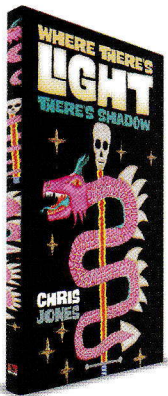
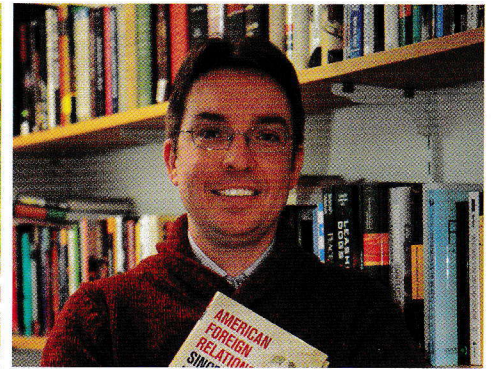
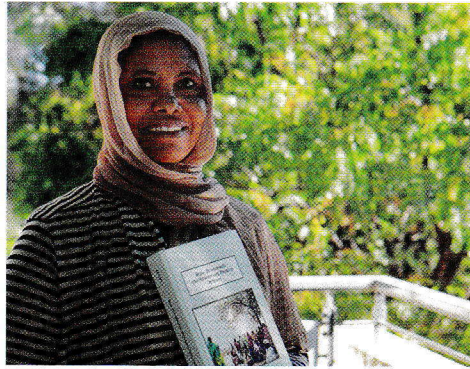


ABOVE: Alumna Chris Jones and academic Paul Hetherington have released poetry anthologies.

BELOW: Academics Nawal El-Gack and Jason Flanagan's new books have an international focus.



Where There's Light There's Shadow

Title

Poetry

Subject/Genre

Chris Jones

Bachelor of Professional Writing
University of Canberra, 2004

Author

Living with a mental illness and wanting to support others inspired University of Canberra alumna Chris Jones to write his new poetry book *Where There's Light There's Shadow*.

Mr Jones has schizophrenia and depression, and says he uses poetry as an outlet for his emotions, describing it as "the best kind of therapy".

"I use it to explore my feelings and thoughts, which can be quite dark. I hope that people who read my book – especially

those with a mental illness – might be able to relate to my writing and it will make them feel better," Mr Jones says.

He graduated from the University in 2004 with a Bachelor of Professional Writing and says the unit Poetry and the

His first poetry book *Dreaming on the Edge of Darkness* was published in 1997, with Mr Jones saying his family was not surprised that he published another book as he "has always been writing".

"I started writing from a young age,

The house in an urban desert stands, whispering of creatures beyond space and time.

– Extract from the poem *The Whispering Walls*

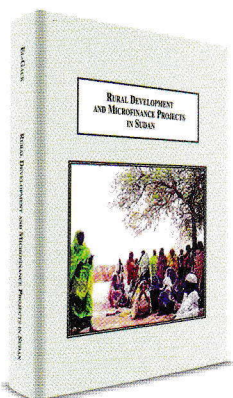
Imagination was a highlight for him.

"I really enjoyed my time at UC. I particularly liked learning about the poetry writing style and often find myself thinking back to those lessons," he says.

There are 31 poems in the book and Mr Jones also painted the artwork for the front cover.

and I began writing poetry after I had a mental breakdown at 16, it really helped me get through that time."

He has already started working on his next book, which he says is a science fiction novel set in a psychiatric ward.



Rural Development and Microfinance Projects in Sudan

Title

Social development

Subject/Genre

Dr Nawal El-Gack

Assistant professor (arts & humanities)
University of Canberra

Author

University of Canberra associate professor in humanities Nawal El-Gack's first book explores development in her home country of Sudan, focusing on strategies in rural areas.

Dr El-Gack provides a unique perspective from a woman who has

"personally witnessed the resourcefulness and struggles of vulnerable people in the country".

"When faced with crises, local communities have managed to adopt internal survival strategies without external assistance and this book demonstrates how," she says.

The book analyses microfinance and participatory development, which focuses on empowering people-led development. She suggests this can be improved by gaining an understanding of the community.

"To support development there needs to be an in-depth understanding of the existing social, economic, political and material environments. Providers should

also adopt approaches which avoid oppression and include negotiations with the community."

With experience as a development expert and volunteer in non-government organisations in Sudan and many countries in Africa and the Middle East, Dr El-Gack also argues that communities must be involved in the development project in a way that can help them become self-sustaining.

"If participatory development is to achieve its objectives, local communities must be provided with resources, information and skills."