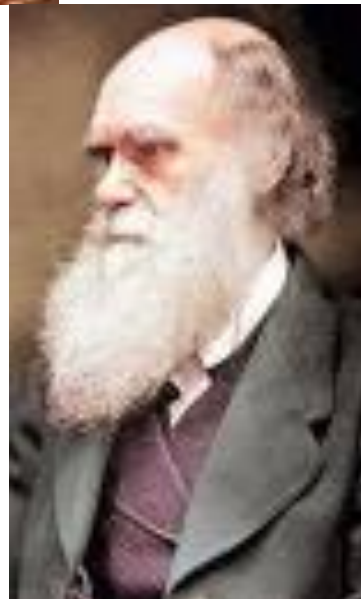




Melbourne College of Divinity

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www.mcd.edu.au

Postgraduate Research Newsletter: Summer 2008



Staff Changes at the Melbourne College of Divinity

New Director of Research

In August this year, MCD farewelled Dr Albert Haig as Director of Research, and welcomed Dr Mark R. Lindsay as his replacement. Mark has a strong background in pastoral ministry, as well as in higher education teaching, research and administration. Before joining the MCD, Mark spent three years as a Baptist pastor, combining that role with studies towards ordination and teaching systematic theology at Whitley College. He has worked previously at The University of WA, Trinity College in Melbourne, and as a Visiting Fellow in Inter-Faith Relations in Cambridge. His particular area of expertise is the theology of Karl Barth, on whom he has published two books and 20+ journal articles. He also teaches and writes in the field of post-Holocaust theology. In addition to his role at MCD, Mark is a Fellow of the School of Historical Studies at the University of Melbourne, a Research Associate with the Centre for the Study of Religion and Politics at the University of St. Andrews, and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

1. Introduction

With 2008 coming to a rapid close, it is time to begin thinking about the coming year, and what a year it promises to be! 2009 is certain to be a year full of exciting events and opportunities. In December, Melbourne will play host to the Parliament of World Religions, at which 10,000+ delegates are expected to gather (see <http://www.parliamentofreligions.org/index>). MCD is hoping to have some representation there. 2009 also sees the 800th anniversary of the founding of the Franciscan Order, the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth, and the 150th anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of the Species* (hence the 3 pictures at the front of this letter!). Melbourne conferences are planned for the last two anniversaries, with further details to be published through the MCD as they come to hand.

For many candidates, 2009 will be somewhat more low-key— but nonetheless vital —and will be a year of consolidating research and writing. Some of you will face approval, confirmation and upgrade panels, while others will be looking forward to submission and life after postgraduate research.

Whatever the year may hold, please remember that the research coordinators at the various RTIs (of whom there is a list at the end of this newsletter), as well as the staff in the Research Office at the MCD, are available and willing to assist in whatever ways are possible and necessary.

Please contact us before a problem becomes a crisis!

2. HDR Working Procedures

Please be reminded that *all* HDR candidates and supervisors should be familiar with the Working Procedures for HDR programs. These procedures, which are available on the MCD website at http://www.mcd.edu.au/re_procedures.html, guide you through the various stages of your candidature and should be read in conjunction with the Regulation governing your particular degree, as well as Regulation 2 (General Academic Provisions) and Reg.26 (Examination of Theses).

3. Re-enrolment for 2009

All research students are required to re-enrol each year, even if you intend to submit. If you have not yet done so, you need to download the form from the MCD website (available at <http://www.mcd.edu.au/forms/Re-enrolmentPGResearch.pdf>) and make appointments to see your supervisor and research coordinator to discuss your ongoing candidature for 2009. Please send the completed and signed re-enrolment form to the MCD Kew office as soon as possible.

Re-enrolment must be completed by 2 February 2009.

4. HDR Annual Report for 2008

MCD guidelines require the submission of annual report forms as a condition of HDR candidature. It is the responsibility of each HDR student to complete and submit this form for every year of candidature. Forms for 2008 were due in on Friday 26 September. If you have not yet submitted your form, you must do so before re-enrolling for 2009. The form is available on the MCD website at <http://www.mcd.edu.au/forms/HDRstudentannualprogressreportform.pdf>

The form needs to be completed in consultation between the candidate and her or his supervisor/s.

5. Payment of fees

Please note that the following fees apply for 2009:

- **Master of Theology, Master of Arts, Master of Ministry**

Full-time study

\$6,192 (over three semesters - \$2,064 per semester)

Part-time study

Minor thesis candidates: \$1,032 for each of two postgraduate units, plus

\$1,032 per semester over four semesters (thesis)

Major thesis candidates: \$1,032 per semester over six semesters.

- **Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Theology, Doctor of Ministry Studies**

Full-time study:

\$23,970 over six semesters (\$7,990 per year)

Part-time study:

Doctor of Theology, Doctor of Philosophy: \$1,997.50 per semester

Doctor of Ministry Studies: \$1,032 for each of 7 coursework units ; research @ \$1,997.50 per semester; oral defence,\$766.

If you have a query regarding your fees, please speak in the first instance with the Manager of Research Administration, Ms Sophia Soediro.

6. Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC)

HREC Seminar 18 March 2009: venue tba

An information seminar on HREC – its purpose and procedures – will be held on 18 March 2009. This will be an important opportunity to become familiar with the reasons why ethical clearance is necessary, with the process that is followed by the Human Research Ethics Committee in evaluating applications, and with some changes to the procedures that will be trialled during 2009. A presentation will also be made that will provide advice on how to make a good application. Please put this in your diary and plan to come along. Further details will be sent out early in the new year.

HREC Annual Progress and Final Reports

All students in receipt of ethical clearance from the MCD HREC are required to submit an annual report on their research. The report form is available on the MCD website at:

<http://www.mcd.edu.au/forms/HRECProgressReport.pdf>

The report is due annually at the date of your HREC clearance notification. A final report is due on submission of your thesis.

7. Postgraduate Research Seminars

All HDR candidates are expected to present at least one paper at a research seminar during the period of their candidature. These are important opportunities to present your research before your peers and, by doing so, receive constructive feedback that can then help refine your thesis. The first two seminars

for 2009 will be held on 17th and 19th March, at venues yet to be arranged. Please also invite and encourage your supervisor(s) to attend when you are presenting!

Question: at present, research seminars are divided by Field groups (A & B; C & D). While this makes administering them easier, it does not adequately facilitate inter-disciplinary engagement. I would be very keen to hear from all HDR students on the question of whether or not in 2010 the seminars should be opened up to all candidates from all fields. Please let me know your thoughts on this, by email, at directorofresearch@mcd.edu.au

8. Coming MCD events and MCD research dates for 2009

HDR orientation and information day

A postgraduate student information day will be held on 12 March. Amongst other things, this will serve as an orientation to research candidature for new students, as well as an introduction to higher critical research—what it's about, what the stages are, where it might lead—to prospective candidates. I will be in contact as soon as I have a date and venue.

Other dates

- 2 February 2009: closing date for HDR re-enrolments
- 6 February: closing date for research grant applications
- 16 February 2009: closing date for HREC applications (March meeting)
- 17 February 2009: postgraduate research seminar (Fields A & B)
- 19 February 2009: postgraduate research seminar (Fields C & D)
- 18 March: HREC information seminar
- 1 May 2009: annual conferral ceremony

9. Scholarships and Grants

Everyone knows that tertiary education is an increasingly expensive venture—even at the MCD, where our tuition costs are very low compared to other universities. For this reason, MCD is pleased to be able to provide research funding for HDR candidates, through travel and conference grants, and a limited number of Commonwealth Government scholarships. Please refer to the MCD website for details of what funding may be available to assist you in your research, at http://www.mcd.edu.au/re_grants.html

Note that the closing date for the first round of research grants for 2009 is 6 February 2009.

Please plan ahead so that you get your application in well before your proposed conference travel.

Research Training Scheme

For all holders of Australian Postgraduate Awards and most doctoral candidates who have successfully completed a Confirmation Panel, Research Training Scheme (RTS) funding is available to cover tuition fees. RTS funding can be held by Australian citizens and permanent residents and by New Zealand citizens. From now on you will be advised by letter when you become eligible for an RTS place at MCD, and will be asked to indicate your acceptance or otherwise of the place. If you consider that you are eligible for RTS funding and have not been offered it, please contact Sophia Soediro: researchmanager@mcd.edu.au

10. Commercialisation Training Scheme

MCD receives funding from the Federal Government under the Commercialisation Training Scheme that enables enrolled doctoral students to undertake an approved Graduate Certificate in Commercialisation. The scheme is designed to assist doctoral candidates acquire the skills necessary to place their research findings within the broader public sphere. For humanities students, it is a particularly good way of learning how to turn the thesis into a book. For details on how to apply, please contact the Director of Research.

11. Publications

As with other Higher Education Providers that received Commonwealth Government research funding, publications are a key component in the method by which the Government decides how to distribute those funds. And of course, it is not only faculty members who publish, but also HDR students. Please inform us of any publications, or refereed conference papers, that have come out under your name during 2008. DEEWR points are an important source of funding for the MCD, and every contribution is greatly appreciated!

The due date for submission to MCD of 2008 publication data is **Friday 24 April 2009**. The HERDC (Higher Education Research Data Collection) guidelines for the 2009 collection of 2006 data are available on the DEEWR website at:

Forms for submission of publications data in the DEEWR categories of

- Book
- Book Chapter
- Journal Article
- Conference Proceeding (refereed)

and details of the required verification materials are available from the Director of Research directorofresearch@mcd.edu.au

Please also ensure that whenever you present a conference paper, or submit an article or chapter for publication, that MCD is listed as your home institution, either in a by-line or footnote. If your affiliation with MCD is not verifiable, we are unable to collect any points from your publication(s).

12. RTI Research Coordinators 2009

RTI (Recognised Teaching Institute)	Research Coordinator	Email address
Catholic Theological College (CTC)	Rev Dr Shane Mackinlay	smackinlay@ctc.edu.au
Churches of Christ Theological College (CCTC)	Rev Dr Alan Niven	aniven@cctc.vic.edu.au
United Faculty of Theology (UFT)	Dr Peter Sherlock	katharine.massam@ctm.uca.edu.au
Whitley College	Dr Mark Brett	mbrett@whitley.unimelb.edu.au
Yarra Theological Union (YTU)	Rev Dr Michael Kelly	m.kelly@ytu.edu.au
Melbourne College of Divinity (MCD)	Dr Mark R. Lindsay	directorofresearch@mcd.edu.au

13. Contact details

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