Hope in Compatibilism and Mapping Landscape: Religion in Brisbane 1921-2021

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Slide 01

I acknowledge the land I am on as Turrbul, Yagurra, and Meanjin, and pay my respects to elders' past, present, and emerging.

This morning follows from my presentation yesterday. This morning will address the conceptual schemas of social conservatism, and orthodox conservatism.

Outline

- Introduction
 - Faith Archetypes Brisbane 1921-2021
- The historical paradigmatic shifts for faith and belief education (From1921 and into legacy)
 - Conceptual Schemas
 - Institutional Responses
 - Curriculum Framing
- The shifts as the educationalist theories and practice in the government and society (1945-1989)
 - Conceptual Schemas
 - Institutional Responses
 - Curriculum Framing
- Religion, Secularity, and Curriculum (Concluding Remarks)
 - Apologetic Perception and Teaching-Learning
 - Popular Perception

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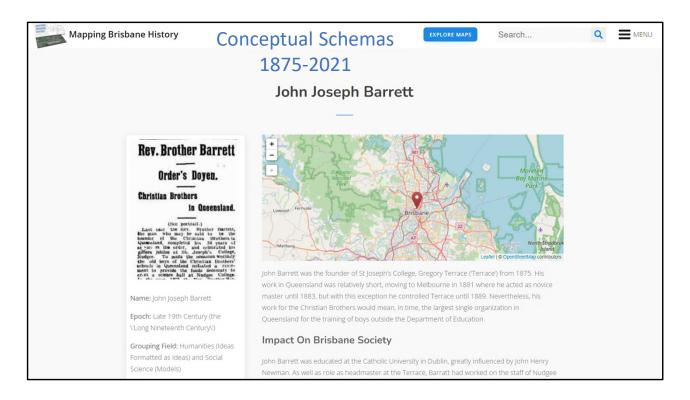
As with yesterday, I will illustrate with the Faith Archetypes in Brisbane. In the first section that follows is an examination in the historical paradigmatic shifts for faith and belief education. The second section considers the shifts as the educational thinking and practice in the government and society.

THE HISTORICAL PARADIGMATIC SHIFTS FOR FAITH AND BELIEF EDUCATION

1921-2021

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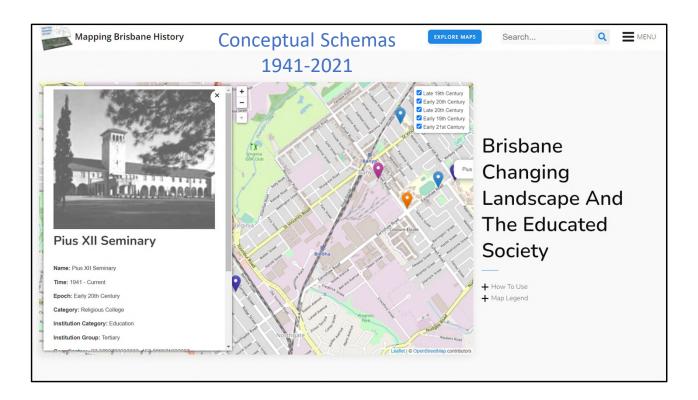
For these sections, I have selected Brisbane Faith Archetypes during the century (1921-2021) in three groupings, to explain first the Conceptual Schemas, and then the Institutional Responses, and finally the Curriculum Framing.



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To start with the heydays of orthodoxy, we begin with a dominant Catholic Queensland.

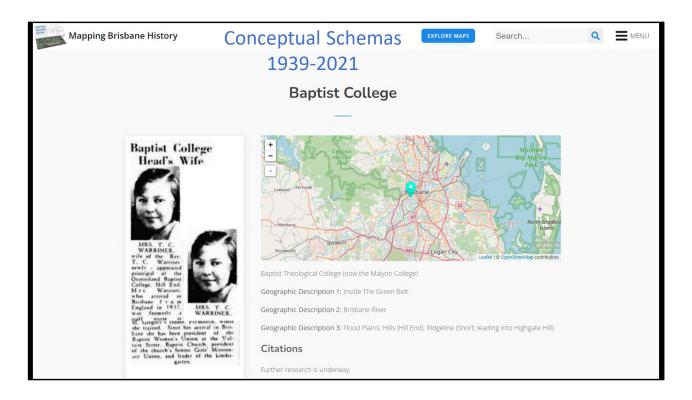
Reverent John Barrett was the founder of St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace ('Terrace') from 1875. His work in Queensland was relatively short, moving to Melbourne in 1881, nevertheless, his work for the Christian Brothers would mean, in time, the largest single organization in Queensland for the training of boys outside the Department of Education. In his educational capacities he was able to introduce Newman Catholicity to a generation of Brisbane's 'Catholic gentlemen'.



Foremost, this meant a respect and inculcation in modern higher education, albeit socially, politically, and intellectually conservative. This impact is particularly important as it counter-weighted the anti-modernist hostility to higher education in local orders and congregations, more influenced by the Roman Papacy.



The dissenting traditions, the Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians, were heavy, unfortunately, with piety, a false humility and a failure to appreciate historical legacy, masked by celebrative facadism. The Baptist College, first located in Hill End, produced a few of the leading Australian fundamentalist preachers, such as Reverend John Carnegie Farquhar.



The frustration for Australian Baptist historians led by the Rev. Dr. David Parker is that the history of the Baptist College over a century has greatly outweigh the militant form of fundamentalism which the public is more familiar.

The Baptist college leaders, Reverends Thomas Malyon and T.C. Warner, were theologians of liberal evangelicalism. Reverend Ted Gibson, the College Principal from 1967 to 1982, ruined the reputation for Queensland Baptists when he manoeuvred against the Evangelical Left theologian, Reverend Athol Gill, to remove him from the College. The Methodists were rewarded with Gill who then led the Methodist counterculture movement and building up a liberal evangelical schema at its Alcorn College.



Sir Most Reverend James Duhig is a towering figure over Brisbane's past. Queensland had a large Catholic representation in the population from early Irish migration, but also from much later migration from European, Asian, and African countries with significant Catholic traditions. Duhig's impact was a connection between the Catholic population and his extraordinary skills as a church administrator, combined with the extraordinary length of time in his authority of Archbishop.



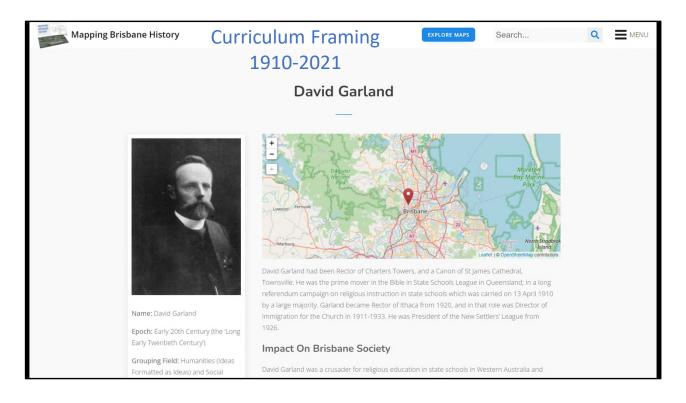
Duhig was influential in the acculturation of Brisbane to an overoptimistic urban development and land settlement policies. He was also a brilliant statesman, as well as the church politician, who knew the art of charm. It particularly helped that Duhig was a genuine patron of the arts and fostered an Irish Loyalist Catholic Education which put Catholics in good stead with both the State's Protestant establishment and the Catholic Premiers and their Cabinets.



The Honourable Premier of Queensland, Arthur Edward Moore, was a churchman of Anglo-Catholicism. The Queensland Protestant establishment was more Anglo-Catholic than Evangelical. The local Anglican Theological College was first established in Nundah. St Francis' Theological College moved to the Milton location in 1936. The building had previously been the 'Old Bishopsbourne', the home of the Anglican primates of Brisbane until 1964. That history was of an Anglo-Catholic fortress against Evangelical and Roman Catholic intrusions.



Moore's short-lived Premiership from 1929 and 1932 was the climax of the Country and Progressive National Party, in the effort to break the hold of power in a succession of Catholic-thinking Labor governments. Moore came to power on the wave of anti-Catholicism generated by the Protestant Labour Party.



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Biblicism played the major part in the hostility towards Catholics.

Canon David John Garland was the archetypical figure in Christian Biblicist Education. As the Rector of Charters Towers, and a Canon of St James Cathedral, Townsville. Garland was the prime mover in the Bible in State Schools League in Queensland. Garland was never loath to mix the spiritual and the secular, and, as Rector of Ithaca from 1920, he was the Anglican Director of Immigration for the Church, and President of the New Settlers' League from 1926.

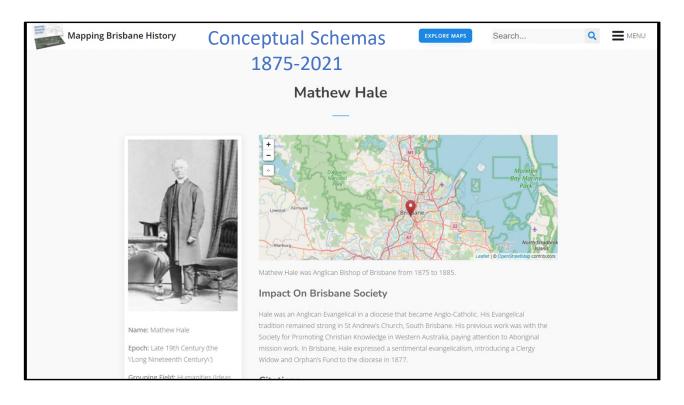
As a crusader for religious education in state schools in Western Australia and Queensland, Garland was a final political act in the very long battle between Church and Secular education, in the settlement of state education and the withdrawal of State Aid for Catholics.

THE SHIFTS AS THE EDUCATIONALIST THEORIES AND PRACTICE IN THE GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY

1945-2021

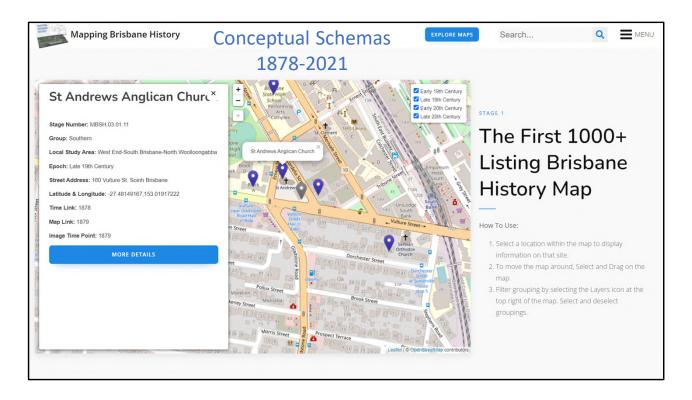
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As with yesterday, I am going to speak on the thinking of Queensland Christian leaders who are not normally seen as educators, but in practice they were.

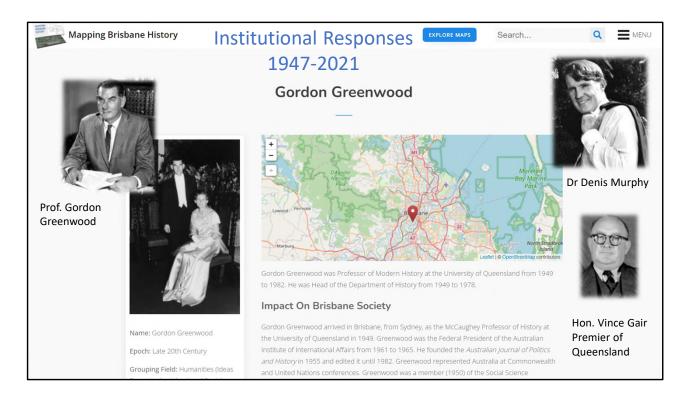


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When you dig into the history you can see the evolutionary pattern for social or orthodox conservatism. Mathew Hale was Anglican Bishop of Brisbane from 1875 to 1885. Hale was an Anglican Evangelical in a diocese that became Anglo-Catholic.



Hale's Evangelical tradition remained strong in St Andrew's Church, South Brisbane, where the Anabaptist Anarchist Dave Andrew based his ministry in the last three decades. Hale's previous mission work was with the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, in Western Australia. In Brisbane, Hale expressed a sentimental evangelicalism, introducing a Clergy Widow and Orphan's Fund to the diocese in 1877. Missionaries tend to carry this sentimental evangelicalism, and the key Queensland leaders of the Evangelical Left or Reformed counterculture were all missionaries, Rev. Dr. Charles Ringma with Rita, and Dave and Angie Andrews, and many more which could be named. Charles Ringma was the founder of the Australian Teen Challenge counterculture movement, and he and Rita were also missionaries in Western Australia.

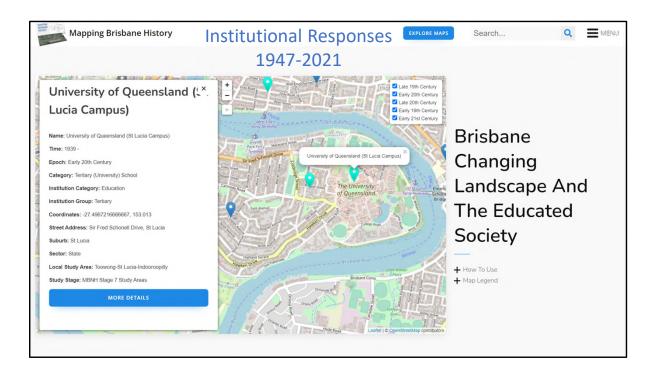


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The history coincided with Anglophone Neo-Conservatism, which extended well back from its 1980s Howard era.

A Queensland archetype here is the Honourable Premier of Queensland, Vincent Clare (Vince) Gair, and is the figure of the Renegade Laborite Education and Catholic Neo-Conservatism.

Gair was a key figure in the Labor Spilt of the 1950s and led the Democratic Labor Party from 1965 to 1973. The intellectual resources of the DLP tapped was the American Cold War doctrines, but in social policy, it was resourced from the American Catholic intellectuals, such as William F. Buckley. Buckley was among many global writers of Neo-Conservativism whose newspaper columns and popular paperbacks were read in Australia and resonated with right-wing Labourites, particularly in the circles of B. A. Santamaria.



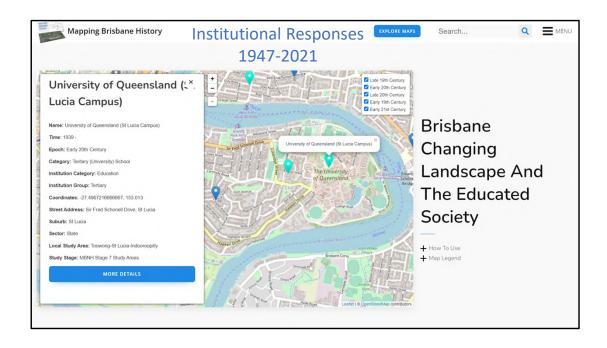
The story of the last half-century is the Neo-Conservative alliance between Catholic and Protestant organisations. It was largely achieved by intellectuals like William F. Buckley and propagated by Conservative Evangelicals as Protestant apologists.

The archetype here is the battle in the Queensland Baptist Union for its soul between the Hyped or Fundamentalist Evangelicalism and the Neo-Conservative Evangelical Education which has been willing to compromise with the Evangelical Left movement.

The story here can be focused to the development of Baptist and Pentecostal liberal arts colleges in the 1980s. Among the leaders to build these colleges are Reverend Allan Mullaly, Reverend Norm Weston, Reverend Reginald Klimionok, and Mr. John Gagliardi and Emeritus Professor Brian Millis.

For the sake of time, I am going to skips details which you will find in the doctorate, but to signal that we are talking about:

- American Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) programme and the programme of the Christian Community Schools Limited (CCS);
- Northside Christian College, and;
- Hillsong Brisbane Central Campus.



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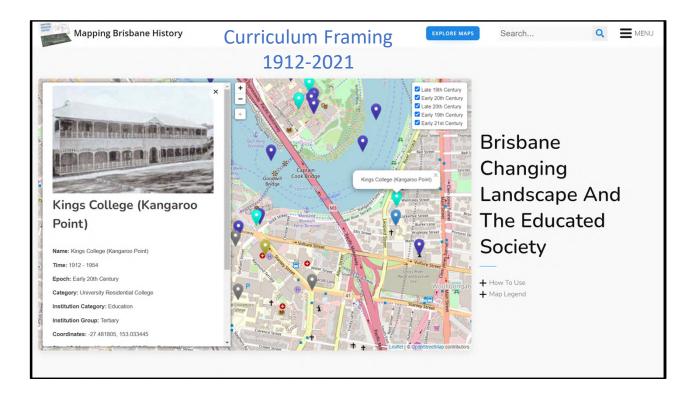
John Gagliardi helped to establish the Christian Outreach Centre's Christian Heritage College in Brisbane, and founded Australian Christian Coalition, now Australian Christian Lobby.

The church is now Citipointe Brisbane, and the college houses the Millis Institute.

Emeritus Professor Brian Millis helped John Gagliardi to begin the College in 1986.

The Institute is a key example of an institution that has been influenced by the Evangelical Left schema and yet at the same time remain firmly in the Neo-Conservative camp.

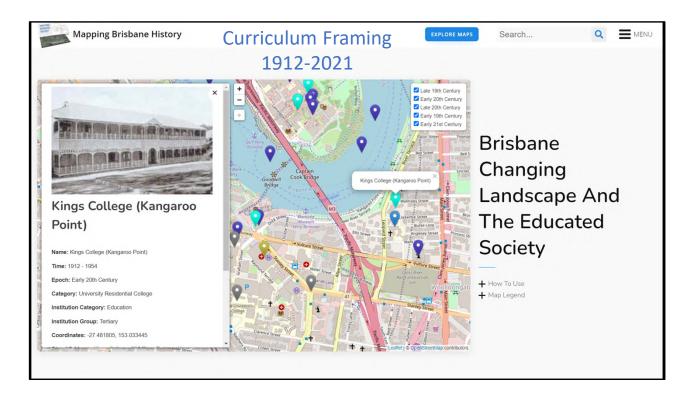
The rhetoric from the Millis Institute website is compatibilist across radical, liberal, and conservative traditions. Currently, there is a regular compatibilist conversation between the institutional version of Evangelical Christianity, the Radical Christian tradition which historically is marginalised to the outside of the institution, and the Post-Christian skepticism which is currently being absorbed into the religious framing of the other two positions.



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In contrast to the pre-1989 Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen vision of Queensland, Queensland religious and secular organisations shared common curriculum framings.

In the broader society is an entanglement between the claims of philosophical conservatism, and that of liberalism, and a high suspicion towards philosophical radicalism. Reverend Cyril David Alcorn, with his brother Ivan, is the archetype. The Alcorn brothers were the tout-de-force in Queensland Methodism. With his brother Ivan, in 1960 he established the Methodist Training College and Bible School at Kangaroo Point, Brisbane, the old site of Kings College, where students were prepared for the ministry. Cyril was its Foundation Principal, and the institution was subsequently named Alcorn College (1976) in recognition of the brothers' work. Ivan Wells Alcorn was the Director of the Queensland Methodist Young People's Department (1949-70).



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The second generation of Methodists who led the movement into the Uniting Church included Rev. Lew Born and Rev. Col Warren. They represent the different poles apart. Again, I do not have time to go into the details of the doctorate. But as dot-points there is, church leaders who are:

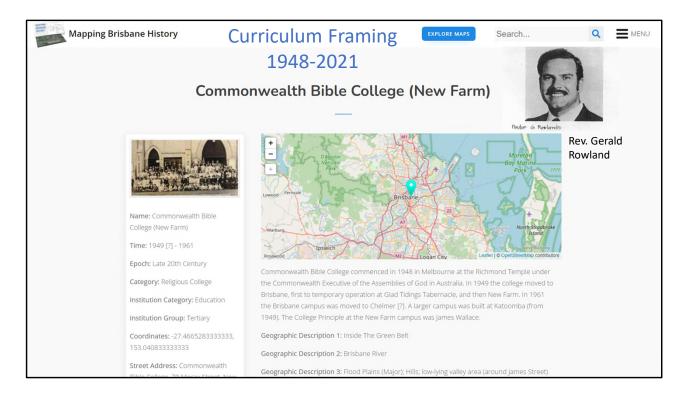
On one side:

- Bring the readings in the holy trinity of Barth, Bultmann, and Bonhoeffer, but then create confusion in the congregations when new theological movements appear and then have to be interpret in ideas of orthodoxy.
- The continuation of the Alcorn vision for a Young People's Church, but one which values critical educational programs;

On the other side:

- Those who ran "Creation Science" workshops in the 1980s and
- Those who were advocate and spokesperson for the conservative wing of the Charismatic movement after its counterculture formation.

Warren led an internal faction of the Uniting Church in Toowoomba, cojoining with Rev. Howard Carter and the Logos Foundation movement of the 1980s. In the end it was a fizzle for the Uniting Church, but congregational voices are still there, and co-oping with the Pentecostal-founded Australian Christian Lobby.



This brings us to the role of the Pentecostals and the Commonwealth Bible College in Christian Thought. The College commenced in 1948 in Melbourne at the Richmond Temple under the Commonwealth Executive of the Assemblies of God in Australia. In 1949 the college moved to Brisbane, first to temporary operation at Glad Tidings Tabernacle, and then New Farm, and then moved to Katoomba, New South Wales. In 1961 a Brisbane campus began in Chelmer. An archetype figure in Queensland for this Neo-Pentecostalism was Rev. Gerald Rowland, a very successful Assemblies of God evangelist, and the Pastor at Glad Tidings Tabernacle. Rowland was also one of the mentors for Charles Ringma in the establishing Teen Challenge and was a Chairman of the organisation's Board. So even here, there is the opening to the Evangelical Left thinking, but it is a story of contesting the history.



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Political narratives are sold to an uneducated public.

The apologetic mindset is largely the problem, but it is currently being challenged in the scholarly communities at least.

Political decisions are made according to past education of decision makers and the public who place pressures for policy reform or denial.

We must consider young people who never had the opportunity of studies-in-religion in pluralistic framing, and our generation of elders who carry intellectual wounds of the cultural-history war.

Thank you.