



## EDITORIAL

This eNewsletter is one of the GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDIES | GESELLSCHAFT FÜR AUSTRALIENSTUDIEN's platforms to inform members about academic and professional activities in their fields of study and research.

The newsletter presents the diversity of recent Australian Studies and public relations work. Together with the *Centre for Australian Studies* at the University of Cologne, the GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDIES | GESELLSCHAFT FÜR AUSTRALIENSTUDIEN provides professional advice for scholars and students. This close collaboration remains the most important network for German-speaking Australianists in Europe.

You can find **information** on the GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDIES' on  
on the *website*  
on *Twitter*  
on *Facebook* and  
on *YouTube*.

The newsletter reflects the interdisciplinary character of German-Australian studies and activities. We all will appreciate new contacts in order to build networks and partnerships in our fields of interest: in Germany, Europe and overseas.

If you are chiefly engaged in teaching, research, study or public activities relevant to Australia, or your interest supports such work, make sure to *become a member* of the GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDIES | GESELLSCHAFT FÜR AUSTRALIENSTUDIEN!

The newsletter will accept relevant information on conferences, publications, lectures, scholarships, awards, research projects, institutions, internet tutorials, and web links to Australian resources. *The editor* welcomes contributions which will help build a vital network in the field of Australian Studies, including essays, news, critiques, e-lectures, videos, podcasts and constructive commentary on specific subjects of research. We encourage a liberal and creative approach to the topic – and urge every reader to help launch this professional news forum to reflect the spirit of Australian Studies in timely information, memorable dialogue, and innovative ideas.

Send contributions (in English or German) for the newsletter to  
[newsletter@australienstudien.org](mailto:newsletter@australienstudien.org)  
Deadline of submission for Newsletter N° 27: **31 August 2022**



## THE REWORKED NEWSLETTER IS HERE!

In a fresh look and with exciting topics on science and research around the red continent. With this newsletter we would like to inform you about current developments and projects of the GASSt. In the April issue of our newsletter you can read, among other things, how the development of our network has progressed and receive information about current research and publications as well as conferences and workshops.

**News from the GASSt** reports new developments re. the Australian Studies Journal and the eNewsletter, and provides an exciting insight into the members and institutions in the German Association for Australian Studies.

In terms of past and future **Conferences & Workshops**, CHRISTINA RINGEL tells us about her participation at 'Endangered Languages and Diasporas' conference. THOMAS BATCHELOR, LEONIE JOHN, DAVID KERN, and CHRISTINA RINGEL announce their ECR Interdisciplinary Workshop and issue a Call for Papers; this is followed by a Call for Papers on behalf of the 'Postcolonial Narrations'.

BETTINA CHARLOTTE BURGER and LUCAS MATTILA present their project 'Charting the Australian Fantastic' in **Research & Projects**.

In **News & Notes In/From/About Australia**, we relay to you the InASA announcements re. the Lyndall Ryan Thesis Prize, InASA ECR Publication Subsidy Scheme, and the Queensland Review. The newsletter concludes with a glimpse into the social-cultural memories of the GASSt provided by GERHARD STILZ.

## DER NEUE NEWSLETTER IST DA!

Im frischen Gewand und mit spannenden Themen zu Wissenschaft und Forschung rund um den roten Kontinent. Mit diesem Newsletter möchten wir Sie über aktuelle Entwicklungen und Projekte der GASSt informieren. In der April-Ausgabe unseres Newsletters können Sie unter anderem lesen, wie die Entwicklung unseres Netzwerk vorangeschritten ist und erhalten Informationen über aktuelle Forschung und Publikationen sowie Konferenzen und Workshops.

**News from the GASSt** berichtet über neue Entwicklungen in Bezug auf Herausgeberschaften der Zeitschrift für Australienstudien und des eNewsletters und bietet einen spannenden Einblick in das Mitgliedernetzwerk der GASSt.

In Bezug auf vergangene und zukünftige **Conferences & Workshops** berichtet CHRISTINA RINGEL über ihre Teilnahme an der Konferenz 'Endangered Languages and Diasporas'. THOMAS BATCHELOR, LEONIE JOHN, DAVID KERN und CHRISTINA RINGEL kündigen ihren ECR Interdisciplinary Workshop mit einem Call for Papers an, gefolgt von einem Call for Papers der 'Postcolonial Narrations'.

BETTINA CHARLOTTE BURGER und LUCAS MATTILA stellen ihr Projekt 'Charting the Australian Fantastic' in **Research & Projects** vor.

In **News & Notes In/From/About Australia** berichten wir über die Ankündigungen der InASA bezüglich des Lyndall Ryan Thesis Prize, des InASA ECR Publication Subsidy Scheme und der Queensland Review. Der Newsletter schließt mit einem Blick ins sozial-kulturelle Gedächtnis der GASSt, bereitgestellt von GERHARD STILZ.

*We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and look forward to receiving your suggestions and feedback.*

*Wir wünschen Ihnen viel Spaß bei der Lektüre und freuen uns auf Ihre Anregungen und Rückmeldungen.*

STEFANIE AFFELDT & FRIEDERIKE SCHMIDT



## NEWS FROM THE GAST

### NEW LOOK, NEW EDITORIAL TEAM FOR THE ASJ

The Australian Studies Journal | Zeitschrift für Australienstudien not only has a new design but also a new editorial team. After a decade of untiring dedication – from issue 26/2012 to 35/2021 – HENRIETTE VON HOLLEUFFER and OLIVER HAAG have retired from their positions as editors of the journal. Both have furthered the journal's reputation as an organ for academic research on Australia and helped to position the ASJ as the leading journal for Australian Studies in Germany.

In the spirit of the former editors, the new team aims to further the journal's standing on the world stage and up the publication frequency with two yearly slots (April and October) for special issue with topical foci and a mid-year slot (July) for a regular issue with diverse original articles, reviews and the like.

The new team consists of STEFANIE AFFELDT (Lead, Heidelberg), KATRIN ALTHANS (Duisburg-Essen), and CHRISTINA RINGEL (Dortmund) as *Managing Editors*. They are joined by DANY ADONE (Cologne), EVA BISCHOFF (Trier), PATRICIA PLUMMER (Düsseldorf), and CARSTEN WERGIN (Heidelberg) as topic-specific *General Editors*. The production (design & typesetting) will continue to be Stefanie's task.

The next issue – ASJ 26/2022 – will be published later in the year and will comprise the traditional insightful articles and reviews to the latest publications in terms of Australia.

### NEUES DESIGN UND NEUE HERAUSGEBERINNEN FÜR DIE ZfA

Die Zeitschrift für Australienstudien | Australian Studies Journal hat nicht nur ein neues Design, sondern auch ein neues Redaktionsteam. Nach einem Jahrzehnt unermüdlichen Engagements – von Heft 26/2012 bis 35/2021 – haben sich HENRIETTE VON HOLLEUFFER und OLIVER HAAG als Herausgeber der Zeitschrift zurückgezogen. Beide haben den Ruf der Zeitschrift als Organ der akademischen Australienforschung gefördert und dazu beigetragen, die ZfA als führende Zeitschrift für Australienstudien in Deutschland zu positionieren.

Im Geiste der früheren Herausgeber will das neue Team das Ansehen der Zeitschrift auf der Weltbühne weiter ausbauen und die Erscheinungsweise mit zwei jährlichen Terminen (April und Oktober) für Sonderhefte mit thematischen Schwerpunkten und einem Termin in der Jahresmitte (Juli) für ein reguläres Heft mit diversen Originalartikeln, Rezensionen und ähnlichem erhöhen.

Das neue Herausgeberinnengremium besteht aus STEFANIE AFFELDT (Lead, Heidelberg), KATRIN ALTHANS (Duisburg-Essen) und CHRISTINA RINGEL (Dortmund) als *Managing Editors*. Ihnen zur Seite stehen DANY ADONE (Köln), EVA BISCHOFF (Trier), PATRICIA PLUMMER (Düsseldorf) und CARSTEN WERGIN (Heidelberg) als *General Editors*. Die Produktion (Gestaltung & Satz) wird weiterhin von Stefanie übernommen.

Die nächste Ausgabe – ZfA 26/2022 – wird im Spätsommer 2022 erscheinen und die traditionellen erkenntniserweiternden Artikel sowie Rezensionen zu den neuesten Veröffentlichungen zu Australien enthalten.



## NEW EDITORIAL TEAM FOR THE ENEWSLETTER

### STEFANIE AFFELDT

After BA and MA studies of Sociology and History at the Macquarie University, Sydney, the University of Essex, Colchester and the University of Hamburg, Stefanie has completed a historical-sociological doctorate, which brought forth the award-winning *monograph* 'Consuming Whiteness. Australian Racism and the White Australia Policy'. Stefanie has taught on class, gender, nation, and 'race' in (post)colonial Australia at German universities and held postdoctoral research fellow positions, amongst others at the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg where she conducted a research project titled 'Exception or Exemption? The Broome Pearling Industry and the White Australia Policy'.

She is now preparing a research project on 'Colonial Collecting' that discusses politics, strategies and histories of the German participation in the colonial appropriation of the Australian continent. More information on her research, publications and other stuff she enjoys doing (mostly design- and media-related) can be found on her *website*.

In January 2021 she became a member of the GAST Board. In this position, she took over the editorship of the newsletter from HENRIETTE VON HOLLEUFFER and will carry forth its spirit with the support of

### FRIEDERIKE SCHMIDT

Friederike is a PhD candidate at the University of Greifswald and an associate member of the research group 'The Transcultural Heritage of Northwest Australia: Dynamics and Resistances' at the University of Heidelberg. Her PhD project follows a mixed-methods approach that combines qualitative and quantitative methods and aims to answer the question "How and why did indigenous cultural objects of Australia end up in European collections?". To this end, she has created and statistically analysed a dataset of approximately 6,000 objects from the largest collections of cultural objects from Australia within the EU Member States. Her research therefore focuses primarily on the digitisation of research data and the replicability of research results. In 2015 and 2019/2020, Friederike worked as a curatorial assistant at the Art Gallery of Western Australia and was involved in the research project 'Desert River Sea: Kimberley Art Then & Now'.

During her most recent research trip to Australia, she met with representatives of the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Cooperation to present her dataset to the heritage management and conducted archival research at the National Archives of Australia in Victoria and Western Australia. Her latest publication 'Retracing the Mobile Object – Digitising Biographies of Aboriginal Material Culture' is forthcoming in Carsten Wergin, Stefanie Affeldt (eds.): *Digitizing Heritage. TransOceanic Encounters Between Australia and Europe*. Heidelberg: KEMTE.

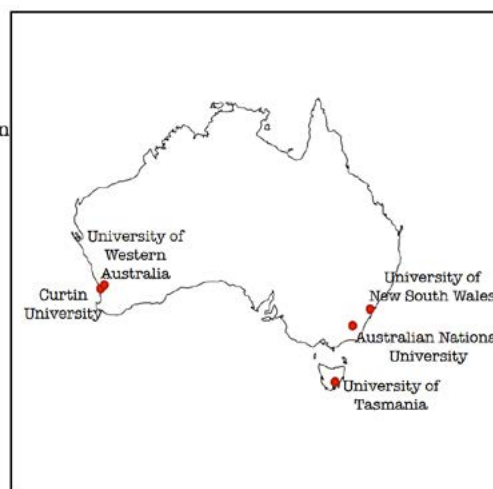
Since 2020, Friederike is involved at the Stockholms Akademiska Forum and an active Member of the Management Team of the Stockholms Dual Career Network.

## ORIGIN OF MEMBERS AND INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED IN THE GAST



### Further institutions:

University of Bremen  
University of Cologne  
University of Duisburg-Essen  
University of Düsseldorf  
University of Frankfurt  
University of Freiburg  
University of Göttingen  
University of Halle/Saale  
University of Rostock  
University of Stuttgart  
University of Tübingen  
University of Vechta  
University of Wuppertal



The above figures show the current membership network of the German Association for Australian Studies. Our members come from seven different countries from three different continents. They represent various institutions with different focuses in Australian studies, including 29 universities. As can be seen in the bottom right figure, Australian scholars from five different universities are significantly involved in the GAST network. The bottom left figure shows that our academic network is particularly strong in Central Europe.

Die obigen Abbildungen zeigen das aktuelle Mitgliedernetzwerk der Gesellschaft für Australienstudien. Unsere Mitglieder kommen aus sieben verschiedenen Ländern von drei verschiedenen Kontinenten. Sie repräsentieren verschiedene Institutionen mit unterschiedlichen Schwerpunkten in der Australienforschung, darunter 29 Universitäten. Wie in der Abbildung unten rechts zu sehen ist, sind australische Wissenschaftler aus fünf verschiedenen Universitäten maßgeblich am GAST-Netzwerk beteiligt. Während die Abbildung unten links zeigt, dass unser akademisches Netzwerk in Mitteleuropa besonders stark ausgeprägt ist.



## CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

### ATTENDING AN ENDANGERED LANGUAGES CONFERENCE

CHRISTINA RINGEL

From 16 to 19 December 2021, I participated in the annual Foundation for Endangered Languages (FEL) conference. It was hosted by FEL and Qendra e Studimeve dhe Publikimeve për Arbëreshët (QSPA, The Center for Research and Publication on Arbëresh) in collaboration with the University of Tirana in Albania as an on-site conference with online participation.

The Main Theme was 'Endangered Languages and Diaspora' and the Special Theme 'The State and Study of Arbëresh as an Endangered Diaspora Language'.



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Ura e Mesit (Mesi Bridge, literally 'the bridge in the middle', 5 km (3.1 mi (as the crow flies)) northeast of Shkodër,

One of the highlights of the conference was that while the main *language of communication* during the conference was English, for a few presentations and in a few grouped sessions Italian and Albanian were used as well. Keynote speeches in languages other than English were translated and some speakers provided their paper visually in two languages. In this way, the participants from all over the world felt included while the conference at the same time paid tribute to the diversity of languages – as befits a conference centred on languages.



Among the downsides of participating online was that it precluded me from participating in the *social events*, such as the conference dinner or the excursion to Shkodër, a city in the north of Albania. Fortunately, where possible, the online audience was included such as by broadcasting the concert by a Roma band.

### CONTRIBUTIONS ABOUT AUSTRALIA

My *own contribution* about research methods for information structure research on endangered languages, with a focus on Australia, was allocated to the main theme. It was set in a diverse session with ADAM MICKIEWICZ's paper on 'Official Certifications for Irish, Upper Sorbian, and Catalan', DOMENICO MORELLI's presentation on 'Italian Law 482 and Arbëresh Revitalization Steps' (in Italian) and ENKELED BILALI's contribution about 'The Composition of the Arvanitika-Greek Dictionary'.

Another paper with a *focus on Australia* was CRAIG ALAN VOLKER's (James Cook University & Kansai University) paper on 'Unserdeutsch in Multilingual Papua New Guinea and Multicultural Australia'.

He talked about the origin of the variety and how it fares in its Australian Diaspora. The audience learned that German Catholic missionaries at Vunapope mission in German Papua New Guinea (1884-1914) had the idea to rear children in Christianity so that they will convert the remainder of the Indigenous Melanesian community. In order to achieve this, children stemming from relationships between European or Asian men and Indigenous women were taken away from their families and raised in 'orphanages'. Here, Unserdeutsch (Rabaul Creole German, ISO 639-3 language code: uln) emerged in addition to Tok Pisin and Standard German.

When Australia took control of the colony (1921-1975), Volker reports, Unserdeutsch speakers were faced with a growing influence of Australian English. Their children were sent to boarding schools in Australia and were thus removed from Unserdeutsch exposure. With the independence of Papua New Guinea (1975), almost the entire linguistic community moved to Australia, where being in an essentially monolingual society discouraged them from using German and Unserdeutsch. In addition, the primary function of Unserdeutsch, as an in-group language for people who are neither Indigenous nor part of the colonial society, lost its significance.

According to Volker, further factors led to language shift to Australian English: Unserdeutsch speakers in Australia intermarried with Australians with different ethnic backgrounds; speakers were scattered and had no central meeting point; and there was virtually no education in German and less nostalgia for Germany.

Nowadays, there are approximately 100 speakers of Unserdeutsch in Australia. They are over 70 years of age and have no formal education in German. They are proud of their linguistic heritage. A research project led by PÉTER MAITZ and funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) aimed at the comprehensive documentation and linguistic description of Unserdeutsch. The description may form the basis for the revitalization of Unserdeutsch.<sup>1</sup>

1 References and more information, including about typical Creole features of Unserdeutsch and what differentiates it from other Creole languages, can be found on the webpage of the Institute of Germanic Languages and Literatures of the University Bern: Péter Maitz: Unserdeutsch (Rabaul Creole German), [https://www.germanistik.unibe.ch/research/projects/unserdeutsch\\_rabaul\\_creole\\_german/index\\_eng.html](https://www.germanistik.unibe.ch/research/projects/unserdeutsch_rabaul_creole_german/index_eng.html), (last updated: 16 February 2021, accessed 1 March 2022); in VOLKER's conference proceedings paper: Craig Alan Volker: Unserdeutsch in Multilingual Papua New Guinea and Multicultural Australia, in: Eda Derhemi, ed.: *Endangered Languages*



## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

My *personal* highlight of the conference was the keynote speech by JULIA SALLABANK and JUSTYNA OLKO on ›Decolonising Language Revitalisation‹. They observed, among other things, that language activists and linguists, albeit meaning well, often unwittingly tread the paths carved out during colonial times. In their paper and subsequent discussions, concrete examples were discussed. For example, linguists often advise the speakers of an endangered language with several varieties to elevate one variety (or a mixture of features from several varieties) to the standard and to create a writing system for that standard. This standard can then be taught in school and there may be positive effects such as raising the prestige of the language: Outsiders are more likely to conceive of a written language as a ‘proper’ language worth saving. As a result, written documentation and written literature are often favoured over oral traditions. While standardization and documentation can clearly support revitalisation efforts in many situations, in others, side-effects such as the demotion or loss of oral traditions can weaken the community. In addition, quarrels between speakers over which varieties or which features should be considered ‘the standard’ can breed discord although unity would be required when revitalization is to be successful. Since a language is only revitalized when the speakers are using it more frequently and in more domains, not because a linguist or language activists wills it so, an orthography can only support revitalization when the speakers adopt and use it. This is more likely to happen if they identify with it and feel that it represents their variety. Thus, orthography development only makes sense when the community wants an orthography (or rather a new one if one or several already exist) and is meaningfully included in the process. Trying to impose an orthography created by a linguist, even if it may be better suited for the language from an ‘expert’s’ point of view, on the other hand, shows that the linguist has fallen back on familiar (neo-)colonial patterns.

Similarly, the role of formal education in revitalization is complex. While teaching an endangered language at a local school may broaden the spectrum of domains of use and raise its status both among the Indigenous as well as the wider community, there are also possible disadvantages. Sallabank and Olko discussed, for example, that placing the responsibility for language transmission into the (especially if sole) hands of a school means that the same institution that was in many cases originally (co-)responsible for the oppression of the language is now the very one trusted with its future existence. Especially if lessons in the language are extra-curricular, students might wonder why they should bother putting effort into learning a language that seems to only be relevant in that context and that is apparently not important enough to be part of the curriculum proper. As an example of decolonised language education, Sallabank and Olko name Māori immersion education, which is in the hands of Māori people and comprises both Māori language and philosophy (‘kaupapa’). According to Sallabank and Olko, the Māori experience shows that it is important for students to have the opportunity to use their language not only in school but also in their homes and communities.

A personal take-away for me was that each and everyone of us, no matter how hard we try to rid ourselves of colonial views and habits, still has a lesson or two to learn. I was confronted with the question

and Diaspora – XXV Annual Conference – Proceedings Foundation for endangered languages, Tirana, 16-19 December 2021. s.l.: s.n., pp. 120-123; or the recording of his conference paper on the QSPA YouTube channel: FEL 25, Craig Alan Volker: Unserdeutsch in Multilingual Papua New Guinea and Multicultural Australia, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= ODPgnfWQaL8> (accessed 1 March 2022).





why, in my own research, I focus mainly on the language of the Elders. Inherent in this practice, I was reminded, is the purist view that older stages of the language are necessarily better and more worth documenting than later ones. I had always told myself that I want to document the language as it was before the English language exerted more and more influence over it. However, if I truly have not only academic pursuits but also the revitalisation of the language at heart, I need to remind myself that showing interest in the speech of younger generations is likely to be at least as important. I am grateful for keynotes by established academics such as Sallabank and Olko who bring these issues to the fore and thereby make it easier for us Early Career Researchers to convince funding agencies, for example, that research projects with clear components aimed at revitalization are worth funding.

From the discussion following the keynote I picked up slogans such as

- Be a facilitator, not a protector!
- Engage rather than patronize!
- Provide access to academic knowledge to community but value other knowledge systems!

Another topic of Sallabank's and Olko's paper was the relationship between language, health, and well-being. It will only briefly be mentioned here. They reported findings that heritage language loss is associated with symptoms of post-traumatic stress and elevated suicide rates and that, conversely, the retention of Indigenous languages may contribute to psychological and physical health. They added that the perceived economic value of the Indigenous language plays a role in this regard. Sallabank and Olko stress, however, that Indigenous concepts of economic value may differ significantly from Western indices.<sup>2</sup>

### CRITIQUE AND DISCUSSIONS

Apart from the fascinating and informative papers I attended during the conference, several important discussions about *the make-up of the conference* and *the way in which participants interacted with each other* during the conference arose.

Some participants observed that very few native speakers were present either in the audience or as presenters, although the special theme of the conference focused on Arbëresh. When a native speaker was interviewed in the discussion time following a presentation, their statement and the translation were cut short by the Chair. This created some degree of discontent.

Emotions were also running high when a participant subsequently raised the concern that they were under the impression that women were interrupted more frequently than men by that particular Chair.

A *complaint* was also voiced that native speakers who presented findings about their language varieties or mentioned them during the discussions felt that they were *not taken seriously* by other discussants. Quite understandably, they were upset due to this treatment and the fact that their varieties were called mere 'dialects'. One might argue that the technical term as such does not carry any evaluation

2 References and more information, including a discussion about the relationship between language contact and endangerment, can be found in the conference proceedings paper: Julia Sallabank, Justyna Olko: Decolonising Language Revitalisation, in: Eda Derhemi, ed.: Endangered Languages and Diaspora – XXV Annual Conference – Proceedings Foundation for endangered languages, Tirana, 16-19 December 2021. s.l.: s.n., p. 63; or the recording of their conference paper on the QSPA YouTube channel: FEL 25, Julia Sallabank, Justyna Olko: Decolonizing Language Revitalization, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GttUnRQ9RCA> (accessed 3 March 2022).



and is used by linguists in situations where differentiation between separate languages and the dialects of a language is relevant but where there is no intention of implying that one is in some way more important or valuable than the other. On the other hand, even among linguists the precise definition of the terms 'language' and 'dialect' is still a matter of some debate so that the concerns cannot simply be put out off by claiming that an established term was used. More importantly, some attendants pointed to the fact that notably among laymen but also in academia some do use the term 'dialect' derogatively. For example, in Italy, minority languages are notoriously degraded to 'dialects', which reflects certain political agendas. This has to be taken into consideration. During a purely linguistic discussion, in a situation where one can be sure that all discussants more or less agree on what they mean by 'dialect', one might wish to use 'dialect' as a short-hand; but when engaging with speakers, the public, or politicians, one might consider using neutral alternatives (as has been done in this text by using the term 'variety').

These issues carry particular weight when viewed in the light of *decolonisation and emancipation*. Using Sallabank's and Olko's appeal for decolonised research as a blueprint, how can we achieve decolonised conferences, where everyone feels comfortable and welcome, irrespective of their gender, cultural heritage, or level of formal education?

Is it possible to plan conferences in such a way that they become more attractive for native speakers and still fulfil the expectations of the academic audience? How to allow time for the discussion of legitimate extra-linguistic concerns without disrupting the schedule? In the present case, only the discussion time allocated to the previous presenter was available; thus, the Chair needed to negotiate the interests of the complaining party with the interests of the presenter of the current session and the presenter and audience of the upcoming session, who have equally legitimate claims to a content-based discussion and to a timely start respectively.

*Responses to the issues raised in this contribution are welcome, both on an individual level and in the form of contributions to subsequent issues of this Newsletter.*

#### *FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE CONFERENCE*

- In the next Ogmios issue (31 March 2022, <http://www.ogmios.org/ogmios/index.php>), the Conference Chair, EDA DERHEMI, will describe the main moments of the FEL-XXV conference.
- Conference website: <https://europe.illinois.edu/news-events/2020-21-initiatives/conference-foundation-endangered-languages>
- A peer-reviewed Yearbook of selected papers has been announced to be published with Koninklijke Brill NV of Leiden in the Netherlands.



## INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS IN AUSTRALIAN STUDIES

16-17 September 2022

We are very pleased to announce a two-day online interdisciplinary workshop specifically designed for early career researchers and emerging scholars (doctoral students and postdocs less than five years after completion of their PhD) whose work is situated in the **broad field of Australian Studies**. This event, which will be hosted by four scholars from the Centre of Australian Studies (University of Cologne), functions as intersessional event before the biennial Association for Australian Studies Conference in Duisburg-Essen (2023).

Our major goal is to bring together the **next generation of Australian Studies scholars** from around the world, providing a forum for exchanging ideas among peers, for sharing research, for providing and receiving constructive feedback, and for generating new ideas. Though larger academic conferences increasingly invite early career contributions, the foundational premise of this workshop is that especially research at an early stage needs an explicitly accessible, appreciative and stimulant space to experiment with inchoate ideas and build interdisciplinary networks.

The workshop is designed to allow for international as well as local participation (morning and noon sessions in Germany, which translate to afternoon and evening panels in Australia). Should you be interested in presenting, **please send us an abstract of no more than 350 words by 15th April 2022**. Presentations should be no longer than 20 minutes to ensure a minimum of 10 minutes for discussion. We plan on including academic keynotes and literary readings, as well as plenty of breaks for formal and informal chats. If you are an **early career researcher working in Australian Studies**, if you have just obtained your master's degree and think of pursuing a PhD, or if you are a senior scholar who knows a person who might be interested in joining this interdisciplinary workshop, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us! Visitors are most welcome to join us even if they do not aspire to present a paper. There will be **no attendance fee**.

More detailed information about the event will soon be made available on the **Centre for Australian Studies website!**

We are excited for this event and look forward to your contributions!

THOMAS BATCHELOR ([thomas.batchelor@uni-koeln.de](mailto:thomas.batchelor@uni-koeln.de))

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CHRISTINA RINGEL ([christina.ringel@uni-koeln.de](mailto:christina.ringel@uni-koeln.de))



## RESEARCH & PROJECTS

### CHARTING THE AUSTRALIAN FANTASTIC

The project 'Charting the Australian Fantastic', founded and located at the Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf, is dedicated to exploring and analysing all sorts of Australian Speculative Fiction while at the same time producing high-quality OER (Open Educational Resources) Material for Digital Teaching.

Led by BETTINA CHARLOTTE BURGER and LUCAS MATTILA, the project has grown significantly since its beginnings in 2019. Thanks to generous support from the E-Learning Förderfonds as well as the Digital Fellowship granted to Burger and Mattila in 2021, the researchers involved have been able to produce written material such as assignment sheets, bibliographies, and academic articles, a podcast series, an interview series, and a lecture series, the latter two of which can be found at the project's YouTube channel *CASTLE*.

The YouTube channel has a growing collection of videos, including lectures not only by Burger and Mattila but also by their colleagues and fellow GAST members DAVID KERN, KATRIN ALTHANS, and VICTORIA HERCHE as well as by a number of Australian scholars and writers.

There have been three exciting guest lectures so far in 2021 & 2022 – the mini-series, funded by the fellowship, started off with a panel uniting four Jewish Australian writers who are well known in speculative fiction circles, GILLIAN POLACK, RIVQA RAFAEL, JACK DANN, and JASON FRANKS. A spirited lecture by MARIA TAKOLANDER on speculative fiction writing by female Australian writers such as MERLINDA BOBIS, ALEXIS WRIGHT, and EVIE WYLD, followed by an inspiring talk on Goori Futurism by MYKAELA SAUNDERS concluded the series – so far!

The next guest lecture is set to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022, 10-11am. The talk, entitled 'Conventions and Conventions and Conventions: Creativity in Australian Fantasy Fiction', will be held by KIM WILKINS. Further lectures are still to come – to stay up to date on the project and its events, you can also follow it on Twitter (*@SpeculativeAus1*) and Instagram (*Speculativeaus1*).

A series of interviews has also been held with a number of Australian writers – our project members were able to interview KYLIE CHAN, ALAN BAXTER, LOIS MURPHY, KATHLEEN JENNINGS and others, leading not only to engaging conversations and insights into the field of Australian Speculative Fiction, but also to an increasing network of writers and scholars that has been connected thanks to the project. Some of them are already published as part of *podcast* and more episodes are set to be published in the future.





Aside from these exciting audio-visual resources, the project has also been highly engaged in the construction and implementation of high-quality online teaching. While the videos, podcast episodes and the so-called buzzvideos (short videos explaining critical terms briefly) have been invaluable tools for online teaching, they have by no means been the only way of engaging with our students. Through interactive and creative assignment sheets, students have been able to analyse and explore the primary materials for class in new and intellectually demanding ways. Students have also been encouraged to produce audio-visual material themselves and some of the examples are available to watch on the *CASTLE* YouTube channel. Furthermore, students have written a number of creative and insightful blog posts on various works of Australian Speculative Fiction, which can be read in our '*Anglophone Literary Studies Blog*'.

Various e-learning tools, such as forums, chats, and video calls have also been used in instructing the students at Heinrich-Heine-University – many of the strategies explored as part of the project will also be implemented in the online Australian Master Degree programme that has been funded by the Digital Hochschule NRW and will start as a project in April 2022. The project 'Charting the Australian Fantastic' has provided its lecturers with a space to experiment with online learning and explore innovative tools and technologies, which are so vital to successful digital teaching – this experimentation has by no means ended as online learning can only be a constant learning experience for both lecturers and students.

More exciting events and sub-projects are also in the pipeline – we are currently editing a special issue on Gender and Sexuality in Australian Speculative Fiction for the online journal Genderforum as well as preparing a translation project with our colleague HELENA KÜSTER from the MA degree 'Literaturübersetzen' at the Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf. Students had the chance of translating three short stories by acclaimed Australian writer KAARON WARREN, who has agreed to have the German versions of her stories published on the project's student blog.

Further lectures and interviews are constantly being produced so it's well worth it to follow the project on *Twitter*, *Instagram* and *YouTube*!





## POSTCOLONIAL NARRATIONS 2022

### POSTCOLONIAL MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH

The last decades have brutally shown that not all lives and bodies are equally grievable. War, increased migratory movements, the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the climate crisis demonstrate that hierarchies of life and death continue to be dominated by colonial and racialized criteria as well as political and social power structures. In her much-referenced work 'Precarious Life: The Powers of Mourning and Violence' (2004), Judith Butler asserts that "[s]ome lives are grievable, and others are not; the differential allocation of grievability [...] operates to produce and maintain certain exclusionary conceptions of who is normatively human: what counts as a liveable life and a grievable death?" (XIV-XV). Her assessment raises further questions about the conception and boundaries of 'the human' and who controls them. Since the European Enlightenment the predominant understanding of 'the human' has been shaped by a universalizing focus on individualism and rationality. These humanist notions do not only foreground an immaterial understanding of human essence, neglecting any question of the material existence of the body, but more so indicate a sharp distinction between subject and object, self and other.

Recent posthumanist scholarship seeks to expose these binaries and tries to negotiate new understandings of 'the human'. Examining marginalised lives and deaths through a focus on black, female, queer, or non-human agents, critical posthumanism investigates who counts as 'human'. This endeavour is especially relevant in a postcolonial context, where existing ideas of the human mind and body are continuously reconsidered, and the imagining of alternative ways of life is a central concern. Emerging from this framework, we hope to explore postcolonial matters of life and death in next year's Postcolonial Narrations Forum.

The controlling and policing of life and death, which dominate our screens again and again in the form of racially motivated police shootings, the discoveries of mass graves of Indigenous children, and the violence at Europe's borders, have long been central to colonialism and its continuous aftermath. Consequently, the institutionalised regulation of human life and bodies has attracted notice as a major focus in literary and cultural studies, postcolonial studies, medical and environmental humanities, and other fields.

Concepts such as biopolitics (Foucault), bare life (Agamben), necropolitics (Mbembe), and slow death (Berlant) are only a few among the many tools which are useful to examine the abovementioned issues. Literary genres as diverse as life-writing, memoir, dystopia, and SF as well as other media have not only voiced criticism in this regard, but have narrated forms of resistance, resilience, and survival. These cultural trends reflect political discourses surrounding, for instance, the Black Lives Matter movement, the reclaiming of bodies through mourning rituals, and #RefugeesWelcome. We would like to invite fellow PhD candidates and early career scholars to join us in a multifaceted exchange on postcolonial matters of life and death. We welcome a wide range of contributions on the following and related issues in postcolonial contexts:



- the body as the site of life/death/change
- death and grief / rituals of mourning
- birth / reproduction (rights)
- violence / genocide / war / pandemic
- queer bodies / erotic sovereignty
- toxic environments / toxic bodies
- survival / resilience / resistance
- ageing and decay / preservation
- suicide / assisted suicide
- images of the afterlife
- genre theory: life-writing / autobiography / autobiografiction / memoir
- genre theory: utopia / dystopia / SF / futurism

### Confirmed speakers

Prof. Dr. Mita Banerjee, Universität Mainz (keynote lecture)

Alecia McKenzie (artist's talk and reading)

Dr. Jennifer Leetsch (workshop)

Please send **abstracts for 20 minute-long talks** (ca. 300 words + 5 keywords) and a short bio note to [postcolonialnarrations@g-a-p-s.net](mailto:postcolonialnarrations@g-a-p-s.net) by **31 May 2022**. We will send out *acceptance e-mails and further info by mid-June*.

We are planning to hold the conference *in person in Bonn*, following current COVID-regulations. In case the circumstances change, the format might switch to an online event. In either case, single events or panels may be held in a hybrid form. There will be no conference fee and a limited amount of travel bursaries can be organised. Please let us know if you require further information on this.

We are currently exploring possibilities for the publication of a *conference volume*. Further information on this will follow.

### Organisers

Marie Berndt, Angela Benkhadda, Lena Falk, and Peri Sipahi

University of Bonn

<https://postcolonial-narrations.net/>

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## NEWS & NOTES IN FROM ABOUT AUSTRALIA

### ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE InASA



#### 1. LYNDALL RYAN THESIS PRIZE

InASA is calling for **applications for the first biennial Lyndall Ryan Thesis Prize**. This new award celebrates excellence in PhD research in the interdisciplinary field of Australian Studies. InASA is honoured to offer this \$1,000 prize which Professor Ryan is generously sponsoring to support emerging scholars in Australian Studies.

Professor Emeritus LYNDALL RYAN has had an illustrious career in Australian Studies and History. She has produced ground-breaking work exploring frontier violence and settler-Indigenous relations, especially in the nineteenth century. Among her prominent works are *Tasmanian Aborigines: A History Since 1803* (2012) and the *Colonial Frontier Massacres Map*.

**Eligibility requirements** for the 2022 inaugural Lyndall Ryan Thesis Prize are as follows:

- Eligible PhD theses are those which were awarded in 2020 or 2021
- The theses must be in the field of Australian Studies, broadly defined
- Entrants must be members of InASA. Interested applicants who are not yet members may take out a membership here: *Membership – International Australian Studies Association (InASA)*.

Applicants should email a digital copy of their PhD thesis and the required attachments to the chair of the judging panel, Dr ANDONIS PIPEROGLOU ([a.piperoglou@griffith.edu.au](mailto:a.piperoglou@griffith.edu.au)), by 5pm AEST, Thursday, **30 June 2022**. For more details, please see guideline and nomination form (available on the *GASt Website*).

#### 2. InASA ECR PUBLICATION SUBSIDY SCHEME

**Applications** for the 2022 InASA ECR Publication Subsidy Scheme can now be submitted. This publishing subsidy is designed to assist early career researchers working in Australian Studies who are publishing a monograph. Please submit applications to A/Prof Anthea Taylor, Chair, InASA ECR Publication Scheme Committee, International Australian Studies Association (InASA): [anthea.taylor@sydney.edu.au](mailto:anthea.taylor@sydney.edu.au)

Applications are due by 5pm (AEST), **1 June 2022**. For more details, please see attached guideline and application form (available on the *GASt Website*).



### 3. QUEENSLAND REVIEW

We are pleased to advise InASA members that Equinox Publishing Ltd is taking over publishing the journal *Queensland Review* (formerly published by CUP) from issue 29.1 for 2022. You can view the journal's new home via the link <https://journal.equinoxpub.com/QRE>.

Equinox also publishes 2 other academic journals which may be of interest to members, that are largely concerned with Australian or Australian/Pacific Rim subjects (*Perfect Beat* – popular music) and *Journal for the Academic Study of Religion* (published on behalf of the Australian Association for the Study of Religion).

A **discount** will be offered to members who wish to renew or start new subscriptions. Please contact Ailsa Parkin at [aparkin@equinoxpub.com](mailto:aparkin@equinoxpub.com) for further details.

We understand the final issue published by CUP, 28.2 will be available shortly.



## PARTNERSCHAFTEN

### GERHARD STILZ

In Perth war für mich eine E-Mail vom Akademischen Auslandsamt der Universität Tübingen eingegangen. Darin werde ich gebeten, F. C., einen unserer Tübinger Austauschstudenten, im Adelaide Royal Hospital aufzusuchen. Bei einem Autounfall im Outback sei der junge Mann schwer verunglückt. Mit lebensbedrohlichen Kopf- und Brustverletzungen habe man ihn in ein künstliches Koma versetzt. Sein Vater (der des Englischen nicht mächtig sei) werde ihn voraussichtlich besuchen, und ich möge dabei, soweit möglich und nötig, helfen. Diese Mission prägt meinen Aufenthalt in Adelaide.

Kaum angekommen, mache ich mich ins Royal Adelaide Hospital auf. Dort werde ich von Krankenschwestern und einer Ärztin um 11.30 ans Bett des Verunglückten geführt. Dick eingepackt in Verbände sehe ich den reglosen Körper. Geschient hängt eines seiner Beine an einem Kran. Die Augen sind geschlossen. Luftröhrenschnitt, Schläuche führen in seinen Arm, in seinen Mund und unter sein Hemd, die Brust hebt und senkt sich regelmäßig. Mit Hubschrauber und Flugzeug ist der Schwerverletzte hier hergebracht worden. Ein Unfall auf dem Waschbrett einer ungeteerten Straßenpiste in der Nähe des King's Canyon bei Alice Springs. Das Auto habe sich mehrmals überschlagen, ein Auto von Freunden sei noch in der Nähe gewesen, ein drittes Auto habe einen Funkspruch beim 'Flying Doctor Service' absetzen können. Vielleicht zu schnell gefahren, aber die Straßen da draußen seien ohnehin gefährlich, bei jeder Geschwindigkeit. Vier schwer Verletzte, F. C. am schwersten. Gehirnblutungen, Beckenbruch, viele Knochenbrüche. Man ist guter Hoffnung, dass man ihm das Leben retten kann. Aber ob

das Gehirn wieder voll herzustellen ist, kann man nicht sicher sagen. Seine Eltern hätten sich angemeldet, möglicherweise seien sie schon im Land. Ich hinterlasse meine Adresse und fahre mit dem Taxi hinaus zur Flinders University, wo F. C. als Tübinger Austauschstudent immatrikuliert ist. Dort treffe ich die tüchtige S. M. vom International Studies Office, dazu kommen G. W. (Australian Studies), J. B. (International Office), J. H. (International Student Services) und der Vice Chancellor D. F. Alle sind – auch an diesem Freitagnachmittag – mit Engagement bei der Sache. Gute Partner.

Meine Gastgeberin K. L. hat für den Abend ein befreundetes Ehepaar und mich zum Essen in ihr Haus in North Adelaide eingeladen. Von unseren Gesprächen bleibt mir außer dem Unfall und seinen Opfern nichts in Erinnerung.

*Samstag, 21. Juli.* Vorsorglich hat mir Heidrun für heute, mit vier Ausrufungszeichen eingerahmt, ihren Geburtstag ins Merkbuch geschrieben. Ich muss sie anrufen, sobald sie auf der anderen Seite der Welt aufwacht. Zuvor aber gibt es hier in Adelaide weiterhin Dringendes. Zu Fuß gehe ich wieder zum Royal Hospital. Der Vater und die Schwester des Bewusstlosen sind eingetroffen und suchen ein Gespräch mit dem diensttuenden Arzt. Die Mutter hat die Nachricht vom Unfall nicht verkraftet und deshalb den Flug nicht angetreten. Der Vater spricht kein Englisch, die Tochter nur rudimentär. Sie sind froh, dass ich da bin und vermitteln kann: Abgesehen von den Geschehnissen und den medizinischen Bemühungen und Erwägungen um ihren Sohn und Bruder geht es um allerlei finanzielle und rechtliche Vorkehrungen, die hier zu treffen sind. Denn für die Folgekosten des Unfalls in fünf- bis



sechsstelliger Höhe findet sich keine tragfähige Versicherung.

Alle diese Dinge können die betroffenen Angehörigen in der Fremdsprache weder verstehen noch sind sie imstande, sich in ihrer emotionalen Ausnahmesituation auf derlei komplizierte Formalien zu konzentrieren. Wenigstens im Eingangsgespräch und beim ersten Besuch am Krankenbett kann ich als Dolmetscher dienen. Hinzu kommen drei Freunde und mittelbar Beteiligte: S. M., die auf dem Beifahrersitz angeschnallt war und den Unfall mit leichten Verletzungen überlebt hat, sowie O. P. und M. T. aus einem der begleitenden Fahrzeuge. Sie schildern ihre Versionen des Unfallhergangs, sind aber bei den medizinischen, finanziellen und versicherungsrechtlichen Dingen ebenfalls überfordert.

Doch dann bahnt sich eine Lösung an für die Betreuung der Angehörigen, mit der ich nicht gerechnet hatte: Das Royal Adelaide Hospital hat nicht nur den weltweit bekannten 'Flying Doctor Service', sondern auch einen 'Translator Service' der in Gestalt eines fachlich bewanderten deutsch-australischen Berufsdolmetschers mit dem Namen Krückemeyer und einer psychologisch geschulten Betreuerin nach einer guten Stunde eintrifft. Die beiden wohnen der ärztlichen Beratungsrunde zwischen 11 und 13 Uhr bei. Die Ärzte machen Hoffnung: Zwar sei es zu früh für eine genaue Prognose bezüglich der Wiederherstellung des Gedächtnisses von F. C., seiner Persönlichkeit, seines Sprachvermögens und seiner Bewegungskoordination, doch es bestünden gute Aussichten. Die Tracheostomie werde in ein bis zwei Wochen entfernt, so dass der Patient dann rein physiologisch wieder sprechen könnte.

Möglicherweise könne er in einigen Wochen sogar selbständig atmen und gestützt gehen und dann auch wieder konventionell ernährt werden. Die neurologische Rehabilitation

könne insgesamt 18-24 Monate dauern. Dazu könne F. C. dann auch gefahrlos nach Deutschland geflogen werden. Jetzt gehe es vor allem darum, seinen Zustand zu stabilisieren und mit zweckdienlichen Bewegungen seinen Organismus zu stärken. Vater und Schwester wollen zwei Wochen in Adelaide bleiben, bis er zur Rehabilitation ins Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre nahe am Flughafen gebracht werden kann. Sie vertrauen den Ärzten. Professor L., der Chefarzt, will sich nach unserem Gespräch in diesem Fall um ein kostenfreies »wissenschaftliches Bett« bemühen. Der Übersetzer und die psychologische Betreuerin nehmen mir die Mühe und Sorge ab, den Angehörigen sprachlich und emotional über das anstehende Wochenende hinwegzuhelfen. Ich verabschiede mich mit einiger Erleichterung.

