

ANZCA 2017 WA activity report (Michele Willson)

Most of ANZCA related activity is channelled through WACCM of which I am one of the cofounders. WACCM was established by academics from the four main Western Australian universities (Curtin, UWA, Murdoch, ECU) as a way of improving the profile, networking and collaborative research opportunities of WA culture, communication and media scholars (from the very experienced to the very new). It has also been used as a very effective platform for promoting and encouraging participation in the 2 Australasian associations: CSAA and ANZCA who have both provided equal funding for WACCM events in the past

Since the last ANZCA 2016, WACCM has held a small one day conference/symposium (details below), and are currently organising a *Gender and the everyday: contemporary communication, culture and media* conference on 29 September this year.

Event: *WACCM Feedback: The Inaugural WACCM Conference*
(24 February, 2017, Perth Library)

The WA Communication Culture and Media (WACCM) scholars hosted an inaugural conference and networking (free) event on the 24th February at the City of Perth Library in Cathedral Square, Perth. Despite it being the Friday before teaching started, we had 35 attendees on the day.

The day commenced with a panel titled “How to Handle Feedback”. Our panellists (Dr Crystal Abidin, A/Prof. Katie Ellis, Prof. Helena Grehan, A/Prof. Tama Leaver and Dr Kathryn Trees) started the conference by discussing some of the issues around giving and receiving feedback with participation also from the audience. The aim of the panel discussion was to emphasise the value of feedback; to de-stigmatise feedback so that researchers and academics are better equipped and can be empowered by feedback; to explore different types of feedback and to contextualise feedback according to context, purpose, and audience

This was followed by three sessions where 15 min presentations were given by PhD students and ECRs. Two posters were also displayed.

The bio of each panellist is listed below. After the conference, some of the attendees met for informal (self-funded) drinks in the city.

Other notables:

- Members of the WACCM committee mentored 10 ECRs and PhD, ECRs from across four WA universities: ECU, Curtin, Murdoch and UWA
- An Abstract booklet was produced to profile presenters’ research and distributed through the WACCM email list, through the WACCM Facebook page and at the event.
- Formal feedback on presentations given throughout the day and informal feedback given one-to-one
- One of the panellist, Tama Leaver, posted his presentation feedback as an article to the WACCM Facebook page which can be accessed by any members.

Comments left on the WACCM Facebook page following the event:

Just attended excellent WACCM Feedback Conference. All speakers were fascinating. Well done to all involved. (Shaun Salmon)

Thank you to everyone involved in the organisation of today's feedback conference. The panel discussion was really useful for postgrads and ECRs and the papers were diverse and interesting. (Melissa Merchant)

Bios of panelists below:

Dr Crystal Abidin is an anthropologist and ethnographer who researches internet culture and young people's relationships with internet celebrity, self-curation, and vulnerability. She is Postdoctoral Fellow in Sociology at the National University of Singapore, Co-investigator in the STS cluster at the Asia Research Institute, and Affiliate Researcher with the Media Management and Transformation Centre at Jönköping University. In February and March 2017, Crystal is Visiting Research Fellow at the Department of Internet Studies, Curtin University. Reach her at wishcrys.com.

Prof. Helena Grehan is Associate Dean, Research in the School of Arts at Murdoch University. Her new monograph *New Media Dramaturgy: Performance and New Materialism*, co-authored with Peter Eckersall and Edward Scheer will be published by Palgrave in 2017. Recent books include: *William Yang: Stories of Love and Death* (with Edward Scheer), New South Press, 2016 and *'We're People Who Do Shows': Back to Back Theatre: Performance, Politics, Visibility* (co-edited with Peter Eckersall), Performance Research Books, 2013. She has published essays on spectatorship and ethics, performance and politics and New Media Dramaturgy. Helena is a member of the ARC College of Experts.

Dr Kathryn Trees teaches in Media and Communication at Murdoch University. Her teaching focuses on socio-political and economic processes of globalisation and cultural politics. She has taught across the School of Law and Australian Indigenous Studies and English and Comparative Literature at Murdoch University. Her current research focuses on death and dying.

A/Prof Katie Ellis is a senior research fellow and convenor of the Critical Disability Studies Research Network in the Internet Studies Department at Curtin University. Her research focuses on social inclusion in the context of digital and networked media. Her research has shifted from focusing on representation towards active possibilities for social inclusion. She has worked with people with disability in the community, government, and in academia and has published widely in the area of disability and digital and networked media.

A/Prof Tama Leaver researches and teaches in the Department of Internet Studies, and is a frequent media commentator. His research explores on the changing relationship between people and technology. His current focus is on social media and changing cultural practices in relation to birth and death online.