Issue 6, 2017

# SSPS Review

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

## The School of Social and Political Sciences Magazine

**100 years of Government & International Reations**

**Mark Scott, leading the charge in education reform**

**Honouring two decades of peace journalism**

**Manufacturing the future: the Anthropocene**

# Welcome

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

Welcome to the last edition of the SSPS magazine for 2017, and my last edition as Head of School. After two terms and nine years at the helm, it is time for a fresh face for SSPS and a new challenge for myself.

On my arrival in 2009 the School did have some communications output, including a rather quirky newsletter called *Cries and whispers*, but it quickly fell into disuse and it was several years until we were able to marshal the resources to try again.

The magazine you see before you has gone from strength to strength under the creative direction of our wonderful Communications team. This is of course testimony not just to the production, but also to the ever-expanding repertoire of initiatives, scholarship, outreach and engagement undertaken by the staff and students of the School. Several points stand out in this regard.

Firstly, it seemed to me on arrival that whilst the School featured strong scholarship, not much of it was collaborative in nature. The School still features outstanding scholarship as the array of impressive publications listed towards the back of the magazine testifies; but it also features some really impressive and important collaborative undertakings. Legitimation Code Theory is an excellent example of this, and some of their recent achievements are covered in this magazine.

Secondly, members of the School have been terrifically successful over the past few years with research grant bodies, and in particular the ARC. The work of one of our Future Fellows, Dr Ute Eickelkamp, who works on storytelling amongst Indigenous peoples in Central Australia is featured here.

Thirdly, and finally, one cannot marvel at the number of awards and prizes for excellence across the board that members of the School have won – and our students have won in recent years. They include a very prestigious Telstra New Business Award, to our Political Economy graduate, Alex Houseman, featured on page 6. Clearly, the School is thriving and set fair for further success under the next Head of School. I wish him or her and all the SSPS community the very best for 2018 and beyond.

**Professor Simon Tormey**
**Head of School**

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Cover image: Deptartment of Government and International Relations Centenary celebration by Nicholas Rowley pg 34

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# Social media

**School of Social and Political Sciences**
(latest events, research & news)
@Usyd_ssps
/Usyd.ssps

**The Centre for International Security Studies**
(innovative research and education programs on emerging global security issues)
@sydneyciss

**Associate Professor Catriona Elder**
(focus on 20th- 21st century Australian cultural identity)
@catrionaelder

**Sydney Peace Foundation**
(awards Australia's international 'Sydney Peace Prize')
@SydPeaceFound

**Dr Amanda Elliot**
(politics of policy-making and the restructuring of contemporary welfare states)
@whimsical__001

**Professor Colin Wight**
(research focus political violence and international relations)
@colwight

**Dr David Smith**
(American politics and foreign policy)
@dtsmith_sydney

**Dr Gareth Bryant**
(focus on marketisation of different areas of socio-ecological life)
@garethjbryant

# Drop us a line

**Please send us your feedback**
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– sydney.edu.au/arts/ssps

# Events

Photo: Blogtrepreneur

## Digital rights: what are they, and why do we need them?

**27 November**
**6.00–7.30pm**

Whether we like it or not, we all now live deeply digital lives. Intelligent machines manage our social media feeds and financial security. Our work, play and family relations increasingly depend on online platforms and internet services. Yet there is little consensus, let alone good law, policy, and practice, on the shape of our political and legal rights in this new 'digital Australia'.

We are still debating how to handle privacy and security, freedom of expression, digital labour rights, consumer protection, digital inclusion and access, or what conditions we place on emerging uses of data patterning, cognitive analytics and other forms of artificial intelligence.

At this Sydney Ideas debate, a panel of leading experts will look under the hood of digital rights.

To register visit:

– sydney.edu.au/sydney_ideas/lectures/2017/digital_rights_forum

## Nuclear weapons: stigmatise, prohibit, eliminate

**30 November**
**6.00–7.30pm**

A quarter of a century after the end of the Cold War, the spectre of nuclear conflict looms large once again. While nuclear brinkmanship dominates headlines, a powerful coalition of governments and civil society is forging the path to eliminate these worst weapons of mass destruction.

This year, a majority of nations adopted the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*; the first Treaty to outlaw the development, use, and threat of use of nuclear weapons.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its part in spearheading the ban treaty effort, but the work is ongoing. The new Treaty will not eliminate nuclear weapons by itself. The labour, peace and humanitarian movements in Australia have a vital role to play.

Join us to discuss ICAN's mission, what they have achieved so far, and what still needs to be done.

To register visit:

– sydney.edu.au/sydney_ideas/lectures/2017/nuclear_weapons_forum.shtml

Photo: Kelly Michals

## Carbon capitalism and communication: confronting climate crisis

**4 December**
**5.00–6.30pm**

2016 surpassed 2015 as the warmest year recorded since 1850, and 90% of the increase was due to the high levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, levels not seen for 4 million years. There is now a mounting consensus that we are likely to face a continuing and intensifying climate crisis.

Communication systems are playing a central role in this crisis: Firstly, as the major spaces of public representation and debate they are the key agencies organising, and disorganising, public understanding of causes, consequences, and possible solutions.

Secondly, as predominantly commercial enterprises dependent on advertising revenues they actively promote an ideology of accelerated consumerism that sustains the ecologically destructive pursuit of economic growth.

This panel brings together activists and academics to discuss the central role of communication in environmental debates, and to launch the book, *Carbon Capitalism and Communication, Confronting Climate Crisis.*

To register visit:

- sydney.edu.au/environment-institute/events/carbon-capitalism-communication-confronting-climate-crisis/

Photo: SEI

Photo: Kuniko.be

## The biosphere question

**7 December**
**6.00–7.30pm**

The Earth has reached a tipping point. Runaway climate change, the sixth great extinction of planetary life, the acidification of the oceans–all point toward an era of unprecedented turbulence in humanity's relationship within the web of life.

But just what is that relationship, and how do we make sense of this extraordinary transition?

Jason W Moore will challenge the theory and history offered by the most significant environmental concept of our times: the Anthropocene.

Are we living in the Anthropocene, literally the 'Age of Man'? Is a different response better suited to the strange–and often terrifying–times in which we live?

Moore will diagnose the problems of Anthropocene thinking and propose an alternative: the global crises of the twenty-first century are rooted in the Capitalocene, the Age of Capital.

To register visit:

- eventbrite.com.au/e/sydney-ideas-the-biosphere-question-tickets-39245803254

# 2017 new staff

## Dr Sarah Cameron

**What is your research area?**
I have joined the Electoral Integrity Project as the Project Manager and Postdoctoral Fellow. The project investigates why elections fail and what can be done about it. Together with colleagues on the project, I conduct research on issues of electoral integrity in cross-national comparison. My research interests also include citizen responses to financial crises and Australian politics.

**What are you most excited about in your new role with the School?**
A highlight is to be part of a global network conducting policy-relevant research. We have an excellent team in the School of Social and Political Sciences, led by Professor Pippa Norris. Internationally, the project is engaged with both academics and practitioners working on electoral integrity.

**What are you binge reading at the moment?**
I am currently reviewing papers on the challenges of elections in the United States for a book project I am working on with University of Sydney colleagues, Pippa Norris and Thomas Wynter.

## Clare Hodgson

**What are you most excited about in your new Project Officer role with the Centre for International Security Studies?**
I'm really excited to know more about the fascinating topics that CISS members are working on and learn about contemporary security challenges and opportunities.

**Where were you working before joining the University?**
I was working for the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in their advocacy team on issues such as refugee and asylum seeker health, drug and alcohol addiction, and Indigenous health.

**Favorite spot/thing on campus?**
I'm still finding my way around the campus and discovering new places. I came across Cadigal Green for the first time last week – it was so beautiful, I think I'll be spending a lot more time there.

**What are you binge watching or reading at the moment?**
I've been re-reading the Harry Potter series and loving it just as much as I did when I was younger!

Alex Houseman and his famous mobile ice creamery. Photo: Over the Moo

# Political Economy graduate takes home 2017 Telstra Business Award

Alex Houseman (BIntS '09 Hons '11), from honours in Political Economy to head honcho at dairy-free ice creamery Over The Moo

**Written by Bella Divnhu**

Congratulations to graduate Alex Houseman on winning the 2017 Telstra New Business of the Year Award for his successful ice cream business, Over The Moo.

Being lactose intolerant, Alex wasn't able to find dairy-free ice cream that was both delicious and also reasonably priced. Over The Moo was the answer to his dilemma. "I knew dairy-free ice cream wasn't anything new, but dairy-free ice cream that is good enough to fool your granny is," said Alex.

Since its launch in 2015, Over The Moo has grown and expanded its distribution network exponentially, including over 500 Woolworths stores across the country.

Alex graduated from the University of Sydney in 2011 with a Bachelor of International Studies and Honours in Political Economy. Eleanor Nurse, Over The Moo's marketing manager, also graduated the same year with a Bachelor of International Studies, majoring in Political Economy and Government.

"We landed Woolworths just over a year after starting the company. To get listing in a major supermarket that quickly is almost unheard of for a food start-up. It made me look at Over The Moo as something that really could go places. That was when I took on Eleanor, my first employee," said Alex.

Winning the Telstra New Business of the Year Award was an unexpected achievement for Alex and his business.

"Winning the Award was honestly a massive shock. The Award adds some weight to our little brand and really sets us aside from our competitors in the market," said Alex.

Over The Moo was not Alex's first attempt at a start-up. His efforts include art deco birdhouses, when he was a teenager, a Shanghai-based coffee roastery-café and an online tailored-shirt business. "Let's say Over The Moo is my first start-up to actually have revenue".

Alex believes establishing a business is as much a lifestyle decision as it was a business decision.

"Running your own business means you can take more risk so you can be in control of your own learning and you can grow both professionally and personally much faster. Having said that, I think there are a lot of false perceptions. For all of the benefits of increased autonomy and control, you can end up tied to your business: you can go without an income for months on end," said Alex.

Alex attributes his determination to launch a business to his studies in Political Economy at the University of Sydney.

"Without the Honours under my belt, I seriously doubt I would've had the maturity to pull off starting my own business.

"Running your own business means you can take more risk so you can be in control of your own learning and you can grow both professionally and personally much faster."

I think there are a lot of parallels between writing a thesis and starting a business: long, lonely periods of what feels like an insurmountable amount of work; your mates not understanding what you're doing or why; sacrificing a solid income for a passion project.

This might also sound a bit far-fetched but I still talk about our day-to-day business challenges using dialectical terms like capital, value, crisis and volatility. With so many factors affecting our business, explaining problems using dialectics can help cut through complex problems and find solutions quickly.

I doubt my Honours supervisor would necessarily encourage or agree with my application of Marxian studies to our day-to-day business issues, but I nonetheless place a huge amount of value on the learnings I took from Political Economy Honours," said Alex.

Take a look at the Over the Moo range:

– overthemoo.com.au/

Photo: Over the Moo

Dr Annabel McGoldrick and Professor Jake Lynch receiving Luxembourg Peace Prize

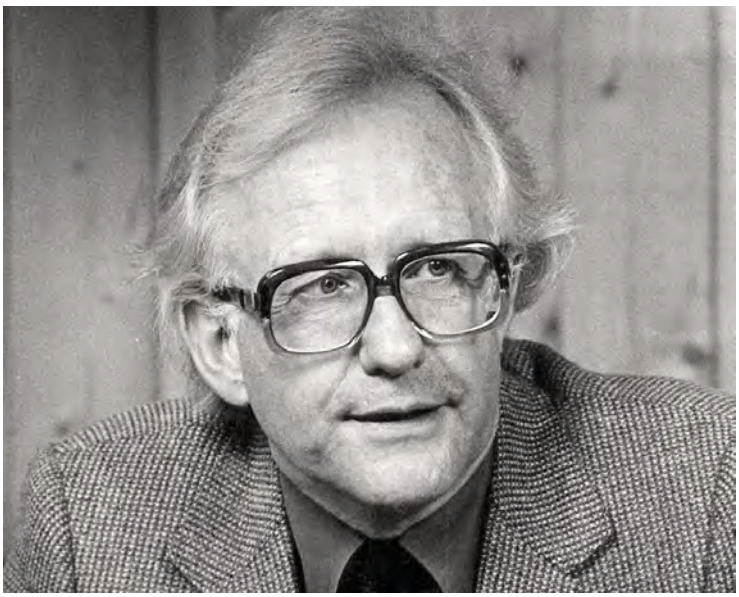
# Peace Journalism wins out at 2017 Luxembourg Peace Prize Ceremony

Associate Professor Jake Lynch and Dr Annabel McGoldrick honoured for two decades of developing and promoting Peace Journalism

**Written by Jake Lynch**

When the European Union was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize a few years ago, I was invited on to ABC television to discuss the news, and joked that it proved that peace must be growing – since the EU was the biggest ever laureate. Supporters of the Union point to its role in transforming the old war-torn continent into the 28-member bloc of today, united in a firm commitment to human rights and the rule of law. Its record is much criticised, of course, on those and many other counts – but there is no denying that a distinctively European vision of peace has been brought into being: one in which gradually thickening ties of economic interdependence, coupled with a communautaire spirit, can underpin shared values and engender a sense of common destiny.

“There is, for instance, a built-in bias, in news about conflicts, in favour of reporting violent events — since they take place in the interval between deadlines, so lend themselves to the commercial imperative of selling daily newspapers”



Johan Galtung circa 1980. Photo: Ukjent/NTB Scanpix

Such was the vision behind the creation of the annual Luxembourg Peace Prize (LPP), first awarded in 2012, by the Schengen Peace Foundation. Schengen also gives its name to the system of ‘soft’ borders linking several EU member states, so you no longer have to show your passport when travelling from, say, Belgium to the Netherlands. In that sense, it is associated with hopes for a future in which we have nothing to fear from our neighbours. The LPP is a much smaller-scale award than the Nobel, of course – and does not come with a monetary prize – but its intent is to showcase peace work of different kinds, to further the Foundation’s aim of “contribut[ing] to the construction of a more peaceful world by promoting peace, tolerance and understanding through multicultural dialogue”.

Annabel McGoldrick (PhD ‘14) and I were recognised for our work in Peace Journalism. The concept originated with Johan Galtung, chief iterative thinker in the field of Peace Research. Decades ago, he published an influential essay in the study of journalism, ‘The Structure of Foreign News’. In it, he (and co-author Mari Holmboe Ruge) proposed the main factors of newsworthiness – factors arising less from any intrinsic properties of a ‘story’ than from the influence of the structures within which the news is produced. There is, for instance, a built-in bias, in news about conflicts, in favour of reporting violent events – since they take place in the interval between deadlines, so lend themselves to the commercial imperative of selling daily newspapers.

Galtung’s argument was that the influence of these structural factors hardens, over time, into a set of newsgathering conventions; conventions which, in turn, bequeath a dominant form of what he called War Journalism. This is to be distinguished from the everyday term ‘war reporting’ – meaning simply the reporting of wars. War Journalism, in Galtung’s view, means journalism which makes violent responses to conflict seem logical, legitimate – even inevitable. If, for instance, readers and audiences are shown only the violent events in a conflict, and not the processes that lead up to them, how are they to discern any opportunities to intervene in those processes, and divert them towards a less violent outcome? They can therefore be engaged, even mobilised to support further violence as seemingly the only possible response.

Annabel McGoldrick and I met Galtung in 1997, when he was the principal speaker at a residential workshop in the UK. We were both journalists at the time, and helped to recruit some of our colleagues to take part. Annabel got him to set out his remedial strategy – Peace Journalism – as a set of distinctions in the reporting of conflict, under four main headings on a single side of A4.

Shortly afterwards, Galtung invited me to join him as co-facilitator of a training course in Amman, Jordan, for professional editors and reporters from Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian Territories. Annabel and I then adapted that model to take up an invitation from the British Council in Jakarta to train journalists in Indonesia.

Today, Peace Journalism is the organising principle for journalist training – as an initiative in media development aid – around the world, as chronicled in The Peace Journalist, produced biannually from the

Continued over...

Global Center for Peace Journalism at Park University, Missouri. And, before long, we were publishing the first in what has since become an extensive record of scholarly research in Peace Journalism.

Peace Journalism has been called a globally distributed 'movement' – and exponents of its two 'wings' – practice and research – have always honoured the principle that each should inform the other. It was for our role in pioneering and leading that twin-track endeavour, with Galtung and many other colleagues, that we were honoured. And the credit rightfully belongs, indeed, to the many journalists, researchers and others with whom we have worked collaboratively over many years – a point we were careful to emphasise when called on to make a two-handed presentation as our acceptance speech.

The ceremony took place in the Robert Schuman building, which formerly housed plenary sessions of the European Parliament. Indeed, once we arrived, I experienced a distinct feeling of familiarity – which I soon traced to a school trip in the late 1970s, when our teenage group was shown round by a British EU diplomat, keen (I recall) to emphasise how the UK was getting its share of what he called "Euro-pudding": the budgets of the then European Community for such benison as agricultural subsidy and, indeed, academic research. It was mixed with a certain poignancy, of course, since Britain has now voted to leave the EU.

Many who regret the result of last year's 'Brexit' referendum blame it, at least in part, on the media. In the late 1990s, I was working as a Political Correspondent, mainly at Westminster, but my beat also included Euro-summits. The British media corps – including the Daily Telegraph Brussels correspondent, a certain Boris Johnson – would invariably portray these gatherings with abundant reference to wartime framings: Britain against the rest. If we had practised a bit more Peace Journalism, the course of history just may have turned out differently.

"Peace Journalism has been called a globally distributed 'movement' – and exponents of its two 'wings' – practice and research – have always honoured the principle that each should inform the other"

## Jake Lynch

Associate Professor Jake Lynch is Chair of the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies.

Jake has spent two decades researching, developing, teaching and training in Peace Journalism – and practising it, as an experienced international reporter in television and newspapers. He was an on-air presenter for BBC World TV, and the Sydney Correspondent for the London Independent newspaper, as well as a Political Correspondent for Sky News.

# Living with Monsters

Monsters are not just part of the popular imaginary, they also manifest in socio-culturally specific ways and haunt humans no matter where they live. Such local monsters—*Mamu, Mulukwausi, Lau, Kalopaling, Tikoloshe, Fylgjur, Pompéro* —have distinctive appearances, particular traits, their own agendas.

This symposium explores how monster-human entanglements contour social relations, notions of personhood, politics, inequality, or theories of justice, ethics and morals. The symposium works towards understanding what it means to have monsters in your life.

## Venue

Abercrombie Business School Case Study Lecture Theatre 2150

## Time

7-8 December 2017

## More information

+61 2 9351 2650
ssps.enquiries@sydney.edu.au

anthropologylivingwith monsters.wordpress.com

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

# Moving the global migration debate forward

Rethinking the interplay of migration and politics in the face on an increasing global push for a market approach to immigration selection

Photo: Getty images

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

I view migration not only as a pressing social issue but also as a rubric through which different theoretical and empirical questions can be viewed, whether they relate to gender, race, class, or other forms of social inequality. My research looks at migration patterns and policies in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom but also cross-nationally across a broad range of countries.

The most recent project I completed is a large-scale monograph on migration patterns across 50 countries. *Crossroads: Migration Regimes in an Age of Demographic Change*, is a co-authored book with Dr Justin Gest of George Mason University in Washington D.C. and forthcoming with Cambridge University Press, New York.

Justin and I were doctoral students together at the London School of Economics (LSE), both writing our PhDs on migration-related issues. My focus was on skilled migration, and Justin's was on Muslim migrants in Spain and the UK. We connected back then and established an interdisciplinary unit, the Migration Studies Unit at LSE, where we arranged large public events around immigration – featuring among others the former Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith, who announced the UK's points test at a full Hong Kong Theatre event.

With time, as we entered academia, it became apparent to us that political science was lacking a singular text on migration and politics that was consistently comparative. We also found that existing approaches often focused too much on the Global North and ignored trends in the Global South, where new economic forces and population growth was occurring. We became interested in the ways that trends in the Arabian Gulf and China might be informing immigration patterns in Western nations, rather than the other way around. We also wanted a better means to compare countries on their immigration and naturalization approaches.

Seven years later, we are still talking and the book is almost published! We have been invited to present it to the United Nations, the World Bank, and at a variety of conferences across Australia, North America and Europe. We have collected data from intergovernmental agencies

and well as from individual countries to evidence our claims. And we back up our findings with online interactive maps that allow users around the world to use our data in ways that suit their own research questions, as well as our focus. The central argument of the book is that in an era defined by inequality, populism, and fears of international terrorism, governments are converging toward a "Market Model", that seeks immigrants for short-term labour with fewer outlets to citizenship—an approach that resembles the increasingly contingent nature of labour markets worldwide.

The *Crossroads* book includes a chapter on temporary work migration. Writing that chapter I developed an interested in the industrial rights violations of temporary migrant workers, which lead me to apply for a Australian Research Council grant on this topic, for which I was awarded DECRA funding in 2016.

This new DECRA project *Patterns of Exploitation* takes Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom as the countries of interest. These three countries cluster together in the "Neo-Liberal Migration Regime" typology in the *Crossroads* book. Their migration systems are marked by among the highest reliance on temporary, economic forms of immigration globally, moderate levels of citizenship and an increasingly marketised approach to immigration selection.

I became interested in whether this neoliberal approach to immigration selection in and of itself might have a negative effect upon the rights of migrants in the labour markets in those countries, or if alternately, other factors might explain their exploitation. This issue is politically salient with recent wage fraud and exploitation scandals affecting workers employed by the 7-Eleven convenience store chain and BIC cleaning.

However, my project takes a longer timeframe and traces instances of exploitation from 1996 through to the present day. This allows me to capture changes in regulation, governing party ideology, human rights frameworks and the shifting flows of migrants. I use a new method inspired by international war crimes documentation that combines detailed coding of all court cases on migrant worker rights in these three countries over the period with analysis of media reports. This combined dataset of thousands of exploitation "events" is then analysed through multilevel statistical methods to elucidate the core reasons for exploitation across countries.

"in an era defined by inequality, populism, and fears of international terrorism, governments are converging toward a "Market Model", that seeks immigrants for short-term labour"

My goal is to develop an evidence base for government and industry that is empirically robust and circumspect in its methodology. A variety of stakeholders, including the Department of Employment, the Fair Work Ombudsman of NSW and Redfern Legal Centre have demonstrated interest in the project, which I think reflects the increasing centrality of migrant workers' industrial rights in public policy debates, not only on migration but labour market policy more broadly.

I believe that in the future, given the unpopularity of wholesale labour law reforms like WorkChoices, immigration policy may become the key way for governments to deregulate labour markets, holding in turn implications not only for temporary immigrants but for all workers: permanent residents, citizens and temporary migrant workers alike.

## Anna Boucher

Dr Anna Boucher is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Government and International Relations and a Discovery Early Career Research Fellow.

Anna is a migration expert with a research focus on skilled immigration policy both in Australia and globally.

@DrAnnaBoucher1

Public Policy practitioners Robyn Williams, Jessica Panagyres, Carmel Tebbutt, and John Whelan

# Public policy, learning from the heavyweights

**Written by Nicholas Rowley and Photography by Ben Rowley**

"To perhaps better understand what leadership for good means, it always includes the opportunity for students to learn from a group of practitioners. Professional people who have, or are, working amidst the very dynamics covered in the course"

For anyone familiar with our University, 'Leadership for Good' is emblazoned on flags, posters and brochures. Whether a student, academic or the army of people who work well away from the lab or the classroom and make the University of Sydney function, it is surely a fine aspiration.

Those working and learning across all Faculties, Departments and Schools at the University can, in a myriad of ways, lead and help achieve positive change. But in the School of Social and Political Sciences we might have an argument that through the study of the economy, society, people, politics and policy, it is what we seek to understand and share with our students each day.

New to the Department of Government and International Relations, teaching the two core subjects in the Masters

"'even on the vexed and diverse challenge of developing effective climate policy in Australia she [Emily Byrne] shared examples of positive measures that would have seemed unachievable ten or fifteen years ago"

Photo: John Whelan and Associate Professor Nicholas Rowley

of Public Policy in semester one has been a delight. I am confident that many of the 103 postgraduate scholars I worked with will go on to glittering careers in the public service, advocacy, and the private sector. One student from last year is working at the United Nations in New York; another, who I met again in Canberra in June, is now part of the Barrier Reef team in the Department of Environment and Energy. And this is only the very beginning of the contributions they can, and I believe will, make.

Following a lot of reading, a series of lectures, assessment tasks and group work, the final class in both my public policy courses is different. To perhaps better understand what leadership for good means, it always includes the opportunity for students to learn from a group of practitioners. Professional people who have, or are, working amidst the very dynamics covered in the course.

With a group of more than 70 taking the *Policy Making, Power and Politics* unit, the class took place in the Old Lecture Theatre on a cold Thursday evening in early June.

Some of the wooden benches creak, stumble down the stairs and you might break your neck, but the room has history. If the walls could talk, they would speak of the philosophy of John Anderson; the radicalism of Germaine Greer; the intelligence of Malcolm Turnbull and – perhaps – even the hair of Clive James.

Five policy practitioners shared their perspectives with the class:

John Whelan was an advisor to Prime Ministers Rudd and Gillard;

Carmel Tebbutt (BEc '86) was the first female Deputy Premier of NSW and Minister for Health;

Jessica Panagyres was the lead forest campaigner at Greenpeace and now works for the Wilderness Society;

Emily Byrne is a senior public servant working in the NSW Office of Environment and has spent time working on climate change for the Climate Change Authority and the Federal government;

Robyn Williams (Sc '88 D.Sc Honoris Causa '88) is Australia's most esteemed science broadcaster. His *Science Show* on Radio National has been broadcast since 1975.

Each of the contributors could have delivered a fine guest lecture by themselves. But to achieve the greatest impact

Continued over...

and to allow time for discussion and questioning from a group of students on the verge of 'mastery', each was asked to focus on two questions. And they had to be concise. Fail to answer these questions in ten minutes and a bell would ring:

The three things they believed were important to understand when arguing for, developing and implementing effective public policy, and one policy achievement which they either led, or observed, which they believe has either made a significant and positive difference, or which they are proudest of, or both.

The contributions were diverse. Emily Byrne shared the frustrations of working in a sometimes slow and frustrating bureaucracy, permeated by the days when advice was accepted, regulations were changed, land was protected or public money was spent. Change was hard, and often frustrating and - apparently - impossible. And yet, even on the vexed and diverse challenge of developing effective climate policy in Australia she shared examples of positive measures that would have seemed unachievable ten or fifteen years ago. A message of hope.

Robyn, shared his experience of working with former Federal Minister Barry Jones on the Commission for the Future: helping argue for and secure significant funding for scientific research. He also emphasized the importance of understanding people: their motivations and how to create positive relationships between those with knowledge and understanding and those taking decisions. He held up his smart phone: in fact a small wooden 'phone' with a black back and a piece of chalk for taking notes. He has never had a mobile device, and made his case for concentration and focus above the constant distraction of the screen. I agreed, but I fear every student under 25 thought us utterly eccentric.

Jessica had just flown down from Brisbane. She had been learning how to operate a drone that can be 'the eyes' on illegal land clearing for the Wilderness Society. A deeply practical way to 'lead for good'! Her message was clear: politics will beat policy every time. If you don't get the politics right, then the policy will remain no more than space in the archives.

John now works as a barrister on complex negotiation and mediation for a diverse range of clients. But he used to work at the very centre of power in Canberra and Macquarie Street. His insights were personal: to remain resilient and look after yourself in a highly contested environment when having to work fast, draw on the very best advice and help good decision making.

With Carmel Tebbutt being the only panelist who had engaged in professional politics, one might have expected a polished speech. But Carmel shared lessons from her disappointments more than her successes: arguing for childcare reforms with her Cabinet colleagues and failing for reasons she sought to understand and shared. She emphasized the importance of timing: again policy can be developed and proposed with sophistication and rigor, but if the timing, and the politics, are not in alignment the change will not occur.

Facilitating the session, I was heartened by the quality of the contributions from the stage. But I was even more heartened by the questions from the students: people now with a depth of knowledge and understanding beyond what can be represented by a grade. A group of students who have spent time at the University of Sydney and have developed a confidence to question; to understand the difference between an assertion and an argument, and with a curiosity that will serve them, and perhaps many of us, well into the future.

## Nicholas Rowley

Associate Professor Nicholas Rowley is a Lecturer in the Department of Government and International Relations. He has advised British Prime Minister Tony Blair on sustainability and climate change and helped initiate the seminal *Review into the Economics of Climate Change* undertaken by Lord Nicholas Stern.

@Rowley10Nick

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# Reflecting on the translation of Sydney Environment Institute's research through theatre

## Using innovative mediums to communicate academic knowledge and the real life impact of shock climate events

She only barks at night performance. Photo: Nathaniel Fay

**Written by Anastasia Mortimer (BA Hons '17) and Michelle St Anne**

If we are to convey climate change issues to the wider public in impactful ways, academic knowledge translation is required. The Sydney Environment Institute (SEI) recognises the pressing need to communicate our research to wider audiences, and that this requires the use of innovative mediums for communication, that are outside of the traditional approaches to disseminating academic knowledge.

Since 2013, SEI has collaborated with The Living Room Theatre, led by Artistic Director & CEO, Michelle St Anne (SEI's Deputy Director in her spare time), who has translated SEI's research into four large scale performance artworks: *She Only Barks at Night*; *They Come for them at Night*; *She [Still] Cries at Night: An Earth Hour* event and *Black Crows Invaded our Country*.

Michelle's translation and interpretation of SEI's research in her theatrical works have opened academic knowledge on climate change to a wider audience, and broadened civic discourse on the impacts of climate change, while influencing people to make positive changes and take action.

SEI will be collaborating with The Living Room Theatre for *Anastasia: Communicating Heat & Climate Vulnerability Through Performance*. This is a project funded by the Pop-up Research Lab scheme awarded by the Sydney Social Sciences and Humanities Advanced Research Centre (SSSHARC). The project explores the real life impacts of heatwaves, as well as the theoretical problems which come from communicating academic research of shock climate events to non-academic audiences, such as policy makers, community organisations, and the general population.

In continuing to interpret SEI's research, Michelle is developing a series of three studio works for the project, which aim to communicate the physical, ethical and emotional effects of heatwave related deaths which are a core component of the SSSHARC project. Michelle explains that the first work "follows the life of an elderly

A requiem for Anastasia performance. Photo: Nathaniel Fay

"theatrical works have opened academic knowledge on climate change to a wider audience, and broadened civic discourse on the impacts of climate change, while influencing people to make positive changes and take action"

woman, living on her own, who dies from heat exhaustion, a condition which is predicted to become more common with temperature rises caused by climate change."

The series will explore human emotion and experiences of climate change, and Michelle's previous collaborations with the Sydney Environment Institute have tended to examine how the issues of climate change manifest in the everyday experiences of people, with a particular focus on those vulnerable in society.

*She Only Barks at Night* (2015) was created in association with HfE Observatory, the Macleay Museum, and the Faculty of Veterinary Science, and was a part of the *Stuffed, Stitched and Studied* exhibition at the Macleay Museum. The performance merged academic research on equine science and female hysteria in the nineteenth century to the present day, and was translated through contemporary performance theatre, installation, and exhibition.

*They Come for them at Night* (2015) explored the issue of sea level rises in the Pacific and its effects on culture – family, food and memory. The performance was inspired by the Honours Thesis of SEI PhD Candidate, Luke Craven (BA '12 BA Hons '13 PhD '17), and provided an original insight into the fragility of the Pacific Islands and their people. Luke Craven's research was weaved with sound art and image, and performed by young girls in an effort to truly understand the vulnerability of humans as we face climate change.

*She [Still] Cries at Night: An Earth Hour* event (2016) translated the research of SEI PhD Candidate, Leah Lui-Chivizhe, to communicate the plight of the Green Sea Turtles as they try to combat climate change and plastic pollution, on their journey to the beaches of the Torres Strait to hatch their eggs.

*Black Crows Invaded our Country* (2017) in partnership with the City of Sydney, explored the haunting and complex issue of human migration in the age of the Anthropocene. The theatrical work applied SEI's research on the Anthropocene as a framework to tell a story with a particular focus on those who are most at risk of losing adequate food and shelter in the face of climate change.

In the four theatrical works, Michelle merged academic research with her own artistic palette, as a way to translate complex academic research into new forms of expressions, allowing the audience to see climate change research through a different lens.

Michelle explains that the goal in creating theatrical works which explore the issue of climate change, is to "communicate environmental research through new mediums, and to contribute to a larger conversation between artists, creatives, industry and academia about the plight of the earth and its peoples in the face of climate change."

Ute Eickelkamp and Jadran Mimica with workshop participants in Alice Springs

# Placing spirit, minding the world: towards an intercultural ethics of care

## An ethnographic inquiry into the idea of Nature, forged by Indigenous thinkers from Australia's Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands

**Written by Ute Eickelkamp**

How can interdisciplinarity and intercultural dialogue advance an environmental ethics for Australia? Addressing this question 'hands on' were Indigenous thinkers from Pukatja on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands and from Mutitjulu, and non-Indigenous scholars who came together for a workshop in Alice Springs in April this year.

The Department of Anthropology and The School for Social and Political Sciences hosted the two-day event. The Anangu delegates were: educators and artists Katrina Tjitayi, Umatji Stevens and Rhoda Stevens, artist and Bible translator Margaret Dagg, Christian seer, dreamer and painter Rachael Lionel, leading international artist Rene Kulitja, and artist Judy Trigger; the non-Indigenous contingent were University of Sydney scholars, Dalia Nassar (Philosophy), Jadran Mimica (Anthropology), and Petronella Vaarzon-Morel (Conservatorium of Music & New York University) independent philosopher-poet Luke Fischer, anthropologist Noah Pleshet (Miami State University, Ohio), anthropologist Marika Moisseeff (French National Centre of Scientific Research), Alice Springs based environmental

scientist and award-winning photographer Fiona Walsh, Interpreter and Senior Child Health Project Manager at NPY Women's Council Alice Springs, Suzanne Bryce, and community psychologist, artist, ethnographer Craig San Roque.

Pitched between the field and the book, the event had grown out of my four-year-long ethnographic inquiry as ARC Future Fellow, into the idea of Nature that the Anangu are forging in relation to existential challenges and new paradigms of knowing and being in their lives.

Given the philosophical nature of the question, this fieldwork (preceded by three years of living at Pukatja over two decades) was highly discourse-oriented – we talked and found questions, met in creekbeds to talk again, examined plants growing in the bush and along the road, puzzled over Bible passages and endangered species that once were 'good meat', traveled to the Holy Land of Israel, and shared childhood memories of a different ecology, nocturnal dreams and hopes for the future.

To articulate what Nature might mean in one cultural context is difficult enough, let alone across lingual, cosmological and indeed ontological boundaries that, moreover, are shifting. The exchanges with particular individuals became so complex and rich that a larger conversation needed to be had – a workshop. And since we had entered the fields of philosophy and creative thought, a direct encounter with philosophers, anthropologists, psychologists and artists was called for.

Given how wide the disciplinary and cultural net of the meeting had been cast, a workable format was of the essence. Taking the lead from the Anangu partners who are all veteran intercultural frontline workers, I developed a staged approach, with a strong emphasis on the social dimension of the meeting. In accord with the preference of the Anangu delegates to meet close but not too close to home, we chose the desert urban hub Alice Springs (450km 'down the road'). The delegates shared accommodation and meals, and we spent half a day introducing ourselves – showing images and speaking of our life histories and cultural and ecological homes.

The workshop itself followed a two-stage format: small teams of two to three malparara, black and white teams, worked on a specific 'smaller' Anangu-led topic on the first day; the teams shared their observations on the second day in order to see if and how a larger narrative could be crafted towards an intercultural ethic of care.

Together with me, the Anangu delegates had prepared their 'stories' well in advance, titled and translated them from English into Pitjantjatjara and back, and these were pre-circulated to the non-Anangu partners to give impetus for them to develop a 'story' in response – ngapartji-ngapartji, meaning 'to give and take'.

The small team exchanges were socially and multimodally productive – on account of the stream of ideas that flowed in what had become a familiar setting and intimate work process, we now have many mud maps and illustrations on butcher paper, handwritten notes, photographs (Fiona Walsh), and sound recordings (Noah Pleshet).

A compilation of a visual-audio text is in the making, to be published online through the Sydney Anthropology Symposium website; this multimedia document will offer a lively dialogical journey and reflections on the notion of 'creation', on the temporality of care, on the centrality of 'looking after' people and place, on the existential need for a sense of continuity of being, on coping with loss of lives, on the problems and potentials of translating 'deep' concepts (time, history, memory, care) across languages and worldviews, on dialogical thinking-with and collaboration, and the social and intellectual pros and cons of the workshop format.

As a further collaborative outcome we are considering a co-authored *Position Paper, Towards an Intercultural Ethic of Care: Anangu and non-Indigenous Explorations of Life in Precarious Times*.

Umatji and Marika

Katrina demonstrating her findings

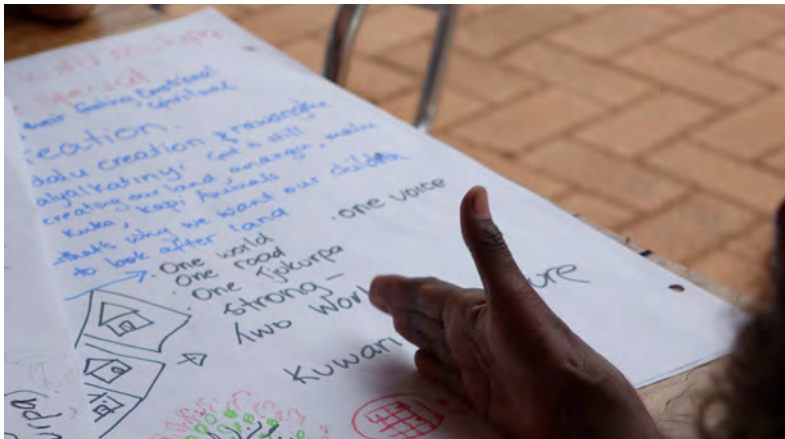

Photo: Lindsay Moller

# Manufacturing the future: cultures of production for the Anthropocene

## A look at how workplace democracy can provided secure employment for skilled manufacturing workers

**Written by Caitlin James (BPESS '16) and Andrew Brodzeli (BASc '17 BA '17)**
**Photography by Andrew Brodzeli**

Can the manufacturing sector produce a more equal society? Can it be part of the solution to global warming? Moreover, is the only genuine solution to these problems one that tackles both, as is put forward by Julian Agyeman's goal of 'just sustainability'? These questions guided the 10th annual Wheelwright lecture, presented by Professor Katherine Gibson.

The event commemorates the University of Sydney academic, Ted Wheelwright, and his contribution to political economy, in his study of the effect of international capital upon national sovereignty. Remarkably, Professor Katherine Gibson (BSc '76) is the first Australian to present the commemorative lecture. Obtaining her undergraduate degree at the University of Sydney before embarking upon a global academic career across the USA, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines, Gibson's work reflects her geographic breadth and spans across human geography, anthropology, sociology, and economics.

During her time in the USA, Gibson began a lifelong collaboration with the late Professor Julie Graham, publishing together under the singular penname J.K. Gibson-Graham. Together they produced and edited a series of globally-renowned books, including *The End of Capitalism (As We Knew It), A Postcapitalist Politics,* and *Making Other Worlds Possible: Performing Diverse Economies.*

While emerging from a background in structuralist Marxism, her work has consistently challenged orthodox and heterodox economics' primary focus upon the operation of 'Big-C' Capitalism. Instead, Gibson has crafted a unique methodological framework she terms 'participatory action research', which looks to the diversity of existing community economic arrangements by engaging directly with local subjects.

The method engages with local communities to shed light upon the idiosyncrasies and often non-commercial nature of local modes of provisioning. Rather than accepting the 'tragedy of the commons' - the notion of the inevitable degradation of commonly used land and resources – Gibson's work has revealed the importance of the commons to many existing developmentally diverse communities. She thereby challenges the core tenet of orthodox economics, which prioritises the optimisation of the allocation of scarce resources through facilitating smoothly functioning markets.

However, Gibson admits that this experimental form of community-engaged action-research, which has seen the development of the first worker-owned manufacturing cooperative in Australia, EarthWorker, is often a "slow-burn, two-steps forward, three-steps back" process. As in her work with the displaced workers and coal-mining communities of the La Trobe Valley, engaging with 'neglected subjects' to perform new economies faces unpredictable challenges, often relating to the subjects' perceptions of benefit through participation.

In her most recent fieldwork with the Community Economies Collective at Western Sydney University, Gibson turned to the experimental interventions already performed within the complex

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ecosystem of manufacturing enterprises, including private capitalist enterprises, social enterprises, and worker-cooperatives. Four case studies, spanning the production of carpets, mattresses, chasses, and milk, suggest a potentially revitalised manufacturing sector through an ethical and ecologically-oriented focus.

Interface Carpets, a world-leading provider of modular carpet tiles, based in the USA and Australia, has combined its pioneering eco-friendly textile design with consistently laudable working conditions to provide security to its highly skilled local workforce.

Norco, a billion-dollar Australian dairy company and the only worker-owned collective in Australia, has strategically withdrawn from transnational mergers to enhance its cooperative culture, involving democratic negotiations between international investors and local workers to optimise welfare outcomes for all its members.

Varley, a major Australian chassis producer with clientele including defence, emergency and rail vehicles, survived severe workforce shrinkage in the 1990s by maintaining its private (family) ownership structure. The company has been able to protect its investment strategy from the short-term compulsions of international finance, thereby ensuring its workers greater security.

Soft Landing, a mattress recycling, non-profit 'social enterprise', established by Mission Australia, aims to build collaborative trust between for-profit manufacturers and industry partners to bolster its mission of ecologically-friendly mattress lifecycle management.

These case studies remonstrate against the popular notion of the inevitable automation of manufacturing jobs, by

Unveiling the Emeritus Professor Frank Stilwell portrait. Photo: Twitter

“Simultaneously, these enterprises have utilised diversity of organisational forms cutting across the for-profit vs. non-profit divide to achieve goals of ecological sustainability”

Chair of Department of Political Economy, Dr Liz Hill

showing how workplace democracy, pursued in several contemporary Australian enterprises, has provided secure employment for skilled manufacturing workers. Simultaneously, these same enterprises have utilised diversity of organisational forms cutting across the for-profit vs. non-profit divide to achieve goals of ecological sustainability. Gibson’s work, by revealing these experimentations, shows how despite the prohibitive structures of financialisation and short-term competitive concerns, an optimistic future is in the making.

Nevertheless, two considerations temper the optimism which suffuses Gibson’s recent work. The first relates to the sources of the qualitative evidence presented in support of her four case studies – each of the quotes selected to celebrate the virtue of the four companies was provided by their executive and management team. Such participants are unlikely to provide negative evidence. For this, one must look to the workers themselves, something which was a focus of Gibson’s earlier work but seemed lacking in her recent examples.

Secondly, how may such case-studies go beyond being merely isolated examples of doing things differently and prefigure an entirely changed political-economy? What of the structural obstacles that continually hinder the viability of such laudable goals as ‘just sustainability’. While responding to this challenge has been a motif of her academic career, the audience member who asked the question may have hoped for a more robust response than Gibson provided, who rejected the generalisability of such case-studies. It is, after all, a goal of socially-engaged academic research to not only reveal the diverse ways of politically and economically ‘doing things differently’, but also to show how this may be done in a manner appropriate to the planetary scale of the problems posed by the Anthropocene.

Gibson’s lecture provided unique insight into the future of manufacturing in Australia. Her commitment to the “long-term”, as she puts it, is critical for the future of political economic research, as she stresses the importance of ‘unmaking’ structures and tackling barriers head on.

## Katherine Gibson

Katherine Gibson is a Professor of Economic Geography at Western Sydney University.

Katherine is internationally known for her research on rethinking economies as sites of ethical action. She trained as a human geographer with expertise in political economy and, with her collaborator for over 30 years, the late Professor Julie Graham, developed a distinctive approach to economic geography drawing on feminism, post-structuralism and action research.

# Bigger than Bieber: The Second International Legitimation Code Theory Conference

## Tackling everything from physics to ballet, post-Apartheid social justice to jazz, and political ideologies

**Written by Jodie Martin**

For a week in early July over 120 scholars, research students and educators from 13 countries came together at the University of Sydney for the Second International Legitimation Code Theory Conference.

Hosted by the LCT Centre for Knowledge-Building, the event offered five days of workshops, papers and discussions. Topics covered everything from physics to ballet, from post-Apartheid social justice to teaching jazz, from vocational education to political ideologies.

What the diverse community and conversation shared was Legitimation Code Theory (LCT), an approach to understanding and changing knowledge and practice created by Professor Karl Maton of the School of Social and Political Sciences. The dynamism generated by the event was soon evident on Twitter. Though Justin Bieber was visiting Sydney, he was beaten into number 2 as a trending topic in Australia by the conference hashtag #LCTC2 during Karl Maton's Opening Address. The conference remained in the top five trending topics through the week.

Since emerging in the 2000s, LCT has grown very rapidly. The way LCT combines theoretical rigour with concrete implications for practice is proving particularly attractive to scholars and educators in places traditionally marginalised or viewed as lower status. Its impact is primarily in the 'global south', especially in South Africa and in practically-oriented fields such as vocational education and academic literacy. Moreover, the vast majority of scholars are postgraduate students or early career scholars – it is a young field in every sense.

To help support the community, the LCT Centre for Knowledge-Building worked hard to make the conference free of registration costs. Thanks to generous support from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Social and Political Sciences, Department of Sociology and Social Policy, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), not only was registration free but the organisers were also able to support several promising students to travel to the conference.

From Australia, Ellen Scott (University of South Australia) and Jessica Scott (University of Adelaide) presented a paper on conflicts in the vegan community, and from South Africa Martina van Heerden (University of the Western Cape) discussed how feedback lets down undergraduate students in English studies, and Naomi Msusa (University of Cape Town) explored academic literacy among students.

Keynotes were given by Professors Karl Maton and J.R. Martin from the University of Sydney, and Professor Chris Winberg from South Africa. In his Opening Address,

Photo: Joshua Silvercloud

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Professor Maton showed how LCT 'makes the invisible visible' by revealing the forms taken by knowledge and their effects. This talk was particularly popular among delegates for revealing a long-awaited set of concepts in LCT that offer insight into how different forms of knowledge can be successfully integrated, such as using mathematics in science, bringing together work experience and academic ideas, and interdisciplinary collaborations.

Professor Winberg from Cape Peninsula University of Technology gave a riveting keynote that highlighted how LCT sheds urgently needed light on South African higher education and is unique in revealing the nature of professional and vocational education. As Professor Sioux McKenna of Rhodes University commented, it "really gave us a rich understanding of how we can actually work meaningfully". Finally, Professor Martin explored how the humanities can be understood using both systemic functional linguistics and LCT, particularly inspiring the significant number of linguists among the delegates.

A total of 80 papers were presented on problems in research, curriculum design and teaching practice from pre-school to university and across the disciplinary map, as well as issues beyond education, such as climate change denial and political news coverage. This diversity of application is one of the strengths of LCT, enabling studies of a wide variety of problems to build on one another. As delegates put it, "it doesn't matter what discipline you come from, it brings you together in the one space", in which one can "hear that we have the same kind of struggles and how we can learn from each other".

Reflecting the nature of LCT as a practical theory, presentations were a mixture of research-based papers and practice-oriented sessions. As Ilse Rootman-le Grange stated, "it really gives you a way of changing what you're doing. It's not just a theory – you can now go and really adapt your practice".

The transformative nature of LCT was also a recurrent theme. In her paper, which won a People's Choice Award at the conference, Hanelie Adendorff (Stellenbosch University) stated that in grappling with the difficult topic of 'decolonizing the curriculum' in South Africa "LCT helped me become more human". As Vicky Ariza Pinzón of Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla,

The core LCTC2 conference team, including Professor Karl Maton (centre)

LCTC2 conference goers

Mexico declared on a slide: “LCT empowers”.

Another hallmark of LCT is the supportive nature of its community. The program was designed to enable as much discussion among participants as possible and a common refrain among delegates was that the discussion was incredibly positive.

As Kavish Jawahar from Rhodes University declared, what distinguishes the conference is “the friendliness! I think everyone is really friendly here, and supportive! Definitely very welcoming!”.

This community is growing: in addition to the 12 groups created over the past two years, three new LCT groups were organised during the conference in Brisbane, London, and Denmark. In addition, international Special Interest Groups were created that focus on different aspects of the framework.

The conference generated considerable excitement among delegates that has continued to ripple outwards. In September, 10 postgraduates and lecturers from three universities gathered in Adelaide for a day of LCT workshops organised by Dr Jodie Martin.

Intensive teaching courses by the LCT Centre have been organised for 2018 in Grahamstown, Johannesburg and Durban in South Africa, Beijing and Shanghai in China, and Boston in the USA. New LCT groups are being created, such as in Melbourne. All these developments are being supported by the LCT Centre for Knowledge-Building. And it won’t end there: a Third International LCT Conference will be hosted in 2019 by the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Watch this space!

## LCT Centre for Knowledge-Building

Legitimation Code Theory (LCT) first emerged as a framework for the study of knowledge and education and is now being used to analyse a growing range of practices across diverse social fields, including education, law, politics, art, and public understanding of science.

@LCTCentre

Professor Adam Morton delivering a public lecture at the Canadian Centre for Architecture. Photo: Canadian Centre for Architecture

# Entangled modernities: State space in Mexico

## Chasing Esther Born, photographer and architect, to reveal the spatial history of the modern state and the poltical economy of urban landscape

**Written by Adam Morton**

For my first study leave period since joining the University of Sydney, I spent a period of time undertaking archival research in the United States and Canada, extending my focus on spatial political economy. Specifically, I was hosted as a Visiting Scholar at the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) in Montréal and at the Center for Creative Photography (CCP) in Tucson, Arizona accessing photographic and additional documents linked to the legacy of Esther Born (1902–1987).

Esther Born was an architect and photographer who travelled across Mexico in 1936 photographing the modernist architecture that was burgeoning at that time in Mexico City. The "Born Legacy" consists of a linear metre of archival boxed negatives plus 74 prints held at the CCP and an additional 250 photographic prints held in the archives of the CCA that together capture the architecture and architects, the city and the countryside, the market places and Mexican modernist built environment that constituted the wider spatial relations of the country.

Notwithstanding Nicholas Olsberg's recent *Architecture and Artists: The Work of Ernest and Esther Born* (2015), there remains little attention cast towards

the important documentary and photography work of this early eye-witness to Mexican modernism. So what has my archival research yielded and what are the findings-in-progress that have come together thus far in advancing my research project on spatial political economy?

As a point of navigation, my most recent article has just been published in the Journal of Latin American Studies and it asserts a focus on monuments as a way of revealing the spatial history of the modern state and the political economy of the urban landscape. What this means is building on Henri Lefebvre's notion of abstract space that refers to the ways in which the space of capital isolates functions, practices and ideas across the geometric grid of the modern state. Abstract space is an aspect that is often missing in commentaries on Lefebvre that rush to highlight representations of space without engaging the political economy of abstract space. As Lefebvre states in *The Production of Space*, abstract space links 'to abstract labour . . . and hence the general commodity form'.

These cues were taken up in my approach to the Born legacy as well as in a public lecture delivered at the CCA in seeking to account for the abstract space-making activities she documented through her photography of Mexico City. Principally, my focus covered three prominent cases of abstract space-making projects based on:

1) a concrete read through the case of Cementos Tolteca, the British company owned by Federico Sánchez Fogarty that was Mexico's leading producer of 'Portland' cement and concrete.

At the time Cementos Tolteca was regarded as one of the newest and grandest factories of its generation with the industrial plant marked by large concrete cylinders reminiscent of the grain silos in Le Corbusier's *Towards An Architecture*, also evoked in Juan O'Gorman's Diego Rivera Studio. The design is composed of confident geometries, straight lines shooting through space at daring right angles, capturing Federico Sánchez Fogarty's penchant for International Style modernism.

Cementos Tolteca would later constitute a central pillar of Cementos Mexicanos (CEMEX), which is today the second largest building materials company in the world—after LafargeHolcim—manufacturing and distributing cement, ready-mix concrete and aggregates in more than 50 countries. CEMEX currently operates on four continents, with 66 cement plants, 2,000 ready-mix-concrete facilities, 400 quarries, 260 distribution centres and 80 marine terminals;

2) an electricity read through the case of the Siemens headquarters in Mexico City, which still stands to this day albeit in a rather disheveled multipurpose way as a discount highstreet retail outlet.

Taxco la nuit, Mexico. Photo: Ismael Alonso

In 1894 Siemens & Halske sets up a 'Technical Bureau' in Mexico City and then constructs its first power station in the city (1897-98). In 1936 it then sets up its headquarters on No.30 Avenida Juárez built by the architects José Creixell and Enrique de la Mora.

In terms of architectural photography, the images capture different elements of Corbusian modernism: the architectural interpretation of ships' railings and decks, juxtaposed against automobiles as trappings of industrial modernity, accompanied by metal railings on the fenestration. Of course, Siemens AG today is a German conglomerate company headquartered in Berlin and Munich, and the largest industrial manufacturing company in Europe with branch offices abroad. Siemens and its subsidiaries employ approximately 362,000 people worldwide and reported global revenue of around €75.6 billion in 2015 according to their annual report; and

3) a health read through the case of the Tuberculosis Hospital constructed between 1929 and 1936 by José Villagrán García that was regarded as one of the signature projects of the newly powerful cabinet-level agency charged with helping realise some of the country's most far-reaching social and political reforms, particularly through health.

The hospital was the centrepiece of a national plan to transform the treatment of tuberculosis, built to serve

"The [Tuberculosis] Hospital was the centrepiece of a national plan to transform the treatment of tuberculosis, built to serve the poor and generate healthy, productive workers, as agents in the physical and economic strengthening of Mexico"

Esther Born's photographs on display. Photo: Canadian Centre for Architecture

the poor and generate healthy, productive workers, as agents in the physical and economic strengthening of Mexico. This axially symmetrical building had many modernist elements and was a prototype for later modernist institutional buildings in Mexico that blended and adapted a Beaux-Arts composition of French rationalism with the requirements of modernism in Mexico. The building was heralded as "an essay in rectangles and squares" to repair and modernise the national body. Similar to the previous cases, it reflects a unique grafting of Beaux-Arts design theory onto a Mexican architectural scene.

What do these cases and Esther Born's photography reveal about the spatial political economy of modernism in Mexico? In my view, drawing from Duanfang Lu, they reveal an understanding of modernism not as a worldwide diffusion of Euro-American universalising experiences but one based on the entangled modernities of local appropriations and transformations adapted to the specificity of modernism in specific places.

The work of Esther Born is a vector that captures abstract space revealing processes in the constitution of capitalist modernity in Mexico. But critically, at the same time, her photography in and beyond these examples delivers a relative lack of focus on concrete labour, which is the everyday manifestation of value-producing labour.

My aim is now to write this research up on the entangled modernities of state space in Mexico through the work of Esther Born. In so doing it is my hope to develop further the perspective of spatial political economy by focusing on the construction of abstract space and concrete labour reflected in the form of geometric state-produced space and capitalism in the making of modern Mexico.

## Adam Morton

Adam Morton is a Professor in the Department of Political Economy. Prior to joining the University he was an Associate Professor in Political Economy, and co-Director of the Centre for the Study of Social and Global Justice (CSSGJ) in the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Nottingham.

Adam specialises in the themes of political economy, state theory, historical sociology, globalisation and development in their relevance to the study of modern Mexico and Latin America.

@AdamDavidMorton

# Recommended reading

## Ecofeminism as politics: nature, Marx and the postmodern (20th anniversary edition, 2017) by Ariel Salleh

*Ecofeminism as politics* is now a classic, being the first work to offer a joined-up framework for green, socialist, feminist, and postcolonial thinking.

A very early eco-socialist statement, it addresses discourses on class, science, the body, culture and nature, and its innovative reading of Marx converges the philosophy of internal relations with the organic materiality of everyday life. Salleh says, "the book invites thinkers and activists to focus less on the 'capital-labour' interface and more on the interface of 'labour and nature'."

The book extends the remit of Political Economy into Political Ecology by focusing on what Salleh calls the 'meta-industrial class'. Feminist theory has tended to be anthropo-centric, whereas ecofeminism is eco-centric. This means that social reproduction is understood as the material embedding of human society in 'the full totality of natural relations'. Ecofeminists highlight the free appropriation of women's labours, indigenous labours, and all 'naturalised' matter-energy flows subsumed by the global economy. The 'quantitative' premise of an earlier 'domestic labour debate' wherein socialist feminists unmasked women's contribution to surplus value, now shifts to a 'qualitative' premise.

Ulrich Brand, Professor of Politics at the University of Vienna writes, "the combination of eco-socialist, feminist, and decolonial perspectives in this book is analytically and politically thrilling".

### Ariel Salleh

Ariel Salleh is an Honorary Associate Professor in the Department of Political Economy at the University of Sydney; Visiting Professor in Philosophy & Environment, Nelson Mandela University; and Senior Fellow in Post-Growth Societies, Friedrich Schiller University Jena.

Longtime activist, she co-founded the Movement Against Uranium Mining; The Greens; served on the Federal Gene Technology Ethics Committee. Today, she works closely with the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung in Brussels.

– www.arielsalleh.info

# 100 years of Government and International Relations

On Wednesday, 8th November the Department of Government and International Relations held a centenary celebration to mark 100 years of teaching and research, and to reveal what the Department has in store for the future. Thank you to the many friends, alumni, colleagues, and industry affiliates who came out to celebrate and make the night a success.

A special thank you to our panelists Mark Scott AO (DipEd '84 BA '84 MA '93), Hon. Reba Meagher (BA '90 MLLR '01), Dr Tim Soutphommasane (BEcSocSc Hons '04), and Dr Kate Harrison (BA '77 PhD '87) for leading an engaging and lively discussion on the most pressing social and political issues of our time.

Left page
Top: A/Prof Susan Park in discussion with Mark Scott AO, Hon. Reba Meagher, Dr Kate Harrison, and Dr Tim Soutphommasane
Bottom left: Panelist Hon. Reba Meagher and friends
Bottom right: Dr Stewart Jackson, Dr Madeleine Pill, Dr Stephen Mills, Dr David Smith, and Dr Minglu Chen amongst guests
Right page
Top left: Audience listening to panel discussion
Middle left: Professor David Schlosberg and Professor Allan McConnell
Bottom left: Chair of Department, Professor Colin Wight
Top right: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences mascot and Dean's assistant, Farley
Bottom right: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Dean, Professor Annamarie Jagose

# Leading the Charge

## Tracking Mark Scott's career progression from teacher to journalist, managing director of the ABC, to education policy specialist

**Written by Swetha Das**

Stepping in as the ABC's Managing Director, with no prior experience working for a broadcaster, Mark fostered the start of Australian media's digital revolution. Now, he is the newly appointed Secretary of the NSW Department of Education, faced with the task of adapting to the changing needs of more than 2000 schools across the state.

It's hard to believe but during his university days, Mark Scott was as unsure about the future as any of us.

"I was concerned that I hadn't found what it was that I thought I was going to be doing," Scott remembers. His rapid career progression began with a Government and English Literature major, which he says equipped him with the abilities best suited for the workplace.

"They set me up broadly with a range of questioning skills and analytical skills that were useful and continued to be applied," Scott says. "It's how you apply your mind to a new problem, and can read, think and work your way through it."

After graduating with his B.A. and Diploma in Education from the University of Sydney, he began teaching at St Andrew's Cathedral School. He then left this career to become an advisor to former Education Ministers, Victoria Chadwick and Terry Metherell. Scott then pursued a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University, coming back to Australia to rise through the ranks of Fairfax's newsrooms.

Scott fondly recalls of a professor in America who told him not to worry about not knowing the exact path to follow. "He said to me that, really, careers are about creating - about getting the skills and experiences that gave you new opportunities."

"As I look back," Scott reflects. "I sometimes ask myself, if I had known I would come to take these roles, would I have prepared differently? Well, no, not really. Life is as it has been."

"There is a certain logic to it in hindsight, but I couldn't have hardly anticipated it." Aware of his unique situation, Scott acknowledges "it's hardly been a straightforward, linear path."

He recalls his role models, his father and grandfather, who remained in the same career their whole lives. Walter Scott, his grandfather, had a prodigious career in public policy, and was responsible for introducing dollars and cents into the Australian currency system. His father, Brian Scott, similarly worked alongside the NSW Department of Education, trying to bring about reform during his era.

Third in this generation of innovators, Scott embodies the same family drive but within a modern context. His career shows how hard work and results can take you from industry to industry.

Having made the leap from senior Fairfax executive to the ABC, without experience in broadcast, Scott felt that, a lot of the time, it came down to people taking a "punt" on him. "I was often the left field candidate," Scott says. "I was a surprising choice."

"If someone points you to a job, they're really trusting their reputation with you. They're choosing you."

Continued over...

"I sometimes ask myself, if I had known I would come to take these roles, would I have prepared differently? Well, no, not really. Life is as it has been."

Photo: Nicholas Rowley

And Scott did not disappoint. His role in introducing iview, ABC News 24, ABC3, as well as developing social media and online platforms, was instrumental in providing a model for how media can adapt to its perpetually online audiences.

"The world is changing dramatically and the speed of change is increasing," Scott muses. "What's key at the ABC and NSW Department of Education is the sense that change is not something that I do - change is not something that you do to an organisation - it's what the organisation decides to do together."

Scott's career progression from teacher to journalist, managing director of an influential public broadcaster to education policy specialist, is reflective of the scope of industries and breadth of experience available to young graduates today. He says it is passion which pushes him towards the industries that are close to his heart. "Part of what drove me at the ABC, and drives me with education, is absolute belief in the importance of these organisations in Australian life."

During our phone call, I sense the urgency of Scott needing to head off. I'm met with surprise when I compliment the live orchestral hold music - "aah I never sit on hold you see."

And he's right, he never has. Scott has not approached his studies, his career or the digital revolution by waiting. He has welcomed change and excelled in its volatility.

"Do not try to pursue that one thing. Do not believe that your career is a riddle that you have to find an answer to," Scott concludes. "It is a series of experiences where you are gaining knowledge, and you are gaining skills, to prepare you for what is next."

## Mark Scott

Mark Scott, AO holds a Bachelor of Arts, a Diploma of Education and a Master of Arts from the University of Sydney; and a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University.

@mscott

# Fellowships

## Barbara Hale Fellowship

Cathryn Eatock (MHR '15), PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy, has been awarded the Barbara Hale fellowship, provided by the Australian Federation of Graduate Women. The Fellowship funds will greatly support her research on the capacity of the United Nations to influence settler governments' responsiveness to Indigenous claims of self-determination, and to contribute to Indigenous rights discourse within Australia.

## 2018 Equity Fellowship

The Equity Fellowships provide $600,000 in funding to help redress gender balance in senior academic roles, support primary carers and assist researchers with disabilities.

Dr Rebecca Scott Bray (Sociology and Social Policy) received a fellowship to help her prepare for a senior academic position. The fellowship will allow Dr Scott Bray to conduct fieldwork with some of the world's leading international criminological and socio-legal scholars, working on deaths in contested circumstances and expand her work on sudden death.

Dr Holly High (Anthropology) recevied a fellowship, which will allow her to complete her fieldwork in Laos, as part of her ARC-funded DECRA project that uses ethnographic methods to study desire in everyday politics and economy in a Laotian village.

## Sydney Social Sciences and Humanities Advanced Research Centre (SSSHARC) fellowships

Dr Fiona Gill (BA '98 CertEdStud '12) (Sociology and Social Policy) and Dr Aim Sinpeng (Government and International Relations, Centre for International Security Studies) are recipients of the Faculty-wide SSSHARC launch fellowships. Fiona and Aim have each secured up to $60,000 in funding for 2018 to further their research through SSSHARC.

Dr Gill's research will focus on the topic, *Human Being to Human Body: identity, memory and humanity in the display of and interaction with human bodies*, while Dr Sinpeng will focus on *Social Media Analysis of Islamic State Online Propaganda in Australia.*

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THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

# Interning in the 'city of peace'

## Ming Ong (MInternatPHlth '16 MHlthSec '17) reflects on the challenges and rewards of working in the largest global health agency, the World Health Organization

Ming Ong outside the United Nations HQ in Geneva

My internship at the World Health Organization (WHO) was with the Global Observatory on Health R&D. Established in 2016, the Observatory focuses on data collection and analysis for the development of new health products (e.g. drugs, vaccines, diagnostics), particularly for diseases that affect populations that cannot afford to pay for the development and/or production of the health products they need, termed neglected diseases.

The Observatory acts as a central repository for information related to global health research and development, including information on relevant product pipelines, patents, clinical trials, health research capacity and peer reviewed publications. It is also involved in analyses of product needs and the feasibility of product development. The intention is that the Observatory will give policy- and decision -makers the tools to appropriately prioritize and improve health R&D for neglected diseases and global health.

The organization I work for in Sydney contributes data to the Observatory, and my role was mostly based around my professional background dealing with information architecture and the availability, transparency and quality of data for global health policy decision-making. This meant digging through data sets or analyses that had been sent to WHO and figuring out how we could or couldn't use them. It also meant drafting reports or concept notes for my supervisor's review and representing her in meetings or conferences. It is a lot less glamorous than working in the 'field', and mostly involved me sitting in front of a computer or in a meeting room.

I had previously completed the Master of International Public Health degree at USYD, which gave me a very focused technical background in public health. The Master of Health Security (Human and Animal Biosecurity specialization)

allowed me to broaden my academic background and explore different areas of global health that are much harder to gain exposure in. I was able to take units across public policy, strategic communications, international relations, economics, and veterinary public health. The Master of Health Security is one of the few places where you can get that kind of exposure. Having those skills and knowledge allows you to be more effective working in a demanding place like WHO, where you are confronted with vastly different problems and expected to develop solutions.

The internship was a great opportunity, and even the negatives were instructive. I am still very early on in my career, and the internship gave me the chance to work alongside some of the leaders in global health. It was very strange to walk into meetings or work with people whose papers and research are considered the gold standard in their area, and then be expected to participate and contribute.

The step up in people's expectations at WHO was also an important learning experience; I think the tendency in an academic setting is to seek constant feedback and reassurance, but this is impossible in a resource-constrained organization like WHO. It was uncomfortable, but important, to make that shift from the supportive academic or 'entry-level' professional environment to becoming more authoritative and accountable for my work.

People often talk about the dysfunction of large multilateral organizations like WHO, but it is very different to witness the insanity first hand. I think the internship has given me a more realistic understanding of what needs to be done, and what can feasibly be done, to improve global health. It was also a great experience working with and meeting the other interns at WHO, and to learn from a group of very experienced, open-minded and knowledgeable people with different backgrounds and perspectives.

Now that I'm back from Geneva, I would like to keep learning and improving. I had started working for Policy Cures Research (PCR) while I was finishing the Master of Health Security, and took time off for the internship. PCR is a non-for-profit global health think tank focusing on financing

"It was very strange to walk into meetings or work with people whose papers and research are considered the gold standard in their area, and then be expected to participate and contribute. "

for health R&D. Our major projects track R&D funding for neglected diseases and emerging infectious diseases (which both relate directly to health security).

I am particularly interested in how we can improve the policy environments that provide incentives (or disincentives) to the development of products for these diseases, as well as other health issues like anti-microbial resistance.

Since returning to PCR, I have continued working with WHO on a framework identifying barriers to innovation and access of health products. The framework will hopefully to be used to inform the newly established WHO Expert Committee on Health R&D. Longer term, I would like to eventually work for one of the larger multilateral organizations like WHO or The World Bank, and have recently convinced myself that maybe a PhD would be a good idea.

View of Ming Ong's office at WHO HQ

# A new hope: the impact of Legitimation Code Theory in South African education

## Using Legitimation Code Theory to 'see' and transform the Cape Peninsula University of Technology curriculum

Industrial engineering academics from Cape Peninsula University of Technology, South Africa: groupwork using LCT to analyse subjects

**Written by Karin Wolff**

Higher education in South Africa is in crisis. For the third year in a row, protests have begun to emerge on various campuses as we head towards end of year examinations. Students are angry, frustrated, alienated. The system has failed them on so many levels.

Volumes have been written about the origins and manifestations of this crisis. There are special interest groups dedicated to understanding and supporting students in transition from school to university, to stem the dropout tide of over 50% of new enrolments. Government and institutional bodies have constituted one committee of enquiry after another. University management have spent inordinate amounts of time trying to engage students and key stakeholders, some while operating in recently petrol-bombed offices.

But what nobody is talking about is the impact of this crisis on academic staff. The days of collegial commiseration in staff tearooms seem long gone. Departmental corridors are silent as staff bury themselves in setting up alternative forms of learning for students who may not be able to get onto campus, or creating hasty revision lectures after weeks of shutdown. My Academic Development (AD) colleagues and I witness the burnout, the tears of hopelessness, the wave of depression that seems to have engulfed the sector. Across higher education institutions in and beyond the South African borders, it is our job as AD professionals to help these valiant academics not only survive, but understand what it is that is happening, and what they can do to change it, in even the smallest of ways.

Given the burden of tackling very real, practical challenges on our campuses, never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that a set of theoretical tools would actually be the answer. I used to be one of the very lecturers I now assist: an intuitive, practice-orientated teacher. I found my initial

journey into postgraduate studies alienating and ivory-towered. I railed against unnecessary jargon and lack of real-world focus. Then I encountered Legitimation Code Theory (LCT), an approach to understanding and changing knowledge and practice created by Professor Karl Maton, from the School of Social and Political Sciences.

When I first met Karl at a symposium in France in 2012, a small group of South African researchers had already ventured into using LCT in an effort to understand the theoretical and practical elements of different qualification levels. Since then, LCT has taken off like a wave across our country with frequent workshops, special symposia and even the First International LCT Conference being held in Cape Town in 2015. We see LCT being applied in innovative educational work in chemistry, biology, law, design, academic literacies and even to examine 'decolonising' the curriculum. Despite the geographical distance, many of these South African researchers participate in events as Associate Members of the LCT Centre for Knowledge-Building (located in the School). I, myself, have woken up at 4am to take part in one of the Centre's famous 'Roundtables'!

Nowhere has LCT made more of an impact in my context than in understanding the different theory-practice relationships in engineering education. The power of LCT tools to graphically illustrate what's happening both in and outside of the classroom is unprecedented, and a welcome doorway into educational theory for the engineering academics I assist. Imagine capturing so succinctly the difference between abstract concepts and concrete examples, or between complex and simple meanings, or between fixed and open-ended ways of looking at different kinds of phenomena. These tools were made for engineering.

It was with trepidation that I stepped into the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology in June this year. The entire department had been ordered to participate by their Head, and I saw on their faces the potential resentment. Until, that is, I told them my story. My observations of student learning challenges in the classroom, my feelings of helplessness, what drove me to a PhD on real-world engineering problem solving. And what it was that I had learned from LCT, in particular the concept of different kinds of 'insights', which reveal how objects of study and theoretical or methodological procedures shape knowledge in different ways.

"The power of LCT tools to graphically illustrate what's happening both in and outside of the classroom is unprecedented, and a welcome doorway into educational theory for the engineering academics"

This invaluable tool can reveal kinds of knowledge that are fairly fixed and use common approaches or are open to multiple approaches.

Within two hours of that first workshop, teams were huddled over flipchart paper arguing about the interpretation of core elements of their curriculum. One participant discovered not only that she was teaching the same concept as a fellow colleague from a totally different perspective, but that this was a good thing, and all that was missing was to make these differences clear to the students. Another breakthrough moment was when the department realised that they were focusing heavily on teaching doctrinal methods and the application of these to a few typical situations, but had lost sight of the underpinning principles. They were teaching the 'how' and 'what if', but without effectively anchoring these in the 'why'. And it was only because they had used one of the now famous LCT 'planes' (a way of representing LCT concepts as a simple diagram) that they could literally see this. And 'seeing' is the first step to 'transforming'.

For a moment in time, theory had provided a much-needed breathing space. A space from which to re-engage with education in South Africa, and collectively grapple with new ideas and new tools. Three workshops down the line, and not a single absence. They are ready and waiting for me when I arrive. They have notebooks and questions, and an incredible sense of purpose. I have no doubt that LCT itself has enabled this transformation, and I hope that in troubled times to come, these academics will continue to empower themselves by embracing theory that can truly transform practices for the benefit of all. They are a team climbing their Everest, and I feel privileged to be their guide.

# Awards

## Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence

In 2017 more than 60 University staff members were recognised across 13 categories which acknowledge excellence in leadership, entrepreneurship, mentorship and industry and community engagement. Our winners include:

Professor Ariadne Vromen (MA '96) (Government and International Relations) - Outstanding Mentoring and Leadership award

Associate Professor Catriona Elder (Sociology and Social Policy) - Outstanding Research Higher Degree Supervision award

Associate Professor Alexandre Lefebvre (Government and International Relations) - Outstanding Teaching and Research award

## The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Teaching Excellence Awards

Teaching Excellence Awards recognize and reward staff who have demonstrated an evidence informed approach to critical reflection on teaching and learning, evaluation of their teaching practice, engagement with higher educational research, and a focus on improving student learning.

This year's winners include: Associate Professor Damien Cahill (Political Economy), Dr Gareth Bryant (BEcSocSc '09 DEcSocSc Hons '11 PhD '16) (Political Economy), Dr Amanda Elliot (PPH Hons '00) (Sociology and Social Policy), Dr Aim Sinpeng (Government and International Relations), and Professor Rodney Smith (PhD '94) (Government and International Relations).

## The Australasian Association of Philosophy Prize

Associate Professor Alex Lefebvre (Government and International Relations) was awarded the Australasian Association of Philosophy Prize for his course, *The Philosophy of Human Rights*, which promotes inclusivity through careful attention to the authors represented within its curriculum, demonstrating to students a clear sense in which those engaged in important philosophical work can be from diverse backgrounds.

## Contemporary Political Theory Prize

Professor David Schlosberg (Sydney Environment Institute), and Professor Romand Coles (ACU) have been awarded the Contemporary Political Theory Prize for their article, *The new environmentalism of everyday life: Sustainability, material flows, and movements*, for its contribution to the rethinking of political theory within contemporary global politics. The article explores the recent developments in environmental activism surrounding food justice and energy movements.

# Grants

## Sydney Policy Lab Collaborative Projects

The University's new Sydney Policy Lab has awarded researchers more than $330,000 for projects aiming to solve complex policy issues related to cybersecurity, housing, domestic violence and the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Associate Professor Gaby Ramia (CertEdStud '13) (Government and International Relations) will be focusing on Improving the employment outcomes of youth through sport and social engagement: utilising social networks in employment services.

Dr Rebecca Scott Bray (MCrim '96) (Sociology and Social Policy) will be looking into what consititutes a 'reportable death', and reducing over-reporting of natural causes deaths to the coroner.

Dr Frank Smith (Government and International Relations) will focus on policy scenarios for the future(s) of Australian cybersecurity.

# Political symbols and the crisis of democracy

> "political symbols, ranging from national flags to mausoleums to street names, have unsurprisingly regained public presence and become pivotal for political manoeuvring in increasingly divided societies"

**Written by Luis Angosto-Ferrández and Graeme Gill**

Human beings cannot do politics without political symbols, and less so in periods of social instability. In the current global conjuncture of widespread crisis and uncertainty, political symbols, ranging from national flags to mausoleums to street names, have unsurprisingly regained public presence and become pivotal for political manoeuvring in increasingly divided societies.

A group of scholars met on 15 September at the University of Sydney with the explicit goal of identifying new parameters for the comparative analysis and theorisation of such phenomenon. The meeting took the form of a workshop entitled *Political Symbolism and the Crisis of Democracy*, and was deliberately bold in its interdisciplinary character: it brought anthropologists, historians, sociologists and political scientists together.

Participants from the University of Sydney were Graeme Gill and Luis Angosto-Ferrández (coordinators), Michael Humphrey, Peter Morgan, Robbie Peters and Yelena Zabortseva; from Western Sydney University, Mary Hawkins and Helena Onnudottir; and from Macquarie University, Aleksandar Pavkovic and Chris Houston.

The event was also wide-ranging in the scope of comparison it opened up, with participants addressing case studies from different continents (Asia, Latin America and Europe) and times – some of the cases discussed were current affairs, but others had unfolded during the past century. While such broad scope always poses challenges when it comes to finding parameters for meaningful comparison, participants in the workshop had worked their papers against an initial proposal that demarcated the field of discussion, and the exercise was fruitful.

Key themes were identified that paved the way for participants to continue with the discussion, and for us to focus efforts on a publication project. These themes converge in an invitation to explain how specific political symbols frame our understanding of both the past and the present, and how they become effective tools for the generation of group identity while at the same time remain the foci of contestation and an intrinsic part of much conflict within society and between societies.

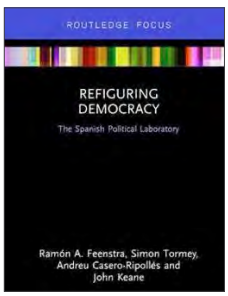
Questions that underpinned these discussions resonate amidst large epistemological and theoretical debates within the social sciences: are symbols reflections or creators of political collectives? Does the formation and manipulation of symbols generate social forces or does it rather mobilise already existing social groupings? As with other important theoretical questions in the social sciences, different answers to these ones reflect different understandings of what individual and collective behaviour is about, and we hope that the papers resulting from our workshop will generate new perspectives on these debates.

We would like to thank the School of Social and Political Sciences, through its Collaborative Research Scheme, for financial support for this workshop

# Select publications

Semester 2, 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

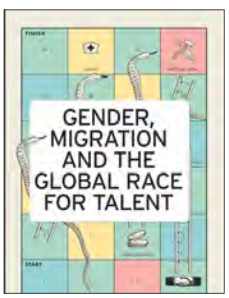



**Professor John Keane and Professor Simon Tormey**

Feenstra, R., Tormey, S., Casero-Ripolles, A., Keane, J. (2017). *Refiguring Democracy: The Spanish Political Laboratory.* Routledge.

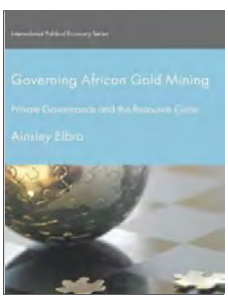
**Associate Professor Anika Gauja**

Gauja, A. (2017). *Party Reform: The Causes, Challenges and Consequences of Organisational Change*. United Kingdom: Oxford University Press.



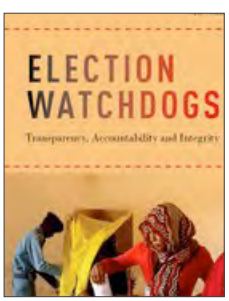

**Dr Anna Boucher (BA '03 BA Hons '05 LLB '06)**

Boucher, A. (2017). *Gender, migration and the global race for talent*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.



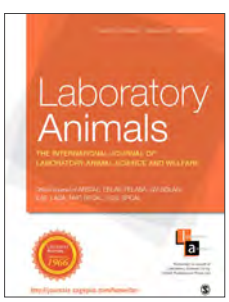

**Dr Ainsley Elbra**

Elbra, A. (2017). *Governing African Gold Mining: Private governance and the resource curse*. UK: Palgrave Macmillan.




**Professor Pippa Norris and Dr Alessandro Nai**

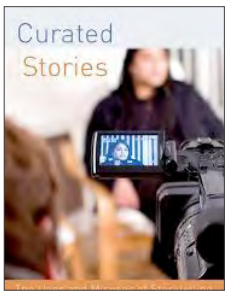
Norris, P., Nai, A. (2017). *Election Watchdogs*. New York: Oxford University Press.




**Dr Peter Chen**

Chen, P. (2017). Animal welfare officers in Australian higher education: 3R application, work contexts, and risk perception. *Laboratory Animals*, In Press, 1-11.

## Political economy

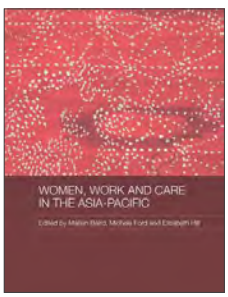



**Professor Sujatha Fernandes**

Fernandes, S. (2017). *Curated Stories: The Uses and Misuses of Storytelling*. Oxford University Press.

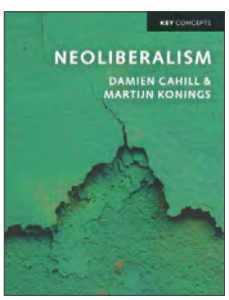
**Dr Michael Beggs (PhD '11)**

Beggs, M. (2017). The evolution of Australian Monetary Policy in the 1950s. *Australian Economic History Review*, 57(1), 22-44.




**Dr Elizabeth Hill (BEcSocSc '93 PhD '05)**

Hill, E., Palriwala, R. (2017). India: Economic Inequality and Social Reproduction. In Marian Baird, Michele Ford, Elizabeth Hill (Eds.), *Women, Work and Care in the Asia-Pacific*, (pp. 133-147).



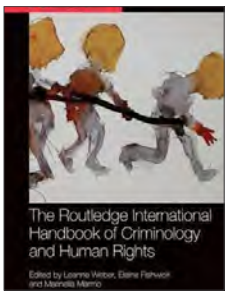

**Associate Professor Damien Cahill and Associate Professor Martijn Konings**

Cahill, D., Konings, M. (2017). *Neoliberalism*. Oxford: Polity Press.

**Associate Professor Bill Dunn**

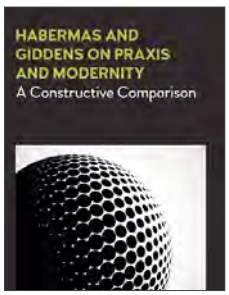
Dunn, B. (2017). Against neoliberalism as a concept. *Capital and Class*.

## Sociology and social policy



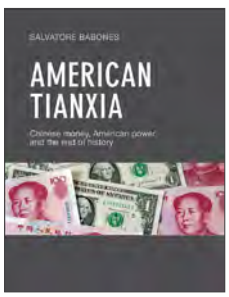

**Dr Rebecca Scott Bray**

Scott Bray, R. (2017). Death investigation and human rights. In Leanne Weber, Elaine Fishwick and Marinella Marmo (Eds.), *The Routledge International Handbook of Criminology and Human Rights*. Abingdon, Oxon and New York.




**Dr Craig Browne**

Browne, C. (2017). *Habermas and Giddens on Praxis and Modernity: A Constructive Comparison*. London: Anthem Press.




**Associate Professor Salvatore Babones**

Babones, S. (2017). *American Tianxia: Chinese money, American power, and the end of history*. Bristol: Policy Press.

**Associate Professor Fran Collyer**

Connell, R., Pearse, R., Collyer, F., Maia, J., Morrell, R. (2017). Re-making the Global Economy of Knowledge: North-South Relations in New Fields of Knowledge. *British Journal of Sociology*, In Press, 1-20.

**Dr Dinesh Wadiwel**

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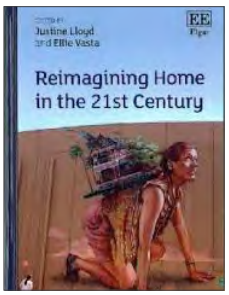
## Anthropology

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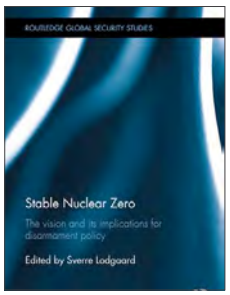


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**Dr Thomas Wilkins**

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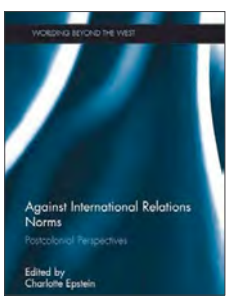


**Dr Sarah Phillips**

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**Dr Wendy Lambourne**

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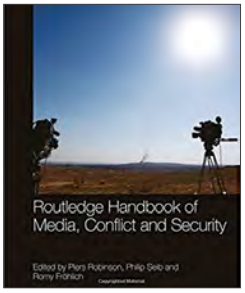


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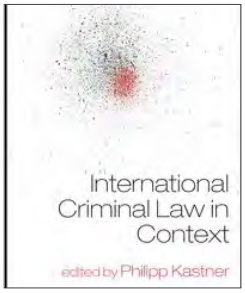


**Dr Eyal Mayroz**

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