On Tuesday the UC Arts Digital Lab, main office of the CEISMIC earthquake digital archive, hosted Hon Clare Curran, the current Minister of Broadcasting, Communications, and Digital Media, and Minister of Government Digital Services.

The Minister was welcomed to campus by Vice Chancellor Rod Carr and Pro-Vice Chancellor of Arts Jonathan Le Cocq to join Digital Humanities programme director Dr. Christopher Thomson, Arts Digital Lab co-director Associate Professor Donald Matheson, Lab staff, and postgraduate students working in the field of Digital Humanities for afternoon tea and discussion.

As a part of her visit, the Minister was interested in learning more about the successes and challenges of CEISMIC, the federated digital archive that was established by UC in the wake of the 2010/2011 Canterbury earthquakes. She asked about how CEISMIC managed to establish itself following a period of crisis and the legacy it has left behind for other populations that may be faced with disaster.

“This was a great opportunity to communicate to the Minister the value of the CEISMIC digital archive, and to highlight the ways in which UC was able to coordinate a range of different consortium partners to contribute their data to a repository that has served as a key digital resource for both researchers and community organisations,” says Dr. Christopher Thomson.

The CEISMIC programme led by Professor Paul Millar (UC English) in 2012 has since grown into a broader initiative of Digital Humanities teaching and research at UC, as well as the establishment of the UC Arts Digital Lab. “Through the successes of CEISMIC, UC Arts has been able to provide a programme of study that increases our students’ digital literacy while cultivating critical thinking and an understanding of culture and society,” says Professor Jonathan Le Cocq.

The Minister also discussed with the group issues facing the current digital landscape such as data governance, privacy issues, and the need for open and publicly accessible media. She noted the increasingly dispersed nature
of digital media spaces and the need to ensure that public digital media remain independent and separate from commercial practice.

“The whole Facebook and Cambridge Analytica debacle is a great example of how our data can be misused without our knowledge,” says Associate Professor Donald Matheson. “The need to be able to understand and critically interrogate the underlying structures and frameworks of the contemporary digital world is increasingly pertinent.”

Global, Cultural and Language Studies

Research Seminar
Beyond Mountain and Sea: The Reconstruction of Indigeneity in Sinophone Taiwan
Presented by Dr Chia-rong Wu (Rhodes College, USA)
Monday 30 April 2018
10:00-10:50am
Room 401 James Logie
Everyone welcome!

This paper engages with the literary representation of Indigenous subjects in response to Taiwan’s ecological and sociopolitical environment. To achieve this goal, this paper examines both Indigenous literature and Han people’s writing about Indigenous subjects. It first recounts the development of Indigenous literature from the 1980s onward. From a historical survey to a literature review, this paper accounts for such influential writers as Topas Tamapima 拓跋斯·塔瑪批瑪, Husluma Vava 霍斯陸曼·伐伐, and Syaman Rapongan 夏曼·藍波安 so as to shed light on the hunter/fisherman narrative in Indigenous literature. These representative writers reveal the predicaments of Indigenous subjects under the circumstance that their hunting and fishing traditions are endangered in the modern society. This type of writing strategy is twofold. On the one hand, it helps to reconfirm
Indigenous subjects’ primitive attachment to the natural environment of Taiwan. On the other, its ecological calling is further connected with a sociopolitical campaign that enhances the cultural awareness and visibility of Indigeneity in contemporary Taiwan. The second part of the paper analyzes the evolving trend of Han people’s writing on Indigeneity from the twentieth century to the twenty-first century. To highlight the ongoing change, this section surveys the early Han writers’ accounts of Indigenous subjects and then offers a close reading of *Killing Ghosts* (Shagui 殺鬼, 2009) and *Pangcah Girl* (Bangcha nuhai 邦査女孩, 2015) by Gan Yao Ming 甘耀明. Gan’s writing illustrates a fluid concept of indigeneity beyond ethnic, cultural, and religious differences. Intertwining conflict with coexistence, Gan contributes to the discursive interflow between Indigenous writings and Han writings about the Indigenous in Taiwan literature.

**Research Seminar**

**Make Love and War: Chinese Popular Romance in ‘Greater East Asia,’ 1937-1945**

Presented by Dr Chun-yu Lu (William & Mary University, Williamsburg, USA)

Friday 4 May 2018

1:00-1:50pm

Room 401 James Logie

Everyone welcome!

My research project examines Chinese popular romances produced and consumed in the Japanese colonized and occupied regions, including Taiwan, Manchukuo, Shanghai, and Hong Kong, during the Second Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945. Popular romance novels, cinematic and theatrical adaptations, Japanese translation and readers/viewers’ responses all together create the cultural industry of the popular romance genre. Through popular romance genre, I investigate the complex relationships between emotion, representation, and consumption vis-à-vis wartime discourses and sociopolitical turmoil.

In this research I ask the following questions: How are emotions, with a focus on love, articulated vis-à-vis wartime politics? How could this genre demarcate, blur, cross or reinforce the boundaries between eroticism and patriotism, the individual and the state, and the private and the public? I argue that even though the wartime politics dictate that private emotions be devoted to the public needs (i.e., the War) and hence individual interests should be subjugated to the collective, Chinese writers, filmmakers, theater workers and audiences pursued individuality through the discourses of romantic love and the devotion to the lovers rather than to the nation or to the colonizer. Thus, popular romance, even though a mass production, is a collective channel for reaffirming individual existence under political pressure.

**University of Canterbury Outstanding Teaching Practice Award**

Congratulations to Dr Masayoshi Ogino, in the Japanese Programme, who is the winner of the inaugural University of Canterbury Outstanding Teaching Practice Award. This award was established to recognize outstanding innovations in teaching at UC and special contributions in at least three areas, including improved student achievement, improved retention/enrolment numbers, improved student engagement, new connections with the graduate attributes, interdisciplinary integration and collaborative teaching across departments and colleges. The Learning and Teaching Committee, which adjudicates the awards, was impressed with the clear impact that Dr Ogino has been having on students and colleagues. The teaching awards will be presented at a special event on 2 July.
Human Services and Social Work

Cindy Zeiher recently attended and presented at the Lacan Salon Conference in Vancouver. Her paper, ‘Reversing Interpassive Environments’ focused on how politics can be understood through an appropriation of the ‘neighbour’. She also contributed a response to the conference opening roundtable which considered the question, ‘What does the environment want?’ The roundtable which generated much debate and discussion also included keynote Professor Todd McGowan (University of Vermont).

Media and Communication

Between ‘debunking’ and ‘echo-chamber’ effects
Exploring the childhood vaccine controversy among Italian Facebook users

MONDAY, 30 APRIL, 1:30PM IN LOCKE 611A

Assoc. Professor Francesca Comunello
Associate Professor of Sociology of Culture and Communication, LUMSA University

In 2017, Italy experienced a measles outbreak (with an increase of over 230% in the first 3 months, according to the Italian Ministry of Health), up to the point that the USA issued a warning to visitors about the spread of such a harmful disease. Global media largely covered the event, connecting it with the dramatic decrease in vaccination rates observed in the country. Several commentators highlighted the role of social media in spreading misinformation, giving voice to anti-vaccination movements.

On the one hand, digital and social media represent a growing source for the large share of the population that turns to the internet in order to gather and share health-related information (Observa, 2016); on the other hand, stating that social media “caused” the measles outbreak (in a deterministic way) is a simplistic explanation.

In this seminar, I focus on the motivations and on the perceptions of Italian Facebook users who are actively engaged in spreading «official» or «alternative» scientific information, adopting as a case study the childhood vaccines controversy. The majority of research addressing misinformation on social media is based on quantitative analysis. While this research provides relevant insights, scholars should also better explore users’ motivations and perceptions. Therefore, my group’s research provides an in-depth analysis of the main communicative practices, and of the sense-giving processes, carried out by Facebook users dealing with scientific topics, both from an «official» and from an «alternative» standpoint. Major attention is devoted to motivation, perception, social negotiation. As we are interested in platform-specific actions, we also experimented with using an original modus operandi which merges together a semi-structured interview with the cognitive walkthrough approach.
Political Science and International Relations

Alex Tan presented “Canary in the Mines? Taiwan, New Southbound Policy, and Regional Relations” at the Taiwan Democracy Symposium held at the University of Texas at Dallas on April 14, 2018.

Sociology and Anthropology

Ruth McManus has had an article accepted in the Journal of Anatomical Sciences Education with co-author Jon Cornwall and postgraduate student Zoe Poppelwell. Titled 'Why did you really do it?' A mixed-method analysis of the factors underpinning motivations to register as a body donor.

National Centre for Research on Europe

Crisis, Conflict and Critical Diplomacy: EU Perceptions in Ukraine and Israel/Palestine

In April, the NCRE-led multinational research project “Crisis, Conflict and Critical Diplomacy: EU Perceptions in Ukraine and Israel/Palestine (C3EU)” delivered a series of high profile events disseminating results of this Network (32 researchers from nine partners) internationally.

– C3EU leader, Natalia Chaban, together with colleagues from Royal Holloway (UK) and University of the Basque Country (Spain), presented results at the leading think-tanks: Brookings Institute (Washington DC, the US) and Chatham House (London, the UK), and briefed EU Delegation to the US.

– With Prof O’Loughlin of Royal Holloway, Natalia presented results of the project at the conference “Contested Narratives” at George Washington University (April 2-3). The conference involved academics as well as think tankers, civil society, media and government practitioners who deal with conflict and information/communication.

– Together with colleagues from the UK, Lithuania, Ukraine and Spain, Natalia led a two-hour public event at Vilnius Institute of Political Analysis (Lithuania) for 50 stakeholders (civil society, media, diplomats, defence and security professionals, academics, think tankers).

– Natalia also led a four hour training at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania (26 participants) featuring the results of the C3EU.

C3EU is a Jean Monnet Network supported by European Commission within the Erasmus+ action.

2018 NCRE Diplomatic Series

In term two the NCRE is holding a diplomatic seminar series with the theme NZ & Europe – in the context of bilateral and multilateral changes. This series will see diplomats from across Europe coming to UC to speak about topics relevant to their countries, the EU, and how these relate to New Zealand. The first seminar in the series is being given this week by Dr. Timo Bauer-Savage, Deputy Head of Mission of the German Embassy, who will talk about the work of the German embassy in New Zealand and life as a German diplomat. This seminar will be held from 2-3 in Logie 105 on Fri 27 April. The following Friday His Excellency Rob Zaagman who is the visiting Dutch Ambassador to New Zealand will be giving the next seminar in the Undercroft.

To be kept up to date with upcoming seminars email Megan (megan.thompson@canterbury.ac.nz) to be added to our mailing list.

UC Arts at the Arts Centre
This week we kicked off our concert series again and were thrilled to have New Zealand composer John Emeleus’ works performed in New Music Central on Monday. It was a wonderful opportunity to hear an array of performers paying tribute to his work.

On Saturday we are hosting the Baliphonics concert featuring two UC alumnus which will explore an insight into the ritual music of Sri Lanka in a contemporary context. If you would like to attend, please check out the link here for tickets and further information.

Next week we have the next in our series of ‘An Evening With’. On Tuesday night, Justin DeHart will be presenting ‘Percussion Revolution’. This event is free, but does require registration, for more details please take a look here.

Cinema Studies

Cinema Studies postgraduate student Sophie Clement has just returned from a three month internship at San Francisco State University where she worked with Professor Daniel Bernardi, a recent Canterbury Fellow, on the Veteran Documentary Corps’ first feature length production, The American War. You can read Sophie’s blog about her experience at https://vet.wordpress.com/2018/04/16/an-interns-perspective/

History

Chris Jones attended the joint Medieval Association of the Pacific- Rocky Mountain Medieval & Renaissance Association conference in Las Vegas where he delivered a paper titled “The Canterbury Roll: A Case Study in the Contested Past”. The paper included a demonstration of the new digital edition of the Roll and presented preliminary findings from spectroscopic imaging carried out at UC in January by a team from the UK.

Philosophy

Jack Copeland’s and Jason Long's restoration of the earliest known recording of computer music - part of an ongoing digital archaeology project - forms part of the British Library’s current foyer exhibition LISTEN: 140 Years of Recorded Sound. The exhibition covers the 100 most significant recordings from the period and runs until May 14.

Jack spent the break as a Visiting Professor in the US at Boston University.

Philosophy Research Seminar - Tuesday 1 May, 3-5 pm, James Height 210

Speaker: Douglas Campbell

Cosmic Xerox Machine, Tattoo Removal, and the Definition of Physicalism

On a rough first pass, ‘physicalism’ is the doctrine that everything that exists in the universe is built from physical stuff, the human mind included. It is a very controversial position. In order to determine whether it is true or false, we first need to get clear about exactly how it should be defined. In this talk I will explain why the most commonly accepted definition of ‘physicalism’ is circular, and I will suggest a better definition.
Look at the crowd in swimming
Paul Johns

ILAM CAMPUS GALLERY, BLOCK 2, SoFA, 2 MAY - 31 MAY 2018
YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO:
THE ILAM CAMPUS GALLERY EXHIBITION OPENING AT 5PM TUESDAY 1 MAY.
ARTIST TALK 12.30PM THURSDAY 3 MAY

NEWS AND EVENTS

http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/arts-news/

UC Arts gives updates on news and events from across the College of Arts, with over 30 academic programmes there are always interesting events happening, many of which are open to students and the public for free. Follow us.