News

UC Arts at the Arts Centre
Teece Museum of Classical Antiquities

It’s all go at the Teece, with museum staff busy working to de-install the exhibition in preparation for the upcoming show, ‘Fantastic Feasts’, opening April 6. Museum curators, Terri Elder and Alice English, will be travelling to Wellington next week to return loans and collect items for the new show! There is a lot of activity on site and we are excited to be bringing another incredible exhibition to the university, school groups and the wider public.

School of Music

On Monday night, we were delighted to have guests Norman Meehan, Hannah Griffin and Hayden Chisholm for New Music Central. The group presented a concert on ‘Poetry as Song’ to a large audience who enjoyed spending time with this beautiful programme of words and music.

Next week for New Music Central, the School of Music is delighted to feature renowned American pianist and composer Lawrence Axelrod at the first New Music Central for March. Lawrence’s musical activities have taken him around the United States, Europe, South Africa, and Australia. Don’t miss this chance to see him perform in Christchurch!

Today’s Lunchtime Concert will feature ‘Music by Franz Schubert’. Come along for the opportunity to hear some of our student’s play!

The indie rock group, Mighty Brother band, from New Orleans, USA, stopped by the UC Arts City Location on their two-month tour of New Zealand to give a workshop to performance students this Wednesday. The duo performed a couple of songs featuring their signature two-part vocal harmonies and shared a few recent videos as part of their presentation. They explained their story of how they formed as students while highlighting the salient aspects of their success to date. The room was filled with attentive students who asked important questions and stayed long after the workshop to cull as much information from the duo as they could.
Senior Lecturer in Music Performance, Dr. Justin DeHart just returns from the USA after performing in Los Angeles Philharmonic’s Fluxus Festival at Walt Disney Concert Hall on 15th of February. DeHart was one of ten percussionists premiering a newly composed piece by Ryoji Ikeda for 100 cymbals. The percussionists weave their way through the huge array of various cymbals producing various soft sounds that create a meditative atmosphere. “The piece involved a great deal of concentration and coordination among players. We did not use a conductor and had to memorize each move from instrument to instrument following a cue from each other. It was a kind of slow dance through a grid of cymbals.” The second half of the program featured fluxes artist Alison Knowles making a huge salad with a team of side chefs, aided by the amplification of chopping vegetables. At the end of the evening, the salad was served to each audience member.


School of Humanities and Creative Arts

Philosophy

Diane Proudfoot was invited to give a public lecture at the University of Zurich, as part of the Ringvorlesung Spring series on Artificial Intelligence.

Distinguished Professor Jack Copeland delivered a short series of invited lectures on Artificial Intelligence at Akita International University, Akita, Japan. In Tokyo, Jack caught up with one of our past Philosophy graduates, Chris Bullsmith, now an associate professor at one of the Tokyo universities. Chris and Jack are involved in a collaborative research project in mathematical logic together with one of Jack’s current PhD students, Syed Nizar.

Yesterday Jack was interviewed about Arthur Prior by Philip Matthews of The Press. Prior, who in the 1950s was UC’s foundation Professor of Philosophy, is arguably the leading New Zealand-born philosopher of the 20th century. It is ironic that Karl Popper, who spent only a handful of years here (and left as soon as he could) is a well-known name in Christchurch, whereas Prior -- a Kiwi who was certainly Popper's intellectual equal -- has never been written into Christchurch’s public story. Matthews' article may change that.

History

Dr Chris Jones attended and assisted in the organisation of the twelfth biennial international conference of the Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (ANZAMES) held at the
University of Sydney between 4-5 February 2019. Key note speakers were Seeta Chaganti (University of California, Davis); Jane Davidson (Melbourne); Yuen-Gen Liang (National Taiwan University); Christoph Lüthy (Radboud); and Elaine Treharne (Stanford). The conference was attended by 300 scholars from across Australasia, Europe, Asia and the United Stated. Chris coordinated a joint ‘real time’ panel discussion with the Medieval Association of the Pacific, who were holding their own conference in Phoenix, Arizona. Panels in Sydney and Arizona engaged in a lively discussion of the topic “No Future? Medievalists & Early Modernists, Interdisciplinarity and the Challenges of STEM”. He also shared a platform with 2018 Canterbury Fellow Natasha Hodgson and UC History PhD candidate, Lisa Rolston, to discuss the latest developments in the Canterbury Roll Project, which involves the digitisation of UC’s 15th-century genealogy.
Katie Pickles (History) enjoyed a busy and productive first year as a Royal Society Te Apārangi James Cook Research Fellow. 

Suffrage 125 celebrations saw a fellowship-sponsored special session at the Women’s Studies Association conference held in Wellington 21-23 September on ‘Suffrage 125: Perspectives from the Province of Canterbury’. With Katie, Associate Professor Angela Wanhall from Otago, and Christine Whybrew and Rosemary Baird from Heritage New Zealand came together for this co-production of knowledge.

An article in The Conversation explaining why New Zealand was the first country where women won the right to vote was widely republished, including Stuff and The Spinoff, and so far has had over 40,000 views. With Vanise Dhiru, National President of the National Council of Women and Kym Hamilton, Te Tapuae o Rehua, Katie was an interviewee on the Plains FM Speak Up- Korerotia, Suffrage 125 Show with Sally Carleton (History Adjunct), sponsored by the Ministry for Women’s Affairs and now a podcast.

Katie gave six invited seminars and lectures during the year. Four of these were about her research on the local, national and global significance of women’s suffrage and women’s status in New Zealand society. For example, on 16 October ‘The Significance of Women’s Suffrage in 2018’ was a keynote address as part of the BECA Heritage Week Suffrage Series in the Arts Centre Great Hall.

Katie researched and presented three conference papers during the year. One was part of the special session that she organised for women’s suffrage where she presented new research on Canterbury and the South Island’s influence on the suffrage movement. Drawing on her work on landscape, decolonisation and culture, Katie presented a keynote address at the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) NZ AGM Conference in Christchurch, 26-28 October.

Katie also wrote a short editorial on new approaches to history in Aotearoa New Zealand for Kōtuitui New Zealand Journal of the Social Sciences Online, for which she serves as an associate editor.

Finally, it was a pleasure and privilege to give and then have published a speech to launch Anna Roger’s history of the New Zealand Medical Services in the First World War.

_Cinema Studies_

Daniel Bernardi, a Canterbury Fellow with Cinema Studies in 2017 and Professor in the School of Cinematic Arts at San Francisco State University, returned to Christchurch this week for the world premiere of his documentary _The American War_. The film was screened by the Canterbury Film Society at The Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna O Waiwhetu on Monday evening to a capacity crowd who then enjoyed an informative Q&A session with the director. On Sunday, Daniel showed a selection of his shorter documentaries, _Battle Scars_, which he has produced under the auspices of the Veterans Documentary Corps. Two Cinema Studies graduates have been instrumental in his work: Paige Valentine organised the visit to Christchurch and Sophie Clement was an intern on _The American War_ and spent a semester at SFSU under the PACE program.
School of Fine Arts

Graphic Design senior lecturer Aaron Beehre has been shortlisted for the Cornish Book Prize run by the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV):  
https://www.e-flux.com/announcements/248981/cornish-family-prize-for-art-and-design-publishing/

The book was also a finalist at the Best Awards last year:  

Emma Fitts, lecturer in Sculpture has two current exhibitions, ”In the Rough, Parts 1,2 and 3” at Te Uru Gallery Auckland  

And opening this weekend at the Ashburton Art Gallery, ‘Towards Another Figure’.  
http://ashburtonartgallery.org.nz/exhibition/towards-another-figure/

This exhibition opens with the Zonta Ashburton Female Art Award, which includes current Ilam students, staff, recent graduates and alumni amongst the finalists.  
JAPA student wins third place in the International Japanese Essay Contest
Chris Turner won the third place in the International Japanese Essay Contest (kokusai kouryu kenkyujyo, Research Institute of International Exchange). A total of 6,793 essays from 62 countries were submitted this year and it was a very competitive contest. Chris’ essay is to be included in a book that is to be published in Japan this year. We would like to congratulate Chris on his fantastic writing skills.

Media and Communication

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION
& The School of Language, Social and Political Sciences

Presents

The Unedited Public Sphere?

MONDAY, 4 MARCH, 1PM IN LOCKE 611A

Professor Bruce Bimber (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Public spheres are commonly observed to be in crisis, for reasons connected to social media and changes in the capacities of news businesses. In some places, the public sphere now comprises what are effectively two domains. One domain is largely a traditional one that is rooted in truth-based journalism and that benefits from contestation over claims in something like a “marketplace of ideas.” The other domain, which might be thought of as “unedited,” is dominated by misinformation, propaganda, and deception of various kinds. It is resistant to the kind of epistemic authorities associated with professional journalism and the claims of experts, and it does not appear to have a functioning marketplace of ideas. There are many reasons for the development of the unedited domain of public spheres. In this talk I discuss three contributors that are mainly technological in nature: a) computational propaganda, b) synthetic public opinion, and c) the ways that networked communication tends to obscure the provenance of information. How these are exploited by political elites, and the extent to which publics are susceptible to them, appears to contribute to the relative size and political effects of the unedited domain of the public sphere.

Media & Communication (COMS) Research Seminars are always open to absolutely everyone. We look forward to seeing you!
Political Science and International Relations

Amy Fletcher (POLS) completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Foresight at The University of Houston in January 2019. The programme focused on foresight methods for organizations and communities, including scenario analysis and horizon scanning.

Amy Fletcher (POLS) is the new Features Editor for Human Futures, the magazine of the World Futures Studies Federation (WFSF).

Amy Fletcher (POLS) has been reappointed to the Editorial Board of the Politics and Life Sciences Journal.

Sociology and Anthropology

NZ Studies seminar
Tuesday 5 March 12-1pm
Psychology-Sociology 210

Bishops, Boozers, Brethren & Burkhas: Towards a cartoon history of Religion in New Zealand

Assoc. Prof. Mike Grimshaw, Sociology

This seminar will use cartoons from 1860s to the present day to discuss the way religion in NZ has been represented by our cartoonists. These cartoons, as part of an admittedly –and determinedly – idiosyncratic forthcoming Cartoon History of Religion in New Zealand for the NZ Cartoon Archive present us with a rich source of historical and cultural scholarship, not only on religion but also a differing perspective on New Zealand society and culture, its prejudices, assumptions and beliefs - or lack of them. The one theme consistent throughout is that we believe religion and politics should not mix – especially in the public square.
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.