

## Humanities Research centre - VISITORS PROGRAM 2017

### Guidelines for Applicants

The Humanities Research Centre was established in 1972 as a national and international centre for excellence in the Humanities and as a catalyst for innovative Humanities scholarship and research within the Australian National University. The HRC interprets the "Humanities" generously, recognising that new methods of theoretical enquiry have done much to break down the traditional distinction between the humanities and the interpretive social sciences; recognising, too, the importance of establishing dialogue between the humanities and the natural and technological sciences, and the creative arts.

The Centre encourages interdisciplinary and comparative work, and seeks to take a provocative as well as supportive role in relation to existing humanities studies in Australia. It aims to give special attention to topics and disciplines which are in need of particular stimulus in Australia. One of its central functions is to bring to Australia scholars of international standing who will provoke fresh ideas within, and beyond, the academic community. The HRC also has extensive contacts with many other Australian and international research centres, libraries and cultural institutions, and is a member of the Consortium of Humanities Centers & Institutes (CHCI), Duke University.

Our nominated theme for 2017 is entitled, *The Question of the Stranger*. A description of the theme appears below. We encourage scholars working on this theme to apply for Visiting Fellowships at our Centre. One non-thematic fellowship will also be offered to ANU Gender Institute (see below).

### 2017 Theme: The Question of the Stranger

‘The cluster of words describing those who are (or who are made to seem) different from us (whoever ‘us’ is)—the foreigner, the alien, the stranger—has been critical in the articulation of how we live after 9/11’.

So wrote David Simpson in the study from which we take our theme for 2017: *Romanticism and the Question of the Stranger*. The theme asks us to look at the way individuals and cultures have understood, represented, and dealt with strangers in their intellectual, linguistic, legal, cultural, and artistic traditions; the way the dialectic of the familiar and the foreign has become the very condition of understanding and organisation in the world we have created for ourselves to live in. The question of the stranger not only reaches back to the oldest human culture and earliest human imaginings, it also presents (arguably paradoxically) with a special urgency today, in the so-called ‘global’ age we currently inhabit. ‘Its ramifications are legal, ethical, and indeed comprehensively human’, writes Simpson: ‘who is welcomed and who is turned away? Who is a friend and who is an enemy? Who deserves the protection of the law and who is outside it? At what point does the working norm give way to the exception, and who gets to decide?’ Over the last 350 years, we have witnessed an Enlightenment project of cosmopolitan universalism that sought to overcome the conditioned estrangement of religion, race, gender, and country of origin by way of reason, science, or sympathy, break down in protracted war, cultural misunderstanding, ‘scientific’ racial stereotyping, and the birth of often aggressive forms of racism and nationalism. Indeed, it is

precisely because we are everyday forging more and more global connections with peoples once geographically distant and culturally alienated that we need to engage with the question of the stranger as it continues to inform human thought and feeling and their critical and creative expression.

### **Fellowships are awarded in the following categories:**

- **Visiting Fellowships (with grant).** The standard period of tenure for an HRC Visiting Fellowships is 60 days. The grant covers travel and accommodation. The maximum contribution for travel is \$3,000 AUD. Accommodation is in a one bedroom self-contained apartment on the university campus. This financial assistance for travel and accommodation expenses *is not* a salary replacement. No stipend for living allowance is attached to this fellowship. Visitors are expected to vacate their residence if they are away for 7 days or more during their fellowships.
- **Visiting Fellowships (with partial grant).** These are intended for scholars within Australia and New Zealand who wish to undertake research at the HRC. These grants are to assist with travel expenses. No accommodation expenses will be covered.
- **Visiting Fellow (without grant).** Academic staff from the Australian National University, other universities and cultural institutions may apply to use the facilities at the HRC and contribute to its intellectual life during their periods of research leave (e.g. sabbatical). These awards do not provide financial assistance, and are dependent on the availability of office space in the Centre.
- **Visiting Fellow, HRC-ANU Gender Institute (with grant).** The HRC is pleased to announce a new dedicated HRC-ANU Gender institute (GI) Fellowship as part of its annual round. The ANU Gender Institute was established in 2011 as a cross-campus virtual Institute, to provide a focus for existing activity on issues of gender and sexuality and a catalyst to develop and deepen them. The Gender Institute has two distinct but related tasks. One is to support and deepen research, education and outreach on gender and sexuality across the University, in particular promoting collaboration and linkages in this area across the seven Colleges. The second is to support the employment and retention of women and gender diverse people at all levels, in all disciplines, across the University. To do this it works closely with ANU Diversity and Inclusion Unit on programs to support the attraction and retention of women staff. This new fellowship will enable the GI to showcase and involve a visitor whose work intersects with the focus of the Institute and the nominated theme of the HRC. The person's work will assist the academics at ANU develop and deepen their activity on gender and sexuality in research. Interested applicants should look at the research areas of focus identified by the GI and in their application suggest which node/s of the GI they would best intersect with (it may be more than one). See <http://genderinstitute.anu.edu.au/> The standard period of tenure for a GI Visiting Fellowship is 3 months. The grant covers travel and accommodation. The maximum contribution for travel is \$3,000 AUD. Accommodation is in a one bedroom self-contained apartment on the university campus. This financial assistance for travel and accommodation expenses *is not* a salary replacement. No stipend for living allowance is attached to this fellowship.

### **Eligibility:**

Applicants for fellowships must have an institutional affiliation to a University or to an equivalent research organisation, and generally have at least a higher research degree or equivalent professional experience, research and publications. Students working to complete a higher degree are not eligible to apply. These fellowships are also not as a rule offered to independent scholars. International applicants are strongly encouraged. Visa documents, if required, are the responsibility of the applicant. The ANU will offer a formal letter of invitation to successful applicants which may be used for visa purposes.

Visiting Fellows are expected to participate in the programs of the Centre and the School, meet regularly with other fellows, make public presentations of their research at the Centre's weekly seminar series, possibly offer a graduate seminar/Master Class and avail themselves of other opportunities for scholarly exchange. Visitors must be in residence for at least 75% of their appointment.

## **Assessment Process:**

The criteria for assessing nominations include academic distinction demonstrated by the standard measures of level and place of appointment, record of publication, honours and awards; relevance of the proposed research to the Annual Theme; referee reports; potential or identified links with researchers and programs and activities in other parts of the University, and especially in the College of Arts and Social Sciences.

Selection of visitors for the 2016 program will be announced by early September 2015. The HRC strives, in its selection process, to have a mixture of early career scholars as well as more established researchers, and to achieve a gender balance. Whilst most fellowships will be awarded to those whose work is relevant to the 2016 Annual Theme, fellowships may be awarded to scholars working in the broad field of Humanities.

The Centre does not discriminate any applicant on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, age, medical record, marital status, impairment, disability, nationality, sexual preference.

Further information in relation to the programs of the Humanities Research Centre and the RSHA, staff and facilities is contained on our Website at the following address: <http://hrc.anu.edu.au>

## **Application procedures:**

### **1. Application Form:**

Applicants should submit a completed application form, together with a CV and list of publications and/or professional activities. The application form, may be downloaded from our Website [here](#).

### **2. Project Proposal**

Applicants should provide a one to two page description and the title of their planned research project.

### **3. Referees Comment:**

Applicants need to provide the names of three referees who will support this application. Referees should submit their confidential comments separately to the Head of HRC on the form provided. These comments should reach us no later than 30 April 2015. The referees' comments form may be downloaded from our Website [here](#).

The deadline for applications and comments is **30 April 2016**. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

**Applications should be posted to:**

**Professor William Christie**

Head, Humanities Research Centre  
Research School of Humanities and the Arts  
A.D. Hope Building #14  
Ellery Circuit  
The Australian National University  
Canberra, ACT, 0200  
Australia

**Or emailed to:**

E: [Colette.gilmour@anu.edu.au](mailto:Colette.gilmour@anu.edu.au)

If you require any further information about your application or this program, please contact our Programs Manager, T: +61 2 6125 4357, F: or e-mail: [colette.gilmour@anu.edu.au](mailto:colette.gilmour@anu.edu.au)