Reinvention

The theme for ICUR 2015 is “Current research issues and debates in your discipline or area”. The theme encompasses both current debates and old issues being visited across different research fields.

Presenting and publishing your research are two of the main ways in which students competing in the job market or aspiring to postgraduate studies are able to distinguish themselves from their peers.

The Monash-Warwick Alliance provides such opportunities for undergraduate students from all disciplines. In addition to developing invaluable skills through preparation and presentation at the conference, students are encouraged to submit their work to its associate publication, Reinvention.

Reinvention is a peer-reviewed, open access journal that aims to support undergraduate students in their first foray into academic publishing. It also promotes the idea of an international academic community. The deadline for the next volume (to be published in October 2015) is July 1. Writing a paper alongside preparing your conference presentation is strongly recommended. For more information, contact Reinvention online here: http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/iatl/reinvention/.

For the uninitiated, the ICUR portal contains a wealth of information that will assist you in preparing for the conference - a guide to writing a successful abstract, suggestions on improving your public speaking skills and presentations, and videos from previous conferences are all available online at icurportal.com. Workshops designed to train students to use technology effectively to communicate with an international audience are scheduled for late-June (more info. On p.3) and we encourage all participants to attend.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that ICUR will now be officially listed on participants’ transcripts as an extra-curricular activity.

Alexis Tan & Laura Riccardi, Monash Student Directors.
STUDENT PROFILE

Maziyar Makaremiesfarjani
Monash Malaysia

Maziyar is an undergraduate student at Monash University, Malaysia. He presented his research at ICUR 2014 on filtration technology, focusing on nanosized materials such as nanofibers which aim to provide water at lower energy costs.

Maziyar is currently in his final year of a Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering at Monash University, Malaysia. When his supervisor encouraged him to submit an abstract of his research on the fabrication of nanofibrous membranes for water filtration and biomedical applications, Maziyar realised it would be a unique opportunity to present his results to his peers. He adds, “Not much attention has been given to undergraduate research in the past, but now ICUR provides a platform for students to show their potential.”

He believes that the experience he gained from presenting at the conference in 2014 enables him to refine his research methodology. He asserts, “The opportunity to observe different approaches taken by students to solve real world problems” as one of the most instructive and useful elements of the conference. One of the challenges Maziyar encountered when writing an abstract and preparing for the presentation was to pitch his research in a way that would relate to a multidisciplinary and international audience.

Maziyar’s participation in ICUR 2014 has helped to hone both his research and public speaking skills, and his ability to network with colleagues, “Participating in ICUR was one of the best chances I got during my undergraduate studies to present my research and get feedback from peers.” Maziyar also found the other presentations, representative of the diversity of the presenters, informative and engaging, “I found the research about the robotic arm which could aid the doctors during laparoscopic surgery [especially] interesting.”

Maziyar was one of several students encouraged to continue research at a postgraduate level. ICUR has also opened up the possibility of him collaborating with fellow researchers on an international scale in the future.
STUDENT PROFILE

Jasmine Alexis Doo
Nanyang Technological University

Jasmine is an undergraduate student at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. She presented her research on how two contemporary novels, John Banville’s *The Sea* and Julian Barnes’ *The Sense of an Ending*, explore the multifaceted problems of understanding the self through one’s past at ICUR 2014 at University of Warwick, United Kingdom.

Jasmine stated that the opportunity to present her research at ICUR was especially valuable as she found that ICUR is “a conference designed specially for you to have your ideas heard by, evaluated on and discussed with like-minded peers, and vice versa.” Additionally, presenting at University of Warwick had given her “the pleasure of meeting with an eclectic mix of students not just from my university, and engaging in discussions with them in person.”

ICUR’s interdisciplinary nature meant that Jasmine was able to gain opinions from students of other disciplines which helped to improve her research. She says, “For instance, while I do English literature, fields like philosophy and history are sometimes intimately related with my research. After my presentation at ICUR, I had students of linguistics as well as philosophy come up to me for further discussion on my paper, more than I did from students of literature.”

During her second year at university, Jasmine considered academia as a potential career. She found ICUR had given her “the opportunity to experience what it was like preparing for and presenting my research paper at an academic conference. Because it was a conference for undergraduates, it helped me better understand a part of what a career in academia is going to be like, before I commit to graduate studies and beyond.”

Jasmine is interested in doing future research in “poststructuralism, postmodernism, aesthetics, the discourse of alterity, and more broadly, the contemporary novel”, she wishes “to go on to graduate studies and have a career in research.”

Questions?
Please email Kirra Minton (kirra.minton@monash.edu) if you have any questions.

Conference Updates

Call for Papers

The Monash call for papers is now open. Please submit a 250 word abstract for either a spoken word presentation or a poster presentation via www.icurportal.com/submit-an-abstract/.

Travel Stipend – Monash Students

Monash students are eligible to win a travel stipend to present your research at ICUR at University of Warwick in the UK. There are two stipends available and all Monash undergraduate students submitting abstracts to ICUR 2015 can apply (this includes Monash Malaysia and Monash South Africa students). A third stipend, funded by the Faculty of Science, is available specifically to BSc Advanced Research students.

In order to be considered for a stipend, your application must answer the following question: *How can your research be relevant to global societies?*

Application deadline is midnight on May 22. For more information regarding stipend application guidelines, please email Kirra Minton (kirra.minton@monash.edu).

Workshops

Workshops which will help prepare you for presenting at ICUR 2015 will be held between June 22 and June 26. More information will be provided in the coming months.