Dear Network Participants,

Now that 2006 is well under way I thought I should supply a short bulletin to keep you up to date with Network news. As always, the main portal for information on the Network's activities is through the web site http://www.neer.arts.uwa.edu.au/ but I have highlighted a few points of interest below to whet your appetite:

- The Network welcomes a new theme in 2006, "Religion and Spirituality", led by A/Prof Constant Mews, Monash University. More information on the new theme will be available in the "Themes" section of the web site soon.

- The NEER Annual Report to the ARC for 2005 is now available as a PDF document that can be accessed from the NEER home page. Any comments on the report would be most welcome.

- An updated calendar of events is now available at: http://www.neer.arts.uwa.edu.au/events
  The first major event for 2006 is the "Art History and Material Culture" Postgraduate Advanced Training Seminar (PATS): University of Western Australia, 20-22 April 2006.

- Future events assisted or wholly supported by NEER include seminars, conferences, symposia and PATS all over Australia in 2006/07. Several are organised by Peter Holbrook in relation to the World Shakespeare Congress in Brisbane. Others are still in the early planning stages, including collaboration in 2007 with the Humanities Research Centre in Canberra. NEER is supporting linked international conferences at Sydney and Monash on 'The Classics in the Classroom' and 'Communities of Learning'. These are organised by Associate Professor Constant Mews, Professor John O. Ward and Dr Juanita Feros Ruys.

- 'Early European Research', a refereed book series mainly covering the period 1200-1650, has been agreed in principle with Brepols Publishers, and a proposal for a first NEER-based edited collection is with them. Volumes accepted in the series would be co-published with UWA Press to ensure good distribution in Australasia. UWA Press (a NEER Industry Partner) has also recently agreed to support a book series provisionally entitled 'Europe and Australia: The Long History'.

- NEER Digital Services Director, Toby Burrows, is working hard on the establishment of a Digital Research Repository and an Australian Collections Service.

- (ARC) NEER Research Clusters. A call for applications is now available on the NEER web site for this new funding initiative for 2006: deadline 19th May 2006.

- The trial period for the NEER E-Consult Scheme came to an end on 31 March 2006. Very shortly, I will be calling on all Network Participants who have
participated in this scheme to help assess this initiative and make suggestions for the future.

- Plans are well advanced for the first NEER Conference to be held at the University of Western Australia in July 2007. A steering committee comprising Network Participants located at UWA is currently busy working on the theme, keynote speakers and the layout for the conference. A separate web page for this event will be posted on the web site in the coming weeks.

I do hope you will have some time soon to visit the web site. I would also appreciate it if you could keep spreading the word about the Network's activities and initiatives and encourage any interested parties to contact me re registration.

All the very best for Easter,
Claire

--
Dr Claire McIlroy
Coordinator
ARC Network for Early European Research M208
Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Hwy
CRAWLEY WA 6009

Tel: +61 (08) 6488 1173
Fax: +61 (08) 6488 1069
CRICOS Provider No. 00126G