

# SSPS Review



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY

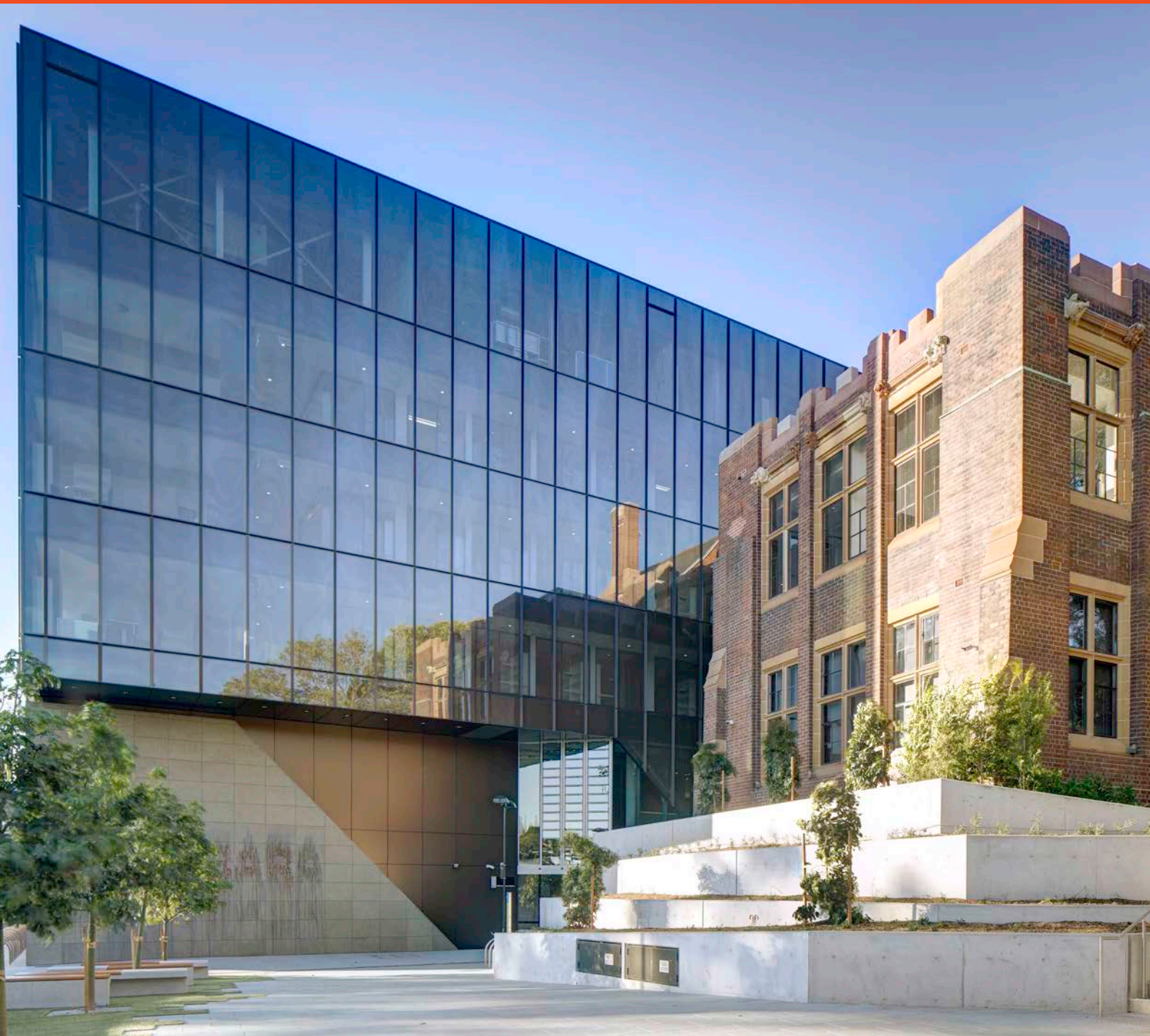
The School of Social and  
Political Sciences Magazine

Celebrating 10 years of  
SSPS

Meet new Head of School  
Professor Lisa Adkins

The crisis of neoliberalism

Peacebuilding and transitional  
justice in Burundi



# Welcome

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



Welcome to the eighth issue of the SSPS Review and to my first as Head of School. There are so many recent highlights showcased in this edition, but the standout has to be the tenth anniversary of our School where we celebrated the past and looked firmly to the future. It was fitting that we held our celebration in our beautiful new Social Sciences Building, A02. In bringing the whole School together for the first time, the new building opens up exciting collaborative possibilities and will enable us to truly realise our potential. In this edition, our School Manager – James Young – gives his personal reflections on our move to the new building and on how the space is already positively shaping the day-to-day life of the School.

This issue of the Review also charts the remarkable achievements of our academic staff. Amongst many other triumphs, we celebrate ARC Laureate Professor Pippa Norris' election to the American Academy of Arts and Social Sciences, the SOAR Fellowships awarded to Dr Anna Boucher and Professor Martijn Konings, a sweep of awards presented to members of the School at the 25th World Congress of Political Science, and a set of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Teaching Excellence Awards. We also feature some of our agenda setting

research. Danielle Celermajer discusses her collaborative research on justice in a multispecies world and Martijn Konings focuses on his multidisciplinary research on asset ownership and inequality. Both of these projects are Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Strategic Research Themes and we look forward to seeing how they shape social science debate.

Finally, this issue showcases some of the recent events that we have held in the School. Kimberley Yoo discusses the 11th annual E.L. Wheelwright Lecture presented by Professor Alfredo Saad-Filo on 'The crisis of neoliberalism and the rising tide of authoritarianism'. Kimberley highlights the series of provocations Alfredo presented to help us understand the complexities of our current political and economic moment.

This issue of the SSPS Review gives a real sense of the dynamism and vitality of our School. I hope you enjoy it!

**Professor Lisa Adkins**  
Head of School

# In this issue

<b>Events</b> .....	2	<b>Sydney professor elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences</b> .....	22
A snapshot of what's coming up later this year		Honour for the founder of Electoral Integrity Project	
<b>New staff</b> .....	4	<b>A tale of sound and fury? Peacebuilding and transitional justice in Burundi</b> .....	24
Get to know the new faces in SSPS		Dr Wendy Lambourne on how her research is contributing to peacebuilding in Burundi	
<b>Meet our new Head of School</b> .....	6	<b>Sydney scholars sweep awards at 25th World Congress of Political Science</b> .....	26
Meet Professor Lisa Adkins, the new head of SSPS		Three SSPS academics recognised for their achievements	
<b>The crisis of neoliberalism</b> .....	7	<b>The sustainable society</b> .....	28
Professor Alfredo Saad-Filo delivers the annual Wheelwright Lecture		Professor Robert Van Krieken joins new Centre for Advanced Studies in Hamburg	
<b>Awards</b> .....	9	<b>Fellowships and Grants</b> .....	30
<b>Building on the past</b> .....	10	<b>Anthropology Day 2018</b> .....	32
Memories of the spaces left behind as SSPS finally unites under one roof		Inspiring future generations of anthropology students	
<b>A head and a heart for business</b> .....	14	<b>Storytelling and the social sciences</b> .....	34
Meet SSPS donor Mary Henderson		Belgian documentary filmmaker Johan Grimonprez visits CISS	
<b>Thinking and enacting justice in a multispecies world</b> .....	16	<b>Supporting refugee and migrant communities</b> .....	37
Moving beyond traditional notions of justice		Interning at the Settlement Council of Australia	
<b>Asset ownership and the new inequality</b> .....	17	<b>"You can't leave Boston without knowing what LCT is"</b> .....	38
Exploring asset-based capitalism and its inequalities and precarities		The LCT Centre delivers workshops in Boston	
<b>Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin</b> .....	18	<b>Selected books</b> .....	40
FASS researchers head to Europe's leading social and political sciences institute			
<b>10-year anniversary of SSPS</b> .....	20		
Celebrating 10 years of teaching and research excellence			

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## Social media

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

🐦 @Usyd\_ssps

📘 /Usyd.ssps

**Professor Lisa Adkins**

(Head of the School, sociologist and co-editor of Australian Feminist Studies)

🐦 @AdkinsProf

**Sydney Democracy Network**

(explores the future of democracy)

🐦 @SydneyDemocracy

**Dr Gareth Bryant**

(Political Economy Lecturer researching the marketisation of different areas of socio-ecological life)

🐦 @garethjbryant

**SydneyUniAnthro**

(twitter account of the Department of Anthropology)

🐦 @SydneyUniAnthro

**Professor Robert van Krieken**

(Professor of Sociology, a criminologist and socio-legal studies researcher)

🐦 @robertvk

**Sydney Policy Lab**

(creates unique collaborations to ignite lasting policy change)

🐦 @SydneyPolicyLab

**Associate Professor Charlotte Epstein**

(research interests are international relations theory, surveillance studies, critical security studies and global environmental politics)

🐦 @ch\_epstein

## Drop us a line

**Please send us your feedback**

Editor

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



# Events



## Stories and racism in Australia: What if you're not white?

22 November 2018  
6.00–8.00pm

When accurately and compassionately told, stories have the potential to create relations of empathy between dissimilar cultures and people.

Yet this potential, argues Indigenous author Mykaela Saunders, is dependent on an audience's willingness to listen and its capacity for change when the story ends. It also depends on who is telling the story.

The uncomfortable reality is that the stories given precedence in mainstream Australia are often tied to foundational narratives that rely on false beliefs and dangerous myths to maintain the privilege of whiteness.

This session will make us rethink what counts as a good story. Working from the periphery, it will value the perspectives of those often diminished by mainstream cultures, acknowledging and celebrating the hidden stories that might yet challenge assumptions and stereotypes perpetuated in our classrooms, workplaces and media.

To register, visit:

– [bit.ly/2MU8JV7](https://bit.ly/2MU8JV7)

## New directions in animal advocacy

10–11 December 2018

Animal advocacy organisations have increasingly been developing networks to exchange practical and experiential lessons on advocacy, but often with the exclusion of scholarship.

The study of human-animal relations has undergone a 'political turn' in recent years with specific focus on linking ethical ideas to political practices. This has created an opportunity for animal rights, animal law and welfare policy-making to reconnect strongly with social movements and political practice.

The aim of this conference is to examine (re)new(ed) practices in the field of animal advocacy, enrich scholarship and link participants together. It will also look at other matters in the field, and explore the future of animal advocacy.

To register, visit:

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



Photo: Funk Dooby

## Historical materialism conference 2018

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13–14 December 2018

Capitalism has been able to attenuate but not resolve the contradictions of capital, doing so by occupying and producing space, extending urbanism, programming consumption, expanding the frontiers of primitive accumulation, and sustaining the reproduction of the relations of production.

Yet within considerations of the survival of capitalism there has been less focus given to the social reproduction of the relations of production comprising gendered, racialised, ecological, decolonial and class hierarchies.

The seventh annual Historical Materialism Sydney conference on new Marxist research will explore these themes, and feature keynote addresses by Professor Lisa Adkins, Professor Andreas Bieler and Associate Professor Melinda Cooper.

To register, visit:

– [hmsydney.net](http://hmsydney.net)

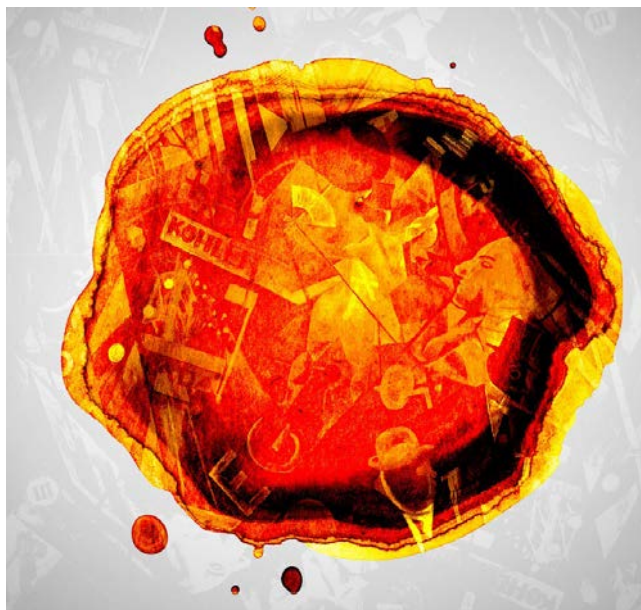


Photo: William Murphy

## Letting citizens speak: Ireland's referendums and constitutional mini-publics

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4 March 2019

6.00–7.30pm

Ireland has been a trailblazer in the use of deliberative mini-publics to discuss important topics of constitutional reform. The Constitutional Convention of 2012–14 and the Citizens' Assembly of 2016–18 (whose membership comprised random selections of regular citizens) were established by the Irish government to consider a series of constitutional reform proposals.

Successful referendums include marriage equality in 2015 and abortion in 2018, with more due in the coming months. These provide good examples of how democracies can bring citizens into the heart of discussions over constitutional and political reform.

This talk by Professor David Farrell (University College Dublin) will set out the genesis of these experiments, and consider their common criticisms and wider potential as democratic innovations.

To register, visit:

– [bit.ly/2BaLTS8](https://bit.ly/2BaLTS8)

# 2018 new staff



## Professor Marc Stears

### What is your research area?

For most of my career I have been a political theorist and historian of political ideas, writing especially on radical political movements.

More recently, I have moved away from straight scholarship and have been interested in the ways in which political ideas intersect with political strategy. I was a speechwriter in British politics for many years and loved the way theory intersects with current affairs. I learned so much working like that and got to work with theatre directors, movie-makers, playwrights and actors and find out how they think about politics.

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

The Policy Lab gives me amazing opportunities to meet some of the really exciting researchers in this University as well as campaigners and community groups at the sharp end of social change. That combination of brilliant research and everyday campaigning excites me enormously.

### What are you binge watching?

My three-year old daughter, Freya, is in charge of the remote control in our house. So I am currently binge watching the new series of *Peter Rabbit* as well as *Bananas in Pyjamas*.



## Louise Norman

### What is your current role in SSPS?

I am working as the Research Support Officer in SSPS until May 2019. I enjoy supporting academics and HDR students with any research-related queries.

### Where were you working before joining the university?

I worked as a Research Administrator in the School of Health and Related Research at the University of Sheffield. My main responsibility was supporting academics at the pre-award stage of grants. This involved preparing budgets, ensuring ethical approval and supporting application form completion.

### Favorite spot/thing on campus?

Outside the Quadrangle is my favourite spot. I like to sit there when the sun is out and enjoy the view of the city!

### What are you binge watching?

The drama series on Netflix are so addictive! I am currently watching *Animal Kingdom* (which is not about animals, but instead a Californian family of criminals). I also enjoy watching more light-hearted programs, some of my favourites being *Friends* and *Masterchef*!



## Dr Johanna Hood

### What is your research area/focus?

My DECRA examines the commodification and donation of blood from the point of transfusion forward, across four historical periods in China.

### What were you doing before joining the University of Sydney?

I was working as an associate professor in Denmark in Roskilde University's Department of International Development Studies.

### Favorite spot on campus?

Coming from Copenhagen, where we get excited when the thermometer goes above 22 degrees in the summer, but not being accustomed to being cold indoors, means I enjoy sitting in the sun in the cafe up the stairs from our offices, catching up on reading and going through archival records to piece together what I find to be a fascinating and exciting part of history.







# Meet new Head of School Professor Lisa Adkins



Written by Dina Mura

Professor Adkins, who joined the University in July 2018, has previously held posts at Goldsmiths, University of London, the University of Manchester, the Australian National University, the University of Kent, and most recently at the University of Newcastle where she was the Chair of Sociology.

Professor Adkins is deeply invested in the future of the social sciences and was attracted by the opportunity to lead such a strong and unique school here at the University of Sydney.

“This is a key moment for the social sciences globally. Many articulate this moment in terms of a crisis. However, the key problems of today – from housing affordability, through ageing populations to generalized precariousness – are social science problems,” said Professor Adkins.

“The social sciences are particularly well-placed to understand the multiple disruptions that characterise the current moment. The combination of disciplines in SSPS – which is far wider than most – offers real

opportunities to address these problems. The School’s clear potential to engage with these challenges is what attracted me to the University of Sydney.”

Among some of her biggest achievements was receiving the Academy of Finland Distinguished Professorship, which is jointly hosted by the University of Tampere and the University of Turku.

“Apart from being a major honour, this gave me the opportunity to work in Finland for six months a year and carry out a project with a Finnish research team. I gained real insights into Nordic models of higher education, their policy frameworks and research culture,” said Professor Adkins.

Another achievement for Professor Adkins has been co-editing the *Australian Feminist Studies* journal over the past four years.

“Editing any journal is seriously hard work but the ability to promote outstanding new feminist research and shape debate has been incredibly exciting. The journal will find a new home at the University of Sydney from July and I’m looking forward to launching our special issue on ‘Money’ shortly which features an interview with feminist icon Silvia Federici,” said Professor Adkins.

When asked what she is most looking forward to about working as Head of School for SSPS, she replies that she is looking forward to meeting and supporting the academics and professional staff within the School.

“My role is all about finding the best ways to lead and support staff to achieve new levels of success in our research and teaching. I’m especially keen to look at how we ensure all staff in the school feel valued and that they have a stake in where the school is headed,” said Professor Adkins.



# On ‘The crisis of neoliberalism’ of Alfredo Saad-Filo

A look at the crisis of neoliberalism and the rising tide of authoritarianism

Written by Kimberley Yoo  
Photography by Elizabeth Hill

In late August the Department of Political Economy welcomed Alfredo Saad-Filo, Professor of Political Economy from the University of London (SOAS), to Sydney for the 11th annual E.L. Wheelwright Lecture.

Titled ‘The crisis of neoliberalism and the rising tide of authoritarianism’, Saad-Filo’s lecture explored the strange paradoxes characterising global neoliberalism. We have extraordinary wealth with unimaginable poverty, xenophobia alongside increasing immigration, and fractured collective identity with increasing nationalism. But the most perplexing paradox of all is the unprecedented ‘success’ of neoliberal hegemony and its failure to capitalise on said ‘success’.

These contradictions are central to understanding the emergent forms of authoritarian politics today. Indeed, the populist undercurrent of contemporary political discourse is not indicative of a transformative upheaval of a capitalism captured by neoliberal demagogues. What we are seeing is a new process of neoliberalism itself. Or, more precisely, we are seeing an attempt to buttress the failures of neoliberalism through illusory panaceas that speak to the disenfranchised.

A prominent Marxist scholar, Saad-Filho has written extensively on social theory, neoliberal capitalism, the political economy of development and radical macroeconomics. He argues that we have entered into an entirely unique period of neoliberal capitalism where disorganised economic “losers” direct deep anxieties toward the most

vulnerable members of societies. We have a rise in support for authoritarian regimes on the back of right-wing populism and we have increasing material inequality and an intensification of financialisation.

According to Saad-Filho, this period comes on the back of prior neoliberal regimes. He argues that from the 1970s to the 1990s, a global transition occurred, characterised by the legitimisation of private capital and faith in the allocative function of the market. To address the inherent deficiencies of this regime, there was an increase in financialisation, neoliberal social policies, and a state-directed erosion of collective power (e.g. labour unions) to be replaced by “self-responsibility”.

This has led to our current situation. Financialisation has failed to uproot secular stagnation. The environment is in dire straits and the level of material inequality is absurd. Yet, these anxieties are directed away from the upper echelons of the neoliberal elite, and aimed towards minorities and foreigners. Why? It is easier to deal with a tragedy when there’s someone to blame.

Saad-Filho presents a particularly interesting argument around the election of what some may characterise as fascistic political leaders. The program of neoliberalism requires neoliberal subjectivity; intense individualism allows for the focus to be placed on intrinsic ethical principles, rather than material concerns or collective identity. The failures of neoliberal capitalism can then freely masquerade as a failure of the individual.

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Professor Alfredo Saad-Filho presenting.

As such, personal resilience and charisma can feasibly “bulldoze” socio-economic ills in a meritocratic society. A figure with the characteristics of capitalist success can then create a cult of personality, driven by a disenfranchised middle class attempting to “short circuit” the neoliberal system. This is, as Saad-Filho states, “the politics of demagogues and illusionists”.

If we agree that this is a perverse manifestation of reorientated neoliberalism, and new forms of fascistic ideology are real threats to social wellbeing, what can we do? Are there any alternatives? Saad-Filho argues that a systemic rival to the rising tide of authoritarianism is needed, otherwise fascistic political leaders will continue to blame the most vulnerable members of society for neoliberal failures. Alternative programs must, according to Saad-Filho, emerge on a basis of collective action. Strategies must work on developing a collective identity through our shared struggles. On a policy scale, we require a decommodification of social reproduction and an immediate program of definancialisation to combat the true ills of neoliberal capitalism.

Overall, Saad-Filho presents a series of provocative arguments that unpack the current socio-political climate. In deconstructing neoliberal capitalism, Saad-Filho calls for a reconstitution of the left against a new form of authoritarianism. This is no easy task, but one which will hopefully, at minimum, open up social and political discourse toward addressing the neoliberal problematique.





# Awards

## Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence

The Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence have been established to celebrate exceptional performance at the University. A university-wide peer-nominated reward program, the awards recognise impact, leadership, entrepreneurship, mentorship, professional service, industry and community engagement, as well as outstanding performance in the support of research and education. Individuals and teams of up to five people can be nominated for the awards.

This year Professor Allan McConnell (Government and International Relations) won the Outstanding Mentoring and Leadership award.

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

The Teaching Excellence Awards recognise 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: Professor Adam Morton (Political Economy), Dr Jessica Richards (Sociology and Social Policy), Dr David Smith, Dr Gorana Grgic (MIntS. '10 PhD '14), Dr Stewart Jackson (PhD '11 GradCertEdStud '16) and Dr Madeleine Pill (Government and International Relations).

## Alumni Award

Drew Trahm, alumna of Political Economy (MPolEc '17), was awarded the John C Harsanyi Medal for international student achievement, a medal awarded to an international student who has achieved high academic performance and contributed to the University and wider community.

## George H Hallett Award

Professor Pippa Norris (Electoral Integrity Project) has won the George H Hallett Award, which was awarded by the Representation and Electoral Systems section of American Political Science Association for her book with Joni Lovenduski *Political Recruitment: Gender, Race and Class in the British Parliament*. The award was created to recognise books that have made a lasting contribution to the literature on representation and electoral systems.

## BISA Susan Strange Book Prize

Professor Laura Shepherd has been awarded the 2018 Susan Strange Book Prize by British International Studies Association for her recently published book *Gender, UN Peacebuilding, and the Politics of Space: Locating Legitimacy*.

The Susan Strange Book Prize is awarded to the best book published in any field of International Studies. The aim of the Prize is to honour the work of Susan Strange and recognise the best current work being conducted in the discipline.



Social Sciences Building. Photo: Brett Boardman

## Building on the past

Memories of the  
spaces left behind  
as SSPS finally unites  
under one roof

Written by James Young

*"Remember the 1340's? We were doing a dance called the Catapult.*

*You always wore brown, the color craze of the decade,  
and I was draped in one of those capes that were popular,  
the ones with unicorns and pomegranates in needlework.  
Everyone would pause for beer and onions in the afternoon,  
and at night we would play a game called Find the Cow.  
Everything was hand-lettered then, not like today." -  
Nostalgia, Billy Collins.*

Nostalgia is pathologically sentimental, but who cares? We should still be permitted the opportunity to indulge in it one last time as SSPS moves across to the new Social Sciences Building, pragmatically if not affectionately known as A02.



“The school’s built environment has shaped my education and working life.”



RC Mills Room 148

For every new building, there must be an old building left behind. The School’s original home buildings – Mackie, Merewether and RC Mills – no doubt rouse a whole host of memories unique to each of us.

I couldn’t help reflecting on the various ways the School’s built environment has shaped my education and working life, even if I can’t do the feelings and sensory imprints of the spaces we have inhabited Proustian justice. If I were to think of three rooms across our former homes of Mackie, Merewether and RC Mills that have left a distinct impression on me with their own personalities, they would be the following.

#### **Merewether 298**

My first introduction to the campus was in late 2003 when I began a PhD. Merewether 298 was the location of seminars for the Department of Government and International Relations, at that time in the Faculty of Economics and Business.

It had it all – an overhead projector, a perennially-locked door leading out to the roof of the Wolstenholme Study Centre below, a whiteboard rather than the blackboards still common and a boxy TV suspended from the wall in the corner with a VCR below it. Often, the building attendants would need to know what combination of channels 0, 1 and AV was needed to get it working and for the most part presentations there were static. A work-in-progress seminar read from loose-leaf A4, verbatim, on the comparative political conservatism of Schlegel and Hegel sticks in my mind.

I first met my wife in Merewether 298 a few years later. She was a commencing PhD student in the Department. We both shared a passion for Russian politics and a PhD supervisor, but the first and most apparent thing we shared were the snacks on offer for a PhD welcome event in this corner room.

#### **RC Mills 148**

RC Mills 148 was the bureaucratic centre of the school, as I only came to realise when I moved into the professional staff team. It also had an overhead projector, but more impressively the walls were lined with PhD theses from Anthropology and Sociology students right back to the 1970s, providing a sense of decorum.

RC Mills itself also had a share of secret spaces – the gap where our kitchen’s resident rat entered the building, the housing for the more loveable possum family that co-habited with it, and Room 121 – a small room occupied by the last building attendant of RC Mills a decade ago. We discovered this room untouched just last year still with the textbook he was studying for his theoretical physics class and a change of underwear. Providing a further touch of class, RC Mills was the only SSPS building ever to have a mezzanine.

#### **Mackie 102**

I only encountered Mackie 102 in the final weeks before our move to the new building. It was home to the Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS) resource centre and the indomitable Peggy Craddock. Peggy regaled us with

Continued over...

stories of PACS from decades ago, and there seemed to be an uninterrupted institutional history connected to the room, PACS and Peggy that stretched back before most of our lifetimes.

In parallels between Mackie and other ancient sites, this room also had its own flood story, complete with marks on the wall and carpet from the last time the room flooded and sent everyone scurrying to protect its precious written resources.

### The New Building

As we move to the new Social Sciences Building, impressions by the first and future inhabitants of A02 will no doubt be very different. Many won't know what an overhead projector is or the joys of connecting a laptop through VGA and calling Henora Tanto (School Software and Asset Officer) to hand when it doesn't 'just work'. The new meeting rooms all come equipped with Zoom technology, which has already been exploited to teleconference around the world.

In the last month, I have witnessed more chance encounters by academic and professional staff than ever before, as those previously resident across

all sides and corners of campus are now collected together on two levels of a new building. I adjust my sit-stand desk multiple times a day, sit-standard across the school now and configured with help from a work health and safety officer. I dim office lights much for the same reason – because I can. Despite all the affordances of this wonderful new space, I'll continue to hold on to fond memories of our now-vacated rooms and will leave nostalgic reflections on A02 to the school's next generation.



Lecture Theatre 200 in the Social Sciences Building. Photo: Brett Boardman





# A head and a heart for business

One woman's fight  
to help others  
overcome adversity



Photo: Stefanie Zingsheim and provided by Mary Henderson

## Written by Jocelyn Prasad

Talking to Mary Henderson (BEc '85), the first thing you notice is her great personal warmth, then an active and wide-ranging intellect. There is also the clarity of a woman who started a successful business at a time when there were real obstacles to women having careers at all.

Henderson's career journey started in post-Second World War Perth, working at what was then the city's one decent hotel, the Adelphi. She counted artists and classical musicians among her friends, people who piqued her interest in the wider world so much that she set sail for Sydney in 1948, just shy of her 19th birthday.

"Six months of this working holiday set the template for my future," she says. She worked as a receptionist in a hotel at the foot of the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney, meeting the maître d', Bernie Gerstle, who would become her husband and the father of her three children.

Later work at the Audit Bureau of Circulations, which collected sales figures for newspapers and magazines, saw her entrepreneurial streak emerge.

"An outside service typed and duplicated documents," she remembers. "I decided I could do that, so I hired equipment and did them at night."

With the help of flyers, Henderson, just 19 years old, built a client base for her office services business, All Purpose Duplicators.

She rented a real estate agent's office under the famed Coca-Cola sign in King's Cross where she worked most nights, grabbing a few hours' sleep before heading to her day job. Her sister came from Perth and worked for her until the business grew enough for Henderson to give up paid employment. Before long, the business expanded into printing and publishing technical publications.



Over the same period, her husband Bernie went from an entry-level role at an international pharmaceutical company to becoming its managing director. But misfortune loomed as he began having heart attacks. Henderson let her business run down so she could support him. A few years after his early death, she closed the business she'd spent 33 years building.

"I think I was depressed," she says. "I'd totally lost interest in everything."

Still, her determination and energy shone through, even during these trying times. At 50, she sat the mature students' exam at the University of Sydney and, despite only having completed three years of high school, gained entry. "I think going to university after being in the workforce and living a life made me more able to focus on why I came to study," she says. "It also gave me the answers to many questions." Certainly she was well remembered by lecturers as one of the feistier, more engaged students in their classes.

Henderson's degree in political economy and economic history reinforced home truths she had learned in early childhood. She'd watched her father struggle to feed four children in Depression-struck Western Australia. When he had to leave his role managing a farm in the state's wheat belt, he turned his hand to rabbiting, labouring and anything else available. "My father was doing all he was able to do and yet things were desolate," she says.

"I realised that poverty causes considerable suffering, as most people are unable to change their circumstances, and I determined that it would not happen to me."

After graduating, Henderson established another business, Responsible Investment Advising, to help people overcome adversity. For more than 21 years she advised disadvantaged people how to best use what they had, and wealthier people to see their money as a resource that could improve lives.

Henderson herself donates to human rights and conservation causes and has established four University scholarships: three in Political Economy and another in Economic History. She has also established bequests for several more, all intended for those who might otherwise have difficulty affording university study.

"I want my scholarships to help people think critically about social issues, especially the inequalities that impact lives," she says. "I want them to make Australia a fairer place for all."



Photo: Stefanie Zingsheim and provided by Mary Henderson

# Thinking and enacting justice in a multispecies world



Photo: Max Pixel

## Written by Danielle Celermajer

Today, we are no longer able to deny that we live in a multispecies world. All of earth's inhabitants are entangled in crises we are experiencing together. What is a just response to the many instances our world now faces – resource scarcity, radical inequalities of power, intra- and inter-species violence, competing and apparently incommensurable demands, and imminent losses on an unfathomable scale? It is this question that motivates FASS's new research theme on Multispecies Justice, as part of the 18-month FASS Strategic Research Program Project called 'Developing the field of Multispecies Justice'.

For many years, justice has been conceived of as solely within the domain of humans. It is only in more recent times that harms inflicted on non-human animals and the environment have come to be understood as injustices, prompting a fundamental rethink of the notion of justice and the emergence of the concept of Multispecies Justice.

Responding to ongoing histories of colonisation, militarisation and extractivism, this research project seeks out more situated ways of working through complex questions of justice and responsibility, as

well as engaging with a more diverse range of cultural perspectives and practices. Joining scholarship up with the shared experience of the impacts of climate change, the extinction of species, eco-systems and forms of life, and industrial farming, this project asks us to think about our plight and our aspirations for flourishing *together*.

Doing so will require nothing less than fresh ways of doing scholarship – with each other across our fields of specialisation and discipline, and in the world, as we learn to work *with* and not *on* these other subjects of justice. It will demand that we find ways of bringing what might otherwise remain abstract theories and obscure (albeit potentially revolutionary) ways of understanding the world into the way all of us – in the academy and beyond, make sense of ourselves, our intuitive sense of justice and the way we live with other earth beings.

Our grouping will work on these issues, initially focusing on the development of new theories of multispecies justice, climate change, economic justice and biodiversity and extinction. Through a series of workshops and public events, the development of a faculty-wide HDR group, collaboration with artists, high impact multi-authored articles, and engaged media, we hope to establish Multispecies Justice as a critical new field of scholarship.

## Project Leads:

Professor Danielle Celermajer and Professor David Schlosberg

## Researchers:

Dr Dinesh Wadiwel, Associate Professor Susan Park (PhD '04), Dr Rebecca Pearse, Dr Francesco Borghese, Associate Professor Julia Kindt, Professor Iain McCalman, Dr Dalia Nasser, Dr Astrida Neimanis, Dr Killian Quigley, Michelle St Anne, Associate Professor Thom van Dooren, Associate Professor Anik Waldow



# Asset ownership and the new inequality

Written by Martijn Konings

The dream of moving beyond the limitations of wage labour through investment in human capital has not played out in quite the way that was expected. Today, higher education has become the minimum threshold of attainment, expected rather than exceptional, while the trade-off in terms of secure employment and higher wages has become less certain than ever before.

At the same time, we are seeing the rapid proliferation of physical asset economies which transform the income-poor but asset-rich into small time 'rentiers'. Ordinary Australians have taken to renting out their rooms through Airbnb or driving for Uber as a way of earning a living – forms of precarious rentierism in which the host or driver not only performs a service but rents out an asset.

Lisa Adkins, Melinda Cooper and Martijn Konings are leading a team exploring the logics of asset-based capitalism and investigating the new forms of inequality and precarity that have accompanied its rise. As worker-rentier hybrids become increasingly common, new forms of insecurity that defy traditional categorisations of class emerge.

This research aims to develop a more nuanced understanding of the forms of stratification associated with the asset economy. House price inflation, rampant labour insecurity, intergenerational inequality and the rise of precarious asset-sharing economies such as Uber and Airbnb are among the most pressing issues facing policy makers today. Yet they are generally treated as unrelated phenomena.

The research team aims to develop a synthetic view on the asset economy that will explain their connections and possible solutions. They will develop a comprehensive account of the relationship between house price inflation and wage stagnation; growing inequality and housing; barriers to educational and professional mobility and the growing importance of inherited wealth; and the blurring boundaries between precarious work and asset-renting.



Photo: [www.quotecatalog.com](http://www.quotecatalog.com)

Breaking out of disciplinary and professional, this project will bring together policymakers, community advocates, and academics to stage a transdisciplinary dialogue on the challenges posed by asset ownership and new forms of inequality.

# Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin

FASS researchers head to Europe's leading social and political sciences institute to tackle pressing issues facing modern society



Each year the Sydney Democracy Network coordinates an international exchange with the WZB Berlin Social Sciences Centre and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney. The exchange gives researchers the opportunity to collaborate on key research projects, events and teaching, as well as providing them with a rich cultural experience.

This year, three Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences researchers are making their way to Berlin to further their work on a variety of pressing social and political issues.

## Melinda Rankin

Dr Melinda Rankin, from the Department of Government and International Relations, has finished her visit to WZB. Her research at WZB examined the ways in which Syrian and Iraqi refugees have attempted to use Germany's universal jurisdiction to pursue accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"Germany makes for a particularly unique and interesting case study because it was one of the few democratic countries to invite refugees into the relative safety of its borders, as Europe experienced the worst refugee crisis since the Second World War, and because Germany's legal system is based on universal legal jurisdiction", said Dr Rankin.

"The WZB exchange has been an invaluable opportunity, particularly to work with other expert researchers and to present at peer review seminars, where I was able to gain important feedback on my research."







## Alexandre Lefebvre

Associate Professor Alexandre Lefebvre, from the Department of Government and International Relations and Department of Philosophy, is visiting the WZB in November to work on a project to theorise and defend liberalism, and to investigate how it can serve for the basis for a full and rewarding way of living.

“The WZB is renowned for cutting edge political and democratic theory, which is the perfect place for me to begin this project. It is home to several world-leading political theorists who work on contemporary crises and liberal democracy”, said Associate Professor Lefebvre.

“I’m especially looking forward to exploring how promoting liberalism as a way of living might serve a wider stabilising role for liberal democracies, with eminent theorists Professor Wolfgang Merkel and Professor Rainier Forst.”

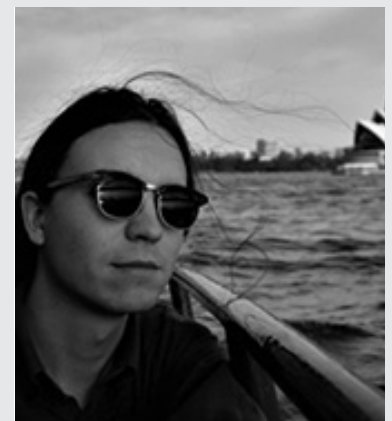
## Llewellyn Williams-Brooks

Llewellyn Williams-Brooks (BA Hons ‘17), PhD candidate in the Department of Political Economy, will collaborate with researchers over a 3-month period to better understand how German industrial relations are shaping labour market inequalities in the Eurozone.

“The WZB provides a unique opportunity to enhance my PhD research through a close study of the German work regulation known as ‘Model Deutschland’. Using my skills in urban geography and labour economics, I will engage in a comparative regulatory analysis of the German and Australian experiences of work during the period of globalisation”, said Williams-Brooks.

“A hallmark of democracy is the provision of good and stable work for the vast majority of the people. This ensures that individuals and their communities are able to attain a basic standard of living, while also contributing to their nations and the global community.”

“While we live in a period of unparalleled growth and wealth in Australia, access to dignified work and conditions have not been equally shared. The rise of the ‘gig economy’ and the casualisation of work, coupled with the rising cost of living and housing are creating inequality. It is essential that we come to terms with the condition of work in Australia, past and present, in order to nurture our own institutions of democracy, providing stable foundations for peace and prosperity into the future. My aim is to provide economic policy alternatives for a better future for all Australians.”



# 10-year anniversary of SSPS

On Friday, 2nd November, the School of Social and Political Sciences held an anniversary celebration to mark 10 years of teaching and research excellence, and to reveal what the School 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 Professor Lisa Adkins and Professor Simon Tormey for giving the fantastic speeches, and to the professional staff team who organised the event.







Left page

Top: Anniversary event guests at the venue

Bottom left: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Duncan Ivison, Head of School Professor Lisa Adkins, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Stephen Garton (BA '78)

Bottom right: Dr James Young (PhD '08) and Priya Shaw

Right page

Top left: Melanie Young, Associate Professor Catriona Elder, Dr Elisabeth Valiente-Riedl (BEcSocSc Hons '04 PhD '08) and Dr Deborah Wainer

Middle left: Head of School Professor Lisa Adkins

Bottom left: Anniversary event guests

Top right: Professor Simon Tormey

Bottom right: Timeline banner of the School

Photos: José Torrealba



Photo: Political Studies Association

## Sydney professor elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Honour for the founder  
of the Electoral Integrity  
Project

Written by Charlotte Moore

Professor Pippa Norris from the Department of Government and International Relations has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Social Sciences.

Established in 1780, the American Academy of Arts and Science is one of the oldest learned societies in the United States and lists 200 Nobel Prize laureates and 100 Pulitzer Prize winners amongst its members.

Professor Pippa Norris will join a roll call of the world's most influential thinkers including Albert Einstein, Martin Luther King Jr, Winston Churchill, Willa Cather, Stephen Hawking, Nelson Mandela and Galina Ulanova.



“It’s unexpected news and a tremendous honour to join such distinguished colleagues in the Academy.”



Photo: American Political Science Association

The Academy’s decision to elect Professor Norris “signifies the high regard in which [she] is held by leaders in [her] field and members throughout the nation” and identifies her as one of the world’s most accomplished scholars.

“It’s unexpected news and a tremendous honour to join such distinguished colleagues in the Academy,” said Professor Norris.

“I greatly look forward to participating in the events and activities, including the fellowship ceremony in the fall.”

#### **World-leading political scientist**

Dividing her time between the University of Sydney and Harvard University, Professor Norris is an ARC Laureate fellow, the Paul F. McGuire Lecturer in Comparative Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, and the Director of the Electoral Integrity Project. According to Google Scholar, she is the fourth most cited political scientist in the world.

The University of Sydney Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Duncan Ivison noted Professor Norris’ continued and wide-ranging career achievements.

“Professor Pippa Norris is one of the world’s pre-eminent political scientists and winner of just about every major award in her discipline so it’s no surprise that she should be elected to this prestigious fellowship. I am delighted

she now joins the rarefied air of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Even more importantly, her work on electoral integrity, and more recently on the very sustainability of democracy in the face of resurgent authoritarianism around the globe, is helping us make sense of and hopefully address some of the greatest political challenges of our time.”

Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Professor Annamarie Jagose, highlighted the importance of Professor Norris’ research at the university.

“Professor Norris has made a significant contribution to the political sciences, and to our understanding of democracy both here and internationally,” she said.

“We are proud of her continued association with the University of Sydney and congratulate her on this achievement.”

*Professor Norris was formally inducted at the House of the Academy in Cambridge, Massachusetts on 5 October 2018.*

# A tale of sound and fury? Peacebuilding and transitional justice in Burundi

Investigating efforts  
to prevent violence  
in rural Burundi



Photo: Michael Stulman/Catholic Relief Services

Written by Wendy Lambourne

I first visited Burundi in May 2012, 12 years after the signing of the 2000 Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement. In 40 years' time, approximately 300,000 Burundians had died as a result of mass atrocities and civil war between the Hutu majority and Tutsi minority population. Thousands had fled to neighbouring countries as refugees and others were forced to move to internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps scattered throughout Burundi. My research has focused on the processes of peacebuilding and transitional justice pursued in Burundi to help deal with this violent past and build a more peaceful future.

The Arusha agreement, which was meant to herald the beginning of a new era of peace in the country, was followed a few years later in 2003 by a ceasefire agreed between the government and the main armed rebel group. A UN peacekeeping force supervised democratic elections and the installation of a power-sharing government in 2005, and from 2006 the newly created UN Peacebuilding Commission focused its attention on Burundi. The last of the rebel groups joined the ceasefire in 2008, and by 2012, civil society and a free press appeared to be flourishing. Perhaps most significantly, the political salience of ethnic identity had been reduced and replaced with political party allegiances.

However, by 2012 there was still much to be concerned about. The power-sharing government had failed and there were limited signs of democratic governance or respect for the rule of law. The country remained one of the poorest in the world and the transitional justice mechanisms proposed as part of the Arusha agreement had not yet materialised. In the absence of meaningful measures to deal with the past at the national level, local civil society organisations such as Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services (THARS) and Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) were running psychosocial healing programs, whilst organisations such as AMEPCI (*Association pour la Mémoire et la Protection de l'Humanité contre les Crimes Internationaux Gira Ubuntu*) were focusing on commemorative activities and victim hearings.

The lack of government support for justice and reconciliation had a profound effect on the population of Burundi. Participants in my research, conducted between 2012 and 2015, reported a lack of trust in the government to manage any transitional justice processes such as prosecutions, memorialisation or the proposed truth and reconciliation commission (TRC). They expressed the need for political leaders to take responsibility and tell the truth



about what happened during the conflict; a hope for prosecutions of those responsible, as well as reparations and reconciliation in communities; an expectation that the UN would intervene to ensure an effective transitional justice process; and fear that the ruling political party would continue to dominate and undermine the potential of the planned TRC. Unfortunately, not one of these needs, hopes or expectations has been fulfilled, whilst the main fear has been realised. The government has maintained firm control over the TRC that was finally created in March 2016 in the midst of the ongoing political and security crisis that commenced a year earlier.

In April 2015, I was conducting field research interviews in rural Burundi about the role of community psychosocial interventions in promoting peacebuilding in local communities. I had just returned to the capital, Bujumbura, when the President, Pierre Nkurunziza, announced that he would stand for a third term in office, despite the belief held by many Burundians that this was against the Constitution and the terms of the Arusha agreement. Nonviolent protests started the next day, and the Government responded immediately with a violent crackdown against the protestors. This was followed by the forced closure of independent media outlets, along with arbitrary arrests and extrajudicial killings of those believed to be opposition supporters.

From my hotel room I could hear the gunshots each day and I could see smoke from the burning of tyres by protestors to create roadblocks in parts of Bujumbura. There were also reports of a trained military youth wing (*Imbonerakure*) affiliated with the ruling party threatening civilians. These events triggered a massive outflow of refugees to neighbouring countries Tanzania, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, as many in the rural population feared a return to the mass violence and genocide of the past.

Despite fears of an impending genocide and a renewed interest by regional and international actors in prevention of an escalation of the violence, the United Nations and African Union failed to effectively intervene. The European Union and the US imposed targeted sanctions, and in April 2016 the International Criminal Court (ICC) opened a preliminary examination of the situation in Burundi, citing reports of killing, imprisonment, torture, rape and other forms of sexual violence, as well as cases of enforced disappearances. Burundi responded a few months later by notifying its intention to withdraw from the ICC, and subsequently did so, thereby reinforcing the prevailing culture of impunity.

The research data from my interviews in 2014-2015 is helping to analyse how participation in workshops such as Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) and Healing of Memories run by THARS can help to prevent such violence from recurring in communities in rural Burundi. Such

“Workshops focus on understanding and healing trauma, listening skills and building empathy, developing trust and empowerment.”

workshops focus on understanding and healing trauma, listening skills and building empathy, developing trust and empowerment. One local political party leader whom I interviewed in April 2015 had this to say about the impact of participating in an AVP workshop:

“Before I went to the AVP workshop a person belonging to the other political party, I was afraid of him, I didn’t feel comfortable sitting near him. I saw him as a stranger or very bad ... After the workshop now when we meet we talk, we chat, we exchange jokes ... [AVP] has that element of bringing people together regardless of their differences ... It has also an element of helping people who have been wounded. It does that when it gives time to everybody to share and by putting up code of conduct that everyone should respect what the other is saying ... and by listening to him that person is empowered.”

My subsequent research in Burundi has identified some of the challenges faced by the TRC in fulfilling its mandate in the climate of mistrust, fear and uncertainty caused by the ongoing political and security crisis, and worrying signs that the political conflict is being re-ethnicised. The credibility of the TRC is being undermined further by its inability to cover current violations and perceptions that it will not have any meaningful impact on prevention of future atrocities. As one of the participants in my research commented, it is the “past that informs the present”.

*This article draws on the results of field research conducted in Burundi since 2012 made possible through funding provided by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and supported by the School of Social and Political Sciences. Valuable research assistance was provided by Raphael Manirakiza in Sydney, and in Burundi by the staff of THARS.*

# Sydney scholars sweep up awards at 25th World Congress of Political Science



Photo: Professor Pippa Norris presenting at the 25th World Congress of Political Science

**Written by Nena Serafimovska**

The 25th World Congress of Political Science brought together 2,500 political scientists from over 85 countries around the world to address issues relating to 'Borders and Margins', focusing on key areas such as the refugee crisis and global migration, Brexit and the EU, the US presidential campaign and Donald Trump, and gender in international politics.

As part of the program, outstanding members of the academic community received recognition for their achievements in the field of political science, including three members of the Department of Government and International Relations.

Professor Ariadne Vromen (MA '96) was awarded the 2018 Australian Political Studies Association (APSA) Academic Leadership in Political Science Award, for demonstrating outstanding, inclusive and collaborative academic leadership in the discipline of political science.

"Ariadne has been a colleague and mentor to me for ten years now, and I don't think I would be where I am today without her guidance and support. I've never known any other colleague in Australian political science to be so generous in mentoring colleagues at all stages of their

careers, and in particular, to champion the interests of women and early career researchers," said Associate Professor Anika Gauja.

Alumnus Dr Luke Craven (BA BA Hons '14 PhD '18) was awarded the 2018 APSA PhD Thesis Prize for his dissertation on the complex problem of food insecurity, designing a methodology that directly engaged food insecure members of migrant communities in order to fully understand their situations.

"By leading numerous focus groups in major global cities, Luke was able to get at the key shared drivers of food insecurity; with this, he not only developed a clear theory of food insecurity, but also identified effective and efficient policy interventions," said Dr Craven's supervisor, Professor David Schlosberg.

Dr Craven was recently awarded an ARC Linkage Project alongside Professor David Schlosberg and Dr Alana Mann (MMediaPrac '05 PhD '12 CertEdStud '13), to develop, implement and evaluate a food business incubator in the City of Sydney.

The project will run in collaboration with the City, TAFE NSW and FoodLab Detroit, and aims to address food insecurity by assisting vulnerable populations to participate in the development of new food enterprises.

Completing the trifecta of accomplishments for the department, Professor Rodney Smith was elected Vice President and incoming President (2019-2020) of the highly esteemed Australian Political Studies Association, dedicated to promoting and facilitating work in politics and international relations in Australia.

"This is an extraordinary set of achievements. What's especially significant is how all three of these honours not only recognise individuals but also show how staff in the School of Social and Political Sciences are actively shaping the future of the political science discipline in Australia. This really shows the impact we are having nationally," said Head of School, Professor Lisa Adkins.





# Global Health Security 2019 Conference

The inaugural Global Health Security Conference brings together multidisciplinary scholars to achieve a global vision for health security.



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**

## Venue

International Convention  
Centre Sydney

## Date

18-20 June 2019

## More information

<http://whatson.sydney.edu.au/events/published/global-health-security-2019-conference>

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Main Building Hamburg University

# The sustainable society: New Centre for Advanced Studies at the University of Hamburg

Exploring the future  
of sustainability

Written by Robert Van Krieken

The German Research Foundation (DFG) has approved a new Centre for Advanced Studies (CAS) at the University of Hamburg. *Sustainability's Future: Modernization, Transformation, Control* aims to identify how modern societies change when they are guided by different conceptions of sustainability. As a Research Fellow, I will be joining a global team of around forty leading scholars from a variety of social disciplines in Austria, Brazil, South Korea, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Germany, and Australia.

Over the past twenty years, sustainability has become a guiding concept of social change. However, the term 'sustainability' combines very different goals and future expectations, requiring a critical-reflexive as well as a



normative approach. In this respect, the Centre is breaking new ground, for although previous research on sustainability has developed in many ways, the problems sustainability may itself cause have so far received little attention from social scientists. Nor has much attention been paid to the extent to which new kinds of conflicts, inequalities and hierarchies emerge when societies integrate criteria of sustainability into their functional areas, institutions and cultural value patterns.

The research group will examine sustainability both as a *problem* and as a proposed *solution*, in terms of three different developmental paths – modernization, transformation, and control. Conceived as *modernization*, sustainability serves the renewal of the capitalist economy and its adaptation to changing framework conditions. The critique of this understanding, on the other hand, regards the compulsion to economic growth as an obstacle to sustainable development, and so aims instead at fundamental social *transformation*, perhaps ‘beyond capitalism’. Alternatively, the critiques of modernization also generate attempts to address sustainability issues through comprehensive policies of *control*.

My own contribution to the Centre’s work will span all three of these conceptions of sustainability, based on my previous research drawing on the ideas of the German sociologist Norbert Elias and his theory of processes of civilisation and decivilisation. Elias stresses the contradictory role played by increasing social complexity and constantly lengthening chains of social, economic

and political interdependence – usually understood as ‘globalisation’ – in shaping psychological dispositions and emotional orientations. Elias highlights the ways in which increasing interdependence can constitute both a process of civilisation, in which our emotional lives, including interpersonal violence and aggression, become controlled and managed in increasingly self-reflexive ways, but also to its opposite, processes of decivilisation, where people react against interdependence and retreat into national and tribal identities organised around violence and aggression towards ‘outsiders’.

My research will use Elias’s work to place the current ‘age of anger’ in its historical context, and – in dialogue with the Centre’s team of scholars – to assess the ways in which globalisation, neoliberal economic and social policy, increasing inequality as well as social, political and economic precarity threaten the sustainability of liberal democracy, the rule of law, and a social life which can be recognised and experienced as civilised.



Social Sciences Campus Hamburg University



## Robert Van Krieken

Robert Van Krieken is a Professor of Sociology, a criminologist and socio-legal studies researcher. He started working at the University of Sydney in 1979, and since then he has helped build up the Sociology program and the Socio-Legal program. He is also active in the International Sociological Association.

He has broad research interests, including social change, socio-legal issues (practical and theoretical), family law, the changing formation of identity and the self under varying social and historical conditions, as well as power and social control.

# Fellowships

## Brown Fellowship

Dr Holly High (Anthropology) has been awarded a University of Sydney Brown Fellowship, a scheme which supports people with caring responsibilities to continue with their research. Dr High will spend five months of the fellowship conducting anthropological fieldwork in an ethnic Kantu village, Lao PDR, accompanied by her husband (Dr Ed Annand) and children (aged 2 and 4). She will use the opportunity to finalize her ARC DECRA funded project 'Desire and the political field: Decision-making and political moralities from culture village to Vientiane, Laos'.

## 2019 Sydney Research Accelerator (SOAR) Fellowships

The Sydney Research Accelerator Fellowships aim to support the achievement of ambitious research and career goals. Two academics from the School received funding for their research projects:

A global expert on immigration, Dr Anna Boucher (BA '03 LLB '06 BA Hons '05) (Government and International Relations) is increasingly sought on her specialisation of economic migration and migration data. As an applied researcher with links across government, industry and the media, Dr Boucher will use the SOAR to mentor more migration researchers and undertake a visiting fellowship at UCLA to extend her current research and include the case of migrant worker exploitation in California.

Professor Martijn Konings's (Political Economy) research sits in the crossroads of political economy and social theory, focusing particularly on money and finance. He is currently looking into the home as a financial asset. With the SOAR Fellowship he plans to lead a cross-disciplinary group of scholars to publish a series of co-authored papers, and a short, programmatic book on the asset economy. There will be interaction with similar groups at university partners Harvard, Toronto, UCL and Utrecht, as well as NYU and Chicago.

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

Professor Danielle Celermajor (Sociology and Social Policy) has received one of the SSSHARC fellowships to have Mathias Thaler (University of Edinburgh) work on a Utopia lab as part of the Multispecies Justice project that she is leading. By examining how scholars, activists and artists are approaching the challenge of climate change, and bringing them into conversation with each other, Thaler's research project seeks to contribute to the critical recovery of Utopian thinking and acting. Through its innovative methodology and exploration of how various types of actors are approaching an existential threat and seeking to open new futures, the project will deepen the exploration of issues of critical concern for humans, non-human animals and the environment.

# Grants

## Burning Questions Initiative Research Planning Grant

The grant was provided for the design and pilot of a process tracing initiative. With this grant, Dr Peter Chen (Government and International Relations) will explore interactions between animal advocacy organisations in established agricultural markets and those in developing markets, and identify ways to improve transnational collaboration and knowledge transfers.

## Sydney Social Sciences and Humanities Advanced Research Centre (SSSHARC) Pop-up Research Lab

Professor Megan MacKenzie (Government and International Relations) received funding from SSSHARC's pop-up research lab program. The pop-up research lab is a three-week intensive program for research on a problem of real-world and theoretical significance. Professor MacKenzie's pop-up lab will explore military sexual violence.

## FASS Education Compact Scheme

Dr Anna Boucher (BA '03 LLB '06 BA Hons '05) (Government and International Relations) and Dr Allen George (Sociology and Social Policy) have received funding from the Faculty to design units of study at the 2000 and 3000 levels.

Dr Boucher will look to design videos encouraging principles of universal design in learning. Dr George will use student feedback to redesign unit assessment tasks to further enhance student directed learning.

## ARC Linkage Project Grant

Professor David Schlosberg (Sydney Environment Institute) was awarded funding for the ARC Linkage Project to address food insecurity.

The Sydney Food Incubator research team includes Dr Alana Mann (MMediaPrac '05 PhD '12 CertEdStud '13) from the Department of Media and Communications, and Dr Luke Craven (BA BA Hons '14 PhD '18) from UNSW Canberra and collaborations with the City of Sydney, TAFE NSW and FoodLab Detroit.

## Danish Research Council Grant

Professor Megan MacKenzie (Government and International Relations) is part of a 4-member research team that was awarded funding from the Danish Research Council for their project 'Bodies as Battleground: Gender Images and International Security'. Professor MacKenzie is directing one of the sub-projects focusing on the question of 'How are gender norms reproduced or challenged in war photography?'.

The project is funded for 4 years and will involve the creation of an image database of war images, several top-tier journal articles, and a book.

## Faculty Research Support Scheme

Dr Aim Sinpeng (Government and International Relations), in collaboration with Dr Aries Arugay from the University of the Philippines Diliman, received the Philippines Project Collaborative Research Grant from the Australian National University. Their project will look at digital inequality and polarisation in the Philippines. Facebook in the Philippines offers a free version of their app in order to narrow the access gap. This research project will investigate the spreading of 'fake' news on the free Facebook platform by comparing online experiences between free and paid Facebook apps.

## Sydney Research Excellence Initiative (SREI) 2020

Professor Ariadne Vronmen (MA '96) (Government and International Relations) and Dr Elizabeth Hill (Political Economy) have received the second round of funding under the SREI2020 scheme. Working in a team with three other scholars, Dr Hill and Professor Vronmen's research addresses gender-based discrimination in the workplace and explores women's working future.

## Sydney Policy Lab Research Theme

Dr Anna Boucher (BA '03 LLB '06 BA Hons '05), Associate Professor Anika Gauja, Professor Ariadne Vronmen (MA '96) and Dr Madeleine Pill (Government and International Relations) will lead Sydney Policy Lab's research theme on 'power'. They will focus their attention on how advocacy works in Australian politics, looking at the resources available to civil society, at policy advocacy during election times and at the role that legal advocacy plays in the debate around migration.

## Faculty Research Support Scheme

Associate Professor Charlotte Epstein (Government and International Relations) has received faculty funding for her documentary film. *Painting for Palm* is a film about art, resistance, memory and Aboriginality. Taking as its backdrop the events that unfolded on Palm Island since the death in custody of Mulrunji in 2004, it follows four 'untraditional' Australian Aboriginal artists to explore the role that art can play in the 'process of processing' a traumatic history for a community and for a country.

## Sydney Social Sciences and Humanities Advanced Research Centre (SSSHARC) Global Symposium Fund

The Global Symposium Fund supports symposiums that address significant global problems. The symposiums will involve collaborations from four global regions and lead to landmark publications. Three projects from SSPS have been awarded the funding this year:

Professor Megan MacKenzie and Dr Laura Shepherd (Government and International Relations) will hold a global symposium on 'Gender, Insecurity and Temporalities of Violence'.

Associate Professor Susan Park's (PhD '04) (Government and International Relations) global symposium will address 'Environmental Disasters and Just Governance'.

Professor Dany Celermajer's (Sociology and Social Policy) global symposium will address 'Multispecies Justice'.





Photo: vicmillon

# Anthropology Day 2018

Inspiring future  
generations of  
anthropology students

Written by Neil Maclean

On September 13th, I joined colleagues across the country in presenting at the inaugural Anthropology Day. The event is coordinated by the Australian Anthropological Society (AAS) and was timed to be part of the inaugural Australian Social Sciences Week. AAS took their inspiration from the now well established London Anthropology Day held at the British Museum, which promotes awareness of the scope and relevance of anthropology among secondary-school students and their teachers. With events in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth, the AAS took the first step in developing a similar focus.

Our common questions were: What is anthropology? What do anthropologists do and why does it matter? What can you study? What can you do with anthropology?

These questions were answered by the generous participation of staff and current HDR students from Sydney, Macquarie and Western Sydney Universities. My colleague Lisa Wynn's use of the 5-minute thesis competition as a way of presenting the variety of anthropology within a short space of time worked a treat. Presentations ranged from the

“Using the word ‘Indigenous’ is a huge responsibility that needs to be assessed for each research project and needs to reflect the values of the culture or cultures you are researching.”



Dr Neil Maclean presenting at the Anthropology Day 2018

ethical and identity dilemmas posed by same sex marriage, to suicide among medical doctors, to a discussion of when life begins in the Philippines, to Pentecostalism among migrants in Australia.

Powerful themes emerged throughout the day: the importance of not only acknowledging the traditional owners of the countries on which we live and study, but of recognising that it is anthropology’s dialogue with Indigenous knowledges that gives the discipline its powerful critical edge; getting students to reflect on the symbolic contexts of the development of senses (can you really identify your favourite brand of cola without the label?); the powerful and universal nature of food taboos on the one hand and their extraordinary cultural variability on the other (so why won’t you eat horse?).

It was valuable to learn more about why students are drawn to anthropology. They are interested in how it connects to their own everyday experiences. For some, classic anthropological themes such as the gift, consumer culture and kinship provide these connections. For others, their own experience of an increasingly contested multiculturalism makes the emphasis on cultural difference salient. Many already have an interest in the cultural diversity of our region; many also connect understanding indigenous cultures to issues of social justice. It is always the range of current research by HDR students that provides the most accessible and concrete models of anthropology’s double emphasis on making one’s own culture strange and providing ways of thinking about diversity.

It is always good to be able to talk of the diversity of jobs that anthropology students wind up in: Indigenous policy initiatives including health and education; non-government organisations working in areas such as rights, cultural production, sustainability, and education; advertising; cultural heritage and museums; major international organisations such as the UN and the World Bank.



Katherine Giunta presenting at the Anthropology Day 2018

In the end, however, they want anthropology to be interesting, relevant to their lives and to open up new ways of thinking.

The focus on teaching and students complements the focus on research and industry and community engagement in Social Sciences week. The cooperation of the major peak social sciences organisations in these initiatives recognises the need to promote the profile and significance of the social sciences independently of the foci of particular programs at specific universities.

It was a pleasure to cooperate with my colleagues from Macquarie University and Western Sydney University. Special thanks to Associate Professors Cristina Rocha, Associate Professor Lisa Wynn and Dr Malini Sur.





Photo: IPSA AISP



# Storytelling and the social sciences: Documentary filmmaker Johan Grimonprez visits CISS

Filmmakers and academics gather to translate research findings into compelling and informative global media

Written by Clare Hodgson and James Der Derian

Finding innovative ways to communicate compelling stories emerging from social sciences research is key. In this era of impact and engagement, academics who are passionate about social issues must strike the right balance between information and creative expression, the political and the aesthetic, in telling these stories.

In July this year, the Centre for International Security Studies (CISS) hosted Belgian filmmaker, Johan Grimonprez, in Australia for a series of events showcasing his approach to documentary storytelling. A unique and award-winning filmmaker, Johan's body of work, which includes over a dozen films, has been featured in international museums as well as film festivals. His most recent documentary, *Shadow World*, artfully investigates how the global trade in weapons has distorted foreign policies, corrupted governments and produced widespread suffering around the world.

Johan is committed to putting his artistic talent to the service of communicating important stories of politics, truth and social justice. He believes that nations are formed (and disformed) by political storytelling:

"We live in a post-truth society and it's crucial to dismantle that. But we also have to understand how fiction and non-fiction create our reality. It's the ontology of storytelling that makes us the way we are, that makes reality."

The current political climate in Australia illustrates this challenge only too well.

At a time when political events move so quickly that it becomes hard to recall who is Prime Minister, the responsibility of academia to contribute considered, informed and timely insights to the political debate is crucial. But how can we most effectively harness the immense power of media to ensure that research findings are able to combat post-truth fictions? For global media is no longer just a conveyor of events but a powerful political agent in its own right. The need for academia to critically engage with and actively utilise multiple media forms is of vital importance.

Enter Johan, who touched down in Brisbane to present a retrospective of his films as part of the CISS Docos for Politicos series at the 25th World Congress of Political Science. The week-long event featured panels of leading experts in the fields of media studies, international relations and political science, who commented on Johan's selected screening of short- and long-form features. After Brisbane, Johan travelled to Sydney to join a panel of film industry experts for a SSSHARC sponsored Ultimate Peer Review (UPR) of three CISS documentaries. The three films featured in the UPR, *Project Q*, *Radical* and *The Art of Peace*, are all currently in production as part of a interdisciplinary initiative at CISS called the Global Media Project.

Alongside Johan on the UPR panel were Susan MacKinnon, producer and co-founder of the Documentary Australia Foundation, and Julia Overton, producer and documentary consultant. Together,

Continued over...

the three provided valuable industry insight and suggestions as to how the CISS production teams, including CISS graduates and the full-service media firm Conceptavision, should develop their documentaries in order to effectively communicate their research and engage their target audiences.

The three films presented to the panel explore very different contemporary security issues. *Project Q: The Question of Quantum* charts the race for quantum supremacy in computing, communication and artificial intelligence and its implications for peace and security. *Radical* traces the rise of Islamic radicalisation in Australia and examines how government agencies, religious groups and the media have responded to this security challenge. *The Art of Peace* features scholars, activists, artists, prisoners and writers from around the world in a reflection on how the concept of perpetual peace might be strategically and aesthetically mobilised in a time of permanent war.

All three films reflect the aim of creating global media that generates knowledge, assesses risk, recommends ethical responses and increases public awareness of pressing issues of peace and security. In this way, the Global Media Project represents a new transdisciplinary, transnational and transmedia effort by CISS to communicate its compelling research to diverse audiences of academics and activists, politicians and policymakers, as well as to the general public.

While documentary filmmaking within academia is still a new frontier for many, for Johan it's a no brainer. After all, as Johan says:

"The human is a storytelling animal. We're all storytellers. It's how we make sense and give meaning to the world."

## The Centre for International Security Studies

CISS takes a multidisciplinary approach to the study of international security. Its research informs debates and promotes engagement with the policy community, NGOs and the public; uniquely positioning CISS to analyse and interpret the strategic implications of world events for governments, businesses and individuals.

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

🐦 [@sydneyciss](https://twitter.com/sydneyciss)



Johan Grimonprez and Susan Mackinnon joined the CISS Ultimate Peer Review. Photo: José Torrealba

# Supporting refugee and migrant communities: Interning at the Settlement Council of Australia

“Working with the SCoA, I saw the huge impact that policy decisions have on the settlement outcomes of the migrants, especially humanitarian entrants.” - Madhusmita Miri

Madhusmita Miri, Master of Public Policy student, has recently finished her internship program with the Settlement Council of Australia (SCoA). Madhusmita shares with us her stories while working in SCoA, and how the internship experience has shaped the direction of her future career.

## What appealed to you about an internship with the Settlement Council of Australia?

Representing over 90 settlement agencies, SCoA provides direct settlement services to refugees and migrants and helps them tackle the challenges of starting a new life in Australia. I'm passionate about working in the social justice sector, and working with the SCoA was a great opportunity for me to gain hands-on experience and apply the skills I learned at university.

## What was your role at the Settlement Council of Australia, and what are some of the interesting projects you worked on?

As a Research Intern I worked on two main projects – multiculturalism and the challenges faced by migrants in Australia, and financial hardships faced by the humanitarian migrants in Australia. I was responsible for research and policy development for these projects, which required me to apply policy theories and concepts I learned in the Masters of Public Policy program.

## What skills have you acquired during your internship?

Working with the SCoA enhanced my capacity to work both independently and collaboratively with a high level of accountability, utilising information management and consultation skills. I also further developed my time management, written and interpersonal communication skills.

## How has the internship helped you find direction for your future career/studies?

Working with the SCoA, I saw the huge impact that policy decisions have on the settlement outcomes of the migrants, especially humanitarian entrants. It was



Madhusmita (Left) with colleague at the Settlement Council of Australia

heart-wrenching to hear stories about the sufferings and trauma of the vulnerable communities I encountered, but this enabled me to better understand the issues affecting these communities and the measures that need to be taken to achieve better settlement outcomes.

It was a rewarding experience to work in settlement services. After finishing the internship, I decided to pursue a career in the social justice sector and utilise my knowledge and skills to support refugees and migrants.

## What did you enjoy the most when working in Settlement Council of Australia?

The placement provided me with wonderful hands-on experiences and was a smooth transition from classroom learning to real-life practice. I also highly appreciated the support from Nick Tebbey, CEO of SCoA, who was a wonderful mentor during the time I worked there.



# “You can’t leave Boston without knowing what LCT is”: LCT in the USA

The LCT Centre for Knowledge-Building continues to expand its global influence



Karl Maton speaks to a full house at the LCT Colloquium. Photo: Vicky Ariza

Written by Tessa Lunney

A key activity of the LCT Centre for Knowledge-Building is providing intensive courses overseas in LCT for scholars and students. LCT, Legitimation Code Theory, is a framework for understanding and changing knowledge practices in different areas of social life. It allows people to explore the ‘rules of the game’ in different fields and to then develop ways of teaching more people to succeed, or to change those rules.

The LCT Centre’s courses are in demand in a growing number of countries. Why? Teachers and students at all levels of education, from physics to ballet, from engineering to teacher training, are finding that LCT is a powerful means of explaining and changing education for the better. And who better to learn from than members at the heart of the field, the LCT Centre. One recent course saw LCT become the ‘talk of the town’ at a major linguistic conference in Boston, USA.

The International Systemic Functional Linguistics Congress, or ISFC 2018, is the highlight of the linguistics conference calendar, with five days of multiple sessions, as well as a Pre-Congress Institute for workshops in linguistics and associated theories. LCT was represented at the Pre-Congress Institute, with a full workshop

attendance of over 30 people of diverse backgrounds and abilities. Professor Karl Maton, head of the LCT Centre, also ran 12 individual supervisions with scholars and postgraduate students from around the world. These included professors of linguistics as well as postgraduates, Brazilian policemen and South American Language teachers. The feedback from the workshops was uniformly positive. Workshop attendees said “LCT has given me tools for analysing issues that I could before only see in vague, intuitive terms” and “It (LCT) offers a new approach to looking at things... especially unpacking and repacking the knowledge.”

LCT was represented extensively in the conference. The social impact of LCT was one of the stand-out features of the scholars who spoke about their work. Chuanyou Yuan and Jie Zheng, of China, use LCT in forensics to study the practice of psycho-correction or psychological counselling. This is integral to the Chinese prison system to find ways to make psycho-correction more effective. Marievna Donaji Vazquez Marcial, of Mexico, uses LCT to analyse how speakers of Mexican indigenous languages are taught only Spanish, in a way that entrenches social inequality, and how this can be remedied within teacher training. Ayumi Inako, of Japan, uses it to analyse Japanese

politeness on social media, using a Twitter discussion by two Japanese scientists about plutonium to illuminate what type of knowledge a politeness form indicates and what this means for educational textbooks. Anna-Vera Meidell Sigsgaard and Susanne Karen Jacobsen, of Denmark, use LCT in teacher training, in particular to coach students through their final exams.

In the USA, LCT is already being used to transform education. Associate Professor J Andrés Ramirez uses LCT to train primary school teachers in Florida. Glenn Jackson applies LCT in analysing knowledge-building in middle school. Anne McCabe analyses primary school history writing with LCT in order to provide information for secondary school history teachers. Michael Maune uses LCT in conjunction with Systemic Functional Linguistics to address problems within college English composition pedagogy.

Professor Zhihui Fang, of the University of Florida, made the comment, “You can’t leave Boston without knowing what LCT is!” Andres Ramirez was one of the first LCT scholars in the USA. His colloquia speech summarised the excitement by ending with a stirring call to action, that LCT at the conference was about “getting excited, getting home, and getting started!”

#### Where to next for Sydney LCT courses around the world?

After Boston, Dr Yaegan Doran travelled to Sweden, training the leaders of the LCT Nordic Network which comprises of a group of LCT scholars from Denmark, Sweden and Norway. In September, Dr Doran gave a paper at the Australian Systemic Functional Linguistics Association conference in Adelaide and worked with the LCT Adelaide group. In early October, he went to Puebla, Mexico, to run intensive teaching workshops at Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, organised by the LCT Mexico group.

In late October, Professor Karl Maton gave a keynote speech at the International Forum of Systemic Functional Linguistics at Peking University, ran intensive teaching workshops at Beijing Normal University, gave a keynote lecture at the Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, and a talk at Nanfang College, Sun Yat Sen University.

As for other places? Watch this space!

“LCT offers a new approach to looking at things, especially unpacking and repacking the knowledge.”

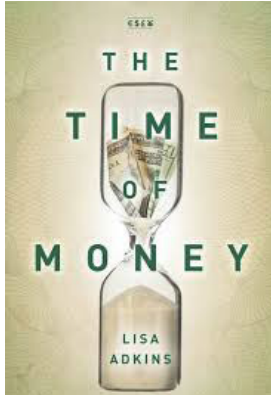
#### LCT Centre for Knowledge-Building

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.

– [sydney.edu.au/arts/research/lct](https://sydney.edu.au/arts/research/lct)  
🐦 @LCTCentre



# Selected books



## The Time of Money – Lisa Adkins

The Time of Money argues that the expansion of finance has created a distinctive social world, one that demands a speculative stance toward life in general.

Speculation changes our relationship to time and organises our social worlds to maximize the productive capacities of populations around flows of money for finance capital. Speculative practices have become a matter of survival.

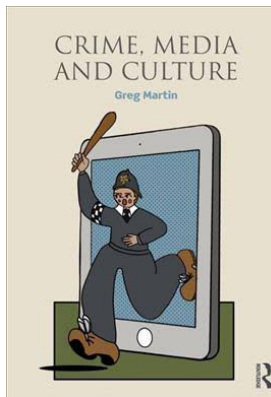
Moving beyond claims that indebtedness is intrinsic to contemporary life and vague declarations that the social world has become financialized, this book delivers a precise examination of the relation between finance and society.



## Australia in the US Empire: A Study in Political Realism – Erik Paul

The Australian continent is increasingly a contestable geopolitical asset for the US imperial project for global hegemony and for China's economic and political expansionism. Political realism provides a critical paradigm to analyse the interactions between capitalism, imperialism and militarism as they undermine Australian democracy and shift governmentality towards new forms of authoritarianism.

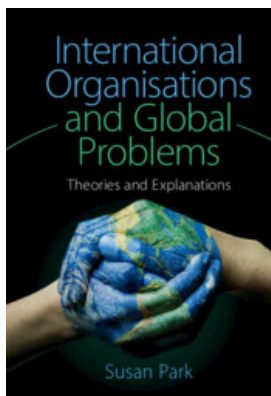
This book examines the reasons why Australia's deep dependency on the US is incompatible with democracy and the security of the country.



## Crime, Media and Culture – Greg Martin

Working broadly from the perspective of cultural criminology, Crime, Media and Culture engages with theories and debates about the nature of media-audience relations, examines representations of crime and justice in news media and fiction, and considers the growing significance of digital technologies and social media.

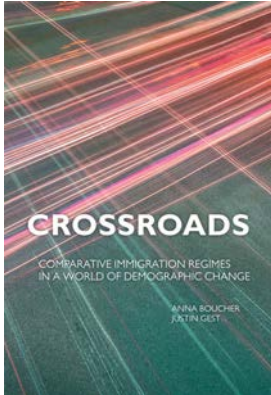
Drawing on case studies and empirical examples from the increasingly blurred worlds of reality and entertainment, the dynamics of crime, media and culture are illuminated across a range of chapters covering topics that include: moral panics/folk devils and trial by media; fear of crime; cop shows and courtroom dramas; serial killers; surveillance, new media and policing.



## International Organisations and Global Problems: Theories and Explanations – Susan Park

International organisations are considered fundamental in addressing global problems, but how effective are they? This book looks at eight key areas that international organisations have been created to address and guides the reader through an analysis of the successes and failures of international organisations in solving issues in global politics.

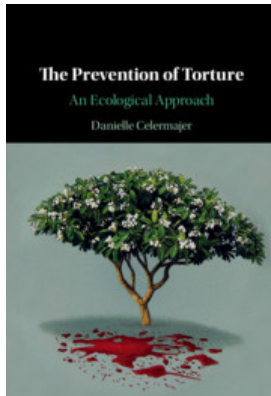
With an introduction to international relations theory, the book incorporates the best and most up-to-date scholarly research, and asks the question, 'Are international organisations a help or a hindrance?'



## Crossroads: Comparative Immigration Regimes in a World of Demographic Change – Anna Boucher and Justin Gest

This ambitious study presents a unique analysis of immigration governance across thirty countries. Relying on a database of immigration demographics in the world's most important destinations, Crossroads presents a novel taxonomy and an analysis of what drives different approaches to immigration policy over space and time.

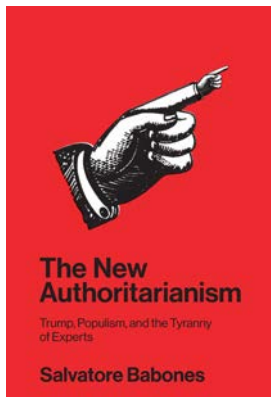
In an era defined by inequality, populism, and fears of international terrorism, the book finds that governments are converging toward a 'Market Model' that seeks immigrants for short-term labor with fewer outlets to citizenship – an approach that resembles the increasingly contingent nature of labor markets worldwide.



## The Prevention of Torture: An Ecological Approach – Danielle Celermajer

Drawing on rich empirical material from Sri Lanka and Nepal, this book interrogates the worlds that produce torture, in order to propose how to bring about systemic institutional and cultural change.

Critics have decried the failure of human rights approaches to attend to structural factors, but this book seeks to take up the positive project of reimagining human rights theory and practice. It discusses key debates in human rights and political theory, as well as the challenges that advocates face in translating situational analyses into real world interventions.



## The New Authoritarianism: Trump, Populism, and the Tyranny of Experts – Salvatore Babones

The election of Donald Trump and the Brexit vote in the UK have caused fear and panic among liberals worldwide. They argue that the populist backlash represents a dangerous new authoritarianism. But what if the really dangerous authoritarianism is in fact their own?

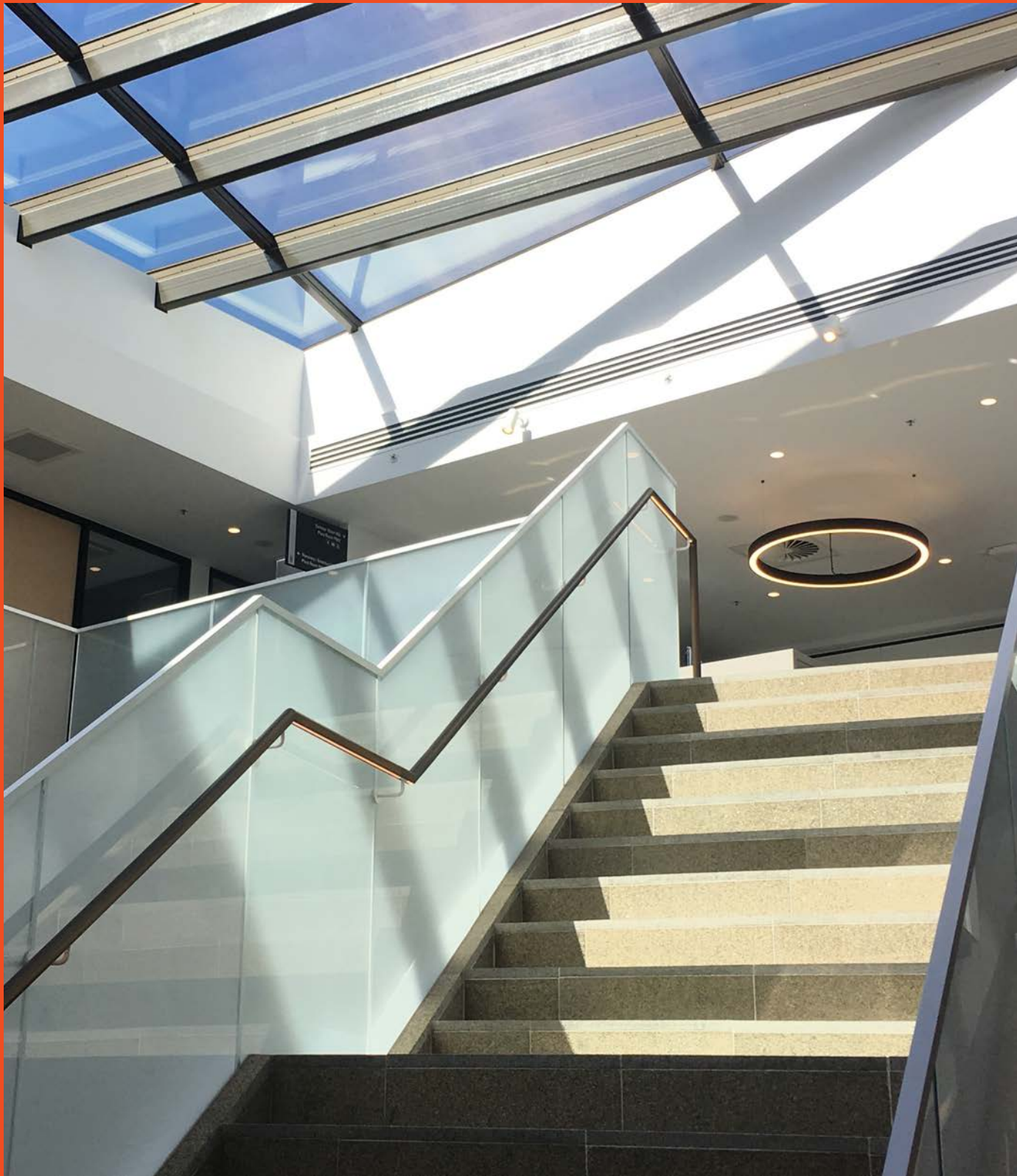
This provocative book contends that populism represents an imperfect but reinvigorating political flood that has the potential to sweep away decades of institutional detritus and rejuvenate democracy across the west.



## Machiavelliana: The Living Machiavelli in Modern Mythologies – Michael Jackson and Damian Grace

Machiavelliana offers a comprehensive study of the uses and abuses of Niccolò Machiavelli's name in society generally and in academic fields distant from his intellectual origins.

The book audits, surveys, examines, and evaluates this Machiavelliana against wider claims about Machiavelli. It explains the origins of Machiavelli's reputation, the spread of his fame as the foundation for the many uses and misuses of his name, and redresses some of the most persistent distortions.



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## For more information

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