



From the Executive Director's Desk

If you would indulge me, I would like to hark back to a blog I wrote a few years ago—a blog I began by quoting John Ruskin.

"To watch the corn grow, and the blossoms set; to draw hard breath over ploughshare or spade; to read, to think, to love, to hope, to pray – these are things that make men happy ... The world's prosperity or adversity depends upon our knowing and teaching these few things."

Ruskin was writing in the mid-19th century as the industrial revolution was taking hold and William Blake's dark satanic mills were digging an ugly scar into England's green and pleasant land. Ruskin longed for the past.

It's human nature to romanticise the past. Academics do this all the time, fondly recalling a time when lecturers engaged adoring students in Socratic dialogues and when days, even weeks, could be spent in quiet contemplation in the back stacks of the library.

In reality, such a university never existed and neither did Ruskin's lovely idyll. Life, as Hobbes famously described it, was "nasty, brutish and short".

As Michel Foucault observed, it makes us feel important to imagine that the present is more challenging and more significant than any time in the past. Frank Furedi (who participated in the 2014 CHASS Forum) made a similar point. We act as if change and social transformation are unique to our times:

"The idea that we live in a qualitatively different world serves as a premise for the claim that the knowledge and insights of the past have only minor historical significance. In education it is claimed old ways of teaching are outdated precisely because they are old."

The key to meeting the challenges we face is neither to romanticise the past nor to ignore it. Instead, we must remember the past, work in the present and plan for the future.

This is what we try to do at the CHASS Forum. By blending the humanities, social sciences, and arts, we bring the HASS disciplines to bear on the most important issues of our times. For example, this year's Forum will deal with agriculture, medicine, museums, educational disadvantage, and much more. In each case, we use the lessons of history to inform our work in the present in the hope of crafting a better future.

Federal Budget 2015: Cuts in the budget will affect practically every aspect of the arts in Australia. CHASS is determined to campaign in favour of the arts. We want to give the sector a voice, but we need your help. Please let us know what you are doing so that we can coordinate and gain the synergies of many organisations working together. And please be sure to renew your CHASS membership.

Emeritus Professor Steven Schwartz AM, FASSA



Last call: Nominations close 1 June 2015 CHASS Australia Prizes

Nominations are open for a limited time only. Don't miss the opportunity, apply now. Self-nominations are welcome. There is no nomination fee for any of the four categories - Book (non-fiction), Distinctive Work, Future Leader, and Student. For specific terms and conditions related to each category, [please click here](#). We are happy to provide assistance regarding your application, please feel free to contact us via email/phone.

[Apply now](#)

If publishing should perish, who decides what comes next?

Dr Rachel Hendery, Senior Lecturer in Digital Humanities, University of Western Sydney

Two recent articles in the Guardian suggest that the [role of journals](#) in disseminating research results is ending and outline a possible [new format](#) whereby methodology is reviewed and published before the research itself is conducted. These are just the latest in a long line of discussions about the changing nature of academic publishing. As humanities scholars, we should be concerned that many such discussions and models assume a prototypical researcher who bears little resemblance to most of us, and whose research is conducted as a discrete activity in a linear process, of which the 'writing up' is an afterthought.

The sciences have arguably come further than the humanities in terms of integrating new affordances of digital media and connectivity into mainstream research dissemination. The [Arxiv](#) preprint repository since 1991 has granted scientists immediate access to each others' work even before journal submission, allowing a faster-moving, less fragmented dialogue, and simpler ways of referencing via hyperlink.

The world of Humanities publishing has not come close to adopting a similar system, yet the sciences are now proposing even more innovative ways of disseminating research. The journal as we know it is soon likely to be replaced, and if we in the humanities do not get there first, the replacement might well be a model that does our research no justice at all.

The future of academic publishing is a topic of particular interest to the Digital Humanities, and will be the subject of several papers and a workshop (*Exploring Peer Review in the GeoHumanities*) at the upcoming [DH2015 Global Digital Humanities Conference](#) at the University of Western Sydney (29 June – 3 July).

DH2015 is being hosted by the University of Western Sydney's Digital Humanities Research Group. It is being held in partnership with the State Library of New South Wales and in collaboration with GovHack 2015 and the third International Linked Open Data in Libraries, Archives, and Museums Summit (LODLAM). Other supporters include CHASS, the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and the Australasian Association for Digital Humanities.

PROFESSOR BRENDA YEOH
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
PROFESSOR PETER SPEARRITT, FASSA
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
DR MICHELE LOBO
DEAKIN UNIVERSITY
EMERITUS PROFESSOR STEVEN SCHWARTZ AM
CHASS

THE FUTURE OF CITIES IN THE GLOBAL AGE
VIEWS FROM AUSTRALIA AND SINGAPORE
2PM JULY 9TH 2015
FREE PUBLIC EVENT

RESERVE YOUR FREE TICKET AT:
<http://2015futurecities.eventbrite.com>

The Future of Cities in the Global Age: Views from Australia and Singapore, 9 July, Geelong

This roundtable discussion is being organised by CHASS in association with the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA), Deakin University, and the Hawke Research Institute, University of South Australia.

This is a free public event and all are welcome to attend. Registrations are required. Limited seats are available, please book early to avoid disappointment.

Location: Western Beach Room (AD/Sally Walker Building, Level 6, Room 104), Deakin University's Waterfront Campus, 1 Gheringhap Street, Geelong.

Speakers: Professor Brenda Yeoh (National University of Singapore), Dr Michele Lobo (Deakin University), Professor Peter Spearritt FASSA (The University of Queensland).

The discussion will be chaired by Emeritus Professor Steven Schwartz AM, FASSA.

[Register now](#)

Museums Australia National Conference 2015, 21-24 May, Sydney

The conference themes are: Medium - The Context of Cultural Production, Message - People have Agency, Message & Medium - Contested Places, Dangerous Ideas, and Regional, Remote and Community Museums Day.

CHASS President Professor John Simons, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Macquarie

University is a keynote speaker on Saturday, 23 May (Day 2). His talk is titled 'Museums, Mausoleums and Muniments Rooms - Letting in the light on university collections'.

Other keynote speakers are [Michael Lynch CBE AM](#), [Dr Xerxes Mazda](#), [Kim McKay AO](#), [Professor Dr Günther Schauerte](#), and [Kim Williams AM](#).

The social program includes the MANSW and M&G NSW Welcome Reception for Regional, Remote and Community Museums Day on 20 May, Conference Welcome Reception on 21 May, the MAGNA and MAPDA Awards on 22 May, and the Gala Conference Dinner on 23 May.

There's still time to register for the conference and delegates have the option of paying for day registration. To view the full program and to register, please visit the [conference website](#).

Sector and Member Events

Australian Society of Authors' [2015 Colin Simpson Memorial Lecture](#) *Does the imagination have ethics?* 23 May, National Library of Australia

[2015 Knox Public Lecture](#) *Treasures Old and New, Catholic Education 50 years on from Vatican II*, 25 May, University of Divinity, Melbourne

Call for abstracts closing 25 May: [2015 Annual Australian Association for Research in Education \(AARE\) Conference](#) 29 November-3 December, Fremantle

Free public lecture: [Photography as a Global Language](#) *How a photograph from Wagga Wagga changed British Law*, 28 May, The University of Western Australia

Call for sessions closing 29 May: [AAA 2015 Conference](#) *On the Edge: The Archaeology of Adaptation and Transition*, 2-4 December, Fremantle

Early bird registrations and abstract submission closing 29 May: [2015 Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference](#), 5-9 July, Macquarie University

Call for papers closing 1 June: [Cultural Studies Association of Australasia Annual Conference 2015](#), 1-3 December, The University of Melbourne

Registrations close 2 June: [IPPE Positive Psychology Conference 2015](#) 6 June, Australian Catholic University, Strathfield

[Music Talks](#): Classical Futures – New Frontiers for Music and Audience, 5 June, Music Australia, Sydney

Early bird registration closing 12 June: [The Australian Political Studies Association Annual Conference](#), 27-30 September, The University of Canberra

[Australasian Overtures: Musical Theatre Educators' Alliance Conference](#) 20-23 June, WA Academy of Performing Arts

Registrations open: [11th International Conference on Greek Research](#) 26-27 June, Flinders University

Registrations open: [ANZATS Conference 2015](#) *A Life Worth Living*, 29 June-1 July, Sydney

Early bird registrations close 30 June: [The Inclusive Education Summit 2015](#) 31 July-2 August, Victoria University

[Literary Networks Convention](#) AULLA, ASAL & AAL, 7-11 July, The University of Wollongong

Registrations open: [Crime, Justice and Social Democracy Conference 2015](#) 8-10 July, Queensland University of Technology

Registrations open: [ANZCA 2015 Conference](#) *Rethinking Communication, Space and Identity*, 8-10 July, Queenstown

Registrations open: [AFMLTA 20th National Languages Conference](#) 9-12 July, Melbourne

Registrations open: [10th Biennial ANZAMEMS Conference](#) 14-18 July, The University of Queensland

Free public event: [The Annual Castan Centre for Human Rights Law Conference 2015](#) 24 July, Monash University

Applications close 30 July: [2016 Creative Fellowships](#) National Library of Australia

Call for papers closing 31 July: [ASCS 37 \(2016\)](#) Annual conference of the Australasian Society of Classical Studies

[Calendar of First World War Centenary Events](#): Council of Australasian Museum Directors (CAMD) members

Note: While we take due care to list correct information about events listed here, all listings are subject to change and we advise that you reconfirm details before making bookings. Please like our Facebook page for more updates on available grants and sector events.



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