



MAY 2023

AC RESEARCH

TRANSFORMING NEIGHBOURHOODS AND NATIONS

Research Award

Congratulations to PhD candidate Danielle Terceiro who received this year's Integrate Award from ISCAST – Christians in Science and Technology. The award recognises Danielle's work on illustrated books for children (in this case, books about the early modern German scientist Maria Merian).

The award comes \$2000 research funding which Danielle will use to develop a journal article and a popular engagement piece on Maria Merian. She will also create material for Christian science teachers to use in the classroom.

BOOK LAUNCH

Philip Hughes' new book on the Australian census data, *Australia's Religious and Non-Religious Profiles*, will be launched at the AC Sydney campus on Friday 12 May, 12.30–1.30 pm.

Philip will discuss the book's findings, and Tanya Riches will give a response. No RSVP needed – all are welcome! Light refreshments will be provided.

Research Events

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

If you missed our latest Professional Development seminars, you can check out the recordings here:

- [Using ChatGPT as a Research Tool](#)
- [Making Good Choices about Where to Publish Your Research](#)

And don't miss our upcoming sessions (12pm AEDT):

- 1 June: Conducting collaborative research
- 10 August: Creating your Google Scholar profile
- 12 October: Responding to peer review
- 23 November: Sustainable scholarship: maintaining wellness in research.

SIT DOWN AND WRITE

Join us each Friday on Zoom for virtual Sit Down and Write sessions (10–11.30 am AEDT). We come together to focus on our writing projects in a structured and supportive way. Faculty, HDR candidates, and all AC researchers are welcome. Here is the [zoom link](#) to join the sessions.

LUNCHBOX FORUMS

HDR candidates are encouraged to come along to our online Lunchbox Forums (12 – 12:45 pm AEDT) for conversation about HDR research. Upcoming topics include preparing your thesis for submission (11 May), how to present at a conference (3 August), and wellbeing in research (7 September).



CALL FOR PAPERS

This call for papers invites expressions of interest to contribute to the new *Handbook of Traditional Spirituality and Sustainability*, to be published by Springer Nature. Expressions of interest, initially consisting of a 200-word abstract, should be sent to Johannes Luetz (johannes.luetz@ac.edu.au).

Researcher Spotlight

Fai Aghamiri has just successfully completed her PhD thesis on the female partners of men with compulsive sexual behaviours. We caught up with Fai for a chat about her research.



What sparked your interest in this area of research?

Years ago, when I had begun to practise psychotherapy, I was sent a client with problems with compulsive sexual behaviours. He eventually brought his traumatised wife to see me too. Over time, this couple kept referring other couples to me, which sparked my desire to learn about compulsive sexual behaviour and how it affects intimate partners.

What was the biggest surprise from your findings?

An unexpected finding was the almost universal reporting of severe trauma by impacted partners upon discovering their partner's secretive behaviours. These symptoms were similar to PTSD, had multiple layers, and negatively impacted every part of their lives. I was also surprised to learn that religious institutions like churches often fall short of providing hurting partners with a safe environment free from judgement or pressure to 'forgive' too hastily. This sometimes causes women to leave the church or even to resent God. Most affected women reported feeling alone, isolated, and invalidated.

What difference will your research make?

This is the first time this topic – the impact of compulsive sexual behaviours on partners – has been highlighted. I often encountered resistance when discussing my research, especially from men. I'm hoping that churches, academic institutions, and individuals in Australia will start to lower the barriers and to engage in open discussion about this problem and its impacts on people's lives.

What's next for you? Do you have more research planned for the future?

I have already published a number of journal articles from my doctoral research. My post-doctoral research will look at how people with compulsive sexual behaviours understand themselves and the effects of their behaviour on their partners. I plan to keep expanding my expertise in this area.

HDR Milestones

Congratulations to the following HDR candidates who have successfully completed a major milestone

CONFIRMATION OF CANDIDATURE

Esa Hukkenin, "Testing the effectiveness of a coaching approach for discipling Christians" (PhD)

Andrew Mercer, "Flourishing in exile: communal disciplines, spiritual formation, and the monastic ideal in contemporary Christian thought" (PhD)

Christopher Magnussen, "Schillebeeck's and Tillich's Contributions to the Idea of Context in Modern Theology" (MPhil)

Susan Tam, "The Lived Experiences of Women in Leadership in the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada" (PhD)

Alex Carpenter, "The Effect of training in opportunity recognition on entrepreneurial intention" (PhD)

Andrew Staggs, "Supernatural Transformational Leadership and Strategic Intuition: Towards A Practical Theology of Strategic Pentecostal Leadership Development" (PhD)

Paul Asnicar, "The Church as a Learning Community: Communal learning and inquiry as locally embodied expression of the gospel" (PhD)

THESIS EXAMINATIONS

Dianne Sue, "Women in Isan: How Modernisation is Changing Religious Roles" (PhD)

Peter Botross, "Theological and Pedagogical Approaches to Equipping Disciple-makers in Victorian Baptist Churches" (DMin)

Emily Lockhart, "The Interrelationship between a Teacher's Worldview, Personal Beliefs, and the Delivery of the Personal, Social and Community Health Strand of the Western Australian Health and Physical Education Curriculum within Secondary Schools" (PhD)

Fai Aghamiri, "The impact of compulsive sexual behaviour on biblical covenants and partners' well-being" (PhD)

Seung Do Yoo, "A Study of Empathic Mission Theology from the Perspectives of 21st-Century Cosmopolitanism" (PhD)

David Han, "Christian-Muslim Interreligious Dialogue and Christian Mission: A Study of Perspectives on the Afterlife in Melbourne's Multi-Religious Context" (PhD)

John Rhodes, "Divine healing in Australian Christian Churches: a review of contemporary ministerial practice and perspective" (DMin)

Mousa Keyhaneh, "An Exercise in Comparative Theology: Light in the Bible and the Qu'ran" (MPhil)

Younghee Lim, "A Hermeneutical Paradigm for Christian Education and Identity Development among Second-Generation Korean Christian Young Adults in Australia" (PhD)

GRADUATION

Fourteen HDR candidates will be graduating at AC's graduation ceremony this month – 9 from the PhD, 4 from the DMin, and one from the MPhil. We look forward to celebrating their wonderful achievement at the graduation ceremony on Saturday 13 May.

Recent Publications

Check out the latest research publications from our faculty and HDR candidates

Aernie, Jeffrey W. "'She of Uriah' (Matthew 1:6): An Evocative and Multivalent Genealogical Annotation." *Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft*

Aernie, Jeffrey W. "The Corporate Portrayal of Women in the Gospel of Matthew as Narrative Disciples." *Character Studies in the Gospel of Matthew*

Arasaratnam-Smith, Lily, Gabriela Gonçalves, et al. "The Effect of Multicultural Attitudes and Perceived Intergroup Threat on Attitudes Towards Immigrants in Portugal: A Polynomial Regression With Response Surface Analysis." *Psychological Reports*

Buchanan, Grant. *The Spirit, New Creation, and Christian Identity: Towards a Pneumatological Reading of Galatians 3:1–6:17* (T&T Clark)

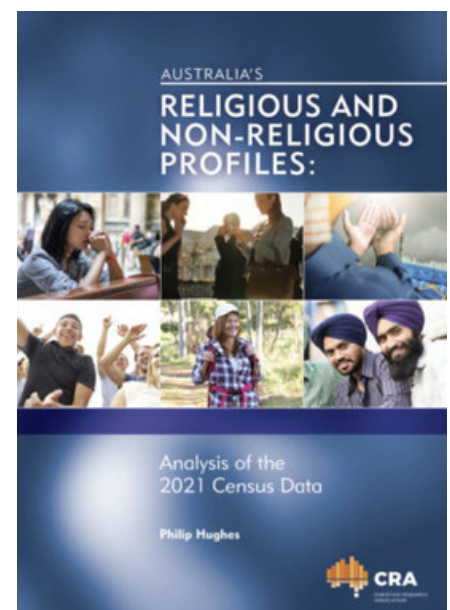
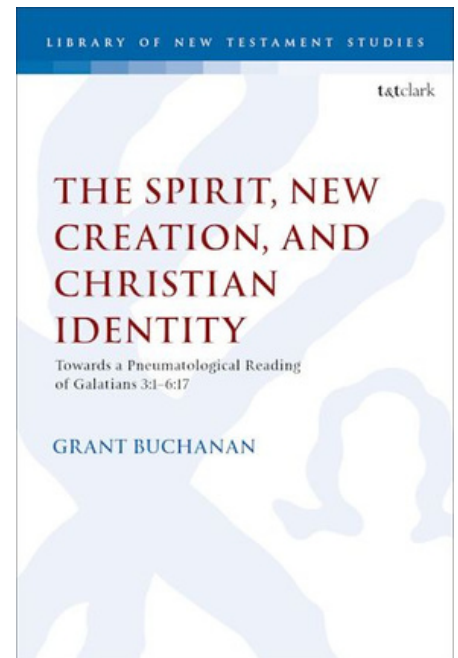
Coetzee, Narelle, Jennie Bickmore-Brand, and Jacqueline Greentree. "Graduate Attributes: Maintaining the Faith in Initial Teacher Education." *In Revealing Jesus in the Learning Environment: In Celebration of Teaching*

Grey, Jacqueline. "Make Azusa Great Again." *Pneuma* (Special Issue: North American Pentecostal Political Theologies)

Hughes, Philip. *Australia's Religious and Non-Religious Profiles: Analysis of 2021 Census Data* (Melbourne: Christian Research Association)

Hughes, Philip. "Re-Building Confidence as a Prelude to Ministry." *Journal of Contemporary Ministry*

Luetz, Johannes and Sarah Tucker. "Art Therapy in Australian Prisons: A Research Agenda." *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*



Luetz, Johannes et al. "Spirituality and Sustainable Development: A Systematic Word Frequency Analysis and an Agenda for Research in Pacific Island Countries." *Sustainability*

Myers, Ben. "Can God's Work in History Be Discerned? The Ambiguities of Providence in the Poetry of John Milton." *Scottish Journal of Theology*

Ormerod, Neil. "Mission, Reform and Suffering: The Challenge of the Sexual Abuse Crisis in the Church." *Journal of Moral Theology*

Seyed Aghamiri, Fai, and Johannes Luetz. "The Long-Lived Impacts of Sexual Addiction: Examples of Unwanted Gifts That Keep Giving." *Sexual Health & Compulsivity*

Spragg, Kimberly. "Sanctuary and Scars: Salt as a Landscape Element in the Novels and Non-Fiction of Tim Winton." *Australian Literary Studies*

Stevens, Kerrie. "Retrospective Enhancement of Bibliographic Records with Tables of Contents and Summary Data and the Effect on Collection Usage." *Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association*

Terceiro, Danielle. "Three Graphic Memoirs and the 'Family Mind' in Action." *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*

Terceiro, Danielle. "Frida Kahlo in Picture Books: What do her Self-Portraits Want?" *Bookbird: A Journal of International Children's Literature*

Terceiro, Danielle. "The Gospel According to Robin Hood and the Rebirth of Green Arrow." *In Theology and the DC Universe*

Research engagement

Our researchers are committed to sharing their expertise with the church and the wider public through media pieces, popular publications, podcasts, interviews etc. Here's a small sample of recent engagement by AC researchers.

Dodds, Adam. "Discipleship – Why and How." *Eternity News*

Hughes, Philip. "Ministers of Religion and Other Providers of Religious Services in Australia." *Pointers*

Myers, Ben. "Can God's Work in History Be Discerned?" Interview about John Milton on The Church Podmatics podcast

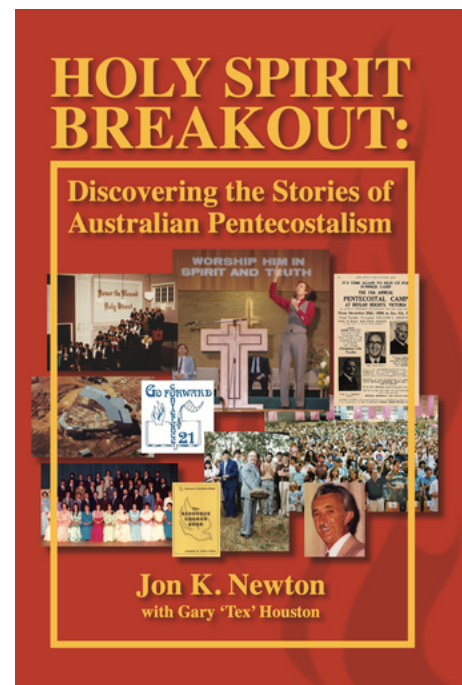
Myers, Ben. "Our Lives Start Here, Where His Life Ends: Meditations on the Seven Sayings of Jesus on the Cross." ABC Religion & Ethics

Newton, Jon. *Holy Spirit Breakout: Discovering the Stories of Australian Pentecostalism*. Sophia Resources, 2023

Terceiro, Danielle. "Drawing us in: Stories of Science." *The Christian Teachers Journal*

Terceiro, Danielle. "Mystic Prophet Dream Girls: A Literary Trope for Our Apocalyptic Age." ABC Religion & Ethics

Terceiro, Danielle. "Reimagining Science Teaching." Interview on The Christian Education Podcast



Other News

RESEARCH ETHICS APPROVAL

The Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has two remaining meetings in 2023: 8 August and 21 November. If you require ethics approval for your research project, please email Johannes Luetz (johannes.luetz@ac.edu.au) prior to these dates to submit your application.

RESEARCH SPEED DATING

We are excited to announce an upcoming event that will invite researchers from various disciplines to participate in a unique 'research speed dating' pitch session. The initiative is aimed at inspiring collaborative research projects and fostering new connections between researchers. The event is scheduled for Thursday 14 September, 12 – 1 pm (AEDT). More information to come – watch this space!



CONTACT US

Have something that belongs in this newsletter?

Email Ben Myers at ben.myers@ac.edu.au

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