Welcome

Welcome to the fourth edition of the School of Social and Political Sciences Magazine.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the fourth edition of the SSPS review. As I write, we are nearing the end of another busy year in the school, and another very successful one. Recent rankings including the ARWU and the US News and World Report show that we continue our remarkable progress. In the former, we rose up to 43rd in the world, making us the second–highest ranked social sciences school in the country. And in the latter, we regained our ranking as the number one rated social sciences school in Australasia.

This is testimony to the remarkable work of our academic community, which continues to set new benchmarks across the key social science disciplines. It’s a community which as will be clear in this review is still growing. In this edition we welcome no fewer than six new colleagues, all recruited under the scholarly teaching fellow scheme designed to offer a pathway to a continuing position for those who have taught in Australia. Many colleagues in the school were involved in the negotiations to ensure that Sydney was at the forefront of this attempt to offer a pathway for Australia based academics, so it is with particular satisfaction that we welcome these colleagues, the largest cohort of its kind in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

I’d also like to point your attention to two particular features of this review: its accent on the outstanding teaching which is conducted in the school, and also the prominent place of activities in the Department of Anthropology. As my comments above imply, much of the weight of working in a “research intensive” university such as Sydney is placed on our achievements in research. But of course our research is only possible in the context of successful and innovative courses, engaged teaching, and enthusiastic students as participants in our academic community. Colleagues in the school, as well as being excellent researchers, also excel as teachers. And it is a particular pleasure to offer extended space for reflection on the nature of this excellence recognised in the commendations our colleagues have received this year.

It’s also a special year for the Department of Anthropology, which this year is hosting the key annual conference of the discipline. It’s an important sign of the vitality of the discipline at Sydney, home to the nation’s very first Department of Anthropology.

I very much hope you will enjoy this edition of the review.

Professor Simon Tormey
Head of School
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Social media

School of Social and Political Sciences
(latest events, research & news)
@Usyd_spps /Usyd.spps

Dr Jean Jonathan Bogais
(foreign affairs specialist: analysis & strategy)
@JonathanBogais

Professor Linda Connor
(research on coal, communities and climate change)
@LindaConnor12

Dr Gareth Bryant
-political economy-
@garethjbryant

Dr Minglu Chen
(focus on politics and business and governance in China)
@minglu_chen

Sydney Peace Foundation
(promotes global justice, human rights and nonviolence)
@SydPeaceFound

Atrocity Forecasting Project
(research aimed at forecasting mass atrocities and genocide)
@AtFore_Project

The Human Animal Research Network
(dedicated to the study of human and animal relationships)
@HARN_SydUni

Drop us a line

Please send us your feedback
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Cover image: by of Alice Springs at sunset by Eason Liu pg 22
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Events

2016 Sydney Peace Prize

11 November
6.30pm

Every year, the Sydney Peace Prize brings the Sydney community together to talk about peace, justice and nonviolence, and to honour one of the world’s most inspiring peacemakers.

World-renowned author, journalist, and activist Naomi Klein has won the 2016 Sydney Peace Prize and will visit Sydney to deliver the much-anticipated 2016 City of Sydney Peace Prize Lecture.

This inspiring evening will feature an opening song by ARIA award-winning Missy Higgins, and introduction by 2008 Peace Prize recipient Senator Patrick Dodson, and the awarding of the Prize by Professor Gillian Triggs, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission.

To register and for venue details visit:
– http://sydneypeacefoundation.org.au

Black Crows Invaded Our Country

25 & 26 November
7.30pm

This performance is an artistic contextualisation of the public lecture—an ideas and sound installation that will merge academic research with poetry, performance and live sound art. The site specific nature of the work includes the audience as players who become the new topography inside the built environment.

The Living Room Theatre partners with the academic community of the University of Sydney’s, Sydney Environment Institute (SEI) for the performance of ‘Black Crows Invaded Our Country’, based on the Humboldt Foundation research of environmental scholar – author, Dr Thom van Dooren (UNSW), The Unwelcome Crows: Hospitality in the Anthropocene.

For venue details visit:
– sydney.edu.au/environment-institute/events/black-crows-invaded-our-country/
Lawless Robbery Under the Volcano

29 November
6.00pm - 7.30pm

The Mexican Revolution (1910-20) gave birth to a radical regime which, during the 1920s and 1930s, innovated in terms of state-building, social reform, and cultural policy, thus becoming a magnet for foreign journalists and intellectual tourists.

But while American cultural commentators were often sympathetic, the British were highly critical.

This talk by Emeritus Professor Alan Knight focuses on the British, asking why they were so negative, what they objected to, and what they tell us about the Mexican revolutionary project - or about themselves, and the interwar British society to which they belonged.

To register and for venue details visit:

Exploring Health Emergencies in the 21st Century

1 December
6.00pm - 7.30pm

Led by Associate Professor Adam Kamradt-Scott (Centre for International Security Studies) a panel of leading international experts including Dr Kerry Chant (Chief Health Officer, NSW Health), Dr Christine Middlemiss (Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Primary Industries), Mr Jason Gale (Bloomberg News), and Professor Tania Sorrell (Executive Director, Marie Bashir Institute) will discuss health emergencies and what it means to manage these events successfully.

Following the panel presentation and discussion, there will be an opportunity to network with our academics and students, and to learn more about the Master of Health Security at Sydney - a degree designed for a new generation of professionals, policymakers, government officials and security sector personnel to manage complex health events and their wider social and economic consequences.

To register and for venue details visit:
New scholarly teaching fellows

Allen George

What’s your research area?
My general area of research is the LGBTI community and the law, and more specifically ‘homosexual offences’ that were used to criminalise men. Last year the NSW parliament passed the Criminal Records Amendment (Historical Homosexual Offences) Bill, and I am interested in why it has taken 30 years since the decriminalisation of homosexual offences for this opportunity to be offered by government.

What are you most excited about in your new role?
I enjoy teaching, so being able to continue is a great opportunity. At the end of Semester 2 a few senior undergraduate students came up to me to say goodbye as they were finishing their degree and they pointed out that I had taught them in their first semester and their last. That was nice. I am also looking forward to conducting research and heading off to conferences to present it.

What are you binge watching?
Programs on homes, such as finding something in the country and grand home design. I watch these programs and am shocked by ‘how much house you get for your money’ in places other than Sydney. Can I ‘work from home’ in a French farm cottage or a beach front Island home?

Anjalee Cohen

What’s your research area?
Youth culture and identity in northern Thailand, with a particular focus on the socio-cultural context of methamphetamine use and Thai youth gangs. I also have an interest in mental health, which developed out of my previous work at the Brain and Mind Research Institute and which I continue to explore in the Medical Anthropology unit that I teach.

What are you most excited about in your new role?
I have been a Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology for close to seven years on short-term contracts so my role is not that new in terms of teaching. Of course, I love teaching so I am excited about being able to continue lecturing with more certainty. I’m also excited about having greater opportunities to do research and apply for various types of research support that are only open to those with long-term or continuing positions.

What are you binge reading?
A book by Antonella Gambotto-Burke called Mama: Love, Motherhood and Revolution. It examines the way motherhood is devalued in our modern society and how a mother’s love is intrinsic to her children’s well-being. It is teaching me many things and one is to leave behind the iPhone when I’m out with my kids.

Stewart Jackson

(PhD ’11 GradCertEdStud ’16)

What’s your research area?
I research Australian and comparative politics, with a focus on the development of Green parties in the Asia-Pacific. Complementing that interest in contentious politics, I am involved in a long-standing research project examining protest and protest behaviour in Australia. I also have an ongoing interest in distributed and eco-feminist leadership theorising.

What are you most excited about in your new role?
Having been effectively doing the role for the last 4 years on contract, I am most looking forward to taking a holiday in January! But seriously, the role allows me to continue to focus on teaching and learning, and the student experience.

Where can we find you on the weekend?
I’m either at my desk at home or doing field research. If I get the chance I also like to catch up on contemporary classical music performance – this November is going to be busy time for both!

What are you binge reading?
Joe Collins

What's your research area?
My research is currently focussed around questions of rent, landed property and value theory. I use critical engagements with these bodies of thought as points of departure for empirical analyses of extractive industry. My primary concern has been the Australian context, particularly mining and taxation, but I have plans to expand the scope of my inquiries to include extractive industry in the developing world.

What are you most excited about in your new role?
I am thrilled at the prospect of contributing in a much more substantial capacity to the vibrant curriculum offered through the Department of Political Economy. I also hope to cultivate relationships across the School and Faculty as a means to explore opportunities for collaborative work in both teaching and research. Developing my research and teaching capacities within such a strong and dynamic community of scholars is the most exciting part of all.

What do you do in your free time?
I'm right into cooking at the moment. I hunt for old recipes, read around the history of cuisines and track down weird and wonderful ingredients to experiment with.

Rebecca Pearse

What's your research area?
My main research areas are environmental political economy and feminist sociology. I'm writing a book based on my PhD titled Market Failure: The Political Economy of Carbon Pricing in Australia (contracted with Routledge, 2017). At ANU I've been working on a comparative study of feminist and gender knowledge production in different social sciences. I'm also developing a new project – a study comparing work and alienation in fossil fuel versus renewable energy industries.

What are you most excited about in your new role?
I'm thrilled to be joining the Political Economy Department, and keen to get involved in the Department seminars and reading group. After 3 years of contract research work I'm looking forward to being back in the classroom and I'm loving retirement from job applications! Also excited to get more involved in the Sydney Environment Institute, which is holding an Environmental Justice conference late 2017.

What do you do in your free time?
Moonlight as an amateur cat glamour photographer.

Ainsley Elbra

What's your research area?
I’m an international political economy researcher interested in globalisation, business-state relations and private governance. I’m currently working on a project examining the politics of multinational tax avoidance.

What are you most excited about in your new role?
I’m excited about being part of the vibrant research culture at Sydney, and particularly in SSPS. I’m looking forward to engaging with my colleagues and hearing about their research agendas, as well the enthusiasm of USyd students.

What do you do in your free time?
I like to run and swim, coming into this time of year I take every opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy our beautiful surrounds.

What are you binge watching?
I have to admit I’m not much of a TV watcher (unless it’s sport) so in that sense I’m very much looking forward to the upcoming test matches against South Africa.
‘Anthropocene’ refers to the epoch Paul Crutzen and Eugene Stoermer proposed as starting in the 18th century when humankind began to remodel the planet’s ecosystems with the chemical revolution and invention of the coal-fired steam engine, the emergence of industrialised societies and modern forms of capitalism.

With over 30 wide-ranging panels taking place under the overarching theme of ‘Anthropocene transitions’, this conference calls on anthropologists to bring their skills, knowledge and wisdom to bear on a fleeting and fragile moment in the human career, when the species condition of Anthropos intersects with the transitional epoch of the Anthropocene.

**Anthropocene transitions**
**Anthropology conference**

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**Venue**
Abercrombie Business School, corner of Darlington Ln. & Codrington St., Darlington

**Time**

**More information**
+61 2 9351 2650
ssps.enquiries@sydney.edu.au
Beyond the Coal Rush

“The most recent research production from the interdisciplinary project The Coal Rush and Beyond has just been broadcast on the ABC’s Radio National Science Show. The programs, produced by Tom Morton (UTS), are the latest in a rich series of multimedia outputs generated by the researchers. The three-part radio series commenced on 27 August 2016 and is available to stream or podcast.

The project, funded by an Australian Research Council Discovery Project, has seen two University of Sydney academics contributing to the research: Linda Connor (BA ’74 PhD ’83) in the Department of Anthropology and Stuart Rosewarne (PhD ’87) in the Department of Political Economy, School of Social and Political Sciences.

They have been joined with colleagues from the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), as well as German, American and Indian researchers.

The team is conducting a cross-country comparison of the reliance on coal-fired energy and the various ways this reliance is being contested at sites in the Gunnedah Basin in New South Wales, Chhattisgarh in India and Lusatia in Germany.

“Coal is the largest contributor to the greenhouse gas emissions that are causing global warming,” said Professor Linda Connor.

“Worldwide, coal production is booming, despite international efforts to reduce emissions and prevent runaway climate change.”

“Our interdisciplinary team of social scientists is investigating social conflicts centred on new coal facilities, the energy policies of governments and the role of the international coal trade. We want to contribute useful new insights into the transition away from coal to more sustainable energy use.”

A special issue of the international journal Energy Policy (to be released shortly) publishes the research team’s analyses of different dimensions of the continuing global reliance on coal-fired energy and the impact this is having in Australia, India and Germany.

At the local scale, the research has explored how communities are affected by the expansion of coal mining, their diverse efforts to contest coal’s hegemony and how these struggles translate into meeting the challenge of climate change.

Now in the final year of funding, the project is one facet of a broader research agenda that is developing new theoretical insights into pathways to transitioning from coal.

Several more publications are presently in train and more details of the project are available:

- coalrush.net
Meet our students

From developing a fresh perspective on climate change to making economics about people and not numbers, the world needs social and political science experts more than ever to tackle the pressing social, political and cultural challenges of our time.

Nicola Smart
Anthropology

Nicola Smart (BIGS '14) recently finished up her Oxfam Internship, through the University’s dedicated Internship Program, which has helped her develop a whole new skill set and network of contacts. She’s extremely passionate about forging a career in development planning, especially to do with youth engagement and helping rehabilitate child soldiers.

Jayson Waters
International Relations

2016 is a big year for Jayson Waters (MIR '16) who is busy building a gym in Colombia to help promote fitness and nutrition among children living in slum areas. He’s also working with a German philanthropist to set up schools in regional areas of India, where people are forced to work in garment factories just so they can make enough money to send their children to the nearest schools, which are usually in far away cities.
Felicity Wade
Political Economy

Felicity Wade (BA ‘91 GradDip ‘93 M.Pol.Ec ‘12) runs the Labour Environment Action Network, and has played a key role in stopping Hinchinbrook from being overdeveloped, as well as helping Australia deliver its Kyoto Protocol commitments. First and foremost she sees herself as an environmental activist, who has the skills and knowledge to effect real change.

Ben Parker
Public Policy

Meet Ben Parker (BIntS ‘10 MPP ‘11), in 2013 he and his friends co-founded the Australia-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce whose role is to promote trade and investment between the two nations. He spends half the year in Myanmar, overseeing the work and the positive benefits it brings to local business and people.
Two University of Sydney students are bringing a scholarly perspective to the search for solutions to a major global issue

Written by Luke O’Neill
Photographer: Victoria Baldwin (BA ‘14)

Terrorism has changed national security priorities, divided communities and shifted our sense of personal security. With every violent atrocity comes new and sometimes uninformed calls for greater action.

Within the University of Sydney’s Department of Government and International Relations, Hussain Nadim and Daniel Tasso (BIGS 2014) are working in different ways to develop real and lasting measures to prevent vulnerable Muslims from becoming radicalised by extremists. Hussain Nadim’s worldview has been shaped by some profound and devastating personal experiences.

In May 2010, terror attacks on two mosques in Lahore killed almost 100 people. “We lost a lot of family members in that attack,” says the 28-year-old doctoral candidate. “Even beyond that, on a daily basis we would see attacks on schools and in our cities. We would see people we knew – sometimes very close, sometimes distant – who were being killed in waves. That was very disturbing for us.”

Nadim shaped his personal grief into determination to act. “Coming from Pakistan gives you a serious reality check,” he says. “This life, this world, is a little bit beyond yourself. There comes an inner commitment to serve the people, to serve the country, and really, it’s in that desperation that you want to change the situation.”

Nadim came to the University of Sydney to undertake doctoral research on security and development. Before this, he was a special adviser to the Pakistani government and, at 25, was founding director of the Peace and Development unit of Pakistan’s Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms. He is also a graduate of George Washington University in Washington, DC, and Cambridge University in the UK. He has been a research fellow at Oxford University and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, also in Washington.

More recently, Nadim has been a cool-headed contributor to Australia’s national debate on
violent extremism and terrorism. “The worst thing the government can do is respond with a knee-jerk reaction,” he says. He urges the government to respond in proportion and to avoid the mistakes made overseas. “Don’t inflate the threat,” he says. “If you keep on creating this threat which isn’t there, you might actually see more people turning towards radicalisation.”

Nadim believes integration is the key to any long-term strategy to safeguard against harmful radicalisation. He says Australia has done well in terms of integration policies but it must do more to avoid having to confront the same issues that some European countries are experiencing now.

Nadim is cautious when asked if he considers himself radical. It’s controversial for a young Muslim to say so, given the overtones of the label. But Nadim stresses that radicalisation is distinct from violent extremism and can be a force for good. “I think I am a radical person, but in terms of what? Positively using energy to deliver solutions to the problems; to fight against extremism; to fight hate and bigotry and have more understanding between cultures. I think I am radical in that sense,” he says.

Nadim’s ongoing advocacy earned him a place on the Forbes 30 Under 30 list. The influential American business publication describes it as “600 of the brightest young entrepreneurs, breakout talents and change agents”. While Hussain Nadim has been shaped by his Muslim faith and culture, Daniel Tasso (BIGS ’15) has no cultural or family connection to Islam. But his strong interest in international affairs led him to complete honours research into Islamist radicalisation in the West.

The International and Global Studies graduate is now one of three young Australians developing a prototype smartphone app called iUmmah, which will provide faith-based information and social networking for Sydney’s Muslim communities. “We live in an age where we can get in contact with thousands of people at the click of a button and I think that’s a really important way to build cohesion and a strong sense of community,” says Tasso. Tasso hopes that building trust and social resilience through apps such as iUmmah can provide an alternative narrative to that of violent extremists.

The project was born when Tasso went to an event hosted by People Against Violent Extremism (PaVE) in Melbourne. It was called MyHack and the people attending were asked to think about innovative solutions to violent extremism. Tasso was partnered with Fahad Akhand and Tyra Kruger, and together they developed the iUmmah idea.

The trio, who are all in their 20s, used the opportunities provided by MyHack to meet and speak to deradicalised Australians about their drift toward extremist ideas. While Tasso points out such pathways are complex and varied, one common thread that emerged was the distinct lack of, and longing for, a firm identity. “Identity issues play a massive role” he says. “Humans are very social beings and we need to belong and have a strong identity.” His research revealed that second and third generation immigrants who are drawn to radical views often cite a sense of non-belonging as a reason.

iUmmah’s name is a nod to the Arabic word for community. As the winning concept at MyHack, the app received $10,000 from PaVE and the Australian Government. Once consultation with Muslim communities in Sydney is complete later in 2016, the developers hope the app will be available for download on Apple’s iOS and Google’s Android operating systems.

Tasso describes the app as “a roadmap to one’s Australian Muslim identity”. It will have a GPS function that shows local mosques, a calendar to flag or notify users about upcoming Islamic festivals, exhibitions and workshops, a chat feature, and information about the history of the faith in Sydney. For Tasso, iUmmah is inspired by his belief that a strong Muslim community is one of the best strategies to combat fringes of violent extremism. “The Islamic tradition in Australia has really come into focus in the post-9/11 years because of what has happened overseas – but that tradition didn’t start in 2001,” he says. “We really want to emphasise that and to say ‘let’s not get too caught up in those black-and-white narratives that extremist organisations are putting out there’. ‘We’re bigger than that, we can deal with that, and let’s do it together.”
Teaching commendations

Our recent winners of the Faculty wide commendations for teaching reflect on their students and the modern classroom

John Mikler
(MIntS ‘99 PhD ‘07)

Some people say that lecture halls and classrooms are dying as learning mediums. Instead, more contemporary alternatives employing information and communications technology are preferable. I used to think so too, but have come to disagree because my students do. I have asked them if they want more online learning opportunities, if they want less real time interaction and more flexibility in their learning, and if they want novel forms of continuous assessment. They have said: no. What they have told me they want is more face-to-face interaction, more consultation, and more opportunities to be present and critically discuss the material. They want opportunities to be heard and for their views to be taken seriously, and responded to. Therefore, they tell me they are delighted to find that I welcome questions in lectures, that I stay for discussion afterwards for as long as they like, that I have no set consultation times and they can come to my office any time. Some are surprised that when they do, I want to talk about the subject with them as they thought lecturers were too busy to do so outside of lectures and tutorials, or only want to hear about ‘problems’.

We are continually challenged to be innovative teachers. However, it is also vital that we do not forget that the ‘secret’ to a great experience for our students is simply to look like we care, because we actually do. Whether they are the top 5 percent, bottom 5 percent, or anywhere in between, we should give them their best chance to succeed. This means making the time to encourage and support them, whatever their ability, rather than telling them to teach themselves on a screen. After all, they don’t need to come to university to do that.

Elizabeth Hill
(BEcSocSc ‘93 PhD ‘05)

My best classes as an undergraduate student were taught by passionate and engaged academics who respected students and were personally invested in the teaching and learning process. They made time for students and valued their engagement. These are traits I try to emulate in my own teaching practice.

In the past couple of years one of my teaching priorities has been to create opportunities to embed student learning in interdisciplinary field school experiences. Students are enthusiastic about linking their learning to contemporary ‘real world’ issues and challenges. I have found that carefully designed field school experiences catalyse engaged student inquiry and deliver a unique opportunity for deep learning that can be captured in more traditional forms of academic assessment such as the research essay. Focused field-based learning experiences that revolve around a particular area of public policy, a practical problem or conceptual puzzle also provide a creative platform for student learning and critical analysis. Challenging students to locate their observations of a specific dynamic in a particular location within the theoretical literature and scholarly debates demands sophisticated and higher level critical thinking that is not always possible sitting in a lecture theatre and leads to new and creative approaches to thinking about specific problems - in my case, the political economy of inequality or economic development.
The interdisciplinary nature of the field schools has been a bonus. Students report that working in an interdisciplinary context helps them understand the specific strengths and limitations of their own discipline and identify the benefit of drawing on insights from other disciplinary traditions and approaches, even those outside the social sciences.

There are four specific outcomes I’ve observed amongst students who have attended the field schools I’ve linked to and designed:

- The formal academic work produced for assessment by field school students is almost always superior to those who have not had the same opportunity.
- Students demonstrate deep engagement with the courses they take following the field school experience.
- Students demonstrate strong motivation to pursue higher degree studies in either the honours program here at Sydney University, or Masters degrees at leading universities overseas.
- Field school opportunities are highly valued by prospective employers.

Each of these outcomes is encouraging and point to the value of mixing regular lecture-based courses with field school opportunities.

Dinesh Wadiwel

I teach the undergraduate unit Social Justice Law and Society, which is part of the Socio-Legal program in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy. The course is interdisciplinary in nature, at least in so far as some of the core theoretical frameworks relating to social justice — for example perspectives offered by Jeremy Bentham, John Rawls, Martha Nussbaum or Iris Marion Young — come from political philosophy, however students must also learn how to use their skills as social scientists to apply these tools to real situations, including in understanding the redistributive potential of welfare systems and understanding the role of the law in reinforcing racialised and gendered inequalities.

I love trying to distil challenging theory in a way that makes it understandable to students in an everyday way. One thing I try in classes is getting students to challenge their own conceptions of what they consider as “fair”. In tutorials I ask students to discuss a thought experiment around an imaginary society which has a 100% tax applied on inherited wealth. I point out that such a society would eliminate the distorting effects of inherited wealth on income distribution, and would be genuinely “merit based” – what you earned in your life would be a result of your own efforts. It is fascinating to see how students respond in such in class exercises, as it forces everyone to study their own views on what they think might be fair, including whether they would be willing to give up their own future privileges for a society that might be objectively fairer!

I also like to ask students to think about the injustices within institutions that are around them. One exercise I run in class involves students imagining themselves as a policy committee of the University of Sydney, charged with the task of making the university a more inclusive space. Last year the students broke up into groups to discuss gender segregated toilet facilities on campus, and the implications for students and staff who are gender non conforming. This provoked quite heated conversations in class; however it proved a useful way to allow students to think about complex theoretical perspectives on gender and justice, such as that advanced by Judith Butler or Dean Spade.
Damien Cahill

There seems to be a prevailing assumption that modern teachers need to innovate: that only by making use of new technologies, online discussion-boards or ‘flipped’ classrooms can we cater to the needs of the modern student. Perhaps there is a valuable place for such things. Yet, reflecting upon my own experience, the innovative content of my teaching methods is zero. Instead, I rely upon techniques and principles that good teachers have been using for decades (although I don’t claim to be better-placed than any of my peers to offer advice on what constitutes ‘best practice’ in teaching). I aim to communicate relevant information clearly to students. This includes in-class communication (lectures, tutorials etc) as well as expectations regarding assessments, the purpose of assessments, and how they relate to the content of the unit of study.

My teaching works well when I have had the time to prepare and plan. It benefits when I manage to impose a coherent structure on the unit as a whole and upon the sequencing of topics. I aim to treat my students respectfully and to understand their perspectives. I try to reflect critically upon my own teaching (whilst avoiding self-flagellation) and use such reflections in combination with student feedback to modify what and how I teach. Finally, I believe it is important to recognise the limits of one’s own knowledge and to be open to different ways of seeing.

Whilst none of this is innovative, one challenge we all face as teachers is to adapt the practices, techniques and philosophies we know are at the heart of good teaching to a changing environment: to the experiences, life histories and expectations students bring with them to University, and to a University increasingly characterized by fiscal austerity, competition, and work intensification, all of which are, potentially, inimical to high quality teaching and learning.

Sonja van Wichelen

In writing about my teaching of the unit Science, Technology and Social Change last semester, it is important to state out front that it was a unit entirely in my field of expertise, that I was teaching while on a research fellowship (and therefore had a light load), and that I had the assistance of a fantastic tutor Andrew Vail McLachlan. I state this because it foregrounds the privileged situation I was in but also that it might be exactly these conditions that made it possible for me to try out (new) things.

I had just come back from the annual meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science in Denver when I had to prepare the unit outline. Injected with newly published scholarship and exciting theoretical discussions in the field I completely redesigned the unit and introduced a lot of theoretical as well as ethnographic/empirical texts that were only very recently published. Ironically, my innovation, then, is taking ‘old-school’ research-based teaching seriously (because I can). As such, I taught the literature that I wanted to read for my research and I experimented with my students how the theories corresponded to ethnographic/empirical realities, including my own.

One of such experiments was a project-based assignment, inspired by Joseph Dumit’s “implosion project”. Students were asked to choose one technoscientific practice, object, or organism to analyse for the duration of the semester. It had to be as specific as possible (a practice like eating organic food, an object like a particular database, or organism like gut bacteria). Each week they were expected to write a short response using the required readings to reflect on their particular practice/object/organism. Ultimately, the assignment was aimed at making connections and relations between objects, facts, actions, people, and worlds, and to learn about how they come to be stabilized in society. I think having a concrete project that students could turn to in working through the readings allowed them to actively put their knowledge to work in practice.
The Biopolitics of Science Research Network

Written by Sonja van Wichelen

The Biopolitics of Science (BoS) Research Network brings together transdisciplinary scientists and scholars from inside and outside the University of Sydney who research the socio-historical study of science and medicine and their evolving importance in a globalised society. The premise underlying the BoS Network is that the life sciences are increasingly playing a central role in contemporary societies.

The impact is most evident in the three decades following the Human Genome Project in which we have witnessed profound debates on how the biosciences are redefining society, politics, and legalities – ranging from controversies in the biosciences (stem cell research, reproductive technologies, organ transplantation) to fundamental problems in law (forensic DNA, genetic parenthood, intellectual property) and citizenship (immigration, genetic ancestry, disability). Key to the Network is its emphasis on transdisciplinary learning across the Life Sciences, Social Sciences, and the Arts.

Since the founding and directorship of the BoS Network by Professor Catherine Waldby in 2010 the Network has accommodated an impressive track record of visitors, grants, and events. As such, we were privileged to have hosted high profile international speakers including Professor Kaushik Sunder Rajan (University of Chicago), Marsha Rosengarten (Goldsmiths), Professor Philip Mirowski (University of Notre Dame), Professor Jackie Leach Scully (Newcastle University), Professor Klaus Høyer (University of Copenhagen), and Nikolas Rose (King’s College).

Despite Professor Waldby’s recent departure to the ANU, the members of the Network are keen on continuing and expanding their activities. Scholarship in the study of science and medicine continues to burgeon; not only empirically (the study of epigenetics and the human microbiome) but also theoretically (discussions on new materialism). Sydney University has an impressive concentration of scholars researching these emerging trends.

Activities in the coming years include BoS Luncheons, book forums, occasional seminars, and international workshops. The BoS Luncheons are aimed to foster regular (monthly) contact between senior scholars and emerging scholars and to provide an intellectual space in which to discuss emerging texts and problems. The book forums give network members the opportunity to have their book manuscripts peer-reviewed by other members. Two thematic international forums are planned for 2017 and 2018. One on the topic of “postgenomics” and another on “biolegalities of kinship and race”.

You can find out more about BoS Research Network at

- sydney.edu.au/arts/biopolitics_science/
Adventures in Political Economy

Visiting scholar Nicola Short discusses what sets Political Economy at the University of Sydney apart from any other institution in the world.

Written by Nicola Short

When it came time to consider where best to pursue my research and writing during my sabbatical from York University in Toronto, the Department of Political Economy at the University of Sydney was at the top of my list. Here the commonplace ‘there’s no place like it’ has almost literal significance: there are in fact very few departments in the world dedicated to the problematic of political economy specifically, and none as established or significant I think it is fair to say. But, of course, it is not the Department’s institutional status per se that makes it an interesting place to work: it is the way in which that organisational space has been established and maintained to foster dynamic scholarly exchange around this question of how society functions materially and ideationally.

My first direct engagement with the Department was in fact two years ago at an international workshop held on the anniversary of the publication of two iconic texts, Polanyi’s *The Great Transformation* and Hayek’s *The Road to Serfdom*, ‘Questioning the Utopian Springs of Market Economy’. That occasion assembled a notable group of scholars from across the globe for lively discussions in and around the beautiful Great Hall, planting the idea in my head that it would be wonderful to return for a longer stay to continue the exchange.

The analyses put forward then (soon to be in print) capture issues that remain central to ongoing debates within the field, particularly as they inform discussions of ‘neoliberalism’, as the challenges of the contemporary conjuncture are often framed. Indeed, neoliberalism is the object of my current research and one of the internationally recognized strengths of the Department. It has been fulfilling to (re)connect with colleagues longstanding and new vis-à-vis this theme in the fertile environment found in everyday life on campus and its enviable café scene. Beyond the informal discussions, however, the Department’s organised programs of reading groups and seminars also contributes to a rewarding scholarly milieu.
The Past and Present reading group, convened by Adam Morton, Chair of the Department of Political Economy, but comprising students and faculty members from numerous departments, generously accepted me into its ranks in the middle of its engagement with Jason Moore’s *Capitalism in the Web of Life* (Verso, 2015). This particular text weaves together a complex set of interdisciplinary considerations in examining the relationship between ecology and economic development in historical context: the collective expertise thoughtfully offered by the reading group’s diverse composition has been very illuminating. (And for those who may not recognize the reading group name, it is a nod to the oeuvre of the Italian theorist Antonio Gramsci, whose writing has greatly influenced Adam’s work as well as my own, a fact that makes it especially gratifying for me to participate in its discussions.)

The Department’s seminar and lecture series also provides a robust framework for academic exchange, and a particularly valuable mechanism for visiting scholars to participate in the intellectual life of the university. In my short time here, these have included presentations from scholars from Australia, the UK and India, and offered an opportunity not only to meet colleagues from other departments, but to really appreciate how their research interests structure their perspectives on these questions of common interest and concern. Though it occurs just after I must submit this piece, one of the most interesting topics on this year’s seminar schedule to my mind is newly appointed Professor Sujatha Fernandes’ (BA (Hons) ’98) upcoming talk on neoliberalism, storytelling and social change.

I am very fortunate that my tenure here at the University will also coincide with the Annual Wheelwright Lecture in Political Economy, an August tradition that has featured many of the most eminent figures in the field. This year’s talk by Professor David Ruccio (University of Notre Dame) is no exception. To my mind his work exemplifies the best in interdisciplinary methodological rigor; his attention to class in particular has influenced many in the social sciences. The Department has very creatively extended this scholarly occasion to a more popular discussion at a local bookstore near campus, which I am thrilled to be able to attend as well. The format is an innovative approach to connecting academic work to interested audiences beyond the ‘ivory tower’, a discussion with Katherine Gibson (Western Sydney University) that promises to highlight the points of contact and divergence in their approaches in a very dynamic setting.

In sum, for me, the Department of Political Economy is a special place, conceptually and in practice. I really appreciate the supportive and intellectually rewarding space it has afforded my sabbatical research, and have every hope and expectation it will continue to keep up its great work.
Black Crows Invaded our Country

Written by David Schlosberg

The focus of the Sydney Environment Institute is on the environmental humanities and social sciences – how we create, experience, and respond to environmental crises. Our affiliates address a wide range of issues, from urban environments and food systems, to the Great Barrier Reef and museum exhibits on the Anthropocene, to environmental and climate justice in adaptation planning. One of our constant challenges, however, is how we communicate our academic work to each other and the broader public. Thankfully, we have an incredible talent on board to help.

Anyone who has had any interaction with the Sydney Environment Institute over the last few years knows how important our Executive Administrator Michelle St Anne is to the everyday functioning, public presentation, and very personality of the Institute. In her other life, St Anne has been the very successful founder and artistic director of The Living Room Theatre, a company that has created numerous distinct and original works of innovative and immersive theatre, many of which address crucial themes of social importance.

Over the last few years, St Anne and LRT have taken the research of SEI affiliates as their inspiration – developing and performing theatre pieces that bring our environmental research to life. Shows have highlighted work on the Great Barrier Reef, climate migration, and sea turtles. LRT addresses the despair we often feel about the environment with the beauty of artistic vision.

This year, LRT and SEI are collaborating to present a new piece, ‘Black Crows Invaded Our Country’, drawing parallels between governmental responses to human migration and unwanted nonhuman species. Using the atrium of the Charles Perkins Centre as the backdrop, the piece will use the rhetorical imagery of ships, people, and crows as they are transported, trafficked or take flight to seek refuge from their various experiences of suffering. Academics will form a ‘murder of crows’, while futile political speak bellows from the buildings’ lifts as they move from floor to floor. World-renowned sound artists Lawrence English (electronics) & Mary Rapp (BMusPerf (Hons) ‘16) (Double bass, cello, voice) will complement these ideas with field recordings, voice samples, and loops, helping the audience to reflect on the content in both an emotional and intellectual way.

The idea is to rethink, recontextualise, and rediscover the usual academic lecture, transforming it with poetry, performance, and live sound art. It promises to be another stunning and challenging theatre piece – and one that communicates academic research in the environmental humanities and social sciences beyond the usual articles, books, reports, blog pieces, and tweets.

– sydney.edu.au/environment-institute/events/black-crows-invaded-our-country/
Research into Animal Rights

“My own research is devoted to the right to make personal choices that I am trying to extend to two marginalised groups: nonhuman animals and persons with cognitive disabilities”

Written by Frédéric Côté-Boudreau

My three-month journey at the University of Sydney starts a year ago, in Canada, when I decided to apply for a funding to improve my thesis by studying in a foreign institution. My supervisor from my home university (Queen's), who immediately supported my initiative, had one recommendation: that I should look into the Human Animal Research Network at USYD, a world-leading research group on animal studies. He felt that it was the one place in the world where I would learn the most regarding my area of research—not that it was exactly the kind of work I am undertaking (I am in philosophy and I widely rely on liberalism and republican theory, while some key members of the HARN are rather fond of critical theories, for instance), but rather that it was different yet compatible enough to make me see the issues in a new light. And he was right about that.

My own research is devoted to the right to make personal choices (or to ‘autonomy’) that I am trying to extend to two marginalised groups: nonhuman animals and persons with cognitive disabilities. Because these two groups are not deemed rational enough according to the mainstream conceptions of autonomy in philosophy, they are too often denied the very rights to shape their life and to be free. At “best”, they are kept under a permanent wardship paradigm, and in the worst cases, they are routinely exploited and constrained as if their very life belongs to other people. On the contrary, I want to argue that these individuals, just like any neurotypical humans, have the same right to control their lives as they see fit, that their own point of view matters for its own sake, and that they have an interest in not being dominated even when they do not suffer or when they are not aware of their own oppression. To put it in a single sentence, I urge that we ask: Are people living the life they want to lead, according to their own lights?

Dr Dinesh Wadiwel, from the Department of Sociology and Social Policy, has kindly accepted to supervise my project during my short stay at USYD. I took this opportunity to, first, revisit a chapter of my thesis on the interest in liberty, and second, to focus on a specific and challenging chapter on preference formation and adaptive preferences, and Dr Wadiwel indeed greatly assisted me throughout this research. So I started to read more about relational autonomy and other feminist views on autonomy, epistemic injustice, disability studies, and much more. All this work and our discussions culminated in a conference given on September 20th, titled “Preference Formation: A Non-Rationalistic & Non-Individualistic Approach”, during which I presented the basic ideas of my chapter: that any individual needs social support in order to develop the skills necessary to make their own choices, and that when they are offered alternatives, so-called “non-rational agents” can make authentic choices rather than choices that are unduly influenced by others.

My stay in Sydney also allowed me the unique chance to meet with a few scholars in disability studies, who significantly contributed to expand my views on intellectual disability, as well as to build relationships with academics and activists involved in animal justice in Australia. The country is, without a doubt, at the forefront of some exciting new developments in the field, and I can truly say that I can’t picture where my thesis ideas would be if I didn’t get the opportunity to exchange with these thinkers and their ideas.
How research at Sydney’s LCT Centre for Knowledge-Building is impacting the rehabilitation of inmates at Durham’s high security prisons

Written by Karl Maton, Steve Kirk, and Jodie Martin

An Associate Member of the newly created LCT Centre for Knowledge-Building, Steve Kirk of Durham University (UK), is helping take Legitimation Code Theory (LCT) inside the walls of UK prisons.

LCT is a theoretical framework for analysing and changing knowledge practices created by Associate Professor Karl Maton of SSPS. The approach is rapidly growing in its international reach and transformative impact in education and beyond. One idea created by Maton involves exploring ‘semantic waves’ in knowledge, or movements between concrete and abstract ideas and between simpler and more complex knowledge. Over the past three years Steve Kirk has been using these ideas to inform teaching and learning at Durham University, across disciplines from anthropology to physics.
In the past year, tutors at Durham University’s English Language Centre have extended their use inside Durham’s high security male prison, HMP Frankland, and its women’s prison, HMP Low Newton, through their work supporting the Criminology Department’s modules in ‘Issues in Social Justice’. These modules, led by Professor Fiona Measham, bring together inmates (‘Insiders’) and university students (‘Outsiders’) as peer learners, receiving the same readings and meeting weekly to discuss the module face-to-face within the prison in order to submit a portfolio of four reflective writing assignments. Durham is the first UK university to implement this ‘Inside-Out’ program, receiving positive, high-profile interest from both the national media and British Government. Key to its success is the academic credibility and transformative potential of the reflective writing assignments and it is here that LCT is playing its part.

Using ideas from LCT, staff from the English Language Centre are providing support sessions for both Insiders and Outsiders, utilising the way LCT allows its ideas to move between highly complex theory and simple, concrete practice. Here, teachers are using pictorial and even gestural representations of ‘semantic waves’ to show students, both at university and inside prisons, how concrete experience and abstract ideas from criminology can be weaved together to create powerful understandings of both. As well as teaching how to write their reflective assignments, this work is having transformative effects for both Insiders and Outsiders. Initially some Insiders believed that only the academic knowledge in their readings was valuable, discounting their own personal experiences. Teachers showed Insiders how their own experiences were not only valuable for grounding and engaging with academic ideas but could in turn become informed by criminology to generate generalisations. For example, in a memorable encounter for one teacher, an Insider drew an analogy between connecting theory with empirical evidence and the idea of members of a court appealing to expert witnesses in a trial. The teacher reported this as a breakthrough moment in the tutorial: the Insider student saw for the first time how academic knowledge could be brought to bear on his everyday experiences to inform and problematise them, enabling new interpretations and understandings of that experience.

The LCT notion of semantic waves that weave together concrete and abstract ideas is thus informing the Durham English Language Centre staff’s work with the Inside-Out students, contributing to the transformative experience these modules are offering. Moreover, thanks to the ways in which LCT helps make visible the ‘rules of the game’ for succeeding in education, other parts of the LCT framework are likely to be drawn on to enhance this work further. This innovative program is thereby highlighting how the highly sophisticated theoretical framework of LCT has real, concrete outcomes that support social justice.

As well as Associate PG Member of the LCT Centre (undertaking his doctorate using LCT), Steve Kirk is Senior Teaching Fellow, English Language Centre, at Durham University, UK.
Moving Beyond Racial Division and Difference in Regional Australia

Expanding our understanding of contemporary Indigenous-settler towns

On the rare occasions that my research site Alice Springs, Central Australia, attracts wider attention it is usually about violence, racism and other entrenched social problems stemming from a history of racial injustice and ongoing marginalisation of Indigenous people. As could be expected, the persistent problems Indigenous people struggle with are often the main focus also when researchers and policy makers pay attention to Alice Springs. Such problem-oriented research and attention often emphasise ongoing structural inequalities and radical cultural difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous domains.

My research in Alice Springs in an Australian Research Council Discovery project (2012-2014) and the design of a new, comparative study of other regional towns, set out to problematise two dominant aspects of more conventional scholarly approaches to Indigenous-settler dynamics; an almost exclusive focus on Indigenous experiences and circumstances, and conceptual models that fundamentally rely on the two pre-formed categories of Indigenous and non-Indigenous. After conducting research and working with Indigenous people and organisations in Alice Springs and across the desert regions for more than a decade, I found such approaches too limiting for capturing the day-to-day interactions and intersubjective processes involving people from a rich diversity of backgrounds that I observed and experienced.

One problem is that Indigenous/non-Indigenous conceptual models tend to reinforce a conflation of real people and the categories we construct for our analysis. They also somehow assume two real collective actors with shared interests and outlooks on the world. A third problem is that we rarely see how Indigenous and non-Indigenous people co-produce configurations of race, class, ethnicity, gender and other forms of differentiation that shape all persons’ lives in shared places.

My research in Alice Springs aims to expand our understandings of contemporary Indigenous-settler towns (and other settings) by paying attention to how the broader range of people experience and come to know themselves and various others as they get ordinary things done with their differences and similarities. I have thus conducted systematic observations of interaction in the town centre, participated in a range of community activities, engaged with people in various stakeholder organisations and professional networks, and in private and family-based activities. I have conducted more than 60 in-depth interviews with men and women from different occupational sectors, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic circumstances, and documented ongoing conversations with a much larger number of residents. I also draw on my previous anthropological work with Indigenous people and organisations, as well as my insights into everyday concerns as articulated in public debate, workplaces, recreational activities and among neighbours over my 16 years as a permanent town resident.

The forms of division and difference emerging from this diversity of field data...
do not map neatly onto an Indigenous/non-Indigenous division. I instead find that town residents understand and evaluate themselves and various others’ behaviours and ways of life based on the kinds of attachments they have to the town. People from families who have resided in and near the town for generations, for instance, often see the town and others through shared histories of work as they literally built and continue to maintain the town environment – its houses and roads, parks and sport fields – and through using these town spaces as neighbours, consumers, business operators, employees, school students, church goers and for playing sports. These non-Indigenous and Indigenous people tend to identify with sets of values and interests associated with occupations and skills in rural and trade-based industries, and lower academic education. In most aspects of their life orientation and aspirations they differ less from each other than from many higher educated non-Indigenous and Indigenous town residents, and in particular those committed to Indigenous advocacy and rights work.

To disentangle such place-specific understandings of co-existence, I have turned to recent urban anthropology and theories of space and place that recognise that place not only determines where we are in the sense of a location on a map; it also mediates how we are together with others in a place, and who we can become together. To tease out the range of social differentiation and the ambivalent and fluid ways in which people identify from one everyday situation and setting to the next, I also work with concepts of belonging and place-making that take into account how people’s multiple social locations – not only race and ethnicity, but also levels and kinds of education, occupation, socio-economic circumstances, gender, religion and age – mediate understandings of co-existence, today and historically. To not lose sight of the historically conditioned inequalities associated with ‘Indigenous’ and ‘non-Indigenous’ categories and relations, I make the analytical distinction between the everyday forms of belonging and the ‘politics of belonging’, or identity politics.

By in this way foregrounding place-specific forms of belonging, the research can illuminate new forms of difference, as well as shared values, within and across segments of the town population. In the process, I have come to appreciate regional service towns like Alice Springs as particularly important, but often overlooked, settings for understanding more about the reorganisation and transformation of relations among non-Indigenous and Indigenous people, as they become arenas for the mediation of remote and rural as well as cosmopolitan and international experiences, values and practices. Some of this is shaped by regional histories of co-existence, which in turn implicate broader and historical patterns of differentiation and inequalities in society. Among the recent broader forces shaping the conditions for local relations are Indigenous land rights and human rights movements, changing flows of global migration, new forms of tourism, expanding communication technologies and transnational mining and petroleum interests. As people in Alice Springs and other regional towns get on with their everyday lives, aspects of such broader forces and associated values and practices both limit and expand they ways in which people identify, act and form attachments to people and the material environment. In the process, partly enduring and partly new forms of division, mutual interests and inequality are generated, further changing the conditions for co-existence.
Top left: Heritage protected Adelaide House built in 1927 in the centre of Alice Springs
Top right: Alice Springs civic centre
Middle left: NAIDOC week march through Todd Mall in Alice Springs
Middle right: View of Alice Springs township from ANZAC Hill
Bottom left: Crown Land sign graffitied with Aboriginal flag
The Australian census and the right to individual privacy

Luis Angosto-Ferrández looks at reasons to celebrate the recent census controversies

Written by by Luis Angosto-Ferrández

The controversies over the 2016 Australian census left untouched some important questions that should make us celebrate the fact that we continue to live in societies in which there is a public sector mediating our social life. Because a public sector can always be oriented and made accountable by the citizenry. This is something that we tend to forget too easily, though it is a real treasure in a historical period in which social life is growingly mediated by unaccountable private and corporate forces.

Let us recapitulate. The past census round brought together a motley crew of enemies of “big government”, defenders of civil rights and a number of inspired conspiracy theorists against the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), wrongly identified with the government in a mechanical way i.e.
forgetting its semi-independent nature as a statutory authority). Critiques of the ABS and its new census methods had a converging point among them: the new census was presented as a threat against individual freedom and as a potential tool for unpredictable (but always negative) social control. Leaving aside arguments about the way in which governments may be using the data (but also keeping in mind that governments will have to respond to voters), let us focus on the sense of entitlement with which the right to privacy was defended by some Australians. That sense of entitlement stems from a notion of citizenship and democracy that, alas, is nowadays largely absent in our everyday lives. It certainly does not have parallels in our lives as consumers, which is what we are when we are not citizens.

In this regard it is puzzling that, in a period in which personal data is captured and circulated in mass scale by private corporations and often through a-legal mechanisms, it was the national census that sparked controversy. Why do some people find it unconceivable that a state agency manages certain personal data (even when there are regulations to protect a degree of anonymity), but at the same time many of these people are comfortably fine with private corporations capturing, storing and circulating far more of their personal data (often with dubious informed consent granted by consumers)? That is mysterious, and a sign of the world we live in. And that is no good sign, because unless we become more aware of what is at stake in these matters we may end in a situation in which the control of data and the circulation of information by private corporations could translate in a dramatic involution for democracy.

So, after all, the census controversy demonstrated what still remains so good about certain conceptions of citizen rights.

Another good reason to celebrate the census controversies is that they have given the census some of the public attention it deserves. Censuses are essential instruments for governance, providing indispensable data for the definition of public agendas and for the subsequent design and implementation of policy. Yet census designs are far less discussed than, for instance, government budgets or parliamentary legislation. This is surprising, even in these times of (worrying) disaffection with institutional politics.

Censuses remain outside the public spotlight because they tend to be enveloped by an association of statistics and numbers with politically neutral objectivity. However, while we should all credit existing technical expertise at the bureaus, we should also acknowledge that census-making is deeply enmeshed in broader political processes. This is not because the government uses censuses to make the population subject to obscure forms of control, but because censuses are spaces of social representation, crucial for the institutional shaping of politics and national identities.

Censuses address the quantification of social identities (such as ethnicity, in Australia). And, against conventional wisdom, there is nothing straightforward about the demarcation and measurement of social identities.

First, it is always an ideological decision that will
determine whether or not ethnic categories can be accepted as legitimate and realistic divisions of the national population. Comparative research demonstrates that such decision changes over time (and across nations) as a result of political transformations in our societies.

Second, if ethnic categories are accepted as a way to realistically portray social diversity, political decision comes again to the fore, articulated with technical considerations. The conceptualisation of ethnicity is subject to ongoing debates, far from resolved. Yet bureaus of statistics have to define and make the concept of ethnicity operational, designing questions and offering interviewees a number of example categories for them to ascribe to.

This is why census designs are political. These designs impact on society in practical terms, pre-informing public policy and sanctioning acts of administrative recognition that imply legitimisation, consolidation or even creation of social categories that may condition citizen interaction.

The choice of terminology can decisively condition the results of social identity counts. Results can be significantly affected by social milieu too, for respondents are sensitive to political contexts. For instance, in situations in which there is a perception of strong discrimination against one’s own group of ascription, self-identifications with that group tend to decrease. When there is a positive valorisation of a given social identity, the opposite is the case. ‘Example effects’ in census can also have significant impacts on results. This is a technical term naming the demonstrated tendency of respondents to ascribe to categories that are already included in questionnaires as example categories.

Another crucial aspect of contemporary censuses is self-identification as the criteria used to capture social identities. This is a relatively recent mechanism in the history of censuses, replacing external identification (i.e. the process through which a census enumerator decided what was the social identity to which the interviewee was to be ascribed). Self-identification overcomes undignifying census practices and avoids reification of identities.

However, it presents its own challenges, for it transforms mechanisms of group affiliation into individualised acts of subjective psychological choice, thus multiplying the complexities that will always accompany attempts at objectifying and measuring social identities.

All these questions have practical implications, and they are the questions that should generate civic discussion around censuses.

Luis Angosto-Ferrández

Luis Angosto-Ferrández is a lecturer in the departments of Anthropology and Latin American Studies. His research interests include the study of forms of collective action and the construction of political identities in Latin America and Europe.
The Sydney Democracy Network held the 4th annual Festival of Democracy, which brings together thinkers, activists, and policy makers to discuss the health of democracy around the world.

Written by Lindy Baker (BA ’93)
“Democratic ambivalence, as registered in the appeal of populist candidates from the US, to Europe, the Philippines and elsewhere, is a warning sign from ‘the people’ that the current system of democratic governance needs recalibrating.”

— Adele Webb

and Nina Wang Nintong who met the audience at the premier screening of their films Eid al-Fitr and Return of Lost Souls at the Verona Cinema in Oxford St, Paddington on Saturday 3 September. Their documentaries reveal quotidian experience for Muslims living in south-west Xinjiang, and animist Hmong peoples living on the Laos/China border, and were warmly received by the Sydney audience which included members of the Hmong community and also by audiences in Cairns at the Hmong Film Festival. Director Liu Xiangchen also discussed his films and the history and culture of Xinjiang province, with a focus on the Kyrgyz and Uyghur peoples, on campus in conversation with Andres Rodriguez, lecturer in Modern Chinese History, School of Philosophical and Historical Enquiry.

The Festival also touched on topics as diverse as: post-sovereign governing arrangements in Antarctica with a panel featuring speakers Anne-Marie Brady (New Zealand), Indi Hodgson-Johnston, Matt King and Tony Press (BSc ‘77 PhD ’83) (Tasmania); the events of the Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine in February 2014 with a photo essay by photographer and activist Maksym Trebukhov; and political alliances and priorities, most especially in the environmental arena, from the point of view of deeply engaged and experienced participant David Ritter, CEO Greenpeace Australia Pacific.

Economist Ross Garnaut delivered the final lecture of the Festival on Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy: Old Visions, New Realities, an update to Joseph Schumpeter’s classic, on Wednesday 7 September in the Great Hall. The lecture was introduced by Duncan Ivison, Professor of Political Philosophy, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and attended by a full house.

This contest of political systems will occur within a more complex global political environment. There will be other powerful states, with different variations on the themes of democratic capitalism and authoritarian capitalism. Continued economic success in the great Asian democracies, India and Indonesia, may turn out to be transformational. The recent strengthening of authoritarian government in such major countries as China, Egypt, Russia, Turkey, Thailand and the Philippines adds complexity.

"International pluralism in political systems is going to be the reality, and peace and the maturation of global development depend on us making that work.”

— Ross Garnaut (DScEc ’13)

SDN was generously supported in hosting the various events of the Festival of Democracy 2016 by the School of Social and Political Sciences, Sydney Ideas, Sydney Fringe Festival, the China Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, the Ukraine Democracy Initiative and the Ukraine Embassy in Australia. SDN thanks everyone involved and also the team at SDN: Rachell Li, Giovanni Navarría, Olga Oleinikova, and especially Janice Zhang. We look forward to next year’s Festival of Democracy 2017.
A Berliner in Sydney

The WZB’s media officer, Kerstin Schneider gives an outsider’s view on life at the University of Sydney

During the Festival of Democracy in September, I spent two weeks with the Sydney Democracy Network (SDN). As a media officer from the WZB Berlin Social Science Center I really enjoyed working with SDN’s John Keane, Lindy Baker, and Janice Zhang who helped me find my way through the University of Sydney and the city. I learnt a lot about their approach to the media, the slightly different use of social media and had the chance to meet several communication officers from the School of Social and Political Sciences and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

The lectures of the Festival were truly inspiring and, that struck me, they attracted a lot of people outside the academic sphere. The discussions after the lectures were so lively and many attendees took part in them. Among the reasons are the excellent design of the Festival’s program, the hard work on titles, and the accessible language used for the introductory notes for the lectures.

Additionally there seems to be a difference in self-perception as social scientists in society. I felt that the researchers take their responsibility to speak and to present their findings in public very seriously. I, for my own work, learned how important clearly written and designed invitations are and how images can help to attract people beyond academy to the events.

It was a great experience for me to find myself in Sydney as a part of a University, working in the venerable Quadrangle building and surrounded by young international students.
Sydney and Melbourne, where I spent two weeks with the team of ‘The Conversation’ after my stay in Sydney, are really multicultural cities, in a different way from Berlin. I found a lot of open-minded and relaxed people who often took their time to help me finding my way or patiently answering my questions, bearing with my German accent. Amy Johansen, the University of Sydney Organist and Carillonist, invited me spontaneously to visit the Carillon with the gorgeous view over Sydney.

Two weeks are too short to discover all the wonderful sights of Sydney. I loved the beaches and the opportunity to go running every morning before work at Coogee Beach. For me as a Berliner it was amazing to see and use the public water filling stations there and to find clean and proper facilities everywhere.

I am thankful to its President Jutta Allmendinger that the WZB has given me the opportunity to go to Australia and my colleagues at the WZB, especially Paul Stoop and Claudia Roth. I would like to cordially thank Lindy Baker and the team of SDN who hosted me and generously shared their time and ideas with me – ‘Dankeschön’ especially to John Keane, the Director of SDN, who invited me to Sydney.

“I felt that the researchers take their responsibility to speak and to present their findings in public very seriously”

Kerstin Schneider
Kerstin Schneider is a Press Officer at the WZB, with over 10 years’ experience as a freelance journalist in Berlin. She is also Co-Founder of the freelancing office KulturBotschaft for Arts and Culture journalism.

@WZB_Berlin
Forecasting Genocide

Identifying the warning signs of genocide and stopping atrocities before they happen

Genocide is not an inevitable feature of the modern world. Nor, when the killing has started, is the process inexorable. Genocides can be prevented, or, at least, stopped after they begin. Political scientists, policy makers and leaders have struggled to effectively prevent catastrophic atrocities in Rwanda, Bosnia, Darfur and more recently Syria, the Central African Republic, Burundi and Iraq where genocide is being committed against the Yazidi people.

Using cutting edge quantitative forecasting models the Atrocity Forecasting Project (AFP) has been able to produce two sets of five-year forecasts ranking the top 15 states most at risk of genocide onset. The forecasts have proven to be as or more accurate than other similar models. In a working paper currently under review, we show that our 2011-15 forecasts achieve a higher true-positive rate and also incur fewer false positives than comparable forecasts produced by a U.S.-based team. Offering a five-year outlook provides greater opportunity for policymakers to actively prevent future atrocities.

Utilising data from 2010 the forecasting model foresaw the risks in a number of states that at the time seemed counter-intuitive:

Central African Republic
After many years of dictatorship and a low-level rebellion the country was moving towards democratisation and the international outlook was positive. The AFP forecast placed CAR on the top of the list. In 2012 a foreign backed rebellion and coup by Seleka rebels led first to mass atrocities against the Christian majority and counter atrocities committed against the Muslim minority by Christian anti-balaka self-defence groups. The violence led to a UN peacekeeping
intervention and left the country partitioned along religious lines.

Myanmar
After many years of military rule, the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and a number of successful democratic and human rights related reforms hopes for a significant improvement in Myanmar’s future were strong. Yet AFP data indicated otherwise and placed Myanmar sixth on our rankings. In 2012 and in years since Buddhist nationalist groups began attacking minority Rohingya Muslims, destroying villages in Rakhine state, killing hundreds and displacing hundreds of thousands. The threats of genocide still remain in Myanmar.

Arab Spring
While our forecasts were released in 2011 well after protests had toppled governments in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya and amidst the beginning of the Syrian civil war, they were based on data collected well before these events began. AFP forecasts placed both Syria and Libya in our top 15 list and the model ‘saw’ the events most of the international community did not see coming. The atrocities in Syria are multiple and continuing after five years of civil war. Libya only narrowly avoided a similar fate when NATO intervened as government forces bore down on rebel strongholds promising to wipe out opposition.

These cases show the particular value of the Atrocity Forecasting Project’s model. It is not only the cases of ongoing violence and instability that are picked up by our model but outlying cases in areas that one would not expect. The rigorous, systematic nature of our quantitative approach based on out-of-sample testing, incorporates qualitative insights and area-expert knowledge but keeps

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Table 1. Top 15 At-Risk States for Genocide/Politicide, 2011-15: Most Powerful Predictors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Years Since Previous Genocide / Policie</th>
<th>Political Instability</th>
<th>Executive Constraints * In (Human Defense Burden)</th>
<th>State-led Discrimination</th>
<th>Infant Mortality Rate</th>
<th>Neighboring State Conflicts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-14.2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>106.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-34.3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>111.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-18.3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>63.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-13.8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>108.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-18.8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>97.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-9.7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>-19.1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Burundi</td>
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<td>-6.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-13.9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-33.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
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<td>-12.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>84.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-18.3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>63.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-3.6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Full data set for 2010:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Years Since Previous Genocide / Policie</td>
<td>50.6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Instability</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Constraints * In (Human Defense Burden)</td>
<td>-24.9</td>
<td>-96.7</td>
<td>-2.5</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-led Discrimination</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Mortality Rate</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>113.7</td>
<td>30.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighboring State Conflicts</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
While some anemic responses to genocide may stem from a lack of political will, better preparation and knowledge we believe can go a long way towards effective early warning and prevention. Early warning can play a profoundly important role, allowing for policy makers to actively prevent and plan in advance where that prevention may fail.

It seems self-evident that, as with many of the most deadly blights upon humanity, so it is with genocide: proactive prevention is better than reactive treatment, and the earlier that risks can be identified the more effective prevention can be. Prevention by definition would reduce the human costs, and the economic and material costs also can be expected to be much lower.

Successful prevention is certainly possible. In 2008, Kenya’s post-election violence pushed the strategically critical East African nation to the edge of an abyss. Concerted international and domestic efforts ended the violence months after it began. In far less dramatic terms violence and possibly serious conflict was prevented in Nigeria in 2015. A closely fought presidential election at times threatened violence with supporters in certain areas preparing for electoral violence. Significant and persistent

human judgement at an arm’s length, tempered by a balanced assessment of global risks based on a uniform set of 19 predictors. Both Syria and Libya show dramatically the consequences of stable states effectively collapsing, allowing the conditions for one of the most extreme security crises faced by the Middle East and Western Europe and imperilling regional powerhouse Turkey. The exodus from Syria, along with the opportunities for people smugglers created by the absence of a stable Libyan state and a number of other violent crises or civil wars has created the largest number of refugees globally since the Second World War.

The challenge of projects like the Atrocity Forecasting Project seeking to predict an event that on average occurs less than once per year is to provide as accurate a list as possible, reducing the number of false positives (events forecast that didn’t happen) and seeking to avoid any false negatives (events that occurred that we didn’t forecast). AFP are continuing to refine and improve our model, exploring ways to further improve accuracy with parallel research aimed at a better understanding of what increases and decreases a country’s risk of genocide.
diplomatic efforts by among others former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and US Secretary of State John Kerry led to both candidates appealing for peace from supporters and President Goodluck Jonathan conceding defeat and peacefully leaving office for current President Muhammadu Buhari.

The Atrocity Forecasting Project’s 2016 to 2020 forecasts were recently released. Given the relatively good accuracy of our previous forecasts and the regional strategic importance of some of the countries the model identifies, we strongly encourage governments and international organizations to more formally incorporate models like ours into their foreign policy processes and early warning systems. There should be intensive monitoring of and focus on the most at risk states.

Benjamin Goldsmith

Benjamin E. Goldsmith is an Associate Professor in the Department of Government and International Relations. His research and teaching are in the areas of international relations, comparative foreign policy, and political psychology. He is the Chief Investigator of the Atrocity Forecasting Project.

@AtFore_Project
The Electoral Integrity Project: Strengthening Elections

The latest findings into how electoral integrity can be strengthened, and the institutional weaknesses that continue to threaten democratic elections

Written by Alexandra Kennett (MdVST ‘16)

Since it was established by the ARC Laureate award in 2012, the Electoral Integrity Project (EIP) at the University of Sydney and Harvard University has focused on three core issues: When do elections meet international standards of electoral integrity? What happens when elections fail to do so? And what can be done to mitigate these problems?

In pursuing these questions, EIP has sought to produce innovative and policy-relevant scientific research that achieves international standing in the social sciences and leads to a significant advancement of capabilities and knowledge about elections, democracy, and autocracy.

The project has sought to achieve these objectives through three strategies. Firstly, EIP has focused on developing and deepening concepts and theories concerning the causes and consequences of electoral integrity. To expand the evidence, EIP has gathered valid, reliable, and generalizable empirical data monitoring and comparing electoral integrity across and within nations through expert indicators, mass surveys, experimental designs, and case-studies. Finally, the project has sought to build a worldwide
The research community engaging scholarly and practitioner networks drawn from diverse disciplines, theoretical approaches, global regions, international organisations, and methodological techniques to advance knowledge of electoral integrity. This includes work with the Australian Election Commission, the Organization of American States, International IDEA, UNDP, and many other international agencies. It has attracted staff and three dozen visitors to Sydney from around the world, with some younger scholars staying to build academic careers in Australia.

**Research outputs**

Since establishing the project, publications on electoral integrity by staff and visiting scholars include ten books, 38 peer-reviewed journal articles and edited book chapters, eight policy reports, several datasets, and two special issues of journals. The publication trajectory is also rapidly accelerating over successive years and two books for OUP and CUP are currently in press for 2017. These outputs have attracted more hundreds of scholarly citations to EIP publications, as well as almost 300 articles in the international news media (see www.electoralintegrityproject.com).

**The Pragmatic Case for Assistance**

The final stage of the Laureate Award has focused on the policy issues of what can be done to strengthen integrity. Today a general mood of pessimism surrounds Western efforts to strengthen elections and democracy abroad. Observers claim that democracy is in decline or retreat. Skepticism among scholars has spread to political leaders. Donald Trump calls American attempts to build democracy a dangerous mistake triggering instability and chaos from Iraq to Libya. European aid for democratic governance programs are slashed, with resources reassigned to deal with the refugee crisis at home. This fuels isolationist calls for Western powers to abandon nation-building abroad and put domestic interests first.

To counter the prevailing ethos, *Strengthening Electoral Integrity*, the final book in the trilogy written by Pippa Norris for Cambridge University Press, presents new evidence supporting the pragmatic case helping to explain why programs of electoral assistance work. New research demonstrates that electoral integrity is strengthened by a series of practical projects where international organisations and bilateral donors support the efforts of local stakeholders – to reform electoral laws, strengthen women’s representation, develop independent journalism, regulate money in politics, and improve voter registration.

Success should not be exaggerated. Not everything works, by any means. Electoral assistance is most effective where the strengths and weaknesses of international agencies and programs match the threats and opportunities on the ground. There are good reasons for genuine doubt about impact. Even small technical errors can erode public confidence in elections. The most resources are often invested in the riskiest contexts. Expectations are inflated. Agencies need to gather better evidence to evaluate programs. But just because it’s difficult, does not mean that international attempts to help elections should be cut or even abandoned. Since 1948, the world has been committed to supporting free and fair contests reflecting the general will of the people. The book concludes that it would be a tragedy to undermine progress by slipping backwards, withdrawing from international engagement, ignoring appeals for support from local reformers, and thereby undermining electoral integrity, opportunities for democracy, and fundamental electoral rights to self-determination.

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**Pippa Norris**


@PippaN15
Intertexts of the Coral Sea, Past and Present

Ethnographies are being written everywhere, if you know where to look.

Written by Ryan Schram

A chime sounds, and my eyes flit from my text editor window to the browser. I have a message from an old friend in Papua New Guinea (PNG), now living between Lae and Goroka. He’s on the road again and plans on applying for a job in Port Moresby as an “anthropologist assistant” to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), and asks if I could send a reference. Well, he was my assistant once, and I do have a letter ready for him, so I say yes. The job, I see, is to assist with research into the “health cosmology,” particularly as it relates to tuberculuous prevention.

Most anthropologists today report that their fieldwork relationships extend over vast distances, mediated by virtual connections. Both MSF’s research and my own are examples of the “new production of knowledge” discussed by Nowotny et alia in 1994, where no single institution either monopolizes or controls the processes by which facts are uncovered, and science is fully enmeshed in society, and to a certain extent beholden to social interests. Is it so new? Ethnographic writing has always been the bulk of the working anthropologist’s vita, whether it takes the form of scholarly writing, advocacy or expert advice, but has it ever been uniquely ours?

For instance, in the first issue of the Australasian Methodist Missionary Review (AMMR), the editors announce their intention to publish not only reports of evangelism in New Guinea and other fields, but also “ethnographic” documentation of the lives of native people. Missionary authors wanted an abstract model of the societies they encountered. Their prior experiences in Polynesia served as such a guide in New Guinea. Although one scoffs at the obvious flaws in their thinking, it really isn’t that different than what anthropologists produce now. As my own depictions of Melanesian cultures rest on a particular kind of mixture of my own voice and that of my informants’, missionary writing and arguably the missionary project itself rested on producing a sense of cultural alterity through heteroglossic discourse.
In the postwar period, in another mission on Kwato Island, graduates of the Kwato school gathered to produce the another issue of Papuan Times, a newspaper for citizens of what the editors hoped would soon be an independent nation of Papua and New Guinea. In addition to the summaries of ABC radio news broadcasts, editor Penueli Anakapu published opinion pieces on cargo cults, spreading rumors and colonial laws. Anakapu often articulated his positions with reference to local history, especially what he saw as the movement from a time of war to a future of peace and development. He must walk a fine line, supporting the government’s presence but objecting to its discriminatory policies. Also, the paper commented favorably on research by a visiting anthropologist, Cyril Belshaw, and the research into indigenous societies by other similar visitors. Surely all this knowledge, they suggested, would help guide the country’s development, at which point it would earn the recognition and respect of Australia.

Much of the research on Milne Bay province has, for instance, been influenced by the idea that all of its indigenous inhabitants belonged to a single cultural region called the Massim. This term, inherited from a missionary and used by early anthropologists to identify an ethnoracial type, soon became a label for a basket of social institutions which all Milne Bay people supposedly shared. Its boundaries have never been clear, yet more or less coincide with the provincial boundaries, which themselves derive from colonial-era divisions made without regard for any scientific observation. No single set of traits can be said to distinguish so-called Massim peoples from others. Now mostly discarded by latter-day observers, one finds the concept reflected back in the form of a cultural museum in the capital of Alotau. This new enterprise too is embedded in specific social ties. Its creators write on their Facebook page that seek the support of local people to donate artifacts and material for exhibits. They conclude with the following call: The Massim Museum speaks of oneness in diversity, balance in exhibition presentations and respect for all the peoples of our Province. Please visit us.

Thus, like Anakapu and the staff of Papuan Times, another group of local people and expatriates have come together to recruit people to a project of imagining a collective identity, although this one is specifically an ethnic identity. If these outsider ethnographers are all embedded in social networks, then in which networks am I embedded?

Ryan Schram

Ryan Schram is a cultural anthropologist whose research examines the methods by which peoples of Oceania reflexively frame their history and social experiences in terms of narratives of encounter and social change, and the various sites at which these palimpsests of culture are formed, including Christian ritual, formal schooling, oral history, local markets, and development projects.
“Most Rapanui want to have a level of local autonomy, rather than centrist rule from Chile”

50 Years of protest on Rapanui, Easter Island

Written by Grant McCall

September in Sydney is the beginning of Spring; the month when school holidays are about to take place; it is the month before October, when the first long weekend in some months happens, and people take advantage of the improving weather to get together with family and friends. In Chile, September is a month of commemorative events. First and foremost is the 18th of September, marking the day in 1810 when people in that former Spanish colony proclaimed their “First Governing Body”. Empanadas (a kind of meat pie or pastie), red wine and the “Cueca” or national dance, figure in public gatherings and parades throughout the country.

September features also a commemorative day for one small, but very famous part of Chile: Rapanui, as the people of
Easter Island call themselves, their language and their land. Chilean government official spelling of “Rapa Nui” is to emphasise their territory’s difference from other parts of Oceania.

For Chile, “The War of the Pacific” raged from 1876 to 1983, during which the country gained rich territory in the north, leading to nitrate and other mineral exploitation that was to make some people very wealthy and others national heroes.

In that background of growing feelings of importance, patriotic Chilean essayists like Benjamin Vicuña Mackinna declared, in a palimpsest of the British Cecil Rhodes, that for a country to be truly great, it needed to have colonies.

Problem was that there were none available by the end of the 19th century so ambitious Chilean Naval Captain consulted with commercial, government and ecclesiastical authorities in Tahiti about Chile acquiring Rapanui. He wrote that he had all the consultation required to formally annex Rapanui to Chile. Captain Toro conducted the ceremony on 9 September 1888, with King Adam and Queen Eve present, along with their Council, consisting of 11 named men. The Treaty, the Chilean press of the day affirmed, was bi-lingual, one side in a sort of Polynesian/Rapanui and the other in Chilean Spanish.

The Spanish version states clearly that it is a deed of “Cesion”, whilst the other language writes of Chile becoming “mau te hoa te kainga”, a great friend of the home estate, called then “Te Pito o te Henua” or Rapanui. The Chilean Spanish version has been published a number of times, but the Rapanui seems to have been lost, except for an archive copy kept by the son of the last (murdered) king of the island.

“A great friend of the land” would seem to be a vernacular rendering of the Protectorate the Islanders had been seeking in petitions to France since 1868. The Rapanui government that persisted not recognizing the annexation after the 1888 ceremony was suppressed, its leader assassinated and supporters killed or intimidated.

Sporadic protests by Rapanui against the Chilean domination were put down vigorously throughout the 20th century. But in 1966, the Santiago regime could

Continued over...
ignore no longer Islander demands for their rights as citizens and, so, 50 years ago, a special “Easter Island law” was passed integrating the territory into Chile as a province. Everyone on Rapanui can recite the number of the law: 16,441.*

This allowed the Rapanui to study in Chile and, even, live on the “Conti” as people call the rest of Chile. For the first time, Rapanui were free to roam over their own island and, if they wished, travel abroad, which many of them did.

In those fifty years there have been recurring Rapanui demands for autonomy to allow locals to have contact with the rest of Oceania and to develop their very successful tourism even further. In 2015, some 95,000 people visited Rapanui, according to official count.

A recent result was a much-debated law of semi-autonomy for the island number 20,193 of 2007, passed but so far not enacted. Other Chilean government measures have been promised but are yet to become reality.

So far, September 2016 saw the promise not of the constitutional reform that 20,193 represents, but, instead, a proposal that the large State declared park be co-administered by Islanders and Chilean officials. It is 40% of the island.

At time of writing (September 2016), there is a bi-partisan Chilean Parliamentary committee heading for Rapanui to find out, yet again, what it is that the Islanders want.

In brief, most Rapanui want to have a level of local autonomy, rather than centrist rule from Chile. They point out that the island is about 3,600 kms from the Mainland. That though mixed, the population has considerable differences still from the rest of Chile. On a practical note, they want to be able to decide how long casual visitors can remain on the island.

Rapanui demands are very similar and, even, identical to those that exist in the Galapagos Islands, administered by Ecuador. So, there are South American precedents for this kind of local autonomy and regulation of population and access.

It often has been said that the most effective promoter of Rapanui independence movements is the Chilean State for by prevaricating and delaying, such moves foster resentment and lack of trust.

And trust is what has been lacking between the Rapanui and the Chilean State, from the obfuscation of the Treaty that began their association to the latest promises of government action after a government committee’s visit. The protests will continue until Chile acknowledges their relationship to one of their most well known indigenous groups, the Rapanui.

For Chile, this contested history has its cognates and echoes here in Australia with our own indigenous populations, the difference being that the Rapanui have a sort of Treaty whereas for us there never has been such a document.
Awards

**FASS teaching excellence awards**
The annual awards are handed out for the ability to promote curiosity and to stimulate independent learning and critical thought, innovation in the design and delivery of units, and evidence of effective and sympathetic guidance and advising of students.

Dr David Primrose (BEcSocSc ‘09) and Dr Joe Collins from the Department of Political Economy, have been awarded the Dean’s Citation for Excellence in Tutorials.

**Vice Chancellor’s award for excellence**
Associate Professor Ben Goldsmith from the Department of Government and International Relations received the 2016 Vice Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding Mentoring and Leadership.

**Academic leadership in political science**
Professor Pippa Norris has been awarded the Academic Leadership in Political Science Award from the Australian Political Studies Association. The award recognises a member of APSA who has demonstrated outstanding inclusive and collaborative academic leadership within the discipline of Political Science.

**Officer of the order of Australia**
CPACS member Patricia Garcia who has been awarded the Officer of the Order of Australia for her service to international relations, particularly through humanitarian aid organisations, as an advocate for improved human rights, to education, and as a supporter of refugees.

**Transdisciplinary humanities book award**
Associate Professor Martijn Konings from the Department of Political Economy has received the 2016 Transdisciplinary Humanities Book Award for his latest publication, The Emotional Logic of Capitalism.
Helping consumers make informed choices on animal welfare

Professor David Schlosberg, from the Department of Government and International Relations and the Sydney Environment Institute, will partner with a major supermarket chain as part of the Community Engagement Scheme on a project to develop an animal welfare food rating system for products such as meat, eggs and dairy. The system will be integrated within Woolworth’s existing shopping app and online shopping website.

Rights of migrant workers

Dr Anna Boucher from the Department of Government and International Relations has received a Discovery Early Career Researcher Award for her project, which aims to study rights abuse of temporary and permanent migrant workers in Australia, Canada and New Zealand, three democracies with globally high rates of temporary migration. The project will investigate the exploitation of migrant workers’ rights, considering the role of industry sectors, trade union representation, visa rules, access to justice and migrant characteristics. This project is expected to formulate policy for migrant protection.

Human animal research network (HARN): New directions in animal advocacy in Australasia

The Human Animal Research Network, led by Drs Peter Chen and Dinesh Wadiwel, were awarded the Faculty Collaborative Research Scheme to develop the network’s interdisciplinary engagement.

Improving the Australian voting system

The Improving the Australian Voting Sydney project will expand on Professor Pippa Norris’ work with the Australian Electoral Commission to improve voter experience. Professor Norris, an ARC Laureate Fellow, will survey citizens about their experiences and perceptions of the administration of elections, especially the integrity and convenience of the process.

Measuring market integration and institutional capacity in data-poor countries

Dr Justin Hastings from the Department of Government and International Relations has been awarded the Faculty Collaborative Research Scheme to develop a new research group that will measure market integration and institutional capacity in data-poor countries with colleagues in Government and International Relations, Business and Economics.

Illicit networks and emerging nuclear states

Dr Justin Hastings is the School’s latest ARC Future Fellow with a project which aims to understand how illicit networks might proliferate by tapping into the legitimate global spread of nuclear materials and dual-use technologies. The project will conceptually integrate terrorists, criminals, and companies into nuclear-related trade networks, and assess the nuclear proliferation threat illicit networks pose in emerging civil nuclear states. This is intended to minimise proliferation risk, and improve the Australian government and industry’s ability to participate in the global nuclear trade by increasing the effectiveness of strategic trade controls and nuclear materials security.

Evaluating military assistance in health emergencies

Associate Professor Adam Kamradt-Scott from the Department of Government and International Relations has been awarded a Discovery Project Grant to examine the use of military forces in containing the 2014 West African Ebola outbreak. The project seeks to inform and enhance future disaster response by better understanding the roles, functions, responsibilities and limits of military assistance in health emergencies to inform future practice.
Dr Anne Summers AO is a best-selling author, journalist and leading thinker with a long career in politics, the media, business and the non-government sector in Australia and internationally. She has been particularly instrumental in developing policies that improve opportunities for women. Doing her PhD at the University introduced her to a community of people and a way of thinking that changed the purpose and direction of her life.

I left school the second I turned 16, and I started doing the work girls were supposed to do back then: first a bank, then a shoe shop, and office work. Next I worked in an antiquarian bookshop. That was a turning point for me because I spent all day reading and in many ways, that was the beginning of my education.

Later, I had a job at the library at the University of Adelaide. I used to look out the window and see the students, and that’s when I decided that I wanted to become one of them. I got my first degree in Adelaide then moved to Sydney. Some friends in the Department of Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney persuaded me it would be a good place for me to do my PhD. I studied under Professor Henry Mayer (MA ’84), and he became one of the most important people in my life.

We didn’t use the word ‘mentor’ back then, but he encouraged me to see what was happening in the women’s movement as something worthy of serious study. He’d read the drafts of the book I was writing and we’d argue about those issues. The great gift he gave me was the gift of rigour. It was such a formative part of my intellectual development and I will forever associate the University with that.

The book turned out to be the groundbreaking, Damned Whores and God’s Police. As I wrote it, I was also trying to balance my academic life with my activist life. I was very active in the women’s movement, which was young and new at that time.

If I had a dream, it was to be a writer, which I’ve actually managed to do throughout my life. I believe that we should know more about ourselves and our society. That’s one reason I write. If I met that younger self somehow, I’d say to her: Like yourself more, aim high, and never give up.

Originally published in Sydney Alumni Magazine (SAM)
The Sydney Environment Institute’s first graduate

Lisette Collins discusses the challenges and surprises of being a PhD student

Written by Lisette Collins

What was your thesis about and how was the process?
I wrote a thesis about climate change adaptation planning in Australia at a very interesting time in the country’s history. The research was inspired by my observation of a fascinating paradox – that despite the hostile political conversation surrounding climate change in Australia, despite a paucity of direction from the Federal government (and at times state governments), local councils across Australia had developed and were continuing to develop climate change adaptation plans for their local areas. Councils weren’t always certain of the impacts but they were planning.

Which questions drove you?
I asked questions about how you pick what climate impacts to plan for, how you talk to a community about it, and why Australians are so ahead of the game in terms of mental health impacts of climate change. I learnt about the power of ad hoc policy entrepreneurs, existing policy agendas, and council demographics in finding answers to my questions. I also learnt that there are about a billion more questions left to be answered!

What are the lessons learned from your experience?
A PhD is a lonely process. You design the project, conduct the research and then buckle down for a long period of thesis writing and rewriting.

One of the first things you learn is that the early stuff you write in the first couple of years probably won’t stick. Or at least, not in the exact same form. The writing process is constantly iterative, a dance of composition and deletion, a series of stop-start motions that eventually leads to a complete thesis. For this reason, when a PhD student reflects back on the process, it can be quite astounding to see how far the research, thinking, and conceptualisation has come. This is certainly true of my experience, but as I was preparing to submit my thesis back in March, I recognised two sentences that had not shifted in four years and now here they remained untouched by two supervisors, a proofreader, various family members and myself.

They read:
“Climate change is one of the most ubiquitous terms of the 21st century. It has been questioned, co-opted, pleaded, adopted, misunderstood, misrepresented, and denigrated at varying times by scientists, politicians, media, academics and the public.”

Lisette Collins
(BA (Hons) ‘12)

Lisette Collins is the first SEI student to finish both her honours and PhD thesis in Government and International Relations under the guidance of SEI’s Co-Director Professor David Schlosberg. Lisette is now working as a Policy Writer at the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, in the Climate and Resource Efficiency Policy Branch.
Internships

Empowering women in Hyderabad, India

Shivani Nair talks about making a difference in the lives of disadvantaged women through her work with ActionAid

While in Hyderabad India with ActionAid I looked into development issues which affected women of all castes and religions. The internship provided me with the opportunity to attend community meetings and empowerment training programs with ActionAid and their partner organisations which allowed me to see that there are multiple organisations working in collaboration where they are attempting to make a positive and often life changing difference in the lives of disadvantaged women. My project included the investigation of health and safety issues affecting female construction workers who are employed on mass scale within Hyderabad. I was able to develop resources relating to this issue which ActionAid may be able to utilise for further work in this domain.

Interning with ActionAid India’s Hyderabad office was a life changing experience in more ways than one. My internship allowed me to understand and see first-hand the complexities of issues facing poor and disadvantaged communities in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh States. I was provided with the opportunity to actively engage with community members where I was able to discuss issues and struggles they faced on a daily basis, as well as discuss their hopes and dreams for a better future for themselves, their families and their communities in which they lived. Undertaking my internship with ActionAid Hyderabad has reaffirmed for me that the development sector is one in which I wish to contribute to as I have been able to see first-hand how much suffering and hardship people in less developed counties face and I too want to make a positive change in the lives of those who are disadvantaged. The internship has further inspired me to continue on my journey and do what development professionals do so well – make a positive difference in this big world we all share.

Written by Shivani Nair
(MPHlth ‘09)

“My internship allowed me to understand and see first-hand the complexities of issues facing poor and disadvantaged communities”
Coffee Adventures in Indonesia

PhD Josephine Wright is searching for ways to empower local coffee producers in Indonesia, in an ever changing and challenging global coffee market

Written by Josephine Wright

Every single day in Australia we drink our way through an average of 16 million coffees (ABS, 2014). We tend to take this brown drink pretty seriously. For some it is held up as lifeblood, the nectar of energy or good humour that punctuates their day. For others coffee is a hot medicine to be drunk fast, the only thing that will draw them out of bed or push them through long stretches of work. Many are connoisseurs, with their own long-winded beverage preferences to be rattled off to unfazed baristas, who have heard it all before. We gather around it, meet up for it, we warm and wake ourselves with it, and cling to it through the night when deadlines are breathing down our necks. But how often do think about where our coffee comes from? For all the cups of coffee that we drink, all the coffee dates that lubricate our social lives, does it ever cross our mind to consider the farms, environments, ecosystems that our coffee has emerged from, or to wonder about lives of those who spend their days producing it? Sure there are little labels on the packaging that say ‘organic’ or ‘Fairtrade’ or ‘Rainforest Alliance’ and maybe we glance at these things too, but how close can this get us to the lives and environments that produce the products we consume, and how much can they make us care?

Over the past few months I have been given the opportunity to see and experience these place and these lives right up close. The focus of my honours thesis is on the effects of Geographical Indications (GI) certification on coffee farming in Indonesia, and throughout June and July I spent most of my time on coffee farms and in the houses of Indonesian coffee farmers, learning about their livelihoods and their farming practices, their families and their own coffee preferences (a far cry from our double shot skim lattes!)

GI certification involves the registration of a place name so that it becomes a legally recognised and protected form of intellectual property. Some of the more well known GIs in the world are Champagne, Darjeeling tea and Roquefort cheese. What makes GIs different from other forms of certification like Rainforest Alliance or Fairtrade is that they are driven by the communities involved in the production of the product, and are not defined by arbitrary third party conventions or standards. The prime aim of GIs is to build a connection between the specific geographies of production (human and environmental factors) and the product itself, which, in theory, fosters a strong sense of identity and solidarity within producer communities.

GIs attempt to draw consumers into recognising and appreciating the environments and communities that have grown the product, which in the case of my study, is coffee. GI certification is considered as a means creating greater environmental outcomes within the production locality through community empowerment and capacity building. Traditionally it is the big roasting companies that accrue the vast profits of coffee trade: they buy coffee cheaply from various countries of the global south, then blend, roast and brand it in a way that will be profitable in the market of the global north. GIs, in contrast, are considered as a mechanism of ‘branding from below’, a way of gaining profits at the farm gate, which would otherwise be captured by big companies further down the supply chain.

My research has shown me a lot about the complexity of our vast, globalised agricultural trade networks, and the ways in which producers from the global south are working to empower themselves and their communities in the face of big business. In the places that I visited, one of the biggest challenges they faced was that large rosters and exporters refused to use the registered place name...
Josephine Wright is a fourth year geography student with the School of Geosciences, University of Sydney, with a strong interest in issues of food security and environmentally sustainable development. She has been awarded an Honours Fellowship at the Sydney Environment Institute and her research will be focused on global value chains (GVC) specifically focusing on the coffee industry in Indonesia.

“While some groups in these communities have worked hard to have their name officially registered and are trying to create a brand around their coffee, becoming well known enough to attract a price premium will be a long process for them.”

or pay the price premiums that the producers were asking for. The reason for this is that roasters and traders currently occupy a highly advantaged position within the supply chain which they are reluctant to compromise. When they don’t have to stipulate where the coffee they sell came from, these actors can be highly flexible in switching between producers, depending on who is offering the lowest prices. Problematically, this leaves producers perpetually vulnerable to the power of traders and vast changes to the prices they are offered year to year.

On top of the difficulties that come with navigating the changing global coffee market, the communities I visited also faced the challenges of low institutional capacity and inadequate access to capital. Even among local government officials and managers of the GI, there was uncertainty about how to effectively gain recognition for the quality and unique attributes of their coffee, which translated into limited participation in the GI by the broader community. While some groups in these communities have worked hard to have their name officially registered and are trying to create a brand around their coffee, becoming well known enough to attract a price premium will be a long process for them, as will building GIs that are inclusive and fair.

I wish that I could say that my time in Indonesia provided me with answers about how we can directly empower local communities through our coffee consumption, but what it made me realise is that such simple answers don’t really exist. I’m not just going to tell you to go out and start buying coffee that has been registered as a GI because I came to see that these systems are just as problematic as many other certification schemes, with powerful traders and producers still disproportionately capturing profits. What I have come back with is an appreciation of the importance of research such as this, which reveals the complex and unequal relations within global markets, contextualises them in the lives of real people, and works towards empowering, inclusive and sustainable solutions.

Josephine Wright
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Global Internships

Master of Human Rights and Democratisation alumni reflect on their experiences working to promote human rights and democracy around the world

Patricia Gonzales Maisas (MHRD ‘12)

I am from the first batch of the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (Asia Pacific) program that started in 2010. After completing my post with the Attorney General’s Department in Canberra as part of the Human Rights National Consultation and Harmonisation, I knew I wanted to continue this path. However, the idea of going back to study was not very appealing at first. Nevertheless, after a quick chat with Professor Danielle Celermajer, the Director at the time, I was totally hooked. I filled out my application and the rest is rather full of nice memories and valuable experiences.

After completing the first semester at the University of Sydney, I packed up and went straight to Nepal, a country I always wanted to visit because of its natural beauty and its resemblance with the Andean people where I come from, Peru, South America.

My regional semester was completed at Kathmandu School of Law and my internship was done at Children Workers in Nepal (CWIN). I learnt so much from the experience while working for this pioneer organisation in Child’s Rights. Since then I have been involved with Red Cross and do lots of volunteer work with refugees and people in prisons. It was my involvement with these organizations that shaped my desire to change policies and create awareness.

It wasn’t until I received an email from the Asia Pacific Masters Alumni group that I learnt about an internship opportunity being offered by the Global Campus of Human Rights, of which the MHRD program is a representative. The internship was to be carried out in Bangkok, Thailand with the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ).

I read the requirements and applied thinking that it would be a good opportunity to learn and start in the path that I want to follow. I got shortlisted, passed the interview, and was awarded this second interning opportunity.

Three months already interning and I cannot be more satisfied. I have combined my experience working for CWIN with the one for ICJ by referring to the principles used. The people I deal with are very inspirational. Their passion for upholding international standards in human rights is commendable.

My duties include writing briefs and amicus curiae, doing research on hot issues such as counter terrorism laws, death penalty, freedom of expression to name a few. It also involves organising workshops and meetings. I had the opportunity to go to Malaysia to help with a meeting on counter terrorism and human rights.

I have finished organising an annual meeting for lawyers and feel so satisfied that I am part of this assembly. I am very thankful that the University of Sydney and the MHRD program continue its support for students as well as for the alumni.

I have also organised a trip for myself to Myanmar for a meditation course and met up with more friends from the program. Our passion for protection and promotion of human rights have taken us to different parts of the world but we stand in the same position and location when it comes to welcome and host each other.

On a personal level, I feel immense gratitude for the ICJ, taking me onboard and giving me the skills that I need to continue in this lane and make the journey more productive and fruitful in the defense and support of the rights of people that may need assistance.
Otgonchuluun Erdene (MHRD ‘14)

I interned with the Human Rights Defenders Department of FORUM-ASIA in Bangkok as part of the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation program for the period of February-April 2013. My role involved the following tasks, to name a few:

- Monitoring human rights situations/issues in Asia on human rights defenders and media with a special focus on Mongolia.
- Mapping out and conducting analytical research on the implementation of fact-finding recommendations and identifying gaps.
- Drafting urgent appeals and allegation letters addressed to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.
- Initiating and setting out contact details for Mongolian authorities and Mongolian public holidays.
- Initiating direct contacts for FORUM-ASIA with East Asia team of Amnesty International, the NHRC of Mongolia and Mongolian NGOs.
- Assisting in the development of a database and in planning of campaigns on human rights defenders.
- Coordinating the translation of the UN Declaration on human rights defenders into Mongolian.

Part of my internship at FORUM-ASIA involved applying human rights theory, various concepts and variables and international human rights standards into specific activities. For instance, cases of human rights violations addressed to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders required very precise details with meticulous verifications when theory translates into practice.

On a personal level, I have developed a great sense of people’s diplomacy via culture, traditions, food/culinary/cuisine, fashion, music and other modes after my travel to Thailand. Bangkok itself is a cross road where East meets West, the city of cultural mixture of Buddhists, Hindus, Christians, Muslims and food is everywhere. They say ‘Sharing is caring’ in Asia. I believe humans can interact and come to a pragmatic consensus over a cup of tea or coffee, delicious food and finding more things in common about each other rather than overstate their personal or professional ego.

P.s. My friend and I raised USD 110 baking and auctioning off home-made chocolate and sponge cakes in support of earthquake victims in Nepal. I would call on whoever reads my fundraising story, please continue donating/raising funds for people of Nepal, as well as to its infrastructure and world heritage sites. There are no such notions as ‘little and a little’. Everyone and everything matters!
During the time when I undertook my undergraduate studies in my country, Nepal was going through a violent armed conflict. The widespread use of cruelty that the war unleashed greatly shook the faith that I had on humanity. The situation however changed in the spring of 2006 when hundreds and thousands of people came out on streets to protest against the regime. The people's movement brought down the absolute monarchy, put the democratic parties in the seat of power, and paved the way for the armed rebels to join the democratic system.

I still remember the first few months of democracy when I felt as if I was breaking free from the compressing hold of self-censorship. The feeling of freedom and optimisms was so strong during this period that it felt as if the struggle for democracy in my society was over. In 2013, by the time when I applied for Masters of Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD) course at University of Sydney, this feeling I had about democracy had greatly changed. The democracy that we brought in the country after so much of struggle and sacrifices turned out to be a system which worked for the benefit of the few people in power or the elites who were close to the centre of power.

In 2014, when MHRD classes began, I had opportunity to meet many students in my cohort. They were human rights activists, lawyers, journalists and civil society members or activists from various South Asian and South East Asian countries. Through my various interactions with them I learnt about the important role that civil society played in protecting many of the achievements of democracy in their countries. Some of the subjects in MHRD provided real stories about successful social movements that were able to shame the MNCs for labor exploitation or environmental pollutions and was able to force them to change their practices. The course also introduced me to the concept of ‘deep democracy’ that argued that democracy in many countries were reduced to elections. This greatly helped me in changing my former reductionist view that saw democracy only as free elections and the rule of the majority.

My dissertation for MHRD was about Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), the largest Islamic organisation in the world with about 40 million members. I had read about this organisation that had helped the democratisation process in Indonesia by promoting a tolerant and socially inclusive society. While in Indonesia I had opportunity to meet with and hold discussions with various youths, intellectuals and Islamic scholars of NU who explained to me about their various activities to promote social harmony and democratic practices.

My dissertation documented stories about how NU members protected Chinese Indonesians during ethnic riots. There were also stories of widespread practices in which NU volunteers risked their lives to protect churches from Muslim extremists during Christmas. The narratives of NU’s two large women organisations also offered important arguments for my research. Both these organisations widely used evidences from Islamic scriptures to argue for equality between male and female. They quoted chapter 49 verse 13 of The Quran to argue that it is the personal piety and righteousness not the differences between male and female that are the determining factors to please God. During the course of my research I found that NU widely used such verses to argue that male and female are equal. I also learned that NU was actively involved in training of women in Islamic jurisprudence so as to help them to use evidences from The Quran to justify their struggle for equality.
Global Spread of Peace Journalism

Written by Jake Lynch

The global spread of Peace Journalism reaches new horizons this year with the publication in Italian and Korean translation of works by me, and by others in the field, in two new books.

Reporting Conflict: new directions in peace journalism, the monograph I co-authored with Johan Galtung, published in 2010 under the Queensland University Press imprint, now appears in Korean in a translation by Dr Dong Jin Kim. Based at the Irish School of Ecumenics at Trinity College, Dublin, Jin is a University of Sydney graduate in Peace and Conflict Studies, which status he attained a few years ago with a Master of Letters degree.

Titled simply Peace Journalism, the volume also features a new 1600-word Preface, which I based on my presentation to the Korean Conference in London last year. From its inception, I reflect, the now-globally distributed Peace Journalism movement “brought critical perspectives, from Johan’s rich understanding as the key conceptual architect of the field of Peace Research, to bear on the job of reporting conflict. But it also brought the journalist’s demand for practical, down-to-earth, useable knowledge, to bear on Johan’s theories”.

That sense of mutuality between theory and practice is also inscribed in the choice of materials for the new Italian book, Giornalismo di Pace, which – unlike its Korean counterpart – takes the form of an edited collection, comprising contributions from a range of authors.

I had the pleasure of receiving one of the first copies from its co-translator, Silvia de Michelis, at September’s Adam Curle Symposium at Bradford University, where she is studying for her PhD, in research that combines perspectives from Peace Journalism and the Responsibility to Protect, on the representation of conflicts and crises.

As well as two chapters from Reporting Conflict, the 270-page Italian volume, which was published in Turin by Edizioni GruppoAbele, also features articles by five other writers whom I have introduced to Peace Journalism down the years, and a digest of concise case studies by Johan Galtung.

After attending the Bradford symposium, I was invited to Istanbul to give a series of talks to researchers and journalists. Some of them are publishing a new edited collection of Peace Journalism articles in 2017, when it will appear both in English and in Turkish translation, and to which I will contribute another original Preface.

Peace Journalism is the chief underpinning concept for Conflict-resolving Media, a Unit of Study in the Peace and Conflict Studies program of Postgraduate Coursework, offered at the University. Today’s students can draw on an ever-widening range of perspectives on the subject, in ever more languages.
At the end of July this year, I stepped down as Research Professor of Sociology in the Sociology and Social Policy (SSP) Program, within the School of Social and Political Sciences (SSPS). I came to Sydney in 2009, after nine years at Oxford University, first as Director of the Refugee Studies Centre (RSC), and then as founder and Director of the new International Migration Institute (IMI). Before that I had been at University of Wollongong for 15 years, following a period doing hands-on educational work in Botswana and England, and many years in Germany teaching social work.

After the daily routine of research centre management, I wanted to have the time and resources for empirical research and theory development. SSPS has given me that time, while the Australian Research Council provided the resources through a Discovery Grant.

My seven years at the University of Sydney have been devoted to a global study on Social Transformation and International Migration in the 21st Century (STIM). I worked with a group of talented doctoral researchers, who developed their own research projects around the central idea of the Project: that the neoliberal turn in economic policies has transformed virtually every society, but that the forms of adaptation or resistance have varied considerably. We carried out fieldwork in Australia, South Korea, Turkey and Mexico, relying heavily on the generous support we received from researchers in each country.

The supportive research culture of SSPS has been crucial to making our project a rewarding experience. My position as research professor freed me to focus on one central theme – a rare privilege.

Despite all the School, and indeed the University as whole, are doing to promote research, the high teaching loads and the growing requirements for accountability make it difficult for many academics to free up the time for research. This particularly affects younger colleagues, who have to balance family needs with ever-greater work pressures. I feel reform is overdue, if the University of Sydney is to maintain and enhance its position as a leading research university.

I have always seen social science as a tool for achieving more equitable and inclusive societies. Today, international migration has become a central political issue. The need to migrate to escape war and poverty is greater than ever before, but borders are being militarised and walls are going up. Does that mean that social scientific work on this topic has been in vain? On the contrary it is now more important than ever.

I am delighted to see that a new interdisciplinary centre has been established at the University with Professor Nicola Piper as Director. The Sydney Asia Pacific Migration Centre (SAPMIC) will examine mobility of people as a key aspect of change in our region. I will participate in SAPMIC as an Honorary Professor of SSPS. Important future activities include helping plan two major meetings: in 2018 both the International Metropolis Network and the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration will hold their global conferences in Sydney.

Life after University

A look at what retirement has meant for our recently retired academics, Stephen Castles and Dick Bryan

At the end of July this year, I stepped down as Research Professor of Sociology in the Sociology and Social Policy (SSP) Program, within the School of Social and Political Sciences (SSPS). I came to Sydney in 2009, after nine years at Oxford University, first as Director of the Refugee Studies Centre (RSC), and then as founder and Director of the new International Migration Institute (IMI). Before that I had been at University of Wollongong for 15 years, following a period doing hands-on educational work in Botswana and England, and many years in Germany teaching social work.

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Stephen Castles

The first book on the STIM project has been published: Stephen Castles, Derya Ozkul and Magdalena Arias Cubas (editors), Social Transformation and International Migration: National and Local Experiences in South Korea, Turkey, Mexico and Australia, (Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 2015). A second book is in preparation.
For so many of us who are in social sciences and humanities our research is cheap to fund. Often it’s hard to get research grants because the thing we really want is time; not expensive equipment and for many of us not even research assistants or expensive data sets.

So retirement need not be the end of research. Indeed the main thing retirement does offer is time, and so the opportunity to reimagine research. The question is whether to keep going on researching as before retirement, but now without time constraints, and almost without institutional responsibilities, or to do something different.

Since I retired in April, I’ve been doing some ‘standard’ research and publishing, as well as some on-going thesis supervision, but I’d have been disappointed in myself if the freedoms of retirement and the liberties of non-CV-driven research didn’t result in some refocusing of intellectual energy. And with a research focus on financial innovation and the way in which financial calculus is ruling our lives, I’ve found plenty of alternative outlets. Here are a few activities so far.

I’m the chairperson of an organisation that has secured a Department of Social Services grant to build an ‘intentional community’ in Sydney’s inner west, centred on integrated housing for people with intellectual disability. It is based on a funding model that comes out of thinking of finance in unconventional ways.

I’m also involved with a Californian start-up (Economic Space Agency Inc) working on using block chain technology and peer to peer networking (the underlying innovations of Bitcoin) to enable new forms of finance-based, alternative, strategic political activism. Some of us do the theoretical and political imagining, others build the algorithms!

And finally I’ve been consulting to a science fiction writer friend who has just completed a novel about how financial markets might operate in the mid 21st century. Kim Stanley Robinson’s New York 2140 comes out early next year. It is a great read.

Maybe these activities just nominated will sum to not much (but maybe they will!), but the freedom to move beyond both disciplined and disciplinary scholarship, and to play practically and creatively with a lifetime of ideas, has been truly exhilarating.
Klein argues that in communities which are already under strain, climate change will exacerbate pre-existing schisms and conflicts. Since announcing Naomi Klein as the 2016 Sydney Peace Prize recipient, people have been asking the Foundation, “but what does climate change have to do with peace?” The prevalence of this question reaffirms the Jury’s selection. Climate change is not ‘just’ a threat to the environment, it is a factor in conflict and war, and inseparable from social and economic justice. As such, the climate crisis threatens any hope of achieving a lasting peace.

While we have all seen Mother Nature’s vengeance, destroying entire communities in one fell swoop, the media focus less on trickling impacts of the climate crisis. Droughts cripple communities, destroy livelihoods and threaten lives in Sub-Saharan Africa. These disasters have historically affected the global south, people who bear the least responsibility for the climate crisis, Yet recent events in our backyard, such as the droughts in South Australia and eroded coast lines of Sydney’s North Shore, show that Mother Nature does not discriminate.

This is not to say we should discount the role discrimination plays in the climate crisis. Quite the opposite is true. Attitudes ingrained throughout history have caused certain communities to be disproportionately impacted by
carbon emissions and the destruction caused by extractive industries. Naomi Klein refers to these communities as "sacrificial zones." These remote places are generally home to residents without a great deal of political power, with race, language and class often intersecting in collective disadvantage. These people lack the resources to prepare for and withstand the impacts bestowed upon them by the developed world, and are often ill-equipped to halt the extractive corporates ruining their land. After all, that is the point, right? People all over the world rely on fossil fuels to go about their daily lives, and this addiction requires "sacrificial lands and sacrificial peoples." A critical example is the Republic of Kiribati, an island nation in the central Pacific Ocean which is gradually disappearing into the sea. Its residents are at risk of becoming the world's first climate refugees, a first no one wants to claim.

Put differently, climate is a threat multiplier and magnifier. In communities which are already under strain, climate change will exacerbate pre-existing schisms and conflicts. Syria is a perfect example of this. Before violence erupted, severe drought pushed people to the cities in search of survival. This not only overburdened infrastructure, but also trapped much of the population in the urban war-zones of the country. Although tensions had long existed in Syria, new research suggests that the added stress of drought was the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back. This is merely one stark example of many conflicts in which consequences of climate change have contributed to a violent tipping point. This, combined with the loss of inhabitable land due to increasingly erratic weather patterns, will inevitably create a new stream of refugees which will eclipse anything we have seen thus far. If we are horrified by reactions to the current waves of people seeking safety in Australia and elsewhere, just imagine what the response will look like in the future. As Naomi Klein points out, "it's not just about things getting hotter and wetter, it's about things getting a lot meaner."

While geography is a predictor of vulnerability, climate change also magnifies threats in the developed world, such as inequality and racism in already underprivileged communities. The disparate response to and impact from Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans offers a perfect illustration of climate change compounding violent structures. The affluent and privileged were better prepared and resourced to get out prior to the flooding, and better equipped to recover than those of the New Orleans population less well-off. Over a decade later, people are still struggling to rebuild their lives, while much of the wealthy white community has already recovered. Resilience to shock, or the ability to 'bounce back' after disaster, is not equally distributed across society. Here in Australia, who will be hit the hardest should the unthinkable happen? And, how will our society cope with the social and economic implications that climate change will force us to reckon with?

It may be tempting to dismiss the impacts of climate change in far off lands such as Kiribati and Syria, but it is important we understand that Australia's privileged place in the global order is no guarantee of sanctuary, and that effects on faraway places are not unrelated to daily life down under. As Adani, with approval of the Queensland Government, is itching to open the world's largest coal mine, and our nation is among the worst emitters in the world, Australia cannot pretend to be innocent.

Through the awarding of the 2016 Sydney Peace Prize, the Foundation emphasises the links between climate change and peace with justice. This year's Prize offers Sydney a platform from which to start discussions about climate change and systemic injustice. These discussions will continue when Naomi is in Sydney this November, with the Foundation putting on a number of events to explore why the climate crisis is inseparable from the pursuit of peace with justice.

A screening of Naomi Klein's film This Changes Everything will kick off the Sydney Peace Prize week on Sunday 6 November at the University of Sydney. In the film, people from all over the world explain how they are fighting against the greed of extractive corporations and the decimation of their lands. Avi Lewis, Director of the film and Naomi's 'partner in crime', will be responding to questions from the audience.
“Climate change is not ‘just’ a threat to the environment, it is a factor in conflict and war, and inseparable from social and economic justice”

On Wednesday 9 November at the City Recital Hall, the Sydney Peace Foundation and Sydney Environment Institute present Conversations with Naomi Klein: To Change Everything We Need Everyone. This event will bring together powerful voices from frontline communities fighting for climate justice, the climate science sector, the union movement, the human rights sector, and the media. SEI’s Co-Director Professor David Schlosberg will speak, and a panel will explore how to transition from fossil fuels towards a more equitable and just Australia. Moderated by the Guardian Australia’s Lenore Taylor, speakers include Naomi Klein, the Community and Public Sector Union’s Nadine Flood, GetUp!’s Shen Narayanasamy, Seed’s Murrawah Johnson, and Maria Tiimon Chi-Fang from the Pacific Calling Partnership.

The big highlight of the week, the City of Sydney Peace Prize Lecture is on Friday 11 November at the Sydney Town Hall. At this exciting event, ARIA-award winning Missy Higgins will kick off the event, after which 2008 Sydney Peace Prize recipient Senator Patrick Dodson will introduce Naomi and speak of the important link between reconciliation and climate justice. Naomi will then deliver her much-anticipated Lecture, after which the Australian Human Rights Commission’s Professor Gillian Triggs will present the Prize and Lord Mayor Clover Moore (BA ’69) will close the ceremony.

The spectacular Sydney Peace Prize Gala Dinner will directly follow the Lecture, at the nearby Hilton Sydney. This event will afford a more intimate chance to meet Naomi, and to discuss her inspiring address with fellow event attendees over a gourmet three-course dinner and wine.

The Sydney Peace Foundation awards the Sydney Peace Prize to elevate the voices of some of the world’s most effective peacemakers, and to recognise their significant contributions to global peace with justice. We hope you will join us this November.

To purchase tickets for these events visit:
- sydneypeacefoundation.org.au

Naomi Klein
Naomi Klein receives the 2016 Sydney Peace Prize for exposing the structural causes and responsibility for the climate crisis, for inspiring us to stand up locally, nationally and internationally to promote a new agenda for sharing the planet that respects human rights and equality, and for reminding us of the power of authentic democracy to achieve transformative change and justice.
Select publications

Semester 2, 2016 saw the School continue to publish a wide range of books, book chapters, and journal articles. A selection from each department is featured in this section, taken from a total of 250 publications.

**Government & international relations**

A/Prof Anika Gauja


Dr Justin Hastings


Dr Anna Boucher


Dr Peter Chen


Dr Robert MacNeil


A/Prof Lily Rahim

Political economy

Dr Gareth Bryant


Professor Sujatha Fernandes


A/Prof Martijn Konings


Professor Adam Morton


Sociology and social policy

A/Prof Catriona Elder


A/Prof Salvatore Babones


Dr Nadine Ehlers


Dr Gyu-Jin Hwang


Dr Dinesh Wadiwel

**Anthropology**

**Dr Luis Fernando Angosto-Ferrández**


**Professor Linda Connor**


**Dr Ase Ottoson**


**Dr Ryan Schram**


**Dr Robbie Peters**


**Centre for peace and conflict studies**

**A/Prof Jake Lynch**


**Erik Paul**


**Dr Wendy Lambourne**


**Melissa Martin**
