Letter from Counterpoints 2001 Chairperson - Dr. Barbara Harding

The Counterpoints Forum resulted from a meeting of humanities postgraduates in the middle of 2000 when a desire for an across disciplines conference was expressed. Postgraduates attending that meeting were keen for an event that would attract a wide range of postgraduates from both ETHL and the Social Sciences where they could meet and talk in a friendly environment. An expression of interest was sent out in October 2000 and the response was immediately encouraging. Postgraduates from a variety of disciplines responded with enthusiasm. Thirty-two papers were delivered at the conference. Disciplines represented were; Archaeology, Asian Studies, Australian Studies, Commerce, Drama, Education, English, Geography, Population and Environmental Management, Italian, Legal Studies, Philosophy, Politics, Psychology, Screen Studies, Sociology, Spanish, Theology and Women's Studies. There was also a positive response from academic staff both financially and academically.

The forum presented postgraduates with an opportunity to meet and discuss their research with other students from different disciplines as well as a chance to develop papers and articles which they later wished to deliver to a larger audience. But aside from the intellectual stimulation it was also fun. It was great to talk with other 'postgrads' about their topics and their research practices.

These papers are a sample from the forum and a sign of the strength and diversity of Postgraduate research being undertaken at Flinders University. As the response by students towards the forum was so enthusiastic we believe that Counterpoints 2001 is only the beginning and hope that it will become an annual event. We therefore believe that this publication will serve as a link between past and future forums.

Barbara Harding
Convenor Counterpoints 2001