



Transformative Social Science

A dialogue between evidence, policy & practice

Friday 23 June, 2pm – 5pm AEST

University of Melbourne + Zoom

Hosted by the Applied Sociology Thematic Group of the Australian Sociological Association

E-resource

Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| Background | 3 |
| About The Australian Sociological Association (TASA)..... | 3 |
| About the Applied Sociology Thematic Group | 4 |
| Speakers | 5 |
| Anna Adcock..... | 5 |
| Simone Casey | 5 |
| Jan Marie Fritz | 6 |
| Catherine Robinson | 6 |
| Jane Stratton..... | 6 |
| Graphic recording: Speaker presentations..... | 7 |
| Graphic recording: Panel discussion + roundtable | 8 |
| Resources | 9 |
| Presentation resources | 9 |
| Roundtable resources | 9 |

Background

On Friday 23 June 2023, the Applied Sociology Thematic Group of The Australian Sociological Association (TASA) hosted a hybrid event to explore the way that sociologists working in applied or 'industry' settings, such as the community or government sectors, generate and use evidence to inform practice, policy, advocacy, and program development, with the objectives to challenge inequalities and bring about social change.

The event also explored how evidence, policy and practice 'talk' to each other and the different ways that sociologists in applied settings navigate bringing practice to bear on research and evidence to bear on practice.

A panel of presentations by national and international speakers was followed by a facilitated round table discussion at which all participants could share their experiences and learn from each other.

This e-resource is a brief summary of the discussions that took place during the event. A graphic recording specialist was used to document key messages.

Organisers: Dr Catherine Hastings (Macquarie University), Dr Sophie Hickey (independent scholar), Sienna Aguilar (Australian Women's Health Alliance and independent consultant), and Dr Sonia Martin (Australian Catholic University).

Funding: This event was in-part funded by The Australian Sociological Association to converge alongside the International Sociological Association's World Congress held in Melbourne/Naarm 25 June to 1 July 2023.

About The Australian Sociological Association (TASA)

TASA aims to:

- Further sociology in Australia
- Provide a network for sociologists in Australia
- Further links with other sociological associations
- Address issues of relevance to Australian sociologists.

TASA began its life in 1963 as the Sociological Association of Australia and New Zealand (SAANZ) and incorporated in 1968. In 1988 the association changed its name to TASA. TASA [members](#) include sociologists and social scientists consisting of academics, postgraduate and undergraduate students, public servants, consultants and social researchers.

TASA holds annual conferences and produces two refereed journals ([JoS](#) & [HSR](#)), a triannual newsletter, a Member Directory, a [Find a Sociologist Directory](#), a [Jobs & Scholarships Board](#) a web site and maintains a weekly [Members' Newsletter](#).

For more information, please visit the [TASA website](#) or contact admin@tasa.org.au.

About the Applied Sociology Thematic Group

The [Applied Sociology Thematic Group](#) aims to create a supportive network for applied social researchers working in non-academic positions, and to increase visibility of their research projects, activities and achievements. Applied sociologists are employed in diverse contexts, including (but not limited to): consultancy and private industry, government and non-government organisations, and other contract work. Applied sociology has a focus on practical applications of sociological knowledge with a view to providing improved outcomes for different groups of people. This research is often conducted within a multidisciplinary environment and in collaboration with different organisations, including community services, activist groups and universities. Members are involved in dynamic research projects, including policy development, community advocacy, project management, and social welfare.

The Applied Sociology Thematic Group is committed to enhancing understanding of the challenges that their members face in their everyday working environments and in negotiating their career trajectories. The Group's objectives are:

- To raise the public profile of applied sociological research within TASA, academia and the wider public
- To support sociology graduates and to develop an agenda for career opportunities outside of academia
- To provide a basis for streams on applied sociology at TASA conferences
- To organise workshops, seminars, conferences, lectures and other research activities on topics related to applied sociological research, with a sensitivity to the funding, geographic and time constraints of members' working lives
- To encourage publications that address the issues encountered by sociologists working outside academia
- To nurture relationships with other interdisciplinary groups and organisations

Speakers

Anna Adcock



Anna Adcock (she/her) is a Ngāti Mutunga woman from Aotearoa New Zealand. She has a master's degree in sociology from Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington, where she is currently a researcher and doctoral student in Te Tātai Hauora o Hine National Centre for Women's Health Research Aotearoa.

Anna does Kaupapa Māori (by Māori, for Māori) sexual/reproductive and family health research that centres the lived experiences and perspectives of Māori whānau (family collectives). The ultimate goal of this work is to inform health service transformation to better meet the needs and aspirations of Māori. Anna is passionate about health equity, data sovereignty, research ethics, and whānau. [Read more.](#)

Simone Casey



Simone Casey (she/her) is a Research Associate at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) and currently occupies the role of Senior Policy Advisor – Employment at Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS), and previously held a variety of roles in policy advocacy, research and communications in the employment services and welfare sectors.

Simone holds a PhD in employment services and is an expert on marketisation, welfare conditionality, labour market program design, unemployment and related social security topics. Her campaigns and reports are underwritten by rigorous analysis and the use of up-to-date evidence and arguments. She has designed and contributed to many academic and normative research projects involving quantitative and qualitative research methods, where the publication outputs have been both scholarly and/or policy focused. Simone contributes lived experiences to the role of Senior Advisor and is passionate about amplifying citizen perspectives in policy development. [Read more.](#)

Jan Marie Fritz



Jan Marie Fritz, Ph.D., Certified Clinical Sociologist (C.C.S), is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Sociological Association (ISA), the lead ISA representative to the United Nations, and a member of the Steering Committee of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council.

She is also a member of the Mayor of Cincinnati's Gender Equality Task Force, editor of Springer's Clinical Sociology book series, and co-editor of the Clinical Sociology Review. [Read more.](#)

Catherine Robinson



Catherine Robinson (she/her) is Associate Professor in Housing and Communities, School of Social Sciences, University of Tasmania, and a committed public intellectual and community leader in the areas of homelessness, mental ill-health and child and youth well-being.

Catherine is a board member of Homelessness Australia and is also known for her work with Blackfella Films as Series Consultant and Co-Host of the multi-award winning factual documentary series Filthy Rich and Homeless. [Read more.](#)

Jane Stratton



Jane Stratton (she/her) is the CEO of the Think+DO Tank Foundation, an organisation she founded in 2013.

Jane works through the arts to elevate the voices of low-income and excluded community members to inform, and to model systems reform. She enables multi-disciplinary collaborative projects, enterprises and enquiries in low-income communities in response to the question: "What would make life here easier, better or more affordable?" [Read more.](#)

Graphic recording: Speaker presentations

By [Glenn Stephenson, Capturethis.co](#)

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Anna Adcock (she/her) Zoom
Aotearoa New Zealand

TRANSLATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH

COLONISATION DISRUPTS OUR RELATIONSHIP
LAND COSMOS ENVIRONMENT

I AM MĀORI
MY WORK IS GROUNDED IN THIS!

ENVIRONMENT We are RESILIENT! 17% popn

ISSUES have DEEP
STRUCTURAL ROOTS

ACCESS to SCREENING
Māori do not have the SAME ACCESS to CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING as NON-MĀORI

CERVICAL CANCER is PREVENTABLE

No ELIMINATION WITHOUT US!!!

The Sacred House of Humanity
'He Tapu Te Whare Tangata'

RESEARCH & Activism

PRACADEMIC

ADVOCACY + HOLDERS of POWER = POLICY CHANGE

INFLUENTIAL MEANS GENTLY, GENTLY

Policy advocates seek **VALIDITY & CREDIBILITY**

the journey is discursive

Simone Casey (she/her)

competition over interests

REFLEXIVITY CHANGES
shock reconfigure

PARENTS NEXT (2018)
- voluntary

PRACADEMIA
- identify interests
- maintain interests

CURIOSITY DISTINCTION IDEAS

THINK + DO
TANK FOUNDATION (FAIRFIELD WEST SYD)

HOW can the EXCLUDED become AUTHORS of their OWN LIVES?

Jane Stratton (she/her)

"MULTI-ARTS TOOLS"
TRANSPORT ACCESS ARTS OUTREACH CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

DEMANDS are IMMENSE

CULTURAL DEMOCRACY
LOST IN BOOKS INEQUITABLE KNOWLEDGE STRUCTURES GATHER EVIDENCE BUT... AVOID REPLICATION!

NOT JUST ENGLISH MATE!

? WHAT is NEEDED, WANTED, enquired?

1. CONCENTRATIONS - of - GREATEST EXCLUSIONS

2. SERVICE PROVISION

3. COMMUNITY VOICE

RELATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

WE COUNT A LOT! but... How to MEASURE what's MISSING?

WARM DATA

WE CAN BE the AUTHORS

Jan Marie Fritz

CLINICAL SOCIOLOGY
Analysis of situations
Providing advice or, actual interventions

SILOS are PROBLEMATIC & different GLOBALLY

UNIVERSITIES need to DEFINE their PROGRAMS & CONNECT them to the JOB MARKET!

SOMEONE has to HAVE ACCESS
TRAINING PEOPLE on ALL LEVELS

WORK ON SOMETHING TO MOVE FORWARD

MEDIATION
RIGHTS BASED, HUMANISTIC & CREATIVE PROCESS

MANDATORY RETIREMENT

Who is a member...?
Sociologists don't talk to each other!

PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

CONTRIBUTION -
We want to know what's happening globally

Catherine Robinson (she/her)

'APPLIED RESEARCHER'
theory AND practice

BOUNDARY CROSSING
Multi-faceted learning

Body

Social Suffering

Justice

MOVING between DIFFERENT forms of KNOWING

POETRY

SPEAKING vs NON-SPEAKING

REPRESENTATION - FIRST STEP

LIVED EVIDENCE HOMELESSNESS

EVIDENCE -> ADVOCACY -> IMPLEMENT

LISTENING leads HERE!

Graphic recording: Panel discussion + roundtable

By Glenn Stephenson, Capturethis.Co

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Resources

Presentation resources

- [PowerPoint presentation](#) by Anna Adcock, Te Tātai Hauora o Hine, The National Centre for Women's Health Research Aotearoa Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand

Roundtable resources

The following resources emerged from the panel discussion Q&A and facilitated roundtable, which illustrate examples of how evidence, policy and practice may 'talk' to each other.

- [Applied Sociology Thematic Group](#)

The roundtable included discussions on the lack of a cohesive identity as sociologists, including across government, advocacy, and inter-disciplines. This highlighted the importance of connecting and networking. The Applied Sociology Thematic Group aims to create a supportive network for applied social researchers working in non-academic positions, and to increase visibility of their research projects, activities and achievements. [TASA members](#) may join multiple thematic groups.

To join the Applied Sociology Thematic Group, log into the TASA website, go to your member profile >> More Member Options >> Thematic Groups/Additional Members then search and add the "Applied Sociology" Group.

- [Australian Women's Health Alliance](#)

The Australian Women's Health Alliance is the national voice on women's health and aim to achieve gender equity in health for all women. They do this by highlighting how gender shapes experiences of health and health care, recognising that women's health is determined by social, cultural, environmental and political factors; drawing attention to the issues, often far reaching, that impact women's health; and as a national health peak body, by working closely with members, partners and government to effect change.

Representatives are from across Australia in all States and Territories with a [membership](#) base which includes organisations and individuals.

- [British Sociological Association Applied Sociology Group](#)

The BSA Applied Sociology Group represents and supports sociologists who are fully or partly situated outside of academic institutions. They are a reminder that not all sociologists work in university settings, and that sociologists do a multitude of jobs, or may be self-employed or non-employed.

This website contains details of current projects, such as the development of UK applied sociology, including a model curriculum, offered free to all UK universities, to adapt as part of their sociology programme.

- **Clinical Sociology: Research and Practice**, Series edited by Jan Marie Fritz, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, USA, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa

The series explores key research and practice in this rapidly expanding field. Topics include ethical and legal aspects of intervention; the nature of client relationships; methods of intervention and evaluation; and the role of clinical sociology in specific settings. This open-

ended series appeals to practitioners; policymakers; as well as students and professors in sociology, social work, community psychology, public health, health education, social policy and counselling.

- [Community Intervention: Clinical Sociology Perspectives \(Second Edition\)](#)
- [International Clinical Sociology \(Second Edition\)](#)

- [**Clinical Sociology Review**](#)

The University of Johannesburg Press has recently published issue 1 for 2023. The issue is available at <https://journals.uj.ac.za/index.php/csr/issue/view/226/106>. It contains an article about certification for sociological practitioners. [Read more](#) for publication opportunities.

- [**International Sociological Association's research division on Clinical Sociology \(RC46\)**](#)

RC46 welcomes the participation of clinical and applied sociologists in its conferences. The division offers awards for Lifetime Achievement, Early Career, Distinguished Scholarly Book, Outstanding Scholarship (chapters or articles) and Distinguished Service. [ISA members](#) can join the division at any time by signing into your account and then clicking on the RC membership tab in the upper right-hand corner.

- [**Lost In Books**](#) by Think+DO Tank Foundation

LOST IN BOOKS is a multilingual kids' book shop and was established in 2017 by Think+DO Tank Foundation to:

1. maintain and transmit mother language(s)
2. enable curiosity about other language worlds
3. share and produce stories that reflect the full polyglot diversity of Australian society
4. celebrate Australian multilingualism, and
5. enable multilingual literacies of children and youth so that they can be fully-fledged citizens and participants in both English and their mother tongue.

- [**Professional and Community Engagement program \(PACE\) - Work Integrated Learning, Macquarie University**](#)

The Q&A included a discussion around the need for universities to connect sociology programs more strongly with the job market and professional pathways and highlight the value of sociology in society. One program mentioned was the Professional and Community Engagement program (PACE) - Work Integrated Learning at Macquarie University. All Macquarie Bachelor degrees include at least one PACT unit to engages students in a practical learning activity where they explore key economic, social and ethical challenges, and learn about how contemporary organisations address them.

- [**Social Action and Research Centre of Anglicare Tasmania**](#)

The Social Action and Research Centre (SARC) aims to gather insights, identify possible solutions and share findings with decision makers, in an effort to ensure every Tasmanian has a safe place to live, can afford the everyday essentials, and has access to improved systems and services.

“SARC is an excellent example of a unit producing what I describe as ‘research-led advocacy’ across a range of critical topics focused on social justice for people experiencing personal, systemic and structural vulnerability.” – Dr Catherine Robinson, guest speaker

- **[The Australian Sociological Association \(TASA\)](#)**

TASA is a vibrant and dynamic association and membership provides many practical benefits, including the Journal of Sociology, online access to Sage sociology journals, Health Sociology Review and other Taylor & Francis journals, Conference discounts, eligibility for prestigious awards, and access to self-promote in the Members’ Newsletter, TASA Blog & Nexus as well as access to the members-only section of TASAweb. TASA encourages student membership, with discounted rates, and is particularly attuned to the interests of postgraduate members by advertising scholarship and early career positions. TASA membership provides an avenue to network with sociologists and keep in touch with sociological developments in Australia and across the globe.

TASA [membership](#) is open to anyone, globally, with an interest in sociology.

- **[Think+DO Tank Foundation](#)**

Think+DO Tank Foundation exists to increase the level of community self-direction over their everyday circumstances in low-income parts of South Western and Western Sydney.

Think+DO Tank Foundation (TDTF) collaborates with low-income and marginalised communities in NSW, with a focus on culturally and linguistically diverse women and children. Together we develop a shared methodology, designing projects that have a demonstrated impact within our communities.

- **[Unaccompanied Homeless Children in Tasmania](#)**

The body of work that Dr Catherine Robinson was reflecting on in her presentation: <https://www.anglicare-tas.org.au/unaccompanied-homeless-children-in-tasmania/>

- **[The Women's Health Hub](#)** by Australian Women’s Health Alliance

The Women’s Health Hub is a national resource for people dedicated to improving women’s health outcomes – whether in policy, research, health care or across the broader health ecosystem. Resources will support health advocates, practitioners, policymakers, Governments, funders, and others to embed a gender equity lens throughout prevention work across Australia.

[Suggest a resource](#) or find out how to [get involved](#). [Collaborating](#) with those who care about gender and health equity throughout the project will help the Alliance explore, develop online resources about, and share knowledge on effective prevention:

AustralianWomensHealth.org/collaborate/

Last reviewed: 26 November 2023