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Compiled and edited by: Abhishek Kashyap

Contributors: Danielle Aiken, Elise Blight, Tulika Dubey, Terence Fairclough,
Michelle Kelly, Lilly Moody, Yinghua Yu and Flora Zhong

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Cover image: London, cycle hire scheme, near the School of Oriental and African Studies, SOAS, 2019

Opposite page image: Berlin Wall, Germany, a portrait of Andrej Sacharov,
creator of the Hydrogen Bomb, who later became a peace activist, 2018

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INTRODUCTION



Johannesburg, South Africa, where ICS is working
with the University of Johannesburg and other
partners - Metropolis Congress gala evening, 2018

ICS Director's Foreword



The Institute for Culture and Society (ICS) is one of those rare research bodies that has taken questions concerning knowledge as foundational to its work. We are interested in changes in knowledge formation, production, communication, translation, and governance — in summary, in understanding how changes in knowledge practices affect social life. Here, the interwoven concepts of 'knowledge as practice' and 'culture as the domain of meaning' are knitted into the fabric of our work. It names our annual Knowledge/Culture conference series, for example.

The Institute has for a number of years now, addressed the question of knowledge as one of a number of core concerns. This is named in our manifesto (see below). But there, complex and abiding issues are condensed into one simple sentence: 'A key concern for the Institute is to address the increasingly problematic and uncertain status of knowledge in the contemporary world as a consequence of the increasing complexity of culture and society, including the rise of digital technologies.' Given its consequence, it is worth elaborating this a little.

Our concern with knowledge-practices is part of a larger emphasis on what we call 'engaged research'. For research to make an engaged difference, we suggest that the integrity of knowledge practices needs to be addressed directly and in a principled way,¹ rather than either treated as a taken-for-granted background feature of intellectual work or relegated to acts of occasional ethics process compliance. In earlier times, it was possible to carry on regardless — just doing good thinking, writing, analysing, and criticising. Now, the assault on the integrity of research and the meaning of knowledge has reached such an intensity as to require a more reflexive response, particularly in the context of 'post-truth' debates over the future of the planet.

The issues are compounding and long-term. And there are no easy responses. The first trend is that knowledge production

has become increasingly *rationalised*. This can be a positive process. However, by being increasingly enacted through one-dimensional techniques of abstract accounting, from measuring risk to setting up calibrated mechanisms for assessing research performance, it has come to dominate *why* we do things. Like all research institutes, we now tentatively welcome performativity measures, especially when they tell us that we are getting 'better' at what we do. The Institute for Culture and Society has moved from half of our core fields of research in 2015 — cultural studies, human geography, sociology, and communications — registering as 'above world standard' to all of our core fields now being in this category. ICS research teams were the basis of two out of the three projects that registered at the highest level for Western Sydney University in the latest ARC Engagement and Impact Assessment round. We celebrate these 'performance outcomes'. But at the same time, they need to be treated with careful reservation.

Related to this, the publishing industry has — in tandem with universities — had to rationalise its own knowledge-production techniques and industrial relations in order to survive in an extraordinarily competitive marketplace. Open-access publishers, both rapacious 'pirate' and benevolent 'respected', exist alongside those whose primary concern is intellectual debate, — with all increasingly

¹ See Foundational Essay 1: Engaged Research on our website: https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/ics/about/foundational_essays
Foundational essays are our attempt to write about what is important to our work and how we go about it.

status-oriented. This relates to the second major trend, commodification. The reach of abstracted commodified value has intensified in every area of social life — and academic research and scholarly publishing are no exception. Now, because of these first two trends, where we publish sometimes becomes a vexatious issue. Why and where we choose to publish is always an issue, but now the questions are compounded.

With these two processes, even our long beloved concept of 'engaged research' is, in some quarters, being reduced to the act of working as a consultant to industry and government. Consultancy can be a perfectly honourable profession; it can also be a templated way of making money. But positively engaged research involves so much more. Simultaneously, the aligned concept of 'evidence-based policy' has taken a battering as consultants are increasingly employed to either derive the 'right answers' or to legitimate self-evident conclusions. Consultancy has become big business. The NSW Auditor General recently found that, over a period of five years, the NSW government spent *at least* \$1.4 billion (nobody actually knows exactly how much) on the top 20 advisory services, with \$1.2 billion of that going to the biggest six consultancy corporations.

Third, knowledge production has become increasingly *codified*. Computers have facilitated a change that goes much deeper than simply making information quicker to communicate or easier to access. Just as the technologies of computerised information storage have become simultaneously taken for granted or deferred to meteorological metaphors — the cloud — the dominant understanding of knowledge has shrivelled to what has been proclaimed as 'useful information'. As Liam Magee and Ned Rossiter describe in their Foundational Essay in this *Annual Review*, our social world is becoming algorithmically driven. Algorithmic governance is already with us. It is already framing the front-lines of the production of knowledge and is remaking economies. It is affecting nation-states, corporations, and even the increasingly humble university. In this world, the giants of Amazon, Google, and Facebook meet the *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings and

Adobe Creative Cloud Education. And we in the universities have to make decisions about how best to respond. To be clear, universities are no longer the predominant producers of cutting-edge knowledge, and they have not been so for decades. This is a shocking fact, but given our capacity for producing independent work, it potentially makes our critical research all the more important.

Fourth, knowledge production has become increasingly *mediated* by technological apparatuses and techniques. More and more stuff is handled by computerized mediation systems. This relates to a fifth trend, technological *extension* as a dimension of the more general process of globalization. Through techniques and technologies of extension such as computerized communication, the production of knowledge has been linked across the world in a way that is as revolutionary in our time as the distribution of the printed word was in the period after Gutenberg. New forms of association and connection emerge, with their consequent impact upon self-fashioning and corporate or collective identity formation. Such configurations are producing radically different social practices and modes of being that confound common sense comprehension about what should be done or how we should live. Should schools use iPhones as pedagogical devices or ban them from the classroom? How will automation, including machine-based production of knowledge, transform the world of work that young people are entering? This is the planet with which different teams in ICS, from our Digital Life Program to our Young and Resilient Strategic Research Initiative, are grappling.

All of these trends require us as researchers to act in the world — paradoxically, competing in and against the 'marketplace of ideas' while working critically and independently with communities, governments, and businesses — not just thinking, writing, analysing, and criticising that world. The problem is not the metrics or even the deployment of algorithms as tools — they are often useful. The issue rather is that we face a coming automaticity of 'analysis'. This expresses itself as a shrewdly voiced timidity in speaking truth to power, and an increasing deferment of human interpretation to both the framing of the machine and the uninterrogated ideological

assumptions used to alternatively build the algorithms or sound bites.

Added to these trends, there is a sixth trend. It is the most perplexing of all. Knowledge production is becoming increasingly relativised. This process was in place long before Donald Trump began to use the concept of 'post-truth'. Just as evidence-based policy became skewed to providing evidence for what a policy-maker believes is electorally advantageous and fits their philosophy of social life, truth became increasingly a matter of perspective. 'Truth' increasingly depends upon where one stands. The late-nineteenth century phrase, 'lies, damned lies and statistics', now seems quaintly out of date in a world where we no longer know what truth means. All of this means that researchers — we — face manifold complexities with new levels of complexity. Realizing sensitive cultural intelligence will become more than just dealing with translation issues across divides of understanding or cultural difference. It will be central to our work for the coming period.

**Paul James
Director**



A close-up, profile view of a man with dark skin and dreadlocks, wearing a blue and white striped shirt. He is holding a white mobile phone to his ear. The background is softly blurred, showing warm, out-of-focus lights. In the bottom right corner, there is a decorative graphic consisting of a series of small, colored dots (blue, green, yellow) connected by thin lines, resembling a data trail or a stylized path.

Talking to an actual person. How human.

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Manifesto

The Institute for Culture and Society researches transformations in culture and society in the context of contemporary global change. It champions collaborative *engaged research* in the humanities and social sciences critically responding to a globalising digital age.

The Institute's engaged research is committed to making a positive difference in the world. It is engaged ethically and reciprocally with others. Our aim is to carry out innovative interdisciplinary research into continuities and transformations in culture and society in a way that contributes to understanding and shaping contemporary local and global life. This approach involves being reflexively engaged both with the world and in understanding the conditions and limits of its own knowledge practices.

The world today is undergoing change at an unprecedented scale and speed. Major global trends include global civilisational tensions, technological transformations, environmental crises, economic instabilities, geopolitical shifts, unprecedented transnational mobilities, and rampant urbanisation. These trends pose massive challenges for culture and society. They affect our ways of life and require far-reaching cultural action at local, national and global levels.

The Institute's research program speaks to these multidimensional problems and challenges. A key concern for the Institute is to address the increasingly problematic and uncertain status of knowledge in the contemporary world as a consequence of the increasing complexity of culture and society, including the rise of digital technologies.

ABOUT US

The Institute for Culture and Society (ICS) is the largest dedicated concentration of socio-cultural research in Australia. Located in Parramatta at Western Sydney University, the Institute is renowned for its evidence-based interdisciplinary research into culture and society in a transforming world. We champion collaborative engaged research in the critical humanities and social sciences, attuned to the power of digital technologies, the importance of changing economies and the impact of ecological crisis. Our research distinguishes itself by a recognition of the social complexity of the local and global challenges faced by organisations and communities. We aim to offer ways to navigate this complexity and provide the cultural intelligence needed to generate public engagement processes that can create positive change towards democracy and sustainability.

Institute members work in a broad range of fields including cultural studies, sociology, media and communication studies, human geography, anthropology, history, museum studies, heritage studies, and urban studies. The Institute's senior staff members comprise a unique group of renowned scholars including Ien Ang, Tony Bennett, Gay Hawkins, Greg Noble and Megan Watkins (cultural studies and cultural theory), Kay Anderson,

Katherine Gibson, Donald McNeill, Jamie Peck, and Deborah Stevenson (human geography and urban studies), Bob Hodge, Paul James, Brett Neilson and Manfred Steger (social theory and global studies), and Ned Rossiter and David Rowe (media and digital studies). ICS also has many others members at earlier stages in their research careers. All these scholars work with and across these disciplinary boundaries on questions of cultural and social change.

Our overall goal is to generate engaged research, characterised by excellence, capacity-building and long-term positive impact in the world.

Our regular Knowledge/Culture conference series is organized with partners globally: Sydney (2014) Hanoi (2015), Santiago (2017), and Lüneburg (2018). Keynote addresses have been given by scholars as diverse as Marisol de la Cadena, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Arturo Escobar, Eduardo Gudynas, Penny Harvey, Bruno Latour, Timothy Mitchell, Aihwa Ong, Nikolas Rose, and Erik Swyngedouw.

ABOUT OUR PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGED RESEARCH

Engaged research is an orientation to others, including those with whom we are researching and those who are involved in the area in which we are researching. This means that such a research sensibility carries all the weight of overlapping networks and groups of human relations. It also carries the weight of engagement with beings and entities beyond the human, including ecologies and objects in the world. If, as we are so often reminded, we are now living in the period of the Anthropocene when humans began to change the nature of nature, then these relationships matter a great deal, as one part of our engagement with the world.

Principle 1. Engaged research is developed through relations of reciprocity.

Principle 2. Engaged research is long-term and future-oriented, even as it begins with the present and takes seriously the constitutive importance of the past.

Principle 3. Engaged research is conducted in relation to lived places, recognising that places are stretched across various extensions of spatiality from the local to the global.

Principle 4. Engaged research works critically to understand the human condition, but it does so by working across the intersection of the social and the natural.

Principle 5. Engaged research seeks to work through difference rather than dissolve that difference.

Principle 6. Engaged research recognises that knowledge and enquiry is bound up with power and practice.

Principle 7. Engaged research is sensitive to the issue that methodological decisions have ethical and practical consequences, both for understanding and practicing in the world.

These principles are orientations for practice rather than inflexible injunctions. Meeting the terms of these principles does not mean that every project in our engaged research portfolio is characterised by all of the principles. It means rather that the researchers who are working with such an orientation attend to these principles as a broad sensibility of research, and that each of their projects is treated as part of a larger whole.

Strategic Initiatives

CIRCLES OF SUSTAINABILITY

How can we rethink questions of sustainability in such a way that enables positive, practical and integrated change in cities, communities and organisations?

The *Circles of Sustainability* initiative seeks to connect a rich and generalising theorisation of social sustainability to a series of practical engagements and projects. It responds to the emergence of the concept of 'sustainability' as a keyword of both academics and practitioners — which instantly means it is one of the most elusive terms in the public lexicon. At its base level, sustainability can be interpreted as the objective of minimising our ecological footprint while otherwise perpetuating current ways of life. Our approach instead takes on a much greater challenge. It asks, how can we think dynamically, dialectically, and practically about social practice in the context of the contradictory complications facing our social life today? The social is thus treated as a complex series of relations that operate through four integrated domains of ecology, economy, culture and the political. Originally developed in response to the reductive use of the Triple Bottom Line, more recently we have begun to connect with other conceptual frameworks, such as Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum's capabilities approach, and David Harvey's theories of the cosmopolitan. This in turn has helped us to develop more precise statements, methods and instruments as to how the framework can be operationalised in practice.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIES

What is enabled when the economy is represented as a heterogeneous series of lived practices — as opposed to a singularly capitalist, space?

The Community Economies Initiative works with a representation of a diverse (rather than a capitalist) economy and fosters economic experimentation premised on shared values, ethical practices and acknowledged interdependencies. This initiative is part of an international Community Economies Research Network (CERN) of over 210 members across 23 countries. It is co-ordinated by the Community Economies Collective, initially founded by J.K. Gibson-Graham in the 1990s. Research engagements include reappraising the resilience of community-based economic practices in South East Asia that have the potential to contribute to present-day climate-change adaptation; studying the capitalist and non-capitalist enterprise diversity of the Australian manufacturing sector as a contribution to highlighting production cultures with expressed social commitments, including to economic equity and ecological sustainability; exploring how diverse tenure systems and forms of co-operation can be used to address the housing crisis in metropolitan Australia and in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Community economies research is driving the theorisation of 'commoning' as an everyday act with potential to contribute to the kinds of social transformation called for in a climate-changing world.

YOUNG AND RESILIENT

The Young and Resilient Research Centre studies how to harness technology to explore the resilience of young people and their communities. Through collaborations with young people, government, private enterprise and the not-for-profit sector, the Centre aims to generate evidence and co-design technology-based strategies that can benefit the whole community. The Centre comprises a team of experts in a range of innovative social, cultural and digital research methods. It involves young people in peer research and youth participatory action research, and translate research into policy and practice at the local, national and global level.

At the heart of Young and Resilient is the Intergener8 Living Lab, which underpins our research programs. Through this innovation hub, we collaborate with our partners, young people and other researchers to co-design our programs and engage in novel, experimental and creative projects. Our youth-centred approach facilitates research and translation in fields where young people are regularly excluded, and our co-research methods work with and leverage diversity.

Our impact reverberates around the globe. Since 2010, we have conducted research in more than 60 countries, and our team has collaborated with 100+ organisations, covering 2,500+ young people. In addition, we have conducted over 50 innovative research projects.

Research Programs

CITIES AND ECONOMIES

How are cities and economies changing in response to global pressures and innovations?

Global pressures are reshaping the relations between cities and economies. The program draws on urban, economic, geographic, political, and cultural theory to understand how these relations are changing during a time of unprecedented environmental and technological transformation. Our research seeks to identify opportunities for meeting the needs of cities and their governing bodies by rethinking the idea of economies — in particular the way in which the capitalist economy tends to crowd out other economic practices that exist outside the field described by conventional economics. We are developing experimental and participatory approaches to enable organisational, cultural, and municipal governance to respond to multiple challenges: climate change adaptation, wellbeing in aging societies, cultural policy, and effective use of technology in urban governance. End-users of our research include Parramatta City Council, Sydney City Council, City of Port Phillip, SEMZ Property Group, and Urban Growth NSW.

DIGITAL LIFE

How are we to respond to the impacts of the many transformations affected by digital technologies?

Digital technologies are reshaping our social and cultural lives with profound effects for individuals, families, communities, governments and institutions. Today it is no longer provocative to say that all life is becoming digital. Disengagement from mobile devices, surveillance cameras, databases, global mapping systems, and algorithmic operations is barely, if at all, an option. The Digital Life program investigates how digital technologies mediate our relations with one another and change the means by which knowledge is created and circulated in the contemporary world. The program seeks to understand how digital technologies can become a capacity-enhancing dimension of social and institutional life rather than being left to remake all before them. We have a special interest in developing digital methods for social and cultural research. Our work informs questions of city design, digital economy, infrastructure provision, mapping digital capacities and the socio-cultural aspects of young people's technology use. We work with partners from all sectors, including not for profit organisations, academic institutions and companies such as Google and Ericsson.

DIVERSITY AND GLOBALISATION

How can positive diversity flourish locally and globally under conditions of uneven globalisation?

Intensifying globalisation has had a profound impact upon current practices of multiculturalism. Where people once thought of themselves as related to a single ethnicity within a national frame, many people now relate to more hybrid identities. Experiences of diversity are shifting with intergenerational change, cultural adaptation, intermarriage, temporary migration, media flows and the widening cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of immigrants to Australia. The program explores the impact of this 'diversification of diversity', investigating its implications for a range of issues such as education, housing, Indigenous policy and Australia's changing position within the Asian region. Our research seeks to create understandings around social order, identities and relations and to lead to the better management of diversity and its impact on everyday life. One emerging issue in this area concerns a tension between the need for data collection on the contemporary complexity of diversity and the possibly reductive nature of cultural descriptors. Advancing policy and practice around diversity may therefore require a reassessment of the categories that organisations employ and the forms of data they collect and use. We are currently working on this problem with institutions and end-users such as Multicultural NSW, NSW Department of Education, Settlement Services International, NSW Rural Fire Services, NSW State Emergency Service, NSW Department of Family and Community Services, Multicultural Health NSW, Western Sydney Local Health District, Waverley Council, and Cultural and Indigenous Research Australia.

HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT

How can humanity remake its relationship with the material world so as to exist sustainably in the Anthropocene?

Human actions have for the first time become a determining cause of Earth-system change, the most obvious manifestation of which is global warming. While the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change provides a strategy for winding back carbon emissions, we believe that the onset of the Anthropocene calls for a profound rethinking of human material practices. This includes the commercialisation and privatisation of common resources such as water, the unsustainable expansion of human habitat via coastal reclamation, and the escalating discard of human waste in terrestrial and marine environments. Drawing upon a unique convergence of skills and experience in the environmental humanities, anthropology, archaeology, heritage studies, and environmental education, the program is developing new conceptual tools and policy alternatives for living in the Anthropocene. These include a study of ways and means of strengthening the water commons by encouraging the drinking of tap water over bottled water; and a study of the history and social value of coastal reclamations in Australia and China, aimed at better understanding adaptations to sea level rise. The reality of anthropogenic climate change and heightening public consciousness of its impacts are creating an unprecedented need for a radically improved capacity to conceptualise the long-term consequences of human interventions in nature. Responding to this need, the program pursues research with organisations such as Sydney Water, Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre, the Australian Broadcasting Institute, the Chilean Antarctic Institute and Hobart City Council.

FOUNDATIONAL ESSAY



Mexico City, students conducting a Circles of Sustainability profile of their city, 2019 Juan Francisco Salazar in Santiago, Chile, where ICS co-hosted the 'Knowledge/Culture' conference on ecologies and material culture in 2017.

Researching Algorithmic Institutions

RESEARCHING ALGORITHMIC INSTITUTIONS

Liam Magee and Ned Rossiter

Like any research centre that today investigates the media conditions of social organization, the Institute for Culture and Society modulates functional institutional governance with what might be said to be, operatively and with a certain conscientious attention to method, algorithmic experiments. In this essay we convolve these terms. As governance moves beyond Weberian proceduralism toward its algorithmic automation, research life itself becomes subject to institutional experimentation. Parametric adjustment generates sine wave-like ripple effects in the allocation of time, labour, thought and practice. Reflexivity, long an imperative of social research, now demands attentiveness to how these entwined forces of governance and experimentation produce the research subject.

Modes of governance within institutional settings are increasingly shaped by algorithmic architectures of organization. Algorithmic governance details not only the application of computational procedures to issues of operative management, control and decision-making but it further describes the re-engineering of organizations to the demands of those procedures. In idealised terms, algorithmic governance begins with a problem that is first tested and formalized within the parametric constraints of a model.² As Tarleton Gillespie explains, the problem is first articulated through the model in mathematical terms, then operationalized as a procedural task performed by an algorithm. As algorithms are amended, hacked, refined or substituted, the fidelity of the model to a mathematical proceduralism divorced from environment signals how modes of governance frequently collapse in the wild. Needless to say, formalistic variability does not contradict the core thesis that we develop in this essay, namely that algorithmic

governance produces an essentially *experimental* condition of institutionality. That which becomes available for 'disruption' or 'innovation' — both institutional encodings — is equally prescribed within silicon test-beds that propose limits to political possibility.³ Experiments privilege the repeatability and reproducibility of action. This is characteristic of algorithmic routines that accommodate variation only through the *a priori* of known statistical parameters. Innovation, in other words, is merely a variation of the known within the horizon of fault tolerance.

Experiments in algorithmic governance are radically dissimilar from the experience of politics and culture, which can be understood as the constitutive outside of passion and affect that infiltrates models in the process of designing parameters that inform the operational rules of algorithms. Once operationalized as algorithms, politics is enacted as a procedural routine and culture is made accountable within metrics of calculation. Both instances necessarily externalize experience. Too often economics takes command. As an analytical mode, conversely, political economics does not take command often enough. The contemporary demarcation of politics and culture from the economy itself exhibits a nostalgia for pure power or an unpolluted aesthetics — affective modalities which, against a collective despair over the obdurate and thoroughly determined state of the economy, seem plausible escape routes, and which in mass-form return as devices for the securitization of institutional control.

A tension continues to persist between experiment and experience in the generation of new institutional forms immanent to algorithmic modes of governance. If invention subsists and foment within the phenomenal realm of experience, then experiment is akin to laboratory life that verifies knowledge incrementally under controlled conditions.⁴ Where experience is expansive and contingent, experiments are necessarily

harnessed to the pursuit of procedures and realization of rules. Experiments lend themselves to the goal-oriented world of algorithms. As such, the invention of new institutional forms and practices would seem antithetical to experiments in algorithmic governance. Yet what if we consider experience itself as conditioned and made possible by experiments in algorithmic governance?

Surely enough, the past few decades have seen a steady transformation of many institutional settings. There are many studies that account for such change as coinciding with and often directly resulting from the ways in which neoliberal agendas have variously impacted organizational values and practices. Our focus is on the struggle of governance immanent to the relation between experience and experiment, algorithm and institution. What, in short, are the propagating effects of algorithmic governance as a routine complex of institutional practices?

This essay examines computational conditions that organize the world and, increasingly, life. We ask how the operational logic of digital technology might furnish concepts of power able to describe and explain the empirical world. Specifically, the essay focuses on how power is generated within and by digital infrastructures, systems, operations and practices. The broader objective here — one beyond the scope of this present essay — is to establish empirical co-ordinates that provide an analytical basis for populating disciplines in the humanities and social sciences with a conceptual vocabulary coextensive with contemporary technological conditions. For the purposes of this essay we consider the data centre — also known as server farms, colocation centres or the cloud — as the infrastructural core that governs the production of space, time, subjectivity and economy. Off-the-grid computing aside, most data will at some point and time traffic through a data centre.

¹ Thanks to Paul James for suggestions on phrasing and framing.

² See Gillespie, T 2016, 'Algorithm', in B Peters (ed.), *Digital keywords: a vocabulary of information society and culture*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, pp. 19–20.

³ For an analysis and critique of 'testing' and 'demoing' of 'solutions' to address crises (urban, financial, health, and environmental, etc.), see Halpern, O, LeCavalier, J & Calvillo, N 2017, 'Test-bed urbanism', *Public Culture*, vol. 25, no. 2, pp. 273–306. See also Halpern, O, Mitchell, R & Geoghegan, BD 2017, 'The smartness mandate: notes toward a critique', *Grey Room*, no. 68, pp. 106–29.

⁴ See Neilson, B & Rossiter, N 2006, 'Towards a political anthropology of new institutional forms', *ephemera: theory & politics in organization*, vol. 6, no. 4, p. 394, viewed 1 May 2019, <http://www.ephemerajournal.org/contribution/towards-political-anthropology-new-institutional-forms>.

SOVEREIGN MEDIA, TERRITORIALITY AND THE TRAFFIC OF DATA

We occasionally have a sense that our quotidian decisions are governed by algorithmic architectures humming away in the background. Mostly, we are resigned to machinic authority taking command of the extraction of value and monetization of computational life generated from the surfeit of data. Certainly, the last few years have brought greater attention to power exercised by algorithms, without yet producing much by way of a counter-power that can refuse or deflect the assertion of control. Whether it is social media routines, digital accounting systems, military operations in theatres of war or governing populations and migration across geographic scales and sovereign spaces, there is a transactional logic that attends the traffic in data. Blockchain technologies manage data transactions through a distributed public ledger. High-frequency trading, by contrast, buries millions of financial derivatives and credit default swaps, resulting in the 'social abstraction of risk'.⁵ Well-documented in a scholarly literature, even in a mode of critique blockchains and HFT evoke a shared awe and dread of the technological sublime. Less attended to are the enduring consequential IT banalities of administrative Excel formulas, JavaScript functions and database procedures that calculate hourly rates, leave accruals and performance indicators. Alongside global blockchains, microwave data broadcasting and neural networks, twenty-year-old software architectures help administer organizations and run the world.

The non-representational architectures that underscore many computational transactions unsettle a politics of intervention predicated on the visibility of things. Yet neither is there a panacea to be found in making transactions of data visible. The often moralistically imbued calls for data transparency and accountability are no less vulnerable at functional, operational levels to unforeseen crashes, hacks or inexplicable events that may

result in economic stress for many. For all the transactional visibility of distributed public ledgers such as Bitcoin, the now frequent security breaches and 'disappearance' of the crypto-currency from exchanges should be sufficient enough of a prompt to caution against at least a first-order valorizing the merits of openness.⁶

Digital infrastructures such as data centres are chief among the milieu of technological forms in which transactions in data impact on a world external to the operational logic of signals, transmission, processing and storage. Hosting the servers that support the software and data analytics of 'the cloud', data centres can be considered as the invisible shadow of institutional forms such as universities, banks, social media companies, logistical firms, among many others. Indeed, data centres provide the operational core of institutional practices dependent on the transactions in data. Similarly, the algorithmic procedures that organize data in ways that make action possible are central to the governance of institutions.

From the purview of algorithmic governance, subjectivity and the presence of human personnel are merely functionaries to be managed. A peculiar form of technological unconscious also defines the relation between machine and subject. This is despite critiques of algorithmic governance that consider managers and gestures of leadership as indistinct from the parametric horizon of algorithms. Without the distinct activity of human labour expressed through computational systems the machine-as-institution is a soul depleted of the substance upon which its data operations depend.⁷ Yet this human vessel of unsubstantiated yearning may be just an interval that terminates with social accommodation of the fully automated organization.

Part media-infrastructure and part locus of algorithmic decision-making, the data centre indicates one possible form of such

organization. The territoriality of data centres carves out new geographies of power, giving rise to forms of infrastructural sovereignty that contest, intersect, multiply and depart from the modern sovereign power of the nation-state.⁸ But how do we specify the operational logic of data centres? Our response is to return to an analysis of its computational architecture, which here are represented by parallel processing frameworks: obscure yet indispensable parts that make possible, for example, neural networks, machine learning and artificial intelligence applications. We consider this intervention in part as constituting a genealogy of power tied to computational architectures. And in distilling an infrastructural object such as the data centre to computational operations specific to parallel processing, we are also suggesting that there remains an unavoidable necessity to consider technological forces of determination. This genealogy takes us back to an operational core from which we can begin to make sense of the structuring of the world not reducible to black box impenetrability. There is no *tabula rasa* upon which fantasies and fears may be projected.

THE LOGISTICS OF DATA

Despite a tendency within business and academic circles to think on 'global' scales, digital operations are not as planetary, or as totalizing, as critics like Benjamin Bratton would have it. Indeed, the computational metaphor of the 'stack' is a tempting but limited metaphor for the current reconfiguration of organizational life through algorithmic governance. While not exclusive to the digital, Bratton's model of 'The Stack' refers to planetary-scale technical infrastructures consisting of Earth, Cloud, City, Address, Interface and User layers. Bratton's insistence on interoperability across and between these sectional layers provides the conceptual schema needed to then propose The Stack as a model of planetary computation, which he assumes as

5 See LiPuma, E & Lee, B 2004, *Financial derivatives and the globalization of risk*, Duke University Press, Durham.

6 For a critique of the celebration of openness, see Tkacz, N 2015, *Wikipedia and the politics of openness*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

7 As Stefano Harney quips in an interview with Michael Schapira and Jesse Montgomery, 'most managers have already been replaced by machines ... We know they work not only within the parameters of an algorithm but with its predictions and prescriptions. They are only there to implement and call it leadership'. Schapira, M & Montgomery, J 2017, 'Stefano Harney (Part 1)', *Full Stop Quarterly*, 8 August, viewed 1 May 2019, <http://www.full-stop.net/2017/08/08/interviews/michael-schapira-and-jesse-montgomery/stefano-harney-part-1/>.

8 On the geography of data centres, see <https://cloudscene.com/>.

'a coherent totality'.⁹ It is on the basis of this totality that Bratton then proposes The Stack as inaugurating a new political geography that multiplies sovereign power beyond the Westphalian state. 'Platform sovereignty' and 'infrastructural sovereignty' are the two primary modes of technical power resulting from The Stack.

We don't deny that sovereign power is multiplied beyond and not limited to modern state polities. The Stack is not required as a heuristic device or infrastructural condition to explain the transformations to state sovereignty wrought by economic and technological globalization. Sovereign power in any case is always contested. And this is the key point overlooked by Bratton, whose predilection for totalization produces a significant analytical and political oversight. Namely, that interoperability between systems (layers) is never absolute. Protocological conflicts, technological propensities, geological properties and institutional disputes — to say nothing of social struggles — prevail across networks of relations that, frequently enough, are *notworking*.¹⁰ The failure of interoperability not only unsettles the totalizing if contingent logic of sovereign power Bratton attributes to The Stack but also makes for a considerably more complicated operation of power and conceptualization of the political at the current conjuncture.¹¹ Moreover, digital capitalism in some sense depends upon this constitutive gap between fantasy of control and reality of breakdown. Such gaps 'ask', indeed, to be cleverly exploited, to manufacture the customer 'need' and to introduce new disruptions and innovations in response. At a global scale, Tesla, one of the finest exponents of need-production, exists precisely to bridge present carbon and future renewable energy economies. Such bridging, in turn, produces

new operative fissures. Academia is of course not immune to the relentless detection of *notworking* in action, and, as it finds its new place as a junior partner to corporatism, has become increasingly adept at translating gaps in the literature to gaps in the market.

Analytically, algorithmic governance denotes the conjunction of models that limit just as much as they open up political possibilities, a conjunction that, in turn, produces a phantasmic situation of total control (Bratton) or, through its failures, re-admits contingency into a new, computationally mediated dialectic of determination and possibility. Refusing the neoliberal characterizations of such a data politics as inherently open, transparent and liberatory has become the *de facto* means of strategic operation for its actors: the significant shifts over the past few years have practically confirmed this point.¹² The rush to securitize data infrastructures through physical borders and barricades, privacy regulation and appeals for Internet regulation — amazingly, from the heart of Silicon Valley itself — makes no secret any more of a privatized and explicitly political re-territorialisation of what, already, appears to us not as an object of a present or near-future, but through the form of nostalgia — a digital public sphere.¹³

At such junctures it is tempting to withdraw to the inner salons of what György Lukács once described, in reference to the first generation of the Frankfurt School, as the Grand Hotel Abyss.¹⁴ Accommodation that today, precisely through the affordances of digital social media, is available to nearly everyone at Airbnb rack rates. We prefer to turn toward the resources afforded by the computational architectures themselves — less the salons occupied by an erudite and *déshabillé* commentariat, and rather the warehouses, rack rooms and 'non-places' of cool alienation

within which, perversely, hum the machines of twenty-first century politics.

The stacks which operate here can indeed be described as Bratton suggests: they are layers of cabling, network protocols, servers, operating systems, databases and, in a gesture that would appear to reaffirm its privilege at the uppermost level of this architecture, the algorithm. Yet this characterization is limited in its technical precision as much as in its political terminology. Indeed, the stack can never accomplish very much without a fine-grained articulation of operations within and between its specific layers, and these operations turn out to be as or more significant, both in the determination and contingency of governance, than the coarse-grained organization of the entire data apparatus itself. In short, alternate forms of algorithmic governance must today intervene at the level of parameters as much as at the level of the coal and rare-earth mines that power and produce the materials for algorithmic operations.

Each of these layers contain their own historical unfoldings. The 'model/algorithm' distinction offers a nice point-in-time encapsulation, but does little to convey the historical reconfiguration over time of the algorithm itself. Today, precisely as terms like 'algorithmic governance' appear to register a certain new confluence of power/knowledge, the algorithm is undergoing substantial reconfiguration.¹⁵ In machine learning, algorithms are constituted by other algorithms, through *a posteriori* statistical patterning rather than *a priori* models. In data centres, the algorithm is turned inside out, defined and distributed according to the physical and logical arrangement of data rather than by the model's idealization.

9 Bratton, BH 2015, *The stack: on software and sovereignty*, MIT Press, Cambridge, p. 375.

10 See Lovink, G 2005, *The principle of notworking: concepts in critical internet culture*, public lecture, Hogeschool van Amsterdam, 24 February. Available at <http://networkcultures.org/blog/publication/the-principle-of-notworking-geert-lovink/>.

11 See Mezzadra, S & Neilson, B 2019, *The politics of operations: excavating contemporary capitalism*, Duke University Press, Durham.

12 An earlier draft of this paper was presented as Magee, L & Rossiter, N 2016, 'Operationalising the data centre: algorithmic platforms and the distribution of computational labour', *Crossroads in Cultural Studies*, Sydney, 14–17 December, <http://crossroads2016.org/>.

13 See Zuckerberg, M 2019, *The internet needs new rules: let's start in these four areas*, 31 March, <https://www.facebook.com/zuck/posts/10107013839885441>.

14 See Jeffries, S 2016, *Grand Hotel Abyss: the lives of the Frankfurt School*, Verso, London.

15 See Rouvroy, A & Stiegler, B 2016, 'The digital regime of truth: from the algorithmic governmentality to a new rule of law', trans. A Nony & B Dillet, *La Deleuziana*, no. 3, pp. 6–29, viewed 1 May 2019, http://www.ladeleuziana.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Rouvroy-Stiegler_eng.pdf and Amore, L & Raley, R 2017, 'Securing with algorithms: knowledge, decision, sovereignty', *Security Dialogue*, vol. 48, no. 1, pp. 3–10.

Algorithmic *parallelization* — running a software implementation of an algorithm concurrently on multiple processors or machines — is one example of this restructuring. Parallel processing can be applied to tasks that are independent, where, for instance, one task is not dependent upon the results of another. Parallel processing encompasses processing systems for serving web content, registering user clicks and ‘likes’, tabulating and storage of smart city sensor-generated data, image analysis of photo streams and trend analysis of financial transactions. These systems are widely deployed within the data infrastructures that support what has been termed ‘platform capitalism’: this includes data centres operated by Google, Facebook and independent business exchanges (or IBX) such as those run by Equinix in the inner-city suburb of Alexandria in Sydney.¹⁶ Parallelized pipeline architectures run on top of clusters of machines housed within these data centres, making it possible for these computational resources to be used efficiently.

Despite its affordances, enabling algorithms to operate in a parallel rather than serial fashion can be a complex, specialized and expensive task.¹⁷ Strategies to do so typically enlist an approach of ‘divide-and-conquer’, redesigning or refactoring the software implementation of an algorithm to separate and process data inputs independently, before joining or merging their outputs. The occasion of refactoring can substantially alter the properties of the algorithm itself.¹⁸ Conventional use of parallelized algorithms also requires detailed knowledge of the operating environment: the type of machines the algorithms will run on, how datasets need to be partitioned and how the network is configured to enable copies of the algorithm to communicate progress.

The arrival of cloud computing represents the commodification of the expertise and resources required for managing enormous circuits of data. As the volume of the data

processed increases, cloud computing permits the algorithm’s operation to span multiple machines automatically. Increases in computational power are paid for by the hour or by other discrete quantities, and without the intervention of human labour to add machines, install software and configure networks. This commodification is facilitated through software frameworks, or ‘middleware’, that mediate between the hardware facilities of the data centre and performance of the algorithm. Major cloud companies such as Amazon and Google have produced such frameworks — one of which, Apache Beam, we describe in detail below — to simplify the process of redesign and ease configuration of parallelized algorithms on their cloud-computing platforms. Frameworks such as these make possible the parametric adjustment of algorithms, producing the property of ‘elasticity’ famously associated with cloud computing: that is, the ability to add or subtract computing resources dynamically in response to demand, budget, dataset size and other constraints.¹⁹

If our understanding of digital economy, society and the production of subjectivity is to come to terms with this expansiveness and elasticity, a critique of data politics and algorithmic institutions needs to register the techniques, processes and operations special to media infrastructures. The technical, energy and commercial constraints of parallelized architectures articulate a data grammar of these operations, a set of essential verbs of platform capitalism: mapping, reducing, cutting, filtering, partitioning, sequencing, transforming, flattening, merging and piping. Enumerating, rehearsing and evaluating the elements of this grammar across hardware and software platforms establishes a baseline from which the determining force of data politics is made discernible, at least in preliminary ways. Operations and techniques such as these define the parameters within which action protrudes into the world. In the next section, we transition to a more technical mode of description, to pursue the algorithm through the process of parallelization.

EXPERIMENTS IN PARALLEL COMPUTING

In the world of parallel computing, the term ‘pipeline’ is used to describe the conduits that link data sources, transformations and outputs. Like the UNIX pipe operator used in terminal commands (‘|’), pipelines funnel data through input/output sequences (shown in Table 1 below). Parallel computing frameworks employ the metaphor of pipes and pipelines to describe the distribution the data processing across multiple copies of a given resource. These include the multiple cores of a central processing unit of a single machine, or the combined capacities of multiple machines on a network. Pipes funnel inputs across these resources and reassemble outputs produced by their processing.

Such plumbing metaphors extend to the very naming of parallelisation frameworks. One example is *DataFlow*, a project developed by Google, and later contributed by the company as an open-source project, now renamed as *Beam*, to the Apache Foundation, a consortium that describes itself as ‘the world’s largest open-source foundation’.²⁰ The process of migrating software developed by companies for internal use to open source is common. It is a means for building corporate goodwill in the wider software development community and also for establishing *de facto* standards that help to realise other organisational objectives. Apache’s projects, members, licensing arrangements and its often-informal decision-making processes — conducted on publicly accessible mailing lists — provide a glimpse into the confluences and complex relations of open-source software and cloud computing companies. The projects accepted by the Apache Foundation (Table 1) map schematically the history of web computing over the past quarter century: they range from content servers that deliver web pages and images, to systems that enable big data management, virtualization, security and parallelization.

16 See Srnicek, N 2017, *Platform capitalism*, Polity, Cambridge.

17 See Blleloch, GE & Maggs, BM 1996, ‘Parallel algorithms’, *ACM Computing Surveys (CSUR)*, vol. 28, no. 1, pp. 51-54.

18 Blleloch & Maggs, ‘Parallel algorithms’.

19 See Herbst, N, Kounev, S & Reussner, R 2013, ‘Elasticity in cloud computing: what it is, and what it is not’, *Proceedings of the 10th International Conference on Autonomic Computing (ICAC 2013)*, San Jose, CA, 24-28 June.

20 See <http://apache.org/#>.

Beam operates like a virtual machine, translating data-processing requests made by software into instructions that can be executed in diverse operating environments. Algorithms on *Beam* can be tested on a single computer, deployed to a localized distributed computing environment or uploaded to a cloud-computing platform, where computing time is purchased by the hour. Running a simple example algorithm that extracts word frequencies from text, supplied as part of the *Beam* framework, showed several distinctive features of parallelisation. First, the code for the algorithm requires a specific operational logic: the text input is loaded from files; the word frequencies are calculated; the output containing the frequencies is formatted; and, finally, the output is written or 'piped' to a file. A conventional implementation of an algorithm might adopt this same procedure, but would not be required to do so. The second feature shows why this logic is necessary: when the parallel implementation is executed on a laptop machine, it runs several concurrent copies of the software, each of which processes separate parts of the data input. The third feature is that the

same code, configuration and data executes identically on a laptop machine and on Google's *Cloud Platform*, on which we had established an account for testing purposes. This is significant due to the quite different operations that are performed in each case.

On a single machine, the code executes on multiple processors, typically limited to two or four. On the cloud, multiple copies of the code may instead run on many machines, limited only by budget. The promise of *Beam* framework seems partly fulfilled so long as an algorithm conforms to the requirements of the framework, it is scaleable on multiple processes and machines, and running seamlessly between both personal and cloud computing environments. While ostensibly an open-source project, *Beam* facilitates developers to publish their software on commercial services like Cloud Platform, advertised as helping applications to 'grow from prototype to production to planet-scale, without having to think about capacity, reliability or performance'.²¹ In other words, *Beam* lays down the pipes that take the entrepreneur from the garage to the globe.

Despite the promises of Google's platform, our experiment still generated practical examples of *notworking*: conflicting software libraries and essential steps that are undocumented and are only discovered through educated guesswork and trial-and-error. Rather than an idealized path from model to execution, the automation of scalable procedures requires all-too-human qualities of literacy, persistence and faith in the telos of computational reason. In the spirit of Gmail's decade-long *beta* status, everything remains provisional. It is stitched together not in a seamless web of interoperability but through numerous iterations copy-and-paste, trial-and-error, and searches through mailing lists and Q-and-A forums. Equally, we note that once the code ran successfully, determining whether to run it on a local machine or on Google's cloud is merely a case of changing parameters and territorial scale — even modified code is automatically recompiled and uploaded to the cloud, making for what has been termed a 'No-Ops' (or no technical operations) environment.

Table 1: History of Major Apache Projects

YEAR(S)	SELECTED APACHE PROJECTS	WEB COMPUTING ARCHITECTURES
1995	<i>Apache Web Server</i> (Brian Behlendorf and others, 1995)	Web Servers Data Centres largely local ISPs
-2000	<i>Apache Tomcat</i> (Sun Microsystems, 1999) <i>Apache Struts</i> (Sun Microsystems, 2000) <i>Apache Xerces</i> (IBM, 1999) <i>Apache Lucene</i> (2001) <i>Apache Software Foundation</i> <i>Apache Software License</i> (2000)	Middleware, enterprise computing Dynamic web content XML Text Indexing Open-source software committees – including corporations as good tech citizens Open source (permitting commercial derivatives)
Mid-2000s	<i>Apache Web Services</i> (formerly <i>Apache SOAP</i> , <i>Axis</i>) <i>Apache Hadoop</i> (Google, Yahoo, 2006)	Web services Elastic computing, distributed algorithms
2010s	<i>Apache CloudStack</i> (contributed by Citrix, 2011) <i>Apache CouchDB</i> (2008) <i>Apache Spark</i> (2013) <i>Apache Kafka</i> (2011)	Cloud computing Alternative (NoSQL) databases Machine learning, parallel processing Stream processing
2015/6	<i>Apache Beam</i> (contributed by Google, 2016)	Parallel stream processing

²¹ Google Cloud Platform, <https://cloud.google.com/>.

Our wider interest here is to interrogate the cloud-computational architecture that now mediates the abstract work of algorithms on data, and their spatial instantiation inside the data centre. Critical inspection neither ‘unboxes’ the ‘black box’ hypothetically common both to the algorithm and to the data centre, nor seeks to reify it as a happily unknowable technical artefact. Rather, it rehearses aspects of the technical conditions under which machinic interoperability as well as inoperability are performed. As the transfer of labour from human to the machine continues, this amounts to a renovation of the kind of inquiry into conditions of work on the factory floor that once preoccupied the social analysis of labour.

ALGORITHMIC CRITIQUE

The exercises we conducted here are inspired by the soporific use-cases of tutorials and training guides. Outputs are of course not the point. Rather, the development of datasets, code examples and cloud configuration illustrates the purpose of otherwise obscure investments by companies like Google in parallel-processing frameworks. Such investments belong to a long history of strategic corporate contribution to open-source software, and today these serve to pave the way for the outsourcing of labour and infrastructural needs to data centres and cloud services that in turn support the rise of large scale data accumulation, processing and analysis. One predictable consequence is the deterioration of in-house IT staff that defined the preceding eras of mainframe and client-server computing. The incremental erasure of labour borne by the ongoing march of industrial modernity is coupled with a displacement of institutional autonomy by the sovereign media of platform capitalism and the automation of organizational routines. Alienation returns. Memory is further exteriorized to the machine.²²

How to re-engineer the black-box of algorithmic apparatuses? What does a knowledge of computational rules and procedures tell us about the governance of labour and life, economy and society? Notable research in the nascent field critical algorithm studies has identified the political economy of Google’s PageRank and its capture of living labour to produce ‘network value’, crowd work on Amazon Mechanical Turk and the ‘crowd fleecing’ of drivers that underscores the growth model for Uber.²³ Despite the attention in these studies to algorithmic power, the actual architectures often remain elusive and this is not just because computer scientists are not on the scene to lend a critical hand. As Trebor Scholz notes, ‘While people are powering the system, MTurk is meant to feel like a machine to its end-users: humans are seamlessly embedded in the algorithm. AMT’s clients are quick to forget that it is human beings and not algorithms that are toiling for them — people with very real human needs and desires’.²⁴

When humans become indistinguishable from machines, what does this mean for a politics of operation? Does a critical dissection of algorithms, for instance, provide a point of entry into organizing networks of digital labour? For Scholz, the answer is ‘no’, at least not in any exclusive sense. Instead, Scholz advocates ‘platform cooperativism’ as a consortium model that clones and adapts technologies of the sharing economy, making use of web apps such as Loomio (Occupy, Podemos) and blockchain technologies such as Backfeed, D-CENT and Consensus for the autonomy of labour organization and social movements.

Frank Pasquale is not as quick in letting go of net-neutrality claims by internet giants. He maintains that algorithmic methods of extracting value from data, devising criteria for automated decision making and governance, and calculating procedures for finance capital must be subject to systematic

critique and reorientation if society is to resist total submission to algorithmic authority.²⁵ In a similar spirit, we suggest black boxes are demystified and indeed made more knowable once their operations are rehearsed, simulated, observed and replicated. Virtualization, containers and parallelization have become integral mediating technologies between the abstraction of the algorithm and the fortification of data centres. They belong, in other words, to a new grammar of algorithmic governance.

MULTIPLYING ALGORITHMIC INSTITUTIONS

The analysis above of Apache Beam registers two key features of emergent algorithmic institutions. First, it describes a shift in the operations of algorithms made possible by parallel architectures adaptable to a range of hardware and network configurations. Second, this seemingly banal feature illustrates the lack of totality and closure within a single operative environment. Driven by what appear to be solely technical considerations — precisely, in other words, through a desire for mastery and control — contingency is reintroduced to the algorithmic situation. The link from algorithmic parallelization to experimental modes of governance is one that is, of course, at best suggestive. Nonetheless, this parallelization forms part of the ‘infrastructuring’ that has already realised WikiLeaks, BitCoin and other digitally led forms of what political scientists Cui Zhiyuan in dialogue with Charles F. Sabel and Jonathan Zeitlin have termed ‘experimental governance’.²⁶ While a highly conciliatory view of experimentation, with elements of ‘Third Way’ exuberance retrieved from a decade marked, not coincidentally, by dot-com mania, there is nonetheless some critical and conceptual purchase to be had from considering algorithmic institutions as test-beds of computational modes of governance.

22 See Stack Overflow, <http://stackoverflow.com/>.

23 See, respectively, Pasquinelli, M 2009, ‘Google’s PageRank algorithm: a diagram of cognitive capitalism and the rentier of the common intellect’, in K Becker & F Stalder (eds), *Deep search: the politics of search beyond google*, Studien Verlag, Innsbruck, pp. 152–62; Irani, L 2015, ‘Difference and dependence among digital workers: the case of Amazon Mechanical Turk’, *South Atlantic Quarterly*, vol. 114, no. 1, pp. 225–34; and Scholz, T 2017, *Überworked and underpaid: how workers are disrupting the digital economy*, Polity, Cambridge.

24 Scholz, *Überworked and underpaid*, p. 20. See also Munn, L 2018, *Ferocious logics: unmaking the algorithm*, Meson Press, Lüneburg, <https://meson.press/books/ferocious-logics/>.

25 Pasquale, F 2015, *The black box society: the secret algorithms that control money and information*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge.

26 See Sabel, CF & Zeitlin, J 2012, ‘Experimentalist governance’, in *Oxford handbook of governance*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 169–83.

Neither top-down autocracy, nor bottom-up anarchy, but 'directly deliberative polyarchy', the emphasis on 'recursion' signals a form of governance indebted to characteristics of the algorithm. Despite an idealised affinity with the experimental culture of the start-up or indeed the iterative cultural logic of 'fail fast' typical of R&D for platform monopolies such as Google, Facebook and Amazon, we acknowledge the vastly different political and historical context in which this discourse on experimental culture is situated in the case of China and its laboratories in governance across provincial cities and spaces. How to cultivate and instil aspects of democratic politics within political systems and market economies stemming from socialist and communist models of collective ownership is an especially delicate and complex challenge, one that is further complicated since the fall of Bo Xilai and demise of the 'Chongqing experiment'.²⁷ In the spirit of wilful adaptation and the redesign of terms and ideas harnessed to experiments in modes of governance, we might endorse a certain accelerationist logic that invites further amplification of algorithmic transformation of institutional practices as a force of technical failure.

Close to home, the cognitive jolt or shock that accompanies systemic breakdown could be sufficient to question how, for instance, universities govern the production of knowledge in ways not submissive to the tyranny of metrics and calculation of 'performance'. Such endorsement comes with its own political complications, as recent histories of shock therapy, from Jeffrey Sachs' re-engineering of national economies to Žižek's endorsement of far-right 'disruptive' politics as a precursor to a revolutionary alternative, have been either ruinous or irrelevant. Nothing yet in the history of the Internet, which consists of an endless series of shocks (from modem disconnection and browser incompatibility to Cambridge Analytica), suggests that 'shock therapy' works. Academia's version of Facebook's

dictum — to 'move fast and break things' — have, often enough, motivated retreat towards even more forbidding levels of governance, performativity and risk management.

At an organizational level, such governance becomes exteriorized in the cloud, or, more precisely, outsourced to the combined processing power of computers owned and operated by Big Tech corporations. Yet this tendency toward homogenization and standardization contains, as it were, seeds of its own demise. As organizations become increasingly reliant on off-the-rack technical 'solutions', the qualities that distinguish one organization from the next steadily disappear. When organizational requirements become retro-fitted to software capabilities with little variation or minimal 'customization' from one organization to the next, the prospect of a crisis of legitimacy is waiting just around the corner.

Together, both technical operations and organizational cultures make evident the contours delineating the territory of contemporary data politics. This combinatory model of data-and-institutional organization extends to the governance of logistical populations. One key example can be found in the recent challenges faced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), which in 2014 confronted a very public institutional crisis of legitimacy based on a perception of computational failure. This crisis was precipitated by the multiplication of sites and points of data agglomeration: the 'monopoly of knowledge' (Innis) enjoyed by the ABS for many years has now become rivalled by a diversity of institutional actors who also have considerable computational capacity to produce knowledge that bears upon how economies and populations are understood. This has been accelerated by cutbacks in the operating budget of the ABS from successive governments, which needs to be seen in the context of a two-fold move toward, first, the marketization of governance enabled by computational processes, and second, the

reintegration of markets through progressive regulation into a more dispersed but comprehensive system of control.

This is not only a case of the state increasingly outsourcing a once sacrosanct responsibility to private service providers. The multiple diffusions and aggregations of population data throughout a heterogeneous computational and institutional network means that the 'database' is no longer physically or conceptually containable within the borders of a single institution. The era of distributed computing, of virtualized clusters of machines and software that can co-operate to resolve queries over structured data on heterogeneous network and computational topologies, have been paralleled by questions of the sovereignty of singular guardians of population data. Over the past fifteen years an array of new paradigms for arranging, connecting and querying data — the Semantic Web, Linked Data, service-oriented architectures (SOA) and software-as-a-service (SaaS) — continue to bring into question claims over institutional legitimacy.²⁸

The increasing dependency by policy makers on the generation of numbers by machines is symptomatic of the automation of decision making. Such is the institutional over-reliance on the pure power of computation. No matter how many manual double-checks and regulatory procedures may comprise the repertoire of techniques deployed to guard against the sort of institutional risk exposed by the ABS debacle, the scale and distribution of computational calculation in the production of knowledge will most likely result in an increasing jostling for legitimacy among institutional actors seeking government contracts related to policy development. Implicit in this jostling is a challenge to closed-world assumptions which accompany the traditional relational database form and, by association, the single institution that manages such infrastructure.²⁹

Rival claims, multiple perspectives and contradictory or indeterminate datasets

27 See Cui, Z 2011, 'Partial intimations of the coming whole: the Chongqing experiment in light of the theories of Henry George, James Meade, and Antonio Gramsci', *Modern China*, vol. 37, no. 6, pp. 646–60. See also Frenkiel, E 2010, 'From scholar to official: Cui Zhiyuan and Chongqing's local experimental policy', *Books & Ideas*, 6 December 2010, <https://booksandideas.net/From-Scholar-to-Official.html>.

28 See Magee, L & Rossiter, N 2015, 'Service orientations: data, institutions, labour', in I Kaldrack & M Leeker (eds), *There is no software, there are just services*, Meson Press, Lüneburg, pp. 73–89, <http://meson.press/books/there-is-no-software-there-are-just-services/>.

29 See Edwards, PN 1996, *The closed world: computers and political discourse in cold war America*, MIT Press, Cambridge.

form the new territory of informational contestation. The case of the ABS offers an optic into the emergence of such struggles. Our claim is that this is less a story about decentralization and privatization of government within a neoliberal paradigm (although these are without doubt key forces), and more an instance of the technical logic of databases and distributed computing resulting in an unsettling of modern institutional authority. What are the implications for public institutions as they relate to the supply of knowledge on national populations when the technologies of insight have become distributed and increasingly unaccountable across a range of actors? And what affordances does this present for the disruption of parametric politics, or the establishment, at the very least, of alternative parameters through which political life can be constituted?

Despite the extensive literary, artistic and musical expressions on the maelstrom of modernity, and without questioning the barbarism of war and colonial violence, there

nonetheless remained a peculiar continuum of relative institutional stability or at least semblance of coherence across the modern epoch.³⁰ Church, state, union, factory, firm. These were chief organizational forms that comprised the institutional rhythms of daily life and economy. The current conjuncture of institutional disaggregation and computational geopolitics is in some ways a logical — even digital — ‘output’ stemming from the modern experience of a transformed world. As algorithmic modes of organizing decision-making and practices of governance increasingly remake modern institutional settings while simultaneously giving rise to ‘platform’ organizations and largely non-governable apparatuses such as high-frequency trading systems, a corresponding redefinition of authority, expertise, subjectivity (manifest especially as a crisis of masculine identity) and indeed political-economic hegemony is currently underway. This institutional transformation holds not only political-economic and geopolitical implications, the details of which we can observe on a daily basis in the innumerable

accounts of an automated world accompanied by a shift in the global axis of power.

A more mundane, less ‘measurable’ adjustment is also at work in the process of computational systems integrating with social life and economy. The cognitive tendencies of the brain and psycho-physiognomic composition of subjectivity and its body of flesh are also steadily, even quite rapidly, undergoing change. A data politics of the present is defined not only by battles of proprietary platforms, by extractivist economies and by claims of legitimacy over the right to govern.³¹ Data politics within social life, engineered by parametric designs and managed by forms of nonconscious cognition, is also about the invention of autonomy severed from terms of agreement. Data politics insists on disagreement as a condition of computational cultures.

³⁰ The classic text here remains Berman, M 1983, *All that is solid melts into air: the experience of modernity*, Verso, London.

³¹ For a collection of essays that address these issues, see Bigo, D, Isin, E & Ruppert, E (eds), 2019, *Data politics: worlds, subjects, rights*, Routledge, London.

RESEARCH



Cordoba, Argentina, where ICS is working on urban renewal with a global team, including Antonio Salvador from Quito - 2019

Research Director's Report



If I were to be invited to select one single highlight of the year in review, I would pick the burst into scene of Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old neurodiverse Swedish activist who in August 2018 began sitting outside the Swedish Parliament every Friday, and started the #FridaysForFuture protests that have galvanized a generation of young people around the world, who many commentators had written off as apolitical.

In a year when religious and extreme right-wing nationalism and populism were again on the rise, and when US President Trump withdrew the United States from the Paris Agreement on climate change, Thunberg's impact was also felt across other political realms. Following her address to the UK Parliament in early 2019, the British Labour party moved a non-binding motion in the House of Commons on 1 May, 2019, to declare 'an environment and climate emergency', which was passed by members of the Parliament across the floor. Later that month, the impact of her global campaign was reflected in the increase of the Green Party vote across Scandinavian countries in the 2019 European elections. A crucial message of 2018-2019 came from the largest planetary health studies ever undertaken which concluded that all human societies, particularly the poor in the Global South, are under urgent threat from loss of Earth's natural life support systems.

As one of the largest dedicated concentration of socio-cultural researchers in Australia, the predicaments of the global ecological crisis, is one among many fields of intervention where the ICS is making a mark nationally and internationally. The year 2018 marked an important year for the national and global consolidation of the Institute, spearheading our model of engaged research in the critical humanities and social sciences, that endeavours to better understand, interpret, anticipate and respond to the challenges of changing cultural and social landscapes. Our wide-ranging research during 2018 covered from the economic futures that respond to rapidly transforming work-landscapes and ecological challenges, to a critical inquiry into the computational conditions that organize the world, and from questions about how can positive diversity flourish locally and globally under conditions of uneven globalisation, to providing tools and methods for guiding sustainable urban development, engaging disenfranchised individuals and communities, improving the educational outcomes of students from culturally diverse backgrounds, and rethinking policies on migration and refugees. This last point is most important when considering that in 2018 global displacement was at a record high, with the number of internally displaced people

surpassing 40 million and the number of refugees more than 22 million.

We started 2018 with a series of ambitious aims and priorities. These range from a consolidation of our research strengths across strategic Fields of Research (FoR), to increasing our research capacity and output aligned to University Research Themes, and ensuring our four research programs are responding to local and global grand challenges. In 2018, the total external research income of the Institute across Categories 1-4 met its target of two million dollars with around 43 per cent of this accounting as collaborative funding with 18 external partners including government, private sector, NGO's, civil society and international organizations. In 2018-2019, 17 new contract research and consultancy projects were funded, bringing our total external collaborative income to AU\$822,864, which shows a steady trend within the last triennium.

During 2018-2019 we continued our collaborations with international organizations including UNICEF and UNESCO. We deepened our partnerships with a wide range of city councils including Berlin, Hobart, Christchurch, and in Sydney, with Inner West Council, Liverpool, Blacktown, Parramatta and Canterbury-Bankstown City Councils. We also continued our relationship with government through projects with Landcom, the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, the NSW Department of Education and Create NSW.

ICS membership continued to expand in 2018-2019 as we persisted in seeking new modes of collaborations with other Institutes, Research Centres and Schools across the university. We co-hosted events with Schools of Law, Humanities and Communication Arts, Education and Social Sciences and Psychology. The number of School-based members of the Institute in 2018-2019 rose to 28, with ICS welcoming George Morgan (Humanities and Communication Arts), Youqing Fan (School of Business), Bonnie Pang (School of Science and Health) and Hayley Saul (Social Sciences and Psychology) and endorsing Waldo Garrido (SHCA) as a new school-based member to start in 2019.

ICS is a diverse interdisciplinary community of world-class researchers and its novel

approaches were recognised in important ways in 2018. First, through the establishment of a new Young and Resilient Research Centre (Y&RRC), co-directed by ICS researchers Amanda Third and Philippa Collin. Leveraging an established network of more than 100 stakeholders, the new Y&RRC is a collaboration between six schools and two institutes at Western Sydney University, that will map young people's engagement with digital technologies, identify how to support the resilience of marginalised young people using technology-based and intergenerational strategies, and refine ways of translating high-quality evidence into policy and practice. Secondly, through the results from the first ARC Engagement and Impact Assessment which came to complement the excellent results achieved in the Excellence Research Australia (ERA) 2018. Of the 23 impact case studies and 21 engagement narratives submitted by Western Sydney University, four were projects led by ICS researchers and School-based ICS members. Of these, two received maximum distinction across the three criteria, engagement, impact and approach to impact. The *Circles of Sustainability: Providing Practical Tools for Creating Sustainable Cities Project*, led by Paul James, with Liam Magee and Juan Salazar; and *Young and Resilient: Transforming Research, Policy and Practice to Maximise the Benefits of Digital Technologies for Young People*, led by Amanda Third, with Philippa Collin and Teresa Swift. Two other projects also scored high distinctions in impact and approach to impact: *Empowering Museums and Science Centres as Change Agents in Global Climate Change Interventions*, led by Fiona Cameron, with Brett Neilson, Bob Hodge, Juan Salazar, and Ben Dibley; and *Aboriginal Community Capacity Building: Facilitating Generational Knowledge Transfer through Engagement with the Strehlow Collection*, led by Hart Cohen, with Rachel Morley (SHCA), and Juan Salazar.

In terms of Australian Research Council (ARC) Grants, 2018-2019 was again a positive year. ICS had one ARC Discovery project commencing in 2018, *UNESCO and the Making of Global Cultural Policy*, led by Deborah Stevenson, with a total value of \$435,599; one ARC Discovery project awarded in 2018,

New Consumer Cultures in the Global South led by Anna Pertierra (SHCA school based member) to commence in 2019 with a value of \$235,000; and one ARC Linkage Project, *Heritage Making among Recent Migrants in Parramatta* led by Denis Byrne and Emma Waterton (SSSP school based member), also to commence in 2019, with a value of \$165,000 and in partnership with the Office of Environment and Heritage and The Heritage Council of NSW.

In 2018-2019, ICS researchers were again successful in a range of grants, including as part of research teams with other universities in the prestigious National Health Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grants. One of these was *Understanding and Promoting the Social and Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ Young People*, led by Karen Soldatic, and another was *CRE in Adolescent Health: Making Health services Work for Adolescents in a Digital Age*, led by Philippa Collin, with Amanda Third and Teresa Swift. Tanya Notley (SHCA school based member) was awarded an important university research partnership grant, to undertake a collaborative project with the Museum of Australian Democracy and Google on *Advancing the News Media Literacy of Young Australians*, valued at \$130,000.

ICS researchers published and edited several important monographs and collections in 2018, which are outlined in more detail in subsequent sections of this Annual Review. One highlight of 2018-2019 was the publishing of *Making Culture: Commercialisation, Transnationalism, and the State of 'Nationing' in Contemporary Australia*, the first book to come out of the *Australian Cultural Fields* (ACF), a Discovery Project (2014-2016) led by Tony Bennett which has been one of the largest ever projects ever undertaken at the ICS, encompassing a stellar research team including Len Ang, Michelle Kelly, Greg Noble, Anna Pertierra, David Rowe, Tim Rowse, Deborah Stevenson, and Emma Waterton. Focusing on art, literature, media, sport, music and heritage, the *Australian Cultural Fields* project examined the forces changing contemporary Australian culture.

Over three years, it assessed the influence of transnationalism, digitalisation, migration and multiculturalism, and the distinctive presence of Indigenous culture, on the relations between culture, class, gender, ethnicity and nation in Australia. During 2018-2019, the ACF attracted the interest of the ABC's Class Act radio series which included an interview with Tony Bennett on the relations between class, culture and inequality in Australia. The series was accompanied by a quiz, *Good Taste, Bad Taste? What Your Habits Reveal About Social Class*, derived from the project in which participants compared the relations between their cultural tastes and social characteristics with selected findings from the ACF survey. It was the top-ranked article on the ABC News website by average time spent on page and was liked 90k times on FB.

This very short review does not make justice to all the work that took place at ICS during 2018-2019. As Portuguese sociologist Boaventura de Sousa Santos says, we live in times of tough questions and weak answers. By this he means that it is by asking tough questions that at the end we can address matters of concern. Matters that may ultimately shape the foundations and horizons of possibilities within which we may choose to act upon. This short review is a humble call to continue to work collectively to develop a generative vision for the Institute that spells out how we want to work together to tackle some of the most complex cultural, political, economic and ecological problems of our time, a vision that also is forward-thinking, future-oriented and critically inventive. One that provides a platform for spearheading collaboration, innovation, and, inter/trans-disciplinary work, and that capture the public's attention, interest and imagination in a range of ways.

Professor Juan Francisco Salazar
ICS Research Director
Sydney, May 2019

ICS Research Staff Activity



KAY ANDERSON

Professor Kay Anderson continued work on the Australian Research Council Linkage Project 'Sydney's Chinatown in the Asian Century: From Ethnic Enclave to Global Hub', publishing a sole author article titled 'Chinatown disoriented: shifting standpoints in the age of China', drafting a team manuscript based on the project, and presenting an invited paper at the Foundation for Australian Studies in China (FASIC) conference in Chengdu in November. She also co-authored a journal article in *Environmental Humanities* from an earlier ARC Discovery grant. Professor Anderson retired in December 2018.



IEN ANG

In 2018, **Professor Ien Ang** published (mostly in collaboration with others) two book chapters, two refereed journal articles, one research report, and one article for *The Conversation*. Work continued as a Chief Investigator, with Denis Byrne on the ARC-funded project on the Australia-China Heritage Corridor. She presented keynote addresses at the 'Sinophone meets Francophone' conference at the Humboldt University, Berlin, and at the 6th Foundation for Australian Studies in China (FASIC) conference in Chengdu, China. She collaborated with Deborah Stevenson, David Rowe, Liam Magee and others in the development of the Cultural Infrastructures research program for ICS, focusing on cultural infrastructure needs and planning in greater metropolitan Sydney and building on research partnerships with the City of Sydney and the Inner West Council. She chaired an external review committee for the Department of Communication at the University of Macau and has been appointed external examiner of the Global Issues Area of Inquiry at the University of Hong Kong. Ien was on long-service leave for four months of the year.



TONY BENNETT

Professor Tony Bennett's activities focused chiefly on his convening roles in relation to two projects funded by the Australian Research Council. His work on the 'Australian Cultural Fields' project concentrated on developing two edited collections, one presenting the project's findings regarding the social distribution of cultural tastes and practices in contemporary Australia, and the second focused on current debates and controversies relating to the Australian art field. Both collections, co-edited with other members of the research team, have been contracted by an international publisher for publication in 2020. His work for the 'Assembling and Governing Habits' project consisted of his research toward a book on the political history of habit, and convening an international workshop on the governance of habits. Professor Bennett was also active in the dissemination of his research, presenting an opening keynote address at a one-day symposium focused on the 'Australian Cultural Fields' project held at King's College, University of London, and convening a joint workshop on questions of culture and class with the London School of Economics where he also presented a public lecture. He also presented aspects of his ongoing research into museums as opening keynote addresses at conferences in Copenhagen and Seoul.



DENIS BYRNE

Associate Professor Denis Byrne continued researching links between the built environments of the 'home villages' of people who migrated to Australia from Zhongshan (Guangdong) in the mid-nineteenth century and their places of settlement in Australia. As Chief Investigator for the ARC-funded project, 'The China-Australia Heritage Corridor', he carried out fieldwork in Zhongshan in May and November 2018, along with other members of the project team, recording numerous buildings constructed or renovated by Australian members of the Zhongshan diaspora. He convened a panel on the built heritage of migration at the Association of Critical Heritage Studies in Hangzhou, China, in September 2018, and published chapters on migrant place-making in two edited volumes on the heritage of migration. He also pursued his investigation of coastal reclamations and seawalls as type fossils of the Anthropocene, inspecting sites in the Pearl River Delta. He published an article in the journal of *Contemporary Archaeology*, and two chapters on aspects of this study. In September he presented papers at conferences at University College London and Tromsø University, Norway, which developed the case for coastal reclamations to be regarded as legacy sites of the Anthropocene.



FIONA CAMERON

Dr Fiona Cameron's research activities in 2018 included an appointment for six months at Linköping University as an international investigator on the Bank of Sweden grant, 'In Orbit: Distributed Curatorial Agency when Museum Objects and Knowledge go Online'; and a Research Fellowship at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences for the project, *Ecologizing Experimentations*. She was a keynote speaker for the PhD masterclass, 'Online Collections and Cultural Institutions' held at Linköping University, and at the international symposium on 'Museums and Climate Change' at Manchester Museum. She was Visiting Research Fellow at the KTH, Environmental Laboratory, Stockholm, and an International partner on the Research Council of Norway project 'Lifetimes: A Natural History of the Present', lead by the University of Oslo. She negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with the Museum of Tomorrow, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for research collaborations and grant applications on climate change and museums. She conducted research on a New Zealand Marsden grant, 'Te Ao Hou: Transforming worlds in New Zealand 1900-1950', and she was appointed to the International Council of Museums committee on Sustainability and Climate Change, and completed the revised manuscript, *The future of digital data and heritage* for MIT Press.



PHILIPPA COLLIN

Associate Professor Philippa Collin co-led with Amanda Third a successful application for WSU Strategic Research Initiative funds. This five-year grant will establish the creation of the Young and Resilient Research Centre, incorporating the Intergener8 Living Lab. The Centre will undertake engaged research on the role of technology for promoting the resilience of young people and their communities. Philippa also co-led a research stream in the Wellbeing, Health and Youth Centre of Research Excellence and, with Teresa Swist and Amanda Third, commenced the CRE project: 'Co-creating an Ethics of Engagement', incorporating an intergenerational strategic roundtable in July 2018 with 50 people. Philippa led a co-research and design project on employment programs for young people who are recently arrived or refugee. Working with the Marina de Valencia, Spain, she co-created a framework to support a Living Lab to underpin the inclusive and innovative transformation of public spaces. Philippa co-authored two book chapters and a journal article. She sat on the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Raising Children Network, the advisory board for the TopBlokes Foundation, the Smith Family Digital Futures Advisory Committee and the cross-sector Technology and Wellbeing Roundtable. She was a judge for the Whitlam Institute's 'What Matters' School Essay Competition.



ANDREA CONNOR

In 2018, **Dr Andrea Connor** continued her post-doctoral research for the Australian Research Council Discovery Grant 'Volumetric Urbanism' with Professor Donald McNeill. She conducted research interviews with built-environment professionals across a range of disciplinary areas to gain insight into the vertical geographies of cities. She presented preliminary research findings on innovation around tall buildings in a paper on 'Vertical Villages' at the American Association of Geographers Conference in New Orleans in April. She also presented her research into the People Movement Industry and its work in optimising people flow at the Institute of Australian Geographers conference in New Zealand. Andrea published two articles in *The Conversation*, one of which was republished in *The Conversation Yearbook*, 2018 top 50 articles.



LOUISE CRABTREE

Dr Louise Crabtree secured funding from Landcom with Dr Neil Perry (School of Business) and researchers from UTS and UNSW to undertake 'Creating the City that We Want', focusing on creating diverse and affordable housing in Sydney. Louise also secured funding from Common Equity NSW with Dr Emma Power, Dr Neil Perry, and Dr Sidsel Grimstad (University of Newcastle), for a pilot study 'Articulating Value in Co-operative Housing'. Louise gave two papers at the 'Routes to Sustainability' symposium in Chile and spoke at numerous community and sector events on affordable housing. As the Institute's Director of Engagement, Louise provided input into the University's response to the inaugural Engagement and Impact Assessment, and ran a workshop on impact for Geography HDR students for the Geographical Society of NSW. She convened the Masters Unit 'Developing Sustainable Places', incorporating fieldwork for the Landcom 'Cooling the Commons' project as the basis of student presentations to the research team, including Landcom staff. Louise gave a guest lecture on urban sustainability to Year 8 students at James Ruse Agricultural High School based on their year's project brief and liaised with Landcom, with selected students' group projects displayed and presented at Landcom's 'Co. Lab' conference.



BEN DIBLEY

In 2018, **Dr Ben Dibley** continued research on the 'Governing and Assembling Habits', an Australian Research Council Discovery project with Tony Bennett, Gay Hawkins, Greg Noble and Nikolas Rose. He also continued working on publications associated with, first, his role on the Australian Research Council Discovery project, 'Australian Cultural Fields' led by Tony Bennett and, second, on those associated with the ARC Linkage project, 'Making Animals Public: The Changing Role of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation in Building Public Value and Interest in Wildlife Documentary' led by Gay Hawkins. Over the year, in collaboration with Fiona Cameron, he was involved in research development for a project on museums and climate change. In 2018 he published three peer-reviewed papers and a chapter.



KATHERINE GIBSON

During 2018, **Professor Katherine Gibson** along with Stephen Healy, Joanne McNeill and Jenny Cameron (University of Newcastle) conducted workshops with manufacturing companies in NSW as part of her ongoing ARC DP 'Reconfiguring the Enterprise: Shifting the Culture of Manufacturing in Australia'. She presented the Roepke Lecture on this project at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers where she was also awarded the 2018 Distinguished Scholarship Honors Award. She co-organized a paper session at the joint conference of the Institute of Australian Geographer and the New Zealand geographical Society with Lisa Law (James Cook University) and Ann Hill (University of Canberra) based on her other ARC DP 'Strengthening Resilience in Monsoon Asia', to which partner researchers from the Philippines and Indonesia contributed. Throughout the year she worked with Kelly Dombroski (University of Canterbury, NZ) on the forthcoming *Handbook of diverse economies* editing and interacting with 50 topic chapter authors and conducted a writing workshop with the framing chapter authors. As part of the 'Cooling the Commons' research team she worked on a project funded by Landcom on addressing urban heat in Sydney residential areas.



GAY HAWKINS

Professor Gay Hawkins continued research on the collaborative ARC-funded project 'Assembling and Governing Habits'. She focused on the history and governance of urban littering and the idea of distributed habits. A paper on this research was presented at the University of Sydney and in November an international workshop on the Habit Project was held at Western Sydney University. Other research activities focused on the cultures and politics of plastics. In September she co-hosted an international workshop at the University of Toulouse on 'Economies of Detachment' which explored how to conceptualize transitions from unsustainable practices. The papers from this workshop will be published in a special issue of *Consumption, Markets and Culture*. Professor Hawkins was also part of a plenary panel on 'Plastic Futures' at the Petrocultures conference in Glasgow and presented a public lecture at the University of Otago, New Zealand, on 'Making Animals Public: the ABC and Early Wildlife Programs'. Publications included two book chapters and two journal papers as well as editing a special issue of the *Journal of Contemporary Archaeology* on 'The Time of Materials'. Three chapters sole authored by Professor Hawkins from the book *Plastic water* were translated into French and published in France.



STEPHEN HEALY

In 2018, four projects took up **Dr Stephen Healy's** time, each of which connected diverse forms of economic practice to processes of social transformation. The ARC Discovery project 'Reconfiguring the Enterprise' entered its second year. Operations-level actors in ten Australian Manufacturing enterprises across a range of scales and organisational forms were interviewed, paying attention to how their substantive activities allow us to collectively envision a just and sustainable future of manufacturing in Australia. A second project with Landcom involved a large group of ICS researcher in reimagining Sydney's built environment in ways that create more convivial and comfortable environments. In October, the team presented preliminary findings at Landcom's day-long Collab event. With another group of New Zealand-based researchers, the team had a final workshop with planners and designers to consider the role what role commons might play in reimagining vulnerable urban environments like Christchurch. Lastly, with co-researchers Katherine Gibson and Jenny Cameron, the team had a culminating workshop in the 'Re-drawing Economy' project, in Barking London attended by artists and activist from Colombia, Finland, Korea, Belgium and the Netherlands who had been involved in prior stages of the project.



BOB HODGE

Emeritus Professor Bob Hodge's main focus of activity for the year was on advances in social semiotics, an academic field in which he has played a seminal role. In *Social semiotics for a complex world* he published a new version of this theory. He gave an invited keynote lecture on 'Social Sciences as Semiotics' for a conference hosted by Russia's Immanuel Kant Baltic Federation University devoted to the anniversaries of two seminal works in social semiotics, Michael Halliday's *Language as social semiotic* of 1978, whose 40th anniversary fell in 2018, and Bob Hodge and Gunther Kress's *Social semiotics* of 1988, whose 30th anniversary fell in the same year. He gave a keynote lecture for a symposium on 'Multimodality' at Odense University in Denmark, analysing the semiotics of taste in the famous Copenhagen restaurant, Noma. Russia and Scandinavia are two leading University systems in the world in extending social semiotics, so these two conferences were exciting occasions. He also published an article applying social semiotics to Mexico, 'The semiotics of corruption: ideological complexes in Mexican politics'. His co-authors, Eva Salgado and Frida Villavicencio, are the Mexican members of a team which is applying social semiotics to emerging issues in Mexican politics.



PAUL JAMES

Professor Paul James served as Director of the Institute for Culture and Society, focussing on consolidating appointments, deepening global engagement and enhancing the intellectual culture of the Institute. His research focussed on thinking through the contradictions of contemporary globalization, with an emphasis on what he and his co-author, Manfred Steger (University of Hawaii) describe as the Great Unsettling of the human condition. This process they characterize as reaching across basic ontological categories such as the nature of time, space, embodiment and knowing — exemplified in the reconstitution of nature with the splitting of the atom, the abstraction of finance with the relativisation of futures markets, or the basis unsettling of knowledge with the postmodern relativisation of social meaning. Most of his engagement time went into further developing the *Circles of Social Life approach*, both as Scientific Advisor to the Mayor of Berlin and Director of the Sustainable Cities Collaboratory. He gave 10 keynote or invited addresses globally, including in Ferrara (Italy), Leuphana and Berlin (Germany), Johannesburg and Cape Town (South Africa), and Guangzhou (China), as well as two in Australia. He continued to work as a Publications Editor of *Arena Journal* and *Convening Editor of Postcolonial Studies*.



ISAAC LYNE

In 2018, **Postdoctoral Research Fellow Dr Isaac Lyne** was engaged with 'Seed Box International Environmental Humanities Collaboratory' headquartered at Linköping University in Sweden. He undertook a 3-month residency in Faculty of Development Studies in Cambodia at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, where he gave a series of three lectures and launched fieldwork exploring the role of a plastic bottled water service franchise as part of a partnership strategy for ensuring clean drinking water for all in rural Cambodian communities. He presented research papers at the New Zealand Geographical Society, Institute of Australian Geographers Joint Conference in Auckland, and at the 'Researching Postcapitalist Possibilities' Conference held at Western Sydney University. In 2018, Dr Lyne published articles in *Journal of Enterprising Communities: People and Places in the Global Economy and Asia Pacific Viewpoint*, in which he addressed the rural social economy in Northern Cambodia and contributed to the collation of keywords for economic resilience in Monsoon Asia in partnership with scholars in from across the Asia Pacific and South Asia.



LIAM MAGEE

Dr Liam Magee continued his leadership with Ned Rossiter of the Digital Life Program, through which they organised a series of workshops and seminars on trends in artificial intelligence, automation and gender, and post-digital conditions. With Paul James and Karen Soldatic, he led a report co-authored with Western Sydney Migrant Resource Centre, *Circles of social life, Liverpool: settling strangers; supporting disability needs*. He conducted research on an ARC Linkage Project with Juan Salazar, Paul James, Elizabeth Leane and international partner investigators, 'Antarctic Cities and the Global Commons', which included development of a game prototype and workshop in Hobart. Together with Andrea Pollio, Ien Ang, David Rowe, Deborah Stevenson, Teresa Swist and Alex Wong, he developed two reports on cultural infrastructure for City of Sydney and Inner West Council, 'Cultural Creation and Production in the Inner West LGA: A Case-Study Needs Analysis and Planning Cultural Creation' and 'Production in Sydney: A Venue and Infrastructure Needs Analysis'. He was a Committee Member of Digital Cultures: Knowledge/Culture/Technology, and presented papers on his research in Sydney and Germany.



DONALD MCNEILL

Professor Donald McNeill worked with Andrea Connor and Simon Marvin on the second year of their ARC Discovery project, 'Volumetric Urbanism'. Their *Conversation* article on elevators and escalators achieved over 73,000 reads, and was featured in the *Conversation's* 2018 annual. He also collaborated with WSU's Kylie Budge and Chris Knapp on a Landcom project, 'New Generation Workspace'. As University Theme Champion in Urban Living, he co-led a successful bid to establish a Clinical Academic Group within the Maridulu Budyari Gumal (SPHERE) health research alliance called 'Healthy Urban Environments', in partnership with UNSW, UTS and two Local Health Districts. He was principal supervisor of three PhD candidates, Tayanah O'Donnell, Jack Parkin, and Andrea Pollio, who were awarded their doctorates in 2018. He was named on the urban policy strand of the successful CRC bid in Future Food Systems, working with WSU's Hawkesbury Institute. He chaired the Landcom 'Communities of Practice' stream in Planning, Governance and Partnerships; his research formed part of the NSW Government's Innovation Precincts report. He completed his third year as member of the Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences Panel of the Australian Research Council College of Experts. He also began his term as Chair of the Urban Studies Foundation.



BRETT NEILSON

Professor Brett Neilson completed work on an Australian Research Council Discovery project entitled 'Logistics as Global Governance'. He also continued research for another Discovery called 'Data Centres and the Governance of Labour and Territory' (with Ned Rossiter and Tanya Notley). In collaboration with research from Leuphana University, Professor Neilson (with Ned Rossiter and Tsvetelina Hristova) also completed research on a project funded by Universities Australia and the German Academic Exchange Service on logistics, migration and China's Belt and Road Initiative. He delivered a keynote address at a conference in Kolkata, India, entitled 'Infrastructures beyond Frontiers', organised by Calcutta Research Group and the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation. He gave invited papers at Oxford University, National Chiao Tung University, the University of Melbourne and the University of New South Wales. Professor Neilson was also an invited participant at a workshop entitled 'Infrastructure and Logistics' organized by the editorial board of the journal *Theory, Culture & Society*. Additionally, he delivered an invited paper at the twentieth anniversary of the Cultural and Communication Studies section of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. He published the edited volume *Logistical Asia: the labour of making a world region* (with Ned Rossiter and Ranabir Samaddar).



GREG NOBLE

Professor Greg Noble focused on several research projects during 2018. His main research centred on the 'Mapping the Educational Experiences of Refugee Students' project, (with Megan Watkins) funded by the NSW Teachers Federation, which led to a major report for the Federation. He continued working on the 'Assembling and Governing Habits' project, with Tony Bennett, Gay Hawkins, Nikolas Rose and Ben Dibley, as well as developing publications from data from the 'Australian Cultural Fields: National and Transnational Dynamics' project, led by Tony Bennett. Greg also published an edited book, two book chapters and a refereed journal article. He gave several invited scholarly presentations and keynotes during the year, including at the University of Montreal, the Australian National University and Griffith University, as well as several professional addresses, at the NSW Teachers Federation Centenary Conference and at Kogarah High School. Greg continued in his roles as Deputy HDR Director and Deputy Research Program convener. He also continued to supervise a large number of HDR students and to teach in the Master of Research.



EMMA POWER

Dr Emma Power continued work on her ARC DECRA Fellowship 'Ageing, Home and Housing Security among Single, Asset-Poor Older Women'. The project is part of a broader program of research examining the interconnection between housing governance and home-making cultures through analysis of the politics of care and housing security, ageing, home and housing security, and pets and urban cultures. Emma gave a keynote address at the 'Cities of Care' Symposium, Melbourne, and at 'Make Renting Fair', Parliament House, NSW, and was an invited panellist discussing housing as care infrastructure at the National Housing Conference, Melbourne. Emma also presented at the Institute of Australian Geographers/ New Zealand Geographical Society conference in Auckland, the 'Affordable Living in Sustainable Cities' World Congress, Newcastle, the 'Housing Theory' Symposium, Wollongong, and gave an invited seminar in the School of Environmental and Life Sciences Seminar Series, University of Newcastle. Emma began work on a project evaluating the social value of co-operative housing with Louise Crabtree and Neil Perry (School of Business), partnered with the Cooperative Housing Network in Australia. She also worked with Abby Mellick Lopes, Louise Crabtree, Stephen Healy, Katherine Gibson, Cameron Tonkinwise and Helen Armstrong on a 'Cooling the Commons project' funded by Landcom.



SHANTHI ROBERTSON

In 2018 **Dr Shanthi Robertson** completed her ARC DECRA fellowship on 'Temporality, Mobility and Asian Temporary Migration to Australia'. She launched the project website and ran a two-day workshop on 'Mobile Lives "In-Between": Rethinking Transnationalisms of the Middle'. The workshop featured keynote addresses from Professor Pei-Chia Lan from National Taiwan University and Dr Nick Osbaldiston from James Cook University. Other research highlights for the year included a research visit and keynote address at the 'Borders and Boundaries' conference at Lancaster University, a keynote address at The Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalization Flagship Conference and the publication of a Special Issue titled *Mobile aspirations? youth im/mobilities in the Asia-Pacific* in the *Journal of Intercultural Studies*. She also continued work on her 'Youth Mobilities, Aspiration and Pathways' Discovery project with colleagues at Deakin University and the University of Western Australia.



NED ROSSITER

Professor Ned Rossiter continued his leadership with Liam Magee of the Digital Life Program, through which they organised a series of workshops and seminars on trends in artificial intelligence, automation and gender, and post-digital conditions. With Dr Armin Beverungen (Siegen/Leuphana), Rossiter was co-chair of 'Digital Cultures: Knowledge/Culture/Technology', a conference co-hosted with international strategic partner the Centre for Digital Cultures, Leuphana University in Lüneburg, Germany. He conducted research on an ARC Discovery Project with Brett Neilson, Tanya Notley and international partner investigators, 'Data Centres and the Governance of Labour and Territory'. He published the book, *Organization after social media*, co-authored with Geert Lovink. With Brett Neilson and Ranabir Samaddar, he co-edited a volume stemming from the Logistical Worlds ARC Discovery Project, 'Logistical Asia: The Labor of Making a World Region'. He also published a chapter, translated into German, on automated labour and the logistical state in *Urban consequences of global logistics*, and co-authored three other book chapters. Rossiter continued his duties in 2018 as a Member of the ARC's College of Experts. He was invited to present keynote addresses and papers on his research at conferences and workshops in China, Taiwan, Germany and Sydney.



DAVID ROWE

Emeritus Professor David Rowe presented his research at 15 academic events, including two he initiated at international sites. David spoke at the 'Australian Cultural Fields: Trajectories of Taste and Policy' (King's College London) and 'Cultural Capital and Inequality in the 21st Century' (London School of Economics) symposia. He delivered a Korea Society for Media and Sport Keynote Address in Seoul and presented at (Trans) National Cultural Fields, Linköping University, Sweden and the International Communication Association Conference, Prague. Other oral research papers included at the International Sociology of Sport Association World Congress, Lausanne; at Kent and Cardiff Universities, and in Loughborough University London's Prestige Lecture Series. David was awarded the *Journal of Policy Research in Tourism, Leisure & Events* (Routledge) Best Policy Paper Prize at the Leisure Studies Association Conference, Bath. His *Global Media Sport: Flows, Forms and Futures* (Bloomsbury) was an Outstanding Book Selection of the National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Korea, and at the Australian Sociological Association Conference, Melbourne he received the Distinguished Service to Sociology Award. David published one edited book, five book chapters, four journal articles and two research reports, and engaged in extensive public communication and discussion of his research through print, broadcast and online media.



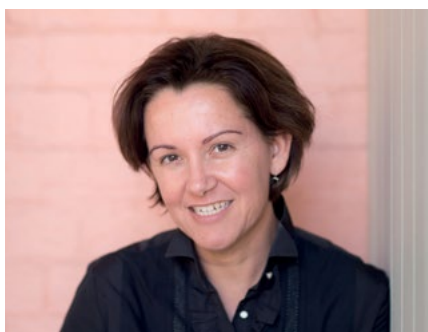
TIM ROWSE

Emeritus Professor Tim Rowse's research proceeded on two fronts: the sociology of contemporary Australia ('Australian Cultural Fields'); and the history of Australia's colonisation of Indigenous Australians. Within the 'Cultural Fields' project he worked on three pieces including editing a book to be published in 2019 as *The difference identity makes: Indigenous cultural capital in Australian cultural fields*. At the invitation of the Australian Dictionary of Biography, he wrote a short piece on Professor C.A. Gibb, based on his papers in the National Library of Australia. As well, he wrote a paper contextualising the 'Gibb Report' of 1972, an influential government report about Aboriginal people on Northern Territory cattle stations. Both pieces have been accepted for publication. In October 2018, he hosted (with Dr Laura Rademaker) a workshop funded by the Academy of Social Sciences Australia on the theme 'How shall we write the history of Indigenous self-determination?'. Editing these papers for publication as a book commenced shortly after the workshop. In December 2018, he participated, as an invited presenter in a conference on the history of Indigenous people of Taiwan, hosted by Academia Sinica, on 'Reserves for Indigenous People: Strategies in the English-speaking New World'.



JUAN FRANCISCO SALAZAR

In 2018, **Associate Professor Juan Francisco Salazar** completed his second year as Research Director of the Institute, and as Research Theme Champion (Environment and Sustainability), Office of the DVC Research. He continued work as Lead Chief Investigator on the 'Antarctic Cities' Australian Research Council Linkage Project, and published two journal articles. One was on the temporalities of ice and the politics of ice-coring practices in Antarctica in the *Journal of Contemporary Archaeology*; and another on the political ontologies of soils for the journal *Nature and Culture* (with Céline Granjou). Juan was invited by Thomson Reuters Foundation to the 'Uncovering Security' Story Lab initiative in London. This was followed with seed funding to lead a three-day workshop on environmental memory in Colombia with local grassroots organizations. He was awarded an Ostrom Fellowship at Indiana University, which was followed by visiting professorships at Temple University, and New York University. He was named a Fellow of the Institute of Humanities at Universidad Diego Portales in Chile. He joined Future Earth Australia's national reference group on Sustainable Cities and Communities. He was awarded competitive funding from Screen Australia to complete the film *The bamboo bridge* made in collaboration with Katherine Gibson and produced by Matadora Films.



KAREN SOLDATIC

Throughout 2018 **Dr. Karen Soldatic** worked with a range of organisations, civil society and communities to disseminate the findings of her long standing research in the area of disability rights, justice and social inequality, with a particular focus on her ARC DECRA Project 'Disability Income Reform and Regional Australia: The Indigenous Experience' and 'Women with disabilities in War effected areas of Sri Lanka'. This resulted in numerous successful critical policy engagements in both Australia and Sri Lanka alongside a range of significant publications. In partnership with the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, Karen was awarded a new ARC Discovery Project (CI 3) for the 2018-2020 on 'New Public Management, Aboriginal Organisations, and Indigenous Rights'.



DEBORAH STEVENSON

In 2018, **Professor Deborah Stevenson** commenced work on the ARC Discovery project 'UNESCO and the Making of Global Cultural Policy', undertook activities associated with the 'Australian Cultural Fields' Discovery Project, and was a member of the team contracted to examine cultural infrastructure for Inner West Council. She also led a major study of the social impact of the arts for Create NSW. In addition, she delivered the Department of Planning and Environment Local Character Public Lecture, and accepted invitations to speak at the University of Linköping, Sweden, the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, London, the London School of Economics, and the conference of the American Association of Geographers. Edward Elgar contracted her to write the monograph *Cultural policy beyond the economy: work, value, and the social*, she coedited the Routledge *Companion to urban media and communication*, and had papers published by the *International Journal of Cultural Policy*; *Making culture: commercialisation, transnationalism, and the state of 'nationing' in contemporary Australia* (Routledge); *Anthology of cultural policy* (Transcript); *Handbook of feminisms in sport, leisure and physical education* (Palgrave); and the Routledge *companion to urban media and communication*. Also published was the Chinese translation of her Routledge monograph *Cities of culture: a global perspective*.



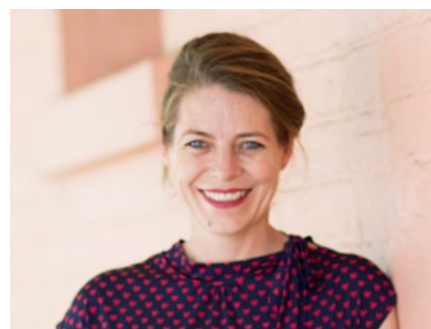
MALINI SUR

Dr Malini Sur, Senior Research Fellow, published on citizenship, displacement and gendered identities in 2018. These drew upon her fieldwork along the Bangladesh-India borderlands and with South Asian asylum seekers in Europe. She co-led a widely attended roundtable and panel on 'Borders, States and Territories in the Anthropological Imagination' at the American Anthropological Congress. The Polis Project (New York) invited her to present her research on India's new citizenship register for their series on 'Suddenly Stateless'. In addition, she delivered papers at the Asian Studies Association of Australia Conference and at the Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Conference. She was also invited to present her borderlands research at anthropology colloquiums at the University of Sydney and Macquarie University. As a part of her commitment to public anthropology, Malini holds advisory positions at Praajak and the Seagull Foundation, India. Her recently completed documentary film, *Life cycle*, exploring the relationship between bicycling and cities, was screened at 'Displacements', the Biennial Conference for the Society for Cultural Anthropology.



TERESA SWIST

Most of **Dr Teresa Swist's** research related to Living Lab activities associated with the Wellbeing Health and Youth Centre of Research Excellence. This involved co-research and co-design workshops with young people, healthcare professionals, researchers, and representatives from youth organisations. Two key outputs included an 'Ethics of Engagement Framework', alongside the foundation model for an Adolescent Health Research Commission. With four young people involved in the project, she co-designed a workshop to present these insights at the Australian Association of Adolescent Health Youth Forum. During the year, she shared her research at a number of international conferences: 'Philosophy of Human-Technology Relations', Netherlands; 'Crossroads in Cultural Studies', China; and 'Digital Culture: Knowledge/Culture/Technology', Germany. In addition, she successfully led a team-submission which was awarded Urban Living Theme seed funds for a project called 'Library as Infrastructure'. This funded a workshop with researchers, as well as public and academic library representatives, to explore the diverse facets and issues facing libraries (with insights to inform a longer-term project). She also published two co-authored articles relating to her other research interests: creative actions to support more equitable forms of scholarly publishing, and inclusive cities.



AMANDA THIRD

Associate Professor Amanda Third worked with Philippa Collin and a team of Western researchers to make a successful bid for University funding for a Young and Resilient Strategic Research Initiative. Commencing in 2019, this entity will conduct research on how to leverage technology to support intergenerational resilience. Amanda's scholarly work focused primarily on the issue of children's rights in the digital age, contributing to the University's efforts to deliver on their commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals. She worked on a series of grants, including to develop child-centred indicators for violence prevention; and to develop a General Comment on Children's Rights in the Context of the Digital Environment. She sat on the NSW Government Review into the non-educational use of smartphones in schools. Amanda gave keynote addresses at the Adobe Experience Symposium and the Netsafe and eSafety Commissioner's conference, and an invited address at the OECD World Forum on Knowledge, Statistics and Policy. She supervised five HDR students to completion. Amanda was appointed to sit on the Creative Arts and Humanities Panel for the inaugural ARC Engagement and Impact Assessment. Alongside Prof. Virginia Schmied, Amanda continued in her role as Western Sydney University's Health and Wellbeing Research Theme Champion.



EMMA WATERTON

Associate Professor Emma Waterton

divided her attention across four research areas in 2018. Her major focus was with the relationship between heritage, emotion and affect, which found expression in a number of book chapters focused on her research at the Pearl Harbor memorial complex. She also continued to explore engagements with heritage in contemporary Australia through her work on the ARC-funded project 'Australian Cultural Fields: National and Transnational Dynamics', led by Professor Tony Bennett. Her collaborative work with Dr Hayley Saul developed through the consolidation of research activities in rural Nepal and the continuation of a project on memory, heritage and landscape in Mongolia. The latter two activities were undertaken in conjunction with the NGO FIRE. Emma produced three co-edited collections in 2018, all with Routledge: 1. *Making culture: commercialization, transnationalism and the state of 'nationing' in contemporary Australia*; 2. *Affective geographies of transformation, exploration and adventure*; and 3. the *Routledge companion to landscape studies* (second edition). She continued to serve on the editorial boards for the *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, *Sustainability* and the *Journal of Heritage Tourism*, and in 2018 she transitioned into the role of Managing Editor for the journal, *Landscape Research*.



MEGAN WATKINS

Professor Megan Watkins is an Institute Fellow and Higher Research Degrees Director in the Institute for Culture and Society. During 2018, along with Professor Greg Noble and Dr Alex Wong, she completed the data collection and analysis for the 'Mapping the Educational Experiences of Refugee Students' project, commissioned research funded by the New South Wales Teachers Federation (NSWTF). The report based on the project findings, *It's complex: working with students of refugee Backgrounds and their Families in NSW Public Schools*, was published by the NSWTF in December, and will inform professional learning materials for NSW teachers to be produced next year. Megan also published an article related to Bourdieu's work on pedagogy in the *British Journal of Sociology of Education*, together with drawing on data from the 'Australian Cultural Fields' project to write a chapter on cultural capital and the reproduction of educational inequality to appear in a Routledge collection associated with the broader project. During the year Megan gave a keynote at the Oceania Ethnography and Education Conference at Deakin University and an invited paper at the Association of American Geographers Annual Conference in New Orleans. Megan also undertook various activities related to her role as ICS HDR Director.



JESSICA WEIR

Dr Jessica Weir, in her fractional capacity, continued to work on her Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC project 'Hazards, Culture, and Indigenous Communities'. Her research activities in 2018 include a case study research in the Canberra region, a knowledge exchange trip with south-western Australia and hosted by Ngadju, Nyungar/Noongar peoples, and attending the National Indigenous Fire Workshop. Dr. Weir co-authored a journal article and a industry report and gave research and industry conference and workshop presentations. Dr Weir also continues to extend the findings of her BNHCRC project 'Scientific Diversity, Scientific Uncertainty' into the use of science by wildfire and floodrisk practitioners, including reporting on results at a seminar hosted by the natural hazard sector in Darwin, and providing a synthesis report for the BNHCRC.



ALEX WONG

During 2018, **Dr Alex Wong** undertook four projects: a three-year ARC Discovery project on 'The China Australia Heritage Corridor', two consultancy projects on 'Planning Culture' and 'Mapping the Educational Experiences of Refugee Students', each commissioned by the City of Sydney and the NSW Teachers' Federation, respectively, and a baseline study for the re-activation plan of WSU's campus in Lithgow — 'Lithgow Sustainable Development'.

In 2018, Dr Wong published two book chapters, two journal articles and one commissioned consultancy report. She co-authored with Prof Ien Ang a book entitled *Chinatown Unbounded: Trans-Asian Urbanism in the Age of China* that is due to publish in January 2019. Her consultancy report, published in April for the City of Sydney received very positive feedback. Dr Wong co-authored an article on *The Conversation* in 2018 to disseminate the research results of the project and engage discussion with the public. Her consultancy report for the NSW Teachers' Federation on refugee students is complete and due to release to public in January 2019. Dr Wong is currently working on the production of a website and preparation of two book chapters for the China Australia Heritage Corridor project.



ANNA YEATMAN

Professor Anna Yeatman's research activity was primarily centred on two projects: firstly, the completion of the publication process for *The triumph of managerialism: new technologies of government and their implications for value*, published in September 2018. She was the lead co-editor, and did all the administrative work including working with the copy-editor. Secondly, she engaged in several iterations of responding to the Uluru Statement and the final report of the Referendum Council, the first of which involved a symposium co-organised at the Whitlam Institute in February 2018. In the course of this work, she wrote three distinct though related presentations on how non-Indigenous Australia should understand the Uluru Statement (and Final Report) as a claim in public law.

ICS School-based Staff Activity



JAMES ARVANITAKIS

In 2018, **Professor James Arvanitakis** was appointed the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Graduate Studies) at Western Sydney University. Despite this administrative position, Professor Arvanitakis continued his engaged research. He continued to work on his 'Citizen Scholar' project as well as researching citizenship, globalisation and the impact on young people. In 2018, Professor Arvanitakis published a number of papers including Ka collaboration with the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), looking at 'Civics and citizenship education: What have we learned and what does it mean for the future of Australian democracy?' (published in *Education, Citizenship and Social Justice*). He also established a research cluster within the University focussing on 'data ethics' and sourced a grant from the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (with Dr James Meese, UTS) to investigate the way corporations collect and use data. Professor Arvanitakis continued his strong media presence with regular segments on ABCNews24. He continued his close collaboration with the arts community and curated exhibitions in Sydney, including fulfilling the role of Chairperson of Diversity Arts Australia, on the Board of the Public Education Foundation, Academic Fellow at the Australia India Institute and a Research Fellow with the Centre for Policy Development.



BRETT BENNETT

Associate Professor Brett Bennett continued ICS's longstanding engagement with South Africa by starting working in South Africa for half of the year with the University of Johannesburg. He started discussions about co-badged postgraduate degree options in the humanities and social sciences between WSU and the University of Johannesburg. In 2018, he led two teaching trips to the Kruger National Park for Western Sydney students, the 7th and 8th he has run in total. He published a co-authored (with Gregory Barton, HCA) article 'The enduring link between forest cover and rainfall: a historical perspective on science and policy discussions' in the journal *Forest Ecosystems*, rated in the top tier for forestry by Scimago ratings. The article was the result of a fully paid trip to China by Beijing Forestry University in 2016. The article was cited in a UN Report on forests and water and has been cited extensively in major science and geography journals.



KYLIE BUDGE

Dr Kylie Budge worked on a Landcom-funded project 'Generation Workspace and Precinct Activation' with scholars from Western Sydney University and University of Sydney, and conducted a makerspace case study in Marrickville, Sydney. She began a collaboration with the State Library of NSW on a project called '#newselfwales' exploring how cultural audiences and social media contribute to developing a sense of people and place. Dr Budge published three journal articles focusing on museum visitor-generated content on Instagram. She co-authored an article for the *The Conversation* on Instagram, art and audiences, which was amplified across mainstream media. Dr Budge taught in undergraduate units in the Bachelors of Communication and Design (Visual Communication), gave a guest lecture in the Master of Digital Humanities and a session at the Digital Humanities Down Under Summer School. She presented at the annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers in New Orleans, and was a panel member on a remote presentation to the 'Studying Instagram Beyond Selfies' conference hosted by Middlesex University, London. She served on the board of the Australasian Consortium of Humanities Research Centres and assisted in judging the State Library NSW Fellowships.



ROBYN BUSHELL

Associate Professor Robyn Bushell is a school-based member at ICS, located in the School of Social Sciences and Psychology. In 2018, she continued heritage research and fieldwork in South East Asia, collaborating in different capacities with UNESCO, Vietnam World Heritage Office, Luang Prabang and Luang Prabang: Handle with Care. This collaboration included completion of a project Improving the relationship between World Heritage, tourism and poverty reduction with funding from the Australian ASEAN Council, UNESCO and the Viet Nam Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism resulting in a report and a meeting convened by the Prime Minister of Viet Nam to inform the review of the national regulations on heritage in Viet Nam. She conducted a pilot assessment of the UNESCO Visitor Management Assessment Tool in SE Asia with funding from UNESCO and GIZ (German Aid). The report was workshopped with the Lao Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism and senior heritage officials. She was a contributor to the IUCN Best Practices in Protected Areas Guidelines Series with *Tourism and visitor management in protected areas: guidelines for sustainability (2018)*. This has now been translated into French and Spanish and to be translated into Portuguese and Chinese.



HART COHEN



ANN DADICH

Dr Ann Dadich published one book chapter, eight refereed articles, eight refereed conference papers, and one research report. These outputs furthered scholarship on the translation of knowledge to practice within health services. One of her co-authored articles involving ten clinicians, discussed what it takes to deliver brilliant palliative care. This article was published in a journal of high impact and wide readership among managers and clinicians. This study attracted considerable social media interest. Similarly, the 'Mothers' Day Letters' project, a study led by colleagues within the School of Nursing and Midwifery, also received media interest in 2018, with reports communicated via the ABC and the Daily Telegraph. As part of her contribution to the Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management, Dr Dadich Co-Chaired the Health Management and Organisation Conference Stream and Co-Convened the Health Management and Organisation Special Interest Group, encouraging engagement and scholarship between and within academe and industry. She continued to lead an externally funded project using an innovative methodology to understand breast-feeding care. These scholarly pursuits contributed to her teaching role within the School of Business, where she co-ordinated and delivered the final-year unit 'Creating Change and Innovation', as well as supervising doctoral scholars.



SHEREE GREGORY

In 2018, **Dr Sheree Gregory** was appointed to the NSW Innovation and Productivity Council's 'Talent Flows' Project Subcommittee — an ongoing research advisory role into 2019. She convened the 'Australian Screen Industry Roundtable' with colleagues from the ICS and School of Business at WSU, the School of Creative Industries at the University of South Australia, and industry guests: SBS; Screen Australia; Create NSW; Australian Film, Television and Radio School; Screen Producers Association; Women in Film and Television (WIFT) Australia; Film Fatales, and the South Australian Film Commission. Sheree completed two funded research projects: first, 'A review of executive leadership succession planning in the higher education sector and implications for gender equality', based on interviews with 15 executives of universities across Australia. It was funded by the WSU Vice Chancellor's Gender Equity fund. Second, she collaborated on a national survey of the experiences of carers and parents in the Australian Screen Industry, with UTS and WIFT Australia, funded by Create NSW. This project resulted in the publication of two reports and policy impact in the South Australian and NSW screen industries. She coordinated three units, teams and taught 'Emerging Leaders' for the Executive MBA program in the Sydney Graduate School of Management.

WALDO GARRIDO

In 2018, **Dr Waldo Garrido** worked on a multi-authored monograph entitled, *Música de Chiloé: folklore, syncretism, and cultural development in a Chilean aquapelago*. This volume analyses the development of the islands' distinct culture with a particular focus on music and dance. Key topics include the relation of tradition and modernity, the impact of tourism on cultural practice, and the relationship between social activism and music culture. The authors complement this focus with a discussion of their own creative engagements with the region through the production of the music album *Viaje a Chiloé* (2018) and through the work of the audiovisual ensemble The Moviolas (2015–2018). Dr Garrido published two entries in the *Sage international encyclopaedia of music and culture*. These chapters were included 'Nuava Cancion' and an overview on the music South America Music. Dr Garrido worked on a creative project that looks at Syrian migrant musicians in Berlin, Germany. This project involves interviews and documentation that will be part of a monograph on music and migration. Dr Garrido is a member of the Centre for Elite Performance, Expertise and Training, Macquarie University. This centre has funded part of this project.

NICHOLE GEORGEOU



KATE HUPPATZ

Associate Professor Kate Huppertz continued to work on two key strands of research in 2018: gendered labour and mothering projects. She finalised the pilot study, 'What Next? Beyond the Broderick Review into Gender Equity in the Military' (with Dr Dagistanli) and continued the internally funded 'Mothers' Day Letters' and 'Parenting in Public' research projects with colleagues at the School of Nursing. Dr Huppertz won seed funding to commence a project on gender, family and skilled labour migration, in collaboration with Dr Sara Amin (University of the South Pacific) in 2019. She continued her term as joint Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Sociology*. Dr Huppertz published a book chapter and co-authored article and worked on her second sole-authored monograph, *Gender work and social theory*.



KI-WAI CHU

Dr Kiu-wai Chu is an institute-based member of ICS and a research fellow of Australia-China Institute for Arts and Culture (ACIAC). In 2018, he published chapters in edited volumes including *The handbook of Asian cinema and Cli-fi: a companion*, as well as a theatre review article in *The Conversation*. He has presented in five international conferences. He is working on a single-authored book, tentatively titled *Shanshui in the Anthropocene: comparative ecocriticism in Chinese visual culture*. He is co-editing two edited volumes on the study of Asian ecocinema and Sinophone studies. He has been invited as a guest lecturer for a MOOC on 'Asian Environmental Humanities: Landscapes in Transition', developed by University of Zurich and Coursera. He has joined the editorial advisory boards of two new journals, *Media+Environment* (University of California Press) and *the Journal of Environmental Media*.



JORGE KNIJNIK

Associate Professor Jorge Knijnik was a keynote speaker at the 5th International Conference on Sport for Social Change in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he has also delivered two workshops on ethnographic methods in sport for education research. He has presented a paper and launched his new book *The World Cup Chronicles: 31 days that rocked Brazil* (Fair Play Publishing) at the International Football History Conference Held at the Manchester City Football Club. He has also conducted field work for two funded research projects: 'Unveiling the multicultural pedagogies of sport: a case-study of Football United' and 'Developing LGBT+ Inclusive Supporter Groups in the Big Bash Cricket League'. He was part of the advisory panel of the Media Centre for Educational Research Australia.



ALANA LENTINI

Associate Professor Alana Lentini continued to serve as President of the Australian Critical Race and Whiteness Studies Association. The association organised a symposium with support from the ICS and the School of HCA on 'Thinking Relationally About Race, Blackness and Indigeneity in Australia'. She was invited to join the editorial committee of *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. She published one book chapter, one journal article and two book reviews. The book series she edits at Rowman and Littlefield International, 'Challenging Migration Studies', published an edited volume. She was a visitor at the National Institute of Demography in Paris in May and the European Research Council funded research project, RACE Face ID at the University of Amsterdam in September. She gave three talks during her time at Amsterdam, and also spoke at the Minor Cosmopolitanisms Summer School organised by the University Potsdam at Macquarie University, the inaugural conference of the Data Justice Lab in Cardiff, Sydney Medical School, and Multiculturalism New South Wales. She contributed articles to *The Guardian*, *The Conversation*, *Monitor-Global Research on Racism*, and ABC Religion and Ethics. She was interviewed for Radio 3CR, Radio Busan (Korea), ABC Adelaide, Radio 2SER, and Radio Adelaide.



ABBY MELLICK LOPES

Dr Abby Mellick Lopes was first investigator on the Landcom project 'Cooling Common Spaces in Densifying Urban Environments', with Stephen Healy, Emma Power, Louise Crabtree, Katherine Gibson, Vanicka Arora, Cameron Tonkinwise (UTS) and Helen Armstrong (QUT). She continued her 'Learning Partnership' with Sydney Water, building on findings from the 2017 project led by Gay Hawkins, 'Understanding the Drivers of Public Trust in Sydney Water'. With Vanicka Arora she co-taught an intensive in the Design program at UTS based on 'Cooling the Commons' research. Abby wrote a *Conversation* article 'Materials that makes things worse for our kids demand a rethink by designers' with Sebastian Pfautsch and Matthew Blick, and presented a public lecture as part of Sydney Ideas event 'Spatial Inequality and Australian Cities in a Warming World' at the Sydney Environment Institute, University of Sydney. Abby spoke at the launch of WSROC's 'Turn Down the Heat Strategy and Action Plan'. With Alison Gill, Abby secured Digital Humanities Research Group funding to develop a digital platform building on the Environment and Heritage research theme funded *Cultures of Repair* report (Sidoti, 2017). Abby continued her collaboration on the Transdisciplinary Living Lab and organics recycling with UTS colleagues Dena Fam and Alexandra Crosby.



GEORGE MORGAN

In 2018 **Associate Professor George Morgan's** book *The Creativity Hoax? Precarious Work and the Gig Economy*, co-authored with Dr Pariece Nelligan, was published by Anthem Press, as was his chapter 'Herding Cats: Colonising Creativity in the Urban Social Factory' in an anthology edited by R Gill, A Pratt and T Virani, *Creative Hubs in Question* (Palgrave). He undertook research with Dr Sheree Gregory on their 'Co-Working in the Creative City' project, funded by a School of Humanities and Communication Arts internal grant, which looks at the rise of co-working in Sydney and the distribution of co-working in urban and suburban areas. Morgan was invited to speak in June on a panel with Professors Kate Oakley (University of Glasgow) and Mark Banks (Leicester University) at the 'Cultural Economy after Neo-Liberalism' conference at Monash University on the theme of 'Key issues for the Next Decade: Post-Growth Creative Economies'. Morgan organised the visit of Professor Susan Luckman (University of South Australia) and Emeritus Professor Phil Cohen (University of East London) to a seminar at ICS at which they both spoke.



TANYA NOTLEY

In 2018 **Dr Tanya Notley** continued researching and supporting young Australians' media literacy. Tanya received new funding from the Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD), Google Australia and Western Sydney University to respond to emerging questions regarding the changing role of news in relation to citizenship and democracy. Tanya will use this funding to support young Australian's engagement with a major five-year exhibit at MoAD to be opened in late 2019. Tanya was invited to discuss news media literacy at a number of industry and academic events and was interviewed about this topic on ABC Life Matters during Media Literacy week. She published two book chapters, three journal articles and an App. These publications focused on news media literacy, the politics of digital memory storage, Australian digital capacities and emotion mapping. Tanya continued work on the Australian Research Council Discovery project, 'Data Centres and the Governance of Labour and Territory' (with Ned Rossiter and Brett Neilson). This included work on an interactive installation that will explore the politics of data storage. Tanya also supported a successful funding application to City of Sydney (Art and About Sydney) by the Berlin-based human rights and technology not-for-profit Tactical Technology Collective (Berlin). They will now bring their major interactive exhibit, The Glass Room, to Sydney in early 2020 and Tanya will coordinate WSU's engagement.



BONNIE PANG

Dr Bonnie Pan is currently Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at the Leeds Beckett University working on a project about Chinese students' physical activity, leisure and health-related experiences in the United Kingdom. In 2018, she published six journal articles and three book chapters. She completed a WSU Women's Fellowship Award Grant on Chinese International students' health experiences in NSW. A co-authored book *Interpreting the Chinese Diaspora: Socialisation, Identity and Resilience According to Pierre Bourdieu* was accepted in 2018 and published in 2019 with Routledge. Her 'Rethinking Health Experience and Active Lifestyles: Chinese Communities' research program, established in 2017, continues to secure external funding from individual donors. She gave a public talk to ACON on 'Chinese youths need more sexual health education—here is why and how?', and a talk to ICS HDR seminar series on 'Ethnographic research methods'. She is now working on a book on *Diversity, difference and social justice in physical education: challenges and strategies in a translocated world*, contributing to the Routledge Studies in Physical Education and Youth Sport series. She also received the FHEA and was a nominee for WSU citation for outstanding contributions to student learning.



KEITH PARRY

Dr Keith Parry joined ICS as a school-based member in 2018. He published a number of book chapters on the topic of sport spectating and health and produced research reports for the Sydney Sixers and Football Federation Australia — the latter looking at the use of football as a tool to aid refugee settlement. He also worked on an ongoing funded research project titled 'Developing LGBT+ Inclusive Supporter Groups in the Big Bash Cricket League'. He continued to write extensively for *The Conversation* website, covering topics such as cheating by the Australian men's cricket team, the cost of sport participation, and the role of casual sport in social cohesion. This last piece was also highlighted via a short television report on The Feed, SBS Viceland titled 'Foul play: are clubs killing community sport'. He won a prestigious UN Day Media Award from the United Nations Association of Australia for the category 'Promoting Sustainable Cities and Communities' for this combined media dissemination. Keith made regular media appearances, including televised broadcasts with international news channels.



ANNA CRISTINA PERTIERRA

Associate Professor Anna Cristina Pertierra's most recent book, *Media anthropology for the digital age* (Polity), was launched in February 2018. Later in the year, Associate Professor Pertierra was awarded an ARC Discovery Grant for the project 'New Consumer Cultures in the Global South'. This project constitutes her major current research focus, examining the emergence of new mass consumers in large urban communities in four countries: China, the Philippines, Mexico and Brazil. The investigatory team includes three other researchers from the Philippines, Brazil and China-Australia. Associate Professor Pertierra won the 2018 Australian Anthropological Society Article Prize, for her article 'Televisual experiences of poverty and abundance: entertainment television in the Philippines', *Australian Journal of Anthropology*. In her 'home' School of Humanities and Communication Arts, she is the Director of International and continues her teaching activities.



HAYLEY SAUL

Dr Hayley Saul, Senior Lecturer in Heritage and Tourism, continues to focus on the heritage and archaeology of the Himalayas, investigating culinary archaeology and post-disaster themes. In 2018, Hayley became 'Tourism and Heritage' focal person for the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development. In this role she is part of an international team on the Mount Kailash Sacred Landscape project, exploring the archaeology of this far western Nepalese pilgrimage and trade route, and building sustainable heritage tourism livelihood initiatives. In addition, Hayley spent 2018 conducting fieldwork for her forthcoming monograph about prehistoric cuisines across Eurasia, informed by her researches in Nepal and Europe (with a team from the University of York, UK). These investigations also took her to Mongolia (with Emma Waterton) where she identified a trade-route valley on the steppe that is rich in prehistoric monuments and ripe for further archaeological investigation. These researches on the Mongolian steppe will complement emerging debates that Dr Saul has been formulating in the Himalayas, about the reasons and methods of food globalisations in prehistory. Dr Saul (alongside Emma Waterton), continues to undertake the participatory design of the Langtang Heritage Trail with a community in central Nepal.



JESSICA WHYTE

YOUQING FAN

In 2018, **Dr Youqing Fan** conducted his Academic Development Program in Australia and China, including visiting the Social Policy Research Centre at UNSW and several Chinese institutions in Beijing, Wuhan, Chengdu and Tianjin. Apart from that, he attended four academic conferences (namely, CESA 2018 conference at UTS, ILERA World Congress at Seoul, URAP conference at UNSW, and ANZAM 2018 at Auckland), presenting his research to audience from various disciplines and establishing critical linkages with key researchers in his field. He also submitted several manuscripts to high-impact journals. Two of them have been published in leading journals *Habitat International* and *Asian Business and Management*. One is under review with *International Journal of Human Resource Management*. His collaborative work on how Sydney is divided by the 'latte line' and type of employment has also been published by *The Conversation* and has attracted wide media attention including an in-depth coverage by the *Sydney Morning Herald*. He supervised two PhD students to completion, whilst supervising another four towards completion. One of those students has submitted a review article co-authored with Dr Fan to high-impact journal for review.



XIANG REN

Dr Xiang Ren worked with scholars from Australia, Germany, United States, United Kingdom and South Africa in the Open Knowledge Book Sprint in April, resulting in a co-authored book titled *Open knowledge institutions: reinventing universities*. A journal article on China's open-access developments (with Lucy Montgomery) was also published this year, which attempts to shift the focus of open knowledge from advocacy to the investigation of its complexity and diversity in different contexts. In July, he co-convened an international symposium on Chinese digital publishing and reading (with Zhiqiang Zhang), which brought together a diverse and rich group of researchers and explored publishing futures in China and beyond. His current research looks at the emergent practices of Chinese online writing and digital publishing, particularly the influence of platforms and the participation of young people. He presented several papers on relevant topics in international conferences and completed a book chapter with Terry Flew and Yi Wong on China's digital creative industries in A Research Agenda for Creative Industries (Edward Elgar). He also has three Chinese publications released this year including a chapter on the Australian publishing industry in the Australian volume of the 'Cultural Markets in the Belt-and-Road Countries' series.

Research Projects

RESEARCH PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY ICS RESEARCHERS IN 2018

COOLING COMMON SPACES IN DENSIFYING URBAN ENVIRONMENTS: A REVIEW OF BEST PRACTICE AND GUIDE FOR WESTERN SYDNEY RENEWAL

Researchers: Abby Mellick Lopes (WSU), Stephen Healy (WSU), Louise Crabtree (WSU), Katherine Gibson (WSU), Emma Power (WSU), Cameron Tonkinwise (UNSW)

Funding: Landcom

Period: 2018

Project Summary: The aim of this project is to interrogate studies that have documented best practices to achieve thermal comfort in cities with similar climate conditions to Sydney. It will address the gap in knowledge of how people move between inside and outside, especially vulnerable populations—young, old and mobility-challenged. Of particular interest will be those spaces and social practices that connect the private space of home with the footpaths, shops, schools, parks, workplaces, and other spaces that we share in common. The appropriate solutions to be explored are connected to design but also the realm of social practice – how do people stay cool? How does this coolness contribute to the vitality, sociability, and even commercial life of cities? What design features allow for both comfort and mobility in the city, and what social practices are these enabling? Working with Landcom and other relevant agencies such as the Land and Housing Corporation, this project will review literature and practice to develop a pattern book communicating core principles of design that can enable cool urban commons and inform templates for community cooling plans.

Key objectives:

1. Conduct a comprehensive review of international literature on coolth in the public domain, strategies for cooling activity pathways at a neighbourhood scale, and social practices and conventions that contribute to thermal comfort.
2. Devise a typology of shared-space thermal comfort practices and design strategies, including both best and worst practice types
3. Produce a draft Pattern Book of best practice, incorporating principles identified from our international review.
4. Conduct site visit of Landcom redevelopments to assess the problems and opportunities for designing coolth in public spaces—movement spaces as well as spaces of respite, recreation and care.
5. Conduct 2 workshops with industry professionals and residents to
6. Finalise the pattern book in light of site visits and workshops and produce a workable document for wider use by building design professionals and planners.

UNDERSTANDING AND PROMOTING THE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER LGBTIQ YOUNG PEOPLE

Researchers: Ashleigh Lin (WSU), Karen Soldatic (WSU), Braden Hill (Murdoch), Bep Uink (Murdoch), Yael Perry (Telethon), Linda Briskman (WSU)

Funding: National Health and Medical Research Council

Period: 2018-2021

Project Summary: Currently, there is no empirical knowledge base for the interstice of being Indigenous, LGBTIQ and young, and how this intersection of identities contributes to SEWB and mental health. In this study, the research team seeks to directly address the dearth of research and knowledge in the area. The principal objective of the study is to better understand how the interstice of Indigenous, LGBTIQ and youth identities impacts the SEWB and mental health of this group to enable the development of interventions to effectively support these young people. The project seek to identify, examine and document the SEWB and mental health of Indigenous LGBTIQ young people in three centres across Australia – Darwin, Sydney and Perth (from where we will also extend to regional WA).

NO LONGER POOR, NOT MIDDLE CLASS: NEW CONSUMER CULTURES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Researchers: Anna Cristina Perterra (WSU), Czarina Saloma-Akpedonu (Ateneo De Manila), Rosana Pinheiro-Machado (Ateneo De Manila)

Funding: Australian Research Council (Discovery Project)

Period: 2019-2022

Project Summary: This project will advance understandings of how globalised economic growth is transforming lives among low income urban communities of the Global South. In emerging economies, the former poor have become mass consumers; this economic shift has consequences not only for material wellbeing, but also for social status, identity formation and belonging. The project's interdisciplinary cultural approach focuses on four urban case studies located in Mexico, the Philippines, China and Brazil. Academic publications, public reports and an interactive website offering new data on the changed global experience of urban life, have the potential to reshape social theories of poverty and improve development policies across the Trans-Pacific region.

SOCIAL IMPACT ANALYSIS OF NSW ARTS, SCREEN AND CULTURE PROGRAMS

Researchers: Deborah Stevenson (WSU), Sarah Barns (WSU), Jacqueline Clements (WSU)

Funding: Create NSW

Period: 2018

Project Summary: Through a combination of general literature review, review and synthesis of available evaluation documentation provided by Create NSW, interviews and case studies, this project will make available a mix of hard data, qualitative research findings, and impactful, anecdotal evidence of the role of the arts in achieving positive social impact.

SUSTAINABLE CITIES COLLABORATORY (METROPOLIS)

Researcher: Paul James (WSU)

Funding: City of Berlin

Period: 2018-2020

NEW GENERATION WORKSPACE AND PRECINCT ACTIVATION

Researchers: Donald McNeil (WSU), Kylie Budge (WSU), Chris Knapp

Funding: Landom

Period: 2018-2020

Project Summary: This project focuses on precinct manufacturing spaces, with an emphasis on understanding the integration of different sizes and scales of workplace, overall precinct cluster mixes, and placemaking principles, that cover the entire spectrum from art, architecture and design, to craft production, through to custom manufacturing, rapid prototyping, and advanced precision manufacturing. It looks at small-scale artisanal spaces to corporate supported makerspaces, such as Autodesk's Build Space incubator Pier 9 in San Francisco, and Boston, which supports innovation in the construction, engineering industries. In many cases, these are being collocated with professional or service oriented co-working spaces, which typically offer flexible leases in shared or micro-offices, with café and business development/social mixer programs provided by a co-ordinating group.

CULTURAL CREATION AND PRODUCTION - INNER WEST

Researchers: Liam Magee (WSU), David Rowe (WSU), Ien Ang (WSU), Deborah Stevenson (WSU)

Funding: Inner West Council

Period: 2018-2019

CLOUDED DATA: TECHNOLOGIES AND POLICIES FOR BALANCING INFORMATION PRIVACY AND USE

Researchers: Liam Magee (WSU), Ned Rossiter (WSU), Brett Neilson (WSU)

Funding: REDI (WSU)

Period: 2018

Project Summary: The project surveys technologies and policy frameworks relating to securing and analysing data in the cloud. Examples of technologies include homomorphic encryption and blockchains, while examples of frameworks include the EU's GDPR. For outputs, the project will prepare a joint-authored whitepaper on results and any recommendations following the survey, and a draft journal article for a venue such as "Information Technology & People".

CLOSING THE LOOP - DELIVERING A SUPERIOR CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE USING TECHNOLOGY

Researchers: Sarah Barns (WSU), Juan Salazar (WSU), Abby Mellick Lopes (WSU), Paul James (WSU)

Funding: Smart City and Suburbs Programs

Period: 2018-2019

ADVANCING THE NEWS MEDIA LITERACY OF YOUNG AUSTRALIANS

Researchers: Tanya Notley (WSU), Michael Dezuanni (QUT)

Funding: WSU and Google

Period: 2018-2020

Project Summary: This project responds to changes in the production, experience and consumption of news media by young Australians.

CREATING THE CITY WE WANT: TACKLING THE BARRIERS TO HOUSING DEVERDIVERSITY IN NSW

Researchers: Louise Crabtree (WSU), Neil Parry (SoB)

Funding: Landcom

Period: 2018-2019

Project Summary: This project will examine spatial models of housing that can satisfy a diverse array of family structures, cultural groups and aging, to ask what might the city look like, what opportunities for living within that city are revealed, and what impacts might they have on affordability? Having described this new city at multiple scales the project will ask how we might we understand the barriers to realizing this alternate city. This will include examination of regulatory barriers and current obstacles for diverse tenure forms.

RECYCLING JUGAAD: BICYCLES AND INFORMAL WASTE ECONOMIES IN INDIA

Researcher: Malini Sur (WSU)

Funding: WSU Women Fellowship

Period: 2018-2019

Project Summary: This project investigates how bicycles and cycling cargo contribute to informal waste economies in Kolkata, India. It suggests that the movement of waste via second hand bicycles should be central to the study of urban livelihoods and revaluing waste matter. Scholars use the lens of "jugaad" to understand low-end assembling and 'makeshift' innovations like carrying cargo as technologies of the poor. In showing how actions of low caste cyclists, mechanics and vendors support city economies, the proposed project highlights that religion and cultural practices are integral to "jugaad."

HOUSING AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE PATHWAYS WITH COMPANION ANIMALS: RISKS, COSTS, BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Researcher: Emma Power (WSU)

Funding: AHURI

Period: 2018-2019

BIG DATA AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES: NEW ISSUES IN DATA ETHICS AND GOVERNANCE

Researchers: Liam Magee (WSU), Ned Rossiter (WSU)

Funding: WSU DVCR&I

Period: 2018-2019

Project Summary: The project examines data ethics and governance issues pertaining to social research with Big Data, and specifically with data generated by the Mass Observations project. To solicit a diversity of views and facilitate wider understanding, the project will organise one or several workshops with members of the Ethics Committee, researchers working on Big Data sets, and experts in emerging techniques of data analysis (machine learning etc). The project will also seek to understand emerging practices of data governance in other institutional settings (education, health). Key reference documents include WSU's recent Risk Appetite Statement, and Social Science One, a Facebook-initiated consortium examining related questions. Outputs include: (1) an internal report containing draft considerations and recommendations, and a risk assessment matrix; (2) guideline notes for ethics committees and researchers; and (3) 1-2 draft journal articles targeting Q1 venues.

CHILD-CENTRED INDICATORS FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION: A LIVING LAB

Researchers: Amanda Third (WSU), Philippa Collin (WSU)

Funding: UNICEF

Period: 2018-2019

Project Summary: Drawing on UNICEF—Innocenti's Integrated Child-Centred Framework for Violence Prevention, the proposed project will pilot a Living Lab process to bring children and other key stakeholders together to develop child-centred indicators of violence.

HERITAGE-MAKING AMONG RECENT MIGRANTS IN PARRAMATTA

Researchers: Denis Byrne (WSU), Emma Waterton (WSU)

Funding: Australian Research Council (Linkage Project)

Period: 2018-2019

THE ICS CULTURAL MAPPING INITIATIVE

Researchers: Deborah Stevenson (WSU), Ien Ang (WSU), David Rowe (WSU), Liam Magee (WSU)

Funding: WSU DVCR&I

Period: 2018-2019

MAPPING URBAN SUSTAINABILITY AND PLACE-BASED EMOTIONS

Researchers: Paul James (WSU), Liam Magee (WSU), Louise Crabtree (WSU), Juan Salazar (WSU)

Funding: WSU DVCR&I

Period: 2018-2020

NSW GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF SMARTPHONES IN SCHOOLS

Researcher: Amanda Third (WSU)

Funding: NSW Department of Education

Period: 2018

FUTURE FOOD SYSTEM CRC

Researcher: Donald McNeill (WSU)

Funding: NSW Department of Education

Period: 2018

MIGRANT WORKERS, GLOBAL LOGISTICS AND UNEQUAL CITIZENS IN CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL CONTEXT

Researchers: Brett Neilson (WSU), Shanthi Robertson (WSU), Malini Sur (WSU)

Funding: Consortium of Humanities Institutes and Centres

Period: 2018-2019

AUSTRALIA AS A SPACE-FARING NATION: AN ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY OF SOCIO-TECHNICAL IMAGINARIES OF OUTER SPACE

Researcher: Juan Salazar (WSU)

Funding: Australian Research Council (Future Fellowship)

Period: 2018-2019

Publications

KAY ANDERSON

Refereed article:

- Anderson K & Perrin C 2018, '“Removed from nature”: the modern idea of human exceptionality', *Environmental Humanities*, vol. 10, no. 2, pp. 447–72.
- Anderson K 2018, 'Chinatown dis-oriented: shifting standpoints in the age of China', *Australian Geographer*, vol. 49, no. 1, pp. 133–48.

IEN ANG

Book chapters:

- Ang, I & Noble, G 2018, 'Making multicultural: Australia and the ambivalent politics of diversity', in D. Rowe, G. Turner & E. Waterton (eds), *Making multicultural: commercialisation, transnationalism, and the state of 'nationing' in contemporary Australia*, Routledge, London.
- Wong, A & Ang, I 2018, 'From Chinatown to China's town? the newest Chinese diaspora and the transformation of Sydney's Chinatown', in Yuk Wah Chan & Sin Yee Koh (eds), *New Chinese Migrations: Mobility, Home and Aspirations*, Routledge, London.

Refereed articles:

- Noble, G & Ang, I 2018, 'Ethnicity and cultural consumption in Australia', *Continuum: Journal of Media and Cultural Studies*, vol. 32, no. 3, pp. 296–307.
- Ang I 2018, 'Inhabiting the diasporic habitus: on Stuart Hall's familiar stranger: a life between two islands', *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*, vol. 25, no. 1, pp. 1–6.

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- Pollio, A, Ang, I, Rowe, D, Stevenson, D, & Magee, L 2018, *Cultural creation and production in the Inner West LGA: a case-study needs analysis*, Inner West Council, Sydney.
- Ang, I, Rowe, D, Stevenson, D, Magee, L, Wong, A, Swist, T & Pollio, A 2018, *Planning cultural creation and production in Sydney: a venue and infrastructure needs analysis*, Institute for Culture and Society, Penrith.

TONY BENNETT

Book:

- Bennett, T 2018, *Museums, Knowledge, Power*, Routledge, London.

Book chapters:

- Bennett, T 2018, 'Beyond nation, beyond art? the 'rules of art' in contemporary Australia' in D Rowe, G Turner & E Waterton (eds), *Making culture: commercialisation, transnationalism, and the state of 'nationing' in contemporary Australia*, Routledge, London.
- Bennett, T & Gayo, M 2018, 'For the love (or not) of art in Australia', in M Quinn, D Beech, M Lehnert, C Tulloch & S Wilson (eds), *The persistence of taste: art, museums and everyday life after Bourdieu*, Routledge, London.

Refereed articles:

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- Bennett, T, Dibley, B & Kelly, M 2018, 'Marking differences: indigenous cultural tastes and practices', *Continuum: Journal of Media & Cultural Studies*, vol. 32, no. 3, pp. 308–21.

DENIS BYRNE

Refereed article:

- Byrne, D 2018, 'Time on the waterline: coastal reclamations and seawalls in Sydney and Japan', *Journal of Contemporary Archaeology*, vol. 5, no. 1, pp. 53–65.

FIONA CAMERON

Book chapter:

- Cameron, FR 2018, Posthuman museum practices, in R Braidotti & M Hlavajova (eds), *Posthuman Glossary*, Bloomsbury, London.

PHILIPPA COLLIN

Book chapters:

- Collin P, Lala G, & Fieldgrass L 2018, 'Participation, empowerment and democracy: engaging with young people's views' in P Alldred, F Cullen, K Edwards, D Fusco (eds) *Sage Handbook of Youth Work Practice*, Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks.
- Collin P, Notley T, & Third A 2018, 'Cultivating (digital) capacities: a role for social living labs? in M Dezuanni, M Foth, K Mallan, & H Hughes (eds), *Digital participation through social living labs: valuing local knowledge, enhancing engagement*, Chandos Publishing, Cambridge.

ANDREA CONNOR

Refereed article:

- Allatson, P & Connor, A 2018, 'From god-head to bin chook Ibis in the Australian cultural imagination', *Artlink*, vol. 38, no. 1, pp. 66–71.

LOUISE CRABTREE

Refereed articles:

- Crabtree, L, Davis, V, Foster, D & Klerck, M 2018, 'A tale of (at least) three reports: agency and discourse in the Alice Springs town camps', *Global Media Journal*, vol. 12, no. 1, published online without page numbers.
- Crabtree, L 2018, 'Self-organised housing in Australia: housing diversity in an age of market heat', *International Journal of Housing Policy*, vol. 18, no. 1, pp. 15–34.
- Mellick Lopes, A, Healy, S, Power, E, Crabtree, L. & Gibson, K 2018, 'Infrastructures of care: opening up "home" as commons in a hot city', *Human Ecology Review*, vol. 24, no 2, pp. 41–59.

BEN DIBLEY

Book chapter:

- Dibley, B & G Turner, G 2018 'Indigeneity, cosmopolitanism and the nation: the project of NITV', in D Rowe, G Turner & E Waterton (eds), *Making culture: commercialisation, transnationalism, and the state of 'nationing' in contemporary Australia*, Routledge, London.

Refereed articles:

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- Dibley, B 2018 'The technofossil: a memento mori', *Journal of Contemporary Archaeology*, vol. 5, no. 1, pp. 44-52.
- Dibley, B. & M. Goyo, 2018 'Favourite Sounds: The Australian Music Field', *Media International Australia*, vol. 167, no. 1, pp. 146-61.

KATHERINE GIBSON

Book chapters:

- Gibson, K. 2018, 'Introduction: food as urban commons and community economies', in N Rose & A Gaynor (eds), *Reclaiming the urban commons: the past, present and future of food growing in Australian towns and cities*, University of Western Australia Publishing, Perth.
- Gibson, K, Hill, A. & Law, L, 2018, 'Community economies in Southeast Asia: a hidden economic geography', in A, Macgregor, L. Law & F. Miller (eds), *Routledge handbook of Southeast Asian development*, Routledge, London.
- Petrescu, D & Gibson K, 2018 'Diverse economies, ecologies and practices of urban commoning', in C Gabriellsson, H Frichot & H Runtig (eds), *Architecture and feminisms*, Routledge, London.

Refereed articles:

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- Healy, S, McNeill, J, Cameron J, & Gibson, K 2018, 'Pre-empting apocalypse? postcapitalism as an everyday politics', *Australian Quarterly*, vol. 89, no. 2, pp. 28-33.
- Gibson, Astuti, K, Carnegie, R, Chalernphon, A, Dombroski, K, Haryani, AAR, Hill, A, Kehi, B, Law, L, Lyne, I, McGregor, A, McKinnon, K, McWilliam, A, Miller, F, Ngin, C, Occeña-Gutierrez, D, Palmer, L, Placino, P, Rampengan, M, Than, WLL, Wianti, NI, Wright, S, & the Seeds of Resilience Research Collective, 2018, 'Community economies in Monsoon Asia: keywords and key reflections', *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* vol. 59, no. 1, pp. 3-16.
- Gibson-Graham, JK, Cameron J, & Healy, S 2018, 'La construction du commun comme politique post-capitaliste', *Multitudes* no. 70, pp. 80-9.

STEPHEN HEALY

Book chapter:

- Dombroski, K, Healy, S & McKinnon, K 2018, 'A Postcapitalist Politics of Care' In C. Bauhardt & W. Harcourt, eds, *Feminist Political Ecology and the Economics of Care: In Search of Economic Alternatives*, London: Routledge.

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- Gibson-Graham, JK, Cameron J, & Healy, S 2018, 'La construction du commun comme politique post-capitaliste', *Multitudes* no. 70, pp. 80-9.
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- 2018 Healy, S. "Corporate Enterprise as Commonwealth." *Journal of Law and Society* 45(1): 46-63. DOI: 10.1111/jols.12078.
- 2018 Healy, S. "Beginning with Care, Touching Feminist Materiality." *Journal of Cultural Economy* 11(3): 265-67. DOI: 10.1080/17530350.2018.1433706.

PAUL JAMES

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- Ames, S, Barns, I, Hinkson, J, James, P, Preece, G & Sharp G 2018, *Religion in a secular age: the struggle for meaning in an abstracted world*, Arena Publications, North Carlton.

Book chapters:

- James, P 2018 'Major figures in global studies', in M Juergensmeyer, S Sassen, MB Steger & V Faessel, eds, *The Oxford handbook of global studies*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
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- James, P, Magee, L, Mann, J, Partoredjo, S, & Soldatic, K 2018 *Circles of sustainability, Liverpool: settling strangers; supporting disability needs*, Western Sydney Press, Liverpool.

DONALD MCNEILL

Book chapter:

- McNeill, D & Pollio A 2018, 'Tracking global urbanists', in J. Harrison & M. Hoyler (eds), *Doing global urban research*, Routledge, London.

ISAAC LYNE

Refereed articles:

- Lyne, I, Ngin, C & Santoyo-Rio, E 2018, 'Social Enterprise, Social Economy and Local Social Entrepreneurship in Rural Cambodia', *Journal of Enterprising Communities: People and Places in the Global Economy*, vol. 12, no. 3, pp. 278–298.
- Gibson, K, Astuti, R, Carnegie, M, Chalernphon, A, Dombroski, K, Haryani, AR, Hill, A, Balthasar, K, Law, L, Lyne, I, McGregor, A, McKinnon, K, McWilliam, A, Miller, F, Ngin, C, Occeña-Gutierrez, D, Palmer, L, Placino, P, Rampengan, M, Than, WLL, Wianti, NI, Wright, S 2018, 'Community Economies in Monsoon Asia: Keywords and Key Reflections, *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*, vol. 59, no. 1, pp. 3–16.

Short Note:

- Lyne, I & Ngin, C 2018, 'Provas (sharing), Keywords of Community Economies in Asia', published online: <https://communityeconomiesasia.wordpress.com/2018/03/07/provas-sharing/>

LIAM MAGEE

Refereed articles:

- Handmer, J, Ladds, M & Magee, L 2018, 'Updating the costs of disasters in Australia', *Australian Journal of Emergency Management*, vol. 33, no. 2, pp. 40–6.
- Magee, L. & Swist, T. 2018, 'Listening in on Informal Smart Cities: Vernacular Mapping in Mirpur, Dhaka', *Journal of Peer Production*, no. 11, published online.

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BRETT NEILSON

Book:

- Neilson, B, Rossiter, N & Samaddar, R (eds) 2018, *Logistical Asia: the labour of making a world region*, Palgrave Macmillan, Singapore.

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- Mezzadra, S & Neilson, B 2018, 'Lampedusa', in R Braidotti & M Hlavajova, (eds) *Posthuman glossary*, Bloomsbury, London.

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- Neilson, B 2018, 'Precarious in Piraeus: on the making of labour insecurity in a port concession', *Globalizations*, published online DOI: 10.1080/14747731.2018.1463755
- Neilson, B 2018, 'The currency of migration', *South Atlantic Quarterly*, vol. 117, no. 2, pp. 375–96.
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GREG NOBLE

Book:

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Refereed article:

- Noble, G & Ang, I 2018, 'Ethnicity and cultural consumption in Australia', *Continuum: Journal of Media and Cultural Studies*, vol. 32, no. 3, pp. 296–307.

SHANTHI ROBERTSON

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- Robertson, S 2018, 'Status-making: rethinking migrant categorization', *Journal of Sociology*, vol. 55, no. 2, pp. 219–33.
- Robertson S, 2018, 'Friendship networks and encounters in student-migrants' negotiations of translocal subjectivity', *Urban Studies*, vol. 55, no. 3, pp 538–53.
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NED ROSSITER

Books:

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- Neilson, B, Rossiter, N, & Samaddar, R (eds), 2018, *Logistical Asia: the labor of making a world region*, Palgrave Macmillan, Singapore.

Book chapters:

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DAVID ROWE

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TIM ROWSE

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JUAN FRANCISCO SALAZAR

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KAREN SOLDATIC

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DEBORAH STEVENSON

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MALINI SUR

Book chapters:

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TERESA SWIST

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AMANDA THIRD

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- Collin P, Notley T, & Third A, 2018, 'Cultivating (digital) capacities: a role for social living labs? in M Dezuanni, M Foth, K Mallan, & H Hughes (eds) *Digital participation through social living labs: valuing local knowledge, enhancing engagement*, Chandos Publishing, Cambridge.

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EMMA WATERTON

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- Rowe, D, Turner, G & Waterton, E (eds) 2018, *Making culture: commercialisation, transnationalism, and the state of 'nationing' in contemporary Australia*, Routledge, London.

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MEGAN WATKINS

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JESSICA WEIR

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ALEXANDRA WONG

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ANNA YEATMAN

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SHEREE GREGORY

Reports:

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JORGE KNIJNIK

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KAREN MALONE

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ABBY MELICK LOPES

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TANYA NOTLEY

Book Chapters

- Reading, A & Notley, T 2018, 'Digital memory economies: exploring global memory capital', in A Hoskins (ed.), *Digital memory studies: media pasts in transition*, Routledge, London.
- Collin P, Notley T, & Third A, 2018, 'Cultivating (digital) capacities: a role for social living labs?' in M Dezuanni, M Foth, K Mallan, & H Hughes (eds) *Digital participation through social living labs: valuing local knowledge, enhancing engagement*, Chandos Publishing, Cambridge.

Journal Article:

- Deitz, M, Notley, T, Catanzaro, M, Third, A & Sandbach, K 2018, 'Emotion mapping: using participatory media to support young people's participation in urban design', *Emotion, Space and Society*, vol. 28, pp. 9–17.

Creative work:

- Catanzaro, M, Notley, T, Sandbach K, & Third A 2018 *Invisible City: Emotion Mapping App*. www.invisiblecity.org.au

HAYLEY SAUL

Book chapter:

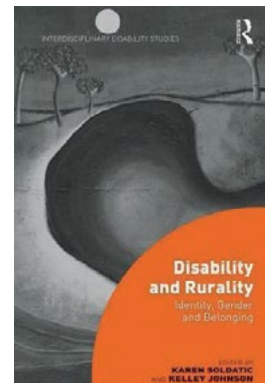
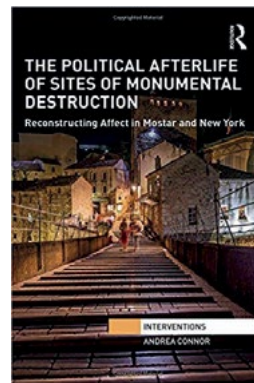
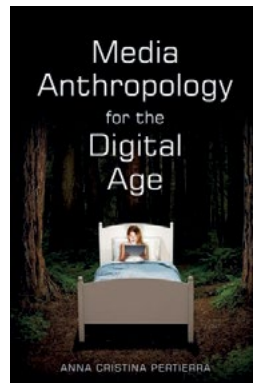
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YOUQING FAN

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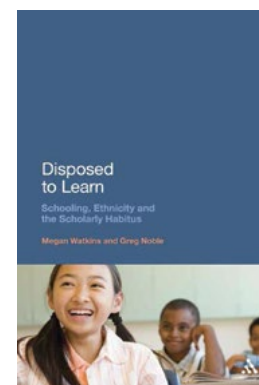
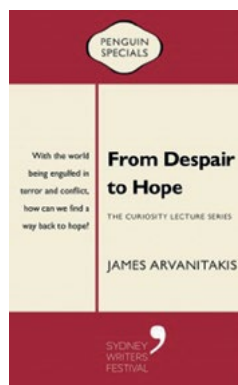
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Books by Institute Authors



This list of books includes those written by researchers in the Institute for Culture and Society since its formation in 2012, but it also goes back to 2001 in recognition of the Institute's intellectual basis in its prior manifestation – the Centre for Cultural Research. Scholars from that period continue to be central to the research direction of the Institute today.

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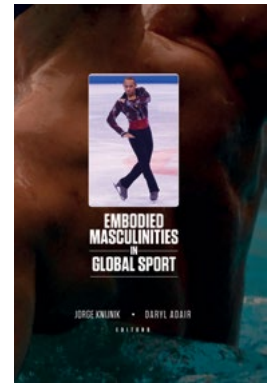
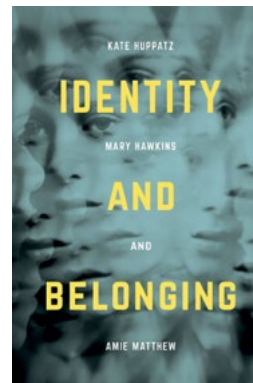
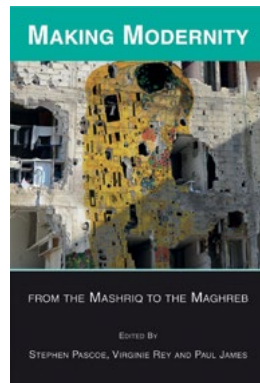
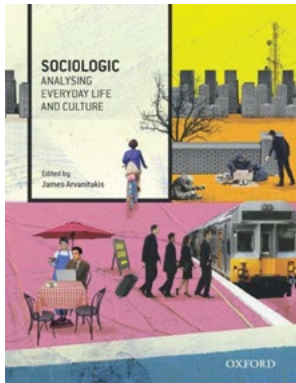
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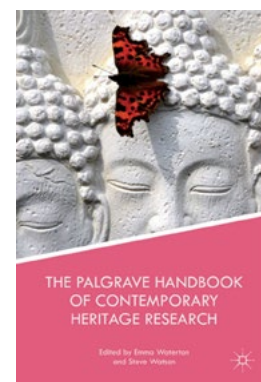
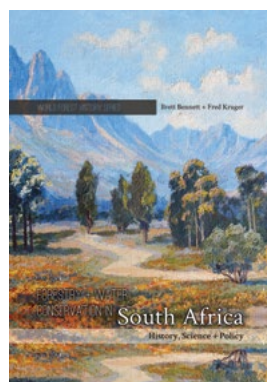
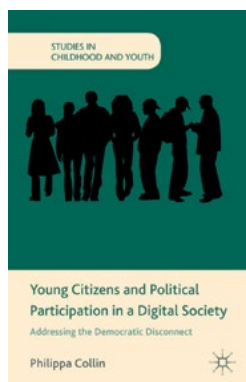
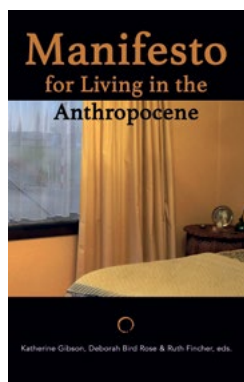
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ENGAGEMENT



Pamplona, University of Navarra Gallery features
Cecilia Paredes on humans and nature - the home
of the Spanish Institute of Culture and Society

Engagement Director's Report



The Institute continued its substantial engagement activities over 2018. Selected highlights include:

- The fifth in the Knowledge/Culture series of conferences initiated by ICS was co-hosted with international strategic partner the Centre for Digital Cultures, Leuphana University in Lüneburg, Germany from 19–22 September. With approximately 300 registrants and presentations by researchers from more than 100 institutions and 30 countries, the Digital Cultures: Knowledge/Culture/Technology conference (KCT18) featured keynote talks and spotlight sessions by Jennifer Gabrys, Wendy Hui Kyong Chun, Felix Stalder, Orit Halpern, Kara Keeling, Martina Tazzioli, Stephan Scheel, Nanna Heidenreich, Lorena Jaume-Palasi, Konrad Becker, Nate Tkacz and artist Simon Denny. ICS PhD students **Ilia Antenucci**, **Helen Barcham**, **Tsvetelina Hristova**, **Jian Lin** and **Luke Munn** chaired sessions, staged critical interventions and participated in the Summer University prior to the conference. Staff presenting their research at KCT18 included **Paul James**, **Liam Magee**, **Fiona Cameron**, **Teresa Swist**, **Hart Cohen** from ICS and Navin Doloswala from School of Humanities and Communication Arts of Western Sydney University. Armin Beverungen (Siegen/Leuphana) and **Ned Rossiter** performed various roles as co-chairs of the conference. Also at KCT18, Luke Munn launched his book *Ferocious Logics: Unmaking the Algorithm* with open access publisher Meson Press; the book is available on line as well as in print form.
- Together with School of Humanities and Communication Arts and the Sydney Institute for the Environment at University of Sydney, the University of New South Wales, and Macquarie University, ICS was a partner in the successful inaugural Sydney Environmental Humanities Lecture Series at the Australian Museum. Nine renowned international and Australian scholars presented public lectures at the museum and gave HDR workshops at participating institutions.
- In 2018, **Philippa Collin**, **Amanda Third** and Dr Michelle Catanzaro (SoHCA) led a Marina de Valencia Living Lab Activation Project. Funded by Consorcio Valencia, they worked closely with la Marina staff to generate a conceptual framework, tools and initiatives

to underpin, inform and guide the La Marina Living Lab. This involved engaging with a range of stakeholders, including young people, Consorcio staff, local governments and businesses, community groups and international experts. Project activities included co-facilitation and a keynote presentation at a three-day co-creation workshop at la Marina with 50 professionals from Valencia, Europe, the USA, UK, Egypt and Turkey.

- The NHMRC Wellbeing, Health and Youth Centre of Research Excellence was established in 2018 to engage young people in research and design of health policies and services that benefit them. The 'New Ethics of Engagement' research stream, led by **Philippa Collin**, and involving **Teresa Swist** and **Amanda Third**, held a number of engagement events with young people in 2018. These events included multiple workshops with young people in Sydney and Queensland, led by Dr Teresa Swist, and a cross-sector roundtable with 42 participants including students, youth and health advocates, professionals and policy makers. These activities have culminated in a co-created Youth Engagement Declaration and to guide health research and translation in the newly established Centre, and a co-designed foundation model for an Adolescent Health Research Commission focused on ensuring the ongoing engagement with young people in adolescent health, service and policy.
- In November, **Amanda Third** travelled to the Philippines to meet with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (GPEVAC), UNICEF Country Office and partners at the University of the Philippines, Save the Children and the Philippines Council for the Welfare of Children to begin work on the 'Child-Centred Indicators for Violence Prevention' project. Using a living lab approach, this pilot project will develop a methodology to meaningfully engage children in action-oriented participation and analysis of the interventions designed to protect them from violence, culminating in a set of child-centred indicators for violence prevention, with the goal of expanding the methodology to other GPEVAC member countries. During the visit, A/Prof

participated in preliminary meetings with GPEVAC and UNICEF, and visited children's facilities coordinated by the partner organisations which will be potential sites for engaging children in the research in 2019.

- **Amanda Third** presented to an international group of 150 practitioners on 'Leveraging Digital in Strategies for Adolescent Engagement' for UNICEF C4D's Global Learning Course in India. She was also an invited speaker at the Adobe Experience International Conference where she spoke on 'Building an Innovative Organizational Culture'; Netsafe and the Office of the eSafety Commissioner's eSafety at the Crossroads Conference on 'Researching with Children in the Digital Age'; and at the OECD World Forum on Knowledge, Statistics and Policy in Incheon, South Korea, where she spoke about children's perspectives on digitalisation and the future of wellbeing.
- **Amanda Third** sat on the panel for the 2018 NSW Review into the non-educational use of smartphones in NSW Schools, resulting in the NSW Department of Education's adoption of the Committee's recommendations in early 2019.
- Alongside her colleagues, Prof. Sonia Livingstone (London School of Economics) and Gerison Lansdown (independent child rights advocate), and with funding from the 5Rights Foundation, **Amanda Third** began work on producing a General Comment on Children and the Digital Environment to guide states' and NGOs' interpretation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This process, which will unfold over the next two years, entails an in-depth review of the evidence, an international expert consultation and a consultation with children in approx. 25 countries. A/Prof. Third will co-author the General Comment and she will lead a team at Western to conduct the children's consultation.
- The ongoing partnership with James Ruse Agricultural High School broadened to include Landcom. The school's Year 8 project for 2018 was *Facing the Future - Sustainability and Urban Design* and students worked in groups to conceptualise

and design a sustainable ecovillage on land immediately adjacent to their school.

Louise Crabtree gave a guest lecture to the students on core issues regarding urban sustainability and diverse housing; students then presented their designs at an evening expo, and selected groups were asked to present their work at Landcom's 2018 Co. Lab conference.

- The partnership with Landcom also incorporated *Cooling the Commons* project work into the Masters unit *Developing Sustainable Places*, coordinated and taught by Louise Crabtree. Students undertook a heat assessment of Landcom's Macarthur Heights site with regards to other urban planning concerns such as walkability, child friendliness, and transport accessibility, and presented their findings to Landcom staff and members of the *Cooling the Commons* research team. Several Institute projects undertaken in partnership with Landcom through the University Roundtable were also presented at Co.Lab, including: *Cooling the Commons*, presented by **Abby Mellick Lopes, Stephen Healy, Katherine Gibson, Emma Power, Louise Crabtree**, Professor Helen Armstrong (University of Queensland) and Professor Cameron Toninwise (UTS); *Creating the City that We Want*, presented by **Louise Crabtree** with Dr Neil Perry (School of Business) and Professor Gerard Reinmuth (UTS); and *New Generation Workspaces* by **Donald McNeill**, Kylie Budge and Chris Knapp. Donald McNeill was also a member of the Roundtable and chaired Landcom's Governance, Planning and Partnerships Community of Practice.
- In late 2018 **Louise Crabtree**, Dr Neil Perry, **Abby Mellick Lopes**, Professor Jonathon Allen and Ms Jen Dollin secured funding from the University's Sustainability Theme Champions to draft a white paper on how the University might address the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through re-activating its Lithgow site as a Just Transition Hub. The white paper will underpin a stakeholder workshop to determine future use and occupation of the building in line with the SDGs.

Dr Louise Crabtree
ICS Director of Engagement

RESEARCH TRAINING



Guangzhou, an informal singing
contribution for passersby
in the street, 2018

Higher Degree Research Director's Report



2018 was a particularly busy year in the area of Higher Research Degrees (HDR) at the ICS characterised by an intensive program of research training, various student-led initiatives and a thorough evaluation of the support provided to students, which was the focus of the HDR Caucus held in October.

The HDR cohort within the ICS continues to grow with 14 students commencing in 2018: 10 PhDs and 4 Masters of Research (M.Res.) students. Most of these students have secured either Research Training Program or project-based scholarships. The ICS also saw ten of its students graduate with PhD degree during the year. Together with the ICS-based HDR candidates, the Institute welcomed two visiting PhD students: Charlotte Sefton from University of Exeter and Hamideh Farahbakhsh from University of Tehran. Charlotte Sefton worked with Dr Shanthi Robertson and Professor Greg Noble, while Hamideh Farahbakhsh worked with Professor Megan Watkins. Another, Jian Lin, joined to undertake a joint degree between the University of Amsterdam and WSU and worked under the supervision of Professors Deborah Stevenson and Ned Rossiter during 2018. All these students were actively involved in various HDR events and contributed to the broader ICS research culture.

During 2018 ICS offered a number of research training opportunities for HDRs. These included 15 workshops that examined a range of topics including:

- a.** those dealing with various methodological approaches, for example: *Doing Global Research*, *Resilience Thinking: Research and Social Change*, *Doing Ethnographic Research and Participatory Visual Story-Telling Methodology*,
- b.** aspects of sociocultural theory such as Debates about the Nature of Historical Knowledge and Using Bourdieu and
- c.** stages of a student's candidature such as the Confirmation of Candidature and Ethics processes.

These workshops were presented by ICS and school-based researchers together with a number of visiting academics including Dr Garth Stahl from the School of Education of University of South Australia and Professor Denise Spitzer from Institute for Feminist and Gender Studies at University of Ottawa. In addition to these workshops, the 2018 ICS HDR Student Representative Francesca Sidoti and Liaison Officer Alejandra Villanueva organised six Stepping Stone Seminars in the year where students presented papers based on their PhD research and received feedback.

Other student-led initiatives conducted in 2018 include various reading groups such as those on Bourdieu (in its second year), Migration and also Space and Place. Many of these HDR events were open to PhD students from across WSU, in particular, to students from Humanities and Communication Arts, Social Sciences and Psychology, Education and Business.

As in previous years, one of the key ICS HDR events of 2018 was the Mid-Year HDR Conference, where students gave presentations with focus on the three themes:

- **Working in the Gap** (papers by Vanicka Arora, Anisah Madden and Vanessa Whittington)
- **Mobilities** (papers by Gina Gatarin, Marina Khan and Kate Naidu)
- **Academic Words We Hate the Most** (presentations by Simon Chambers, Alejandra Villanueva and Kelly Menzel who

interrogated key terms within socio-cultural theory and offered both serious reflection and a bit of light relief)

The third theme, Academic Words We Hate the Most, is now developing into a regular panel.

In addition to these presentations, each session had student discussants providing feedback on papers which stimulated lively debate. The day concluded with a Three Minute Thesis competition with four students: Utsab Bhattarai, Hoang Ha, Pryor Placino, and Sajal Roy. They provided mini-versions of their thesis topics with Pryor then going on to represent the ICS in the WSU 3MT final. The conference as a whole demonstrated the exciting breadth of PhD research at ICS and the innovative and interdisciplinary nature of research conducted at the Institute.

While ICS is noted for its rigorous program of HDR training, continuous evaluation and revision are imperative to ensure the program meets the needs of an ever-changing cohort of domestic and international students with diverse disciplinary and academic backgrounds and career trajectories. Towards the end of 2018 an evaluation was conducted to examine if students' training needs were being met and what revision to the program in 2019 was needed. The evaluation involved a survey of students with the results, subsequently, fed back to students and academics at the HDR Caucus held in October, which then became the focus of group discussion with suggestions for improvement and refinement. Together with students opting for a greater number of professional development workshops related to topics such as getting published and post-PhD career options, students were keen to have a lecture series devoted to key thinkers and concepts within socio-cultural thoughts. The result of this review will inform planning for the 2019 HDR Training Program and allow ICS to maintain its high quality support for HDR students, timely completions of the students' research, and an intellectually stimulating postgraduate research culture.

Associate Professor Megan Watkins
ICS HDR Director

List of 2018 HDR Graduates

NAMES	THESIS TITLE	PRINCIPAL SUPERVISOR
Mithilesh Kumar	State and the Working Class in the Making of the Global Metropolis of Delhi.	Brett Neilson
Hermann Ruiz	Challenges and Possibilities of Transitional Justice Narrative	Katherine Gibson
Sebastian Martin Valdez	Communication Rights and Media Policies in Argentina: An Ethnographic Approach.	Juan Francisco Salazar
Tayanah O'Donnell	Exploring the Coastal Lawscape: Legal Geographies of Climate Change Adaptation in Two New South Wales Localities.	Donald McNeill
Timothy Ström	Mapping Google Maps: Critiquing an Ideological Vision of the World. Supervisors:	Paul James
Cecelia Cmielewski	Identity and Utopia: Arts Policy in the Co-production of Multicultural Australia.	Greg Noble
Jack Parkin	Money/Code/Space: The Cultural Economy of Bitcoin	Donald McNeill
Harriette Richards	Fashioning Melancholia: A Cultural History of Sartorial Representation in Aotearoa New Zealand.	Amanda Third
Christiane Kuehling	Photography and Tourism in Contemporary India.	Denis Byrne

Current ICS HDR Candidates and Dissertation Topics

- Nicholas Agafonoff, Do brands teach us things? An Ethnomethodology of successful versus unsuccessful brand pedagogies. Supervisor: Megan Watkins, Co-Supervisor: Gay Hawkins — PhD
- Ilia Antenucci, Capitalist Accumulation, Neo-Colonialism and Global War: The Role of Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs). Supervisor: Brett Neilson, Co-Supervisor: Ned Rossiter — PhD
- Vanicka Arora, Post-Disaster (Re) Construction of Cultural Heritage: Negotiating Value, Authenticity and Acceptable Change in the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal. Supervisor: Hayley Seul, Co-Supervisors: Emma Waterton, Denis Byrne — PhD
- Emilie Baganz, Cities, Creative Production and Innovation. Supervisor: Deborah Stevenson, Co-Supervisor: Kylie Budge — PhD
- Helen Barcham, Beyond the 'Docile Subject': Women's Entanglements with Therapy Culture as Ethical Self-Making. Supervisor: Tanya Notley, Co-Supervisor: Penny Rossiter — PhD
- Utsab Bhattarai, Resilience Building: A Study of Livelihood Management Practices of the Sherpa People in the Khumbu (Everest) Region, Nepal. Supervisor: Robyn Bushell, Co-Supervisors: Emma Waterton and Felicity Picken — PhD
- Christopher Cheng, Translocal Built Environment of Chinese Emigration from the Pearl River Delta to Australia. Supervisor: Denis Byrne, Co-Supervisors: Ilen Ang and Jocelyn Chey — PhD
- Alexandra Coleman, Perspiring Dreams: the Experiences of Working-Class Students from Western Sydney at the University of Sydney and the University of Western Sydney. Supervisor: Penelope Rossiter, Co-Supervisor: George Morgan, Shanthi Robertson, Greg Noble — PhD.
- Matt Dalziel, What Role Does Socio-economic Status Play in Determining the Digital Information Seeking Behaviours Amongst Year 11 Students Considering Post-Secondary Career Options? Supervisor: Megan Watkins, Co-Supervisors: Shanthi Robertson, Teresa Swist — PhD
- Karen Sy de Jesus, Quo Vadis, Chinese Diaspora? Cultural Identities in the Transnational Social Field. Supervisors: Ilen Ang, Co-Supervisors: Shanthi Robertson — PhD
- Xuegang Fan, Alternative Food Networks in China: New Peasantry and Reproduction of Alternative Agricultural Space. Supervisors: Katherine Gibson and Stephen Healy — PhD
- Kecia Fong, Challenging Conservation: Negotiating Space, History, and Culture. Supervisor: Donald McNeill; Co-Supervisors: Emma Waterton and Deborah Stevenson — PhD
- Gina Gatarin, Moving in Managed Chaos: Social Movements changing Manila's Transport System. Supervisor: Paul James; Co-Supervisor: Anna Pertierra — PhD
- Mohammad Hanafi, Religious Values in Civic Engagement in Indonesian Higher Education. Supervisor: Greg Noble, Co-supervisors: Stephen Drakeley and Jan Ali
- Ha Hoang, Korean Popular Culture, Vietnamese Fan Practices and Transculturalism. Supervisor: Ilen Ang; Co-supervisors: David Rowe and Anna Cristina Pertierra — PhD
- Tsvetelina Hristova, Transformation of Professional Work Through Digital Mobility of Labour: The Case of Teleradiology. Supervisor: Brett Neilson; Co-Supervisor: Shanthi Robertson — PhD
- Clinton Johnson, Complicating Nation? Examining Federally Funded Touring Exhibition in an Assemblage Framework. Supervisors: Deborah Stevenson and Emma Waterton — PhD
- Marina Khan, Technological Spaces and Network Governance: Transformations in the Australian Migration Industry. Supervisor: Shanthi Robertson; Co-Supervisor: Tanya Notley — PhD
- Amrita Limbu, Everyday Social Protection of Transnational Families: Nepali Migration to Australia. Supervisor: Shanthi Robertson; Co-Supervisor: Brett Neilson — PhD
- Jian Lin (joint award with University of Amsterdam), Creative Labour in the Cultural Industries of China: Self-realisation, Governmentality and Subjectivity. Supervisor: Ned Rossiter, Co-Supervisor: Deborah Stevenson — PhD
- Anisah Madden, Nourishing Deep Pluralism: How Community Food Sector Practices Build Rituals of Care and Connection Across Difference. Katherine Gibson and Stephen Healy — PhD
- Kelly Menzel, Exploring the Need to Recruit Aboriginal Health Practitioners in Mainstream Healthcare Settings. Supervisors: Louise Crabtree and Karen Soldatic — DCR
- Daniel Musil, 'Co-Operating for a Just Transition': Relationships to Economy, Work, Low-Carbon Transition and the Earthworker Cooperative. Supervisor: Katherine Gibson and Stephen Healy — PhD
- Jasbeer Musthafa Mamalipurath, Conceptualisation of Discourse About Islam on a Secular Platform. Supervisor: Shanthi Robertson; Co-Supervisors: Adam Possamai, Jennifer Cheng — PhD
- Kate Naidu, Issues of 'Interculturality' in Indonesian Language Teaching. Supervisor: Greg Noble; Co-supervisor: Megan Watkins — PhD
- Mauricio Novoa, Change in the Global Public Sphere; Redefining Knowledge Ecology for Industrial Design Artifact and Expertise in Education and Industry. Supervisor: Juan Salazar, Co-Supervisor- Bob Hodge — PhD
- Pryor Aldous Placino, Lively Stones: A Study of Informal Sand, Gravel and Rubble Mining in the Philippines. Supervisor: Katherine Gibson; Co-Supervisor: Stephen Healy — PhD
- Cali Prince, The Fourth Space: Cultivating Collaborative Creativity in Praxis, at the Intersection of People and their Communities, Artists and Institutions. Supervisor: Philippa Collin; Co-Supervisors: Louise Crabtree, James Arvanitakis — PhD

- Billy Pringle, Is the Political 'Moment' of 'Brexit' and the Election of Donald Trump to the Office of US President Reshaping Australian Political Discourse, Particularly Discourses of Neoliberalism? Supervisor: Stephen Healy; Co-Supervisor: Gay Hawkins — PhD
- Sajal Roy, Long-term Effects of Extreme Weather Events on Rural Livelihoods and Gender Relations: A Case Study of the Cyclone Aila's Impacts on the Shora (Muslim) and Munda (Hindu) Sundarbans Forest Communities of Bangladesh. Supervisor: Liam Magee; Co-Supervisor: Penny Rossiter — PhD
- Oznur Sahin, City as Stage, City on Stage: Governing the City Through Performances. Supervisor: Deborah Stevenson; Co-Supervisor: Donald McNeill — PhD
- Francesca Sidoti, Young Adults and the Disclosure of Choice. Supervisor: Greg Noble; Co-supervisor: Penny Rossiter — PhD
- Ian Steep, An Inquiry Into the Lived Experiences of Nepalese Students Studying at Australian Third Party Providers of Higher Education Using Bourdieu's Theory of Practice. Supervisor: Megan Watkins; Co-Supervisor Tania Ferfolja — PhD
- Alejandra Villanueva, Shaping Up Bodies: An Ethnography of Masculinities and Physical Training in Sydney. Supervisors: Greg Noble and George Morgan — PhD
- Vanessa Whittington, Landscape, Affect and the Role of Heritage Interpretation. Supervisors: Emma Waterton and Denis Byrne — PhD
- Yinghau Yu, Working with Whiteness: comparative studies about the neglected bamboo ceiling among Chinese middle-class female immigrants in Shanghai and Sydney. Supervisors: Greg Noble and Sheree Gregory — PhD

THESIS UNDER EXAMINATION IN 2018

- Sera Harris, Social Workers and Technology: Rethinking Relationships in Practice. Supervisor: Amanda Third, Co-Supervisors: Brian Robert Stout and Bob Hodge — PhD
- Luke Munn, Ferocious Logics: Unmaking the Algorithmic. Supervisor: Ned Rossiter, Co-supervisor: Juan Francisco Salazar — PhD

THESIS COMPLETED WITH APPROVAL TO GRADUATE IN 2019

- Michael Hartup, Young Musicians' Experiences of Vulnerability and Resilience within their Music-Making Practice. Supervisor: Amanda Third; Co-Supervisor: Philippa Collin — PhD
- Luigi Di Martino, Digital Diplomacy: New Strategies for a Social Public Diplomacy. Supervisor: Ien Ang; Co-Supervisor: Greg Noble — PhD
- Nigel Eades, The Impact of Culture and Communication: Living in Immigration Detention - Supervisor: Paul James; Co-Supervisors: Bob Hodge — DCR
- Cecilia Hilder, Young People's Digital Practices and Australian Youth-Led Activist Groups. Supervisor: Philippa Collin; Co-Supervisors: Amanda Third and Tanya Notley — PhD
- Sky Hugman, Cross-Sector Knowledge Sharing. Supervisor: Amanda Third; Co-Supervisor: Philippa Collin — PhD
- Andrea Pollio, The Startup of Solidarity: Economic Experts, Social Enterprises and the Reengineering of Humanitarianism in Cape Town. Supervisor: Donald McNeill, Co-Supervisor: Sarah Barns — PhD
- David Spillman, Exploring Collaborative Competence. Supervisor: Bob Hodge; Co-Supervisor: Louise Crabtree — DCR

Higher Degree Research Workshop Program 2018

Thursday 8 February and Tuesday 6 March

Orientation 1

Associate Professor Megan Watkins

Thursday 8 March - Thursday 7 June

Rethinking Culture and Society GRS Unit
MRes and other beginning HDR students

Tuesday 20 March

Using Bourdieu

*Dr Garth Stahl, School of Education,
University of South Australia*

Thursday 29 March

Getting Started with NVivo

Dr Emma Power

Tuesday 17 April

Image, Text, and Movement: Composition

Dr Malini Sur

Thursday 10 May

Asking Questions in Seminars

Professor Katherine Gibson

Thursday 24 May

Debates about the Nature of Historical
Knowledge

Emeritus Professor Tim Rowse

Thursday 7 June

The Confirmation of Candidature Process

Associate Professor Megan Watkins

Tuesday 17 July

The Ethics Process

Kimberley Ann Pangilinan

Western Sydney University Human Research

Ethics Officer

Wednesday 25 July

Mid-Year ICS HDR Conference

Thursday 23 August

Doing Global Research

Professor Brett Neilson

Thursday 13 September

Resilience Thinking: Research and Social
Change

Associate Professor Amanda Third

Tuesday 9 October

Doing Ethnographic Research

Dr Bonnie Pang

Tuesday 6 November

Participatory Visual Story-Telling Methodology

*Professor Denise Spitzer, Institute for Feminist
and Gender Studies, University of Ottawa*

Higher Degree Research Stepping Stone Series Program 2018

Thursday, 26 April

Hoang Ha

*Korean male idols' androgyny and
Vietnamese fandom - the case of Big
Bang's fan community*

Thursday, 3 May

Charlotte Sefton (UK)

*Loving as "mother"; loving whilst "other":
Sudanese women negotiating motherhood
in the diaspora*

Thursday, 21 June

Xuegang Gam

Alternative agro-food networks in China

Thursday, 30 August

Sajal Roy

*Transforming gendered lives and livelihoods
in the post-cyclone (Aila) context: a case
study of Shora community in the Bangladesh
Sundarbans forest*

Thursday, 20 September

Jasbeer Mamalipurath

Sacred message and secular media

Thursday, 18 October

Francesca Sidoti

*Nature and nostalgia in young adult
experiences of place*

Contact information

9685 9600
ics@westernsydney.edu.au

Western Sydney University
Locked Bag 1797
Penrith NSW 2751 Australia



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