

SSPS Review



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

COVID-19 crisis: Lessons
learned, what next?

Two overlooked ways to
boost the economy

The new Sydney Centre
for Healthy Societies

Forging a career in
countering extremism





Welcome to this bumper SSPS Review. Coming at the end of an incredibly challenging year, this issue provides a welcome opportunity to highlight the research and teaching strengths of our multi-disciplinary social science School.

Whether it is rethinking justice, considering the new security implications of COVID-19, or identifying policy levers to boost the economy, researchers in our School are tackling some of the key challenges and problems of our times. And from Australian Research Council funding to prestigious Fellowships, our academic staff have continued to shine brightly even in these most difficult of times. Similarly, our current and former students continue to win esteemed scholarships and prizes, as well as forging career paths in which they can make a difference to the world.

In addition to the laudable achievements of our staff and students, in this issue we celebrate the establishment of a new Faculty Centre based in the School: The Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies. Directed by Professor Alex Broom, with Deputy Directors Dr Nadine Ehlers and Dr Katie Kenny, the Centre brings together national and international social

science and humanities scholars with the aim of transforming how we think about, engage with, and foster health. Grounded in the understanding that health – including the health of the environment and other species – is profoundly shaped by the dynamics of our societies, the Centre proposes a radical reimagining of what health is, and how it might be better provisioned to create alternative futures.

This issue also treats us to a dive into a highlighted book publication – *Environmental Recourse at the Multilateral Development Banks* by Professor Susan Park. Her book focuses on international development financing, and especially mechanisms called ‘international grievance mechanisms’ that are designed to enable recourse when environmental harms take place. Professor Park shows that while laudable, these mechanisms allow people to air their grievances but ultimately do not resolve the causes or consequences of environmental harm.

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Head of School of Social and Political
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Meet our 2020 Westpac Future Leaders Scholar

Master of Human Rights student Brianna Kerr is a 2020 recipient of the Westpac Future Leaders Scholarship, awarded to outstanding postgraduate students focused on finding innovative ways to create a better Australia.



The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is proud to welcome 2020 Westpac Future Leaders Scholar Brianna Kerr. Brianna is one of 15 postgraduate students Australia-wide to be chosen for the Future Leaders Scholarship, which awards candidates with a strong academic record and leadership potential \$120,000 to fund their postgraduate studies, leadership training and membership in a global network of alumni.

Brianna is Director and Head of Impact at Kua, a social enterprise that distributes coffee to workplaces in Sydney and commits 100% of the profits to climate resilience initiatives in Uganda where the coffee is farmed. Keen to develop ways of integrating human rights into daily life, business and decision-making, Brianna chose to study the Master of Human Rights, focusing on globalisation and human rights systems.

She is incredibly passionate about social change and has worked with refugees and asylum seekers in Indonesia, profit for purpose organisations in Malawi and India, and volunteered with Rotary International, Papua New

Guinea. As a Westpac Future Leaders Scholar, Brianna is determined to ensure that human rights aren't just ideals, but real principles that can be implemented across various sectors in society.

Tell us about your work?

Running a social enterprise like Kua with a small team of six is a bit of a mixed bag, in that no two days are the same! Generally, I manage all of our partnerships and sales and I am currently working on how we can more effectively measure and report our social and environmental impact.

What does the Westpac Future Leaders Scholarship mean to you?

The Westpac Future Leaders scholarship has to be one of the best in Australia. They don't just hand you a cheque and send you on your way. They invest in you as an individual, focusing on your personal and professional development, during and long after your studies are completed. The opportunities are endless and the connections invaluable.

What's the most valuable skill you've gained from the Master of Human Rights?

As most social science degrees do, my Masters has led me to think more critically about the international human rights space and better understand its successes and its shortcomings. I am seeing human rights in a whole new light. They are fraught, complicated and often exclusionary and my degree is challenging me to problem solve for these gaps.

How will your study program benefit society?

Everyday I work with engineers, industrial designers, economists, musicians, data scientists, and sociologists and it's within this diverse environment that creativity, innovation and ideas breed. Degrees like the Master of Human Rights build thinkers, critics and empathisers who deeply understand that every issue in our world today is

social. This perspective is complementary and necessary in every single industry. If we want to change the world, we have to understand how it came to be.

What's next for Kua?

We currently supply 30 incredible companies across Sydney and are always looking for new partners. We've launched immersive sustainability workshops and tailored equipment packages for business wanting coffee machines and the beans in one. What's next? Selling our two tonnes of coffee that just arrived from the misty slopes of Mount Elgon, Uganda!



Top left: Brianna Kerr (middle) and the Kua team showcasing their reusable coffee canisters.

Top right: Kua team on location in Mount Elgon, Uganda, where the coffee is farmed.

Bottom left: Local worker sorting through the coffee cherries.



New Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies

A new centre has been established in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to address emerging global health challenges.

A new Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Research Centre has been established to undertake research on the most pressing global health issues facing our societies. Harnessing social science and humanities expertise, the Centre aims to understand and transform how health and social life intersect on our changing planet.

Based at the School of Social and Political Sciences (SSPS), the new

Centre will bring together national and international social science and humanities scholars, and aims to transform how we think about, engage with, and foster health.

The Centre is grounded in the understanding that health—and our capacity to 'be healthy'—is profoundly shaped by the contours of our societies. The ways societies are organised is fundamental to the health of their peoples, other

species, the environment, and the planet.

The Centre will initially work across 4 broad themes:

- Politics and Economies of Health and Wellbeing
- Race, Ethnicity and the Biohumanities
- Human-Microbial and Multispecies Relations
- Work, Education and Welfare

By synthesising different approaches across disciplines, continents, and scales of observation—from the microbial to the planetary—the work of the Centre will emphasise complexity and connectedness. It will provide a platform for radically reimagining what health is, and how it might be better provided for, to create alternative futures.

The new Centre is Directed by Professor Alex Broom, with Deputy Directors Dr Katherine Kenny and Dr Nadine Ehlers, and has a leadership team that includes Professor Lisa Adkins; Professor Danielle Celemajer; Associate Professor Gaby Ramia; Professor Assa Doron (ANU); Professor Amade M'charek (Amsterdam); Professor Anthony Ryan Hatch (Wesleyan University); and Professor Anne Pollock (KCL).

The Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies will bring together leading experts from around the world and across diverse disciplines and fields. They will work to highlight how such things as historical context, political arrangements, economic structures, enduring inequalities, and interspecies and environmental relations both produce health problems and may also map paths to new solutions.

"Responding to issues that affect health and wellbeing, in their broadest conceptualisations, is at the heart of the work we do on a daily basis as social scientists," said Head of School, Professor Lisa Adkins.

"Driven by leading scholars and animated by a collaborative approach, the Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies advances the University's broader aim to continuously build research excellence, and to shape more complex understandings of, and nuanced solutions to, the key health issues of our time."

International collaborators hail from leading institutions across Asia (IIT Hyderabad, Beijing Normal University-Hong Kong Baptist University); Europe (Oxford University, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Paris-Dauphine University, University of Vienna, The University of Amsterdam); and North and South America (Duke University, Georgetown University, Wesleyan University, The University of Campinas, and The University of British Columbia).

Reflecting on the events of recent months, Centre Director, Professor Alex Broom said: "2020 has vividly illustrated the diverse connections and dependencies that are critical to health. Our current conceptualisation of health, and how we intervene in the health domain, must be radically expanded. We must engage new transdisciplinary ways of thinking and acting across species – including both human and non-human beings – across communities, and in relation to environmental and planetary concerns."

"Traditional discipline-based approaches remain somewhat siloed, and as a result, have delivered only partial solutions to various health problems. These siloes need to be broken down, and what health is – and might be – needs to be challenged, reconfigured and reinvigorated."

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Dean, Professor Annamarie Jagose said, "It is exciting to see the confident way the new Centre draws together the University's strengths in humanities and social sciences health research to address the current and pressing need for interdisciplinary and critical approaches to our collective health challenges, locally and globally."



Left to right: Alex Broom, Katherine Kenny and Nadine Ehlers.

COVID-19 and gender in the South-East Asian private sector

Early data shows that women and girls have fared worse than men and boys. Without the right policy responses, write Associate Professor Elizabeth Hill and Dr Suneha Seetahul, progress on gender equality risks being set back decades.

The COVID-19 pandemic of early 2020 caused a global contraction in economic supply and demand that saw hundreds of millions of workers around the globe stood down or only able to access reduced hours of work.

In research commissioned by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Investing in Women initiative, Professor Marian Baird, Associate Professor Elizabeth Hill (BEc(SocSc) '93 PhD '05) and Dr Suneha Seetahul of the Australian Women's Working Futures (AWWF) Project have analysed the gendered impacts of the pandemic on private sector employees and employers in four South-East Asian countries: Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar and Vietnam.

Analysis of employee and employer surveys shows that the COVID-19

pandemic has had immediate consequences on the wellbeing of workers who faced disruptions in their professional lives because of changes in hours of work, pay and place of work. Differences in the structure of the economy and official pandemic responses mean results vary across countries.

In Vietnam, 50% of workers experienced a decrease in their hours of employment compared with only 27% of workers in the Philippines. In Indonesia, half of all workers reported a decline in income with very little differences between men and women.

Women were more likely than men to be working from home during the first few months of the crisis. Working from home was a common strategy used by employers in the Philippines in contrast to Vietnam

where workers were more likely to remain working from their normal work place (see table opposite).

Changes in working hours, location and income combined to affect workers' productivity. In the Philippines, about one third of all workers surveyed reported a decline in workplace productivity with more women (34.6%) affected than men (31.6%) whereas in Vietnam only one quarter of respondents reported a decline in productivity with more men (29.6%) affected than women (21.6%). In Indonesia, 17.1% of women and 24.9% of men reported a productivity decline.

The pandemic response by governments and employers also impacted unpaid work in the home. In all four countries, the amount of unpaid household work increased with pandemic-induced changes

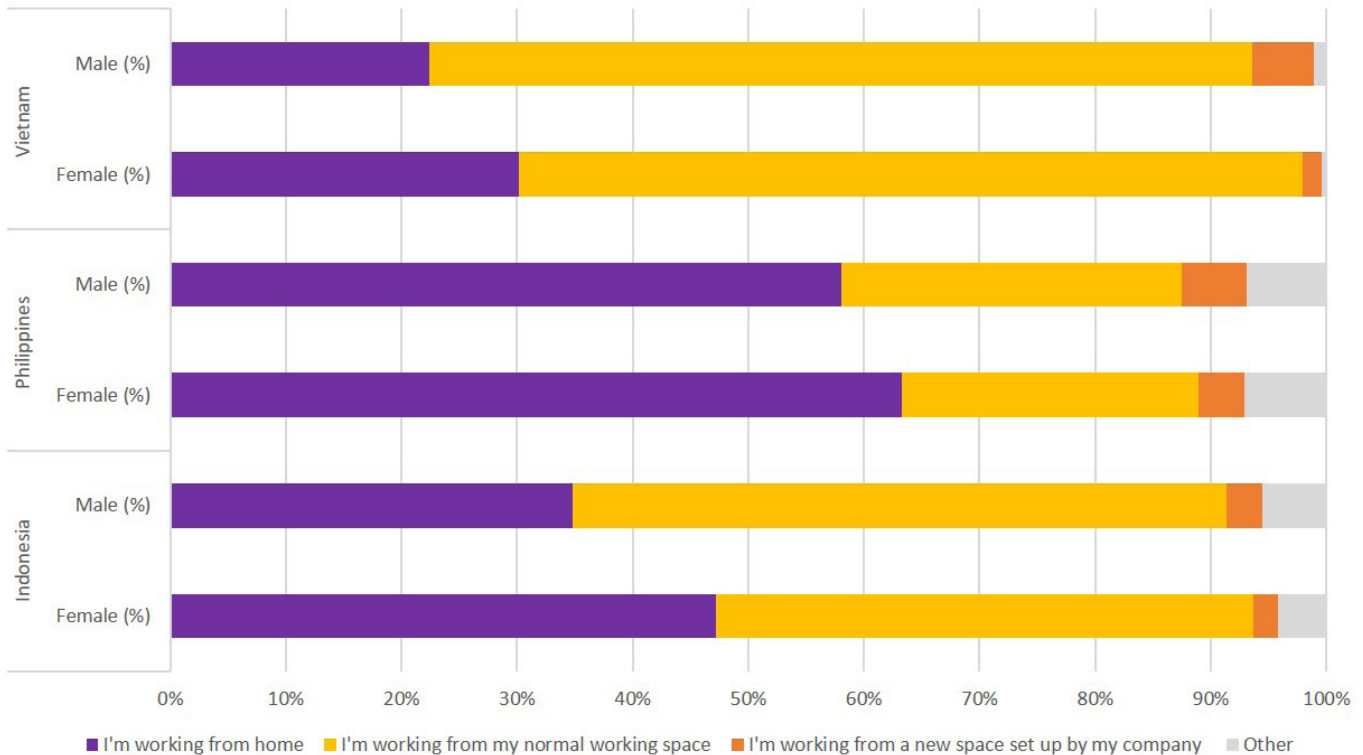


Image: Work location changes due to COVID-19, from 'Investing in Women' dataset (2020)

adding to the domestic pressure felt by women, and interestingly also by men.

In all countries, large proportions of respondents increased the time spent for food preparation (71.3% of women and 62.7% of men in the Philippines), childcare (57.2% of women and 65.8% of men in Vietnam) and cleaning (82.4% of women and 75.2% of men in Indonesia).

This increase in unpaid domestic work for women was in addition to the pre-pandemic workload already disproportionately shouldered by women in all four countries.

Pandemic disruption to work and domestic life in Southeast Asia has had a significant impact on worker's mental health. For instance, almost half of all respondents in

Vietnam reported the pandemic has negatively affected their mental health, women being slightly less impacted than men.

Conversely in the Philippines, more women (43.4%) declared their mental health was impacted compared to men (40.5%), similarly in Indonesia 39.2% of women and 32.2% of men reported an impact.

To mitigate the effects of the lockdown, declining demand, disruption of global supply chains while ensuring safety, employers have had to quickly adapt. Many employers have focused on supplying employees with personal protective equipment and ensuring flexible working conditions such as part-time work or remote work policies.

COVID-19 has also seen the companies studied in Southeast

Asia reassess their priorities and processes, particularly around workplace flexibility. One company in Indonesia reported the pandemic experience has shown them new ways to support gender equality: "The work is not measured by number of hours the employee spends (at work) but the outcome delivered. This should enable women to work and contribute more."

This research was funded by Investing in Women, an initiative of the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The views expressed are the authors' alone and are not necessarily the views of the Australian Government.

Read the reports:

- bit.ly/Awwf-reports

Meet the grad forging a career in countering violent extremism

Peace and Conflict Studies alumnus Kosta Lucas is helping communities prevent and counter violent extremism through his consultancy, SynqUp.

Written by Nena Serafimovska

Master of Peace and Conflict Studies graduate Kosta Lucas (MPacs '20) plays a unique role in Australia's response to extremist behaviour.

With a background in law, policy, research, and grassroots program development, he has a unique skill set that in 2013 saw him appointed Chief Program Director of People Against Violent Extremism – Australia's first non-government countering violent extremism organisation founded by the Hon. Dr Anne Aly MP.

Today, Kosta is the Founder of SynqUp, a consultancy that helps communities prevent and counter violent terrorism through the

use of creative media and arts, communications, and conflict resolution.

Kosta works with a range of public and private organisations including Google, Youtube, the Australian Multicultural Foundation, and government departments, to create greater community awareness around the myriad of factors that contribute to violent extremism in Australia and abroad.

"I started a consultancy because from a very young age I had my own vision of how I would like to help society and influence change," says Kosta.

"My way of doing that is to be flexible and adaptable and I have that freedom working for myself."

It's been a busy year for Kosta, who graduated with a Master of Peace and Conflict Studies in 2020.

The alumnus is collaborating with Multicultural NSW on a project to develop a digital storytelling platform with survivors and victims of terrorism from Australia and New Zealand, as well as being in the running for a United Nations project on interfaith youth leaders and counter narratives.



On top of this, he is also representing Australia in the Global Internet Counter Terrorism Fund's Independent Advisory Committee.

His biggest career highlight to date is being invited as a delegate to the 2019 Global Internet Counter Terrorism Forum's Incident Response Workshop, hosted by Google in Wellington, New Zealand.

ongoing working relationships he has cultivated with grassroots organisations and private industry that have an interest in making their communities resilient to destructive influences.

"Working with industry and local interest groups gives you the ability to see things from all sides, which is important when you are trying to get

"Violence is so much more than just physical actions that cause physical harm. Societies that are on the verge of collapse can be thought of as peaceful. The realities of each are complex and sometimes overwhelming."

The option to complete the entire Peace and Conflict Studies degree via distance learning was a huge selling point for Kosta, who is based in Perth and has a demanding work schedule.

"Having that online option allowed me to complete a qualification I really value from my home state, where there isn't a comparable degree," he explains.

"It also gave me the flexibility to carve out class time, while taking on new work opportunities in between, which is extremely beneficial when you work for yourself."

A postgraduate degree has also opened the door to international opportunities.

"A Masters is usually a prerequisite for a lot of international roles, so having a Master in Peace and Conflict Studies in my field of work has been a real asset as it provides the skills to best understand and address underlying social conflict that can lead to extremist violence."

Asked what advice he would give to students starting out in a social justice degree, Kosta says: "Studying a social justice degree is a transformative experience not just professionally, but personally.

"The beauty is in the process, which will set you up to best create your own outcome."



Photo: Kosta Lucas (fourth from the left) with the 'How's your Haal' team, an initiative that empowers young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to tackle mental health taboos.

"It was an honour being part of such an important event that brought together experts from all over the world to reality test the crisis response protocols of social media companies like Google and Facebook," he explains.

The 2019 Christchurch terrorist attack demonstrated the willingness and ability of extremists to spread harm beyond their own borders by streaming acts of terrorism on social media.

The tech companies are now working alongside counterterrorism practitioners like Kosta to ensure that doesn't happen again. Kosta attributes his growing success to the productive and

community pillars to 'sync up'", he says.

Being able to examine issues from various viewpoints is one of the benefits Kosta gained from the Master of Peace and Conflict Studies.

"The degree gave me a new way to understand concepts and ideas I took for granted, even in my own work in preventing and countering violent extremism," says Kosta.

"The most obvious examples are concepts like 'peace' and 'violence'. At face value, it's easy to see them as opposites, but in reality, they are neither uniform nor binary.



Anthropology graduate awarded 2020 Cambridge Australia Scholarship

Sally Montgomery has been selected for the prestigious Cambridge Australia Scholarship to undertake research into the unregulated online breast milk market.

Written by Nena Serafimovska



Established in the 1980s, the competitive Cambridge Australia Scholarship is awarded to Australian graduates of outstanding academic merit, allowing them to expand their passion for research and learning, while studying abroad.

Sally Montgomery (BA Hons '19) was selected as one of 12 Cambridge Australia Scholars in 2020.

"Being awarded a Cambridge Australia Scholarship means that I am able to pursue my long-held aspiration of studying at Cambridge – a prospect which I never thought possible. It's an immense privilege," says Sally.

"Being a Cambridge Australia Scholar provides a platform for making a positive impact in society – a task towards which the community of Cambridge Australia Scholars collectively strives. My route to achieving this will be through further studies in Social Anthropology – a field which, due to its deep understanding of humanity and culture, is well positioned to inform decision making on world issues that confront us today."

Sally graduated in 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours) in Anthropology. During her 4-year degree she received 11 awards for academic excellence, including the distinguished University Medal.

Her path to a PhD will begin with a Masters in Research and will see her continue the research she began in her Honours year at the University of Sydney, examining the moral and monetary complexities of the emerging practice of mothers selling and buying breastmilk via unregulated online networks.

With increasing entrepreneurial activity in this growing market for human breast milk, research like Sally's can play an important role in informing public debate and health policy, highlighting ethical concerns and ensuring more equitable access to this essential first food.

"Food security is an issue which poses a great threat to the ever-increasing global population. I hope that my research will be able to contribute to the interdisciplinary efforts being made to envision the future of food in a way that is equitable, accessible and sustainable."



Photo: Sally Montgomery touring the University of Cambridge.

Commencing at the University of Cambridge in October, Sally is looking forward to the rich academic life that studying at the world-renowned campus offers.

"There are so many opportunities to attend fascinating guest lectures, to challenge the way I think and to meet diverse groups of scholars who are all passionately studying such different courses," says Sally.

"One of the most valuable experiences I gained at the University of Sydney during my Honours year was being involved and engaged in the academic life of the Department of Anthropology, joining in bigger, often interdisciplinary discussions and sharing one's time and talents. This is something I also really look forward to at the University of Cambridge."

Find out more about the Cambridge Australia Scholarship:

- cambridgeaustralia.org.au

Project to end violence against women in New Guinea wins global competition

PhD candidate Kaiya Aboagye and her team have won the prestigious Map the System Global Competition, which challenges students to create systemic change.

Written by Nena Serafimovska

Each year over 3,500 teams, from more than 16 countries register to compete in the prestigious Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship, University of Oxford Map the System Global Competition, which asks students to use 'systems thinking' as a guiding approach to understanding complex social and environmental challenges.

Kaiya Aboagye (B.S.L.S '12) and her team secured first place and the audience choice award at the global finals competition on Wednesday 17 June.

Kaiya, whose PhD research centres on the shared experience between people of African descent and

Indigenous/Black Oceanic peoples of Australia, was approached by fellow Australians at the University of Oxford to join their team and use the competition as a way to bring international attention to significant issues in the Pacific region.

Having defeated rival teams at the University of Oxford, the team went on to steal first place with their research on *Women, Violence and Modern Slavery in Papua New Guinea and West Papua*, at the finals.

"Winning in this space is much more than just the competition, this issue is deep-rooted for me. I am an Indigenous woman of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South

Sea Islander descent, as well as of Ghanaian heritage, and the impact of intergenerational inheritance of slavery has guided everything that is important to me in my work and my life", says Kaiya.

The team presented their examination of the systematic and causal relations between violence, colonialism and the exploitation of women in Papua New Guinea and West Papua, going up against 31 finalists.

"Papua New Guinea and West Papua are considered among the most dangerous places in the world to be a woman, with over 70% of women experiencing rape or sexual assault.



Our analysis has revealed a highly complex system of interacting forces including colonial occupation, modernisation, patriarchy, poverty and weak institutions that maintain and perpetuate the exploitation of women in the region,” explains Kaiya.

A ‘systems thinking’ approach involves identifying patterns and underlying structures that drive certain events or outcomes.

By understanding and changing structures that are not serving society, people, or situations well, practitioners can look at all the available choices and create more effective, long-term solutions to ongoing problems.

For Kaiya, the approach has been incredibly rewarding: “I am passionate about finding or using any platform or process that might redirect power back to our communities. It’s important to find ways to interrupt, speak back to and rebuild the narratives we have inherited from global systems of oppression.”

By mapping the various systems in Papua New Guinea and West Papua the team were able to show the different levels of interaction in the stakeholder ecosystem, with key stakeholders being the women of the region.

The research findings report demonstrates a clear trend where systemic power consistently flows away from women towards governing bodies and institutions outside of Papua New Guinea and West Papua.

This trend reveals a clear gap between the stakeholders with the most systemic power, which is relative to their direct impact on the affected women.

“What is happening in Papua New Guinea and West Papua is inextricably linked to Australia and its participation in the wider international system of exploitation that disproportionately affects Indigenous women.

“Women in these regions often do the hard work of building, uplifting community and carrying families through trauma. Too often they are invisible and left without any recognition and suffer great violence. This is something that urgently needs to change.”

Despite not being able to compete in Oxford due to the coronavirus crisis, using Zoom to interview stakeholders and participate in the finals hasn’t dampened Kaiya’s spirits.

“I’ve enjoyed utilizing Indigenous knowledge methodology to decolonise the systems mapping approach, which meant involving relevant stakeholders throughout the process and not just taking ownership over the research, but enabling them to inform our analysis and interpretations of findings.

“The whole process has been a privilege, extremely rewarding and humbling.”

Beyond the competition, the team will coordinate a community forum to present their research findings and develop future outcomes and objectives.

They are currently engaged in talks with a variety of stakeholders at

grassroots level, in the commercial sectors, as well as government departments dealing with foreign trade and Indigenous issues.



Placements in a pandemic: Creating a new way to train teachers

Written by Lee Rusznyak
Photography by Karl Maton



Photo: Lee Rusznyak and Karl Maton preparing to teach over 600 trainee school teachers in Johannesburg, March 2020.

Before they can qualify, aspiring teachers must spend part of their training in schools. The Covid-19 pandemic has made these 'practicum' placements almost impossible.

As lockdowns were announced and schools were closed around the world, teacher education has been plunged into crisis. Finding ways of giving student teachers the opportunity for practice-based learning has become a priority for teacher education.

In South Africa, this challenge is being met by an innovative online course that is already having a huge impact on the future of teaching in the country.

The program is called Teacher Choices in Action and began in August 2020. It was created by a team of teacher educators in South Africa led by Professor Lee Rusznyak

(University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg) in close collaboration with members of the LCT Centre for Knowledge-Building, at the School of Social and Political Sciences (SSPS).

The program is funded by the South African government and supported by the professional teachers' council – an extraordinary feat in normal times; a miracle amid the pandemic.

Already, over 30,000 students from 24 institutions across South Africa have completed the program and earned credits towards becoming qualified teachers that are equivalent to four weeks of school-based experience. This number will continue to rise rapidly.

What makes the program so innovative is how it deals with problems that have long dogged teacher training. In the past, many trainees have reported being left on their own to teach, unsupported by

mentors, receiving little guidance or feedback.

Research shows that even many experienced mentors provide trainees with little more than tips for managing classrooms. They focus on the 'busyness' of classrooms – managing children to keep them busy – and do not teach trainees about the business of classrooms, the teaching and learning of knowledge.

As a result, many student teachers gain little expertise from placements. That the pandemic shutdown made placements impossible was an opportunity to address this major problem.

Teacher Choices in Action does so by using Legitimation Code Theory (LCT), a framework created by Professor Karl Maton of SSPS. LCT is now used by an international community of scholars and educators whose heart is the LCT

Centre for Knowledge-Building at the University of Sydney. Centre members, including Maton, helped created the program.

The design was led from the University of the Witwatersrand ('Wits'), the leading research-intensive university in South Africa. Wits and Sydney have close ties around LCT. Wits is home to a LCT research group of 70 academics led by Lee Rusznyak, who is on the International Advisory Board of Sydney's LCT Centre. These ties were crucial to creating the program so rapidly and under changing circumstances. The high reputation of LCT in South Africa helped its recognition and rapid uptake by official education bodies.

LCT provides tools that can both make sense of education and be used to educate. LCT ideas not only shaped the design of the course but are also taught to trainee teachers in the program, so they can use them to design their own teaching.

Instead of placements, students study recorded lessons and analyse the choices made by real teachers, such as how to relate to student experiences with school knowledge. By looking at the same kinds of choices in the teaching of different subject areas and different year groups, trainees can see a far greater range of practices than possible through placements.

By using LCT to analyse those choices, they learn why choices work in some classroom contexts but not in others. So the framework provides trainee teachers with a systematic toolkit and the online nature of the course allows them to

use that toolkit on a wider variety of experiences than previously possible.

What are these ideas from LCT? One is 'autonomy tours', which provides teachers with a way of integrating different kinds of knowledge successfully, such as everyday experiences and academic subjects.

Another is 'semantic waves', which is being widely used by teachers to sequence knowledge so that all students can understand complex and abstract ideas. These concepts, developed through research projects in SSPS, are becoming part of the professional knowledge of the next generation of teachers around the world.

"The pandemic made it seem impossible for us to graduate but the Teacher Choices in Action program made it possible for us to reimagine teaching in the classroom. It instils hope back into our vision, of completing our qualification in record time," said final-year trainee teacher, Freedom Tsoetsi.

But it is not just as a training program that this is having impact. Large-scale research projects on practice-based learning are generally difficult to conduct because professional learning varies so sharply in different places. Teacher Choices in Action is designed so that a large-scale systematic study of developing teaching practice can be conducted.

The ideas of LCT are here showing their value in a third way: as the means for analysing how students understanding of practice changes through their teacher education. Dozens of scholars, teacher

educators and postgraduate students from across South Africa will use LCT to research the data generated by this nationwide study. Its findings will address pressing concerns about variable quality across the sector and inform a national work-based learning policy.

The Teacher Choices in Action program is a 'game-changer' in teacher education. It shows how international and collaborations, such as between SSPS at Sydney and Wits University, can move quickly to avert a crisis and address international concerns. The 30,000 teachers trained in a few short months is but the start of this revolution.

Teacher Choices in Action is funded through a South African Teaching and Learning Development Capacity Improvement Programme, part of the Teaching and Development Learning Sector Reform Contract, which is a partnership between South Africa's Department of Higher Education and Training and the European Union.

Learn more about Legitimation Code Theory:

- legitimationcodetheory.com/



The COVID crisis: Lessons learned, what next?

The 2020 Centre for International Security Studies Global Forum explores the impact of COVID-19 on geopolitics, human security and the environment.

Written by James Der Derian

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on all aspects of life. It has created new security challenges, inflamed old ones, and exposed inequality and instability in the global system. This year, the Global Forum considers the COVID crisis through the lens of the Centre for International Security Studies' (CISS) research areas, exploring the pandemic through a series of webinars on regional security, human security, ecosecurity and nuclear risk.

History is a necessary reminder that pandemics are fundamentally human tragedies. Everyone is at risk – but not equally so. Political, economic, racial, gendered

and other demographic factors can mitigate, as well as elevate, risk and fear factors, making the COVID-19 pandemic a security issue that transgresses geopolitical boundaries and traverses discrete levels of analysis.

COVID-19 has revalorised the concept of 'human security', first characterized in 1994 by the United Nations as 'a child who did not die, a disease that did not spread, a job that was not cut, an ethnic tension that did not explode in violence, a dissident who was not silenced.'

Yet almost every international institution and nation state has been deficient in stopping the spread of the disease.

Dissidents were and continue to be silenced; jobs have been lost at levels not seen since the second world war; violence has continued unabated or simmers under the surface, threatening civil and global conflict; and in too many parts of the world, children are dying from the virus or as a result of overburdened healthcare systems and inadequate food supplies.

If the question of security is ultimately about what makes us safe, then the COVID-19 pandemic has thrown into high relief the failure – with a few notable exceptions – of both states and international institutions to keep us safe. Indeed, in too many instances, decisions made – or more frequently, not made – by security regimes at the national as well as international level have made matters worse before making them better.

In other areas, COVID-19 has highlighted similar failures of states, global institutions and organisations to adequately respond to the challenges of a pandemic.

Experts have warned for decades of the risks posed to human health by ongoing environmental degradation and global inaction on climate change. Existing tensions between global superpowers have been pushed to the brink, as the US slides into chaos and China finds itself increasingly geopolitically isolated.

“The doomsday clock remains set at 100 seconds to midnight, representing the most heightened level of nuclear risk since WWII, and all the while conspiracy theories abound, fostered by online networks and spread uncontrollably across social media platforms.”

If these are some of the lessons learned, then what comes next? For many on the upward slope of the curve or deep into the second surge, the question might seem premature if not inappropriate. But not to ask now could well consign us to an interpandemic period of indeterminate duration.

The challenge is to flatten and securitise COVID-19 without falling into the ‘sovereignty trap’, in which states tighten and thicken borders, engage in ‘vaccine nationalism’ and blame other states for the pandemic. In pursuit of human security for a post-COVID future, CISS will continue to make the Global Forum a critical space to explore new thinking and effective global policies.

Catch up on the Global Forum series

The COVID-19 crisis: Lessons learned, what next?

The first webinar in the series, moderated by James Der Derian, featured members from each of the CISS research programs – Justin Hastings, Roy MacLeod, Brendon O’Connor, Susan Park and Aim Sinpeng – in a discussion about the geopolitical, cybersecurity, environmental and biological risks of COVID-19.

China on the march?

Moderated by Justin Hastings (CISS regional security research lead) and featuring Salvatore Babones, Minglu Chen, Simon Reay Atkinson and Tom Wilkins, the regional security webinar questioned how the COVID-19 pandemic will affect China’s position as a rising global power.

Human security and global anti-racism

Prompted by the police shooting of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter protests in the USA and around the world, this webinar was hosted by James Der Derian and featured Anthony Bogues (Brown University), John Phillip Santos (University of San Antonio, Texas) and Lisa Jackson-Pulver (Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and Services, USYD).

Ecosecurity threats and challenges: COVID-19 and beyond

With the west coast of the USA engulfed by flames, Susan Park (CISS ecosecurity research lead) led a conversation with Robert MacNeil, Matt McDonald (UQ), Lorraine Elliot (ANU) and Simon Dalby (Balsillie School of International Affairs) about the interaction between COVID-19 and the environmental crisis.

The pandemic-nuclear nexus: COVID-19, nuclear war and disarmament

Facilitated by James Der Derian and CISS affiliate Peter Hayes, this webinar featured Allan Behm (The Australia Institute), Lynn Eden (Stanford University), David Legge (La Trobe University) and Vivian Lin (Hong Kong University) in a discussion about the intersection of COVID-19 and global nuclear risk.



Rethinking justice

5 steps for taking multispecies justice beyond the ideal.

We are in the midst of a fossil-fueled climate disaster. The Black Summer bushfires that raged across Australia laid waste to communities, ecosystems, and billions of nonhuman beings and relationships. The primary motivation of the work of the Multispecies Justice Collective (MSJ) at the University of Sydney is that this reality is neither a natural disaster nor a tragedy, but an injustice – albeit an injustice that cannot be contained by standard notions of that concept.

The impacts of these and other ecological disasters generated by industrialization and capitalism demand an approach to, and practice of justice that can encompass and respond to the destruction of multispecies lifeways.

Made up of scholars from around the globe, and led by School of Social and Political Sciences scholars based at the Sydney Environment Institute, the MSJ Collective seeks to understand the types of relationships humans ought to cultivate with more-than-human beings to

produce just outcomes, setting a global agenda for research in the field. For the 30th anniversary issue of the journal *Environmental Politics*, the Collective comprised of Danielle Celermajer, David Schlosberg, Lauren Rickards, Makere Stewart-Harawira, Mathias Thaler, Petra Tschakert, Blanche Verlie and Christine Winter, came together to identify the challenges that come with rethinking a core plank of liberal theory and politics. They distilled their thoughts into 5 key areas:

1. Radically rethinking the subject of justice

The first step for a theory of multispecies justice is simply to redefine the subject of justice away from the individual human being. Multispecies justice affirms the simple ecological reality that humans exist within a larger array of material relationships. The idea of human beings as separate, unique and morally privileged is a longstanding and damaging misconception in justice theory. We argue for human and nonhuman animals, species, microbiomes, ecosystems, oceans, and rivers

– and the relations among and across them – to all be considered subjects of justice. If injustice is about limits on our ability to function, injustice seen through this multispecies lens focuses on the human interruptions of the functioning of this broad array of relations.

2. The grounds and role of recognition

One of the important developments in justice theory in recent decades has been the move beyond a sole focus on distribution, to the role of recognition and oppression to understand the ‘whys’ of the real inequalities in the world. When applied to more than-human subjects of justice, recognition illuminates the systematic and relational nature of deprivation and oppression. A multispecies approach focuses on misrecognition not just as an affront to individual humans, but as a larger injury to the status of broader ecological relationships brought on through domination, nonrecognition, and disrespect.

These status injuries to ecological systems and the subjects within them are part of the routine operation of corporate, extractive, and governmental logics, policies, and practices. Overcoming the damage will demand numerous shifts in the ways that the broader world and human immersion in it is recognised theoretically, culturally, and legally.

3. Knowing, communicating, and evoking recognition

MSJ must develop ways to interpret the experiences and interests of different beings in a way that makes them obvious for human institutions. This will require continuous efforts to engage with radically different ways of knowing and being. Once we suspend assumptions about what counts as communication, it becomes glaringly obvious that the ecological realm offers very loud statements: extinctions, fires, droughts, fish die-offs, ocean heatwaves, and more.

4. Deconstructing and decolonizing liberal hegemony

A multispecies focus is not new – there are longstanding ways of understanding human and ecological systems with multispecies respect and engagement. Many Indigenous philosophies understand the more-than-human world as animated, agential, relational and deserving of rights, justice and respect. The disrespect shown to these Indigenous philosophies has been a central part of the colonial enterprise. The work of recasting justice to include the more-than-human needs to be understood as self-consciously decolonizing and deconstructive of limited, imposed, liberal ways of (mis) understanding the world.

5. Challenges with institutionalising multispecies justice

Theory is one thing, but a key challenge is the actual implementation and institutionalisation of a broader multispecies approach to justice. Even as we see the beginning of the formal recognition of the personhood and rights of some beings other than humans – from apes to rivers – the risk is that the thinking and interests that create and support systematic injustice will be retained, even if softened in some ways. MSJ will have to be at the forefront of imagining and attempting political forms and experiments sufficiently capacious to encompass the radical diversity amongst human and other than human beings, and support their ways of making and understanding relationships.

A basic democratic principle is that those affected by a policy or action should have a say in the decision-making process. Currently, most human decisions exclude a wide range of the affected. There are current forms of institutional recognition (via legal proxies, environmental impact reports or environmental defenders) that mark an important move against the structural exclusion of other-than-human beings from claims to justice. The danger here is that this disrespects others’ distinct ways of being – extending personhood may be subtly but insidiously preserving a human bias. MSJ must design forms of institutional inclusion of the affected as they live and experience injustice.

Taking multispecies justice beyond the ideal

Realising MSJ will require building coalitions beyond multi-disciplinary scholarly communities and movement groups already committed to animal and environmental rights, to encompass learning from the increasing intersectional efforts of environmental, climate, and Indigenous justice movements.

The litmus test for the work scholars do in developing the conception of MSJ must be its capacity to help us (humans) more ethically navigate the real world we face – one of unprecedented disasters, mass deaths, species extinctions, and the full corpus of impacts of the realities of our current social, ecological, and climate emergencies. In the face of losses that cannot be reversed and changing ecosystems, we cannot afford to allow MSJ to remain an idealist notion.

Read the full journal article, *Multispecies justice: theories, challenges, and a research agenda for environmental politics*:

– bit.ly/multispecies-journal

Can we uphold environmental rights in international development?

Susan Park's new book explores the issues with international development financing, and alternative options that protect the rights of communities and the environment.

In my latest book *Environmental Recourse at the Multilateral Development Banks*, I probe the increasing use of what are known as international grievance mechanisms in international development financing. While this may seem niche, it really gets to the heart of how we could resolve or pre-empt environmental conflicts, which are on the rise around the world.

protect their environmental rights, and the rights of nature?

Potential harms from international development

Since the 1980s, environmental and social standards have emerged and strengthened for private and public development funders. In the 1990s, locally affected communities and concerned environmental

local communities, which has led to the creation of international mechanisms to mediate between MNCs, IOs, and locally affected communities.

Do international grievance mechanisms provide enough protection?

International grievance mechanisms are processes which seek to provide recourse for locally affected communities. These can be quite disparate processes, from industry associations like the Fair Trade Association, to MNC specific recourse processes as enacted by Adidas, to the Inspection Panel of the World Bank.

In the book, I parse out the underlying normative underpinnings of these international grievance mechanisms, which either hew to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, for the private sector or the environmental and social standards established by the World Bank and used for multilateral and bilateral lending.

While the proliferation of international grievance mechanisms is laudable, they are not legal processes and therefore are not enforceable. They provide recourse but are not held to providing a remedy for the harm.

Independent accountability mechanisms and environmental recourse

As a result of this lack of transparency, the Multilateral Development Banks established a subset of grievance mechanisms called the 'independent accountability mechanisms' (IAMs), which enable us to examine whether or not communities can have recourse to uphold their environmental rights.



In short, international development financing seeks to provide developing states with funding for projects for things like generating energy, building telecommunications, and infrastructure to address poverty and improve peoples' lives. Yet development projects may have dramatic and irreversible environmental and social impacts.

So, given large but variable flows of private direct foreign assistance, and ongoing financing through official development assistance and multilateral financing, what are the available options to communities to

NGO's pushed for recourse mechanisms to mediate the power of Multinational Corporations (MNCs) and international organisations (IOs) like the World Bank around environmental and social harm.

Concerns over loss of land, livelihoods, and lives, species extinction, irreparable damage to local ecosystems, and a breakdown in social cohesion are all potential harms from international development projects. Many developing states often favour the right to exploit natural resources and labour over the concerns of

In the book, I look at the environmental procedural rights that are increasingly being recognised not only in the UN Guiding Principles and implicitly in the World Bank's environmental and social standards but in regional UN treaties: the right to access to information, access to participation, and access to justice in environmental matters.

My first aim was to see whether or not communities were actually invoking recourse for these rights, and, given the people centred nature of these mechanisms, whether or not they were also trying to use them to defend nature in and of itself.

So, I analysed 394 original claims by locally affected people to see if they were invoking these rights. 49% of claims wanted recourse for a failure to be informed of the developments in their communities, and 54% identified a lack of access to participate in the decision making process that affects them. A further 27% of claims were concerned with the impact of the development on the environment as independent of people's reliance on it (such as species and habitat loss).

Upholding Access to Justice

Were peoples' access to justice upheld in the process? I drew on a database I created of all known submissions to the IAMs (1,052 claims from 1994 to mid-2019), to examine what happened when people went through the process of seeking recourse for a failure to uphold these rights.

Here is where it gets interesting. The mechanisms have dual functions, allowing people to meet with the project sponsors and financiers to discuss how to address the harm (called problem solving), or to ask the mechanism to investigate

whether it was the Banks omissions or acts that led to environmental and social harm (compliance investigation).

While the book demonstrates how the processes work in a generally just manner, it also shows that the problem-solving function can only work if it is in the interests of claimants, the Bank, the government, and/or the project sponsor (for non-sovereign loans). This leads to a high rate of unsuccessful outcomes from communities attempting to engage directly with the Banks and project sponsors.

In using the compliance investigation function, the mechanisms have found the Banks non-compliant with their environmental and social protection standards, showing a willingness of the IAMs to reveal Bank wrong-doing leading to harm. Moreover, the IAMs have increasingly been given power to monitor the Banks to bring them back into compliance.

Ultimately however, the mechanisms enable people to air their grievances, without necessarily solving their problems. Moreover, we have little indication that the rights of nature can be protected within such processes, which means more work is needed to find methods to protect a threatened planet.

Environmental Recourse at the Multilateral Development Banks is now available via Cambridge University Press:

- bit.ly/Multilateral-development



Professor Susan Park

Susan Park is a postgraduate coordinator for the Department of Government and International Relations. Her key research areas include international relations, global environmental politics, international organisations and global governance, environmental advocacy, and international economic organisations.



Two overlooked ways to boost the economy

Enhanced investment in care industries like education and health will simultaneously help women and the economy, Associate Professor Elizabeth Hill finds.

Written by Loren Smith

A new analysis has revealed two policy levers that could be pulled to aid Australia's flailing economy: investment in social infrastructure such as education, health and care, and greater subsidies for early childhood education and care. If implemented, these policies would boost employment and improve gender inequalities in the labour market.

Undertaken by Associate Professor Elizabeth Hill from the University of Sydney's Department of Political Economy, the analysis notes that women have been disproportionately economically affected by the pandemic, as they are over-represented in lower-paid, insecure and casual jobs.

"Women's employment has been hardest hit, contracting by 7.4 percent between February and May

2020, compared with 5.6 percent for men. This equates to 457,000 jobs lost by women," Associate Professor Hill said.

"We expect this pattern to deepen amid the prolonged economic downturn.

"Implementing policies that address circumstances predominantly faced by women will therefore benefit the economy at large."

As part of the analysis, published by the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA), Associate Professor Hill proposes two strategies for economic recovery that reflect the contemporary structure of the economy; generate maximum employment outcomes per investment dollar, and include women.

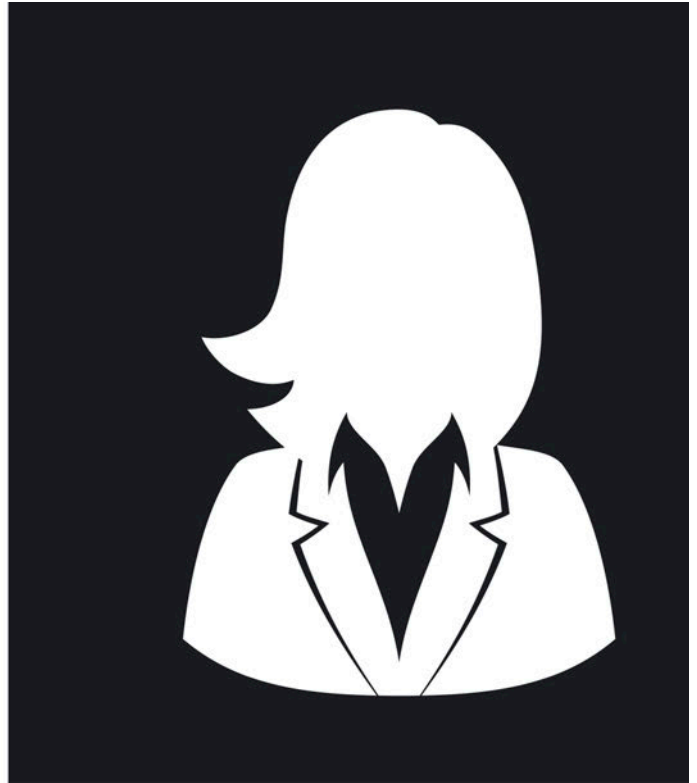
Nearly five care profession employees created for every construction worker

While economic stimulus has traditionally focused on large-scale physical infrastructure projects (which largely employ men), new research shows that there are more employment-intensive and gender equitable forms of stimulus.

For example, a study of seven OECD countries shows that public investment equal to 1 percent of GDP in labour intensive care industries generates more total employment than investment in construction.

If applied to the Australian market, it is estimated that this employment ratio would be nearly five to one.

"This is not to suggest that stimulus should not be made in construction; only that government should take a



more balanced approach to fiscal policy,” Associate Professor Hill said.

More investment in early childhood education and care a ‘triple win’

“Affordable early childhood education and care (ECEC) is critical for the economy at all times, but especially now. This was demonstrated by the government’s free childcare package – introduced in April, but now prematurely ended,” Associate Professor Hill said.

“There is particular concern that where the out-of-pocket cost of ECEC for families facing unemployment or significant economic insecurity remains high, it will be women who forgo employment and undertake child and other care duties.”

“Results from initial surveys by the sector confirm this possibility and suggest current ECEC policy will not support a dynamic and gender inclusive economic recovery.”

Associate Professor Hill argues that greater investment in ECEC is a “triple-win” strategy that will:

- generate billions of dollars in national wealth and boost GDP while supporting women’s employment;
- increase demand for the sector’s services, creating more jobs; and
- allow for universal access, promoting all children’s education, wellbeing and life chances.

Where to from here

“These strategies do not stand alone,” Associate Professor Hill said.

“They must be supported by two further measures: women’s inclusion in recovery planning leadership, and gendered employment analyses of all recovery policy options, including the impact of policy on unpaid work.”

“Unpaid work must be included given its massive contribution to economic growth and productivity. Failure to do so will distort policy making.”

Committee for Economic Development of Australia, read the paper:

- bit.ly/gender-inequality-ceda

International relations goes quantum

5 emerging themes which challenge our classical understanding of the world around us.

Written by Clare Hodgson

Project Q recently released its special issue of Security Dialogue titled Quantizing International Relations: The Case for Quantum Approaches to International Theory and Security Practice. Co-edited by James Der Derian (University of Sydney) and Alexander Wendt (Ohio State University) the issue is the result of years of collaborative international research.

As quantum perspectives in the social sciences gain traction, here are five emerging themes which challenge our classical understanding of the world around us.

Technology

The realm of quantum mechanics is closely guarded by physicists. But the development of quantum technologies has real world security implications that require scrutiny and input from social scientists who understand that scientific advances extend well beyond disciplinary siloes.

We need look no further than nuclear fission to realise why it is important to consider the alternative uses of new technologies. What are the international security implications of an accelerating race to build the world's first quantum systems for computing, communications, control and artificial intelligence? And are policy, governance, security and legal considerations keeping up?

Media

In our increasingly interconnected world, the entire human population is entangled like never before. One tweet, one video shared online, can prompt protests around the world; with subsequent events shaped by social media and networked online actors.

The observer effect described by quantum mechanics is becoming more and more evident in society, as the 24 hour media cycle and relentless online activity flattens the potential for nuanced discussion or resolution to issues.

With work progressing towards a quantum internet, the world is facing significant transformations in the nature, production and distribution of power and knowledge.

Hype

Technology hype is nothing new. Every time a new iPhone is released diehards are queuing around the block to be the first to own the new technology.

However, the interaction between hype and national security is rarely scrutinised. What happens when hype around a new technology begins to inform international relations and defence policy? What possibilities and alternatives are closed off when decisions are made as a consequence of hype instead of reality?

Quantum computers, communications and sensors are some of the most hyped emerging technologies of the moment, with significant consequences for how global powers, decisionmakers and corporations perceive the risks and possibilities of these technologies.

Economics

Is money a quantum system? Whether banknotes or bitcoin, money combines the abstract properties of numbers with the tangible properties of owned objects to represent an idea of worth or value.

The dualistic nature of money reflects the wave-particle duality of quantum physics and can therefore be considered as a quantum system scaled up to the global level. Quantum economics provides an alternative view of money and global finance, with implications for international relations and security.

A new way of seeing the world

The case for quantum mechanics operating at the macro level is growing. Observable in human behaviour, societal trends and global phenomena, a quantum perspective allows new insights into international relations, world politics and global systems.

But it also poses a fundamental challenge to what we know about ourselves and the world around us. With the support of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Project Q continues to bring the leading thinkers and practitioners together to grapple with these ideas and shape the path forward.

Project Q is an initiative of the Centre for International Security Studies, led by Professor James Der Derian. An expanded collected volume of essays, to be published by the Oxford University Press, and a feature-length documentary film, *Project Q: War, Peace and Quantum Mechanics*, will appear in 2021.

Read the special issue of *Security Dialogue in Quantizing International Relations*:

- bit.ly/Quantizing-IR



Professor James Der Derian

James Der Derian is the Michael Hintze Chair of International Security Studies and Director of the Centre for International Security Studies. His research and teaching interests are in international security, information technology, international theory, and documentary film.

His most recent documentary, *Project Z: The Final Global Event* (co-produced with Phillip Gara), premiered at the 2012 DOK Leipzig Film Festival.

A truly global social justice degree

Written by Danielle Celermajer and Parvez Pirzado

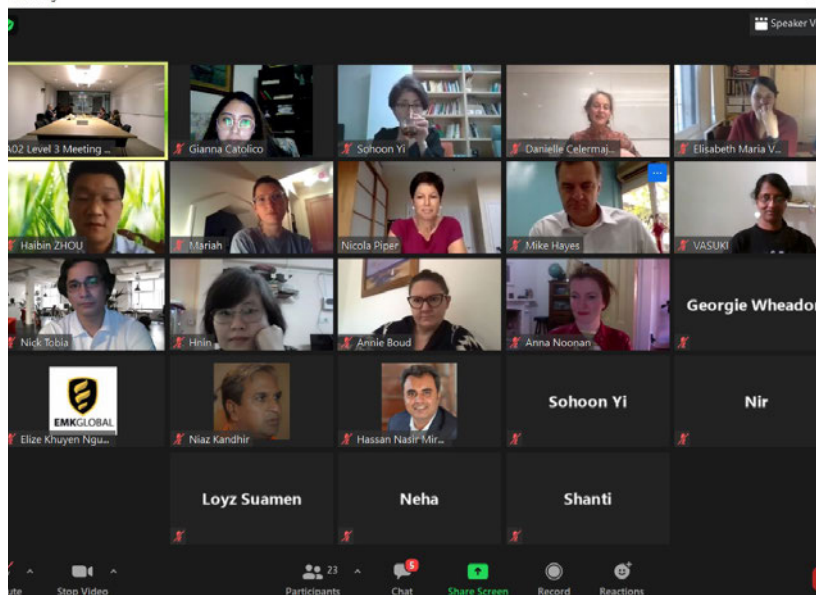


Photo: The Asia Pacific Masters Alumni Association members during annual get together.

The Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (Asia Pacific) was launched in July 2010 with the support of an unprecedented EURO 1.5 million grant to the University of Sydney from the European Union.

The program was designed to develop the capacity of emerging leaders in the Asia Pacific region to conduct original, impactful and rigorous research on human rights and democratisation, as well as to work as critical and effective advocates.

With the University of Sydney as the lead, working in partnership with four partner universities in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Indonesia, the program enabled students to study in two countries and interact with fellow students from nations right across the region – from mainland China through to the Solomon Islands.

In 2016, Mahidol University in Thailand took over as the lead partner, but Sydney has retained a keen interest in the program and progress of graduates.

In July, the Asia Pacific Masters Alumni Association (APMAA), an association formed by graduates, organised a ten-year anniversary event, bringing together alumni from around the world to discuss their careers and achievements since graduation.

The APMAA regularly host events and operate as a site for networking, sharing information and ideas. What we have learned about the trajectories of the 200 alumni members is that they have made their mark in a broad range of sectors and industry areas.

Some of our graduates are working in national human rights commissions, research organisations and NGOs,

while others have become human rights and democracy academics across the region.

These graduates can be found working across various aspects of human rights protection – modern slavery, gender-based violence, human rights education, refugee rights, democratisation, and peace initiatives.

At the 10-year anniversary event, several of our alumni shared their stories.

Founding President of the APMAA, Niaz Nadim (M.H.R.D Asia Pacific '12) has worked with various organisations in the field of democratisation and advocacy, and is currently with WaterAid.

"I joined the MHRD program as an early mid-career professional. After completing the degree, I was able to move into senior level and leadership

positions with a number of national and international organisations. I attribute much of my success to the exposure, experience and learning acquired through the program, which was unique and the first of its kind in my field of work,” said Niaz.

After completing his Masters, Haibin Zhou (M.H.R.D Asia Pacific '13) took up a position in disability rights with the International Labor Organisation in China, and then created a social enterprise to build greater employment opportunities for people living with disabilities in China.

“The degree reshaped and expanded my understanding of human rights, and it helped me think about how I can make concrete and on-the-ground contributions through human right practices in China,” explained Haibin.

“My fellow students also gave me the encouragement, confidence and energy to believe that I could effect change and solve any difficulties faced in making Chinese society a freer and more equal place.”

Meanwhile, Mariah Grant (M.H.R.D Asia Pacific '13), APMAA's current Secretary is based in Washington DC where she is working as the Director of Research, Organizing and Advocacy for the Sex Workers Project at the Urban Justice Center.

Parvez Pirzado (M.H.R.D Asia Pacific '13), the sitting President of APMAA is undertaking doctoral research on human rights education in Pakistani schools at the University of Technology, Sydney.

Laura McManus (BA GlobalStds '10 M.H.R.D Asia Pacific '12) is a Human Rights Manager with Woolworths Australia; her role involves ensuring that all forms of slavery are removed from supply chains.

“The MHRD program is the cornerstone of my human rights career; through critical debates among our diverse international cohort, to practical simulations and field-based research, I learned how to interrogate, apply and build a culture of human rights across different disciplines and institutions,” said Laura.

The success stories of each of these graduates demonstrate what can happen when universities invest in innovative programs and provide the intellectual resources and opportunities for people who are passionate about a field to learn together and flourish.

Reflecting on the program, the founding director, Professor Danielle Celermajer remarked: “What I did not anticipate – until we received our first applications – was that the people who would come into this program would bring with them not only a profound commitment to human rights issues, but also a tremendous openness to the world, to the task before us and to each other”.

Grants

ARC Discovery Projects

Professor Sujatha Fernandes received \$228,435 in funding for her research project, *Migrant Worlds: Labouring Lives and Worker Consciousness in Global Cities*.

Professor Karl Maton, A/Professor Sarah Howard, A/Professor Philip Roberts, Professor Christian Ritz, Professor Jie Yang and Dr Yaegan Doran were awarded \$467,340 for their project, *Building on Rural Knowledges to Unlock the Potential of Rural Students*.

Dr Sarah Cameron and colleagues, Professor Ian McAllister, Dr Jill Sheppard and Professor Simon Jackman received \$443,218 for research into *Political Trust and Satisfaction with Democracy in Australia*.

ARC Linkage Projects

A/Professor Lynne Chester and Dr Amanda Elliot were awarded \$257,156 for their project, *Solar solutions to improve energy affordability for low-income renters*.

ARC Special Research Initiatives

Professor Martijn Konings, Professor Lisa Adkins, and Dr Dallas Rogers from the School of Architecture, Design and Planning, have been awarded \$241,000 for their project *Inequality in Australia: Housing in the Asset Society*.

A/Professor Anika Gauja and her team were awarded \$262,359 for *Transforming Democracy in the Bush: A Study of Politics in Rural Australia*.

ARC Industrial Transformation Research Hubs

Professor Alex Broom and Professor Lyn Gilbert from the Marie Bashir Institute have received funding from the NHMRC for a Research Hub to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance. The collaborative project focuses on exploring the experiences of frontline healthcare workers in the context of COVID-19.

Department of Defence Strategic Policy Grant

Dr Aim Sinpeng and Professor Justin Hastings, and Dr Nitin Argawal (University of Arkansas) received \$100,000 from the Department of Defence to strengthen Australia's ability to identify and intercept information warfare.

Misinformation and Polarization Facebook Research Grant

Dr Denis Stukal and Dr Aim Sinpeng, along with their colleague Deborah Barros Leal Farias from UNSW, have been awarded a research grant from Facebook for their project *Unpacking Trust and Bias in Social Media News in Developing Countries*.

The Korea Foundation Policy Orientation Research Program

Professor Justin Hastings, Professor Jingdong Yuan and Professor James Reilly received USD\$35,000 funding from The Korea Foundation for their research into *Leveraging North Korea's knowledge networks for denuclearization and engagement*.

Independent Research Fund of Denmark

A/Professor Alexandre Lefebvre is partner investigator on a successful grant administered by the University of Copenhagen on research relating to *Vital Politics: Rethinking Normativity in the Anthropocene*.

Fellowships and awards

ARC Future Fellowships

A/Professor Sarah Phillips was awarded an ARC Future Fellowship to explore how people living in conflict affected areas tend to understand local terrorist groups in profoundly different ways to international counterterrorism practitioners, and the frictions that this creates. The project is expected to generate new approaches to conceptualising violent extremism and will create two PhD scholarships for students from conflict-affected states or refugee backgrounds to study international security at the University of Sydney.

A/Professor Holly High was awarded an ARC Future Fellowship to examine lessons from reproductive health policy rollout in Laos. It expects to generate new knowledge of core values in Laos, including those underpinning official treatment of children as human capital, difference as deprivation, and mother-and-child biomedical care as universal, as well as the (counter-)values lived in rural and remote practices, knowledge and sentiments.

ARC Discovery Early Career Research Award

Dr Gareth Bryant will be investigating new spaces of fiscal policy that treat public spending as an investment rather than a cost in *The asset state: Comparing new models for financing public investment*. He will explore different ways of funding higher education, social housing and renewable energy in Australia and the UK. The project aims to better understand the emerging 'asset state' and the opportunities and risks this creates for financing public investment.

NATO 2021 Partners Across the Globe Research Fellowships

Dr Gorana Grgic will be based at the NATO Defence College in Rome where she will be working on a project that interrogates the role of global partnerships under the NATO 2030 vision. She will examine the recently set agenda of making the alliance more "political" and "global". Gorana has proposed a typology for analysis of global partnerships and identifies opportunities and risks that need to be considered in furthering NATO's global partnerships. The project will also apply these insights in considering NATO-Australia relations moving forward.

Laurance S Rockefeller Visiting Fellowship

A/Professor Alex Lefebvre was awarded a Laurance S Rockefeller Visiting Fellowship for 2020-21 with the Center for Human Values at Princeton University.

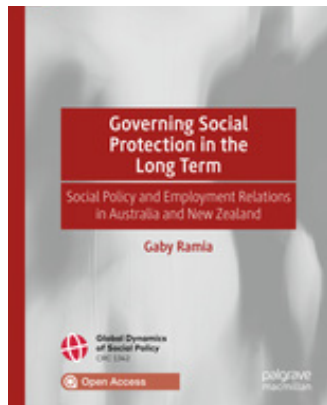
Australian Political Studies Association (APSA) Awards

A/Professor Sarah Phillips was awarded the Crisp Prize for her book, *When There Was No Aid: War and Peace in Somaliland*, which challenges longstanding presumptions about violence and poverty in the global South.

Professor Rodney Smith received the Academic Leadership in Political Science Award, for his unfailing support of colleagues as well as his longstanding involvement on the APRA Executive.

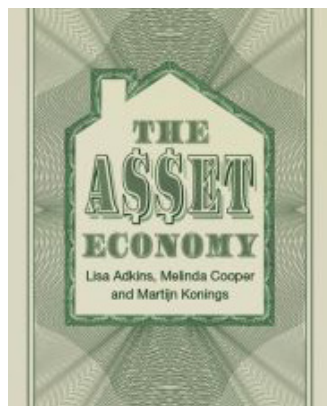
Dr Jenna Price (PhD '18) was presented the PhD Thesis Prize for her thesis titled, *Destroying the joint: a case study of feminist digital activism in Australia and its account of fatal violence against women*. The panel described her research as "a well-crafted study of online feminist activism in Australia, with relevant contributions to theory, practice and policy".

Selected books



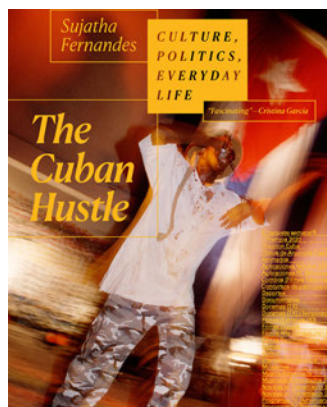
Governing Social Protection in the Long Term – Associate Professor Gaby Ramia

Governing Social Protection in the Long Term examines the comparative evolution of social protection in Australia and New Zealand from 1890 to the present day, focusing on the relationship between employment relations and social policy. Utilising longstanding and more recent developments in historical institutionalist methodology, Ramia investigates the relationship between these two policy domains in the context of social protection theory.



The Asset Economy – Professor Lisa Adkins, Associate Professor Melinda Cooper and Professor Martijn Konings

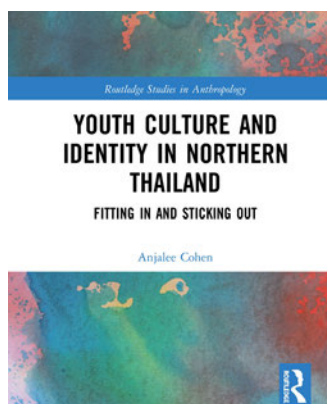
Lisa Adkins, Melinda Cooper and Martijn Konings argue that the rise of the asset economy has produced a new logic of inequality. Several decades of property inflation have seen asset ownership overshadow employment as a determinant of class position. Exploring the impact of generational dynamics in this new class landscape, the book advances an original perspective on a range of phenomena that are widely debated but poorly understood – including the growth of wealth inequalities and precarity, the dynamics of urban property inflation, changes in fiscal and monetary policy and the predicament of the “millennial” generation.



The Cuban Hustle: Culture, Politics, Everyday Life – Professor Sujatha Fernandes

In *The Cuban Hustle*, Sujatha Fernandes explores the multitudinous ways artists, activists, and ordinary Cubans have hustled to survive and express themselves in the aftermath of the Soviet Union’s collapse.

Throughout these essays, Fernandes examines the emergence of dynamic youth cultures and social movements as Cuba grappled with economic collapse, new digital technologies, the normalization of diplomatic ties with the United States during the Obama administration, and the regression of US-Cuban relations in the Trump era.



Youth Culture and Identity in Northern Thailand: Fitting in and Sticking Out – Dr Anjalee Cohen

Youth Culture and Identity in Northern Thailand examines how young people in urban Chiang Mai construct an identity at the intersection of global capitalism, state ideologies, and local culture.

Drawing on over 15 years of ethnographic research, the book explores the impact of rapid urbanisation and modernisation on contemporary Thai youth, focusing on conspicuous youth subcultures, drug use (especially methamphetamine use), and violent youth gangs.

For more information

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