

ADSA

*Australasian Association for Theatre,
Drama and Performance Studies*

Post-Graduate Guidebook

Printed 2011

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Welcome to ADSA

Welcome to the Australasian Association for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies (ADSA), the peak association providing a collegial, scholarly forum for—as well as representing the interests of—scholars and practitioners contributing to the field of theatre, drama and performance studies across Australia and New Zealand.

Founded in 1977 as the Australian Drama Studies Association, the additions of ‘theatre’ and ‘performance’ to ADSA’s very name alludes to the dynamism and interdisciplinarity of the field.

ADSA’s main focus has been to convene an annual conference and to publish a highly regarded scholarly journal—Australasian Drama Studies—twice a year. In recent years, ADSA has also taken on an increasingly active role as an advocacy body, contributing to policy and debate, and lobbying in the interests of its members, of the disciplines that fall under its umbrella, and of the humanities and arts in general.

More than this, however, and at the risk of sounding sentimental, ADSA provides a sense of place and belonging for a diverse community of colleagues, something that has become all the more important as restructures and funding crunches reconfigure our institutional identities. For those of us with relatively long memories, ADSA figures prominently as a stable, generous and, importantly, rigorous ground on which to develop our own work and careers, and upon which to build the kinds of networks of intellectual exchange, support and

friendship which, in turn, underpin our daily practices as scholars, researchers, teachers and performance workers.

One of the most important responsibilities of ADSA, then, is to ensure that those entering the field are afforded the opportunity to experience this support and friendship. Postgraduate students are central to the ADSA project, not just as ‘the next generation’, but as active contributors to the debates and exchanges of our work. This guide, then, is intended not only to provide you with useful information—it certainly does that—but to extend to you an invitation to get involved and to contribute to a community of investigators. It is our undertaking to honour your contributions, and to work towards providing an environment in which Professors and those just starting out in the discipline can meet, share and build sustainable professional and collegial relationships.

This guide has been compiled by the two postgraduate representatives on the ADSA 2010-2011 Executive, Robert Reid and Trisha Hopkins, and I would like to acknowledge their efforts in the most emphatic terms: thank you both for not only offering to take on the task (the easy bit), but seeing it through with such style (the decidedly more difficult part). Other members of the Executive have also contributed: I would most like to single out Bree Hadley for her energy, focus and the clarity of her vision.

I look forward to meeting you at the next conference.

Assoc. Prof. Ian Maxwell, President

Publishing Information and Copyright

Compiled for ADSA by
Bree Hadley, Tricia Hopton, Ian Maxwell and Robert Reid

Produced by the Australian Association for Theatre, Drama and
Performance Studies

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What is ADSA?

ADSA is the Australasian Association for Theatre, Drama and Performance Studies. It is the peak academic body in the western Pacific region promoting the study of drama, theatre and performance across a range of genres and contexts.

ADSA was formed in 1977 at the instigation of the late Dr Philip Parsons, Senior Lecturer inD at the University of New South Wales. The original name was the Australasian Drama Studies Association. The association changed its name in 2003 to reflect the diversity of research and performance interests of the mem-

bership. The acronym ADSA, however, has been retained.

ADSA represents members of staff and post-graduate students of Australasian tertiary institutions who are engaged in teaching, research and practice in theatre, drama and performance studies. Directors of associated theatres and members of the theatrical profession are also active members. ADSA's annual conference is usually held in late June/early July.

Membership of ADSA

Membership of ADSA is open, on payment of the annual subscription as determined by the Association in general meeting, to staff members and post-graduate students of Australasian tertiary institutions engaged in teaching and/or research in drama studies and to Directors of associated theatres and to members of the theatrical profession.

Membership to ADSA entitles you to:

Two copies per year of Australasian Drama Studies, the major journal of drama and theatre studies in Australia, New Zealand, and South-East Asia;

An annual Register of Research in Drama, and a separate Register of Postgraduate Research Thesis Topics;

Information about the annual ADSA Conference, the opportunity to present research at the conference, and a discount on registration;

Occasional publications of plays suitable for drama teaching at the tertiary level. Now available free to new members: Virginia Baxter: *What Time Is This House?*; T.A. Palmer (dram): *East Lynne*; *Performing Women/Performing Feminisms: Interviews with International Women Playwrights* eds. Joanne Tompkins and Julie Holledge;

Opportunities to meet and correspond with colleagues around the globe through ADSA's links with ATHE (the Association for Higher Education in Drama in the USA), SCUD (the Standing Committee of College and University Drama Teachers in the UK), PSI (Performance Studies International) and the International Theatre Institute;

Regular email bulletins advising of calls for papers, symposia, conferences and other events, and scholarship and employment opportunities.

Membership fees are

Individual: AUD \$90.00

Student: AUD \$60.00

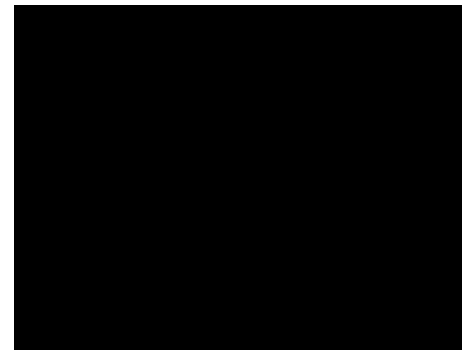
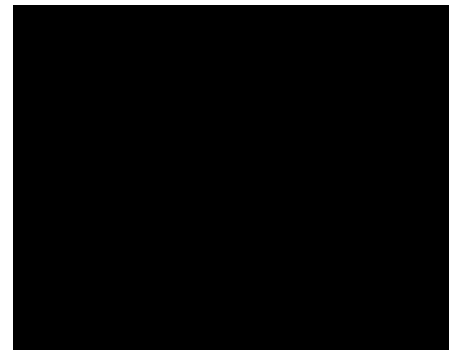
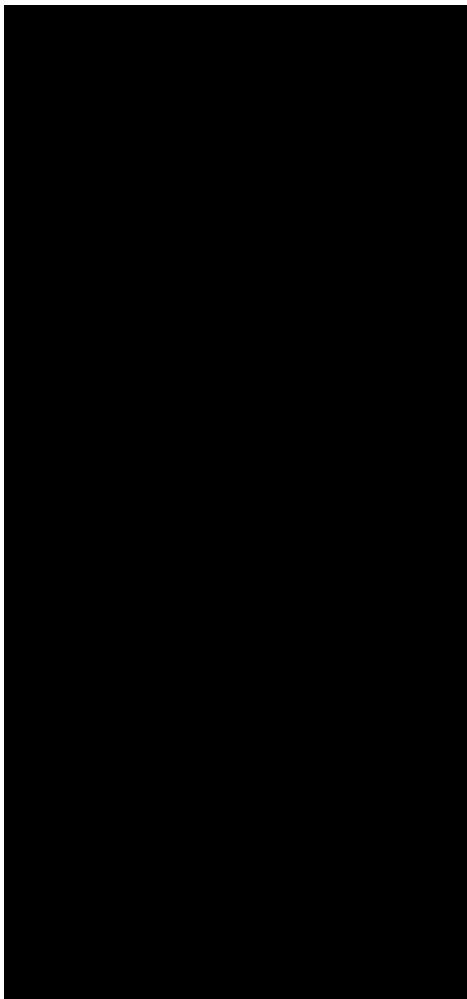
What does ADSA offer you?

The ADSA Conference

The annual ADSA conference is one of the most important opportunities for a post graduate student or an Early Career Researcher to introduce themselves to the performance studies research community in Australia. Not only do you have the chance to present your work to colleagues from around the country, the conference is an the best opportunity to hear what other researchers are working on and to establish professional relationships, find mentors and develop friendships.

As your career develops the social networks established at the conference will be of inestimable value for feedback on research, advice for candidature and career matters.

The conference is also a celebration of what we do as theatre and performance studies academics.



Awards and Bursaries

ADSA awards a number of annual and bi-annual prizes. These include: the Geoffrey Milne Bursary, which assists an outstanding post-graduate student with the costs of attending the ADSA Conference each year, the Veronica Kelly Prize for Best Postgraduate Paper at the ADSA Conference each year, the Phillip Parsons Prize for Performance as Research by an Honours, Masters or PhD student, the Marlis Thiersch Prize for best scholarly article by an ADSA member, and the Rob Jordan Prize for best book by an ADSA Member.

Short listing and receipt of these awards can be a significant contribution to your CV and academic profile.

Advocacy

ADSA, as represented by members of the executive, has been a highly active advocate for theatre and performance studies academics, in the development of administrative and government policy. ADSA has been an active contributor to the development of the ERA (Excellence in Research for Australia), and the formulation of discipline standards for degrees in the creative and performing arts through the Australian Learning and Teaching Council under the TEQSA (stands for?) quality assurance system. ADSA is also involved as a core member of a working party seeking to establish a Learned Academy of the Creative Arts in Australia.

These negotiations will directly affect you throughout your career as a post graduate, early career researcher and tenured academic as they shape industrial employment relations for practicing academics, funding and support for researchers.

Online Academic Networks

Through its website, ADSA maintains a number of resources for researchers and academics to facilitate co-operation and mentoring opportunities including:

A research register which keeps a record of areas of academic specialty represented by the ADSA community. You can use the research register to find out what research is currently being undertaken by ADSA members; find a collaborator who might be interested in documenting and writing about major productions, companies, etc; or find possible supervisors for a higher degree or prospective examiners for MA and PhD theses.

A public online bulletin board where members can ask questions, participate in discussions and seek advice regarding research objectives and professional development issues. The Bulletin Board is open for members to post comments or queries, respond to questions and discuss ongoing issues.

A facebook page via which ADSA members can stay in touch directly. You can use the facebook page to approach ADSA members

directly to ask advice, discuss potential collaboration, supervision or mentoring.

An RSS news feed which keeps members regularly updated about employment and publishing opportunities.

ADS journal

Established in 1982, Australasian Drama Studies (ADS) is a fully peer-reviewed journal which publishes articles, interviews, and production casebooks on world theatre by international scholars. The journal also publishes community theatre texts, reviews of scholarly books and published playtexts, and the transcript of the annual Rex Cramphorn memorial lecture delivered at Belvoir St Theatre. Full text of articles in ADS are available on APAFT: the Australian Public Affairs Full Text Service Database

Advice for Post-Graduates

ADSA recognises that negotiating the field of Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies, and understanding what sorts of professional development activities you need to be doing during your candidacy, can be daunting.

In the current employment environment the reality of professional academic life is that it takes more than a strong PhD to remain competitive. Employers look for evidence that you can produce and disseminate research, teach effectively at undergraduate and post graduate levels, contribute to management and governance issues through participation in administrative committees.

To help clarify some of the many professional pathways open to you, ADSA has developed this guide as an introduction for post graduate students at the beginning of their candidature. For more detailed information students are encouraged to discuss further with their supervisor and their university.

Publishing

The following information is sourced directly from each publishers website

ERA

The Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative assesses research quality within Australia's higher education institutions using a combination of indicators and expert review by committees comprising experienced, internationally-recognised experts. The ERA details areas within institutions and disciplines that are internationally competitive, as well as point to emerging areas where there are opportunities for development and further investment.

The Excellence in Research in Australia (ERA) assessment process has a Quality component based on ranked outlets. In this process, a ranking is given to a journal or publisher, and all material published in that journal or by that publisher is treated as having the same ranking.

Theatre and Drama and Performance studies publications are catalogued under 1904: Performing Arts and Creative Writing

Journals categorised under 1904 are ranked A+, A, B or C. Australia produces three separate A ranked journals, About Performance, Performance Paradigm and the ADSA journal Australasian Drama Studies (ADS)

For more information on the ERA go to

http://www.arc.gov.au/era/era_journal_list.htm#1

Journals

The process of approach and publishing with refereed journals in will vary from publisher to publisher.

About Performance

ERA Ranking : A

About Performance is the refereed journal of the Department of Performance Studies at University of Sydney, and is concerned in the broadest possible way with the phenomenon of performance and with the processes involved in its production and reception. It is interested in all genres of aesthetic performance and live art, as well as social/cultural performance, ritual, and a wide range of performative activity. The journal provides a forum for analysis, theorisation and critique by academic researchers and performance makers. It welcomes articles that bring theoretical perspectives derived from other disciplines to bear on performance practice.

Each issue of About Performance is devoted to a single theme and the journal appears once a year.

<http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/performance/research/publications.shtml>

Australasian Drama Studies

ERA Ranking : A

Established in 1982, Australasian Drama Studies (ADS) is a fully peer-reviewed journal which publishes articles, interviews, and production casebooks on world theatre by international scholars. The journal also publishes community theatre texts, reviews of scholarly books and published playtexts, and the transcript of the annual Rex Cramphorn memorial lecture delivered at Belvoir St Theatre. All articles are peer-reviewed anonymously; consequently the author's name must not appear on the copy submitted. The editors will contact the author with any suggested alterations and comments after peer assessments have been made. This process can take up to 2 months.

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/drama/ads/index.html>

Performance Paradigm

ERA Ranking : A

Performance Paradigm is an interdisciplinary, refereed journal that reflects contemporary performance research across a range of cultures and contexts primarily in Asia and Australia. Performance Paradigm is intended as a forum for Asian and Australian scholarship in the fields of live performance, dance, installation, hybrid performance, events and festivals, screen performance, ritual, multimedia and time based art and related areas. It is published annually in themed issues.

<http://www.performanceparadigm.net/>

Double Dialogues

ERA ranking : B

Double Dialogues is a refereed journal dealing with the discourse and practice of the arts, encompassing the visual arts, film, multi-media, dance, music, creative writing and theatre.

<http://www.doubledialogues.com/>

Platform

ERA Ranking : Unranked

A postgraduate journal published out of Royal Holloway to offer publishing opportunities specifically targeted to post graduates in Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies.

<http://www.rhul.ac.uk/dramaandtheatre/platform/home.aspx>

Popular Entertainment Studies

ERA Ranking : Unranked

Popular Entertainment Studies is a peer-reviewed, inter-disciplinary eJournal dedicated to the exploration of all aspects of popular entertainment. Its aim is to stimulate international debate and the exchange of ideas in a field whose meaning and definition remain widely contested. The journal invites contributions from scholars and practitioners with interests in the history of popular theatre forms, performance studies, the moving image, fine arts, music, health, psychology, economics and cultural studies. It would also welcome an input from performing arts curators and archivists.

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/journal/popular-entertainment-studie>

Conferences

The following information is sourced directly from each conference organisers website

As with the annual ADSA conference, attendance at and participation in international conferences can provide you with important networking and professional development opportunities. Presenting your work at these conferences is an opportunity to introduce your research to the international academic community, receive valuable feedback and establish mentoring and peer relationships internationally. Attendance at international conferences also exposes you to contemporary work being conducted globally.

PSI – Performance Studies International

PSi is a professional association founded in 1997 to promote communication and exchange between scholars and practitioners working in the field of performance. The organisation has staged numerous international conference and festival gatherings that have moved between the discourse and practice of performance. PSi conferences have been held across the U.S.A. and the U.K. and in Germany, New Zealand and Singapore.

PSi is a network of exchange for scholars and practitioners working in diverse locations, both disciplinary and geographic. It acts as a crucible for new ideas and forms in performance discourse and practice, often testing the relation between the two. As a professional organization, PSi is committed to encouraging the development of both emerging and established artists and scholars.

<http://psi-web.org/>

IFTR - International Federation for Theatre Research

The International Federation for Theatre Research exists to facilitate communication and exchange between scholars of theatre and performance research throughout the world through its conference events and publishing activities. Founded in 1957, the Federation currently boasts members from 44 countries and from all continents. It holds annual international conferences, regional conferences, and research working group symposia. It owns a leading international journal (Theatre Research International) and publishes two major book series in collaboration with Palgrave Macmillan and Rodopi.

IFTR - New Scholars' Forum

The IFTR, through its Solidarity Initiatives, is committed to fostering the work of New Scholars from a range of locations throughout the world. New Scholars are defined as either graduate students or post-doctoral researchers whose PhDs have been completed less than three years previously. Researchers without PhDs who have been in an academic post for less than three years also qualify as New Scholars. As well as offering conferencing opportunities to New Scholars, the Federation also invites eligible researchers to send in entries to the New Scholars' Prize competition.

Students and early-career researchers wanting to present their work in the Forum are invited to send an abstract of no more than 250 words to the conference organisers by the stated deadline for proposals. Abstracts should give a brief account of a research project and outline the methodology, sources and conceptual approach. Please state clearly that the paper is proposed for the New Scholars' Forum.

<https://www.firt-iftr.org/>

SCUDD - Standing Conference of Drama Departments

The Standing Conference of Drama Departments (SCUDD) represents the interests of Drama, Theatre and Performing Arts in the Higher Education sector in the UK. It acts as a mediating body with organisations such as funding councils, the AHRC and the Arts Councils and is consulted by such organisations when matters of future policy are discussed and decided. It is concerned, above all, to promote the multi-disciplined areas of drama, theatre and performance.

<http://www.scudd.org.uk/>

TaPRA - Theatre and Performance Research Association Conference

The Theatre & Performance Research Association (TaPRA) exists in order to facilitate research through and into theatre and performance. It is based on collegiality with a formal structure that intends to advance informal, productive and dynamic research networks. Although membership is largely British and Irish, TaPRA welcomes international members and seeks to engage with research across a wide range of cultures, disciplines and geographies.

It aims to foster research that:

enables links between practitioners and scholars within our disciplines and across cognate fields;

liaises with specialist organisations and groupings;

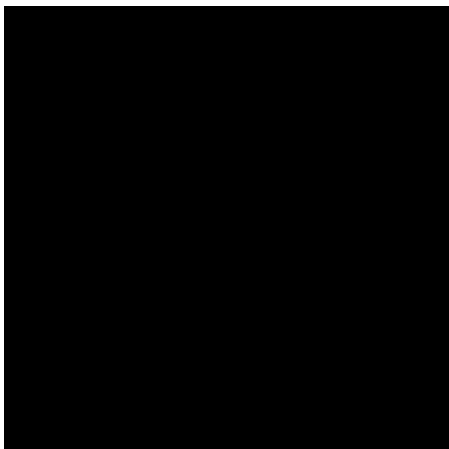
encourages early career research in theatre and performance.

Career Development

It will be important throughout your academic career, and particularly in the early stages of your candidacy, to develop a broad range of professional qualifications and experiences. As already mentioned, a strong PhD is only part of what potential employers will be looking for.

For more detailed information you should discuss with your supervisor and your institution, but as a guide we suggest developing any of the following elements for your CV:

- Teaching experience at a tertiary level including a theory class, a workshop and a production unit
- The ability to teach multiple units at the institution. Universities change their structure regularly, if you can only teach one thing you become a less attractive proposition.
- Experience in administration of teaching, experience in generating course outlines, unit content and resources, etc. (Unit coordinator or head tutor).
- Participation in professional development programs and teaching practices seminars
- Presentation of conference papers (local, national and international)
- Published Book reviews
- Published performance reviews
- Published articles
- Awards (ie Veronica Kelly post grad award)
- Arts Grant (Australia Council or State Arts funding boards)
- Experience as research assistant on an academic project
- Involvement on committee or conference convening. (ie Post Grad rep for ADSA executive or participation on organising committee of local or national conference)
- Presentation of experience and pedagogy as Teaching Portfolio
- Results of peer appraisal and teaching survey



Other Resources

AusStage

AusStage provides an accessible research facility for investigating live performance in Australia. It was built by a consortium of universities and industry partners with funding from the Australian Research Council. AusStage records information on live performance in Australia, as a wealth-producing creative industry, a generator of social capital and an indicator of the nation's cultural vitality.

Researchers and students use AusStage to develop new knowledge about live performance in Australia and to assess the contribution that live events make to the nation's cultural vitality and international image. Companies, artists and reviewers use AusStage to find out who's doing what in the live performance industry. Librarians, archivists and museum staff use AusStage as a source of information on items in their collections and to assist the public with enquiries. AusStage is working with researchers in universities, performing arts organisations and government agencies to track patterns of live performance over time and to identify opportunities for audience development and strategic investment.

<http://www.ausstage.edu.au/default.jsp?xid=27>

Australian Script Centre

The Australian Script Centre has been selectively collecting, promoting and distributing contemporary Australian plays in manuscript form since 1979. The Centre's work supports playwrights in particular by filling the gap left by the very small number of Australian plays that achieve commercial publication.

Set up and managed by the Australian Script Centre in collaboration with PlayWriting Australia, Currency Press and Playlab Press, australianplays.org is the definitive portal for Australian performance writing. The site features the play catalogues of the ASC and its project partners as well as titles from other theatrical publishers. In addition to the e-commerce facility, the website has an online library holding read-only versions of all plays in the ASC catalogue (available to subscribers only).

Playscripts available on australianplays.org may be in digital format or as printed books.

<http://www.ozscript.org/home.html>



Job Alerts

A number of the peak associations for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies in Higher Education – for example, ADSA, PSi and SCUDD – offer members an email list which regularly delivers information about advertised academic job opportunities to members. There are also other resources, such as the

jobs@ac.uk website, which deliver information about advertised academic job opportunities. Signing up to one or more of these services is the best way to ensure you hear about opportunities you may wish to apply for as you come to the end of your PhD studies.

Contact ADSA

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<http://www.adsa.edu.au/adsa/>

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