GRIT

group for religious and intellectual traditions

2011 Semester 1 Seminars
Cultural Collections Room
Auchmuty Library

Tuesday 19 April 3.30-5pm
Prof. Hilary Carey will speak on God's Empire: Religion and the Settler Revolution
Prof. Carey's talk will introduce her new book, *God's Empire*, where she charts Britain's nineteenth-century transformation from Protestant nation to free Christian empire through the history of the colonial missionary movement. This wide-ranging reassessment of the religious character of the second British empire provides a clear account of the promotional strategies of the major churches and church parties which worked to plant settler Christianity in British domains.

Tuesday 24 May 3.30-5pm
Dr. Tim Stanley, The Return of the Scroll: From Codex to Google
Search is a feature on almost every software application we use today, and it explains why a much older information technology has returned along with it, the scroll. Of course the scroll does not return in the precise manner as the ancient papyrus rolls of antiquity, but rather, it gives a crucial clue to the longer history of information technology which precedes our digital era. In other words, if we are to understand the return of the scroll in our digital screens today we must look back to the rise of the bound pages of the codex roughly 1800 years ago.

Tuesday 21 June 3.30-5pm
Dr. Jim Wafer, Semantics of “soul” in the Hunter River-Lake Macquarie language
Lancelot Threlkeld, to whom we owe most of our knowledge of the Hunter River-Lake Macquarie language (HRLM), recorded almost no indigenous texts, but devoted himself to scripture translation. From a linguist's perspective this might perhaps be considered a deficiency, since it deprives us of the opportunity to understand HRLM verbal art as it was practiced by the speakers themselves. Nonetheless, it gives us the chance to investigate semantically HRLM’s approaches to the issues of human subjectivity with which the scriptures deal, and these are less likely to be encountered in indigenous stories and songs.