

Bringing the private back to the public sphere



Postgraduate Symposium

27–28 October 2010

School of Political and Social Inquiry



MONASH University
Arts

Bringing the private back to the public sphere

Dear Fellow Postgraduates,

On behalf of the School of Political and Social Inquiry at Monash University, we would like to welcome you to the annual PSI Postgraduate Symposium being held this year at the Caulfield campus. Having built upon past success and now in its 12th year of running, we are proud to announce that for the first time the symposium will run across two full days.

This year's theme, Bringing the Private Back to the Public Sphere, speaks to the need for an elevated sense of collegiality; for providing postgraduate researchers with a welcoming and receptive 'public' space to interact and engage with others, away from what can often, over the course and duration of our respective studies, be an isolating or rather 'private' affair. The symposium draws together students from the school's broad range of disciplines including Anthropology, Behavioural Studies, Criminology, Politics, Sociology and Women's Studies; and is an event which provides budding researchers with an opportunity to present their research in a friendly and relaxed environment. We would also like you to note that lunch on the 2nd day of the symposium, generously subsidised by the School, also presents another excellent opportunity to develop both professional networks and personal friendships.

We welcome postgraduates across various stages of progress in their research and/or coursework. In particular, for those who are just starting out, this is a fantastic occasion to introduce yourselves and your work to the rest of our postgraduate community and we encourage you to share your work regardless of the stage in its development – this platform provides an opportunity to receive valuable feedback on your initial forays into the chosen field of your research. To those recently confirmed or presenting as part of the mid-candidature process, we encourage and congratulate you in continuing to invigorate the general scholarly community within the School. And for those recently completed, we look forward to hearing about your experiences and the sort of exciting things that we can look forward to in the future and beyond! The closing panel session of recently completed postgraduates along with two early-career researchers promises to deliver in this regard and we are excited about the sort of discussions to be had here and can't recommend highly enough your attendance at this particular session!

To all the delegates this year, we look forward to an exciting symposium and hope you find the proceedings both stimulating and enjoyable.

2010 Postgraduate Symposium Organising Committee

Wednesday 27 October

9:00–9:30		Registration	
9:30–10:00		Room HB 36	
Welcome		<p>Dr. Michael Janover, PSI HDR Coordinator Assoc. Prof. Deane Williams, Assoc. Dean of Graduate Research Ms. Jenny Reeder, Monash Postgraduate Association</p>	
10:00–11:30		Room HB 32	Room HB 40
Mid-candidature Reviews		Cultural Sociology	Dealing with Illness
The Nubians of Kenya: Statelessness, Citizenship and Recognition	Samantha Balaton-Chrimes	"The Pressured Identity": Exploring expressions of contemporary motherhood in Australian media	Positive with pets: The positive impact of pet ownership when living with HIV
Bernard Stiegler and Western Modernity	Johann Rossouw	'Problem' of Mothering: Knowledge Practices, Method Assemblages, Elusive Hinterlands	Hepatitis C, sexuality and intimate relationships: a feminist poststructuralist exploration
			An analysis of HIV/Aids discourses in post-apartheid South Africa under Mbeki's presidency (1999-2008)
	Chair: Michael Janover	Chair: Luke Howie	Chair: Anna Makrenoglou

11:30–12:00		Morning Tea	
12:00–1:15		Room HB 36	Room HB 40
Mid-candidature Reviews		Religion and Identity	China and the World
Good Governance: Learning from Decentralization in Indonesia	Rasifa Purba	Exiting Exodus: Narratives of Gay Christians	Real riches or Fool's gold? Western Investment in China
An exploration of the manifestations of emotional connection to an avatar	Debbie McCormick	In the World but not of the World: An ethnographic study of contemporary religious practice in the Seventh-day Adventist Church	The People's Republic of China's Rising Role in Africa: New Energy Politics in the "Dark Continent"
The Self Identity of Second Generation Married Turkish Women	Zuhal Caliskan		China-Pakistan Relations: Is India still a sine qua non?
	Chair: Francesca Collins	Chair: Nashid Monir	Chair: Johann Rossouw

Wednesday 27 October

Lunch - Not provided					
Room HB 32		Room HB 36		Room HB 40	
Mid-candidature Reviews		Lessons for SEA Reform		Women and Violence	
1:15-2:15	Exploring young people's experiences of homelessness and policing	Lucinda Jordan	Universal Suffrage in Hong Kong: Political Reform with Chinese Characteristics and Decentralisation: A study of district councils in Cambodia	Lorna Wright	Fractured Lives, Digital Selfies: Iraqi Women's Weblogs and the 'Wilderness of Cyberspace'
2:15-3:45	Below the Belt: Conducted Energy Weapons in Australian Policing: Preliminary Findings	Emima Ryan	The Effectiveness of the Indonesia ADS Program in Contributing to Organisation Development	Netra Eng	Part: The trials of men who kill their intimate female partners, an international comparison
	Political Economy of Corruption: The Case of Tax Evasion in Bangladesh	Nashid Monir		Halil Halid	Violence in the Context of Separation
					Yoga in Melbourne! How is this possible?
					Some people can't just be Australian
					3rd Generation Greek-Australian Young Women: Are Diasporic Identities Liquid?
					Anna Makrenoglou
					Trevor Walsh
					Chair: Nicola Pitt
Afternoon Tea					
Room HB 32		Room HB 36		Room HB 40	
Contemporary Turkey		Indigenous Studies		Technology and Identity	
3:45-4:15	Conflict and Peace in Turkey: Jewish and Greek Orthodox 'Rum' Minorities in Turkey	Akguner-Karabagili, Derya Dilara	After the Apology...	Katherine Maher	The Anonymity of a Pseudonym: 'Awesomeness' Fantasies of Fame
4:15-5:15	Comparative Study of the Gulen Philanthropy with Faith-Based Philanthropies: The Functions of the Schools Worldwide as Business Enterprises in the Philanthropic Fashion	Cemen Polat	Outcomes of Commonwealth Aboriginal Policy in the Northern Territory 1911-1939	Ian McGinn	Contextualising friendship and social networking in the digital age: A preliminary analysis
	Islamic Philanthropy and Civic Society Activism: The Differences between the Secular Schools Associated with the Gulen Movement and Islamic Schools in the Secular States	Ahmed Polat			Individuals, Consumption and Sustainability
					Cops, Community & Chaos: 'Policing Options' in the Zandspruit Informal Settlement
					James Martin
					Chair: Alita Spratling
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Thursday 27 October

9:00–9:30		Tea and Coffee Room HB 36	
9:30–10:00	Prof. Denise Cuthbert, PSI Head of School		
10:00–11:30		Room 36 The Community, Mental Illness and Violence	
	Social and Political Psychology	Veronica Sheen	Balancing community safety and individual liberty: How bail support services can reduce the need to remand a defendant in custody
	New social risks at the intersection of feminisation, ageing and precarisation in the labour market	Tim Barrett	Women's experience of violence following the Black Saturday bushfires
	Men Negotiating Friendship Across Sexual Orientation	Kate Barelle	
	From terrorist to citizen: How people move on from violent extremism	Bruce McFarlane	
	Violent Extremism, Literature and the Internet		
	Chair: Ian McGinn		
11:30–12:00		Morning Tea	
12:00–1:00		Room HB 40 Civil Society and Democracy	
	Intelligence and Diplomacy	Culture, Gender and Modernity	Civil Society and Democracy
	The Australian Federal Police and Intelligence Cooperation	The construction of Zulu cultural villages in the post-apartheid South Africa: Grappling with the discourses of myth and reality	"I feel that a women's role is very challenging": Australian-educated Malaysian Chinese women reflect on their careers, marriage and motherhood
	Australian Intelligence Liaison in SE Asia	What Sort of Woman Kills Her Children?	Designing Participatory Governance for Essential Services
	Pathways to desistance: The experiences of young women pre, during and post incarceration in Victoria		Environmental Discourse on Population Growth: A Comparative Study of Environmental Groups in Western Democracies
	Chair: Laura Wilson		
1:00–3:00	Room 36 Networking – Symposium Lunch – (Provided in Mama's Duke, Caulfield Campus)		
3:00–4:30	Room 36 A Panel for postgraduates, where recently completed postgraduates talk about and reflect on their experiences of the PhD and beyond		
4:30–4:45	Closing Postgraduate Symposium Organising Committee		

Chair: Ian McGinn

Chair: Rasita Purba

Chair: Laura Wilson

Dr Bree Carlton
Dr Amy Dobson
Dr Anna Halafoff
Dr Marie Segrave

Bringing the private back to the public sphere Abstracts

Conflict and Peace in Turkey: Jewish and Greek Orthodox ‘Rum’ Minorities; From the end of the Ottoman Empire to the present

Derya Dilara Akguner-Karabagli

Despite the legal and religious freedoms that the Jewish and Rum populations experienced during the Empire’s reign, the effects that nationalism and nation-building strategies had on these communities during the formation of the Republic were quite severe. While the creation of a strong sense of Turkish nationalism during the fall of the Empire was necessary in order to unify its population, this also created cultural and identity barriers, and ethno-nationalist conflict. This paper looks at the specific conflicts that have shaped these communities, with many policies having been reformed in Turkey with the possibility of EU membership. This paper aims to address what the perceptions of Greek Orthodox ‘Rum’ and Jewish minorities in Istanbul, Izmir, and surrounding islands are today concerning minority rights and issues.

The Nubians of Kenya: Statelessness, citizenship and recognition

Samantha Balaton-Chrimes

Although statelessness has traditionally been defined in legal terms, it has consequences for the political lives of the millions of stateless people in the world which political theory has failed to engage in since Hannah Arendt. This thesis explores the case of the Nubians in Kenya, who until recently have been de-facto stateless, suggesting that recognition in various forms is required to become a fully fledged member of the political community of Kenya. Specifically the thesis explores individual recognition in the form of citizen status proven by the acquisition of an ID card, collective recognition in the form of a code to count their ‘tribe’ in the national census, and a more controversial form of recognition, title for communal land.

From terrorist to citizen: How people move on from violent extremism

Kate Barrelle

The phenomenon of disengagement from violent extremism, and better understanding how people move on after they leave an extremist group are topics that require deeper and urgent attention. Disengagement, like radicalisation itself, is a complex non-linear process that involves a range of psychological and social mechanisms. However, the way an individual disengages is not simply the reverse of their engagement or radicalisation experience. This presentation will give an overview of what is known about disengagement from violent extremist groups, and outline the parameters of my research into disengagement in the Australian context.

Men negotiating friendship across sexual orientation

Tim Barrett

Gender research has reflected upon the function that gay males play as representatives of a failed masculinity where men are required to repudiate in the demonstration of a legitimate manhood; and within sociology subsequently represented interpersonal relationships between gay and straight men as antagonistic. However, with the prominence of multiculturalist discourse, the growing visibility of sexual minority groups and the development of dense and diverse urban environments, opportunities for the creation of friendships between men across sexual orientation have grown. In this presentation, I will be situating male friendships across sexual orientation within an Australian context, examining how the public face of this relationship is managed by its participants, and investigating the extent to which these friendships both enable and disrupt gay and straight male performances of homosociality.

“I feel that a woman’s role is very challenging”: Australian-educated Malaysian Chinese women reflect on their careers, marriage and motherhood

Janice Boey

This paper focuses on the career and professional development of Australian-educated Chinese women in Malaysia. In particular, it attempts to ascertain their experiences and the challenges they face as working mothers in the mid stages of their professional careers. The study demonstrate that due to the traditional values and the cultural expectations of Malaysian society, these women still place a strong importance in starting and maintaining a family while continuing to pursue their careers aggressively. Interestingly, the concept of the ‘double shift’ is understood differently for these women. The data for this paper were drawn from 7 of the qualitative interviews that were conducted with Monash Malaysian alumni during my fieldwork last year.

Bringing the private back to the public sphere

The anonymity of a pseudonym: Awesomeness' fantasies of fame

Fiona Brookes

As 'television and magazine narratives about celebrity, effort, and self-invention make public the process of transformation from ordinary to superstar' young women and girls are increasingly being asked to seek public recognition. Images of strong, can-do celebrity women are presented in the media; as living large is considered to be the 'new measure of feminine success' (Harris 2004; Hopkins 2002). This paper explores the appeal of fame through the eyes of an 11 year old girl from my ethnographic study of a Grade 6 class, to consider how understandings of fame, for this age group, have moved beyond the desire to emulate a super model or pop star to believing that one's own everyday and ordinary 11 or 12 year old life is worthy of fame all on its own.

Intimate partner violence in the context of separation

Crystal Bruton

Previous research suggests that separation is a significant factor in incidences of fatal and non-fatal incidents of intimate partner violence, and as a period in which violence often extends and escalates into serious, frequent assaults at the hands of former male partners. Academic research and policy responses to violence against women appear to indicate a limited understanding of separation and violence particularly on the part of key stakeholders involved in responding to violence against women. This paper presents details of my doctoral research that investigates women's understandings and experiences of separation, and their use of support services for women who experience family violence. It will also draw on preliminary findings from interviews with women who have separated and key stakeholders to further understand women's experiences of separation and family violence.

The self identity of second generation married Turkish women

Zuhal Caliskan

This paper will attempt to analyse the various aspects of the religious identity of married Turkish women. Since Islam is a universal religion, this paper will try to determine whether marriage has a major role in the religious aspect of the interpretation and behaviour of second generation married Turkish women. In particular, it will focus on the social processes that Turkish women may engage in order to better understand their religion and religiosity. Using interview data, I will determine whether social space within which Turkish women participate allow them to express various identities in the private and public sphere. In doing so, the intersections of gender and identity will be explored as well as the level of their egalitarian religious commitments.

Fractured lives, digital selves: Iraqi women's weblogs and the 'wilderness of cyberspace'

Perri Campbell

The digital wilderness that so many bloggers call home, is a space where questions are asked and 'moral demands are relayed' (Butler, 2004: 130). Iraqi woman bloggers write powerful stories, challenging the limits of their experience and our understanding of the very nature of freedom. I will discuss what it means to be a woman – to be a mother, a worker, a sister, a University student – in post-invasion Iraq, and what it means for me – a white, Australian woman – to speak about Iraqi women's experiences. I draw upon Foucault's late 'ethical' work to argue that weblogs provide a real-time, unfolding, reflexive, and often inter-active window into particular life-worlds and into selves that shift and move and exist in tension between a variety of digital and non digital spaces.

The effectiveness of the Indonesia ADS program in contributing to organisation development: A study on reintegration of ADS alumni into their home organisation

Halil Chalid

Since the Colombo Plan in the 1950s, scholarships have been a part of Australia's strategy to help develop Indonesia's human resource capacity. The flagship scholarships program is the Australian Development Scholarships (ADS). While the benefits of ADS have been regarded as self-evident, the benefits student derive from studying in Australia are difficult to quantify. This study aims to see the extent of effectiveness and impact that can be derived from concentrations of scholarships within a single institution. The Ministry of Finance has been selected for this study. Qualitative approaches using in-depth interviews and observation will be employed. The study will utilise three levels of informants: institutions' representatives, alumni, and their supervisors. Content analysis will be used to analyse the collected data.

Bringing the private back to the public sphere

Balancing community safety and individual liberty: How bail support services can reduce the need to remand a defendant in custody

Emma Colvin

Studies indicate that the use of bail support services reduces the need to remand a defendant into custody and broadens the scope for bail. This presentation will set out the background and aims of a current study underway in Victoria, which will examine the use of a range of bail support systems within the Magistrates' Court. The aim of the research is to explore how bail support programmes affect bail and remand procedures utilising both court observation and interviews with key players in the system. It is hoped the research will elucidate the effectiveness of these programmes and determine whether the Victorian system constitutes a 'best practice' model, especially as the effectiveness of the bail support system has direct repercussions on key issues of liberty and human rights within Victoria.

Individuals, Consumption & Sustainability

Stephen Derrick

How can measures of sustainability be developed to apply at an individual level?

In order to address this question, there are a number of secondary questions: How is 'sustainability' understood and measured in the fields of economics, sociology and environment? In what way are currently used definitions of sustainability applied at the individual, corporate and national level? What are the theoretical and practical issues in seeking to develop individual level measures of sustainability consistent with selected, currently applied macro level sustainability measures? The research will draw on economics, sociology and environmental science to identify practical and theoretical issues in the development of individual level sustainability measures.

Accountability and decentralisation: A study of district councils in Cambodia

Netra Eng

Cambodia launched its official decentralisation in 2002 with the election of the commune/sangkat councils and councils at district and provincial levels in 2009. Decentralisation reform was introduced to Cambodia by donors through its agenda in worldwide promotion of good governance and democratisation in post-conflict and less developed countries. This study will examine accountability relations of the Cambodian state in understanding how the decentralised institutions really function, the players and interests around these institutions, who they serve, and the kinds of outcomes produced. The outcomes that this study will analyse is in terms of the extent to which decentralisation is likely to transfer political and, consequently, economic power away from the elite and towards the broad mass of the population.

Five years on: Stakeholder's experiences of Victorian homicide law reform

Kate Fitz-Gibbon

In 2005 the Victorian Government implemented a series of homicide law reforms. Central to these reforms was the abolition of the partial defence of provocation and the instatement of an offence of defensive homicide. Five years after the law reform, this paper provides an evaluation of the efficacy of the homicide law reform in Victoria and the experiences of the legal stakeholders that were charged with its implementation. The research is based upon interviews conducted in 2010 with over twenty members of the Victorian judiciary, prosecution and defence counsel. Using these interviews, this paper will consider the Law Reform's decision to abolish the defence of provocation, hindsight arguments for reform and initial evaluations of the offence of defensive homicide as used in cases of intimate partner homicide.

China-Pakistan Relations: Is India still a sine qua non?

Ali Ghulam

Since 1951 China and Pakistan have maintained a remarkably good relationship which has survived profound changes at domestic, regional and international levels. Relations with China have become a corner stone of Pakistan's foreign policy while Pakistan has become an important partner in China's West and South Asian strategy. Many analysts while examining China-Pakistan relations argue that their "all-weather" friendship is based upon shared hostility towards India. Against this backdrop, this paper asks how far and in what ways has the India factor played a role in Sino-Pakistan entente cordiale? Does this factor continue to influence these relations and, if so, to what degree, and what will be its future role?

Bringing the private back to the public sphere

Exiting Exodus: Narratives of gay Christians

Rachel Goff

When one is raised an evangelical Christian and identifies as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer, this presents a problem for one's religious beliefs and spirituality within the setting of the institutional church. In order to bring their so-called deviant sexuality in line with their religious identity, some Christians choose to attend gay healing programs, which seek to restore their sexuality to the heterosexual norm, or repress their sexuality altogether in order to lead 'normal' Godly and 'straight' lives. This research focuses on former ex-gays: people with a Christian spirituality and non-heterosexual background who have since come out the other side of attempts at healing their 'brokenness', and have journeyed to a place of self-acceptance and are freely able to express their authentic self, through a process of identity re-negotiation.

Australian intelligence liaison in SE Asia: Ambassadors of intelligence or agents of influence – A critical study of the development of Australian intelligence diplomacy

Phil Gregory

In Australia, the Intelligence Community (AIC) has been actively seeking out and providing classified forms of information for almost a century. This information has been gained from three principle sources:- AIC's own independent and secret sources; joint operations and shared technical resources; and exchanges of various sorts with counterparts amongst its friends and allies. The central themes of this research will be identifying the degree to which the AIC has operated as an instrument of Australian national security policy, or as proxy for the interests of its more powerful allies, the United States and United Kingdom.

Pathways to Desistance: The experiences of young women pre, during and post incarceration in Victoria

Rachel Hale

Juvenile justice research, both within Australia and internationally, has shown that young women who come in to contact with the criminal justice system experience a high degree of disadvantage across all areas of functioning. This presentation will explore the social, cultural, economic and familial issues which have emerged in the preliminary work of this doctoral thesis with a key focus dedicated to individual journeys in desisting from crime, that is how young women attempt to lead a crime free lifestyle. Commonly, personal lives and life in detention are viewed as separate; however it is recognised a crucial interrelationship exists between these experiences. Most importantly, this research aims to provide a platform for the voices of young people that has absent in existing research regarding offending, detention and life after release.

'I love being a ratbag!' The Fitzroy Legal Service and alternative accountability

Bridget Harris

Amidst international protests and domestic civil rights campaigns, fuelled by frustration with inadequacies and limitations of the criminal justice system, the first non-Indigenous free legal service of Australia emerged in 1972. The Fitzroy Legal Service (FLS) has since been constructed as a 'radical' source of advocacy for the community and monitor of policing philosophies and practices. Utilising qualitative interviews and archival material, this paper considers the evolution of the 'alternative' identity of FLS, in terms of ideologies, operations and as a space. As a conscious decision to breakdown lawyer-client barriers, removing the mystique of the law, and a subconscious result of limited resources, FLS created non-traditional spaces of law. This paper explores how an 'alternative' identity might impact on FLS relationships with police and the community and whether it can help or hinder police accountability initiatives.

Real riches or fool's gold? Western investment in China

Renee Hindmarsh

China attracts more foreign direct investment than any country outside the United States, as companies large and small are lured by the size and potential of the Chinese market. As of October 2009, it was estimated that over 18,000 foreign companies were operating in China. However, some evidence suggests that foreign companies are struggling to make a profit in China. There are many well documented cases of failure. High profile Australian examples have included Fosters Group, CSR and Pacific Dunlop. My interviews with a range of Australian businesses based in China aim to discover what factors hinder foreign business profitability. These include, but are not limited to, government policies, structure of the business (Joint Venture vs. Wholly Owned Foreign Enterprise), sector and location.

Bringing the private back to the public sphere

Positive with Pets: the positive impact of pet ownership when living with HIV

Vicki Hutton

In developed nations, increased longevity amongst people with HIV has drawn attention to the need to understand, maintain and improve quality of life, especially where a person feels stigma attached to their condition. For some people, HIV-related stigma can directly impact on their quality of life, social interactions and sources of support. The aim of this study was to investigate the role of pets in the lives of people living with HIV in developed nations, specifically the impact of pet ownership on emotional wellbeing and quality of life. Results from the composite questionnaire indicated that attachment to a pet may act as a buffer to reduce the impact of stigma and improve emotional wellbeing.

Exploring young people's experiences of homelessness and policing

Lucinda Jordan

This research uses qualitative analysis to explore young people's lived experience of homelessness, violence and policing in Melbourne. It argues that experiences of violence and policing play a central role in shaping young people's experiences of homelessness, as well as mediating access to space and place. Importantly, it indicates everyday encounters of police surveillance, harassment and violence act as a primary barrier to young people accessing justice and protection. The repercussions these findings have on young people's sense of place and belonging as well as their access to fundamental rights of citizenship, as perceived and constructed by young people themselves are also considered.

Hepatitis C, sexuality and intimate relationships: A feminist poststructuralist exploration

Emily Lenton

My research applies feminist and poststructuralist theories to generate new knowledge about the relationships between hepatitis C, sexuality and intimate relationships. I argue that the ways people respond to hepatitis C are discursively constructed. To do this, I explore the social, political and cultural contexts of hepatitis C to understand how they constitute experiences of sexuality and intimate relationships for those affected. The key concepts of my research are: the leaky/monstrous body (Shildrick 1997, 2002); body fluids as dangerous (Douglas 1966; Grosz 1994), and ideas of normative sexuality and intimacy (Foucault 1976; Giddens 1992; Evans 2003; Lupton 1988). Bringing together ideas of health and illness and sexuality and intimacy, this paper presents the theoretical framework underpinning my analysis of 15 semi-structured interviews with women and men who contracted hepatitis C via injecting drug use.

The People's Republic of China's Rising Role in Africa: New Energy Politics in the "Dark Continent"

Alpha Lisimba

The recent discovery of substantial oil and other resources in Africa has prompted oil companies from around the globe to invest in countries previously considered high risk for investments. These investments reflect increasing rivalry particularly between the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the United States in Africa. As a result, China has embarked on a comprehensive trade and diplomatic offensive that is challenging Western dominance in the region. The focus of this thesis is therefore on the nature and implications of the PRC's political, economic and diplomatic relations with Africa since the turn of the new millennium with the intention of examining whether the PRC's actions and engagement with Africa are mutually beneficial or whether they have negative consequences for Africa and the impact of this on Sino-US relations.

Some people can't just be Australian

Davina Lohm

This paper examines the pressures that are placed upon some young adults in the construction of their national identities. Through informal interviews 37 respondents with various heritages outlined their understandings of their national identities. Many had constructed hybrid identities incorporating recognition of their heritages as well as their Australianness. For many these hybrid identities were freely adopted and were regarded as enriching their lives but others regarded them as an unwelcome imposition by others. These respondents felt that their freedom to construct their national identity was curtailed by the ever present expectations of others; they were not free to construct an identity that was Australian and only Australian.

After the apology...

Katherine Maher

This paper provides an exploration of the qualities of the discursive interaction in the social space around the 2008 Apology to the Stolen Generations. What were the characteristics of this social space? What discourses and dialogues were cultivated? On what conditions were people authorised to speak about, or in response to, the Apology? And what do these social narratives tell us about reconciliation in Australia?

Bringing the private back to the public sphere

3rd generation Greek-Australian young women: Are diasporic identities liquid?

Anna Makrenoglou

Zygmunt Bauman (2005) argues that we live in a liquid modern society in which social practices are fluid and constantly changing and individuals are therefore compelled to continually make and remake a sense of self (Elliott & Lemert 2006; Giddens 1991). This paper offers an exploration into the ways in which Bauman's (2005) account of liquid life can be used to explore the diasporic cultural identities of young Greek-Australian women. I argue that while Bauman's account of liquid life enables us to explore the proposition that the diasporic cultural identities of young Greek-Australian women are contingent and responsive to liquid modern tendencies, this sociological approach lacks an appreciation of the ongoing significance of more structured, solid forms of sociality and identity (Elliott, 2007).

Cops, community & chaos: 'Policing options' in the Zandspruit informal settlement

James Martin

This presentation will address some of the issues raised by research participants regarding policing and security provision in the South African informal settlement of Zandspruit. Particular attention will be focused on the three main 'policing options' available to Zandspruit residents: the formal South African Police Service; the semi-formal Community Policing Forum; and finally, the informal and haphazard vigilante mob. The beneficial and detrimental effects of each of these distinctive crime-controlling initiatives will be explored from the perspective of those who live and work in this vibrant, indigent South African community.

I am seeker and seeker is me – Conceptualisations of self-avatar connection

Debbie McCormick

"I am Seeker and Seeker is me"; that's how I usually explain the 'relationship' I have with my avatar who just happens to be a fairly decent digital representation of me, or at least of what I appear to be. On the rare occasion that I grant control of Seeker to another 'driver' I feel vaguely uncomfortable; like a nervous passenger I have a continual urge to grab the wheel (or in this case the mouse) and wrest back control before some unknown misadventure befalls me. Seeker 'lives' in Second Life, a virtual environment where thousands of 'residents' login everyday to socialise, shop and, increasingly, work and learn. This research seeks to discover and describe phenomena that conceptualises the, sometimes emotional, affinity or connection that many users develop towards their avatars.

Violent extremism, literature and the Internet

Bruce McFarlane

The use of the internet by violent extremists is not a new area of study, however little study has been conducted on the literature, that members of a violent extremist group are exposed to and how this literature develops during the path of radicalisation.

Outcomes of Commonwealth Aboriginal policy in the Northern Territory 1911-1939

Ian McGinn

This research investigates the outcomes of Australian Commonwealth Aboriginal policy in the Northern Territory between 1911 and 1939. This was a unique period in Aboriginal affairs, as the Commonwealth was heavily influenced by race ideologies and 19th century political constructs of Aboriginal people. Using multiple research methods, this research investigates the outcomes of Commonwealth Aboriginal policy in the three areas of non-Indigenous and Indigenous relations, child welfare and employment. In addressing the outcomes of Commonwealth Aboriginal policy between 1911 and 1939, while examining the political and ideological influences of the era, this research has provided an original investigation into this area of Australian history.

Political economy of corruption: The case of tax evasion in Bangladesh

Nashid Monir

Corruption is considered to be a major problem across all parts of the world. However, arguably, corruption is more prevalent in least developed countries compared to developed industrialised nations. Corruption in Bangladesh, in this regard, presents an interesting scenario. Bangladesh, being a least developed country, is considered to be one of the most corrupt countries in the world. This study has collected data based on semi-structured questionnaires and face-to-face interviews among ninety participants selected randomly from three groups including tax policy formulation, implementation and compliance level. It aims to analyse data by applying both quantitative and qualitative methods. This paper argues that the inappropriateness of all three levels of the taxation regime including tax policy formulation, its implementation and compliance in Bangladesh causes tax evasion coupled by the nexus of the aforementioned interest groups.

Bringing the private back to the public sphere

The Construction of Zulu cultural villages in the post-Apartheid South Africa: Grappling with the discourses of myth and reality.

Morgan Ndlovu

While Zulu cultural villages are generally popular with local and international tourists, the on-going debate on how far they represent the lived experience of Zulu culture is a critical one and continues to threaten the credibility of the villages in various ways. Thus, the current discourses on the authenticity of the cultural villages are polemically divided into two extreme ends; that is an one extreme that is predominantly scholarly which view the villages as representing myths instead of culture and the other that is predominantly marketeering which sell the cultural villages as objectively representing actual lived experiences. This paper seeks to transcend the current polarized myth-reality discourses on the authenticity of Zulu cultural villages by examining how their authenticity is constructed by the structures and the intentionality of the social agency which brought the villages into being.

Women's Experience of violence following the Black Saturday bushfires

Debra Parkinson

Worldwide literature suggests increased violence against women is characteristic of post-disaster recovery. Yet there is a gap in the Australian literature of the sociological aspects of disaster recovery in Australia. While previous Australian research has looked at what happens in disaster-recovery phases, none focuses on the experience of women in regard to violence. This research will be conducted to capture aspects of the experience of women during the disaster-recovery period following the fires of Black Saturday in the Mitchell and Murrindindi Shires. Aims of the research are to: document women's experiences of violence in the aftermath of the fires; investigate the links between post-disaster recovery and domestic violence; and contribute to a new knowledge-base and inform post-disaster recovery.

An analysis of HIV/Aids discourses in post-Apartheid South Africa under Mbeki's presidency (1999-2008)

Kiran Pienaar

The proposed research is a qualitative study of government and civil society discourses on HIV/Aids in South Africa, a country which has the biggest HIV-positive population in the world with an estimated 5.2 million people living with HIV. The research focuses on the nine-year period of Thabo Mbeki's presidency, a period marked by an ambivalent, delayed government response to the Aids epidemic. This paper provides an introduction to the research, which will provide a comparative analysis of the Aids dissident ideologies of the Mbeki government and the opposing ideologies of Treatment Action Campaign in its battle for equal treatment access. It aims to show how public sector discourses in post-apartheid South Africa produce Aids as an epidemic of controversy, with a host of attendant political, social and cultural meanings.

A Plea for Eros and the 'problem' of mothering: Knowledge practices, method assemblages, elusive hinterlands

Nicola Pitt

The act of being and becoming a mother, of experiencing and practicing different processes of mothering are and can be for many women exciting, overwhelming, joyful, painful, ambivalent or even completely lacking. The fundamental purpose of my project is to explore the relationships between fantasy and desire, memory and presence, and above all else, love in regards to a concern with the 'problem' of mothering. My aims here are to make sense of the ways in which we come to understand these sorts of things about the social world, about mothers, which are less than easily defined: those parts of the world which are more 'vague, diffuse, or unspecific, slippery, emotional, ephemeral, elusive or indistinct' (Law 2004: 2): those things about mothering that are difficult to catch with pre-existing research methods.

Islamic philanthropy and civic society activism: The differences between the secular schools associated with the Gulen Movement and Islamic schools in the secular states

Ahmet Polat

This research will be investigating the role of religion in public life and the stance of religion in secularism. It will examine the engagement of Islamic schools with modern society and study how the schools inspired by the philosophy of the Turkish contemporary scholar, Fethullah Gulen, differ from other Islamic schools which coexist in the secular states. Fethullah Gulen developed a new method which is a transformation of Islam from traditional understandings to modern life throughout education activities in the modern society of the world. This research will investigate how the schools of the philanthropic service associated with the Gulen movement coexist in the secular states and how they differ from Islamic schools. Finally the study will be examining why parents choose the secular Gulen-inspired schools in Australia and if they take into account the Gulen-inspired schools as secular not Islamic schools to send their children.

Bringing the private back to the public sphere

Comparative study of the Gulen Philanthropy with faith-based philanthropies: The functions of the schools worldwide as business enterprises in the philanthropic fashion

Cemen Polat

The worldwide civic society movement inspired by the ideology of contemporary Turkish scholar Fethullah Gulen and engaged in philanthropic activities is often misunderstood. Hence, in order to accurately and adequately understand various aspects of the Gulen movement this thesis compares this social initiative to Christian philanthropic educational activities. It will be investigating to what extent the Gulen movement is based on the traditional Islamic philanthropy or if it is inventing new models. This research, by comparing the schools associated with the Gulen movement to the schools established by the western religious philanthropies, will be examining and scrutinising the functions of these schools worldwide as business enterprises in the philanthropic fashion. Finally, this study will explore whether the implications of the Gulen movement appeal only to the Muslim world or if it contributes to the wider Western society as well.

Good governance: Learning from decentralization in Indonesia

Rasita Purba

Literature shows the interconnections between democracy, decentralisation and good governance. The essence of good governance is to ensure that government works for the maximum benefit of its populace and conflicts of interest are minimised. This presentation is about the linkage between decentralisation and good governance in Indonesia. Does decentralisation improve the practice of good governance? Preliminary findings suggest that decentralisation is very complex. There is no linear relationship between decentralisation and good governance, especially in the era of democracy when local leaders offer popular policies to win election or to be re-elected. Therefore conflicting results are evident at the level of implementation.

The power and the glory

Kevin Riley

My research was located in a local congregation of the Seventh-day Adventist church. As a member of the congregation, my research was a balance of ethnography and autoethnography. Being an insider researcher added a depth to my research that would have been difficult to obtain without being an insider. Being an insider also presented challenges that, being forewarned by the literature I should have expected, proved to be more difficult than I believed they would be. Representing a field 'truthfully' is always difficult, but the process becomes more intricate when the anthropological 'truth' needs to be set alongside the religious 'truth' as seen by both the researcher and the 'locals'.

The pressured identity: Exploring expressions of contemporary motherhood in Australian media

Alexandra Riquier

In this presentation I will discuss the key findings of a pilot media content analysis. The research aims to critically engage with granted assumptions around contemporary mothering in Australia. It focuses on the links between the persistent ideal of the traditional 'good mother' and how this contradicts with the emerging 'consuming mother'. By applying a sociology of consumption framework I explore how these contradictions of mothering are represented in popular Australian media. My research is based on a sample of Australian print magazines and analyses the dominant discourses across three segment types; lifestyle, special interest and community reflective publications.

Bernard Stiegler and western modernity

Johann Rossouw

First, Stiegler's analysis of modernity in Western industrial democracies will be considered. Particular attention will be paid to his attempt at conceiving a healthier composition between the spiritual and the material than that of industrial consumerism, namely his "new otium of the people", in which the cultivation of attention is central. Second, Stiegler's work will be situated within a broader account of Western modernity with regards to four modern motives: neutral, linear time-space; nominalism; the tension between religion and politics; and the subject of Romantic expressivism. Third, while broadly supportive of the "new otium of the people", some critical remarks will be proposed on the basis of the political ideal of the attentive community.

Bringing the private back to the public sphere

Below the belt: Conducted energy weapons in Australian policing

Emma Ryan

This research traces the history of the introduction and use of sub lethal weapons in Australian policing, and considers the potential these weapons have to advance or undermine the police mandate to use only minimum force. The thesis focuses on Conducted Energy Devices, or Tasers. I have examined the stated rationales for the introduction of the weapons and to what extent these are reflected in the policies governing their use, and have also compared policy with practice in each Australian state. This presentation will provide an overview of preliminary findings, and discuss the challenges presented by the project so far.

New social risks at the intersection of feminisation, ageing and precarisation in the labour market

Veronica Sheen

This paper discusses the findings and implications of a research study, involving 32 extended interviews and 1 focus group of midlife women, (mid 40s to mid50s), in casual and insecure (precarious) jobs. It considers how the interactions between feminisation, ageing and precarisation in the labour market might construct new forms of social risks. These risks have the potential to significantly increase levels of poverty and ill-health for many women as they age. The paper proposes that there is a significant gap in the debate about what constitutes adequate social protection and proposes a much firmer link between objectives of social inclusion and poverty alleviation with a goal of 'decent work' as set out as a founding principle of the International Labour Organisation.

The Australian Federal Police and intelligence cooperation

Alita Spratling

With the growth in international crime control there is also growing concern about the dynamics of cooperation. This paper considers the AFP's relatively recent adoption of an international mandate, where crime is increasingly defined as transnational in nature and requiring extraterritorial law enforcement, and the possible ramifications for due process protections. Drawing on the case study of the Bali 9 the paper will explore how commitments to international criminal cooperation may conflict with commitments to civil and human rights protections. It is also suggested such conflict stems from privileging measures of security.

What sort of woman kills her children?

Natalie Taylor-Zach

She is perhaps the most (in)famous mother in the history of drama and yet there is still confusion over the gender, humanity and motivations of Euripides' Medea. The majority of scholarship on the Medea conceives its protagonist as irreconcilably divided: most commonly these interpretations construe this divide as passionate/reasonable, heroic/maternal and masculine/feminine. This paper will demonstrate the dominance of gender essentialist assumptions in these dichotomies, while also discussing the place of Medea (and these divisions) in thinking about current-day cases of maternal infanticide.

Designing participatory governance for essential services

Bill Walker

'Citizen Voice and Action' (CV & A) is a social accountability approach for reform of local essential services in developing countries. I report on research to identify, analyse and develop salient design features so it contributes towards robust local governance processes which empower citizens, deepen democracy and help realise human rights.

Environmental discourse on population growth: A comparative study of environmental groups in western democracies

Matthew Walker

The foundational formula of modern environmentalism holds that the total impact a society has on the environment is determined by resource use, technology, and population size. In recent decades, however, the topic of population growth and the associated issues of fertility and migration have sparked conflict both within and between environmental groups. This is significant because these organisations have become important political actors. Generally seen as authoritative and trustworthy representatives of the environment, the messages developed by these organisations affect the perspectives and actions of governments, business, and individuals. In this presentation I will outline a theoretical framework for understanding this conflict and present some preliminary findings from organisations based in Australia and North America.

Bringing the private back to the public sphere

Yoga in Melbourne! How is this possible?

Trevor Walsh

This thesis aims to explore and attempt to explain developmentally and diachronically, why and how an Eastern spirituality such as yoga has been able to transplant successfully from its cultural heartland of India into Melbourne, Australia. An indication of the successful transplantation of yoga into Melbourne, is that in Melbourne today, one can observe and find a large number of yoga groups and styles, as well as, a large number of yoga teachers. This exploration will also include people who become yoga practitioners, yoga practitioner demographics, and the strategies that yoga groups and styles have used to achieve a successful transplantation.

'I just like to be in control': Drug driving as edgework

Laura Wilson

The concept of edgework (Lyng 1990; 2008) will be used to critically examine the attitudes and experiences of a sample group of illicit drug users from Melbourne with regards to drug driving. Edgework focuses on why some people engage in risky behaviours without coercion. 40 drug users took part in semi structured interviews and self-report written questionnaires. It was found that participants believed that drug driving was to a degree a learned skill and required experienced drug users to master the ability to drug drive. Many participants believed that drug driving required practise, concentration and control over body and mind. This paper concludes that using edgework perspective can provide a new insight into illicit drug user's drug driving behaviours.

Universal suffrage in Hong Kong: Political reform with Chinese characteristics

Lorna Wright

The current focus of political reform in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is universal suffrage and direct elections for the Chief Executive (CE) and all members of the Legislative Council (LegCo). The Basic Law (Hong Kong's 'mini constitution') provided for direct elections post-2007, however, this has not occurred. Furthermore, the Basic Law has not provided a timetable or framework for how direct elections would be implemented. The CE election on 25 March 2007 and the LegCo elections on 7 September 2008 were conducted under the current limited suffrage model. The next CE and LegCo elections are scheduled for 2012. Pressure for electoral reform has polarised political opinion in Hong Kong generating significant public debate, while growing social unrest is raising concerns in Beijing.

Contextualising friendship and social networking in the digital age: A preliminary analysis

Eloise Zoppos

The concept and understanding of friendship in contemporary Western society is continually changing which may be due, in part, to the relatively recent introduction of digital technologies such as social networking sites. Consequently, as definitions, understandings and 'tools' of friendship - such as social networking sites - evolve, adapt and respond to changing situational technologies, the concept of friendship itself changes. Using the social networking site Facebook as a case study, Robin Dunbar's circles of acquaintanceship model - which was originally intended for offline (face-to-face) friendships - will be extended to the online domain to assess whether it remains accurate. The results of some preliminary data will be presented in order to examine the changes to this model when applied to contemporary digital technologies.



Bringing the private back to the public sphere

Organising Committee

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Bridget Harris
Nicola Pitt
Rasita Purba
Johann Rossouw
Alita Spratling
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Panel Discussion

The symposium closes with a panel session of recently completed Monash postgraduates, who will speak to their experiences undertaking the PhD and life beyond the PhD.

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