

Newslink!

Creative Job Opportunity

The Australian Research Council has recently awarded A/Prof Alan Black a grant of \$202,000 for a three year study, in collaboration with the National Church Life Survey (NCLS), on "Churches and local communities in a changing and diverse Australia".

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and interested persons for appointment as Research Associates. Successful applicants will be employed by the University of New England and work in a team with the existing NCLS staff. They will need to demonstrate a capacity for teamwork and possess analytical and organisational abilities, research and presentational skills. Experience in survey design and analysis would be an advantage.

The available positions may be offered on a full or part-time basis for an initial term of one or two years with the possibil-

ity of an extension for a further fixed term. Preferred location is Sydney. Salary: \$A29,554-\$A40,087 full-time, depending on qualifications and experience; pro rata for part-time. Position no.520.

For further information and details of method of application, please contact A/Prof Alan Black, Department of Sociology, University of New England NSW 2351, Phone (067)73 2513, fax (067)73 3748, email ablack@metz.une.edu.au

Applications for the above positions to be addressed to the Director, Personnel Services, University of New England, Armidale, NSW, 2351, telephone (067) 73 2678, fax (067) 733721 and should include the names, addresses, telephone numbers, fax numbers, email addresses of three relevant referees and should state the relevant position number and must be received prior to the closing date.

State News

New South Wales

University of New England

The Studies of Religion Program within the Philosophy Department contin-

ues to grow, with an advanced reading unit added to the offerings for 1996. That allows for a full major to be undertaken within the Program from next year. We have also added Honours to our offerings,

so that the Postgraduate opportunities now comprise the full range of Honours, MLitt, MA, and PhD. Class numbers continue to grow particularly in the advanced units.

My two-month research stay in Germany was very productive. As well as doing work in the libraries of Tübingen and Bonn, I attended the SNTS conference in Prague in early August where I gave a pa-

per on the Gospel of Philip. Recently I have been awarded two publishing contracts: from Oxford University Press, New York, for a textbook on Women and Religion; and from T&T Clark for my (almost complete) book on Jesus in the Nag Hammadi writings.

Majella Franzmann

Queensland

University of Queensland

The Department of Studies in Religion at UQ is experiencing a temporary depletion of its staff membership this semester owing to the simultaneous departure of two people on study leave. Phil Almond is in London and Michael Lattke is in Germany. On the other hand we have been joined temporarily by Professor Nick Gier of the University of Idaho. Prof Gier, who is devoting his time here to researching a book on Titanism, gave a well-received departmental seminar titled 'The Virtue of Non-violence'.

Lynne Hume has been invited to be guest editor for a special paganism edition (September 1995) of the journal *Social Alternatives*. Lynne will be taking study leave during the first half of 1996 to complete her book on modern Paganism in Australia. Also, in April 1996, she will be attending the international conference on the Anthropology of Consciousness in the US.

Richard Hutch attended the XVII Congress of IAHR presenting a paper, 'Political Extremism, Torture, and Mystical Selfhood: Lessons from Lebanon'. From Mexico City he went on to New York to participate in the Psychology of Religion

Division of the American Psychological Association.

Ross Reat was on study leave during the first semester working on the final draft of his book *Buddhism: An Introduction*. His introductory subject - Belief and Unbelief - continues to attract increasingly large enrolments, this year topping one hundred.

Ed Conrad has developed two new subjects this year. One of them - The Bible and Feminist Interpretation - is offered jointly with the English Department. The other - Controversies in Biblical Interpretation - focuses on issues relating to the Bible arising in contemporary Australian culture.

Rod Bucknell continues to manage to balance the two side of his joint appointment in this Department and the Department of Asian Languages and Studies. He has recently acquired three new PhD students, all working on various aspects of Buddhist studies.

Altogether nine PhD students have begun in the department this year. Their research areas include: the Paramitas (perfections) in Mahayana Buddhism; the Westernisation of Buddhism; Candrakirti's Madhyamika; good and evil in early Buddhism and Christianity; the in-

fluence of Asia on Australian spirituality; the symbolism of Korean master Choe Suun; hermeneutics of the Atonement; and the Bible and the American Revolution. Overall, the department this year has

the largest number of students (undergraduate and postgraduate) in its history.

Rod Bucknell

[Rod was also the only member of the UQ team to brave it to Ballarat! Ed]

NZ News

from The Yana

Auckland - St John's College

Noted feminist theologian Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza visited in August as the Selwyn Lecturer and gave a number of public lectures and seminars in Auckland, Dunedin and Christchurch

Canterbury

Sanskrit is being taught at Canterbury by Paul Harrison at a Stage III level. The course is designed to give students advancing to Honours in Buddhism or Hinduism the basic linguistic tools.

Paul Harrison spent 1994 on Sabbatical leave with February-July at Balliol at Oxford, August-September in the Himalayas at Tabo Monastery, and October-November as Visiting Professor in the Graduate School at Otani University in Kyoto.

Bo Sax presented a paper in February to a symposium on the Wild Goddess in South Asia at the University of Bern and at the Folk Museum of the University of Zürich.

Massey

Massey's venture with TVNZ in open learning continues with weekly broadcasts in World Religions A and B through Autumn and Spring Semesters. Two on-campus religion papers have been offered at the Albany campus this year. A Diploma in Humanities (Religious Studies) has been offered internally and externally in 1995 to graduate students.

Adrienne Wyatt from Otago has been appointed half-time lecturer at Massey's Albany campus.

Brian Colless attended a conference on the Near East at Melbourne and Peter Donovan gave the British Association for the Study of Religions Annual lecture at their 40th conference.

Otago

Barbara Reid from Catholic Theological Seminary, Chicago will lecture in September on women in Luke and Acts.

Otago has been able to offer a Single BA Honours in Religious Studies this year made possible by using courses provided by Classics, Geography, History, and Philosophy. Elizabeth Isichei is teaching a new course (second semester) in New Religious Movements and Douglas

Campbell a new year long course on Christian Origins.

Victoria

Thomas Luckmann, University of Konstanz, gave a public lecture on the transcendent in contemporary life in March.

Paul Morris is hoping to issue an invitation to Hanz Küng to visit NZ in 1996 and would like to hear from other unis interested in supporting his visit. Contact Paul on email Paul.Morris@uw.ac.nz if your department could perhaps help transfer the load across the Tasman.

Paul has taught a new first semester course on Death, Dying and Religion. A whole new schedule of courses has been accepted for 1996 with 2 at Year 1 level, 9 at Year 2, 8 at Year 3, and 10 at Year 4. Victoria currently has 4 students at Masters level and 12 at PhD. Jim Irwin was recently awarded his Doctorate.

Two new staff are appointed to commence in 1996. Morten Schlütter is a graduate in Chinese Studies of the University of Copenhagen. He will be responsible for a new course in Chinese and Japanese Religion and assist with courses in Buddhism and comparative introductory courses in Asian Religions. Kate Blackstone who is completing her Doctorate at McMaster will teach the new course on Hinduism; women and religion and part of the Buddhism course.

Waikato

Dr Padmasiri de Silva, Sri Lankan philosopher, currently in Philosophy at Monash has been guest lecturer in Religious Studies from April to June lecturing on Buddhist religion and philosophy.

Religious Studies is being offered as a major for the BA for the first time this year. Norman Simms offered a new course on the Jewish Kabbalah in first Semester.

Australian Conferences

Australasian Psychology of Religion Network

26-30 September, Perth

Contact: Cynthia Dixon

Religion and Philosophy

Edith Cowan University

Mount Lawley 6050

email: Cynthia.Dixon@cowan.edu.au

Professional and Applied Ethics

28-30 September, Brisbane

Theme: Ethics in Practice - applying ethics in workplace and society

Contact: Ron Marks, St John's College, St Lucia 4067 Tel: 07-871-8312

Fax: 07-870-5124

Islam, Modernity, Globalisation

29-30 September, Deakin - Toorak

Contact: Siew-Mee Fong

School of Social Inquiry

Faculty of Arts

Deakin University 3217

email: siewmee@deakin.edu.au

Religion, Literature and the Arts

18-21 January 1996, Sydney

Contact: Michael Griffith

ACU

Strathfield 2135

Ph: 02-739-2192, Fax: 02-739-2105

*****AASR*****

5-7 July 1996, Christchurch NZ
 Combined conference with NZ Religious Studies Conference

Contact: Jane Simpson email: j.simpson@phil.canterbury.ac.nz

Overseas Conferences Coming Up !

Society for Applied Sociology

12-15 October, San Diego CA

Theme: Sociology 2000: A Vision for our Future

Contact: Duane Dukes
 John Carroll University
 University Heights
 OH 44118
 email: dukes@jcvaxa.jcu.edu

The Power of the Millennium

19-20 October, Berkeley CA

An interdisciplinary conference to explore the theology and imagery of the Millennium, and its positive and negative manifestations in our culture past and present.

Contact: The Millennial Studies Task Force
 The President's Office
 Graduate Theological Union
 2400 Ridge Road
 Berkeley CA 94709

Religious Research Association

27-29 October, St Louis Mo

Theme: Religion and American Pluralism

Contact: Jim Spickard, Dept of Sociology & Anthropology, University of Redlands, Redlands CA 92373 email: spickard@ultrix.uor.edu

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

27-29 October, St Louis MO

Theme: Women and Religion

Contact: Barbara Denison - email: denison@lvc.edu

Social Science History Association Annual Convention

16-19 November, Chicago IL

Contact Religion Section: Lowell Gustafson, Department of Political Sciences, Villanova University, Villanova Pa 19085, email: gustafson@ucis.vill.edu

Contact Women/Gender Section: Carole Turbin, History and Sociology, Empire State College, SUNY, PO Box 130, 223 Store Hill Rd, Old Westbury NY 11568 Fax: 1-516-997-4942 email: cturbin@sescva.esc.edu

Media, Morality and Religion

25 November, Milton Keynes

Contact: Prof Ken Thompson, Faculty of Social Sciences, Open University, Milton Keynes MK7AA

Pluralism and the Religions. The Theological and Political Dimensions

25-27 November, Dublin

An international conference to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Irish School of Ecumenics

Contact: Irish School of Ecumenics, Pluralism and the Religions Conference, Milltown Park, Dublin 6, Ireland Tel: +353-1-260-1144, Fax: +353-1-260-1158

Academy for Cultural and Educational Studies

2 December, London

Theme: Pagans and Christians: A Contemporary Debate

Contact: Elisabeth Arweck, 15 Kirk Close, Oxford OX2 8JL

INFORM

2 December, London

Theme: The Millennium

Contact: Inform, Houghton St, London WC2A 2AE

Forum on Sociology and Theology

15-16 December, Liverpool

Contact: Katherine Birch, Department of Sociology, Liverpool Institute of Higher Education, Woolton Rd, Liverpool L16 8ND

Fifty Years After World War II: Christian-Jewish Relations and the Holocaust

25 December-1 January, 1996, Jerusalem

Contact: Dr Bernard Klein
Kingsborough Community College
2001 Oriental Blvd
Brooklyn
NY 11235
Fax: 1-718-368-4654

Media, Culture and Religion

11-14 January 1996, Boulder Colorado

Contact: Lynn Schofield Clark at clark1@ucsu.colorado.edu

Submissions to: Dr Stewart Hoover, Center for Mass Media Research, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Campus Box 287, University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder CO 80309

**British Sociological Association
Sociology of Religion Study Group**

1-4 April 1996, Twickenham

Theme: Religion, Culture and Ideology

Contact: Dr Sarah Potter, 71a High-bury Hill, London N5 1SX

British Sociological Association

1-4 April 1996, Reading

Theme: Worlds of the Future: Ethnicity, Nationalism and Globalisation

Contact: Kevin Brehony, Dept of Education Studies and Management, University of Reading, Bulmershe Court, Reading RG6 1HY

Nature Religion Today: Paganism, Shamanism, Esotericism

9-12 April 1996, Lancaster

Contact: Prof G Samuel, Department of Religious Studies, University of Lancaster, Lancaster LA1 4YG; email G.Samuel1@lancaster.ac.uk

XIX Denton Conference on Implicit Religion

10-12 May 1996, Bristol

Contact: Canon Dr Edward Bailey, Winterbourne Rectory, Bristol BS17 1JQ

British Centre for Durkheimian Studies

10-12 July 1996, Oxford

Theme: Durkheim and Modern Education Conference

Contact: W S F Pickering, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, 51 Banbury Rd, Oxford OX2 6PE

British Centre for Durkheimian Studies

26-29 September 1996, Oxford

Theme: Marcel Mauss Today Conference

Contact: W S F Pickering, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, 51 Banbury Rd, Oxford OX2 6PE

Religious Speech Communication Association

23-26 November 1996, San Diego CA

Contact: Carrie Peirce-Jones
c/ Department of Communications
238 Grehan Building
University of Kentucky
Lexington KY 40506-0042
Fax: 1-606-257-7818

**Leiden Institute for the Study of
Religions**

9-10 January 1997, Leiden

Theme: Canonisation and Decanonisation
in Religious Traditions

Contact: LISOR Conference
P B 9515
2300 RA Leiden
The Netherlands
Fax: 31-71-272571

Journals in Religion

Two relevant journals have changed their name or mailing details. Perhaps the new format may be more appealing or you can con the librarian.

Journal of Contemporary Religion

This was formerly known as *Religion Today* and while I have found it in England, I haven't tracked it down in Oz. It comes out of the Centre for New Religions, King's College London and is currently edited by Dr Peter Clarke. Since 1984 it has provided a forum for discussion and analysis of new religions. From Volume 10, 1995 it has been expanded to include, in addition to the NRM focus, articles on contemporary developments and trends within mainstream churches and other world religions.

Contributions should be sent to Elisabeth Arweck, Centre for New Religions, Department of Theology, King's College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS, UK
Subscriptions:

Order: *Journal of Contemporary Religion* (ISSN 1353-7903) Vol 10, 1995 from:
Carfax Publishing Company
Locked Bag 25
Deakin ACT 2600
Fax: 06-282-3299
Rates: Personal £20; Institution £74

Method and Theory in the Study of Religion

With issue 5.1 (Spring 1995) Mouton de Gruyter of Berlin is the new publisher. Also MTSR is now the journal of the North American Association for the Study of Religion.

Contributions can be sent to The Editors, Centre for the Study of Religion, 123 St George Street, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2E8.

email: baranows@epas.utoronto.ca

For individual subscriptions contact:
Luther H Martin NAAASR Executive
Secretary email: lmartin@uvmvm.bitnet
AASR members are eligible for a discount through our IAHR affiliation.

More Electronic Games!!

New groups in which members may be interested:

BIBLE-L - Discussion List on the Bible

To subscribe send the message

Sub Bible-l yourfirstname yourlast-
name

to:

listserv@gitvm1.gatech.edu

Owner: Jason Slack:

jslack2@ocmvm.onondaga.bo-
ces.k12.ny.us

ChristLit - Christianity and Literature Discussion Group

To subscribe send the message
subscribe ChristLit our name
in the BODY of the message to: list-
serv@bethel.edu

Owner and moderator: Daniel Ritchie,
English Dept Bethel College
d.ritchie@bethel.edu

Feminist Theology

To subscribe send:
subscribe feminist-theology yourname
to:

mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk

Owner: Natalie Knodel: natalie
knodel@durham.ac.uk

Ministry - focus on parish and community ministry

To subscribe send message:

subscribe ministry firstname lastname
to:

listserv@ls.csbsju.edu

Owner: Kenneth Udut:
kudut@ritz.mordor.com

Sister-l - the history and contemporary concerns of Catholic women religious

To subscribe send:

subscribe sister-l ourfullname

to:

listserv@svm.syr.edu

Owner: Margaret Susan Thompson,
Syracuse U: thompson@maxwell.syr.edu