Letter from Counterpoints Convenor 2003 - Debi McLachlan

The papers in this volume reflect the diversity of postgraduate research at Flinders University. Publication is not, however, the focus of the Counterpoints Conference.

Counterpoints aims to provide a friendly environment for postgraduates to meet and talk about their research as well as the opportunity to develop papers and articles for delivery to wider audiences.

This year’s conference attracted a range of postgraduates from Social Sciences and EHILT. The papers presented at the conference reveal its multi-disciplinary nature. Disciplines represented were: English, Geography Population and Environmental Management, History, Legal Studies, Politics and International Studies, Screen Studies, Sociology and Theology.

Many students left the conference with additional insights to their own research gained by the interdisciplinary approach of the conference. The conference has helped develop a collegial network across disciplines that has proved valuable to many otherwise isolated post-graduate students.

The feedback received from both presenters and attendees of the conference suggests that Counterpoints 2003 made a valuable contribution towards the development of postgraduate students who were involved. It achieved this by providing a supportive and friendly environment in which to explore and develop ideas. It is also worth mentioning that some presenters have had subsequent versions of their papers published in academic journals – further evidence of the developmental role that Counterpoints plays.

The positive response to the conference extended beyond that of postgraduate students. The Post-grad Students Association continues to provide valuable support for the conference. The current Counterpoints Committee is encouraged by the response to the conference and hope that it becomes a renowned event on the university calendar. Due to intense workloads of the organising committee Counterpoints will not be convened in 2004. We hope to attract increased levels of support for and participation in Counterpoints 2005. See you in April, 2005.

Debi McLachlan
Convenor Counterpoints 2003