

# Research.Culture

## Prof Rowe Leads CCR

**Prof David Rowe joined CCR in March this year as Centre Director. He has published extensively in the areas of media and popular culture, especially sport, music and journalism, and brings substantial international research experience to the Directorship, serving as a peer reviewer/editorial advisor for more than 20 scholarly journals and for several national research councils.**

The following is an excerpt from an interview with David about his goals for the Centre and insights into his current research.

*Editor: What attracted you to CCR?*

David: Well, it's a research centre with a very good reputation both in Australia and internationally. A reputation for being dynamic and innovative and with a fairly unusual remit which is the way it seeks to

engage with its immediate communities whilst projecting beyond. I think the way it's taken 'culture' very seriously as an area of research, culture in its many-faceted ways, attracts me because it gives considerable scope for the kind of research I'd like to do.

*Ed: How do you hope to develop the centre as the new Director?*

David: Obviously, my task is to build on its achievements to date. Essentially, a process of consolidation. And then to develop the Centre in terms of focusing our research activities a little more clearly for those who are involved in the Centre, because cultural research can be almost an infinitely stretchable area of activity. I'll be trying to take the research into some new areas and to strengthen existing research themes.



At the helm: Prof David Rowe

*Ed: What do you think are the biggest research challenges that CCR needs to respond to?*

David: Unquestionably, foreshadowed government policy – introduction to the Research Quality Framework, or RQF – I think is what everyone is talking about in Australia in research. It can provide some great opportunities for research centres, but also many potential pitfalls. So I think guiding the Centre through the first round of the research quality framework will be a very important task.

*Ed: Do you think CCR is well positioned to demonstrate its impact as well as its quality of research?*

David: Impact can take many forms. The engaged, interdisciplinary nature of CCR's research working with actual groups of people, with communities and organisations is evidence of impact. I do think the Centre is very well placed to demonstrate that its impact registers not only in the world of the university, but beyond. This activity, though, has to be underpinned by theoretically and empirically sophisticated work that is recognised by our academic peers, and which in turn influences their research.

*Ed: From the general to specifics, what research are you currently pursuing?*

David: My research has mostly been in the area of contemporary popular culture, and in particular – in recent (Don't page 2...)

## CCR in major bid to transform Auburn

**Dr Zoe Sofoulis is leading a CCR bid to research community understanding, attitudes and cultural innovations in solar power and sustainable energies in the Auburn community.**

The research will form a small but leading part of a \$30+ million dollar bid coordinated by the Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA) to the Australian Greenhouse Office's Solar Cities scheme.

SOPA approached CCR to provide research responsive to the diverse community of Auburn, NSW where a \$30 million solar rollout is proposed.

Dr Sofoulis' ongoing research into new cultural models of water users and water demand in Sydney attracted the

SOPA-led consortium, as CCR drives new approaches to energy, environment and sustainability beyond standard organisational and market-based assumptions about how people want to engage with energy as an issue in their daily lives.

If the SOPA-led bid is successful, the Auburn community in Sydney's inner west, will benefit from solar heated council swimming pools, household solar technologies supplied and fitted, public art projects on solar energy, and major industrial conversions to solar power.

More information on the full project "Brighter Futures" can be found at: [www.brighterfutures.org.au](http://www.brighterfutures.org.au)



**Centre for Cultural Research**  
 Parramatta Campus  
 University of Western Sydney  
 Locked Bag 1797  
 Penrith South DC  
 NSW 1797  
 Australia  
 ph: +61 2 9685 9600  
 fx: +61 2 9685 9610  
[www.uws.edu.au/ccr](http://www.uws.edu.au/ccr)

# CCR co-hosts National Buddhist Studies Group

**The Australian Association of Buddhist Studies (AABS) was formally inaugurated on October 3, 2005, the successful development of a CCR initiative. The association has grown out of the Buddhist Studies seminar series hosted by the CCR after its appointment of Adrian Snodgrass as Adjunct Professor. Adrian has been elected the inaugural President of the AABS.**

Past CCR Seminars presented covered such diverse topics as Buddhist art, Tibetan hagiography, new directions in Western academic studies of Buddhism, Buddhism and orientalism, the practices of Vietnamese Buddhism in Sydney, Nagarjuna's philosophy, Zen practice, Zen in Brazil, Buddhism in teaching psychology and Buddhism and psychotherapy.

The AABS retains the multidisciplinary identity of the UWS Buddhist seminar

series. It continues the seminar series inaugurated in 2003—alternating between the Parramatta campus of UWS and Sydney University—and to expand the activities to include conferences and publications.

AABS will hold its first independent conference June 10-11, 2006, selected papers from which will appear as a special, refereed issue of the *Journal of Religious History*. Buddhist studies is no longer the exclusive preserve of Religious Studies departments and philology however. It is increasingly being a focus for research in history, literature, music, art, ethnology, sociology and other disciplines.

Meanwhile, 3 PhD students at CCR are currently studying topics related to Buddhism, following in the footsteps of CCR postdoctoral fellow and former PhD, Cristina Rocha, whose thesis *Zen in Brazil* (2003) has just been published by University of Hawaii Press, (2006).

## Interview with David Rowe

(From previous page...)

years – the area of media sport and popular journalism. And also cultural policy. My main recent commitment at the moment is an ARC Discovery project, in which I'm looking at Rupert Murdoch and News Corporation and their impact on global sports broadcasting.

I'm a Co-Chief Investigator on another ARC Discovery Project 'Culture Circuits', with Deborah Stevenson from the University of Newcastle, in which we're trying to track developments in cultural policy across international locations where we're looking at the circulation of cultural policy in terms both of policy ideas and programs, and also personnel. In other words, how, in a range of areas, fashions and maybe fads for particular cultural policies have an impact in very different locations, perhaps with very different consequences.

We're interested in that kind of 'blueprint' management of cultural policy.

I'm also Co-Chief Investigator on an ARC Linkage Project, which is a study of place-making in the suburb of Mayfield, in Newcastle, traditionally associated with BHP and steel-making, an industrial suburb. We're looking at the ways in which

Mayfield has tried to re-invent and re-assess itself – its own history and its future. And, in particular, how Mayfield has used culture, and the whole idea of community culture to patch things up – a sense of community that may have been lost to changes over the years.

The invention of place is a key issue. It's something local councils are increasingly interested in.

I'm also writing up some of my research on popular journalism including the process of 'tabloidisation'. Not just the question of the size of the newspaper, but also the changes in quality, the type of newspaper, the type of presentation, the type of journalism and so on.

Beyond that, I have a long standing interest in globalisation in its many forms, and the ways that globalisation meets a counter-process of localisation – the point at which the local meets the global. It's one of the key questions of the moment, how culture emerges as produced and reproduced at that intersection.

I find it an exciting research program and I look forward to developing new, collaborative projects with people in and outside the Centre.

## Cultural Dynamics, Creative Region

**A half day symposium hosted by CCR for cultural planners, community development practitioners and researchers.**

### Key speakers:

- Deborah Stevenson, Univ. of Newcastle - Contemporary developments in European cultural planning and their relevance for Australia
- John Montgomery - City cultural strategies and creative industries: policy and practice in London and Manchester during the 1990s

**June 22nd, 2 - 5pm**

**Venue: Bld EZ, Parramatta campus, UWS**

**More information: Elaine lally - e.lally@uws.edu.au**

# Cosmetic Surgery Symposium Attracts Internationals

**A CCR symposium on February 24th “Cosmetic Surgery: Feminist Engagements” brought together scholars from the USA and Canada to discuss the rise and rise of cosmetic surgery.**

Feminists have always had strong opinions about cosmetic surgery as it is a practice mainly undertaken by women and can be seen as part of a repressive ‘beauty system’.

However, the symposium aimed to recognise that as cosmetic surgery has multiplied and diversified in recent years, so must feminist approaches to understanding it.

Papers covered topics such as the recent French ‘face transplant’, cosmetic surgery in Brazil, and the TV show ‘Extreme Makeover’.

Convenor Meredith Jones (a recent CCR PhD graduate) gave a paper about the ‘Pamela Anderson

House’ – a piece of architecture in Melbourne that features a giant screen of Pamela Anderson’s face.

The keynote speaker, Canadian philosopher Cressida Heyes, read from her forthcoming book *Self-Transformations: Foucault and Gendered Bodies*. Susan Stryker spoke eloquently about San Francisco, gender reassignment and cosmetic surgery, and the Sydney-based artist Yiorgos Zafiriou gave a riveting presentation about his own aesthetic surgery and associated artworks.

Meredith Jones and Cressida Heyes are currently co-editing an anthology of feminist responses to cosmetic surgery to which many of the scholars who presented at the symposium have contributed.

Meredith’s work on contemporary cosmetic surgery has been commented on by

the plastic surgery industry and builds on CCR’s interest on the social and cultural impact of new, imagined identities not bound by physiology, and the options that medicine and technology claim to deliver.

CCR is also investigating anti-ageing medicine as a global phenomenon through an ARC Discovery project led by Dr Brett Neilson, collecting a wealth of information on how the ageing and cosmetics industries are shaping individual and social identities.



Dr Meredith Jones

At a time when governments are concerned about the economics of ageing populations, it is clear from the work of CCR researchers that cultures of ageing and body image are an everyday concern driving and shaping local and global realities.

## Valuing the Home: study

Buying a home off a plan or within a housing estate may seem a straightforward approach to becoming a home owner in Western Sydney. But as CCR researchers Kay Anderson and Anne Hurni are uncovering, the complexities about where the home ends and the neighbourhood begins, both spatially and temporally, can affect the home improvements and amenities local Councils and land developers are prepared to deliver.

The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) approached CCR late last year to research assumptions about homebuyer preferences for improvements and amenities. One of their concerns was that homebuyers are not aware of who pays for the extras and added amenities and its effect on housing affordability.

The \$47,000 research project, jointly funded by a University Partnership Grant, is gathering data on what recent homebuyers know about housing development policy, and the roles of Councils and developers in creating the suburban landscape. Surveys and interviews are being conducted over five housing estates in the region.

The research raises wider questions of ‘community’ at the neighbourhood level, why individuals place different values on the homes they create, and the broader impact on suburban space and place.

The Australian Research Council has awarded \$40,000 to Dr Fiona Allon, Prof. Kay Anderson and Prof. Ien Ang to develop a research program focusing on the differential dynamics of cultural citizenship in Sydney and Berlin - two ‘global cities’ that make different claims about being multicultural and cosmopolitan.

The ARC *Linkage International* grant was also co-funded by Germany’s research council (DFG), and will support exchange visits between Berlin and Sydney for two research teams. Only a quarter of the ninety two *Linkage International* grants considered in the

## Sydney Berlin Study wins ARC Funding

round were funded.

A series of thematic workshops and seminars for PhD students will be the basis for developing more sustained research to help inform researchers, community service providers, and policy and planning stakeholders concerned

with understanding a shared sense of security and belonging in highly diverse, cosmopolitan contexts. The research will try to uncover the processes and actions that individuals and communities develop and utilise to create their space and place.

A broader issue that the researchers want to address in comparing Sydney and Berlin is managing identity formation across local and national boundaries.

The first exchange will occur in September this year when the CCR team (with Dr Justine Lloyd from UTS) travel to Free University, Berlin to map out an 18-month research collaboration.

# CCR Seminars 2006

Date/Venue	Presenter/title
16-Feb FOS	<b>Zoe Sofoulis, Greg Noble and Meredith Jones</b> <i>The Container Technologies project - some case studies</i>
16-Mar FOS	<b>Cristina Rocha</b> <i>Buddha is Pop': Imagining Zen Buddhism in Brazil</i> <b>Reena Dobson</b> <i>The Most Cosmopolitan Island Under the Sun: Ethnicity, Tolerance and Cosmopolitanism in Mauritius</i>
6-Apr FOS	<b>Adrian Snodgrass</b> <i>The Hermeneutics of Space</i> <b>Barbara Bloch</b> <i>An unhappy marriage? The Jewish studies - cultural studies dis/connection</i>
18-May Super's Cottage	<b>Judith Snodgrass</b> <i>Negotiating settlement: The Vietnamese Australian Buddhist Women's Association in Greater Western Sydney</i> <b>Helen Armstrong</b> <i>Disturbing Landscapes</i>
15-Jun Super's Cottage	<b>David Rowe</b> <i>The Passing of the Broadsheet: Reflections on the Tabloidisation of "Quality" Newspapers</i> <b>Deborah Stevenson</b> <i>Title to be advised</i>
13-Jul Super's Cottage	<b>Susie Goff</b> <i>The Value of Participatory Practice to Sustainability</i> <b>Brett Neilson</b> <i>Demography without the Demos, or, What is a Population?</i>
17-Aug Super's Cottage	<b>Urte Boehm</b> <i>Do you speak hybrid? - Discourses of Hybridity in the German Context</i> <b>Bob Hodge and Elaine Lally</b> <i>Bridging Worlds, Linking Cultures: conceptualising a digital cultural atlas for cultural planning in Greater Western Sydney</i>
14-Sep Super's Cottage	<b>Sharon Chalmers and Amanda Rosso-Buckton</b> <i>Negotiating the Challenge of Cultural Diversity in Children's Health Care: The Australian Context</i> <b>Fiona Cameron</b> <i>The Past in the Present: the Politics of Digital Heritage</i>
19-Oct Super's Cottage	<b>Kay Anderson, Fiona Allon &amp; Kim Wildman</b> <i>The Backpacker Project</i> <b>Greg Noble and Meghan Watkins</b> <i>Diversity and Habitus in Secondary Schooling</i>
23-Nov Super's Cottage	<b>Ian Ang &amp; Gay Hawkins</b> <i>SBS and Cultural Innovation</i> <b>George Morgan</b> <i>Title to be advised</i>
7-Dec FOS	<b>Meaghan Morris</b> <i>Title to be advised</i>

• Seminar series updates are available via the CCR website:  
<http://www.uws.edu.au/research/researchcentres/ccr/eventsandnews>

• Please RSVP to [ccr@uws.edu.au](mailto:ccr@uws.edu.au) if you wish to attend any of the seminars.  
Seating is limited. Refreshments provided.

• Venue Key: FOS = Female Orphan School, Bld EZ; Super's Cottage = Bld ET  
Parramatta Campus, UWS

# Current CCR Projects

- *The Humanities Beyond Humanism: Race, Nature and the Human in Australia from Enlightenment to Federation* - Funding: ARC Discovery. CCR Researcher: Prof K. Anderson
- *Cultural Research for the 21st Century: Building Cultural Intelligence for a Complex World* - Funding: ARC Discovery. CCR Researcher: Prof I. Ang
- *Anti-Ageing Devices: On the Cultural politics of Staying Young in a Globalised World* - Funding: ARC Discovery. CCR Researcher: Dr B.Nielson
- *Cross-Cultural Larikins in a neo-Liberal World: ideology and myth in a postmodern Australia, Mexico and Brazil* - Funding: ARC Discovery. CCR Researcher: Prof B. Hodge
- *The Visual Meditation of a Complex Narrative: TGH Strehlow's Journey to Horseshoe Bend* - Funding: ARC Discovery. CCR Researcher: Dr H.Cohen
- *A Study of the Brazilian Community in Australia and Australian-Brazilian Bilateral Exchange*, Funding: ARC Discovery. CCR Researcher: Dr C.Rocha
- *Negotiating the Challenge of Cultural Diversity in Children's Health Care: The Australian Context* - Funding: ARC Linkage/Sth East Sydney Area Health, Sydney and Westmead Children's Hospitals, Sth West Area Health. CCR Researchers: Prof. I. Ang, Dr S.Chalmers
- *Discipline and Diversity: Cultural Practices and Dispositions of Learning* - Funding: ARC Linkage/NSW DET. CCR Researcher: Dr G.Noble
- *Cultural Research Network* - Funding: ARC. CCR Researchers: Dr Greg Noble, Dr Z.Sofoulis, Prof Ien Ang, Prof K. Anderson (Lead institution - University of Queensland)
- *Reconceptualising Heritage Collections: multidisciplinary approaches to museum collections and documentation* - Funding: ARC Linkage/Powerhouse Museum. CCR Researcher: Dr F. Cameron
- *Backpacker Cultures, Residential Communities, and the Construction of Tourist Spaces and Landscapes: A Regional Study of Changing Tourism Dynamics in Sydney* - Funding: ARC Linkage/5 Local Councils - Sydney City, Nth Sydney, Woollahra, Waverly Randwick & Manly. CCR Researchers: Dr F.Allon, Prof K.Anderson, Prof R.Bushell
- *Bridging Worlds, Linking Cultures* - Funding: ARC Linkage/WSROC. CCR Researchers: Dr E. Lally, Prof B.Hodge
- *The Art of Engagement: Exploring a contemporary arts-business collaboration (ARC Linkage Project)* CCR researchers: Dr E.Lally, Prof I.Ang and Prof K.Anderson
- *Homebuyer preferences and developer contributions* - Funding: UWS and the Urban Development Institute of Australia. Researcher: Prof K.Anderson
- *Alternate Pathways to Wellbeing: Cultural forms of belonging, inclusion and engagement for young people in Western Sydney*. Funding: UWS Children's Futures Postdoctoral grant.Research Consortium led by Dr G.Noble partnering with DoCS, Anglicare Burnside, WSROC, The Australia Council and Casula Powerhouse
- *Transforming Drivers: Driving as Social, Cultural and Gendered Practice* - Funding: ARC Linkage/NRMA. CCR Researchers: Dr Z.Sofoulis, Dr G.Noble
- *Demand Management Through Cultural Innovation: User models*. Funding: Sydney Water Corporation. CCR Researchers: Dr Z.Sofoulis, with C.Williams and M.Campbell
- *Handling the 'Battering Ram': Rupert Murdoch, News Corporation and the Global Contest for Dominance in Sports Television*. Funding: ARC Discovery. CCR Researcher: Prof D.Rowe
- *Culture Circuits: Exploring the International Networks and Institutions Shaping Contemporary Cultural Policy*. Funding: ARC Discovery. CCR Researcher: Prof D.Rowe (led by Newcastle University)
- *Places in Transition: A Case Study of Cultural Planning in an Australian City*. Funding: ARC Linkage with Mayfield Main Street Commitee, Newcastle City Council. CCR Researcher: Prof D.Rowe (led by Newcastle University)
- *Doing the Knowledge: Youth Transition in Marrickville* - Funding: Marrickville Community History Group. CCR Researcher: Dr G.Morgan
- *Open Cities: Urban Citizenship in Sydney and Berlin*. Funding: ARC Linkage International. CCR Researchers: Dr F. Allon; Prof K. Anderson; Prof I. Ang

# Comparing Cultural Citizenship

A lecture on conflicting theories of citizenship by Toby Miller, Professor of English, Sociology, and Women's Studies at the University of California, Riverside, attracted over 40 people to the CCR event on April 21. Prof Miller delivered his talk *The Clash of Civilizations: Cultural Citizenship and the Crisis in Belonging*, arguing that different socio-cultural models of explaining citizenship failed to appreciate the material and economic context in which they were developed.

Prof Miller described the work of some of the key international theorists on citizenship over the last few decades. He aimed to provoke dialogue among cultural studies scholars to highlight problems of determinism in various models of democratic citizenship advanced in different countries.

The event was sponsored through the ARC Cultural Research Network, and convened locally by Greg Noble. Prof Miller was on a speaking tour funded by the Queensland Government and the Queensland University of Technology.



Model Citizens: Greg Noble(l) with Toby Miller

## CCR Book Launches...



### Buddhas in Brazilian Suburbia

A new book by ARC postdoctoral fellow Cristina Rocha on the huge popularity of Zen Buddhism among Brazil's urban middle class was unveiled at the Japan Foundation in Sydney recently. The book, *Zen in Brazil: The Quest for Cosmopolitan Modernity* (Honolulu, University of Hawaii Press, 2006), was launched jointly by the Director of the Japan Foundation, Mr Ueno, and by the eminent cultural anthropologist, Prof Ghassan Hage. CCR sponsored the event with introductions and a toast led by Prof David Rowe.

Ghassan Hage's animated speech praised the book for being both a "page turner" about popular culture in Brazil and a book which had sound theoretical foundations and explanations.

Cristina, based at CCR, explained in her response that the consumption of all things Buddhist in Brazil was a form of cultural transference that has relocated an idealised notion of culture, leaving behind the complex context in which it was developed. While Buddhism is growing in popularity in western countries generally, Cristina's work focuses on a country which has some history of Japanese migration, but which is fascinated by Buddhism, in part because of the urban violence and stresses associated with Brazil's populous cities.

Cristina is currently working on a project looking at Australian connections with Brazil. Her research is concerned with a deeper understanding of the role of class differences in shaping migrant identities, by exploring the ways in which the immense socio-economic gap in Brazilian society is transplanted from homeland to destination country, and the new relationships that are emerging between communities across the two countries.

Above left: Ghassan Hage, Cristina Rocha and David Rowe;  
Below: Cristina signs her book at the launch on April 20th.



### Design as a Way of Thinking

Adrian Snodgrass, Adjunct Professor at CCR, launched his co-authored (with Richard Coyne) book *Interpretation in Architecture: Design as a Way of Thinking* (London and New York, Routledge, 2006) at a special event in the Faculty of Architecture at The University of Sydney on 13 April. Over 100 people attended the launch. Adrian and his work were introduced by Dr Glen Hill, Senior Lecturer in History and Theory from the Faculty of Architecture, before Adrian discussed salient aspects of his new book. Despite the trauma of a car breakdown on the way to the city, Adrian spoke with customary Zen calm, and was very warmly received by the audience, which included many younger students, junior and senior academics, artists and architects. His contribution to the Faculty of Architecture at Sydney over the years is clearly valued as Professor Tom Kvan, Dean of the Faculty, outlined in his speech to mark the occasion.

Professor David Rowe, Director of CCR co-launched Adrian's book. David noted in his short talk that the key themes of Adrian's book – 'Play', 'Edification' and 'Otherness' – each has a profound, contemporary resonance for scholars of culture. After a lengthy period on hard plastic seating, the audience was pleased to leave the lecture hall for the adjoining space, with its promise of canapés, mini pies, wine and signed copies of Adrian's book. These items were consumed with equal speed and enthusiasm.

The co-hosting of this event by Sydney University and CCR was a happy example of inter-organisational cooperation, and an even happier instance of CCR making a significant mark on the scholarly landscape.

A report by Dr Sharon Chalmers on the relationship between cultural diversity, parenting practices and the provision of health care services, primarily community-based health services has just been released.

The report *Culture, Health and Parenting in Everyday Life*, is the result of a year-long research partnership with Sydney Children's Hospital and the Multicultural Health Service of South East Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service (SES&IAHS)

The study focused on the Chinese, Vietnamese and Arabic-speaking populations as they constitute the three major non-English speaking language groups that access Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick and related area health services.



Dr Sharon Chalmers

# Cultural Diversity Parents and Health

Dr Chalmers and her team worked closely with Dr Les White from the Children's Hospital and Sam Choucair from SES&IAHS to collect detailed information through focus groups and interviews between March and December 2004. Sixty people recruited through the hospital and area health participated in focus groups, another 15 were interviewed in depth, along with 12 staff from the hospital and area health service.

Dr Chalmers explained that the research delivered a range of important information for the health sector and the research partners.

"Access to health services among the culturally and linguistically diverse communities remains a problem, even for more established communities, like those of this study", she said.

"There is a danger in assuming that people from Chinese, Vietnamese or Arabic backgrounds are well supported and connected. Recent arrivals have difficulty with health services no matter how established their communities are", Dr Chalmers said.

The research highlighted a number of key and recurring issues for health care delivery to culturally and linguistically diverse communities:

- For large and well established language groups, individuals always consulted a GP who spoke their own language.
- Social and cultural isolation typically affected people's wellbeing and mental health, so informal networks were identified as important parts of overall health access and delivery.
- Women's health in particular was critical to the wellbeing of their children, as they are often the primary carers.
- Length of time in Australia does not always equate with increased economic, social and cultural capital, particularly for women migrants.

The partnership with Sydney Children's Hospital and the Area Health Service is continuing in a separate 3 year project funded by the Australian Research Council

and is looking at how diverse families with chronically ill children experience health care. The project, which runs until the end of 2007, also includes the Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Dr Chalmers has been researching health and cultural diversity issues with CCR for more than 4 years and can be contacted via: [s.chalmers@uws.edu.au](mailto:s.chalmers@uws.edu.au)

## Staff Movements: Prof Ien Ang

**Professor Ien Ang**, now working on her ARC Professorial Fellowship investigating the impact of cultural complexity on the practice of cultural research in the contemporary university (of which the CCR itself is a major example), has been delivering lectures and researching in the USA.

In the first months of 2006 Ien spent time as a scholar in residence at the renowned Annenberg School of Communication, University of Pennsylvania. She delivered a public lecture entitled 'From Cultural Studies to Cultural Research: Engaged Scholarship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century'. She is also presenting guest lectures at the University of North Carolina and the University of Michigan.

She was also invited to present the first annual *Distinguished Lecture in Social and Cultural Analysis* for the recently established Department of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University in April 2006.

Ien will return to CCR mid 2006 to continue her research.

## PhD Study on Transport and Urban Development Wins Grant

New PhD student Anne Hurni has won a 3 year top-up scholarship from the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) to study the nexus between urban development, transport and child health in Western Sydney.

The research aims to explain how transport options and urban environmental factors (including urban form, dwelling types, tenure and density), contribute to the socio-spatial inequalities that exist within the urban region and the differences in health

outcomes for individuals and communities.

Anne's research connects with a key AHURI Research Theme Urban Management and Infrastructure, and specifically to its Sustainability - Housing and urban development agenda. Anne has worked in public planning for a number of years and brings substantial policy knowledge to her research.

The scholarship is worth \$21,000 over the 3 years of the research.

# Postgrad Postcard from Sweden

Justine Humphry is a PhD student at the CCR researching the social and subjective dimensions of everyday office computing. Justine recently returned from a 2 month exchange on a joint International Scholarship program at the Advanced Cultural Studies Institute of Sweden (ACSIS) at Linköping University.

The exchange is a program jointly organised by the CCR and ACSIS. It enables postgraduate students from both institutions to visit for between six and eight weeks to conduct research. Justine was the third student taking up the exchange and the following is snapshot of her experience:

My weekly schedule involved visiting ACSIS on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and then spending the rest of the week and weekend in Stockholm conducting research and seeing some of the sights of Stockholm.

ACSIS is located within the unusual Museum of Work at the Norrköping campus of Linköping University.

Norrköping is a post-industrial museum town that boasts a “complete well-preserved industrial landscape” according to a local tourist map. The Museum of Work is one of the town’s most famous preserved buildings and is commonly known as “the flat iron” for its triangular iron-like shape.

Like CCR, ACSIS is a busy centre for interdisciplinary cultural research with activities that include seminars, research projects, conferences, doctoral courses, publications and visiting fellows. My stay coincided with the visits of three Postdoctoral students from Belgium, the USA and the UK.

To further my work on the cultural history of the modern office, I conducted research at the Stockholm Business History Centre (*Föreningen S t o c k h o l m s - Företagsminnen*). The archives of the centre contain a vast set of documents, files and media belonging to Ericsson dating back to the late nineteenth century when the company was first

founded. These files have come to be known as *The Ericsson Files*.

While at the centre I focused on Ericsson’s promotional material and examined images and text, and the narrative themes that manifested. From this I was able to analyse how technologies were discursively systematized over time helping to constitute not just individual technologies but their application and place within a large network of humans, artefacts and the built environment.

I also conducted an interview with a senior researcher from Ericsson on

how the company envisioned the role of the mobile phone in future work practices.

This exchange is a tremendously worthwhile program because of the social and intellectual value of exposing students to new experiences, ideas and academic practices, and the benefit of building intellectual communities, networks and new friendships as part of that experience.

I was very grateful to all those who provided me with assistance, friendship and encouragement, in particular the Director of ACSIS, Johan Fornäs and Administrator, Helene Egeland.

JH.



*The Norrköping Museum of Work, Sweden, where ACSIS is housed. (J.Humphry, 2005).*

## Eight CCR Students Graduate in '06

Congratulations to the following CCR postgraduates conferred with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in April:

**Aneela Babar** - Living Room Seminars: Negotiating Religious Networks, Gendered Selves and Intercommunal Relationships Within the Pakistani Diaspora

**Barbara Bloch** - “Unsettling Zionism”: Diasporic Consciousness and Australian Jewish Community Identities

**Tanja Dreher** - From Indifference to Working in Indifference: News and Cultural Diversity in Western Sydney

**Mitzi Goldman** - Hatred: The Psycho-Political Perspective

**Wendy Holland** - Performing Multiple Identities: The Complexities of an Aboriginal Family History

**Meredith Jones** - Makeover Culture: Landscapes of Cosmetic Surgery

**Zen Yipu** - Selling Props, Playing Stars: Virtualising the Self in the Japanese Mediascape

\* **Ryan Sengara** - Redfern Kids Connect - Technology and Empowerment, received an MA (Hons).



**Centre for Cultural Research**  
Parramatta Campus  
University of Western Sydney  
Locked Bag 1797  
Penrith South DC  
NSW 1797  
Australia  
ph: +61 2 9685 9600  
fx: +61 2 9685 9610  
www.uws.edu.au/ccr