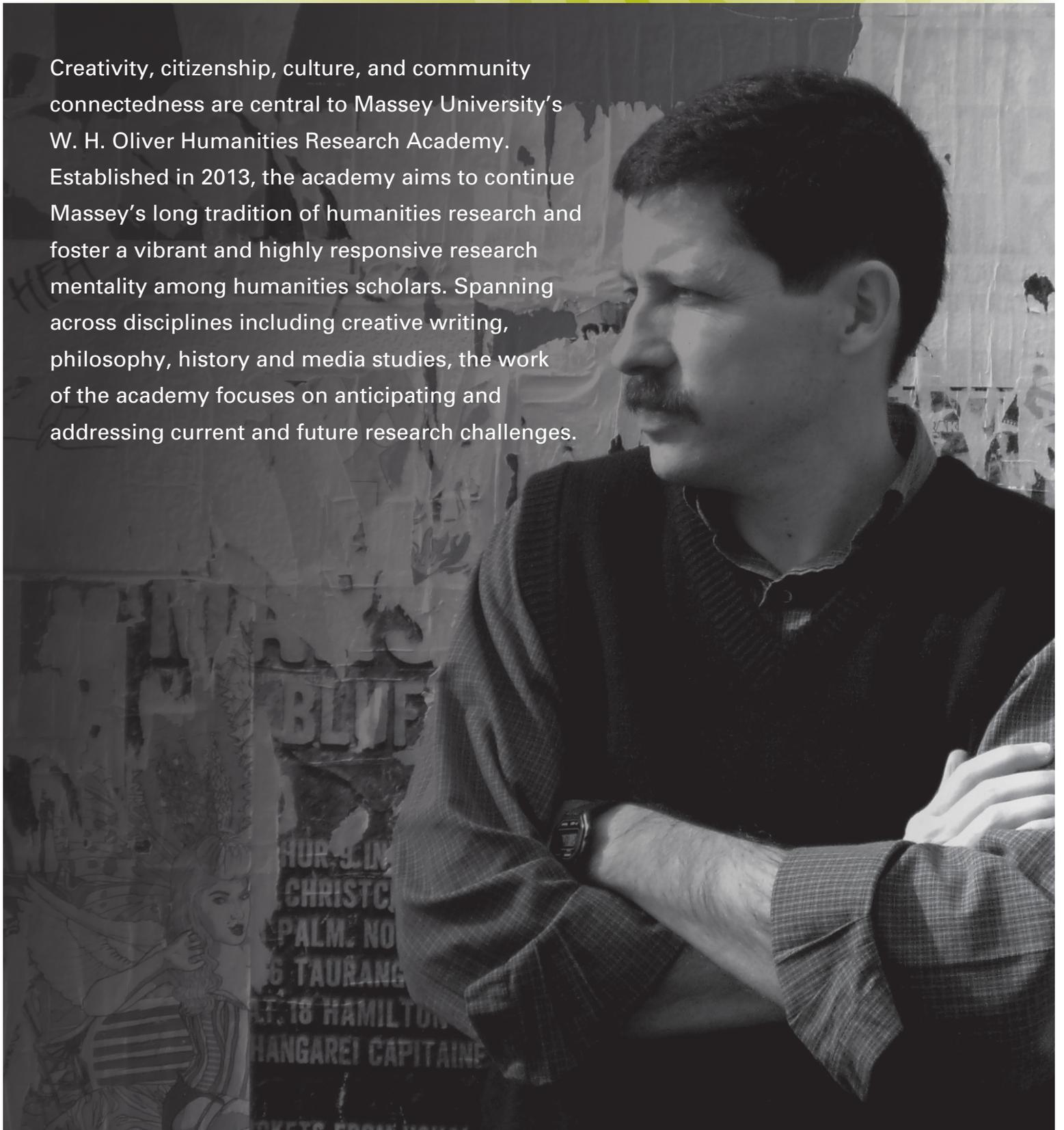


HUMANITIES RESEARCH ACADEMY STAYS TRUE TO ITS WORD

Creativity, citizenship, culture, and community connectedness are central to Massey University's W. H. Oliver Humanities Research Academy. Established in 2013, the academy aims to continue Massey's long tradition of humanities research and foster a vibrant and highly responsive research mentality among humanities scholars. Spanning across disciplines including creative writing, philosophy, history and media studies, the work of the academy focuses on anticipating and addressing current and future research challenges.





**Director of the academy
Associate Professor Kerry Taylor
is keen to see enhanced visibility
for humanities research to
ensure its contribution to society
– economically, culturally and
socially – becomes much more
apparent and valued.**

“Humanities research plays a fundamental role in finding solutions to broader social and political issues. It’s not just about surveying our communities, but about understanding our complex and diverse cultures and how these impact the way we live, change and communicate,” says Dr Taylor, Head of Massey’s School of Humanities.

Current research themes for the academy include examinations of de-colonialism and new ways of imagining indigenous communities; the nature of citizenship, past and present; World War One and the impact of this on culture and identity 100 years on; and the Treaty of Waitangi and how evolving interpretations of it have influenced New Zealand policy-making, institutions and communities.

In addition, the academy is supporting a range of local and national projects to raise the profile of humanities disciplinary work in the community. It has sponsored the 2015 Manawatū Writers Read series called *Off the Page*, and funded a trip for Brazilian linguist Dr Marcus Maia to travel to New Zealand discussing indigenous language and culture. It also collaborates with the Aotearoa Creative Writing Research Network and the Australasian Consortium of Humanities Research Centres.

“The academy has opened up so many wonderful opportunities for us to bring humanities research to the forefront in a way that people can relate to. All of our endeavours are resulting in numerous books and public events, which are allowing us to connect in new ways and it is my hope that this continues long into the future.”

Moving forward, Dr Taylor envisages the academy as a stand-alone space with a strong identity and hub-like culture. He also aims to establish a humanities research fellowship that will allow scholars and academics to complete special projects.

The W.H. Oliver Humanities Academy takes its name after the late Professor William (Bill) Oliver, who founded Massey’s history programme 50 years ago next year. Professor Oliver was one of the first humanities researchers at Massey.

Associate Professor Kerry Taylor is the Director of the W. H. Oliver Humanities Research Academy and Head of the School of Humanities. Dr Taylor has published and spoken widely on New Zealand history, international communist history, labour history, and the politics of protest and comparative history. He joined Massey in 1997 and was head of the School of History, Philosophy and Classics from 2010 to 2012.