



# The ANU Undergraduate Research Journal

Volume 10, 2020

EDITORS: BENJAMIN KOOYMAN, DANIEL MAY

# Introduction

As acting editors of the *ANU Undergraduate Research Journal*, it has been a pleasure to curate the 15 essays contained in this volume. Originally submitted as assessment tasks, for which all received High Distinctions, these essays have been further refined and honed by their authors to amplify their themes and messages for a broader readership. Whether original research undertakings or exemplary responses to prescribed questions, the authors have crafted exceptional essays, and anyone who chooses to read this volume cover to cover will embark on a stimulating multidisciplinary journey, from law to literature to archaeology to psychology to history to science to politics and beyond. Readers may also recognise some common preoccupations across essays.

The volume opens with two papers advocating for the preservation of Indigenous Australian languages, both emerging from practical work undertaken by their authors. Hannah Weston examines Indigenous language rights under international law in the Kimberley region of Australia, while Caroline Hendy reports on her substantial work creating an online Kriol language course. The next two papers undertake literary analyses: Zoe Smith explores the intertwining of sexual violence and colonial anxiety in two recent Australian texts—the film *The Proposition* and the book *Benang: From the Heart*—and Lucinda Janson illuminates working-class and animal rights themes in the classic *Black Beauty*.

Where Janson applies a new methodology—surface reading—to a classic text, Emma Tindal-Clarke applies an older theory—neofunctionalism—to the topical issue of Brexit in her essay. Following this, Alex Pan reviews letters, diaries, and photographs to elucidate Australian and international attitudes towards China in the early twentieth century, and Eleanor Armstrong explores the use of cricket as a vehicle for Australian cultural populism from colonial times to the present day.

Two papers with very different subjects and approaches remind us that science—indeed, all knowledge—is constantly evolving, being refined, challenged, or discarded. Brianna Muir takes readers into the dynamic world of recent discoveries broadening our picture of humanity’s biological ancestors and close relatives, while Tara Swanton reviews the various explanatory models proposed to explain schizophrenia and its associated treatments. The theme of change is also elaborated upon in Sophia Halloway’s discussion of ephemeral art in the National Gallery of Australia’s exhibition of Urs Fischer’s *Francesco*.

Two further essays examine models of power and politics—whether analytical or constitutional—and find them wanting: Andrei Aksenov demonstrates how Japanese leaders post-World War II played a two-level game in their relationship with nuclear weapons, and Bethany Jedlicka explores how the nation-state of Bolivia’s experimentation with plurinational political structures to integrate Indigenous sovereignty failed to resolve the issues it sought to address. The failures and shortcomings of policy are also elaborated upon in Eleanor Gundry’s analysis of lax antimicrobial stewardship in Australian nursing homes.

The volume closes with a pair of legal papers: Jan Mark considers the power and implications of the use of testimony in the Australian Human Rights Commission’s examination into Australia’s controversial immigration detention system, while Ruth Parsons contrasts the role of *amicus curiae* (‘friends of the court’) in apex courts in Australia and the United States to reveal the High Court of Australia’s allegiance to a doctrine of legalism.

We are grateful to all the contributing authors for their efforts, insights, and endurance. We also extend our thanks to the following: Cleve Arguelles, Beth Battrick, Joshua Black, Julia Brown, Thuy Do, Emily Gallagher, Tom Gardner, Tom Goodwin, Rebecca Kriesler, Clare Langley, Daisy Leung, Yirui Li, Joshua Ling, Alex Lombard, Annika Morling, Julian Moss, Dana Royle, Jillian Schedneck, Vivien Silvey, Tess Snowball, Michelle Staff, Daniel Wei-En Kang, Zihan Yin, Jiahuan Zhang, and the staff at ANU Press.

Benjamin Kooyman and Daniel May

Editors

# About the authors

## **Andrei Aksenov**

Andrei is in his final year of undergraduate study at ANU. He has a keen interest in Japanese foreign and security policy in general and its relationship with nuclear weapons in particular.

## **Eleanor Armstrong**

Eleanor is a Bachelor of Philosophy (Hons): Arts/Social Sciences and Diploma of Languages: French/German student, with a particular interest in social issues and their historical background in an Australian cultural context. These include education, young people, disability, mental health and wellbeing, gender, and human–animal relations in the environment. She has presented her interdisciplinary research at the PhB Symposium, ANU Student Research Conference, and Australasian Undergraduate Research Conference. Currently entering her Honours year in sociology, she hopes to pursue postgraduate study in public policy or social research, with an emphasis on the community sector and inclusive methods.

## **Eleanor Gundry**

Eleanor Gundry is a third-year Bachelor of Health Science student, interested in pursuing a career in medicine. She is particularly interested in understanding the challenges faced in the clinical setting from a public health perspective and how this can be translated into developing policies in the healthcare arena.

## **Sophia Halloway**

Sophia is an Honours student of art history and curatorship and currently works in private giving at the National Gallery of Australia. Her research interests include contemporary art, art criticism, and curatorial practice. Sophia's presentations and publications include her presentation 'Ephemeral Art and Material Culture' for the ANU Student Research Conference in 2019 and her essay 'White Cube to Black Mirror: Art in the Post-Internet Age' for Canberra Contemporary Art Space's *Tainted Love* exhibition catalogue. Her Honours thesis is titled 'Inherent vice: On material culture and the mortality of ephemeral art' and addresses the issue of ephemeral art in contemporary collections.

## **Caroline Hendy**

Caroline has completed a Bachelor of Languages with Honours in linguistics, focusing on two newer Australian Aboriginal languages, Kriol and Light Warlpiri. Since 2017, she has also been a collaborator on the description of Wiru, a Trans-New Guinea language. Caroline has been awarded a Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship to continue her studies in linguistics in the United States in 2020.

## **Lucinda Janson**

Lucinda is a PhB graduate who undertook her Honours year in English in 2019. Her thesis adopted an intertextual approach to explore the classical Roman influences on Lord Byron's *Don Juan* and their implications for the poem's genre. She is also interested in nineteenth-century aestheticism.

## **Bethany Jedlicka**

Bethany has been an undergraduate student at ANU since 2016. She is currently completing a double degree in development studies and arts (English literature). As part of her Bachelor of Development Studies she has studied politics, international relations, and anthropology, and enjoys writing on these topics within an interdisciplinary framework.

## **Jan Mark**

Jan Mark is a fourth-year student at ANU, studying a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and a Bachelor of International Security Studies, with a minor in Chinese language.

## **Brianna Muir**

Brianna completed her Honours as a student in the School of Archaeology and Anthropology at ANU. She has undertaken fieldwork in the Philippines, Vanuatu, and Australia. Her research areas include human evolution, sexual dimorphism in the hominin record, and social bioarchaeology.

## **Alex Pan**

Alex is a Bachelor of Philosophy student majoring in history. He has a general interest in modern Chinese history, especially aspects of social history of the Republican era (1912–1949). He has previously presented coursework research projects, including the original paper his article is based on, at the Australasian Conference of Undergraduate Research.

## **Ruth Parsons**

Ruth graduated with a Bachelor of Policy Studies (First Class Honours) in 2018, receiving the LF Crisp Memorial Prize for Political Science. She is now completing a Bachelor of Laws (Honours). Ruth's contribution to this journal was submitted as part of the requirements for the University of Alabama Law School Summer Program 2019.

## **Zoe A Smith**

Zoe is in the final year of her Bachelor of Arts at ANU, double majoring in history and English. Her research interests include social conceptions of gender throughout British and Australian history, particularly in both the Tudor era and the nineteenth century, and utilising gender and feminist theoretical lenses to interrogate both Australian and British literature. This is her first published academic article; however, a substantially condensed version was published on the *History Matters* blog of the University of Sheffield, where she recently completed a semester abroad. She intends to complete an Honours thesis and PhD in gender history, or in cultural history with a gender theoretical lens.

## **Tara Swanton**

Tara is currently studying a Bachelor of Medical Science with a minor in biological neuropsychology and hopes to work as a medical doctor or in research. She topped first-year psychology at ANU in 2018 and received the Michael L Cook Prize for Scientific Writing in Psychology for a modified version of her essay.

## **Emma Tindal-Clarke**

Emma commenced her studies at ANU in 2017. She has since pursued her studies in international relations as an undergraduate student, with a passion for studying the European Union in particular. She also enjoys science fiction films and novels, and hopes to become a published fiction author.

## **Hannah Weston**

Hannah is a fourth-year LLB/international relations student. She undertook an internship with the Kimberley Community Legal Service at its ANU Hotdesk in 2019 during her third year of study, where she performed paralegal work and explored the complex legal and social problems that arise in Indigenous communities when language and cultural barriers are involved in interactions with the state. She has a strong interest in international law, specifically its effects on people's individual lives.

# About the editors

## **Benjamin Kooyman**

Benjamin has worked in the field of academic language and learning support for the past decade. Prior to joining the ANU Academic Skills team, he served as a Learning Adviser with a widening participation focus at the University of South Australia, and as an Academic Skills Adviser and Academic Integrity Officer at the Australian College of Physical Education. He has a PhD in English literature from Flinders University and has published widely in the areas of literature, film, and academic language and learning.

## **Daniel May**

Daniel is a PhD Candidate in the School of History. He has worked for the ANU Academic Skills team as a Writing Coach, and as a tutor for numerous courses at ANU. In 2018 he completed an Endeavour Research Fellowship in the United States. An environmental historian, his current research focuses on the historical and contemporary politics of Indigenous burning practices in Australia and the United States.

# Cover art

## **Yirui Li, Master of Digital Arts**

Hypersomnia, 2019

Digital inkjet print photograph

Yirui Li is a Canberra-based photographer originally from Beijing, China. She holds a Bachelor in Design from RMIT University, and has just completed her studies at the School of Art and Design at ANU.

Yirui finds inspiration in everyday moments of her daily life; she loves to use shadow and light to paint her photos and discover the beauty of small details.

Her series *Hypersomnia* explores the *mise en abîme* concept by using shadow and reflection. The artist has created a still-life photo series to create an illusion of a never-ending dream. It presents the scene within a scene; the dream within a dream.