



CALL FOR PAPERS

Doctoral Subjects:
producing research, researchers, knowledge and innovation in
Australian humanities, arts and social science doctorates

A symposium to mark the occasion of the 60th anniversary of doctoral education
in Australia and celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Monash University

Convened jointly by

Denise Cuthbert and Alan Petersen
Sociology Program, School of Political and Social Inquiry
And

Joel Crotty
Arts Research Graduate School
Monash University

Caulfield Campus
Monash University
6-7 December 2008

Our aim with this symposium is to add to the growing body of Australian research on the doctorate which deals almost exclusively with the (albeit valuable) issues of educational process by addressing more substantive academic, epistemological and cultural issues surrounding the doctorate which are rarely, if ever, taken up. We intend the phrase *doctoral subjects* to embrace both the kind and nature of research undertaken in Australia at doctoral level in humanities, arts and social science disciplines (that is, the subject or content of the work); and the kinds of *subjects*, in the sense of research subjectivities, produced through this work.

To this end, we are seeking contributions not from educational researchers *per se* (whose work has already made a valuable contribution to considerations of the doctorate), but academics working in HASS disciplines and interdisciplinary fields who have made contributions throughout their careers to the shaping of disciplines and fields through both research and research training. There is very little consideration, to date, of the role, nature and achievements of the Australian doctorate emanating from discipline-based literature in the humanities, arts and social sciences. We hope that this symposium will begin to address this gap by eliciting contributions from leading academics and emerging scholars which engage with the subject/s of the doctorate in relation to the disciplines, inter-disciplines and fields in which they practice.

The symposium will be held at the Caulfield campus of Monash University Melbourne in on 6 and 7 December 2008 (which follows directly on the TASA symposium, also in Melbourne this year). At this point we are unsure whether the program will run for a day and a half or two full days but will advise on this as soon as the program is confirmed.

We are seeking proposals for 30 minute presentations. We hope that a selection of these papers will be of sufficient interest to work towards publishing them in an edited collection and will be able to advise on these plans in more detail in due course.

While we are very open to hearing from researchers as to the approach to this topic they may wish to take, we offer the following list of questions and issues which may assist you in thinking about this topic:

- What are the distinctive features of the HASS doctorate in Australia? Its strengths and its weaknesses? Are there areas in which the Australian doctorate has been particularly innovative?
- How does research education shape the subjectivity of the researcher? How has this process played out in Australian HASS disciplines and interdisciplinary fields over time? And, to what ends for the disciplines and fields of study and for the nature of Australian research in the humanities, arts and social sciences?
- How 'Australian' is the Australian doctorate, how international is it?
- What kinds of research do Australian HASS candidates undertake? Has this changed over time? What does the future hold for the Australian HASS PhD?
- How has Australian doctoral research shaped and made researchers and research subjectivities? How has the Australian doctorate shaped the Australian academic profession?
- What kinds of disciplinary and institutional variations in doctoral work are there? How can we account for these?
- Can, or should, we envisage other or different kinds of doctoral education in order to produce different kinds of researchers and research subjectivities for the future?

If you are interested in presenting a paper at this symposium, please reply to katherine.dezilwa@arts.monash.edu.au by 10 September providing:

- A title and brief outline of your proposed presentation (250 words)
- A short bio-note (150 words)

Denise Cuthbert
On behalf of the convenors