



Melbourne College of Divinity

Postgraduate Research Newsletter

Winter 2009

inside this issue

1	Introduction
2	2009 Conferral
3	MCD Digital Research Repository
4	Postgraduate Research Seminars
5	Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC)
6	Coming MCD events and MCD research dates for 2009
7	Forthcoming Conferences and Call for Papers
8	Scholarships and Grants
9	PREQ: Course Experience Questionnaire
10	Postgraduate Support Services
11	RTI Research Coordinators 2009
12	Contact Details

1. Introduction

Welcome to winter! I don't know about you, but after what felt like an interminable summer, the year seems now to be flying by. I do trust that all is progressing well for you, both in your research programs and in all the other areas of life with which you are busy.

Having just recently celebrated Pentecost, the following prayer seems particularly apt—both for the season, and for our shared endeavours:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

2. 2009 Conferral

On 8 May the MCD held its annual conferral ceremony. It was a very special and colourful occasion, at which the Hon. Brian Howe was awarded a Doctorate of Sacred Theology *honoris causa*, and Rev Dr Garry Deverell presented the graduation address. The text of the address is available on the MCD website. It was also a highly successful evening for research students, with the College awarding 15 doctorates (1 DMinStuds, 6 DTheols and 8 PhDs), and 15 masters (2 MMin, 5 MTheols and 8 MAs).

It was also announced on the night that the Dean of the MCD, Dr Paul Beirne, has been appointed a Professor of the Melbourne College of Divinity, in the field of Comparative Religions.

3. MCD Digital Research Repository

I am delighted to let you know that the MCD's digital repository—a web-based searchable warehouse of all of MCD's research output, from both faculty and HDR students—is now live on the web. This initiative, for which the MCD has received significant Federal Government

funding, will store electronic copies of books, chapters, journal articles, research theses, and various other research-related items produced by students and faculty. It is the result of many months of hard work by an MCD-wide working group and by staff here in the Kew office, and has been done in collaboration with both the University of Southern Queensland and the University of Southampton in the UK. As far as we are aware, this is the world's first dedicated theological repository and, by being searchable over the web, will present greater visibility for MCD-based researchers. The repository can be accessed at <http://repository.mcd.edu.au/>
+Congratulations to everyone involved!

4. Postgraduate Research Seminars

In the past few weeks, we have had two postgraduate seminars. I was delighted to see so many people engage with the presentations, both by delivering papers and by coming along to hear and ask questions. As always, I was amazed by the rich variety of topics that are being undertaken. Those who attended the seminars were able to hear presentations on subjects as diverse as: Christological insights into eco-theology; an analysis of Reformation sermons; spiritual care for sufferers of Asperger's Syndrome; and an exploration of theological themes in gardens and children's play.

With such diversity on offer, it is hardly surprising that I laugh to myself when colleagues at other universities label the MCD, somewhat derisively, as a 'single-discipline institution.' If only they knew what richness that single discipline actually produces!

5. Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC)

The May HREC meeting was cancelled due to there being no applications. Applications for the July HREC meeting are due by Monday 15 June.

6. Coming MCD events and MCD research dates for 2009

- HREC, 6 July. Closing date for applications, 15 June.
- July Research School, 20-24 July. To be held at the Centre for Theology and Ministry, 1 Morrison Close, Parkville. This is of particular relevance to MMin and DMinStuds candidates, especially for those who need to have their SRPs approved. The School is, however, open to all HDR students. *Note: due to low numbers, this School may be cancelled – confirmation will follow within the next week.*
- Postgraduate seminar, 28 July.
- ADVANCE NOTICE: Collegium and Residential School, November 2009. These two events were cancelled last year due to low enrolments. This year they will be held in closer proximity to the Parliament of World Religions, which is being held in Melbourne in early December, and will be designed to dovetail into it. Speakers for the Residential School will include Dr John Collins (YTU) and, hopefully, Professor George Hunsinger (Princeton Theological Seminary).

7. Forthcoming Conferences and Call for Papers

- 5-9 July: [The Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools](#) conference, on the theme 'Come, Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth'. The conference is being held at the Australian Lutheran College in Adelaide.
- 21-23 July: *After Darwin*: a conference to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of the Species*. The conference is being hosted by Trinity College Theological School and the Centre for Theology and Ministry.
- 21 August: *Calvin's Legacy*: a celebration of the 500th anniversary of

John Calvin's birth. This one-day conference is being held at the Centre for Theology and Ministry. The keynote address will be delivered by Prof. Elsie McKee, from Princeton Theological Seminary.

- 20-21 November: *Interpreting St Francis and St Clare in a Multi-religious Society: from the middle ages to the present*. To be held at YTU, in collaboration with the MCD and the Centre for Studies in Religion and Theology (Monash University).

8. Scholarships and Grants

Applications for Round Two of the research grants and scholarships have closed.

I remind candidates that, in addition to the Commonwealth Government scholarships, the MCD provides research funding for HDR students, through travel and conference grants. 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 third round of research grants for 2009 is Friday 25 September.

Please plan ahead so that you get your application in well before your proposed conference travel. Note that the MCD cannot fund conference travel retrospectively.

9. PREQ: Course Experience Questionnaire

Many of you will be familiar with the Australian Graduate Survey (AGS), which asks recent graduates to reflect and comment

upon their study experience through their Higher Education Provider. The Postgraduate Research Experience Questionnaire (PREQ) is the HDR component of the AGS.

The Australian Graduate Survey is an **extremely important** element in the public positioning of the MCD—if we get a 50% response rate, MCD is listed in the Good Universities Guide—but also in the ongoing and strategic improvement of MCD course provision. We need to receive and hear your feedback, both positive and negative, so that we can improve our teaching, supervision and administration.

PREQ forms will be sent out to students approximately 4 months after the completion of their course; when you receive your forms, *please take the time to complete and submit them.*

10. Postgraduate Support Services

Deborah Storie has recently attended various support seminars and workshops for HDR students run by the Melbourne School of Graduate Research at the University of Melbourne. Seminars she attended included Editing Your Thesis, EndNote, and Using Word for Your Thesis. Deborah has reported back that they were extremely useful, and are 'highly recommended.' Also available are various online helps, at http://www.infodiv.unimelb.edu.au/tss/user_guides/masterdocuments.pdf

If anyone else would like to attend such seminars, please be in touch.



11. RTI Research Coordinators 2009

RTI (Recognised Teaching Institution)	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.edu.au
ICSPF	Rev Dr Alan Niven	aniven@cctc.edu.au
United Faculty of Theology (UFT)	Dr Peter Sherlock	dean@uft.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

12. Contact details

Dr Mark R. Lindsay
Director of Research
Melbourne College of Divinity
21 Highbury Grove, Kew VIC 3101
Phone: (03) 9853 3177 Fax: (03) 9853 6695
Email: directorofresearch@mcd.edu.au
Website: www.mcd.edu.au



Dr Mark R Lindsay, Prof Paul Beirne and Elizabeth Anderson