



JUNE 2024

AC RESEARCH

TRANSFORMING NEIGHBOURHOODS AND NATIONS

New Books

Congratulations to Lily Arasaratnam-Smith on the imminent release of her new book, *Communicating in Intercultural Spaces* (Routledge). The book is co-authored with L. Ripley Smith.

And congratulations to Jacqui Grey, whose book *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation: Participating in God's Story of Redemption* is coming out in September in the Foundations for Spirit-Filled Christianity book series (Baker). The book is co-authored with Paul Lewis.

CONGRATULATIONS

to PhD candidate Danielle Terceiro who has been appointed a full-time research fellow of the Centre for Public Christianity (CPX) in Sydney. The role will give her a platform for engaging with a large public audience about the intersection between Christian faith and culture.

Upcoming Symposium

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (NICE) RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The National Institute for Christian Education (NICE) will be holding a Research Symposium in Perth on 18 July.

The symposium, titled Educating for Hope in this Cultural Moment, will be an opportunity to exchange research, educational insights and best practices with educators across Australia and beyond.

The keynote speakers are Lynn Swaner (Cardus), David Smith (Kuyers Institute for Christian Teaching and Learning), and Trevor Cooling (Canterbury Christ Church University). For more information, contact Julia Verdouw (julia.verdouw@cen.edu.au).

Three Minute Thesis

If you're an HDR candidate, it's not too soon to start preparing for this year's Three Minute Thesis competition. The competition will be held online at 12pm on Thursday 12 September. Contact Mark Jacobson for details (HDR.ADmin@ac.edu.au).



AWARD WINNERS

The Christianity and science scholarly organisation ISCAST awarded Danielle Terceiro the Professor John White Prize for her paper on metanarratives of science and religion in picture books.

AC awarded Emma Austin the 2024 Parker Biblical Studies Award for her contribution to the field of Old Testament Studies, in recognition of her PhD thesis and her publications in this field.

Public Lectures

- Paul Oslington presented a lecture to the Economic Society of Australia for the Adam Smith 300th Anniversary. His lecture was titled “Adam Smith and why he matters today.”
- Jon Newton presented a public lecture at the London School of Theology on the topic “Why we still need the Book of Revelation.”
- Ben Myers presented a public lecture at the University of Kentucky with the title “Democracy of the Dead: Why the Christian Past Matters.”
- David Hastie presented the Annual Moore College Lecture in Sydney on the topic “The Church and the Schools in Sydney: Legacy and Leadership.”

Research Colloquia

So far in 2024, research colloquia have been held at the Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney campuses on the below dates:

- 21 March – Melbourne Research Colloquium
- 26 March – Brisbane Research Colloquium
- 9 April – Sydney Research Colloquium
- 14 May – Sydney Research Colloquium

Keep an eye out for monthly colloquia at the Sydney campus, and occasional colloquia at other AC campuses.



PENTECOSTAL THEOLOGY

Dani Rizzo, John Griffiths, Jacqui Grey, and Jon Newton presented papers at the annual meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies hosted by the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia

HDR COMPLETIONS

Congratulations to all those HDR candidates who have successfully passed their thesis examinations! The following graduating candidates were celebrated at the 1 June Graduation Ceremony:

- Emma Austin (PhD) - "When I see ... I will remember": exploring memorability and nature in the Old Testament through mnemonature
- Christopher Cat (PhD) - Understanding Experiences of Unrealised Pentecostal Divine Healing Expectations: A Pastoral Dialogue With The Psychology Of Religion And Coping
- Jennifer Furniss (DMin) - Exploring the Effect of Speaking in Tongues on Desire, Motivation, and Emotion
- Craig Hall (PhD) - With What Kind of Body Will They Come? Paul's Bodily Transformation Resurrection Message and Its Reception by His Audience Amidst Social Diversity in First Century Corinth: A Study of 1 Corinthians 15:12, 35-55
- Kon Ju Kim (MPhil) - Studying the Imagery of the Wedding of the Lamb and His Bride in Revelation 19:6-10
- Claire Madden (PhD) - Unlocking the Motivation of Gen Z at Work: An Empirical Approach
- Jared Naidoo (MPhil) - South African black theology's third phase: development and re-discovery through Tinyiko Maluleke's African Jesus as co-sufferer and liberator of the oppressed
- Omogbai Odion (PhD) - The Pentecostal phenomenon : An examination of factors contributing to the growth, expansion, and influence of Pentecostal churches in Nigeria from 1998 to 2018
- Jesma O'Hara (DMin) - An evaluation of Neighbours Aid: A case study of an Australian Social Enterprise business raising funds for development projects in the majority world
- Kavish Seetahal: An exploration of the influence which governmental and multilateral donor organizations have on the poverty alleviation methods of Christian faith-based organizations
- Susan Smith (PhD) - Sitting with melons : a critical evaluation of the mechanisms by which women exercise public sphere influence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT

Dr Christopher Cat has successfully completed his PhD thesis on 'Unrealised Pentecostal Divine Healing Expectations: A Pastoral Dialogue With The Psychology Of Religion And Coping'. We caught up with him for a conversation about his work.



What sparked your interest in this area of research?

As a Pentecostal minister I became aware of an unresolved tension between the talk about divine healing and what was occurring in people's lived experiences. When people were promised healings that did not manifest, it could lead to grief and a devastating shipwreck of their faith. Miracles do happen, but most of the time they do not – and we need to own this.

What was the biggest surprise from your findings?

Pentecostal churches can really excel in providing practical care and spiritual support to their members. The resulting sense of feeling loved and cared for is often what keeps people connected to Pentecostal communities, even when they do not get healed. However, my research discovered that this care is compromised when there is an over-emphasis on positivity and miracles, in a way that doesn't track with what people are really experiencing.

What difference will your research make?

I hope to encourage Pentecostal caregivers as they seek to minister to people who suffer in different ways. I would like to see Pentecostal ministers equipped both to seek for divine healing, and to care well for people with ongoing challenges. I hope to encourage Pentecostals to better align their discourse of divine healing with what actually occurs in lived experience.

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

I would like to publish two books from this research, one with the technical details, and then a more practical guide for caregivers. I would also like to turn this research into a training program that can offer caregivers some hands-on experience in developing a wider range of ministry tools when caring for people who are different, or suffering, or seeking healing.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS IN EDUCATION

NECSTEP (National Embedded Cross-Sector Teacher Education Program) is an innovative Initial Teacher Education Pilot led by Alphacrucis University College, in collaboration with UNSW and the NSW Department of Education. It is supported by a \$2.9m grant from the NSW state government. AC is offering up to 2 full-fee HDR scholarships for doctoral research relating to school hubs as a model of initial teacher education. For more information, contact Rachel Perry (rachel.perry@ac.edu.au).

GRANTS OF UP TO \$10,000 FOR THEOLOGY AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Australian Research Theology Foundation Inc (ARTFinc) offers grants of up to \$10,000 to support research projects relating to theology and Christian education. AC has a strong track record of successful ARTFinc applications. The deadline for 2024 is 30 June. For more information, visit the website <https://artfinc.org.au/index.html> or contact Paul Oslington (paul.oslington@ac.edu.au).

INTERNAL AC RESEARCH FUNDING

Internal funding is available to support research projects by faculty and HDR candidates. If you are presenting work at a conference, or if your research involves training, software, or other financial costs, contact Ben Myers (ben.myers@ac.edu.au) to find out if you are eligible for support.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Check out the exciting new research publications from AC's faculty and HDR candidates

Aernie, J. "The Corporate Portrayal of Women in the Gospel of Matthew as Narrative Disciples," *Character Studies in the Gospel of Matthew*, ed. Anderson and Hauge (T&T Clark)

Arasaratnam-Smith, L. and Smith, L. R. *Communicating in Intercultural Spaces*. Routledge. (forthcoming August)

Austin, E., Rijken, A. "From Grief to Joy: An Intertextual Study of Naomi and Hannah," *Australian Biblical Review*.

Choi, S. R. "A Study on the Theological Connection between Christology and Calvin's Union with Christ (Únio cum Christo): Focusing on Incarnation (Incarnãtio) and Hypostatic Union (Únio Hypostática)," *Korea Association of Christian Studies*.

Creed, F. "Why Churches Should Consider the Formation of Social Capital in the Design of their Welfare Programs," *Journal of Contemporary Ministry*.

Grey, J. "The Old Testament as a Source for Ethics for the Pentecostal community," *Festschrift in Honor of Murray W. Dempster* (Regnum Books).

Grey, J. and Lewis, P. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation: Participating in God's Story of Redemption* (Baker Academic). (forthcoming September)

Hughes, P. "Why People are Ceasing to Attend Churches and to Identify with Religious Institutions." *Journal of Contemporary Ministry*.

Luetz, J.M., Leal Filho, et al. "Using Artificial Intelligence to Implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals at Higher Education Institutions," *International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology*.

Luetz, J.M., Leal Filho, W., et al., "Climate-Friendly Healthcare: Reducing the Impacts of the Healthcare Sector on the World's Climate," *Sustainability Science*.

Luetz, J.M., Aghamiri, F., & Hills, K. "Why did God let this Happen? Assessing the Spiritual Impacts of Sexual Addiction on Intimate Female Partners: A Qualitative Investigation," *Sexuality & Culture*.

Luetz, J.M. "Can Indigenous Ecotheology Save the World? Affinities Between Traditional Worldviews and Environmental Sustainability," *Climate and Development*.

Luetz, J.M., Winchester, R., & Hovey, K. "A Future Agenda for Research on In-Service Theological Training in Thailand and Beyond," *International Review of Mission*.

Myers, B. "Blakean Anti-Wisdom in Thomas Merton's Proverbs," *Literature and Theology*.

Newton, J. "Mainstream and Marginal Theologies in Australian Pentecostalism," *Journal of Pentecostal Theology*.

Rizzo, D. "Animal Glossolalia: A Pneumatological Framework for Animal Theology," *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*.

Sue, D. "Modernisation and the Importance of Rituals in Isan for Cross-Cultural Missions," *Journal of Contemporary Ministry*.

Terceiro, D. "Picturing Creativity: Three Picture Books," *International Journal of Education & the Arts*

Terceiro, D. "Maria Sibylla Merian in picture books: Multimodal metanarratives on science and religion," *Christian Perspectives on Science and Technology: The ISCAST Journal*

Toh, H. L. and Thornton, D. "Understanding 'Love' in the English Lyrics of the Original Songs by the Multilingual New Creation Church Singapore," *Religions*.

Westraad, S; Mathews, J; Munday, C. "Creating Shared Spaces: A Collaborative Partnership Model that Prepares Initial Teacher Education Students for Effective Practice," in *Creating, Sustaining, and Enhancing Purposeful School-University Partnerships* (Springer)

Engagement Publications

Dodds, A. "Jesus' Genius Answer to Division," *Eternity News*.

Dodds, A. "Bible Study needs your Head and Heart," *ACC Mag*.

Dodds, A. "The Problem with Authority," *Eternity News*.

Dodds, A. "When did you last take out the Garbage?" *Eternity News*.

Terceiro, D. "Maria Sibylla Merian: Reading God's Book of Nature," *The Christian Teachers Journal*.

Terceiro, D. "Epiphanies of hope: How the Christian story can cast light on our dark times," *ABC Religion & Ethics*.

Terceiro, D. "Constructing a theology of creativity: Pentecost shows a new Way," *Ethos*.

Upcoming Professional Development

Our upcoming Professional Development sessions include the following:

- 13 June - How do you come up with a new research project?
- 8 August - Navigating challenges in HDR supervision
- 5 September - Doing peer review and examining theses: tips for best practice

Upcoming HDR Lunchbox Forums will cover the following topics:

- 25 July - Preparing for Confirmation
- 22 August - Preparing your ethics application
- 17 October - Preparing for examination
- 2 December - How to work well with supervisors

All Professional Development sessions are held online at midday (Sydney time) on Thursdays.



CONTACT US

Have something that belongs in this newsletter? Let us know!

Email Mark Jacobson at HDR.ADmin@ac.edu.au

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