Seminar notice:

**Exploring the use of Facebook for election forecasting in Denmark, Germany and New Zealand**

**WEDNESDAY, 16 AUGUST, 1PM IN LOCKE 611A**

Jakob Kristensen (PhD Candidate, Media & Communication)

Election polls are both tedious and expensive to make, and they are not always very precise. Social media have the potential to deliver poll predictions that are not only more precise, but also much, much cheaper. Scholars have attempted to use social media for election polling for the last 10 years with varying success. Previous approaches includes both computationally advanced methods based on sentiment analysis and network analysis as well as approaches that rely on simply counting the Facebook likes received by political candidates. No single approach has yet proved effective enough to become a cornerstone in the world of polling.

This study explores a new approach for making election polls with social media. The base of the method is simply counting the number of likes that political candidates receive each week on Facebook. The approach proposes new concepts for how to translate likes into votes by using different statistical strategies to estimate the value of every single like at any given time. The results are evaluated by comparing them to standard poll results and election results in three different countries, Denmark, Germany and New Zealand. This is followed by a short discussion about the relation between polls and the political nature of Facebook behaviour.

**Global, Cultural and Language Studies**

**German high school visit**

Vera Leier, together with two of her intermediate German students, recently visited Burnside High School. The 25
senior high school students who attended the session were interested to hear about the opportunities for German students at UC and enjoyed participating in the famous German quiz. Thank you to Carol Currie, the German teacher at Burnside High School who invited the UC team.

Art History and Theory

A new exhibition introduces Christchurch architect Samuel Hurst Seager’s work as New Zealand’s official battlefield memorial architect from 1920 –1925 through his own photographs.
A crowd gathered at the unveiling of the Chunuk Bair battlefield memorial on 12 May, 1925.

An exhibition called ‘Constructing Memory: Samuel Hurst Seager and New Zealand’s First World War Battlefield Memorials’ is now open at the University of Canterbury’s Matariki Gallery. Its photographs, many previously unseen, were taken by Christchurch architect Samuel Hurst Seager (1855–1933) to record the construction of the memorials he designed at Longueval and Le Quesnoy in France, Messines and Gravenstafel in Belgium and Chunuk Bair at Gallipoli, Turkey.

The exhibition features photographs from UC Art History and Theory’s Lantern Slide Collection, which Seager donated to Canterbury College in 1928. There are also drawings and reports on display from Seager’s personal archives at the University’s Macmillan Brown Library and images from Archives New Zealand.

One of New Zealand’s most celebrated architects, Seager was also a lecturer in the Canterbury College School of Art (now UC School of Fine Arts) for over twenty years. After he was appointed to the role of NZ’s official battlefield memorial architect, he designed and oversaw the construction of the five memorials.

‘Constructing Memory’ opened in the same week as the centenary of the Third Battle of Ypres at Passchendaele and features images of the memorial commemorating the Battle of Broodseinde, a key part of the Passchendaele campaign during which the New Zealand Division that took place on 4 October 1917.

The exhibition is part of a Lottery Grants funded research project to digitise historic lantern slides in UC Art History and Theory’s collection. It is held in conjunction with a symposium focusing on the visual cultures of remembrance after the end of the First World War on September 2nd.

‘Constructing Memory: Samuel Hurst Seager and New Zealand’s First World War Battlefield Memorials’ runs until 4 September at the Matariki Gallery, University of Canterbury, Ilam campus. Open 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday.

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Barbara has also recently published a chapter titled ‘Walking the post-quake city: (re)making place in post-quake Ōtautahi Christchurch’ in Elizabeth Grierson (ed), Transformations: Art and the City (Bristol: Intellect Press, 2017), and Rosie has published an article on ‘De-extinction and representation: Perspectives from Art History, Museology, and the Anthropocene’ in the latest issue of the International Review of Environmental History.

On Friday 28 July we held our annual Art History Day event, which was attended by year 13 students from schools across Christchurch. The day included an introductory lecture titled ‘Remembering and Forgetting Art’s Histories’, visits to view objects from the the UC art collection and archives, a calligraphy demonstration (by ARTH PhD student Xiongbo Shi), and an art history quiz.

School of Fine Arts

Where the River Bends
Curated by Harry Culy


ILAM CAMPUS GALLERY, BLOCK 2, SoFA, 16 AUGUST - 7 SEPTEMBER 2017 YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO:
THE ILAM CAMPUS GALLERY EXHIBITION OPENING AT 5PM ON TUESDAY 15 AUGUST PANEL DISCUSSION 12.30PM WEDNESDAY 16 AUGUST, ALL WELCOME.
Arts Centre

New Music Central on Monday night featured a programme of works performed by School of Music staff Mark Menzies and Justin Dehart
NCRE maintains its Jean Monnet grant success rate
The recently released results of the 2017 European Union Jean Monnet Erasmus+ grants have underlined the reputation of Canterbury’s NCRE as a leading academic centre for both the research and teaching of EU Studies globally. 1177 applications were made to this €13.8m fund with 216 grants being awarded spread across more than 50 countries. A total of seven applications from the NCRE and from the New Zealand EU Centres Network (managed by the NCRE) were successful, ranking UC as the leading university to receive the most awards globally. One particularly notable achievement was the award of the NCRE’s third Jean Monnet Chair to Milenko Petrovic as well as the designation of the NCRE as a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence. Within the Asia-Pacific region only two other universities (Fudan and Sichuan) have a comparable level of expertise and Jean Monnet chairs.
Photo of the NCRE’s three Jean Monnet Chair holders (Natalia Chaban, Milenko Petrovic and Martin Holland).

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.