

# SSPS Review



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY

The School of Social and  
Political Sciences Magazine

---

The dream vs reality of  
working at the UN

---

Meet the founders of Black  
Lives Matter

---

Major highlights of the new  
2018 curriculum

---

The human toll of border  
politics in the US and Australia



# Welcome

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



Welcome to the latest edition of the SSPS Review. As is fitting in the run up to the launch of the new university curriculum in 2018, we take a special look here at some of the key developments being undertaken in the departments to prepare themselves for the launch later this year. They include a new “stream” in Politics and International Relations, which will offer high performing students a special program involving what will be a double major in Politics and International Relations, together with dedicated units for stream students.

This is a great initiative in the Department of Government and International Relations, which is celebrating its centenary this year as the oldest politics program in Australia. We also look at a new minor being launched by the Department of Sociology and Social Policy in Criminology, which complements provision in Socio-Legal Studies. We’re also keen to celebrate student success, this issue celebrates the arrival of a Fulbright scholar, various student prize winners and the outstanding contributions made to society by our alumni.

Other pieces in the Review focus on different parts of the School’s mission, not least the great success of our researchers in key institutional

awards, such as the Sydney Research Accelerator (SOAR) fellowships, where SSPS was awarded the lion’s share in the Faculty. We also celebrate the first anniversary of one of our latest research collaborations, the Legitimation Code Theory Centre for Knowledge-Building led by our newest full professor, Karl Maton. The Centre goes from strength to strength as evidenced in continued grants success, collaboration with centres both in Australia and abroad, and significant conference and outreach activity. The importance of the latter is underlined by the Sydney Peace Prize, which this year is awarded to Black Lives Matter, an extraordinary self-organised initiative in the US that seeks to highlight the continuing discrimination against Afro-Americans. They are very worthy winners of this prestigious prize.

So again, an action-packed edition for you to enjoy. Do stay in contact with us and let us know if there’s anything you’d like to hear about in future editions.

**Professor Simon Tormey**  
Head of School

# In this issue

<b>Events</b> .....	2	<b>Alumni, agents of change</b> .....	36
A snapshot of what's coming up later this year		Rhys Michie on the importance of advocating for the criminalisation of revenge porn in NSW	
<b>New staff</b> .....	4	<b>Doctor of Letters</b> .....	40
Get to know the new faces behind SSPS		Acclaimed author and alumna Anne Summers awarded Doctor Of Letters, in recognition of her distinguished contribution to national affairs	
<b>The new Crimonology Minor</b> .....	10	<b>SSPS prizes ceremony</b> .....	44
Discover the new suite of units delving into the socio-economic, cultural and historical aspects of crime		Celebrating the outstanding achievements of our students	
<b>Revamping Politics and IR</b> .....	12	<b>The social reframing of dementia</b> ....	46
Why the study of politics and international relations is more relevant than ever		Challenging the dominance of bio-medical approaches, to transform the understanding of dementia as a common experience of ageing	
<b>Dream vs reality of working at the United Nations</b> .....	16	<b>How did we ever teach without knowing this?</b> .....	48
Alumna Melissa Martin talks about the Young UN Agents for Change program and advocating for change within the UN and around the world		How the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences' LCT Centre for Knowledge-Building is changing education	
<b>Sydney 2017 Peace Prize winners</b> .....	20	<b>The Cyber Security Network</b> .....	50
Black Lives Matter, a look at the nationwide on-the-ground political network that has 39 chapters worldwide		Working to bridge the social-technical divide at the University of Sydney	
<b>Defeating the Dakota pipeline</b> .....	24	<b>Extracting knowledge in the Madagascan mining sector</b> .....	54
Why the struggle is important for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and their way of life		Securing benefits for future generations of the resource-rich Indian Ocean island state	
<b>Trapped in/pushed out</b> .....	28	<b>Publications</b> .....	58
The experiences of refugees and asylum seekers affected by punitive border politics in the US and Australia		A selection of new titles published by SSPS academics	
<b>Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin</b> .....	32		
Four research fellows reflect on their time in Europe's largest social science research institute			

Cover image: Black Lives Matter Movement founders by Ben Parker pg 20

©2017 SSPS Review. All rights reserved. All material in this magazine may not be reproduced, transmitted or distributed in any form without the written permission of The School of Social and Political Sciences.

The articles published reflect the opinions of the respective authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the publishers and editorial team.

## Social media

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

🐦 @Usyd\_ssps

📘 /Usyd.ssps

**Pop Politics**

(Academic analysis of political organisations and participation in Australia)

🐦 @POPpoliticsAus

**Associate Professor Nicholas Rowley**

(interest in public policy and climate change)

🐦 @Rowley10Nick

**Health Security**

(official account of the Master of Health Security)

🐦 @hlth\_security

**Adele Webb**

(doctoral researcher of democracy, inequality & Philippine politics)

🐦 @adelehwebb

**Dr Anna Boucher**

(research focus on migration, gender, and race)

🐦 @DrAnnaBoucher1

**Dr Diarmuid Maguire**

(focus on European and international politics, and social movements)

🐦 @potatofiend

**Cindy Vestergaard**

(visiting scholar with research focus on the global governance of natural uranium)

🐦 @CeeVestergaard

## Drop us a line

**Please send us your feedback**

Editor

Nena Serafimovska

nena.serafimovska@sydney.edu.au

– [sydney.edu.au/arts/ssps](https://sydney.edu.au/arts/ssps)



# Events



Photo: Gage Skidmore

## Politics of Trump

11-12 August

Join us for 'The Politics of Trump', a forum featuring over thirty academics from the Department of Government and International Relations, who will discuss the various issues raised by the election of President Donald Trump.

Six roundtables will be held over two days, with five experts speaking on each. They will discuss "the Trump effect" and its impact on immigration, environment, gender politics, political economy, public policy, and foreign policy.

The forum is part of the Department's centenary series of events, celebrating 100 years of intellectual endeavour at the University of Sydney.

To register and for venue details visit:

– [bit.ly/2pynH73](https://bit.ly/2pynH73)

## Democracy festival

13-15 September

The 2017 Sydney Democracy Network Festival of Democracy begins with a seminar on the "Kidnapping of Democracy" by Ramón Feenstra from the Universitat Jaume I de Castelló, Spain, followed by a debate, featuring University of Sydney academics, on the nature of truth, and whether it has a future in public life.

Guest speaker from the Netherlands, Rob Wijnberg, editor-in-chief and founder of De Correspondent, will take a fresh look at how the news cycle keeps us numb and dumb.

The Festival will wrap with a public forum on the "Death of Species" featuring invited speakers held alongside the screening of the mini-documentary "A Heart in Nature" by Plamena Slavcheva. The film tells the personal story of Chris Darwin, descendant of Charles, who after renouncing a career in advertising now painstakingly fights against the extinction of species in his ancestor's name.

For program and venue details visit:

– [sydneydemocracynetwork.org/](https://sydneydemocracynetwork.org/)



Photo: Bas Losekoot

## City of Sydney Peace Prize lecture and award ceremony

2 November  
6.30pm–8.00pm

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

This year's Sydney Peace Prize winners, The Black Lives Matter Global Network made up of Founders Patrisse Cullors, Opal Tometi and Alicia Garza will come to Sydney in November to accept the Prize.

On 2 November, they will deliver the much-anticipated 2017 City of Sydney Peace Prize Lecture, and will be awarded the Prize at the Sydney Town Hall.

To register and for venue details visit:

– [events.ticketbooth.com.au/event/SPPLecture2017](https://events.ticketbooth.com.au/event/SPPLecture2017)



Photo: Ben Parker



Photo: C/- SEED MOB

## Environmental justice – looking back, looking forward conference

6–8 November

The Sydney Environment Institute is set to host the Ecological Justice 2017 Conference, for the event's 20th anniversary. The conference focuses on both a retrospective look at environmental justice (EJ) scholarship and activism and the prospects and themes for current and future work in the field. What have we learned, and what are the challenges, trends, and directions for EJ theories, movements and campaigns, and institutions and politics?

The 2017 conference, like the earlier one, will have a global and interdisciplinary focus, and will also bring together scholars and activists addressing EJ in human communities and those focused on nonhuman nature.

To register visit:

– [bit.ly/2qqv3b3](https://bit.ly/2qqv3b3)

# 2017 new academic staff



## Nicholas Rowley

### What's your research area?

I have no specific research area. My focus at the university is to be as good a teacher and mentor to undergraduate and postgraduate students as I can be.

### What are you most excited about in your new role?

Enthusing people and minds that can and might make a positive contribution.

### Harley Davidson or pushbike ?

Bicycle. Pushbike is a strange and slightly patronising term only used here. I have a beautiful, hand made, three geared, blue steel framed bicycle which I had especially made when I was in Copenhagen. I am with John F Kennedy: "Nothing compares to the simple pleasure of a bike ride"

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

Now. But if we must indulge in fantasy then accompanying Alfred Wallace on his first trip to Borneo (with good 21st century kit: German binoculars; good tent; great shoes and high tech clothing) would have been wondrous!



## Gorana Grgic (MIntS '10 PhD '14)

### What's your research area?

My current research focuses on the U.S. foreign policy in the Balkans as part of a larger puzzle of the return of great power politics in the region. I'm also working on a project that explores the U.S. allies' responses to new presidents by utilising text mining of media coverage.

### What are you most excited about in your new role with the School?

I am really looking forward to having the opportunity to contribute to the new curriculum given the significant change in the Department's degree structure. I am also thrilled that the Early Career Development Fellow position offers substantial institutional support to further my research.

### What are you binge watching at the moment?

Last time I binge watched a show was over the Christmas break – House of Cards Season 4, which was a bit deflating compared to the previous seasons. I'm actually more of a binge listener these days. I have become addicted to podcasts over the past couple of years and there seems to be a growing list of good quality podcasts on politics, international affairs, history and beyond that I feel I need to catch up on.









Photo: Torrenegra

# Center for Long-Term Cybersecurity, UC Berkeley welcomes Frank Smith

Examining the potential impact of quantum technologies on international security

Written by Chuck Kapelke and Frank Smith

What would happen if the United States government built a quantum computer that could unscramble even the most sophisticated encryption? What if another government—or a private company—were to achieve this feat first? And what would be the political implications if such powerful computers ever became as widespread as today's desktop PCs?

These are the types of questions that Frank Smith, a senior lecturer with the Centre for International Security Studies at the University of Sydney, will consider during his time as a Visiting Scholar with the Center for Long-Term Cybersecurity. Smith's research examines the potential impact of quantum technologies—including quantum computing and cryptography—on international security. His research is part

of a larger, Carnegie-funded project called 'Peace and Security in the Quantum Age'. "I'm trying to think about the security challenges and policy decisions that will emerge along with innovations in quantum technologies over the next 15 years," Smith explains. "What would a universal quantum computer mean for access to information and thus uncertainty in international relations? Is quantum key distribution really revolutionary or a niche application? How can political science help anticipate the security dynamics likely to arise as a result of these technologies?"

For the unfamiliar, quantum computers are hypothetical machines that harness quantum mechanics to replace "bits" (1's and 0's) with "qubits" that can represent 1 and 0 simultaneously. In effect, these



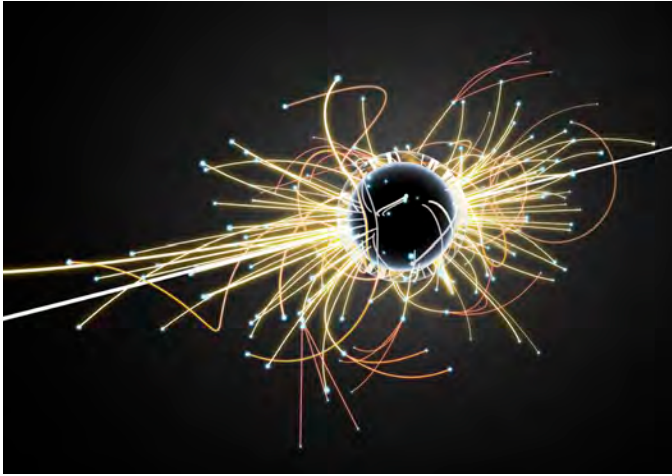


Photo: iStock

“My aim is to understand why the supply of cybersecurity differs from public health and safety in other fields that are also integral to national security”

qubits could enable massive parallel processing. Although physicists and nanoscientists are still trying to build quantum computers, Smith is exploring the broader social and political questions that will arise if and when these powerful computers come online. Quantum technologies could upend modern economic and political systems built on digital technologies.

“Some problems that are very hard on classic computers become tractable on quantum computers,” Smith says. “For example, the public key encryption commonly used on the Internet might take until the heat-death of the universe to crack on a desktop PC. But the underlying math could be solved by a quantum computer relatively quickly, and if you’re able to do that, much of the encrypted data that we currently depend upon becomes transparent.”

While at UC Berkeley, Smith will be writing an e-book to introduce policymakers and the public to quantum technologies and their political implications. He also aims to produce a scholarly article that uses scenario planning, security studies, and international relations theory to help anticipate the potential consequences of these technologies. His research aligns well with the future-oriented mission of the Center for Long-Term Cybersecurity. “Because quantum computing is a plausible, realistic technology that is not yet in effect, the future-oriented approach of the Center for Long-Term Cybersecurity has a lot of appeal for my analysis.”

In addition to his work on quantum technologies, Smith studies the origin and evolution of cybersecurity as an organisational field, drawing upon his past work on health security (he recently published an article comparing cyber intelligence with public health.) “My aim is to understand why the supply of cybersecurity differs from public health and safety in other fields that are also integral to national security,” he explains. “Why does our response to cyber-attacks look the way that it does? Why does the government play a different role when providing public goods in cybersecurity—such as institutionalised trust—than it does in other sectors of security?”



## Frank Smith

Dr Frank Smith’s research and teaching examine the relationship between technology and international security. His research focuses on bio and cyber security: particularly on how inaccurate ideas about technology in these fields can influence decisions about war and peace.

# Fulbright scholar chooses Sydney to study world-renown Health Security program

Sophie Hollingsworth discusses what sets The Master of Health Security at the University of Sydney apart from any other program around the world



Written by Bella Divnhu

We would like to issue a very warm welcome to Fulbright Anne Wexler Scholar, Sophie Hollingsworth from New York University (NYU) who joins us this year to study our world-leading, Master of Health Security.

Sponsored by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, the Fulbright Anne Wexler Scholarship enables an American and Australian postgraduate student with strong academic credentials and leadership potential to undertake a two year Master's degree in the USA or Australia in the area of Public Policy.

Sophie is eager to study the expanding field of Health Security at The University of Sydney, where areas of national security and public health overlap.

"As the first globally recognised Master of Health Security, there is no other program like it in the world," she said.

"The University of Sydney has developed a cutting edge postgraduate program which aims to produce the world's future leaders in this field and offers students an

intellectually rigorous interdisciplinary program of study and research, providing a pathway for pursuing a career in global health security.

"My proposed course of study will pay particular attention to political and security significance of disease-related events and development as related to public policy."

Sophie will specialise in biodefense and biosafety, which imparts both advanced skills and knowledge to analyse and formulate policies on critical areas including biological weapons, counter-terrorism, customs and border control, civil-military relations, health diplomacy, dual use research of concern, and emergency response.

"My paramount focus will be on shared political interests and cooperation between the United States and Australia in trade, security, and development as related to health security," she added.





Sophie Hollingsworth in the field. Photo: AquaAid

“AquaAid and I have secured sustainable access to clean drinking water to over 800 people in the Southern Autonomous Region of Nicaragua, taught hundreds of kids about the importance of clean drinking water”

“The biodefense and biosafety concentration will focus on areas in which human health and security concerns intersect most closely.”

She hopes to learn and develop the skills necessary to manage broad facets of complex animal, human and plant disease-related events including emerging diseases, biodefense, quarantine and border management.

“I’m also most excited about the Internship opportunity in Health Emergencies at the World Health Organization in Geneva - an invaluable opportunity, unique to the Master of Health Security program!

“I hope to deepen my complex analysis, quantitative, and technical skill set in international health policy. Equipped with these skills, I will foster effective and meaningful collaboration between Australia and the United States, where we have the capacity to establish global systems that identify future epidemics before they cost lives, stress the medical system, and destabilise the economy,” she said.

Outside of her studies, Sophie has founded an organisation, AquaAid International, which focuses on water security issues in extremely remote communities around the world.

“AquaAid and I have secured sustainable access to clean drinking water to over 800 people in the Southern Autonomous Region of Nicaragua, taught hundreds of kids about the importance of clean drinking water and

the environment, and designed a new ecological ventilated pit latrine that converts waste to fertiliser.

“AquaAid has consulted on water projects in Panama, Namibia, and the Republic of Vanuatu. My work with AquaAid International and on remote expeditions around the world has turned me into a social chameleon.

“I can meaningfully engage with everyone from tribal communities in Sub-Saharan Africa all the way up to Fortune 500 executives in C-suites in Manhattan. Through a synthesis of all of these voices and priorities, I can better help strengthen global health security policy.”

After obtaining her Master of Health Security, Sophie hopes to pursue a Doctor of Public Health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

“Following my doctoral studies, I intend to work with the Center for Disease Control, Division of Global Health Protection and Department of Defense, Threat Reduction Agency to help protect the health of American and global populations by working with partner countries to build the capacity needed to identify and address outbreaks before they become epidemics.”

# Discover the new Criminology minor

A brand new suite of units delving into the socio-economic, cultural and historical aspects of crime



Photo: Midas Eric Maung

Written by Greg Martin and  
Rebecca Scott Bray (MCrim '96)

Criminology has long been a popular and exciting key strand of the Socio-Legal Studies at the University of Sydney, which is offered by the Department of Sociology and Social Policy. Current teaching in criminology is focused on staff research strengths in areas such as criminological theory, crime control and cultural criminology, and we're excited to announce that from 2018 the new minor in criminology will allow undergraduate students to dive further into the field through the structured study of criminology.

So, what is it that criminologists do? Criminologists are interested in the spectrum of crime, its causation, and responses to offending. Some criminologists focus on the psychological origins of crime or discovering the roots of criminal behaviour in biography or family history, but our focus is more on the socio-economic, cultural and historical aspects of crime and criminality. Serial killing is a perfect way to show how these factors come into play, and because it's a subject that fascinates students and often attracts them to criminology study it's now a key topic in the new criminology minor unit Crime, Media and Culture.

When looking at serial killing, there is a tendency for researchers to stress the individual pathology of serial killers. While serial killing is clearly an extreme crime, other researchers have developed more sociologically informed perspectives to argue that serial killing reflects normal processes of modernisation. For example, the dispassionate style of rational thought that ideally characterises scientific modes of thinking associated with the Enlightenment, is reproduced by serial killers, who use rational strategising to plan killings, such as orchestrating abduction, torture, disposal, and sexual fantasies.



“serial killing is clearly an extreme crime, researchers have developed more sociologically informed perspectives to argue that serial killing reflects normal processes of modernisation”

Similarly, the way many serial killers consider they are providing a community service by ridding society of devalued and powerless groups reflects Enlightenment and modernist thinking about ‘progress’ and social betterment.

The example of serial killing is one that highlights a much broader spectrum of debate than simply individual pathology, and the new minor will introduce students to new concepts, thinking and challenges within criminology more broadly.

Studying criminology at the University of Sydney will give students the knowledge, and analytical and research skills that are highly desirable to a broad range of employers from private industry to not-for-profit and government sector organisations. Graduates can also take their interest in criminology further by enrolling in the Sydney Law School’s Master of Criminology, which will allow them to expand and consolidate their skills and knowledge of crime and criminal justice, and learn from some of Australia’s leading criminologists.

## What’s new in 2018

There’s a whole new suite of modern and challenging subjects now available through the Criminology minor. Here’s a snapshot of the units students will take:

### Studying Crime and Criminology

examines definitions of crime, crime causation theories, and research methods in criminology. It looks at criminal justice institutions and crime justice policy, and addresses contemporary debates about crime relating to topics such as gender, race, ethnicity, and youth offending.

### Crime, Punishment and Society

explores criminal justice processes and practices, with a critical examination of policing, sentencing, punishment and prison in their historical, social, political and cultural contexts.

### Medico-Legal and Forensic Criminology

looks at the relationship between crime, law, medicine and science in society by examining the history of criminal detection practices, death investigation systems and the coroner’s office, the role of medicine and science in criminal justice, and the socio-legal management of the dead.

### Crime, Media and Culture

considers why we are so fascinated with true crime, and looks at the relationship between real crime and crime fiction by exploring topics such as serial killing, female criminality, organised crime and gangsters.



Photo: identite



Photo: Penn State

# Revamping Politics and International Relations

Why the study of politics and international relations is more relevant than ever

**Written by Colin Wight**

Government and International Relations has long been one of the most popular majors in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. And with good reason. Students come to the university having been exposed to politics and international relations through social media, newspapers and television. Students are naturally inquisitive and want to know why things happen, and what can be done to stop them. They want to know how they fit into this globalised world, how they might make it better, or at least not contribute to making it worse.

It used to be the case that politics was one of those subjects, along with religion, that was off the table when socialising. This is no longer true. You might not be interested in politics, but it is interested in you. Students understand this. Who can fail to be interested and not want to understand issues such as the Syrian War, nuclear proliferation, the



global refugee crisis, the crisis in the international political economy, the implications of Brexit, or what the election of President Trump means for the world, Australia, or just you? As such, Politics and International Relations is one of the most exciting and dynamic subjects to study at university.

Everyone has an opinion on politics, which is why you will often see academics from all disciplines writing on political issues. But having an opinion is different from having an informed opinion, and a degree in Politics and International Relations provides students with the knowledge needed to navigate their way around a globalised world, as well as the skills and knowledge to operate in a range of fascinating careers.

The transformation of the Sydney undergraduate experience has provided the Department of Government and International Relations the opportunity to completely redesign its provision to meet the demands of the globalised world. We will now offer students the opportunity to take either a politics major or international relations major, as well as combinations of both with the new Politics and International Relations stream in the Bachelor or Arts and Bachelor of Advanced Studies.

The new Politics and International Relations stream enables students to do both the Politics and International Relations majors and combines them with a set of unique units available only to students that enrol in the dedicated stream. These units have been designed to allow students to engage with contemporary issues in Politics and International Relations and to develop the real-world problem-solving skills required across all sectors of the global job market.

This is effectively a new four-year degree, with a dedicated focus in Politics and International Relations, which we believe will provide the best training possible in Australia, and the region, for careers in global, and national leadership roles. This new stream also offers students increased opportunities through project units, which encourage students to use their research skills and knowledge to contribute to public debate. Our work placement program provides students with enquiry-based learning activities and the chance to conduct research for organisations in the areas of public policy and international affairs. The international exchange program also allows students to experience the world and graduate with a truly global perspective. All of these

“It used to be the case that politics was one of those subjects, along with religion, that was off the table when socialising. This is no longer true. You might not be interested in politics, but it is interested in you.”

features of the new Politics and International Relations stream facilitate students with various ways of putting their skills and knowledge into practice before leaving university.

In today's job market adaptability is the key, and the dedicated stream has many key elements that ensure Sydney students receive the best education possible to succeed in this rapidly changing global environment.

Career options are varied and exciting. Typical destinations include the diplomatic service, intelligence and risk analysis, humanitarian organisations other not for profit organisations, the United Nations, international business, and journalism. Studies in politics and international relations provide students with the tools to make sense of the complex world around us, to think on their feet and consider domestic and international issues and events from a wide variety of perspectives.

For more information about the new stream visit:

– [bit.ly/2sophtg](https://bit.ly/2sophtg)

Photo: Ekvidi



# Meet our students

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



Anthropology is a unique platform to understand some of the complexity that exists in the world. It can be overwhelming. However, if you immerse yourself: read, listen, discuss, you will come out the other side with an amazing grounding and skills that will help you not only in your work, but also as a human being.”

- Meherose Borthwick  
(Anthropology)

“I am passionate about political economy because it is a constant reminder that economics should work for people, not the other way around. Study in political economy taught me a great deal about the real effect that economics has on people.”

- Alexi Polden (Political Economy)







“I am passionate about giving people the opportunities, dignity and rights that they are entitled to and a big part of this is understanding how they are prevented from experiencing them in the first place.”

- Alice McKenzie (Sociology)

“I’m working towards interdisciplinary PhD research, focused on the innovative practices of low-income Indigenous Australians, and their cultural contributions to the fields of Science and Technology.” - Matthew Webb (Anthropology)





Street view of United Nations Headquarters, NY. Photo: UN NY

# Dream vs reality of working at the United Nations HQ, New York

Alumna Melissa Martin talks about the Young UN Agents for Change program and advocating for change within the UN and around the world

## How did you get an entry-level job at the UN?

My path to the UN started in 2010 when I applied for an internship in New York with a think-tank called Global Policy Forum, a non-governmental organisation accredited to the UN Economic and Social Council. I had just graduated with a Law/International Studies degree and wanted to find out how to get a job with the UN as a graduate. The feedback I received from several UN staff was that in order to even be considered for a professional post I need to get a Masters Degree and have experience working in a developing country – which is what I set out to do.

Two years later a friend mentioned the UN Young Professionals Programme, which Australia was participating in, which was a rare occurrence. So I applied! Although extremely competitive and involving multiple phases of written tests and interviews (around 20 people who apply for each job category eventually get a post) I managed to make it through to a roster, awaiting a post. I waited almost 2 years to be offered a position, and in the meantime completed my Masters of Peace and Conflict Studies and had worked in Timor-Leste, Cambodia and Myanmar.



### What do you hope to achieve during your time working at UNHQ?

A few months after I started my role, a colleague who has devoted the last 20 years of his career to the UN told me that working at the UN is akin to steering a large ship; it takes several small adjustments to the steering to change its course. What he meant is that slowly but surely progress is made, at least when it comes to changing social policies and eradicating poverty. While I do not know for how long my UN career will last, I do hope to work more on gender, peace and security, international mediation or peace negotiations.

### What challenges young people face while working for the UN?

Although the Young Professional Programme is aimed at young graduates with a few years of professional experience, the reality is that most successful candidates have advanced degrees and varied experience both within the UN and in the international development sector. This can mean that working at the Secretariat may involve more tasks of an administrative or process nature, rather than substantive work, given the one of the main roles of Secretariat staff is to support UN Member States during intergovernmental processes.

On a broader level, the question facing many younger staff members relates to the values and ideals of working in international diplomacy. For example, what does a UN that we would be proud to work for in 10 or 15 years from now look like? As young professionals how can we be part of a shift that takes us from where we are now to where we want to be? We observe many challenges facing the UN system, from siloed thinking and competition between teams and agencies incentivised by the current funding structure and culture; to contradictions between external messaging and internal practice on important issues such as sexual harassment and unpaid interns. Like many large organisations a lack of transparency and accountability concerning decision-making and insufficient talent management and staff performance systems exist. These challenges are detrimental to young people who are eager for change and want to make a meaningful contribution to the UN and the globe.

However there is hope! In 2015 all Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which both state need for reform: 'We underline the important role and comparative advantage of an adequately resourced, relevant, coherent, efficient and effective United Nations system in supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and sustainable development.' The new Secretary-General, António Guterres said that 'The 2030 agenda compels us to look beyond national boundaries and short-term interests and act in solidarity for the long-term... We



Thirteenth Session of Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Photo: UN NY

can no longer afford to think and work in silos. Institutions will have to become fit for a grand new purpose' and, ultimately, 'to do better, we must do differently'. Guterres is also an advocate for increased and meaningful youth involvement with and within the UN.

### How are young UN staff members contributing to new Secretary General's reform agenda?

As the previous UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said when he addressed young people back in 2012, "Youth are often the first to stand against injustice. Youth is a time of idealism. Young people are a force for transformation. Young people everywhere deserve the power to get information, connect and ask hard questions – about justice, equality and opportunity. Our job is to listen to youth and answer their calls."

There is always discussion of using the energy and passion of younger people, and the important role young people can play in achieving sustainable development, however, how to do this within the UN itself has not been explored fully – until now. Young people working at the UN are well placed to offer constructive criticism and to create a community of change-makers. As we are somewhat new to the system, we have ideas on what needs to change, and we also know the system well enough to know what obstacles may hinder efforts. As a collective, we possess knowledge about new trends in technology, business and academia and we are sufficiently flexible to change our

“Young UN’s shared aim is to identify, promote and implement innovative ideas that will enable the UN to fully embody the principles it stands for”



UN and Smurfs Team Up for Sustainable Development Goals. Photo: UN NY

own ways of working and see what might be the most effective way to operate.

Building upon those ideas and the momentum of Agenda 2030, a group of young people were formed call Young UN – Agents of Change.

#### What is Young UN – Agents of Change?

Started in 2016, the Young UN network comprises of around 450 young professionals working across the UN system, in over 25 duty stations – and is growing each day. We recognise the need for genuine change at the UN if we are to effectively meet the challenges of this century and are committed to play our part. Young UN’s shared aim is to identify, promote and implement innovative ideas that will enable the UN to fully embody the principles it stands for. In doing so, we hope to improve our shared institution and enhance its credibility in promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Thematically, we are working in five focus areas, identified through workshops and online collaboration; transparency and accountability; human resources; SDG readiness; Inter-agency collaboration; and technology. In order to affect change Young UN are working at three levels to catalyse, amplify and accelerate change: 1) starting a conversation; 2) leading by example; 3) advocating change. As the group grows and evolves, I hope to be more active in its mission and aims, and with a fairly flat structure, everyone has the opportunity to start a reform project, take initiative and achieve positive change.

#### What have you achieved in the time you have worked at the UN?

My modest achievements so far have been very practical and related to the Commission for Social Development, an intergovernmental meeting occurring in February each year. I am responsible for facilitating the participation of non-governmental organisations accredited to the Economic and Social Council. Here, the process for participation is important to determining the outcome. Through close collaboration with stakeholders, the process for participation has become more transparent, efficient and open, all values in which I believe and try to embody in my work.



#### Melissa Martin (MPACS ‘15)

Melissa Martin is an Associate Social Affairs Officer, in the Civil Society Relations & Outreach Unit, Division for Social Policy & Development, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

She has published four articles from her Master’s dissertation, exploring how and why gendered identities were reconstructed through Sri Lanka’s rehabilitation process for ex-combatants; in the Australian Alternative Dispute Resolution Law Bulletin (2016, Vol 3, No. 4, 5, 6) and a briefing paper in the Journal of Peacebuilding and Development (2017, Vol 12). Melissa met with Sri Lanka’s Ambassador to the UN to share her findings.



# Recommended reading

## Ethnic Conflict in Asymmetric Federations by Gorana Grgic

In their last year of existence, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia found themselves facing a similar and very grim state of affairs.

The year was 1991 and the pushes for political and economic liberalisation were growing stronger, secessionist movements were threatening the total collapse of these ethnofederations, and the threats to ethnic minorities within breakaway republics were becoming increasingly conspicuous. However, what followed after their disintegration was markedly different.

While the former Yugoslav republics spiralled into a set of ethnic conflicts that did not leave a single one of them unscathed, in the ex-Soviet space the conflict contagion was far more limited.

This book offers an in-depth analysis of the difference in state collapses and ensuing conflicts in the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia by focusing on their asymmetric ethnofederal structure and the different dynamics of ethnic mobilisation that Soviet and Yugoslav republics experienced. In essence, by examining the interaction between asymmetric federal setup and changes in the polity, the book offers an explanation as to why the former Yugoslav republics compared to former Soviet republics experienced more violent conflict in the period around the collapse of the two ethnofederations.



### Gorana Grgic

Dr Gorana Grgic is a jointly appointed Lecturer at the US Studies Centre and the Department of Government and International Relations.

She has taught units in US politics and foreign policy, world politics, ethnic politics and international organisations, and In 2012 was awarded the FASS Dean's Citation for Excellence in Tutorials. She is a regular political contributor for ABC News 24 and Sky News.

 @GoranaGrgic





# Black Lives Matter Global Network to receive 2017 Sydney Peace Prize

A look at the on-the-ground political network that has 39 chapters worldwide

Written By Lisa Fennis

In 2014, a movement swept across the United States, affirming black humanity in the face of relentless police brutality, mass incarceration and racial disparity. Black Lives Matter's loud calls for justice, dignity and equality have resonated around the world.

Built and sustained by many, the Black Lives Matter Global Network (BLM) has played a vital role in ensuring the Movement for Black Lives got to where it is today. In recognition of their efforts and impact, they will receive the 2017 Sydney Peace Prize:

"For building a powerful movement for racial equality, courageously reigniting a global conversation around state violence and racism. And for harnessing the potential of new platforms and the power of people to inspire a bold movement for change at a time when peace is threatened by growing inequality and injustice."  
- (2017 Sydney Peace Prize Jury)

## Origins: from a moment to a movement

"Trayvon could have been my brother", Alicia says. "I immediately felt not only enraged, but a deep sense of grief. It was as if we had all been punched in the gut." It is July 2013, and Alicia just heard of George Zimmerman's acquittal related to the death of unarmed black teenager Trayvon Martin.

Turning to Facebook, Alicia wrote a 'Love Letter to Black Folks': "We need to love ourselves and fight for a world where black lives matter. Black people, I love you. I love us. We matter. Our lives matter." With Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi's help, the social media hashtag #BlackLivesMatter soon connected people across the country.

Steadily and strategically, the co-founders started to build the scaffolding of a nationwide on-the-ground political network that now has 39 chapters worldwide, encouraging a broader and deeper conversation about what justice for black people looks like—and how people could join forces to achieve it.

## The catalyst: "I can't breathe", "Hands up, don't shoot"

On August 9th, 2014, only a few weeks after Eric Garner died in a NYPD officer's chokehold in New York City, Mike Brown, an unarmed black teenager, was killed by police in Ferguson, St Louis. Police left his body in the street for over four hours, steps away from his mother's house.

People young and old rose up to protest relentless police brutality, mass incarceration and racism. They were met with tanks, riot police and tear gas. For the Network, it meant that #BlackLivesMatter went viral on social media. The slogan became a rallying cry that captivated the country, galvanising a national movement for dignity, justice and respect.

## No more business as usual: Changing the conversation

As people took to the streets, Black Lives Matter captured political agendas, mainstream media, popular culture and public consciousness. Celebrities and athletes showed their support, and the American Dialect Society voted #blacklivesmatter its word of the year for 2014.

Activists have achieved some concrete victories that suggest public outcry can change the status quo: Charges against police officers in cases of fatal

shootings increased, protests over discrimination on college campuses resulted in dismissals, and Democratic Party presidential candidates confronted racism and police brutality in their election platforms.

However, for BLM, the movement was never ‘just’ about extrajudicial killings and police reform: “When we say Black Lives Matter, we broaden the conversation around state violence to include all of the ways in which Black people are intentionally left powerless at the hands of the state. We are talking about the ways in which Black lives are deprived of our basic human rights and dignity.”

Co-Founder Patrisse Cullors says: “Black Lives Matter is our call to action, it is about replacing narratives of black criminality with black humanity, a tool to reimagine a world where black people are free to exist, free to live, and a tool for our allies to show up for us”.

In August 2016 over 50 organisations including the Black Lives Matter Network united to launch “A Vision for Black Lives”. The policy platform calls for divestment from law enforcement and investment in black communities through reparations, educational reform, jobs and infrastructure, and increased community control of neighbourhoods. In only a few years, Black Lives Matter rapidly evolved well beyond a hashtag, into a social movement with political aims and policy demands.

### **Not your grandmamma’s civil rights movement**

For the Founders, Black Lives Matter is also about giving black communities hope and comfort, and about affirming the humanity, resilience and resistance of black people. It is often called the Civil Rights Movement of a new generation, but if it’s up to the Network this movement will look very different.

Black Lives Matter is committed to “(re)building the Black liberation movement”: The Founders nurture a decentralised, youthful, and leaderful movement that encourages diverse voices to shape their leadership based on experiences and needs rooted in the community they organise. The Founders want the faces of this movement to reflect the change they strive towards in their own communities, which is that all black lives matter, regardless of their gender, class, sexual orientation, or age.



Photo: Ben Baker



### In our own backyard

In Australia, racism is a much-debated topic, and it is acutely felt by Australia's First Peoples and various other marginalised communities. As Australia struggles to come to terms with its past and fails to right ongoing wrongs, Indigenous people continue to endure systemic inter-generational injustice and trauma.

Most of the 339 recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths have been gathering dust for years, yet imprisonment rates for Indigenous Australians are at an all-time high. In the Northern Territory and Western Australia more than 80 percent of the prison population is Indigenous, and the number of deaths in custody is increasing. In Western Australia, Indigenous suicides are eight times the national rate, and children as young as eight years old are suiciding.

Senator Patrick Dodson, 2008 Sydney Peace Prize Laureate, strongly supported the choice of the Jury, "This movement resonates around the globe and here in Australia, where we have become inured to the high incarceration rates and deaths in custody of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It's as if their lives do not matter. As human beings, we are capable of being better. We are capable of concern, solidarity, inclusiveness and respect. Black Lives Matter reminds us that this is not only possible, but essential for our common humanity. Black Lives Matter's commitment to "collectively, lovingly and courageously working vigorously for freedom and justice for Black people and, by extension all people" reminds us that we must never cease in the struggle to build a society founded in mutual respect, love and justice."



Photo: Joe Brusky

### 2017 Sydney Peace Prize

Without justice and human rights for everyone, peace is hollow, unevenly distributed and eventually prone to collapse. The invaluable contributions of each of the twenty Sydney Peace Prize Laureates embody these principles – as does the Black Lives Matter Global Network.

The selection of a movement instead of an individual is timely. Climate change is escalating fast, increasing inequality and racism are feeding divisiveness, and we are in the middle of the worst refugee crisis since World War II– yet many establishment leaders across the world stick their heads in the sand or turn their backs on justice, fairness and equality. Now more than ever, popular movements and political resistance is crucial.

To turn a radically inclusive message into a rallying cry for millions of people requires courage, vision, leadership, and heart. Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, Opal Tometi, and the many other Black Lives Matter leaders, challenge us all to rethink, reimagine, and reconstruct the societies we live in – what an urgent, daunting and beautiful challenge.



### Sydney Peace Foundation

The Sydney Peace Foundation showcases solutions that prove that peace with justice is possible, and inspires and empowers people from all walks of life to create that reality in their lives and communities.

The Sydney Peace Foundation was founded in 98' by Emeritus Professor Stuart Rees AM. Since then it has encouraged people in Australia and abroad to think about the meaning of peace, justice and alternatives to violence.

 @SydPeaceFound



Photo: Joe Brusky

# Defeating the Dakota Access pipeline

“The problem is that the current construction path of the pipeline was moved due to concerns about water safety from a path closer to the capital of North Dakota, Bismarck, to an area within the ancestral and treaty territory of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.”

Interview by Anastasia Mortimer (BA HONS '17)

On Tuesday 21 February 2017, Sydney Ideas and the Sydney Environment Institute hosted a special public lecture by Kyle Powys Whyte, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Community Sustainability at Michigan State University. Whyte's lecture discussed his work on climate and environmental justice and writings on the #No DAPL movement.

The case of the DAPL is a familiar story, one which marks the continued dispossession of land for Indigenous people in resource development decisions. Countless fights for land and against resource development have occurred for Native American tribes, and if we look at other indigenous people such as First Australians, it is clear that the similarities do not just remain in the U.S.



“‘water is life’ means much more than just clean drinking water, it refers to an entire way of dwelling and perceiving in relation to ecosystems that is the fabric of the Tribes society and way of life.”



Photo: Kyle Powys Whyte and SEI Co-Director David Schlosberg

**What led you to become a researcher and activist on issues surrounding Indigenous peoples and the environment?**

As a Potawatomi person, and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, I've always been deeply interested in human interactions with ecosystems. For Potawatomi people, our culture and philosophy of governance are built off of a seasonal round system in which human society is carefully structured to adjust to the dynamics of ecosystems. I am rather fascinated with how that system is completely different from the some of the governance systems we grapple with today as unsuitable for environmental sustainability, such as, say, the U.S. government and economic system.

Moreover, my Tribe was forcibly relocated in the 19th century from our homelands to completely different ecosystem hundreds of miles away. That collective memory and the legacies of relocation figure importantly in driving my interest to think about how human societies can adapt to live in new ecosystems. My Tribe experienced environmental injustice throughout our history with the U.S., and I have been concerned about identifying these patterns with my Tribe and others too, then thinking more broadly about Indigenous peoples everywhere.

**Can you briefly summarise what the Dakota Access Pipeline is, and why you believe it is so important to prevent it from being completed?**

The Dakota Access Pipeline is a business enterprise that seeks to find a more profitable way to deliver oil to refineries from particular oil fields in North Dakota than the current options, including rail transportation. The pipeline is also supposed to be safer than rail.

The problem is that the current construction path of the pipeline was moved due to concerns about water safety



Photo: Joe Brusky

from a path closer to the capital of North Dakota, Bismarck, to an area within the ancestral and treaty territory of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. The pipeline must pass underneath the Missouri River, which is a major water source for the Tribe and a place infused with the Tribe's living heritage. While the pipeline poses risks to water quality, the pipeline construction is also another blatant attempt of the U.S. and business interests to use land belonging to the Tribe.

The pipeline project is wrongful both because of its risks to water and cultural heritage (and it is questionable how well the U.S. consulted the Tribe in advance) but also, and perhaps fundamentally, because it is another attempt

Continued over...

to use the Tribes land in a long history of the U.S. and business interests reducing and degrading the Tribes land in ways that prevent barriers for the Tribe to exercise self-determination, including the fact that the Tribe never formally consented to ceding the lands and waters the pipeline seeks to cross.

The pipeline is an insult to the very cultural landscape of that Tribe in which the legacies of Tribal members', ancestors' and current cultural flourishing is at stake – “water is life” means much more than just clean drinking water, it refers to an entire way of dwelling and perceiving in relation to ecosystems that is the fabric of the Tribes society and way of life.

### **What do you think the next step should be in the movement against the Dakota Access Pipeline?**

Resistance to the pipeline needs to keep occurring scales. We need to keep showing on the ground that the pipeline is wrong and unjust but also that as Indigenous peoples our forms of resistance are about prayer and ceremony. Other people who participate directly in the actions on the ground need to learn from elders and others who are there about what it means for acts of resistance to be a ceremony, so to speak.

At another scale, people need to support financially the legal battle that the Tribe is involved in, as well as the specific organisers in the Tribe. Finally, as is occurring everywhere, people are connecting the dots and realising that Tribes will continually be put in this position as long as there is a financial infrastructure that keeps these projects assaulting Indigenous lands.

### **What can University of Sydney students do locally to support this movement?**

Hold events on campus that raise awareness of the injustice of DAPL and draw connections with analogous struggles in Australia.

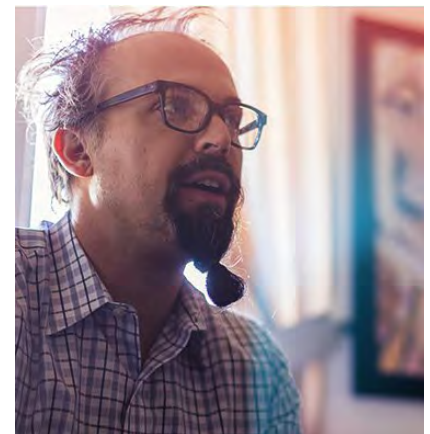
Sydney Uni's curriculum should equip students to be able to understand why something like DAPL is an injustice, meaning that courses should cover the history of Indigenous peoples in places now commonly referred to by most as Australia or the U.S. Without infringing on academic freedom, there is a space to bring attention to students' desire for curriculum that teaches people about issues that are often ignored, such as histories of Indigenous land dispossession, that ultimately frame the most pressing issues of injustice today. My website has some of these resources. The water protectors who have

taken great efforts to resist the pipeline – their efforts should not be in vain, as this is a tremendous opportunity to bring together different issues that Indigenous peoples but also other populations who experience environmental injustices.

Sydney Uni students should harness the energy of #NoDAPL in events looking at wider issue related to the global impact of the Trump administration (which has recently endorsed DAPL, re-energising DAPL) and connecting the dots of the U.S. and international finance structure that supports environmental injustice everywhere.

View the Youtube video of the lecture here:

– [youtube.com/watch?v=56YRZcCft5s&t=360s](https://youtube.com/watch?v=56YRZcCft5s&t=360s)



### **Kyle Powys Whyte**

Kyle Powys Whyte is a Timnick Chair in the Humanities at Michigan State University, as well as Associate Professor of Philosophy and Community Sustainability. His research, teaching, training, and activism address moral and political issues concerning climate policy and Indigenous peoples and the ethics of cooperative relationships between Indigenous peoples and climate science organizations.

– [kylewhyte.cal.msu.edu/nodapl/](https://kylewhyte.cal.msu.edu/nodapl/)

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



# Do what you feel is right for you.

Salina Alvaro  
Arts student



## The things you learn here.



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**

[sydney.edu.au/thingsyoulearn](https://sydney.edu.au/thingsyoulearn)



@sydney\_uni

Leadership for good starts here





Residents place 3 buses vertically to protect themselves from snipers overlooking neighbourhood in Aleppo. Photo: Ahmad Primo



# Trapped in/pushed out: border politics in the US and Australia

An innovative and emotionally confronting event that explores the realities endured by refugees and asylum seekers ‘trapped in’ and/or ‘pushed out’ by punitive border politics in the US and Australia.

Written by Matthew Withers  
(BA ‘10 MPolEc ‘12 PhD ‘17)

Recently the Sydney Asia-Pacific Migration Centre (SAPMiC) and School of Social and Political Sciences (SSPS) hosted an innovative and emotionally confronting event that explored the realities endured by refugees and asylum seekers ‘trapped in’ and/or ‘pushed out’ by punitive border politics exercised by the US and Australia. The evening, including a photographic exhibition and panel presentation from several powerful speakers, was organised by Dr Susan Banki from the Department of Sociology and Social Policy. The event attracted a large and diverse audience eager to gain insights into the lived experiences of refugees whose stories are routinely stifled and obscured by the liminality of ‘offshore processing’.

The event was unique in capturing aspects of refugees’ experiences across different mediums and perspectives. The exhibition of photographs that prefaced the event were curated by Maher Jamous, a Syrian producer and filmmaker who himself fled Syria in 2012. The exhibition featured work from a number of Syrian photographers still living in the country or just outside its borders, offering a visceral look into the day-to-day realities of Syrians caught in the ravages of conflict. In one photograph young children are seen playing in the debris of missile attacks (pictured); in another, three busses are vertically upended to provide cover from gunfire at a busy intersection where a small marketplace surreally continues (pictured). Such

stark juxtapositions of everyday life continuing amidst the spectre of death convey an acute need for refuge in a way that words seldom can, a theme that was revisited later in the evening.

The talks that followed added another dimension to the trapped in/pushed out theme. Describing how refuge is systematically denied to asylum seekers by US and Australian governments committed to a strand of border politics that contravenes the spirit, and often the letter, of international law pertaining to non-refoulement. The keynote presentation delivered by Professor David FitzGerald of the University of California San Diego examined the historical development of tighter border control policies in the US, highlighting the pivotal role played by ‘remote control’ interdiction strategies conducted by airport screening, at sea and within third countries to deny entry to refugees and undocumented immigrants. Dr Graham Thom, Refugee Coordinator at Amnesty International Australia followed, relating this governing logic to Australia’s own long-standing fixation on preventing the maritime arrivals of refugees and asylum seekers, culminating in the Pacific Solution and its resurrection as a bipartisan policy under Gillard and Rudd governments.

Having shed light on the policy frameworks and political contexts that allow the detention of refugees and asylum seekers, the stage was set for the remaining speakers to explore the

Continued over...



Photos above and below: Matthew Withers

emotional and psychological aspects of those ‘trapped in’ by such systems. Michelle Peterie, a PhD student in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy, discussed the deeply disruptive quality of Australia’s onshore detention system, a system she researched by interviewing volunteers who visit asylum seekers in community detention and onshore detention facilities. What emerged were stories of arbitrary cruelty; acts of punishment whose apparent randomness is belied by the frequency of their occurrence, suggesting a systematic disruption of any sense of stability or normalcy in the lives of detainees. Peterie explained that the abrupt confiscation of communal resources, the unexplained introduction or prohibition of daily activities, the overnight and unannounced transfer of detainees to other detention centres: these are the simple acts that engineer a climate of uncertainty and culminate in further experiences of trauma and distress for individuals already carrying heavy psychological burdens.

The Kafkaesque dimensions of this system of punishment were most hauntingly conveyed by the final speaker of the evening, Behrouz Boochani, a Kurdish Iranian journalist and asylum seeker currently detained on Manus Island. Speaking to the audience via Whatsapp voice messages interpreted in real time by his friend and academic collaborator Dr Omid Tofighian, of the Department of Philosophy, Behrouz spoke of the inability to convey and contest the Australian government’s logic of oppression through the journalistic medium. He related his experiences on Manus to the forms of systematic psychological torture and biopolitics that Foucault describes in *Discipline and Punish and Madness and Civilization*, stressing that while the Australian public may read about what is occurring on Manus, we cannot comprehend the lived realities of those in detention.





“What emerged were stories of arbitrary cruelty; acts of punishment whose apparent randomness is belied by the frequency of their occurrence, suggesting a systematic disruption of any sense of stability or normalcy in the lives of detainees”



Children playing in Scud missile debris in Aleppo. Photo: Ryad Al-Hussein

Disillusioned with journalism, which he described as “a very weak and superficial form of communication”, Behrouz explained that he has turned to creative expression as a deeper and more intimate medium through which to communicate his and others’ experiences.

The audience listened to powerful excerpts from Behrouz’s upcoming book, publicly shared for the first time at this event. Thereafter, Behrouz discussed the film, *Chauka, please Tell Us the Time*, that he covertly shot and co-directed at Manus using no more than a mobile phone. Chauka is the name of a native bird on Manus, beloved for its song that tells locals the time at various times of the day, but is also the name for the solitary confinement cell within the detention centre; in Behrouz’s words, “a horrific concept for asylum seekers, a beautiful and symbolic concept for Manusians”. The film locates colonialism at the heart of the treatment of asylum seekers on Manus, exploring how the Manusians have been co-opted in the project of detention, eventually leading to the shared realisation between locals and asylum seekers that their tensions have been orchestrated by Australia and policies evocative of racist imperialism.

Behrouz’s speech brought a sober end to the night’s discussion, and gave all in attendance a rare connection with the immense and enduring spirit of an asylum seeker trapped in a system whose explicit orientation is to dehumanise those it detains. His message is set to meet a wider audience shortly, with *Chauka, Please Tell Us The Time* set to screen in Australia this year.

## SAPMiC

Established in 2016, SAPMiC is an interdisciplinary centre of scholars, researchers and practitioners based at the University of Sydney and working on migration issues across the Asia Pacific region.

The centre engages within current policy debates by linking academic research with advocacy and policy through partnerships between governmental and non-governmental organisations, private and public groups and regional and international organisations.

– [sydney.edu.au/arts/asia-pacific-migration-centre/](https://sydney.edu.au/arts/asia-pacific-migration-centre/)

# Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin

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



## Adele Webb

I can't lie – I was a little reluctant packing my suitcase and heading to Berlin last December, just as the Sydney sun was beginning to put on a show. Little did I know, I would soon be feeling very grateful to miss the sweltering heat of summer 16/17, and surprising myself by how much I enjoyed walking to work through the snow.

All of that was just tangential to the remarkable opportunity of being part of the WZB for 10 weeks, thanks to the Faculty's Sydney-Berlin Doctoral Fellowship. Based within the Democracy and Democratization Research Unit headed by Professor Wolfgang Merkel, I was provided office space from the very first day and a key to access the WZB's grand facilities at any time – day or night! Not to mention being given a tour of all the resources and the offer of research assistance from the remarkable team of librarians.

I spent most of my time in Berlin writing a journal article about the May 2016 Philippine election, the high middle-class vote for Rodrigo Duterte, and how this middle-class support for an authoritarian-type leader could be explained. Toward the end of my stay, I had the opportunity to present the draft paper I'd been working on in one of the Unit's research seminars. Although my qualitative approach differed from the quantitative methods of many in the Unit, I was overwhelmed by how seriously the colleagues and senior research staff engaged with my work, and offered incisive feedback from which I am still benefiting.

The institute lacks the dynamism of Sydney's student-centred campus, but the trade-off is well worth it. Particularly as a PhD student, it provides the chance to become embedded in a serious research environment, to make contact with colleagues at various stages of their career, and to situate your own work within a global research agenda. The motivation and confidence I gained from this experience, I consider invaluable.

I haven't even touched on how fantastic it was to spend almost three months living in a city like Berlin. Nor how fortuitous it was that my stay overlapped with the Berlin International Film Festival.

Packing my bags, I did wonder if it wasn't just easier to stay in Sydney, rather than heading off to the other side of the world. Finishing a PhD is stressful enough as it is. But thank goodness that I did. I gained insights from the experience I never would have by staying put.







## Max Grömping

Three freezing months of short sunlight hours and zero degree average temperatures spend at the WZB turned out to be one of the best experiences of my PhD candidature. I was kindly hosted by the ‘Democracy and Democratization’ research unit, headed by Professor Wolfgang Merkel, as part of the Sydney–Berlin doctoral fellowship. It was the ideal time of the year to write without interruption, and to polish the final version of my PhD dissertation, which I then submitted one month after returning from Berlin.

My research is located at the nexus of comparative political communication and comparative democratisation. It investigates the dynamics of political and media agenda-setting by civil society actors in hybrid regimes with the help of a globally comparative case study of domestic election monitoring and advocacy groups. Professor Merkel’s research unit was therefore a perfect host for this exchange, and I am very thankful for his and his colleagues’ sponsorship and hospitality.

The democracy unit hosts an amazing group of German and international scholars, all drawn together by their interest in how institutions and political actors interact in established and young democracies. This encompasses state of the art data-gathering efforts such as the German Longitudinal Election Study, the Manifesto Project, coding policy positions of political parties, or the LATINNO Project, mapping democratic innovations in Latin America. This alone provided grounds for many fruitful methodological and substantive discussions from which I invariably walked away having learned a lot. The unit also meets regularly to discuss work in progress papers, which provided a fantastic opportunity for me to garner valuable feedback on a thesis chapter.

I was impressed by the theoretical and empirical rigour of the many discussions I had at the WZB, not only limited to the seminars or other structured forums, but also over lunch and coffee.

The WZB is a venerable and studious place, aptly emblematised by its architecture borrowing from the design of medieval monasteries. It is also at the cutting edge of social science research, with regular workshops, conferences, or talks by world-renowned scholars. During my time spent at the WZB, a conference on ‘Parties, Citizens, and Democracy’, for instance, brought together the likes of Hans-Dieter Klingemann, Ian Budge, Christian Welzel, Jacques Thomassen, and Katrin Voltmer, to name but a few.

And although I had lived in Berlin previously, the stay still afforded many new discoveries. Art galleries and historical museums abound in direct vicinity to the WZB. I would especially recommend any future visitors to take advantage of the free historical exhibitions, such as the German Resistance Memorial Center, or the Topography of Terror.

The productive working environment and professional support at the WZB, the luxury of having an office, the collegial atmosphere, and the frequent events, all made the exchange a truly transformative experience. In hindsight, I would not have finished the dissertation in time, were it not for the mental and physical space provided by the Center. I would encourage everyone to look into the FASS-WZB exchange program and take advantage of this unique and generous opportunity.

Max enjoying the frozen sights around Berlin





## Professor Michael Humphrey

I visited WZB on the University of Sydney-WZB exchange programme for a month last November (2016). Perhaps this was not the best time of year to choose to go – it rained almost continuously and was getting colder by the day – but the fascinating social and cultural life of the city and its haunting history was more than enough to compensate for the weather.

I became part of the Global Governance Research Unit headed by Prof. Michael Zürn for the month and was made to feel very welcome and even included in their annual research group photo. The WZB office and facilities were excellent and you quickly learned the social routines of the place. The WZB researchers, many of them postdocs and doctoral students, mainly present and very busy in their offices but every day there was an open invitation to meet for lunch with other researchers. I found it a very good opportunity to get to know members of the research group, connect with the constant stream of visitors and learn about other activities around Berlin.

The other academic ritual was attendance at research seminars of your own research group but also all the other research groups not to mention the special presentations by international academic passing through. While friendly the seminars were nevertheless demanding occasions where the seminar presenters were closely questioned about their work in the spirit of constructive criticism.

While my own research looking at ‘neoliberal urbanisation, the local state and insecurity in Latin American cities’ did not closely intersect with the Global Governance group’s current research projects there was a lot of interest in the urban theory and methodologies I was employing, and also the Latin American regional focus – Dr Tine Hanrieder in the Global Health Unit undertaking global health research

in Cuba, Dr. Thamy Pogrebinski a Research Fellow in the Democracy and Democratization Research Unit looking at local innovations in democracy in Latin America.

The international standing of WZB and its attraction for international researchers makes it a very cosmopolitan place. As a result you are just as likely to meet visiting international researchers as the local WZB ones. Prof Anja Jetschke, a visiting Research Fellow from Political Science at the University of Göttingen researching regional international organizations, was also a member of the research unit I got to know and have stimulating exchanges with.

Just a block away from WZB was Ibero-American Institute which I visited and attended seminars and I also met up with Prof Marianne Braig at the Institute for Latin American Studies the Freie University Berlin. The main paper I was working on during my visit, “Urban Miracles in Colombia: neoliberal urban planning, mobility and displacement in the corporate state” is about to be submitted to Environment and Planning D: Society and Space.

But most enjoyable of all was the opportunity to explore Berlin, especially through the amazingly interconnected public transport system. Where you stay also greatly enhances your experience of the city – I stayed in Kreuzberg which was very convenient transport wise and full of interesting places to visit and to hangout – and dry out. Thanks to Prof John Keane and Prof Michael Zürn for the memorable opportunity.





## Hugh Tuckfield (MHRD Asia Pacific '14)

I arrived in Berlin in early September 2016 to join Professor Michael Zürn's Global Governance Unit for three months as a Visiting/Guest Researcher, or scientist as they like to call researchers in Berlin.

My doctoral research employs International Relations theory and the concept of socialisation to explore how and why a state, in this case Nepal, decided to follow the international norms of the refugee regime in the case of the Bhutanese refugees, but not in the case of the Tibetan refugees – the norm being the responsibility upon states to find solutions to end refugeehood, such as resettlement.

I felt very privileged to be at the WZB to further my studies, and it was an incredible time to be in Berlin after it had accepted so many refugees from war torn Syria – and to witness first-hand how a state, like Germany, and many of its citizens generously opens its borders to offer refuge and protection for so many people fleeing hostility and destruction. I was living only a few minutes away from the Templehoff Airfield, a disused public airfield that is now a public park, but whose airport terminal buildings had become home to several thousand refugees undergoing refugee status determination procedures.

Coming from a background in law and human rights, and not IR, being embedded at the WZB among a group of pre- and post-doctoral researchers with a wide range of knowledge in the IR arena was very exciting and enormously beneficial to my research. It provided a much-appreciated period of uninterrupted time for the development of the conceptual framework for my research.

The WZB, Europe's leading social science studies institute not affiliated with any one university, maintains and fosters a very collegiate environment. Lunchtimes at the WZB, held

in the grassy courtyard area during the summer months and in the 'casino' (the nickname given to the WZB canteen), are always communal events for the various WZB departments, and discussions across the lunch table are always spirited and robust, regardless of the topic, yet friendly enough.

Every fortnight the GG unit holds a colloquium to discuss papers circulated by researchers the previous week – the presenting researcher has approximately 5-10 minutes to present their research, then the rest of the hour is devoted to a rigorous question and answer session, as well as general comments, often providing the researchers with fresh perspectives they may have not considered, or challenges to their thoughts they may need to defend.

In the concluding weeks of my visit to the WZB, I participated in the WZB Science Slam, a 'friendly' competition where you present your research in about 15 minutes, usually in a pub or a bar, to a cohort of fellow researchers, where your success is judged by the volume of the audience's applause. I am proud to say that I came home in second place to a native German researcher who presented an interesting and humorous story about his field adventures in Africa.

In closing, my time at the WZB and in Berlin, was a truly great opportunity from an academic perspective and an experience to be remembered.





Rhys accepting the Edmund Barton Medal at the 2017 University Alumni Awards  
36



# Alumni, agents of change

Rhys Michie,  
winner of the  
Edmund Barton  
Medal, on the  
importance of  
advocating for the  
criminalisation of  
revenge porn in  
NSW

**You've received the Edward Barton Medal for using your research to advocate for change in our society, can you tell us about your dissertation and how this led to your current work?**

My dissertation for the Master of Human Rights was a *Critical Discourse Analysis of the Victorian Parliament's Inquiry into Sexting*. I explored the representation of the problem of sexting as being about young people expressing their sexuality through Information Communication Technologies, leading to them being charged with child pornography offences and registered as sex offenders, this was transformed into a representation of the problem of sexting as being about the non-consensual dissemination of a sext to third parties.

**Did the Masters program help you develop new ways of applying your research in advocating for change in society?**

Definitely, I learned new technical and analytical skills and I improved my people skills. I learned how to think, how to conduct a thematic analysis and mine documents to make discoveries, how to write a thesis, how to engage with the scholarly community to refine my thinking, and how to better communicate my ideas to legislators.

I improved my people skills by learning how to better tune-in to my audience, I learned how to ask people what their needs are and what needs are not being met and then act to ensure these unmet needs are satisfied.

I also learned a lot about how to coach and inspire people from my Super-Supervisor Dr Amanda Elliot, our dissertation co-ordinator Dr Elisabeth

Valiente-Riedl, the Director of the MHR program Dr Dinesh Wadiwel, Dr Alex Lefebvre, Associate Professor Dr Michael Humphry, and our VC Dr Michael Spence.

I've continued using the skills I gained from my degree to advocate for reform of the law in NSW to criminalise the non-consensual dissemination of sexual images and videos (the phenomenon colloquially referred to as 'revenge porn').

**What areas of the community have you been working with and is there a particular project or organisation you're currently involved with?**

My experience at the University of Sydney inspired me to dream large. I set my goals higher, raised my own expectations, and developed the confidence to have a go. So I decided to act independently and advocate for social change in my own name. I engaged in the process of reforming the law by writing Submissions to the *Inquiry into Remedies for Serious Invasions of Privacy in NSW*, where I advocated for the reframing of the focus towards 'revenge porn'.

Consequently, the NSW Attorney-General announced that NSW was proposing to specifically criminalise the non-consensual distribution of intimate images. I wrote a submission advocating for the criminalisation of this behaviour. I would not have been able to effectively change the frame of the discourse, and influence legislators and policymakers without the skills I learned in Masters program, and having a community of scholars to help me. In the process I became a part of our inter-dependent community.

Continued over...

“My experience at the University of Sydney inspired me to dream large. I set my goals higher, raised my own expectations, and developed the confidence to have a go”



Photo: Tara Jacoby

At present I'm continuing to advocate for reform of the law to criminalise 'revenge porn', while undertaking a Master in Social Research at the Australian National University. I have begun to lobby Legislators in the Legislative Assembly, and have been able to influence Caroline Le Couteur MLA to sponsor an electronic petition, calling on the Legislative Assembly to criminalise 'revenge porn'. I collected over 500 signatures from Canberrans, and last month my petition was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. It is now being sent to the Standing Committee for Justice and Community Safety to consider, and the Attorney-General must respond within three months.

During this time I have been collaborating with Ms Le Couteur to develop policy, legislation and a consultation process so that we can engage the wider community in Canberra to progress reform on this issue. It is intrinsically satisfying that I have become an effective agent of change because of my experience and the people I met at the University of Sydney.



### Rhys Michie (MHR '17)

Rhys Michie received the 2017 Edmund Barton Medal for Masters by Coursework Achievement at the University of Sydney Alumni Awards in April for achieving a high standard of academic proficiency, and making a contribution to the diverse life of the University, and the broader community.



# Fellowships

## Institute of Peace fellowship

PhD candidate Hussain Nadim, was invited to be a Senior Pakistan Expert at the United States Institute of Peace from Aug – Dec 2016 in Washington DC. He was tasked with developing a Blueprint for a framework to integrate peace-development nexus in the policy sector in the Government of Pakistan. He was invited as to speak at high-level forums including the State Department, USAID, Stimson Center and the George Washington University.-

## Rotary Peace fellowship

Patricia Garcia AO was selected for a 2017 Rotary Peace Fellowship which was funded by the Rotary International Foundation. She began the peace fellowship program in early January 2017 and in April she completed the professional development certificate in peace and conflict studies at the Rotary Peace Centre at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok Thailand.

## Sydney Research Accelerator (SOAR) fellowships

The SOAR fellowships support up-and-coming research leaders to build momentum and increase the scale and impact of their research.

Four academics from the School received funding for their research projects:

Associate Professor Anika Gauja's research on *Involving the community in policy making* will examine how political organisations can adjust more effectively to social, technological and institutional change, while bolstering their ability to react appropriately to political and policy challenges.

Professor Karl Maton aims to use the fellowship to advance the research of the LCT Knowledge-Building Centre, help train new scholars in the approach and develop practical programs in collaboration with partners from beyond higher education.

Legitimation Code Theory (LCT) is a sophisticated approach for revealing the basis of achievement or 'legitimation codes' in education and beyond. By making those codes visible, LCT enables the 'rules of the game' to be taught and learned or changed, advancing social justice by helping those from non-traditional backgrounds to succeed.

Associate Professor Susan Park will assess the accountability processes of corporations, government and civil society in the lead-up to significant environmental disasters, such as the BP oil spill off the coast of Florida in 2010.

Associate Professor Adam Kamradt-Scott hopes to use his SOAR Fellowship to convene a series of workshops in Sydney to bring global thought leaders together to identify how we can strengthen incentives for governments to respond appropriately and efficiently to health emergencies, such as the ebola outbreak.

## Center for the Study of Law & Society, UC Berkeley fellowship

Dr. Sonja van Wichelen, from the Department of Sociology and Social Policy, has been awarded a Visiting Fellowship with the Center for the Study of Law & Society (CSLS) at the University of California, Berkeley for 2017-2018.

The research fellowship entails residency at the CSLS at UC-Berkeley for five months where, together with Marc de Leeuw (UNSW Law), she will write the book entitled *Biolegalities: Remaking Biology, Remaking Law*. They will present their work in a public lecture and engage with other invited scholars at the CSLS during the weekly held seminars.

# Acclaimed author and alumna Anne Summers awarded Doctor of Letters



Dr Anne Summers AO (PhD '79) has been awarded a Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) in recognition of her distinguished and storied contributions to national affairs.

"It is fantastic to see Dr Summers recognised in this way. In addition to forging her own idiosyncratically brilliant career, Dr Summers continues to provide remarkable and enduring leadership for generations of Australian women," said Professor Annamarie Jagose, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

"Whether in politics, media, business or NGOs, her work has always been underpinned by a commitment to challenge and change. The University is delighted to honour such outstanding impact," added Professor Jagose.

Dr Summers was conferred with a Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) at a graduation ceremony for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

"I congratulate Dr Summers on this honour to recognise her remarkable leadership for Australian women," said Dr Michael Spence, Vice-Chancellor of the

University of Sydney.

"Dr Summers has influenced many aspects of society, voicing crucial issues for women and girls and informing change during an outstanding career. She represents the very best of a Sydney graduate – challenging the world and improving it throughout her lifetime."

Dr Summers graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Adelaide in 1970 and a year prior was amongst the co-founders of the Women's Liberation Movement in Australia – after which she was involved in the founding of the nation's first women's and children's domestic violence refuge.

In the 1970s, Dr Summers became a journalist at the National Times and Australian Financial Review, winning a 1976 Walkley award for an investigation of NSW prisons. At the end of that decade, Dr Summers received a PhD at the University of Sydney for her landmark study of the history of women in Australia, *Damned Whores and God's Police*. The acclaimed and bestselling book was updated in 1994 and 2002 and stayed in print until 2008. A new edition

was published on International Women's Day in 2016.

Her career includes roles as adviser on women to the governments of prime ministers Bob Hawke and Paul Keating respectively, chair of the Greenpeace Australia board, and deputy president of Sydney's Powerhouse Museum.

An author of numerous best-selling books, Dr Summers has published the eponymous digital magazine Anne Summers Reports and continues to write regular commentary for the Sydney Morning Herald. In 1989, she was made an Officer in the Order of Australia for her services to journalism and to women, and in 2011, was honoured on a postage stamp.

During the occasional address to graduands in the Great Hall, Dr Summers urged them to embrace the future with 'enthusiasm and optimism'.

"We need to be open to ideas and opportunities that might lure us away from what we thought was our destiny," she said.

"My life certainly did not follow a predictable path and for many of you who are graduating today the same will be true."

Dr Summers added, "You need not be bound by convention or tradition or anyone's expectations – including your own. All you need is to believe in yourself. Work hard. Be bold. Have fun."



“You need not  
be bound by  
convention or  
tradition or anyone’s  
expectations –  
including your own.  
All you need is to  
believe in yourself.  
Work hard. Be bold.  
Have fun.”

# Black crows invaded our country

Performance art that merges academic research, indigenous story, dance and sound art to juxtaposes the complex issue of human migration in the age of the Anthropocene



Written by Danielle Celermajer (BSW '91 BA '94)

On the evening of Friday 24th of March, Sydney was battered by torrential rain that had gone on for weeks. Unusual rain, lashing rain, sometimes deafening rain. And in the background, rain that occurs to many of us through the trope of climate change; and so terror-inducing rain. Sheltered in the round-house (that site in the University of Sydney vet school where horses were once opened up before the scientific, objective gaze of students) the sound of driving rain and raging winds went on past the point of comfort. To the point where my body began to imagine what it would be like to experience unconstrained elements unsheltered, entirely exposed. Not only to not know when the rain was going to end, but not to know when one's own exposure or the exposure of one's children was going to end; or if it was going to end.

Projected against the wooden gate (through which the horses would once have been lead) were the extracted words from the prologue of Emma Jane Kirby's book *The Optician of Lampedusa*. The optician witnessed people drowning in the ocean, fully naked to the cold of the water that pulled them from below, and the wind that tore them from above. Knowing that he could not even come near capturing what he witnessed or experienced, he conveys fragments that we (removed still further) might be able to assimilate: a hand reaching up from the ocean, desperate for another hand to reach back; bodies now on board vomiting and shitting because that much trauma is not followed by a sweet sigh of relief; the wrench in the guts as he drove his boat away, still hearing the cries behind his back until they ceased; although once heard, they never cease.

"Do you understand what I'm trying to say to you? Maybe it's not possible for you to understand because you weren't in



that boat.” The Optician of Lampedusa does not know how to convey the unmitigated horror of what he saw to be true, truths that remain present to him, because they are still happening.

How is it possible to ‘make understood’ the truth of what is happening in our world? Many of us are asking this question. We ask it, in part because privately confronting these truths is intolerable. When we share stories, the world becomes a little more bearable. But mainly we ask this because we believe that only an informed and awakened polity will take the actions required to transform our shared condition. How is it possible to communicate the structural complexity that drives carbon emissions, destroys biodiversity, and detonates into conflicts that drive millions of humans and non-humans to flee what was once home? How is it possible to convey how we feel when we learn that a species that we have loved and shared lives with will be, or already is, no longer?

In the academy, we don’t do a bad job at the first task – say explaining the relationship between neoliberal global capitalism and the constitution of a new mobile precariat; but the heavily footnoted texts that link discursive and economic structures with multiple flows of lives, materials, and risk are almost always emotionally desiccated, and they speak as if their readers did not have bodies. The dancer can exquisitely approach the affective texture of a parent mourning their child’s death during an escape from a warzone; but the individualisation of the narrative omits the macro-forces that took them to where death became inevitable. Here’s the rub though – authentic understanding, or perhaps more importantly, understanding that would be oriented towards committed and effective action, requires structural stories that are infused with affect. And as David Ritter said at the end of this performance, stories also infused with the love that wants it to be otherwise.

Black Crows Invaded our Country was unsettling. Deliberately so because, as Thom Van Dooren reminded us during the performance, settlement is a presumption. Even when we open our settled-ness to others, or urge our ever more padlock governments to act with hospitality, we leave unchallenged the background assumption that our settlement is by right. To characterise a movement as “invasion” and a place as “our country” is, after all to naturalise and eternalise a highly contingent and time specific arrangement and constellation of power. The language sutures our always fragile conviction that there is an absolute distinction between the ones huddled inside the boat and ones flailing in the water, those tucked in their

“How is it possible to convey how we feel when we learn that a species that we have loved and shared lives with will be, or already is, no longer?”

homes and those exposed to the tempest, those on this side of the border and those not, those who are human and those who are not.

Thinking one’s time unique, like thinking one’s identity or value unique, is a human foible. Nevertheless, we can without arrogance say that these times demand of universities ways of understanding and communicating that go beyond those we have historically embraced. In this sense, we might all receive Black Crows as a welcome invasion, to paraphrase the words Michelle St Anne spoke at the beginning of the performance, a possible presence, suggestive of another way of relating to, of crafting worlds with, others.



### Danielle Celermajer

Danielle Celermajer is a professor in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Sydney, with a specialisation in human rights and a particular interest in the structural underpinnings of injustice.

# SSPS prize ceremony

On Thursday 11th May, 2017 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, Graduate School of Government, Peace and Conflict Studies, and Political Economy.

A special thank you to all of our donors, especially Annie Corlett, AM (BEC '80) whose donations support eight prizes within the Department of Government and International Relations.







#### Left page

Top left: Dr Stephen Mills, Ms Claudien Lyons, Ms Kathy Baker with prize winner Clay Preshaw  
Bottom left: Mary A Henderson with prize winner Michelle Picone  
Bottom right: Ms Annie Corlett, AM with prize winner Natassia Chrysanthos

#### Right page

Top left: Ms 'Tricia Blombery with prize winner Alina Pahor  
Middle left: Peace and Conflict Studies prize winner Liam Stack and family  
Bottom left: Associate Professor Greg Martin and prize winner Mikaelewa Amberber  
Top right: Emeritus Professor Frank Stilwell and prize winner Llewellyn Williams-Brooks  
Bottom right: Chair of Anthropology, Professor Linda Connor, prize winners Matthew Webb and Meherose Borthwick, and Dr Åse Ottosson

# The social reframing of dementia: a timely conversation

New research challenging the dominance of bio-medical approaches, to transform understanding of dementia as a common experience of ageing



Photo: Spyros Petrogiannia

**Written by Gaynor Macdonald (PhD '88) and Aila Naderbagi (BA Hons '16)**

Over two days in February 2017, an innovative workshop, Reframing Dementia as Social and Cultural Experience, was organised by Dr Gaynor Macdonald, Department of Anthropology, in collaboration with Associate Professor Jane Mears, Social Policy, Western Sydney University, and the University of Sydney's Cognitive Decline Partnership Centre. It brought together people committed to reframing the negativities surrounding the 'dementia habitus', bringing to it value, life, laughter and relationship.

Participants included academics working across anthropology, sociology, psychology, social policy, gerontology and neuroscience; representatives from leading institutions in the aged care sector; experienced nurses; as well as people experiencing dementia and their carers. The diversity of views and insights made for rich discussion around an experience that is overwhelmingly framed in biomedical terms, leaving the complex social and relational challenges of dementia unaddressed.

One of the workshop attendees noted, "the workshop was

an eye-opener for me. Both my parents, and partners or parents of several friends have died with dementia, so I have always known finding a cure is important. After the workshop, I can see how important improving quality of life is."

The social reframing of dementia is multifaceted. Just how diverse this reframing can be is evidenced from paper titles, such as: *Negative Positioning and Personal Integrity in a Competitive Resources Environment*, and *Perspectives of Families Living with Younger Onset Dementia*.

The aim was to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue, challenge the dominance of biomedical approaches, and see 'living with dementia' as a common experience of ageing. Participants examined stigmas and stereotyping in the wider society that make life hard for those living with dementia. Researchers confronting the social complexities of ageing and ageism highlighted how much remains to be done in changing discriminatory attitudes.

Presenters looked at better support and more effective communication with people with dementia; reconceptualising 'care' as a total social responsibility; and exploring ways to create a more caring society:



“This workshop reinforced for me that many of the difficulties that come with dementia are not medical or cognitive, they are social. Ignorance and stigma are issues that need more thought. As we design interventions to address attitudes and behaviours we need to understand how they come to be formed and reinforced, and ways to create change”, said one of the discussants.

Reframing involves understanding reasons for the negativity and fear surrounding dementia, and finding innovative ways to disrupt and move beyond these. It involves interrogating assumptions attached to dominant models of care. Biomedical agendas too often drown out concerns with lived lives. The search for a cure and improving quality of life need to be better balanced within the research, budgetary and policy space.

“So many talks presented a different view from what I am used to, [where] dementia issues centre around behavioural challenges and ensuring the family have an ACP in place. Patient-centred care sounds great but task orientation persists”, an experienced aged care nurse commented.

The value of the social sciences in providing new and critical perspectives on social attitudes to dementia, and to dementia care, was seen by participants as an integral contribution. Yet interdisciplinary collaboration brings its own challenges:

“I found it very helpful to have closer analysis of concepts such as ‘personhood’, and ‘relationality’, which will no doubt inform my future research and practice. I also realised that, in an interdisciplinary context, issues of methodology are cause for angst! There were some (subtle) quantitative vs qualitative ‘clashes’ at times”, said an academic attending the workshop.

Research is being undertaken to create more liveable lives for those with dementia and their carers, including the development of innovative technologies. Discussions around the role of technology in care revealed contestation.

“It could be helpful in providing an initial step to allow people with dementia outside into nature, but it’s

there, in nature, that many people in later stages of life feel at home with the outer world’s influence”, added a participant, who felt dependence on technology might be counterproductive.

Technology needs to produce quality social relatedness within care, not replace it. But time constraints on nursing staff mean it can be supportive.

The imperative to listen to the experiences and insights of those directly impacted, including carers, was a recurring theme.

“A really powerful workshop approach would be to include all the family members impacted by dementia, across a range of ages, including the children. This would raise awareness and understanding of the real impact of dementia across the whole family”, said one of the carers.

“As nurses, we could have a monumental say and make valued changes. Voices are thin and Aged Care is not respected enough. Maybe a system of ‘dementia care nurses’ to work with families and provide support from the onset would work?”, a representative from the nursing sector commented.

Turning care work into a prestigious, vital contribution will contribute to a more caring society. It will lead to better research, training, remuneration and social attitudes.

Participants commented that the workshop provided a valuable opportunity to hear of the work happening in understanding the social implications of dementia. It was well organised, with an interesting range of speakers and good opportunities to network.

The Reframing Dementia project aims to initiate a communication network, inviting opportunities for collaboration and sharing of cross-disciplinary projects. Changing the negative dementia narrative is an ambitious goal but it is an urgent one which ultimately involves all of us.

– [sydney.edu.au/arts/research/reframing-dementia/](https://sydney.edu.au/arts/research/reframing-dementia/)

# How did we ever teach without knowing this?

## A look at how the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences' LCT Centre for Knowledge-Building is changing education

Written by Jodie Martin

Something intimately associated with the School of Social and Political Sciences (SSPS) is having a growing impact in changing people's lives through education, especially in developing countries and the global South. Legitimation Code Theory or 'LCT' is fast becoming the basis for training programs that improve the teaching of university staff, support programs that give disadvantaged students the means to achieve in higher education, courses that teach English for academic purposes to students with different first languages, and a host of other initiatives in South Africa, China, Australia, and elsewhere. In the words of Richard Ingold and Daniel O'Sullivan, two teachers writing for *Modern English Teacher Magazine* this year, "LCT is an incredibly practical theory" that can be challenging but quickly becomes "one of those how-did-we-ever-teach-without-knowing-this theories". So what is LCT?

### Changing education with LCT

LCT provides the means for people to understand, explain and change their lives. It does so through concepts or thinking tools that allow people to dig beneath the surface of knowledge practices to reveal the underlying principles that shape them. When applied to education, these tools make clear the 'rules of the game' that are typically tacit and so work to disadvantage actors whose backgrounds do

not equip them with keys to the right 'legitimation codes'. By making those codes visible to teachers and students, LCT enables the rules of the game to be taught and learned or changed.

The creator of LCT is Professor Karl Maton, member of the Department of Sociology & Social Policy in SSPS. The rapid growth of the approach is now being supported by the "LCT Centre for Knowledge-Building", which the University established in the School in April 2016. In the year since its creation, the Centre has secured funding to host a major international conference, published as open access a special issue of a South American journal comprising nine papers that explore topics as diverse as popular education in Chile and teaching online, and secured a book series dedicated to LCT with the high status publisher Routledge. Through these kinds of initiatives, the Centre is working to make the results of research using LCT accessible for not only scholars but also practitioners, such as university and school teachers.

One idea that emerged from a major five-year study of school classrooms led by Professor Maton is the notion of 'semantic waves'. This describes changes in the forms taken by knowledge: moves from concrete and simple to abstract and complex, and back again. Research into teaching in both schools and universities shows that teachers who wave between these forms of knowledge in particular ways can support knowledge-building in their classrooms. This idea has been actively taken up to shape teaching. For example, Ingold and O'Sullivan's introduction of LCT to English teachers describes it as "one of the most useful teaching tools we've ever come across". They use it to teach students the particular ways of moving between the general and the specific, between theory and personal experience, and between ideas and explanations that give students the 'rules of the game' for academic writing. Similarly, at the Learning





“LCT provides the means for people to understand, explain and change their lives. It does so through concepts or thinking tools that allow people to dig beneath the surface of knowledge practices to reveal the underlying principles that shape them”



Centre in the University of Sydney, LCT Centre Member Dr Eszter Szenes analyses student work that scored high marks and uses the analyses to teach students how to plan, draft and write their assignments. By exploring different disciplines, Dr Szenes is also helping students navigate the different requirements of their courses.

Further afield, in South Africa academic developers such as Dr Karin Wolff and Dr Sherran Clarence are teaching semantic waves as a method to lecturers and tutors in engineering, law and political science. Similarly, LCT is also being used in pre-service teacher programs at the University of the Witwatersrand. Moreover, these ideas are reaching beyond teaching to include the design of curriculum. At universities in China and Singapore, as well as TAFE in Australia, curriculum have used LCT to ensure the sequencing of knowledge traces semantic waves that ensure students cumulatively build their understandings. In this way, LCT is directly shaping the educational experience of many thousands of students every semester.

#### Future work

Where to from here? In July the Second International LCT Conference will be held at the University of Sydney, featuring more than double the number of abstracts as the first conference two years ago – the field is growing fast! It will bring together attendees from the six continents, representing 13 countries and presenting on topics as diverse as academic literacy development, ballet education,

veganism and climate change denial. Because of the number of LCT scholars and teachers from developing countries, the conference was made free of registration costs, thanks to support from the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, the Department of Sociology and Social Policy, the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) and the School of Social and Political Sciences.

The Centre is also looking at providing a more sustainable way of teaching scholars and teachers overseas. Until now, Professor Maton has been teaching whole units of up to 25 hours in five days as intensive courses. Thanks to the Centre, such outreach is no longer limited to the spare time of one person. This year Centre Fellows Dr Jodie Martin and Dr Y.J. Doran will be running a 3-day workshop prior to a major linguistics conference in July and, together with Professor Maton, a full 13 week seminar series in the second half of the year at the University of Sydney. In the next year courses will be offered in Shanghai, Boston, Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town. All these will serve as the basis for building online courses and textbooks that can bring these practical ideas to educators wherever they are, enabling more scholars and teachers to both benefit from and contribute to educational change using LCT.

– [sydney.edu.au/arts/research/lct/](http://sydney.edu.au/arts/research/lct/)



Harvard fellow and internationally renowned cryptographer Bruce Schneier addressed 300 people during a public lecture

# The Cyber Security Network

Working to bridge the social-technical divide at the University of Sydney, and gaps between the University and stakeholders in industry, government, and the public

**Written by Frank Smith and Aim Sinpeng**

Cyberspace has become a dominant feature of modern life, integral to everything from interpersonal communication to the global economy. Unfortunately, despite its growing significance, security in this domain is still poorly understood. Most individuals, organisations, and governments have insufficient knowledge and unsatisfactory tools with which to confront an array of real and imagined threats that range from cyber crime, hacktivism, and information operations to espionage, sabotage, and even terrorism or war.

The Sydney Cyber Security Network (SCSN) helps address these critical challenges through interdisciplinary research, education, and engagement. Co-founded by Aim Sinpeng and Frank Smith, SCSN was launched in 2016 with seed funding from the Sydney Social Sciences and Humanities Advanced Research Centre (SSSHARC), along with support from the School of Social and Political Sciences. Its members and associates include faculty and students from the School of Literature, Art, and Media, the Business



“The network works as an interdisciplinary incubator, bringing scholars together to conduct innovative research, teach new units, and engage with policymakers and public audiences.”

School, the School of Information Technologies, the Law School, and the School of Electrical & Information Engineering.

SCSN is a diverse group, united by shared concerns about cyber security. For while cyberspace illustrates the tremendous power of interconnected networks, research and education on cyber security are often segregated into disconnected silos – not only separating engineering, computer science, and social scientific disciplines, but also academia, industry, and government. This fragmented knowledge base is more than just a sad irony of the Information Age. It is one of the most significant barriers to improving theory, practice, and policy because cyber security is inherently interdisciplinary. Technical expertise must be coupled with social and political analysis. Regardless of whether the problem at hand is trustworthy computing, or encryption standards, or mass surveillance, or online radicalisation, or intellectual property, or Internet protocols, or any number of other challenges in cyber security, progress ultimately depends on a combination of social and technical insight.

That’s why SCSN works to bridge the social-technical divide at the University of Sydney, as well as similar gaps between the University and stakeholders in industry, government, and the general public. The network works as an interdisciplinary incubator, bringing scholars together to conduct innovative research, teach new units, and engage with policymakers and public audiences.

In 2016, SCSN hosted a series of public lectures by experts from Harvard, Stanford, the London School of Economics, and Atlassian. In addition, with funding from SSSHARC and the NSW Department of Industry, SCSN convened its inaugural conference on “Cyber Security in the Era of Open Government,” bringing academics, policymakers, industry representatives, and journalists together to critically examine both the benefits and risks of increasing public access to government data. These events also helped inform teaching and research at Sydney.

Plans for 2017 are even more ambitious. Working in partnership with the Centre for International Security Studies and the Atlantic Council, SCSN will host the

Cyber 9/12 Student Challenge in September. This will be the first event of its kind in the Indo-Pacific, providing students from across the region – and across different disciplines – with a unique opportunity to address the policy challenges associated with cyber crises and conflict.

SCSN is also working to design an interdisciplinary unit on “Big Data, Algorithms, and Security,” which stands to break new ground with student projects at the interface between technology, society, and politics. Engagement on cyber security in China is planned as well, as is original research on the future of cyber security policy in Australia. With any luck (and a lot of hard work), SCSN will continue to make exciting contributions to this important field.





Photo: Michelle Bachelet

## A system in crisis

### Minxin Pei and the deeply embedded corruption in China's political system

Written by Alison Fenech

If ever there was a time in history when citizens of the world trusted their reigning governments, that time, unfortunately, is not now. Transparency International's 2016 Corruption Perceptions Index points out that more than "two-thirds of the 176 countries and territories in the year's index fell below the midpoint of the scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). The global average score was a paltry 43". China, ranking 79th, received a score of 40.

In a recent visit to Sydney, Professor Minxin Pei shared and developed the findings of his much-discussed and highly acclaimed *China's Crony Capitalism: The Dynamics of Regime Decay* (2016). His work offers us a rare window into China's corruption economy. While it is well known that corruption is deeply embedded in the Chinese political system, there is no study that is more systematic and scrupulous than that offered by Pei. His work dissects more than 200 corruption cases, at various levels of government, to analyze the causes and forms of governmental corruption in China. His findings are sobering.

While there is a popular belief that China, led by a powerful and organised Communist Party, will continue successfully on her path to power, and perhaps

eventually even to democracy, Pei paints a different picture; a system in decay. Identifying the root of large-scale Chinese governmental corruption in the property reforms put in place beginning in the early 1990's, which subsequently went on to serve as a conduit for "well-connected government officials and businessmen to amass huge fortunes through the systematic looting of state-owned property", Pei suggests that the success of modern China and the strength of its ruling party is a mere façade, resting on an unsustainable and hollow structure.

Pei's *Crony Capitalism* arguably has wider significance. It adds to our understanding of the global problem of corruption. Governmental corruption and its link to inequality has until now mainly been associated with the developing regions of the world, which have yet to fully embrace democracy, instead favouring the efficiency of authoritarian rule. These regimes lack efficient legal frameworks and systems of checks and balances to combat corruption. Reports of corruption in sub-Saharan Africa, the underdeveloped regions of South America and Asia, and amongst the BRIC nations are commonplace. Crony Capitalism not only makes clear that China is no exception to the global trend, it also raises questions about the growing problem of corruption in actually-existing democracies. Citizens of the world have grown to expect, although not to accept, that corruption arises in places coping with the processes of economic development. But what is a citizen of the world to think when the nations of the wealthy and democratic West, preaching the virtues of democracy throughout the globe, cannot uphold those anti-corruption values themselves?

The spread of corruption throughout the world is a signal of a global system in crisis. As populism surges through the most advanced nations, it has been noted that the mechanism driving that surge has, in large part, been the public response to a perceived self-interested misuse of power exercised by high ranking officials. The scandal playing out in South Korea and the alleged Russian interference in the 2016 US election are two examples that illustrate the bigger point. A report recently released by the OECD states that "only 40% of citizens [in OECD countries] trust their governments." A 2016 survey by SDN's partners at the University of Canberra's Institute for Governance and Public Analysis found that "Australians' trust in government and politicians are now at their lowest levels since 1993." Across Europe and Central Asia as well, Transparency International, surveying nearly 60,000 people in 42 countries, found that 1 in 3 individuals view government officials and lawmakers as mostly or entirely corrupt. And in the United States, Pew Research Center has reported that public trust in the government remains near historic lows. Only 19% of Americans today say they can trust the government in Washington to do what is right 'just about always' (3%) or 'most of the time' (16%).

Perhaps the greatest question raised indirectly by Pei's *Crony Capitalism* is how do we expect democracy to serve as an alternative to a corrupted one-party system, and to thrive at the global level, if the citizens of democratic nations themselves question its merit? If democratic governments cannot convince their own citizenry, how will they convince the rest of the world? Is everything hopeless? Or instead, do citizens hold the key to a different, less corrupt future? Can they purge corruption from their societies, not by electing populist candidates, which in all likelihood will only exacerbate the problem, but by working collectively to hold politicians accountable for their actions, and by responsibly voting for representatives and government officials who vow to protect their democratic values? Of course, not all of the nations of the world do exercise democratic principles. There are still many places that do not enjoy free and fair elections, where freedom of the press is stifled, and where the will of the people is repressed. It is in under these conditions that corruption runs rampant.



### Minxin Pei

Professor Minxin Pei is the Tom and Margot Pritzker '72 Professor of Government and directs the Keck Center for International and Strategic Studies at Claremont McKenna College. He is also a non-resident senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States.



# Extracting knowledge in the Madagascan mining sector

## Securing benefits for future generations of the resource-rich Indian Ocean island state



“Thanks to the Australia Award funding, there are now more than 50 alumni of Australian universities living and working in Madagascar’s public, private and non-government sectors. ”

Written by Stephen Mills (PhD ‘13) and Leanne Howie (BA ‘92)

The creation of a sovereign wealth fund, to secure petroleum and mining revenues for the future, was one of a series of practical reforms recommended by participants in the Graduate School of Government’s recently-completed training program for Madagascan public servants and NGOs.

A sovereign wealth fund in Madagascar, modelled along the lines adopted by Norway and East Timor, would allow efficient and effective management of revenues arising from the once-only extraction of non-renewable natural resources, securing benefits for future generations of this resource-rich but struggling Indian Ocean island state.

The recommendation sparked prolonged discussion at the program’s final session, a day-long forum held at the Ministry of Mines attended by around 70 government officials, industry leaders, civil society representatives, political leaders and media.

As with any institutional reform proposal, operational design is crucial. Where would the Fund be located? Would it have legislative backing? Who would manage it? How could proceeds from mining be securely directed to the Fund and, just as importantly, when and how would they be disbursed to address the country’s pressing social and economic needs?

As the discussion at the forum made clear, addressing these questions demands not just technical and administrative skills of a high order but also sensitivity to complex distributional considerations of equity and intergenerational fairness. Other recommendations made at the forum were for reforms to the collection of mining royalties and administration fees, new public audit procedures of mining activities, improved consultation with local communities about mining projects and better health outcomes for women and children involved in mining.



These recommendations all emerged from participants' research projects that formed a central element of the training program. The projects allowed participants to expand their research skills under academic supervision and to develop evidence-based responses to issues facing their departments and organisations. As well as writing research reports, participants were required to present their recommendations to an academic panel at the University of Sydney as well as to the industry forum held in Madagascar.

The training program was delivered by the Graduate School of Government (GSG) in February and March in Perth and Sydney, with pre-course and post-course modules delivered in Madagascar's capital city, Antananarivo.

The training, designed for public servants and civil society representatives dealing with extractive industries, covered contract negotiation, mining tax law including environmental taxes and carbon pricing, transfer pricing, financial management, environmental sustainability, and governance and transparency.

Participants were drawn from the Madagascan ministries of Mining, Finance and Banking, and Environment, the National Office of the Environment, Office of National Mining and Strategic Resources (OMNIS), and the Court of Accounts audit office, along with NGOs Transparency International and AVG.

The Madagascar program was the 36th delivered by GSG over the last 9 years. The program funding is provided, after competitive tendering, by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Australia Awards Fellowship scheme. More than 1500 participants have completed GSG programs in that period, drawn from more than 35 developing economies in Africa, South-east Asia and the Pacific.

All the programs have been designed, tendered for and managed by GSG executive officer, Ms Leanne Howie – in this case working closely with alumni from previous programs: Lalaina Rabemanambola and Nantenaina Rasolonirina from OMNIS and the former Director General of Hydrocarbons at the Ministry of Mines, Hajatiana Rasolomanana.

Academic components of the Madagascar program were delivered by Emeritus Professor Geoff Gallop, former director of the GSG and former Premier of Western Australia, Honorary Professor Lee Burns (GSG), an international tax expert formerly with the University's Faculty of Law, Dr Penny Crossley (Sydney Law School), Susan Shearing, Dr Stephen Mills (GSG) and Alastair Watson. Other presenters included Associate Professor Celeste Black (Sydney Law School), Melissa Ogier, Peter Mullins and Daniella Randriafeno. In Perth, participants made site visits to the Departments of Regional Development and Environment, and mining companies Rio Tinto and Alcoa.

In Madagascar, the participants received their certificates from the Australian Ambassador, Ms Susan Cole who travelled to Antananarivo for the event.

Thanks to the Australia Award funding, there are now more than 50 alumni of Australian universities living and working in Madagascar's public, private and non-government sectors. Of these, twenty are GSG alumni, underlining the strong alignment between public administration teaching and research in the Australian and international contexts.

The alumni association, A3Mada, held a networking function to coincide with the GSG's research forum, inviting Dr Mills to deliver a public address on the challenges of public sector leadership.

## Grants

### Community Resilience Innovation Program grant

SEI researchers Professor David Schlosberg and PhD candidate Luke Craven, in partnership with Resilient Sydney, have been awarded a Community Resilience Innovation Program (CRIP) grant by Emergency NSW to examine community perspectives on vulnerability and resilience. Over the course of 2017, a Sydney Environment Institute team will be working closely with Resilient Sydney to undertake a number of community engagement sessions, using innovative system mapping techniques to understand the perceptions and experiences of climate shocks and stressors in communities of Greater Sydney.

### Illicit networks and the nuclear fuel cycle grant

Dr Justin Hastings has been awarded a grant by the US Department of Defense, which supports research activities that benefit the public through analysis and engagement to reduce and counter the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction and weapons of mass effect.

### HDR+ Student grant

Elena Lambrinos and Kirstin Wilmot, PhD students in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy, were recently awarded a HDR+ Student Grant to fund a writing retreat and data analysis workshop for a group of colleagues. In April the group of six (five PhD students and one early-career academic) travelled to Kiama for two days of writing, data workshopping and collegiality. The retreat was particularly successful due to all attendees sharing a common analytical framework, Legitimation Code Theory.

## Awards

### 2016 Rebecca Coyle prize

Dr Åse Ottosson in the Department of Anthropology has been awarded the 2016 Rebecca Coyle Prize by IASPM-ANZ, for her publication, *Making Aboriginal Men and Music in Central Australia*. The Prize is awarded to the best publication on popular music in the Australia-New Zealand and Pacific region.

### Luxembourg Peace prize

Dr Jake Lynch and Dr Annabel McGoldrick (PhD '14) have been nominated by the World Peace Forum and Luxembourg Peace Prize Committee to receive the Luxembourg Peace Prize for outstanding efforts and initiatives to promote responsible journalism.

# Think again

Sydney Ideas inspires you to think differently about today's biggest issues.

Our free public lecture series offers you direct access to world-renowned experts and new knowledge that transcends the norm.

To find out more, please visit:

– [sydney.edu.au/sydney\\_ideas](http://sydney.edu.au/sydney_ideas)



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY



# Bundeswehr University Munich visiting scholar Tim Tepel on the study of predicting global conflict

## **Tell us a little bit about your background and research area**

My research has explored the use of machine learning/ deep learning techniques for predicting security crises and gaining insights into factors that drive political conflict. In my previous role as research associate for the University of the German Federal Armed Forces (Bundeswehr University Munich), I worked on different third-party funded research projects, some of which relate to the development of predictive crisis early warning models. My PhD dissertation project is an interdisciplinary political science / computer science project and focuses on the development of subnational crisis early warning models.

## **What attracted you to the University of Sydney?**

I met Professor Goldsmith at the Asian Political Methodology Conference in Beijing last year. Since our areas of research both relate to the development of predictive crisis early warning models, I inquired with him about research stay opportunities at the Atrocity Forecasting Project and applied for a scholarship that enabled me to come to Australia. Due to my positive experience at the University of Sydney, I extended my stay by two months beyond the original six-month period to continue my research.

## **What do you hope to get out of your time with the Atrocity Forecasting Project?**

I hope to improve my research skills and explore new methods that will also benefit my dissertation project. At the same time, I hope that my existing experience and ongoing work would also provide a meaningful contribution to the project. I am very grateful about the opportunity to have come here and also about the collaboration and academic exchange that evolved out of it during my stay.

## **What interesting points have you discovered during your research already?**

Conflict outbreaks are rare events, which poses challenges in building predictive models as well as in assessing their performance. I have assessed different performance metrics suitable for dealing with such data where the outcome is rare, which seem to have been overlooked in existing crisis early warning research so far. In another project that I have been working on, I built a deep convolutional neural network model to predict civilian victimisation by state actors. I



found that my model which works on relatively unprocessed input data and incorporates spatiotemporal information performs very well when compared with more “traditional” modeling approaches.

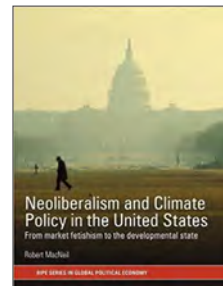
## **What changes do you hope can occur from your research (e.g. policy making)?**

I hope my research would promote innovations in conflict research and address deficiencies. First, there needs to be a stronger emphasis on prediction - models need to be tested against unseen data, to ensure that they perform well and support theoretical arguments. Second, I am confident that future research will rely less on handcrafted features and put a greater emphasis on building models that work on relatively unprocessed input data. Low-level features extracted from such data may more closely resemble what human analysts learn, thereby bridging the gap between quantitative and qualitative analysis. Third, there need to be stronger efforts to reach out to government and private sector entities. Crisis early warning models are not only of academic interest. Besides government agencies and NGOs, they would also be of interest to the insurance, finance, logistics, and other industries.

# Select publications

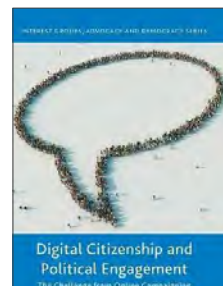
Semester 1, 2017 saw the School continue to publish a wide range of books, book chapters, and journal articles. A selection from each department is featured in this section, taken from over 250 publications.

## Government & international relations



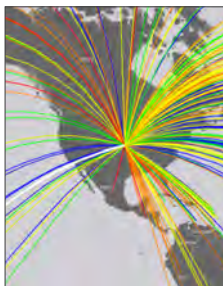
**Dr Robert Macneil**

MacNeil, R. (2017). *Neoliberalism and Climate Policy in the United States*. United Kingdom: Routledge.



**Professor Ariadne Vromen (MA '96)**

Vromen, A. (2017). *Digital Citizenship and Political Engagement: The Challenge from Online Campaigning and Advocacy Organisations*. UK: Palgrave Macmillan.



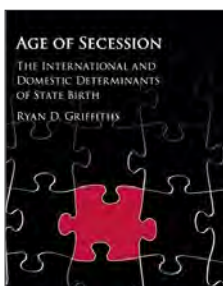
**Dr Anna Boucher (BA '03 BA Hons '05 LLB '06)**

Boucher, A., Gest, J. (2017). *Crossroads of immigration: A Global approach to national differences*. US: Cambridge University Press.



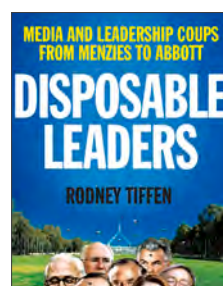
**Dr Ainsley Elbra, A/Prof John Mikler**

Elbra, A., Mikler, J. (2017). Paying a "Fair Share": Multinational Corporations' Perspectives on Taxation. *Global Policy*, 8(2), 1-10.



**Dr Ryan Griffiths**

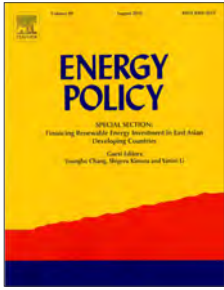
Griffiths, R. (2016). *Age of Secession: The International and Domestic Determinants of State Birth*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.



**Emeritus Professor Rodney Tiffen**

Tiffen, R. (2017). *Disposable Leaders*. Australia: NewSouth Publishing.

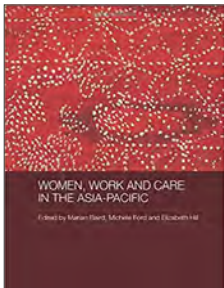
## Political economy



**Dr Gareth Bryant**  
(BEcSocSc Hons '11 PhD '16)  
Bryant, G. (2016). Creating a level playing field? The concentration and centralisation of emissions in the European Union Emissions Trading System. *Energy Policy*, 99, 308–318.



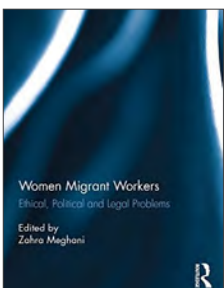
**Dr Michael Beggs**  
(PhD '11)  
Beggs, M. (2017). The state as a creature of money. *New Political Economy*, 1–15.



**Dr Elizabeth Hill**  
(BEcSocSc '93 PhD '05)  
Baird, M., Ford, M., Hill, E. (2017). *Women, Work and Care in the Asia-Pacific*. London: Routledge.



**A/Prof Damien Cahill**  
Humphrys, E., Cahill, D. (2017). How Labour Made Neoliberalism. *Critical Sociology*, In Press, 1–16.

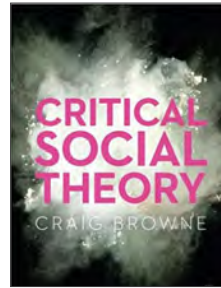


**A/Prof Stuart Rosewarne**  
(PhD '87)  
Rosewarne, S. (2016). Transnationalization and the Capitalization of Labor: Female Foreign Domestic Workers. In Zahra Meghani (Eds.), *Women Migrant Workers: Ethical, Political and Legal Problems*, (pp. 199–223). New York: Routledge.

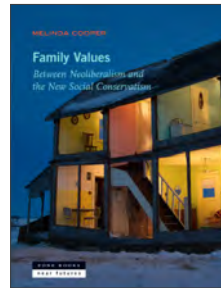
## Sociology and social policy



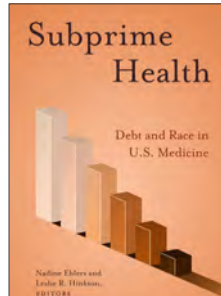
**Professor Danielle Celermajer**  
Celermajer, D., Sherwin, R. (2017). *Law and the History of Modern Culture*. UK: Bloomsbury.



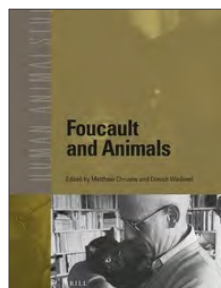
**Dr Craig Browne**  
Browne, C. (2017). *Critical Social Theory*. London: Sage.



**A/Prof Melinda Cooper**  
(BA '06 BA Hons '07)  
Cooper, M. (2017). *Family Values: Between Neoliberalism and the New Social Conservatism*. New York: Zone Books.



**Dr Nadine Ehlers**  
Ehlers, N., Hinkson, L. (2017). *Subprime Health: Debt and Race in U.S. Medicine*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press.



**Dr Dinesh Wadiwel**  
Wadiwel, D., Chrulew, M. (2016). *Foucault and Animals*. Leiden: Brill.

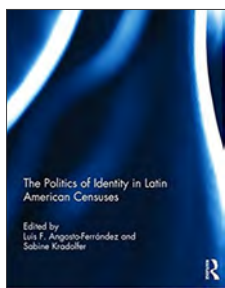


## Anthropology



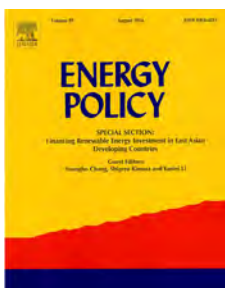
**Dr Terry Woronov**

Woronov, T. (2016). *Class Work: Vocational Schools and China's Urban Youth*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.



**Dr Luis Fernando Angosto-Ferrández**

Angosto Ferrandez, L., Kradolfer, S. (2016). *The Politics of Identity in Latin American Censuses*. Abingdon: Routledge.



**Professor Linda Connor (BA '74 PhD '83)**

Connor, L. (2016). Energy futures, state planning policies and coal mine contests in rural New South Wales. *Energy Policy*, 99, 233-241



**Dr Robbie Peters**

Peters, R. (2016). Single working class women and the city in Java and Vietnam. *Asian Studies Review*, 40(1), 36-52.



**Dr Ute Eickelkamp**

Eickelkamp, U. (2016). From good meat to endangered species: Indigenising nature in Australia's Western Desert and in Germany's Ruhr District. In *Environmental Change and the World's Futures: Ecologies, Ontologies and Mythologies*, (pp. 161-177).

## Centre for international security studies



**A/Prof Jingdong Yuan**

Yuan, J. (2016). Averting a US-China Showdown in the Asia-Pacific. *International Affairs*, 92(4), 977-986.



**A/Prof Adam Kamradt-Scott**

Watterson, C., Kamradt-Scott, A. (2016). Fighting Flu: Securitization and the Military Role in Combating Influenza. *Armed Forces and Society*, 42(1), 145-168.



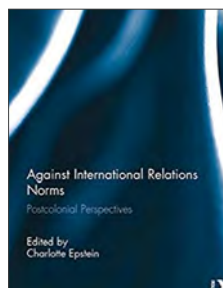
**Dr Thomas Wilkins**

Wilkins, T. (2016). The Japan choice: Reconsidering the risks and opportunities of the 'Special Relationship' for Australia. *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, 16(3), 477-520.



**Dr Frank Smith**

Smith, F. (2016). Malware and Disease: Lessons from Cyber Intelligence for Public Health Surveillance. *Health Security*, 14(5), 305-314.



**Dr Sarah Phillips**

Phillips, S. (2017). The norm of state-monopolised violence from a Yemeni perspective. In Charlotte Epstein (Eds.), *Against International Relations Norms: Postcolonial Perspectives (Worlding Beyond the West)*. United Kingdom: Routledge.

## Peace and conflict studies

---



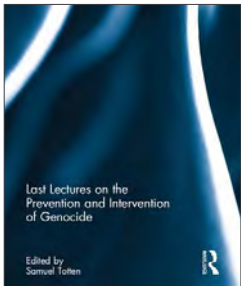
**Dr Wendy Lambourne**

Lambourne, W. (2016). Restorative Justice and Reconciliation: The Missing Link in Transitional Justice. In Kerry Clamp (Eds.), *Restorative Justice in Transitional Settings*, (pp. 56-73). Abingdon: Routledge.



**A/Prof Jake Lynch**

McGoldrick, A., Lynch, J. (2016). Audience responses to peace journalism: Merging results from a four-country research study. *Journalism Studies*, 17(5), 628-646.

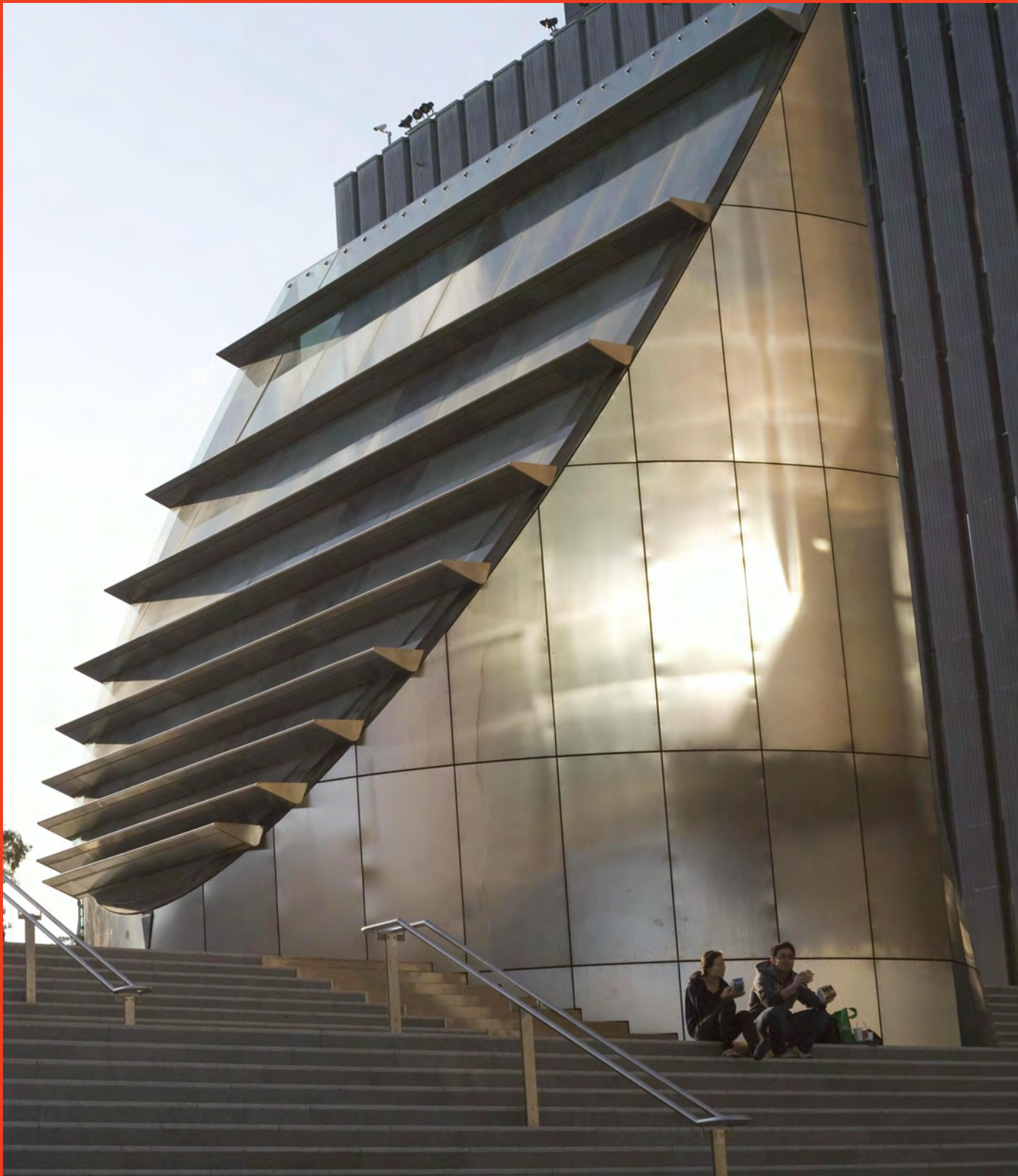


**Dr Eyal Mayroz**

Mayroz, Eyal, 'Between Empathy and Fear: Recalibrating Incentives for Atrocity Prevention', in Samuel Totten (ed), "Last Lectures": The Prevention/Intervention of Genocide (Routledge Studies in Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity, 2017, forthcoming).







---

## For more information

**School of Social and Political Sciences**  
[nenaserafimovska@sydney.edu.au](mailto:nenaserafimovska@sydney.edu.au)  
[sydney.edu.au/arts/ssps](http://sydney.edu.au/arts/ssps)

Designed by The School of Social and Political Sciences, the University of Sydney, June 2017. The University reserves the right to make alterations to any information contained within this publication without notice. CRICOS 00026A