

Dr Neville Buch
MPHA (Qld)
Historian

*Understanding history is philosophy in
practice*



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www.drnevillebuch.com/

www.historyandphilosophyinquensland.com/

ABN 86703686642

Book Proposal

A Hidden Intellectual History of Queensland.

Written by Dr Neville Buch.

A. Prospectus

Synopsis: A book discussing selected thinkers and their intellectual influence in the state of Queensland over a period of 150 years. The primary focus will be on those thinkers who provided the society with an extraordinary legacy while working in the state, however, with further references to those who grew up in Queensland but did not stay, and those who came to settle late in Queensland. The key question is why Queensland's intellectual history has been so hidden for so long.

1. Description of Book (2-5 pages)

Core themes are articulated in particular chapters:

Chapter **2** considers themes present in the idea of Queensland and the Forms of Religion; how intellectual categories of 'religion' and 'spirituality' shaped belief and doubt. The outlook here does not disdain ideas of 'secularity' but recognises that the big ideas mentioned were normatively framed as 'religion' and 'spirituality' in these pre-1920 eras.

Chapter **3** considers organised religion - how 'religion' was conceptualised in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century by the historical players themselves.

Chapter **4** considers Personal Idealism was a school of thought in the nineteenth century. It fits into a wider ideological framework known as Personalism. It is argued that personal idealism was the predominant worldview concern in the Long Nineteenth Century, made-

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up in two-parts of the Colonial Period (1859-1900) and of the Intellectual Overflow (1901-1919) that included World War I, and the Federation Period which also includes the Era of Edwardian Modernism (1867-1910). Together, the Long Nineteenth Century for our purpose is 1859 to the end of 1919.

Chapter 5 considers Queensland in relation to the Technological Agenda, an analysis on the attitudes to technology from government and society.

Chapter 6 considers the role of law and politics, an intellectual examination on how well those areas aligned in Queensland.

Chapter 7 considers Queensland in relation to Education, a discussion of all three sectors. This is more than the institutional framework and goes to deeper matters of Language, Intellect and Truth.

Chapter 8 returns to the theme of Law and Politics, but the intellectual examination extends to the questions of the national agenda and nation-building and on how well those areas aligned in Queensland.

Chapter 9 examines Queensland and the Spirit, drawing on hitherto largely neglected evidence from philosophy of the fields of religion and freethought (including Indigenous perspectives).

The first and last (10) chapters are the introductory and concluding works. The themes across the book include: how the industrial emphasis on agriculture both limited and enhanced the intellectual framework of naturalism in the state; how intellectual categories of 'religion' and 'spirituality' shaped belief and doubt; an analysis of the attitudes to technology from government and society; an examination on how well

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common intellectual areas aligned in Queensland; Queensland and education; and finally, whether we can we talk of a “Queensland Spirit”. The book draws on hitherto largely neglected evidence from philosophy in the fields of religion and freethought (including Indigenous perspectives).

The rationale for Project is that the state has no intellectual history, or if it does, only as bits and pieces, and such texts have no clear, articulated, bearing on the social, political, and economics factors in Queensland. Several Queensland societal leaders had developed a nation-building narrative in early twentieth century but by the end of the century there was a rejection of the old political settlements for a quieter pluralistic revolution in modern liberal or social democracy. Secular and rationalist reactions ensued, responding to heavily-laid religious interpretation. The University of Queensland had developed science and social science, with the input of internationally renowned scholars, but the knowledge was poorly conceived in the wider Queensland society. From the mid-1960s there was a shift to a pluralistic understanding, and it led to the reaction of the cultural wars, by monistic schema. In the last decades there have been a few large and slowly emerging history projects in Queensland to fill-out the missing data for Queensland Intellectual History.

Issues of the book is uniquely examined in the local, regional, and national frameworks, drawing on diverse global literature. The issue here is one of personality and education: persons who only valued ‘history’ instrumentally, and without historiographical substance, and yet *arrogantly* portrayed themselves as experts in ‘history’ (a commonly perceived attitude, as judged by those at the receiving end). The issue of praxis, however, remains the challenge. An honest attempt is made to understand the culture of ‘The Other’ from the thinking of the French philosopher, Emmanuel Levinas. For Levinas, ‘the Other’ is not knowable and cannot be made into an object of the self, as is done by

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traditional metaphysics, but there is a responsibility towards the Other which precedes any 'objective searching after truth.' Levinas' methodology-mythology on culture, religion, and politics expresses ethical studies and the historical ethos of what is called, the Ethical Cultural movement.

A culture war is a cultural conflict between social groups and the struggle for dominance of their values, beliefs, and practices. The topic(s) of the book commonly refers to the general societal disagreement and polarization in societal values. The manuscript has been research in the many keyword, topic, words and phrases relevant to each epoch.

Questions answered follow the key question of why Queensland's intellectual history has been so hidden for so long. Digging deeper these are questions framed differently in literature, history, sociology, and several different fields of philosophy. Many times, Queensland politics involved questions of public morality. Queensland's intellectual history has remained hidden since public discourses rarely becomes open and honest on these questions.

I am qualified to write this book because my career has been distinguished in the interdisciplinary research and writing on Queensland over three decades. I am an expert on histories and historiography of big belief and doubt, researching on Freethought, Rationalism, Humanism, Unitarian-Universalism, during the 20th century. I have been a scholar in studies in religion and Australian-American intellectual history for 41 years, as well as a community participatory teacher for The Philosophy Café Brisbane Meet Up, and the Brisbane Meetup Intellectual Network. My work is currently internationalising with a collaboration of the Free Thinker Institute (New York City), in the development of a 1,000-page curriculum package manuscript into a commercially-viable guidebook for community education, based in *Lebensphilosophie* and *Wissenschaft*.

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I was a Q ANZAC Fellow at the State Library of Queensland (2015-2016), and a speechwriter and higher education researcher, working with four Vice-Chancellors. I am well-published and recognised for his contribution in the histories of both Catholic secondary and state primary education in Queensland, as well as histories in the cultural and religious shaping of Protestant and Catholic organisations. I am affiliated with the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry, University of Queensland as a former post-doctorate fellow and an associated researcher in Queensland history.

2. Target Audience

Basic degree Australian graduates in history and sociology or well-read Queenslanders (or those who seek to be), and the postgraduates in the fields. Those interested in Australian culture, religion, and politics.

3. Similar Books

From the National Library of Australia (NLA) catalogue, the following are selected titles of the "Intellectual History of" type in the Australian sphere:

The Saviours: an intellectual history of the left in Australia by Patrick O'Brien, Drummond, 1977.

Cultural Liberalism in Australia: a study in intellectual and cultural history by Gregory Melleuish, Cambridge, 1995.

From the National Library of Australia (NLA) catalogue, the following are selected titles of the "Intellectual History of" type in the American sphere:

Society and thought in America by Harvey Wish, Longmans, Green, 1950-52.

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American Ideas: source readings in the intellectual history of the United States, edited by Gerald N. Grob and Robert N. Beck, Free Press of Glencoe, 1963.

Beyond Beliefs: ideological foundations of American education by Normand R. Bernier and Jack E. Williams, Prentice-Hall, 1973.

4. POTENTIAL BOOK COURSES

The potential of the book as textbook exists as for the following course at the University of Queensland:

The Australian Experience (HIST1201)

Information valid for Semester 2, 2024

Current course offerings

Course offerings	Location	Mode	Course Profile
Semester 2, 2023 (24/07/2023 - 18/11/2023)	St Lucia	In Person	COURSE PROFILE
Semester 2, 2024 (22/07/2024 - 18/11/2024)	St Lucia	In Person	PROFILE UNAVAILABLE

Please Note: Course profiles marked as not available may still be in development.

Course description

The Australian Experience is designed to present a broad introductory survey to some of the key issues and themes relating to Australian society and culture across a wide time-

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frame. We begin before colonisation, with ancient Indigenous cultures, and end in the more recent past. Across this period, Australia underwent dramatic transformations in social, racial, cultural, economic and environmental terms. Throughout the course, we will gain an understanding of the brutalities of the colonial process; the relationships of the Europeans to this 'new' land; the developing society in the Antipodes; the new cultural forms of nationalism in the late nineteenth century; and finally, to the importance of White Australia. In the twentieth century, we will consider the impact of wars and Depression, and the cultural shifts of liberation movements later in the century. The course is designed to introduce students to some of the leading scholarship and debates in studies of Australian history, society and culture. While questions of gender, race and class are important organising themes, the course is also designed to engage with contemporary lines of critical inquiry such as questions of space, place and landscape, memory and historical imagination, identity politics, popular culture and post/colonialism. Our key focus is upon the many different and contested stories that make up our understanding of the national past, the intention being to convey its multi-layered and complex texture.

5. Previous Parts of Manuscript Published (12-point type on double-spaced 8.5"×11" pages)

Multiple sentences across the book manuscript have been published as Dr Neville Buch's blog and conference papers but never as the paragraphs of the manuscript. This is all my own written work.

Approximately five figures per chapter is likely to be presented in the submitted manuscript, with the archival copyright existing with State Library of Queensland.

No more than six tables will be produce for the submitted manuscript.

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Calculating on a previous manuscript published (Boolarong press, 2015) and print of 459 book pages including indexes and prefaces for a manuscript of 605 pages, at approximately 154 manuscripts pages without preface and indexes, it is estimated that the print would be around 100–200-page cuts. However, this approach was on the basis of “a short history” approach recommended by Professor Wayne Hudson. If Lexington felt that was too short the book manuscript can be expanded. Basically, the manuscript submitted can fit the length that Lexington desires.

6. Length of the Manuscript

30,000-34,000 words, note last paragraph.

7. Manuscript Completion Date

By 1 July 2024.

8. RESPECTED SCHOLARS IN THE FIELD (4-7)

1. Professor Wayne Hudson

[Familiar with the book project over the last few years]

Australian Intellectual Historian

Visiting Fellow, Australian Studies Institute, Australian National University

Professor of History, Charles Stuart University

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2. Professor Allan Megill

Professor of Historical Theory/Philosophy of History

University of Virginia

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3. Associate Professor Neil Van Leeuwen

Associate Professor of Neuroscience and Philosophy

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5. Dr David Newheiser

Senior Research Fellow

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6. Associate Professor Tom Aechtner

Acting Discipline Convenor for Studies in Religion

School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry, The University of Queensland

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9. Consideration of Other Publishers

The Melbourne University Press considered the manuscript in March 2023, but decided "... that it was perhaps too niche for the general readership that we're trying to reach". The manuscript is not being considered by any publisher but Lexington.

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B. A Detailed Table of Contents

Table of current status of drafting, average 3360 words per chapter, including endnotes

	Current drafted Chapters	Word Count
1	Chapter Intro: 9502 (B1 Draft) Introductory Intellectual History of QLD	9520
2	Chapter 1: 6515 (B2) Educative Intellectual History of QLD	6515
3	Chapter 2: 3139 (B3) Organised Religious Intellectual History of QLD	3139
4	Chapter 3: 2619 (B4) Personal Intellectual History of QLD	2619
5	Chapter 4: 1462 (B5) Scientific Intellectual History of QLD	1462
6	Chapter 5: 1856 (B6) Cultured Intellectual History of QLD	1856
7	Chapter 6: 2898 (B7) Truthful Semantic Intellectual History of QLD	2898
8	Chapter 7: 3795 (B8) National Intellectual History of QLD	3795
9	Chapter 8: 1504 (B9) Socialised Intellectual History of QLD	1504
10	Chapter Concl.: 300 (B10) Conclusive Intellectual History of QLD [concluding chapter of summative statements]	300
	Current Total	33608

As per Prospectus descriptions.

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C. Sample Chapters

Attached are two sample chapters named:

“2023-12-15 B2. Educative Intellectual History of QLD”

“2023-12-15 B4. Personal Intellectual History of QLD”

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D. Curriculum Vitae

Attached is the file named, "NDB Full CV December 2023".

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