



The Chronicle of (Almost) Higher Education

Newsletter of the Physed Post-Grad Community

Maintaining OUR community

Editorial

Literary connoisseurs, I give you newsletter 9. This fortnight we give you vignettes from Allen and Roger. The former excites us about, well, what excites him, and the latter reminds us about the necessity of taking some time to sit back, relax, and enjoy some fine wine.

Today I wanted to write a bit about the importance of reading for pleasure during your post-grad research journey. I have always enjoyed books. However, I was a disgustingly precocious child. I once, as an ambitious 11-year old, read Arthur C. Clarke's epic epoch tome *Ghost from the Grand Banks*. Not because I was necessarily interested in the subject matter (fascinating as it was), it was simply the largest book I could find in our school library. In the process, however, I also somehow learned a lot about the mathematical magnificence of the Mandelbrot Set.(1)

Admittedly, I understand that finding a respite to read is, for some, a difficult task. Where is there ever the time to read anything other than journal articles and scholarly text? Even for me, indulging in a broader reading project has, especially lately, become a midnight affair. Currently, I have three books on the go. One is *This Horrid Practice*, Paul Moon's infamous cultural history of Māori cannibalism; the second is Peter Riordan's leisurely sojourn through the Indian Subcontinent, entitled *Strangers in My Sleeper*; and the third is Bill Bryson's *Travels Through Small Town America*.

For me reading is (rarely) about procrastination, as I have, of late, come to see it as another form of my scholarly praxis. Reading is inevitably, if albeit slowly, changing the work I do as an academic, what I'm interested in, and how I write about it. The point is that in and through reading, I am consciously plying my own writing practices. I have come to appreciate a diverse array of authors with quite varied narrative styles. Some styles irk, and some excite. I pay attention to authors' peculiarities with language, their command of linguistic devices, and nous with finer literary nuances. I am also encouraged by the effort of a friend who is beginning his research journey by attempting to read many of the literary classics; *1984*, *For whom the Bell Tolls*, *Moby Dick*, *Animal Farm*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*, to name just a few. All of which, they will tell you, are coming to contour their epistemological and ontological assumptions and, in a way, their research work.

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In sum, fellow lovers of the book, read widely, read with purpose, but always read for pleasure.

I'm not even going to try and compete with the expressive masterpiece to the left. My piece this week is, as always, far more pragmatic:

Thanks to those of you who attended and contributed to the abstract writing workshop. For those who didn't attend I have a number of handouts if you're interested in what was discussed. And if you are presenting at the symposium and want some tips on how to prepare your abstract please get in touch with your session facilitators who will certainly help you out. We will hold a similar session toward the end of October about preparing and presenting your work orally. I will confirm details closer to the time.

Coffee this week is a real must, we have Becs Wilson from the Otago Bulletin doing a piece on our postgrad 'community' and I would really like her to meet as many of you as possible. I really don't want it to be just me! So pleeeeeease do all that you can to try and make it. Do I sound desperate?! Wednesday 10.30am staff club.

Also we have another grad forum this Friday about securing internal and external funds for research and travel. Please do come along and witness Profs Booth and Jackson spilling the beans, if you will...

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Academic events

- Grad research forum— 'Playing the money game'. Friday 18th September, 1pm, Seminar Room 213/214
- Making Research a Two-Way Process between Researchers and Communities. Tuesday 6th October 1-4pm, HEDC Seminar Room

Professor Nancy Turner (University of Victoria, BC) and Dr Janet Stephenson (CSAFE). This workshop will consider why we might engage in two-way research, and provide an opportunity for those who are doing it (and those who would like to) to share their experiences, stories, successes and difficulties.

(1). The Mandelbrot Set, if I remember correctly, is the continued division of square roots that when plotted graphically give rise to an infinitely symmetrical (and fascinatingly beautiful) geometric patterns. Such patterns have subsequently been employed in art, architecture, urban planning, music, and the fashion industry.

Our voice (I)

Lessons, experiences, & stories
from our mentors & peers

“I am incredibly passionate about sustainability and believe we all have to make radical changes if we are to pass on viable natural and social eco-systems to our children and grandchildren.”



**Allen
Hill**

Having graduated from PE school in 1993 I went on to teach PE and outdoor education in secondary schools for 11 years. In 2007 I won a teachers study award which gave me a years leave on full pay to study a Post Grad Diploma in Outdoor Education here at Otago. At that stage I was here to re-charge the batteries for a year before heading back into the classroom; I never dreamed of doing PhD study. Deciding to take a year to finish a Masters thesis turned into three when I was upgraded to PhD.

I am now half way through my PhD project which involves working with a group of secondary outdoor education teachers in a collaborative action research project. We are re-envisioning outdoor education through principles of sustainability and eco-justice. I am incredibly passionate about sustainability and believe we all have to make radical changes if we are to pass on viable natural and social eco-systems to our children and grandchildren.

Being a PhD student here at Otago is a privilege. I have wonderful supervisors – Mike Boyes and Mark Falcous – and am enjoying my experience immensely. As post-grads we need to keep in mind how privileged we are to be engaged in higher education.

Social Events

- **Weekly morning teas. Wednesday staff club. (alternating between 10.30am & 2.30pm each week)**

Come and join fellow physed postgrads for a free coffee and chat (about work or otherwise)

- 16th Sept 10.30 am

- 23rd Sept 2.30 pm



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Our voice (II)

Lessons, experiences, & stories from our mentors & peers

“Outside of work, I try to keep fit – it gets harder with age, do a bit of rifle shooting, like wine tasting, enjoy a few glasses of hand-pulled beer, do some gardening...”

I found my way in to research quite deliberately. After dithering around for a year trying to decide what to study as an undergraduate – I considered, then passed up on, chemistry and then politics, philosophy and economics, before settling on mechanical engineering at the University of Bath – I knew that research was for me by the second year of my BSc and went on to do my PhD, also in mechanical engineering, at the University of Nottingham straight after graduating. I got in to sport science while a lecturer at Liverpool Polytechnic, now Liverpool John Moores University. The department of physical education were developing the first single honours sports science degree in the UK, and they came to the department of mechanical engineering,



Professor Roger Bartlett

where I was a lecturer, to see if anyone was interested in developing and teaching a curriculum in biomechanics. Well, I never really looked back from there. Stints followed at Manchester Metropolitan University, Staffordshire University and, latterly, Sheffield Hallam University (at all of which I held full professorships) before moving to paradise in 2004. My proudest professional achievements would certainly include my period as Chair of the British Association of Sports and Exercise Sciences from 1991-4 and my editorships of the Journal of Sports Sciences from 1996-2001 and of Sports Biomechanics from 2004-8. My current research interests are centred on the coordination of, and variability in, sports movements, important themes that emerged from my earlier empirical research and mathematical modelling in throwing skills. I have recently agreed new collaborative research projects on analyzing movement patterns in games with the University of Wales Institute Cardiff and on movement variability in cross-country skiing with the University of Salzburg. Outside of work, I try to keep fit – it gets harder with age, do a bit of rifle shooting, like wine tasting, enjoy a few glasses of hand-pulled beer, do some gardening, listen to classical music (from the middle ages to contemporary), and read a lot, including poetry and music; I also watch the odd All Blacks game on TV, for my sins.

Care to share

If you've read a great newspaper article, seen a fascinating documentary, baked some delicious scones, or finally worked out how to put in a double-space endnote bibliography then this is the place to share it.

- The recent case of the International Athletic Federation's treatment of South African runner Casta Semenya raises an interesting, and important, series of questions that we, as academics functioning within an interdisciplinary community, should be fascinated with but also incised about. For further details you might like to check out the article below.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/sport/news/article.cfm?c_id=4&objectid=10596589

- Those of you who recall the seminal work of former physed post-grad Sam Lucas on endurance sport events and their associated effects on participants, might be interested in the following article...

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/local/2853334/Tattoo-Stu-out-to-break-tenpin-bowling-world-record/>