

Newslink

State Notes

From Queensland

Post-Graduate Work in Religion at the University of Queensland

Post-graduate students continue to account for a significant proportion of total enrolments in the Department of Studies in Religion at U of Q.

Altogether 27 post-graduates are currently enrolled — 18 Ph.D. candidates and 9 M.A.'s. Thesis topics in the field of Christianity are still the most common; however, many other fields are also represented — ranging from 'Ancient Indian Contemplative Practices' to 'The Detective Novel as Religious Text'.

The scope of the Department's post-graduate program will be evident from the following list, covering the period from 1977 to the present.

Postgraduate Students since 1977 Completed Ph.D. Theses

Moore, R. — 'Right with God'

Parker, D. — 'Fundamentalism and Conservative Protestantism in Australia 1920-1980'

Fenner, P. — 'Reason, Insight and Awakening: Philosophical Psychology in the Madhyamika'

Edwards, D. — 'An Examination of the Mystic Way and the Active Way in Christianity'

Nelson, P. — 'The Technology of the Praeternatural'

Current Ph.D. Students

Aveling, H. — 'Studies in Hindi Bhakti with Special Reference to the Work of the Poet Sahajo'

Bishop, P. — 'Tibet and the Western Religious Imagination'

Cowdell, S. — 'Modern British Christology'

Crangle, E. — 'The Origin and Development of Ancient Indian Contemplative Practices'

Davidson, M. — 'The Religious Estimate of Man in the Qumran Literature and Jewish "Outside Books" dating from 200 BC to AD100'

Franzmann, M. — 'Odes of Solomon'

Hall, G. — 'An Investigation into the Cosmotheandric Principle of Raimundo Panikkar and its Application as a Hermeneutic Principle in Religious Studies'

Harrison, J. — 'Joh Bjelke-Petersen and the Religious Culture of Queensland'

Harrison, P. — 'The Science of Religion in England: Lord Herbert to Hume'

Hill, K. — 'The Influence of Schleiermacher on 19th C and early 20th C Christian Theology'

Jenks, G. — 'The Origins and Development of the Christian Concept of the "Antichrist"'

Jordan, T. — 'Religion and Non-violence: social power and sacred symbols'

McDiarmid, D. — 'Religious Philanthropy: The history, theory, and contemporary practice of religious peoples' financial support of religious institutions and charitable activities'

Ringma, C. — 'Towards a Methodology for a Sociological Approach to the Study of Early Christianity'

Rose, M. — 'Feminism in the Australian Anglican Church 1960-1990'

Wainwright, E. — 'The Attitude of Jesus Towards Women etc., with Particular Attention to the Matthean Gospel'

Weightman, C. — 'Michael Polanyi's Philosophy of Science and its Impact on Theology'

Yates, J. — 'The God Who Relates: a study in the relationship between the language of ordinary Christian devotion and the concept of the unchanging God of classical Christian Theism'

Completed M.Th. Theses (1977)

Hunter, I. — 'Eschatology in Current Literature in English'

Morreau, D. — 'The House Church: its worship, its communion, its organisation'

Completed M.A. Theses

Paxton, G. — 'Reformation and Contemporary 7th Day Adventism'

Kenny, J. — 'Sacrificial Ritual in the Satapatha Brahmana'

Jenks, G.C. — 'The Last Supper and the Passover'

Parker, D. — 'Revelation and Scripture in Neo-Evangelical Theology'

Peters, F. — 'Lifeworld, Worldview and the Phenomenology of Religious Life'

Nickerson, S. — 'A Study of True and False Prophecy'

Current M.A. Candidates

Adam, E. — 'The Buddhist Community of Perth: A Study in Alienation'

Eckersley, N. — 'The Non-religious Interpretation of Biblical Concepts as understood by Dietrich Bonhoeffer'

Fox, G. — 'Studies in the Vocabulary of Divine Sovereignty in the Old and New Testaments'

Free, M. — 'The Effect of the Delay of the Parousia on Early Christian Communities'

Kang, D. — 'The Use of the Old Testament in Liberation Theology'

Peters, I. — 'Reading the Detective Novel as a Religious Text'

Pitman, D. — 'Christian Response to Religious Pluralism in Contemporary Western Society'

Ramsay, R. — 'Relationship of Theistic and Mystical Attitudes to Time and History'

Warne, G. — '"Soul" in Philo (and Paul): A comparative study and Contemporary Writings'

—Rod Bucknell
University of Queensland

From Victoria

Religious Studies at Deakin University
Religious Studies is an area of study within the School of Humanities.

Academic staff at present include Professor Max Charlesworth, Dr. Peter Fenner, Dr. Purusottoma Bilimoria, and Dr. Ian Weeks. Dr. Weeks has recently joined the Religious Studies group after some fourteen years in Religious Studies at McMaster University, Canada. Mr. Patrick Hutchings has a part-time commitment in Religious Studies and we have also been able to draw upon the help of Professor Diane Bell (author of *Daughters of the Dreaming*) who is head of Australian Studies at Deakin. Mr. John Hutnyk (Anthropology, University of Melbourne) has also acted as part-time tutor in 1988.

A major sequence of courses in Religious Studies is now available. *Religious Experience* is offered at level 1, *Religious Systems* is offered at level 2, and *Religious Investigations* is available at level 3. As the majority of our students are off campus, special teaching and learning materials have been devised for these courses. (These materials — study guides, readers etc. — are for sale from Deakin University Press.)

Religious Experience has recently been revised and comprises an introduction to the philosophical implications of the claim that there is a special kind of religious experience, together with studies of classical Christian mysticism, the Bhagavad Gita and Australian Aboriginal Religion. The second level course, *Religious Systems*, is

also being completely revised and it is anticipated that the new course will be concerned with the comparative study of the social and personal dimensions of life in a number of religions.

Postgraduate enrolments are steadily increasing, with students working on topics ranging from Troeltsch's Christian social theory, to fundamentalism, to the religious dimensions of bioethics.

Dr. P. Bilimoria has recently completed a work on 'authorless' revelation in the Mimamsa tradition. Dr. P. Fenner is continuing his research into Tibetan Buddhism and Buddhist therapeutics. Dr. I. Weeks is working on 'sacred space', and Professor M.J. Charlesworth is studying the religious dimensions of Australian Aboriginal art. Dr. Bilimoria and Dr. Fenner have recently jointly edited *Religions and Comparative Thought: Essays in Honour of Dr. Ian Kesarcodi-Watson*, Sri Satguru Publications, Delhi, 1988, and Professor Charlesworth continues to edit *Sophia — A Journal for Discussion in Philosophical Theology*, now in its twenty-sixth year.

Dr. Fenner has recently completed study leave during which he finished the translation of a Tibetan text. Dr. Bilimoria attended the American Association of Religion in Boston in 1987 and the Radhakrishnan Centennial Conference in Ohio in 1988 and Professor Charlesworth has been invited to be Visiting Scholar at the Centre for Religious Studies, University of Toronto, Canada.

—Max Charlesworth
Deakin University

La Trobe University

Dr. Joe Hoffmann has left us to return to the United States. He has been replaced for the remainder of 1988 by Dr. Greg Horsley, formerly of Macquarie University. Dr. Paul Rule has replaced Dr. John Painter (on leave) as Head of the Division of Religious Studies. Two four-year fixed term lectureships have been advertised in Sanskrit/Indian Religions and Hellenistic Greek/Early Christianity.

— Paul Rule
Division of Religious Studies

From New South Wales

Department of Religious Studies, University of Sydney

Several members of the Department of Religious Studies in the University of Sydney will attend the AASR Conference in Brisbane. Dr. Rachael Kohn will give a paper on 'Scholars and Missionaries in 19th Century England'.

The Second Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies was held successfully in Sydney in July 1988. A Conference Report will appear in the next issue of the *REVIEW*.

Elie Wiesel, the foremost speaker and writer on the Holocaust, and Nobel Peace Prize winner, will visit Australia in late August. He will speak in Melbourne August 25, and at the Sydney Entertainment Centre August 28.

— Rachael Kohn
University of Sydney

Notes from New Zealand

Religious Studies already has a firm footing at Massey, Victoria, Canterbury and Otago universities. Now the University of Waikato (Hamilton), has appointed Doug Pratt its first lecturer in Religious Studies. With degrees in both philosophy and theology Doug Pratt had already been teaching courses in the history of Christian thought while university chaplain at Waikato.

To the list of courses dealing with women in religions in the first issue of the *REVIEW* should now be added the University of Otago's course which will begin next year and, initially, deal with Christianity and Buddhism.

Collections of readings on a variety of subjects have been compiled recently by some energetic staff members. Elizabeth Isichei (Victoria) has compiled 'readers' on Christianity in Africa, Religion in the Pacific, and Primal Religion and has in hand one on Women in Religion. Jim Veitch (also Victoria) is preparing a collection of material relating to early Christian literature. Massey University (Palmerston North) has special responsibility for developing extra-mural courses and Renée Turner has prepared a first-rate course-guide for her course on Women in Religion. Of interest in this connection

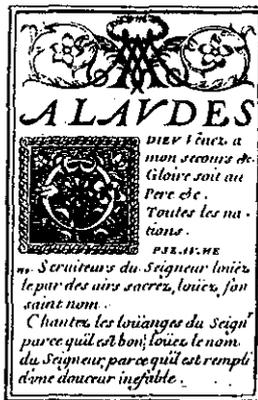
also is a thesis submitted recently at Canterbury: Hally Cederman, 'Women in the *Mahabharata*'.

At the NZASR conference last year Bill Shepard raised issues relating to the television showing of the documentary film, "The Sword of Islam". Despite various efforts by the association and by Bill personally, Television One could not be persuaded to include any commentary. Subsequently Bill organised a well-attended Continuing Education course on the film and has available material prepared for it.

The first issue of the *REVIEW* included a preliminary notice about the biennial conference of the New Zealand Association for the Study of Religions which will be held at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, from 21-25 August 1989. Enquiries should be directed to Dr. Norman Simms of the English Department at that university.

The Yana newsletter is issued twice yearly (June and December) and contains fuller news about developments in New Zealand. It is currently edited by and available from Colin Brown at the University of Canterbury.

— Colin Brown
University of Canterbury



Inaugural Conference on Ecumenism

Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education

Tuesday 15 November — Wednesday 16 November 1988

Riverina Campus of RMIHE

The Conference has been arranged by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences with Dr. Reg Naulty, Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies as Conference Organiser.

Keynote Speakers

Bishop Bede Heather of Parramatta
"Ecumenism in Australia now"

Rev. Campbell Egan, B.A., B.D., M.Th., Minister
of St. Columba's, Braddon, A.C.T.
"Ecumenism at the Local Level"

Professor M.A. El Erian, Asian History Centre
Australian National University
"Ecumenism: An Islamic Perspective"

Call for papers

Papers are invited from clergymen, academics and lay people qualified to speak on Ecumenism. Papers should be of twenty minutes duration. Offers of papers should be sent to Dr. Reg Naulty, Conference Organiser, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, PO Box 588, Wagga Wagga 2650 by 7 August and include the proposed title and an abstract of up to 300 words.

Registration

Interested people are invited to register for this conference. Registration forms can be obtained from Dr. Reg Naulty (Phone 069-232684). Registrations close on 1 November 1988.

Sixth East-West Philosophers' Conference

Call for Papers on "Culture and Modernity"
July 30 - August 12, 1989
Honolulu, Hawaii

In 1939 Charles A. Moore convened the first East-West Philosophers' Conference at the University of Hawaii. Its aim was to explore the significance of Eastern ways of thinking for Western thought and the development of a possible synthesis of the ideas and ideals of East and West. Subsequently, East-West Philosophers' conferences were held in 1949, 1959, and 1964 under Professor Moore's leadership, and in 1969 under the direction of Visiting Professor Abraham Kaplan. These conferences moved ahead considerably from the initial "synthesis" approach to an examination of specific philosophical issues and themes which could be addressed from the background of different cultural perspectives.

A Sixth East-West Philosophers' Conference is now scheduled to be held in Hawaii, July 30 - August 12, 1989, on the general theme "Culture and Modernity". Within this broad theme the Conference will focus primarily on the "Authority of the Past", examining such basic concepts as appropriation and interpretation, canon and creativity, tradition and progress. These concepts will be examined within three general areas of cultural interest: art and religion; morality and political institutions; science and technology.

Among the distinguished philosophers who will be presenting plenary papers are: Richard Bernstein, Arthur C. Danto, Alasdair MacIntyre, Hilary Putnam, Richard Rorty (USA); D.P. Chattopadhyaya, Daya Krishna, Bimal Matilal (India); Fenq Qi, Chang Tainian, Jiang Tianji (PRC); Liu Shu-hsien (Hong Kong); Y. Yuasa (Japan); Marcello Pera (Italy); Ilkka Niiniluoto (Finland); S. Stojanovic (Yugoslavia); Karl-Otto Apel (Germany); Kwame Gyekye (Ghana);

Francisco Quesada (Peru). In addition to plenary presentations, panels will be held on a number of related topics. It is expected that approximately 150 philosophers will participate in the Conference.

A limited number of scholars interested in participating, through the financial support of their own institutions, will be selected to present papers in special panel sessions. They will be able to attend all conference sessions and planned cultural activities. Special panels on the following themes will be organized:

- Relativity of Judgment in Art and Religion
- Evolving Concepts of the Self: East and West
- Rights and Rites
- Post-Modernist Challenges to Traditional Conceptions of Philosophy
- Gender Issues in Ethics and Social Philosophy
- Relationships between Science/Technology and the Understanding of Human Cognitive Processes

Abstracts of papers and Vitaes should be sent to the Director by May 30, 1988. Those selected will be informed by June 30, 1988. [This deadline has been extended for Australia and New Zealand — please write to Professor Deutsch immediately if submitting a proposal. Ed.]

The Conference is being sponsored by the Department of Philosophy at the University of Hawaii (Manoa) and the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, in cooperation with the East-West Center. An international committee under the chairmanship of Tu Weiming

(Harvard) and a Steering Committee constituted by various members of the Department of Philosophy and representatives from the Society will assist Eliot Deutsch (Hawaii) who will be Director of the Conference. Wing-tsit Chan (Dartmouth, Columbia), who attended the first conference, is Honorary Chairman.

For further information, write to:

Director
East-West Philosophers' Conference
University of Hawaii
2530 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822 USA

AARE Conference Report

12th National-Biennial Conference of the Australian Association for Religious Education (A.A.R.E.) ... A Report

The theme for the recent conference (July 3-8) was Australian Identity and Spirituality with a sub-theme: Religious Education for a Society in Transition. One hundred and sixty Christian religious educators from all states of Australia and New Zealand gathered at St. Joseph's College to consider the issues of today.

The Keynote Address was given by Rev. Don Meadows, Director of Eremos Institute of Sydney and under the title "Australians and Religion" raised basic issues concerning the place of religion in our society and elements of an Australian spirituality.

The process used was to have two talks each morning, the first being given by Fr. Tony Kelly CSSR on the main theme, and the second focussing on a series of issues related to the sub-theme. The group then had the opportunity in a Workshop group to reflect on their input and where appropriate to consider practical application to their area of ministry.

Tony Kelly, who has written quite extensively on Australian Spirituality and is a lecturer in Theology at Yarra Theological Union, chose to use a reflective style of presentation and drew extensively on Australian Poetry in his presentation. The titles of his talks were:

- The Australian Silence: Where does our faith hide?

- Having a Heart: With whom do we stand?
- The Australian Conversation: Do our minds even meet?
- Saving our Souls: Where are they lost?
- The Spirit of Religious Education: Can we be mystics?

The following shows the range of speakers and topics and thus the issues considered:

- The Influential Environment
 - The Rev. Ann Wansborough (UCA Board, Social Responsibility)
- The Family and Personal Relationships in Australia
 - John Graham (Lecturer, Catholic College of Education)
- The Influential Media
 - James Dibble (ABC/Media personality)
- Australia — An Affluent Society?
 - The Rev. Dr. Gordon Moyes (Wesley Central Mission)
- The Church in a Pluralist Society
 - Dr. David Millikan (Head of ABC Religious Broadcasting)

An International perspective on R.E. was provided by Professors Gabriel Moran and Maria Harris of New York State University. Gabriel Moran highlighted the differences both in terminology and approach to R.E., between the United

Kingdom and United States, pointing to the special role that Australia has in the ongoing debate about appropriate terminology for the teaching of Religion. Maria Harris outlined the emerging significance of the role of the feminist perspective in providing relevant metaphors for the Art of Teaching R.E. in a time of technological dominance.

Especially well received was Les Murray, who spoke about the role of the poet in the wider Australia context. Much of this text was taken from the Aquinas Memorial Lecture 1987, "Embodiment and Incarnation". His presentation was enhanced by the reading of his own more pertinent poems.

The Aboriginal elements of Australian identity and spirituality were presented early in the Conference by Joyce Jukes from the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry

Team at Mt. Druitt and Gail Jose, the Liaison Officer with the Sydney Catholic Education Office. Their stories and the material they showed were both moving and challenging.

Participants were given the opportunity to take part in visits to various agencies and to see some of the exhibitions etc. that Sydney had to offer in this Bicentennial Year. The Conference also offered the opportunity for ecumenical worship and fellowship that has always been a special feature of the Association.

Some of the papers presented will be published in the next issue of the Association's journal — *Religious Education Journal of Australia*.

—Pat Malone
President NSW Branch AARE

The VIIIth World Sanskrit Conference, 1990

The Department of Indology of the University of Vienna has the honour of inviting you to participate in the VIIIth World Sanskrit Conference of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies which will take place at the University of Vienna from August 27 to 2 September 1990.

Jaina Studies
Philosophy
Sciences
History
Law and Society
Ritual
Art and Archeology
Study of Manuscripts

Topics

Indian Grammar
Linguistic Studies
Modern Sanskrit
Sanskrit and Computer
Vedic Studies
Epic and Puranic Studies
Agamas and Tantras
Sanskrit Poetry and Drama
Hinduism
Buddhist Studies

Deadline for abstracts: December 1, 1989.

For information, write to:

VIIIth World Sanskrit Conference
Universität Wien
Institut Für Indologie
Universitätsstraße 7
A-1010 Wien
Austria-Europe

त्वम् अक्षरं सद् असत् तत्परं यत् ॥

World Conference on Religion and Peace Australia

18-28 January 1989

Monash University, Melbourne

Monash University will host the 5th Assembly of the World Conference on Religion and Peace, a multi-faith assembly on the theme: Building Peace through Trust – the Role of Religion.

Volunteers and donations needed; speakers available for local groups in preparation.

To be included on mailing list, please contact the President (WCRP Australia):

Rev'd Philip Higgins
Chaplain's Office
Monash University
Clayton, Victoria 3168
Phone: (03) 565 3162