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Chris Dent is a Senior Research Fellow with IPRIA at the Melbourne Law School. The focus of his work is on the patent system – ranging from a history of patents, empirical examinations of the system and critical approaches to the operation of patents within the broader community. His research also covers other areas of intellectual property such as copyright and trade marks. Prior to commencing work at IPRIA, Chris worked with the Centre for Media and Communications Law at the University of Melbourne. Before that he carried out research for the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia and the Victorian Law Reform Commission. His qualifications are from Murdoch University in Perth and include a PhD in Law, awarded in 2003, that was the application of Foucaultian ideas to a study of the history of negligence law.