

DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA DISCIPLINE PROFILE

Division of SCMP

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OVERVIEW

The Department of Media at Macquarie University reflects a diversity of scholarly approaches, in both its teaching and in its research. The Department combines research-led teaching with contextual and practice-led research. The work of the Department includes higher degree research supervision, undergraduate and Honours teaching.

The Department is strongly committed to excellence in teaching and research. All members of staff, irrespective of their level of appointment, participate in the department's teaching. All members of the department are expected to demonstrate excellence in teaching and research. Administrative abilities and community involvement should be seen as an extension of these rather than a substitute for them. All continuing members of staff, irrespective of their level of appointment, attend department and Division meetings. Fixed term members of staff are invited to participate in relevant meetings but not so as to cause conflicts of interest. All members of staff, irrespective of their level of appointment, undertake academic administration, as indicated.

Both scholarly publications and practice-led research in the form of creative works are recognised as research in the Media discipline. It should be acknowledged that there is no fundamental difference between conventional research and the research of creative practitioners and other professionals. The only difference is that the result of the investigations by creative practitioners and other professionals does not exclusively find expression in the traditional forms of research reports (journal articles, chapters in edited scholarly books, monographs and so on) but also in works of media arts, or in the creative and professional practices themselves, in cases where investigations result in innovative ways of going about such practices.

Recognising the specific nature of the Media discipline and of the Media Department as established at Macquarie University, achievement in research and the advancement of knowledge is recognised through activities and outputs such as:

- Production of media texts in the form of audio, video, film, print and multimedia
- Performance, installation and/ or exhibition work in audio-visual media
- Critical theory of media and communication
- Policy, media industry, and institutional analysis
- Textual analysis, cultural and screen theory
- Presentation and publication of conference papers and research reports
- Organisation of national/ international conferences
- Organisation of research symposia and fora
- Curation of audio-visual media events/ exhibitions (at recognised public venues)
- Media and communication consultancies

Examples of consultancy work might include: reading manuscripts for publishing houses; serving on the editorial board of a scholarly journal; researching and reporting on specific areas of media or communications; serving on review committees of other tertiary institutions; acting as external examiners to work at other institutions; assisting with writing and production of media programs and artefacts; serving as a curator for museums and galleries; serving on the board of a media or arts organization; assessing scholarly and research based media arts writing, productions, exhibitions etc.

In all cases, the quality and the impact of the research is regarded as more significant than simply the quantity. Some factors to be considered in evaluating quality and impact include:

- Original and scholarly contribution to new knowledge in the research field
- Scope and scale of project
- Refereeing processes
- Industry and arts competitive funding awarded
- Critical and industry recognition including reviews, nominations, awards
- Evidence of cultural impact
- Peer esteem factors as recognised by IRIS and RQF

Given that research in the media discipline encompasses both scholarly publication and practice led research, media academics' workloads are arranged in such a way that both the blocks of time required for the research and writing of monographs and major creative works and/or the fieldwork required for much media production can be accommodated. Basic infrastructure and resources are made available for the full range of continuing media academics' research.

QUALIFICATIONS

Associate Lecturer

An Associate Lecturer would usually have completed four years of tertiary study or equivalent qualifications and experience and would be expected to have made significant progress towards the completion of a higher research degree or an Associate Lecturer whose teaching and research is primarily focused on media writing and/or production may have a scholarly and recognised body of work.

Lecturer

A Lecturer would usually be expected to have completed a doctorate or a Lecturer whose teaching and research is primarily focused on media writing and/or production may have a scholarly and recognised body of work.

Senior Lecturer

A Senior Lecturer would usually be expected to have completed a doctorate.

Associate Professor

An Associate Professor would usually be expected to have completed a doctorate.

Professor

A Professor would usually be expected to have similar qualifications to an Associate Professor.

SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH

Scholarly publications should be understood to comprise: refereed journal articles, books, monographs and/or edited anthologies (from reputable publishers), audio-visual media productions, interactive media texts, novels, creative non-fiction texts. Serving as editor or the editorship of refereed journals or other periodicals with a sound reputation in the field is also included in scholarly research and publication. The curation and/or organisation of major exhibitions in scholarly recognised cultural centres, and the initiation of successful projects such as journals, regular conferences, symposia, for a, research workshops in fields where these are lacking, should also be seen as significant contributions to the field.

An original book or a major media text/production/exhibition on a relevant topic, recognised widely within the Australian academic community could be considered equivalent to the publication of several separate journal articles.

Associate Lecturer

An Associate Lecturer would usually be expected to have produced one paper or relevant media writing and/or production during each year of full-time appointment.

Lecturer

A Lecturer would usually be expected to have produced a considerable body of published work or media productions, and have produced one conference paper or significant progress towards a relevant media writing /production during each year of full-time appointment.

Senior Lecturer

A Senior Lecturer would usually be expected to have a substantial number of publications in refereed journals and/ or books or a substantial contribution to the media writing/ production area. It is understood that significant progress towards a major media script/production may occur during a 3-5 year period of full-time appointment. If not predominantly production-orientated, a Senior Lecturer is expected to have published scholarly papers and/ or other publications at the rate of at least one per year of full-time appointment. A Senior Lecturer is expected to have contributed scholarly papers to academic conferences and to have edited journals and anthologies, published at least one relevant book, and/or conducted funded research resulting in appropriate reports for public or private institutions or agencies.

Associate Professor

An Associate Professor would usually be expected to have a significant body of scholarly publication, usually at the rate of at least one refereed article per year and/or one book or media script and/or production per 3-5 year period. An Associate Professor would be expected to actively contribute to the discipline by presenting research papers at relevant conferences at the rate of 2 per year. Research conducted as part of a consultancy for government or non-governmental organisations may constitute a major, but not extensive, component of an Associate Professor's research achievement.

Professor

A Professor would usually be expected to be able to show evidence of major standing, authority and leadership in the academic held. This authority and standing should be manifested by a considerable list of well-regarded publications in high quality, refereed journals, as well as substantial monographs (and possibly anthologies) in presses of recognised standing. Further levels of achievement might include: evidence of success in both gaining and producing substantial publications from ARC grants, the initiation and co-ordination of group research projects, participation in and organisation of major conferences or equivalent events. Alternatively, a Professor should be able to show evidence of a substantial and internationally recognised body of media writing and/or production work together with evidence of success in gaining competitive external arts funding.

TEACHING

Members of staff should be able to demonstrate levels of teaching skills and performance by means of appropriate, recognised methods of evaluation, including student evaluation. In such a rapidly developing field of studies as Media, the development of new courses and new approaches to analysing media phenomena is considered highly desirable. Teaching awards will be recognised as an indication of teaching excellence.

Associate Lecturer

An Associate Lecturer would usually be expected to demonstrate satisfactory levels of teaching skills and performance. Evidence for this might include: student and peer assessment, the acquisition of formal teaching skills. An Associate Lecturer would be able to demonstrate their ability to conduct appropriate and well-structured lectures, tutorials, seminars and/ or workshops.

Lecturer

A Lecturer would usually be expected to demonstrate a good level of teaching skills and performance. S/he would be able to design and convene undergraduate units, design course guides, co-ordinate appropriate screenings programs and other resources. Lecturers teaching research-led practice would be expected to have evidence of good teaching in practical media units, including preparation of relevant study guides and written unit outlines that show how production instruction is sequenced and evaluated. A Lecturer in Production would be expected to convene and oversee production courses, including the supervision of tutors and technical staff.

Senior Lecturer

A Senior Lecturer would usually be expected to demonstrate a high level of teaching skills and performance. This should be evaluated by methods such as the observation of senior colleagues, university student assessment procedures (such as TEDS or LETS schemes) and / or through the consideration of course structures, organisation and pedagogy. A Senior Lecturer is expected to have: developed new courses and new approaches to analysing media phenomena, had teaching experience in coursework Honours and the supervision of Honours theses, had supervised postgraduate research students at doctoral level. A Senior Lecturer teaching reflective production studies would be able to demonstrate the ability to convene practical, workshop-related units in their field of production excellence, including administration of technical facilities and resources, and supervision of technical staff. S/he will be able to manage studio/workshop facilities and to make decisions concerning the purchase of equipment and materials relevant to these.

Associate Professor

An Associate Professor would be expected to demonstrate a high level of teaching skills and performance. In addition to the demonstrable skills and experience of Senior Lecturer teaching, an Associate Professor would be expected to supervise doctoral candidates. An Associate Professor teaching reflective production studies would demonstrate the ability to convene and co-ordinate teaching and management of facilities and resources for a coherent workshop strand and to co-ordinate and manage technical staff and resource development.

Professor

A Professor would be expected to demonstrate substantially the same teaching and performance skills and experience as for Associate Professor. In addition, a Professor would usually be expected to attract and supervise substantial numbers of research students. A Professor would be expected to demonstrate a cogent grasp of the broad structure of Media within the overall undergraduate major and post-graduate programs.

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY

Associate Lecturer

An Associate Lecturer would be expected to attend and contribute to departmental and Division meetings, but would not normally be expected to serve on committees outside of the department.

Lecturer

A Lecturer would be expected to have experience in or display aptitude for academic administration (for example, in relation to timetable, enrolment and admission or publicity.) A Lecturer teaching reflective production studies be expected to demonstrate successful administration of an area of undergraduate study (eg 200 or 300 level production workshops) and liaison with technical staff. Regular broadcasting, publication and co-operation with the media should also be taken as evidence of commitment to the broader community.

Senior Lecturer

A Senior Lecturer should be capable of acting as Head of Department in at least a temporary capacity. This entails a knowledge of the whole range of courses and units offered at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and the ability to run the Department office and supervise the admission of students at all levels of study. A Senior Lecturer would be expected to have had responsibility for significant areas of undergraduate or postgraduate teaching and administration for at least two semesters and would be expected to have experience in academic administration (for example, in relation to timetable, enrolment and admission or publicity). A Senior Lecturer teaching reflective production studies would be expected to demonstrate successful administration of an area of undergraduate study (eg 200 or 300 level production workshops) and liaison with technical staff.

A Senior Lecturer would be expected to demonstrate active involvement with professional associations and committees, in collaboration with fellow professionals at other higher education institutions and involvement in conference organisation and planning. Regular broadcasting, publication and co-operation with the media should also be taken as evidence of commitment to the broader community.

Associate Professor

An Associate Professor would also be expected to act as Head of Department as necessary, in a similar manner to the expectations of a Senior Lecturer. An Associate Professor would also be expected to represent the Department on Division and University fora. An Associate Professor would be expected to have experience in acting as Head of Department or responsibility for significant areas of undergraduate or postgraduate teaching and administration for at least two semesters.

An Associate Professor would be expected to demonstrate active involvement with professional associations and committees, in collaboration with fellow professionals at other higher education institutions and involvement in conference organisation and planning. Regular broadcasting, publication and co-operation with the media should also be taken as evidence of commitment to the broader community. In addition, relevant public events organisation, expert contributions to advisory boards of relevant government or non government institutions, planning and organisation of relevant cultural events, participation in media and arts organizations and acting as an assessor for media arts funding organizations and bodies is clear evidence of community involvement.

Professor

As the most senior level of appointment in the department, a Professor should be one of the inspirations and one of the main guardians of its academic and professional standards. S/he would be expected to show managerial and leadership skills of the highest order in the research, teaching and administrative work of the department the School and the university. It would be expected that a Professor have experience as Head of Department or Head of Division. A Professor would be expected to serve effectively on university committees and to have experience in chairing such committees. It may also be expected of a Professor that s/he, would have demonstrated concern for the careers of post-graduates and other staff through mentoring relationships. In addition to the sort of community service expected of an Associate Professor, a Professor would be expected to be able to represent the discipline outside of the university, at national and (where appropriate international levels).