectuals who challenge the status quo and speak their minds. In addition, she enjoys

Scholarly Reflections cont.

learning from others, especially those with a critical perspective on the world. Most importantly, she is concerned about global issues (peace, nuclear power, and environmental degradation), and local issues, attempting to make a difference by restoring urban community green spaces and wildlife habitats.

Georgiana's achievements in her field are demonstrated through the following:

- Warwick Arts Council Branch President, growing the Branch to Queensland's largest;
- Manager, Logan TAFE Adult Community Education (ACE) program showcasing initiatives to deliver programs appropriate to a diverse local population;
- Sponsored to undertake Queensland Government's, Graduate Certificate and Masters in Public Sector Management
- Treasurer, Modern Language Teachers Association Queensland, advocating for services and grants for members in remote regions to attend conferences
- MLTAQ award for outstanding contribution to language education (2019)
- AAACE and ALA national Board Member and President, LLCQ (adult learning peak bodies)
- Vice-President, AALC (Association of language providers)

As Manager ACE short courses, Logan TAFE, Georgiana significantly grew the fee-for-service business, delivering practical learning to the local community. Being a student at the Institute of Modern Languages (IML) from age 16 she consequently has a deep emotional attachment to the institution and to adult learning. Given autonomy and independence by the University she led the IML over two decades to uphold its reputation as a premier provider of language education. Georgiana's proactivity, innovation, and responsiveness caters to the evolving needs of language learners.

One major achievement was adapting to the Covid pandemic, transitioning IML's 2000 students, and 70 tutors to online teaching — in one week. She learned to be agile and adaptive in the face of unprecedented challenges. She 'grabbed the moment' to expand IML's reach to people, especially in remote areas, who could benefit from learning languages online. For example, an 80-year-old Allora QLD man, may not have had a language learning opportunity had they not been able to enrol online. Likewise for Northern Australians wanting to learn Portuguese and Tetum, East Timor's language, in order to interact and trade with their close neighbours.

This was key in securing Australian Defence Force support to design and teach Tetum courses to Australian peacekeepers, to assist their interaction with local people. Customised Basic Arabic courses were also developed for nearly 1,500 Defence members in Sydney, Adelaide, Darwin, Townsville and Brisbane, linking teachers from those cities to deliver the courses, prior to the deployment to Iraq. These are rewarding contributions to communities she serves and valuable contributions to regional peace, and security.

Georgiana's belief in the importance of language learning, in Australia's multicultural society is unwavering and is seen as a tool for fostering understanding, and tolerance of culture- within-cultures and disseminating knowledge, often vital for individuals and the nation. Her vision extends beyond Australia, with the Institute's uniqueness expanding international reach to other countries in the region with the 30 languages taught by IML. Outward-looking approaches are key to the Institute of Modern Languages' ethos and ensures IML's viability, promising a bright future under Georgiana's stewardship.

Georgiana is proud of her accomplishments and grateful for the opportunities presented. Agile and adaptive, seeking to learn and improve; a leader whose style is marked by humility and willingness for betterment; and someone who values the synergy of varied team approaches, she apologises when necessary and is not afraid to ask, 'How can I do this differently?' The hallmark of a learner.

Scholarly Reflections cont.

As a curious world traveller, a speaker of several languages, and optimistic, Georgiana brings a unique perspective to her 'scholarly' contribution. She remains up-to-date through surveying professional journals, international networking, and attending conferences where she contributes to knowledge as well as absorbs it.

Giving 'a chance' to communities through access to learning and cultural experiences and contributing to the development of Australia as a multicultural society, through understanding the languages of others, will continue for Georgiana, even into her retirement, albeit in different ways. Her story is a powerful reminder that having a passion for learning, innovative education, and being sentient to global cultures, can truly make a difference in peoples' lives.

Deirdre Baker

ISAA member

With permission to publish as a biographical essay

Scholarly Reflections cont.

The Australian Brontë Association

The Brontë Society, founded in 1893, is one of the oldest literary societies in the world. In 1986 Fergus McClory was appointed the Australian Representative of the Brontë Society, serving the members of that society who lived in Australia and meetings were held in Sydney from time to time. Then, in 1998 the Australian Brontë Association was formed as an independent but complementary organisation, in order to expand the local Brontë activities. Our patron is the distinguished Brontë scholar Christine Alexander, Scientia Professor of English at the University of New South Wales.

You don't have to be academic to enjoy exploring the lives of the Brontës. We currently meet on five Saturdays during the year at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney at 10.30am though we serve morning tea from 10.00am. Those who wish to do so have a light lunch at a venue close by. At each meeting, a paper on some aspect of the lives and work of Charlotte, Emily and Anne Brontë is considered. We also celebrate Christmas, together with members of the NSW Dickens Society each December. There is a meeting charge of \$5 (members) and \$10 (non-members) with a standard yearly membership fee of \$40.

There is much to learn and enjoy about the Brontës so join us for one of our meetings; details at <https://ausbronte.net/meetings.html>.



Brontë Parsonage Museum where the family lived. It is one of the most visited literary shrines in the UK (<https://www.bronte.org.uk/about-us>)



Left - Known as the *Pillar Portrait* and painted by their brother Branwell who then painted over himself it is one of the most famous paintings of Charlotte, Emily and Anne. Above we see the table in the Brontë Parsonage around which the sisters worked as they put pen to paper.

Michelle Cavanagh
ISAA member

Scholarly Reflections cont.

How the Universe Works: Fact and Appearance in Physics and Cosmology Part 2

(I) An astronaut on a 300 metre long starship, at rest in the space dough, shines a light pulse at the mirror at the stern of his ship and the pulse returns 2 microseconds later – and after the astronaut accelerates to $0.8c$ through the space dough and repeats the experiment, the light pulse again returns after 2 microseconds. This appearance of light isotropy is despite signal speed in the $0.8c$ experiment being $1.8c$ bow-to-stern, and $0.2c$ stern-to-bow, an average speed of $0.36c$!

The speeding starship's clock is slowed down and the length of the starship is shrunk. It takes $1/3$ micro sec (true time) for the light pulse to go from the bow to the stern of the ship, and 3.0 micro sec (true time) for the pulse to go from the stern to the bow, a total time of 3 and $1/3$ micro secs (measured as 2 micro secs by the ship's slow-running clock).

(II) The astronaut at rest in the space-dough, synchronises his stern clock with his bow clock and after accelerating to $0.8c$ through the space-dough he repeats the same synchronisation procedure and finds that he has to wind his stern clock forward by 0.8 micro second. This apparent need for resynchronisation in the $0.8c$ experiment is despite simultaneity being absolute throughout the universe.

The standard procedure in synchronising the stern clock is to freeze the stern clock so it is indicating 1.0 microsec, and then sending it a synch signal the instant the bow clock is at zero micro sec – but in the $0.8c$ case the astronaut's synch signal, with speed $1.8c$, reaches the stern clock too soon and triggers its ticking 0.8 microsec prematurely!

This 'stern clock advance' blunder has spawned many errors: 1) the 'relativity of simultaneity', 2) 'block-time' and predetermination, 3) the belief duration and length depend on the relative speed of the observer, 4) the mathematical artifice of 'spacetime', and 5) the equivalence, of gravity and inertia. The idea that only the relatively moving guy is subject to relativistic effects is as bad as believing the Earth is flat and the Sun rises!

The 19th century etherists discovered that relativity in nature is something merely simulated by the ether, and this so disturbed 20th century scientific reductionists that they proclaimed the 'Principle of Relativity' as 'a priori' foundational to physics. In fact, the ether was designed to have a large number of ingenious tricks so all planets appear to have light isotropy and appear to have laws of nature the same.

Although the universe is a homogeneous ether blob, each planet appears to be encompassed by its own separate bubble of virtual ether. Similarly, the rocky habitable planets are designed to be large enough to appear flat, and rotate so smoothly that it appears the stars are moving around the planets!

The way of the future is that we naked apes accept such false assumptions in the everyday, but gratefully accept the breakthroughs in science from Copernicus, Kepler, Newton and Lorentz, and the great leap forward of the primordial-ether paradigm shift.

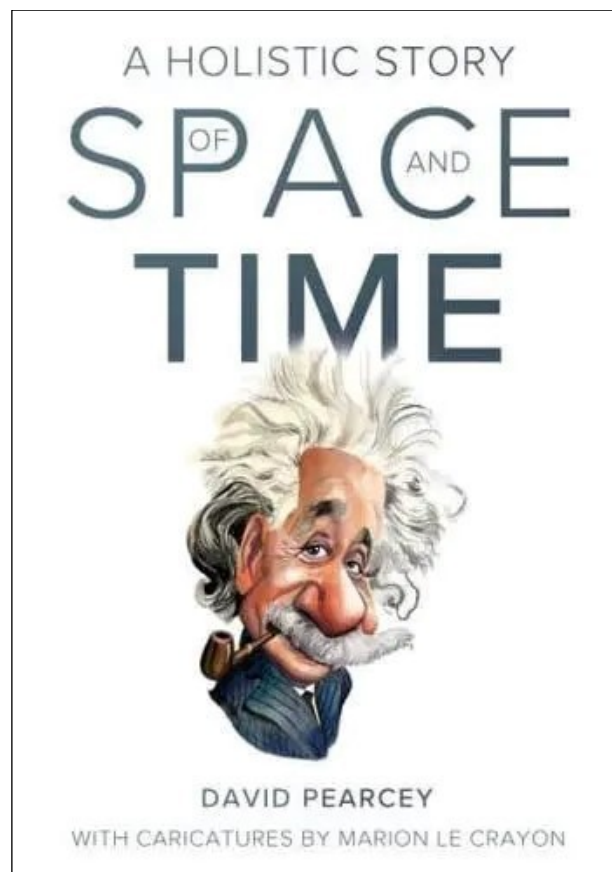
*Jim Hodges
Ether Drift Club
ISAA member*

Scholarly Reflections cont.

Recommended reading

A Holistic Story of Space and Time, David Pearcey with caricatures by Marion le Crayon, Matador, Market Harbourough, 2023.

Stephen Horn writes —I commend this book to ISAA members who may be curious about ‘the meaning of life, the universe and everything’ (Douglas Adams, suitably acknowledged) indeed to all who have struggled at one time or another with the sheer weirdness of matter in the wake of Einstein’s revelations concerning the foundations of modern physics. David is a long standing ISAA member, continues to uphold its scholarly traditions from Perth, to which he has retired from years as an exploration geologist. His mission is to expand understanding of space and time, for a hundred and fifty years veiled by the scientific elaborations of relativity and quantum theory, as a philosophical domain. He does this with an original, light but rigorous touch, introducing us along the way to the main characters in the drama — Monsieur Rene, Uncles Albert and Hermann, Masters Isaac and Emmanuel, Father Niels, Young Michael etc—who emerge from the mists of their times in delightful characterisations of fellow Perthian Ms Le Crayon. The reader is guided through the trickier technicalities by lucid diagrams, some surprising analogies and a complete absence of equations.



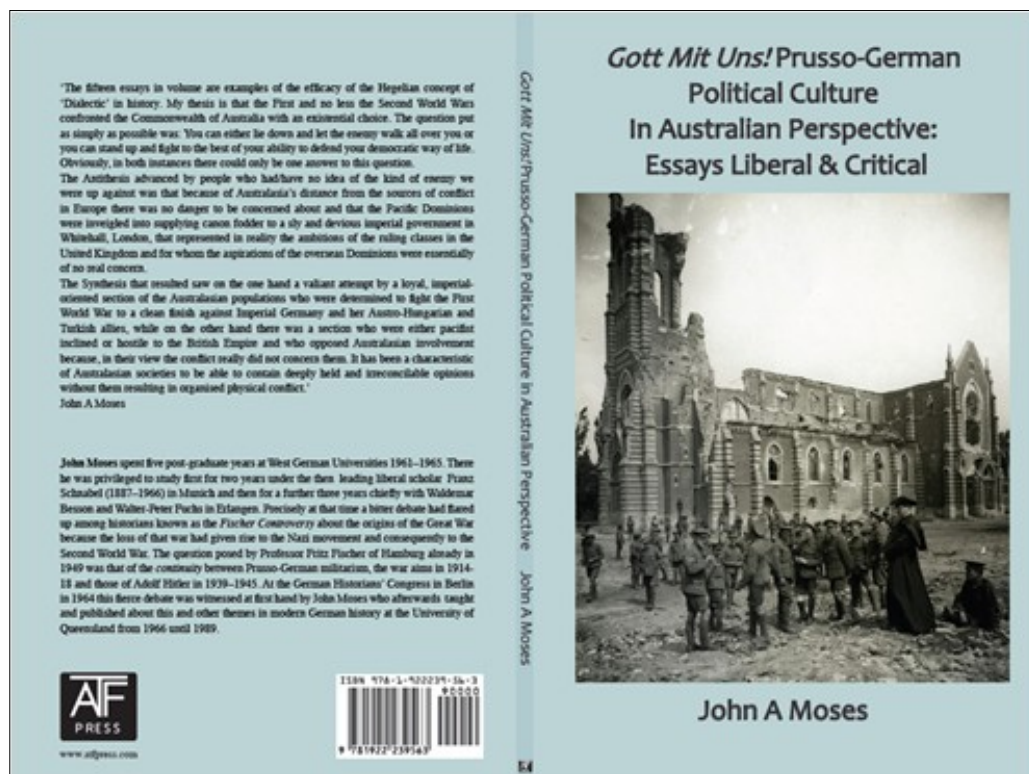
Stephen Horn
ISAA member

Scholarly Reflections cont.

Forthcoming publications

For some years since my official retirement from the Department of History at the University of Queensland where my teaching duties focussed on modern Germany, I have decided to rescue some of my articles from their 'honourable burial' in various journals where they would reach only a limited audience and publish them in a collection in the Adelaide publishing house ATF Press.

This is a practice justifiably regarded as an act of vanity that academics suffer from, but it also contains information that only an Australian who had been privileged to spend five years postgraduate study in the then West Germany could have assembled. I would like to think that therein lies their uniqueness.



The second item worth mentioning is my forthcoming publication with Wipf & Stock, Eugene Oregon entitled, *Combatting Totalitarianism: The Legacies of St Paul and Dietrich Bonhoeffer in the Collapse of the "Murderous Utopias" of Communism and National Socialism*. This is a very personal account of my student experiences in Germany 1961-65 and my resulting close association with German colleagues of liberal and social democratic persuasion.

Wipf & Stock are publishers with a very broad brief to publish work by 'all sorts and conditions of men' in order to emphasise the varieties of human experience, so I am very grateful to them for accepting mine.

Reverend Dr John Moses
ISAA member

Scholarly Reflections cont.

Occasional Address to Graduates—Faculty of Medicine and Health—University of New England—Friday 8 December 2023

I wish to acknowledge the original owners of this land upon which this university sits, and especially the work of the Oorala Aboriginal Centre. Chancellor, I am humbled by the honour you have bestowed upon me and feel privileged to now deliver the Occasional Address to the graduands of this most highly esteemed university.

Special congratulations to all graduands who are about to receive recognition for your years of hard work and perseverance. I also wish to pay tribute to your families and loved ones who have supported you throughout your journey. It's with pride that some of my family who have supported my life journey are with me today, including my eldest daughter, Jacqui, who as 4-year-old was here at my graduation in 1972, and my dear wife, Marie. I must also mention my daughter, Natalie, who is about to submit her PhD thesis to Flinders University. Some family members could not be here today, but their love and support have also sustained me.

But we also need to acknowledge the mentorship of the staff of the university who have helped to guide and inspire you throughout your studies. As Isaac Newton said, 'I have stood on the shoulders of giants'. In my own case, I recall Cyril Carey who taught the one teacher-school elective during my time at Armidale Teachers College in 1951-52. Cyril was one of the first to enrol in a BA program at the New England University College when it was established in 1938. He later served terms as Mayor of Armidale. In his last lecture Cyril warned us to be aware of the farmers' daughters, especially in our first appointment. Incidentally, I did marry a farmer's daughter, but she had been a fellow student at the College.

My primary education in a one-teacher school and my early career in one-teacher schools taught me the value of community in people's lives. In my years at UNE, I recall Professor Paul Barrett Snr, Head of Psychology, and Warwick Olphert and Ron Browne in Education, each of whom inspired my later teaching and research career. Paul Barrett's emphasis upon neuroscience prompted my seeking answers to the questions of what is intelligence and what is intellectual disability?

I pay tribute to Howard Sheath who administered Australia's first external studies option here at UNE, now morphed into on-line learning. I recognise the scholarly leadership of the University by three Vice Chancellors, Sir Robert Madgwick, Sir Zelman Cowan and Professor Alex Lansbury who served during my six-year candidature, this wonderful hall being named in honour of Alex Lansbury.

For many of you, given your studies in Health Sciences, your career will bring you into contact with some of the most disadvantaged and marginalised people in our community. These may include people who are ageing, have a disability or have an Indigenous background. You will observe ageism, ableism, and racism.

The recent Royal Commission Report into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability has advocated the closure of segregated services such as special schools, group homes and sheltered workshops, highlighting the goal of full inclusion into mainstream activities.

Likewise, the Aged Care Royal Commission Report emphasised that:

Whether people are receiving aged care in their homes or in residential care, they are still members of our community. It is important that they remain engaged, valued and socially connected.

Both reports emphasised Human Rights and Community Inclusion as the key driving forces in their recommendations. Inclusion has been a pervasive concept, sometimes under different names, for

Scholarly Reflections cont.

several decades.

Teaching at a High School Partially Seeing Unit from 1965-69, at the time I commenced studies as an external student at UNE, I assisted most of the students to successfully join mainstream classes. As principal of a special school, I introduced work experience which led to school leavers obtaining jobs in the mainstream. Upon joining Macquarie University, I established the Unit for Community Integration Studies with employment being its initial research and training focus.

Despite these initiatives in the 1960s-70s why are we still struggling with the concept of inclusion? Is it because despite being IN the community people with disabilities are still not really OF the community? So often, Inclusion is understood as a physical entity rather than a process whereby we welcome and form relationships with fellow members of our community. Generally, it is ignorance and sometimes fear of the lives of other persons that has led to the physical and psychological barriers which cause their rejection from mainstream community activities.

As an antidote, I am proposing that we need to build an 'ethical community' incorporating the spirit of co-dependence. Docketi writing in 1992 argued that ... *we should work toward an ethical conception of community, which establishes that all persons are fundamentally equal as human beings*. A key element in the concept of an ethical community is the proposition of 'caring' raised by my Dutch colleague Hans Reinders who said in respect to human rights, *we can force people to comply, but we cannot force them to care*.

David Schwartz in his book *Crossing the River: Creating a Conceptual Revolution in Community and Disability* suggested that caring always arises in a cultural setting, and that it always is something that happens between people. American colleague, H. Rutherford Turnbull pointed out that each member of a community must recognise that all are vulnerable in some aspects of their lives. As a first step, therefore, the ethical community must recognize what he so eloquently suggested as *a mutuality of need and reciprocity of vulnerability*. An ethical community would also recognise that all persons are equal as human beings, and all persons are dependent on others in a metaphorically deep way.

The development of an ethical community would also be an antidote to one of the most significant barriers to the implementation of the spirit and reality of Human Rights Conventions namely, the growth of individualism and the market-based economies which fail to recognise the important role communality has played in the history of the human species.

Whilst the quality of life and social inclusion of people on the margin of our society may appear to depend upon external socio-political-economic forces beyond their control, their level of acceptance as fellow human beings and citizens can be influenced by the humanity and compassion of the general community.

Therefore, it is imperative for the achievement of full inclusion of these people that there is an engagement with the wider community in its journey to quality of life and happiness. Have we have been too focused on the needs of people at risk in isolation from those of the wider community, and in so doing have failed to recognise the reciprocity aspect of the inclusion process? Have we been sufficiently strategic in our thinking, our policies, or our actions?

In conclusion, I leave you with the prophetic words of poet John Donne in his Meditation XV11:

No man (sic) is an island, entire of itself. Every man (sic) is a piece of the continent, A part of the main.

Professor Trevor Parmenter AM, PhD
ISAA member

Spotlight—Trevor Parmenter AM, PhD

Hon. D. Litt Citation—Professor Trevor Parmenter University of New England Citation



Professor Trevor Parmenter has dedicated his life to the support of people with intellectual disability, and has been recognised for his pioneering work in this field for over 70 years with at least 20 different significant awards and commendations, including an Order of Australia. He is currently Professor Emeritus at the Sydney Medical School and has been an adjunct Professor at the School of Rural Medicine at UNE since 2011.

Trevor has maintained a long-standing and ongoing relationship with both Armidale and UNE following the initial completion of his first qualification — a two-year teacher training course — at Armidale Teachers' College in 1952. Trevor worked for 21 years in schools across both rural and metropolitan locations in NSW. In 1974 he joined the foundation staff at Macquarie University's Special Education Centre, and, following this career change, he completed his PhD in special education. Over the decades since that time, he became the Foundation Professor of Developmental Disability at University of Sydney, and the conjoint Director of the Centre for Disability Studies.

Trevor has been involved in a wide range of international activities, including official roles as key advisor to both the World Health Organisation and the International Labour Organisation with respect to improving health care, community inclusion and employment engagement for persons with intellectual disability. His high standing amongst his peers within the disability field on an international level is seen through his election as President of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD).

In 2005 Trevor was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for his contributions to research, teaching and services to people with developmental disabilities. Following his Distinguished Alumni Award In 2006, UNE VC Alan Pettigrew invited Trevor to deliver the Occasional Address at the

Spotlight—Trevor Parmenter AM, PhD (cont.)

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Across his fifty-year career in academia, Trevor has attracted over \$11M in funding and grants and has over 250 research outputs with nearly 7000 citations, and an h-index of 40. However, it is worth recognising that many of his greater accomplishments have been made in relation to achieving changes in societal practice to improve the lives of people with intellectual disability, rather than purely academic outcomes. In light of his outstanding national and international pioneering work and contribution to the field of intellectual disability, we congratulate Professor Trevor Parmenter on his conferment of the award of an Honorary Doctorate of Letters (*honoris causa*).

Members' Publications, Presentations, Activities and News

John James

Publication

Glory and Tragedy at Notre-Dame d'Etampes -The mystic journey and its brutal submission, Hartley Vale (NSW), West Grinstead Publishers, 2024.

Part of the book is an analysis of the stonework to winkle out its construction history, but the major part is to understand the strong mystical forces that were very popular in northern France at the time of the First Crusade and how this was destroyed by a resurgent Church bent on maintaining their hold over opinions and rituals.

This aspect of medieval religion and its impact on architecture is almost never talked about.

At the height of this movement the new building work was supported by the young king, Louis VII, and probably his wife Eleanor too.

Their mission had been to combine mystic techniques from the Levant with Christian rituals so they might obtain an emotional and personal union with God while here on earth. Not later, but now.

These were group practices, in a circle as people still do today, called at times the Zikr. It produces a deep sense of oneness that can utterly alter one's life.

Such mysticism is a personal process, and led to extended disagreements with the church's policies. Finally the Church were able to take control of these ecstatic moments and make sure that visions and insights remained under their control.

After Louis died in 1180 the church's mission was deemed heretical and it was built over and extinguished. Could not be done before as who could call the king a heretic?

It's an amazing story, and derived largely from the architecture. (320pp, 453 images, 560 footnotes). For copies contact the author at: gothic@johnjames.com.au

Beverley Sherry, PhD

Publication

Beverley Sherry, "*Paradise Lost in Stained Glass*", in *Milton Across Borders and Media*, edited by Islam Issa and Angelica Duran, pp.291-316 (Oxford University Press, 2023).

The link to the publisher's website is listed below. The cover image is from Beverley Sherry's chapter. It shows the archangel Uriel defeating Adramelec: (<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/milton-across-borders-and-media-9780192844743?cc=us&lang=en&>)



(Image courtesy Beverley Sherry: Charles J. Connick, detail *Paradise Lost* window (1930), Princeton University Chapel. Photograph by Michel M. Raguin.)

Christine Yeats FRAHS

Publication

Christine Yeats, *Getting started with Trove: The virtual Library at your Fingertips*, Sydney, Royal Australian Historical Society, 2024 (<https://tinyurl.com/3rnafu5x>).

Presentations

Making the best use of Trove for historical research and Stepping ashore: researching passenger arrivals in the Australian colonies, RAHS/CCFHS Regional Seminar, 2 March 2024.

Using Trove a Beginners' Course, RAHS/WEA Workshop (Zoom), 13 March 2024.

