



June - August 2009 News, School of Social Sciences

Congratulations

Congratulations to John Minns who has won the Australian Learning and Teaching Council's citation award worth \$10,000.

Welcome New Teaching Staff

Prof Angela Woollacott is the Manning Clark Professor of History. Her teaching areas include Australian history, British Empire history, and feminist and postcolonial history. Her recent books include *Gender and Empire* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006) and coedited with Desley Deacon and Penny Russell, *Transnational Ties: Australian Lives in the World* (ANU E-Press, 2008). A second volume with the same coeditors *Transnational Lives: Biographies of Global Modernity 1700-present* is in press with Palgrave Macmillan; and she is completing a study of three iconic 'Australian' women performers, race and modernity in the early 20th century. She holds an ARC Discovery grant for a project on cultural understandings of the political changes in mid-19th century Australia in imperial context.

Dr David Bissell is a social scientist who is really interested in thinking about some of the relationships between mobilities, bodies and technologies. Whilst his research topics might at first seem quite disparate, what unites them is a commitment to thinking through aspects of existence that are unwilled or unforeseen: dimensions of life that we have less control over than we might have assumed. He is therefore really interested in ideas of passivity in a variety of different empirical contexts. David is currently thinking about habit, using thinkers such as Ravaissou, Bergson and Merleau-Ponty to think about how habit relates to obduracy, repetition, sensation and our sense of being in the world. He is also working on a project with Gillian Fuller (UNSW) on the phenomenology of stillness. For both Gillian and David, this seems like an incredibly pertinent issue since we are currently living in a time where slowdown and stillness are troubling ideas of speed-up, flux, movement and flow in many different ways. Following on from his PhD which investigated everyday travel practices, David is interested in many aspects of public transport, not least because he thinks it presents us with a unique space where issues of sociality and responsibility come to the fore. Building on this, he is developing an ESRC research proposal to look at practices and strategies that are bound up with commuting with Jennie Middleton (Plymouth) and Russell Hitchings (UCL).

David holds a BA (Hons) in human geography from Cambridge University and an MA in Research Methods and PhD in cultural geography, both from Durham University. At ANU, he is responsible for teaching the SOCY2043 Qualitative Research Methods course this semester. David is genuinely thrilled to have this opportunity to teach and research at the ANU and really looks forward to meeting you all!

Dr Chris Wilson received his PhD from the Research School of Asian and Pacific Studies, ANU in 2006. His dissertation examined the causes and escalation of a large scale ethno-religious conflict in Indonesia's east (North Maluku). Since then he has been living in Beijing trying to learn Chinese and eating too many dumplings. When not doing that he has been involved in conflict analysis and prevention for the World Bank in Jakarta.

Dr Keith Dowding joined the political science program in the Research School of Social Sciences, ANU as Professor of Political Science in July 2007. This semester Professor Dowding is teaching POLS2105 Political Leadership and Executive Government.

School Visitors

Professor **Alfredo Rehren** is the new Visiting Fellow for the Australian National Centre of Latin American Studies. He will be with us for three months. Professor Rehren teaches at the Instituto de Ciencia Política, Universidad Católica de Chile. His research interests include the politics of corruption, business and politics, public policymaking in Latin America, local politics, political representation and the role of presidential leadership in the consolidation of democracy in the Southern Cone.

He graduated from Allegheny College, Pennsylvania and pursued graduate studies at the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO-Chile) and the University of Manchester in public management. He has been a Mazzini Scholar at the University of Genova; Luksic Scholar at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University; William Evans Fellow at the University of Otago; Rockefeller Fellow at the Bellagio Center, Italy; resident researcher at L'Institute d' Etudes Politiques de Paris and Fulbright Scholar at the University of Texas at Austin. He has taught Latin American politics at the University of Otago, Georgetown University, Brown University, University of Connecticut, SUNY-Plattsburgh, Universidad de Chile and Universidad Nacional de Asunción, Paraguay.



Professor Alfredo Rehren

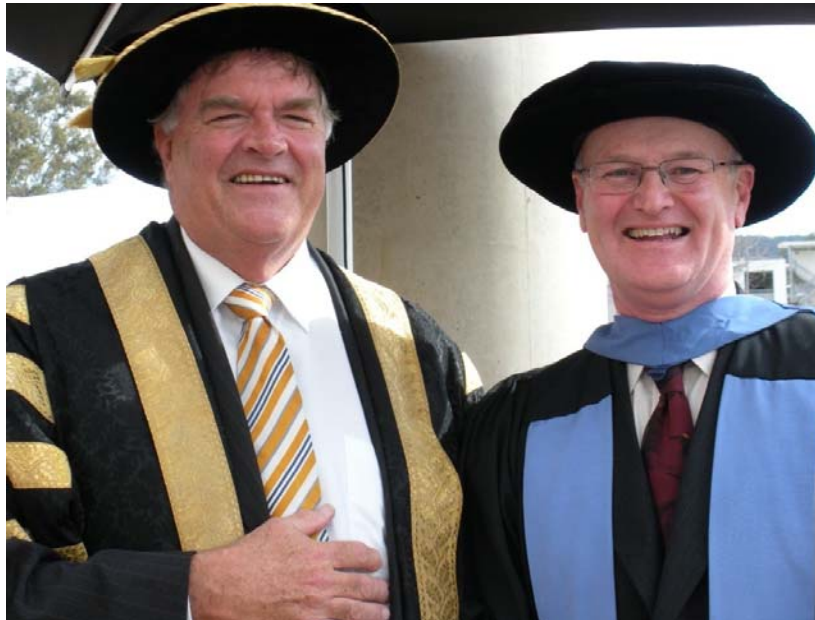
PhD Students

Congratulations to **Judy Hemming** who was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Judy was approved to graduate by the College Dean on behalf of the Council of the University on 29 June 2009. Her thesis topic is *Sex work, sex trafficking and securitization*.

Congratulations to **Joan Stivala** who was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Joan was approved to graduate by the College Dean on behalf of the Council of the University on 14 July 2009. Her thesis topic is *The Christian After-Life of Seneca the Younger: The First Four Hundred Years*.

Congratulations to **Catherine Reynolds** who was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Catherine was approved to graduate by the College Dean on behalf of the Council of the University on 15 July 2009. Her thesis topic is *Theories of Consumption*.

Congratulations to **Patrick McCormack** who was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Patrick was approved to graduate by the College Dean on behalf of the Council of the University on 25 July 2009. His thesis topic is *The Popular Movement to Federation in New South Wales, 1897 -1899*.



Dr Norm Kelly (SSS) graduating in July 2009, photographed with the Chancellor, Professor Kim Beazley, another former MP.

What has been happening

The International Political Science Association (IPSA) Congress held in Santiago, Chile in July was the largest in its 60-year history. ANU participants included Merrindahl Andrew, John Minns, Marian Sawyer, Keith Dowding, Lindy Edwards, James Jupp and Ben Reilly, while Meredith Edwards and John Halligan were there from University of Canberra. A highlight was a reception and guided tour led by President Michelle Bachelet of La Moneda (where President Allende died in 1973 during the military coup). Marian Sawyer stood for re-election to the IPSA Executive - a complicated ballot involving all members of the IPSA Council being locked for a couple of hours in the very formal room where the voting took place. Marian is now IPSA Vice-President - Asia and Oceania.



New Books

Brooks, K 2009, *Rural Resilience and Prosperity*, VDM Verlag Dr. Muller Aktiengesellschaft & Co. KG, Germany.

George, J. & Huynh K., (eds.) 2009, *The Culture Wars: Australian and American Politics in the 21st Century*, Palgrave MacMillan, Australia.

Saha, L. J. & Dworkin A. G., (eds.) 2009, *International Handbook of Research on Teachers and Teaching*, Springer, New York.