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Feedback and news items can be sent to vcamcm-research@unimelb.edu.au

★ - New Listings

1. RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE LINKS

- University of Melbourne Graduate Researcher Hub for all current graduate researchers, with resources and information to get you from orientation through to graduation
- Graduate Researchers Homepage on Research Professional: your homepage for research funding
- Skills development opportunities offered by the University of Melbourne.
- The Thesis Whisperer [blog]: just like the horse whisperer – but with more pages
- Career Services and resources to support your career development and prepare for employment

2. EVENTS, PERFORMANCES, SYMPOSIUMS, CONFERENCES AND EXHIBITIONS

★ NATHAN STOLZ - PhD VCA CANDIDATURE CONVERSION (not Confirmation as advertised in e-flyer)

SEMINAR
A Long and Winding Road: Lyrical Narrative and Identity
This project examines the nature of the photographic series, exploring the notion of a "lyrical narrative" central to recent experiments by practitioners operating at the intersection of documentary and fine art photography. Tracing the trajectory of this nascent approach through a number of artists preoccupied with the state of a nation, the research considers the documentary series' relationship to "national identity". Ultimately, the practice-led research will interrogate the concept of national identity, asking whether it is any longer intelligible to speak of a national identity in a multicultural society such as Australia comprised of so many heterogeneous identities.
**STEVE THOMAS - PhD VCA CANDIDATURE COMPLETION SEMINAR**

Reflexivity, collaboration and ethical documentary filmmaking: a practice led approach

Recent research (e.g. Nash, 2009; Sanders, 2012) has questioned the view of documentary participants as victims, recognising their agency in relationships of ‘circulating power’ with filmmakers and redefining consent as on-going negotiation. The inherent reflexivity of the filmmaking process is investigated in this PhD thesis, providing a first-hand account and self-reflexive analysis of the making of Freedom Stories – a documentary that explores reflexivity in seeking to achieve ethical transparency. This creative practice research employed an explicitly collaborative approach through which former asylum seekers could own and share their personal stories of arrival, detention and settlement in Australia.

**Date:** Thursday 24th November  
**Time:** 1pm to 2pm  
**Venue:** Hub Seminar Room, Southbank Campus

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**MICHAEL BENTHAM - PhD VCA CANDIDATURE CONFIRMATION SEMINAR**

From fact to fiction: a self-reflexive analysis of how screenwriter and subject intersect in the transformative process of authoring a modern biopic

This presentation outlines a practice-based analysis of how screenwriter and subject intersect in the writing of a biopic. There is a well-documented disconnect between theory and practice on the subject of biopics, exacerbated by the repeated auteurist assumption that the ‘authors’ of biopics are their directors. This research proposes to address the lack of alignment between industry and academia by taking a fresh look at the genre from a screenwriter’s perspective. An auto-ethnographic methodological approach will be used to explore the ethical tensions that exist between the reflexive screenwriter, and the competing demands of narrative fiction and historical fidelity.

**Time:** 2-3pm  
**Date:** Thursday 24 November  
**Venue:** Hub Seminar Room, Southbank Campus

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**NICKK HERTZOG - PhD VCA CANDIDATURE COMPLETION SEMINAR**

Contingent meanings: reframing appropriation in contemporary video installation

This research-led project examines the concept of “contingency” to frame the value of ambiguity in a contemporary video practice. The circulation of digital exchange allows access to vast amounts of existing video material which can be appropriated, arranged and altered in any number of ways. The possibilities this offers can seem outweighed by a dislocation of meaning and the sheer overwhelming quantity of material. My research seeks to navigate this dilemma by elevating the role of ambiguity, de-privileging the role of reference and employing contingency as a device for making meaningful arrangements of video material. My practice reconfigures material by combining and navigating between digital appropriations and the creating of new footage. Metaphorical concepts such as “wandering”, “memory” and “materiality” become structural themes that generate this sense of ambiguity through strong formal logics, developed from initial chances and encounters of the materials.

**Date:** Thursday November 24th, 2pm-4pm  
**Location:** Tutorial Room 3, Elisabeth Murdoch Building, Southbank Campus
Disruption and Agency: Children and young people with a disability in contemporary performance
This presentation will outline a practice-based analysis of the potential of children with a disability in contemporary performance to rewrite the dominant discourses of both childhood and disability. Drawing on a range of case studies and examples, including the work of Australian artists and companies whose work spans the inter-connected fields of arts and disability and youth arts, this seminar will outline a research project examining the cultural spectacle of children with a disability as a political gesture, capable of troubling and disrupting a politically-constituted contemporary disabled identity and challenging contemporary performance aesthetics. The presentation will highlight how the research employs an auto-ethnographic methodological approach, informed by the key theoretical principles of discourse, aesthetics and liminality to explore the field of practice and consider the creative and aesthetic strategies of representations of corporeal and cognitive difference in performance. The presentation will outline how the research proposes to address ethical tensions inherent in performance work that includes children with disability by arguing that an applied process of creation that centres the notion of cultural agency can subvert social, ontological structures that have traditionally limited the capacity of children with a disability to engage in cultural, civic and social structures.
Monday 28 November
11am-12pm
HUB Seminar Room, Southbank Campus

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL AWARENESS WORKSHOP
Murrup Barak, Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Development invites you to learn about Indigenous Australian history, culture and contemporary topics to support effective engagement with Indigenous staff, students and stakeholders and to encourage participation on the Indigenous Agenda. On 30 November 2016, 9.00am - 12.30pm in the Alan Gilbert Building. Book via Themis. Enquiries: Dan Little d_little@unimelb.edu.au

Faculty Events Listings: Find out what is happening and stay connected
Faculty Events Listings: http://vca-mcm.unimelb.edu.au/events
VCA Events Listings: http://vca.unimelb.edu.au/events
MCM Events Listings: http://conservatorium.unimelb.edu.au/events

3. FUNDING, RESEARCH AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND OUTCOMES

RESEARCH AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
Find out about upcoming jobs, conferences, events, and research opportunities in the energy sector by joining the Melbourne Energy Institute researchers mailing list: https://confirmsubscription.com/h/r/127FDA85B63BB083
We’ll send you emails once a month with a run-down of what’s coming up in the energy space. If you have any questions, please contact Caitlin McGrane (caitlin.mcgrane@unimelb.edu.au).

4. FACULTY OF VCA & MCM RESEARCH OFFICE LOCATION AND CONTACT LISTING

RESEARCH OFFICE LOCATIONS
The Research Office is located in Room 210 in the Conservatorium of Music, Building 141, Gate 12, Royal Parade in addition to our Southbank Campus location in the Old Police Hospital, Building 865, 234 St. Kilda Road.
Website: http://www.vca-mcm.unimelb.edu.au/research/ro
Email: vcamcm-research@unimelb.edu.au
Phone: 03 9035 9175
Staff Listing:
Lucy O’Brien (Research Manager): 8344 6183 leobrien@unimelb.edu.au
David Strover (RHD Coordinator): 9035 3471 dstrover@unimelb.edu.au
Dr. Grazina Pranauskas (RHD Officer): – 9035 9082 grazinap@unimelb.edu.au
Bianca Durrant (Research Coordinator): 9035 9241 bdurrant@unimelb.edu.au
Belinda Kelly (Research Officer): 9035 9095 belinda.kelly@unimelb.edu.au
Sean McMorrow (Casual Research Administration Officer): sean.mcmorrow@unimelb.edu.au