



AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL ASIA PACIFIC FUTURES RESEARCH NETWORK

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ARC Asia Pacific Futures Research Network

PROJECT SUMMARIES

Fourth Round 2005

PA40501

Applicant: Pr Abdullah Saeed
Affiliation: Centre for the Study of Contemporary Islam (CSCI),
The University of Melbourne
Project Title: "CSCI Islamic Studies Postgraduate Conference"
Awarded: \$ 10,000

This international conference brought together postgraduate students from throughout Australia researching topics relating to Islam. It provided the students with a supportive, collegial atmosphere and the opportunity to meet others with similar interests and allowed them to benefit from the feedback of their peers as well as selected Australian and international academic conference participants. Given global events of the past few years, Islam and Islamic studies have received renewed and enormous attention. This attention, however, has not been matched by a similar level of scholarly activity, and widespread misunderstanding of Islam persists on a global scale. The conference sought to enhance the process of training Islam-literate scholars to contribute to public and scholarly debate on problems of Islam, security and development. It provided a unique opportunity for postgraduate students to work with academic experts in Islamic studies and exchange ideas and knowledge about timely issues concerning Islamic family law and Muslim minorities in the West, the Syariah Court of Singapore, Islamic banking and Muslim identity in Australia, marriages in contemporary Indonesia, construction contracts in the United Arab Emirates and the Islamisation of laws in Indonesia. It was intended the project foster a sense of community and the facilitation of future collaborations.

PA40502

Applicant: Dr Tomoko Aoyama, Assoc Prof Helen Creese, Dr Barbara Hartley & Dr Rosie Roberts
Affiliation: School of Languages and Comparative Studies (SLCCS),
University of Queensland
Project Title: "Performance and Text: Gender Identities in the East and Southeast Asian Context"
Awarded: \$ 9975

This project explored the links between gendered social experience and artistic expression in East and Southeast Asian cultures – specifically in the performing arts and literature of

China, Japan and Indonesia. The two day long workshops were positioned at the intersection of gender, text and performance issues and focused on two critical themes: gender representations in the local cultural context and how women and men experience their own gender and sexuality. Specific objectives to be reached by the project included the bringing together of prominent international and national researchers in several interrelated fields including literary, performance and gender studies, and the organisation of sequential workshops that focused on the interrelationships between gender, performance and text in China, Japan and Indonesia. It also aimed to provide an opportunity for postgraduate students and early career researchers to interact with experts in the field. The papers presented at the workshops formed the basis for an edited volume. Each keynote speaker was also invited to participate in a one day master class for postgraduate students.

PA40503

Applicant: Dr Luigi Tomba
Affiliation: Contemporary China Centre and Department of Political and Change (RSPAS), Australian National University
Project Title: "Asia Pacific Week – Chinese Studies Graduate School"
Awarded: \$ 5500

The Chinese Studies Graduate Summer School (CSGSS) is a component of the Asia Pacific Week organised by the Australian National University and 2006 was the third time this unique and major initiative was held at ANU. Comprising a week long program of intensive research activities that bring together PhD and research masters students from around Australia, this project created training and networking opportunities for PhD students across Australia and to stimulate cross-country and cross-disciplinary networks at the post-graduate, research degree level. The primary goals of the project were as follows: to enhance Australia's capacity in the field of Chinese studies, improving the flow of information on existing research activities, to enhance contact between both young and senior researchers working across the country on comparable issues in the social sciences and the humanities, and to advance an understanding of the rich resources for the study of East Asia available at the ANU and in the national Capital as well as their availability for the larger community of scholars. It also aimed to improve interaction among the academic and postgraduate communities and provide post-graduate scholars with an avenue for discussion in the context of the rich and varied ANU scientific community. The program of the 2006 CSGSS included roundtable discussions, master class presentation, individual consultations, collective cultural activities and workshops geared towards the discussion of various disciplinary areas and issues of interest to the scholarly groups participating in Asia Pacific Week.

PA40504

Applicant: Dr Belinda Smaill & Usha M. Rodrigues
Affiliation: Visual Culture & Journalism, Monash University
Project Title: "Youth, Media and Culture in the Asia Pacific Region"
Awarded: \$ 10,000

This two day symposium explored the rapidly expanding field of research around youth and the media. Its aims were threefold: Firstly, to provide a greater depth of understanding across the field of youth and media research by creating a dialogue between researchers working across disciplines and cultural borders. Secondly, to offer an avenue through which to identify the key concerns for scholars working in the regions on the analysis of different media, including traditional media such as print, television and radio and new media such as the internet, computer gaming and mobile phone technology. And thirdly, to foster productive and ongoing collaboration between scholars, industry and community

organisations. The symposium provided not only an opportunity for researchers to gain a greater understanding of industry concerns but also for media practitioners to expand their knowledge in the interests of adopting innovative approaches to catering to youth cultures. It also produced an edited publication on youth, media and culture in the Asia Pacific region which covered symposium discussions on youth consumption and production of media, hybrid cultures, subcultures and issues of globalisation, the role of commercial media, public service broadcasting and community media, and the impact of new media, especially the manner in which it facilitates new formations of community and identity.