



**From the CHASS Executive Director**



The theme of this year's CHASS National Forum is "Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences and the Public Good." It is the right theme at the right time, but making the connection between HASS and public policy issues is not always easy. For example, most of us would find it difficult to connect Shakespeare with trafficking in human organs. Yet, that is exactly what Michael Sandel, Harvard Professor of Philosophy, managed to do at an event held in New York City last year.

In "What Are We Worth? Shakespeare, Money and Morals," actors including Alan Alda and Matt Damon read snippets from Shakespeare's plays, which Sandel used to stimulate debate

on topics of public interest—the storage of nuclear waste, paying students to study and the sale of human organs.

"Should people be legally allowed to buy and sell human kidneys?" asked Sandel. One member of the audience was all in favour, as long as "the practice was highly regulated." Another demurred, fearing that poverty could turn poor people into "walking organ" shops.

Here is where Shakespeare comes in. Actress Vanessa Redgrave read the lines spoken by the impoverished apothecary from *Romeo and Juliet*. The suicidal Romeo has come to he seeking to buy poison. After some discussion, and the offer of a large sum of money, the apothecary reluctantly agrees to sell Romeo the illegal potion explaining that "my poverty, but not my will, consents."

Gradually the audience comes to see the parallels between the apothecary and organ selling. In cases of extreme poverty, the exchange between an organ seller and buyer may not be a free market transaction; it may be poverty consenting, not the will.

The Aspen Institute was one of the sponsors of the New York event. According its website, the Institute "brings together artists, advocates, educators, managers, foundations and government officials to exchange ideas and develop policies and programs that strengthen the reciprocal relationship between the arts and society." This is precisely the purpose of year's CHASS Forum. We are bringing together David Malouf, Michael Kirby, Frank Furedi, Deb Verhoeven, Hugh Mackay, Denise Meredyth, George Brandis, Tim Wilson, Karen Farquharson, Les Murray, David Christian, Graeme Turner, Julie Hare, Susannah Elliott, Andrew Jaspan, Jo Lindsay, Anthony Elliott, Christina Parolin, and some of Australia's leading social scientists and policy makers to explore, debate and develop future strategies for HASS to contribute to the public good.

The CHASS Forum is not just another academic conference. It includes entertainment, exhibitions, art, design, the [CHASS Australia Prizes](#), debates, a speed-dating contest for senior researchers, and much more. So, be sure to mark the date: 8-9 October 2014, the University of Melbourne.

Emeritus Professor Steven Schwartz AM

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## Save the Date



### 2014 CHASS National Forum

October 8 & 9, Woodward Conference Centre, University of Melbourne

### The CHASS Australia Prizes Dinner

October 8, Queen's Hall, Parliament House, Melbourne

## The Future for the Humanities and Social Sciences in a Global Era, 18-19 March, Melbourne

CHASS was a proud sponsor of the two-day symposium that brought together leading academics to examine questions around the future for the humanities and social sciences in Asia, North America, and Australia. The event was convened in conjunction with the University of Melbourne, the University of Western Sydney, The Australian Academy of the Humanities and the Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences, with the support of the Committee on Australian Studies at Harvard University and the Harvard Asia Center.

Eminent speakers from across Australia, as well as scholars from Harvard University, Hong Kong University, Tsinghua University, the University of Ottawa and the National University of Singapore discussed the future of the teaching and research in humanities and the social sciences in a fast changing global context. Delegates discussed the need for broad understanding and skills flexibility, improving student engagement and enrolment numbers, and inter-disciplinary collaboration.



We would like to thank the organisers, distinguished speakers, other sponsors and all those who attended the symposium and made it a success.

*Photo caption: Professor John Simons, CHASS President and Executive Dean of Arts at Macquarie University, addressing the audience*

## CHASS Australia Prizes - Nominations close 30 June

The CHASS Australia Prizes are designed to honour distinguished achievements by Australians working, studying or training in the HASS (Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences) areas including academics, practitioners, philanthropists, policy makers and students. The Australia Prizes are intended to draw international attention to Australia's achievements in HASS.



In 2014, there will be four prizes. Two are valued at \$3,500 each and are sponsored by Routledge: one for a **Book** (e-books are acceptable) that enriches Australian cultural and intellectual life, the second for **Distinctive Work**, which may include an exceptional artistic performance, exhibition, film, television show, play, composition or practical contribution to arts policy. Valued at \$2,000 and sponsored by Future Leaders, the third prize is for a **Future Leader**, an individual under 35 years of age who is demonstrating leadership skill and potential in the HASS areas. The Co-Op bookstore chain has sponsored the fourth prize. Valued at \$500, it is for a **Student** essay, exhibition, performance, project or thesis in a HASS area.

**Nominations close 30 June.** Self-nominations are acceptable. There is no entry fee for any category. The nomination process is simple and can be done online. For more information and to access the nomination form, please [click here](#).

## Member and Sector Updates

### [2014 Paul Bourke Lecture 'Mauve Mondays and orange odours: Synaesthesia and the integration of information in the human brain', Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia: Registrations close 25 April](#)

Synaesthesia is an unusual phenomenon that is often described as a 'mixing of the senses'. Most commonly letters, numbers, days of the week and other words evoke vivid and highly consistent experiences of colour. Sounds can also trigger visual images, as can smells, tastes, and touch. Synaesthesia is not a disorder - if anything, it is an unusual gift - but it has the potential to provide a unique perspective on studying human perception. In this lecture, Associate Professor Rich discusses her research on synaesthesia and the mappings we all have between our senses, giving insights into the way the brain integrates information for conscious perception of the world. Free event, bookings essential. For more information, [email](#) Sunita Kumar or call 02 62491788

### [Symposium on 'Listening between the lines: Exploring the relationship\(s\) between music and literature' – Call for papers ends 31 April](#)

From lullabies to laments, from the Song of Solomon to the music of Lady Gaga, the interactions between literature and music are so ubiquitous they often go unnoticed. Recent studies in interdisciplinarity have offered the hypothesis that cross-disciplinary research may be understood as a form of “cultural exchange” taking place between academic terrains that are not always accustomed to the codes and rituals of the other. If this principle of cultural exchange is applied to literature and music, it has the potential to facilitate a mutual understanding between the disciplines and point the way towards new research possibilities. This symposium aims to enact such a cultural exchange by gathering research that blends musical and literary topics in diverse and novel ways. Please send abstracts (no more than 250 words) and a short biography to [Christian Griffiths](#) by 31st April 2014.

**[Regional Arts Australia Summit 'Arts & Edges', Kalgoorlie-Boulder \(WA\), 16-19 October: Registrations open 2 May](#)**

When hundreds of regional creative workers converge on Kalgoorlie-Boulder, at the edge of the Western Desert in 2014, we will join an event bigger than all of us. Arts & Edges will cultivate stimulating content, networking artistic programs and inspiring talks. This event will be at the cutting edge of ideas, culture and art. We will be immersed in a creative and innovative atmosphere of collaborative discovery and knowledge sharing with Country Arts WA leading the way. Three key topics will be explored under the theme Arts & Edges: 'Fulcrum', 'Flux', and 'Flow'.

**[Swinburne University of Technology's The Festival of Ideas, 4 May, Melbourne](#)**

Our Festival of Ideas will explore different ideas from the perspective of a variety of community and civic leaders, business professionals, entrepreneurs, academics and students. Guest speakers include Vice-Chancellor of Swinburne University of Technology Professor Linda Kristjanson, City of Boroondara Mayor Councillor Coral Ross, the Honourable Ted Baillieu, Camcare CEO Jane Broadhead, CSIRO Education and Inspire Australia representative Carly Siebertritt and many other inspirational people. For further information, [email here](#).

**[Ancient Attitudes - Classical Life Drawing 'The Attitudes of Lady Emma Hamilton', University of Queensland, Brisbane, 9 May](#)**

Lady Emma Hamilton captured the imagination of gossips and grand tourists alike, becoming an icon of feminine independence, survival, and sexuality for Britain's long 18th century. The 'Attitudes,' a series of artistic reinterpretations of scenes from her husband's famous collection of Apulian vases, are witness to her beauty and the allure of the classical past. In 2014, the RD Milns Antiquities Museum invites modern audiences to experience the beauty and appeal of the classical world in The Attitudes of Lady Emma Hamilton. For three themed evenings, the Museum gallery will be transformed, taking visitors back to the antiquarian drawing rooms of 18th century Naples. Each evening will include life drawing sessions with a professional artist, inspired by the Museum's own collection of Greek vases.

**[2014 International Conference of the Australian Association for Research in Education \(AARE\) – Call for abstracts closing 22 May](#)**

The 2014 International Conference of the Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE) welcomes a partnership with the New Zealand Association for Research in Education (NZARE) this year. AARE and NZARE are national associations for fostering educational research in Australia and New Zealand and through this conference we will facilitate contact between educational researchers and support the development of high quality educational research. The conference will be held at the Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane from 30 November - 4 December.

**[Uncovered: Works of wonder from the Flinders University Art Collection, 04 – 26 June, Adelaide College of the Arts](#)**

Flinders University and Adelaide College of the Arts, TAFE SA now offer a unique new studio-based Bachelor Degree in Visual Arts. Uncovered celebrates this exciting partnership and the outstanding opportunities it presents, bringing a selection of historical and contemporary work from Flinders University Art Collection to Light Square for the first time. Prepare to be informed, intrigued and inspired.

**[IAG/NZGS Conference 2014: Registrations and abstract submissions close 1 June](#)**

On behalf of the geographic community in Melbourne, we are extremely pleased to welcome Australian and International geographers to Melbourne for the 2014 joint conference of the Institute of Australian Geographers, and the New Zealand Geographical Society. The main conference will be held at the University of Melbourne between 30 June and 2 July. A pre-conference post-graduate day (29 June), book launches, and a field trip to the Yarra Valley, are already in the program.

**[An Evening with Dr Michio Kaku, Queensland University of Technology, 5 June, Brisbane](#)**

Revolutionary physicist, bestselling author and celebrated broadcaster Dr Michio Kaku is set to enthrall and entertain audiences at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. An Evening with Dr Michio Kaku, presented by QUT, will explore the wonder and weirdness of the universe and describe how scientific advances will transform our lives over the next 50 years and beyond. Discover how technologies once considered science fiction are real possibilities - from emotional robots, floating cars and teleportation to mind reading, telekinesis and memory uploads and downloads. Learn the physics behind these

improbable endeavours and hear about the scientists working on them right now. For more details, [email](#) Amanda Dunne.

### **[The Arts and Cultural Development Program, Arts NSW, Annual program funding applications close 30 June](#)**

The Arts and Cultural Development Program (ACDP) supports a resilient and vibrant arts and cultural sector and delivers quality arts and cultural experiences to diverse audiences across New South Wales. The ACDP represents a renewal and re-thinking of the NSW Government's support for arts and culture. We will be seeking to fund projects and programs that are capable of creating the greatest impact and value. Funding is available to organisations for their Annual and Multiyear arts and cultural programs and to individuals, groups and organisations for a number of targeted arts and cultural projects.

### **[Workshop on 'The Future Workforce of Australian Social Science': Registrations close 30 June](#)**

This two-day workshop will be held on 24-25 July, hosted by The Australian Sociological Association (TASA) and the University of New South Wales (UNSW). It will bring together Australian policy institutions that heavily rely upon the social sciences with leading Australian social scientists and early career researchers. The workshop will gather research and theory relevant to understanding an intellectual workforce, and explore the experiences of early career researchers and teachers. It will develop a critical dialogue on the future of the social science workforce in Australia, and will develop practical proposals for employment pathways for social science graduates.

### **[Major Performing Arts \(MPA\) Education Forum, 30 June–1 July, Brisbane](#)**

The Forum will feature keynote speakers Eric Booth, teacher, actor, arts advocate and Founding Editor of the Teaching Artist Journal, and Professor Julian Meyrick, practitioner, academic and media commentator on matters of cultural policy. It is supported by the Australia Council and hosted by Queensland Theatre Company. 20 MPA delegates will also have the opportunity to attend ITAC2, the International Teaching Artist Conference which runs from 1–3 July in Brisbane. For more information, [email](#) Margie Moore or call 02 97996505.

### **[WAAPA International Art Song Festival, 13-20 July, Perth](#)**

The inaugural WAAPA International Art Song Festival will be held at the Western Australian Academy of the Performing Arts in Perth. The Festival aims to promote and enhance the training and performance of art song in Australia to the highest standards of excellence. The Master Teacher for the inaugural WAAPA International Art Song Festival 2014 will be renowned accompanist and coach, Dr Graham Johnson. He will host the Art Song Master Class Series, conducting daily master classes on the Lieder of Franz Schubert, and will also be the special guest of a Q & A session for teachers and observers. For more information, [email](#) Kris Bowtell or call 08 9370 6895.

### **[The Australasian Society for Classical Studies \(ASCS\) 36 \(2015\): Call for Papers ends 31 July](#)**

ASCS 36 will be held at the University of Adelaide from 28-30 January 2015. The conference conveners are [Professor Han Baltussen](#) and [Dr Jacqueline Clarke](#). The deadline for offers of papers is Friday 31 July 2014. Offers of papers, posters, panels and archaeological reports should be accompanied by an abstract of 150-250 words.

### **[Australia Council Fellowship: Applications close 31 July](#)**

The Australia Council Fellowships support outstanding, established artists' creative activity. This grant is designed to support an established artist working in emerging and experimental arts to undertake creative or professional development. The Emerging and Experimental Art Section provides \$100,000 for a period of up to two years. Potential applicants are encouraged to discuss their application with a Emerging and Experimental Arts team member. For further information, [email](#) Owen Leong or call 02 9215 9077 or Toll free 1800 226 912.

### **[Ongoing exhibition: Beautiful Whale - Life-size photography by Bryant Austin, Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney](#)**

Come eye-to-eye with whales at sea in this remarkable exhibition of photographs. Californian artist Bryant Austin has been photographing whales for twenty years. His body of work represents the largest and most detailed images of whales in the world and the only collection of life-size photography of whales. Austin spends weeks and months with groups of whales. Using only a snorkel he waits alone, suspended in the water patiently waiting for a whale to pass within two metres of his lens. The result is extraordinarily intimate and detailed portraits that illuminate the majesty and spectacle of nature's underwater giants. Exhibition designed and produced by the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris.

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what makes us human

