

**Organizer:**

*The Halliday Centre for Intelligent Applications of Language Studies*



香港城市大學  
City University  
of Hong Kong



The Halliday Centre for  
Intelligent Applications of Language Studies  
韓禮德語言研究智能應用中心

## **NEWS IN WAR AND PEACE: A DIACHRONIC, SYSTEMIC-FUNCTIONAL APPROACH**

**Date : 7 August 2007 (Tuesday)**

**Time : 4:30 – 6:00 pm**

**Venue : B7603 (Lift 3, 7/F, Blue Zone), Academic Building, CityU**

**Presented by Ms. Claire Scott  
Centre for Language in Social Life, Macquarie University**

### **Abstract:**

Since the inception of weekly newsheets in Europe in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, the social context of news dissemination and, consequently, the visual and verbal character of newspaper texts, have undergone many changes. This paper, as part of a larger study of the way war has been reported in the news over Australia's history of involvement in overseas conflict, explores changes in visual and verbal meanings of the news story in Australia. The corpus comprises news texts from the *Sydney Morning Herald* reporting the end of war, from the Boer War, World Wars I and II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War, and Iraq War. Changes in the contextual configuration of each text, particularly in the parameters of Mode and Field, will be discussed in relation to historical and institutional context.

### **Bio-sketch:**

Claire Scott is a doctoral student at the Centre for Language in Social Life at Macquarie University. She is supervised by Associate Professor David Butt and Doctor Annabelle Lukin. Her doctoral research is a diachronic, systemic-functional investigation of newspaper war reporting, and as such contributes to Dr. Lukin's postdoctoral fellowship project that focusses on the reporting of the Iraq War internationally and across different media. She has also worked on projects in other applications of SFL, including emergent literacy (Torr & Scott, 2006), political speeches, and reporting of tragedy (Scott, forthcoming).

*All are welcome*

Enquiry: 3442 6604 (The Halliday Centre for Intelligent Applications of Language Studies )