

Victoria

La Trobe University

DP0772046 A/Prof D Bradley

Approved Project Title **Why and how do languages expand, coalesce or die? Lisu in China, Burma, Thailand and India**

2007 : \$66,000

2008 : \$63,000

2009 : \$63,000

Primary RFCD 3802 LINGUISTICS

Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

This project extends Australian leadership of international co-operation in language contact research. Practical outcomes include a pandialectal dictionary of Lisu and literary materials which provide in-depth background on the languages, cultures, religions and history of East, Southeast and South Asia. Like most nations, Australia has many indigenous and migrant languages which are under threat, many with dialect issues that further complicate the situation. The findings of this project may be directly applied for the maintenance and revitalisation of our indigenous languages, nearly all of which are now struggling for survival, and in similar efforts for migrant languages.

DP0771998 Prof JA Camilleri

Approved Project Title **International Conflict, Religion and Culture: Implications for Southeast Asia and Australia**

2007 : \$97,000

2008 : \$53,000

2009 : \$140,000

Primary RFCD 3601 POLITICAL SCIENCE

Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

This study will:

- (1) Provide governments and their agencies critical benchmarks and strategic options for policy development and public discourse, especially in periods of international tension;
- (2) Offer religious and ethnic organisations greater expertise and more usable resources to help defuse potential conflict and hostility within Australian society;
- (3) Widen media skills in interpreting and disseminating material originating from diverse religious and cultural sources;
- (4) Enhance Australia's reputation as a vibrant multicultural society able to develop cutting-edge dialogical programmes;
- (5) Help to make Australia's engagement with Asia more sensitive to the religious and cultural dimensions of international diplomacy.

DP0770535 Prof GD Cumming; Ms F Fidler

Approved Project Title **Evidence-based improvement of statistical inference practices in psychology and other disciplines**

2007 : \$117,000

2008 : \$121,926

2009 : \$116,926

Primary RFCD 3801 PSYCHOLOGY

APD Ms F Fidler

Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

The commonest ways that many researchers currently draw conclusions from their data have been shown to be inefficient, and often used incorrectly. This project will develop new, better statistical representations and software tools for data analysis. It will evaluate and demonstrate the effectiveness of these. Wide adoption of these techniques and tools will enhance the international reputation and competitiveness of Australian psychological science. Adoption by Australian researchers across the social and behavioural sciences, and in other disciplines including medicine, economics and ecology, will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Australian research, with consequential wide-ranging benefits to the Australian community.

Summary of Discovery Projects Proposals for Funding to Commence in 2007

DP0770115 Prof RM Dixon; Prof AY Aikhenvald

Approved Project Title **Are some languages better than others?**

2007 : \$130,000

2008 : \$57,000

2009 : \$137,000

2010 : \$47,000

Primary RFCD 3802 LINGUISTICS

Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

It is important for the Australian community - speaking several hundred different indigenous and immigrant languages across the nation - to realise that each language has approximately (but not precisely) the same overall complexity as every other. One may have intricate word structure, while another has short words but elaborate rules for putting words together to make sentences. And, striding above 'political correctness', many people in Australia will be interested to know whether a certain language is a little more efficient than certain other languages for a particular purpose (for example, commercial business).

DP0770013 Dr DA Dougan; Dr KN Truscott

Approved Project Title **Function and modulation of the protein quality control network in mammalian mitochondria**

2007 : \$90,000

2008 : \$88,000

2009 : \$85,000

Primary RFCD 2701 BIOCHEMISTRY AND CELL BIOLOGY

Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

This project has potential technological benefit in the areas of biotechnology and molecular medicine especially in relation to age-related cellular degeneration. As a result of our research outputs, strategies could be developed to either delay the onset or reduce the severity of diseases related to mitochondrial dysfunction. Training research scientists of the future, forms an integral part of our research program and our association with world leaders in the field provide excellent opportunity for exchange of personnel, ideas and emerging methodologies. This project will lead the way in this field and consequently will expand Australia's reputation at the forefront of scientific advancement.

DP0771309 Prof NJ Hoogenraad; Dr MT Ryan; Prof DL Vaux; Dr N Klonis

Approved Project Title **A Cytosolic Complex for Targeting Mitochondrial Proteins**

2007 : \$132,000

2008 : \$123,000

2009 : \$114,000

Primary RFCD 2701 BIOCHEMISTRY AND CELL BIOLOGY

Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

Mitochondria are essential for the viability of cells, and are the major source of cellular energy via oxidative phosphorylation. A loss of mitochondrial function with age contributes to the ageing process and therefore understanding the basic functions of this organelle is an important aim in biology. In mammalian cells this organelle comprises about 1500 different proteins, 99% of which need to be imported from outside the organelle. We have found that this requires a large protein complex to target the preproteins to the organelle. This research is directed to determining the component parts of this complex and the roles each component plays in the targeting process and in mitochondrial reproduction.

Summary of Discovery Projects Proposals for Funding to Commence in 2007

DP0771272 Prof JS Kahn; Dr WP Mee; Dr C Houston

Approved Project Title **Translocal Identities in the Malay World: Travel, Commerce, Community Building and Religious Reform in Insular and Peninsular Southeast Asia**

2007 : \$82,565

2008 : \$82,801

2009 : \$85,788

Primary RFCD 3703 ANTHROPOLOGY

Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

First, the project contributes to an understanding of the region. Second, understanding how different governments in the region have and are managing religious and cultural diversity may provide lessons for Australia. Third, a study of migration within the region can make a significant contribution to debates within Australia on immigration from Asia. Fourth, there are benefits in greater understanding of Islamic networks in Southeast Asia as these are of strategic significance for Australia. Finally, there are benefits in informing an Australian public that Southeast Asia should not be equated solely with negative aspects but also with civility and tolerance.

DP0770451 Prof L Liu; Prof X Chen; Asst Prof D Yang; Mr T Gonzalez

Approved Project Title **The origins of Asian domestic buffalo and its role in the development of agricultural technology**

2007 : \$190,324

2008 : \$175,324

2009 : \$179,324

Primary RFCD 4302 ARCHAEOLOGY AND PREHISTORY

APD Mr T Gonzalez

Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

Benefits for Australia are educational, cultural and scientific. This project will enhance research collaborations between Australian universities and research institutions in China, Canada, the USA and India. It will particularly create more opportunities for academic exchange between Australia and China. This project employs new methods combining archaeology with DNA technology and archaeometry to tackle important issues in animal domestication and agricultural technology in many Asian regions. Its outcome will make a significant contribution to our knowledge of the human history of our region and the world.

DP0770366 Dr R Makarevich

Approved Project Title **Study of the ionospheric E region during disturbed geomagnetic conditions using stereoscopic HF radar observations**

2007 : \$50,000

2008 : \$40,000

2009 : \$40,000

Primary RFCD 2606 ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES

Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

This project is expected to benefit Australia by: maintaining and expanding Australia's traditionally strong research positions in the field of space physics; conducting leading edge research in the rapidly expanding field of geomagnetic storm effects on technological systems; establishing bi-directional transfer of radar technology between Australia and international partners; providing unique training in space science and advanced data processing highly valued by industry, government and academia' potentially leading to significant improvements in performance and stability of satellite communication and positioning systems; and supporting Australia's critical infrastructure such as surveillance and power distribution networks.

Summary of Discovery Projects Proposals for Funding to Commence in 2007

DP0771418 Prof JF Martin; Dr NM Argent; A/Prof SW Baum; A/Prof L Bourke; Dr PA McManus; Dr WN Pritchard; A/Prof AD Sorensen; Prof JJ Walmsley

Approved Project Title **Australia's Rural Heartlands: Declining Economic Fortune or Dynamic Regional Adjustment?**

2007 : \$98,000

2008 : \$72,000

Primary RFCD 3704 HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

Agriculture in the rural heartlands provides high quality food and fibre for domestic consumption and export making significant contributions to national earnings. The heartlands are the custodians of our natural resources and cultural heritage and farmers play a vital economic and social role in the sustainability of these regions. While there is considerable variability between these places this research will provide a detailed understanding as to why it is that rural places differ in their development. A major benefit will be to present Australian governments, the agricultural industry and rural communities with a more accurate picture of how the rural heartlands now function, and to articulate the public policy implications.

DP0770032 Dr PJ Salzman

Approved Project Title **Mary Wroth: A Contextual Biography and Electronic Edition**

2007 : \$72,322

2008 : \$27,920

2009 : \$32,294

Primary RFCD 4202 LITERATURE STUDIES

Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

This project will result in the biography of a remarkable early modern woman: Lady Mary Wroth. Wroth was an extremely talented writer who produced a huge prose romance, poetry and a pastoral play, and the project will also involve the production of an electronic edition of her writing. No biography of Wroth exists, and the contextual biography which I will write will offer many insights into early Jacobean society and culture. As a whole, the project will enhance Australia's strong research contribution to the key area of early modern studies.

DP0770627 Dr TN Stebbins

Approved Project Title **The Baining languages: a window on the history of Island Melanesia**

2007 : \$100,000

2008 : \$95,000

2009 : \$95,000

Primary RFCD 3802 LINGUISTICS

Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

Papua New Guinea is Australia's nearest neighbour. The province of East New Britain is one of Papua New Guinea's most economically important regions due to its significant natural resources. However, it is also home to long-standing ethnic tensions over the distribution of land and resources. This project will increase Australia's understanding of the languages, cultures, history and politics of the province, and strengthen Australia's ability to make informed economic and political decisions in the area. The project will reinforce Australia's leadership in the field of Melanesian Studies, train postgraduate students, and strengthen strategic ties in the region.

Summary of Discovery Projects Proposals for Funding to Commence in 2007

DP0770125 Dr JA Tebbutt
Approved Project Title **A study of the ABC in Asia and its role in cultural exchange**
2007 : \$70,000
2008 : \$105,141
2009 : \$32,294
Primary RFCD 4001 JOURNALISM, COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA
Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

Technological and cultural exchange with Asia through the Australian Broadcasting Commission/Corporation has been critical in building cross-cultural awareness in both Australia and Asia. Recording and assessing the breadth and character of this exchange will assist Australia's capacity to interpret itself to the world. Analysing the interaction of a liberal-democratic broadcasting model with social organisation in Asia will enhance our capacity to engage with a changing regional media environment. A critical assessment of the ABC's international role will contribute to debates on the value of public broadcasting. The outcomes (book, database, oral histories) provide a permanent resource for researching media and Australia-Asian relations.