

# The Australian and Transnational Studies Centre Newsletter

November 2018

## Activities of the Centre

### Conferences and lectures

The 13 to 15 July 2018 saw the Centre produce another successful IAFOR International Conference on Global Studies in Barcelona. Based around the theme 'Fearful Futures: Cultural Studies and the Question of Agency in the Twenty-First Century', the conference had around 70 presentations and delegates, and six plenary sessions. The Centre participated with four keynote presentations on Catalan Independence, chaired by Susan Ballyn, by Montserrat Camps i Gaset, Miquel Strubell, Bill Phillips and Martin Renes. Other key speakers included: Dr Cynthia Schmidt-Cruz from the University of Delaware, USA; author and journalist Phil Ball; Associate Professor Liz Byrski from Curtin University, Australia; and Professor Donald E. Hall from the University of Rochester, USA.

Over the past six months the Centre has also held a number of **Tricontinental Lectures**.

May was a busy month with four guest speakers. **Felicity Hand**, a senior lecturer in the English Department of the Autonomous University of Barcelona, presented on 'South Africa: Long Walk to Democracy' while later in the month **Laura Winstanley**, PhD candidate at the University of Barcelona, spoke about 'The (re)-emergence of South African nationalism in Kopano Matlwa's *Period Pain*'. Another specialist in African literatures, **Esther Pujolràs i Noguera** from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, explored literature from Ghana. London-based writer and academic **Sunny Singh** spoke about 'Indian Culture in an Era of Global Transformations'.

In September **Professor Philip Hayward** from the University of Southern Cross in Australia presented a fascinating talk on 'Mermaids and Australia - recontextualising a European cultural entity for a South Pacific context', drawing from examples in literature, art, public sculpture and film.

In October the Centre welcomed Australian poet **Peter Bakowski** to read from his work and talk about his creative practice and Gibraltar writer **M. G. Sanchez** spoke about 'Border tensions, cultural hybridity and the representation of Gibraltar identity'.

### Other events

Honorary Director Sue Ballyn presented her book *A Spanish Convict in Colonial Australia; Who was Adelaide de la Thoreza?*, co-written with academic Lucy Frost, at the bookshop Llibreria +Bernat on 25 May.

Executive board member August Bover also launched a new collection of poems and prose on 19 June called *Blau Marí* at the bookstore Llibreria Calders

In May 2018 the Centre collaborated with Casa Asia to present 'Rethinking culture in a transnational world' with Rafael Bueno and Sunny Singh.

On 8 November 2018 Centre Co-Director Martin Renes spoke at the opening of the exhibition "Residence: Barcelona – Melbourne" by Centre member Claire Wilson.

## **Journals**

In 2018 the Centre published a double issue of *Coolabah* called *Reimagining Australia, Part 1 & 2*. This special double issue of *Coolabah* addresses the urgent need for Australia to be reimagined as inclusive, conscious of its landscape and contexts, locale, history, myths and memory, amnesia, politics, cultures and futures; reimagined via intense conversations and inter-epistemic dialogue; reimagined through different ways of knowing, belonging and doing.

Earlier in the year Issue 23, *The Coolabah Short Poem*, was published, edited by Australian poet Peter Bakowski. The edition highlights a number of well-known Australian poets who explore the short poetic form.

## **What's on next?**

In late May 2019 the Centre will hold a seminar called 'Democràcia i immigració: els casos de Catalunya i Austràlia' (Democracy and Immigration: the Cases of Catalonia and Australia), centred around the themes history, language, education and health. The seminar will include guest speaker Prof. Stuart King from Monash University in Australia. Watch this space for the call for papers and event details.

Seminar site: <https://ceat2019bcn.wordpress.com/>

We have also invited Prof. Bob Pease, an Australian specialist in Masculinity Studies currently employed by the University of Tasmania to give a small series of lectures between 25 and 28 March. Keep an eye out for the programming on our Centre webpage if you would like to attend.

For Bob's CV:

[https://rmdb.research.utas.edu.au/public/rmdb/q/indiv\\_detail\\_warp\\_trans/19205](https://rmdb.research.utas.edu.au/public/rmdb/q/indiv_detail_warp_trans/19205)

The Centre webpage: <http://www.ub.edu/dpfilsa/welcome.html>