

## DISCOVERY – PROJECTS

**DP0667253** Dr RH Grove

**Approved Project Title** **British Empire and the Natural World: the Environmental History of the British Empire and Commonwealth 1600-2000**

**2006 :** \$134,420

**2007 :** \$135,420

**2008 :** \$135,420

**2009 :** \$136,520

**2010 :** \$131,420

**APF** Dr RH Grove

**Administering Institution** The Australian National University

### **Project Summary**

Australia faces multiplying environmental crises in climate change, including soil erosion, salinisation, deforestation. Most of these crises originate in faulty land use management. An understanding of the causes of this predicament require deep insights into the global impact of European colonisation and an understanding of the environmental history of the British empire and the ideas and intellectual networks that underpinned the expansion of the geographical and resource frontier.

**DP0664046** Dr O Gal

**Approved Project Title** **The imperfection of the Universe: Music, Mathematics, Technology and the (dis-)Order of Nature in Baroque Science**

**2006 :** \$120,000

**2007 :** \$30,000

**2008 :** \$90,000

**Administering Institution** The University of Sydney

### **Project Summary**

This research will offer new insight into the birth of modern science, and will thus provide an important contribution towards informed public discussion concerning science education, the relations between science and industry and between science and general culture. This discussion is incumbent on us in our quest for knowledge-based economy and a proper place in an increasingly competitive world of science-led industry and commerce. Australia enjoys a prime international position in history and philosophy of science scholarship, and in the field of seventeenth century science in particular. This project will maintain and enhance this position.

**DP0666848** Prof R Charteris

**Approved Project Title** **Transformations from Renaissance to Baroque: The Cultural and Musical Significance of Giovanni Gabrieli**

**2006 :** \$43,626

**2007 :** \$46,779

**2008 :** \$48,074

**2009 :** \$49,697

**2010 :** \$51,400

**Administering Institution** The University of Sydney

### **Project Summary**

The Western European tradition forms a significant part of Australia's culture, and it is important that Australians are contributors to the extension of this tradition as well as being consumers. This project will discover new music and materials that will be of immense

interest to many Australians, and it will make its discoveries known in an accessible way that meets the demand in Australian society. My leadership in Renaissance music studies, especially Gabrieli, is contributing to Australia's involvement in the dynamic, international revival of early music, as well as facilitating telecasts, broadcasts, concerts and recordings.

**DP0665308** Dr GE Russell

**Approved Project Title** **A History of the Theatre in Late Georgian Britain: Spaces, Sociability and Cultural Networks**

**2006 :** \$82,120

**2007 :** \$80,900

**2008 :** \$77,200

**Administering Institution** The Australian National University

**Project Summary**

The Romantic period in Britain was formative in the history of Australia and the reconfiguring of Romantic period culture which this project entails will be of relevance to the understanding of our history. The ideologies and practices of Enlightenment sociability underpinned the early years of the colony, as much as they influenced metropolitan culture. In 2005, when many of the achievements of Enlightenment modernity have been questioned or are perceived to be under threat, it is also worth re-examining the egalitarianism underlying the ideals if sometimes not the practice of Georgian sociability. This research will also enhance Australia's overseas reputation in the field of eighteenth-century and Romantic studies.

**DP0664663** Dr GR Barnes; Prof MB Clunies Ross

**Approved Project Title** **Writing from the edge of the world: medieval Icelandic literature and the quest for social identity**

**2006 :** \$94,092

**2007 :** \$72,923

**2008 :** \$91,157

**Administering Institution** The University of Sydney

**Project Summary**

This project has special significance for Australians. Iceland and Australia are both geographically isolated communities, both originally colonies of larger political powers (Norway and Britain), both asserting a social identity different from that of the motherland. Many themes of medieval Icelandic literature have parallels in Australian culture; slogans like 'the cultural cringe', 'the lucky country', 'home and away' can be readily paralleled in Old Icelandic literature. Our study will be of considerable social benefit to Australia and will show how another ex-colony, remote in time and place, constructed its own social identity.

**DP0662857** Dr LE Semler

**Approved Project Title** **Women's Poetry and Classicism in Early Modern England, 1500-1700**

**2006 :** \$55,059

**2007 :** \$20,000

**2008 :** \$31,620

**Administering Institution** The University of Sydney

**Project Summary**

The primary national/community benefit of the project is the charting of how women pursued sophisticated education and imaginative literary expression despite the gender-biased structures of exclusion prevalent in early modern England. The period from Isabella Whitney's first published book (1567) to Margaret Cavendish's (1653) sees nothing less than the first emergence of Englishwomen as publishing authors. It is of great importance that this

historical emergence be interrogated because it will help us understand how women rose from domestic silence to public voice, how they turned masculine classical resources to 'feminist' ends, and how the idea of the woman writer developed in England in the age of print.

**DP0664277** Dr CP James

**Approved Project Title** **Dynastic Marriage, Courtly Politics and the State in Renaissance Italy**

**2006 :** \$43,000

**2007 :** \$30,000

**2008 :** \$50,000

**Administering Institution** Monash University

**Project Summary**

The search for an understanding of the processes by which political ideas and cultural assumptions about masculinity and femininity change, and new genres of written expression emerge, is directly relevant to contemporary Australia. To study these themes in a period at once remote from one's own and yet, as the Italian Renaissance is, perennially fascinating to the public imagination, is to make an important contribution to our understanding of the historical roots of significant on-going debates.

**DP0665356** Dr B Douglas; Dr C Ballard

**Approved Project Title** **European Naturalists and the Constitution of Human Difference in Oceania: Crosscultural Encounters and the Science of Race, 1768-1888**

**2006 :** \$85,000

**2007 :** \$85,000

**2008 :** \$70,000

**Administering Institution** The Australian National University

**Project Summary**

This research will promote better understanding of the historical antecedents to contemporary Australian regional interventions, relations with our neighbours and conceptions of racial or ethnic differences. It thus directly addresses current debates on the politics of history. The assumptions about regional differences which underpin current Australian attitudes and policies stem from much earlier debates on the racial histories and collective physical variations of Oceanian people and from beliefs about natural European dominance over indigenous populations. This project will produce an accessible history of the genesis of such ideas and demonstrate the historical embeddedness of Australia within the wider context of Oceania.

**DP0663812** Prof CF Zika

**Approved Project Title** **The Living Dead: witchcraft and apparition in European culture (3rd to 18th century)**

**2006 :** \$100,000

**2007 :** \$25,000

**2008 :** \$80,000

**2009 :** \$27,000

**Administering Institution** The University of Melbourne

**Project Summary**

By providing a major monograph, an edited collection of papers by national and international scholars, and an electronic pictorial catalogue, the project will be of immense benefit to this rich new field of international research, and also help maintain the high reputation Australian scholarship enjoys in the field of medieval and early modern studies. But the relationship of

societies to their dead continues to evoke keen interest in contemporary Australia outside the bounds of the academy. A fully researched history of Europe's changing views towards the dead will contribute to this topical discussion, made more urgent by our aging population and changes to traditional religious and cultural responses to death.

**DP0664008** Dr SM Broomhall

**Approved Project Title** **Voicing the Welfare State: Experiences of the Sixteenth-Century French Poor**

**2006 :** \$74,595

**2007 :** \$75,000

**2008 :** \$79,000

**Administering Institution** The University of Western Australia

**Project Summary**

This research enhances our historical understanding of poverty and its support mechanisms in Europe's past, through reconstruction of a comprehensive and detailed picture of the sixteenth-century French poor. New methodologies and techniques for recovery of formal and informal social networks will be developed. Historical models of such mechanisms provide context of the long history of Australia's welfare structure models, philosophy and participation strategies. The programme provides expert research training for early career researchers, in a collaborative Humanities team environment. Australian historians can thus continue to generate globally competitive and significant research.

**DP0665454** Prof L Polizzotto

**Approved Project Title** **Family, Politics and Society: The Valori Household and Florence, 1380-1650**

**2006 :** \$40,000

**2007 :** \$35,000

**2008 :** \$33,000

**Administering Institution** The University of Western Australia

**Project Summary**

This is a study of one family's engagement in the turbulent and dangerous world of Florentine politics over nine generations. A study of the Valori will enable us to identify the political assumptions that inspired them and other Florentines to fight against the trends towards despotism. An understanding of these assumptions and the civic values they engendered will benefit our society's efforts to strengthen family bonds, instil civic responsibility and combat the political indifference which, in the opinion of our political leaders, threatens to 'disengage the young from the democratic process' (Governor-General Michael Jeffery, 26-1-2005).

**DP0663145** Prof P Thom; Dr JA Marenbon; Dr S Ebbesen; Dr AD Street

**Approved Project Title** **Aristotle's Categories in the Byzantine, Arabic and Latin Traditions**

**2006 :** \$90,000

**2007 :** \$70,000

**2008 :** \$70,000

**Administering Institution** Southern Cross University

**Project Summary**

High quality pure research is of national benefit because it adds to the depth of national culture and because it enhances our national profile overseas. When it involves collaboration with leading scholars at leading international universities, the enhancement is even greater. To understand the great religions that form part of our national identity, and their influence on

philosophical thought, is of national benefit because it helps understand our place in today's world.

**DP0664045** Prof PC Almond

**Approved Project Title** **Protestant Apocalypticism, the Book of Revelation, and History in English Thought, 1550-1800**

**2006 :** \$51,070

**2007 :** \$31,070

**2008 :** \$50,000

**Administering Institution** The University of Queensland

**Project Summary**

This project will make a further significant contribution to Australia's strong international reputation in Early Modern Thought. It is crucial to Australians' understanding of our contemporary world in which Apocalyptic dualism, particularly the demonisation of the other by both Western conservative elites and Christian and Muslim fundamentalists, is a central feature of modern discourse. With conservative religious movements which treat the Bible literally significantly on the increase in Australia, it is crucial to the national interest to be aware of the socially divisive elements in both Biblical fundamentalism and contemporary Protestant sectarian Apocalypticism.