AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF THE HUMANITIES

ASIAUSTRALIA

TRANSNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Program

47th Annual Symposium
17–18 November 2016

STATE LIBRARY VICTORIA • MELBOURNE

(INSIDE FRONT COVER)

ASIA AUSTRALIA
TRANSNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

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Day 1 Thursday

17 NOVEMBER 2016

ASIAUSTRALIA
TRANSNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

REGISTRATIONS IN FOYER 8:30am

Introduction 9:00am

Acknowledgement of Country

Welcome from the Australian Academy of the Humanities

Professor John Fitzgerald FAHA, President

Welcome from La Trobe University

Professor John Dewar, Vice-Chancellor and President

CHAIR Professor Nick Bisley
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

SESSION D1.1 9:30am

Art and Performance: Reframing, Remaking Connections

Professor Jacqueline Lo FAHA
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Dr Mabel Lee FAHA
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Associate Professor Audrey Yue
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

CHAIR **Professor Peta Tait FAHA**
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

MORNING TEA 11:00am

SESSION D1.2 11:30am

Negotiating Cultural Spaces

Dr Monika Swasti Winarnita
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

Dr Tsan-Huang Tsai
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Mr Leigh McKinnon
GOLDEN DRAGON MUSEUM

Dr Mridula Nath Chakraborty
MONASH UNIVERSITY

CHAIR **Dr Tseen Khoo**
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

LUNCH 1:00pm

SESSION D1.3 2:00pm

Contesting Values

Professor Stephen C. Angle
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY USA &
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY CHINA STUDIES RESEARCH CENTRE

Professor Tessa Morris-Suzuki FAHA
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Professor John Powers FAHA
DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

CHAIR **Professor John Makeham FAHA**
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

AFTERNOON TEA 3:30pm

SESSION D1.4 4:00pm

2016 ANNUAL ACADEMY LECTURE

Academic Freedom and the Contemporary University — Lessons from China

Professor John Fitzgerald FAHA
PRESIDENT, AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF THE HUMANITIES

CHAIR **Emeritus Professor Lesley Johnson AM FAHA**
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT,
AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF THE HUMANITIES

CONCLUSION 5:00pm

Professor Peta Tait FAHA
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

RECEPTION 5:30—6:30pm

Courtyard Reception

Hosted by Professor John Dewar
VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT, LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

Day 2 Friday

18 NOVEMBER 2016

ASIAUSTRALIA
TRANSNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

REGISTRATIONS IN FOYER 8:30am

Introduction 9:00am

Welcome

Professor John Fitzgerald FAHA
PRESIDENT, AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF THE HUMANITIES

ADDRESS:
Valuing and Assessing Interdisciplinary Research

Ms Leanne Harvey
AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

CHAIR **Professor Peta Tait** FAHA
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

SESSION D2.1 9:30am

Skills and Capabilities for Australian Enterprise Innovation

Professor Stuart Cunningham AM FAHA
QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Professor Peter Gahan
CENTRE FOR WORKPLACE LEADERSHIP
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Mr Lames Law
ENVATO

CHAIR **Dr Max Theilacker**
CENTRE FOR WORKPLACE LEADERSHIP
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

MORNING TEA 10:30am

SESSION D2.2 11:00am

Smart Engagement with Asia

Professor Ien Ang FAHA
WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

Professor David Walker FASSA FAHA
DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

CHAIR **Professor Krishna Sen** FAHA
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

LUNCH 12:00pm

SESSION D2.3 12:45pm

Australia's Diaspora Advantage

Professor Kam Louie FHKAH FAHA
UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Mr Andrew Parker
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

CHAIR **Dr Julia Evans**
AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF THE HUMANITIES

SESSION D2.4 1:45pm

Reflections on the *Securing Australia's Future* (SAF) Interdisciplinary Research Program

Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM FASSA FAHA
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Dr Angus Henderson
AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED ACADEMIES

CHAIR **Dr Christina Parolin**
AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF THE HUMANITIES

AFTERNOON TEA 2:30pm

SESSION D2.5 3:00pm

The Humanities in the Asia Region

Professor Antonia Finnane FAHA
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Ms Brigid Freeman
AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF THE HUMANITIES AND
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

PANELLISTS **Dr Mridula Nath Chakraborty**
MONASH UNIVERSITY

Associate Professor Audrey Yue
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Professor Joseph Lo Bianco AM FAHA
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

CHAIR **Professor Robin Jeffrey** FAHA
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

CONCLUSION 4:15pm

Professor Nick Bisley
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

SYMPOSIUM CLOSE 4:30pm

New Fellows' Drinks (Invitation Only) 6—7:00pm

Fellows' Dinner 7—10:00pm

CONVENORS' WELCOME

Few would question that Australia's future will be profoundly shaped by economic, social and cultural developments in Asia. Yet there has been insufficient attention to the ways in which the already rich, diverse and vibrant transnational connections bind Australia with Asia. Understanding the distinctive patterns of these connections, across the full spectrum of activity from the philosophical to cultural collaborations will be vital not only for making sense of our world but better shaping its future.

The aim of the Australian Academy of the Humanities' 47th Annual Symposium is to explore the array of transnational linkages between Australia and Asia.

Asia-Australia exchange and collaboration has a long history. Performing artists, for example, traversed through the different countries in Asia including India to reach Australia for 160 years and regular touring circuits in theatre and circus brought Asian artists to Australia and Australians to Asia. Artists were surprisingly mobile and culturally influential in ways that have not been fully recognised. The Symposium will draw attention to the ways in which both cutting edge scholarship and policy research are grappling with the past, present and future of these transnational connections.

A key focus of the Symposium is the part played in Australia by people of Asian descent. From a purely demographic perspective there have been profound changes in the composition of Australia's population. Around 17% of people now living and working in Australia identify as being of Asian origin.* While debates about 'Asian' real estate investment, university donations and political influence may be front page news, what receives less attention is the fact that so much of Australia's research, cultural and business linkages with Asia are being led by our Asian diaspora.

This Symposium brings together humanities researchers, cultural leaders, industry representatives and policy makers to consider how transnational experiences, networks and modes of engagement will shape Australia's future in the region.

Day 1 of the Symposium will showcase new theoretical approaches and research methodologies that explicitly engage with the connections between Asia and Australia, drawing on perspectives from the creative arts, philosophy, literature, history, religion and performative culture.

Day 2 will focus on the unique and critical perspectives that humanities researchers bring to policy development in areas as diverse as trade and investment with Asia, languages, science and research diplomacy, and innovation. It will profile three interdisciplinary reports that formed part of the *Securing Australia's Future* program and the Academy's current ARC–Learned Academies Special Projects report, *The Humanities in the Asia Region*.

La Trobe University is delighted to host this Symposium. La Trobe has a long commitment to academic engagement with Asia, establishing La Trobe Asia in 2014 to make this a core part its work.

We thank the Symposium advisory group Professor John Makeham FAHA, Dr Tseen Khoo, and Professor John Fitzgerald FAHA. We are also very grateful for the support of the Academy's Secretariat, in particular Dr Julia Evans, for coordinating the second day's program.

On behalf of the Academy, we also acknowledge and thank the Symposium's other sponsors ACOLA, RMIT University, Swinburne University of Technology, The University of Melbourne, and Monash University.

Professor Peta Tait FAHA

Professor Nick Bisley

* Source: O'Leary, J. (2015). *Leading in the Asian Century: A National Scorecard of Australia's Workforce Asia Capability.* Diversity Council Australia, Sydney, p. 9.

SESSION D1.1
9:30AM
THURSDAY

Art and Performance: Reframing, Remaking Connections

Artists who create imaginative worlds through visual art, performance and film have the capacity to make us re-envisage connections between divergent cultures. The arts provide fundamental innovative depictions of the dynamic between individual experience and diasporic identity, and that leads to new interpretations.

CHAIR Professor Peta Tait FAHA, La Trobe University

Diaspora as Method

Professor Jacqueline Lo
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Interest in the study of diaspora has exploded since the late 1980s. Humanities scholars have tended to focus on diaspora as a category of analysis to explore issues of belonging, dislocation and transnational affiliations. 'New' diaspora studies sought to challenge orthodox conceptions of diaspora that valorise kinship and a teleology of return to an original and/or imaginary homeland, and expose essentialist and purist assumptions of the nation state. Far from being inauthentic copies of the lost homeland, diasporas are thus repositioned as sites of productive difference characterised by hybridity and syncretism. However, given present-day security challenges and heightened concerns about human mobility, superdiversity and allegiances to the nation, particularly by visible minorities, is it time to rethink the liberatory aura of diaspora? How do we reconcile the progressive aspects of diaspora with the revival of old as well as new forms of ethnic essentialism, nationalism and even fundamentalism? Inspired by visual and performance works produced by Asian Australians, this presentation offers some preliminary thoughts on 'diaspora as method' (following Kuan-Hsing Chen's *Asia as Method*), to reconsider diaspora politics today. How might diaspora provide multiple frames of reference to conceptualise new forms of participatory democratic transnational citizenship?

PROFESSOR JACQUELINE LO is Associate Dean (International) for the Australian National University (ANU) College of Arts and Social Sciences and Executive Director of the ANU's Centre for European Studies. Her research focuses on issues of race, colonialism, diaspora and the interaction of cultures and communities across ethnic, national and regional borders. Jacqueline has considerable experience in the areas of education and cultural policy, cultural diplomacy and management in the tertiary sector. She is presently serving on the reference group for the ACT Arts Framework Policy Review and regularly conducts briefings for government and the diplomatic corps. Her publications include *Staging Nation* (2002) and *Performance and Cosmopolitics* (2007, with Helen Gilbert). She was awarded the Chevalier Ordre des Palmes Académiques in 2014.

From China to Australia in the Art of Zhou Xiaoping and Lin Chunyan

Dr Mabel Lee FAHA
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

A large number of Chinese artists happened to be in Australia during the late 1980s, and subsequently became Australian citizens. They had acquired basic art training in China during the Cultural Revolution or immediately afterwards, and often they were self-taught. They were not state-supported artists, but instead individuals answering their inner impulses to pursue a career in art. In some cases they had formulated an aesthetics that they would gradually develop in their work.

It was in the Australian environment that most of them matured as individuals and as artists. From a cohort of 20 male and 11 female artists, the work of Zhou Xiaoping and Lin Chunyan, demonstrate the strongest Australian influence: both men had arrived in Australia in early 1989. Immediately captivated by Australian Aboriginals, Zhou's art since then has reflected dimensions of that engagement. Lin, on the other hand, was mesmerised by the natural environment: the brilliant sunshine, swift flowing rivers, the ocean, the sea, and the bush with its flora and fauna. Lin had long been interested in the movement of the human body within the natural environment, so the human form simply relocated to Australia.

I have interviewed both artists on frequent occasions over the past twenty years. In this paper I focus on their artworks as forensic evidence of cross-cultural enrichment.

DR MABEL LEE FAHA is Adjunct Professor of Chinese Studies at the University of Sydney and concurrently Honorary Professor in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Open University of Hong Kong. She has a significant international presence through her translations of Nobel Laureate Gao Xingjian, and numerous publications on his fiction, theatre, painting and film. Her research covers Chinese intellectual history from late Imperial times to the present, and in particular examines how the quest for modernity has affected Chinese writers and artists. *Lu Xun and Australia* (2016, ed. Lee, Cheung and Wiles) is her most recent book.

The Minor Transnationalism of Asian Australian Cinema

Associate Professor Audrey Yue
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

The Asian Australian cinema database (asianaustraliancinema.org) catalogues an archive of more than 500 film titles, ranging from films directed by Australians of Asian descent, Australian films featuring images of Asia and Asians, and films produced by Australians working in Asia's film industries. This paper draws from this database and uses the diaspora as an excentric starting point to present a sample of its long history that began with the inception of film in the country. Further using three contemporary case studies on screen co-productions with India, China and South-East Asia, this paper critically demonstrates minor transnationalism as a methodology for reframing transnational Australian screen studies in particular, and Australia's engagement with Asia in general.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AUDREY YUE is Director of the Research Unit in Public Cultures and Associate Professor in Cultural Studies at the University of Melbourne. Her research covers the fields of Sinophone media cultures; cultural policy and development; and sexuality studies. She has published seven scholarly book collections and more than eighty refereed journal articles and book chapters, including Ann Hui's *Song of the Exile* (2010) and *Transnational Australian Cinema* (2012, with O. Khoo and B. Smaill), *Queer Singapore* (2013, co-edited with J. Zubillaga-Pow) and *Sinophone Cinemas* (2014, co-edited with O. Khoo). She is Chief Investigator in three current Australian Research Council funded projects on multicultural arts governance (LP110100039); young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (LP150100291); and East Asian media flows in Australia (DP160100304).

SESSION D1.2
11:30AM
THURSDAY

Negotiating Cultural Spaces

This panel examines the contested narratives of what constitutes the nation, diaspora, and Asian Australian cultural community. Recent years have seen research on Asian Australian topics move past binaristic debates about whether communities and their activities and creative expressions are Asian or Australian, arriving at more complex understandings of the transnational and multi-directional contexts that Asian Australians inhabit. The papers presented in this panel – emerging from literary studies, ethnomusicology, and anthropology – address questions of how Asian Australians negotiate the cultural and civic spaces they occupy in Australia, the national narratives they create, and the articulation of diasporic identities through traditional cultural forms.

CHAIR Dr Tseen Khoo, La Trobe University

The Missing Link: Cultural Performance and Intercultural Hyphenated Identity of Australian-Indonesian Youth

Dr Monika Swasti Winarnita
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

This paper fills a lacunae in the *Australia in the Asian Century White Paper* (ACWP), which neglects to explicitly identify Australian-Indonesian families and youth as 'experts' in facilitating 'government, business and people-to-people links' (Australian Government, 2012). The importance in the so-called Asian Century of not only the large Indonesian diaspora in Australia but also of transnational families of mixed marriages between Australians and Indonesians, and particularly the children of these families, cannot be understated. Young people of mixed Australian-Indonesian heritage represent the latent potential of Australia's population to foster more productive engagement with Asia. They are described in this paper as the 'missing link' in people-to-people relations between Australians and Indonesians. Their soft-power diplomacy activities are highlighted through the story of their lives, identities, cultural expression and performance, while the methodological nationalism that assumes essentialist notions of culture and identity and traditionally positions mixed heritage youth outside the analytical framework of bilateral relations is challenged. The paper questions the persistence of rigid, dichotomous views of people-to-people links in bilateral and regional relations – views which ensure that governments understate the unique potential of Australian-Indonesian youth and their high levels of Asia-literacy, as indicated by their linguistic and cultural competence. The analysis for this paper is based on the ethnographic description of five young transnational people from Australian-Indonesian families between the ages of 18 and 30. Key to the discussion is a particular cultural performance of the Acehnese body percussion dance (generically referred to as 'Saman'), which reflects the way youth express their dual intercultural Australian-Indonesian identity.

DR MONIKA WINARNITA is an anthropologist honorary affiliated to La Trobe University. Her current project 'Southeast Asian Women, Family and Migration in the Global Era' is funded by the Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council with fieldwork amongst Indonesian skilled migrant women in the health and education sector in Melbourne. She has also received funding by La Trobe's Research Focus Area – Transforming Human Societies for the project Multimedia, Migrant Identities and Family Relationships: A Qualitative Investigation. She is the author of *Dancing the Feminine: Gender and Identity Performances by Indonesian Migrant Women* (2015).

The Chinese Processional Regalia and Performances in Bendigo as Cultural Mediators and Social Agents

Dr Tsan-Huang Tsai
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Mr Leigh McKinnon
GOLDEN DRAGON MUSEUM

It is unknown how or why the Bendigo Easter Fair Society decided to include the Chinese procession since the 1870s. We do know that the decision, and the approach that the Chinese community took to adapting their religious processional performances from Canton, created a long-lasting, even monumental impact on the charitable event now called the Bendigo Easter Festival. The early Chinese incorporated what would have been considered to be some of their regular entertainment for the time (including folk music, Cantonese opera and acrobatic displays) into their procession, and further imported more than 300 cases of processional goods in the 1880s and 1890s specifically for the purpose of the procession. Since then, the Chinese performance is said to have become the main attraction of the Fair: even during the difficult era of the White Australia Policy the Chinese participation was highly desired. In 1910, the mayor of Bendigo even sought the intervention of the Chinese Consul General to convince the local Chinese community to guarantee their participation. Later, to ensure the continuation of the Chinese performance, local politicians and businessmen

worked with the Chinese (who formed the Loong 100 Committee) to purchase new processional regalia in 1969. By using the collections and their associated records at the Golden Dragon Museum and Bendigo Chinese Association, this paper draws particular attention to the role and function of the Chinese processional performances and the associated regalia in this multicultural context. The comparison between the objects imported in different eras provides us insightful information on the modification of the procession performances over time. The paper also illustrates the processes of cultural mediation that have taken place through the appreciation and criticisms of the processional regalia. Similar to agentive entities, these objects have the capacity to assist Bendigo's Chinese and non-Chinese communities to bridge their gaps, culturally and aesthetically.

DR TSAN-HUANG TSAI is a Senior Lecturer at the Australian National University (ANU). Having studied ethnomusicology (MMus) at Sheffield and anthropology (MPhil and DPhil) at Oxford, he taught three years at Nanhua University in Taiwan and six years at the Chinese University of Hong Kong before joined the ANU in 2013. He is the author of an upcoming monograph, *From the Scholarly Chamber to the World Stage;* two edited books, *Captured Memories of a Fading Musical Past: The Chinese Instrument Collection at the Music Department of the Chinese University of Hong Kong* (Yuan-Liou Publishing Co, 2010) and *Listening to China's Cultural Revolution: Music, Politics, and Cultural Continuities,* co-edited with Paul Clark and Laikwan Pang (2016); and more than twenty articles published in both Chinese and English.

MR LEIGH McKINNON has been the Research Officer at Bendigo's Golden Dragon Museum for the past five years. In this position he deals with family history enquiries, conducts tours, and, when time permits, researches and writes on the Chinese heritage of regional Victoria. A fifth-generation Bendigonian, he also has a general interest in the history and heritage of the Central Victorian Goldfields.

Genealogies of Arrival: Writing Subcontinentals in the Continent

Dr Mridula Nath Chakraborty
MONASH UNIVERSITY

Australian literature that concerns itself with subcontinental subjects, and subjectivities of travel and migrancy, offers an asymptomatic break with the prevalent notions of diasporic (un)belonging and melancholia. Instead, there seems to be a radical break from the affective bounds and binding concerns of the originating land to an unencumbered conceptualisation of 'free' identity. This narrative is, paradoxically, more in tune with some of the foundational assumptions of the nation-state, than with those that have to do with traditional ideas of exile and diasporic angst. In the process of theorising diaspora from the Indian subcontinent, this paper considers 'writing' as both an adjective and a verb to subcontinental presence in the Australian continent. The story of subcontinental writing in Australia is intimately connected both to the origin trails and tales of human arrival on the continent and to narrativising its settlement. It charts an Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean trajectory that links this lucky country to its mother nation, and by that route, to the wider world, while being bound up in how the settler nation came into being. Subcontinentals participate in the 'settling' of the nation and undertake an uneasy migrant negotiation with the First Peoples of this country, even though the (his) tory of Indigenous-Indian relationships is a complex, complementary and contradictory one. This paper charts a genealogy of subcontinental literary expression in Australia and offers a reading of how it participates in narrating the story of the nation.

DR MRIDULA NATH CHAKRABORTY is Deputy Director of the Monash Asia Institute at Monash University. Her recent publications include *Being Bengali: At Home and in the World* (2014) and a special issue of Indigenous Australian and Dalit Indian poetry in translation in the *Cordite Poetry Review* (2016). In the last five years, she has facilitated deep-impact literary-cultural exchanges between Australia and India through *Literary Commons!* (India 2014–15, Australia 2016), a tri-nation Autumn School in Literary Translation (Kolkata 2013), and ALIF: Australia India Literatures International Forum (Sydney 2012), which was a finalist for the inaugural Australian Arts in Asia Award.

SESSION D1.3
2:00PM
THURSDAY

Contesting Values

This panel explores three domains in which social, political and/or religious values are being contested in East Asia societies today. Collectively, the three presentations reveal how the legacies of tradition are being appropriated as new modernities are negotiated, constructed, and challenged. Over the past seventy years, the utopianism known as communism has dominated the social and political landscape of much of the region. What role should an atheist ideology have in prescribing (and not simply proscribing) religious values and practices? As both totalitarian and liberal democratic ideologies and values continue to generate dissatisfaction and resistance, what alternative utopias are being explored, both at the level of grass-root social movements and in academic theory? What would a 'Confucian democracy' look like? Is it plausible that Confucianism can offer new resources for rethinking democracy?

CHAIR Professor John Makeham FAHA, La Trobe University

Confucian Democracy

Professor Stephen C. Angle
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY USA AND
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY CHINA STUDIES RESEARCH CENTRE

Many famous images of the inspirational, almost magical character of Confucian leadership seem very distant from any idea of democracy. Some modern Confucians celebrate this distance, arguing that modern Confucian polities should be ruled by elites, and perhaps that these elites should be venerated in something like the traditional way. Confucian democrats, in contrast, hold that the roles of Confucian political leaders must be rethought, just as the modern Confucian polity must shift from a monarchy to a constitutional democracy. This does not mean that modern Confucians must turn their backs on traditional Confucian views of leadership: the key traditional insights are still important, although to some degree they take on new significance in the new context of modern democratic Confucianism. In this paper I articulate and defend this democratic vision of Confucianism and of Confucian leadership. I make my case in four steps. First, I outline a traditional Confucian view of the 'inspirational' leader. Second, I unpack and then critique Jiwei Ci's argument that Confucian leadership rests on an 'identification model' of agency that is incompatible with democracy. Third, I build on some of the argument from my book *Contemporary Confucian Political Philosophy: Toward Progressive Confucianism* to the effect that modern Confucians need to resolve a tension within traditional Confucianism by embracing a person-based democracy instead of mass-based authoritarianism. Finally, I conclude by making explicit why Confucian democracies still need leaders playing roles that are very much in the spirit of traditional leadership.

PROFESSOR STEPHEN C. ANGLE received his BA from Yale University in East Asian Studies and his PhD in Philosophy from the University of Michigan. Since 1994 he has taught at Wesleyan University, where he is now Mansfield Freeman Professor of East Asian Studies and Professor of Philosophy. He is also a Visiting Fellow with the La Trobe University China Studies Research Centre. His most recent books are *Contemporary Confucian Political Philosophy: Toward Progressive Confucianism* (2012) and, with Michael Slote, *Virtue Ethics and Confucianism* (2014).

East Asian Utopias: How Ideas Resonate Across Borders

Professor Tessa Morris-Suzuki FAHA
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

As the countries of East Asia struggled to adjust to the impact of the encounter with western imperial expansion, one response to rapid change and social dislocation was the emergence of utopian visions of a world transformed. Inspired both by indigenous ethical traditions and by ideas of western social visionaries including William Blake, William Morris, Peter Kropotkin and Nikolaj Grundtvig, modern East Asian utopianism generated both abstract visions of an ideal society and practical attempts to establish utopian communities and enact social change. One important aspect of this utopian thought and action was its cross-border character. Ideas and practices travelled, not only from Europe to Asia but also between the countries of the region, resonating in unfamiliar settings and in unexpected ways. Notions of cooperativism, visions of egalitarian 'new villages' and schemes for radically transformed and humanised education were taken up by diverse groups in Taisho Japan, early Republican China and colonial Korea and Taiwan. These ideas resonate across time too. Over the past couple of decades, the growing challenges of globalisation and the declining appeal of older Cold War ideologies have encouraged a new interest in the past and present of utopianism, in East Asia and elsewhere. This paper looks back at the transnational connections of East Asian utopias, and re-examines their relevance to practical politics and to the past, present and future of the region.

PROFESSOR TESSA MORRIS-SUZUKI FAHA is Distinguished Professor of Japanese history and holds an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellowship at the Australian National University. Her research focuses on modern Japanese and East Asian regional history: particularly cross-border movement between Japan and its neighbours; issues of history, memory and reconciliation in Northeast Asia and grassroots social action in Japan. Her books include *Exodus to North Korea: Shadows from Japan's Cold War* (2007), *Borderline Japan: Foreigners and Frontier Controls in the Postwar Era* (2010), and *East Asia Beyond the History Wars: Confronting the Ghosts of War* (co-authored, 2013).

The Chinese Communist Party's New Spin on the Cycle of Rebirth

Professor John Powers FAHA
DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

Why would the avowedly Marxist Chinese Communist Party want to control the system of Tibetan reincarnating lamas? How can it justify this in light of its commitment to materialism, which denies the possibility of rebirth? How can its leaders expect to be taken seriously by believers when they deny the very foundations of Tibetan Buddhism, particularly the belief that adepts progress on the path over the course of many lifetimes? In this paper, I will examine the ideology behind the People's Republic of China's claims regarding longstanding hegemony over the system of reincarnation and recent initiatives to define the contents of belief for believers, which are encoded in theological treatises written by nonbelievers who characterise religion as superstition and as a remnant of feudal thinking that the government seeks to eradicate through promoting scientific and rational thought.

PROFESSOR JOHN POWERS FAHA is Research Professor of Religious Studies in the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation at Deakin University. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and author of seventeen books including *The Buddha Party: How China Works to Control Tibetan Buddhism* (2016) and *History As Propaganda: Tibetan Exiles Versus the People's Republic of China* (2004), and more than ninety articles.

4:00PM
THURSDAY

2016 ANNUAL ACADEMY LECTURE

Academic Freedom and the Contemporary University — Lessons from China

Professor John Fitzgerald FAHA, **Swinburne University of Technology**
PRESIDENT, AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF THE HUMANITIES

Are mediaeval notions of academic freedom relevant in the contemporary university? The inherited Western ideal of the solitary mendicant scholar, free to roam without interference and speak truth to the prelate and the prince, sits uneasily alongside the immense resources invested in contemporary universities charged with driving global innovation, industry, and business. I argue that although the challenges to freedom are more diffuse, the Western academy's commitment to free and open critical inquiry in the humanities, arts and sciences is no less important today than it was in the mid-12th century when the *Constitutio Habita* was drafted in Bologna. These values are thrown into sharp relief by the rapid rise of China and the growing impact of an academic model in which freedom plays little part. What are the lessons for the humanities in Australia?

CHAIR Emeritus Professor Lesley Johnson AM FAHA, Immediate Past President, Australian Academy of the Humanities

PROFESSOR JOHN FITZGERALD FAHA is President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. He is the Truby and Florence Williams Chair of Social Investment and Philanthropy at Swinburne University of Technology where he directs the Program for Asia-Pacific Social Investment and Philanthropy, and is Deputy Director of the Centre for Social Impact Swinburne.

Previously, Professor Fitzgerald served five years as Representative of The Ford Foundation in Beijing where he directed the Foundation's China operations; as Head of the School of Social Sciences at La Trobe University; and directed the International Centre of Excellence in Asia-Pacific Studies at the Australian National University. He has served as Chair of the Education Committee of the Australia-China Council of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as Chair of the Committee for National and International Cooperation of the Australian Research Council, and as International Secretary of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. His research focuses on territorial government and civil society in China and on Australia's Asian diasporas.

9:00AM
FRIDAY

ADDRESS

Valuing and Assessing Interdisciplinary Research

Ms Leanne Harvey
AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

This session will share reflections on the value and nature of interdisciplinary research that formed the foundation of the *Securing Australia's Future* (SAF) program. The program was funded by the Australian Research Council and conducted by the four Learned Academies through the Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA) for the Australian Chief Scientist and the Commonwealth Science Council. Ms Harvey will provide the ARC's perspective and discuss new developments in assessing interdisciplinary projects.

CHAIR Professor Peta Tait FAHA, La Trobe University

LEANNE HARVEY is the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Research Council (ARC). Leanne has played a pivotal leadership role in developing and delivering *Excellence in Research for Australia* (ERA). Demonstrating the quality of ERA in 2010, the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) recognised the exercise as 'state-of-the-art'. Each ERA cycle continues to build on the utility and evidence base for research policy both for Australia and internationally. Ms Harvey joined the ARC in March 2008, after transferring from the (then) Department of Education, Science and Training due to Machinery of Government changes. Since then, she has led the ARC through a substantial reorganisation to better align the agency with current Government agendas. Ms Harvey completed her education in regional New South Wales, graduating at the top of her school and holds a Bachelor of Business in Accounting from (the now) Charles Sturt University. She moved to providing policy analysis and advice regarding Australia's research sector in 2004. Since joining the Australian Public Service in 1987, her career has seen her involved in social policy initiatives including leading publicly funded research, child support and taxation reforms.

SESSION D2.1
9:30AM
FRIDAY

Skills and Capabilities for Australian Enterprise Innovation

Innovation requires the interaction of a broad range of technical and non-technical capabilities which calls for a flexible and creative workforce that understands business, systems, culture and the way society uses and adopts new ideas. This session will draw on the *Skills and Capabilities for Australian Enterprise Innovation* (2016) report, which finds that while Australia has the relevant skills, it lacks the capacity to effectively manage and use these skills and other inputs for greater innovation, and discusses implications for policy, industry and the research and education sectors.

CHAIR Dr Max Theilacker, Centre for Workplace Leadership, University of Melbourne

Professor Stuart Cunningham AM FAHA

QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

PROFESSOR STUART CUNNINGHAM AM FAHA chaired the Expert Working Group for the project *Skills and Capabilities for Australian Enterprise Innovation*. He is Distinguished Professor of Media and Communications at Queensland University of Technology, where he directed the ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation — the first such centre based in the humanities, from 2005—14. He is internationally recognised for his contributions to media, communications and cultural studies and for exemplifying their relevance to industry practice and government policy.

Professor Peter Gahan

CENTRE FOR WORKPLACE LEADERSHIP
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

PROFESSOR PETER GAHAN is the founding Director of the Centre for Workplace Leadership and Professor of Management at the University of Melbourne. He has previously held academic positions at the University of Southern California, Monash University, the University of New South Wales, and the European University Institute, Florence. Peter was also Director of Workplace Innovation in Industrial Relations Victoria from 2001—04. He has published widely on the areas of management and leadership, high performance work systems, workplace innovation, employment relations, HR and organisational performance, and the economic and social consequences of labour market regulation.

Mr James Law

ENVATO

JAMES LAW is the HR Director of Envato, a Melbourne-based group of digital marketplaces that sell creative assets for web designers, including themes, graphics, video, audio, photography and 3D models. Envato has over 1.5 million active buyers and sellers and over 6 million community members. James has worked at some of Australia's leading online businesses such as seek.com.au, realestate.com.au and betfair.com.au. He is now plying his trade at Envato where he tries to support the brilliant creative minds that pull together one of the leading digital marketplaces in the world.

SESSION D2.2
11:00AM
FRIDAY

Smart Engagement with Asia

The depth of Australia's linguistic and intercultural competence will underpin developments in Australia's innovation, science and technology, research capacity, international mobility, trade relations and economic competitiveness within the Asia-Pacific region. Australia's researchers, artists and cultural professionals are actively working to build international cultural exchange and collaboration for our long-term mutual benefit, and much of this effort is being led by the Asian diaspora.

Drawing on the *Smart Engagement with Asia: Leveraging Language, Research and Culture* (2015) report, this session will outline how leveraging language, research and cultural capabilities provides the basis for engagement that will return social, economic and political benefits to Australia and its partners in the region.

CHAIR Professor Krishna Sen FAHA, University of Western Australia

Professor Ien Ang FAHA
WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

Chair of the Expert Working Group for the project Smart Engagement with Asia, **PROFESSOR IEN ANG FAHA** is Distinguished Professor of Cultural Studies at Western Sydney University, where she was the founding Director of the Institute for Culture and Society. Her work deals broadly with patterns of cultural flow and exchange in our globalised world, focusing on issues such as the formation of audiences and publics; the politics of identity and difference; migration, ethnicity and multiculturalism in Australia and Asia; and issues of representation in contemporary cultural institutions. Her books include *Watching Dallas* (1985), *Desperately Seeking the Audience* (1991), *On Not Speaking Chinese* (2001) and *The Art of Engagement: Culture, Collaboration, Innovation* (2011).

Professor David Walker FASSA FAHA
DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

PROFESSOR DAVID WALKER FASSA FAHA is Professor Emeritus and Alfred Deakin Professor at Deakin University. He was the inaugural BHP Billiton Chair of Australian Studies at Peking University, Beijing, from 2013–16. He is a Director and Board member of the Foundation for Australian Studies in China and Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. He has written extensively on Australian representations of Asia from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. His books include *Anxious Nation: Australia and the Rise of Asia, 1850 to 1939* (1999, which has been translated into Chinese and Hindi) and *Australia's Asia: From Yellow Peril to Asian Century* (2012), co-edited with Agnieszka Sobocinska. His 'personal history', *Not Dark Yet* (2011), examines sight, memory and history and has been translated into Chinese by Professor Li Yao. He is finalising a manuscript on Australian representations of Asia from the 1930s to the 1970s.

SESSION D2.3
12:45PM
FRIDAY

Australia's Diaspora Advantage

Australia's Diaspora Advantage: Realising the Potential for Building Transnational Business Networks with Asia (2016) is the first in-depth study of the role of Australia's Asian diasporas in forging greater trade, investment and innovation links with Asia. The report finds that Australia's Asian diasporas (estimated to be 17% of the population) use their language skills, cultural understanding and global networks to accelerate the circulation of ideas, opportunities, people and capital around the globe for the purpose of business. This advantage is, however, currently under-utilised and under-represented in helping Australia forge smarter trade, investment and innovation links into Asia. This session will highlight ways in which the diaspora advantage could be realised.

CHAIR Dr Julia Evans, Australian Academy of the Humanities

Professor Kam Louie FHKAH FAHA

UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PROFESSOR KAM LOUIE FHKAH FAHA was the Co-Chair of the Expert Working Group for the *Australia's Diaspora Advantage* project. Before serving as Dean of Arts at Hong Kong University (2005–13), Professor Louie was Professor of Chinese at the University of Queensland and the Australian National University. Currently, he is Adjunct Professor, School of Humanities and Languages at the University of New South Wales and Honorary Professor, School of Chinese at Hong Kong University. He has served on a number of committees such as the Cultural and Educational Advisory Committee of Queensland-China Council and the Australia-China Council. As well as authoring numerous articles and government reports, he has published eighteen books on various aspects of Chinese culture, including *Chinese Masculinities in a Globalising World* (2015); *Diasporic Chineseness after the Rise of China* (co-editor) and editor of *Hong Kong Culture: Word and Image* and *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Chinese Culture* (2008). He was also Chief Editor of the journal *Asian Studies Review* (1998–2006).

Mr Andrew Parker

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS (PwC)

ANDREW PARKER is a Partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers where he leads the Australian Firm's Asia Practice. Andrew joined Price Waterhouse in 1985, became a partner in 1999 and spent 12 years in PwC's London, Moscow and Jakarta offices. He is a Director of China Matters, the Australia Indonesia Centre at Monash University, an Executive Committee Member of the Australia Japan Business Cooperation Committee and on the Advisory Board of the Asia Society. Andrew was the lead author of PwC's landmark report on Australia's lack of business investment in Asia titled *Passing Us By* (2014) and is a regular commentator on trade and investment between Asia and Australia.

SESSION D2.4
1:45PM
FRIDAY

Reflections on the *Securing Australia's Future* (SAF) Interdisciplinary Research Program

As an interdisciplinary research program delivered to support public policy-making, the *Securing Australia's Future* program is unique in the Australian research landscape. It was funded by the Australian Research Council and conducted by the four Learned Academies through the Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA) for the Australian Chief Scientist and the Commonwealth Science Council. This session will share reflections from the program and insights on managing interdisciplinary academic work.

CHAIR Dr Christina Parolin, Australian Academy of the Humanities

Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM FASSA FAHA

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

PROFESSOR PETER MCPHEE AM FASSA FAHA was appointed to a Personal Chair in History at the University of Melbourne in 1993. He has published widely on the history of modern France, most recently *Living the French Revolution 1789–1799* (London & New York, Palgrave Macmillan, 2006); *Robespierre: A Revolutionary Life* (London & New Haven, Yale University Press, 2012); and *Liberty or Death: The French Revolution* (London & New Haven, Yale University Press, 2016). He was appointed to the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Melbourne in October 2003 and was the University's first Provost in 2007–09, with particular responsibility for the design and implementation of the University's new curriculum structures. He was awarded a Centenary Medal for services to education in 2003 and became a Member of the Order of Australia in 2012.

Dr Angus Henderson

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED ACADEMIES

DR ANGUS HENDERSON is the General Manager of the Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA). Prior to joining ACOLA in May 2016, Dr Henderson held various senior public and private sector positions. These include the Commonwealth Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, where he managed Australia's National Innovation System Review and report; the Victorian Department of Business and Innovation, where he advised on policy and programs to support international collaboration between business and research organisations; and Foreground Innovation, an independent consultancy that assists organisations to establish strategic partnerships. Dr Henderson has a PhD in Medical Sciences in Molecular Biology from the John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University (ANU); and has had Post-Doctoral Fellowships at both Harvard Medical School, USA, and the ANU. He also has completed an International Masters in Knowledge Management from Det Norske Veritas (DNV) Bilthoven in the Netherlands.

SESSION D2.5
3:00PM
FRIDAY

The Humanities in the Asia Region

Funded by an Australian Research Council Learned Academies Special Projects grant, *The Humanities in the Asia Region* project aims to identify opportunities for strengthening collaboration between researchers in Australia and Asia. Preliminary findings presented in this session point to future capacities for international collaboration and knowledge exchange and highlight priorities, trends and policy developments in the humanities in Australia and select Asian countries/regions.

CHAIR Professor Robin Jeffrey FAHA, National University of Singapore

Professor Antonia Finnane FAHA

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

PROFESSOR ANTONIA FINNANE FAHA is Chief Investigator for the project *The Humanities in the Asia Region* and Professor of Chinese History at the University of Melbourne. She is co-editor (with Anne McLaren) of *Dress, Sex and Text in Chinese Culture* (1999), and author of three books: *Far From Where? Jewish Journeys from Shanghai to Australia* (1999); *Speaking of Yangzhou: A Chinese City, 1550–1850* (2004); and *Changing Clothes in China: Fashion, History, Nation* (2008). She is interested in the social history and material culture of China in the early modern to modern eras (1500–2000). She has published articles and books on urban history, with particular reference to Yangzhou; on the history of clothing and fashion in China; and on the Jewish refugee community in Shanghai. Her current research concerns material life and ritual change in twentieth-century China.

Ms Brigid Freeman

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF THE HUMANITIES AND UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

BRIGID FREEMAN is a University of Melbourne-based Research Fellow and Project Manager for the ARC-funded project, *The Humanities in Asia Region*, with the Australian Academy of the Humanities. Previously, she worked at the Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education (CSHE) and the Education Policy and Leadership Unit on research sponsored through the ARC and ACOLA for Australia's Chief Scientist. Brigid was a Visiting Scholar at the CSHE at the University of California, Berkeley and American Council of Education in Washington DC.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR DISCUSSION PANEL >

DISCUSSION PANEL

Dr Mridula Nath Chakraborty
MONASH UNIVERSITY (SEE PAGE 10 FOR BIOGRAPHY)

Associate Professor Audrey Yue
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE (SEE PAGE 7 FOR BIOGRAPHY)

Professor Joseph Lo Bianco AM FAHA
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

PROFESSOR JOSEPH LO BIANCO AM FAHA is Professor of Language and Literacy Education at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, the University of Melbourne. He is a former President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and Immediate Past and Inaugural President of the Tsinghua, Asia Pacific Forum on Translation and Intercultural Studies. In 2012 he was appointed Research Director of the UNICEF Language and Peacebuilding initiative in Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand. Since 2011 he has served as senior research advisor for LUCIDE, a European Commission project on Languages in Urban Communities — Integration and Diversity for Europe.

Notes

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