Sustaining the Social

Voices
Cultures
Natures

TASA 2023

Book of Abstracts

Welcome

This year, TASA's annual event sees a change of format due to the ISA World Congress of Sociology, held in Melbourne in June. TASA's 2023 November event is to be run as a Colloquium. This three-day gathering, rather than the usual five-day conference, provides the opportunity to host a less jam-packed program, placing emphasis on a mix of panel-based and general papers, on discussion and social connection, and on broader regional and remote participation through both in-person and online engagement. This hybrid mode also facilitates a more sustainable event and one that is hopefully more Covid Safe.

Held, once again, in conjunction with the Council for the Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences Congress of HASS, TASA 2023 kicks-off with a half-day postgraduate event (Monday 27 November), followed by two further days (Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 November) involving panel-based sessions, general paper sessions relevant to TASA thematic groups, plenaries, social events, and TASA's AGM, presidential address and awards presentation.

The Theme: There is current foreboding about the state of the social. Struck by the tragedy of pandemic (and accompanying shifts in work, sociality and life course), marked by heightened political polarisation and faced with climate crisis, the social terrains we inhabit are in trouble. Right now, voices are in contention, cultures are apparently at war, and our environments are roaring back at us in protest.

All this goes beyond the perennial lament for unachieved social cohesion. In the face of climate change, escalating inequalities and resurgent fascisms societies across the globe are contending with unprecedented change. Yet on an everyday level the response is both bleak and hopeful. Wherever social relations seem to be disintegrating they are lived vibrantly elsewhere; wherever social belonging and social participation seem to be under siege, they are in other places (both offline and online) being sustained or remade.

Kim Humphery
*Vice-President of TASA
& Convenor of TASA 2023*

TASA 2023's theme takes up this sense of social unravelling and remaking in the context of the increasing ethical imperative to live generously with and alongside other voices, diverse cultural frames, and the many environments that sustain us. The theme is deliberately a broad one but with a central focus on what it is to constitute, contest and participate in societies and social relations in current times. There are many sociologies that can speak here, and we hope this is evident in the array of panels and general papers.

I do emphasis, once again, that Covid is still very much with us and we ask all in-person delegates to test for Covid prior to attending and continue to follow Covid safe practices as outline within this handbook.

I extend a warm welcome to all delegates and presenters and very much hope you enjoy TASA 2023, whether participating in person or online.

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Writing about policy ecology

Professor Tess Lea, *Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Macquarie University*

Abstract

In my quest to answer a simple question about Australian settler social policy as it applies to Indigenous issues—namely, can it be 'good'—I first had to confront the negative task of interrogating how policy is conventionally approached. In the place of a focus on policy decisions and ramifications, I proposed approaching policy as a wilder configuration, one where every effort needed to be deployed to resist its claims to superior rationality and coherency. I tried to experiment with the writing, and to some extents, succeeded in a monograph called Wild Policy (Stanford, 2020).

Since its publication, others wanting to apply an ecological approach to policy ethnography have asked for guidance. Being petitioned for advice on 'how' to apply the concepts, I told myself I needed to write a simpler paper explaining what policy ecology means to me, how it can be approached, and what techniques could be handy. But instead of this being an easy task, I stalled for at least two years. This paper gives an account of my journey to explain policy ecology by resorting to policy's coherency tricks, defying my original desire to write against its deceptions.

Telling Sociological Stories

Dr Ash Watson, *University of Sydney,*

Abstract

Howard Becker, who passed this August, leaves a legacy of ideas about how to do sociology well. This includes a great deal of direction on how to see, how to be there, how to read, and how to write in a way that the social comes to life. In my talk I pay homage to Becker's work on making representations and I reflect on alternative forms of storytelling. I focus on creative writing and close reading, including how we may do these things better together, and what a renewed commitment to reading and writing differently offers us in the craft of sociological imagination.

Sociology of memoir writing: a reflection

Dr Na'ama Carlin, *University of Sydney*

Abstract

Sociological theory is critical to our understanding of the world. While memoir is often dismissed as "women's work" as it is anchored in individual experience, this talk explores how memoir writing can use theory to help to inform our understandings of the social through self-writing.

My recent experiences of serious and chronic illness have prompted me to engage with the sociology of health and with memoir writing to extrapolate from the personal to the social and political, using these deeply personal but theoretically-grounded observations to critique body, (ill)health, gender, and broader social systems. This talk will reflect on how memoir writing transcends observations about the self to offer insights and critiques on power and social structures, and can be a productive sociological tool.

Inequalities of acceptable risk exposure: a case study in Singapore

Dr Anna Anderson, University of Melbourne, School of Social and Political Sciences

This is a photographic exhibition based on my recently published research: 'The role of culture in the (re)production of inequalities of risk exposure: a case study in Singapore'.

The exhibition begins with photographs illustrating the common characterisation of Singapore as 'an extremely safe and clean city'. This includes images of an almost crowded urban landscape of road safety signs and symbols as well as some of the cleanest public transport and train stations I have ever seen in the world.

In sharp contrast to these images of 'safe and clean' Singapore are photographs of the transportation of temporary visa workers in the cargo areas of open-air trucks (referred to as lorries). Whilst it is illegal in Singapore to use lorries for private passenger transport, the Road Traffic Act provides 'an exception' for owners and hirers of lorries to use these vehicles to transport their workers to and from their lodgings and places of work.

The exhibition invites the viewer to reflect on what makes it acceptable in this society to expose temporary visa workers to increased risk of road accident injury and death when it is judged unacceptable to expose all other private passengers to the same level of risk.

Ageing and Sociology

17 The Relevance of Music, Migrant Life-storytelling, and First Language to support the Well-being of Migrants living with Dementia in Australia. Co-writing Culturally Tailored Songs based on Ipsissima Fabula

Dr Simone Marino, *Edith Cowan University, Perth, Australia*
Professor Loretta Baldassar, *Edith Cowan University, Perth, Australia*

Abstract

This study, located at the intersection of anthropology, ageing, music therapy and dementia, explores the value of music, migration life-storytelling and first language, to support the well-being of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CaLD) living with dementia in Australia. It uses participant observation, the collection of oral histories and 'life soundtracks' to co-create a song together with older Italian migrants and their families.

This paper presents the first case study, which informed the development of a music engagement intervention we call Comusichiamo (Let's make music together). The case study shows that the co-creation of a culturally tailored song, composed and sung in first language, can enhance physical and social engagement, and contribute to the general well-being of participants from migrant backgrounds living with dementia and their carers. Central to the intervention is the sharing of life history, comprising autobiographic memory, the use of ipsissima verba - the precise words participants employ repeatedly, and ipsissima fabula - the particularistic stories participants narrate frequently.

This music engagement intervention supports a relationship-centred approach to dementia care, drawing on the Senses Framework, narrative theory and anthropological notions of personhood and corporeality to support cultural safety, protect personhood, and guard against 'social death'.

21 Lifecourse transitions: How ICTS support older migrants' adaption to transnational lives.

Dr Hien Thi Nguyen, *Edith Cowan University*
Prof Loretta Baldassar, *The University of Western Australia*
A/Prof Raelene Wilding, *La Trobe University*

Abstract

Lifecourse transitions from adulthood into older age are particularly complex for transnational migrants, bringing additional challenges and opportunities. Adding to the growing literature on ageing and migration, this article illustrates the ways ICTs facilitate the transnational lifecourse transitions of Vietnamese migrant grandparents in Australia through lifecourse digital learning.

Research findings highlight the crucial role that digital citizenship plays in supporting migrant grandparents' adaptation to increasingly mobile lives through practices of digital kinning and digital homing. These practices include using technological tools to maintain social support networks, exchange transnational caregiving, tackle language, navigation, and social integration barriers, and consume culturally relevant media, all of which support migrant identities and belongings.

Findings confirm the importance of ICTs in promoting lifecourse digital learning for older migrants who are often stereotyped for their poor learning capacities and ability to adapt to new living arrangements because of their older age.

116 'Subcultural generations: A comparative analysis of punk and hardcore subcultural affiliation for ageing participants in Australia, the USA and Europe'

Dr Ronald Baird, *Victoria University*

Abstract

Building on the work of Bennett and Hodkinson (2012) this project explores the ongoing significance of affiliation and participation in the punk and hardcore music subcultures by older and aging members.

This project will extend the discussion of ageing subculturalists by investigating the continued involvement in punk and hardcore by ageing participants. Punk and hardcore have been primarily perceived as youth cultural phenomena (Davis, 2006), with traditionally little attention paid to older members of the subcultures or questions of what happens as punks and hardcore kids age.

However, there is an emerging body of work that has begun examining the cultural phenomenon of ageing and youth subcultures (Bennett, 2006; Bennet and Hodkinson, 2020; Bennett and Taylor, 2012; Davis, 2006; Gregory, 2009; Hodkinson, 2011; Hodkinson, 2013; Marciniak, 2015 and Willing, Bennett, Piispa & Green, 2019). Thus, this study seeks to expand this discussion by conducting a comparative analysis of the experiences of ageing punks and hardcore participants to develop new understandings of self by exploring the changing sense of identity for ageing participants in the differing cultural environments of Australia, The USA and Europe.

This presentation will report on initial findings of data collected at various concert venues during an August 2023 European tour of a Californian hardcore band.

138 Examining Constraints in Adopting Mobile Financial Service(MFS) among Elderly Individuals of Plain Land Ethnic Communities in Bangladesh: A Systematic Review

Mr. Alamgir Kabir, *Graduate Student, Prince of Songkla University*
Mr. Hasan Jamil, *Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University*

Abstract

Approximately two million people belonging to 27 officially recognized ethnic minority groups live primarily in the plain land of the northern divisions of Bangladesh. They are socially, economically, and politically vulnerable and marginalized. Among them, the elderly are considered to be more vulnerable due to their advanced age and economic circumstances. Additionally, they do not have access to conventional financial services. In this situation, mobile financial services (MFS) are utilized to ensure that the elderly of plain land have access to their funds and other government-provided financial services in a secure manner.

This systematic evaluation was conducted to identify the barriers that prohibit elderly members of ethnic minorities from accessing MFS. Using electronic and non- electronic databases, a comprehensive search was conducted to identify relevant literature for review.

The findings indicate that elderly people of plain land ethnicity in Bangladesh face multiple obstacles when attempting to access and utilize MFS. The most significant obstacles for the elderly are the language barrier and limited digital literacy. Lack of trust in MFS service providers and attempts at fraud by service agents are also cited as significant obstacles. Therefore, the government and MFS providers should pay careful attention to essential adjustments to the MFS delivery mechanism in order to improve access and utilization by the nation's plain land elderly.

13   Emotion, Caring, and Convivial Urban Sociology Between the Academy and Community

Dr Neville Buch, *University of Queensland*

Abstract

The paper provides the lessons in applied urban, intellectual, sociology. The research is located between insights from the 2023 International Sociology Association's world congress in Melbourne, the operations of the Southern Brisbane Suburban Forum (SBSF Inc.), and the socio-political discourses in the anticipation of the Brisbane Council-Mayoral elections in March 2024.

The narrative is held together in the process of the professional middle class rebelling against the "business-as-usual" politics and the "set-and-forget" policies. There have been occasions when municipal governance have been more intellectually attuned to the times; not always to satisfaction, but much better than other incumbencies.

In the last 20 years the governance has been obsessed with large transport and city riverside projects, to the detriment of those residents greatly concerned about other municipal issues. This is not a partisan observation, but almost a motherhood insight from sociologists that any governance too long in power, become corrupt, lose integrity, and generally end up with no effective vision for the future.

In the past partisan governance relied on public relations discourse to convince the mass of lazy and uninformed voters that they are intelligently responsible. To sociological terms, however, the public discourse has shifted towards a convivial academia.

64   Navigating Non-Normative Roles: A Study of the Caregiving Experiences of Stay-at-Home Fathers in Pakistan

Mr Rahat Shah, *Goethe University, Frankfurt*
Zahoor Ahmad, *Pakistan*

Abstract

This study aimed to explore the caregiving experiences of stay-at-home fathers (SAHFs) in Pakistan, an area of research that has not been fully explored.

The study employed a qualitative approach and used (un)doing gender as a framework. Data was collected through in-depth interviews with a sample of 30 SAHFs in Pakistan. The results indicate that despite being in a SAHF role, most men avoided participation in caregiving responsibilities, citing a lack of caregiving skills, the perception of caregiving as a women's domain, stigmatization, and challenges to their masculinity as reasons.

These SAHFs also devalued paternal caregiving compared to maternal caregiving, reflecting a widespread sentiment that women, particularly their wives, are naturally more adept at caregiving. However, the data shows that the caregiving experiences of SAHFs were not homogeneous, and their participation in caregiving roles was greatly influenced by household structure (joint- nuclear), levels of education, and residential background (rural-urban).

The findings of this study make a valuable contribution to our understanding of how powerful cultural narratives continue to reinforce gendered practices and perceptions, making it difficult for SAHFs to fully embrace their roles as primary caregivers in highly patriarchal non-western cultural contexts.

82   The Paradox of Authoritarian Responsiveness: Government Hotlines and Local Governance in China

Qinyuan Liu, *Central University of Finance and Economics, Beijing, China*

Abstract

This paper investigates how authoritarian responsiveness policies are implemented through government hotlines in China.

Based on ethnographic observation in a Beijing township government, it examines how the municipal government uses the hotlines as a feedback mechanism and a performance evaluation criterion for the township government.

It reveals the challenges and dilemmas that the township government has to respond to all orders, even those that fall outside its public sphere, while also trying to convince the municipal government to exclude them from the evaluation system. It argues that this creates a conflict between the expectations of residents and the municipal government regarding the township government's role and responsibilities. It also shows how this leads to more dependence of residents on the municipal government and more centralization of power by the municipal government over the township government.

132   Bugmy in the Courtroom: Ensuring Fair and Just Outcome for 'Profoundly Deprived' Offenders

Dr Don McKenzie, *Monash University*
Helen Forbes-Mewett, *Monash University*

Abstract

In October 2023 it will be 10 years since the High Court's judgement William David Bugmy v The Queen (Bugmy). This project undertakes an assessment of how the Victorian County Court and Victorian Supreme Court of Appeal dealt with the principles arising from the original High Court judgement.

The aim of the research was to apply a practical lens in examining the manner in which Bugmy applications before the Victorian County Court were dealt with. This included an assessment of 105 County Court 'Bugmy judgements' from 2022 and a number of related judgements of the Victorian Supreme Court of Appeal. Interviews with 15 criminal law Barristers and eight County Court judges were also conducted. The study provides unique insights into the views of Judges and Counsel concerning their perceptions of various issues relating to 'Bugmy in the Courtroom'.

The interviews revealed concern that Bugmy initiatives were responsive to the needs of profoundly deprived offenders. Discussions related to low and high thresholds of deprivation and ensuring that Bugmy processes were relevant and appropriate. There were strong expressions of the need for both Judges and Counsel to address what was referred to as being 'trauma informed'. While opinions and views varied, the participants shared a commitment to develop an effective and just sentencing framework based on the Bugmy principles .

45   Law, lore, and Indigenous Australians

Professor Emeritus David McCallum, *Victoria University*

Abstract

Indigenous Australians, men, women and children remain the objects of policing and the justice system and regularly out-rate the proportion of men, women and children in the prison systems throughout the States of Australia.

The presentation focuses on the State of Victoria, Australia, and draws on the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, Royal Commissions, Aboriginal organisations and other sources of evidence of high rates of imprisonment of Indigenous Australians over several decades.

113   Gender & the State: Analysing International Gender-Based Violence Policy During the Rise of Neoliberalism

Mr Daniel Pitman, RMIT

Abstract

How policy problems are framed has implications for what is, and is not, done to address them. Australia has been highly influential in the development of national prevention policies to address gender-based violence that situate the core of the problem with gender inequality. Yet, in an increasingly contested global policy context where a pervasive neoliberal global politic has arguably eroded competing framings such as human rights, social welfare, and commurianism, the problem of gender-based violence continues to be represented in policy and public discourse in competing ways with varying potential impacts.

Drawing on Carol Bacchi's 'what's the problem represented to be' approach, this paper will explore problem representations of gender-based violence and gender equality in the second National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children.

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76 **'"I alone determine my destiny:" Contending with tainted nostalgias in Magic: the Gathering.'**

Kyle Medlock, *Griffith University*

Abstract

Reflecting on relics of our past to find them – or ourselves – transformed by time can be a cathartic and illuminating experience. However, it holds the potential to confront us with new realities that are bittersweet or sorrowful. This was the case during 2020, when after twenty-five years of painting for the globally popular trading card game Magic: the Gathering (MTG), popular fantasy artist Terese Nielsen's ties with the game were cut in response to her association with alt-right and anti-trans movements. Both new and existing artwork by her would not be printed on future cards. As a result, her works have taken on a new and tainted meaning for the game's players, as their atmospheres of nostalgia now intertwine with a confronting reality that they must navigate.

This paper unpacks how this change is reflected in the evolution of the game's visual identity, and examines how players have reckoned with and sought to reclaim their personal pasts of play from external events like this one. In doing so, it seeks to illuminate everyday processes of transformation that are critical in the formation of our identities, memories and nostalgias.

99 **More than an escape: exploring social and political issues through fantasy novels**

Mr. James Holmes, *Deakin University*

Abstract

Fantasy fiction can provide a tempting escape from the 'reality' of contemporary social and political issues. It is also tempting to view such entertainment as mere escapism, a 'substitute for action where action is necessary' as fantasy author and critic C.S. Lewis puts it.

My research, consisting of 22 semi-structured interviews with fantasy readers, challenges the assumption that escape stands in opposition to engagement with real-world social and political issues. Drawing on a cultural sociology framework, I explore the sociological significance of reading to escape, and how this impacts readers' engagement with social and political issues.

For some, reading fantasy was a way to disconnect from the real world. However, while almost all participants framed their reading as an escape, most also reflected on what fantasy novels had to say about the world. These readers appreciated the way fantasy allowed them to engage with real-world issues that they might not have otherwise. Counterintuitively, it was the news and social media that disconnected some participants from 'reality', while narrative experiences gained in fantasy helped them empathise with those who bear the brunt of social inequalities. This prompted some to reflect on their perspectives and engage in social action to effect change.

162 **Professionalisation and the Arts: the Viability of Maintaining a Sustainable Professional Performing Arts Practice in Australia**

Stephanie Daughtry, *University of South Australia*

Abstract

The Labour Government's latest National Cultural Policy, and the only cultural policy developed in the last ten years, has five key focus areas. The third focus area asserts the centrality of the artist as a working professional entitled to fair pay, conditions and 'opportunities for lifelong education, employment and professional practice' (Revive 2023, p. 52).

The policy title, Revive, insinuates that a professional practice in the arts is simply in need of life support to bring it back to life. However, when assessing the history of Australia's performing arts industry there is little evidence of a thriving professional arts sector to begin with. A profession as summarised by economist Guy Standing constitutes 'belonging to a community with standards, ethical codes and mutual respect among its members based on competence and respect for long-established norms of behaviour' (Standing 2011, p. 23). As stated within the Revive policy itself, existing infrastructures that support a cohesive creative practice in Australia are small, with employment in the arts being characterised by isolated, insecure and unregulated forms of work (Revive 2023).

The following paper will suggest that while the Revive policy acknowledges many problem areas worth addressing within the arts industry, it perhaps fails to recognise that these issues are not a result of a previously thriving arts industry falling into recent disrepair.

49 Climate, biodiversity, and non-government investment into nature-positive outcomes for better management of ecological infrastructure .

Dr Keith Noble, *James Cook University*

Abstract

The 2022 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP27 acknowledged climate change and biodiversity challenges are inextricably linked and that COP parties needed to protect and restore nature as an essential component to maintain global warming temperature limits under 1.5° C. Three weeks later the UN Framework Convention on Biological Diversity was ratified to protect a third of nature by 2030.

 The 2022-23 Australian Government budget included $1.8 billion as a "down payment on strong action to protect, restore and manage our natural environment", but this is only 37 cents of every $100 of government spending, and budget environment spend has declined over the past decade. Life, and therefore business is dependent on a healthy environment but it appears beyond government's capacity to fund the action required.

Financial institutions, companies, and investors don't have a structured or auditable way to invest in nature, but they want one. Can the financial system that created the problem solve it, or is it all 'greenwash' that will monetise nature and hasten its demise?

50 Sustainability labour in households and the climate crisis: The case of low waste living

Prof Jo Lindsay, *School of Social Sciences, Monash University*
A/Prof Ruth Lane, *School of Social Sciences Monash University*
Prof Dharma Arunachalam, *School of Social Sciences, Monash University*
Dr David Reynolds, *Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore*
Prof Rob Raven, *Monash Sustainable Development Institute, Monash University*

Abstract

This paper explores the nature of sustainability labour involved in tackling the climate crisis within households with waste reduction as an exemplar. We draw on national survey data (N=2717) from Australia, and qualitative data from a participatory action project working with 34 householders on experiments in low waste living.

We found low waste living was challenging work mentally, physically and interpersonally and required information, skills and the resources of time and money. Waste reduction in households also required relational labour inside and outside the household. On the basis of existing literature and our findings we theorise that sustainability labour is comprised of five overlapping elements: physical, cognitive, relational, economic and political tasks.

We argue that reducing waste is an example of sustainability labour that is led largely by women, as they work to change household practices and the systems in which these are embedded, toward a more sustainable future. The reliance on women's labour is yet to be registered and acknowledged in local environmental policy making and programs.

70   Facilitating climate adaptation and participatory justice in Small Island Developing States

Dr Aisling Bailey, Swinburne University of Technology
Associate Professor Magnus Moglia, Centre for Urban Transitions, Swinburne University of Technology
Dr Stephen Glackin, Centre for Urban Transitions, Swinburne University of Technology

Abstract

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with low-lying atolls face significant challenges resultant from climate change, and their ability to adapt is increasingly critical for the wellbeing and resilience of their populations. A systematic literature review was undertaken on aiding participatory justice within climate adaptation decision making processes within SIDS, and 70 studies were selected to apply the Values-Rules-Knowledge framework to (Gorddard et al 2016).

Our analysis identified Values-based themes of ensuring equity and fairness; the interconnection of social-ecological values; and the need to achieve sustainable livelihoods. Our analysis identified Rules-based themes of adaptive governance; community empowerment; and the need to break down silos in adaptation efforts.

Our analysis identified Knowledge-based themes of the need for evidence-based systems; an understanding of place and context; the benefit of broadening available adaptation options; accounting for capacity constraints in adaptation efforts; and finally, the difficult consideration of migration. Our findings are summarised within five principles that can inform future climate adaptation efforts in SIDS and include ensuring community engagement; expanding available options through local experimentation; taking the monitoring and evaluation of adaptation methods seriously; ensuring systems-oriented and inclusive decision making; and only investing in climate adaptation efforts if long-term commitment exists to protect SIDS.

100   Rights And Restoration: Making the Case For An Intersectional Exploration Of Power Dynamics Within Indigenous Co- Management Agreements On The Great Barrier Reef

Danielle Nembhard, The Cairns Institute, James Cook University

Abstract

Ecological restoration is deemed a global priority in the face of unprecedented environmental decline. With the declaration of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030, restoration is increasingly promoted on an international scale as a mechanism for achieving multiple socio-ecological objectives. Concurrently, the need for restoration to respect the rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples is increasingly recognised as many of the ecosystems of restoration interest are within Indigenous territories. Claims that restoration, and broader environmental governance, are historically and presently intertwined with settler colonial projects highlights the growing need for Indigenous consent, alongside meaningful, equitable partnerships.

Here, I explore the role that co-management with Indigenous Peoples potentially plays in supporting restoration that is effective, socially just, and transformative. I focus on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, a national and international icon of cultural and ecological importance, where over 70 Traditional Owner groups with ancestral ties to the lands and seas are well positioned to advance meaningful restoration at large scales.

In doing so, I propose the use of intersectional theory as a critical and political tool for a multiscale, historically grounded exploration of how power mediates the mechanisms designed to support Indigenous-led governance systems.

108   Outsourcing education: The growth of private tutoring and its implications

A/Prof Christina Ho, *University of Technology Sydney*

Abstract

Private tutoring outside of school has grown dramatically in recent decades, particularly in the form of commercial tutoring centres offering subject specific support and increasingly, exam preparation. In NSW, this is particularly prevalent in the leadup to the entrance tests for selective schools and opportunity classes.

In many cases, students prioritise private tutoring work over school work, and for some, the main learning of subject content happens in tutoring rather than in school. This paper draws on research in six primary schools in Sydney, and documents why families opt for tutoring, and the scale and types of tutoring being undertaken. It focuses particularly on the use of tutoring for preparation for the selective school test, which often lasts for six to 12 months.

This raises questions about equity, given the resources some families invest into preparing their children for the entrance test. There are also bigger questions about the role of schools in an age when many students are outsourcing their education.

122   Connecting the dots: perceived and practiced relations between climate change and plastic environmental crises at the household level

Dr David Reynolds, National University of Singapore

Abstract

Climate change crowns a cluster of modern environmental crises. Some people respond to these issues in their everyday lives and consumption is a major arena for such actions.

These people, in making efforts to enact sustainable consumption, can be considered to be participating in social movements that contest the perpetuation of environmental degradation, pollution, *etc*. In this context, this paper addresses the question how do the politics of the climate crisis intersect with contestation of other environmental crises enacted in the arena of consumption?

This paper draws on the accounts of people who avoid plastic at the household level to consider the politics of the climate crisis in the perceptions and actions of people in this environmentally-aware group. A general consensus of political alignment between global environmental crises of climate and plastic pollution emerges in these accounts.

Articulations of the politics of the climate crisis are dominated by a view of human blunder, avarice, and a lack of care with parallel ruinous outcomes – global environmental pollution by greenhouse gases and plastic materials. Other relations to the politics of the climate crisis include emissions in production and waste management processes, and complex negotiations around navigating what constitutes sustainable consumption. The paper concludes with reflection on relations between the politics of the climate crisis and plastic avoidance at the household level.

20 Floating grandparenting: Chinese rural grandparents balance work and childcare duties in cities

Huan MA, Australian Catholic University

Abstract

In recent China, providing childcare assistance tends to be a normative obligation of the grandparents. There is an increasing number of rural grandparents migrating to cities to assist with childrearing. When existing studies mainly explored their caregiving roles, some migrant grandparents seek paid employment in the destination city.

As caregiving is the main duty of their migration, how rural grandparents manage their time and energy to take on a job needs further exploration. I conducted 38 qualitative interviews in Shenzhen city with rural floating grandparents who find a job in Shenzhen. Different patterns of balancing childcare and work are found: the "Tangram" model with a tight daily arrangement of grandparents whose adult children are working-class and the "Well-rested" model with discontinuous working activities of grandparents whose adult children are middle-class in Shenzhen.

Two groups of grandparents reconstructed different meanings of grandparenting; experienced different intergenerational power relations; gave different interpretations of migrated aging life and the boundaries between extended families and nuclear families. Different patterns of balancing -work and childcare reflect that the negotiation of family obligations is situated in the intersection of the micro level of family economic status and macro level of social-gender relation, rural-urban division, and class.

60 Parents' and Young Children's Experiences of "Sleep Sojourning": A Child-Led Co-Sleeping Practice

Ms. Miranda Shemesh, University of Haifa

Abstract

The solitary sleeping arrangement, in which children sleep in separate sleeping areas from their parents, is the cultural norm in many industrialized societies. Sleep and parenting experts often assert that co-sleeping with children may have adverse outcomes for children and their parents.

Based on interviews, observations, and sleep diaries with young children (0-10) and their parents in twenty-two Jewish-Israeli families, this qualitative study found that almost all parents rejected co-sleeping in principle and upheld separate sleeping arrangements at bedtime.

However, in many families, one or more children moved on their own initiative during the night to sleep in the parents' vicinity, a practice we term "sleep sojourning." Parents described feeling powerless in preventing this child-led practice due to their sleepy state. Thus, we coin "somno-parenting" to convey the parents' embodied experience of negotiating between intensive parenting, child-centered principles, gender roles, and the lure of sleep as a moratorium from intensive daily demands.

For children, nighttime afforded repose from the highly regulated spatial and temporal configurations of family life, which parents upheld during daytime. By exploring all family members' voices, we discuss the sociological issues of agency, embodiment, inter-generational and gender power dynamics at the interface of sleep, parenting and childhood.

125   We Are(Not)the Last Generation: The Influence of Perceptions of Social Problems on Fertility Intentions in China

Pei Zhong, *South China Normal University*

Abstract

Whereas in theory individuals tend to delay fertility decisions in times of serious social problems, empirical examinations on that question are sparse. Utilising data from China Family Panel Studies 2020 and adopting ordered logistic regression, this paper estimates the effect of perceptions of social problems on fertility intentions plus the potential moderation brought by levels of education and/or gender equality awareness. It finds that 1) perceptions of social problems negatively influence fertility intentions; 2) this effect is positively moderated by the level of education, and 3)this effect is also positively moderated by awareness of gender equality, but this positive moderating effect manifests only in the group of those who both are living in urban areas and at the same time are not Chinese Communist Party members.

In combination the data suggest how perceptions of social problems function in a society where everything is entangled by politics as a downward drag on women's fertility intentions and that their role has been underestimated in forming the package of everyday resistance of which decline in fertility intentions is a part.

147   Accessing family inheritance online: Affective responses to ancestry

Dr Giselle Newton, *University of Queensland*

Abstract

Much scholarship has explored how individuals connect to and learn from their ancestors through heirlooms and other objects. In a similar vein, DNA data are objects that reveal insights about the past, shaping personal, familial and collective identities into the future.

Drawing on reflexive thematic analysis of free-text data from an online survey (n = 91) and semi-structured interview data (n = 28) with Australian donor-conceived people, and combining scholarship on the sociology of emotions and digital intimate publics, I explore the temporal, social and cultural dimensions of DNA data. Specifically, I consider how individuals interpret DNA data, and explore their feelings towards the digital platforms that curate and conserve their family inheritance.

Beyond the context of donor-conceived people's engagement with DNA platforms, I conceptualise the processes and practices of accessing family inheritance online, revealing how digital publics facilitate new contexts for memory and belonging.

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66 Refusing recovery, living a 'wayward' life: A feminist analysis of women's drug use

Dr Kiran Pienaar, *Deakin University*
Dr Fay Dennis, *Goldsmiths, University of London*

Abstract

The apparent waywardness of people who consume illicit drugs is frequently reduced to pathology and criminality. This is especially so for women and gender minorities as they are multiply marginalised and their drug use is often read as a sign of 'deviance'. What might it mean to trouble these dominant depictions of illicit drug use? In this paper we draw on the insights of narcofeminism and Saidiya Hartman's (2019) book *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments* to read one woman's (Kim) story of heavy drug use as a feminist act of refusal. Troubling dominant depictions, we explore the ways in which Kim resists the tropes of pathology that profess to know her.

We take seriously Kim's account of drug use as a renegade practice of care. Importantly in attending to the generative possibilities of drug use, we are not dismissing or romanticising Kim's struggles, but rather assembling a picture of her life that captures its admixture of daily trials and challenges, fleeting triumphs, and acts of resistance and care. In doing so, we seek to highlight the intimate political work and alternative forms of care that are sometimes neglected in discussions of formal drug activism.

83 Patriarchy, Sexuality, and Body Politics; Voices of Sex Trafficking Survivors in Bangladesh

Ms Nazma Khatoon, Swinburne University of Technology
Dr Christine Agius, Swinburne University of Technology
Dr Kay Cook, Swinburne University of Technology
Dr Simone Buzwell, Swinburne University of Technology

Abstract

Sex trafficking exists within overarching patriarchal socio-cultural, political, and institutional conditions that remain unaddressed in countering sex trafficking measures. Anti-trafficking strategies are focused on the 3 'P's (prosecution, protection, and prevention); however, another 'p' – patriarchy - is missing. This study explores an existing training and rehabilitation program for survivors and anti-trafficking policies in Bangladesh and considers how patriarchy may underpin girls' and women's experiences. The project investigates the impact of the patriarchal system, gendered body politics, practices, and attitudes on survivors and strategies to create alternative understandings to reform policy.

This study adopts a post-colonial feminist theoretical framework to examine how race, gender, sexuality, and class intersect with other oppressional systems that have relevance for understanding marginalised non-Western, non-white women in the Bangladesh context. This approach questions Western hegemonic consideration of oppression and looks at the experiences of third-world women with an emphasis on hearing their voices.

A mixed-methods feminist methodology uses in-depth interviews with survivors, and those working with them, to hear their experiences, especially with regard to how patriarchal structures have harmed survivors. This research will help highlight how patriarchy remains a significant factor in sex trafficking, anti-trafficking programs and reintegration and rehabilitation strategies in Bangladesh.

134 'Feminine Threshold': Theorising Queer Masculine Embodiment

Dr Adriana Haro, *University of Newcastle*

Abstract

Findings suggest that queer Latinx men in Australia are negotiating masculinities through something I call a 'feminine threshold'. The aim of this paper is to discuss this idea of 'feminine threshold', a theory I developed in my doctoral research exploring how young queer Latinx men living in Australia negotiate, embody, and complicate existing dominant and racialised discourses. It is the messy and nuanced negotiations and tensions that led to theorising queer Latinx men's engagement with masculine embodiment through a threshold of femininity.

In this study, queer Latinx men understand masculinities beyond normative gender binary norms. The development of the theory will be explored alongside some examples of its application. Queer, feminist and critical race theories are used to understand the negotiations of these queer Latinx men as they negotiate being 'other' in a white dominant cultural context. These tensions were explored through semi-structured in- depth interviews and a creative visual method known as sandboxing with twenty-one queer Latinx men.

160 Repression, Resistance & Revolution: The Politics of International Queer Communication

Mr. Russell Yap, *National University of Singapore*

Abstract

Following revivals of gender and sexuality issues in broader mainstream news and in response to what Tang and Wijaya (2022) called for a greater engagement of queering in Southeast Asia, this paper answers: *Is social media a democratising force for the understanding of queer politics in Southeast Asia given its fusion of elements of source, channel and destination?*

Drawing from the journalistic models of communication posited by Shannon and Weaver (1947) and Westley and MacLean (1957), I argue that social media in the realm of queer politics can function as a democratising force for two major societies in Southeast Asia, namely Singapore and Malaysia because of three reasons.

First, it blurs and redefines traditional media relations between civil society and the state by altering the way information is disseminated and communicated across modalities. Second, it provides an opportunity for the expansion of shared experiences and narratives that connect different groups in society.

Finally, queer social media communication bypasses the need for traditional gatekeeping by the government, dissolving the monopoly of information any government may have and affording individuals the opportunity to exchange information at their will, createing a media space where elements of source, channel and destination are
m erg ed .

135 Help-seeking after intimate partner or sexual violence: Exploring the experiences of international student women in Australia

Dr Giang Tran, *Multicultural Centre for Women's Health*
Associate Professor Laura Tarzia, *University of Melbourne*
Associate Professor Helen Forbes-Mewett, *Monash University*
Professor Ly Thi Tran, *Deakin University*
Dr Maria Hatch, *Multicultural Centre for Woman's Health*

Abstract

While international students experience high levels of SV/IPV, little is known about how international student women engage in help-seeking and what types of support that they need during this time. In this paper, we address this void by presenting findings from a qualitative analysis of 30 in-depth interviews with international student women who experienced SV/IPV while studying in Australia.

The findings show the unique challenges of international student women' circumstances create significant barriers to help-seeking. It further suggests the participants' agency and resourcefulness in overcoming their specific challenges related to experiences of SV/IPV.

The study demonstrates that the provision of culturally and linguistically appropriate and tailored support to the specific needs of international student women survivors from SV/IPV is crucial.

Health Sociology

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36 Health on Hold: The hidden injuries of call centre work
Dr Dino Concepcion, *La Trobe University*

Abstract

This study takes the reader through the experiences of call centre workers, who comprise the largest growing segment of the Philippine Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry workforce.

From travelling to work, entering the office, talking to overseas callers while sitting for hours, and getting back to their homes, in-depth interviews with 32 call centre workers, based in Metro-Manila, exposed the confluence of health and safety hazards they live through each night. These illness- causing conditions include exacting client-dictated performance measures that are harshly mandated by call centre managers.

The performance targets ("metrics") intensify the adverse impacts of difficult and racist customers, nocturnal and rotating work-shifts, and frequent cancellations of bio- breaks, and compound the ill-health generated by workplace features including excessively cold air-conditioning, inefficient software programs, and crowded office spaces.

These occupational challenges compel some workers into practices that potentially damage their wellbeing, while others strive to protect their health. The lay perspectives of industry workers further reveal the interrelated themes of emotional labour, neoliberalism, precarious work, and racism. Moreover, this qualitative research examines the intersections between micro-level health experiences and the political economy of offshore service labour in the Global South.

71 "You feel a little bit like an alien"– how people with chronic health conditions experience loneliness

Professor Karen Willis, *Victoria University*
Dr Sophie Lewis, *University of Sydney*
Dr Maja Moenstad, *University of Sydney*
Dr Leslie Dubbin, *University of California*
Professor Lorraine Smith, *University of Sydney*

Abstract

Loneliness is one of the most pressing and rapidly growing social and health challenges of the 21st century. For people with chronic conditions, the impacts of loneliness on their life can be profound, as they navigate a disrupted sense of self, management of their conditions, and social expectations. Our qualitative interviews with 40 people with chronic illness who were experiencing loneliness reveals what loneliness means to them and the interconnectedness of chronic illness and loneliness in participants' daily lives.

 Chronic illness shifts temporal orientations and transforms interpersonal relationships both of which contribute to the experiences of loneliness. Social conditions restrict opportunities for social participation giving a sense of being left behind and spectating the social life of others. Also dominant are contemporary rhetorics of loneliness as a problem and responsibility of the individual.

Participants described needing to perform social connection, in the absence of meaningful social bonds with others. Normative ideals of wellness and positivity circulating chronic illness communities and society more broadly are implicated in, and intensify, the experience of loneliness for people with chronic conditions. Thus, more expansive representations of how to live well with chronic illness may be important in ameliorating
lon elin es s .

85 Cancer diagnosis and a license to breach social norms

Professor Kevin Dew, *Victoria University of Wellington*
Professor Kerry Chamberlain, *Victoria University of Wellington*
Associate Professor Richard Egan, *University of Otago*
Professor Chris Cunningham, *Massey University*

Abstract

Although a diagnosis of a life-limiting cancer is likely to evoke emotions such as fear, panic and anxiety, for some people it can provide an opportunity to live life differently.

This presentation is based on research undertaken in Aotearoa New Zealand on the topic of exceptional cancer trajectories. Eighty-one participants who had been identified as living with a cancer diagnosis longer than expected were interviewed.

For many participants the experience of having a cancer diagnosis was not all negative, with participants suggesting that "it's a privilege actually", "we call it my friend", "the most amazing opportunity happened to me", and "it's my buddy". The diagnosis provided, for some, the opportunity to undertake lifestyle and consumption changes, to change attitudes, to take up new skills, to quit work, to change ones way of relating to others.

The concepts of biographical disruption and posttraumatic growth are considered in relation to these accounts, and it is argued that a cancer diagnosis can give license for people to breach social norms.

86 Recentring Indigenous narratives and structural vulnerability in health policy: A case study of rural Canada and opioid use

Dr. Mst Shahina Parvin, *Brandon University*
Dr. Ariane Hanemaayer, *Brandon University*

Abstract

Historically, Indigenous folks in Canada are subject to structural violence, and their use of pain medicine is often linked to their displaced status in society. The intersectionality of these issues has yet to be adopted in opioid policies and health care. Instead, Indigenous peoples in so-called Canada are often criminalized for the crisis.

We aim to decolonize the dialogues on the opioid crisis and treatment approach for Indigenous people by extending concepts of structural vulnerabilities, pain and opioid use. For so doing, we present findings from in-depth interviews with 18 Indigenous opioid users in two cities in Canada. The narratives demonstrate that their use of opioids is a response to colonial damage and a coping strategy resulting from intergenerational displacement from their lands and families, and the systemic elimination of their culture, practices, and identities.

Drawing on these narratives, we argue that it is crucial to cultivate alternatives to the punitive neoliberal policies and discourses that individualize and responsibilize Indigenous users for their opioid use and healing. By drawing on scholarships on structural vulnerabilities, we demonstrate that knowledge of structural vulnerabilities can inform policy and healthcare practices, providing the required remedies and social resources to better address the opioid crisis.

114 Medicalisation of Eating and Weight-Control Behaviours: The Need for Critical Analysis

Dr Jonathan Mond, *School of Medicine, Western Sydney University*

Abstract

In recent years, there has been a dramatic proliferation in the number and range of conditions recognised as "eating disorders" in classification schemes for mental health problems. There have also been concerted efforts by influential public policy organisations to portray these conditions as "brain-based mental illnesses" for which certain forms of intervention are demanded.

Taken together, these developments indicate an increasingly medicalised representation of certain combinations of eating and weight-control behaviours as "disorders" demanding clinical and/or public health attention.

To date, critical analysis of the occurrence and implications of these developments has been piecemeal and largely confined to early feminist work relating to anorexia nervosa. This is regrettable given the increasing priority given to public funding for the prevention and treatment of "eating disorders" and predication of this funding on a medical-model approach to intervention the benefits of which are debateable.

In this presentation, plans for research designed to address this gap in the literature, through application of Bacchi's "What's the Problem Represented to Be" approach to the "problem" of "eating disorders", are outlined. It will be explained how the findings will highlight the need for alternative approaches to the conceptualisation and management of "eating-disordered behaviour".

124 Has Strategy Broken The Patriarchy Shackles of MHM in Bangladesh?

Mrs. Asrafi Bintay Akram, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University
Mrs. Ishrat Jahan, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University
Mrs. Tarzeen Tamanna Talukder Sristy, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University

Abstract

Menstruation is associated with various gender-specific taboos and beliefs in Bangladesh, which make women highly reluctant and force them to withdraw from their families and societies. Contrarily, the resources, needs, and context that women experience during menstruation in terms of class, religion, location, information literacy, and other factors vary. Therefore, it is impossible to continue using the same management strategy for MHM as recommended by WHO and UNICEF.

In order to ensure that "No Girl or Woman is Left Behind" in the exercise of their fundamental rights, the government developed the National Menstrual Hygiene Management Strategy in 2021 through a participatory approach. It was the first document for 54 million menstrual women that will guarantee that every girl and woman has access to a safe and respectable MHM practice so that they can exercise their fundamental human rights regardless of their of their socio-economic context. To understand the broad picture of the MHM situation in Bangladesh, the MHM national strategy paper was critically analyzed.

This review makes clear that, in order to free society from the restraints of patriarchy, which frames menstruation as a social phenomenon rather than a biological one, functional initiatives must take precedence over literary declarations.

156 Following the Flow: a sociomaterial analysis of point-of-care HIV viral load testing and infant diagnosis in Papua New Guinea.

Dr Sujith Kumar Prankumar, *Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney*
Ms Ruthy Boli, *Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research, Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney*
Dr Janet Gare, *Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research, Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney*
Ms Melissa Schulz, *Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney*
Mr Simon Pekon, *Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research, Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney*
Dr Gillian Scott, *Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney*
Ms Selina Silim, *Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research*
Ms Helen Keno, *Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research*
Dr Paulus Ripa, *Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority*
Dr Nano Gideon, *Port Moresby General Hospital*
Dr Zure Kombati, *Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, Mt Hage*
Dr Penial Boas, *National Department of Health, Port Moresby*
Mr Mitchell Starr, *St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research*
Dr Gamini Vali, *Port Moresby General Hospital*
Dr Mary Bagita, *Port Moresby General Hospital*
Mr Joshua Johnson, *Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research*
Mr Barne Willie, *Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research, Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney*
Ms Ruth Tai, *Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, Mt Hage*
Mr Willie Porau, *Central Public Health Laboratory*
Professor Andrew Vallely, *Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney, Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research*
Professor William Pomat, *Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research*
Scientia Professor Anthony Kelleher, *Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney, St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research*
Associate Professor Philip Cunningham, *St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research*
Dr Steven Badman, *Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney*
Scientia Associate Professor Angela Kelly-Hanku, *Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney, Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research*

Abstract

With approximately 70,000 people living with HIV, Papua New Guinea has the largest epidemic in the Pacific, and faces challenges in scaling up HIV viral load (VL) testing and infant diagnostics (ID) for HIV-exposed infants.

To address delays, ACTUP-PNG established PNG's first clinic-based point-of-care (POC) HIV VL and ID testing program in 2021, and introduced VL testing of infants and children aged 6 weeks to under 10 years in late 2022. Qualitative interviews (n=76) were conducted at Port Moresby General Hospital and Mount Hagen Provincial Hospital with people living with HIV, caregivers, healthcare workers and key informants in order to explore the acceptability and consequences of the POC testing program. Transcripts were analysed using a sociomaterial framework viewing blood as an entanglement of biological, moral, kinship, religious, political, psychological, medical, and spatiotemporal factors. Findings reveal that by making the diagnostic journey of blood transparent, POC devices are not just technical tools but actively transform clinical spaces and therapeutic encounters.

With on-site blood analysis, clinics became "centres of excellence" offering same-day VL testing, treatment and counselling, and increasing clients' motivation as active participants in care. These insights have implications for scaling up POC testing and patient-centred HIV care in resource-challenged contexts.

6   Return Migration of Overseas Chinese Students during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Emotionality and Agency

Dr. Yinni Peng, *Hong Kong Baptist University*

Abstract

Migrant students constitute a significant group in mass migration in the age of globalization. Although most studies of international students focused on their migration motives and adaptation experiences in the host societies, the return migration of international students attracted increasing academic attention. As the movement of migrants back to their home country, return migration is a multifaceted and heterogeneous phenomenon subject to the influences of multifarious factors and shaped by migrants' personal characteristics and agency. The outbreak of COVID-19 interrupted the migratory journeys of many international students.

Drawing on the qualitative data obtained from qualitative interviewing with 89 Chinese student returnees, I examine how the pandemic shaped the return decisions and processes of Chinese migrant students, with a specific focus on their emotionality and agency in the return process.

Rather than defining return migration as the result of rational decision, I argue that emotionality played a significant role in their return process under the pandemic when the students faced increased challenges, risks and uncertainties. My findings reveal the diversified emotional experiences and coping tactics of Chinese student returnees to deal with the problems and challenges in their return processes.

73   Youth, Intimacy and COVID-19: Longitudinal analysis of digital intimacies

Maddison Sideris, *The University of Melbourne*

Abstract

A growing area of research, digital intimacies (e.g., Byron, 2021; Dobson et al., 2018), explores our relationships in a digitally saturated world. This presentation will explore the preliminary findings of my PhD research on how Australian youth aged 34-35 years old negotiate intimacy through digital practices, in their transition to adulthood and through the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this presentation I will focus on affective practices (Wetherell, 2012), to examine how youth use digital practices to construct intimacy. This will seek to bring together the material, embodied and temporal aspects of how youth experience intimacy over time and place. I draw on the longitudinal mixed methods Life Patterns Project, which has tracked a cohort of young Australians for 17 years.

I will be presenting initial findings from two case studies using 17 waves of survey data and first round of interviews. This allows for the unearthing of patterns of continuity and change in youth digital practices tied to the construction of intimacy. As relationships are pivotal to everyday life, understanding intimacy over time will provide us with considerable insights into understanding digital intimate practices today and into the future.

98 Happily ever after?: Young people's constructions of mobile dating during COVID-19

Dr Ally Gibson, Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington
Dr Alex Beattie, Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington
Professor Deborah Lupton, UNSW

Abstract

With periods of 'lockdown' and measures of social distancing, the COVID-19 pandemic challenged opportunities for mobile dating, requiring people to re-think and reconfigure how intimacy with others could be achieved. In this longitudinal study, we investigated how young people (re)imagined navigating mobile dating during and post pandemic restrictions in Aotearoa New Zealand. This story completion study involved young people (aged 18-25) in Aotearoa New Zealand who have used mobile dating apps since the emergence of COVID- 19.

Story stems collected at three time points provided opportunities for participants to explore different hypothetical scenarios of trying to navigate dating during the pandemic – from dating during lockdown, to the possibilities of video dates, to finding intimacy in times of social distancing, masks, vaccination status, and life 'post-pandemic'. Participants' choice of narrative arcs demonstrated deeper affective responses to the pandemic, ranging from the aspirational 'fairytale romance', to the nostalgic harking back to pre-pandemic life, to hopeful expectations of returning to 'reality'. These narrative findings illustrate the complexities and assemblages of mobile dating as they occur between young people, through apps, in relation to the pandemic, and are layered by the socio-economic and cultural contexts in which young people live and create connection with each other.

Migration, Ethnicity & Multiculturalism

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11 Why cannot we hear the voices of internally displaced and ethnic minority intimate partner violence women survivors?

Miss Aye Myat Myat Win, *Hong Kong Baptist University*

Abstract

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) has been a social problem and women living in conflict- affected areas are particularly vulnerable to the violence. Consequently, formal help-seeking becomes imperative to lessen the violence consequences. However, extant studies have shown low help-seeking among women survivors.

With the emergence of various women's support organizations, why they do not speak out remains a puzzle. Therefore, this study aims to explore the underlying factors for the survivors' silence in help-seeking in internally displaced and ethnic community of Kachin State, Myanmar for which no study has examined. Qualitative in-depth interviews were conducted among 24 IPV women survivors who did not seek formal help in Kachin State, a conflict-affected area of Myanmar. By employing intersectional lens, data was analyzed using thematic analysis. Findings revealed cultural and religious beliefs, not knowing available services and the violence exposure obscured the survivors' voices and hindered formal support seeking. Silence of the survivors is due to not only the intersection of gender, class, ethnicity, and internal migration but also IPV exposure in a patriarchal society and women's life experiences. The study contributes intersectionality of IPV help-seeking from internal migrant women survivors' perspective.

15 Hazardous Conditions: Partner Visa Holders and the Harmful Experiences of Prolonged Waiting

Dr Alexandra Ridgway, *RMIT*
Samantha O'Donnell, *The University of Melbourne*

Abstract

Women who migrate by partner visa to Australia experience a bordered and affective atmosphere of waiting on their legal journey towards permanent residency. They must, in the first instance, wait for an initial decision to receive a temporary partner visa, but, even if this is approved, they must still complete a two-year probationary period before being able to apply to remain in Australia long term. Exceptions to the rule are few and also involve prolonged waiting for a resolution.

In this paper, we explore waiting at the border as an affective atmosphere that impacts migrant women involved in the partner visa system. Drawing on findings from three in-depth interviews, we examine the ways women involved int he partner visa system are forced by the migration system to wait and how this leads them to feel the border in their everyday lives. By unpacking the culturally and individually coded emotions specifically associated with harmful experiences of prolonged waiting, we argue that waiting in a migration context creates hazardous conditions for the maintenance of women's personal wellbeing. In response, we suggest that waiting's exclusionary, marginalising, silencing and damaging effects on migrants should be interrogated if we are to "sustain the social".

52 Impact of Flexible Citizenship on families. "What families lose for the gains of flexible citizenship?"

Victoria Adamovich, *Pymble Ladies College*

Abstract

Australian migration stories are not only of people moving in search of a better life. For wealthy Asians, they may already have a good life in their home country. Their decision to park millions of dollars in Australia in exchange for residency fits the description by anthropologist Aihwa Ong of 'Flexible Citizenship'. It is a practice pursued by a global economic elite of mobility and flexibility "in search of the greatest security and opportunity for their capital and families." (Ong 2022). Flexible citizenship allows affluent Asians to make money in their home economies and at the same enjoy the "political security of sending their families to liberal economies." (Ong 2022).

This way of life involves families that have the financial means to live in multiple countries; maintain two or more homes; frequent travel between these worlds; the ability to speak more than one language and to have skills to navigate across cultures. My Masters work examines how these arrangements affect the children of these families. Parents choose this lifestyle ostensibly for the benefit of their family, but how do the uprooted, separated families fare? What do families lose in return for the gains of flexible citizenship?

53 Straddling Two Worlds: Filipino Immigrant Families' Cultural Negotiation in Australia through Digital Media

Aireen Grace Andal, *Macquarie University*

Abstract

This work examines how Filipino immigrant families navigate their Filipino cultural identity in Australia. Beyond obtaining permanent residency or citizenship, immigration extends to assimilation, which imposes challenges for immigrant families. In this paper, I explore how Filipino immigrant families maintain a connection to their cultural heritage while being permanent residents or citizens abroad through vlogging. By analysing family vlogs on YouTube, this work shows various cultural practices of how Filipino families attempt to negotiate their identities in a foreign land and stay connected to their culture.

The vlog contents highlight the complex interplay of identity. Filipino families negotiate the tensions that arise when trying to navigate between two often-competing forces—preserving the Filipino cultural identity and successfully integrating into Australian society as permanent residents or citizens. Content analysis also shows the importance of the digital realm as a space for Filipino immigrant families to maintain a sense of cultural continuity. Through vlogging, Filipino families show how to employ multifaceted strategies to preserve cultural identity and adapt to new cultures. This work contributes to the ongoing discourse around the intersection between immigrants' cultural adaptation, digital media, and the maintaining cultural roots.

57 Recognising and Respecting the Epistemological Assumptions and Differences Arising from Different Cultures

*D*r Siyat Abdi, *Kinadvocacy*
Brian Cooper, *NEDA*

Abstract

When dealing with ethnically diverse First Nations and non-ethnically diverse Australians with disabilities, it is essential to recognise and address the epistemological assumptions and differences arising from their varied cultural backgrounds. Each has unique ways of knowing, understanding, and interpreting the world, which can affect interactions and communication. All cultures have a rich and unique knowledge system often rooted in oral traditions, storytelling, and deep connections with the land. Many cultures often rely on oral tradition to pass down knowledge from one generation to another, while Western cultures strongly emphasise written expertise and formal education.

Western cultures usually follow linear conceptions of time, while others may have cyclical or seasonal perceptions of time. Recognising that different cultural groups may have varying spiritual and cultural beliefs that shape their understanding of the world. The acknowledgement that other groups may use English differently. Many ethnic communities have endured historical trauma because of colonisation and dispossession of their homeland and culture. An awareness that Western education systems and knowledge hierarchies may not encompass all forms of knowledge and that other knowledge systems also hold value and wisdom. Recognition and respecting these epistemological assumptions and differences are crucial for promoting cultural competence, and inclusivity.

69   Cruel to be Kind? The Politics of Care in Immigration Detention

Dr Michelle Peterie, *The University of Sydney*

Abstract

At interpersonal, institutional and societal levels, relations of care are steeped in power. Care can be coercive, paternalistic and even cruel. The valorisation of care as a moral ideal at times (re)produces hierarchies of virtue and belonging as 'altruistic' care becomes an exercise in hegemonic privilege. Equally, care can be deployed as a discursive rationale for counterproductive forms of 'help' or intervention, often based on ideas that are racialised, culturally alienating, and/or grounded in (historical or present-day) inequalities and injustices.

This paper explores this fractious scene with respect to the experiences of people who support loved ones in Australian immigration detention facilities. It interrogates the appropriation of care as a discursive justification for harmful policies and practices within these carceral institutions, and examines the complexities and contradictions that comprise caring relationships therein.

72   Emergency health services and older migrant population: A literature analysis

Ms. Simran Sandhu, *La Trobe University*
Dr. Raelene Wilding, *La Trobe University*
Dr. Sabrina Gupta, *La Trobe University*

Abstract

In recent years, increased attention to a 'crisis' in emergency health services suggests that many ambulance and emergency department services struggle to meet increasing demand. A growing body of research literature exploring the factors contributing to this crisis has been drawing particular attention to, on the one hand, older adults as a significant proportion of emergency service users, and on the other hand, migrant populations as presenting particular challenges for emergency service access. This implies that older migrant populations might be a key contributor to the current crisis in emergency health services.

To test this implication, this paper reports on an investigation of the literature, highlighting two contradictory findings: one, older migrants are under-utilising and two that they are over-utilising emergency healthcare. A critical analysis of these studies suggests that the literature might tell us more about the assumptions being made by researchers than the ways in which older migrants are perceiving and making use of emergency services. The paper concludes that a gap remains in the literature in relation to better understanding the diverse health behaviours of heterogenous older migrant populations.

77   A Journey to "Be Yourself": Cosmopolitan Imaginary and Temporal Liminality of Chinese Working Holiday Makers in Australia

Qing Tingting Liu, *University at Albany and University of Melbourne*

Abstract

Scholars in the field of cosmopolitanism have long debated whether it represents a privilege exclusive to global elites or a vernacular global identity shared by members of peripheral and marginalized groups within their home countries. My research on Chinese Working Holiday Makers in Australia aims to contribute to this ongoing debate. Drawing from one year of lived experience spanning 2017 to 2018 and in-depth interviews conducted from May to August 2023, I have observed that the working holiday program is framed as a "cultural policy" that fosters a "cosmopolitan imaginary" among Chinese youth. Paradoxically, the pursuit of cosmopolitanism often leads some Chinese youths into environments characterized by constraint, precarity, immobility, and exploitation based on factors such as class, race, gender, age, and nationality. I argue that their vulnerability is an extension of the liminality they experienced in China, shedding light on the transnational operation of class and stratification.

This research enriches the discourse on transnational youth mobilities by focusing on the context of their home country, exploring why and how some Chinese youths become disenchanted with the "Chinese Dream." By examining the relationship between nationalism and cosmopolitanism, this study challenges the stereotype of young Chinese diaspora as hyper-nationalistic and illuminates their nuanced, individualized connections with their home country.

84 Belonging and community engagement of young second- generation Muslim immigrants: Mosques and Faith-based organizations

Ms Aleezay Khaliq, *George Mason University*

Abstract

In the wake of these modern day religious and social challenges faced by young second- generation Muslim population in the America, the emergence of faith-based organization is a recent phenomenon. They are catering to the unique needs of young professional Muslims living in Washington D.C. Maryland and Virginia. My research examines the factors that contribute to inculcating a sense of belonging among the members of two faith-based organizations i.e. Center DC located in heart of Washington D.C., and New Wave Muslim Initiative in Maryland.

My research project examines whether these spaces have been successful in creating spaces where racial, and ethnic divisions within the Muslim community can be transcended or not. My findings suggest that since most suburban mosques in the area cater to the religious and social needs of an older first-generation Muslim immigrant segment of society who want to persevere their ethnic and cultural identities stemming from their country of origin whereas faith-based groups cater to the needs of the younger second-generation Muslim immigrant segment of society who are seeking to create a sense of belonging with other young Muslim in effort to transcend racial, ethnic divisions by engaging with the local civil society in a variety of ways.

92 Samoan diaspora and 'the good life'

Laura Simpson Reeves, *University of Queensland and Life Course Centre, Brisbane*

Abstract

While a widely used term, across the literature—and, arguably, in the design of related policies and programs—there is a lack of consensus on what constitutes 'a good life'. This lack of consensus could be, arguably, attributed to the different norms, expectations, and worldviews of different cultural groups. At the same time, recent censuses indicate that there are more Samoans living in diaspora than on the islands. Approximately one-third of those claiming Samoan heritage in Australia currently live in the Greater Brisbane region. For Samoan diaspora, the good life is often seen in terms of improving outcomes for their family, typically through improved education, housing, and employment. These are arguably symptoms of a good life and something to be actively pursued; however, these are the more tangible contributors towards what one may ultimately desire as 'the good life'. Drawing on my doctoral research, this paper proposes a nuanced understanding of 'the good life' based on the intertwining of responsibility, identity, and agency.

101 The (un)making of multicultural Australia

Dr Nikita Sharma, *The University of Queensland*
Ms Laura Simpson Reeves, *The University of Queensland*

Abstract

Australia is a highly multicultural nation, with almost half of the residents with at least one parent born overseas. Throughout Australian history, multiculturalism has been subject to debate and contestation, both as a notion and as a policy framework. Despite the contention, multiculturalism gained momentum as it became the main way in which Australian society dealt with the cultural diversity of its growing population, both at the national and the community level.

Recent successive governments have promoted "Multicultural Australia" as a success story. Yet despite the use of celebratory language, the term multiculturalism tends to have an undercurrent of ambivalence, even attracting hostility from conservatives and populists. At the same time, the 'failure of multiculturalism' has become a catchphrase in Europe. We revisit these historical debates, critiques and divergent theoretical positions against the backdrop of the Australian Government's Launch of the Multicultural Framework Review. We review the rise and fall of multiculturalism as a social policy and ideal in Australia. Drawing on the work of Ghassan Hage, James Jupp and others, this paper explores how the word multiculturalism has been wrongly fortified as a policy of diversity management by both major political parties and suggests a way forward.

103 Diversity in Migration: Rethinking Social Service Provision for Refugees and Migrants in Australia

Dr Enq Wen, *Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University*
Dr Matteo Vergani, Deakin University
Prof. Fethi Mansouri, *Deakin University*

Abstract

Refugees and migrants settle in Australia via diverse migration pathways that include professional and skilled migrants, family and spousal visa holders, humarian entrant visas and international student visas. Their diversity—across race, ethnicity, religion, culture and language—bring forth challenges not just in terms of the modality of social service provision but also in relation to their changing settlement needs and varying attitudes towards particular modes of service delivery based on ethno-cultural, temporal and generational variables. Broadly conceptualising these groups as refugees and migrants fails to acknowledge their internal diversity and contributes to (mis)recognitions within their complex social, cultural and economic hierarchy.

This paper engages with these issues by drawing on quantitative and qualitative data from an Australian Research Council Linkage project on 'Mapping Social Service Provision for Diverse Communities'. It will include conceptualisations of modalities of services provision as a fluid, complementary system that incorporates mainstream, multicultural and ethno-specific approaches at different settlement junctures. It will also apply latent analysis to go beyond current binary ways of thinking about refugees and migrants in the discourse on settlement service provision support and social inclusion.

118 New Chinese diaspora and sports/physical activities in suburban Sydney: homemaking and multicultural belonging

Dr Alexandra Wong, *Western Sydney University*

Abstract

Despite a rapid increase of migrants from the PRC settling in suburban Sydney in the past two decades, public sentiment often perceive 'new' Chinese migrants as being 'exclusivistic', and not interested in local initiatives. In the case of sports, new Chinese migrants tend to participate in non-mainstream sports/physical activities, such as table tennis, badminton or tai chi with their own cultural group while largely disconnect from the mainstream sports in Australia such as rugby and cricket. Drawing on the data from interviews with 26 PRC migrants and 10 organisers of local sports/physical activity associations from three suburbs in Sydney, this paper seeks to tease out the nuances contributing to this phenomenon.

Instead of providing a 'deficiency' based explanation such as language barriers or weak physicality, this paper tries to re-frame the issue with the concept of 'homing' (Boccagni 2022) and view Chinese migrants' practice in these sports/physical activities as part of an ongoing home-making endeavour to reproduce sense of home in their long-term migrant incorporation process. This paper rethinks the governance of multicultural neighbourhoods as 'living-together-in-difference' (Ang 2001) in the context of changing transnational dynamics in these areas.

142 Interpreting Authenticity: Global South Perspectives.

Dr Ramón Menéndez Domingo, *La Trobe University*

Abstract

This paper constitutes an extended version of a preliminary findings paper already presented at the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interactionism (SSSI) Annual Meeting, at West Chester University of Pennsylvania (U. S.) earlier this year. It uses Thomas DeGloma and Julie Wiest's (2022) categories of analysis—cultural, symbolic and psychosocial—in their invitation to the book series 'Interpretive Lenses in Sociology' (Bristol University Press, www.interpretivesociology.com), to classify research on the sociology of authenticity from the Global South.

The paper constitutes a systematic literature review for a potential edited volume in the series entitled like this paper. Despite studies on the sociology of authenticity from DeGloma and Wiest's three categories of analysis have boomed for the last 20 years, no scholarship up to date has sought to systematize this knowledge for the Global South. This Global South perspective includes studies on the sociology of authenticity conducted in Global South countries, with diasporic and/or Indigenous communities.

The paper concludes with a reflection on the potential bridges between the three categories of analysis (DeGloma and Wiest 2022), and points to further studies on the sociology of authenticity from the Global South. A call for the potential themes of contributing chapters will end the paper.

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9   In the Red Zone: Calling bullshit on teacher wellbeing frameworks

Ms Gracie Lolicato, *Griffith University*

Abstract

Neoliberal technologies of market, management and performance have "inconspicuously
but harmfully changed the subjective experience of education at all levels" (Ball, 2016); but the ensuing issues in teaching and learning are, "treated as personal, rather than structural" (Tett & Hamilton, 2021). The pressures and challenges of innovating a standardised, ever-expanding curriculum for students still adjusting to post pandemic school routines and grappling with its impact overall on mental health and social networks, while meeting performance targets and performativity testing obligations and managing the expectations of parents as consumers have become the new 'teaching normal'.

Teachers in Australian schools are 'burning out' and leaving the profession in unprecedented numbers. Supports for teachers follow state and OECD directives and focus wellbeing measures on identifying ways to better cope with and manage the physical, emotional, social and cognitive symptoms of stress through inward reflection. This paper will draw from critical policy analysis undertaken utilising the WPR and CRAP frameworks to discuss the politics of education, and 'call bullshit' on teacher wellbeing frameworks. It will ask, given the current conditions of teaching, why shouldn't teachers be in the 'red zone'? What can we learn from teacher's experience of stress, emotional and physical unrest?

28   Co-authoring with supervisors during a sociology PhD in Australia: current patterns and implications

Adam Rajcan, *Macquarie University*
Dr Edgar Burns, *Waikato University*

Abstract

This paper is based on data on publishing practices from the full cohort of completed sociology PhDs at Australian universities in the most recent decade (2010-19). These students produced over 1000 research outputs either refereed articles or book chapters. Analysis of these outputs considered the question of whether students publish with their PhD supervisors? We also asked whether this made any difference to journal ranking in which their outputs appeared in contrast to sole authoring or publishing with non- supervisors. Further, did co-authoring with supervisors increase the likelihood of publishing in sociology versus non-sociology journals?

48 The language of assessment: Uncovering linguistic discrimination and implicit racism to decolonise the higher education assessment practices for inclusion and social justice

Mr Joseph Yeo, *University of Technology Sydney*

Abstract

Assessment is ubiquitous in higher education. As a cornerstone of the curriculum, assessment is influenced by a host of historical, political, economic, social, epistemological, and educational factors. It is inescapable for any student to complete and succeed in assessment in order to progress and graduate. Despite having an enduring impact on students' wellbeing and future, there exists social exclusions in assessment that prevent some students from reaching their potential and achieving success. A scoping review was conducted to map the range and volume of research, as well as any knowledge gaps, in the realm of university assessment and racism, racial discrimination, or racial bias.

The results revealed that the majority of research studies focused on the manifestation of (un)conscious racism in assessment grading. None of the studies looked at language, particularly how language is used to explicitly or implicitly discriminate students because of their race and ethnicity. For instance, language, written or unwritten, in assessment can privilege the dominant group, single out minority groups, entrench the stigmatisation of a particular racial group, and favour or discriminate someone because of their (lack of) cultural or social capital. This uncovering has cemented the knowledge gap for an HDR research project to address.

145 The Role of Cultural Values in Children's Extracurricular Activities? An Exploration in Australia and Germany

Dr Jennifer E. Cheng, *Western Sydney University*

Abstract

While prior research has found that migrant children attend extracurricular activities with less frequency than local children, the influence of cultural values has not been well explored. Families' financial situation surely plays a role, but what happens when migrant families are from middle-class backgrounds? This study investigated the attitudes of middle-class parents toward children's extracurricular activities from three groups in Australia and Germany: Anglo-Australian/native German, Chinese and Muslim.

Findings show several factors determine how much importance parents place on their children attending extracurricular activities: intergenerational transmission, in which parents either want their children to learn the same things they had, or simply passed down the idea that extracurriculars are necessary in life; emphasis on the importance of acquiring certain skills and knowledge; and whether they believe structured activities in formal settings are beneficial for their children.

There were similarities across the three groups in both countries with those from Chinese backgrounds generally the most keen on structured activities, the ones from Muslim backgrounds the least involved, and the local group falling in-between. This paper will discuss possible reasons for this and potential implications for participation or non- participation in extracurricular activities.

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58 **Politics of Association and Attention: A Social Network Analysis of the Climate Sceptic Blogosphere**

Mathew Toll, *University of Melbourne*

Abstract

Climate sceptics bloggers position themselves as primarily concerned with climate science and not the politics of climate change. To investigate the epistemic and political orientation of the climate sceptic blogosphere, a social network analysis of sources of information that climate sceptic bloggers direct their audiences towards was conducted. The management of attention and association via hyperlinks provides an insight into the revealed preferences of climate sceptic bloggers and sources of information and actors deemed legitimate. Data was collected from the blogrolls of 197 climate sceptic blogs with final dataset of 857 websites with 2628 hyperlinks. These websites were thematically coded to identify types of sources. The most prominent sources on the network were climate sceptic sources, right- wing sources, and scientific sources.

The prevalence of right-wing sources within the network suggests a strong political orientation in the blogosphere. Results from the network analysis showed that the tendency to direct attention toward and affiliate with right-ring sources was stronger in the core of the network than less influential blogs. This analysis provides a map of the politics of association and attention on the climate sceptic blogosphere and suggests that right-wring political discourse is a larger part of their project than otherwise represented.

105 **Articulating online third spaces through customs of engagement: an exploration of young subaltern men's everyday digital experiences**

Ms Richa George, *Monash University*

Abstract

Amidst the domestication of media into everyday lives, digital technology has become irrevocably intertwined with the everyday experiences of young men. Applying a postcolonial lens to the study of digital mobilisations of masculinity, my research explores how young men inhabit digitally mediated spaces. Drawing on a multi-pronged, sustained digital ethnography (immersion, social media scroll-back, and asynchronous check-ins) of fifteen young men in Australia positioned as subaltern, I demonstrate how they creatively consume the digital - imagining new possibilities either through or away from the everyday complexities connected to the precarity of work, immigration status, gender non-conformity or disability, and create a Third Space (Bhabha, 1994) of comfort.

By investigating a spectrum of digital activities that are sometimes mundane, sometimes spectacular, fleeting or lasting mediated practices and how they matter, in this presentation, I propose that subaltern young men interact with the internet through Customs of Engagement to articulate unique third spaces. I draw on Bhabha (1994) to contribute a new conceptualisation of the internet as online third spaces where men feel at home, nurture relationships, perform solidarity, negotiate marginality, share private and personal experiences, act as bridgeheads for others and in this way, emerge as sites of reconstructed masculine subjectivities and resistance against subalternity.

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23 Teaching the Clobber Texts: Women in leadership negotiating LGBTIQ+ complexity within Christian institutions

Dr Geraldine Smith, *University of Tasmania*
Professor Douglas Ezzy, *University of Tasmania*

Abstract

This presentation explores how the marginal status of women within Christian institutions has made them more willing to constructively respond to LGBTIQ+ discrimination within their Christian workplaces, institutions, and congregations. Survey statistics demonstrate that Australian Christian women are significantly more accepting of same-sex relationships than Christian men.

In interviews with 16 Australian Christian women leaders, we observed that women participants were deeply engaged with questions of LGBTIQ+ inclusion within their community. These women occupied leadership positions such as ministers, lay leaders, faith workers, and mission agency workers. Many women participated in advocating for anti- discrimination within their denominations, performing same-sex marriages, teaching about LGBTIQ+ inclusion in their sermons, pastorally ministering to LGBTIQ+ people, and encouraging conversations about theology, gender and sexuality in their communities. We argue that experiences of discrimination among women leaders in Christian institutions results in them being more open to constructively responding to LGBTIQ+ discrimination within Christian institutions.

Furthermore, we discuss how the Christian women leaders in this study engage with the complexities of LGBTIQ+ inclusion within internally diverse Christian communities who harbour antagonism towards LGBTIQ+ people.

42 The Role of Faith for Transnational Activism: A Case Study of 'Comfort Women' Campaigns in Australia

Dr Jae-Eun Noh, *Australian Catholic University*

Abstract

Australia's historical connections to the 'comfort women' issues and the involvement of a Dutch-Australian survivor-activist, Jan Ruff-O'Herne, have enriched memory activism in Australia. Korean-Australian activists, mostly first- or second-generation immigrants, have sought justice for 'comfort women', as seen in the erection of Peace Statues (Sydney in 2016 and Melbourne in 2019), and peace education.

This paper explores how Korean 'comfort women' activists in Australia perceive the role of faith in shaping or supporting their transnational activities. In 'comfort women' activism, Christian churches have been critical in supporting but sometimes challenging this movement. The public narratives of Jan Ruff O'Herne reveal that her Catholic faith assisted in playing a role as a peace and human rights activist. Drawing on interviews, this paper explores how these migrant activists experience and respond to Christian or spiritual teaching differently in their activism against gendered violence. In particular, first- generation migrants may identify differences in faith experiences between Korea and Australia, and between one or two decades ago and now.

This paper highlights that faith can strengthen activists' commitment to universal values of human rights and justice beyond the nationalistic understanding of 'comfort women' issues, despite the noted limitations of religious institutional practices.

119   Complaint Collectives in Australian Christianity: The Movement for the Ordination of Women as complaint collective and complaint activism.

Dr Rosie Clare Shorter, *Deakin University, Melbourne and Western Sydney University*

Abstract

When Christian denominations maintain patriarchal cultures by upholding complementary understandings of gender, church participation is gendered. Gender-complementary forms of church participation sanctions gendered inequality and sexism, while also scaffolding gendered violence. Feminists who "protest" against institutional sexism are often marginalised. Feminist theorist Sara Ahmed argues that when feminists speak of institutional sexism, the response is more often to the "problem" of the complainer, than the content of the complaint. In Complaint! Ahmed (2021) theorises that doors and doorways can explain institutional power dynamics, including how feminist women, as complainants, resist and are shut in and out of institutions.

In this paper, I examine the work of the Movement for the Ordination of Women as a complaint against institutional sexism in the Anglican church, and as a complaint collective engaged in 'complaint activism' (Ahmed 2021, 284). I show how the protracted refusal of the Sydney Anglican diocese to consider women's ordination (as priests and bishops) is part of the structure of Sydney Anglicanism. In Sydney Anglicanism, complementarian thinking has closed the door on women's ordination, making it unthinkable.

This paper draws on a longer research paper written with my own complaint collective, Tracy McEwan and Tanya Riches.

141   Violence, identity, and Jewish ritual circumcision: thinking beyond dualisms

Dr Na'ama Carlin, *UNSW*

Abstract

Sociology tends to theorise violence through operative sites and structures such as politics and state relations, crime, military and martial violence, and economics and poverty, among other relations of power. Violence is viewed in Manichaean terms, through a dualism of moral and immoral conduct and a dualistic notion of self/other. The resulting tendency of Manichaean – or dualistic – frame of violence is the understanding of violence as being an intrusion of an external other upon individual and community. Violence is immoral, a violation of an integral self.

Popular discourse on male circumcision is based on this Manichaean logic, where circumcision is deemed an immoral violation on bodily integrity or
a public health moral imperative. Yet can we also think about violence in another way, and what can it tell us about making of community and of self?

This paper develops the framework of violence of ontology, which is characterised as a violence that is related to existence, the violence of being, which resists definition through binary oppositions. In so doing, the paper argues that Jewish ritual circumcision is a form of generative violence that is leveraged for cultural purposes and inherent in the making of bodies, both individual and communal.

161 **Care, Cure & Coping: Understanding The Impact of Faith Healing Practices on the Santhals amidst Modern Medicine**

Ms Smita Chakraborty, *Jhargram Raj College (Girls' Wing), Jhargram, India*

Abstract

Health encompasses both physical and mental well-being. The World Health Organization defines health as a person's physical, mental, and social well-being. Care and cure were once thought to provide a patient's complete health.

With medical research and technology advancing, most medical institutions now focus on curing patients. Somehow, the notion of caring is lacking. The Santhal tribal group in the Belpahari Block in the Jhargram District of West Bengal, India, is studied to understand the conflict between care, treatment, and coping. Santhals have several socioeconomic disadvantages. Most community members prefer faith healing over biomedicine for health and well-being. Most (especially women) use traditional family medicine to recover. They fear doctors for many reasons. Thus, this research seeks to understand why the Santhals prefer traditional faith healing over biomedical practices, why they distrust doctors, why they avoid medical centers to cope with their suffering, and what social inequalities prevent them from visiting clinics and using modern treatments.

Using a mixed-methods research design, approximately 30 respondents were interviewed using an interview schedule to examine this care vs cure dichotomy; why they prefer faith over medications and why traditional family remedies give them more trust and security than modern healthcare organizations.

164 **Ethnicity, Migration and No Religion in Australia**

Prof Adam Possamai, Western Sydney University

Abstract

Australia has witnessed a significant rise in people claiming 'No-Religion' with the percentage having more than doubled in the last two decades alone. The majority of academic literature addressing Australian non-religion appears dedicated to explaining this rise and/or investigating the inherent diversity of the substantial religious none category which has subsequently resulted. Further, current research tends to refer to two broad categories of non-religious people: those who become non-religion and those who were born non-religious in their home country. No research however address patterns of migration of non-religious people.

As the literature abounds with accounts of new religious migrant groups adding to the vitality of the host country, none deals with non-religious migrant groups. As this paper explores, a quarter of the non-religious people in Australia were born outside of Australia. To remedy this gap, this paper first gives an outline of migration history and pattern in Australia, and afterwards focuses on 2006-2021 census data. It reveals that alongside religion, non-religion is also imported in Australia and is a factor contributing to its growth.

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5 How do digitised sporting metrics feel? Women Australian Rules footballers' affective experiences of digital self-tracking

Mr Paul Bowell, *Swinburne University of Technology*
Professor Emma Sherry, *Swinburne University of Technology*
Dr Paul Scifleet, *Swinburne University of Technology*
Dr Ekaterina Pechenkina, *Swinburne University of Technology*

Abstract

This paper investigates the affective experiences of Australian Football League Women's (AFLW) players' digital self-tracking. Digital self-tracking is changing the way physical activities are understood as objective metrics are amplified at the expense of sensed and felt bodily experiences, leading to, at times, consternation and confusion for the tracker.

A qualitative three-tiered digital ethnography of interviews, reflective surveys and video re- enactments was operationalised among eight AFLW footballers. Insights were also sought with four AFLW fitness coaches who oversee their clubs' tracking programs. The findings indicate that AFLW footballer's experienced digital self-tracking through a carousel of gendering and othering which needed sense-checking and self-management resulting in increased emotional labour. The footballers were socially expected to engage in digital self- tracking; simultaneously this engagement elevated the athlete's sporting identity offering legitimacy and credibility as footballers.

However, the sub-professional infrastructure supporting the AFLW meant digital self-tracking was, at times, a contested and confounding practice. These confounding experiences reminded the footballers of their gendered positionality: space invaders to the game. This study extends the sociological scholarship pertaining to athlete interactions with digital technology and broadens understandings of how social constructions of gender, technology and sport impact athletes from emergent sporting arenas.

67 Structural Limits of the Tourism and Leisure Industry in Supporting the Learning Communities in Regional Areas: Conceptual and Empirical Insights

Mr Md Azmain Muhtasim Mir, *University of Tasmania*
Professor Can Seng Ooi, *University of Tasmania*
Dr Becky Shelley, *University of Tasmania*

Abstract

This paper engages with the contemporary sociological debates on the economy, society and market systems in relation to the nature, formation and functions of the tourism and leisure industry in society. The first section considers relevant literature, highlighting the limitations of neo-liberal tourism and leisure governance's conceptualisation of shared social values and outcomes. The second part connects with literature with empirical findings to reveal the structural issues that undermine the creation of shared purpose in reference to children and young people's educational attainment.

Drawing upon participant observation, informal conversation, and in-depth interviews with participants including residents and young people, the tourism and leisure industry, education and community organisations stakeholders, and local government representatives in three selected study areas of the West Coast Tasmania: Queenstown, Zeehan, and Strahan, respectively.

Finally, the paper proposes a regenerative and inclusive approach to reconceptualise the industry structure and incorporate the missing contents such as children and young people's education, environment, social welfare and community development- suggests generating a deeper connection between the tourism and leisure industry and the community.

87 Informal sport and leisure, urban space and social inequalities

Dr Keith Parry, Bournemouth University & Western Sydney University
Prof Sarah Neal, University of Sheffield
Dr Bonnie Pan, University of Bath
Dr Rana Aytug, University of Sheffield

Abstract

Informal sport has the potential to contribute to urban inclusion, wellbeing and inclusion in cities characterised by high levels of social and ethnic diversity. Yet it is only recently that international research on sport and diversity and inclusion has extended beyond formal organised activity such as at local sporting clubs or in professional sports to informal versions of sport. Thus, greater research on informal sport and on the material public and appropriated spaces in which it happens is important, not only because informal sport remains somewhat hidden, but also because the social and physical need for public and common space has been so effectively highlighted by the experiences of living through Covid-19-caused upheavals.

This paper explores the meaning and implications of informal sport as a growing form of collective leisure activity and the wider social affordances - and strains - that result. We focus on the relationships between it and access to often hard-won public spaces and to other versions of sport. We detail how informal sport and leisure frequently involve marginalised and precarious urban populations, give rise to co-ethnic and ethnically diverse identifications, secure senses of belonging and citizenship, are gender and age ex/inclusive and are attractive to policy actors.

88 'Care-full Aggression' An art of (un)learning: Muay Thai Boxing and the disruptive potential of 'kinetic excess'

Erin Nichols, *Griffith University*

Abstract

Feminist engagement with fight sports is often ambivalent given that the masculine history of combat and the achievement of 'self' transformation at the 'expense' of another, exist in tension with the possibilities of women's empowerment. Utilizing a feminist new materialist framework this project orients multiple research encounters towards a care-full approach to fight space(s).

The aims of this research underpin a concerted effort to unsettle hidden logic(s) that associate 'masculinity' with physical capability and aggression and importantly 'femininity' with caring and passivity.

Drawing on an embodied workshop methodology conducted with six women who had little to no experience of the full contact practice of sparring, I argue that such a methodological endeavour can mobilise the paradoxical tensions of 'care-full aggression' as a dynamic force in and of itself. I argue that the kinetic excess enacted within a fight space organized and supported through a reflexive commitment to an ethics of care offers a generative site of self-world transformation with significant implications for coaching pedagogies more broadly.

In a socio-cultural context characterized by the neoliberal disintegration of society, I argue that the radical potential of physical cultural practices of 'sparring' lies in its ability to heighten participants' relational awareness of always being in a conversation with others (human and non-human), not to care less but to care differently.

110 Missing an Open Goal? Cultural Citizenship, Media, Gender, and the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup

Emeritus Professor David Rowe, *Western Sydney University*

Abstract

The 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup (WWC) was the largest composite sporting event in Australia since the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Unprecedently co-hosted by football confederations (Asia and Oceania) and the first women's edition in the southern hemisphere, it involved 32 teams from every inhabited continent. The region in which the WWC was held has never seen a dedicated women's tournament of this scale.

Like all sport mega events, it involved the intricate intermeshing of the sport and media fields. However, the WWC was not added to the anti-siphoning list by the Minister for Communication of either the Coalition or Labor Governments. Its broadcast rights, therefore, were secured by the Optus subscription platform, with 15 live matches (including all involving Australia's team, the Matildas) shared with free-to-air Network Seven and its streaming service 7Plus, with Optus offering 11 'freemium' games. Perversely, then, viewers in Australia could watch fewer free matches than the 2019 France WWC and the 2022 Qatar Men's World Cup, all of which were available on SBS television.

With the current Anti-Siphoning Scheme Review still to bring down its recommendations, this presentation considers the lessons that can be drawn from the WWC regarding cultural citizenship and gender equality.

143 Supercars in a City: Spatiality, Class and Resistance in Newcastle, Australia

Kade Booth, *University of Newcastle*

Abstract

In 2017 the residential streets of the East End, a beach-side suburb of Newcastle, were turned into a Supercars racetrack. The 'Newcastle 500', set to be an annual event, sparked fierce debate invoking questions about who and what belongs in public space. The city of Newcastle has recently undergone a transformative period, moving away from its industrial roots and emerging into a vibrant and liveable city. The Newcastle 500 has initiated tensions and conflict over how the city should evolve, and what values it should represent.

Drawing on interviews, photo elicitation, and general observation with East End residents, attendees, and stakeholders from my PhD research, I consider the way that people interact with, gravitate to, and feel a sense of belonging in space. In doing so, I explore dispositional reactions to sporting events through analysis of affective class relations and resistance to political power. The Newcastle 500 exposed ongoing classed and political struggles over public and private space which underpin conflict, debate, and resistance, as presented in the findings of this research.

8   A Cross-Cultural Study of 'Tense of Value' in Career Decision- making

Youjia Zhou, *Shanghai University of Finance and Economics*

Abstract

Researches on career decision-making has explored how expected economic rewards and social status influence their decisions. Yet, previous literature rarely addresses the significance of culture in shaping career decisions (the few exceptions concern culture-laden industries, such as art worlds), especially how employees consider the value of work.

This study explores the multi-layered values and meanings that emerge across different time horizons when individuals make career decisions. The technology industry, characterized by uncertainties and conflicts between future career development and current job market concerns, serves as the empirical context for this research. Drawing on comparable data discussing career transition from the US and Chinese social media, I compare discourses of career decision-making to understand 1) how the value of work varies between these two societies 2) how time-scales regarding realizing the values are embedded in value judgements.

In comparison, 'tense of value' varies significantly. Career discourses on Chinese social media are widely characterized by future projections of economic reward and intrinsic passion. The US users, on the other hand, typically define the value of work based on presently-tensed outcomes. In light of a varying time horizons in different cultural contexts, this study proposes to include tense while analyzing values.

32   Possession of capital by informal sector workers and their role in the placement of jobs in the era of the information economic system: A case of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dr. Rasel Hussain, *Lingnan University, Tuen Mun, Hong Kong. East West University, Dhaka, Bangladesh*

Abstract

Individual accomplishment is entirely dependent on the effective use of different forms of capital, but not everyone obtains and possesses them equally.In these contexts, this study examined the informal sector workers' status in terms of their possession of social, human, cultural,and economic capital and their role in the placement of jobs or setting up businesses in the restructured job market of the digital economy in Dhaka. The function of various types of capital in obtaining access to digital services at the meso level was used as a theoretical perspective to address the research questions.

This study adopted both a quantitative and qualitative approach to data collection. Respondents' possession of capital was found to be severely inadequate to survive in the digital economic system. The study found that the absence of strong social networks, technical illiteracy, and respondents with no political affiliation were the most significant predictors of difficulties in starting new jobs or businesses in the restructured labor market among respondents. The study concluded that having a higher level of social,cultural, economic, and particularly human capital could provide respondents with a chance of surviving in the constantly changing, restructured information-based employment market, both as service receivers and providers.

40 Real competition and the pooling of low paid work in the Australian service sector

Mr Nicholas Avery, *University of Sydney*

Abstract

The evolving cost of living crisis in Australia illumines emerging fault lines in capitalism. Low paid work persists while platitudes about better training and education opportunities improving labour's compensation remain unsatisfactory. Scholarly accounts that focus on worker 'skill' or 'human capital' offer conspicuous distractions from the important role played by processes of capital accumulation and competition.

Critical perspectives on competition, however, offer sober insights into the pooling of low paid work. Anwar Shaikh and Howard Botwinick eschew the prevailing view that worker efficiency is to blame for persistent low wages and consider the alternative: the efficiency of the firm. A firm's conditions of production, productivity and profitability vary within and between industries, and these differentiations are the result of the dynamic and turbulent process of what Shaikh has called 'real competition'.

This paper applies the framework of real competition to the structural transformation of the Australian economy since the 1990s, looking particularly at the terrain of possibilities for wage increases in market-based service industries. It is clear that the pooling of low paid work is integrally related to the profit structure, yet it is channelled through a particular institutional context and is the result of specific industrial struggles.

54 Digitalisation of feminised work: The sociology of supermarket labour

Ms Laura Good, *University of Sydney*

Abstract

Digitalisation is said to be transforming the way work is organised, but such processes have largely been examined in male-dominated industries like manufacturing and logistics. This presentation explores how workers experience digitalisation in the context of a female- dominated service industry, retail. Identified as paradigmatic of low-wage service sector employment in the 21st century, the retail sector is crucially important as one of the largest employers in Australia and one of the most feminised industries. Prior research on digitalisation in retail has linked it to automation and job loss, changes to skills requirements, work intensification, precarity and surveillance. The potential gendered
impact of these changes has received relatively less scholarly attention.

This paper draws on a worker-centric mixed methods approach to answer the research questions, 'How is digitalisation experienced by frontline supermarket workers, and are
these experiences gendered?' As part of a broader project on gender equality and the
future of work, the paper combines data from interviews, a nationally representative survey of over 1000 retail workers and workplace observations. The paper draws on the concept of gender as a social structure to examine the influence of gender on employee experiences of technological change in supermarket retail work.

75 Challenges Facing Women Ready Made Garment Workers in Bangladesh

Dr. Maksuda Sultana, *The University of Sydney*

Abstract

The Bangladesh Readymade Garments (RMG) sector is well known for offering comparatively low labour prices to world-renowned retailers. However, structural safety problems like fires, building collapses, and workplace accidents are endemic. Furthermore, poor working conditions like low wages, lack of proper facilities for medical care, daycare, and transport, lack of safety and regulatory measures, and gender wage disparities compromise workers' living standards. These are the challenges that must be addressed to ensure safe working conditions in the sector. This research background forms literature on 'global value chain' (GVC), 'social upgrading', GVC governance and regulations, 'class', 'collecting bargaining' and a feminist approach to discuss and analyse issues from participants' perspectives.

This research seeks to understand why women's working conditions remain poor in the RMG industry, even after such a major disaster as the tragic 2013 Rana Plaza incident. The study also focuses on the degree of support given to workers by stakeholders like government, producers, and other relevant institutions, highlighting the barriers and opportunities for implementation of an adequate regulatory framework. The research uses a qualitative case study approach focused on Bangladesh. Finally, the research tries to understand women workers' challenges and opportunities from their perspectives. This paper concludes that women's working conditions can be improved by taking workers' thoughts into consideration in the policy planning process.

117 Differentiated Guanxi Networks in Labor Contentions: The Network Attributes, Strength, and Their Outcomes

Dr. Wei Chen, *Nanjing University*

Abstract

The importance of social networks that greatly facilitate the informal labour organisation in China have been identified by scholars, yet how they affect the outcomes of labour protests has not been emphasized. The guanxi networks with particular Chinese characteristics, that distinct from common social networks in western literature, have seldom been acknowledged in existing labour studies.

Through the examination of strike cases in the Pearl River Delta, this paper attempts to show how the guanxi networks give rise to the emergence and moblisation of migrant workers` protests. In addition, the guanxi networks have also been utilized by local governments to handle the protests, which prove to be efficient. The identification of guanxi networks in labour protests will show the uniqueness of Chinese workers in their way of organising strategy and in turn, how the local governance benefits from this network.

120 Opting for co-operative self-management: the experiences of service-sector professionals in Barcelona

Dr Emma Lees, *University of Sydney*

Abstract

Moving beyond the idea of the employment cycle as the prime determinant of co-operative participation, this presentation provides insights into why and under what circumstances service-sector professionals in Barcelona have opted for co-operative self-management as a way to organise their working lives.

The presentation draws from interviews carried out between 2015 and 2019 with forty-two service-sector professionals across twenty-two worker co-operatives located in Barcelona. Taken collectively, the participants' experiences mark a significant development with respect to realising job quality in these occupations. These professionals' co-operative projects are advancing economic democracy, legal access to social and economic justice, ethical finance, an independent public interest journalism, co-operative housing models, and citizen participation in city-making.

133 The Limits to Automation & Job Loss: A longitudinal analysis of changing labour regimes in Australian warehouse logistics

Dr Tom Barnes, *Australian Catholic University*

Abstract

The world abounds with menacing claims that technologies of automation will displace human labour on an unprecedented scale. Critical sociology can play an important role in bringing 'the social' back into this arena of public discourse (Wajcman, 2017; Fleming, 2019).

This paper argues that problems of automation and work must be grounded in the particularities of labour processes, markets and organisations. It poses the case of warehouse logistics, a sector where projects of automation echo claims of mass job loss during the current decade. Using a case study of Woolworths, one of Australia's largest employers, it argues that automation is becoming notoriously expensive and difficult to manage and, furthermore, that such projects exhibit transformational rather than simple or linear displacement effects.

Through a longitudinal study of job loss and job creation in two Melbourne distribution centres, the paper deploys a novel spatio-temporal approach to labour regime analysis (Baglioni et al, 2023) to show how projects of automation can influence the emergence of new labour regimes which serve to weaken collective labour politics without diminishing capital's dependence on labour per se.

146   Technology, care boundaries and the time-feel between work and life: conceptualising measures of care.

Dr Suneel Jethani, *University of Technology Sydney*
Dr Sheree Gregory, *Western Sydney University*

Abstract

As Daisy Hildyard in The Second Body (2017) notes: 'being beside yourself, failing to be true to yourself, hearing other voices or splitting your personality: it doesn't sound good. This careful language is anxious […] You need to take care of yourself, it says. You need boundaries, you have to be either here or there. Don't be all over the place'. We wrestle with reconceptualising and rethinking the importance of spatiotemporal dimensions of care across lines of work and life, and, self and other. This involves framing a new approach to care, which highlights it as an invisible, hidden, silent and critical dynamic centred on collective and individual well-being intersected with time.

In this paper, we discuss the presence(s) of technology in the effort to take 'time to care for self in settings embedded with relations to family, children, households, friends, neighbours, colleagues—particularly in life-worlds that are rebuilding and recovering from the pandemic. We argue that as society faces unprecedented assertions of technical logics in everyday life, the porosity of boundary rituals like holding space, making time, and showing up for care alter the ways care is conceptualised and measured.

We conclude with the presentation of alternative, pragmatic frameworks for the measurement of care as an object of concern in the humanities and social sciences.

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35 Engaging with the past to disrupt and complement futurist analyses of youth

Dr Charlotte McPherson, *University of Melbourne*

Abstract

In public discourse and in research and policy frames, youth is predominantly engaged with in relation to the future. Young people's emergent position in the life-course means that they are widely felt to represent the future, resulting in 'endless watching, monitoring, and evaluating' (Lesko, 2012: 94) of their progress. This futurist lens is evident in policy and research focused on young people's 'transitions' into employment and which contributes to their construction as economic subjects, whose lives matter primarily in terms of their bearing on the future. Moreover, as young people's 'transitions' to adulthood have been complicated and destabilised by social change and ongoing crises like the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change, research has increasingly focused on the capacity for young people to imagine and build stable futures. In this paper, I argue that this disproportionate focus on the future has often come at the expense of a meaningful engagement with the past and its significance to young people's lives (and transitions). Referencing the concept of hauntology (Derrida, 1993), and drawing on qualitative data from young people, I will discuss how the past can 'haunt' the present – and the future – for contemporary youth navigating uncertain futures.

7 An Unsustainable Society? Angels, Ghosts, and Death Worship in Pro-Anorexia Communities

Dr Zoe Alderton, *University of Sydney*

Abstract

Extreme asceticism has a long history of challenging social acceptance, and pro-anorexia movements (pro-ana) is no exception. This paper explores some of the more confronting religious dimensions of pro-ana, including: dreams of becoming ghosts, angels, fairies, or other mystical creatures to escape the mundane world; bone worship; magical transfiguration of flesh into death; and the embodied/ethical purity of starvation. These are compared with historical acts of personal devotion or group ritual where the body is injured, starved, or neglected in order to reach a higher spiritual level.

When something as common as food consumption is seen as sinful or even demonic, pro- starvation groups make a clear countercultural statement. While the contemporary Australian study of Sociology calls for inclusion and respect for diversity, it is important to discuss how countercultural an idea or community needs to be before it is classified as problematic, especially when young people and children are involved. This paper encourages discussion on religious extremism through this under-studied theology of mortification.

59 Understanding the role of the 'Grow A Star' scholarship and mentoring program as an infrastructure of care for young people and their families.

Dr Jai Cooper, *University of Newcastle*
Dr Julia Cook, *University of Newcastle*

Abstract

The 'Grow A Star' program is a youth mentoring and scholarship program helping young people from disadvantaged backgrounds pursue academic, sporting or artistic hopes. Designed and operated by a community housing provider, Home in Place, it is the first program of its kind in Australia. Funding for Grow A Star involves sustained support from Home in Place (including through a staff salary sacrifice program), alongside resources from corporate sponsors, donations, and fundraising events. This paper draws on interviews conducted in early 2023 both with Grow A Star families (young participants and their carers, usually parents) and with the program's staff. We examine how Grow A Star interacts with, and becomes part of, infrastructures of care assembled by young people, families, housing and youth workers. In so doing the paper considers how Grow A Star interacts with the caring labours of family and friends and other support services to connect young people with resources, training and opportunities that would otherwise be difficult or impossible for them to access. We reflect on how this program approaches and reorients discourses of disadvantage challenging entrenched patterns of inclusion and exclusion for young people in contemporary Australia.

95 Politics of exclusion? Hearing young people's voices in natural hazard disaster resilience

Ella Cheeseman, *Indigo Shire Council*
Nicole Danks, *Wellington Shire Council*
Lay May, *Alpine Shire Council*
Jarrah Parr, *Wellington Shire Council*
Brett Louise Woods, *Victoria University*

Abstract

Young people are increasingly impacted by natural hazard disasters and inaction on climate change (AIDR 2020). Despite young people actively engaging in climate mitigation and disaster recovery and resilience action in their local communities, adults are not listening.

The prevailing culture of adultism (Corney et al. 2021; Bessant 2020) in regional and rural communities marginalises and tokenises young people politically and socially. Young people are viewed as the "future generation" instead of being granted full rights of citizenship. They are not embraced as being capable of contributing to their communities right now as valuable assets in climate mitigation and disaster preparedness (Khorram-Manesh 2017).

This paper will present findings from a focus group dialogue between young people with lived experience of natural hazard disasters across three Local Government Areas in North and East Victoria. This presentation will foreground young people's perspectives on the organisational and social politics of marginalisation in an emergency and natural hazard disaster context in regional and rural communities. It will examine young people's experiences of social isolation and exclusion from both the institutions responding to natural hazard disasters specifically, and their communities more broadly. Finally, this presentation will share the participants' reflections on how they would like to see young people's inclusion and full citizenship fostered in regional communities.

155 Hopelessness in immigration detention: how Australian offshore processing affected the educational aspirations of refugee children held in Nauru

Ms Carly Hawkins, *UNSW*

Abstract

Forced migration is at unprecedented levels and many countries have implemented harsh policies regarding people seeking asylum. Australia legislates one of the harshest responses in the world, sending any asylum seeker arriving by boat to indefinite offshore immigration detention, including children. Research on the impact of immigration detention has largely overlooked the schooling and education of children.

My focus is on the experience of education for children detained in Nauru from 2013-2019. I conducted 21 qualitative interviews with children, parents and service providers to explore how immigration detention affected children's educational engagement. Findings show that a sense of hopelessness and uncertainty diminished children's motivation to attend school and blunted their future-self concept. The research indicates that the current policy of offshore detention has had a negative impact on children's educational experience with many children missing school for months and years.

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96   Housing movements: from solidaristic discourse to solidaristic fields

Dr Greta Werner, *The University of Sydney*

Abstract

This article considers interview data from a study on social housing in Vienna with reference to scholarship on solidarity and field theory to contribute to the conceptual development of 'people power strategies' (Tattersall and Iveson, 2021) related to housing.

It takes up Madden and Marcuse's (2016) call for a focus on people and politics and offers a case study of Viennese housing to show an example where such a focus has found success. It argues that Vienna's high percentage of socially housed households was developed and is maintained through deliberate and constant work by actors in the social housing field. It shows the types of 'social skill' (Fligstein, 2001) that contribute to a strong social housing sector in Vienna.

The paper develops the concept of solidaristic social skill as a 'people power strategy' (Tattersall and Iveson, 2021). Solidaristic discourse works against the stigmatisation which so often divides nascent housing movements.

102   The Power of Public Spaces to Connect Communities and Places for Resilient Futures: an exploration of community-led ethics of care in public spaces.

Nerida Carter, Macquarie University

Abstract

The COVID pandemic highlighted practices of care in which people engage in community- led and funded activities to provide social support and basic needs for each other. These community-led practices of care expressed as everyday dwelling practices which occur at a grass-roots level. These novel and grass-roots practices will be discussed in relation to the residents of Waterloo Public Housing Estate.

The affordance that public space gives to these practices of care is an important dimension for analysis highlighting the spatial and material aspects of how sustaining care within urban environments occurs. Such community-led practices of care amongst the Waterloo Public Housing residents are undertaken despite a lack of material wealth and ultimately agency over the use and management of public spaces on the Estate.

This study argues that a better understanding of how communities
are involved in practices of care can create a more equitable and just experience of public space. These grass-roots practices of care challenge the role of government as needing to be more caring and collaborative regarding how ethics of care is practiced in public spaces.

136   Australia's First Young Mayors Program - Observations from the First-Ever Democratically Elected Youth Councils in Australia.

Samuel Miles, *The University of Melbourne, and Monash University*

Abstract

Australia's first-ever directly elected youth councils have been voted in by young people themselves across a handful of diverse Eastern State councils in the new Young Mayor's program. Facilitated by the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) with additional support from the selected city councils themselves as well as the University of Melbourne's Melbourne Centre for Cities (MCfC), the program borrows a framework developed throughout Europe and especially prevalent in the UK of direct democracy of young people voting each other in to positions of influence within a local government structure with an allocated council budget for the new youth council priority areas.

It has been through my work with MCfC over the past few months in conjunction with driving partner FYA and facilitated by pilot councils (Mackay, Horsham, Wollongong, Cairns) that I have gained first-had insight into this new model of youth participation that seeks to reposition young people in local government. Moving beyond the commonplace advisory committee to direct elections with budgetary positions shifts the balance of power and challenges the status quo of local government structures and outlooks.

152   Urban sociological approaches to climate and ecosocial crises

A/Professor Gavin Smith, *ANU*
Dr Rebecca Williamson, *ANU*

Abstract

Urban sociology in Australia is a relatively nebulous and interdisciplinary endeavour, crossing myriad dimensions of 'traditional' urban sociological topics and drawing on intersections between urban history, urban planning, urban geography, urban governance, architecture, migration studies, development studies, health sociology, and housing studies, to name a few.

We are interested in adding to this body of work by considering the ways that an urban sociological agenda might address environmental issues relating to the Australian bushfires, climate change and extinction crisis. Despite recent contributions in this area e.g. Killer Cities (2021) by Nigel Thrift, we suggest that there is something of a lacuna in urban sociology in relation to these pressing matters, where a focus on urban social relations and the built environment has largely situated climate change-related crises as happening outside/beyond the city scale.

In light of recent events such as widespread public exposure to bushfire smoke and attempts to reorient human-animal relations in the city in the context of displaced, risky, threatened or feral wildlife, the paper considers ecosocial dimensions and conceptions of urban life. It aims to open discussion for centring cohabitation with ecological processes in urban sociological research in Australia.

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Panel Session: Young people, financialization and new technologies

43 The Financialisation of Young People's Everyday Lives

Associate Professor Steven Threadgold, University of Newcastle
Dr Julia Cook, University of Newcastle
Dr Julia Coffey, University of Newcastle

Abstract

Navigating the world of digital finance, credit and debt has become a normalised and unavoidable feature of young people's lives. They are doing this not just by relying on traditional sources of capital related to education and employment, but also by engaging with an array of opportunities and risks offered by new fintech products. The expansion of consumer credit and the rise of finance culture more generally is part of 'the financialisation of everyday life'. Marketing themselves as suited to the consumption and financial practices of young people, fintech services are a key example of the shift to credit itself as a consumer good. That is to say, fintech are as much an object of consumption as a means of consumption.

This paper will present findings from an ongoing program of research by the Newcastle Youth Studies Centre discussing the moral hierarchies young people create towards debt; the affective experiences of debt around well-being and orientation towards the future; the gamification aspects of BNPL services; and young men's sociality around gambling practices. We argue that traditional understandings of 'financial literacy' and 'financial capability' based on rational choice perspectives are not adequate to explain the emotional, practical and financial considerations of the digital consumption of credit and fin an ce.

44 Buy now pay later services as a way to pay: credit consumption and the depoliticization of debt

*D*r Julia Cook, *University of Newcastle*
A/Professor Steven Threadgold, *University of Newcastle*
Dr Julia Coffey, *University of Newcastle*

Abstract

The use of buy now pay later (BNPL) services has grown rapidly in recent years. Existing research has considered the regulatory challenges they pose, but further work is required to map their significance as a means of normalizing and naturalizing debt.

In response, this presentation focuses on the situated landscape of marketing and branding of BNPL services through analysis of their websites and apps, a walking ethnography of a large shopping centre, and interviews with BNPL customers. In so doing, we consider how BNPL services make affective appeals to their customer base, the largest proportion of which are young women. We find that BNPL services nurture a "structure of feeling" that is reminiscent of digitally intimate online spaces, and claim that by generating a sense of pleasure and fun they distinguish themselves from other comparatively "serious" financial services. We ultimately contend that this aids them in presenting themselves as simply a "way to pay" rather than a form of credit, arguing that this represents a significant new step in the depoliticization of debt.

47   Betting with mates: Gambling apps, masculinities and socialities

*D*r Julia Coffey, *University of Newcastle*
A/Professor Steven Threadgold, *University of Newcastle*
Dr Julia Cook, *University of Newcastle*
Dr Jonathan Curtis, *University of Newcastle*

Abstract

Whilst problem gambling is known to be a gendered issue predominantly impacting men, how young men use gambling apps is not well understood. This paper discusses the role that recently developed 'bet with mates' features on gambling apps play in the social lives of young men. 'Problem gambling' represents a critical health issue for young men, and the emergence of new digital technologies makes gambling more accessible than ever before. There is limited research on gambling in Australia, and most is conducted from a psychological perspective that does not account adequately for gambling as a relational social practice.

In this paper we will present preliminary findings, exploring what role gambling plays in young men's social lives, especially in relation to sport and the broader affective environments and socialities at play in their gambling practices. We also consider the relationships between gambling, leisure and finances and implications for young men's well-being; and how the potential financial pressures associated with gambling impact upon young men's friendships.

51   Young People and Regimes of Recognition in Algorithmic Risk Profiling in Housing Markets

Professor Roger Burrows, *University of Bristol and University of Melbourne*

Abstract

In her book, *Cloud Ethics*, Louise Amoore observes that algorithms change the processes by which people are rendered perceptible and how they are brought to attention. This leads
her to explore the importance of the recognition and recognisability of – what she terms - 'attributes' when seeking to understand the ethics and power of algorithmic systems. For her, this is not just a matter of people becoming 'fixed' using past data; now possible future outcomes can also become part of how judgments and decisions are formulated.

This is not just about the complex combining of data sources, but a far broader assemblage of processes, that combines different forms of agency and technical processes in realising these regimes. Sociological analyses of algorithmic power have, hitherto, often overemphasised the levels of automation in such systems rather than being alert to what is often a complex multiplicity of human and algorithmic judgements, assumptions,
thresholds, and probabilities.

How are regimes of recognition operating within contemporary housing systems? Which attributes are recognised, and which are not? Using this framework, we explore the use of such risk profiling systems in the (social) credit scoring of young people, and the implications of this for mortgage and rental markets.

78 Gamification and financialization: what incentives app-based food delivery drivers to work in China?

Dr Yu Feng, *Fudan University*

Abstract

What drives app-based food delivery drivers in China to work constantly? How are they are managed by their working platforms? Using observations and interviews with drivers from the two largest on-demand food- delivery platforms in China, this paper finds that gamified algorithmic controls *alongside* venture capitalism incentivize drivers' efforts.

The game design of algorithmic controls subconsciously attracts drivers to work; the risk capitalism of platform companies makes it difficult for drivers to break away from and fight against this game design. More specifically, the game-like labour control of platform workers is rooted in the financial and organisational factors of platform companies. Therefore, the discussion on labour control of app-based food delivery drivers in China should go beyond algorithmic controls and the migration factor as they face multi-layered precarity, and it should be traced back to production relations.

144 Frugal Digital Finance Practices: Examining the ways working- class and middle-class young adults narrate the use of digital technologies in everyday financial decision making

Dr Benjamin Hanckel, *Western Sydney University*
A/Professor Kate Huppatz, *Western Sydney University*
Dr Emily Wolfinger, *Western Sydney University*

Abstract

There is increasing interest in how young people engage with 'digital finance cultures' (Hendry et al, 2021), particularly in relation to how they are participating in, and managing, money practices. Drawing on research with young adults (25-30) who identify as working class and lower middle class, we examine narratives of participation in finance cultures and money practices. These young people engage in practices of frugality: careful and strategic methods of money management, often taking on risk management, and at times saving, to plan for and account for (future) uncertainty. Frugality as a practice and orientation therefore situates participation in digital finance cultures.

Our findings show digital technologies are site(s) that offer critical subcultural capital in the form of knowledge, filling in gaps and/or supporting knowledge. Young people report benefiting from reading, hearing, and watching peers' opinions and experiences, across blog posts, social media, and podcasts. These digital technologies also work to enable frugal practices through carefully selected (and curated) digital tools and apps. The young people in our study discuss the ways they carefully budget, record, and plan spending, as well as use such tools for savings and send remittances to family.

157 Feminizing Financialization: Millennial Women and Technologies of Self-Help

Marnie Cruickshank, *Griffith University,*

Abstract

This paper contributes to recent sociological investigations into how new financial technologies are figuring in young people's biographies of credit and debt, by focusing on young women's financial self-help. Using a feminist critical discourse analysis, I examine a sample of popular Australian financial advice books and a top-ranking podcast, aimed at millennial women, to identify how economic subject positions, such as retail investor and property investor, are feminized. While these subject positions represent significant financial milestones for adulthood when contextualized within women's fiscal timescapes , they are strained by competing expectations of hegemonic femininity related to romance, marriage, and maternity.

Undoubtedly, the millennial women who are most likely to mobilize the financial practices encouraged in popular financial self-help occupy a particular demographic – namely cis-heteronormative, white settler women from middle-class backgrounds. However, as I demonstrate, even this privileged group experiences financialisaiton as a struggle as maintaining a middle-class status requires women undertake significant labour in the present for the future.

The paper concludes through reference to the conference theme of sustaining the social by discussing the responsibility of researchers to engage with young women to foster ethical praxis of post-capitalist knowledge production.

163 Portrait of the work and resilience of the young generation of freelancers in the digital creative platform economy sector

Devi Victorine, *Gadjah Mada University*

Abstract

The development of the platformization industry, on the one hand, has contributed greatly to employment. But on the other hand, platformization eliminates fixed types of work and creates a new informalization which is characterized as a mode of job market flexibility. The younger generation, especially in developing countries, is one of the largest sections of the working class in the platform economy sector. This study aims to look at the portrait of the work and resilience of the younger generation of freelancers in the digital-creative economy sector.

This research uses the framework of decent work, fair-work framework and agency theory by Antony Giddens. This research method uses a type of qualitative research with in- depth interview techniques. Data analysis in this study uses thematic analysis. The results of this study consist of three things; first, the platform system represents a flexible working mode. In addition, this flexible work system has implications for new employment relationships, which actually control workers. Second, in the work portrait, there are working conditions that have not fully fulfilled the principles contained in both the decent work concept and the fair work concept. Third, in resilience, there are workers' efforts to survive through collectivity, but this is still related to individual interests, not to the interests of the broader group of workers structurally.

Panel Discussion: The future of work and care: practices, tensions and ways forward

22   Relational self-care: learning from lived experience of anxiety and depression

Kate Stodart, La Trobe University

Abstract

Since the World Health Organisation introduced a framework for "self-care" in 1983, researchers in health and social science disciplines have studied these practices in relation to individuals' management of their "lifestyle" illnesses and their engagement with health services. Despite the burgeoning field of wellbeing scholarship, scant attention has been given to self-care in the context of managing mental ill-health from the perspective of lived experience. Moreover, the limited scholarship that does address self-care and mental ill- health usually frames the individual in neoliberal terms, as an independent, self-managing "consumer" – rather than a "relational" self, connected with significant others through affective bonds and intimate histories. This gap limits our understanding of interpersonal and contextual influences on the self-care practices of those living with mental ill-health.

Using a grounded theory analysis of semi-structured interviews with young adults (18- 34yrs) with lived experience of anxiety and/or depression, this qualitative exploratory study aims to develop a deeper understanding of self-care and its relational aspects, from a lived experience perspective. This presentation reports on initial findings from the study.

34   Has deinstitutionalisation led to the loss of the therapeutic landscape in mental health care?

Dr Eileen Clark, *Charles Sturt University*
Dr Jennifer Munday, *Charles Sturt University*
Dr Alison Watts, *Southern Cross University*

Abstract

Wilbert Gesler (1992) used the term "therapeutic landscape" in 1992 to explore why certain places or situations were perceived to be therapeutic. He drew on extensive literature from the social sciences and philosophy and devised a three-factor conceptual framework that considered physical, social and symbolic domains. Gesler emphasised that the concept was an analytic framework rather than an ideal type, and that it could be applied in practice to investigate places where healing took place. Subsequently, it has been widely used in studies of asylums and mental health care.

In the first part of my presentation, I will critically analyse the concept and provide examples of its use, drawn from my study of the former Beechworth asylum. I will then consider aspects of contemporary mental health care, asking whether deinstitutionalisation led to the loss of the therapeutic landscape and consequent shortcomings in care. I take a broad view of "therapeutic", extending from patients to include their families, asylum staff and the wider community.

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68 Reimagining everyday care futures in Australia

Kelly Saunders, University of Canberra

Abstract

In the wake of Covid-19, women still do the majority care in what is increasingly a global crisis of care for people and the more-than-human. This calls for reimagining futures in which care is a vital concept and practice for everyone. To date, scholarship on care in the future has focused on the implications of emerging technologies on practices of care. Beyond this, there is a lack of future visioning of everyday care within routines.

My empirical PhD research uses qualitative futures methods to explore people's visions of everyday care in 'hoped for' futures and the impacts on work and public life. It argues that the notion of everyday care is contested and embodied, making it a complex subject for futures scholarship. Yet, it is also deeply future orientated, with 'care futures' opening up new spaces and ways of caring that move beyond existing barriers to embolden care and transgress current binaries of public and private, work and care. Reimagining everyday care through futures methods enlivens studies of care and work and re-orientates the present toward sustainable and ethical futures.

90 Post-pandemic 'work from home' discourses and the invisibilisation of women's unpaid care labour.

Amanda Peters, *Monash University*

Abstract

In Australia, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns brought changes in work practices marked by a significant rise in the number of employees engaging in remote work arrangements. This shift in employment patterns has been dubbed 'the work from home revolution'. This presentation critically analyses these 'work from home' discourses using a gendered perspective to understand how they may sustain patriarchal economic structures.

A discourse analysis of Australian media and industry narratives of a 'work from home revolution' will explore how these narratives reinvigorate masculine discourses of work. The devaluation of unpaid care work, which is predominantly performed by women, is a key driver of gender inequality. This occurs in part via invisibilisation, a process in which unpaid care labour is simultaneously devalued and exploited within capitalism by obscuring the fact that labour has been performed. Patriarchal socio-cultural mechanisms tie definitions of work exclusively to forms of labour for which someone is paid, such mechanisms exclude women's unpaid care labour despite it being an essential part of the production system.

This presentation will explore how 'work from home' discourses obscure women's unpaid care work, and thus reinforce patriarchal economic and cultural structures which drive gender inequality.

159 **A service user perspective on disability support worker training within the unregistered provider space of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS): Should there be minimum standards?**

Dr Rae West, *University of Melbourne*

Abstract

Training and supervision of disability support workers (DSWs) has traditionally been viewed as one of the primary means to ensure quality for service users. In Australia, policy has focused on broad worker regulation frameworks and encouraging obtainment of minimum level qualifications for DSWs only through Registered Training Organisations. These frameworks provide the basis of efforts to professionalise the DSW workforce and progress it beyond perceptions of a lowly-paid, feminised care work role.

However, while DSW training is seen as important at the system level, we do not know whether this is similarly prioritised by people with disability using services. Our research reports on interviews with NDIS participants about their experience purchasing supports from unregistered providers including disability services. We found that minimum level qualifications of DSWs did not appear to be a central issue in achieving quality, stability and safety within services for these participants. Many interviewees instead described that being able to train and supervise DSWs themselves produced better support outcomes and reduced power differentials.

This paper examines decision-making around training and supervising of their DSWs and mechanisms they used in seeking to ensure their safety and quality of services and implications for capacity building of the DSW workforce.

Panel Discussion: Critical Femininities in Action: Exploring Sexualities, Gender, and Feminine Sociality

148   Navigating Queer Femininity in the Salon

Hannah McCann, *University of Melbourne*

Abstract

Hair and beauty salons are often thought of as spaces associated with normative ideals of masculinity and femininity. While some research on salons suggests that these can indeed be heteronormative spaces that reinforce gender and sexuality norms (Barber 2008), recent years have also seen an increase in salons designed for queer clientele (Stutchbury 2016; Ridley 2019). Furthermore, whether explicitly for queer patrons or not, salons are not always or simply about achieving beauty ideals but can also be spaces of identity curation and experimentation (McCann 2022).

This paper draws on interviews that were conducted in Australia in 2021 as part of a project on the meaning and significance of hair and beauty salons in people's lived experiences. In-depth focus is given to several interviews that provide rich accounts of navigating questions of femininity, feminine ideals, and gender expression as queer salon clients.

This paper explores how these patrons understand queer beauty as "not hiding", but also examines the stress felt by some of these participants around the issue of femininity specifically. Using these interviews this paper theorises the tensions between normative femininity and femmephobia – that is, between harmful expectations to be feminine versus an internalised devaluation of femininity – that can be experienced in visiting salons, especially by queer patrons.

149   Gaming the Gender Divide: Conflicts between Couples, Femininity and the Hegemonic Gamer Identity

Mahli-Ann Butt, *University of Melbourne*

Abstract

Women's evolving (dis)engagement to gaming cannot sufficiently be captured within a scope that is often limited to discussions about women's barriers to entry (Bergstrom 2019). Speaking with women about how they negotiate gaming with romantic partners thus helps to paint a more complex and complicated picture of their lives, gaming practices, and gaming lifeworlds. I take inspiration from Angela McRobbie's critiques of the politics of resilience observed in 'leadership feminism' and 'perfect-imperfect-resilience' (shortened to 'p-i-r') that both evoke the image of the 'perfect' woman (2020).

Drawing from McRobbie, I propose that the affective structures of 'leaning in' and 'leaning out' can also highlight the limited affordances of women's participation in gaming and that these gender narratives continue to shape their everyday 'private' lives and leisure practices outside of the workplace. When exploring how gaming can contribute to bonding with a significant other as well as discords in intimate relationships, we can also provide a better account of the differing, complicated, and sometimes conflicting ways that women might sometimes lean towards and/or away from certain aspects and assemblages of games. In doing so, this research emphasizes that the role of intersubjectivity – such as romantic ties – can also significantly impact women's shifting (dis)engagement to gaming.

150 Shame and the Figure of the Fangirl in Popular Music Fandom

Sascha Tanuja, *University of Melbourne*

Abstract

Shame is often mentioned as a common, marginalising feeling among fans who participate in any fandom, and has become particularly central to the lives of fangirls of popular music. Depictions of fangirls often focus on this shame through routine devaluation of the emotional experience of these fans, through the cultural framing of fangirls as irrational, hormonal and perverted. From the often cited external societal shaming of girls' interests, to intra-fandom policing of 'fangirlishness', fangirls are subject to and participate in shaming in order to enforce femmephobic ideals of normative femininity within these spaces. However, shame is also used generatively and productively – shame is often posited as a criterion for community bonding and shared intimacy between fangirls.

Approaching shame from a queer theoretical framework, this paper will consider how fangirls reconstruct their experiences of shame. Shame is not only individualising in its affect, rather it also has affectual and political potential to motivate community bonding between shamed identities (Halperin and Traub 2009). Despite fangirl femininity coming to represent a sort of failed femininity, these communities endure through reworking the experience of shame in their practices. This paper will challenge the negative focus of shame within the cultural zeitgeist, as shame has emerged as an integral point of connection for fangirls in popular music fandom (Brown 2006).

By drawing on survey answers from fangirls of Harry Styles, Beyonce and BLACKPINK, this research will aim to uncover how fangirls ultimately negate and rework shame through participating in fandom, as this collective shame strengthens community ties and feelings of kinship among fangirls.

153 Cool Care: Negotiating Femininity in Hospitality Labour

Megan Sharp, *University of Melbourne*

Abstract

The role of femininity in producing consumption spaces has a long history of feminist theorising and analysis. Labour itself has been conceptualised as 'feminised' in particular industries that demand care be fundamental to actual working practices. In this paper, I re- visit Hochschild's concept of emotion work alongside emergent theories of affective and aesthetic labour to argue that femininity plays a vital role in shaping the labour market.

This research focuses on front-of-house hospitality work in bars, cafes and restaurants in Melbourne to situate labour within a broader context of metropolitan consumptionscapes. Participants of this study describe how they negotiate femininity in the workplace including how competency, hostility, frivolity, coolness, safety and harassment invoke particular forms of gender and sexuality expression. Ultimately, I find that femininity is operationalised as a skill within hospitality work, yet is understood by venue owners and the broader public as an inherent disposition of the worker. Such a finding has implications for workplace policy and employer obligations, as well as for social theories of work that engage with a diversity of contemporary labour markets.

Panel Discussion: The politics of the climate crisis

121 Eco-Social Politics in Australia: Voter attitudes to climate change and social policy at the 2022 federal election

A/Professor Ben Spies-Butcher, Macquarie University
Dr Adam Stebbing, Macquarie University

Abstract

Record-breaking global temperatures and mounting scientific evidence of human-induced climate change have not yet translated into the urgent political action required to mitigate its likely environmental and social impacts in coming decades.

There are competing scholarly explanations for this policy inaction, which call either for political consensus on climate change or for coalitions to be built with existing social movements that coalesce around environmental and other social issues. Updating recent research, our paper explores whether there was a relationship between the attitudes of Australian voters at the 2022 federal election to climate change and social policy - particularly among the constituency favouring radical climate action. We analyse social survey data from the Australian Election Study to test for associations between voter attitudes to climate change and social policy.

We then develop regression models to test whether voters that prioritised climate change had a higher probability of identifying with certain political parties, holding post-materialist values, and/or supporting social policy. And, we conclude by reflecting on the implications of our results for the politics of climate change in Australia.

29 Energy transition as a class process

Dr Beck Pearse, *ANU*

Abstract

This paper develops a class analysis of Australia's energy transition drawing on ethnographic interviews in the Lithgow Valley and Canberra. Coal power plant closures have already begun to bite for blue collar workers and contractors. New rounds of electricity infrastructure investments are bringing wind and solar infrastructure to rural people further afield, and as this capital-intensive development process unfolds, settler landholders in 'lucky' locations are the main beneficiaries. Meanwhile, middle class and affluent urban households have developed private interests in decarbonising, decentralising electricity.

Low-income and renting households are bearing the worst effects of electricity capital's contribution to profit-related inflation. I take a relational approach to class as a social process unfolding amidst the complex geography of settler capitalist Australia. Rather than fixate on classifying contending class positions, I situate the energy transition within the broader dynamics of Australia's class structure. Energy transition reflects the ongoing upward redistribution of power and wealth in Australia, but not without significant contradictions and possibilities. To reveal the structuring class relations at play, I explore the underlying property and labour relations of energy transition. I then interpret the public politics of class in three common conflict situations over costs, subsidies, and rents.

30 Green capitalism, neoliberalism and the politics of climate policy

Professor Nick J Fox, *University of Huddersfield*

Abstract

Action to mitigate climate change will be key to December's United Nations COP28 meeting, as global temperatures continue to rise. Against this backcloth, politicians of many hues, and from both global North and South, are increasingly pinning hopes of controlling global warming upon a 'green capitalist' fix' to cut atmospheric CO2.

Advocates of green capitalism argue that free-market mechanisms are the best means to mitigate anthropogenic climate change. Innovative technologies – from solar panels to electric vehicles to LED bulbs, will out-perform and thus replace polluting practices.

Yet this technological fix ignores the environmental costs of capitalist competition and resource extraction underpinning this 'market' response to climate change. This relational, post-anthropocentric paper unpicks the politics of green capitalism, using the example of the electric car. It delves into the assemblages and affects of capitalism to reveal the fatal flaw in politicians' desires that green capitalism can save the earth from anthropogenic global warming. These affects generate the unintended and inevitable consequences of a capitalist economic framework: rampant growth, wastefulness and increasing social inequalities. The paper demonstrates that green capitalism is consequently incapable of delivering the cuts in greenhouse gases needed to meet climate change targets, and offers an alternative.

39 From the Margins to the Fore: Recentering Global Leadership around Environmental Justice

Mayumi Sato, *University of Cambridge*

Abstract

The relationship between environmental injustice, racism, and colonialism has been well studied in the academy, yet there has been less attention to how seemingly just environmental restoration projects can be used to further advance colonial motives. Furthermore, while racialized and colonized communities have often led resistance efforts to counteract environmental injustices, their leadership and contributions in this space has been largely overlooked.

Based on my PhD fieldwork, I will first provide a case study on how different infrastructural elements of colonial institutions such as buildings, national parks, and wastewater systems, which seemingly appear to contribute to societal and environmental restoration, are in fact employed to further entrench the colonized population into systems of poverty. Then, I show visual demonstrations of how greenwashing infrastructure and logics are used by settler colonial countries to further remove land from its people, under the pretense of conservation and afforestation.

Finally, I will look at how marginalized and Indigenous communities are resisting environmental injustices in often creative and unrecognized ways. My aim to give greater sociological discussion to what constitutes a just environmental landscape, and to reshape our understanding of who is on the frontlines of environmental justice and organizing.

106   The Constructive Ontological Approach: Living Apart, Together

Linde Draaisma, *James Cook University*

Abstract

Climate change is a global phenomenon that is multiple 'things' at the same time. To better understand and respond to climate change in its multiplicity, policies and interventions need to address the different and sometimes conflicting ways in which climate change is known and experienced. To that end, collaborations between modern science and Indigenous knowledges are increasingly being called for by researchers and policy makers.

However, such collaborations run the risk of enforcing inequality and violence on multiple levels, by attempting to 'merge' or 'weave' realities that are substantially different. I suggest a new approach to collaborative climate change responses that respects the integrity of diverse realities by working with, rather than through difference. In this so-called constructive ontological approach, the multiplicity of a climate change concern is preserved, and people are encouraged to imagine and enact multiple, sustainable and just futures. The constructive ontological approach involves asking three questions: What are the present realities of the concern? What are the desired futures around the concern? How can the desired futures be enacted? Through this approach, the multiplicity of climate change realities is preserved, and people are encouraged to imagine and enact multiple, sustainable and just futures.

115   When we can't vote, action is all we have: student climate politics, rights and justice

Prof Phillipa Collin, *Western Sydney University*
Prof Judith Bessant, *RMIT*

Abstract

Since 2018, millions of students have mobilised as organisers, advocates and activists for action on global warming in movements like the School Strike 4 Climate. In Australia, hundreds of thousands of school students, some as young as five, and predominantly girls and young women, have taken part in coordinated school strikes, protest actions online and in cities and towns around the country. While children and young people have long been central to politics, this more recent mass mobilisation raises new questions about how the various new forms of political participation and expression adopted by young people are significantly reshaping political norms, values and practices in ostensibly liberal democratic regimes like Australia.

In this chapter, we propose that close attention be given to whether young people's political views and demands for political recognition, rights and climate justice is re-constituting politics and whatever passes for "democracy" in contemporary societies. Drawing on a
study of the student climate movement in Australia, this chapter briefly describes the emergence of the movement globally and locally. Deploying Isin's notion of "acts of citizenship" (Isin, 2008), we examine the ways young climate activists are engaged in critical, performative, political practice, making claims for political recognition, rights, and climate justice.

130 Key actors, information flows, and tactics: Mapping the dynamics of Great Barrier Reef and climate discussions online

Carly Lubicz, *Queensland University of Technology and James Cook University*

Abstract

Research shows that levels of concern about climate change and its impacts are linked to political orientation and media consumption, particularly in the US and Australia where right-leaning voters and news consumers are less likely to consider climate change a major threat. As Australia has a long history of stifled climate policy, it is important to understand these dynamics, including how information is being shared, by whom, and the tactics used in contemporary communication spaces. This mixed methods study of Twitter, Facebook and YouTube uses social network analysis, including cluster analysis, and in-depth close reading to study the UNESCO 2021 'in danger' recommendation for the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) over six-weeks. It finds that a small but influential group of alternative media and certain non-media actors – including economically-driven and conservative political actors – were able to repurpose and/or amplify content from mainstream media to further messages about the health of the Reef that aligned with their free-market values. This included co- opting the findings of a scientific report to argue that the GBR had recovered and contest the need for climate action. This case study provides an insight into how ideologically- aligned actors are interacting in online spaces to potentially undermine environmental protection.

139 Metabolic Rifts through an intersectional lens and restorative practices as ways in which to address environmental alienation

Sara Mohamed, *James Cook University*

Abstract

As social networks become more embedded in modern colonial-capitalist systems, the greater the separation and disconnect from the environment. Disconnects from the environment result in metabolic rifts which are an expression of the alienation of nature. Metabolic rifts are a disconnect, if not complete loss of connectivity with Place and Country, the repercussions of which are differentially distributed and experienced, but have major implications for environmental and human health and wellbeing. Environmental alienation deteriorates cultural, historical, and context specific environmental knowledge and practices. Especially as capitalism continues to estrange people from nature, particularly for Indigenous Peoples who have historically been subjected to primitive accumulation and currently disproportionately bear environmental burdens. Theories of intersectionality are applied to conceptualize, examine, and understand the complexity and multidimensionality of how metabolic rifts are differentially experienced among people, and how restorative practices can (re)shape environmental alienation. Recognizing how processes of domination, exploitation, assimilation, accumulation, and appropriation influence disconnect from nature provides a fuller understanding of how current rifts have come to be. As environmental change continues to alter the biophysical makeup of place, socio-environmental interactions and relations also shift and become an important aspect of understanding adaptivity and resilience.

Panel Discussion: The social life of pandemics within and beyond health systems

2 The Anomie of Shanghai's Health System during the Covid Lockdown

Chunyuan Gao, ANU

Abstract

In 2022, the outbreak of COVID-19 in Shanghai resulted in an unprecedented lockdown in the history of China. From April to May 2022, following China's Covid-Zero policy, Shanghai implemented a series of restrictive lockdown measures. During this period, all residents were prohibited from leaving their homes, except those with special permits. Shanghai's strict lockdown policy unavoidably led to a collapse of existing social norms and relations, while new social systems had not yet been well established.

This study investigates the failure of traditional social institutions and functions within the health system during Shanghai's Covid lockdown. The argument put forth is that anomie, as a result, becomes an inevitable social consequence, manifested by a discoordination among the hospital, aged care, and pandemic control systems.

46 Managing responsibility and isolation in the 2022 mpox outbreak: a qualitative study of embodied, affective, and relational accounts of risk among Australian gay and bisexual men

Mr Daniel Storer, *School of Population Health and The Kirby Institute, The University of New South Wales*
Dr Anthony Smith, *Centre for Social Research in Health and Australian Human Rights Institute, The University of New South Wales*

Abstract

In May 2022, a global outbreak of mpox (formerly 'monkeypox') emerged, mainly affecting thousands of gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM). Prior outbreaks in West and Central Africa were associated with respiratory transmission. In 2022, there was intense speculation about how mpox was transmitted. Amidst public debates about whether to classify mpox as a sexually transmissible infection (STI) or not, people diagnosed with mpox made situated decisions about reducing risk of mpox transmission to others.

This paper draws on qualitative in-depth interviews with 13 Australian GBMSM diagnosed with mpox in 2022, and three close contacts of these men. Building on sociological theories of risk, we explore how approaches to managing risk and isolation were shaped through collective imaginaries of past diseases (HIV and STIs), recent experience of the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., utilising isolation requirements), forms of lay expertise (deciphering scientific evidence), and biosocial formations of community (peer-to-peer knowledge exchange). These approaches to risk occurred amidst uncertainty, distress, practical challenges of isolation, and prescriptive public health guidance. We argue that the situated work of managing risk and responsibility among participants in response to this outbreak was embodied, affective, and relational.

65   Thinking with HIV in pandemic times: A diffractive reading of COVID-19 and mpox

Dr Kiran Pienar, *Deakin University*
Dr Dean Murphy, *La Trobe University*

Abstract

Discussions about the social impacts of COVID-19, and most recently, mpox (formerly monkeypox), have been informed by the legacy of the HIV epidemic. Yet despite awareness of the importance of avoiding exclusionary depictions of 'at-risk' populations, some public discourses have drawn on framings that imply certain groups are risky disease vectors who threaten the health of an imagined 'general' public.

Drawing on Barad's concept of diffraction and Treichler's classic work, *How to Have Theory in an Epidemic*, we offer a diffractive reading of contemporary pandemic discourses through the lens of HIV. We suggest that thinking with HIV provides an important analytic device for exploring how the history and cultural imaginaries of HIV are threaded through contemporary pandemic discourses, and serve to reinforce existing social inequalities. In particular, we highlight the ways in which contemporary discourses on COVID-19 and mpox serve as dividing practices, arguing that they produce particular exclusions in relation to already marginalised populations, including queer communities, minority ethnic communities, homeless people, and those in residential care. We conclude with reflections on the lessons of the HIV epidemic for forging more compassionate responses to contemporary disease outbreaks.

74   Forgotten in Crisis: Aged Care and COVID-19

Carolyn Morgan, *University of New England, PhD candidate*

Abstract

This study undertaken by a PhD candidate in sociology, investigates the interplay between pandemics, health systems, and the broader social fabric, with a focus on the repercussions of COVID-19 aged care visitation restrictions and lockdown measures in New South Wales, Australia.

During the pandemic harsh visitation restrictions within residential aged care resulted in families becoming isolated and fractured by the experience of many months apart. Through the distribution of a survey and use of in-depth interviews with the relatives of aged care residents, preliminary results have indicated that the majority of aged care residents experienced feelings of loneliness and anxiety, decreasing cognitive awareness, decreasing physical mobility and increasing frustration due to the lockdowns. Current research involves interviews with aged care workers and industry experts to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced.

This presentation will argue that the right to visitation from family is a fundamental human right, and older people should not have been denied access to their loved ones, especially during the last possible months of their lives. Further that there are physical and psychological effects of pandemic policies, that human rights have been violated, that these effects are measurable and have implications for future policy.

Panel Discussion: Sustaining care across species and scales

80   Caring for the future through the maternal microbiome

Dr Roberta Pala, *Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies, The University of Sydney*

Abstract

The microbiome has become an increasingly popular object of study, fascination, and intervention. Implicated in everything from periodontal disease, obesity, mood and mental health to inflammation, immunity and metabolism, the microbiome is widely recognised as fundamentally constitutive of our embodied humanity as well as our current – and future – health. Made up of approximately 39 trillion microbes that live within and upon us, any one person's microbiome contains bacterial and fungal cells that outnumber human cell by a ratio of three to one. Importantly, the microbiome is also heavily dependent on one's exposome, especially the conditions of gestation, birth, infancy and early childhood. As such, the long-term health of foetuses, babies and children has been positioned as subject to maternal influence through 'lifestyle' decisions as they are mediated through the gut. We reflect on the more-than-human futures that are nurtured when parenting (as the act of culturing and nourishing future life) becomes a practice that involves the management of human relations with microorganisms. Despite the understanding brought about by this microbiological literature that it quite literally "takes a (more-than-human) village" to raise healthy children, we look at the burden that this knowledge brings onto the individual parent, especially mothers.

109   Enacting and Receiving Care in Digital Spaces: LGBTQIA+ Young people and the Production of Digital Care

Dr Shiva Chandra, *Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies, University of Sydney*
Dr Benjamin Hanckel, *Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University*

Abstract

This paper examines how stigma and discrimination produces relations of care, necessitated by prejudice against sexuality and gender diverse minorities. We focus on queerphobia against LGBTQIA+ individuals, and the care relations it produces across digital spaces.

Drawing on a study involving 65 LGBTQIA+ young people aged 16-30 across Australia, we examine how care is produced through their digital practices. Our findings show how queer young people utilise the known affordances of digital platforms to provide forms of care to peers, providing 'care-ful' and strategic digital expressions of care across social media spaces. Simultaneously, young people also curate social media profiles to care for their family members, by hiding their gender and/or sexuality to protect their parents from the potential social repercussions of having a queer child, as well as curate critical forms of self- care enacted in queerphobic contexts. In this way, sexuality and gender diverse young people occupy a dual position as both recipients and givers of digital care, as a response to marginalising structures. We discuss the implications this has for service provision and broader social change, with potentialities for the overall development of caring societies for and with sexuality and gender diverse people.

140   **Thinking-with decorator crabs: oceanic feminism and multispecies care**

Dr Jianni Tien, *The University of Sydney*
Elizabeth Burmann, *Independent Artist, Chile*

Abstract

This paper presents an overview of a collaborative research project: Thinking-with Decorator Crabs. Feminist practices of care emphasise care as an affective state, as response-ability. Utilising our experiences caring for 6 decorator crabs, we conceptualise care as a materially charged and affective act of multispecies engagement. Through our acts of caring-for and thinking-with the decorator crabs we found that the aquarium, with its colonial histories, is a key space to re-think human-aquatic relationships.

Decorator crabs are slow nocturnal scavengers: in an attempt to look "less-crab" or "more- than-crab", they select materials, debris, and other living beings from their environment to adorn their shells, sticking them to their bodies. In doing so, these crustaceans entangle themselves with their environment. In our viewing and interactions with them, we as human researchers similarly entangled ourselves amongst the crabs within the potent transformative fluid of the aquarium tank.

151   **Pregnancy and relationships of care in climate crisis: placentas, babies and bushfire smoke**

Dr Rebecca Williamson, *ANU*
Prof Mary Lou Rasmussen, *ANU*
Prof Celia Roberts, *ANU*

Abstract

This paper considers how concepts of care were unsettled during the 2019/20 Australian bushfire smoke events, from the perspective of pregnant women and women with newborns navigating health fears. The discussion draws on interviews with pregnant women and parents who had recently given birth about their experiences of coping with the bushfire smoke and their concerns about the health impacts of the smoke on their pregnancies and babies in utero, particularly in the context of medical and public concern about placenta calcification in relation to bushfire smoke exposure. We consider how the figure of the placenta featured in women's narratives of caring for and protecting their babies in utero from the smoke, particularly via ideas of filtration. We draw on feminist thinking about embodiment and placental ethics to explore the relationality between placentas, babies, smoke and environmental crisis, and discuss how expectations of care were disrupted
across temporal and bodily scales.

154 The metaphysics and economics of caring futures: nesting abstractions in process-relational contexts

Dr Juliet Bennett, University of Sydney

Abstract

This paper connects a shift in metaphysical assumptions relating to care with a shift in economic theories to enable more caring futures. It unpacks some of the liberal assumptions about care (such as that care is a regrettable cost, delivered through transactions, and is an individual responsibility) and alternative narratives guided by care ethics (such as that care is core to a meaningful life, is about reciprocal relationships, and is a collective responsibility).

Using the static-process framework inspired by process metaphysics, it maps this shift in terms of "nesting" of static abstractions in process- relational contexts. This nested approach to care corresponds with a nested approach to economics. Placing mainstream economic theories in social, environmental and historical contexts brings into question some of their fundamental assumptions. For example, 'homo-economicus' – the assumption that people are selfish individuals – is nested in the caring and relational nature of people-in-communities. Rather than leaving care out of the frame, contextual economics locates care at the core of the economy. Under contextual economics, the aim of economic policy is not to increase GDP, but to enable flourishing within environmental boundaries. These examples illustrate some ways that care ethics, process metaphysics and contextual economics reorientate theories and policies for the wellbeing and care of all.

Panel Discussion: Supporting diverse families in times of crisis

10 Family troubles and affective boundary demarcations: a sociological investigation of children's emotion work in psychoeducation and peer support groups

Postdoctoral fellow Malene Kessing, *The Danish National Center for Social Science Research, Copenhagen, Denmark*

Abstract

Throughout the twentieth century, families have increasingly relied on therapeutic principles to understand and manage their emotions. Contributing to our understanding of 'the therapeutic family', this article offers a sociological conceptualisation of emotion work performed in support groups for children with difficult family experiences. Empirically, it draws on 52 hours of video recordings of group sessions and 11 interviews with children collected in three support groups for children of parents with mental illness in Denmark.

Bringing theoretical work on 'the therapeutic discourse' and emotion work in support groups (Illouz, 2007, 2008) into conversation with the sociology of families (Morgan, 2019), this article shows how group facilitators foster affective bonds between children and introduce affective boundary demarcations that turn children's emotional experiences of parental mental illness into objects to be observed, thought of and expressed.

Highlighting the temporal and spatial embeddedness of these boundaries, it further demonstrates the challenges of connecting these dimensions to the complex web of children's everyday social relations. Taken together, this article argues that support groups instil children with a therapeutic way of thinking about their emotions and (difficult) family relations that risks being detached from – or out-of-sync with – their intimate social relationships.

25 Creating space for trans childhood and adolescence: finding hope in contestation

Dr Cris Townley, *Western Sydney University*

Abstract

The very existence of childhood and adolescence of transgender and gender diverse people is contested in media, education, health, and society. Parents of trans and gender diverse (TGD) children and young people navigate often hostile communities, families, services and social relations daily. Rarely do we hear the voices of these families.

This paper reports on the accounts of parents and carers of TGD children in Australia through analysis of semi- structured interviews. These journeys highlight moments of gender euphoria, and points of contestation or support of trans identity and belonging from a range of services and institutions, including GPs, specialist healthcare, mental health provision, schools, government records, sports and arts environments. Discourse and research about TGD children and adolescents are often restricted to medical puberty and school bullying. Parents' accounts reveal a much broader field of advocacy and survival strategies, that begin in early learning environments and continue to adulthood. Creating supportive social relationships around children; holding a space of ambiguity for exploration and self-expression; and placing the child's agency at the centre of decision making are paramount. The findings point to fruitful areas for amplifying parent and child voices to create more equitable participation in society.

41 Managing the Permanent Temporariness of Prolonged Migration: The role of Local and Transnational Care Circulation among Argentine Temporary Migrants in Australia

Bernardo Dewey, *Curtin University*
Prof Loretta Baldassar, *Edith Cowan University*
Pro Farida Fozdar, *Curtin University*

Abstract

In 2017, Australia was the second largest issuing country of temporary visa permits after the United States, with temporary migrants applying, on average, for 3.3 temporary visas and spending 6.4 years in this multi-step visa journey to achieve permanent residency.

In this paper, we examine how Argentine temporary migrants exchange care to navigate temporary visa restrictions and the permanent temporariness in which they live. Our central argument is that transnational and local expressions, practices, and processes of care are co-constituted in particularistic temporary migrant care configurations that facilitate prolonged migration projects and continuity of care over time, despite the precarity that permanent temporariness brings.

Drawing on extensive ethnographic fieldwork among Argentine temporary migrants, we illustrate the dynamics in which economic, accommodation, personal, practical, emotional and moral care is exchanged. The findings reveal the central role that transnational economic and practical as well as local, including local virtual, proximity care has in the everyday lives of Argentine temporary migrants. Ironically, their fragile temporariness may be an incentive to develop local support networks or maintain strong transnational ties to survive living in limbo.

91 Invisible Work: Responding to culturally marginalised women's experiences with domestic and family violence

Renee Romeo, *University of South Australia*

Abstract

The extent of violence against women in culturally marginalised (or CaLD) communities in Australia is unclear. CaLD women are referred to in national safety plans as having different and complex forms of violence and less likely to seek help.

The paper presents preliminary findings based on 16 interviews with CaLD women's lived experiences working in DV services across South Australia and Queensland. Using an intersectional feminist framework, combined with a thematic analysis approach, a key theme indicates the informal and thus invisible work of CaLD women, supporting women's safety on an invisible frontline responding to DV.

State actors must consider more complex ways of responding to DFV through an intersectional approach, moving beyond cultural and linguistic diversity to address complex structural inequality.

These preliminary findings reveal that what we do not know, we cannot address, and what we cannot address results in systems that ultimately cannot keep CaLD women safe from DFV. There needs to be recognition of the ways CaLD women work on an often-invisible frontline leading to a sustainable approach to address the complex ways violence impacts culturally marginalised women. Until this is understood and accommodated by state services' responses to DFV, CaLD women will remain marginalised, unsafe, and defined by their culture as 'hard to reach.'

Panel Discussion: Dynamics of the asset economy

63 Connecting fiscal, monetary and social policy: COVID responses and the asset economy

Dr Ben Spies-Butcher, *Macquarie University*
Dr Gareth Bryant, *University of Sydney*
Dr Mike Beggs, *University of Sydney*

Abstract

Austerity is a defining element of neoliberal governance, partly enforced by independent central banks charged with meeting restrictive inflation targets. Recently, however, experiences of crisis have challenged this relationship.

Following the Global Financial Crisis, some questioned the use of novel monetary policy to bail out 'Wall St' while enforcing austerity on 'Main St'. During the COVID-19 crisis, governments acted more generously. Not only did central banks release their hold on state finances, central bankers actively encouraged and facilitated social spending. Discretionary fiscal expansion was often largest in liberal welfare regimes where financialisation and austerity have been most pronounced. It is less clear what lasting impacts this shift entails. As shut downs lifted, policy makers wound back support and reimposed conditionality. Central banks rapidly changed gear to raise interest rates in response to high inflation.

Our paper considers the changing relationship between monetary and fiscal policy, and its implications for social policy. We examine documents from the Reserve Bank of Australia, and the recent RBA Review, to critically reflect on what this means for the future of the welfare state. What possibilities did the crisis response reveal, and what are the limits?

129 A Constellation of Constraints: Being a Young Adult in Today's Asset Economy

Dr Monique McKenzie, *The University of Sydney*
Professor Lisa Adkins, *The University of Sydney*
Professor Martijn Konings, *The University of Sydney*
A/Professor Dallas Rogers, *The University of Sydney*

Abstract

Young people today are experiencing a constellation of constraints in securing the core elements of housing, employment and financial stability in their adult lives. Their ability to overcome these constraints is increasingly becoming dependent on financial support from their parents.

This paper presents some preliminary findings from a series of qualitative interviews with young adults in Sydney discussing their aspirations and constraints in housing, employment and education. The timing of these interviews between 2022-2023, a period defined by high inflation, rising interest rates, substantial rent increases and historically high HECs debt indexation, allowed for insights into a unique moment in young people's lives where their futures appear to increasingly be constrained by the economy and their financial positions within it.

This paper argues that, for young people already feeling left behind by the asset economy, the post-pandemic era is further exacerbating these constraints.

158 Sonic Methods for the Exploring the Everyday of the Asset Economy

Ms Marnie Cruickshank, *Griffith University*

Abstract

This paper argues for the efficacy of sonic methods to explore the affective dimensions of everyday household practices related to asset management. In contributing to feminist economic sociological scholarship, the paper maps the socio-sonic geographies of a popular Australian women's financial advice podcast, She's on the Money (SOTM). I focus on a particular segment of the podcast entitled, 'The Money Diaries', wherein callers anonymously recount their financial biographies and receive feedback and advice from the podcast hosts. In doing so, I reveal the gendered soundscape of the asset economy and its attendant affects of pride and shame. I argue that the aural intimacy of the SOTM soundscape elevates a politics of financial inclusion and exclusion as those do not have sufficient resources to participate in the asset economy and those who are using debt/credit 'incorrectly' are either marginalised or disciplined. I also draw on my own affective experience of listening to the podcast.

This paper concludes with reference to the conference theme of sustaining the social by reflecting on feminist strategies for a post- capitalist politics of 'taking back finance'.

Panel Discussion: Dangerous diasporas? Finding space for diaspora engagement in multicultural Australia

4 Digital Citizenship, Diaspora and Gender: Digital Community Mothers as Unsung Diasporic Leaders in Australia

Dr Leah Williams Veazey, *The University of Sydney*

Abstract

Despite widespread acknowledgement of women's central role in (re)building community in migration, commentators have also noted the ongoing tendency of male 'community leaders' to dominate media and government engagement with diaspora communities.

Situated at the intersection of digital sociology and migration/diaspora studies, this paper argues that women's leadership of online community groups is an under-recognised form of diasporic leadership and represents untapped potential for diaspora engagement in multicultural Australia. Drawing primarily on interviews with 15 women who run online community groups for migrant mothers in Australia, this paper explores how their role as online community managers positions them as diasporic leaders in their local communities and in transnational online spaces.

In the context of what has been referred to as women's third (or even fourth) shift of digital labour, I interrogate the ambivalent influence that
comes with these roles, exploring notions of leadership and labour, visibility and vulnerability, power and obligation, and the women's role in both sustaining diasporic social relations and enforcing particular modes of digital citizenship. The examination of these women's experiences facilitates a broader consideration of gender dynamics in diaspora engagement and leadership.

27 Under repair or under threat? exploring the contested role and impact of diaspora tourism on Hungarian cultural sustainability in Australia.

Dr Julia Kantek, *Western Sydney University*

Abstract

For some time, the Hungarian-Australian diaspora has been discursively represented as 'under threat' and in 'danger' of losing collective identity, due to multiple factors including a decline in youth organisational participation and leadership. In response, the Hungarian government has developed several engagement initiatives to support and resource diaspora activities.

This paper explores the contested impact of a 10-month diaspora program intending to support Hungarian cultural sustainability in multicultural Australia. While the program aims to strengthen Hungarian identity and provide leadership training, through an immersive cultural and language education experience, I reveal that participation produced a distancing effect for participants, complicating perceptions of, and engagements with, the community in Australia. Using Bourdieusian theory, and analysing reflections from community leaders and program participants, I reveal that through experiencing a more vibrant and organic version of Hungarian culture abroad, participants constructed greater symbolic identities, perceiving them as best nurtured through personal transnational engagements. This paper thus contributes to the less documented risks of state-led tourism initiatives on local diaspora activity. In remaking and replacing ways of seeing and experiencing community, the reflexive, transformational moments celebrated in the diaspora tourism experience 'there' ('homeland'), have disruptive consequences on sustaining the social and cultural 'here' (Australia).

104 Racism, Othering and Coloniality: Reimagining belonging and creating spaces for racialised migrant and refugee engagement in multicultural Australia

Dr Hyacinth Uda, *James Cook University*

Abstract

In the face of the increasing migration of migrants and refugees from non-European countries and those from the African, Asian diaspora to Australia, this paper seeks to inspire and raise public conversations about the impact of the meta-discourses of Otherness on racialised migrants and refugees from the African diaspora in Australia, and about how racism and coloniality structure the systems that these migrants and refugees interact with in Australia.

The paper draws from a broader study which examined the lived experiences and ways of being of Africans in South East Queensland and builds on critical race, post- colonial, everyday racism theories. It links the analysis of participants' experiences to Australia's history and the legacy of past racist and colonial policies and immigration practices, making the case of black African vulnerability, exclusion, marginalisation, and disadvantage. It argues that we cannot get the Australia we want without carefully framing communications about racism, colonilaity and the lived reality of being positioned as a racialised subject.

The paper indicates the need to develop targeted policies and programs that optimally enhance belonging and improve engagement and outcomes for marginalised racialised migrant and refugee groups and make Australia a more inclusive and liveable multicultural environment

123 Embracing Diversity: Fostering Inclusivity and Integration among Muslim and Sikh Diaspora in Australia

Prof. Arvinder Ansari, University of New Delhi

Abstract

The cultural landscape of Australia has undergone significant changes due to the growing presence of diverse diaspora communities, particularly the Muslim and Sikh communities. This paper focuses on "Fostering Diversity and Promoting Inclusivity and Integration among Diasporic Communities in Australia," with a specific emphasis on Muslims and Sikhs. Diaspora communities in Australia encounter distinct challenges as they strive to preserve their cultural heritage while integrating into the broader society.

This paper explores the initiatives taken by both the Muslim and Sikh communities to promote inclusivity and diversity within Australia's multicultural fabric. Regarding the Muslim community, the paper examines the establishment of inclusive spaces for dialogue and understanding among diverse cultural and religious groups. It highlights community organizations' efforts to bridge cultural gaps and foster intercultural engagement contribution to Australia's growth and prosperity. Likewise, the paper sheds light on the Sikh community's efforts in fostering diversity and inclusivity. It explores the role of Gurdwaras, Sikh places of worship, as centers of community building and intercultural exchange. Furthermore, it examines the Sikh diaspora's engagement in social welfare activities, emphasizing values of compassion and service.

This paper explores how the Muslim and Sikh communities in Australia promote diversity, inclusivity, and integration within the multicultural landscape. It emphasizes intercultural dialogue and collaborative efforts for a cohesive and prosperous society that embraces its diverse diaspora.

Panel Discussion: Live music, heritage, and sociality: Post-pandemic urban cultural citizenship

18 "Oh, you're not a 16-year-old girl who likes BTS. That's a bit different. What's that all that about?": Social media convergence and the presentation of self via music streaming

Dr Michael Walsh, *University of Canberra*

Abstract

Music streaming services—like Spotify—have become embedded and connected with social media technologies that render music listening and its associated data as increasingly visible. The sharable dimensions of music streaming have become readily integrated into dating apps and other social media services that users deploy to present themselves via their listening habits to potential suitors. Introduced in 2016, this integration of services enables users to display a snapshot of their music listening history on their dating profile, playing a role in the projection and presentation of the self to other users of dating apps. Drawing on microsociological frameworks and insights derived from in-depth qualitative interviews collected during the second half of 2021, I canvas the views of users of music streaming and examine how the circulation of music streaming information is used to glen an affinity in assessing the musical habits of potential matches. Uncoupled from the site of music reception, users now must now consider how they manage their streaming information and its potential to convey impressions to other users. Here users describe how the integration of music streaming and dating apps generates worries about how their own music habits might be viewed by others.

19 Gender equality as a Bourdieusian struggle at the boundaries of DIY music in Australia

Ms Hannah Fairlamb, *University of Melbourne*

Abstract

Emerging from the punk scenes of the late 1970s, DIY (do-it-yourself) music approaches assert that you can create music without the need for high-end equipment, specialised skills, or corporate record companies. DIY scenes often exhibit values that eschew 'mainstream' ways of making music, instead prioritising inclusiveness and accessibility, the sharing of resources, and making music for fun not profit. Gender equality would seem to sit well as a value here, however evidence suggests the reality may be quite different.

Gender equality in Australian DIY music scenes has been seldom studied. Viewing DIY music as a field, that is, a system of relationships, invites discussion of Bourdieu's theory that the boundaries of fields of cultural production are defined by 'struggles' – with gender equality representing one such struggle. But who or what patrols these boundaries? How does gender factor into these boundary-makings? Where is the power concentrated?

Through insights provided by research participants in an anonymous online qualitative survey I describe tensions and conflicts at the boundaries of DIY music scenes in Australia, with early findings suggesting that gender equality work in DIY sits within a broader political framework of equity, access and resistance, and needs to be multi-faceted.

93 Out of time: Heritage rock performances in the post-pandemic era

Professor Andy Bennett, *Griffith University*
Charlotte Markowitsch, *Griffith University*

Abstract

In early 2020, many popular artists were forced to cancel tours due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Among those impacted were heritage rock artists including Elton John and KISS, whose farewell tours were delayed, while artists including the Pixies and Alanis Morrisette had their Australian dates cancelled.

In 2022 as COVID restrictions were relaxed, Elton John, KISS, the Pixies and other heritage rock artists resumed live performance. Younger generation heritage rock acts launched immediately into the live performance circuit in Australia, with the likes of Foo Fighters becoming the first stadium show hosted in the country after restrictions lifted. For the older generation, the pandemic arrived at a pivotal point in rock history with many preparing to mark their 50th or 60th year in the music business, placing further significance on their live performances. In that context, as we explore in this paper, the pandemic led to an accelerated movement of live heritage rock in Australia, including moments of swansong for older generation bands. This resulted in a post-pandemic period of increased demand among audiences to see such artists perform highly elaborate live shows designed to bookend a generational relationship between artists and audiences that has persisted over half a century.

94 'A live music venue for the rest of time': Tensions between heritage, community, policy and the market in the fight to save the Tote (redux)

Dr Ben Green, *Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research*
Dr Sam Whiting, *University of South Australia*
A/Prof Catherine Strong, *RMIT*

Abstract

In 2010, the closure of The Tote Hotel, a small venue in inner-city Melbourne, became the flashpoint for a campaign to 'Save Live Australian Music'. The Tote was 'saved' by new owners and the campaign was a turning point for state and public recognition of live music. In 2023, The Tote once again needs 'saving', but the circumstances illustrate how faultlines between creative work, policy and the market have shifted.

The Tote was listed for sale by owners who are not framed as heroically fighting bureaucracy, as in 2010, but, after underpaying staff entitlements, as villainous figures symbolising the problems of music work. The new heroes are rival publicans who raised $3M+ in a crowdfunding campaign to purchase The Tote, although a sale is not finalised.

Surrounding discourses position the Tote as a music community icon and as urban heritage: to be protected from, or even transcend, the market. This connects to broader gentrification struggles, but also places live music in a classic cultural policy space, beyond urban planning and leisure industries. Yet responsibility for saving the venue ultimately fell to the community, raising questions about ownership and accountability concerning the sustainability of creative spaces.

Using the Tote as a case study, this paper applies a sociological lens to the evolving place of live music in Australian society.

Panel Discussion: Towards a more convivial academia

33 Examining contemporary higher education infrastructure in South Asia a Freirean lens

Abdullah Al Mozahid, *South Asian University*

Abstract

This essay reconsiders the contemporary higher education infrastructure and the teaching- learning method in the South Asian context through a Freirean lens. The educational apparatuses in this region have been institutionally plagued by the neoliberal capitalist business model and politically injured by dominant/ruling ideologies of exaggerated nationalism and religious dogmatism. Colleges and universities are being used to reproduce education as a commodity and circulate it through a "banking education" system while ignoring cultural and linguistic diversity and contextual realities.

The traditional rote learning and memorisation processes backed up by the conventional education system have reduced students to passive learners who cannot problematise their acquired institutional knowledge in their experiential world. Freire's critical pedagogy opposes this "banking education" model. Instead, Freirean pedagogical tradition views education as a self-critical and self-reflexive tool for social change and liberation. Freire's critical pedagogy model emphasises the importance of dialogue, problem-posing, and "praxis" in the collaborative educational process where educators and educatees can engage in a convivial academic environment for practising knowledge in a non-hierarchical and homogenously parallel environment. Therefore, this essay critically examines the politics of knowledge production, control and circulation in South Asian formal higher education infrastructure from a Freirean pedagogical analysis.

62 The burnt-out life: Reflections on ethical living under precarity

Dr Joni Meenagh, *RMIT*

Abstract

A good life is an examined life, as the saying goes. However, the philosophers of antiquity benefited from a strict separation of public and private realms, enabling them to pursue higher thought while others took care of the mundanity required to sustain life. While modern affordances have enabled a closing of the gap between these realms and increased the ability for individuals to live an examined life, within Westernised nations late-stage capitalism and neoliberalism demand a heavy toll: while more of us are able to engage in what was once the public realm activity of leading an examined life, this activity is now framed as labour and measured through KPIs. Drawing on the works of Hannah Arendt, Judith Butler, Nancy Fraser, Raewyn Connell, Sara Ahmed, Michel Foucault, and others, this paper reflects on the past 10 years of the author's career in academia and critically examines the ever-presence of precarity. It asks the questions: how does burn-out affect our ability to lead a good life, and what might an ethical academia look like within the material constraints of our current system?

111 Critical Friends Writing Group: Resisting neoliberal erosion through collective writing.

Critical Friends Writing Group, Western Sydney University Western

Abstract

Our Critical Friends Writing Group (CFWG) is a collective within Western Sydney University's School of Social Sciences. Initially a pilot project to address a thirst for supportive writing spaces, the collective has continued to meet beyond the pilot and has become a model others in the School have taken up. The success of the CFWG is that it is premised on an ethics of care. That is, we are ethically committed to the wellbeing of our members, and see our group as both a refuge from, and a challenge to, the corrosivity of neoliberal academia.

This space is an act of resistance, an avenue to imagine and recraft institutional expectation by disrupting the norms of individualism and competition. It is a set of relational practices marked by generosity, intellectual rigour, the sharing of knowledge and joy. We have experienced writing as an embodied social practice and embraced a space to grapple with the confounding politics of research writing (Duffy-Jones & Gibson 2021).

The purpose of this presentation, in the spirit of conviviality, is to share our collective experiences in the hope that it can help others resist the violence of neoliberal academia.