

**School of Global, Urban & Social Studies**  
***Higher Degree by Research Projects***  
***For 2020 Entry***



## **About the School**

Located in the heart of Melbourne on RMIT's City campus, the School of Global, Urban and Social Studies (GUSS) is one of RMIT's largest schools and provides programs from certificates to PhDs.

The School is a community of socially concerned and globally engaged scholars who instinctively challenge conventional ideas about globalisation, sustainability, language, crime and social care through action-oriented teaching and applied research. The international experience of staff in the School broadens the knowledge of students and challenges their ideas, preparing them for a global career.

Most of the School's academic programs are considered the top programs in Victoria. They are in extremely high demand and are rated highly by students. Contributing to the success of programs are an experienced team of award-winning staff, who have won external teaching awards and regularly win College and University awards.

Within the School, we maintain strong links with industry and professionally recognised bodies. RMIT's programs within Planning; Social Work; and Translating and Interpreting are all professionally accredited, and reviews by external assessors have placed these programs as the best professionally accredited in Australia.

The School is also successful in engaging in valuable research, generating more than \$6 million each year of external research funding and continuing to build research networks that extend globally. In the most recent national Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) ranking, the School secured a ranking of 4 in Urban and Regional Planning and in Cultural Studies. This ranking places the quality of the School's research above world standard.



**Professor Robin Goodman**

Dean, School of Global, Urban and Social Studies.

## **The GUSS Higher Degrees by Research Program**

GUSS has a large and vibrant higher degrees by research program, with over 150 students studying for a Masters by Research or Ph.D. All our students receive dedicated supervision by academics who are themselves highly engaged in research. All HDR candidates are also aligned to one of our two major research Centres; The Centre for Urban Research and The Social & Global Studies Centre. The work of these centres spans a range of fields in the social sciences and humanities, and our HDR students become part of a community of scholars dedicated to undertaking research that is both intellectually rigorous and often highly applied.

**Information on our Research Centres and on GUSS supervisors can be found at:**

- [Centre for Urban Research](#)
- [Social & Global Studies Centre](#)

## **GUSS HDR Project Listing for 2020 & How to Apply**

From mid-2018, RMIT introduced an Expression of Interest (EOI) process for HDR applications. All applicants, both local and international, will be required to submit a HDR 'EOI' through the RMIT [School of Graduate Research](#) (SGR). Your EOI will be assessed by SGR and GUSS and, if successful, you will then be invited to complete your application for admission to a research degree.

As part of this EOI process, applicants must submit a number of documents, including a **Research Proposal**.

In preparing this research proposal prospective candidates for a research degree in GUSS (Masters by Research or Ph.D.) are requested to identify a project (and supervisory team) from the list below and **ensure that their research proposal closely addresses the project description**. Applicants should also outline (as part of this proposal) how their academic and/or professional background equips them to undertake the proposed research project outlined in the description.

If you have any questions about this process you should [contact SGR](#), or feel free to contact individual supervisors for further advice in relation to specific projects.

## **Centre for Urban Research (CUR)**

Cities are the foundations of our economic, social and environmental wellbeing. This demands better understanding and insight into policy, planning and decision-making in areas such as urban environments, resource and energy use, infrastructure and mobility, liveability and, resilience and adaptation.

The Centre for Urban Research is a dynamic hub for interdisciplinary urban research. Through its research, the Centre is directly responding to the globally important need to shape cities that are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

## **CUR HDR (PhD or Master by Research) Projects for 2020**

### **Critical urban governance**

This project focuses critical attention into how cities are governed, who by, and for whom both in Australia and internationally. The governance of cities is consequential for all who make cities their home. This project aims to raise important questions, shape debates, create new knowledge and provide an inclusive space for discussion about the challenges facing contemporary cities including for example a focus on: planning systems and reform politics, urban renewal and displacement, critical urban infrastructure, policies for a just city, emergent modes of urban governmentality and comparative urbanism at the international scale.

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Wendy Steele, Professor Libby Porter

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Critical Urban Governance

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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### **Transforming urban governance**

In the face of the many pressures of urban change (population growth, uneven urban development, climate change, questions of sovereignty etc.) there are growing calls for the need to transform urban governance in response to the challenges of cities in a climate of growth-led change and develop new understandings of urban governance systems and processes. The emphasis is both on the drivers to transform urban governance as well as what this actually means in practice, and the diversity of policy and planning approaches as mechanisms for change. This project focuses on critical social science questions around transformative change and governance possibilities and constraints in contemporary cities

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Wendy Steele, Professor Libby Porter, Dr Brian Coffey, Dr Benjamin Cooke

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Critical Urban Governance

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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## Rethinking good governance

Cities shape us and we shape them. A positive vision of the 'good city' as an achievable utopia has been a recurring idea of the ideal city and imaginaries of 'the good life' for human society. Notions of the city and citizens are grounded in what it means to be human, with the ambition to be civilised as articulated by the 'good city' values and ideals. But if our concepts of civility are grounded in landscapes and discourses of exclusion then we need to ask the following questions: what has a focus on the good city obscured from our view? And what new imaginary of the good city is now required within the context of a climate of change? This project builds from an ARC DECRA that explored notions of good governance in wild cities within the context of climate change. This is an opportunity for a critically engaged student to be at the forefront of theoretical and praxis based approaches to the question of what constitutes 'good governance' in cities.

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Wendy Steele, Dr Benjamin Cooke

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Critical Urban Governance

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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## Hotter and Smarter? How Does Smart City Governance Engage with Hotter Cities?

Significant policy, planning and regulatory efforts have been directed at the problem of rising urban heat threats and disasters in Australia. Yet, a largely unexplored area of research and practice concerns the governance implications integrating new smart city technologies with existing adaptive strategies and frameworks that respond to climate-related threats. Australian state and local authorities, like their international counterparts, are investing in smart city infrastructure to assist with prediction, mitigation, communication, and recovery in emergency situations. This project seeks to unpack assumptions that urban policy will manage the prospect of hotter cities by making them 'smarter'. This project focuses on the following questions: 1) In what ways are policy and regulatory frameworks utilising emerging smart city governance technologies? 2) What specific policies, strategies and technologies are directed towards the mitigation and management of urban heat threats and similar climate-related problems? 3) How do citizens engage with smart city governance, both generally and in relation to emerging problems of hot cities? 4) What are the progressive new directions in smart city governance, and how do these engage with the new urban challenges brought by climate change?

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Wendy Steele, Associate Professor Marco Amati, Dr Ian McShane

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Critical Urban Governance

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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## **Trust, Technology and Transformation for Urban Land Governance**

A sustainable urban future demands good land information and trustworthy land administration systems as critical public infrastructure. However, less than 50% of countries have mapped or registered land in capital cities and less than 30% of countries maintain digital land data for effective urban decision-making. Further, land administration chronically rates amongst the most corrupt of public institutions and often falls to poorly capacitated local governments. This leads to dissonance between public expectations and government performance – i.e. (dis)trust, creating immense risk for current and future urban populations, especially women and other vulnerable groups. In response, emerging geospatial technologies empowering communities to co-produce land information are embraced as transformational interventions and attract millions in donor-funding. Yet, there is little evidence that measures the impact of these technologies on the performance of urban land administration systems, or to support the design of policies to harness these technologies and data to transform urban land governance.

This project aims to develop a data and technology-oriented model for evaluating the trust outcomes of geospatial technologies used in participatory urban land projects. The investigation can encompass single or comparative uses of technologies, focusing on the process, output and outcomes. The research is expected to contribute to land-related technology investment policy as well as more generally to the notion of responsible technological innovation.

**Supervisors:** Serene Ho, Libby Porter, Wendy Steele

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Critical Urban Governance

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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## **Preparing for treaty: Rethinking urban governance in light of Indigenous sovereignties**

Negotiation of treaties between Aboriginal nations and Australian settler governments are currently underway in three Australian states. At the same time, the demands made in the Uluru Statement from the Heart remain untested in terms of a respectful response from settler governments. This project will critically examine what will be required to rethink urban governance from a Treaty framework, and the implications for redistribution, reparation and reconciliation.

**Supervisors:** Profesor Libby Porter, Professor Mark McMillan

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Critical Urban Governance

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures, Social Change

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### **Property, governance and contemporary urban development**

This project will use emerging thinking from critical property theory to consider new ways of undertaking development and place-making in contemporary cities. Building off recent work that re-thinks property from the margins, the project will examine case studies of 'subversive property' in different global South and global North contexts. The project aims to advance new knowledge about contemporary forms of place-making and belonging particularly those that can contribute to thinking differently about how we make and develop cities for just and sustainable futures. It will also lead to significant new publications.

**Supervisors:** Professor Libby Porter, Dr Benjamin Cooke, Associate Professor Wendy Steele

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Critical Urban Governance

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures, Social Change

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### **The role of national urban policy in Sustainable Development Goals implementation**

This project responds to the emergence of a growing array of international agreements and agendas relating to urbanisation. These frameworks include the New Urban Agenda (NUA), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Agreement and the Cancun Agreement. The NUA and SDGs (Goal 11) will be focused on cities but operate via the national member state. This is occurring in the context of a long-term weakening of nation states as economic and political actors. This project will investigate the emerging role of national level urban policy in articulating between global urban-related agreements and city-level urban policy and practice. Drawing on links to the OECD and UN Habitat the project will provide new insights into the emerging field of national-level urban policy development.

**Supervisors:** Professor Jago Dodson, Dr Brian Coffey

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Critical Urban Governance

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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### **The role of city networks in achieving global agreements for sustainable urban development**

Since the mid-2010s an array of global agreements with goals of achieving greater

urban sustainability have been signed by UN Member States. These include the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Agreement on Disaster Risks, among others. How these 'top-down' agreements can be most effectively implemented remains unclear as they are agreements of nation states whereas their application will principally be at the metropolitan or municipal spatial scale. Meanwhile an array of city networks have emerged over the past decade which are offering 'bottom-up' responses to problems of unsustainable urban development. These networks often have thematic foci, such as resilience or climate change. Although knowledge of their purpose, mode of organising, governance, and influence is growing there remains a knowledge gap as to their significance and effectiveness in implementation of global sustainability agreements. This project will investigate the work of the UN Global Compact Cities Programme which is a partnership between the UN, cities, civil society, the private sector and academia, hosted at RMIT University. The project will assess the historical emergence and evolution of the Cities Programme, its response to the SDGs and related frameworks and its model of operation involving city-level partnerships.

**Supervisors:** Professor Jago Dodson, Associate Professor Lauren Rickards, Associate Professor Wendy Steele

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Critical Urban Governance, Climate Change Transformations

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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### **Urban experiments accelerating urban sustainability transitions: Evaluating UN Global Compact Cities programme projects**

Urban sustainability transitions are in vogue and ideas of experiments, urban living labs, and a variety of innovation niches and disruptions are offered across a nascent yet burgeoning literature. This mainly optimistic and hopeful genre is accompanied by a vast array of urban projects and programmes seeking to steer the fate of cities in the urban century towards a more ecologically and equitably acceptable direction. The projects are proposed by and in turn leading to a plethora of global urban frameworks, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda, the Sendai Disaster Risk Agreement and the COP21 Paris Agreement. This research will investigate the progress of and prospects for urban transitions resulting from urban experiments, specifically, a set of projects of the UN Global Compact – Cities Programme. The project will apply and critically evaluate both a range of projects and, through this inquiry, the value of middle range transitions related theories. It will seek to investigate how transition ideas are percolating into global policy organisations and city networks and examine the fate of citylevel responses. Methods will include empirical cases of projects using mixed-method document analysis, interviews, and potentially surveys.

**Supervisors:** Professor Ralph Horne, Dr Susie Moloney, Dr Trivess Moore

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Critical Urban Governance

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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**Healthy Liveable Cities research program Understanding and enhancing community consultation**

There is an existing need to understand how local governments currently engage and consult with communities to inform local policy development and a need to develop and test better methods for this purpose. This project would also need to investigate the role of evidence in this process.

The project provides applied PhD policy focused research opportunities for the candidate and have considerable involvement with existing local government partners. It will teach multi-dimensional research skills, the direct link between policy and research and demonstrate how academic research can have impact in the policy and practice settings.

**Supervisors:** Dr Melanie Davern, Dr Claire Boulange

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Healthy Liveable Cities

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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**Measuring the influence of the built environment on the social and active behaviours of older people transitioning into retirement**

The built environment, being one that is designed and made by mankind, has been established as an important influence on people's health and wellbeing. Specifically, the design of the built environment in cities can maintain the health of those within them which is becoming increasingly important since over half of the worlds' population now live in urban environments. Research is now uncovering that built environments with high density areas, shops, services, public transport, and amenity lead to healthier inhabitants. However, it is less well understood how the built and social environments might affect the health of older people transitioning into retirement.

This project will use data on middle to older aged people to understand if there are environmental and social characteristics related to the layout of cities that impact their behaviours and health. The population of Australia is continuing to age, and older people carry a significant amount of chronic disease burden that is avoidable if the built and social environment are supportive of healthy behaviours. However, it is not well understood what kinds of social and built environments can lead to healthy behaviours for middle and older aged people who transition from work to retirement. For example, during the working years, the transport network may support active transport to work, however, after retirement recreational amenities such as parks may support leisure time physical activity. This project will use statistical

models of physical activity data to explore which social and built environments support a healthy and active transition to retirement.

**Supervisors:** Distinguished Professor Billie Giles-Corti, Dr Lucy Gunn, Dr Belen Zapata-Diomedí

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Healthy Liveable Cities

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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### **Apartment living and health and wellbeing**

Apartment buildings now account for one third of all residential building approvals in Australia, effectively doubling in the last decade. Architect and developer decisions about the design and siting of apartment buildings can have implications for a range of resident health and wellbeing outcomes, including physical activity and sedentary time, social isolation, mental wellbeing, noise annoyance, and respiratory health. The project would capitalise on the skills and expertise of the candidate to develop a project related to an aspect of apartment living that could impact on resident health. This PhD project is part of The HIGH LIFE Study, a multi-city study examining the apartment design features, and 'the dose' of these features, that impact on residents' health and wellbeing.

**Supervisors:** Dr Sarah Foster, Other Supervisors TBC depending on project focus

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Healthy Liveable Cities

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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### **Examining the relationship between liveability and equity**

There is growing recognition internationally that more 'liveable' neighbourhoods positively impact the health and wellbeing of residents. However, the field is hampered by methodological limitations, making it difficult to draw conclusions and form subsequent policy recommendations for creating cities that enhance health and wellbeing and reduce inequities. It is well known that those who are more disadvantaged tend to have poorer health, but it is unknown whether living in more liveable neighbourhoods can change health, wellbeing, and social trajectories for those more disadvantaged.

This project will investigate whether those who reside in more liveable neighbourhoods, but are of lower socioeconomic position experience a 'pulling up' effect on their health, wellbeing, and social trajectories over time. To do this, well-conceptualised, empirical measures of liveability will be applied and compared with longitudinal population data to detect inequities and trajectories for those of differing socioeconomic position. Quantitative findings will be further contextualised using qualitative research approaches. Taken together, the intention of this project is to provide an in-depth understanding of whether, and what components of

liveability, moderate the socioeconomic - health and wellbeing relationship over time.

**Supervisors:** A/Prof Hannah Badland, Dr Sarah Foster

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Healthy Liveable Cities

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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### **Understanding the role of economics in city planning decision-making in Australia**

Globally, interest is growing in designing healthy, sustainable, 'liveable' cities. Cities are constructed from urban environment features that are shaped by urban planning, transport systems and urban design. City planning has major social, environmental, wellbeing and economic *externalities*. An externality is a side-effect experienced by a third party from the activity of another. A type of externality arises from the provision of public goods, including the delivery of city planning and associated infrastructure (e.g. public transport, green space, road infrastructure). When the provision of infrastructure is left to the public sector an evaluation of it is required to assess whether the benefit from its provision exceeds the costs. In addition, public investment evaluations should account for issues related to distributional equity in the provision of infrastructure, where some areas have better infrastructure than others. Decisions regarding public goods and infrastructure imply that costs and benefits are redistributed among the population however, those who benefit from it are not necessarily the ones paying for it. In Australia we lack a clear understanding of how to define externalities in the context of city and infrastructure planning, and how they might be accounted for in the policy- and/or decision-making process. This HDR project seeks to understand how to define and measure externalities and to develop and apply a framework and methods to evaluate externalities for inclusion in major infrastructure policies and decisions. The aim is to apply the evaluation framework and developed methods to current government policies relating to major transport projects (e.g. public transport infrastructure). The project is multi-disciplinary and will contribute to the research conducted in the Enabling Capabilities Platform Urban Futures, specifically targeting at "Rethinking Urban Economics". Collaborations across schools and colleagues will be required.

**Supervisors:** Distinguished Professor Billie Giles-Corti, Dr Lucy Gunn, Dr Belen Zapata-Diomedí

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Healthy Liveable Cities

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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### **The social outcomes and impacts of urban greening and waterway restorations**

Globally there is a high level of interest and activity in greening cities to improve environmental and human health outcomes. In Australian cities, there is

considerable investment occurring in the 're-naturing' of urban waterways to reorient past engineering projects that sought to simply and efficiently move excess or storm water away from residential areas. Now there is a different understanding of urban waterways where retention and use in local areas is considered beneficial for health, wellbeing, climate mitigation and biodiversity outcomes. Yet little is known about what constitutes success for these projects, in particular, how different kinds of urban green space, particularly waterways, support mental and physical health and wellbeing at the neighbourhood level and how such projects foster human-nature connections. This project will investigate the impacts of urban greening and waterway restoration projects in Australian cities, focusing on riverine restoration projects. It aims to understand resident or community expectations, preferences, uses and values of restored urban river corridors, potentially using mixed methods and a pre- and post- design. This project will provide multiple outcomes of significance. It will help to provide empirical data on the success of large-scale urban greening interventions, provide an opportunity for benchmarking and comparison with other sites around Australia and globally, and help with effective planning, policy, and funding targeted towards urban greening and waterway restoration. These outcomes are crucial for planning liveable and sustainable cities of the future.

**Supervisors:** Dr Cecily Maller, Dr Melanie Davern, Dr Leila Farahani

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Healthy Liveable Cities

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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## **People, Nature, Place research program**

### **Exploring Urban Heat Islands**

Urban heat islands (UHI) are common phenomena globally and are contributing to making cities increasingly unliveable. With climate change exacerbating the UHI problem, urgent research is needed to better understand the scope of the issue, to investigate how UHIs vary spatially and temporally, to explore lived experiences of the phenomena, and to examine how best to combat them. This research project will use a combination of field research and analysis of existing global datasets to contribute to our understanding of UHIs and can adopt an approach that is purely biophysical, socioeconomic or some combination of those two.

**Supervisors:** Melissa Neave, Ben Cooke, Brian Coffey

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Urban Futures, People, Nature, Place, Climate Change Transformations

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### **Understanding Urban Forests**

Urban forests are starting to receive attention globally for their ability to create sustainable and liveable cities. Whilst this increased attention is welcome, considerable work is required to enable us to understand how urban forests work, how best to manage them and what contributions they make to the functioning of urban systems. This research project considers both biophysical and socioeconomic aspects of urban forest management and involves working closely with a wide range of industry partners, including local councils, water authorities, not for profit organisations and community interest groups. The research may also involve field research using cutting edge, real-time sensor technologies to understand how trees respond to stresses.

**Supervisors:** Melissa Neave, Brian Coffey, Ben Cooke

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Urban Futures, People, Nature, Place, Climate Change Transformations

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## **Interdisciplinary Conservation Science (ICON) research program**

### **How to re-frame animal management to minimise public backlash**

It is often necessary for land managers to remove numbers of both feral and native species from an area, often to preserve ongoing conservation, land management and the biodiversity and ecosystems it contains, or to avoid undue suffering to the individuals of the overabundant species (e.g. kangaroo culls, koala populations on Kangaroo Island). Often the most humane (and often cost effective) method of removing these animals is to kill them. However, such management approaches are often seen as unpalatable or unacceptable by the public. It is also well accepted that how concepts are framed can dramatically influence how people respond. This project will investigate how can this kind of responsible animal management can be re-framed to avoid or minimise backlash. The application of framing concepts to biodiversity conservation is relatively new, led recently by Interdisciplinary Conservation Science researchers. An HDR student taking on this project would have the benefit of solid grounding whilst also being at the forefront of practical research that may be both influential and directly informative for biodiversity conservation policy.

**Supervisors:** Professor Sarah Bekessy, Dr Georgia Garrard, Dr Alex Kusmanoff

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Interdisciplinary Conservation Science

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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**Permeably-paved paradise: Street surface renewals as an opportunity for urban renaturing**

Road surfaces and footpaths are renewed on regular schedules by local governments. Generally, these renewals simply reinstate former conditions. However, these works offer the opportunity to implement a number of technologies concurrently to facilitate urban green infrastructure and water-sensitive urban design, at substantially lower cost than conducting the works separately. This is an important opportunity, given that urban substrates tend to be suboptimal for plant growth (eg rubble or crushed rock) and contributory to flooding because the substrates are under impermeable surfaces and isolated from stormwater flows. This project would explore the options, costs, benefits, and barriers of potential technologies that could be implemented.

**Supervisors:** Professor Sarah Bekessy, Another supervisor TBC

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Interdisciplinary Conservation Science

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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### **What types of green space are good for us?**

The health and well-being of urban residents is intrinsically linked to green spaces and their biodiversity. While the health and well-being benefits of human-nature interactions have received much attention, very few studies have explored which characteristics of 'green' or 'natural' landscapes actually contribute these benefits. Furthermore, little is known about the mechanisms through which green space design delivers biodiversity and human well-being benefits. One of the difficulties with this research is in combining multiple methods to capture both the human perceptions to urban green space and human instantaneous or experienced-reactions different types of green space. This project aims to discover those mechanisms, contributing to theoretical knowledge about socio-ecological interactions, and to practical knowledge about effective urban design. It will be social-science focused and involve urban-based fieldwork to try and untangle long term, short term and instantaneous human response to different types urban green space.

**Supervisors:** Professor Sarah Bekessy, Dr Georgia Garrard, Dr Freya Thomas

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Interdisciplinary Conservation Science

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures, Social Change

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### **Understanding the environmental, cultural and learning benefits of the Iconic Species in Schools program**

The Iconic Species in Schools project is a new project, funded through the Threatened Species Recovery Hub of the National Environmental Science Program (NESP), with support from the Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. The project aims to establish totemic or iconic species for selected primary schools, through engagement with Traditional Owners. Iconic Species in Schools aims to investigate and quantify the environmental, cultural and educational benefits of reconnecting children with Australia's unique biodiversity and cultural heritage. The project will use activities including habitat provision, active learning and play to deliver conservation messages to children and engage them with Indigenous culture and heritage. The research is expected to also offer enhanced social and personal benefits associated with exposure to nature, and educational benefits from innovative engagement with STEM. The project is interdisciplinary in nature, and may draw on both scientific and social science research methods.

**Supervisors:** Dr Georgia Garrard, Professor Sarah Bekessy

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Interdisciplinary Conservation Science

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures, Social Change

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### **Reducing large carnivore human-wildlife conflicts in urban and rural areas of India and Nepal**

In parts of India and Nepal, populations of large carnivores such as tigers and leopards have grown to a level that are too large to be sustained by forested areas of suitable habitat. This has resulted in escalating levels of conflict between human populations and large carnivores. For some species, such as the common leopard (*Panthera pardus*), little is known regarding the factors associated with underlying demography and conflict prevalence. This project will use camera trap data from WWF-India to undertake new analyses to understand the distribution and occupancy of large carnivores in this region. The project will then combine these results with existing socio-economic data and data on human-wildlife conflicts to predict the factors and locations contributing most to human-wildlife conflicts. These results will provide valuable information for developing interventions to reduce human-wildlife conflicts in urban and rural areas of India and Nepal.

**Supervisors:** Dr Ascelin Gordon, Dr Georgia Garrard, Professor Simon Jones (School of Science)

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Interdisciplinary Conservation Science

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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### **Understanding the synergies and trade-offs between conservation and ecosystem service supply and demand in rural and urban areas**

There has been significant progress in understanding how we value and measure ecosystem services. However, much of this work has been focused on the supply of services, with a less research on understanding the dynamics of the demand for services. In addition, more work is needed to properly understand the likely synergies and tradeoffs that may occur between prioritizing ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation. This project will focus on one or more case studies in Australia, collating socio-economic, environmental and biological data in rural and urban contexts. This will allow an examination of how the supply and demand profile of ecosystem services varies between urban and rural contexts, both spatially and through time. This data will then be used to examine the conservation implications for prioritizing areas for ecosystem services. The project will require extensive use of modelling with spatial data, and will provide valuable information for allocating land uses as cities grow.

**Supervisors:** Dr Ascelin Gordon, Professor Sarah Bekessy, Professor Simon Jones (School of Science)

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Interdisciplinary Conservation Science (ICON)

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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## **Urban Cultures and Technologies research program**

### **Culture-led urban development: Evaluating the UNESCO Creative Cities Network**

The proposition that culture and creativity play a vital role in sustainable urban development underpinned the formation in 2004 of UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (UCCN). The network constitutes a significant international initiative in promoting urban creative economies, and a current call for applications to join the network points to further growth. The effectiveness of regional rather than country-level development policies is well-established in the academic literature, and the work of analysts such as Franco Bianchini and Charles Landry on culture-led urban regeneration was a strong formative influence on the program. However, more than a decade after its establishment, the extent to which the network has achieved its objectives in promoting culture-led development and safeguarding the cultural heritage of cities remains largely untested. The focus of this project is to develop and test a method for evaluating network membership. Evaluating the benefits, or disbenefits, of network membership raises conceptual, methodological and empirical challenges that are well suited to intensive research at doctoral level. The project will contribute to a research and practice gap in the field of urban cultural policy and subsequent exchanges with the UCCN Secretariat, Paris. The work will result in journal publications and opportunities to present findings at UCCN conferences. The project offers an opportunity to research how the network's conceptual framing and network activities contribute to the SDGs.

**Supervisors:** Dr Ian McShane & other CUR supervisors

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Urban Cultures and Technologies

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures, Design and Creative Practice

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### **Towards a public internet policy framework for Australia**

Australia's policy framework governing access to the internet, in its broadest sense, is calibrated on regulating the private telecommunications market. From this normative position, public access to telephony has been structured through a universal service obligation, predicated on fixed line voice services and financed by an industry levy. Both the technology and service settings, and policy frameworks, require urgent reform, in order to shift from the policy focus from voice to data services, but more fundamentally to develop a sophisticated policy approach to internet access that engages both its private and public good characteristics. Part of the task here is to define and coordinate the multi-level and multi-institutional interests in internet access, from conventional national government telecommunications jurisdiction, to the increasingly widespread provision of public Wi-Fi and internet access by local governments, public library services, and community groups. What would a public internet policy look like? What would be its rationales and desired outcomes, funding mechanisms, and evaluation mechanisms? This is the fundamental research aim. This project will build on emerging but fragmented policy discussion in Australia, and new tools for measuring and evaluating the social and economic benefits of digital inclusion.

**Supervisors:** Dr Ian McShane & other CUR supervisors

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Urban Technologies and Culture

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures, Social Change

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### **Planning and Transport in City Regions research program**

#### **Modelling the spatial distribution of key trip generators to manage traffic congestion and support public transport use**

The location of key trip generators in cities – such as housing, employment and schools – can have a significant effect on traffic congestion levels, greenhouse gas emissions, health and liveability outcomes. However, efforts to model their spatial distribution with the objective of managing traffic congestion and supporting public transport use, have been limited to date. This project will seek to develop an enhanced method to more accurately model the spatial distribution of key trip generators in cities to manage traffic congestion and increase the use of public transport. This will lead to an improved understanding of how the location of housing, employment and schools can be more equitably distributed to achieve

better transport outcomes. The project offers much scope to make a strong theoretical contribution to knowledge through the exploration of alternative land use structures and models to manage traffic congestion and increase the use of public transport. The project will have a number of practical outcomes which are likely to attract strong interest from the wider transport and planning industry, thereby helping students to build connections outside academia.

**Supervisors:** Dr Chris De Gruyter, Dr Sara Moridpour, Dr Liang Ma

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Planning and Transport in City Regions

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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### **Exploring the alignment of public transport provision with development planning**

Many cities are experiencing population growth and greater levels of urbanisation, increasing the demand for housing, employment and related services. In turn, this has placed further pressure on transport networks, including public transport services. Yet the provision of public transport is often not explicitly linked to development planning, leading to continued dependence on the private car. This research topic will explore how the alignment of public transport provision and development planning can be enhanced to support more sustainable travel choices and improved liveability in cities. A particular focus will be placed on governance aspects to understand how these can facilitate stronger links between public transport service provision and the planning of new developments. The project will require the student to conduct surveys and research interviews with reference to case study developments across Melbourne (and potentially other jurisdictions), thereby enhancing their skills in research methodologies. It will also have a number of practical outcomes which are likely to attract strong interest from the wider transport and planning industry, thereby helping the student to also build connections outside academia.

**Supervisors:** Dr Chris De Gruyter, Professor Jago Dodson

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Planning and Transport in City Regions

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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### **Mode shift - what works?**

This project asks what policies and practices contribute to mode shift in car dependent cities? The project responds to the urgent need to shift travel away from the car in rapidly growing car dependent cities such as Melbourne and Sydney in the context of weak policy intent and action in these jurisdictions. By investigating

the actions of cities that have effectively reduced car use the project will contribute to scholarly and practice knowledge of what works in transport policy. This includes consideration of long-run strategy, modal prioritisation, pricing, investment, design and land-use and transport integration.

**Supervisors:** Professor Jago Dodson, Dr Chris De Gruyter

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Planning and Transport in City Regions

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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### **Planning for cities with new transport/ICT technologies**

New and emerging transport and ICT technologies offer the promise of a more efficient and effective transport system. The new transport solutions (e.g. car sharing) enabled by the new technologies also change the way of travel, transport choice, daily activity patterns, and requirement on infrastructure. How urban planning, transport policy, and infrastructure investments could better respond to the new transport and ICT technologies has been important questions faced by many governments. This project focuses upon how the emergence of new transport technologies and solutions (e.g. new energy/driverless vehicles) will influence future transport and urban structure. It will develop new knowledge to assist governments to foster stronger urban policy and plan for the new technology and transport, and help provide a pathway towards more productive and sustainable cities.

**Supervisors:** Dr Tiebei Li, Dr Liang Ma, Professor Jago Dodson

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Planning and Transport in City Regions

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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### **Climate Change Transformations research program**

#### **Low carbon urban governance and urban sustainability transitions**

There is an emerging literature focusing on the role of the cities and local scale actors in responding to climate change which include responses from local governments, non-government and community organisations and private enterprises. Action, innovation and transformation at the local scale are of interest for researchers and activists frustrated by the lack of significant progress at the international scale around multi-lateral treaties and targets. There is a need for further conceptual and empirical work to better understand processes of change and uptake across a range of local actions and whether we are starting to see systemic changes across different policy and practice domains. This project seeks to contribute to this body of knowledge.

**Supervisors:** Dr Susie Moloney, Professor Ralph Horne

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Climate Change Transformations, Critical Urban Governance

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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### **Governance for regional sustainability transitions**

There is growing interest in the contributions that regions can make in transitioning to more liveable, just and sustainable forms of development. Enabling such transitions requires theoretical and practical understanding of how different governance approaches can enable and constrain action across different sectors. While there are a range of theoretical approaches for enabling sustainability transitions, little is known of their efficacy in different regional contexts, and tailored responses are required in order to address the unique sets of circumstances operating in specific contexts.

**Supervisors:** Dr Susie Moloney, Dr Karyn Bosomworth, Dr Brian Coffey

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Climate Change Transformations

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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### **Of what, to what, and who gets to say? The political, institutional challenges of adaptation and transformation**

While the study and practice of adaptation and transformation advances apace, ethical questions such as what and who 'should' adapt and to what are growing. Such questions raise ethical issues and inevitable questions of power and politics. A small but growing body of scholarship is increasingly concerned with these ideas in transformation and adaptation and their governance through critical re-evaluation of beliefs, values, and associated institutions. Projects developed under this broad theme will examine various political, ethical, and normative assumptions and challenges presented by the need for and efforts to enable adaptation in all its 'forms', including the idea of transformative adaptation.

**Supervisors:** Dr Karyn Bosomworth, Dr Susie Moloney, Dr Brian Coffey, Associate Professor Lauren Rickards

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Climate Change and Resilience

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures, Social Change

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**Disasters, development, and resilience**

Preventing the creation of disaster risk, responding to and learning from disasters is a key activity in the context of climate change. CCT researchers focus on the social drivers of disasters, notably urban planning, settlement and housing design and approaches to implementation using qualitative and quantitative analytical tools and insights to help reduce Disaster Risk and position them within climate change adaptation. Their work aims to help develop approaches to potential disasters that foster socio-ecological resilience, justice and the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals. For example: owner-driven housing reconstruction as a means to enhancing socio-ecological resilience of communities in India (PhD, RMIT, 2018); Resilience Action Plan for and by Tarnagulla community (Action Research, RMIT, 2019); Refuge Project (Arts House, Giant Grass, 2019-20). The program invites project proposals in line with these themes.

**Supervisors:** Dr Karyn Bosomworth, Others TBC

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Climate Change Transformations

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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**Integrated urban water governance for transitions to sustainable, adaptive urban development: a case study of the Kalkallo precinct.**

Achieving sustainable, liveable precincts with a sense of place for future communities involves working with multiple complexities. These include enabling renewable energy, transport, integrated water management, walkability, health, affordable housing, and urban greening, that all address climate resilience and social imperatives and challenges. It also includes working with a diversity of actors, and their various needs, equities, and objectives. As such, enabling sustainable precincts demands new ways of thinking and working, which in themselves require the bringing together of different yet related approaches to urban planning and development. Industry research and experience has seen water sensitive urban design and third pipe technologies become best practice in Australian urban developments. However, to date, wider issues of liveability, integrated urban water management, and climate resilience have generally been explored in somewhat isolation and sporadically. Understanding how water authorities and related policy agencies can support and enable a transition to resilient and adaptive urban development remains a challenge for policy and in practice.

In partnership with Melbourne Water, this PhD study will investigate the governance, policy, and practical possibilities and implications of connecting and enabling key agendas of sustainable development, liveability, integrated water management, and climate change adaptation, within the context of a large urban development.

**Supervisors:** Professor Jago Dodson, Dr Karyn Bosomworth

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Climate Change Transformations, Critical Urban Governance

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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### **How might adaptation planning support transformation?**

There are plenty of decision-making tools to guide those seeking to undertake climate change adaptation planning. Yet within the context of the growing call for 'transformation' (transformative adaptation, transformative governance, and other monikers), there has been little evaluation of what the existing tools have achieved and are achieving, or an understanding of how, where and why they may be enabling 'transformation'. Let alone engaging with the socio-institutional dimensions and questions of transforming what, to what, and for and by whom and what. Therefore, there is a pressing need to identify adaptation planning tools and guidance that enable engagement with these issues. Doing so requires a critical examination of the efficacies of various tools in engaging with the discourse, practice and institutional conditions within which current planning must operate and potentially transform/change. Such an examination has yet to occur. This project aims to critically examine the discourse, practice and institutional conditions within which current tools need to operate and potentially challenge and/or transform (in case study policy domains or organisations), evaluate the efficacy of several adaptation planning tools and methods of engaging with these socio-institutional dimensions of transformative adaptation and its governance, and develop coherent methods for enabling such tools to engage with these issues.

**Supervisors:** Dr Karyn Bosomworth, Dr Susie Moloney, Dr Brian Coffey

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Climate Change and Resilience

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures, Social Change

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### **Planning, climate and agrifood systems in metropolitan regions**

The field of urban food systems (production) research is well established, but often distant to policy/decision making, at least beyond peripheral notions of urban farming as community development activity. This project is investigating climate change responsive approaches to land use planning for food and agriculture in broad city regions, including peri-urban landscapes. It will primarily focus on the contestation of policy, practice and community perspectives on future farming (including within the urban area) with a specific perspective on the role of planning systems and practitioner knowledge in transitions to climate-smart agriculture in both contested landscapes and locations. The project should seek to investigate the interactions of planning (as an exercise of land categorisation and strategic consideration of urban morphology) with adaptive farming under a market-orientated food regime. This

recognises that movements and processes of change in farming systems are highly spatially differentiated, and that planning systems have scope to reimagine agriculture as an activity, land use and 'problem' category. This project also considers the global agenda of 'climate smart agriculture' within a localised context of urban and regional planning policy and practices – in effect setting this as a critical issue of understanding, categorisation and adaptive policy.

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Andrew Butt, Associate Professor Lauren Rickards, Professor Bruce Wilson

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Climate Change Transformations

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures, Social Change

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### **Implementing the SDGs: Regions, disruptions and enablers**

Countries and organisations around the world have signed up to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). How different groups strive to implement them, however, remains to be seen. It is likely that place-specific approaches will emerge thanks to differences in the dominant issues and formal and informal institutions that exist in different locations. This project will explore the role of supra-national and sub-national regional differences in how the SDGs are being approached, the advantages and disadvantages of using “the region” as a vehicle for SDG implementation, how regions are altering under climate change and other processes including SDG-based initiatives, and whether the SDG agenda in particular places is resilient to various disruptions and stressors. In these ways, the project will contribute valuable knowledge to the critical question of how to enable global sustainable development in the context of particularity and change, and how sustainable development and regions are mutually constituted.

**Supervisors:** Dr Karyn Bosomworth, Associate Professor Lauren Rickards, Associate Professor Wendy Steele

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Climate Change Transformations

**Enabling Capability Platforms:** Urban Futures, Social Change

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### **The relationship between campus landscape components and students' psychological restoration**

Recent research indicates that one in five university students experience anxiety or depression. How can the design of university landscapes combat this and create a more relaxing environment? Research has found that exposure to green spaces contributes to restorative psychological and physiological health benefits, such as recovery from fatigue. This proposed project will investigate the relationship between campus landscape components and students' psychological restoration.

The use of eye-tracking in landscape and urban research is an emerging and exciting area. Using eye and GPS tracking movement to record visual patterns of students interacting with the campus landscape components, the data will help inform planners how to improve the design of university campuses to benefit students.

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Marco Amati, Dr Chayn Sun, Associate Professor Adrian Dyer, Associate Professor Joe Hurley

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Climate Change Transformations; People, Nature, Place

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures

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### **Climate Change hotspots: examining adaptation-mitigation intersections**

Climate change is a social phenomenon involving emerging efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as efforts to tackle climatic shifts and their flow-on effects. But vulnerability to climate change is typically still discussed only in relation to the latter. This project will identify and analyse the challenges of a small selection of 'climate change hotspots': groups, organisations, activities or places that are highly exposed to both climate-based effects and pressure to rapidly cut emissions or avoid emissions pulses ('transition risk'). These could include, for example, certain coal mining communities (e.g. in the La Trobe Valley), an airline or a beef farm. Alternatively, one class of case study will be chosen an international comparison will be conducted (e.g. coal areas in Australia and Germany). In each case, the project will analyse the interplay between the imperatives to adapt and mitigate and examine the tensions and synergies between them. It will analyse and reflect on how facing acute adaptation and mitigation pressure simultaneously encourages or tempers the possibilities for transformational change (of a progressive or regressive kind) in different contexts. Overall, the project will use this empirical base to contribute to scholarship on the concepts of adaptation and mitigation and seek to identify how they may be better conceptualised in relation to each other. If an energy case is used, there is also strong potential to contribute to the energy social science literature where discussions of adaptation are only nascent.

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Lauren Rickards, Associate Professor Susie Moloney

**Centre:** Centre for Urban Research

**Affiliate CUR Research Program:** Climate Change Transformation

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Urban Futures, Social Change

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**Social and Global Studies Centre: transformative research for social justice.**

The Social and Global Studies Centre is home to innovative, rigorous, and forward thinking expert researchers. Using evidence-based research that is grounded in academic, political, policy and practice debates, our Centre is founded on a belief in social justice and equity.

Our research focus:

1. Global Challenges – addressing global challenges and social inequalities such as humanitarian issues, migration, homelessness and housing, family violence, gender equity, mental health, disability, conflict and peace.
2. Social & Cultural Diversity – attending to social, cultural and linguistic diversity through the application of innovative theoretical and methodological lenses, including feminist, post-colonial, multi-lingual, place-based, participatory, visual, co-design, digital and lived-experience.
3. Interventions for Social Justice – developing policy and practice-based interventions for social work and youth studies, national and international development, crime & justice systems, health & human services, community sector and public discourse.

Our research is interdisciplinary, bringing together experts from the social sciences and applied humanities and organized into four programs: Humanitarianism, migration and development; Citizenship, Care and Health; Crime, Justice and Security; Language, Culture and International Education

Our SDG 2030 focus:



## SGSC: HDR (PhD & Masters by Research) Projects for 2020

## Humanitarianism, Migration and Development

### **The future of humanitarian values in Australia**

In gauging the nature of humanitarian sensibility in Australia it is important to first appreciate the different reasons or motivations that are likely to sit behind a person's concern for humanitarian causes and their commitment to act in some way to ameliorate the suffering of distant others. Studies of Australian public attitudes towards aid and humanitarian assistance highlight key differences between those who support development aid and humanitarian action to some degree, and those who are unsupportive, including level of religiosity, differences in political ideology, age, knowledge of different cultures, educational attainment, and wealth. It is argued that a person's level of economic security, more so than wealth per se, can have a bearing upon their disposition to help people displaced by conflict and natural disasters or people living in poverty.

What are less well understood are the kinds of social practices that sustain or increase a person's interest in humanitarian issues and lead them to engage in humanitarian actions of some kind. Is there, for example, a connection between civic engagement, altruism and awareness of human suffering? Conversely, is there evidence that populist media coverage of protracted wars in the Middle East, and public debates about asylum seekers and migrants from the Muslim world, have engendered a turning away from altruistic pursuits and a loss of empathy with victims of humanitarian crises among Australians?

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Paul Battersby, Dr Panayiota Romios (International Red Cross Industry Partner)

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Humanitarianism, Migration, Development

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **Humanitarian priorities and Indigenous Australians**

To what extent do people sympathetic to humanitarian action overseas recognise the suffering of Indigenous Australians as a matter of equal humanitarian concern? The Coalition government under John Howard initiated the 2007 Northern Territory Intervention cast as an 'emergency response' to 'rescue' victims of child abuse in Aboriginal communities. The Intervention was driven as much by moral outrage against the perceived depravity as by purely humanitarian concern for the suffering of others. The intervention, arguably, continued a pattern of government subversion of humanitarian concepts and principles, this time in the service of policy paternalism. In the process, racial stereotypes were, if not mobilised, then revived and officially endorsed, to the detriment of long-term resolution to the dispossession of Indigenous Australians.

This project foregrounds the humanitarian dimension to Indigenous issues in Australia against a backdrop of work by Australian Red Cross in remote Aboriginal communities. It might lead in the direction of an investigation into the apparent disconnect within Australian humanitarianism, between caring for others overseas and caring (or not) for the 'othered' in Australia.

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Paul Battersby, Dr Elizabeth Kath, Dr Peter Phipps

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Humanitarianism, Migration, Development

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **Humanitarian aid governance in the Australian context**

The Australian federal government has introduced a new program, in association with Australian Red Cross, to develop a 'fit-for-purpose- humanitarian ecosystem in the Pacific', signalling a move to a better coordinated approach to humanitarian response. Australia has a rich tradition of humanitarianism but what does this more targeted and strategic approach mean for Australian aid and for Australian humanitarian organisations? What are the challenges of developing a transnational strategy of relief cooperation and coordination involving governments and nongovernmental agencies? There are dangers for organisations, like Red Cross, in becoming drawn into a government -directed policy implementation network which could both constrain their scope for independent action and undermine the principle of neutrality which underpins the missions of Red Cross, Oxfam, MSF, CARE Australia to name but few. It also remains to be seen how the private sector will contribute to this federal government strategy, and how funding for relief agencies might be tied to certain, possibly unpalatable, corporate governance requirements.

This project will draw upon contemporary governance theory to examine the tensions between altruistic organisational missions and the practical challenges of delivering upon humanitarian principles while cooperating in programs sponsored by or involving governments that might not be fulfilling their obligations under international humanitarian law, to protect the rights of civilians and those affected by natural disasters.

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Paul Battersby, Dr Vandra Harris

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Humanitarianism, Migration, Development

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **Migration policy and practice**

Australia has transformed from a society that was one of the “whitest” in the world outside of northwestern Europe in 1947 to one of the most multicultural in the world just over 70 years later. Migration legislation and policy has shifted considerably in this time and so have practice responses. This project focuses on research that investigates migration policy and social work and human service practice. Topics for study include: Australian humanitarian policy; displacement and forced migration; multicultural policy; comparative policy research; new concepts such as superdiversity and practice; notions of sanctuary and asylum; intersectionality and ethnic diversity; evaluation of practice and programs; and cross-sectoral policy and practice including housing and homelessness, disability, mental health, family violence.

**Supervisors:** Dr Sharlene Nipperess, Others TBC

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Humanitarianism, migration, development

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **Forced Migrants in the Western Balkans: Between Transit and Settlement**

This project investigates humanitarian responses to the flow of forced migrants through the Western Balkans countries: Kosovo, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. From countries from where forced migrants originated during the 1990s, the recent migration flows have turned the region into transiting counties for forced migrants, totaling close to 800,000 people in 2015.

Unable to continue their journeys to the desired destinations in Europe, an increasing number of refugees from the Middle Eastern and other countries has been 'stuck in transit' and forced to stay in 'long-term temporary shelters' across the Western Balkans. Conceived as a multi-sited ethnography and involving research sites in four countries, this research project will look into realities of the refugee shelters, asylum seekers centers and transit points in the Western Balkan countries. The research will be conducted within forced migrants groups, refugee humanitarian organizations and local communities through which the migrants have been transiting, or where they have settled (or 'got stuck') on a temporary or long-term basis. This study will be the first regional study of this kind, evaluating the effects of forced displacement in relation to migratory experiences and outcomes for people on the move across four different “transit” countries in the Western Balkans region. The project will highlight and give voice to the issues affecting the forced migrants – including living conditions, discrimination, abuse and legal barriers – as well as highlight refugees resilience and positive examples of support, empathy and understanding for refugees by local populations and bring them to the attention of the relevant government and international bodies in and beyond Europe.

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Hariz Halilovich, Dr Alexis Bergantz, Dr Iris Kucuk

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Humanitarianism, migration, development

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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**Transitional Justice and Reconciliation: Culture of Remembrance and Arts**

The project investigates how the arts can be employed to serve reconciliatory ends and transitional justice, especially in "frozen conflict" contexts categorized by entrenched social and political divisions running across two or more generations. Moreover, it will explore what ethical considerations - of war and peace - does a fusion between the arts and culture of remembrance in post-conflict societies necessitate? The geopolitical contexts relevant to the project range from the former Yugoslavia (in particular Bosnia) and Northern Ireland, in Europe, to several post-genocide, post-conflict and post-apartheid societies in Africa (e.g., Rwanda, Southern Sudan, South Africa), Asia (e.g., Cambodia, Myanmar, India-Pakistan) and the Middle East (e.g., Israel-Palestine, Iraq, Syria...).

Recently, there has been paradigm shift - both in theory and in practice - with transitional justice increasingly abandoning an exclusively legalistic perspective and opting, instead, for multidimensional and multidisciplinary perspectives and approaches. One of the non-conventional approaches has been the use of arts in reconciliation efforts in post-conflict societies. The arts have the power of creatively expressing both the anguish and the elation - as well as anything in between - of the human condition (Crane, 2008). Moreover, apart from the intrinsic aesthetic function, the purpose of the arts can be, and often is, manifold: art is not merely mimetic or cathartic, it can perform sociocultural, historical, religious and ideological functions transgenerationally, transculturally, and transnationally.

The PhD researcher will engage in a qualitative study (ethnography) of one or more of the post-conflict contexts looking at how reconciliation and the arts intertwine in post-conflict societies.

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Hariz Halilovich, Dr Alexis Bergantz, Dr Iris Kucuk

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Humanitarianism, migration, development

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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**Conflict resolution and peacebuilding in complex heterogeneous states**

In many conflict-prone societies, patterns of governance are heterogeneous and polycentric, characterised by complex interdependence among different logics of socio-political order and different security actors. State and diverse traditional authorities are leading, but not the only, actors. The effort to support highly centralised models of conflict resolution or governance may be counter-productive in these settings. Researchers in the SGSC are engaged in work that investigates complex heterogeneity as not only a context of chaos or violence but also a source

of order and conflict resolution. The shared aim is to contribute to more realistic, effective international efforts to support conflict resolution in complex, heterogeneous security contexts. We, therefore, encourage applications that propose projects drawing on insights from theories of hybridity and relationality and exploring the potential for alternative, practicable approaches to conflict resolution and peacebuilding in complex heterogeneous states. Proposals that include or focus on cases of Mali and/or Bougainville (PNG) are particularly welcomed.

**Supervisors:** Dr Charles Hunt, Associate Professor Damian Grenfell

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Humanitarianism, migration & development

**Enabling Capability Platforms:** Social Change

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**Protection of civilians in the context of civil war and humanitarian emergencies:  
Addressing conceptual confusion, strategic disagreement and operational tensions**

The understanding of protection of civilians continues to suffer from conceptual confusion, strategic disagreement and operational tensions. This project will contribute systematic research to help clarify theoretical relationships and close gaps in practice. Applications are welcomed that propose historical and policy-oriented research on the protection of civilians in the context of civil war and/or humanitarian emergencies. Research questions could focus on: (1) Thematically: looking at (international) organisations and their instruments that see the protection of civilians as their core business (e.g. humanitarian INGOs); (2) Conceptually: looking at how civilian protection is understood and practiced differently across different sectors and domains (e.g. the role of Police); or, (3) Geographically: focused on one particular case as the basis for exploration of thematic and conceptual elements.

**Supervisors:** Dr Charles Hunt, Dr Robin Cameron

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Humanitarianism, migration & development

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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**International law, humanitarian crises and threats to liberties**

The intersection between human rights, international law and states is an intrinsic nature of the international political system. From these arise the issue of human security, touching upon the subjects of the responsibility to protect (R2P); the issues posed by various forms of emergent threats to the international system (new forms of terrorism, including cyber); the ongoing refugee crisis precipitated by the breakdown of various Middle Eastern and North African states (Syria, Libya, Iraq); the threat posed to specific international liberties (some specific ones include the durable institution of slavery; the threats to freedom of expression, privacy, the

emerging policy on transparency and whistleblowing), and the legal regimes associated with conventions and protocols that undergird the international system. This project examines, accordingly, the role played by these various phenomena: the issues associated with privacy violations and technology; the dilemmas associated with humanitarian intervention and the limits of R2P; the importance of global transparency movements and the impact made by such groups as WikiLeaks and the issue of open government; and the critique of refugee policies; and an examination of anti-terrorist policies on a global scale, including their threat to civil liberties. While Australia features in this remit, the focus of the project, given its ambit, is necessarily broad, considering approaches taken in the United States, the European Union and Asia.

**Supervisors:** Dr. Binoy Kampmark, Dr. Russell Solomon, Dr. Aiden Warren

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Humanitarianism, Migration, Development  
Crime, Justice & Security

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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## Gender and Social Change

Researchers in SGSC seek to elucidate how gender, culture and education affect social change and economic development – with a particular expertise in the East Asia and Pacific regions. PhD projects in this field will contribute to these goals by attending to the lived experiences of marginalised women and the professionals who work with them. The research will lead to the development of policy advice and advocacy that is inclusive of marginalised populations, including, young women, Indigenous women, migrant women, homeless women, queer women, trans women, and women with a disability. The projects will extend and cement existing collaborations with industry partners including, non-government agencies, local government agencies and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Ceridwen Spark, Associate Professor Suellen Murray  
Associate Professor Ronnie Egan, Dr Crystal McKinnon, Dr Kaye Quek, Professor  
Katherine Johnson

### Or Other supervisors in Gender Studies:

Dr Julian Lee, Dr Debbie Long, Professor Denise Cuthbert, Dr Vandra Harris,  
Dr Caroline Norma, Dr Emma Dalton, Dr Juliet Watson, Dr Lisa Harris, A/P Kim  
Humphery, Professor Pavla Miller, Professor Katherine Johnson, A/P Georgina  
Heydon, A/P Anastasia Powell, Dr Belinda Johnson

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Humanitarianism, migration and development

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **Decolonising International Development: Power Dynamics in the Knowledge Sector**

A radical history of development studies is needed to stimulate new thinking on where the discipline is heading; given especially the growing contested roles of development institutions, the political conjuncture of development discourses and the increasing influence of the Global South on development agendas and funding. The rapidly growing global and political influence of rising powers such as the BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - has been accompanied by rapid domestic growth and increased Foreign Direct Investment abroad. These changes and contestations, no longer invisible, challenge the orthodoxies of development practice, theory and culture, raise important issues for debates on the future practice, policy, and study of international development cooperation, and demand the foregrounding of non-Eurocentric and indigenous frames of knowledges and practices.

This project addresses the structural, epistemological and institutional implications of recognising the coloniality of international development as currently conceived and practised. This also includes both the material and the discursive sides of decolonisation. The project identifies self-reflexivity as the primary foundational philosophy and ethics that enables us to go beyond the largely self-imposed disciplinary and Eurocentric limits of the traditional humanities and social sciences (and particularly in development studies). A critical part of this decolonising praxis means re-framing the way we do research, teach and also work in the international development field: one that works towards new decolonial options beyond Eurocentrism and Thirdworldist fundamentalisms.

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Yaso Nadarajah, Dr Glenda Mejia, Dr Debbie Long, Dr Panayiota Ramos (International Red Cross Industry Partner)

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Humanitarianism, migration & development

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

### **Tackling Islamophobia: assessing the effectiveness of existing programs in disadvantaged suburbs (Masters by Research)**

This project will provide empirical evidence about the ways in which ethno-religious diversity, disadvantage and acceptance of Muslims or conversely, Islamophobia, impact on community cohesion in a number of localities with large Muslim minorities in metropolitan Melbourne and Sydney.

Existing research indicates that anti-Muslim sentiment and Islamophobia may negatively affect community cohesion at the neighbourhood level. Local councils have devised programs to increase social cohesion in ethnically diverse areas, with varying. Meanwhile, Australian and European research is inconclusive about the effects of disadvantage and ethnic diversity on trust and local social capital.

The Masters by Research student will engage in a mixed methods project; s/he will conduct a review of social cohesion and disadvantage-focused programs in a selection of 5 high-diversity, high-Muslim, low-SEIFA suburbs in Melbourne Metropolitan Area, Victoria. S/he will learn how to use large databases, e.g. the Australian census to extract useful data on the topic, and also conduct and analyse in-depth interviews with key local informants in order to learn which local programs work the best and how these programs could be further improved and innovated. The Master's project will be part of DSS-funded larger research project, from which funding is available for travel to the research areas and transcription of interviews. Some experience with quantitative databases and in conducting and analysing interviews will be preferable in selecting the candidate.

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Karien Dekker, Associate Professor Val Colic-Peisker

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Humanitarianism, migration & development

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **Rethinking Remoteness - Land, Language and Lifeworlds**

The concept of the 'remote' is used in numerous disciplines, including geography, development studies, anthropology, health, spatial planning, and cultural studies. 'Remote' presumes a centring of power elsewhere and tends to be defined in terms of accessibility to major urban areas. From what, precisely, are we remote? Who is central, who is marginalised and who decides? Notions of 'remote' and remote regions or places connote economic stagnation, decay, and underdevelopment (or absence of development) and are associated with a lack of connectivity, access and economic activity. They have become lenses through which certain territories and communities are valued and assessed 'vulnerable', marginal to progress and modernity. Initiatives to address the disadvantages and inequalities resulting from peripherality and remoteness often mean increased political and economic dependence on a distant centre of power.

This project looks at the 'remote' as a creative region; an asset rather than a liability. Research over the last four years has reinforced that remote regions are a fine capillary system of interconnected people, places, agency and resilience. When nurtured and nourished in its own context and relation not temporally, but as other-worldly, spatial and persistent; the notion of 'remote' may have much more to offer towards well-being for communities and countries; and also offer a profoundly transformative contribution to national development, climate change mitigation and environmental protection.

**Supervisors:**

Associate Professor Yaso Nadarajah, Dr Judy Rogers, Dr Peter Phipps, Dr Reina Ichii

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Humanitarianism, migration & development;  
Citizenship, Care & Health

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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## **Citizenship, Care & Health**

### **Unison Housing Research Lab: Industry PhD SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE**

The Unison Housing Research Lab is offering a unique opportunity to undertake a PhD in Housing and Homelessness. Issues around housing and homelessness are affecting larger numbers of Australians than ever before. Housing and homelessness involve multiple and interrelated elements that call for innovative approaches to knowledge making. The PhD scholarship program at The Lab provides an environment with access to key academic and industry contacts to develop an original project.

The Lab welcomes applicants from a range of disciplinary backgrounds who would like to apply their skills in novel ways to issues of housing and homelessness. The Lab currently has a full PhD scholarship available. If you are interested and would like to pursue your Doctoral studies in either, or both areas, contact the supervisors listed below

**Supervisors:** Prof Guy Johnson, Dr Juliet Watson, Dr Sarah Taylor

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Citizenship, Care & Health

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **Topics in loneliness, mental health and housing precarity**

Loneliness is a universal experience. It is subjective, so can vary from person to person, but arises in the context of someone perceiving their relationships to be inadequate and noting a disparity with their perceived need for belonging. Loneliness has been reported at higher rates in certain populations, most prominently among socially excluded or other marginalised groups. This includes people with experience of mental illness, people with a disability, people with 'multimorbidities', and homeless populations. Older adults represent another high risk group.

Some authors have argued that we are experiencing a loneliness epidemic. However, loneliness remains largely ignored as a major public health concern, despite its established deleterious impacts on people's mental and physical health. We propose supporting students to undertake projects at the interface of mental health and housing precarity, with a focus on experiences of loneliness and social isolation.

**Supervisors:** Professor Stuart Thomas, Professor Renata Kokanovic, Professor Guy Johnson, Sonia Martin, Dr Caroline Lambert

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Citizenship, Care & Health

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **Forensic aspects of borderline personality disorder**

The proposed topic will consider the interface between people with BPD and the criminal justice system. This could include experiences with the police, the courts and the prison system. We propose utilising a tried and tested narrative interview methodology as this will enable the research team to tap into significant in-kind supports via Healthtalk Australia that will facilitate dissemination of project outputs to services and other end users.

**Supervisors:** Professor Stuart Thomas, Professor Renata Kokanovic, Forensicare Representative

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre?

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Citizenship, Care & Health; Crime, Justice and Security

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change, Design and Creative Practice

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### **Place-Based Services and Diversity**

The Citizenship, Care & Health program is seeking to further build sector, cross-disciplinary and national research alliances, which bed in two place-based service research projects: the first relates to super-diverse neighbourhoods; the second focus on education and family life in place. A recent funded review of place-based approaches undertaken in the social work discipline shows internationally that there is evidence of place-based model success. In these, cross sector collaboration is used to address complex vulnerabilities around housing and homelessness, mental health issues, the justice system, education and cultural diversity which create poverty and disadvantage. International study findings have been extrapolated to Australia but require further research and evaluation here. Projects in this stream build on Charlotte William's pilot study with Melbourne University's Masa Mikola (who is an adjunct at RMIT University), which established the need to empirically test the competing 'superdiversity' and 'co-ethnic tracks' approaches to place based services. Research partnerships are developed with organisations that run ethnic-focused services to expand the evidence base of practices that are more likely to address the unique needs of diverse communities. A second research focus on supporting families, educational inclusion and diversity. It will draw in expertise from the sector, most notably long term partners Foundation House. As such the second

research project in mind would focus on employment and young Sudanese males. Building a strong postgraduate cohort working in this area to further consolidate the work already

**Supervisors:** Dr Ahmen Bharwa Kuyini, Dr Sonia Martin, Dr Sebastian Cordoba, Dr Sharlene Niperess, Dr Christina David, Dr Patrick O'Keefe

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre?

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Citizenship, Care & Health

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **Exploring successful program support and work-based learning in Emergency relief settings**

The provision of emergency relief offers the doorway for presenting clients who fall through the social support service.

The aim of the research is to investigate:

1. the effectiveness of the program support structure and work-based learning experience
2. the increase in service delivery capacity as a result of the program
3. participant perception of program delivery

It is envisioned that the research will use a mixed methods approach drawing on multiple data sources including ER data and statistics, client surveys, file audits and student evaluations.

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Ronnie Egan, Dr Sonia Martin, Associate Professor Ahmed Bharwa Kuyini

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Citizenship, Care & Health

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **Disability Policy, Practice and Advocacy**

An upward trajectory of disability funded research has established the Citizenship, Care & Health program as leading players in disability policy. Our research on human rights and self-advocacy (ARC funded) and, choice making and workforce change (FaHCSIA funded) have informed the implementation of the NDIS.

As the NDIS rolls out in Australia, research into how people with disabilities and their supporters are impacted by contemporary policy reforms, who benefits and who

does not, and the factors shaping choice and control, is critical. Our studies of local area co-ordination funded by industry partners alongside work around building inclusive communities for people with disability have continued to inform policy and practice. Recognition of this work through a grant on community capacity building is already establishing our expertise and is attracting further research funding. Our work on restrictive practices has continued since 2009 contributing to the NDIS quality and safeguarding framework and we have also completed research into independent outreach advocacy. Our research on the intersection of disability with other forms of discrimination includes emergent work on refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities and studies in the disability support needs of those who have experienced long term homelessness. We are eager to recruit scholars who can collaborate in these areas, who can work with industry through connection with SGSC and the Future Social Service Institute (FSSI). Our interest is in recruiting a PhD scholar with the skills and background to undertake a critical and empirically-based study that has the capacity to add value to the research themes summarised as Disability, Policy, Practice and Advocacy. We are eager to extend a scholarship model modelled by FSSI which builds industry connections and which employs an innovative research governance structure that involves experts by experience contributing to the research design and implementation.

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Paul Ramcharan, Dr Christina David, Professor Judith Bessant, Dr Raelene West, Dr Sharlene Nipereess

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Citizenship, Care & Health

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

### **Marginalisation, discrimination and the transformation of LGBTQ lives**

Despite the advances in social inclusion there are still multiple and intersecting forms of marginalisation and discrimination that effect LGBTQ people, particularly those who do not fit neatly within racial, sexual, gender, and societal norms. Project proposals are invited to extend understandings of queer lives in developing contemporary contexts. Candidates have the opportunity to propose a project of their choosing with the aim of addressing forms of marginalization, discrimination and social change. The project could explore a contemporary issue (e.g. health, mental health, migration, access to services) and/or work with groups less readily represented within current debates (trans and non-binary people, bisexual people, LGBTQ refugees, indigenous, QTPOC) and speak to at least one of the key thematic strengths of the Social and Global Studies Centre. Candidates are encouraged to work in partnership with community experts/NGOs to develop a theoretically informed project that informs policy and practice to create a more gender and sexuality inclusive society. Projects that involve methodological innovation including the use of creative and visual participatory research methods are particularly welcome.

**Supervisors:** Professor Katherine Johnson, Dr Crystal McKinnon

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Humanitarianism, migration, development; Citizenship, Care & Health

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **Reproductive and gynaecological health among LGBTQ People Assigned Female at Birth**

LGBTQ-identified people assigned female at birth (AFAB) include lesbian and bisexual cisgender women, and transgender men or genderqueer individuals (assigned female at birth). Despite having reproductive and gynaecological healthcare needs that are either distinct (e.g. gender-affirming hysterectomies, menstruation suppression) or shared with cisgender, heterosexual women (e.g. gynaecological cancer screening, menstrual disorders, fertility treatment), LGBTQ-identified people AFAB are an underserved group in relation to this aspect of health and healthcare. This marginalisation reflects a culture of heteronormativity within healthcare services, as evidenced by healthcare providers' lack of knowledge, stigma and/or discrimination, and non-inclusive health systems more broadly. Doctoral proposals aimed at creating new knowledge to support better reproductive and gynaecological health and healthcare for LGBTQ-identified people AFAB are invited from applicants from backgrounds including health sociology, social psychology, cultural studies, and medical humanities. Potential topics might include the experiences of reproductive and gynaecological health and illness of LGBTQ-identified people AFAB, reproductive and gynaecological healthcare provision for LGBTQ-identified people AFAB (practitioner/service/policy perspectives), negotiation of reproductive and gynaecological health within intimate relationships, or other related topics of interest to applicants. The supervision team's expertise includes narrative health experience research using the [healthtalkaustralia.org](http://healthtalkaustralia.org) methodology, reproductive and gynaecological health experiences, and LGBTQIA+ research.

**Supervisors:** Professor Renata Kokanović, Professor Katherine Johnson, Dr Kate Johnston-Ataata

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Citizenship, Care & Health

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **Lived-experiences of cancer and immunotherapy**

Immunotherapy is a novel cancer treatment that enhances the capacity of a person's immune system to fight cancer cells. According to Cancer Australia, immunotherapies are believed to work by slowing the growth and spread of cancer cells, and helping the immune system destroy existing cancer cells. Currently only 6 immunotherapies have been approved (Cancer Research Institute ) with many more still undergoing clinical trials. Progress in translating immunotherapy into clinical practice is slowed by the small percentage of eligible patients who participate in

clinical. Inexperience by health professionals also contributes to underuse of approved immunotherapies in clinical practice.

There is almost no research on patients' experiences of this emerging form of treatment, whether in clinical practice or clinical trials. Using the proven Healthtalk methodology, this project will collect in-depth narratives of experiences of cancer immunotherapy of 30 Australians of diverse backgrounds (SES, ethnocultural background, gender, sexuality, age, metro/regional residence) with experiences of different cancers, including participants receiving treatment as part of a clinical trial. Participants will be asked to narrate their experiences of cancer and immunotherapy, in the context of their overall lives. Once the PhD has been completed and passed, additional financial support will be sought to conduct secondary data analysis to produce a Healthtalk Australia public online resource linked to leading cancer organisations, aimed at informing and supporting other people undergoing or considering cancer immunotherapy, their families, and health professionals.

**Supervisors:** Professor Renata Kokanovic, Associate Professor Michael Jefford (University of Melbourne), Dr Jacinthe Flore

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Citizenship, Care & Health

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

### **Reproductive / gynaecological health among underserved populations**

Doctoral proposals aimed at creating new knowledge to support better reproductive and gynaecological health and healthcare among underserved or marginalised population groups (e.g. women from refugee and migrant backgrounds, LGBTQ-identified people AFAB, and/or others) are invited from applicants from health/medical sociology, social psychology, cultural studies, and medical humanities backgrounds.

Potential topics might include the experiences of reproductive / gynaecological health and illness, experiences of reproductive / gynaecological healthcare provision (practitioner/service/policy perspectives), negotiation of reproductive / gynaecological health within intimate relationships, or other related topics of interest to applicants. The supervision team's expertise includes narrative health experience research using the healthtalkaustralia.org methodology, reproductive and gynaecological health experiences, LGBTQIA+ health, health research with Australians from migrant and refugee backgrounds, and creative arts-based methods.

Please note the supervisory team is unable to supervise candidates from disciplines outside those nominated above.

**Supervisors:** Professor Renata Kokanović, Professor Katherine Johnson, Dr Kate Johnston-Ataata

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Citizenship, care and health

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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## **Crime, Justice & Security**

### **Experiences of sexual assault in the sexually explicit entertainment sector**

Sexually explicit entertainment usually takes place in gentlemen's clubs or strip clubs and in other settings like out-call stripping for agencies, peep show strippers at adult retail venues or topless waitpersons and barpersons. Little is known about working conditions in the sector and people's experiences of sexual assault and reporting to management and the authorities.

The aim of this project is to document and describe workers' experiences, with the research intended to inform efforts to create safer working places and conditions for sexually explicit entertainment workers.

**Supervisors:** Dr Larissa Sandy, Professor Katherine Johnson, Associate Professor Georgina Heydon (Associate Supervisor)

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Crime, Justice & Security

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **The changing contours of sex work in Australia**

Changes in law enforcement strategies across Australia have had significant implications for sex work and sex workers. For example, the long history of licensing in Victoria has created a two-tiered system of 'legal' or regulated and unlicensed sectors that have come to shape how workers conceive of sex work (as a short-term strategy or career), their working practices and strategies, levels of safety and involvement with the criminal justice system.

This project will use in-depth interviews and participant observation to examine the impact of these changes on the life and work of people working in Australia's sex industry. The project aims to critically explore workers lived experiences and the implications of law enforcement efforts, setting out to understand this in the different legislative contexts. The research is intended to inform policy and advocacy efforts to create safer working places and conditions for Australian sex workers.

**Supervisors:** Dr Larissa Sandy, Professor Bronwyn Naylor (School of Business and Law)

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Crime, Justice & Security

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **Preventing Violence Against Women**

In Australia 1 in 3 women experience violence in their lifetime. Though much violence might be considered gendered in many respects, the patterns of men's violence against women - particularly intimate partner and sexual violence - are very much reflective of gendered practices, cultures and structures of inequality. The primary prevention of violence against women has been identified as an Australian national policy priority, and over the past decade federal, state and territory governments have increasingly invested in policy and program initiatives in this area. Yet to date, research evidence into progress in prevention, and the effectiveness of prevention policy, programs and practice, is particularly lacking. The knowledge gap presents a challenge both to the development and growth of primary prevention practice on the ground, as well as the development and investment into robust primary prevention policy. RMIT University, in partnership with Our Watch - Australia's national organisation for the prevention of violence against women and their children - are seeking doctoral research proposals that will contribute to building new knowledge and/or informing practice in key aspects of primary prevention of violence against women as identified in the national prevention framework: 'Change the Story'.

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Anastasia Powell, Larissa Dr Sandy, Associate Professor Damian Grenfell, Our Watch Industry Research Fellow

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Crime, Justice & Security

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **Powerlessness Within Power: Alienated Masculinities and Online Child Sexual Exploitation**

Acknowledging the complex nature of social change in a rapidly evolving digital age, the Powerlessness Within Power thesis intends to contribute to an understanding of how those changes are impacting upon the individual and the wider community as new communicative technologies are enacted through both emerging and established means: the Internet, social media, smartphone, peertopeer (p2p) online gaming, file sharing platforms, the use of crypto currencies on the Darknet, and concealed interactions via myriad other pathways. The research thesis will synthesise existing knowledge and theories such as those put forward by legal scholars, social scientists, and others, as well as seeking new information with the goal of creating hereto unexplored insights, concepts and outcomes. This necessitates an understanding of the dialectical interactions between technology and society and the ways in which all cultures and nations have a responsibility to protect children

from sexual exploitation. Both in terms of national wealth investment and the realisation of individual potential free of a range of serious social harms such as drug addiction and suicide, which are known to emanate from sexual abuse and trauma.

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Nicola Henry, Dr Meagan Tyler

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Crime, Justice & Security

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### Primary Prevention of Violence

Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women. The prevalence and impacts of gendered violence in our society cannot be fully understood without examining the cultures, practices, and structures that make such violence possible — sometimes without consequence for perpetrators, while victim-survivors experience shame, blame and a minimisation of the harms against them. Members of our research pillar seek to address the cultural, social and structural drivers of violence against women; namely gender inequality and intersecting inequalities across race, class, sexuality and ability.

PhD projects on primary prevention will help shape Family Violence Policy & Practice Reform in Victoria as the state continues to respond to the recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Family Violence Report. These projects will also develop insight into Sexual Violence, Stalking & Harassment and the ways in which Respectful Relationships education is operating in both Australian and international contexts.

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Anastasia Powell, Associate Professor Nicola Henry, Dr Gemma Hamilton, Dr Larissa Sandy

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Crime, Justice & Security

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### How do victim-survivors tell their own stories? An analysis of narratives provided to an online confidential and anonymous sexual assault reporting tool in Victoria, Australia.

This project utilises a dataset of approximately 500 de-identified reports to Sexual Assault Reporting Anonymously (SARA), an online confidential and anonymous sexual assault reporting tool developed by the South East Centre Against Sexual Assault in Victoria, Australia. The aim of the research is to describe the structure and linguistic features of the narratives in light of current police models for interviewing

victim-survivors of sexual assault. The research aims to identify whether current police interviewing models are best suited to eliciting such narratives or whether specific changes could improve interviewing to maximise detail and reliability of the evidence provided, and minimise the negative impact of reporting on victim-survivors.

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Georgina Heydon, Dr Emma Dalton

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Crime, Justice & Security

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **Who makes anonymous reports of sexual assault and why? An analysis of survey data collected from users of an online confidential and anonymous sexual assault reporting tool in Victoria, Australia.**

The project designs, develops and implements a survey of users of Sexual Assault Reporting Anonymously (SARA), an online confidential and anonymous sexual assault reporting tool developed by the South East Centre Against Sexual Assault (SECASA) in Victoria, Australia. The aim of the research is to describe the demographic and other salient characteristics of users (and non-user visitors) of the SARA site as well as their motivations for and responses to submitting (or not submitting) a report. The research is intended to inform SECASA of the ways in which the site is being approached and to maximise the opportunities for a positive experience by users, and the likelihood of their leaving a report. More broadly, the research is intended to contribute to improved reporting options for victim-survivors of sexual assault with the ultimate aim of reducing violence against women through increased formal reporting.

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Georgina Heydon, Associate Professor Nicola Henry, Associate Professor Anastasia Powell

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Crime, Justice & Security

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **Weapons of Mass Destruction (In)security in the 21st Century**

This project invites PhD and Masters by Research proposals that seek to address global security issues emanating from weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) (encompassing nuclear, chemical, radiological, and biological weapons). It is evident that despite there being fewer nuclear weapons today than during the Cold War era, the threat remains paramount. More states in more unstable regions have attained such weapons, terrorists may pursue them, and the command and

control systems in even the most sophisticated nuclear-armed states remain susceptible not only to system and human error but, increasingly, to cyber-attacks. The failure of armed states to disarm, the inability to prevent new states and non-state actors from gaining access to WMDs, and the expansion of nuclear energy plants present a real security danger today. The advent of new diseases and the natural progression of pathogens are continuously altering the landscape of biological risks; while concurrently, there are emerging actors— both state and non-state—who are willing to use chemical weapons. Over the past twenty-five years, the dissemination of technical know-how combined with the biotechnology revolution have also significantly increased the danger posed by bioterrorism. Additionally, many previously complex and labor- intensive processes have been abridged or automated, lessening the resource and pecuniary requirements needed for illicit biological and chemical weapons activities.

**Supervisors:** Dr Aiden Warren, Dr Charles Hunt, Associate Professor Paul Battersby, Professor Joseph Siracusa

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Crime, Justice & Security

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **The abstraction of violence and the deployment of new technologies globally**

The continual advancement of new technologies in theatres of conflict pose distinct challenges to global security, particularly in regard to their regulation, the ethical and legal debates that surround them, and of course, their impact on the most powerful states and private corporations who are investing heavily in them, as well non-state actors that pursue them. These multifaceted systems are having an impact on global security establishments and are redefining military and strategic interactions across the international system. This project explores varied aspects of emerging technologies in the domain of global security, including: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics that now play a ubiquitous role in everyday life, including in the manufacture of goods and services, GPS systems, user-interface software, and in self-driving vehicles; Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), such as drones, are being used extensively in counterterrorist operations; and the advent of Lethally Autonomous Weapons (LAWs) which raise ethical questions about the use (and misuse) of military power. Other emerging technologies contributing to the complexity of international security dynamics include 3D printing, nanotechnology and quantum computing, bioengineering, and digitisation technologies are also explored.

**Supervisors:** Dr Aiden Warren, Dr Charles Hunt, Dr Vandra Harris

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Crime, Justice & Security

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **Drugs, drug policies, policing and harm reduction**

Drug use is not new. It has been a widespread phenomenon in most societies for millennia. Over time, cultural differences have influenced the kinds of drugs used and the ways they are taken across different societies. Drug prohibition is historically relatively recent: the current global drug prohibition regime has only been in place for the last century, or only decades for some substances. While in popular discourse it is claimed that drugs are prohibited because they are harmful, a historical examination finds that cultural reasons have typically dictated which psychoactive substances are deemed acceptable and which are not. Indeed, examinations of the known harms and benefits of psychoactive substances have found that these are unrelated to the way such substances are regulated. We know that drugs provide clear benefits, and while harms do arise from their consumption, additional harms arise from the way they are policed under prohibition. This proposed HDR project invites students to consider a range of theoretical and methodological approaches to the broad topic of drug use, drug policies, policing and harm reduction in Australia. The supervisory team has experience in the application of critical theory, qualitative analysis, quantitative analysis, and use of data generated through mixed methods research located in festival and nightlife settings. This project has capacity for policy impact in a context of high interest from media, the public, and politicians.

**Supervisors:** Dr Monica Barratt, Dr Peta Malins, Dr Kathryn Daley, Dr James Rowe (TBC), A/Prof Cameron Duff (RMIT, School of Business), Prof Fiona Measham (RMIT Adjunct Professor, Liverpool, UK)

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Crime, Justice and Security

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **Psychoactive drug use and distribution in digital societies**

What are the implications of contemporary networked and digital societies for understanding psychoactive drug use and health, and drug distribution? Drug practices are shaped by digital networked technologies, as are our responses to them. The rise of cross-border distribution of goods and services in contemporary capitalist societies affects not only markets for legal products, but also facilitates global markets in prohibited goods, like drugs. This project aims to detect and describe new trends in how psychoactive drugs are used and traded within digital societies. It lies at the intersection of multiple fields and disciplines, including: addiction or drug studies, digital media, criminology, sociology, policy studies, epidemiology and public health. Themes within this project include: (1) digitally mediated drug distribution, especially through darknet market or cryptomarkets, but

also via social media and apps; (2) the emergence of new or novel psychoactive substances; and (3) the use of digital technologies to distribute information about drugs and/or to create and sustain communities of people who use drugs (see Barratt & Lenton, 2017). This project team can offer the HDR student expertise in a range of methodological approaches to studying drug use and drug markets in digital society: spanning digital ethnography, both as active and as passive participants, qualitative (interview and discursive analysis), quantitative (survey data and working with web scrapes of darknet sites), and mixed methods approaches. Notably, students may take advantage of long-running survey modules in the Global Drug Survey, or may also tap into existing funded projects or data sources available through the supervisors.

**Supervisors:** Dr Monica Barratt, Dr Pete Chambers, A/Prof Nicola Henry, A/Prof Cameron Duff

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Crime, Justice and Society

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **Harmful content online**

The “digital revolution” has given rise to a profusion of new cultures, practices and communities. The ubiquity of camera-phones, for instance, is linked to the prominence of image-based communications and “visual conversations”. The near universal uptake of social media platforms has significantly blurred the divide between public and private life. Indeed, digital technologies have radically shifted the relationship between space and time, with profound impacts on almost every facet of life. While digital technologies have revolutionised how we communicate, how we access and exchange information, and how we form intimate and social relationships with others, these same technologies have facilitated opportunities for the perpetration of interpersonal harms, such as racial, gender, sexuality and other forms of hate speech, cyberbullying, child abuse material, trolling, sexual harassment and image-based abuse. This interdisciplinary project focuses on the prevalence, nature, causes and/or impacts of online abuse and harassment. Focusing on one or more of the aforementioned topics, the HDR student will draw on multiple disciplines, including criminology, sociology, gender studies, law, psychology and digital cultures. The project team will offer the HDR student expertise in a range of methodological approaches, including digital ethnography, qualitative interviews, quantitative surveys, focus group discussions and webscraping (of Clearnet and Darknet sites).

**Supervisors:** A/Prof Nicola Henry, Dr Monica Barratt, A/Prof Anastasia Powell, Dr Pete Chambers

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Crime, Justice and Society

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

## **Language, Culture and International Education**

### **Language and culture education: Praxis of policy and practice in local and international contexts**

HDR candidates wishing to work in any of the following areas are invited to apply: educating about language and culture issues in national and international contexts, in support of active multilingualism and/ or positive stance towards inter/trans-culturality. Projects can relate to: Compulsory or Tertiary Education, Translation and Interpreting, Criminal justice, International Studies & Development, Migration and Indigenous Studies. They can be based in academic disciplines across the humanities and social sciences such as: applied linguistics (e.g. discourse analysis, forensic linguistics, educational linguistics, language policy, language testing, second language acquisition, intercultural communication); education/training (e.g. interpreters/translators training, language teacher education, international education); indigenous studies; gender studies; migration studies; film studies; literary studies and History.

**Potential Supervisors:** Dr Alexis Bergantz, Dr Chantal Crozet, Dr Anamaria Ducasse, Dr Lynne Li, Dr Glenda Mejia, A/Prof Kerry Mullan, Dr Jindan Ni, Dr Caroline Norma, Dr Jing Qi, Dr Maki Yoshida

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Language, Culture, International Education (LCIE), ECP: Social Change

### **Community Languages Education in Local, National and Global Contexts**

Community languages education plays a significant role in maintaining and growing diverse language and culture resources in multicultural societies. In Australia over 1000 community languages schools teach 69 languages to more than 100,000 school age children (Community Languages Australia, 2018). These schools are significant partners in achieving the Victorian vision to develop 'one of the world's most diverse and effective languages education programs' (Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development 2011, p. 9). Community languages education also contributes to social cohesion and economical strengths in the local, national and global contexts.

Proposals for PhD and Masters by Research projects are invited which address various aspects of community languages education, including quality language teaching, quality teacher education, community language education and intercultural understanding, community language education and global-mindedness, community language education and student self-regulation, ICT-enhanced community language education. Other topics in the same area can also be negotiated with the research supervisors.

**Supervisors:** Dr Jing Qi, Dr Chantal Crozet, Dr Kerry Mullan

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Language, Culture, International Education (LCIE), ECP: Social Change

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### **Globalisation and educational transformations**

Education systems have always been shaped by the interplay of local, national, regional and global influences, but in recent decades it is clear that global flows of people, ideas, money and technologies are transforming the way we teach and learn as never before. Global ranking models place pressure on universities and systems to ramp up research, competition for internationally mobile students and scholars creates a 'great brain race', and digital platforms developed by commercial providers have driven innovation at an unprecedented speed and global reach, to name just a few of these effects. Higher Degree by Research candidates are invited to explore a significant contemporary issue associated with such transformations. Key areas of study include: the mobility of students and education providers; the ways in which regulatory agencies, markets, education providers and other actors shape international education; international diffusion of models of education policy and practice; learning and teaching strategies for culturally diverse learning environments; international dimensions of non-formal education; welfare of mobile students; and the promotion of global competencies.

**Possible supervisors:** Professor Christopher Ziguras, Professor Denise Cuthbert, Professor Andrea Chester, Assoc Professor Paul Battersby, Dr. Jeffrey S. Brooks, Assoc Professor Roberto Guevara, Assoc Professor Catherine Gomes, Assoc Professor Patricia McLaughlin, Dr Jin Qi, Dr Ceridwen Spark, Dr Chantal Crozet; Dr Aiden Warren, Dr Robyn Barnacle, Dr Jason Wong, Dr Rohan Nethsinghe, Dr Josephine Ng

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Language, Culture & International Education

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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### **Scholarship of teaching and learning**

The term *scholarship of teaching* was first coined by Ernest Boyer in 1990. It was broadened in later work to encompass *scholarship of teaching and learning*. Since then SoTL literature has burgeoned and there are now several international journals and numerous organisations dedicated to the topic. This project focuses on research on social work and human service SoTL. Topics for study include: course and program design and evaluation including undergraduate and post-graduate options; pedagogical approaches; student equity in higher education; and specific teaching and learning issues including field education.

**Supervisors:**

Dr Sharlene Nipperess, Others TBC

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Language, Culture & International Education

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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**Language, law and justice**

Proposals for PhD and Masters by Research projects are invited which address policy and practice at the intersection of language and the law. These might include aspects of forensic linguistic expert evidence or studies of language use in the justice system. Proposed projects might examine language use, language attitudes, multilingualism and interpreter-mediated interactions in police interviews, lawyer-client communications, courtroom discourse or other justice settings, including civil society agencies and community legal centres. Proposals can be based in linguistic theory, but might also be theoretically framed within the disciplines of criminology, law or interpreting and translation.

**Supervisors:** Associate Professor Georgina Heydon, Dr Greg Stratton, Dr Caroline Norma, Dr Kerry Mullan

**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC research program:** Language, Culture & International Education; Crime, Justice & Security

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change

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**Implementing National Standards for Working with Interpreters in Victorian Courts and Tribunals**

For the past forty years, professional interpreters in Australia have been engaged to interpret for people with limited English who have the need to communicate in legal systems. However there have not been unified standards to govern the engagement of interpreters before, during and after hearings and trials. At the end of 2017, the Judicial Council on Cultural Diversity (JCCD) published the first national standards for working with interpreters in courts and tribunals, with an aim to promoting and ensuring compliance with the rules and procedural fairness, as well as enabling the interpreting profession to develop and thrive to the benefit of the administration of justice.

This project seeks to investigate, pilot and propose sustainable solutions to Victorian courts and tribunals for the implementation of the National Standards. This includes broadly the following areas:

1. Assessment tools for judicial officers on assessing the need for interpreters;
2. A data access platform and protocol for interpreters to access case briefs for preparation;
3. Procedures for courts and tribunals for the provision of feedback to and from interpreters on interpreting performance and associated matters;

4. Induction training programs for interpreters, training programs for judicial officers and legal practitioners on how to work with interpreters
5. Protocol on providing advice on cross-cultural communication
6. Guidelines on credentials and or attributes of professional interpreting mentors and expectations about their role in court.
7. Plain English guidelines for judicial officers and legal practitioners

The theoretical frameworks we use include Assessment Theories, Effort Model, Demand-Control Schema, PACTE Competence Model.

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**Centre:** Social and Global Studies Centre

**Affiliate SGSC Research Program:** Crime, Justice & Security; Language, Culture & International Education

**Enabling Capability Platform:** Social Change