

SSPS Review



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

The School of Social and
Political Sciences Magazine

SSPS' State-of-the-Art
Building Due 2018

Taking the Poverty Out of
'Food Poverty'

Health Security: A Degree
for Challenging Times

Perceptions of Race and
Ethnicity Among the Blind



Welcome

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



Welcome to the third edition of the SSPS review – and the opportunity for me to welcome several new members of academic staff including Professor Sujatha Fernandes who joins us from CUNY, Dr Nadine Ehlers from Wollongong, and Dr Gareth Bryant from our own political economy programme. They join a remarkable group of staff and students who are setting new benchmarks for research and teaching in Australia. This is reflected in the outstanding performance of the social sciences in last year's Excellence for Research in Australia exercise, which the federal government superintends to gather evidence on the performance of all disciplines across Australia. The social sciences at Sydney was rated 5 out of 5, the highest in New South Wales and equal top in Australia with UQ and the ANU. In the recent Leiden rankings, which is a metric-based global exercise to examine where the most significant research is taking place, the social sciences in Sydney was placed second in Australia.

These and other external measures of quality underline once again the extraordinary progress we have made as separate

disciplines, as a School and as an academic community of the social sciences in becoming one of the very top institutions in the world. This edition of the magazine shows off much of that cutting-edge research. Special mention here has to go to the launching of two new centres by members of the School, one on legitimisation code theory, an approach to knowledge-building by Associate Professor Karl Maton, the other on migration studies led by Professor Nicola Piper. But, this is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the innovative ideas being generated by our staff and students.

It's also a very exciting time as far as our built environment is concerned. Those familiar with the School will know that we are currently scattered across the Camperdown campus in many locations. It's therefore very exciting to report on the progress towards a new state-of-the-art social sciences building in the RD Watt precinct. I confidently predict that this itself will produce a further step change in terms of our ability to collaborate and generate the next stream of great research and teaching. I hope you enjoy this latest edition of the SSPS Review.

Professor Simon Tormey
Head of School

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Cover image: by architectus of the new Faculty building on pg 12

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Social media

School of Social and Political Sciences
(latest events, research & news)

🐦 @Usyd_ssps

📘 /Usyd.ssps

Dr Anna Boucher

(migration expert)

🐦 @DrAnnaBoucher1

Sydney Cyber Security

(technology, politics, and governance of security in cyberspace)

🐦 @SydneyCyber

Dr Karen O'Brien

(socio-legal and Indigenous studies)

🐦 @DrKarenOBrien

Professor Sujatha Fernandes

(focus on social movements & hip hop)

🐦 @SujathaTF

Dr Stewart Jackson

(politics academic interested in The Greens and Asia Pacific region)

🐦 @StewartMJackson

A/Prof Susan Park

(Focus on global governance)

🐦 @spark_syd

Adele Webb

(Doctoral Researcher of democracy, inequality & Philippine politics)

🐦 @adelewebb

LCT Centre

(The LCT Centre for Knowledge-Building, University of Sydney)

🐦 @LCTCentre

Drop us a line

Please send us your feedback

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– sydney.edu.au/arts/ssps

2016 new academic and professional staff



**Professor Sujatha Fernandes
(BA (Hons) '98)**

What's your role and research area?

I will be joining the Departments of Political Economy and Sociology. My research is focused on social movements in the Americas – spanning Cuba, Venezuela, and the United States. I am also interested in cultural studies, neoliberalism, and storytelling.

What were you doing before working at the University of Sydney?

I was a Professor of Sociology at Queens College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York (CUNY). I taught undergraduate and graduate classes on social theory, neoliberalism, and qualitative methods. I also worked at the Center for Place, Culture and Politics at the CUNY Graduate Center with my colleagues David Harvey and Ruth Wilson Gilmore, organising events and seminars.

What are you binge watching at the moment?

Silicon Valley. Sherlock Holmes. That's about all I have time for.



Dr Nadine Ehlers

What's your current role and what do you enjoy the most about your position?

I am Lecturer in Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy. I've been teaching Sociology of Deviance and Difference and will be introducing two new units in 2017: Sociology of Race and Racism and Sociology of the Body. I'm enjoying getting to know the range of students who take sociology courses as well as beginning new forms of collaboration with my colleagues at USyd. I appreciate the opportunity the institution provides for integrating research and teaching.

Can you describe your current research projects?

I am currently finalising an edited book on the intersections of race and debt logics in U.S. medicine, due out with Minnesota University Press in 2017. I'm also working on a co-authored book (with Shiloh Krupar, Georgetown University) which focuses on the administration of life and death in contemporary U.S. biocultures and a solo-authored book on race, biopolitics, and reproduction. Most of my research is in the area of socio-cultural studies of biomedicine and science and technology studies.



**Dr Gareth Bryant
(BEcSocSc (Hons) '11)**

What do you enjoy the most about your position?

I'm a new Lecturer in the Department of Political Economy. I love connecting political economic theories of value and contestation to understand and address social and environmental challenges.

Can you describe your current research projects?

The central theme of my research is the marketisation of different areas of socio-ecological life. My current focus is on the contradictions generated by the commodification of renewable energy and the financialisation of higher education funding.

Where can we find you on the weekend?

At the SCG cheering on the Sydney Swans. Or at a punk show. Or knocking on your door for a campaign.

What are you binge watching?

I just binged my way through 'Show Me a Hero', a great miniseries based on community struggles over public housing in Yonkers, New York in the late 1980s and early 1990s.



Dr James Young

What's your current position and what do you enjoy the most about your role?

Research Support Officer for the School. Finding out about our diverse research is the best part of the job – reading an article on the anthropology of sleep or whether fish feel pain or getting an introduction to how legitimization code theory could improve dating websites is quite captivating.

What were you doing before working at the University of Sydney?

I was tutoring for several years across the Department of Government and IR and before that I was doing my PhD about Soviet history and women's policy in the same department. I don't think I'd survive outside some sort of institution.

If you could live in any point in history when would it be?

Provided it wasn't a one-way ticket, 1920s Moscow. The vibrancy and experimentation in its literature, architecture, visual arts and social policy is inspiring.



Rachel Armstrong

What's your current role and what do you enjoy the most about your position?

Administrative Assistant SSPS & GSG – having great colleagues to work with.

What were you doing before working at the University of Sydney?

Loafing around on the couch, working with Bikewise, volunteering at The Kids Cancer Project, silver jewellery making and developing a local community cycling group as well as spending time helping my parents after my elderly father broke his leg racing to the library in his motorized vehicle.

Harley Davidson or pushbike (why)?

Pushbike, e-bike, folding bike, cargo bike, – do I really need to answer that?

Favourite place, thing, person on campus?

The Darlington Centre courtyard.

Events



Michael Hintze Lecture 2016: The Great War and Today's World

19 July
6.00pm - 7.30pm

This year's lecture will be presented by Sir Hew Strachan, Professor of International Relations at the University of St. Andrews, and will commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Centre for International Security Studies.

The Second World War still has a defining place in how we imagine war today, despite its increasing distance from us. The west has not experienced 'major war' since 1945, and so our comprehension of what it means has not had to be redefined. But the war, which we have invented for ourselves, is a caricature: a 'good' war fought for 'necessary' reasons by a generation of 'heroes'. The implicit contrast is with the First World War, which is portrayed as none of these things.

These complexities can help us understand the place of armed conflict in our own world – its causes, conduct and termination – and often do so much better than the stories which we tell ourselves of the Second World War.

To register and for venue details visit:

– whatson.sydney.edu.au/events/published/sydney-ideas-professor-hew-strachan

Insight: Participating Publics – Engaging with science and technology

28 July
5.30pm - 7.15pm

Professor Mike Michael, from the Department of Sociology and Social Policy, discusses what sort of social and political processes shape both 'scientific citizens' and their engagement with science and technology.

This lecture is a part of the Insights series co-presented by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, where guests are invited to the inaugural lectures by six newly appointed Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences professors who will present on a diverse range of topics.

For venue details visit:

– whatson.sydney.edu.au/events/published/sydney-ideas-insights2016-professor-mike-michael

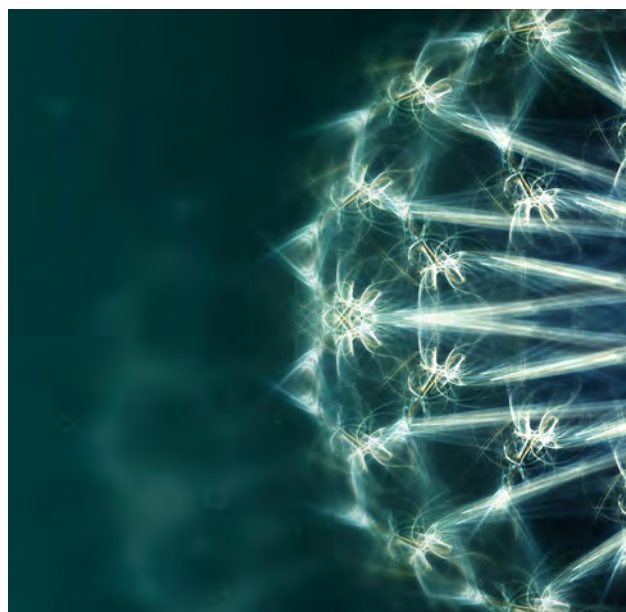


Photo: iStock

Insight: For a Political Economy of Space and Place

4 August

5.30pm – 7.15pm

Professor Adam Morton, from the Department of Political Economy, explores how the state under capitalism organises spaces in our everyday lives, through the streets we walk, the monuments we visit, and the places where we meet.

This lecture is a part of the Insights series co-presented by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, where guests are invited to the inaugural lectures by six newly appointed Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences professors who will present on a diverse range of topics.

To register and for venue details visit:

- whatson.sydney.edu.au/events/published/sydney-ideas-insights2016-professor-adam-morton



Sydney Democracy Festival

1st – 7th September

Together with Sydney Ideas and the Sydney Fringe Festival, The Sydney Democracy Network will present a series of public talks, forums and documentaries on all things democratic. The event kicks off on Thursday 1 September with serious analysis of what's been achieved by the Antarctic Treaty System, and what's now happening on all fronts connected with the continent.

The festival will include a screening of documentaries, *Eid al-Fitr* and *Flower Mountain*, looking at the lives of people on the margins of China, and host Q&A sessions with film-makers Liu Xiangchen and Nina Wang Ningtong. Dr Tim Soutphommasane (BEd (SocSc) (Hons) '04), Race Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission, will look at democracy and human rights in recognition of ten years of Sydney Ideas public discussions on these always relevant topics. The festival will conclude with a lecture by Professor Ross Garnaut (DSEc '13), on economic stagnation, political drift and the implications for Western democracies.



Photo: Dr Burak Tansel

Me: Did you book all your Sem 2 classes yet?
You: Almost. Why?
Me: Three words: Emotions & Public Policy: (GOVT 2015)
You: Isnt that four words?
Me: Not if its an ampersand.
You: Shouldn't "its" be "it's"?
Me: I think we""re off the point.
You: You want me to enroll in Emotions & Public Policy?
Me: Yes. It's a new 2nd yr course.
You: What's it about?
Me: Emotions and Public Policy.
You: Could you be more specific..?
Me: No. Not without ruining it.
You: It's just a class, mate.
Me: Well it covers sharks, elephants, AIDS, "king" hits, LGBTQI rights, intersectionality, moral panics, media coverage, psychology, and political cover.
You: Yup, ruined. But I'll enroll anyway.

Emotions & Public Policy: from LGBTQI Rights to Sharks

Written by Christopher Neff (MPubIPol '08 PhD '14)

The role of emotions on the development of public policy is an understudied area of research despite so much attention given to how the public feels and politicians feel about issues.

This has been the year of the "angry voter!" Historically, the question that is often asked is: Why do highly emotional events lead to certain outcomes? And the presumed answer is usually that something bad happened, received media attention, and led to a seemingly knee-jerk reaction by the Government.

Yet, this question and answer cover over a series of critical elements that this

course (GOVT2015 Emotions and Public Policy for undergraduates and GOVT6159 for postgraduates) will explore. These include: Whose emotional expressions count? On what issues? And in what contexts? In addition, we will look at how emotional expressions are heard differently by government institutions and how public policies from Sea World, or HIV/AIDS, to The Apology reflect who is being heard, who is being ignored, and how one set of expressions may cover over other people's emotions on policy issues.

For instance, the first week of readings look at emotions as a public resource

with readings on the emotional labour of professional dominatrixes, emotional oppression relative to people with autism, and the emotional habitus of LGBTQI social movement organisers in the U.S. during the AIDS crisis.

The Election Nerds

“While we have long engaged with conventional journalism, the ability to create and control our own popular content has a number of advantages”

Written by Peter Chen

The use of social media by academics around the world has accelerated in recent years as the technologies become more ubiquitous, and the academy looks towards the “impact agenda” of evaluating our public value. Importantly, while once confined largely to blogging, academic social media now encompasses a diversity of new channels and platforms, including general and academic-only social networking (such as academia.edu), personal blogs, and the rise of Twitter.

One older channel that appears to be experiencing a resurgence in interest in podcasting. Well over a decade old, the now ubiquity of smartphones means the reach of this form of episodic audio content has increased. In addition, the idea of time-shifted content consumption is established in the mind of the wider public through TV streaming, and a number of high-profile podcast-only content, such as the popular Serial real-crime series, has promoted the medium to a popular audience.

Academics are beginning to embrace this type of popular communication channel. While we have long engaged with conventional journalism, the ability to create and control our own popular content has a number of advantages. These include the ability to discuss issues and concepts that mainstream journalists may not see as significant, and to produce content of more substantiality than “soundbites”. In addition, the budgets for serious journalism in commercial and public media continue to decline, academics can be less well served by relying on journalistic gatekeepers.

Since 2013, staff from the Departments of Government and International Relations and Sociology have produced a combined live-to-air and podcast show called ‘The Election Nerds’ focusing largely on Australian electoral politics, public policy and political science. Hosted by Doctors Amanda Elliot and Stewart Jackson, the show now has a monthly hour-long format, with additional “podcast extras”.

They observe a number of lessons for budding podcasters.



Peter Chen, Amanda Elliot and David Smith in the studio

First, start simply with what you know. The Nerds began as a series of seven short episodes around the 2013 election using academic guests largely drawn from SSPS. This allowed the team to experiment and get a feel for the medium.

Second, use partnerships and relationships. Using the studios of a local community radio station (2SER) allowed the team to focus on providing content, rather than issues of technical production.

Third, experiment on your established base. Over time the Nerds has experimented with modifications to its format, such as election-night specials, and increasingly used other social media to promote and engage the audience. Working incrementally to see what works and what does not has been a useful strategy that has ensured the show has a degree of consistency, but develops over time to remain fresh.

The Election Nerds can be found at:

- electionnerds.info

Forbes '30 Under 30': Hussain Nadim

Government & International Relations
PhD recognised as a global leader in
law and policy in this year's Forbes
'30 Under 30' list.



Photo: Luke O'Neill

“Being recognised by Forbes is a humbling experience. Not only that it is a reassurance of the path I have chosen for myself, but more so a commitment to serve the people and society globally”

Written by Jennifer Peterson-Ward

Hussain Nadim is a doctoral candidate in the University of Sydney's Department of Government and International Relations and is the co-ordinator of the South Asia Study Group.

Hussain was recognised by Forbes for his work founding the Peace and Development unit of Pakistan's Ministry of Planning Development and Reforms.

He has also consulted the military and security agencies of Pakistan on deradicalisation and counter-terrorism issues, and at age 25 he was appointed the Special Assistant to the Federal Minister in the Government of Pakistan.

“Being recognised by Forbes is a humbling experience. Not only that it is a reassurance of the path I have chosen for myself, but more so a commitment to serve the people and society globally,” said Hussain.

“To me, getting recognised by Forbes as '30 Under 30' is a gateway to deliver more, and in innovative ways, solutions for the problems that collective human society faces in the form of intolerance, racism, hate and extremism.”

Dementia

How to live with Dementia as a common experience of ageing

Written by Gaynor Macdonald

Dr Gaynor Macdonald in the Department of Anthropology is bringing her focus on personhood and change to the understandings of personhood in the context of Alzheimer's. She has teamed up with Associate Professor Jane Mears at Western Sydney, a well-known expert in the care of the aged and elder abuse, to examine the ways in which cognitive decline is represented. They are inviting an interdisciplinary discussion about the ways to understand, represent and respond to dementia in the human social experience.

Our value as persons as well as the quality of our social relationships are influenced by philosophical and social ideas, as well as economic and medical ones. The privileging of cognition in thinking about human value means that forms of dementia challenge that value: cognitive decline is stigmatised as a loss or deficit of personhood. Bringing a cultural and social lens that can both augment but also critique medical models of ageing in the context of cognitive decline is essential to countering this negativity. Many of us will experience it ourselves – a third of us who live beyond 80 years of age – so tackling the stigmas and fears, and improving the quality of information as well as care, is an important social investment.

The particular concerns they are targeting include:

- The medicalisation of those experiencing cognitive decline as well as their family carers;
- How neoliberal thinking exacerbates stigma through narrow understandings of the 'normal' person and a focus on the economic value of persons, to the detriment of all other perfectly normal human experiences of not being 'normal' or 'economically valuable';

- The philosophical legacies of the mind-body split and individualism on medical modelling and research;
- Notwithstanding efforts to include the notion of 'person-centred' into aged care, the 'person' is not well understood and the training of carers is far from adequate, whether family or professional.
- Carer depression is so high as to be a major social issue; policy is moving too slowly. Financial and social supports remain negligible, and ageism is alive and well.

The concern in this project is not about 'how to understand dementia as an illness', nor about how to cure it. Rather, the issue is how to live with dementia as a common experience of ageing, how to learn to communicate with people with dementia, how to challenge the mind-body split that permeates biomedical models and privileges cognition in the human experience; how to reconceptualise 'care' and ensure that it is not medicalised but seen as a total social responsibility; and how to better support those directly involved. Central is the notion of 'the caring society'. Dr Macdonald and Prof Mears aim to stimulate a big picture examination of these issues (ontological, philosophical, anthropological, social, medical) by bringing together an interdisciplinary group of people committed to changing the negativity surrounding dementia, better supporting caregivers, and working towards a more caring society.



Photo: Jiri Hodan

The Human Animal Research Network

Written by Dinesh Wadiwel

The University of Sydney Human Animal Research Network (HARN) has just moved to the School of Social and Political Sciences. Initially established in the School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry in 2011 by Associate Professor Fiona Probyn-Rapsey, HARN is a multidisciplinary network represented by over 40 researchers drawn from Arts and Social Sciences, Science, Veterinary Science and the Law School. HARN is also a research node of the Sydney Environment Institute.

Human animal studies is a growing field of research internationally, with increasing impact in the social sciences. In part, this is because of the many pressing social, political and environmental concerns that involve deep questions about our relationships with non human animal life. For example, there are growing

concerns over the climate impact and sustainability of animal-based agriculture; contemporary planning and policy development involving non human interaction (for example, the public health benefits of companion animals); and political concerns in relation to the emergence of animal advocacy as a social movement and increasing pressures to recognise animals as part of our communities.

HARN has been privileged to host a number of high profile international speakers over the last two years including socio-legal academic Professor Iris Braverman (SUNY Buffalo), geographer Professor Sarah Whatmore (Oxford), political philosopher Professor Will Kymlicka (Queens), political scientist Associate Professor Timothy Pachirat (UMass) and companion animal welfare expert professor James Serpell (UPenn).

The year ahead is busy for HARN.

In July 2016, HARN will host the interdisciplinary conference “Animaladies” featuring a keynote presentation from renowned environmental and feminist philosopher Lori Gruen, Professor of Philosophy (Wesleyan).

In November 2016 HARN and the Sydney Environment Institute will host a series of public talks and workshops aiming to bring together fish welfare experts and labour rights advocates to focus on fishing industries. This will include a public lecture by fish welfare scientist Professor Victoria Braithwaite (Penn State).

You can find out more about HARN at:

– sydney.edu.au/arts/research/harn/

Spotlight: HARN Researchers



Dr Peter Chen, Senior Lecturer, Government and International Relations

Sydney University Press will release Peter's book, *Animal Welfare in Australia: Politics and Policy* mid-year, part of their *Animal Publics* series. This volume focuses on animal welfare from the perspective of political science. Looking at the issue as a "policy domain", it explains the recent period of intense political conflict over animal welfare by considering popular attitudes to animals, welfare law reform processes, the strategic and tactical position of a wide variety of policy actors, and questions of economics.

Rachel Carr, PhD Student, Sociology and Social Policy

Rachel's project is focused on animal-to-human transplantation (xenotransplantation) – an emerging practice of transplanting live body parts (mainly cells) from non-human animals into humans for therapeutic purposes, generally using pigs. These technologies have been controversial, particularly because of concerns about disease transmission from the animal sources into the wider human population (zoonosis), and concerns about the ethics of using non-human animals for these purposes. Rachel is looking at the ways that these controversies have been dealt with in three different countries, the US, Australia, and New Zealand, exploring the intersections between imagining or performing nation and imagining and securing "the human".



Amelia Cornish, PhD Student, Faculty of Veterinary Science

Amelia's research is looking at current Australian consumer concern for animal welfare and preferences for animal-derived foods, as well as any disparity between stated positions and purchasing behaviour itself. Amelia's research project will engage with a major Australian food retailer to apply an animal welfare food rating system, which rates the animal welfare implications of production for animal-based foods, and to explore the implications of the rating system on consumer purchasing behaviour.





A New Home for The School of Social and Political Sciences

“Bringing everyone into the same location will enable all our academics to benefit from the breath and depth of expertise that exists across our various departments, centres and institutes.”

Written by Simon Tormey

By the time this latest edition of the SSPS Review magazine goes to print a major milestone will have been reached with respect to our new building. After two years of speculation, discussion and consultation accompanied by several changes of functional brief, budget, architects, and project managers, the DA for our new building will finally be lodged with the relevant planning authorities. Assuming that process goes smoothly, construction will commence early in the spring with a view to completion of the project in time for the start of the 2018 academic year.

As the illustrations on these pages show, the new FASS facility is composed of two elements on a single site or precinct.

“The new building will come equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for producing digital content, streaming events, and informing visitors of what is happening in and around the precinct.”



Firstly, a key feature of the project is a comprehensive renovation of the R. D Watt building, which up until recently housed the faculty of agriculture. The Watt building was completed in 1916, and is a striking example of Federation era Arts and Crafts architecture. At present it is shrouded in a thick canopy of trees, shrubs to the front elevation, a jumble of cricket nets and a demountables to the west and Parramatta Road to the north. This project will restore it to its rightful place as one of the most significant and interesting buildings on the Camperdown campus.

The Watt part of the precinct will contain the new Sydney Social Sciences and Humanities Research Centre (SSSHARC), the Sydney policy lab announced in the new strategic plan, ample desks and facilities for research students, and useful spaces for public seminars, short courses and conferences.

The second element of the build is a state-of-the-art high-tech new build to the north of the Watt building, though connected with the latter through covered walkways. The new build contains around 9000 m² of floor space over six floors. It features single occupancy offices for all academic staff of the schools of Social and Political Sciences, and Economics. It will also house a 250 seat lecture theatre, econometrics and experimental labs, a variety of meeting rooms and seminar rooms, a “learning commons” and many areas for consultation and collaboration.

In terms of the building’s aesthetics, the architects have thought hard about how to make the best use of a square plot with the long elevation facing Parramatta Road. The result is a design based on the articulation of two rectangles merging through a central point marked internally through the creation of an atrium that will bring natural light into the heart of the building.



As one moves up through the building so it will become evident that the atrium area provides a central collaborative space, with the two ends of the rectangles providing the quieter areas where the staff offices are located. The logic of the design is also to keep the busier and noisier activities to the basement and ground floor areas with progressively quieter areas moving up through the building to foster concentrated study.

The design also features significant landscaping of the precinct to open up views across Oval number two towards the Charles Perkins Centre. Being six stories high, the building will offer views across parts of the inner west and the CBD.

Continued over...

So how will the move to the new building enhance the research and teaching in SSPS?

Most obviously, the new building will generate a greater sense of community and shared purpose than has been possible for SSPS thus far. At present, the school is located on no fewer than 10 different locations in three different postcodes. Bringing everyone into the same location will enable all our academics to benefit from the breadth and depth of expertise that exists across our various departments, centres and institutes. It will also bring together all of our professional staff making it much easier for the latter to interact with academics to support their work.

The new building will enable us to work in closer proximity with our research students, who to date have been poorly served as far as the provision of study spaces close to our academic staff is concerned. PhD students should be the life and soul of an academic community, but that has been very difficult in SSPS given the lack of dedicated spaces. We want our students to be full participants in our academic communities, and that will be a significant benefit of the new precinct.

We are also looking forward to enhanced IT and AV facilities. The new building will come equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for producing digital content, streaming events, and informing visitors of what is happening in and around the precinct. Given the scale of

activities going on in the school, some 250 or so events in 2015 alone, increased capacity to reach out beyond our immediate built environment to interested regional, national and international communities will help leverage this activity for the purposes of impact and reputation. It will enable us to signal to the world the depth and quality of our work in the social and political sciences, which will in turn have important benefits for our research and teaching.

Personally, I'm really looking forward to the school coming together in a single building and seeing how that inspires new conversations, collaborations and activities. Of course the move to the new building will not be without its own challenges. Modern office design does represent a break with the kind of buildings that many of us are used to, and there will no doubt be adjustments in the way we work and interact with each other. However I anticipate that the benefits outlined above in terms of a better sense of community, more up-to-date facilities and resources, combined with ease of access to professional staff, research students and key centres and institutes will mean that colleagues and students embrace the new building and find it a really productive and inspiring place to work.







The Master of Health Security: A New Degree for Challenging Times

After decades of increasing specialisation, we need leaders with multidisciplinary knowledge and expertise to face new pathogens and future pandemics

Written by Adam Kamradt-Scott

Over the past two decades we have witnessed a number of unanticipated health crises that not only cause human suffering and death, but also generate wide ranging adverse social, political and economic effects. Events such as the 2003 SARS outbreak, the 2009 influenza pandemic, the 2014 West African Ebola outbreak, and most recently the spread of the Zika virus throughout Latin America (to name just a few) have ably demonstrated the ability of local disease events to become global phenomena. New pathogens such as the Hendra virus and H5N1 avian influenza continue to emerge and successfully cross species' barriers to cause new disease in humans. At the same time, the prevalence and extent of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) now seriously jeopardises a century of medical advancement and – if urgent global action is not taken – will likely soon make common surgical procedures once again life-threatening endeavours. Changes to food production and consumption are creating new risks to the food chain, while scientific breakthroughs in genetics, nanotechnology and synthetic biology now allow for the creation of entirely 'unnatural' organisms, prompting new security concerns and the need for new regulatory arrangements and oversight mechanisms.

These challenges highlight the complex interrelationship that exists between animal, human and plant health in a highly interconnected, globalised world. Health crises are increasingly

multifaceted, wicked problems with implications for public health, national economies, international trade, national and international security, social cohesion, political stability, and food surety. Responding effectively to these events requires a highly skilled professional workforce that possesses an advanced level of multidisciplinary knowledge and expertise, and which is capable of understanding and engaging in multisectoral approaches. In short, after decades of ever-increasing specialisation, we need leaders and responders with new skill sets beyond standard disciplinary divides.

Some three years ago the Marie Bashir Institute (MBI) launched on a path to help try and develop this new workforce. With the support of Professor Tania Sorrell – MBI's executive director – a small team of dedicated staff from the Sydney Medical School (Professor Robert Cumming), the School of Public Health (Dr Grant Hill-Cawthorne), Veterinary Science (Dr Siobhan Mor), and Arts and Social Sciences (Dr Frank Smith and myself) set about designing a new multidisciplinary degree programme – the Master of Health Security.

In February 2016 we accepted our first cohort of students. Located within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the Master of Health Security brings together seven other faculties and schools across the University of Sydney to offer a novel educational experience. This new degree programme is a world-first, offering degree specialisations in

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“Health crises are increasingly multifaceted, wicked problems with implications for public health, national economies, international trade, national and international security, social cohesion, and political stability”



Photo: iStock

human and animal health, biodefence and biosafety, or agrosecurity (plant and animal health). Students undertake core units in leadership, health and security, policy-making, and crisis communications – core skills and knowledge needed in responding to adverse health events. From there, students are able to select their specialisation, undertaking units of study across law, medicine, public health, health sciences, agriculture, business, veterinary science and political science.

Upon completion of their studies, students will be able to enter a range of existing vocations extending from traditional public health roles (including the NSW Health Public Health Officer Trainee Programme), veterinary science (e.g. livestock disease control, quarantine), through to the rural industry (e.g. agricultural consultants), government policy and regulation (e.g. food safety, laboratory biosafety), and even the security services (e.g. customs and border control, intelligence).

Interest in this new degree programme has already proven strong – not only from students but also from employer groups. Government departments such as NSW Health and the Department of Agriculture have expressed a desire to send their staff to undertake training, while entities such as the World Health Organization have agreed to host students enrolled in the degree on internship placements. Earlier this year the Master of Health Security was listed amongst a small cohort of degree programmes eligible for scholarships from the Asian Development Bank, and we’re hoping to facilitate similar arrangements with other regional organisations, foundations and private sector actors in the coming months.

The health challenges confronting our world are significant, but the launch of the Master of Health Security is contributing to the development of a new generation of professionals that will have the skills and knowledge to better respond to these types of crises. As a result, the future is already looking brighter.



Adam Kamradt-Scott

Adam specialises in global health security and international relations. His research and teaching explores the way in which governments and multilateral organisations cooperate and interact when adverse health events such as disease outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics occur, as well as how they respond to emerging health and security challenges. He is the course director for the Master of Health Security.





Yanis Varoufakis: Why European Banks Don't Want Their Money Back

Greece's former finance minister becomes an Honorary Professor with the Department of Political Economy

Written by Frank Stilwell and Adam Morton

The controversial former Greek finance minister, Yanis Varoufakis has been appointed as a honorary professor in the Department of Political Economy within the School of Social and Political Sciences. Yanis has become renowned as an author and public speaker, drawing on his knowledge of political economy, both in theory and practice. It will be good to have him available as a periodic visitor here, linking with the concerns of staff and students who want to engage international and regional economic challenges in the current era.

He presented at the University of Sydney last year in a public lecture that handsomely illustrated these attributes. The lecture, also organised by the Department of Political Economy, was on the topic 'Why European banks don't want their money back'. It drew an audience of over 500 people, notwithstanding late notice and modest publicity. The lecture presented deep insights into the financial stresses within the European Union, including, of course, the Greek debt crisis with which Yanis had been so intimately involved.

As Greek finance minister, Yanis had been a key player, representing the Greek government in negotiations within the European Community over the Greek debt. Specifically he was responsible for negotiations with the Troika – the European Central Bank, The International Monetary Fund and the EU Commission. As is well known, the negotiations were ultimately unsuccessful in securing the debt relief

that Greece needed, and so the saga continues – but without Yanis at the helm. After Yanis resigned his role he did not stand for re-election in Greece and so he is once again a free agent as an academic.

Now he is prominent in a new movement for extending democracy in the EU, heralded as the Democracy in Europe Movement 2025, or DiEM25. The aim of DiEM25 since its launch in 2016 is establish a pan-European movement to reform the European Union's institutional architecture. The manifesto aims to reinvigorate principles of democratic practice within the EU by campaigning for greater transparency in decision-making; pursuing more innovative policies to tackle the crises of debt, poverty, and migration; and striving to establish democracy in Europe through peoples' assemblies and councils to enhance the will of popular sovereignty.

Yanis is a familiar figure here at the University of Sydney. He had been a lecturer and senior lecturer in the Department of Economics for 12 years during the period 1989-2000. He was renowned for his engaging lectures, usually carefully explaining mainstream economics in a critical way that emphasised underlying assumptions and values. He subsequently returned to his native Greece, first as a Professor of Economics at the University of Athens, putting particular emphasis on developing postgraduate education in political economy. In 2013, he shifted to

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Photo: Nena Serafimovska

the United States of America to be a Professor in the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin. But it was not long afterwards that he then returned to Greece, was elected to parliament, and became finance minister in the new Syriza-led government that took office in 2015.

His new appointment at Sydney cements a long relationship and should be advantageous in many ways, for both staff and students. Because Yanis has bridged academia and public affairs, he combines cool analysis with experience of the hothouse of politics. As an academic, Yanis has made notable contributions to political economic analysis. Perhaps his best known academic work is *Modern Political Economics* (2011), co-authored with Nicholas Theocarakis and Joseph Halevi (a long-standing associate from his time here at Sydney) as well as his hugely popular *The Global Minotaur: America, Europe and the Future of the Global Economy*. A new book appears in 2016, on Europe and the threat to global stability, entitled *And the Weak Suffer What They Must?*. He has also made significant contributions to game theory and its applications to economic and social concerns, working in conjunction with Shaun Hargraves Heap, who also has strong connections with the Political Economy programme here as an academic visitor. Hargraves Heap is now Professor of Political Economy at Kings College, University of London.

Yanis remains strongly engaged with European political economic developments, now seeking to foster a strong Europe-wide movement for the revival of democracy. He has also recently joined the team of economic advisors to UK Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn.



“Yanis has bridged academia and public affairs, he combines cool analysis with experience of the hothouse of politics”



Photo: Nena Serafimovska

Having him now as an Honorary Professor in Political Economy extends opportunities for more talks in the future and for contact with students studying and researching political economic developments in Greece, Europe and, more generally, on a global scale.

His appointment coincides with two other similar appointments in Political Economy – Professor Erik Olin Wright, whose Wheelwright lecture in Political Economy last year was described in the previous issue of SSPS Review, and Professor Jim Stanford, the Canadian political economist who presented the Wheelwright lecture a few years earlier and who has recently moved to Australia.

In the modern university, it is of great value to have these personal links with significant contributors on the international stage.

To see the vodcast of Yanis’ lecture visit:

– sydney.edu.au/arts/political_economy/about/videos.shtml



Yanis Varoufakis

Yanis Varoufakis is an Honorary Professor with the Department of Political Economy, and previously taught in the Department for 12 years. He is currently involved in a new movement for extending democracy in the EU, heralded as the Democracy in Europe Movement 2025, or DiEM25.



Blind man asking for charity in front of temple gate in India. Photo: Andrea cavallini

Colour-blind Societies: Perceptions of Race and Ethnicity Among Visually Impaired People

Written by Luis Angosto-Ferrández

Research into whether race is as significant for the visually impaired as it is for the sighted population across Australia and Latin America

A decade of research on the politics of race and ethnicity brought me in 2014 to an unexpected position. I started to design a comparative project to study perceptions of race among visually impaired people in Latin America and Australia.

My motivation for this project stemmed from questions and concerns that arose out of findings of my own previous research. By 2014 I had completed the coordination of two comparative projects on race and ethnic categorisation in Latin America, focusing on the analysis of national censuses in the continent and seeking to generate discussion and theory about the way in which census designs and results condition identity formation and public policy. These projects consolidated my interest in the political discussion of racism and social inequality, but also highlighted the importance of finding new avenues to address these issues in a more effective way. One of these avenues condenses the debates on what the concept of race is about and why it can cause forms of discrimination and inequality.

Against this background I started to design my project. The exponential

increase of research revolving around race and ethnicity over the past three decades or so is far from translating into a consensus on the way these concepts can be defined – or even on the appropriateness of their use as analytical tools. Yet ‘race’ and ‘ethnicity’ continue to be used as analytical categories to discuss and intervene in a variety of social issues ranging from discrimination to differentiated rights. Furthermore, the theoretical premises that orient these discussions most often reproduce the assumption that social identity markers are visible and primarily related to phenotypical characteristics. The discursive appeal of the ‘colour blind’ metaphor that pervades normative debates theorising non-discriminatory societies and institutions precisely rests on the widespread conception that race categorisation (and racism by extension) ultimately stem from people’s visible characteristics. This premise constrains the analysis of racism by overlooking its constitutive social processes, yet it continues to hold sway among researchers, policy makers and wider public.

I will test the hypothesis that race is as significant for the visually impaired population as it is for the sighted population, in dialogue with research conducted in the USA. This hypothesis has very important implications for both normative and practical approaches to racial discrimination, and I want to test it against case studies from Latin America and Australia. Latin America is a continent with particularly complex and distinctive racial and ethnic formations in which I have extensive research experience, and Australia, in addition to being my country of residence, continues to go through a process of national identity discussion under the normative paradigm of multiculturalism.

My project has three interrelated initial aims: 1. Comparing understandings of ‘race’ and ‘ethnicity’ in different world regions. 2. Identifying if ‘race’ and/or ‘ethnic’ categorisation remains active among visually impaired people in Latin America; if it does, the project will establish which (non-visible) identity markers are used for categorisation. 3. Contributing to the debates on the social causes and impacts of categorisation on social identity grounds.

I aim to establish a solid and original empirical grounding from which to critically engage psychological and sociological cognitivist perspectives on race and ethnic categorisation. The empirical support that these perspectives generate stems from methods designed in accord with the premises that identity diacritica are visible and primarily related to phenotypical characteristics. By working with Latin American and Australian people who do not rely on phenotypical markers for social categorisation I will have a solid and original empirical grounding to critically engage those discussions and the theoretical premises that pervade and often constrain them.

I expect this project to be significant for social scientists

within different disciplines (anthropology, sociology and psychology, particularly), but also for scholars in fields such as political philosophy and law that engage normative discussion around racial discrimination. In addition to the innovative methodological approach, designed in response to widely shared preconceptions on the causes and mechanisms that activate social categorisation, two main reasons make this research significant.

The project is still in its early stages. In addition to the project design, I have completed some initial stages of fieldwork in two Latin American countries (Chile and Venezuela), with the financial support of the Fass Research Incubator Scheme 2014. I started by selecting two countries with quite distinct social formations as case studies, which will facilitate my comparative approach. The particular pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial processes that shaped the Chilean and Venezuelan nation-states resulted in formations with quite distinctive class and ethnic composition, and the way in which their governments approached the construction of officially-backed national identities during the nineteenth and twentieth century created quite different ideological narratives to accompany such formations. I have conducted individual more than 20 individual interviews in these countries, as well as three focus groups. I am currently working on the my fieldwork materials and expect to have an initial journal article draft condensing the analysis of empirical material by early 2017.



Luis Angosto-Ferrández

Luis Angosto-Ferrández is a lecturer in the departments of Anthropology and Latin American Studies. His research interests include the study of forms of collective action and the construction of political identities in Latin America and Europe.

Australian Elections Aren't as Good as You Think

Despite its reputation for conducting free and fair elections, Australia does not perform as well as we might hope

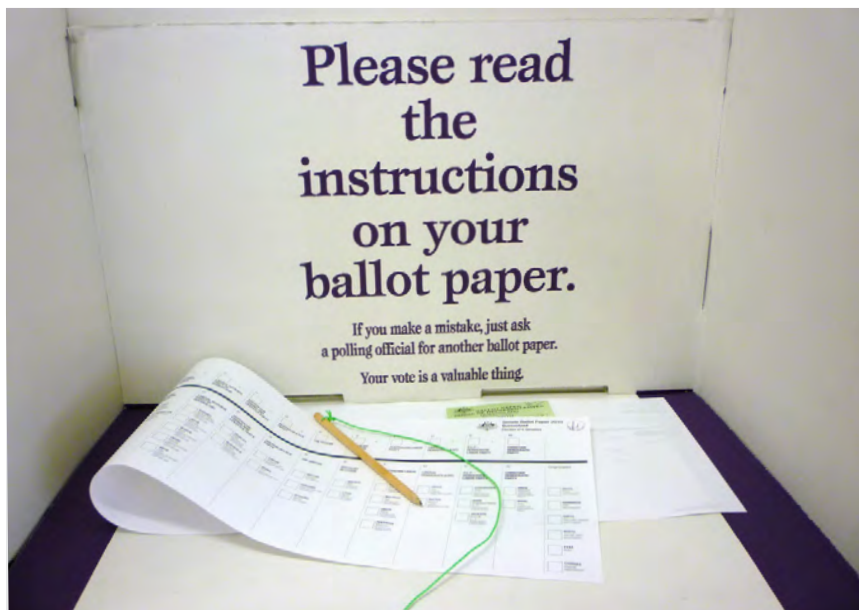


Photo: Jeannine

Written by Ferran Martinez i Coma and Rodney Smith

Australian politics is in an unsettled and unsettling period. Some of this instability has been obvious, typified by the Turnbull-Abbott and Rudd-Gillard-Rudd carousels of the past six years. Leading the electoral victory charge from opposition no longer means an automatic period as prime minister, as Kevin Rudd and Tony Abbott discovered. Australian electoral politics is also unsettled. The Coalition's 2013 electoral success in the House of Representatives contest did not transfer to the Senate, where it, along with Labor and the Greens, lost votes. In South Australia, the Nick Xenophon Group won a quarter of the Senate vote. The Palmer United Party took 5 per cent of the vote nationally, enough to secure three Senate seats at its first federal outing. The Australian Motoring Enthusiast, Liberal Democratic and Family First parties all won seats.

In an effort to deal with some of this instability, the government's Senate ballot reforms will make it much harder for the so-called micro parties to win seats but it is not clear exactly which parties will benefit. A double

dissolution election would increase the micro parties' slim chances and almost certainly boost the representation of the Xenophon Group.

Beneath these political uncertainties lie other less discussed uncertainties about the integrity of Australian elections. At the last federal election the Australian Electoral Commission lost 1370 votes from the Western Australian Senate vote count, causing a re-run of Senate elections in that state at a cost of around \$20 million. The political and public outcry led to the resignation of AEC commissioner Ed Killesteyn and AEC state manager Peter Kramer. This may have been an isolated incident but it could also indicate deeper issues with the conduct of Australian elections.

Australia has a longstanding reputation for conducting free and fair elections. However, this reputation has rarely been tested systematically in a comparative context. Scholars from the Electoral Integrity Project at

“Asked about balance in news coverage and fair access to media for all candidates, the experts scored Australia 47 out of 100”



Photo: Drew Douglas

the University of Sydney have gathered the views of more than 2000 election experts on national parliamentary and presidential contests held in 139 countries since mid-2012. Our latest report, *The Year in Elections 2015*, compares how well countries around the world meet standards drawn from internationally agreed treaties and guidelines.

Australia does not perform as well as we might hope. On an overall scale of 0-100, the 2013 Australian election scored 70 points, ranking it 34th out of 180 contests since 2012. This score was similar to recent elections in Spain, Japan and Greece. Australian elections were judged better than those in the US and UK but behind those in New Zealand and Canada and well behind a number of European countries, including Germany, Estonia and The Netherlands. The top five elections were held in Denmark, Finland, Norway, Lithuania and Costa Rica, while the worst five elections were in Syria, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Djibouti and Burundi.

The report focuses on 11 specific stages of the electoral cycle, from election laws through to voter registration, voting processes and counting the ballots. Countries tend to do better at some of these stages than others.

For the experts, the most troubling stage of the Australian 2013 election concerned media coverage of the campaign. Asked about balance in news coverage and fair access to media for all candidates, the experts scored Australia 47 out of 100. Governments in Australia are able to exercise less influence over media coverage of elections than they are over electoral laws and administration.

Campaign finance has been consistently ranked as the worst stage of the electoral cycle since the project started. Scandals over the role of money in politics make headlines every day and regulating political finance is a challenge facing many countries. Australia is no different, as recent events in NSW suggest.

Notwithstanding the Western Australian Senate vote problems in 2013, electoral experts considered the administration of electoral processes, the performance of the Australian Electoral Commission and the vote count the three strongest elements of electoral integrity in Australia. If the experts are right, that is good news, since the Australian Electoral Commission faces the difficult task of implementing the new Senate ballot laws at a federal election that is just months away. Its success or failure will undoubtedly have a strong influence on the way Australian elections are judged.

The results show that countries cannot assume that electoral integrity comes with economic development, broader democratic freedoms, or belonging to a particular region of the world. There is a relationship between economic development and electoral integrity, for example, but it is not as clear as we might think. Some wealthy countries performed poorly in running elections, while some poorer countries such as Lesotho and Benin performed well. Countries have to work at electoral integrity, rather than assuming it will occur naturally.

Children Born of War Meet for the First Time in Brisbane

Victoria Grieves
on the social and
personal issues faced
by children born
during wartime



After 70 years, Don Carter (back row, fourth from right) finally met his extended family at a reunion in Williamsburg, Virginia, in 2013. Photo: Margaret Carter

Written by Victoria Grieves

On 10 – 11 May 2016 six children born of war and some of their children, met for the first time with researchers from the University of Sydney. The purpose of the meeting was for information sharing and receiving, as well as setting the directions for the research project *Children born of War: Australia and the War in the Pacific, 1941 – 1945*.

Dr Victoria Grieves, Honorary ARC Indigenous Research Fellow and lead Chief Investigator said that this meeting was an important step towards the aims of the project. “This project is established primarily for the wellbeing of the participants, the Children born of War. An important part of this is to allow them to meet and to talk with one another about the issues they have faced in their lifetime”.

Vicki, Jennifer Germon and Kaiya Aboagye developed the event, held at the State Library of Queensland. Another researcher on the project Dr Karen Hughes from Swinburne University joined them and the team met with

children born of war from Townsville, Rockhampton, Brisbane, Perth and Darwin.

The first day aimed to contextualise the births of the children in the extraordinary times of wartime Australia. Ray Oakley a local archaeologist and historian from Townsville spoke of the problem of race relations within the US military that led to a rising of African American troops at a camp near Townsville. Vicki gave a presentation on the problem of interracial marriage during wartime Australia, when two different racially segregating regimes came together on the Australian mainland. Rules and laws of the government and the Dutch and US military, that prevented marriage and immigration of potential spouses (to either country), supplemented policing and surveillance of people of colour.

On the second day a closed meeting of the children themselves and the researchers was an opportunity for important discussion about the difficulties of their

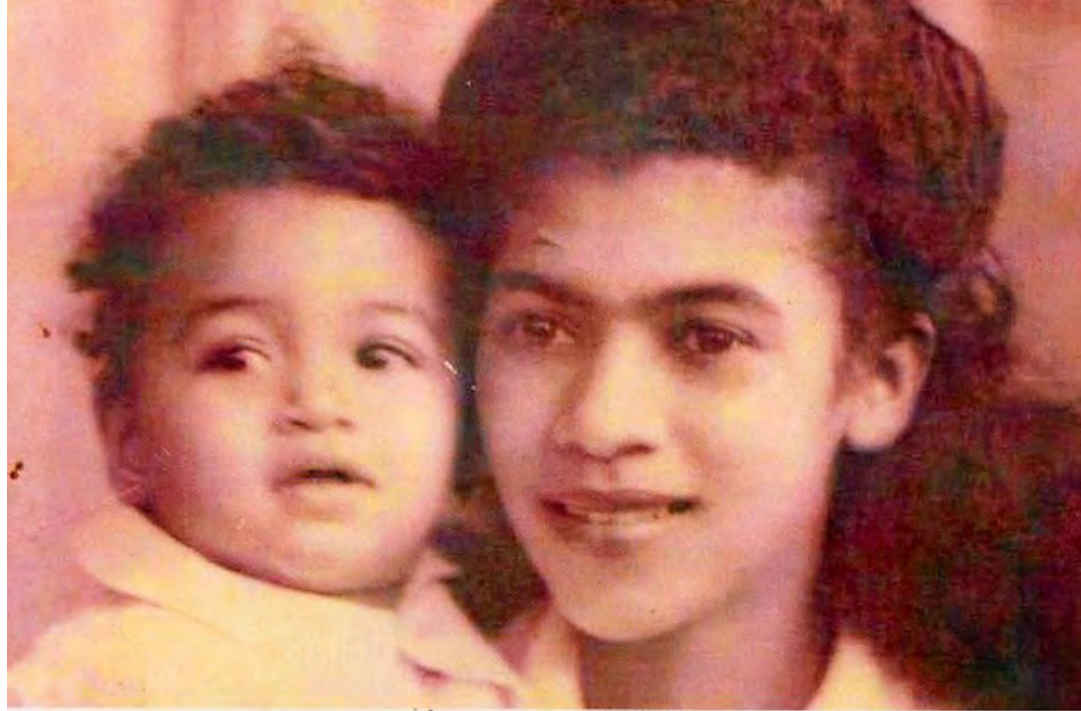


Photo of Don Carter Jnr with his mother Stella Carter. Don's parents were married on the condition that his mother be counselled she could never migrate to the USA and neither could their child. Photo: Don Carter's personal collection

lives. Issues that arose include, for example, the problem of illegitimate births being socially unacceptable in Australian society at the time, the problems associated with not being able to be part of a family, not only without a father but sometimes without a mother too – mothers had to work to support them and they were raised elsewhere in the extended family.

Those children who are also of African descent sometimes experienced discrimination, even within their own family and kin.

The desire to know more of the “other side” of their families is shared by all. Well known Aboriginal community leader in Brisbane, Aunty Pat Leavy said “I’m not related to the people in this room but you are all the same as me. We are all in our seventies now, and the truth is that some of us will die with our cups half-full. The pain is still there. How many others are there out there who are feeling that half of their story is missing?”

This is the first year of a three-year project. There have been almost thirty of the children born of war identified as part of this project so far. The next reference group meeting is planned for November/December 2017. Researchers are already working with individual children to develop case studies that exemplify the story and also highlight the diversity of experiences of the Children born of war in Australia.



Victoria Grieves

Victoria Grieves is Warrimay from the mid north coast of NSW and a historian. She is the first Aboriginal BA (Hons) graduate in Australia. The project *Children born of War: Australia and the War in the Pacific 1941 – 1945*, supported by an ARC Discovery Indigenous grant, includes CIs Dr Victoria Grieves, A/Prof Catriona Elder and Dr Karen Hughes (of Swinburne University), Research Associate Dr Jennifer Germon and Research Assistant Kaiya Aboagye.

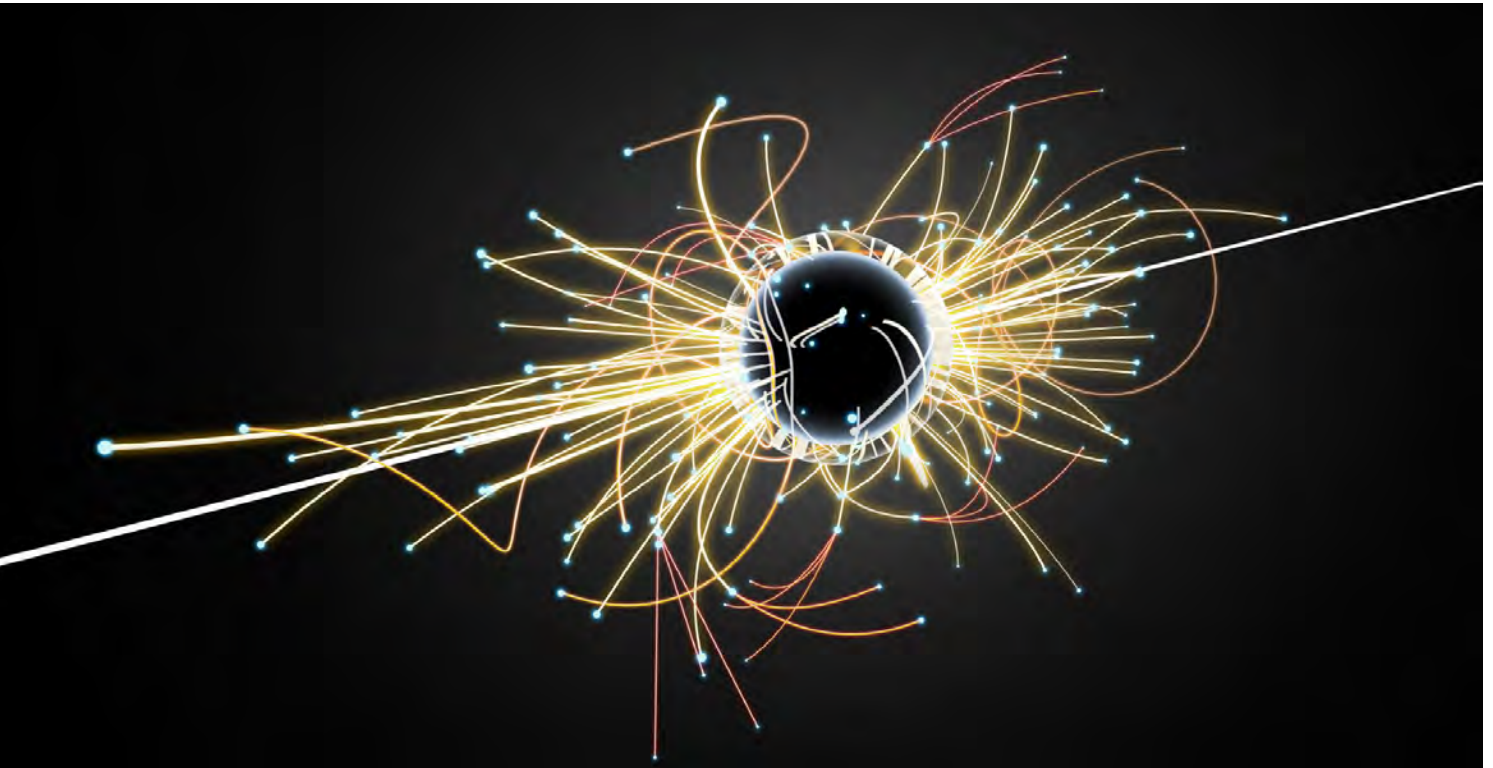


Photo: iStock

Peace and Security in a Quantum Age: Moment, Matter, Mind and Metaphysical

Written by Maryanne Crooks and James Der Derian

Leading practitioners and researchers gather to discuss the peace and security implications of quantum innovation

In 2014, with support from the University of Sydney and the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Centre for International Security Studies launched Project Q – a two-year project that seeks to engage a wide range of thinkers and practitioners from both the natural and social sciences in a critical dialogue on the peace and security implications of a quantum age. The flagship event of the project is the annual Q Symposium, a two-day conference held at the historic Q Station, the former quarantine site of Sydney Harbour. The Q Symposium explores the growing field of quantum computing, communication and control and its implications for global peace and security. The third annual symposium (Q3), the latest in a series that

“A new generation of quantum technologies could change the ways humans access information to address some of the world’s most pressing issues such as food and energy security.”



Stephen Del Rosso (Carnegie Corporation), James Der Derian (Project Q)

began as a proof-of-concept event, investigated how the most recent innovations and applications in quantum mechanics are scaling up and playing out across microphysical, metaphorical and macrophysical levels. It brought together over 50 invited participants from around the world, including leading international security scholars, physicists, neurologists, social scientists, military officials, artists, filmmakers and writers.

The symposium commenced with a keynote lecture at the University of Sydney from Dr. Jairus Grove (Director of the Center for Futures Studies, University of Hawaii), who discussed how, in an age of interconnectivity, quantum theory extends past the sub-atomic realm of physics to the human domain of socio-political relations. Dr. Grove argued that quantum effects such as entanglement have become increasingly evident across a broad spectrum of fields including diplomacy, warfare and statecraft but most spectacularly in the area of terrorism. Knowing quantum properties is imperative for understanding the complex behaviour of international actors like ISIS who operate in a field of global media. Resurrecting historical connections between physicists and philosophers from the beginnings of quantum mechanics, Dr. Grove called for international relations and political theory to go back to the future, to reject a dependency on assumptions drawn from the classical social and physical sciences and to make a ‘quantum turn’ to a more advanced human science for contemporary world politics.

On the following day, participants caught the ferry to Q Station, where they were met with a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony. The first day’s panels focused on two topics of quantum: Moment and Matter, with a range of presentations from international and local scholars. Highlights included Associate Professor Michael Biercuk, Director of the Quantum Control Lab at the Sydney Nanoscience Hub, who discussed how a new generation of quantum technologies could change the ways humans access information to address some of the world’s most pressing issues such as food and energy security. He centered on the potential of quantum computers to transform agricultural and farming practices, solve intractable medical problems, and improve defence and finance systems through unprecedented calculating speeds and new algorithms for modeling and simulation. In addition, by transforming the infrastructure and increasing access to knowledge-sharing networks, quantum computers could enhance the democratisation of the Internet.



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After lunch, Professor Andrew Dzurak, Head of the Centre for Quantum Computer Technology at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), revisited the minutiae of quantum physics to posit the upward scalability of quantum technologies. Professor Dzurak shared new information on how his team at UNSW is working on industrial and alternative approaches to overcome fragile quantum states by stabilising the spin coherence of electrons in different materials. Drawing on recent experimental breakthroughs, he demonstrated how silicon-based qubits could become the most utilitarian building blocks for quantum computers.

The last day of the conference began with a special documentary produced by Project Q on a new book, *Quantum Mind and the Social Sciences*, by noted international relations scholar, Professor Alexander Wendt. The screening was accompanied by a lively video conference with the author. The following panels on Mind and Metaphysics went deeper into new quantum developments in diverse fields of knowledge

that included Dr. Anirban Bandyopadhyay (National Institute for Materials Science in Japan), Professor John Joe McFadden (University of Surrey); Los Angeles artist Alexa Meade, San Antonio novelist and filmmaker John Phillip Santos and Professor Christopher Fuchs (University of Massachusetts, Boston).

Professor Christopher Fuchs presented a talk on his research in Quantum Bayesianism or 'qbism' whereby events occur as an outcome of human choices based on quantum probabilities as opposed to Wendt's view of human choices emanating from the mind as a complex quantum system. The final panel gathered an illustrious group of international relations experts to assess the findings of the symposium including Professor Azar Gat (University of Tel Aviv), Professor Karen O'Brien (University of Oslo), Assistant Professor Taylor Owen (University of British Columbia), Professor Christian Reus-Smit (University of Queensland) as well as Stephen Del Rosso, Director of the Peace and Security Program at the Carnegie Corporation.



Michael Biercuk (School of Physics)

“Knowing quantum properties is imperative for understanding the complex behaviour of international actors like ISIS who operate in a field of global media.”

The conference was successful in accomplishing a primary goal of Project Q, which is to address how the classical social sciences and natural sciences fail to explicate and even in some cases tend to exacerbate the most pressing global problems. Q3 proved to be a centrifuge of diversified thinking, separating out the most useful and elegant ideas to address the radical challenges of the 21st century. The ground was prepared, theoretically, experimentally and practically for Q4 in 2017, which will consider the intellectual, ethical, and policy implications for the operationalisation of quantum computing, communication and intelligence.



Alexa Meade and Christopher Fuchs



Jairus Grove at the Q Lecture

Q

Project Q

Project Q is based in the Centre for International Security Studies and made possible through the support of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Social and Political Sciences and Carnegie Corporation of New York.

– www.projectqsydney.com

The Challenges of Studying Politics in Myanmar

Aim Sinpeng on the life-changing experience of teaching democratisation in a country which views the discipline as ‘political opposition’



Photo: Midas Eric Maung

“If we don’t offer high-quality independent classes on politics, we have no way of training our new generations to understand democracy, human rights and freedom”

Written by Aim Sinpeng

How long were you in prison for? “19 years,” a soft-spoken, mild-mannered man in his 40s said. “Why?” I asked. “Because I demanded the right to speak freely.” How many people here are former political prisoners? “Many of us, but not all. Some of us met in prison.”

This was no ordinary school. The Yangon School of Political Science (YSPS) was established in 2011, just at the cusp of Myanmar’s opening up to the world. It began as an idea conceived behind bars by prominent political prisoners – punished for their audacity to speak out against the military regime. The current director and founder, U Myat Thu, a UK-educated Chevening scholar, who himself served three terms in prison, explained the need for a school on politics in a once closed and isolated society:

“For more than 50 years we couldn’t really study politics in Myanmar. It was considered a dangerous subject by the authorities. Universities would be shut down anytime the military felt under threat by the power of students. If we don’t offer high-quality independent classes on politics, we have no way of training our new generations to understand democracy, human rights and freedom.”

Funded largely by external donors, such as the US-based National Endowment for Democracy and the UK Department for International Development, YSPS opened its door as a higher-education non-profit. The school could not get registered as an accredited educational institution because the government viewed it as a “political opposition establishment.” “We have to move our office every year because the landlord would be under pressure not to extend our lease,” explained U Myat Thu.



During the Peace Process Simulation

“They all had big dreams for themselves – some wanted to become political leaders, others wanted to set up NGOs to help those in need”

Located in a bustling Pazundaung township, the school occupies 2 floors in a modest 5-storey narrow building. The building entrance was nameless: just a steep staircase leading up to a higher floor. It was not until the door of the third floor opens that you see what the school really looks like: a single room, large enough to fit 40 people, with chairs and tables arranged in groups. Students would sit with one another – sharing tables and chattering about. On the walls there were handwritten lessons on large pieces of flip chart paper, a map of the world and a projector hooked up to a laptop. There was a small “library” next to the classroom – 2 shelves of English-language books in social sciences mostly donated by Stanford University.

The school has two main missions: to offer formal courses on politics and to conduct political and educational outreach to communities throughout Myanmar. Its vision is to build, from the ground up, a new cadre of young, progressive and democratically-minded citizens that will help the country make a successful transition towards a sustainable democratic future. Courses were offered both in Burmese and English and well-renown politics scholars, such as Larry Diamond and Francis Fukuyama, have provided guest lectures to the school. I was the first female and first academic from Australia to be invited to teach a course at YSPS.

A betel-chewing 20-something man, dressed in the traditional longyi (long skirt), was waiting for me on my first day of teaching. Htet Aung Linn, YSPS program assistant, has a typical profile of someone working at the school. He hails from Rakhine – a northwestern, conflict-ravaged, state of Myanmar with a modest middle-class background. The oldest son in a fisherman’s family of five, he became

interested in politics at a young age. “My mother told me the story about the 1988 revolution. She said the government killed students who were demanding freedom and democracy.” There were no politics subjects to take while he attended Sittwe University, so he majored in history and philosophy. On the eve of the 2007 Saffron Revolution, Linn joined the protest led by All Burma Federation of Student Unions in Yangon. He was shot by a rubber bullet and finally arrested at Shwedagon Pagoda – one of Myanmar’s most sacred sites – and spent 6 months in a detention centre. “I have no regrets. The experiences at detention made me stronger that I need to do politics.” As I soon found out, Linn was not just a fierce freedom activist, he was also a phenomenal karaoke singer.

Thirty students registered for my graduate-level course on Democratisation in Southeast Asia. I arrived just days after the National League for Democracy (NLD), led by Nobel Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, won a landslide victory in a historic election. Myanmar is rising out of the ashes – the people have survived decades of harsh authoritarian rule and are now looking forward to a promising new start. In my hands were teaching notes dotted with many examples of failed transition to democracy or stunted democratic development in Southeast Asia. My own country – Thailand – has seen two military coups d’état in less than a decade. I wrestled with myself: When do I tell them how difficult and disappointing transition to democracy would be? I decided, it would be on the first day.

Teaching YSPS students truly changed my life. The students were the most inspiring group of people I have ever taught: many were ethnic and/or religious minorities; most were social justice activists; all have overcome enormous obstacles

in their lives to be sitting in this classroom. A survey of these students I conducted shows that 50% of them taught themselves English by listening to BBC Radio or Voice of America. Most were denied the opportunity to study politics at school and university. Some, like the Karen students, had survived a civil war in their own region and could recount many horror stories. Yet, they all had big dreams for themselves – some wanted to become political leaders, others wanted to set up NGOs to help those in need. I even had a recently elected NLD member of parliament in my class. The level of determination and optimism they possessed I rarely see in young people – especially in a country where only 25% of the population has access to electricity.



Last day of class. Photo: Min Thu Kyaw

In our last class we had a simulation of the Myanmar's peace process. The students were divided into five groups – the Shans, the Kachins, the Karens, the military and the student union. They presented their policy position and negotiated to find a resolution to this decades-long conflict. The result stunned me: the students were under no illusion at all about the difficult road ahead and were well-aware of the vested interests and politics of the peace process. Students who, in their ordinary lives, would be highly critical of the military, understood their adversary's preferences. Such cautious, well-reasoned positive outlook in their country's future will serve them well against the many pitfalls of democratic transition.

Back in Sydney teaching my Democracy and Dictatorship class, I reminisced about this life-changing experience in Myanmar to a room of 75 undergraduate students. Our students are aware of their privileges: being able to attend university, freely choose their subjects and openly speak their mind without fear of repercussion. I floated an idea of running a politics book drive for YSPS and a student approached me after class to see if he could help crowd fund for such effort. Together we will soon launch this book drive initiative on Facebook.



Aim Sinpeng

Aim Sinpeng's research interests centre on the relationships between digital media, political participation and political regimes in Southeast Asia. Her previous publications examine popular movements against democracy in democratising states, particularly in Thailand. She is a regular commentator on Thai politics for the CBC, BBC, Al Jazeera, Channel News Asia, Washington Post, CCTV, and the Globe and Mail.

Awards

Laurence and Lynne Brown Democracy Medal

Professor Pippa Norris and the Electoral Integrity Project have been awarded the 2016 Laurence and Lynne Brown Democracy Medal by the McCourtney Institute for Democracy at Penn State University.

The medal is awarded to the best new work being done by individuals or organisations to advance democracy in the United States and around the globe.

Bernard Crick Teaching Prize

Professor Adam David Morton, from the Department of Political Economy, has been awarded the 2016 Bernard Crick Teaching Prize, for outstanding teaching and innovative use of blogs and online platforms to heighten the student learning experience.

Global Health Book Prize

Associate Professor Kamradt-Scott, from the Department of Government and International Relations, has won the International Studies Association 2016 Global Health Book Prize for his publication 'Managing Global Health Security'.

Transdisciplinary Humanities Book Award

Associate Professor Martijn Konings, from the Department of Political Economy, has received the 2016 Transdisciplinary Humanities Book Award for his latest publication, 'The Emotional Logic of Capitalism'.

Sister Alison Bush Graduate Medal

Dr Karen O'Brien's graduate student Mykaela Saunders has been awarded the Sister Alison Bush Graduate Medal for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander achievement for 'academic excellence.'

Mykaela's 2015 thesis 'Yarning with Minjungbal Women: Testimonial narratives of transgenerational trauma and healing' incorporates a metanarrative that explores the interruption of transgenerational trauma through ties to country and culture and community. Mykaela is also the recipient of the Margaret Ida Howie Scholarship (2012) and her mother, who Karen O'Brien also taught at the Koori Centre, was a recipient of the Charles Perkins Award.

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin

Two research Fellows reflect on their time in Europe's largest social science research institute, the WZB

Dr Dinesh Wadiwel

I spent six weeks at the WZB Berlin, based with the Globalization, Work and Production Group. I was warmly welcomed by a small group of scholars, including Dr. Martin Krzywdzinski, Professor Ulrich Jürgens and Valentina Möhlmeier. I suspect I was a bit of a curiosity to the project group: a political and social theorist, interested in animals and political power, landed amongst a bunch of political economists working on value chains and labour in automotive industries. But, I assured everyone that there were strong correlations between what has happened with automotive manufacture and what has happened to animals in context of manufacture and industrialisation. After all, so the story goes, Henry Ford visited the Chicago slaughterhouses, noticed what was happening to animals being dissembled on the production line, and realised that cars could be manufactured using a similar process in reverse (assembled rather than disassembled, that is).

And we did find lots of curious resonances between my interests in industrialised animal agriculture, and the world of automotive manufacture. I learnt a lot about how contemporary value chains work in a global environment, and the way labour and location interact with each other. I got to spend time understanding the effect of automation on manufacture processes, and how global meat production supply chains, like automotive manufacture, has been both integrated and disintegrated, and that there was a need for careful analysis to understand the effects of these processes.

My colleagues at WZB introduced me to the Toyota Production System and I realised how much of this system is useful in explaining some of the structural changes in the global meat industry.

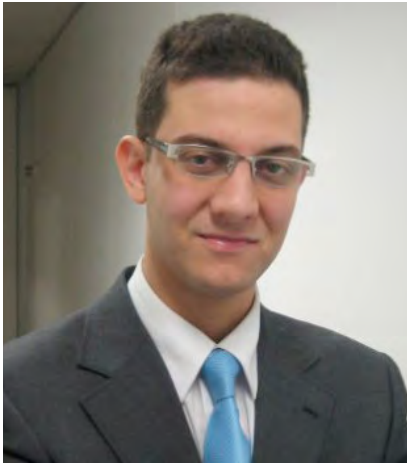
My main project in Berlin was to try and theoretically reflect on live animal transport within contemporary supply chains, and try to understand why there has been a global explosion in live animal exports. I suddenly found

myself with a wealth of different ways to think about this problem, and also think about strategies for advocates who wish to raise welfare or rights concerns related to this trade.

Berlin was really such a wonderful environment to live and work within. I miss my cosy apartment in Kreuzberg, near all those fabulous bars and vegan eateries. I miss the daily challenge of trying to improve my poor German language skills. I miss the lovely ride to WZB every morning on the beaten up vintage step-through bicycle a friend kindly lent me. I miss all the wonderful connections I made with pro animal scholars and activists from around the world. But I also really miss the environment at WZB, which seemed designed for serious research, with its warm, enveloping but studious culture.

For my broader project my experience at WZB marked a turning point. At present I am writing a monograph on animals and capitalism, which ostensibly is a theoretical engagement with Marx and the question of what would have happened if Marx had taken animals seriously. My time at WZB has really turned around my thinking and has helped me with this broader project in many unexpected ways. It has really been a fabulous experience.





Amro Ali

It would take a few different keys just to get through the door of my 1904-built Berlin apartment – call it pre-world war problems. Yet it was one of thousands of such little idiosyncrasies that make up the mystique and charm of Berlin. No less at the WZB, which combines the very best of a beautiful city – historical, intellectual, worldly, and open.

When you enter the WZB, you are moved by the grand 1894 imposing structure, then it weaves outwards into different corridors filled with a peculiar scholarly energy that keeps on buzzing. Walk through the passageways and it can be reminiscent of an academic version of an Alice in Wonderland setting.

At the Global Governance Unit where I was based, you are warmly welcomed by Katinka who introduces you to everyone, and she never gets tired of it, shows you around and then points at the canal and says “that’s where Rosa Luxemburg was drowned.” All of a sudden, those dry high school history books jump out of your past and slap you in the face (poor Rosa though).

You meet a solid fraternity who are eager to discuss and exchange ideas, all solidified by the daily lunches where, at the start of my term, we were lucky to eat out in the warm sun, but barely two weeks and winter set in (the sun just does not get enough Berlin). We moved into the too-cozy cafeteria to eat, everyone almost shouting and trying to hear each other “IF YOU LIKE IT THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE PUT A CITATION ON IT!” Followed by the thoughtful ritual of “let me get the coffee this time.” Academic bonding needs to the subject of a serious case study.

The daily seminars pack a punch, there was even a lecture titled “To hell with ethics committees”?! Controversies Surrounding Ethics Reviews in the Social Sciences” Accordingly, a “tear” streams down your face as you realise how close the University of Sydney and the WZB really are. That the world is truly a small place.

I gave a colloquium talk which means they endured my quasi-Aussie accent for up to two hours as I discussed a chapter from my thesis. They survived and had in any case pre-read my paper to give me feedback. The little child in me screamed to make sure this went right, because, to quote proverbial wisdom – deep down, academics want the same thing as everyone else: acceptance, with minor revisions.

The finale came when I gave a lecture in the glorious main hall. The event was opened by my supervisor, director of the Sydney Democracy Network, Professor John Keane. What a supervisory relationship, he flew all the way from Sydney just to do that (and to undertake other important matters like conferences and stuff).

So thank you to the University of Sydney for the honour of sending me to the WZB, and danke schön WZB for welcoming me for the amazing three months. Jean Paul noted in 1800 that “Berlin is rather a part of the world than a city.” The WZB encapsulated that Berlin for me, it took me in, left me with great friends, memories, ideas, and very bad German pronunciation.

Kreuzberg in former West Berlin. Photo: Karin Viva





The first LCT Conference in South Africa with founder Karl Maton (fourth from left)

LCT Centre for Knowledge-Building

The University of Sydney has created a new research centre dedicated to Legitimation Code Theory or 'LCT', an innovative and rapidly-growing approach based in SPSS that is having significant international impact.

What is LCT? The approach is motivated by social justice and knowledge-building. LCT offers concepts that reveal the 'rules of the game' that shape arenas of social life, including education. Such bases of achievement are often tacit, so actors whose social backgrounds do not equip them with keys to these 'legitimation codes' are disadvantaged. The concepts make the legitimation codes visible and so enable the rules of the game to be taught and learned, or changed. LCT also overcomes the fragmentation of education research into numerous topics that rarely integrate their findings to build knowledge of education as a whole. By reaching beneath surface appearances to explore the underlying principles of practice, LCT reveals the DNA of knowledge. The approach is thus not limited to any specific object of study. Accordingly scholars across the disciplinary map and around the world are using LCT to reveal the principles

underlying knowledge practices and their effects. The field is growing rapidly with, on average over the past two years, a conference presentation every five days, a publication every ten days, and a PhD awarded every six weeks.

LCT is a practical theory. Findings from this body of research are having significant social impacts in areas as diverse as education, law and the armed forces. Inside education LCT shapes staff development programs in South African universities, academic literacy programs for non-traditional students in the UK, South Africa and Australia, teacher training courses in South America and South Africa, and undergraduate courses as diverse as English for Academic Purposes (China), engineering (South Africa) and youth work at TAFE (Australia). Beyond education, LCT is shaping cultural change in the Australian Defence Force, rehabilitation of prisoners in the UK, and public understanding of climate change.

The way LCT combines theoretical rigour with concrete practices and knowledge-building with social justice is proving particularly attractive to scholars and

practitioners in places traditionally marginalised or viewed as lower status. Its impact is primarily in the 'global south', especially in South Africa (where its first international conference was held last year) and in practically-oriented fields such as vocational education and academic literacy. The intellectual centre of the field is in Sydney, the location of A/Prof Karl Maton, the architect and driving force behind LCT. The new "LCT Centre for Knowledge-Building" under Maton's directorship will also consolidate the University as its institutional centre.

The LCT Centre runs seminars and workshops for scholars and students and is hosting the Second International Legitimation Code Theory Conference in July 2017. It will also advance multidisciplinary research and practice that extends the approach and provide training and support for the international community. Among these activities will be a digital data repository to enable comparative research, intensive courses for doctoral students, online communities of practice, and an international journal.

- legitimationcodetheory.com

Sydney Asia Pacific Migration Centre

In January 2016 the Provost gave approval to the establishment of the Sydney Asia Pacific Migration Centre, an interdisciplinary and cross-faculty entity, presided over by the Dean of FASS and auspiced by SSPS.

What migration and why Asia Pacific? The study of migration is subject to continuing, if not rising, significance in the Asia Pacific as well as globally. Regional economic integration and globally networked economic production systems have resulted not only in cross-border movements of goods, capital and knowledge but also of people. The build-up of 'knowledge economies' has led to a global hunt for 'talent' (highly skilled professionals) on the one hand, whilst rising inequality within and between countries, compounded by social discrimination, has resulted in forced migration for economic as well as political reasons.

Migration is characterised by increasing complexity and diversity in terms of directionality and temporality, its varied patterns of flows, its multi-layered governance and multi-sited politics. Its current regulatory frameworks, such as the refugee regime, are deficient if not broken. Recent controversies around migration in the Australian media (working conditions of Working Holiday Makers, international students, 457 visa holders, potential implications of the China Free Trade Agreement on local employment etc.) have heightened the topicality of changing forms of migration and its relation to work, employment and labour relations.

Significant attempts have been made in recent years to coordinate migration policy on the global (multilateral, UN) as well as sub-regional (ASEAN) levels. Unlike the former Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the new Sustainable Development Goals, launched by the UN in September 2015, make explicit reference to migration and thus, put migration squarely on the development agenda for the next 15 years. Australia is a central part of these dialogues' negotiations. Indeed, Australia's own migration reality has changed dramatically over recent decades, with the Asia Pacific gaining in centrality. These are the challenges and pertinent issues the Centre



SAPMiC team - Stephanie Short, Nicola Piper, and Sohoon Lee

attempts to address by contributing to public debate and producing ideas and evidence to underpin improved policies and practices.

The University of Sydney has recruited and invested in a considerable number of academics and researchers across the range of faculties with expertise in migration in the Asia Pacific context, especially in relation to employment, social policy, training and education, health and ageing, immigration policies and migration law. The work the Centre conducts will feed into the Policy Hub and contribute to public debate on pertinent issues. Through the Centre, migration as a subject for intellectual inquiry and evidence-informed policy development will be brought to the forefront as regards teaching curricula and research. Regular seminars, conferences, PG Master Classes and events such as Sydney Ideas will take place throughout 2016 and in the coming years. The Centre will serve as a regional hub for research students, interns, research fellows, visiting scholars and so on.

- sydney.edu.au/arts/asia-pacific-migration-centre

New grants

SSPS Collaborative Research Scheme

Dr Dinesh Wadiwel from the Department of Sociology and Social Policy has received a grant through the SSPS Collaborative Research Scheme to hold a workshop in late 2016 on the implications for people with disability in implementation of the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in Australia. The workshop will bring together scholars and civil society organisations to discuss systemic practices of violence within the context of care and support institutions, including the use of forced treatment, physical and chemical restraint and solitary confinement. The workshop will aim to generate new peer review research, particularly on the opportunities offered by Australian ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT).

The Australian Federal Election 2016

Associate Professor Anika Gauja (BEC (SocSc) (Hons) '04 LLB '06) and Dr Peter Chen, from the Department of Government and International Relations, have received a grant from the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia to hold a workshop on the 2016 Federal Election at Sydney University in August. The workshop will bring together more than 20 scholars from around Australia to write on the campaign and its consequences for the Australian political landscape. Papers will be published in *The 2016 Australian Federal Election* (ANU Press), the latest in a series of Australian electoral studies dating back to 1958.

Parties and Participation: Evolving Australian Party Membership

Associate Professor Anika Gauja has received a grant from the Australian Research Council for her Discovery Project: 'Parties and Participation: Evolving Australian Party Membership' (2016-2018). The project will provide new insights into how membership is evolving, how citizens and parties engage with each other today, and create a better understanding of how parties foster democratic participation through new modes of partisan engagement.

Bringing Hegel to International Relations

In June 2014, Associate Professor Charlotte Epstein hosted a two-day international workshop in Paris on Bringing Hegel to International Relations, using a research grant that she received from the CERL/Science Po. This workshop has now yielded a forum entitled 'La Reconnaissance: Lectures hégéliennes' in France's top political theory journal, *Raison Politique*, that brings together France's most prominent Hegelians, including Charlotte's own professor and the foremost translator of *The Phenomenology*, Bernard Bourgeois.

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Political Organisations and Participation in the Digital Age Workshop (May 19–21 2016)

Associate Professors Ariadne Vromen (MA '96) and Anika Gauja have received a grant from the Australian Political Studies Association to run a workshop on the extent to which patterns of political engagement and organisation are changing in the digital context. Central to the workshop will be contemporary debates on the transformative potential, or otherwise, of new technologies and processes on democracy and representational politics. Papers will be presented by those working within a range of sub-fields including political participation, political parties, interest groups, social movements and deliberative democracy.

Historical Materialism Australasia Conference

Dr Gareth Bryant from the Department of Political Economy, together with Dr Catherine Moir from the Department of Germanic Studies in the School of Languages and Cultures, have received funding from SSPS and FASS to host the 2016 Historical Materialism Australasia conference at the University of Sydney in November. The conference is part of an international network of Marxist scholarship associated with the Historical Materialism journal. We aim to provide an interdisciplinary forum, open to a range of Marxist traditions in dialogue with other critical approaches, to showcase, debate and advance cutting-edge research on capitalist society and its alternatives.

Sydney Asia Pacific Migration Centre

Professor Nicola Piper from the Department of Sociology and Social Policy, and Professor Stephanie Short from the Faculty of Health Sciences have received funding from FASS for The Sydney Asia Pacific Migration Centre (SAPMIC). The Centre is interdisciplinary and cross-faculty, involving 30 core academics and 27 postgraduate students from across the University, working on key aspects of international migration and human mobility in the Asia Pacific region.

Transitions of Islam and Democracy: Engendering Democratic Learning and Civic Identities

Associate Professor Lily Rahim (PhD '95) has been awarded a Qatar National Priorities Research Program grant for a research project which will explore the dynamic of political transition fuelled by religious tradition (Islam) and civil tradition (democracy) in Arab and Muslim states. The focus is on the mechanisms of 'democratic learning' cultivated through associational networks generating social capital and norms of moderation, inclusion and communal mobilization.

Collaborative Research Scheme

The Graduate School of Government, has received a grant to hold a two-day workshop exploring new models of collaborative engagement between scholars and practitioners of public administration. The workshop will be held at the University of Sydney in November, and through facilitated dialogues, the workshop will test new model practices of "open policy design" to examine and evaluate participants experience, the evidence of current research and a range of emergent practices in this area, with the aim of creating new models of research centred engagement for ongoing use in the university.

Visiting Scholars

Adam Morton

Professor Adam Morton (Department of Political Economy) has been awarded a Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) Visiting Scholar Grant for 2017.

The research fellowship entails residency at the CCA in Montréal for a month where he will draw on its archive, give a public lecture, and engage with additional scholars on his research on the political economy of state space and modernist architecture in Mexico.

Justin Alger

Justin Alger is a doctoral candidate in the Political Science department at The University of British Columbia majoring in international Relations, with a focus on global environmental politics. He is a Visitor Scholar of the Sydney Environment Institute.

His PhD looks at the global shift in marine conservation and why some marine protected areas are better designed and managed than others. He's in Australia to examine the Coral Sea Commonwealth Marine Reserve, bordering the Great Barrier Reef, which is one of his case studies.

SSPS prize ceremony

On Wednesday 26th May, 2016 the School of Social and Political Sciences held a Prizes Ceremony to honour undergraduate and postgraduate students who have achieved exceptional results in the areas of Government and International Relations, Sociology and Social Policy, Anthropology, Peace and Conflict Studies, and Political Economy.

A special thank you to all of our donors, especially Annie Corlett whose donations support seven prizes within the Department of Government and International Relations.





Left page

Top left: Academics from Sociology & Social Policy posing with prize winners
 Bottom left: Janet Donald (on behalf of Annie Corlett) with prize winner Kishor Napier-Raman
 Bottom right: Associate Professor Jake Lynch with prize winner Christine El-Khoury

Right page

Top left: Dr Christopher Neff with prize winner Thomas Watson
 Middle left: Professor Colin Wight and multiple prize winner Henry Maher
 Bottom left: Dr Neil Maclean and prize winner Miriam Encel
 Top right: Guest speaker Emeritus Professor Dick Bryan
 Bottom right: Emeritus Professor Frank Stilwell and prize winner Matthew Ryan

Just How Important is Climate Change?

Akash Bhattacharjee on how to make politicians accountable for the environmental future of generations to come

Written by Akash Bhattacharjee

The 2016 federal election is near. Major and minor parties, issue-based parties and independents are beginning to settle on where they stand on key election issues. So far, the battleground issues appear to be negative gearing and tax avoidance by multinational corporations. The shapeshifting that inevitably comes with politics will mean that by election day, the political agenda will have probably transformed altogether.

The gist of all these issues come down to the following moral questions on intergenerational equity and fairness: Is it fair for housing to be un-affordable for many young Australians? Is it equitable to leave blooming budget debts for future governments?

But how much talk is there about climate change? Is that not about intergenerational equity and fairness?

One of the most divisive issues this millennium appears to be climate change. As an Honours student in the Department of Government and International Relations and Honours Fellow at the Sydney Environment Institute, this issue will form the basis of my research thesis. In the beginning, it ranged from former Prime Minister John Howard's refusal to ratify the Kyoto Protocol to a then

Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd characterising climate change as the 'great moral, environmental and economic challenge of our time.' Later, it spanned to former PM Julia Gillard establishing a fixed carbon price, then Prime Minister Tony Abbott's repeal of it and the introduction of an unambitious Direct Action policy which current PM Malcolm Turnbull took to the COP21 Paris Conference to set a new legally binding international instrument on climate change.

On the one hand, interest groups vigorously lobbied, were intimately involved in the drafting of policy and ran negative ad campaigns. On the other, new non-governmental organisations grew, mobilising civil society in the new digital age. My research this year will look to investigate the relationships and intensities of power that influenced the creation of Australian climate policy, at a time brimming with policy reversals and changes in the Prime Ministership.

As a young person, the most pressing issue for me is climate change. According to a report by the Climate Institute, my generation is 10% more likely than the general population to believe in Australia's ability to tackle climate change, its responsibility to lead as well as increasing the renewable energy target. But then again, nature doesn't care if we think it's important to improve the environment. The past few centuries have put us on track to such undeniable climate disruption that, in many respects, it is a moral imperative to consider important and dedicate ourselves to improving the environment. Those that have caused the problem either aren't around anymore, or won't live long enough to face too many of the consequences of this change.

As a Sydneysider, a changing climate is of high concern. Imprudent planning and ill-thought out development is setting Sydney on track to becoming an urban heat island. This would make us vulnerable to extreme heat temperatures in the next decade, with associated effects on



Adelaide Hills Fire. Photo: Stephen Beaumont



Photo: Tim J Keegan

“The past few centuries have put us on track to such undeniable climate disruption that, in many respects, it is a moral imperative to consider important and dedicate ourselves to improving the environment”

public health. People’s homes have already been affected. In just another small glimpse of the long reach of climate change impacts, the Sydney Morning Herald reported increasingly frequent and extreme weather events such as the 25 metres of Narrabeen coastal erosion in last April’s storm. We’ve got to make sure the relaxed cosmopolitan lifestyle on a picturesque harbour doesn’t become a historic postcard.

As an Australian, climate change is important to talk about. With the damaging bushfires in Tasmania’s ancient forests and widespread coral bleaching in the Great Barrier Reef, happening at the beginning of this year alone – our most precious natural assets are threatened. On top of this, with the development of renewable energy sources overseas and increasingly cheaper battery storage solutions – Australia is lagging on the energy sector transition happening globally. Late last year I was a sustainable energy advisor to Pollinate Energy, a UN-recognised Australian social enterprise creating viable solutions to energy poverty in India. While I transitioned a community of 600 people from kerosene and wood-based fuels to less environmentally-harmful energy sources, I now ask myself: why hasn’t Australia transitioned to more sustainable energy sources? In just another snapshot of how quick everything is changing, in February this year Japan’s electrical vehicle charging points surpassed the number of petrol stations. But for us to catch up to this global change, we have to talk more about climate change.

Australia is at a crucial crossroads: do we allow our elected representatives to treat climate change as a fringe issue? Or do we, like we have a couple of times this millennium, bring it to the centre of our political debate?

I know my answer, what’s yours?



Akash Bhattacharjee

Akash is an Honours student in the Department of Government and International Relations and SEI Honours Fellow with a research focus on how Australia governments have affected climate change policy

Follow Akash’s research:

 @MrBhattacharjee



FMSC Distribution Partner - Haiti. Photo: Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)

Taking the Poverty out of ‘Food Poverty’

A growing issue that affects 1.2 million Australians every year

Written By Luke Craven

According to recent reports, 1.2 million Australians regularly struggle to put good, healthy food on the table. The average Australian income is buckling under the weight high of living costs, an increasingly casualised and precarious labor market, and government policies that have long prioritized economic growth over reducing inequality. The result is that many households don't have enough money to eat or to eat well. In policy jargon, problems like these are often referred to as food and nutrition insecurity.

In recent years, though, the term ‘food poverty’ has been increasingly used to describe food insecurity and has found particular salience in British policymaking circles. A quick scan of the Australian scene suggests that it is catching on here too. We should be concerned about this development.

How we frame a social problem matters. It shapes how policymakers and the public at large perceive its causes and consequences. And, crucially, it affects their beliefs about what governments can and should do to intervene. While certain frames may make sense to progressive anti-hunger and anti-poverty advocates, we must not forget that our most important job is preaching to the unconverted. That requires us to think more critically about the frames we deploy. ‘Food poverty’ is not the right tool for the job.

Food insecurity is a complex problem, its causes are multiple and interacting. How much you earn is certainly important, but so too is where you live and the factors that influence your food choices on a

day-to-day basis, from how much time you have to the availability of unhealthy food nearby.

The practical problem with ‘food poverty’ is that it focuses our attention on income to the exclusion of other factors. That is not to say that income is not important – it is – but simply giving people more money is not the solution to food and nutrition insecurity.

Many proponents of the ‘food poverty’ frame argue that the term is ‘multidimensional’, taking into account a broad range of individual-level and structural determinants beyond economic poverty. Convincing the public to buy into that narrative, though, is a tough sell. Its multidimensionality isn't immediately clear. And that's a massive problem. If we're trying to build public support for government interventions on the issue of food and nutrition security, naming it ‘food poverty’ does us no favours.

Cultivating an environment in which the public view of inadequate access to food is a symptom of poverty renders its other determinants functionally invisible. If income is the problem, for example, nothing need be done to curtail the marketing practices of large multinational corporations because if only people had more money, they would make better choices. We know that not to be true.

Our choice of frame needs to resonate with the fact that we are attempting to fix a problem that is a complex web of factors, actors and social forces. While ‘food and nutrition insecurity’ and ‘hunger’ are by no means perfect terms, they do allow

Continued over...

advocates to readily shape conversations in a way that speak explicitly to their multidimensional nature. We know that there are a myriad of reasons why families struggle to put good food on the table. We need to be able to tell those stories, embracing their complexity. The point here is that every act of illumination also obscures. It is undoubtedly helpful to draw links between food access and income, but not if, in doing so, we sacrifice support for better public transport, rent controls, or stricter labelling regulations. And that is what we risk doing with a 'food poverty' frame.

This is not a new problem. For the past decade, much of the food insecurity debate has focussed on the elimination of food deserts. The 'food desert' narrative offers up a particular metaphor of food scarcity, with the solution being the provision of more supermarket oases in hungry communities. Policymakers, unsurprisingly, responded in kind, with a slew of interventions aimed at the eradication of food deserts.

And yet the prevalence of food insecurity in the developed West increased over the same time period. The problem with the 'food desert' narrative is that it equates food access with supermarket access, when, in reality, the situation is far more complicated. Proponents of the 'food poverty' frame should be lauded for their attempts to broaden the discussion, but ultimately they fall prey to the same trap: equating food insecurity with economic poverty.

In particular, a focus on economic access to food may obscure the question of nutrition in food policy debates. There is a reason that many food security advocates have shifted their language to 'food and nutrition security'. Nutrition needs just as much attention as food itself. If the quick conflation of the 'food poverty' and 'food bank' conversations in UK is anything to go by, it is easy for nutrition to be lost, or actively obscured, in debates about food policy.

In addition, we know that there is remarkable variability in people's beliefs about what causes poverty, which in turn is likely to affect the level of popular support for policies aimed at addressing 'food poverty'. Research has consistently shown that people regard poverty as a moral failure on the part of the poor. In America, as well as Europe, people who are poor or on welfare are frequently considered lazy and undeserving of help.



Photo: Eduards Osis

These dynamics are politically skewed. Conservatives generally blame the poor for the challenges they face. Progressives accept that structural conditions are also responsible for inequality and suffering. So, by framing the issue as ‘food poverty’, progressive advocates are, in many ways, shooting themselves in the foot. The causal construal at the heart of the poverty narrative plays right into the hands of the conservative base: it reinforces the belief that people can’t eat or don’t eat well because of the choices they make. And if people buy into the narrative that food insecurity is born of poor choices, calls for structural change have little chance of success.

Proponents of the ‘food poverty’ frame may argue that we can talk our way out of these problems. They might claim that advocates can explain to the public that poverty means more than poverty, that its causes go beyond the individual, and that ultimately, it is the system we need to change. But new research suggests that people ignore facts that jar with their belief systems. The ‘poverty’ label comes with a lot of highly moralised, ideologically charged baggage about who caused what and who is responsible. Our arguments are likely to fall on deaf ears.

So, the ‘food poverty’ narrative might make sense to some, but is limiting in what it obscures and is unlikely to help us win over a more conservative, unconverted audience. Both outcomes are deeply problematic if our aim is to build genuine public support for government policies to address food and nutrition insecurity. Finally, we should be concerned that calling the problem ‘food poverty’ throws fuel on the fire of already

existing stigma and shame that people face as they struggle to put food on the table. Community advocates have routinely called for the end to labels that inadvertently stigmatise those they seek to serve. ‘Food poverty’ does just that.

Poverty is a moral concept as well as a descriptive one. In many of the food insecure communities in which I have worked, ‘poverty’ is considered a personal failing of which people are ashamed. In those communities, I would struggle to find anyone that would be willing openly and directly admit that they were facing ‘food poverty’.

If, as anti-hunger and Right to Food advocates, we are committed to promoting the dignity of the communities with which we work, we need to think seriously about dropping the ‘food poverty’ frame all together. And if the moral case for doing so isn’t enough, stigmatising low-income households makes for bad public policy. People are more likely to engage with services that treat them with respect and seek actively to promote their dignity.

So, can we please stop calling it ‘food poverty’?



Photo: kLeer001



Luke Craven

Luke Craven is a PhD Candidate at the University of Sydney and the Sydney Environment Institute. His interests lie in the application of social and political theory to contemporary policy problems, with a focus on food politics, policy, and system reform. His research aims to develop a set of theoretical tools to understand and address the determinants of household food insecurity in first world urban contexts.

– lukecraven.com/

 [@LukeCraven](https://twitter.com/LukeCraven)



Photo: Gage Skidmore

The Rise of Trump: How Did We Get Here?

Megan Capriccio, a former USyd graduate and American living in Sydney, shares her opinion as to why U.S. politics is failing as well as potential solutions for hopeful change

Written by Megan Capriccio

How did we get here? More importantly, how do we fix it? It's a set of questions I have been asking myself for some time now and the answer is anything but simple. As an American living in Sydney, I have had to endure much embarrassment and ridicule as I watch the 2016 U.S. president elections from afar. Although it has become interesting having a simultaneous inside and outside perspective on the continuous polarization of my country, I feel it would be an understatement to say that I am frustrated, frightened and even confused by what the elections have become. But because this election cycle has drawn attention from much of the world, especially Australia, I feel that the least I could do is offer one American's opinion as to why U.S. politics is failing as well as potential solutions for hopeful change.

From my perspective, a big contribution to the chaos is due to U.S. political parties being transformed into identity traits. Not only does one's political affiliation allude to which candidate you will be voting for, but also one's party fully

defines your views on all major debates: abortion, gay marriage, size of the government, trade, climate change and religious freedoms. Therefore, knowing someone's party affiliation allows you to make an immediate and deep assumption of who someone is socially, politically and most of all morally. As a result, the American public has incurred stubbornness as a legitimate political tactic that rides so deep, no one is willing to even consider a compromise if it comes from the opposition. Whether these inferences of identity are true or not is beside the point; the American people use this data to assess other Americans, and it ultimately effects how we interact and form relationships with fellow citizens.

These labels have contributed to Americans' inability to work together for a greater good because their persistent disregard and disdain for the opposing party has become more of a priority than the betterment of the country. We are not united, even in times of national despair, and it is turning us into selfish individuals. Americans have forgotten that voting should be done in the best interests of the country but rather we have been conditioned to please our own personal interests in hopes that the majority of citizens will vote similarly. This is not to say that bias is easily triumphed, but as a country we have become so individualistic that we have forgotten what it could be like to work as a unified entity. This becomes incredibly clear during election seasons.

Although each U.S. national needs to do his or her civic duty to participate, the U.S. cannot escape this equilibrium if citizens do not have a leader who embodies this initiative. In my opinion, none of the current candidates have been able to unite the American people as a unified group, unless it is to tune into a news scandal that has objectified or marginalized a particular group in the process. Therefore, U.S. nationals need to take careful consideration with their voting to ensure they are working towards building up the American community and moving the country away from extreme polarization.

The country is at the stage where the American public needs a leader that can offer genuine assurance and security to the entirety of the American population in order to re-establish trust among Americans as well as members of the wider international community. The natural reaction to avoid Trump's outlandish claims that demonize much of the population is to counteract by voting Sanders. However, I cannot say that this is contributing to a solution. Although Sanders is

“the American public has incurred stubbornness as a legitimate political tactic that rides so deep, no one is willing to even consider a compromise if it comes from the opposition”

appealing, his tactics of blaming a particular identity group don't vary much from Trump. The only variation is that Sanders has simply chosen to blame a group that holds substantial power and wealth making it appear worthy of scrutiny. These two candidates continue to swing the political party pendulum that results in reinstating the process of polarization. Clinton seems the likely candidate to steer the country towards compromise, but her overestimation of the country's ability to reach an understanding may cause her to simply concede her own values.

Although it seems like the options are limited, Americans could make substantial gains if they strive to expect more from the 2016 presidential candidates. We need to demand action plans, not just hearsay. We need to demand professionalism as candidates are representing all Americans in the global plenary. And lastly, we need to demand an end to extremism, as it is deteriorating American leadership and the function of the democratic process. Although apathy is easy, as political participation is not mandatory in the U.S., Americans can make these demands and a broader impact simply by placing a well-calculated vote.

The current political habits may take years to dismantle and unlearn, but it is necessary if the U.S. is ever going to feel a sense of peace and unity within government and political systems. Even though it is difficult to know how the U.S. got to this stage, it's up to the American people to insist on a change.



The Global Campus: Migrating to New Shores

The Asia Pacific Master of Human Rights and Democratisation regional program prepares to move off campus and over to Thailand



Global Campus of Human Rights Regional Programs

Written by Georgie Wheadon (MPP '13) & Elisabeth Valiente-Riedl (BEc (SocSc)(Hons) '04 PhD '08)

After six years, the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (Asia Pacific) (MHRD) is moving into the region under the guidance of the Institute for Human Rights and Peace Studies at Mahidol University, Thailand. The MHRD is the Asia Pacific's innovative and ambitious regional program in human rights and democratisation, founded in 2010 with significant funding from the European Commission and established in collaboration with partner universities from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Nepal.

As lead partner, the University of Sydney has been home to the degree program's project office and host for all students' foundational semester since its inception. This has entailed a phenomenal investment of people, ideas, enthusiasm and commitment across FASS, SSPS and the University of Sydney's broader portfolios.

Over six years the program has been delivered to 167 students from 31 countries, expanded its partnership reach to six institutions including in the Philippines, and cemented itself as a truly unique offering in the Asia Pacific.

The handover to Mahidol University will see the University of Sydney shift to an associate partner from August 2016, continuing to contribute to this immensely rich regional partnership while retiring from its teaching role.

The move signals an important changing of the guard that will see the MHRD relocated to a strategic regional hub: Bangkok. Future students will share the city with global players like the United Nations and have the opportunity to learn from a regional leader in human rights teaching. Mahidol University is the Secretariat of the Southeast Asia Human Rights Studies Network – ASEAN University Network Human Rights Education (SEAHNRN/AUN-HRE).

What is the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (Asia Pacific) program?

The MHRD is a pioneering program delivered by a partnership of six institutions, the University of Sydney, the Kathmandu School of Law, Universitas Gadjah Mada, the University of Colombo, Mahidol University and Ateneo de Manila University.

The program is funded by a yearly grant of approximately \$1.5m from the European Commission, originally won in 2009 and in 2012 incorporated into the multi-million dollar

‘Global Campus’, an ambitious network of seven regional masters’ programs run on four continents.

With Sydney at the helm, the program was established to develop the capacity of emerging regional leaders to protect and promote human rights. It provides students with a rich understanding of human rights violations and strategic interventions through innovative instruction and ongoing extracurricular lectures, workshops and symposia.

The MHRD’s unique structure gives students both training in fundamental norms, mechanisms, concepts and theory during a foundational semester and the opportunity to explore and “live” issues critical to their individual host nations through an in-country regional semester.

The MHRD includes partners from fragile and developing democracies, some of which are recovering from civil upheaval, natural disasters or democratic transition. 20 scholarship places are provided for students from the region to enable a range of participants with diverse national, socio-economic and professional backgrounds.

The program’s leadership in Sydney has been guided by founding Director Professor Danielle Celermajer, and Professor Nicola Piper, who directed the program from 2012-2015. Other key staff members include directors Dr Susan Banki and Dr Elisabeth Valiente-Riedl; project managers Georgie Wheadon and Anna Noonan and FASS managers Leanne Price and Angela Collins. The team has drawn on invaluable support from academics and administrators across SSPS, Financial Services, the Office of General Counsel, the Research Portfolio and Student Services.

Reflecting on our achievements

The main achievement of the MHRD is the unprecedented opportunity for collaboration it has created. Its regional network is strong and broad, including a Steering Committee of representatives from five countries. The Asia Pacific Masters Alumni, formalised in 2014, currently has more than 100 members. Recent surveys show Alumni are diverse and successful, forging their way in occupations including filmmaking, journalism, consultancy, social work, and law. Some have returned to

the University of Sydney to continue study through a PhD.

We have also welcomed the strengthening of global networks through Global Campus teaching and research activities. Academics have participated in exchanges between partner and regional program institutions, and in specialised research. Asia Pacific directors and project managers have hosted visibility events such as the 2015 conference held in Bangkok: ‘Regional Perspectives on Democratisation’. They have also worked with international colleagues on establishing the ‘Global Journal of Human Rights’.

Students have had the opportunity to compete for ‘Global Campus Best Thesis – Asia Pacific’. This honour was awarded to Kalyan Mathema (Nepal) in 2014-15 for his research exploring the world’s largest Muslim organisation, ‘Nahdlatul Ulama and democratisation in Indonesia’. Also each year up to four students have travelled to Italy for a week long ‘Global Classroom’ facilitated by the European Inter-Universities Centre for Human Rights.

Additionally, cross-institutional teaching and research partnerships have challenged existing institutional structures and teaching pedagogies. For example, the introduction of a ‘Regional Learning Hub’ in 2015 enabled all partners to share the development and teaching of units of study. Subject-matter experts have also been engaged to give classroom teaching an edge on topics like food justice and migration.

Individually, partners have developed their institutional capacity to deliver human rights teaching independently from the MHRD. This includes the fantastic achievement of the University of Colombo, which established its own local masters in human rights and democratisation program in 2014.

Finally, the opportunity to teach a diverse and committed cohort of human rights and democratisation defenders from all reaches of the Asia Pacific has veritably tipped the traditional University classroom on its head. Sydney MHRD team members have found themselves learning with, and from, our students as well as our valued partners in the region. We look forward to building on these strong regional connections in the future.

Global Internships

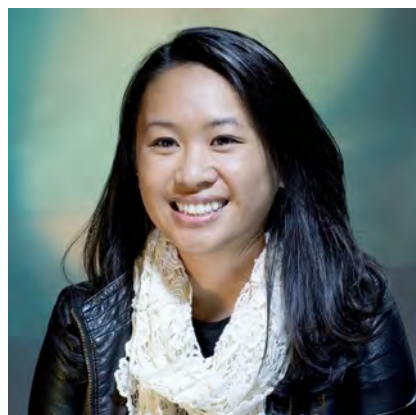
Master of Human Rights and Democratisation students reflect on their experiences working to promote human rights and democracy around the world

Marian Pho (Nepal)

After years working at a grassroots level for different social development initiatives, I wanted to better contextualise social injustices and inequalities from a macro perspective. Pursuing a degree in the MHRD program seemed fitting. For my internship, I wanted to expand on my knowledge as a trained social worker, so I was placed with Chhahari Nepal for Mental Health (CNMH), a local organisation committed to developing evidence-based, good practices for social support for those suffering from mental health issues, and their carers.

My main project at CNMH was authoring a report to fill a 'knowledge gap' about the current legal frameworks for mental health in Nepal. I was connected with various stakeholders in the NGO/INGO community, government officials, and medical professionals working in the mental health. Over time the complexity of these the laws and policies began to unravel, underscoring the interconnectedness and interdependences of mental health. My interactions with the local community provided insights into the consequences of inadequate channels for accessing mental health laws and services.

My internship was a transformative learning experience. CNMH created a safe and supportive space for me to engage with tough, sensitive, and sometimes controversial topics. They gave me the opportunity to make theoretical connections between the classroom and real-life scenarios. I could use these connections to make a meaningful contribution to their organisation and the greater community.



Rina Coleman (Nepal)

As a part of the MHRD, I elected for the internship pathway to gain practical knowledge and skills in my area of interest of Gender Based Violence. I interned at International Alert, an international non-government organisation in Kathmandu, that works to prevent violence and end conflict.

Transitioning to life in Kathmandu was exciting, different and challenging. Recent, tumultuous events have changed the face of the country and resulted in an influx of responsibilities and issues to deal with for NGOs and INGOs. These include the overthrow of the monarchy, the end of a decade long armed conflict, the promulgation of the long-awaited constitution, and devastating earthquakes that affected a huge number of the population.

I assisted with a project looking at freedom of expression and the inclusion of women and other marginalised groups in the Nepalese media. My role was to undertake data collection and research for baseline analyses to determine the current state of media freedom, expression and diversity in the media. The exclusion of women and marginalised people from content and as journalists is symptomatic of the patriarchal nature of Nepal. It also reflects the structural hegemony and control of certain caste and class over state resources, power and decision-making. Recently, journalists reporting on sensitive issues have been subject to violence from various interest groups who force self-censorship and hinder freedom of expression. This experience has greatly contributed to my understanding of human rights issues in Nepal.



Fathimath Didi (Philippines)

The University of Sydney's MHRD program allowed me to undertake an internship at a local organisation in the Philippines. I was placed at the Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation (HLAF), a non-governmental organization based in Metro Manila, who work for the protection of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty.

Since my time at the National Human Rights Commission of the Maldives I have had a special interest for the rights of persons deprived of their liberty. My placement at HLAF was the perfect internship. The organisation allowed me to visit detention facilities in Metro Manila, conduct interviews with detainees and visit courthouses to follow up on individual cases. It provided me with a glimpse of the everyday grind that detainees go through. The internship gave me an overall and rare glimpse into the country's criminal justice system.

As a person from a small island nation, this placement at a regional country has been an enriching episode in my life. My stay in the Philippines served as a wonderful opportunity to acquaint myself with the country's vibrant local culture, wonderful cuisine and a host of new and interesting people. Professionally, and as a person interested in detainee rights, my internship has been an extremely eye opening experience. My time studying in Manila also coincided with the country's general election, which gave me the opportunity to witness colourful campaigns, energetic rallies and the wonderful practice of democratic polls unfold in a dynamic new country. Witnessing the election has deepened my understanding of the unique political culture of the Philippines. I leave Manila with the assurance that my internship experience will allow me to make fuller contributions in my future endeavours.

Lisa (Yoon Jin) Oh (Indonesia)

I began my internship with Migrant CARE, an organisation dedicated to empowering and protecting Indonesian migrant workers through Counselling, Advocacy, Research and Education (CARE). The internship has been immensely valuable for two reasons. Firstly, I don't have prior experience working at an NGO or come from a human rights background. Secondly, I have been able to practically incorporate theoretical teachings, and observe how human rights tools are applied in practice.

Migrant CARE has four divisions: legal aid, policy advocacy, data collection and publication, and counselling and education. As an intern, I have attended meetings with government ministries to lobby cases of unjust imprisonment and gross mistreatment on behalf of migrant workers who are overseas and unable to make direct claims; participated in the International Labour Day protest to raise public awareness for greater migrant worker rights protection and compiled survey results to analyse findings.

Currently, Migrant CARE is involved in discussions with relevant government and parliamentary bodies to revise the National Law No. 39 (2004) on the 'Placement and Protection of Migrant Workers'. This is a highly controversial bill already criticised for its undue focus on placement rather than protection. This is very fortunate, as my own research will examine Law No. 39 to analyse its effectiveness in encouraging 'legal' migration.

Overall, I am extremely satisfied with my internship and hope to encourage others, especially those like me with no prior working experience in the field and who have switched majors. It's a great way to observe how theories taught inside lecture rooms hold up in the real world.





Photo: Kourosh Keshiri

To Change Everything, We Need Everyone

2016 Sydney Peace
Prize recipient
Naomi Klein
promotes a new
agenda for sharing
the planet that
respects human
rights & equality

Written by Lisa Fennis and Katie Gabriel

As Australia heats up, droughts, floods, storms and bush fires will become more frequent. Sea levels and temperatures are rising: the reef is bleaching to its bones. People living in Southwest Australia see their livelihoods dry up, whilst in the Solomon Islands entire populations are washed away from their coastal homes. Climate change is real and it is happening. Both people and nature, in Australia and elsewhere, are feeling its affects. If the earth warms up more than 20°C, we will set forces in motion we do not even comprehend. It's an urgent threat and we are not acting fast enough. This year's Sydney Peace Prize recipient compels us to act – together, now.

Naomi Klein excels at dissecting the systemic and fundamental challenges of our time. Throughout her career she has joined the dots between politics, economy and history. She distills powerful truths that are universally applicable, which once understood cannot be unheard or unseen. Turning to climate change in the book, film and worldwide campaign *This Changes Everything*, “Naomi Klein applies her fine, fierce and meticulous mind to the greatest, most urgent question of our time”, so writes 2004 Sydney Peace Prize recipient Arundhati Roy.

She warns that this “civilisational wakeup call” will affect all people regardless of race, class or religion, and as such demands that people forge alliances and work together to demand change and build a better system before it is too late. Through Naomi Klein’s award, the Foundation hopes to increase understanding that climate change is at the very heart issues of social justice and equality.

In the name of “progress”, to the edge of the climate cliff – how did we get here?

Klein exposes the structural causes and responsibility for the climate crisis, and warns that it is more than an “issue” on a long shopping list of problems. Explaining how we ended up teetering on the edge of the climate cliff, she traces the thread back to centuries of resource extraction and carbon emissions, egged on by neoliberal market fundamentalism, unregulated capitalism and unfettered consumption. As big corporates are able to manipulate our governments, policy and media, people are supposed to believe that the markets will solve all our problems, from poverty and inequality to climate change. We are told that governments are here to assist: to liberate the power of capital, to privatise, to deregulate, to cut corporate taxes and slash wasteful public services. The faster the economy grows, the quicker we can save the world. This is precisely the danger, says Klein, as she issues a stern warning: the markets will not solve our problems and there are no magic solutions. The current system has bestowed and power and wealth on a minority more concerned with short-term economic interests and business as usual, than long-term sustainability and a healthy planet.

This violent relationship with the planet is one based on an illusion that this is a one-way relationship, that we can keep taking without limit and never give back, that we can bend nature to our will. As nature’s response is approaching fast, we are slowly catching on. We must realise what our place is, not as masters of nature, but as a part of it. We have much to learn from the world’s indigenous populations.

So what about peace? What about justice?

In a system that treats people as production units and where some are deemed more valuable than others, these are the values in which climate change will be dealt with. Many people who have had little or no part in extraction, emission or consumption, are now the first to be affected by the consequences. For those living on the frontlines of extraction, rising sea levels and increased drought, this is nothing new. Mining and oil extraction is already destroying communities and cultures in Australia, Africa and the Americas.



Photo: Kourosh Keshiri

Klein also emphasises how today’s economic system preserves devastating forms of structural violence. The economy is protected as the source of jobs and livelihood, and yet its predictable cycles of boom and bust punish the poorest and require bailouts of those responsible. Klein warns that inevitably weather shocks will cause budget shocks. In many countries the public sector, crippled by austerity, is ill-prepared and will not have the capacity to respond and support affected communities. After all, there are price tags attached to floods, fires, droughts and storms. New Orleans was a stark example.

As erratic weather patterns and extreme weather events cause resource scarcity and render land inhabitable, inequality entrenches and conflict intensifies. Klein has repeatedly highlighted connections between water stress and conflict in the Middle east, Libya, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Between 2008 and 2014 alone, more than 150 million people were displaced as a result of climate change, moving within countries and across international borders. If we are horrified by reactions to the current refugee crisis, just imagine what this response would look like in the future.

It is not difficult to imagine that the impacts of climate change will exacerbate existing tensions and injustices, such as inequality and racism. “Make no mistake about it,” Klein says, “it’s not just about things getting hotter and wetter, it’s about things getting a lot meaner and uglier.”

“As erratic weather patterns and extreme weather events cause resource scarcity and render land inhabitable, inequality entrenches and conflict intensifies”



Leaping to new possibilities: from climate action to climate justice

Klein positions climate change as the great unifier, an opportunity to right the wrongs that have been committed in the name of the economy. Climate change changes everything because we can no longer afford to put profits ahead of humanity, or fossil fuels ahead of survival. We must “change or be changed”, because science gives us a firm deadline, the climate crisis forces us to decide what kind of societies we want.

Fixing climate change means changing how the economy works at its core: reining in financial speculation, regulating money in politics, polluter-pays principles to redirect fossil fuel profits into green initiatives, and other policies that tackle climate change, such as keeping fossil fuels in the ground, locally-owned renewable energy grids, and public transport can bring about new jobs and infrastructure, and investment in neglected communities. This inspires hope for many: It is not just about climate change, it is about climate justice and it is powerful.

Klein reminds us that change is not a trickle down process, but something that we, the people, must demand from our leaders. This powerful movement for such change is brewing, getting stronger by the day. Witnessing and inspiring this movement, Klein is hopeful. The movement is driven by a love of place, love of land, and a duty to protect future generations – a spirit of caring and compassion for country and each other.

The Sydney Peace Prize will be presented at the Sydney Town Hall on Friday 11 November where Naomi Klein will deliver the 2016 City of Sydney Peace Prize Lecture. This event will be followed by the Sydney Peace Prize Gala Dinner at the Hilton Sydney. Tickets to both events are available from:

– ticketbooth.com.au.



Naomi Klein

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

Select publications

Semester 1, 2016
saw the School continue
to publish a wide range
of books, book chapters,
and journal articles.
A selection from each
department is featured in
this section, taken from a
total of 250 publications.

Government & international relations



Dr Robert MacNeil

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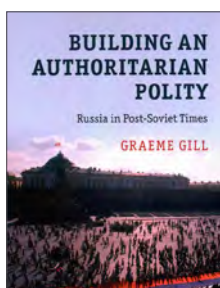
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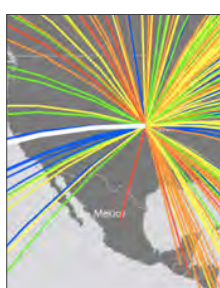
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Dr Anika Gauja

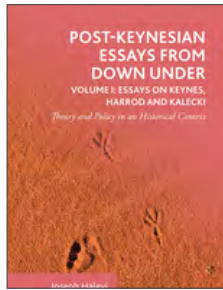
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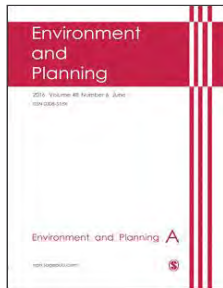
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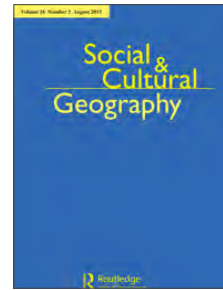
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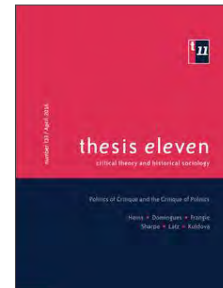
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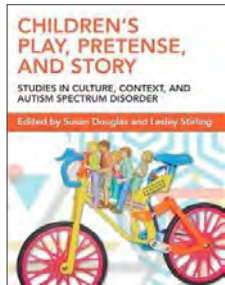
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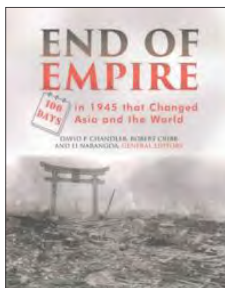
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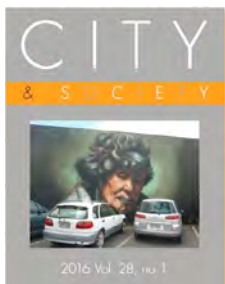
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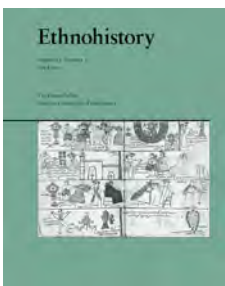
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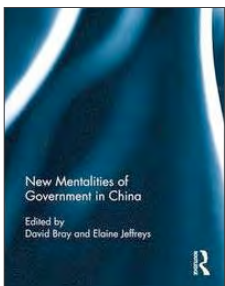
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Dr Terry Woronov

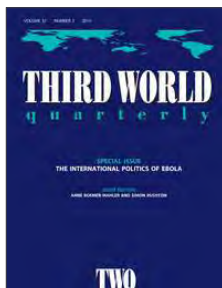
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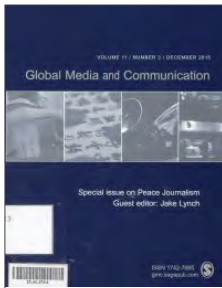


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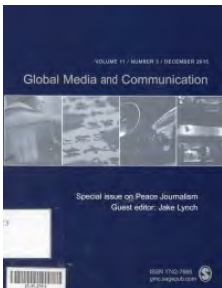
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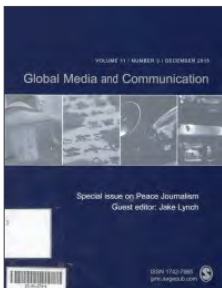
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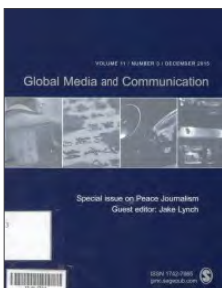
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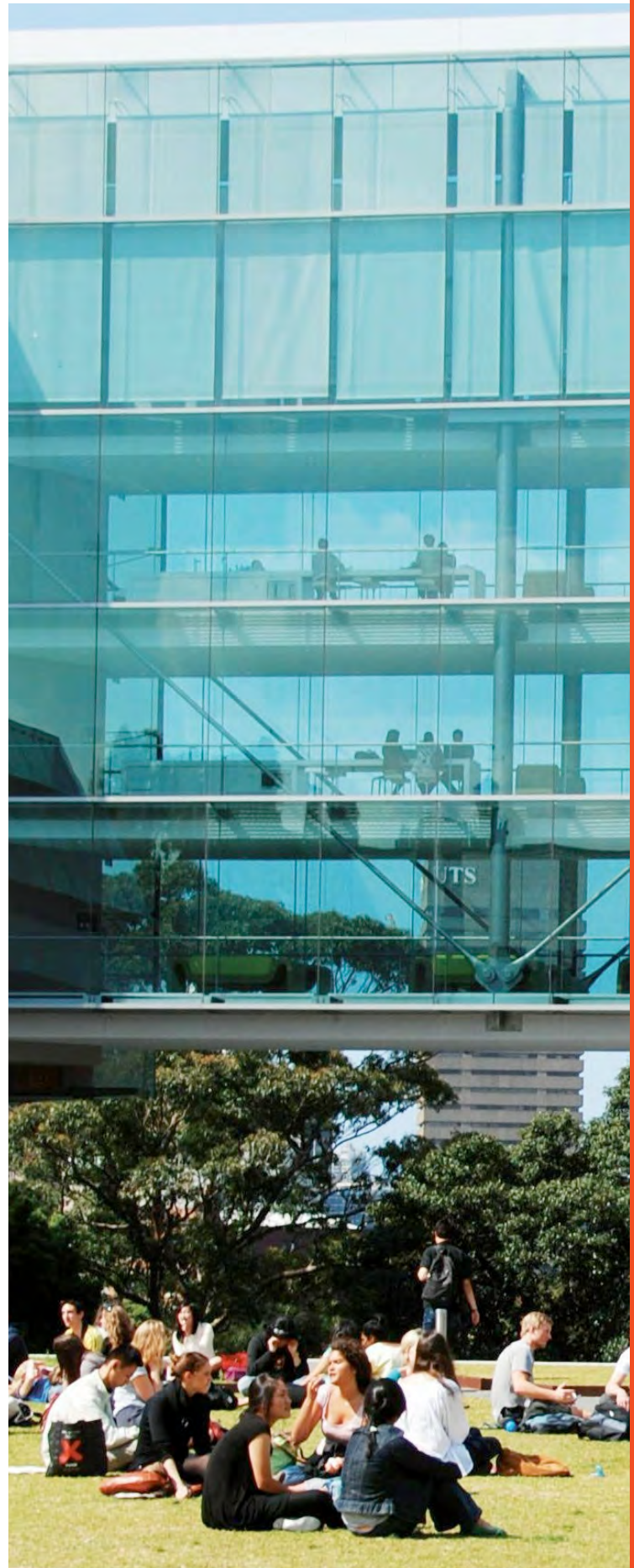
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Designed by The School of Social and Political Sciences, the University of Sydney, June 2016. The University reserves the right to make alterations to any information contained within this publication without notice. CRICOS 00026A