

Arts & Social Sciences  
Social Policy Research Centre



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# Australian Social Policy Conference 25–27 September 2017



#ASPC17

**SPRC**  
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# Program overview

# #ASPC17

## MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

8.30am	Conference registration	Foyer
9.30am	OFFICIAL OPENING	Leighton Hall
9.45am	OPENING PLENARY: Professor Greg Marston	Leighton Hall
11.00am	Morning Tea	Foyer
11.30am	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	See detailed program p1
1.10pm	Lunch	Foyer
2.10pm	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	See detailed program p3
3.10pm	Afternoon Tea	Foyer
3.40pm	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	See detailed program p4
5.00pm	DRINKS RECEPTION	Foyer

## TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

8.30am	Conference registration (new delegates)	Foyer
9.00am	PLENARY: Associate Professor Bingqin Li	Leighton Hall
10.15am	Morning Tea	Foyer
10.45am	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	See detailed program p6
12.25pm	Lunch	Foyer
1.25pm	PLENARY: Professor Lane Kenworthy	Leighton Hall
2.40pm	Afternoon Tea	Foyer
3.10pm	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	See detailed program p8
5.00pm	CHINESE SOCIAL POLICY RECEPTION	John Goodsell Building
6.00pm	CHINESE SOCIAL POLICY DEBATE	John Goodsell Building

## WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

8.30am	Conference registration (new delegates)	Foyer
9.00am	PLENARY: Professor Jill Manthorpe	Leighton Hall
10.15am	Morning Tea	Foyer
10.45am	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	See detailed program p10
12.25pm	Lunch	Foyer
1.25pm	PLENARY: Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald	Leighton Hall
2.25pm	Afternoon Tea	Foyer
2.55pm	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	See detailed program p12

8.30am–9.30am Foyer	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
9.30am–9.45am Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<b>OFFICIAL OPENING</b> <b>Welcome to Country</b> Aunty Maxine Ryan, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council <b>Welcome to the Australian Social Policy Conference</b> Professor Ian Jacobs, President and Vice-Chancellor, UNSW Sydney
9.45am–11.00am Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<b>OPENING PLENARY</b> <b>Sponsored by:</b> <i>Australian Government Department of Social Services</i> <b>Get a life: critical reflections on ‘post-work’ politics and policies</b> Speaker: Professor Greg Marston, The University of Queensland Chair: Professor Carla Treloar, Social Policy Research Centre
11.00am–11.30am Foyer	<b>MORNING TEA</b>
11.30am–1.10pm	<b>CONTRIBUTED PAPERS</b>
Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<b>CHILD OUTCOMES/CONDITIONALITY AND REOFFENDERS</b> Chair: <i>Erin Whittle</i> Does infant exposure to disadvantage carry a legacy for child development? A replication analysis in two Australian cohort studies <i>Delyse Hutchinson, Centre for Social and Early Emotional Development, Deakin University</i> Young carers: the influence of informal caring on NAPLAN outcomes <i>Diana Warren, Australian Institute of Family Studies</i> Improving long-term outcomes for disadvantaged Australian children <i>Catherine O’Byrne, The Smith Family</i> The compounding effect of health, disability and financial disadvantage on educational outcomes for children <i>Rebecca Reeve, The Smith Family</i> Does non conditional support help offenders to avoid reoffending? <i>Elaine Batty, CRESR Sheffield Hallam University</i>
Tyree Room (first floor)	<b>WELFARE SYSTEMS</b> Chair: <i>Liz Adamson</i> Labour income, social transfers and child poverty across nations <i>Bruce Bradbury, Social Policy Research Centre</i> Left behind? Inequality and inclusive growth: assessing the Australian experience <i>Peter Whiteford, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University</i> Social policy inquiries in Australia: a review of reviews <i>Sue Regan &amp; David Stanton, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University</i> Building the path forward: strategies used by migrant household to exit constructed precarity in Ireland <i>Pablo Rojas Coppari, National University of Ireland Maynooth</i> Political unsustainability of the Korean welfare state: an institutionalist view <i>Jae-jin Yang, Yonsei University</i>
Gallery 1 (ground floor)	<b>RECOGNISING AND SUPPORTING UNPAID CARE BY PARENTS AND CARERS</b> Chair: <i>Sallie-Anne Moad</i> Carer supportive practices and the disclosure of an employee’s non-work care role <i>Hugh Bainbridge, School of Management, UNSW Sydney</i> Former carers: forgotten carers <i>Timothy Broady, Carers NSW</i> The role of informal wage negotiations in explaining the gender wage gap <i>Matthew Gray &amp; Sriram Shankar, ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods</i> Social Investment Paradigm and immigrant families in Italy <i>Manuela Naldini, University of Turin</i> The fiscal and distributional impacts of Parental Leave Pay reform <i>Matthew Taylor, ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods</i>



11.30am–1.10pm	<b>CONTRIBUTED PAPERS (CONT.)</b>
Gallery 2 (ground floor)	<p><b>CHINESE SOCIAL POLICY WORKSHOP OPENING SESSION</b> Chair: <i>Bingqin Li</i></p> <p><b>Opening of the Chinese Social Policy Workshop</b> Tong Xuejun, Deputy Consul-General of the People's Republic of China in Sydney and Laurie Pearcey, Pro Vice Chancellor International, UNSW Sydney</p> <p>Four stages of China's social policy transitions: a functional perspective <i>Chunguang Wang, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences</i></p> <p>To go or not to go? Experiences of migration, social capital and the education of rural-origin children in China <i>Qiaobing Wu, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University</i></p> <p>Allocation of public goods and housing investment behavior in urban China <i>Jing Wang, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences</i></p>
Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)	<p><b>INDIGENOUS WELLBEING</b> Chair: <i>Ciara Smyth</i></p> <p>Healthy country, healthy people <i>Brendan Ferguson &amp; Simon Faivel, Social Ventures Australia; Erika Schwarze, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; Phil Rist, Girringun Aboriginal Corporation</i></p> <p>Recognising Indigenous Australians: a Hegelian alternative <i>Loughlin Gleeson, UNSW Sydney</i></p> <p>Learning to conduct best practice Indigenous research in government funded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research and evaluation <i>Ilan Katz, BJ Newton &amp; Shona Bates, Social Policy Research Centre</i></p> <p>Views and experiences of child neglect and risk factors to child safety in an Aboriginal community <i>BJ Newton, Social Policy Research Centre</i></p> <p>First Nations participation in arts and cultural expression, and the relationship with wellbeing and other outcomes <i>Mandy Whitford, Australia Council for the Arts</i></p>
Civil Engineering Building, Room G1 (ground floor)	<p><b>CHILDREN'S PERSPECTIVES AND PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH</b> Chair: <i>Christiane Purcal</i></p> <p>The Managing Ethical Studies on Sensitive Issues (MESSI) study: similarities and differences in the assessment of risk between parents and professionals who make decisions about children participating in research <i>Bianca Hoban, Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University</i></p> <p>Children's rights in addressing social policy concerns <i>Andrew Johnson, NSW Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People</i></p> <p>Developing well-being indicators from children's standpoint on well-being: a framework for guiding policy <i>Jan Mason, Western Sydney University</i></p> <p>Developing affective practice: accessing biographical experience in policy research with young people using secondary and tertiary services <i>Jen Skattebol &amp; Cathy Thomson, Social Policy Research Centre</i></p> <p>The price of belonging: social citizenship aspirations and avenues of recognition for disadvantaged young people <i>Maja Lindegaard Moensted, The University of Melbourne</i></p>
1.10pm–2.10pm Foyer	<b>LUNCH</b>
1.10pm–1.50pm Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<p><b>LUNCHTIME VIDEO PRESENTATION</b></p> <p><b>Silent Tears: arts and activism in the disability care sector</b> Presenters: Belinda Mason &amp; Denise Beckwith, Blur Projects</p>

2.10pm–3.10pm	<b>CONTRIBUTED PAPERS</b>
Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<p><b>AUSTRALIA'S CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM</b> Chair: <i>Fiona Hilferty</i></p> <p>The application of behavioural insights to child protection <i>Elena Berrocal Capdevila, NSW Family and Community Services</i></p> <p>Towards a comprehensive model of child protection system change <i>Ilan Katz, Social Policy Research Centre; Marie Connolly, The University of Melbourne</i></p> <p>How does the child protection system intervene with pregnant women and newborns? <i>Stephanie Taplin, Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University</i></p>
Tyree Room (first floor)	<p><b>SPECIAL SESSION: HARNESSING DATA TO IMPROVE AUSTRALIAN'S WELFARE</b> Chair: <i>Bruce Bradbury</i></p> <p>Overview of Australia's welfare 2017 <i>Matthew James, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare</i></p> <p>The changing shape of housing in Australia <i>Matthew James, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare</i></p> <p>Indigenous Australians: community factors and wellbeing <i>Fadwa Al-Yaman, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare</i></p>
Gallery 1 (ground floor)	<p><b>DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE</b> Chair: <i>Valeriia Kasatkina</i></p> <p>Addressing the intersection between domestic violence and child protection through group work <i>Timothy Broady &amp; Rebecca Gray, Relationships Australia NSW</i></p> <p>Improving responses to children who experience family violence: when policy reform meets practice reality <i>Tanya Corrie, Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand</i></p> <p>Perpetrators of gendered violence: responding, intervening, understanding <i>kylie valentine, Social Policy Research Centre</i></p>
Gallery 2 (ground floor)	<p><b>HOUSING AND POVERTY IN CHINA</b> Chair: <i>Jie Wang</i></p> <p>Subjective social status, friendship diversity and charitable behaviors in Hong Kong <i>Ying Ou, The University of Hong Kong</i></p> <p>Mental disability and household poverty dynamics: what happened during China's rapid social development? <i>Yuehui Yu, The University of Hong Kong</i></p> <p>Affordable housing provision in urban China: a solution for whom? <i>Lei Yu, The University of Melbourne</i></p>
Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)	<p><b>UNDERSTANDING PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS IN HUMAN SERVICES BUREAUCRACIES</b> Chair: <i>Marie Delaney</i></p> <p>The impacts of marketisation on NGO manager's professional relationships <i>Harriet Westcott, Institute of Criminology, The University of Sydney</i></p> <p>Street-level bureaucracy in the information society: the negative effects of information technology on frontline welfare official–recipient relationship <i>Suyoung Kim, Keimyung University</i></p> <p>Zakat and the cultural practice of Sifarish: the role of social intermediaries in social assistance in Pakistan <i>Aniqa Farwa, The University of Queensland</i></p>
Civil Engineering Building, Room G1 (ground floor)	<p><b>SPECIAL SESSION: CRIMINALISATION OR SOCIAL POLICY?</b> Chair: <i>Carla Treloar</i></p> <p>Criminalisation of young people with disability <i>Eileen Baldry &amp; Sophie Russell, UNSW Sydney</i></p> <p>Criminalisation, young people and the minimum age of criminal responsibility <i>Chris Cunneen, UNSW Sydney</i></p> <p>Understanding the lived experience of criminalisation: young people with complex support needs and youth justice <i>Leanne Dowse, UNSW Sydney</i></p>
3.10pm–3.40pm Foyer	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>



3.40pm–5.00pm	<b>CONTRIBUTED PAPERS</b>
Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<p><b>SPECIAL SESSION: CHILD CARE FLEXIBILITY AT A CROSSROADS</b>  <b>Chair: Manuela Nalidini</b></p> <p>Innovative models in family day care  <i>Megan Blaxland &amp; Liz Adamson, Social Policy Research Centre</i></p> <p>Families' experiences of childcare flexibility/inflexibility in a 24/7 economy  <i>Michelle Brady, The University of QLD</i></p> <p>Flexible child care strategies in a child care non-system  <i>Rhonda Breitzkreuz, Department of Human Ecology, University of Alberta</i></p> <p>Childcare flexibility through subsidised care in the family home: perspectives of families, carers and stakeholders  <i>Jenny Povey &amp; Michelle Brady, The University of QLD</i></p>
Tyree Room (first floor)	<p><b>SPECIAL SESSION: LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL NETWORKS AND WELLBEING</b>  <b>Chair: Gaby Ramia</b></p> <p>Beyond 'who you know': a qualitative analysis of social networks and job search in Australia  <i>Gaby Ramia, The University of Sydney</i></p> <p>The role of personal networks in helping Australians find jobs  <i>Roger Patulny, University of Wollongong</i></p> <p>It's not just the size of your network that counts, it's if and how you use it  <i>Michelle Peterie, The University of Sydney</i></p>
Gallery 1 (ground floor)	<p><b>SPECIAL SESSION: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF RESEARCH-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS</b>  <b>Chair: Jane Flanagan</b></p> <p>Roundtable of active community researchers, community members and academics  <i>Scott Avery, First People's Disability Network Australia; Frances Quan Farrant, People with Disability Australia; Carla Treloar, Social Policy Research Centre; Ayah Wehbe, Social Policy Research Centre</i></p>
Gallery 2 (ground floor)	<p><b>CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN CHINA</b>  <b>Chair: Zimin Tan</b></p> <p>What policy support do families need for 0-3 childcare? An empirical study in Beijing and its policy implications  <i>Yupei Chen, Peking University</i></p> <p>Analysis of a child protection case in China's new legal context  <i>Xiaoyuan Shang, Social Policy Research Centre</i></p> <p>The social construction of child abuse in the Chinese society  <i>Tian Tian, University of York</i></p> <p>Parents' justice evaluation of commercial extracurricular tutoring in China  <i>Jie Wang, Social Policy Research Centre</i></p>
Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)	<p><b>CHILDREN'S PERSPECTIVES ON SAFETY</b>  <b>Chair: Yuvisthi Naidoo</b></p> <p>Our safety counts: children and young people's perceptions of safety and institutional responses to their safety concerns  <i>Morag McArthur, Australian Catholic University</i></p> <p>What is important to children and young people with disability about safety in institutional settings?  <i>Sally Robinson, Southern Cross University</i></p> <p>Improving safety in residential care: recommendations from young people  <i>Steven Roche, Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University</i></p>

3.40pm–5.00pm	<b>CONTRIBUTED PAPERS (CONT.)</b>
Civil Engineering Building, Room G1 (ground floor)	<p><b>CARING FOR AN AGEING AUSTRALIA</b> Chair: <i>Sara Graham</i></p> <p>Aged care reform at high speed: what time for reflection? <i>Victoria Cornell, The University of Adelaide</i></p> <p>Elder abuse law reform in Australia <i>Julie MacKenzie, Australian Law Reform Commission</i></p> <p>The rise of the for-profit nursing home sector in Australia: what happens when business opportunity meets political inattention? <i>Gabrielle Meagher, Macquarie University</i></p> <p>At what cost? Blueprint for fair and sustainable care in society <i>Cathy Thomson, Social Policy Research Centre</i></p>
5.00pm–6.30pm Foyer	<p><b>DRINKS RECEPTION</b> Sponsored by: <i>ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods and the Australian Data Archive</i></p>

## Venue and location

- The 891 UNSW Express Bus runs to and from Eddy Avenue, Central Station. This route is prepay only. Drop-off and pick-up at UNSW is from outside Gate 8 on High Street.
- Other key bus services to UNSW include the M10 (Leichhardt to Maroubra Junction), M50 (Drummoyne to Coogee), 370 (Leichhardt to Coogee) and 400 (Burwood to Bondi Junction).
- All day paid parking is generally available on the top floors of the Botany Street (via Gate 11) and Barker Street (via Gate 14) parking stations.



8.30am–9.00am Foyer	<b>CONFERENCE REGISTRATION (NEW DELEGATES)</b>
9.00am–10.15am Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<b>PLENARY</b> <b>Inequality and social policies in China</b> Speaker: Associated Professor Bingqin Li, Social Policy Research Centre Chair: Professor Karen Fisher, Social Policy Research Centre
10.15am–10.45am Foyer	<b>MORNING TEA</b> <b>Presentation of the Australian Journal of Social Issues Peter Saunders Prize</b>
10.45am–12.25pm	<b>CONTRIBUTED PAPERS</b>
Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<b>DATA AND RESEARCH / YOUTH OUTCOMES</b> Chair: <i>Megan Blaxland</i>  Is data really the new oil? Transforming data to improve community outcomes <i>Tim Reddel, Department of Social Services</i>  The problem with RCT's: why we need to know more than 'what works' and how ethnography can help <i>Sarah Ball, Institute for Social Science Research, The University of Queensland</i>  Replication and reproducibility in social research: lessons, limits, and a way forward <i>Steven McEachern, Australian National University</i>  The effect of family financial incentives on youth development <i>Anna Zhu, The University of Melbourne</i>  Experiences of young people living in community housing who receive an educational scholarship <i>Bruce Woodhouse, St George Community Housing; BJ Newton, Jen Skattebol &amp; Megan Bedford, Social Policy Research Centre</i>
Tyree Room (first floor)	<b>SPECIAL SESSION: IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING OF THE MODERN POST-SEPARATION FAMILY</b> Chair: <i>Sara Sinclair</i>  Using HILDA and LSAC to assess the well-being of separated families: methodological issues <i>Sarah Sinclair, RMIT University</i>  Data issues when determining single parent income, child support compliance and caregiving <i>Kay Cook, Swinburne University</i>  Data issues in comparative studies on child support policies <i>Mia Hakovirta, Turku University</i>  The impacts on separated families of major child support reform in Australia: evidence from a quasi-natural experiment <i>Bruce Smyth, Australian National University</i>  Improving understanding of the modern post-separation family: implications for data collection and analysis <i>Amanda Cooklin, La Trobe University</i>
Gallery 1 (ground floor)	<b>PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE IN SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY: SERVICE PROVIDER PERSPECTIVES</b> Chair: <i>Bronwyn Newman</i>  Addressing education, training and employment supports for people with cognitive disability in prison <i>Leanne Dowse &amp; Simon Rowe, UNSW Sydney</i>  Working relationships between people with intellectual disability and support workers: what role does policy play? <i>Karen Fisher, Social Policy Research Centre; Sally Robinson, Southern Cross University</i>  Doing 'whatever it takes': findings from a research project on creating access for women with disabilities to services and supports after experiencing violence <i>Patsie Frawley, Deakin University</i>  Co-locating disability support workers in community legal centres: the findings of a 2-year action research project <i>Piers Gooding, The University of Melbourne</i>  Barriers to accessing generic health and social care services: a qualitative study of staff supporting clients with complex support needs in Australia <i>Xue Li, Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry (3DN), UNSW Sydney</i>

10.45am–12.25pm	<b>CONTRIBUTED PAPERS (CONT.)</b>
Gallery 2 (ground floor)	<p><b>MIGRATION AND URBANISATION IN CHINA</b> Chair: <i>Cliff Chen</i></p> <p>Hukou, self-identity and mental health of Chinese rural-to-urban migrant workers <i>Yu-Jun Liu, The University of Hong Kong</i></p> <p>Permanent skilled migrants from China: forms of personal income and employment outcomes <i>Jessica Noack, Australian Bureau of Statistics</i></p> <p>Forming China's rural land system: land, welfare, and Party legitimacy <i>Wuna Reilly, The University of Sydney</i></p> <p>Damming China's rivers to expand its cities: the social consequences of rural-urban resettlement in China's hydropower projects <i>Brooke Wilmsen, La Trobe University</i></p> <p>Institutional legacy, citizenship and the changing settlement intentions of migrants in China <i>Sisi Yang, Macquarie University</i></p>
Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)	<p><b>INDIGENOUS RESEARCH AND GOVERNANCE</b> Chair: <i>Ilan Katz</i></p> <p>More than just failures of policy and imagination? Enabling new governance approaches in remote Indigenous Australia <i>Prudence R Brown, The University of Queensland</i></p> <p>'Moving from transactional government to enablement': the era New Public Management and its effects on urban Aboriginal organisations <i>Deirdre Howard-Wagner, Australian National University</i></p> <p>Comparative wellbeing of the New Zealand Māori and Indigenous Australians since 2000 <i>Boyd Hunter &amp; Matthew Gray, Australian National University</i></p> <p>'I'm sorry, but I can't take a photo of someone's capacity being built': the need for better evaluation in Indigenous policy <i>Ruth McCausland, UNSW Sydney</i></p> <p>Engaging community in research: the UNSW Community Reference Panel <i>Melinda Walker, Kim Beadman &amp; Stephen Griffin, Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW Sydney</i></p>
Civil Engineering Building, Room G1 (ground floor)	<p><b>HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING DISADVANTAGE</b> Chair: <i>Hazel Blunden</i></p> <p>Homelessness and mental illness among young people <i>Ashleigh Bullock, Mission Australia</i></p> <p>Reconnecting through evaluation <i>Joann Fildes &amp; Jacqueline Plummer, Mission Australia</i></p> <p>'Administrative evil': gentrification and the displacement process of public housing tenants in Millers Point and the Sirius Building <i>Alan Morris, UTS</i></p> <p>Conceptualising homeless women: history and policy <i>Anne O'Brien, School of Humanities and Languages, UNSW Sydney</i></p> <p>Reporting on reforms to the NSW Specialist Homelessness Services Program <i>kylie valentine, Social Policy Research Centre</i></p>
12.25pm–1.25pm Foyer	<b>LUNCH</b>
12.30pm–1.25pm Gallery 1 (ground floor)	<b>AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL POLICY ASSOCIATION (ASPA) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>
1.25pm–2.40pm Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<p><b>PLENARY</b></p> <p><b>Social democratic capitalism</b> Speaker: Professor Lane Kenworthy, University of California Chair: Professor Peter Saunders, Social Policy Research Centre</p>
2.40pm–3.10pm Foyer	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>



3.10pm–4.30pm	<b>CONTRIBUTED PAPERS</b>
Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<p><b>SPECIAL SESSION: PARENTS WHO HATE THEIR FORMER PARTNERS</b>  <b>Chair: Bruce Smyth</b></p> <p>When love turns to hate after divorce: implications for policy  <i>Bruce Smyth, Australian National University</i></p> <p>Responding to divorce-related interparental hatred: options and limitations  <i>Lawrie Moloney, La Trobe University</i></p> <p>Working with entrenched hatred: recent insights and strategies from the USA  <i>Steven Demby, Private Practice (New York)</i></p> <p>Entrenched conflict between separated parents: practice and policy implications of extreme emotions  <i>Timothy Broady &amp; Rebecca Gray, Relationships Australia NSW</i></p>
Tyree Room (first floor)	<p><b>MEASURING POVERTY</b>  <b>Chair: Liz Adamson</b></p> <p>Expenditure of low economic resource households  <i>Dean Adams, Australian Bureau of Statistics</i></p> <p>Empowerment and social capital: a longitudinal analysis  <i>Tom McClean, Uniting</i></p> <p>New budget standards for low-paid and unemployed Australians  <i>Peter Saunders &amp; Megan Bedford, Social Policy Research Centre</i></p> <p>Poverty and deprivation in Australia: towards better measures and improved understanding  <i>Peter Saunders &amp; Yuvisthi Naidoo, Social Policy Research Centre</i></p> <p>A child-centred approach to measuring child poverty: initial findings of a NSW study  <i>Peter Saunders, Megan Bedford &amp; Yuvisthi Naidoo, Social Policy Research Centre</i></p>
Gallery 1 (ground floor)	<p><b>SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS</b>  <b>Chair: Karen Fisher</b></p> <p>Transition support for young people with complex support needs in Australian social policy  <i>Nirosha Boaden, UNSW Sydney</i></p> <p>Problematising ‘personalisation’ in mental health care policy: a cross-cultural WPR analysis in Hong Kong and Sydney  <i>Jialiang Cui, Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW Sydney</i></p> <p>From ‘at risk’ to ‘a risk’: the costs of unsupported transitions for disadvantaged young people with disability  <i>Ruth McCausland &amp; Rebecca Reeve, UNSW Sydney</i></p> <p>Exploring the impacts of welfare conditionality on people with mental health impairments in the UK  <i>Jennifer McNeill, University of Sheffield</i></p> <p>Barriers and enablers to accessing mental health services for people with an intellectual disability  <i>Erin Whittle, Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry (3DN), UNSW Sydney / Social Policy Research Centre</i></p>
Gallery 2 (ground floor)	<p><b>CHINESE WELFARE STATE</b>  <b>Chair: Tom Cliff</b></p> <p>Labour rights discourse and social citizenship  <i>Ivan Franceschini, Australian National University</i></p> <p>The emergence of social welfare policies in China: responsiveness to people’s basic needs or reaction to the regime legitimacy crisis?  <i>Alexander Korolev, The National University of Singapore</i></p> <p>One township, two moral economies: the role of national industrial policy in shaping local non-state welfare in China  <i>Tom Cliff, Australian National University</i></p> <p>Non-state actors, the state, and health care in China  <i>Fengshi Wu, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore</i></p>

3.10pm–4.30pm	<b>CONTRIBUTED PAPERS (CONT.)</b>
Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)	<p><b>REPORTING OF AND RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE</b>  <b>Chair:</b> <i>kylie valentine</i></p> <p>Using police data to assess the current extent of child sexual abuse in an institutional context  <i>Leah Bromfield, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse; Ilan Katz, Social Policy Research Centre</i></p> <p>Redress: a pathway to where?  <i>Caroline Carroll OAM, Alliance for Forgotten Australians</i></p> <p>The likelihood of child sexual assault cases proceeding after delays in reporting  <i>Judy Cashmore, Sydney University</i></p> <p>Do integrated responses improve the response to allegations of severe child abuse: findings from the evaluation of the Multi-agency Investigation &amp; Support Team (WA)  <i>James Herbert, Australian Centre for Child Protection, University of South Australia</i></p>
Civil Engineering Building, Room G1 (ground floor)	<p><b>WELLBEING</b>  <b>Chair:</b> <i>Carla Treloar</i></p> <p>Welfare and the social organisation of eating: tackling overweight/obesity through reducing the growth of individualised, mindless eating  <i>Michael Bittman, University of New England</i></p> <p>Sex and gender diversity in the 2016 Census  <i>Kate Bond, Australian Bureau of Statistics</i></p> <p>Including information on local drought conditions in social surveys  <i>Matthew Gray, Boyd Hunter, Ben Edwards &amp; Shuvo Bakar, Australian National University</i></p> <p>What is happiness? The heterogeneity of measures of subjective wellbeing in the context of wellbeing and educational achievement in Australia  <i>Ioana Ramia, Centre for Social Impact</i></p> <p>The arts and social cohesion: key findings from the 2016 National Arts Participation Survey  <i>Lisa Walsh, Australia Council for the Arts</i></p>
5.00pm–6.00pm John Goodsell Building, Rooms 221-223 (2nd floor)	<p><b>CHINESE SOCIAL POLICY RECEPTION</b>  <b>Sponsored by:</b> <i>Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney</i></p>
6.00pm–7.00pm John Goodsell Building, Rooms 221-223 (2nd floor)	<p><b>CHINESE SOCIAL POLICY DEBATE</b></p> <p><b>Stopping School Bullying in China: Is More Action Needed in Legislation or Education?</b>  <b>Speakers:</b> UNSW Chinese Debating Team  <b>Chairs:</b> Chunguang Wang, Social Policy Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS); Associate Professor Bingqin Li &amp; Associate Professor Xiaoyuan Shang, Social Policy Research Centre  <i>Please note: this debate will be conducted in Mandarin</i></p>



8.30am–9.00am Foyer	<b>CONFERENCE REGISTRATION (NEW DELEGATES)</b>
9.00am–10.15am Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<b>PLENARY</b> <b>Money matters: how social policy studies are linking up money with new social problems</b> Speaker: Professor Jill Manthorpe, King's College London Chair: Associate Professor Kylie Valentine, Social Policy Research Centre
10.15am–10.45am Foyer	<b>MORNING TEA</b>
10.45am–12.25pm	<b>CONTRIBUTED PAPERS</b>
Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<b>SPECIAL SESSION: REFUGEE CHILDREN</b> Chair: <i>Ciara Smyth</i>  Interviewing children in humanitarian migrant families: methods and challenges <i>John De Maio, Australian Institute of Family Studies</i>  The parenting styles of mothers and fathers and their implications for the development of refugee children <i>Ben Edwards, Australian National University</i>  An ecological approach to reporting the adjustment of refugee children and adolescents in Australia: outcomes from wave three of the Building a New Life in Australia study <i>Angela Nickerson, UNSW Sydney</i>  Settlement outcomes of humanitarian youth: combining research, policy and practice <i>Pilar Rioseco, Australian Institute of Family Studies; Nadine Liddy, Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Australia</i>  Intrusive fear for family amongst family resettled as refugees in Australia <i>Zachary Steel, UNSW Psychiatry &amp; St John of God Health Care</i>
Tyree Room (first floor)	<b>LONE PARENTS</b> Chair: <i>Peter Davidson</i>  Does child support reduce lone mother poverty in Australia? Evidence from a national cohort of lone mothers of children aged 4 to 15 years <i>Huong Dinh, Australian National University</i>  Affect and the making of place <i>Claire Gray, University of Canterbury</i>  Policy versus economic impacts: the economic position of Australian single parents post the GFC <i>Matthew Gray &amp; Ben Phillips, Australian National University</i>  The use of domestic violence police reports in applying the 'couple' or 'de facto' rule in Australia and New Zealand for the purposes of social security payment <i>Lyndal Sleep, Griffith University</i>  Welfare debate in the comments section: online user perceptions of sole mother poverty and welfare in Australia <i>Emily Wolfinger, Southern Cross University</i>
Gallery 1 (ground floor)	<b>SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION TO THE NDIS</b> Chair: <i>Cathy Thomson</i>  Transforming art workshops into spaces where agency and creativity thrive <i>Emma Gentle, The University of Sydney</i>  Learning for 'A Life of my Own' under the NDIS <i>Sallie-Anne Moad, Social Policy Research Centre</i>  People with psychosocial disability as choice-makers in the NDIS <i>Sarah Pollock, Mind Australia Limited</i>  An interpretive policy analysis of Australia's disability services reforms since ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) <i>Emily Steel, The University of Southern Queensland</i>  Accessing the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS): views and experience of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities <i>Ayah Wehbe, Social Policy Research Centre; Thushara Senaratna, Advance Diversity</i>

10.45am-12.25pm	<b>CONTRIBUTED PAPERS (CONT.)</b>
Gallery 2 (ground floor)	<p><b>CHINESE HEALTH SERVICES</b> Chair: <i>Ching Choi</i></p> <p>Hukou, social exclusion and medical care: the experience of unmarried migrant women who induced abortion in mainland China <i>Dan Huang, The Chinese University of Hong Kong</i></p> <p>The impact of new rural endowment insurance policy in China on the health level of the elderly <i>Dai Su, Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology</i></p> <p>The health behavior improvement of chronic disease patients in community <i>Yanyan Tang &amp; Juan Xu, Huazhong University of Science and Technology</i></p> <p>New performance measurement method for community practitioner in community: Social Network (SN) <i>Yanyan Tang, Huazhong University of Science and Technology</i></p>
Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)	<p><b>FORMAL AND INFORMAL OUT-OF-HOME CARE IN AUSTRALIA</b> Chair: <i>Fiona Hilferty</i></p> <p>Welfare and poverty: the lot of the child in statutory kinship care? <i>Meredith Kiraly, The University of Melbourne</i></p> <p>Signposting children's wellbeing needs in out-of-home care case planning: considering the Capabilities Approach <i>Chris Krogh, University of Newcastle; Susan Evans, Western Sydney University</i></p> <p>Profiles of carers and children in long-term-care in kContact study: improving contact between children and their birth parents <i>Aino Suomi, Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University</i></p>
Civil Engineering Building, Room G1 (ground floor)	<p><b>SPECIAL SESSION: MIGRATION PATHWAYS INTO CARE WORK IN AUSTRALIA</b> Chair: <i>Deb Brennan</i></p> <p>Migrant care workers in Australia: migration pathways and characteristics of permanent migrants in care work in Australia <i>Sara Charlesworth, RMIT; Elizabeth Hill, The University of Sydney</i></p> <p>Migrant care workers in Australia: understanding employment pathways in the child and aged care sectors <i>Elizabeth Hill, The University of Sydney; Myra Hamilton, Social Policy Research Centre</i></p> <p>Panel discussion <i>Sam Page, Early Childhood Australia; Chris F Wright, The University of Sydney; Shanon Ranjit, Health Services Union</i></p>
12.25pm-1.25pm Foyer	<b>LUNCH</b>
1.25pm-2.25pm Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<p><b>PLENARY</b></p> <p><b>Research program of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse</b> Speaker: Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse Chair: Professor Ilan Katz, Social Policy Research Centre</p>
2.25pm-2.55pm Foyer	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>
2.55pm-4.35pm	<b>CONTRIBUTED PAPERS</b>



Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<b>SPECIAL SESSION: PATHWAYS OF CARE LONGITUDINAL STUDY (POCLS)</b> Overview of the Pathways of Care longitudinal study design and progress Understanding children's contact and relationships with family in out-of-home care <i>Judy Cashmore AO, The University of Sydney</i> Aboriginal children in out-of-home care: placement differences, outcomes and pathways through care <i>Paul Delfabbro, The University of Adelaide</i> Service use of children in out-of-home care over time <i>Ilan Katz, Social Policy Research Centre</i>
Gallery 1 (ground floor)	<b>RETIREMENT INCOME AND WELLBEING IN OLDER AGE</b> Chair: <i>Myra Hamilton</i> Myths of entitlement: a history of the National Welfare Fund <i>Don Arthur, Parliamentary Library</i> The twin currencies of retirement: how people aged 50+ in NSW spend their time and money as they age <i>Meagan Lawson, Council on the Ageing NSW</i> What matters to older people? The role of economics to older people's well-being <i>Yuvisthi Naidoo, Social Policy Research Centre</i> Enhancing employment services for mature age jobseekers <i>Agathe Randrianarisoa &amp; Dina Bowman, Brotherhood of St Laurence</i> The national superannuation scheme Australia nearly had <i>Emily Millane, Australian National University</i>
Gallery 2 (ground floor)	<b>CONDITIONALITY AND UNIVERSALISM</b> Chair: <i>Trish Hill</i> Punishing welfare regimes and Basic Income <i>Hazel Blunden, Social Policy Research Centre</i> Exploring the ethical limits of welfare conditionality: the case of childhood immunisation <i>Katherine Curchin, Australian National University</i> From basic income to poor law and back again: can a UBI break the Gordian Knot between social security and waged labour? <i>Peter Davidson, Social Policy Research Centre</i> Welfare conditionality and blaming the unemployed: is there a correlation? <i>Michael McGann, School of Social and Political Sciences, The University of Melbourne</i> Navigating the privatisation and welfare conditionality: everyday frontline practices in the Australian employment services providers <i>Tran Nguyen, The University of Sydney</i>
Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)	<b>PARENTAL RELATIONSHIPS / RESPONDING TO DISADVANTAGE</b> Chair: <i>Sandra Gendera</i> Like mum and dad? The intergenerational transmission of relationship dissolution and conflict <i>Ben Edwards, ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods</i> And they lived happily ever after: qualitative exploration of children's experiences of parental relationships following separation <i>Leanne Francia, University of the Sunshine Coast</i> Is there a tension between projects of self and collective orientations? An analysis of young people's pursuit of the neo-liberal ideal in the context of family health concerns <i>Jennifer Skattebol, Social Policy Research Centre</i> Insuring in insecure times <i>Marcus Banks &amp; Dina Bowman, Brotherhood of St Laurence</i>

# Abstracts by Author

## A

### Dean Adams

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Tyree Room

#### Expenditure of low economic resource households

The economic wellbeing of households is commonly analysed in terms of household income and wealth. However, consumption expenditure often provides a better representation of living standards, and is recognised as an important third dimension in understanding available economic resources. Due in part to limited availability, consumption expenditure is not regularly featured in poverty analysis in combination with income and wealth measures.

Using the latest data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2015-16 Household Expenditure Survey, this paper will explore the spending patterns of Low Economic Resource (LER) households, which are defined as households with income and wealth levels in the bottom 40% of their respective distributions. This paper will also present an extended LER measure that incorporates low consumption expenditure (the bottom 40% of household expenditure) and examine the characteristics and costs of living for this group, and further investigate LER households who have higher levels of expenditure. Characteristics such as over-indebtedness and subjective financial stress will also be presented. By better understanding the consumption expenditure of LER households, the future analysis and collection of information about the LER population (which is more commonly available) will be enhanced. Ultimately the analysis will promote an improved understanding of Australia's most economically vulnerable people to inform future social and economic policies.

### Fadwa Al-Yaman

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Monday 2.10pm–3.10pm, Tyree Room

#### Indigenous Australians: community factors and

#### wellbeing

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not one group, but comprise hundreds of groups that have their own distinct set of languages, histories and cultural traditions.

This presentation considers a range of issues in relation to the wellbeing of Indigenous Australians, looking at national data that show two contrasting aspects of what it means to be an Indigenous Australian in 2017. The presentation examines the strong positive elements of Indigenous communities across Australia, including:

- Connectedness to Country; land and history; culture and identity
- Resilience, leadership and vitality.

It then looks at the challenges Indigenous communities across the country face in relation to Housing assistance; housing quality; overcrowding and homelessness.

The presentation concludes with a focus on major data issues and how best to fill the gap in Indigenous data and evidence.

### Don Arthur, Michael Klapdor

Parliamentary Library

Wednesday 2.55pm–4.35pm, Gallery 1

#### Myths of entitlement: a history of the National Welfare Fund

Many older Australians think of the pension as a fair return for the years they spent working and paying taxes. They see it as an entitlement earned through decades of contribution, not a 'welfare' payment. As a result, many feel that income and assets tests on the age pension are unfair.

For decades some Australians have circulated an urban myth that claims to justify this sense of entitlement. While there are a number of versions in circulation, most share the same central idea. The idea is that the Curtin and Chifley Governments created a kind of superannuation scheme where workers paid a proportion of their wages into a retirement fund (the National Welfare Fund). Contributions to the National Welfare Fund were meant to be invested and the proceeds returned to the



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contributors as non-means tested pension when they reached retirement age.

The myth claims that subsequent governments have stolen the money they collected to fund the age pension. And at the same time the Government is depriving pensioners of their entitlements, it is continuing to collect the contributions originally intended to fund them (the social services contribution).

While there was a National Welfare Fund and a social services contribution it did not amount to a contributory social insurance system. This paper explains where the mythical history goes wrong. In doing so it explains the unusual history of the Australian welfare state and explores the long term consequences of rejecting a social insurance model.

## B

### Hugh Bainbridge<sup>1</sup>, Timothy Broady<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Management, UNSW Sydney, <sup>2</sup>Carers NSW

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Gallery 1

#### Carer supportive practices and the disclosure of an employee's non-work care role

Many organisations offer human resource management (HRM) practices that are designed to assist employees with non-work care responsibilities for family members who have a disability or are elderly. However, little research has been undertaken to establish the benefits of these HRM practices, or the process by which these benefits accrue. In this study, we address these gaps via a survey of employees with non-work care responsibilities. The findings reveal that the availability of carer supportive HRM practices was associated with more positive employee: i) attitudes about support available in the workplace for combining work and care, and ii) psychological outcomes relating to the caring role (self-affirmation, outlook on life). We also examined how availability of carer supportive HRM practices affected these outcomes. Results indicate that disclosure to managers mediated the relationship between practice availability and perceived workplace support for combining work and care. Additionally, disclosure to co-workers mediated the relationship between practice availability and psychological outcomes (self-affirmation, outlook on life). These results indicate that the availability of greater numbers

of carer supportive HRM practices is beneficial because they help employees to disclose their non-work care role to managers and co-workers. This disclosure encourages practice use, enhances attitudes about workplace support for combining work and care, and improves employee psychological outcomes.

### Eileen Baldry, Sophie Russell

UNSW Sydney

Monday 2.10pm–3.10pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

#### Criminalisation of young people with disability

This paper draws together insights into key aspects of juvenile justice policy and legislative frameworks across Australian jurisdictions governing young people with complex support needs who come to the attention of police and juvenile justice. Young people under juvenile justice orders and detention generally have low educational attainment, backgrounds of economic and social disadvantage, housing instability, drug and alcohol addiction, mental and cognitive disability, experiences of trauma and abuse, and/or placements in out-of-home-care. Our work suggests that youth disability related behaviours are criminalized. Governments are driven by a variety of ideologies and stakeholders to create policy, legislation and practice that do not address the underlying issues nor the rights and needs of these young people. In this paper, we draw on a mixed methodology approach comprising a detailed literature and policy review, secondary analysis of available data, and qualitative analysis of interviews with criminal justice professionals conducted for the Comparative Youth Penalty Project to focus on key policy concerns and alternative policy directions to support rather than criminalise these young people.

### Sarah Ball, Cameron Parsell

Institute for Social Science Research, The University of Queensland

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Leighton Hall

#### The problem with RCT's: why we need to know more than 'what works' and how ethnography can help

The use of randomised controlled trials (RCTs) and other experimental methods has become increasingly popular with governments internationally in the pursuit of 'what works'.

Although finding ‘what works’ to drive policy decisions is an admirable goal, the use of RCTs is not the unproblematic, gold-standard solution it is hoped to be. The evidence generated from RCTs is generally limited beyond their original context, and policy makers’ use of evidence is often tactical rather than instrumental or even systematic. When informing social policy, RCT can be inadequate because they aren’t able to tell us why things work.

In this paper we argue that ethnographic research represents a valuable, albeit undervalued, research approach to inform social policy. Ethnographic research – through providing firsthand accounts from multiple actors in situ – provides social policy with evidence about people’s lived realities. We do not contend that ethnography provides an objective truth, nor do we advocate ethnography at the expense of other research strategies. Instead, drawing on our own ethnographic studies with the Behavioural Economics Team of the Australian Government (BETA) and various welfare and social service providers, we demonstrate how ethnography provides insights into what people do and how they draw meaning from their actions. We will show that this ‘thick description’ helps to identify many of the ‘why’ questions that social policy tries to answer. To address major social challenges, social policy needs to be informed by the messy reality of people’s lives. The perspectives ethnography generates make meaningful contributions.

## Marcus Banks, Dina Bowman

Brotherhood of St Laurence

Wednesday 2.55pm–4.35pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

### Insuring in insecure times

Responses by Australian social policy, program and practice to the poor take-up rates of insurance among low-income households assume the problem – and its resolution – centres on two issues: affordability and access. Results from recent research conducted by the Brotherhood of St Laurence questions the viability of this assumption. The study was designed to explore what households on low or uncertain incomes ‘do to make do’ from one pay period to the next. We interviewed 75 individuals living in the three Melbourne Local Government Areas experiencing the highest rates of financial

distress. We asked them about their financial attitudes, practices, priorities, hopes and fears. Secondly, 70 of these participants agreed to complete eight fortnightly surveys leading up to last Christmas detailing the income their household received in the last 14 days, any unexpected financial events and shocks they experienced, and how they felt they were coping.

We found that the risks experienced by respondents such as precarious incomes, unexpected school costs, taking an unpaid day off work to look after a sick child, deciding whether to pay a bill or to cut back on food expenses for that fortnight, etc are emblematic of the movement towards to the individualisation of risk in contemporary Australia. In this context the decision whether to take out contents or non-compulsory car insurance cover was seen as just one aspect of the complex financial, emotional, moral and political ‘risk-scape’ experienced by each household.

## Elaine Batty

CRESR Sheffield Hallam University

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Leighton Hall

### Does non conditional support help offenders to avoid reoffending?

Re-offending rates in the UK have seen little improvement over the last decade. Reforms designed to enhance the delivery of flexible, tailored and holistic support were introduced in 2013, with a clear focus on addressing ‘broader life management issues’ that can often result in reoffending. These support measures however, were introduced against a backdrop of increasingly punitive welfare conditionality and an enhanced system of benefit sanctions. This paper seeks to explore the issues and tensions faced by offenders while trying to adhere to mandatory job search and training activities whilst simultaneously attempting to avoid reoffending. It specifically highlights at the significance of non conditional support provided by NGOs in successfully addressing some of the ‘broader life management issues’ of offenders and comments on the positive impact such holistic support can have. The analysis presented in this paper utilises data generated in semi-structured repeat interviews with 60 offenders sampled as one group within a larger qualitative longitudinal panel study undertaken as part of the

Welfare Conditionality: Sanctions support and behaviour change project supported by the ESRC under grant number ES/K002163/2.

## Nicholas Biddle, Steven McEachern

Australian National University

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Leighton Hall

### Replication and reproducibility in social research: lessons, limits, and a way forward

The nature of social research in Australia is changing. There is a greater emphasis on causal inference (through the use of trials and longitudinal data), an increase in the use of administrative or big data, and a blurring of the boundaries between qualitative and quantitative research. At the same time, there have been a number of high profile cases (mostly internationally) of research that cannot be replicated. Not all of this is fraudulent, but oftentimes it is a situation of selecting positive findings from a long list of potential models or approaches. In this paper we reflect on the level of replication (independent people going out and collecting new data on the same topic) and reproducibility (independent people analyzing the same data) in social research in Australia. We look at the top cited social research papers across social research journals in Australia and consider whether the main findings either have or can be reproduced. We consider the barriers to replication and reproducibility in Australian social research, outline potential steps to increase robustness of research findings, and discuss the potential impact on good social policy development.

## Michael Bittman<sup>1</sup>, Charlotte Wilkinson-Bibicos<sup>2</sup>, Eimear Cleary<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of New England, <sup>2</sup>The University of Sydney, <sup>3</sup>Australian National University

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

### Welfare and the social organisation of eating: tackling overweight/obesity through reducing the growth of individualised, mindless eating

Since 1945, growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been the yardstick most widely used for measuring economic progress and average GDP per person the yardstick for cross-national welfare. Since GDP is essentially a measure of the market economy, this focus has led to a neglect of the non-

market economy. The non-market economy, goods and services produced without the exchange of cash, consists of subsistence farming, unpaid domestic labour, child care, shopping and services to other households and volunteering. Neglecting the 'non-market' economy, and its contribution to welfare, means overlooking the profound changes that have occurred in the organisation of eating amongst English-speaking countries. Using information from time use surveys, it can be shown that from the mid-1960s to the late 1990s, the average time devoted to eating in these countries reduced by roughly one third. This is true for the USA, Canada, the UK and Australia. Moreover, this change been accompanied by similarly dramatic reduction in home preparation of food, more individualised eating, reliance on commercial substitutes and steep increases in 'mindless eating'. By 2014-15 unhealthy weight in Australia had reached epidemic proportions, with 63.4% of those aged 18 years and over overweight or obese. The financial burden of associated diseases with overweight/obesity (type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, depression, colorectal cancer and osteoporosis, etc.) place substantial pressure on health and welfare expenditure. This paper considers the policy responses aimed at restoring the mindful organisation of eating and improving the welfare of Australians.

## Megan Blaxland, Elizabeth Adamson

Social Policy Research Centre

Monday 3.40pm–5.00pm, Leighton Hall

### Innovative models in family day care

Family day care represents an important part of the suite of ECEC services in Australia. It is the most common form of formal home-based childcare in Australia. It appeals to families and educators alike because of its home-based setting and is often touted for being more flexible than centre-based settings (Blaxland, Adamson and Cortis, 2016). These strengths of family day care are consistent with home-based settings internationally. This paper asks: how do different models for funding and regulating home-based ECEC contribute to flexible provision? Based on a documentary review of two international policy contexts, New Zealand and England, this paper identifies innovative models of home-based childcare. These models are innovative through:

1. Their approach to supporting children with disabilities
2. Integration with other types of ECEC (i.e. nanny care and centre-based services)
3. Partnerships with schools and local councils to provide outside school hours care, and
4. Short-term and emergency care for vulnerable children and families.

The paper illustrates how such innovative models can support families and educators, and offer lessons for reform for FDC in Australia at the local and national level.

## Hazel Blunden

Social Policy Research Centre

Wednesday 2.55pm–4.35pm, Gallery 2

### Punishing welfare regimes and Basic Income

The potential for the automation of work, and a related decreased demand for human labour, has seen a revival of interest in the idea of a Basic Income and a reigniting of interests in possible reconfigurations of work itself (Frase, 2016; Srnicek and Williams, 2016; Weeks, 2011). Some argue a Basic Income could be an alternative to Australia's 'punishing welfare' system, which may have little impact on the rate of employment and instead enforces poverty, and regime of surveillance and required activities. In addition, housing unaffordability and regional unemployment lead to spatial concentrations of poverty and disadvantage that cannot be addressed under the current policy approach. This paper presents an overview of current Basic Income trials, in order to set out the effects on the participants and how these trials have been received in their broader societal contexts. Ideas of what may constitute work and meaningful activity will be explored. The paper argues that the implications of these developments for Australia's work and welfare futures are significant, however policymakers are to this point unprepared to break from normative notions of work and welfare based on an economic model which, it can be argued, is eroding.

## Nirosha Boaden, Leanne Dowse, Iva Strnadova, Terry Cumming, Angela Dew

UNSW Sydney

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Gallery 1

## Transition support for young people with complex support needs in Australian social policy

There is a significant group of Australian young people with complex support needs (a combination of co-occurring cognitive disability, mental health problems, drug or alcohol misuse and social, cultural or educational disadvantage) who experience multiple and interlocking forms of disadvantage across personal, social and systemic domains. Many of these young people have been excluded from education, suffer trauma because of abuse and neglect, and experience chronic housing instability. Many times, these factors emerge in early childhood, and result in the youth transitioning within and between multiple service sectors.

This paper reports on a study which aimed to scope and map current national and state frameworks for transition support practice for young people with complex support needs. A comprehensive review of policy at the Commonwealth level and in three states (New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria) was conducted in seven core policy areas: education, Out of Home Care (OoHC), homelessness, health, mental health, disability, and juvenile justice. Documents were collected and interrogated via desk-based content and thematic analysis. Policies were analysed to explore federal/state policy alignment, the ways that "complex needs" and "transitions" are conceptualised in policy and to assess how multi-agency collaboration is understood and operationalised in these documents. The findings of this analysis will be presented.

## Kate Bond

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

### Sex and gender diversity in the 2016 Census

Every Census of Population and Housing has asked Australians whether they are male or female. However, these two binary categories do not relate well to all people, including intersex and transgender people.

The Census has started moving towards a question which enables people to provide a non-binary response. In the 2016 Census, the default question still asked whether a person was male or female. However, special procedures were available if these did not



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apply to a person. As in recent Censuses, people were able to write a different response on the paper form. In addition, a special online form was available on request with response categories of male, female and other (please specify).

A small live test was also conducted during the 2016 Census. This tested attitudes and responses among the wider Australian population to the expanded response options in the special online form.

Although the official Census concept is sex, it is a self-enumerated form. People are able to choose whether to provide a sex-based or gender-based response.

This paper will present results on non-binary sex and gender from the 2016 Census. It will include the number and characteristics of people who gave a sex or gender diverse response. It will also present results from the live test.

## Bruce Bradbury

Social Policy Research Centre

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Tyree Room

### Labour income, social transfers and child poverty across nations

Both earnings and social transfers are important determinants of the living standards of disadvantaged families with children. What is their relative role and how do they interact? This paper documents the variation in living standards of the poorest fifth of children in rich (and some middle-income) nations, with a particular focus on the relative importance of social transfers (net of taxes) and labour market incomes. Overall, the cross-national variation in the disposable income of disadvantaged children is comprised equally of variation in market and transfer income. The English-speaking countries stand out as having relatively low market incomes, but substantial variation in transfer income. Their low market incomes reflect low employment hours (including zero hours) in Australia, mainly low hours in the UK and Ireland, while in the US and Canada low hours and low pay contribute equally. Comparing incomes prior to and after the GFC, the real disposable incomes of the poorest fifth decreased substantially in Spain and in Ireland, but were relatively stable in other rich nations.

This presentation is based on a paper jointly

written with Markus Jantti and Lena Lindahl. The full paper is available at <http://www.lisdatacenter.org/wps/liswps/707.pdf>

## Michelle Brady, Kay Cook, Laura Cox

The University of Queensland

Monday 3.40pm–5.00pm, Leighton Hall

### Families' experiences of childcare flexibility/inflexibility in a 24/7 economy

In recent years we have heard many stakeholders claim that we need more flexible childcare. But what does “flexible childcare” mean? Outcomes of the recent Productivity Commission Inquiry into Childcare and Early Childhood Learning and results of the Flexible Childcare Trials suggest that families, service providers, and policymakers have different perspectives on what childcare flexibility means and how we might achieve it. While it is clear that the problem of flexibility is framed differently by each of these groups we have little systematic understanding of what each party desires. In this paper we draw on interview data from our Discover Project on Childcare Flexibility with 60 parents across four sites in Victoria and QLD to sketch out a preliminary picture of families' experiences of childcare flexibility/inflexibility in a 24/7 economy. We argue that inflexibility is not one thing but instead that there are at least four dimensions of the problem. Our findings provide important new insights into families' needs in terms of childcare flexibility.

## Rhonda Breitzkreuz, Kerryn Colen

Rhonda Breitzkreuz, Kerryn Colen

Monday 3.40pm–5.00pm, Leighton Hall

### Flexible child care strategies in a child care non-system

Over 70% of Canadian mothers with pre-school children are employed. However, there is a regulated child care space for fewer than one in five pre-school children in most Canadian provinces. Consequently, nearly two-thirds of employed mothers with pre-school children in Canada are dependent upon unregulated child care. In this study, we explore the strategic use of unregulated care that mothers employ to manage child care needs in the midst of a child care “non-system.” Using the Province of Alberta as a case study, the key aim of this paper is to problematize the notion of “child care choice,”

explicating the connections between child care policy and mothers' decision-making about using flexible, unregulated child care. We draw upon data collected through 15 focus groups with 109 mothers in six urban and rural locations across the province. The data were analyzed using the constant-comparative method, breaking down the data into discrete units and organizing them into key themes. The most common type of child care used by our participants was grandparent care followed by parent turn-taking, and friend and neighbour care. Universally, study participants expressed a desire for quality child care environments that they could trust. A key reason for using unregulated child care was that families needed flexible, affordable child care that was limited in the regulated system. We argue that in Alberta, a non-system of child care has created situations in which unregulated care arrangements are required and normative. The policy implications of our study are discussed.

## Timothy Broady, Rebecca Gray

Relationships Australia NSW

Monday 2.10pm–3.10pm, Gallery 1

### Addressing the intersection between domestic violence and child protection through group work

Domestic and family violence (DFV) and child maltreatment have been widely identified as co-occurring social issues. It has been well established that children living in an environment of DFV are at significant risk of either directly experiencing violence themselves, or being neglected due to their parents' reduced caregiving capacity. Many have argued that the presence of DFV within the family home constitutes a form of DFV itself. Services attempting to assist clients in addressing these presenting concerns need to acknowledge and respond to the overlap between issues such as DFV and child maltreatment. This presentation will discuss findings from a series of evaluations of group programs offered by Relationships Australia NSW:

1. a group for men who have used violence towards their female partners;
2. a group for women who are in, or have been in, an abusive relationship; and
3. a group for parents whose children have been removed from their care.

While each of these groups has an individual focus on either DFV or child protection, both issues are commonly experienced by clients of all three programs. Findings from program evaluations highlight the overlap between DFV and child protection, and indicate how a supportive and non-judgmental group environment can allow parents to make significant behavioural changes. This presentation will demonstrate the potential for group programs to enable parents to equip themselves to provide a safe and nurturing environment in which to raise their children.

## Timothy Broady, Rebecca Gray

Relationships Australia NSW

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Leighton Hall

### Entrenched conflict between separated parents: practice and policy implications of extreme emotions

Research has widely shown that ongoing conflict and acrimony between separated parents can have negative effects on parenting behaviour, with ramifications for children's wellbeing. Traditional understandings of this entrenched conflict have been argued by some authors to not account for the extreme emotional component of negative post-separation interactions. Smyth and Moloney in Australia, and Demby in the USA have suggested that the term "hate" more accurately reflects the experience of entrenched, high-conflict post-separation parenting. This presentation will discuss findings from a mixed-methods evaluation of a post-separation parenting course, which aims to assist clients find ways of managing conflict within the post-separation co-parenting relationship. The evaluation measured changes in clients' perceptions of their former partners' parenting competence, their self-reported psychological distress, and their feelings of hatred towards their former partners, alongside narratives of post-separation parenting experiences. Findings indicate that many separated parents report passionate feelings of hate towards their former parents, which are associated with psychological distress and perceptions of former partners' parenting competence. Over the duration of attending the course, positive changes regarding hate and distress were evident, though some clients reported difficulties in maintaining these changes long-term. This presentation will discuss these results in light of an emerging body of work

on post-separation parental hatred, along with implications for post-separation policy and clinical practice.

## Timothy Broady, Freya Saich, Tom Hinton

Carers NSW

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Gallery 1

### Former carers: forgotten carers

Evidence suggests that providing unpaid care and support to a family member or friend who has a disability, mental illness, chronic health condition, or who is frail can have long-term effects on carers, even after the caring role has ceased (whether due to care recipient death or any other reason). Despite this, there is limited recognition by services of former carers' continued needs following the cessation of their caring role. Furthermore, existing legislation does not recognise former carers, thus removing an obligation of government agencies to provide support.

Drawing on findings from a state-wide survey of current and former carers, this presentation will address the long-term health and financial impacts from caring that are unique to former carers. Findings suggest that former carers' wellbeing improves over time, however, these improvements are very gradual. These results will be considered within a broader context of understanding a 'continuum of care' for former carers, and other long-term impacts of caring reported in literature.

Based on these findings, policy changes are recommended that better recognise and support former carers. Suggestions will also be made as to how service delivery to former carers can be improved, and how their transition to a life without caring responsibilities can be facilitated.

## Leah Bromfield<sup>1</sup>, Ilan Katz<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, <sup>2</sup>Social Policy Research Centre

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

### Using police data to assess the current extent of child sexual abuse in an institutional context

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse sought information on the nature and extent of recent allegations of child sexual abuse in institutional

contexts. This paper will provide a summary of analysis of data from reports to Australian Police on recent allegations of child sexual abuse. Combining the data from different jurisdictions proved challenging as there are different definitions and reporting processes in the states and territories, and none included the category 'institution'. Thus a proxy measure had to be constructed. The administrative data study was followed up with a case file review in two jurisdictions to validate the study findings and provide further information on the nature of allegations. Results showed 3.3–6.6% of all reports of child sexual abuse made to police within the previous five years occurred within an institutional context. The most common age of victims was 10–14 years. Females were more likely to be sexually abused than males. However, for males who were abused, a higher proportion of cases were in an institutional location compared to other locations than for females. The majority of alleged incidents were perpetrated by other children and young people. Case file review findings validated the indicators developed in the administrative data study and shed more light on allegations against other minors. The pattern in time to disclosure was distinctly different from existing research. One of the primary implications of the need for responses to children with sexually harmful behaviours.

## Prudence R Brown

The University of Queensland

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

### More than just failures of policy and imagination? Enabling new governance approaches in remote Indigenous Australia

Repeated failed attempts by Australian governments to introduce new governance approaches, particularly in remote Indigenous Australia, have led to incremental policy shifts. However, evaluations have concluded that more effort also needs to be made to improve the capacity of public servants to work in the new ways asked of them.

In this presentation I suggest that new approaches are not implemented on a blank canvas, but are imposed on well established, but not so well understood, policy worlds. Understanding the complexities of the existing policy world provides important insights into the ongoing resistance to attempts to introduce new traditions. This in turn provides insights

into the capacities needed in policy actors asked to implement them.

I use Glynos and Howarth's 'Logics of Critical Explanation' approach to analyze a recent national trial in remote Indigenous Australia aimed, in part, at new approaches to development efforts. I characterise the remote Indigenous 'policy world' using three explanatory 'logics' which focus on the ontological assumptions, norms and narratives that sustain the policy practices complicit in failure to introduce more participatory approaches. In so doing I identify the logics which are used to neutralise challenges to the existing policy world, and which assist in the maintenance of 'the way we do things around here'. I suggest that identifying the ways that the policy regime effectively authorises resistance to change is critical in creating new bureaucratic norms conducive to new ways of working in remote Indigenous Australia.

## Ashleigh Bullock, Dini Liyanarachchi

Mission Australia

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

### Homelessness and mental illness among young people

Young people aged between 12-24 years old make up at least 25% of the homeless population. However many young people experiencing homelessness are not captured in the data due to the high number that 'couch surf', run away from home, or stay with friends.

The link between homelessness and mental health among young people appears to be bi-directional, where those with mental illness are at increased risk of homelessness and those who are homeless are at increased risk of mental illness. There is a similarity in the risk factors that expose a young person to both homelessness and mental illness, including conflict with parents, socio-economic status, family structure and carer or parental unemployment. This presentation discusses the results from the 2015 Mission Australia Youth Survey and aims to quantify the proportions of young people who are spending time away from home and are also at risk of mental illness, as well as looking at issues of family conflict and families' ability to get along.

The results suggest that the two factors are closely related, with significantly greater proportions of young people who spend

time away from home also having a probable serious mental illness. Interestingly, the risk of mental illness and spending time away from home is significantly related to perception of family functioning within the home.

The results of the current study are important as spending time away from home in youth is predictive of later homelessness. This study has policy implications for both mental health and homelessness interventions.



## Elena Berrocal Capdevila

NSW Family and Community Services

Monday 2.10pm–3.10pm, Leighton Hall

### The application of behavioural insights to child protection

The field of behavioural insights has been taken up around the world and across a wide range of sectors and policy areas. It combines insights from economics, psychology, and social anthropology to build a more accurate picture of how people form intentions, make decisions, and move to action.

Since 2015, the NSW Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) has applied behavioural insights in the development of policy, especially in the field of child protection.

This paper describes the results and processes of the work FACS has done applying behavioural insights to child protection, mainly about encouraging mandatory reporters to respond to children and young people at risk before crises escalate.

In particular, it describes the process, results and challenges of:

- A randomised control trial testing whether provision of behavioural insights messages and targeted written feedback/letters to mandatory reporters whose reports are assessed as "non-Risk of Serious Harm (ROSH) Contact Only Close", encourages them to make fewer non-ROSH reports and take greater action in preventing risk concerns from escalating further.
- Capacity building, targeted interventions for mandatory reporters at a local level (Sydney and Batemans Bay Community Service Centres catchment areas).



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- Rapid prototype of 'Report acknowledgment and triage status' feedback letter for mandatory reporters, from a human-design perspective.
- Development of key, Behavioural Insights 'on hold' messages at the Child Protection Helpline targeted for each major mandatory reporter group.

## Caroline Carroll OAM

Alliance for Forgotten Australians

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

### Redress: a pathway to where?

The Australian Government recently announced funding for a redress scheme for survivors of institutional child sex abuse; providing payments, psychological counselling and personal responses from institutions. This is the government's response to the findings of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse.

A number of states and territories and past providers of 'care' have previously offered various forms of redress, including financial compensation and apologies.

The Letters Patent of the Royal Commission are specifically for those who suffered sexual abuse while in institutional care. Other forms of abuse – physical and psychological, are not covered. The Australian Government's redress scheme, as it stands without states, territories and past providers of 'care' opting in to the scheme, is limited to those who suffered sexual abuse only in institutions which were the responsibility of the Commonwealth.

These narrow parameters are causing alarm among those survivors who may not have suffered sexual abuse. They ask: how can the scars from emotional abuse, neglect, physical brutality, separation from family and poor educational opportunities resulting from institutional 'care' be less worthy of public recognition than those who suffered sexual abuse within the same institution?

This paper presents the case for an inclusive redress scheme for all who have suffered institutional-out-of-home 'care'. It will note that redress schemes for this population have been implemented in other countries; and proposes considerations for the implementation of such a scheme in Australia from survivors' perspectives.

## Judy Cashmore

The University of Sydney

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

### The likelihood of child sexual assault cases proceeding after delays in reporting

Delays in disclosing and reporting child sexual abuse to the police are common, particularly among males and those who have been abused by clergy and others in a position of trust. This study examined the patterns of timely and delayed reporting of sexual offences against children, and the likelihood of legal action commencing. De-identified unit record data for all sexual offences against children reported to the police over 20 years were obtained from official crime statistics agencies in New South Wales and South Australia. The longest delays were for cases involving persons in positions of authority, and male victims were more likely to wait longer to report than females.

While there were similarities between the two states in terms of the influence of public inquiries on reporting numbers over this period, and in the factors associated with delayed reporting, there were substantial differences in the likelihood of legal action being taken in cases reported in childhood and adulthood. In NSW, legal action was more likely with increasing delay, until the delays extended to 10–20 years, after which the likelihood of legal action decreased. In SA, the pattern was quite different – reports of sexual assault were somewhat more likely to result in legal action with immediate reporting. The least likely to proceed were cases involving young children in more recent years; long delays into adulthood were not necessarily adverse for prosecution.

## Judy Cashmore AO

The University of Sydney

Wednesday 2.55pm–4.35pm, Leighton Hall

### Understanding children's contact and relationships with family in out-of-home care

A critical issue for children and young people in out-of-home care is how they manage their relationships with people they live with and the frequency and type of contact they have with members of their immediate and extended family while in care. The POCLS provides a unique opportunity to examine

children's feelings of security and closeness to the people they are living with as well as members of their birth family. This presentation will outline children's representations of closeness and how that changed from Wave 1 to Wave 2, and how it relates to the frequency and type of contact they have with their birth family in different types of care placement (kinship, foster care, and residential care). The analyses also allow these factors to be examined in relation to carers' assessments of how children are faring in care, particularly in terms of their socio-emotional well-being and how well carers feel that contact is meeting the needs of the children in maintaining their family connections.

### **Sara Charlesworth<sup>1</sup>, Christine Eastman<sup>2</sup>, Elizabeth Hill<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>RMIT University, <sup>2</sup>Freelance social researcher, <sup>3</sup>The University of Sydney

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

#### **Migrant care workers in Australia: migration pathways and characteristics of permanent migrants in care work in Australia**

Due to the skills focus of migration policy, Australia does not have a ready source of migrants to do non-professional or 'frontline' care work. Despite the absence of a dedicated care migration program, many people born outside Australia work in these care occupations. Little is known about the visa status of these workers, their pathways into care work or whether or not they are permanent residents. This paper provides new evidence on the pathways of migrants into the care workforces in Australia. Drawing on the Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset (ACMID) 2011, an aggregated dataset drawn from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2011 Census and the Settlement Database currently administered by the Department of Social Services (DSS), the paper examines the migration pathways of permanent migrants undertaking frontline care work in the Australian child, disability and aged care sectors. It sets out the source countries of migrants working in the care sectors, the visa types on which they entered Australia, their gender, age, and the high levels of qualifications they bring with them, drawing comparisons between the childcare and the aged care sectors. It concludes by briefly raising some policy implications of recent shifts

in Australian migration regulation that will make it more difficult for migrants care workers to achieve permanent residence status.

### **Yupei Chen, Xin Tong**

Peking University

Monday 3.40pm–5.00pm, Gallery 2

#### **What policy support do families need for 0-3 childcare? An empirical study in Beijing and its policy implications**

Currently in China, under the two-child policy, issues of promoting fertility rate, facilitating female labor participation and family-work balance have been brought up. To achieve these goals, there has been increasing discussion on public provision of care and education for preschool children. The policy for children aged 3-6 has developed. However, the policy and service for 0-3 year-olds is still inadequate.

Drawing evidence from a survey conducted in Beijing, this paper tries to depict the demands of families for childcare service and policy for children under 3, and to discuss the relationship between the state and family reflecting in policy development. A mixed-methods approach is adopted. Data from an online survey with a sample of 1282 families and interviews of parents with or expecting children is analyzed. In addition, focused-group interview of officials from health and education departments is included, and policy documents and literature are reviewed.

Preliminary results show: Firstly, families are bearing the major responsibilities of childcare, with grandparents and mother as the main caregivers. The rate of receiving formal care is low. Secondly, there is the need of child care service, with variations among families with different number of children and mother's job status. Thirdly, government responsibility is strongly appealed. How children are integrated into social policy reflects a nation's view of children and the division of childrearing responsibility between the state and the family. We call for an idea of public responsibility for children's development and a principal of universal public provision of childcare service.

### **Qijin Cheng, Ying Ou, Paul Siu Fai Yip**

The University of Hong Kong

Monday 2.10pm–3.10pm, Gallery 2

#### **Subjective social status, friendship diversity**



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## and charitable behaviors in Hong Kong

Fundraising events and volunteering recruitments in many societies often target at people in middle or upper social status. However, the association between social status and helping behaviors is under debate, and the impact of having friends from different social classes (i.e. friendship diversity) is often neglected in prior studies. Using a representative household survey data collected in 2014–2015 in Hong Kong, we examine the extent to which one's subjective social status and friendship diversity are associated with the incidence and amount of charitable behaviors (monetary donation and volunteering). The Two-part model proposed by Cragg in 1971 is employed for analyzing data, including logit in the first part and OLS in the second part. The results report that friendship diversity is positively associated with both donation and volunteering, regardless of one's social status. One unit increase in friendship diversity results in increases of 285 HKD in monetary donation and 6.51 hours in volunteering. Meanwhile, subjective social status only associates with monetary donation. Comparing with their lower-status counterparts, middle-status individuals are more likely to donate and donate more money (about 810 HKD per person yearly), while upper-status individuals show no statistical differences. Our findings suggest that making friends from diverse social status is beneficial for public welfare by boosting charitable contribution of money and time, and that the beneficial effects on monetary donation might be even augmented among the self-perceived middle class. More attention and resources should be allocated to promote cross-social class interaction and communication in philanthropic practice.

## Tom Cliff

Australian National University

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Gallery 2

### One township, two moral economies: the role of national industrial policy in shaping local non-state welfare in China

In a township in rural China, local bank lending practices and endogenous industrial development over the past two decades have created two quite distinct political and moral economies. On the heavy manufacturing East, factory owners drive new Maseratis, Land

Rovers, and Mercedes, and worry about the coming crackdown on polluting industries that threatens to shut most of their factories down. There are no non-state social supports for the less well-off on this side of the township. On the West, furniture-producing factory owners are also suffering from economic contraction but, in contrast to the doom and gloom of the heavy industrialists, these entrepreneurs are dreaming big and considering their legacy. A grand new logistics hub aims to make this township the furniture centre of China, and they are rapidly promoting and propagating village-level welfare systems. This paper explains how these two projects—industrial expansion and socio-moral consolidation—are intimately linked, and reflects on the possible motives of the entrepreneur-philanthropist in contemporary China.

## Gillian Considine, Catherine O'Byrne

The Smith Family

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Leighton Hall

### Improving long-term outcomes for disadvantaged Australian children

In Australia 1.1 million children and young people are growing up in poverty, and facing poorer longer-term educational and life outcomes. National research highlights that students from low socio-economic backgrounds have, on average, poorer educational outcomes, than their more advantaged peers. Disadvantaged young people also face greater challenges when transitioning from school, including lower rates of participation in post-school education, training and employment.

The Smith Family currently supports more than 36,000 disadvantaged Australian children and young people through the Learning for Life scholarship program. Students can participate in this program from kindergarten through to the completion of their tertiary studies.

This presentation examines the extent to which the Learning for Life program is proving efficacious in strengthening the post-school outcomes of former Learning for Life students. Using results from three biennial surveys and longitudinal administrative data, the study explores the factors that contribute to full engagement in education, training and/or work of three groups of former students, 12-months after they leave the program.

Using qualitative data from interviews, the



presentation also examines the circumstances contributing to some young people leaving school and the scholarship program before completing Year 12.

The findings highlight the research, policy and practice implications of this nationally significant work.

## Kay Cook

Swinburne University

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Tyree Room

### Data issues when determining single parent income, child support compliance and caregiving

Associate Professor Kay Cook's presentation will follow Dr Sinclair's presentation, by examining one specific issue for determining single parent family income; namely capturing the dynamics of compliance child support payments and receipt. Kay, in reference to her extensive qualitative work, will highlight the issues that single parents experience in relation to non-receipt of child support payments, irregularity of payments and interactions with the Centrelink and the welfare system more broadly. The absence of "fit-for-purpose" population based survey data that captures the financial and emotional experiences of separated parents makes the presentation of a positive assessment of policy in this space challenging. This presentation will present a case study of the mismatches between single parents' income and parenting time reporting in surveys and administrative datasets and their on-the ground experiences. The ways that current data collection practices write out or obscure parents' experiences will be discussed, as will the material implications of these data omissions.

## Amanda Cooklin

La Trobe University

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Tyree Room

### Improving understanding of the modern post-separation family: implications for data collection and analysis

The discussant will engage the panellists and audience in a directed conversation regarding new possibilities for research, including the use of population and linked data, researching high conflict families, and opportunities for using multiple datasets to provide different lenses into the experiences of complex families.

## Pablo Rojas Coppari

National University of Ireland Maynooth

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Tyree Room

### Building the path forward: strategies used by migrant household to exit constructed precarity in Ireland

Ireland is at a crucial juncture in its experience of inward migration and still has the capacity to prevent the intergenerational transmission of disadvantage in migrant households: a common feature in European neighbours. Within the literature there are clear research gaps. We know little about the experience of progression among migrants in Ireland, the sector and gender differences, or how they experience the focus on activation.

This research seeks to answer:

- Whether and how immigrants experience labour market progression and the degree to which this is gendered.
- Barriers to progression and effectiveness of activation policy in fostering labour market integration and possibilities of alternative rights-based approaches.
- Relationship between labour market experiences of immigrants and experiences of mobility for spouses and intergenerational mobility of migrant children.

This project uses a mixed-method approach, having exclusive access to the case files of the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland - the leading NGO working with immigrants in the country - for quantitative analysis. From the analysis of the database participants were selected for semi-structured interviews in order to gain an understanding of the determinants of economic integration.

This paper will present for the first time the findings of the research, outlining the labour market trajectories of forty migrant household in Ireland, working in the Accommodation & Food and Care & Domestic sectors. It will introduce the concept of "constructed precarity" and their strategies to minimise precarity. It sheds light on the processes through which Irish government policies hinder outcomes for migrants.

## Victoria Cornell

The University of Adelaide

Monday 3.40pm–5.00pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering



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Building)

### Aged care reform at high speed: what time for reflection?

In light of the ongoing aged care reforms, research is underway to investigate consumer attitudes to, and experiences of, the aged care system – specifically as relates to in-home care and the consumer directed care (CDC) model. The study involved three strands of investigation: the knowledge and understanding of the aged care reforms by people aged 50 years and over who are not currently engaged with the aged care system; the experiences of older people who transitioned from the previous in-home care package model to a CDC model; and the experiences of people who have only received aged care under the new CDC model, i.e. since 1st July 2015.

Findings from the study indicate that there is much confusion and uncertainty in the community, and highlights the difficulties people confront in accessing and understanding a complex system such as aged care. Even those people who were already receiving in-home care have found navigating the system troublesome since the reforms. While all new systems and models need time to develop and ‘fit’ with what is required, findings from this study suggest the aged care reforms have progressed too quickly. There has been little time for ongoing review, reflection and potential revision to allow service providers and users to feel confident and at ease with the changes.

### Jialiang Cui, Christy Newman, Limin Mao

Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW Sydney

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Gallery 1

### Problematising ‘personalisation’ in mental health care policy: a cross-cultural WPR analysis in Hong Kong and Sydney

Personalisation has rapidly come to dominate the process of mental health reform internationally. In Australia and Hong Kong, personalisation has been proposed as way to more effectively support people with mental health issues in policies. In this study, employing the WPR approach, we analysed two major mental health policies in Hong Kong and New South Wales to problematise personalisation as a strategy of mental health

reform unfolding across distinctive socio-cultural contexts. The analysis examined how the problem of mental illness was represented as a way to reveal context-specific drivers of personalisation discourse, and to consider how these representations may affect people in the community. The findings suggest that the core problem represented in both settings is the increasingly complex and expanding needs of people with mental health issues. However, a close examination of the underlying assumptions reveals that this has been differently conceptualised in the two systems. People with mental health issues in Hong Kong were positioned as ‘patients’ and excluded from service design processes, which influences the way in which personalisation is articulated as a viable policy solution to the problem of their complex needs. In contrast, people in NSW were positioned as ‘consumers’ and engaged proactively in policy and service co-design, including taking increasingly responsibility for solving the problems of growing care requirements. Thus, personalisation discourse is seen to be robust enough to work across different settings, and yet to reveal distinctive political and cultural influences which may lead to very different outcomes for service users and providers.

### Chris Cunneen

UNSW Sydney

Monday 2.10pm–3.10pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

### Criminalisation, young people and the minimum age of criminal responsibility

The age of criminal responsibility is the main legal barrier to criminalisation and thus entry into the criminal justice system. Current Australian legislation establishes 10 as the minimum age of criminal responsibility. The UN Committee on the Rights of Child has criticized the relatively low age in Australia and recommends an absolute minimum age of 12 years, while arguing that 14 or 16 years is more appropriate.

Research from Australia has found that children who first come into contact with the criminal justice system between the ages of 10 – 14 are significantly more likely to experience sentenced detention in their later years compared with children who are first supervised at 15 – 17 years. There is evidence to suggest that raising the age of criminal responsibility (particularly to 14 years)

has the potential to reduce the likelihood of life-course interaction with the criminal justice system. Criminalisation of young children ties any community-based welfare or support intervention for the young person to the criminal justice system. The low age of criminal responsibility particularly impacts on Indigenous children. They comprise 87% of 10 and 11 year olds under custodial and community supervision in Australia.

This paper draws on research from the Comparative Youth Penalty Project, including qualitative interviews with criminal justice professionals. It considers some of the political barriers to raising the age, as well as the likely benefits in relation to developing social policy for children in conflict with the law.

## Katherine Curchin

Australian National University

Wednesday 2.55pm–4.35pm, Gallery 2

### Exploring the ethical limits of welfare conditionality: the case of childhood immunisation

Internationally the payment of welfare benefits is increasingly being made conditional on recipients' behaviour. All social security payments involve eligibility requirements enabling the targeting of benefits to the categories of people perceived to need them, but increasingly eligibility conditions are designed to give individuals financial incentives to change their behaviour. The majority of the literature on welfare conditionality concerns the realm of employment, yet behavioural conditions and the payments to which they are applied are diversifying. In this paper I explore the ethical implications of the new conditionality through a case study from Australia: the linking of family payments and childcare subsidies to childhood immunisation. This article does not question that parents have a moral obligation to immunise their children. Nor does it question that increasing immunisation coverage is a legitimate goal for governments. Rather it examines the corruption of citizenship which results from pursuing this goal through the welfare payments system. I draw on the literature from philosophy on the ethics of incentives to argue that using the social security system to provide a series of financial incentives for behavioural change is illiberal. Other scholars have correctly point

out that conditionality leads to a fractured citizenship in which citizens on lower incomes are more vulnerable to intrusive monitoring, onerous compliance costs and punishment than more affluent citizens. My critique of new conditionality goes beyond this to an examination of the disrespect for autonomy and democratic deliberation inherent in the new conditionality.

## D

## Peter Davidson

Social Policy Research Centre

Wednesday 2.55pm–4.35pm, Gallery 2

### From basic income to poor law and back again: can a UBI break the Gordian Knot between social security and waged labour?

A Basic Income paid as a citizen's entitlement is now widely promoted as the solution to poverty in an age of job insecurity. The issues are not new. The precursor to basic income schemes was the late 18th century Speenhamland system in the UK at the onset of the industrial revolution: a system of parish income support that topped up low pay and kept rural workers on the estates. Landlords lost to manufacturers when it was replaced by the 'new poor law' which forced able-bodied workers to choose between factory and poorhouse. Since then waged-labour, unemployment, and social security have been closely entwined.

Our social security system still distinguishes between 'deserving poor' who receive 'pensions' and 'undeserving poor' who are thrust onto the lower, work-tested Newstart Allowance. Could a basic income break the Gordian knot that ties benefits to workforce status and deservingness? This paper warns that it is futile and dangerous to substitute a basic income for adequate and secure wages, and flags alternative paths to social security reform that guarantee decent incomes for all.

## John De Maio, Pilar Riosoco

Australian Institute of Family Studies

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Leighton Hall

### Interviewing children in humanitarian migrant families: methods and challenges

A new child module was introduced into the BNLA study in Wave 3 which aimed to



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collect information about humanitarian migrant children's settlement experiences and their social and emotional wellbeing.

This module had two separate components: the first component collected information about 694 children aged 5-17 years from the primary caregivers of these children. The second component collected information from 427 young people aged 11-17 years via a 2-page self-completed paper questionnaire (the PAPI – Pen and Paper Instrument). Up to two children per household were randomly selected to participate and parental consent was sought before children aged 11-17 were invited to participate.

The primary caregiver questionnaire covered areas such as school performance, social integration, health and wellbeing and adjustment to life in Australia. The instrument also included the Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) – a brief behavioural screening questionnaire (Goodman, 1999). The PAPI included the SDQ, health status, trauma, antisocial behaviour, physical activity and academic achievements and awards. The PAPI also collected the PTSD-8 post-traumatic stress inventory (Hansen et al., 2010). There was some cross-over between the primary caregiver and self-reported instruments, allowing for comparisons between children's and caregivers' perspectives on children's outcomes. Notably, the SDQ was included in both instruments.

This paper describes the methodology of undertaking the child module data collection, survey instruments, response rates and the challenges faced in collecting this information from a non-English speaking population. The BNLA is the first large-scale study to investigate the intergenerational transmission of trauma among humanitarian migrant families in Australia.

## Paul Delfabbro

The University of Adelaide

Wednesday 2.55pm–4.35pm, Leighton Hall

### Aboriginal children in out-of-home care: placement differences, outcomes and pathways through care

This paper provides an overview of research conducted as part of the Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study (POCLS) into the placement experiences and outcomes for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children placed into

out-of-home care with Wave 1-3 data. The findings are discussed in relation to the broader objectives of the POCLS study as well as existing national literature relating to Aboriginal children in care. The first part of the paper examines differences in the prevalence of Aboriginal children in care; their reasons for being in care; placement arrangements; and, the degree of adherence to the Aboriginal placement principle. A second part of the paper examines differences in the psychosocial wellbeing of Aboriginal carers and children. Included in this comparison are analyses of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children's developmental outcomes measured over time and how these might vary according to variations in placement experiences; in particular, children's exposure to kinship and non-kinship care. This research is designed to address relevant policy and practice issues relating to Aboriginal people's contact with the care system.

## Steven Demby

Private Practice - New York

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Leighton Hall

### Working with entrenched hatred: recent insights and strategies from the USA

In the third paper, Demby discusses his understanding of the interpersonal dynamics and personality structures that contribute to entrenched hatred and its resistance to mental health and legal interventions. He examines hatred as it emerges from within one parent as well as from the interactional patterns between two parents. From this understanding, he derives several strategies for professionals working with parents in the grips of entrenched hatred. He applies these strategies to current approaches to working with high-conflict families in the USA.

## Huong Dinh<sup>1</sup>, Kay Cook<sup>2</sup>, Sarah Sinclair<sup>3</sup>, Jan Nicholson<sup>4</sup>, Amanda Cooklin<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Australian National University, <sup>2</sup>Swinburne University, <sup>3</sup>RMIT University, <sup>4</sup>La Trobe University

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Tyree Room

### Does child support reduce lone mother poverty in Australia? Evidence from a national cohort of lone mothers of children aged 4 to 15 years

Child support is a policy effort to alleviate poverty among single-parent families.

Single mothers, and their children, are the overwhelming majority recipients of child support (85% of all recipients). The extent to which these payments are effective in reducing poverty; or indeed 'lifting' lone mothers and their children above the poverty line is not known. Does child support reduce lone mothers' poverty in Australia? This paper addresses this question. We use national cohort data from a diverse contemporary sample of Australian lone mothers (n=~ 500) including children aged 4-5 to 14-15 years of age. Our analyses ascertain the contribution child support payments make to lone mothers overall monthly income package. We then estimate the extent to which these payments reduce mothers' poverty (based on 60% of Australian median income), either by lifting them above the poverty line, or above the Australian median income. We use the variation in the likelihood of receiving child support driven by some key socio-economic characteristics of the paying parent to account for the unobserved heterogeneity of child support. Our results will provide valuable contemporary evidence to policy debates on child support.

## Leanne Dowse

UNSW Sydney

Monday 2.10pm–3.10pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

### Understanding the lived experience of criminalisation: young people with complex support needs and youth justice

Young people in contact with the criminal justice system typically experience multiple and interlocking forms of disadvantage across personal, social and systemic domains. The term 'complex support needs' reflects a combination of co-occurring cognitive disability, mental health problems, drug or alcohol misuse and social, cultural or educational disadvantage. Many of these young people have been excluded from education, suffer trauma as a result of abuse and neglect, experience chronic placement instability and have few positive social and family connections on which to draw. These factors often compound from early childhood and result in them transitioning between various support and care services, including educational settings, Out of Home Care and supported accommodation settings, health, mental health and disability services and

ultimately the youth justice system.

This paper draws on research from the Lost In Transition ARC Linkage Project. Through case study using linked administrative data it traces the lived experience of multiple system interventions highlighting the ways that poorly supported transitions within and between systems of social care are a hallmark of the experience. The paper argues that the neo-liberal and individualising policy turn in disability, social care and corrections runs the risk that those who are most in need of coordinated supports are in danger of becoming those least supported by fractured social care and justice systems.

## Leanne Dowse<sup>1</sup>, Simone Rowe<sup>1</sup>, Jane McGillivray<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>UNSW Sydney, <sup>2</sup>Deakin University

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Gallery 1

### Addressing education, training and employment supports for people with cognitive disability in prison

The importance of stable employment has been identified as one of the key protective factors against recidivism for people in contact with the criminal justice system. The role of prisoner education and training is a proven enabler to securing employment upon release. People with cognitive disability who come into contact with the criminal justice system have significantly low levels of education and are largely excluded from the labour market. The importance of in-prison education, training and employment programs for this group is thus all the more significant. However while there is some evidence of the efficacy of such programs in improving reintegration outcomes and reducing recidivism, very little is known about how such programs assist in achieving these aims and the nature of their influence on enabling access to education or employment pathways post-release. This paper draws on a case study of a program offered in NSW, compiled as part of the A Future Beyond the Wall Project, to identify the foundational principles which inform approaches to in-prison support for people with cognitive impairments and the challenges in translating these to better post-release outcomes in education and employment. The paper argues that increasing the provision of education, training and employment supports for people with cognitive disability in prison is

critical to improving the reintegration outcomes and reducing the high recidivism rates of this vulnerable group.

## E

### **Ben Edwards<sup>1</sup>, Walter Forrest<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Australian National University, <sup>2</sup>The University of Queensland

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Leighton Hall

#### **The parenting styles of mothers and fathers and their implications for the development of refugee children**

Research shows that parents suffering from PTSD are less likely to engage in effective parenting and are more likely to adopt parenting practices that can have harmful consequences for child development. Although the prevalence of PTSD among the general population is low, its prevalence is high among populations exposed to traumatic events such as military personnel and refugees. Whereas only one parent is likely to be exposed to trauma, within refugee families both parents may experience PTSD symptoms. In addition, for humanitarian migrants these problems may be exacerbated by their higher levels of socio-economic disadvantage and the challenges of adjusting to life in a new country. In this study, we use data from Building a New Life in Australia to examine how the parenting styles of mothers and fathers interact in refugee families and how those interactions affect child development. We discuss these results in the context of supportive systems for parents adjusting to life in Australia and recovering from trauma and their implications in the context of the global refugee crisis.

### **Ben Edwards, Suzanne Vassallo**

<sup>1</sup>ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods, <sup>2</sup>Australian Institute of Family Studies

Wednesday 2.55pm–4.35pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

#### **Like mum and dad? The intergenerational transmission of relationship dissolution and conflict**

Relationships in an individual's family of origin shape relationships as adults. Several studies have shown that individuals exposed to high interparental conflict when growing up are more likely, as adults, to experience conflict and relationship dissolution in their own

intimate relationships. Similarly, individuals who experience parental divorce or separation during childhood have been found to have a higher likelihood of separating or divorcing themselves. However most of these studies have been cross-sectional in nature and/or have not taken into account selection factors. The Australian Temperament Project (ATP) – one of Australia's longest-running studies of psychosocial development - provides an ideal opportunity to explore these issues, with data on intimate partner relationships independently collected from two generations of family members. This paper examines the continuity of relationship conflict and separation across generations and the impact of exposure to conflict in the family of origin on adult offspring's relationship conflict and likelihood of forming committed partnerships in adulthood. We take account of factors associated with relationship formation using random effects regression that incorporates Heckman selection models. Our results suggest that offspring who experienced parental separation or divorce in childhood were more likely to report high levels of relationship conflict in their own relationships, be in a de-facto relationship and not be married. However, relationship outcomes of offspring were not affected by high levels of interparental relationship conflict in childhood.

## F

### **Aniqa Farwa, Paul Henman**

The University of Queensland

Monday 2.10pm–3.10pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

#### **Zakat and the cultural practice of Sifarish: the role of social intermediaries in social assistance in Pakistan**

Social assistance programs are one of the initiatives to support the poorest of the poor. In developing countries, such programs are reported to have administration problems and their impact on poverty trivial, because of poor targeting, and small benefit levels (World Bank, 2007). In Pakistan, Zakat is one of the key social assistance programs that operate at the grass roots level. The study was undertaken to understand how the system is experienced by its various stakeholders by conducting 45 in-depth interviews of various groups of participants. Using street level bureaucracy theory, this paper reports

doctoral research examining the experiences of applicants of Zakat and the important role of sifarish in receipt of benefit. Sifarish, an Urdu word, means a person in a powerful (political, social, or economic) position recommends an individual for favour to another person. The findings demonstrate that the applicants of the social assistance program in Pakistan face significant access issues to receipt of the benefit without sifarish, which provoke questions about equity and fairness of the system. The role of sifarish in the operation of social policy provides a new contribution to street level bureaucracy theory.

## Brendan Ferguson<sup>1</sup>, Simon Faivel<sup>1</sup>, Erika Schwarze<sup>2</sup>, Phil Rist<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Social Ventures Australia, <sup>2</sup>Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, <sup>3</sup>Girringun Aboriginal Corporation

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

### Healthy country, healthy people

Objective: To understand the social, economic, cultural and environmental outcomes generated by Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) and Indigenous Land and Sea Management (ILSM) initiatives, and to assess the relative value of these outcomes.

Background: The Australian Government supports Indigenous communities to voluntarily establish IPAs on Indigenous owned or jointly managed country. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet commissioned Social Ventures Australia to understand and estimate the extent and value of outcomes generated by investment in five IPAs across Australia.

Methods: The Social Return on Investment (SROI) methodology was used. SROI is a form of cost-benefit analysis that compares the social value of outcomes with the cost required to generate them. We developed rich theories of change through 143 interviews and desktop research. We used qualitative and quantitative data to estimate the extent of change and applied financial proxies to estimate their social value.

Results: -By facilitating reconnection with country, culture and language, ILSM initiatives have achieved exceptional levels of engagement amongst Indigenous Australians. -Between FY09-FY15, an investment of \$35.2m generated outcomes with an adjusted social

value of \$96.5m. -The more time Rangers spend working on country, the greater the social value. -ILSM initiatives are catalysing development of an Indigenous land and sea based economy.

Conclusion: The Australian Government can further support ILSM initiatives by: facilitating public and private investment in IPAs, empowering Indigenous landowners to manage country in accordance with their priorities, and strengthening the evidence base to understand what matters to Indigenous communities and what works.

## Joann Fildes, Jacqueline Plummer

Mission Australia

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

### Reconnecting through evaluation

According to 2011 Census estimates, 44,000 young people are homeless. Research such as the Cost of Youth Homelessness and the Geelong Project highlight the importance of early intervention for young people at risk of homelessness.

Reconnect aims to prevent youth homelessness through community based early intervention with young people, their families and the wider service system. Although the Federal Department of Family and Community Services and its reincarnation as the Department of Social Services have reported on the effectiveness of the program, in 2016 Reconnect faced funding uncertainty.

Mission Australia's evaluation of Reconnect is an example of how the Non-Government sector can build and use evidence to influence policy. In 2016, Mission Australia conducted a summative evaluation of their Reconnect services. The evaluation used mixed-methods. Quantitative data was collected through repeated surveys 5 months apart. Qualitative data was collected through semi-structured interviews with local stakeholders.

Findings suggest that Reconnect clients experience increased personal wellbeing, feelings of control, social capital, and family cohesion. A small sample size of 19 meant that statistical significance was not found. However, qualitative data from 13 stakeholders supported the positive impact of the Reconnect program on school engagement, coping, and socialisation. Stakeholders



revealed the strengths of Reconnect: community collaboration; partnerships; trust; and flexibility to respond to need. They also highlighted challenges such as staff resources and access to services in rural areas.

Mission Australia published and used this research to successfully advocate for the extended funding of Reconnect.

## **Karen Fisher<sup>1</sup>, Sally Robinson<sup>2</sup>, Anne Graham<sup>2</sup>, Kelley Johnson<sup>1</sup>, Ed Hall<sup>3</sup>, Sandra Gendera<sup>1</sup>, Kate Neale<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, <sup>2</sup>Southern Cross University, <sup>3</sup>University of Dundee

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Gallery 1

### **Working relationships between people with intellectual disability and support workers: what role does policy play?**

Very little is known about how relationships between people with intellectual disability and their support workers are positioned in policy. As national policy emphasising greater person-centeredness and self-directed funding increasingly intersects with the demands of professional and organizational imperatives, the nature of this relationship assumes a more prominent role in the quality of support practice.

This paper reports on a policy review that applies Honneth's recognition theory to explore the role that paid relationships play in the ongoing identity formation of young people with intellectual disability. It was the first phase of ARC Linkage research. The purpose of the review was to examine whether and how relationships between people with disabilities and their support workers are articulated in policy and hence to ascertain to what extent institutionally or normatively mediated recognition is present or absent. The policy review focuses on the extent to which current disability policy acknowledges, promotes or diminishes the role of relationships between people with intellectual disability and workers. The policy review applied a three-stage process: categorization of policies, textual analysis and content analysis. Four policy levels were involved – international, federal, state and local (the latter linked to two case study organizations). The review reveals that while a rights framework is explicit in most policies, the emphasis on the conditions for recognition within a relationship between

people with intellectual disability and workers is compromised in instructional policies that attempt to manage the tension between choice and risk.

## **Robert Fitzgerald**

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Wednesday 1.25pm–2.25pm, Leighton Hall (Plenary)

### **Research program of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse**

The Royal Commission's research program was unprecedented in scope and achievements. We worked with over 30 institutions across multiple disciplines to produce 101 projects, 59 of which will be published by the end of the Royal Commission.

Our findings have challenged contemporary thinking and furthered understanding of child sexual abuse in institutions. Highlights include our findings on perpetrator, survivor and institution profiles; our jury study and research into memory; and our direct engagement with children through our 'Children's Views of Safety' study.

We employed a range of strategies to channel research into outcomes. We fostered dialogue between research and policy and incorporated survivors' voices into all areas of our work.

Examples of how our research has directly informed outcomes can be seen in our Child Safe Institutions report and our Criminal Justice report.

By providing a foundation and framework for further inquiry, we have ensured that the legacy of our research program lives on beyond the life of the Royal Commission.

## **Ivan Franceschini**

Australian National University

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Gallery 2

### **Labour rights discourse and social citizenship**

In the past couple of decades, stories about the exploitation of Chinese workers have been a regular occurrence on the international press, leading to widespread condemnation of labour practices in the People's Republic of China. What has often been overlooked is the fact that at the same time the Chinese party-state has also been promoting a strong discourse of labour rights. This pro-labour

stance was particularly apparent in 2006 and 2007 on the occasion of the public debate that led to adoption of a very controversial Labour Contract Law, but then it somehow subsided in the wake of the global financial crisis and the more recent economic slowdown. How to make sense of this apparent paradox? One way is to look into the official discourse of labour rights as outlined by the Chinese labour legislation and Chinese policy documents. While the Chinese authorities have been eager to promote individual labour rights, they have consistently undermined collective rights, especially enabling rights such as freedom of association and collective bargaining. As I will argue on the basis of a series of surveys that I carried out in China, this had a definite impact on how Chinese workers frame their demands and expectations, boosting the atomisation of the workforce and preventing the emergence of class solidarity.

## Leanne Francia, Prudence Milliar

University of the Sunshine Coast

Wednesday 2.55pm–4.35pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

### And they lived happily ever after: qualitative exploration of children's experiences of parental relationships following separation

Separation and their parents' remarriage force children to strike a balance between maintaining previous family relationships and building new relationships with unknown adults and step-siblings. In 2013 in Australia, 296,000 stepfamilies formed 142,000 households of 811,000 individuals. Shared care arrangements, with greater involvement of natural and stepparents in the care of children, closely link to two households, with the aim of continuing the child's relationship with a parent living elsewhere. Children in stepfamilies often face unique challenges as part time residents in two households, with conflicting loyalties and changes in sibling order. The current qualitative study examined children's experiences of parental relationships following separation, to understand how maternal and paternal roles were enacted by parents and step-parents. 17 young Australian adults (76.3% female), aged 16 to 27 years, were interviewed, finding that interactions with mothers/step-fathers were predominantly positive, whereas fathers/step-mothers were predominantly negative. Children perceived their mothers as being emotionally responsive

and stepfathers as responding positively towards them. Children perceived stepmothers as being unwelcoming and they experienced loss of time, connection and attention when their fathers re-partnered. Whilst children appreciated their new stepfather's regard, his own children felt the loss of his involvement. In contrast, mothers maintained interest in their own children rather than other men's children and fathers preferenced their new adult relationship over the children of previous relationships. Finding balance between natural and stepchildren in new families requires every parent and practitioner to focus on all children as equally important, despite the challenges in forming new family structures.

## Patsie Frawley<sup>1</sup>, Sue Dyson<sup>2</sup>, Sally Robinson<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Deakin University, <sup>2</sup>La Trobe University, <sup>3</sup>Southern Cross University

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Gallery 1

### Doing 'whatever it takes': findings from a research project on creating access for women with disabilities to services and supports after experiencing violence

Research on gender, violence and disability highlights the complexities of the intersections of these experiences in the lives of women with disabilities. Some progress has been made in gaining awareness of these experiences through; the advocacy and testimonies of women with disabilities, government inquiries into violence and abuse including in disability services in Australia and through research. While this has led to some policy development, the disability and domestic violence sectors still have some way to go to ensure women with disabilities experiences are understood and their needs, while becoming and staying safe are responded to equally with other women. Our research aimed to find out; How women with disabilities in Australia experience services and supports after experiencing violence? What these experiences could tell us about good practice in mainstream and specialist services? and In what ways services and supports could be improved? We undertook a mixed methods study of domestic and family violence, sexual assault and specialist disability services that provide support for women with disabilities and found that central to good practice was the capacity to work collaboratively with women with disabilities and effectively across sectors.



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Importantly we found that a more nuanced understanding of what constitutes 'access' was needed and if applied could guide better practice.

## G

### Emma Gentle, Patricia O'Brien, Colin Rhodes

The University of Sydney

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Gallery 1

#### Transforming art workshops into spaces where agency and creativity thrive

The aim of this research is to explore the impact of art-making on people using regional disability services by looking at how an art workshop can be revived to be a place of unfettered creativity, where agency is modelled.

People with intellectual disability have been structurally marginalised to such an extent that their agency, and community presence has been severely compromised (O'Brien, 2003). However, artists can utilise art workshops to provide dynamic, creative, learning experiences that bridge institutions and community living (Wexler & Derby, 2015) where the profound richness of the art-making experience can serve as much more than an art activity (Rhodes, 2000).

This study took place in the naturalistic setting of a regional art studio and included 9 participants who regularly use local disability art services. A case study design was employed including focus groups, observations, mood questionnaires and artworks for data collection. Nvivo software with thematic coding tools was utilised for the analysis.

Preliminary results corroborate that a well facilitated art workshop contributes to perceptions of self-worth (Malchiodi, 2012) and self-efficacy (Abbotts & Spence, 2013) and support participants in establishing their identity as artists (Howells & Zelnik, 2009) which in turn increases personal and social identity formation (Kroger & Marcia, 2011). Nicols (2013) critique states artists with I.D. often practice within a health framework where art-making is a method rather than a cultural form. However, employing a democratic reflective frame increases agency which could be a significant aspect to supported studios,

particularly during transition to the NDIS.

### Loughlin Gleeson

UNSW Sydney

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

#### Recognising Indigenous Australians: a Hegelian alternative

Set against the backdrop of the highly politicised debate surrounding whether, and how specifically, Indigenous Australians ought to be recognised by non-Indigenous Australians, this paper will offer a philosophical alternative which draws on the writings of G. W. F. Hegel. It will be argued that conceiving of recognition in far more conceptually nuanced terms than is present in the current debate represents an important step in the direction of understanding exactly what recognising Australia's First Peoples could maximally consist of. Specifically, what is required is a shift away from the prevailing view that recognition be treated as an exclusively legal matter necessitating constitutional reform towards an alternative conception—one that is to be found in Hegel's writings and the attendant scholarship—according to which recognition designates an intersubjective attitudinal phenomenon that assumes within social reality a number of different shapes or forms ('axiological', 'deontological' and 'contributive'), each of which are essential for human freedom and well-being. I will begin by offering a critique of the current debate regarding the recognition of Indigenous Australians on basis of the highly formalistic understanding of (constitutional) recognition that it underwrites it (I). Next, I will consider Hegel's systematic account of recognition, adumbrating each of its specific dimensions (II). I will close by considering the various modes of systemic non-/mis-recognition that have and continue to plague Indigenous Australians in the relevant differentiated sense (III), as well as the potential social and political means by which such 'pathologies' may be overcome (IV).

### Piers Gooding

The University of Melbourne

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Gallery 1

#### Co-locating disability support workers in community legal centres: the findings of a 2-year action research project

This presentation will summarise the findings of a research project on access to justice for accused persons with intellectual, cognitive and psychosocial disabilities. Particularly attention was paid to Indigenous persons with disabilities. The research considered unfitness to plead laws, which have led to the indefinite detention of people with disabilities, sometimes beyond what they would have received in a typical trial. The action research consisted of disability support workers being co-located at three community legal centres, whose role was to optimise the participation of clients with disabilities. For six months, support workers assisted clients with disabilities at the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NT), the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (Vic), and the Intellectual Disability Rights Service (NSW). The presentation will list outcomes and findings from the program, including with reference to interviews conducted with supporters, lawyers and accused persons. Barriers to justice were similar across jurisdictions, including: lengthy delays in proceedings for clients with disabilities, inaccessible court processes, duty lawyers lacking time and resources to provide proper representation, community services ‘washing their hands’ of clients once they reach the criminal justice system, and broader intersectional disadvantage. More promisingly, certain forms of support appeared effective across jurisdictions, including: greater continuity of support, disability sector knowledge, appropriate referrals, keeping services accountable to the client, identifying and modelling effective supports, and helping legal professionals to recognise disability and provide relevant support. The presentation will include recommendations for policy and practice, including law reform.

## Claire Gray

University of Canterbury

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Tyree Room

### Affect and the making of place

Cameron Duff (2010 p.881) writes “to experience place is to be affected by place”. He proposes that place is always more than a simple geographical representation: places evoke feelings. Analysing data from focus group interviews conducted in 2014 with 64 New Zealand lone mothers receiving welfare, I consider the way that research participants were affected by their visits to the offices of the national welfare provider: Work and Income

New Zealand. Ben Anderson (2009 p.77) describes affective atmospheres as giving specific meaning to places. I use the concept of affective atmospheres to frame this paper paying attention to the intensity that gives welfare offices a particular feeling for clients. Drawing from recent writing emerging across the social sciences concerned with theorising “affect” (e.g. Ahmed; 2014; Anderson; 2009; Probyn, 2004; 2005, Wetherell, 2012, 2013), I argue that Work and Income offices are not inherently uncomfortable, but are rendered so by common practices that take place there. In this paper I present an analysis of the way participants talked about physical spaces of the offices; their accounts of administrative processes; and their descriptions of the staff at Work and Income. I then consider how these three aspects function together to give an emotional resonance to Work and Income offices. I emphasise how the affective atmosphere of welfare offices can limit the capacity of welfare recipients to access their entitlements, a perspective that has largely been absent in the literature to date.

## Matthew Gray, Boyd Hunter, Ben Edwards, Shuvo Bakar

Australian National University

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

### Including information on local drought conditions in social surveys

The Australian continent is drought prone, but little is understood about the social impacts of drought. Unfortunately, most social surveys do not include information on the local occurrence of drought. The object of this paper is to better understand the perception of drought using a self-report measure from a survey of rural and regional Australia conducted in 2007 during a prolonged period of widespread drought. We establish a relationship between climatic variables and survey data using a novel Bayesian spatial ‘spike & slab lasso’ method. The proposed method identifies key climatic factors and their lagged influences on the self-reported drought measurement at postcode levels. The sensitivity of drought differs for farmers with the non-farmers that may be a reflection of influences of different climatic variables made by the models. The model-based results are compared with existing drought indices like Hutchinson Drought Index, Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI), and



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Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI). We argue that our measures of drought are more consistent with the lived reality of drought and the official declarations of drought in 2007 and hence provide a potential technique for deriving an estimate of drought that can be linked with many social surveys. This opens up the possibility for a more comprehensive understanding and analysis of the social impacts of drought.

## Matthew Gray, Ben Phillips, David Stanton, Cukkoo Joseph

Australian National University

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Tyree Room

### Policy versus economic impacts: the economic position of Australian single parents post the GFC

There have been significant changes to the Australian social security system during the 2000s, particularly for single parents. These have included restricting eligibility to the more generous Parenting Payment Single to those children aged under 8 years of age, shifting others onto the significantly less generous unemployment benefit (Newstart) and the introduction and enforcement of stricter activity testing.

There is an ongoing debate in Australia and other countries about the effectiveness of changes to the social security system designed to increase incentives for paid employment amongst population subgroups that have had relatively low rates of employment and long durations on government benefits.

This paper uses PolicyMod, a new Australian tax-transfer microsimulation model to provide insights into the relative impacts of social security policy changes and changes in the macro-economy and labour market in explaining changes in single parents' patterns of benefit receipt, employment rates, hours of work and income. The approach used is to conduct a series of simulations which hold constant labour market participation and earnings of single parents (using observed outcomes at the individual level from the 2004 Survey of Income and Housing and the 2014 Survey of Income and Housing) and vary social security policy settings between the pre 2006 policy changes and the 2014 policy settings. This allows us to decompose the impacts of social security and broader

economic and social changes.

The results of the microsimulation modelling will be compared to analysis of actual outcomes for single parent families modelling using longitudinal survey data.

## Matthew Gray, Sriram Shankar

Australian National University

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Gallery 1

### The role of informal wage negotiations in explaining the gender wage gap

A long run focus of labour market research has been on understanding the reasons why women receive, on average, a lower hourly wage than men. A range of explanations have been proposed including gender differences in characteristics that impact upon wages (e.g., human capital, caring responsibilities), gender differences in the types of jobs held, and discrimination in the workplace. One potential explanation for part of the gender wage gap is that there are gender differences in attempts to negotiate over wages and the success of such attempts. Despite there being strong evidence of gender differences in bargaining behaviour and differences in the responses to bargaining by men and women, there is little empirical evidence on the extent to which there are gender differences in bargaining over wages and the impact of any differences on the gender wage gap. This paper uses data from the Fair Work Commission's 2014 Australian Workplace Relation study (AWRS) linked Employer- Employee data set to estimate the contribution that individual level negotiation of wage/salary between the employee and employer makes to the gender wage gap. Preliminary analysis of the 2014 AWRS reveals that men are more likely to attempt to gain a better wage/salary through negotiation with their manager and are more likely to be successful if they attempt to negotiate than are women.

## H

## Mia Hakovirta

Turku University

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Tyree Room

### Data issues in comparative studies on child support policies

Dr Mia Hakovirta's Academy Research

Fellowship project 'Comparative studies on child support policies, family complexity, and equalities' funded by the Academy of Finland analyses outcomes of child support policy and how child support policies have responded to two important issues regarding family change – shared care and re-partnering. This presentation focuses on the two key data sets used in the project, and access and data quality issues within these when it comes to post separation finances between separated parents. Mia's presentation will discuss the challenges faced by collecting cross-cultural comparative vignette data on child support obligations. She will also discuss some of the main problems that arise when using the comparative LIS data for studying child support payments and how during the harmonization of data it lost some of the richness regarding child support.

### James Herbert, Leah Bromfield

Australian Centre for Child Protection; University of South Australia

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

**Do integrated responses improve the response to allegations of severe child abuse: findings from the evaluation of the Multi-agency Investigation & Support Team (WA)**

Investigations into severe child abuse are complex, often involving traumatised child victims and family members, with no witnesses or physical evidence. It is crucial for investigations to maximise successful criminal justice outcomes, while attending to the needs of victims and families. This paper presents the findings of an evaluation of a pilot of a new multi-agency response to severe child abuse in Australia comprising co-located police, child protection, supportive and therapeutic services, and an integrated Child and Family Advocate role; the Multi-agency Investigation & Support Team (MIST).

The evaluation comprised a quasi-experimental follow forward study comparing MIST to Practice as Usual (PaU); a descriptive study examining fidelity; and a perceptions of MIST study incorporating data from practitioners and caregivers. This paper will present the findings of all three studies.

The three studies highlighted strong support amongst practitioners and caregivers for the new model, and that MIST was delivered

with fidelity to the intended plan. However, a number of areas for improvement were identified. The quasi-experimental study found that the MIST team was significantly faster both in terms of the police and child protection response, although there were limited differences in the rate of arrest or child protection actions.

Integrated responses to abuse are assumed to improve outcomes for children and families; research has lagged in demonstrating the effectiveness of these models. While integrated models such as MIST show promise, increased investment in the evaluation of new initiatives is needed to develop knowledge of what really helps children and families.

### Chris Heywood-Smith, Jessica Noack

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Gallery 2

**Permanent skilled migrants from China: forms of personal income and employment outcomes**

In 2015-16, China was Australia's second largest source of permanent migrants under the Australian Government's Migration Programme and the Nation's largest trading partner. The increasing importance of migrants from China to Australia means that more information is needed to reflect the diversity of their migration pathways and experiences. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has created two new datasets by combining information from administrative data and the 2011 Census for statistical and research purposes, which significantly enhance and expand the pool of available information on permanent migrants to policy makers and researchers. The 2013-14 Personal Income Tax and Migrants Integrated Dataset (PITMID) provides estimates of the personal income of permanent migrant taxpayers and can provide new insights into the incomes of employees, business owners and investors who were born in China by their entry conditions (i.e. visa type, main or secondary applicant, onshore or offshore location). The 2011 Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset (ACMID) delivers access to over a million permanent migrant settlement records. Analysts can examine variations both within and between the Skill, Family and Humanitarian streams at finer geographic levels, in terms of their socio-economic information captured in the 2011 Census.

This presentation seeks to contribute to existing knowledge about migrants from China by presenting findings on their forms of personal income and their employment outcomes, particularly Skill stream migrants. These findings not only highlight the various migration pathways of migrants from China, they reflect the diversity of their social and economic characteristics.

## Elizabeth Hill<sup>1</sup>, Myra Hamilton<sup>2</sup>, Elizabeth Adamson<sup>2</sup>, Jenny Malone<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The University of Sydney, <sup>2</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, <sup>3</sup>RMIT University

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

### Migrant care workers in Australia: understanding employment pathways in the child and aged care sectors

Australia does not recruit migrants, other than in professional jobs such as nurses and managers, to work in aged care and childcare. Our migration policies make it very difficult for Australian employers to recruit migrants from overseas to work in non-professional care jobs such as personal care workers. However, evidence suggests that a large proportion of people working in these two care sectors are migrants. In 2016, for example, almost a third of the aged care workforce was made up of migrants and most of these were working as personal care workers in residential or community based care settings (Mavromaras et al, 2017, 2016 National Aged Care Workforce Survey). Given that direct migration pathways into non-professional care work are highly limited by our migration system, little is known about how migrants make their way into the child and aged care sectors. Drawing on qualitative interviews with migrants working in child care and aged care in three capital cities in Australia, this paper reveals the pathways of migrant care workers into care work in Australia. It reveals the complex interplay between their visa and migration statuses and their employment pathway over time. It will explore the way in which their employment decision-making takes place within the context of a range of conditions and constraints, including their preferences and aspirations, skills and qualifications, family circumstances, economic circumstances and social networks. It concludes by exploring implications for policy.

## Bianca Hoban<sup>1,2</sup>, Jenny Chalmers<sup>2</sup>, Morag Mcarthur<sup>1</sup>, Tim Moore<sup>1</sup>, Anne Graham<sup>3</sup>, Merle Spriggs<sup>4</sup>, Mary Ann Powell<sup>3</sup>, Stephanie Taplin<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Australian Catholic University, <sup>2</sup>UNSW Sydney, <sup>3</sup>Southern Cross University, <sup>4</sup>Melbourne University and Murdoch Children Research Institute

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

### The Managing Ethical Studies on Sensitive Issues (MESSI) study: similarities and differences in the assessment of risk between parents and professionals who make decisions about children participating in research

Background: Involving children in research on sensitive topics is critical for building knowledge about issues that affect children, but uncertainty remains about how best to balance children's participation with their protection. One of the aims of MESSI is to assess whether parents and professionals, over- or under-estimate the risks involved in studies with children.

Methods/Design: Parents and professionals involved with approving/facilitating research with children 7-14 years old, took part in a 10 minute survey.

Participants were asked if they would consent/ approve for their child(ren) to participate in each of four hypothetical research studies of differing risk levels. The highest risk scenario (a sexting vignette) was designed as one that was unlikely to be approved by an ethics committee. In each of the four scenarios, different elements (data collection method and incentives/payments) were changed to test their influence on respondents' decisions.

Prospective results: This study identifies and tests the factors that influence decision-making about children's participation in social research by parents and professionals: by manipulating the risk level, the methods and the payment type and amount. Multivariate modelling controlling for age, gender and socioeconomic status will be used.

Conclusion/implications: The study will assess the willingness of different groups to allow children to participate in different types of social research, and provide guidance for researchers and HRECs.

## Deirdre Howard-Wagner

Australian National University

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

### 'Moving from transactional government to enablement': the era New Public Management and its effects on urban Aboriginal organisations

The paper presents insights into how the era of New Public Management, particularly in relation to the mainstreaming of Aboriginal service delivery alongside the creation of frontline social service market, is affecting the distinctive role of fourteen urban Aboriginal organisations in Newcastle, the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie in the Australian state of New South Wales. To do so, it looks at what existed previously, particularly in terms of the history of urban Aboriginal organisations in this area dating back to the 1970s and the era of Aboriginal self-determination. It then looks at how the situation has changed in federal and state policy and practices in the era of New Public Management and the types of NPM practices and modalities that have been rolled out in this context, creating a new disciplinary regulatory system that is adversely targeting Aboriginal organisations. This leads to a discussion of how NPM practices and modalities operate as a disciplinary regulatory system, reducing the space for autonomy, innovation and even the discretion of urban Aboriginal organisations. The final section of the paper will turn to a discussion of policy change and how new public management could be done differently. It will draw on a small, but emerging body of international literature to make an argument for change in Aboriginal service delivery putting Aboriginal organisations and communities firmly at the centre of the political state.

## Dan Huang, Sek-yum Ngai

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Gallery 2

### Hukou, social exclusion and medical care: the experience of unmarried migrant women who induced abortion in mainland China

It has been estimated that 42.7% of young migrant Chinese women (aged 18-30 years) become pregnant before marriage. This study adopted a social exclusion framework to explore the experience of medical treatment

of unmarried internal migrant women who induced an abortion in mainland China. Interviews were conducted with 34 of these unmarried migrants who induced an abortion and with 15 key-informants. Together with field observations, these interviews were conducted in an ethnographic study. The findings revealed that these unmarried migrant women experienced various types of social exclusion: economic exclusion (lack of medical consuming power); social exclusion (lack of social support and vulnerable to medical fraud); cultural discrimination (suffer from medical discrimination and unmarried abortion stigma); institutional exclusion (hard to get access to medical care and not eligible to apply social welfare resources as local citizens). The findings suggest that the Hukou system has a significant detrimental effect on unmarried pregnant internal migrants when they require medical services. These migrant women suffer from physical and psychological pain, but they lack formal and informal support and social structural forces further deteriorate their situation. These migrant women's gender, sexual and citizenship rights are impaired and there is a need to raise more attention from social policy and social work.

## Boyd Hunter, Matthew Gray

Australian National University

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

### Comparative wellbeing of the New Zealand Māori and Indigenous Australians since 2000

This paper examines trends in the wellbeing of Indigenous Australians and New Zealand Māori since the year 2000. The period covers a period of strong economic growth before the Global Financial Crisis of 2007-08 and then an economic slow-down which only became a recession in New Zealand. One of the main findings is that Indigenous Australians fare worse relative to the non-Indigenous Australian population than Māori fare relative to the non-Māori for all of the wellbeing measures considered. However, for employment and income there have been some improvement for Indigenous Australians both in absolute terms and relative to the non-Indigenous population while economy was growing strongly. For Māori, there were improvements relative to non-Māori population while the economy was growing strongly and then some relatively worsening once economic growth slowed.



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It appears that macroeconomic factors are affecting these 'economic' measures of wellbeing. For all non-economic wellbeing, outcomes for Indigenous Australians have significantly worsened. This is not the necessarily case for Māori for whom there was some improvement in rates of incarceration and psychological distress relative to non-Māori. However, suicide rates increased for Māori and actually decreased for the non-Māori population. Economic wellbeing can be partially addressing broader macroeconomic factors. However, institutional differences and cultural factors are probably more important for explaining country-specific differences for non-economic wellbeing. There is no room for complacency among policy makers who need to involve Indigenous peoples in designing policies and identifying the groups who are missing out in both growing and stagnant economies.

## J Matthew James

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Monday 2.10pm–3.10pm, Tyree Room

### The changing shape of housing in Australia

Housing in its most basic form provides shelter and security. Its influence on the welfare of households is significant, affecting, for example, health and wellbeing, education, employment, and social and community participation. The right to housing is recognised by a number of international agreements, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The purchase of a home is often the largest financial investment a household will make, and provides a savings vehicle for millions of Australians. However, the “great Australian Dream” of owning one’s own home is slipping away for some groups of Australians. While aggregate home ownership rates (those with or without a mortgage) have declined modestly in Australia over the past 20 years, there have been more dramatic falls in both younger age groups and in lower income groups, suggesting barriers for those groups wishing to purchase. Underpinning the national decline in home ownership is a widening disparity in ownership rates and trends across Australia.

This presentation looks at a range of trends

in Australian housing and home ownership, including considering how the situation has changed across generations, and how Australia compares internationally. It concludes with a focus on major national and international initiatives that are designed to improve housing outcomes, and the range of data sources that can be drawn on to monitor these trends—including their major strengths and weaknesses.

## Andrew Johnson

NSW Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

### Children’s rights in addressing social policy concerns

The NSW Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP) is an independent statutory office responsible for advocating for and promoting the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people aged 0-24 years in NSW. The Advocate is required to listen to the views of children and young people, ensure their rights are being met and their concerns addressed by the NSW Government and non government organisations. Under the Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014 the Advocate was tasked with developing a strategic plan for children and young people living in NSW.

Significantly, the Advocate utilised a range of methodologies to consult with over 4,000 children and young people to develop the NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People 2016-2019. ACYP built upon previous work and used innovative consultation methods to ensure the Plan was shaped by the voices of children and young people. It is the first legislated, whole of government plan of its type in Australia.

The presentation will highlight how ACYP consults with children and young people in NSW on current social policy and the methods that specifically promote their participation and empowerment. It will refer to the methods utilised in consultations for the NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People, group-based methodologies and a range of digital engagement strategies. It will focus on how the combination of these creative methodologies over time can result in a powerful expression of the views of children and young people that

can directly influence government policy.

## K

### Ilan Katz

Social Policy Research Centre

Wednesday 2.55pm–4.35pm, Leighton Hall

#### Service use of children in out-of-home care over time

This paper will present results from the Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study (POCLS) first three waves of data collected over a five year period. The paper will examine how different sub populations (Aboriginal, CALD, rural, urban and those in kinship and foster care) use services as they progress through the care system. The presentation will particularly focus on the role of caseworkers, including children and carers' contact with caseworkers over time, how contact is associated with use of health and other support services, and with children and carers' wellbeing in the first five years in out-of-home care.

### Ilan Katz<sup>1</sup>, Marie Connolly<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, <sup>2</sup>The University of Melbourne

Monday 2.10pm–3.10pm, Leighton Hall

#### Towards a comprehensive model of child protection system change

Child protection systems around the world are in a constant state of reform and development. In Australia every state and territory has had at least one comprehensive reform over the past 5 years, and many have been reformed several times. It is nevertheless questionable whether these reforms result in actual improvements in child safety or wellbeing. There is a large body of empirical and theoretical work on child protection systems, most of which is based on studies of systems in developed countries and focuses on the nature of the systems and their problems. There is very little theoretical understanding about the nature of system change and how this plays out in different systems. This paper, based on our research in both developed and developing countries, proposes a new way of thinking about the nature of systems change in child protection contexts. Based on systems and complexity theories it illustrates how different factors lead to different 'orders' of change, and therefore

why some types of system changes are more likely to lead to changes in outcomes. The paper will use case examples to illustrate how this model can be applied to systems of different types, in both developed and developing countries.

### Ilan Katz, BJ Newton, Shona Bates

Social Policy Research Centre

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

#### Learning to conduct best practice Indigenous research in government funded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research and evaluation

In recent years the Social Policy Research Centre has undertaken a number of evaluations of state and federally funded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs. Although there are well established principles of good practice for research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, there is little written about how these should be implemented. This is especially true for government funded research and evaluations, which pose particular constraints on researchers. This paper will discuss the insights gained from conducting these evaluations. Some of the areas we will cover include community consent and control, the practicalities of implementing ethical principles, and the complexities, challenges and lessons learned from conducting government funded research in a way that prioritises best practice in Indigenous research.

### Lane Kenworthy

University of California

Tuesday 1.25pm–2.40pm, Leighton Hall (Plenary)

#### Social democratic capitalism

"Social democratic capitalism" is characterised by mostly private ownership and markets, generous public insurance, employment-oriented public services, and light-to-moderate regulation of product and labor markets. The experience of the world's rich democracies suggests this configuration of policies and institutions is superior to alternatives at achieving economic security, low poverty, equality of opportunity, and high employment, and it is no worse than alternatives at achieving an array of other outcomes we desire in a good society, from rapid economic growth to good health to happiness and more.



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## Suyoung Kim

Keimyung University

Monday 2.10pm–3.10pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

### Street-level bureaucracy in the information society: the negative effects of information technology on frontline welfare official–recipient relationship

South Korea, equipped with global IT producers like Samsung or LG, has taken the lead in the information age. Its welfare administration has also been informatised at surprising speed. Frontline welfare officials now implement their tasks mostly through the Social Security Information System and recipients easily access up-to-date welfare information on the internet. As Lipsky described in *Street-level Bureaucracy*, frontline welfare worker–recipient relationship would be characterised by face-to-face interactions. But the universal use of IT can alter the traditional relationship. At this point, this study aims to examine how IT-mediated administration impinges upon interpersonal interactions between the two street-level actors. For this, the author carried out a case study of IT-based frontline welfare administration in Daegu mega-city, South Korea, interviewing 16 frontline welfare officials and 10 welfare recipients. Particularly, this research sheds light on the IT's negative impacts on frontline official–recipient relationship. It is generally anticipated that the introduction of IT to street-level welfare administration will smoothen communication processes between officials and recipients by intensifying welfare information sharing and distribution. However, this study claims that IT can deteriorate street-level relationship into more distrustful and disempowered directions. IT tends to replace face-to-face rapport building between officials and recipients with mechanical checking and complaining processes. It can also disempower the autonomous interactions of street-level actors by surveilling every working step of frontline officials and the daily lives of recipients. Through this investigation, this study criticises the dehumanisation tendency of IT-mediated human services and the roseate visions on social welfare informatisation.

## Meredith Kiraly

The University of Melbourne

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

### Welfare and poverty: the lot of the child in statutory kinship care?

Kinship care, or the care of children within their extended family and community networks, currently provides half of all so-called 'out-of-home care' in Australia. However, protective care has never been so poorly funded since the days of the institutions, and indeed, kinship care has been called the 'Cinderella' of the care system. Despite much hardship among kinship care families, there is evidence of its benefits for children, such as greater stability of care and a more normalised childhood. Nevertheless, the national and international literature is replete with references to poor kinship care monitoring and support, both financial and non-financial. The funding climate for child welfare research in Australia is also constrained at the present time. The 2011–2014 National Research Agenda for Protecting Children therefore recommended making the most out of existing data, in particular synthesising findings from similar datasets and related surveys. This paper will describe a systematic review of 13 kinship carer surveys that together included responses from over 3,000 kinship carers across Australia, New Zealand and the UK, along with three population studies of kinship care families. Overwhelming themes in carers' responses provide red flags about the risks of neglecting the support of vulnerable children and carers, and clear messages for policy development that stand to minimise the chance of poor outcomes. As long as Federal and State Governments turn a blind eye to the needs of children in kinship care it would appear that poverty and disadvantage will remain the lot of children in Australian protective care.

## Alexander Korolev

The National University of Singapore

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Gallery 2

### The emergence of social welfare policies in China: responsiveness to people's basic needs or reaction to the regime legitimacy crisis?

This paper describes and explains the social policies that emerged in the PRC at the beginning of the 21st century. It first provides an overview of the new social policies, including programs of minimum income guarantee, the introduction of free compulsory primary education, creation of comprehensive system of medical insurance, pension reform,

budgetary housing program for low income citizens and other programs. It then attempts to explain why these new social policies emerged at this particular time of the PRC's history. The paper demonstrates that despite the limited nature (or the lack) of procedural democracy in China, the Chinese government displays a relatively high level of responsiveness to the population's basic needs, aggravated during the period of economic reforms. This, in turn, is the result of not very visible but important changes in the PRC's political regime, such as the emergence of alternative mechanisms of interest articulation and interest aggregation. The analysis reveals the transformation of modern China's political regime and makes a statement that some form of responsiveness to basic welfare in China is possible even in the absence of procedural democracy.

### Chris Krogh<sup>1</sup>, Susan Evans<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Newcastle, <sup>2</sup>Western Sydney University

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

#### Signposting children's wellbeing needs in out-of-home care case planning: considering the Capabilities Approach

When children are formally placed in homes other than their own (that is, they are in statutory out-of-home care) it is the responsibility of agencies to ensure their wellbeing needs are being planned for and met. These needs are generally framed in terms of safety, social and family relationships, health, education and participation. No single document provides a universal wellbeing framework to underpin case planning processes for children in out-of-home care, however the NSW child safe standards for permanent care has some authority in prescribing case planners' attention to specific domains of child wellbeing.

The subject of determining the range of children's actual wellbeing needs is not often debated in social policy circles, with some evidence that a minimalist approach to conceiving wellbeing is tacitly operating in case planning. Without a credible normative wellbeing framework, poor planning for children's wellbeing needs will persist as case planners struggle to define central domains of wellbeing. In this context, our paper will consider Martha Nussbaum's articulation of ten wellbeing capabilities required to live an adequately minimum decent life. The intention

of engaging Nussbaum's capability theory is to signpost rather than resolve the range of wellbeing capabilities that might be considered in case planning for children in out-of-home care, as much further work will be required before agreement about children's wellbeing needs can be reached.

# L

### Lisa Langley, Meagan Lawson

Council on the Ageing (COTA) NSW

Wednesday 2.55pm–4.35pm, Gallery 1

#### The twin currencies of retirement: how people aged 50+ in NSW spend their time and money as they age

People have different expectations about their retirement; many retirees plan to have more time and adequate money to 'enjoy life' in ways that were not available to them when they were in paid work and/or raising families. COTA NSW conducted eight research groups in metropolitan and regional NSW, and surveyed approx. 6,000 men and women in NSW aged 50+. The research aimed to uncover how older people use their time and spend their money as they get older. Choices and barriers-to-choice covered: employment in the paid workforce and the reasons for leaving either temporarily or permanently; social connections, interests and activities before and after retirement; informal caring responsibilities and volunteering; as well as income generation from paid work and/or superannuation, providing financial support to families (including views on inheritance) and how any additional income might be spent. The comprehensive study presents a window into the lived experiences of how older people are faring in the contemporary social milieu and questions whether people really are 'having the time of their lives' in retirement.

### Bingqin Li

Social Policy Research Centre

Tuesday 9.00am–10.15am, Leighton Hall (Plenary)

#### Inequality and social policies in China

China, though experiencing fast growth, has to deal with various social tensions resulting from inequality. In this presentation, Associate Professor Li focuses on social and economic inequalities between provinces and discuss their relationships with social policy in China.



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She will first examine the degree of social and economic inequalities between provinces and then examine the provincial variations in social policies, including social policy regimes and the level of provision and the reasons behind such variations. The talk will reflect on 1) whether there are indications that differences in provincial growth rates are associated with differences in social policy, and 2) whether the difference in welfare regimes and levels of provision suggest that social policy differences are tending to equalise provincial inequalities or to increase the gap between provinces.

### **Xue Li<sup>1</sup>, Simone Reppermund<sup>1</sup>, Leanne Dowse<sup>2</sup>, Preeyaporn Srasuebkul<sup>1</sup>, Julian Trollor<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry (3DN) UNSW Sydney, <sup>2</sup>Intellectual Disability Behaviour Support UNSW Sydney

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Gallery 1

#### **Barriers to accessing generic health and social care services: a qualitative study of staff supporting clients with complex support needs in Australia**

**Background:** While research has clearly documented the difficulties individuals with complex support needs encounter in accessing appropriate services, there is less evidence of the problems the specialised services for individuals with complex support needs face when securing generic health and social service. The aim of this study is to identify the barriers to service use from the perspectives of the specialised service.

**Method:** Focus groups were conducted with 34 participants working at two programs in Australia that provide specialised services to individuals with complex support needs. Focus group data were transcribed verbatim and analysed using the Model of Healthcare Disparity and Disability (MHDD).

**Results:** The MHDD identifies three broader dimensions that contribute to service disparities. We found the environmental barriers include linear and inflexible service structures, ineffective cross-agency support policies, limited service capacity, negative provider attitude and unstable and under-skilled workforce. Individual barriers include limited health literacy, negative health beliefs, combative attitudes, challenging behaviour and trauma. Access to services as an independent dimension and often a result

of interactions between environmental and individual barriers was evident in the poor accessibility, availability, accommodation, affordability and acceptability of services.

**Conclusions:** The findings conceptualise the 'interlocking' state that is often identified by the complex support needs literature and demonstrate the impact of the continuous interaction amongst the factors on an individual's function, participation and activities of daily living. This paper argues that the identified barriers are largely influenced by the domination of neoliberalism in social policy.

### **Yu-Jun Liu, Mao-Sheng Ran**

The University of Hong Kong

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Gallery 2

#### **Hukou, self-identity and mental health of Chinese rural-to-urban migrant workers**

**Background and Purpose:** Due to the limitation of present household registration system (hukou) in China, rural-to-urban migrant workers confront marginalization in cities, which contributes to shape their self-identities. This study attempts to discover that how do migrant workers' living practice influence their mental health status, and whether self-identity act as a mediator between living practice and mental health.

**Methods:** Data of this study came from questionnaire surveys in 13 cities in 2014. 2017 migrant workers were sampled by respondent-driven sampling. Data was collected by face-to-face structured interview.

**Results:** Multiple linear regression techniques were used to model the associations between respondents' living practice, self-identity and mental health status. Lower ratio of monthly income and expenditure, negative life events, inconvenience because of not having urban hukou and perceived social exclusion were found to be the risk factors of migrant workers' mental health status. There were 4 types of self-identities among respondents in our sample: farmer (17.19%), worker (16.74%), migrant worker (47.28%) and not sure (18.79%). Compared to respondents who regarded themselves as the farmers, those who thought themselves as workers and migrant workers had better mental health status. Mediating effects of self-identity between perceived social exclusion, negative life events and mental health status were identified.

Conclusions and Implications: This study reveals the significant associations between migrant workers' living practice, self-identity and mental health status, and it underlines the importance to promote the transformation of present restrictive hukou system, reduce the institutional and social exclusion migrant workers encounter, and improve their mental well-being.

# M

## Julie MacKenzie

Australian Law Reform Commission

Monday 3.40pm–5.00pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

### Elder abuse law reform in Australia

In 2016–17, the Australian Law Reform Commission completed an Inquiry into elder abuse. This presentation will provide an overview of the ALRC's key recommendations for reform of Australian laws and legal frameworks to safeguard and protect older people from abuse, including in the areas of aged care, enduring powers of attorney, guardianship, and social security. The presentation will consider how the ALRC approached the law reform process within the Australian legal landscape, in which there is a fragmentation of responsibility for laws relating to older people. It will also situate the Inquiry's recommendations within broader debates about legal and policy responses to elder abuse, particularly in relation to how to balance a concern for older people's autonomy with the provision of appropriate protections and safeguards against abuse.

## Jill Manthorpe

King's College London

Wednesday 9.00am–10.15am, Leighton Hall (Plenary)

### Money matters: how social policy studies are linking up money with new social problems

In this plenary session, Professor Manthorpe will draw on examples from UK social policy to highlight how those participating in social policy debates and social welfare practice may need to be more 'financially literate'. New social policies such as consumer directed care (personal budgets in England); the safeguarding of vulnerable adults from abuse and neglect; and new employment relationships in care work are all requiring

engagement in financial transactions and understandings of rules and relationships. The financing of care assumed particular prominence in the most recent UK General Election, illustrative of the need for greater focus not only on public expenditure but on combining understandings of old-style notions of public administration with family and individual perceptions of fairness and entitlements.

## Greg Marston

The University of Queensland

Monday 9.45am–11.00am, Leighton Hall (Plenary)

### Get a life: critical reflections on 'post-work' politics and policies

In this paper, Professor Marston assesses the contemporary political and policy landscape regarding the welfare-work nexus. He begins with a brief history of the sorts of redistributive preferences that have been cemented in the Australian welfare state architecture; developments that have placed paid work at the cultural and policy centre. Two decades of social security policy has reinforced a disciplinary ethos towards labour and income support recipients. Policy goals such as adequacy of payments have been displaced by the bi-partisan political mantra that the best form of welfare is paid work. Disrupting this discourse has proven difficult, despite consistent evidence about a highly uneven labour market and growing income inequality. Recent interest in 'postwork' futures sparked by what is described as a new 'machine age' and claims about technological unemployment, however, has opened a public space for rethinking the dominance of paid work. A new age of automation, which provokes an equal mix of fear and fascination from the public, has not only rekindled the promise of more leisure time but also the possibility of a broader and more expansive political project for defining the 'good life'. This project is informed by established social movements, including feminism, as well as an interest in eco-social policies. This convergence of movements, events and ideas raises a series of speculative questions for social policy, such as: what conceptual tools should be deployed to assist policy actors to navigate these developments? How should researchers evaluate the political and technical feasibility of the demands for a shorter working week, new tax models and a universal basic income, among others?

What trade offs between time and money will become possible? And perhaps most importantly, what are the implications for redistribution and recognition and are our political institutions up to the challenge of ensuring a just transition?

### Jan Mason<sup>1</sup>, Tobia Fattore<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Western Sydney University, <sup>2</sup>Macquarie University

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

#### Developing well-being indicators from children's standpoint on well-being: a framework for guiding policy

The primary aim in developing social indicators to monitor childhood is to contribute to the development of policies to improve child well-being. Based on research presented in our book on children's understandings of well-being (Fattore and Mason with Watson, 2016), this paper problematizes the development of specific, concrete indicators applicable across differing historical, social and cultural policy contexts.

In the first part of the paper, we outline our use of qualitative methodology, informed by standpoint theory. We highlight how the focus on 'real' children as 'knowers' meant that as researchers we had to focus on the complexity of children's lived experiences - in analysis of data and in reporting findings. We briefly overview our findings on the dimensions of agency, security and the self and the domains of leisure, economic well-being and health.

In the second part of the paper, we present indicator concepts from which child well-being indicators can be developed, drawn from a reconstruction of a child standpoint on well-being. These concepts are organised according to the prominent domains and dimensions of well-being, as prioritised in our reconstruction of children's well-being. We discuss the relevance for policy development of the fact that, while there will be commonalities for children across time and place, due to children's generational positioning, policy development must take into account that well-being research is situated in particular historical and cultural contexts. We refer to our current multi-national project, exploring this issue through qualitative research and involving researchers in 25 countries.

### Morag McArthur<sup>1</sup>, Tim Moore<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Australian Catholic University, <sup>2</sup>Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University

Monday 3.40pm–5.00pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

#### Our safety counts: children and young people's perceptions of safety and institutional responses to their safety concerns

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has highlighted for Australians how children are at risk of sexual and other forms of abuse in the institutions with which they interact. To inform preventative strategies the Royal Commission commissioned the Institute of Child Protection Studies (ICPS), with colleagues from the Queensland University of Technology and Griffith University, to develop an understanding of how children perceive safety and consider it within institutional contexts. This presentation provides an overview of the major findings of an online survey completed by 1,480 Australian children and young people. The Safe Kids and Young People (ASK-YP) Survey was developed from focus group findings. The survey aimed to test child safe characteristics, to gauge children's perceptions of institutional responsiveness and to understand children's help seeking behaviour when presented with vignettes of grooming behaviour.

The study found that most participants felt safe in institutions and that adults in institutions were responsive to their safety needs. There were however a small proportion of young people who reported that they never felt safe, that institutions were not demonstrating they were child safe, and that they had little confidence in schools' efforts to keep them safe. Attention to the needs and experiences of this group is warranted. In particular, young women's need for more information on what to do in unsafe situations, and older participants' need for adults to know students well enough to identify when they may be unsafe, need to be addressed.

### Ruth McCausland

UNSW Sydney

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

#### 'I'm sorry, but I can't take a photo of someone's capacity being built': the need for better evaluation in Indigenous policy

In February 2017, the Turnbull Government announced it would spend \$40 million on evaluating the \$30 billion of Commonwealth funds spent on Indigenous programs after critical reports by the National Audit Office and Productivity Commission on the failure to significantly reduce Indigenous disadvantage. This follows many years of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people calling for greater scrutiny and accountability around government expenditure. While the announcement of this investment in evaluation has been welcomed, new research canvassed in this presentation highlights the ways in which the government's current approach to evaluation may mean these funds perpetuate rather than address many of the problems in Indigenous policy and programming.

This presentation outlines the findings of qualitative interviews conducted with Indigenous leaders, policy makers, public servants, evaluators and program managers on evaluation in Indigenous policy. The title 'I'm sorry, but I can't take a photo of someone's capacity being built' is drawn from an interview with former Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda, quoting a government minister seeking positive media coverage in the lead up to an election. It illustrates the tensions that can emerge between measuring the impact of community-based programs using data, metrics and timeframes that are meaningful and relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and those considered objective and rigorous by government. Drawing on this research, I explore questions of methodology, politics and accountability in government-commissioned evaluation, as well as the possibilities for evaluation to better serve the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

## **Ruth McCausland, Rebecca Reeve, Leanne Dowse**

UNSW Sydney

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Gallery 1

**From 'at risk' to 'a risk': the costs of unsupported transitions for disadvantaged young people with disability**

Young people with disability from backgrounds of disadvantage, abuse, neglect and violence often become 'managed' by the criminal justice system in the absence of holistic support in the community. They commonly experience

co-occurring mental health disorders and problematic drug and alcohol use. This group of young people face particular vulnerability at points of transition between and within support, care and justice settings, including out of home care, health, education, housing, disability services and juvenile custody. This is extraordinarily costly in human and economic terms.

This presentation will report on research that examines the costs of unsupported transitions for disadvantaged young people who have had multiple diagnoses and frequent institutional contact across various systems, drawing on linked NSW Government administrative data. The Mental Health Disorders and Cognitive Disability in the Criminal Justice System (MHDCD) Dataset enables the calculation of unit costs for thousands of individuals' recorded interactions with human services and criminal justice agencies. This presentation will focus in depth on one case study to illustrate the cumulative impact of frequent institutional contact but little effective support. The findings highlight the enormous economic costs of the entrenched tendency to shift, often at a very young age, from characterising this group of young people as 'at risk' to 'a risk', sanctioning state control and detention and compounding their disability and disadvantage. Part of the Lost In Transition ARC Linkage Project, this research also illustrates the devastating intergenerational human cost of the systemic failure to adequately support vulnerable young people.

## **Tom McClean, Robert Johnston**

Uniting

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Tyree Room

**Empowerment and social capital: a longitudinal analysis**

This paper presents the findings of an analysis of the demographic, social and life-event correlates of self-efficacy and social connectedness, using data from the HILDA survey. These two composite variables were chosen as proxies for the kinds of client-level outcomes which many welfare and community services work towards. We begin by reporting the results of a Principal Components Analysis of the HILDA questions related to each measure. We show, for example, that respondents appear to understand empowerment and disempowerment not

merely as the inverse of each other but as different things. We then report the results of a point-in-time analysis of Wave 14 to demonstrate that few plausible demographic and economic characteristics appear to be closely correlated with these outcomes when analysed in this way. Finally, we present the results of a longitudinal analysis and identify a combination of characteristics and events which influence these two outcomes. This analysis was undertaken as part of a foundational study to inform strategic planning within a large Australian welfare provider, and should prove useful for anyone interested in using existing data to target interventions which aim to influence these outcomes.

## Michael McGann, Phuc Nguyen, Mark Considine

The University of Melbourne

Wednesday 2.55pm–4.35pm, Gallery 2

### Welfare conditionality and blaming the unemployed: is there a correlation?

Welfare recipients are increasingly expected to perform mutual obligation and job search requirements or face sanctions for non-compliance. This is set to intensify under recently budgeted measures to increase full-time annual activity requirements from 30 to 50 hours per fortnight accompanied by a new demerit point-based compliance system.

Critics argue that such activation measures rest on a pathological theory of unemployment that stigmatises those on welfare as behaviourally deficient and lacking motivation to work. Previous studies indicate that many activation workers believe that a significant proportion of their clients would rather be on benefits than work. Related to this is a concern that the contracting-out of employment services may have facilitated the tightening of welfare conditionality since agencies driven by economic incentives may be more amenable to using sanctions and other motivational incentives.

Drawing on three waves of survey research with frontline employment services staff, this paper examines the association between the willingness of provider staff to use sanctions and other work-first activation measures, and their views about clients' (lack of) motivation. We find that attributing welfare dependence to clients' motivational deficiencies is indeed correlated with an increased willingness to

sanction jobseekers and adopt work-first approaches - although not as strongly as critics of welfare conditionality suggest. This may reflect the extent to which the jobseeker-provider relationship is tightly regulated by contractual and compliance requirements. Additionally, caseload sizes and agency type (for-profit or not-for-profit) appear to have little influence on activation workers' perceptions about the blameworthiness of their clients.

## Jennifer McNeill

University of Sheffield

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Gallery 1

### Exploring the impacts of welfare conditionality on people with mental health impairments in the UK

In the UK, welfare conditionality has intensified for recipients of out of work benefits including disabled people. Following the introduction of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) working aged adults unable to work due to illness and impairment undergo a Work Capability Assessment (WCA) with three potential outcomes. Individuals can variously be:

1. found fit for work and transferred onto Jobseeker's Allowance with its regime of strict conditionality and benefit sanctions
2. placed in the 'Work Related Activity Group' and required to engage in compulsory work focused interviews and job preparation activities or face sanctions
3. placed in the 'Support Group' due to the severity of their impairments where benefit receipt is not subject to conditionality.

Within this context, the paper explores three key areas. First, the health effects of welfare conditionality on people with mental health impairments. Second, the extent to which making receipt of disability benefits contingent on specified work search and training requirements, enhances, over time, the employment opportunities of people with mental health impairments. Third, the wider appropriateness of the application of welfare conditionality for people with mental health issues. In order to consider such questions the paper draws on new data generated in a qualitative longitudinal panel study (n. 481) conducted with a diversity of welfare service users. Respondents were interviewed up to three times over a two year period across

England and Scotland. Analysis draws on interviews with respondents who self-declared mental health issues within the wider sample.

Supported by ESRC grant ES/K002163/2.

## Gabrielle Meagher<sup>1</sup>, Richard Baldwin<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Macquarie University, <sup>2</sup>University of Technology Sydney

Monday 3.40pm–5.00pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

### The rise of the for-profit nursing home sector in Australia: what happens when business opportunity meets political inattention?

Around the world, governments are increasingly using market instruments to re-organise and/or extend provision of publicly subsidised social services. Marketising reforms are typically justified as increasing consumer choice, provider efficiency and diversity, and service quality. This policy approach establishes quasi-markets that often open or expand business opportunities to private, for-profit actors, which may include large corporations. This paper seeks to contribute to understanding of this aspect of the evolution of social service quasi-markets in Australia, with a case study of residential aged care. In 2000, 27 per cent of residential aged care places were found in facilities operated for profit. By 2016, the for-profit share had risen to 39 per cent. Further, large corporate providers have emerged in the last two decades and are consolidating their share. Meanwhile, the weight of international evidence suggests that average quality is lower in for-profit residential care facilities. Our aim is to explain how and why government policies have created the conditions for the growth of the for-profit private sector in Australian residential aged care, despite the evidence of poorer average quality. We present an analysis of policy documents, including submissions to, and reports of, public and parliamentary inquiries, framed within an historical institutionalist approach. We find that the growth of the for-profit sector has rarely been an explicit – nor perhaps even intended – policy goal, and we consider the policy implications of this meeting of policy-enabled business opportunities with apparent political inattention to the factors driving high service quality.

## Emily Millane

Australian National University

Wednesday 2.55pm–4.35pm, Gallery 1

## The national superannuation scheme Australia nearly had

This presentation traces the move to establish a national superannuation scheme by the Whitlam Government, 1972-1975. It looks at the historical antecedents to the Whitlam Government's policy, namely a strong intellectual push for a state-based contributory superannuation scheme, modelled on the ultimately unsuccessful scheme proposed by the British Labour Party in 1957. While the 1960s and 70s do not represent a 'critical juncture' in the history of superannuation - Australia's age pension system remained the same - a set of shifts did occur which were to prove pivotal in the decades that followed. They would lay the foundations for the Labor Party introducing 'universal' superannuation when it next came to power. These shifts included the political consensus around abolishing the pension means test, economic conditions and the Labor Party's adoption of superannuation as party policy in 1969. Another driver of the policy shift was emergent thinking in the United Kingdom and among Australian academics about superannuation as a universal right. This strand of thinking was keenly alive to the emergent middle class, with its expectations of higher standards of living across the life course, and a concern by Government to limit the cost of the age pension. At this point in time, the unions and community sector were not part of the national conversation on superannuation. Policy change was driven by academics and the policy elite. The 1970s were also the last time that Australian superannuation was considered under a social welfare rubric, as opposed to an industrial relations one.

## Sallie-Anne Moad

Social Policy Research Centre

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Gallery 1

### Learning for 'A Life of my Own' under the NDIS

One goal of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is to improve lifelong learning outcomes for people with disability. Little is known about the learning experiences of adults with intellectual disability and how this corresponds with NDIS policy. The study discussed in this presentation, explores the lived experience of three adults with intellectual disability who utilise one-on-one support to achieve a variety of life learning outcomes



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in their homes and communities under the NDIS. This paper considers: 1) What one-on-one support has to offer adult learners with intellectual disability; 2) How learners are supported to learn; and 3) Implications for NDIS policy, which identifies lifelong learning outcomes primarily in terms of formal learning.

As part of a larger multi-site ethnography, data were collected from 20 interviews with stakeholders (learners, support workers and parents) and 77 hours of participant observation in home and community settings. Three learner narratives, (collaboratively created), will also be discussed.

The paper concludes that informal learning contexts are of key importance to adult learners with intellectual disability and these settings have the potential to produce a variety of outcomes central to NDIS policy. The way in which the multiple motivations, expectations and roles of learners, supporters and families combine, align and/or conflict, influence learning outcomes. Furthermore NDIS policy, enables some learning opportunities while inhibiting access to others.

## Maja Lindegaard Moensted

The University of Melbourne

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

### The price of belonging: social citizenship aspirations and avenues of recognition for disadvantaged young people

This study is concerned with the question of how public institutions can better support young people who face disadvantage. Contemporary social policies habitually emphasise the need to lift the aspirations of disadvantaged young people. The shifts in the understanding of disadvantage within social policy, from a product of structural inequality to a deficit of the individual, has created an increase of the imposition of social policy targets within youth work. This study builds upon the literature identifying how disadvantaged young people's identities and aspirations are constructed within social policies, by investigating if these limited ways young people are engaged, may serve to dilute the good that could come of youth work interventions. To gain a better understanding of processes of aspirations, three qualitative case studies were conducted with youth workers and young people experiencing various forms

of disadvantage. To contextualise the young peoples' engagement with their future this study turned towards the participants' local world and communities, drawing attention to the young people's search for belonging and recognition within these. In particular, the difference disadvantage made in this process. This study argues that narrowly designed youth programs aimed purely at educational transitions are in danger of reproducing misrecognition and low expectations. The concept of social citizenship provides a lens which may assist the sector to direct activities towards addressing this, by providing a holistic understanding of what creates young peoples' self-understanding, values and aspirations in all facets of life.

## Lawrie Moloney

La Trobe University

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Leighton Hall

### Responding to divorce-related interparental hatred: options and limitations

In the second paper, Moloney points to the value of naming hatred when identified as a driver of or precursor to entrenched separation conflict. He posits the existence of two types of interparental hatred: one mainly linked to separation-related stresses ('reactive hatred'); the other ('entrenched hatred'), indicative of more embedded, dysfunctional interpersonal dynamics and/or personality structures. Moloney considers a range of options available to social science and legal practitioners in cases of entrenched conflict in which hatred has been identified.

## Louise Monahan, Tanya Corrie

Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

Monday 2.10pm–3.10pm, Gallery 1

### Improving responses to children who experience family violence: when policy reform meets practice reality

This paper explores current service responses to children and young people who have experienced family violence and suggests how we can better meet their needs. It will report on research results from a study conducted by Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand in collaboration with the family violence service providers of one region of Victoria. These findings will prompt consideration of the implementation stage of a major policy

development, within a workforce constrained by historical and cultural context, systemic interagency collaboration challenges, and escalating service demand.

The research is located within the context of a national groundswell of concern at the systemic failure of responses to children experiencing family violence. A catalyst for this momentum has been the Victoria Royal Commission into Family Violence (VRCFV, 2016), along with the report of the Victorian Commission for Children and Young People, *Neither seen nor heard: Inquiry into issues of family violence in child deaths* (2016).

The study's empirical data was collected from Victoria Police referrals of nearly 2000 children who were affected by a family violence incident, and from interviewing specialist family violence workers across the three funded family violence agencies in the area. The project sheds light on localised understandings of policy and provides a critical opportunity to improve the uptake of the government-led changes. This paper will explore implications for workforce readiness and building capacity on the ground to implement policy reform.

## Alan Morris

University of Technology Sydney

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

### 'Administrative evil': gentrification and the displacement process of public housing tenants in Millers Point and the Sirius Building

In March 2014, the minister responsible called a press conference to announce that all of the approximately 600 public housing tenants of Millers Point and the Sirius Building in inner Sydney are to be moved and the properties sold on the open market. At the end of 2016 only about 40 tenants remained. Millers Point, established at the turn of the 20th century is probably the oldest public housing area in Australia. The Sirius Building (79 apartments) was purpose built for public housing tenants in the late 1970s. The study examines the gentrification and displacement process in inner Sydney and argues that the blanket forced displacement of public housing tenants represents a new wave of gentrification. The main focus of the study, drawing on in-depth interviews with public housing tenants who are still resident in the area and tenants who have moved (40 interviews in total), is

an examination of the strategies used by the NSW government to ensure that the displacement was "successful" and tenants' perceptions of these strategies. I conclude that the displacement policy and strategies are an example of instrumental rationality in the context of extreme neoliberalism. This rationality has the effect of dissipating any consideration of the human cost and fosters what Dillard and Ruchala (2005, p. 611) have called 'administrative evil'.

## N

## Yuvisthi Naidoo

Social Policy Research Centre

Wednesday 2.55pm–4.35pm, Gallery 1

### What matters to older people? The role of economics to older people's well-being

This paper contributes to a growing literature challenging the dominant economic paradigm that relies on disposable income as proxy individual-based living standard indicators. Two alternative frameworks to measure the standard of living and well-being of individuals are compared. The first expands the definition and measurement of economic resources to include income streams from non-cash services and annuitised wealth as providing the full range of potential consumption possibilities that affect an individual's economic standard of living. The second proposes a multi-dimensional individual well-being indicator framework to give explicit recognition to the inter-relationship between economic and non-economic (sociological) dimensions in encapsulating the totality of a person's life. The results are based on person-level data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey and applied to an assessment of the individual well-being of older Australians, aged 65 years and over. In the context of an ageing population, this demographic group faces specific challenges. Macro-level challenges include the ability of government to mitigate declining labour force participation rates with increasing health, aged-care and pension-related fiscal pressures. Micro-level challenges include maintaining social cohesion across and within generations and the quality of life of individuals in old-age. The findings indicate distinct categories of older Australians who simultaneously experience economic resource



and multi-dimensional well-being advantage and corresponding disadvantage. Moreover, that for many, their measured economic resource position is only weakly associated with objective multi-dimensional well-being assessments. These results have important implications for the structure of the retirement incomes system and more broadly ageing policy.

## Manuela Naldini, Arianna Santero

University of Turin

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Gallery 1

### Social Investment Paradigm and immigrant families in Italy

The rise of a Social Investment Paradigm in welfare state modernization in post-crisis Europe, with its emphasis on ECEC (Early Childhood Education and Care), is clashing with the EU's enduring fiscal austerity policy and the rise of "welfare chauvinism". Access to ECEC from a social investment perspective is crucial for immigrant families who can not rely on informal intergenerational child care support. While the debate on 'welfare tourism' has grown, in a new immigration country such as Italy, there is a dearth of research into how immigrant families balance work and family life, and their access to and use of public welfare state services. Exploring the interplay of care, gender and welfare state (Lewis, 2008; Williams, 2012), this paper focuses on the barriers that prevent immigrant parents from accessing existing childcare and family support services in Italy, from a comparative perspective. The paper is based on data gathered by a project conducted in the context of the EU Seventh Framework Programme (bEUcitizen – Barriers towards European Citizenship), and on a qualitative study (44 qualitative semi-structured interviews) with immigrant mothers and fathers living in Italy. The paper shows that Italy's "unsupported familialist" welfare regime (Saraceno & Keck, 2010) and immigrants' labour market disadvantage result in greater legal and social barriers when it comes to immigrant families accessing childcare services and family benefits. The high proportion of mothers who leave the labour market during the transition to parenthood also makes these families more vulnerable.

## BJ Newton

Social Policy Research Centre

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

### Views and experiences of child neglect and risk factors to child safety in an Aboriginal community

Aboriginal children are removed from their families and communities more than any other group of children in Australia. However, very little is known about what Aboriginal parents think about child protection issues, such as neglect, and the challenges that these families face in caring for their children. This research explored Aboriginal parents and workers' views and the experiences of the day-to-day lives of a group of Aboriginal families living in a small country town in NSW.

The research found that a combination of personal and environmental issues impacted on views and experiences of families. Violence, substance abuse, intergenerational trauma, racism and discrimination, and feeling powerless make it harder for some parents to care for their children. Overall child neglect is generally understood in the same way by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people and Aboriginal parents have the same ideas about what is safe and what is best for their child as everyone else. Instead it is the difficult life struggles experienced by many Aboriginal families that keep parents from fulfilling these parenting expectations. This means that some Aboriginal families continue to face challenges in caring for their children. These difficulties are not only caused by what is happening at home; there are many problems within the town, such as poverty, a lack of jobs, transport, services and shops, which make it very hard for families to improve their situation.

This paper discusses these findings in greater detail and the implications that they have for child protection policy and practice.

## Tran Nguyen

The University of Sydney

Wednesday 2.55pm–4.35pm, Gallery 2

### Navigating the privatisation and welfare conditionality: everyday frontline practices in the Australian employment services providers

Australian welfare workers have increasingly found themselves in an unfavourable working environment in which privatisation and welfare

conditionality are eroding their support for clients. Under what circumstances welfare workers can maintain social work values and ethics in this negative milieu is a question that needs to be effectively addressed. This paper examines the everyday cross-cultural interaction between welfare frontline workers and clients in the Sydney-based Australian employment services providers. It is based upon findings from 30 qualitative interviews with frontline workers. The paper argues that welfare workers' personal efforts in their everyday interaction with clients, displayed through the use of emotional labour, cultural competence and positive mentorship, can provide a viable alternative to counter the adverse effects of privatisation and the welfare conditionality process.

O

## Anne O'Brien

School of Humanities and Languages, UNSW Sydney

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

### Conceptualising homeless women: history and policy

Since the 1990s western democracies have gradually embraced a shift in policy from managing to eradicating homelessness. The results have been uneven but there have been some successes despite the over-arching neo-liberal context.

How can history inform policy to end – or at least reduce - homelessness? Historians claim that expanded time scales bring clarity to policy; social scientists call for more critical, reflective, long-term strategies. How can these views be brought into conversation to ultimately produce more just outcomes?

Taking homeless women as a case study, this paper explores how historical research might inform contemporary understandings of homelessness. Together with youth, families, older people and the working poor, women were among the 'new' groups discovered as 'homeless' in the years after 1974 when homelessness started to emerge as a subject of public policy. And yet there was no shortage of homeless women before this. Why were they not 'seen'? What were the long and short-term consequences of their invisibility?

Homeless women's problems with visibility

illustrate how a long view can enrich conceptual approaches to contemporary social policy. It shows how language can obscure experience, strengthens critiques of inconsistencies between rhetoric and practice, gives depth to intersectional analyses and suggests how past trajectories might inform apposite policy intervention.

## Meredith O'Connor<sup>1</sup>, Shiao Chong<sup>1</sup>, Delyse Hutchinson<sup>2</sup>, Jennifer McIntosh<sup>2</sup>, Craig Olsson<sup>2</sup>, Sharon Goldfeld<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Murdoch Children's Research Institute, <sup>2</sup>Deakin University

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Leighton Hall

### Does infant exposure to disadvantage carry a legacy for child development? A replication analysis in two Australian cohort studies

Background: Exposure to disadvantage is known to influence children's developmental outcomes. This study examines whether disadvantage during infancy creates unique risk for academic and self-regulation problems by late childhood, after accounting for disadvantage at school entry.

Method: Analyses were replicated in data drawn from two major Australian population-based, longitudinal studies: the Australian Temperament Project (ATP, n=2443) and Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC, n=5107). Marginal structural models were used to estimate the controlled direct effect of disadvantage (composite variable of parental education and occupation) in infancy (0-1 years) on academic (literacy and numeracy) and self-regulation (persistence and negative reactivity) outcomes at the end of the primary school years (age 10-12 years), unmediated through disadvantage at school entry (age 4-6 years).

Results: There was a 42% (ATP; 95% CI: 1.09, 1.86) and 87% (LSAC; 95% CI: 1.52, 2.31) higher risk of poor academic performance in children who were disadvantaged in infancy than children who were not disadvantaged, that was not mediated through disadvantage at the start of schooling. No evidence of a controlled direct effect of disadvantage in infancy on self-regulation was found (ATP: RR=1.22, 95% CI: 0.89, 1.65; LSAC: RR=1.19, 95% CI: 0.95, 1.49).

Conclusions: Results replicated in two longitudinal cohorts suggest that disadvantage

in infancy may confer unique risk for academic, but not self-regulation (as here measured), problems by late childhood. These findings provide further evidence of the aetiological significance of exposure to disadvantage during infancy, with evidence to support policies that can more specifically redress this impact.

**Meaghan O'Donnell<sup>1</sup>, Winnie Lau<sup>1</sup>, Angela Nickerson<sup>2</sup>, Derrick Silove<sup>2</sup>, Ben Edwards<sup>3</sup>, Miranda Van Hooff<sup>4</sup>, Mark Creamer<sup>5</sup>, Nathan Alkemade<sup>6</sup>, Dzenana Kartal<sup>1</sup>, Alexander McFarlane<sup>7</sup>, David Forbes<sup>1</sup>, Dusan Hadzi-Pavlovic<sup>2</sup>, Zachary Steel<sup>2</sup>, Kim Felmingham<sup>5</sup>, Richard Bryant<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Phoenix Australia: Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health, <sup>2</sup>UNSW Sydney, <sup>3</sup>Australian National University, <sup>4</sup>Centre for Traumatic Stress Studies, The University of Adelaide, <sup>5</sup>The University of Melbourne, <sup>6</sup>Private Practitioner, <sup>7</sup>The University of Adelaide

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Leighton Hall

**An ecological approach to reporting the adjustment of refugee children and adolescents in Australia: outcomes from wave three of the Building a New Life in Australia study**

High-income countries such as Australia play a vital role in resettling refugees from around the world, half of whom are vulnerable children and adolescents. This study took an ecological approach to describe and examine the adjustment of refugee children and adolescents five years after their arrival to Australia. We utilised the data source of the third wave of the Building a New Life in Australia (BNLA) study, which captures outcomes related to refugee settlement. Child outcomes were assessed using the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (n=694). Interview data was also obtained about the child/adolescent's mental health, physical health, family, school, and community environments. The results showed that refugee children and adolescents on the whole appeared to be adjusting well on ecological domains and functioning. We discuss factors that influence positive adjustment and implications for refugee resettlement policy and services.

**P**

**Roger Patulny<sup>1</sup>, Claire Seaman<sup>1</sup>, Gaby Ramia<sup>2</sup>, Greg Marston<sup>3</sup>, Michelle Peterie<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>University of Wollongong, <sup>2</sup>The University of Sydney, <sup>3</sup>The University of Queensland,

Monday 3.40pm–5.00pm, Tyree Room

**The role of personal networks in helping Australians find jobs**

Unemployed people are amongst Australian society's most disadvantaged, and the number of unemployed and long-term unemployed has increased over the last decade. A key resource that can be used by job seekers is their personal social network. However, it is unclear which mixture of network characteristics is most commonly associated with finding a job. Granovetter's (1973) study postulated that weakly bonded, larger networks allow for a better flow of information and resources, though it is unclear what kind of resources need to flow and whether the employment heterogeneity of networks matters in job attainment.

Weak ties might open many doors to employment, but do strong ties in particular industries hold the key to entering and advancing in one's career of choice? This study uses ARC-funded national AUSSA survey data to examine relations between the strength, size and employment heterogeneity of the personal job search networks of Australians, and their perceived success in attaining employment in their preferred (or any) occupation. Preliminary findings suggest that while Australians have turned to weak-tie acquaintances in the past when searching for a job, they anticipate turning to closer, strong-tie familiars if they need to seek a job in future. Moreover, while Australians mostly received help in the form of referrals, recommendations and information on job vacancies in the past, they are more likely to seek emotional support from their networks in the future.

**Michelle Peterie<sup>1</sup>, Gaby Ramia<sup>1</sup>, Greg Marston<sup>2</sup>, Roger Patulny<sup>3</sup>, Claire Seaman<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>The University of Sydney, <sup>2</sup>The University of Queensland, <sup>3</sup>University of Wollongong,

Monday 3.40pm–5.00pm, Tyree Room

It's not just the size of your network that counts, it's if and how you use it

Research in Europe and the US has found that unemployed people who contact friends or family for help finding a job secure work significantly more quickly than those who do not. It is thus concerning that our preliminary research findings suggest that people who are unemployed may have small and weak networks. However, while the size and characteristics of a person's social network no doubt impacts on their job-search experience, a network is only valuable to the extent that an individual is able to use it.

Drawing on interviews with unemployed Australians, this paper argues that the negative emotions associated with unemployment prevent some unemployed Australians from leveraging their networks as they seek employment. Emotions – like other resources – are distributed unequally in society, and research documents the relationship between economic disadvantage and psychological pain. While many study participants were isolated, some possessed strong networks but did not use them. Economic deprivation has been associated with shame, humiliation, stigma, and powerlessness. Unemployed males also experience additional (gender-role related) shame. In this context, interviewees emphasised the importance of asserting dignity and independence in those parts of their lives that they could control. Interviewees managed their emotions so that their loved ones did not know “how bad it was”; they also avoided asking for help. These techniques allowed study participants to manage their feelings of worthlessness and shame, but they also conceivably compounded their isolation and disadvantage.

## Sarah Pollock

Mind Australia Limited

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Gallery 1

People with psychosocial disability as choice-makers in the NDIS

Choice and control are central to the design of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). However, the application of choice for people with psychosocial disability remains largely unexamined in the empirical literature.

This study explores how people with psychosocial disability make choices in the context of the NDIS, the supports they draw

on and their understandings of themselves as choice-makers. It positions people with psychosocial disability as experts in understanding the operation of choice in the NDIS, and the research team includes members with lived experience of mental ill-health and recovery.

The study comprises interviews with 30 NDIS participants with psychosocial disability. Using narrative interviews, the study will explore experiences of choice-making in the NDIS and more broadly, and how experiences and self-understandings change over first and subsequent plans. Following the initial analysis of interview data, participants will be invited to participate in workshops to consider the implications of the analysis. The field work will take place between July and September this year.

The study includes a literature review and critical policy analysis (completed). The findings from lived experience will offer further critical analysis of choice in the context of the NDIS.

People with psychosocial disability traditionally have had limited opportunities to exercise choice in the provision of treatment and support. The NDIS offers new opportunities for individual agency, but presents challenges if the promise of control and choice is to be realised. It is hoped this study will yield implications for policy, practice and further research in this regard.

## Jenny Povey, Michelle Brady, Paco Perales, Janeen Baxter

The University of Queensland

Monday 3.40pm–5.00pm, Leighton Hall

Childcare flexibility through subsidised care in the family home: perspectives of families, carers and stakeholders

As the number of people working non-standard and irregular hours increases, there is a growing demand for alternative forms of childcare that meets the needs of their families. The problem of childcare inflexibility was thus a key focus of the 2013-15 Productivity Commission Inquiry into Childcare and Early Childhood Learning, which recommended that the Australian Government increase families' access to subsidies for childcare in the home. Following the recommendations of this inquiry the Australian Government is developing new



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childcare policies that address families' needs for flexible childcare. As part of this process, the Department of Education and Training have undertaken evaluations of existing and pilot programs that provide subsidised childcare in the family home, including the In Home Care Program and the Nanny Pilot Programme. These evaluations were undertaken by a team of researchers at The University of Queensland, and involved interviews with families, nannies and stakeholders, surveys of families and nannies/educators, and analyses of administrative data. Our findings provide important new insights into the extent of demand for long hours of care during non-standard hours and the experiences of those who need or use this type of care.

## R

### Ioana Ramia

Centre for Social Impact

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

**What is happiness? The heterogeneity of measures of subjective wellbeing in the context of wellbeing and educational achievement in Australia**

Data on subjective wellbeing (SWB) is usually collected through quantitative surveys. Most often with visual supports, such as a scale presented on an axis, respondents are asked to rank their life satisfaction or happiness, 'all things considered'. Data is then analysed using classical statistical techniques, such as regression analyses, to identify what impacts on happiness. This paper debates the suitability of such analyses and argues that SWB is a heterogeneous measure: while all respondents measure their SWB on the same scale, they rarely have the same definition of life satisfaction or happiness.

The paper presents this argument in the context of demonstrating the relationship between educational achievement and SWB. This exploration is important because higher educational achievement is often associated with higher objective wellbeing, but a negative or non-existent relationship to subjective wellbeing is often identified in Australia (Dockery, 2010). As higher education comes with great expenditure from students, government and universities, it is important to understand its benefits.

National data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey was used in correlation analysis, revealing that the levels of satisfaction with domains of life correlate with overall life satisfaction differently for individuals across different levels of education. This indicates that the definition or perception of what life satisfaction is, differs across the population, attesting to the need to account for the heterogeneity of SWB. The results have implications for the use of measures such as the average level of life satisfaction to draw conclusions about large populations.

### Gaby Ramia<sup>1</sup>, Michelle Peterie<sup>1</sup>, Greg Marston<sup>2</sup>, Roger Patulny<sup>3</sup>, Claire Seaman<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The University of Sydney, <sup>2</sup>The University of Queensland, <sup>3</sup>University of Wollongong

Monday 3.40pm–5.00pm, Tyree Room

**Beyond 'who you know': a qualitative analysis of social networks and job search in Australia**

International studies substantiate the argument that unemployed people's social networks influence their ability to find employment. Yet there are few Australian studies, scant literature on the contours of the relationship between networks and employment, and little said about the impact of networks on general wellbeing. Based on an ARC-funded study of eighty semi-structured in-depth interviews in Australia, this paper is a qualitative analysis of long-term unemployed people's perceptions of their social networks and the implications of network quality for job-search, job chances and personal wellbeing.

The interview data reveals generally low levels of inter-personal contact with people whose assistance has the potential to produce positive employment outcomes. Location, age, education levels and cultural and work background are all important but unpredictable deciders of network effectiveness. Interviewees were generally disinclined to move cities for fear of losing connections in the current location. Most are happy to access 'formal' assistance from employment service providers, and some have relatively strong and ongoing 'informal' support from family, though some interviewees are reluctant to rely 'too much' on loved ones because they do not wish to be 'burden'. Most have poor connections with friends and acquaintances. Social media

is widely used, but rarely for job-search. The paper explores the implications for theory and policy of these and other interview-based findings.

## Agathe Randrianarisoa, Dina Bowman

Brotherhood of St Laurence

Wednesday 2.55pm–4.35pm, Gallery 1

### Enhancing employment services for mature age jobseekers

Existing policy responses to age discrimination tend to focus on enhancing the employability of older Australians. These responses include awareness campaigns, age management toolkits and wage subsidies. This research study is unique in its focus on assisting jobactive staff to more effectively work with mature-age jobseekers. It was funded by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation and its focus was on Employment Regions in Melbourne area.

The objectives of the project are to inform debates about the future of employment services and develop learning modules to assist staff. This objective has been underpinned by the following questions:

- How do mature age jobseekers and employers perceive the assistance received from jobactive?
- What challenges do jobactive staff identify in supporting mature age jobseekers?
- To what extent can learning resources assist jobactive staff to more effectively support mature age jobseekers?

The main findings of this study are that mature age jobseekers do not consider the help received as “real help”. jobactive staff struggle to assist a growing number of mature age jobseekers in an employers' labour market, where old industries are disappearing and competition among the different age cohorts is fierce. In addition, jobactive staff seemed to be caught between their mission and the non-conducive environment in which they operate where the emphasis is put on performance and compliance. It draws from the findings of semi-structured interviews conducted with mature age jobseekers (30), jobactive staff (32), employers and key informants (20) between August 2016 and May 2017.

## Tim Reddel

Department of Social Services

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Leighton Hall

### Is data really the new oil? Transforming data to improve community outcomes

Clive Humby, UK Mathematician, coined the phrase, Data is the New Oil: ‘Oil is valuable, but if unrefined it cannot really be used. It has to be changed into gas, plastic, petrol, to create profits; so must data be analysed for it to have value.’

It is easy to think of data being collected, analysed and monetized by Google, Uber and Microsoft. But if data is like oil, does that mean that data is just another resource that can be privatised, to create immense wealth for a few? After all, this data was collected from and generated by citizens.

Effective public policy demands we draw value from data provided by citizens and that the citizenry are the beneficiaries of that value. So how do governments, civil society, academia and the private sector translate data into policy knowledge, insights and questions to improve lifetime wellbeing through more innovative and evidence driven policy analysis, engagement and implementation? In this presentation I will draw on historical examples and then discuss the Department of Social Services' Priority Investment Approach for Welfare and one of its key elements, the Try, Test and Learn fund as a contemporary example of government using a commissioning for outcomes approach to use data, policy analysis and user co-design to address complex social problems such as intergenerational welfare dependency. By embedding critical questions such as problem definition, intended outcomes and driving data throughout the policy process we can make a start in achieving more sustainable public policy outcomes.

## Gerry Redmond<sup>1</sup>, Jennifer Skattebol<sup>2</sup>, Gabriella Zizzo<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Flinders University, <sup>2</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, <sup>3</sup>South Australian Aboriginal Health Council

Wednesday 2.55pm–4.35pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

### Is there a tension between projects of self and collective orientations? An analysis of young people's pursuit of the neo-liberal ideal in the context of family health concerns



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Neo-liberal ideology assumes a 'parent/ carer – dependent child' binary, where it is assumed that parents resource children - materially, emotionally and ideologically - so they can get on with the childhood project of accumulating the educational capital which will enable them to become income earning citizens. This paper argues this binary is not useful in understanding the everyday lives of many young Australians. We explore tensions that arise for young people who not only receive resources from their families but also contribute important resources to the family. Using both in-depth interviews and large scale survey data from an integrated mixed method study of young Australians aged 8-14 years, we examine the routes through which health concerns in family members (disability, mental illness, drug addiction) can disrupt the 'parent/carer – dependent child' binary, and divert young people from capital accumulation through school engagement. Analysis of survey data suggests that even when cultural and economic capital and levels of cohesion in the family are accounted for, young people's school engagement may be compromised by the presence of a family member with serious health concerns. In-depth interview data are used to elaborate the dynamics that influence some young people to reduce their school engagement in the context of family health concerns. Our findings point to the need for policy to provide support for whole families where a one or more members has a serious health concern, and for better integration of responses between health and education agencies.

## Rebecca Reeve

The Smith Family

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Leighton Hall

### The compounding effect of health, disability and financial disadvantage on educational outcomes for children

Introduction: Australian children from disadvantaged families are at a greater risk of poor educational and post-school outcomes than other children. Within disadvantaged families there are a range of vulnerabilities that increase the risk of poor outcomes for children, including health and disability issues.

Aims: This research investigates the compounding impact of health and disability issues on educational outcomes for children in

disadvantaged families.

Methods: The Smith Family's Learning for Life (LfL) program supports over 36,000 students from disadvantaged families to improve their educational outcomes. This ARC funded research uses data from the Learning Catalysts study, including interviews with 32 matched pairs of LfL students and their primary carers, and surveys of around 6,000 LfL students, linked to administrative data. The study estimates the prevalence of health and disability issues among LfL students. It draws on qualitative findings of the impact of health on a child's engagement in education to inform quantitative analysis of the impact of poor health on educational outcomes.

Results: Approximately four in 10 LfL students have health or disability issues with over 16% reporting long-term issues. Students with health and disability issues miss out on more school activities, have a lower sense of belonging, have lower attendance rates than other LfL students, and are more likely to have carers who are not in the labour force. The findings indicate that more nuanced programmatic support may be required for disadvantaged families with a child who has health and disability issues.

## Sue Regan, David Stanton

Australian National University

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Tyree Room

### Social policy inquiries in Australia: a review of reviews

Inquiries into social policy in Australia occur with frequent regularity and yet are rarely studied. This paper presents a history of welfare reviews in Australia covering the period from the early 1970s to the present day. It includes reviews most like 'public inquiries' which are commissioned by executive government. This 'review of reviews' begins with the Commission of Inquiry into Poverty (1972-76) and concludes with the second Reference Group on Welfare Reform (2013-2015). We examine the characteristics, activities and findings of these reviews and consider their contribution to social policy. Our analysis reveals that reviews undertaken in this period were many and varied, but many common social policy themes and challenges prevail across the decades. This includes the obligations placed on welfare recipients, the adequacy of payments and incentives to work,

whether to adopt contributory financing, the balance between universality and selectivity, and the relationship between tax and transfer systems. We argue that the influence of the individual inquiries varies (in degree and nature), but that viewed collectively their contribution has been substantial and enduring. We conclude by reflecting that wide-ranging social policy reviews have been very rare, with no royal commissions in the period of study and with the last inquiry with ‘breadth’ being, arguably, the Commission of Inquiry into Poverty which reported four decades ago. Given the extent of incremental and piecemeal reform that has occurred over our period of study, we suggest that the time has come for a new wide-ranging inquiry into social policy in Australia.

## Wuna Reilly

The University of Sydney

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Gallery 2

### Forming China’s rural land system: land, welfare, and Party legitimacy

China’s rural collective land is officially ‘owned’ by the collective, though specific user rights over the land have been delegated to members of the collective (‘rural residents’). Their ownership rights are not complete: most importantly, rural residents cannot sell their land. Most observers assume this hybrid land system is merely transitional, and will inevitably be transformed into a private land ownership system as China’s market economy progresses. Yet such assumptions fail to explain the system’s formation or its endurance.

This paper engages two core research questions. First, what role did the Communist Party’s previous land revolution experiences play in the shaping of China’s current rural collective land system? Secondly, what functions of the land system employed from the mid-1920 to mid-1950s have re-emerged in current land system?

While applying historical institutionalist methodology, my research is grounded in careful examination of primary historical documents, including the writings of major Communist Party leaders on land related issues, land laws such as the 1929 ‘Jinggangshan Land Law’, KMT land policies during the first period of KMT–CCP cooperation (1924–1927), and land related

policies, orders, regulations and practices under the Chinese Communist Party since the 1920s.

This historical inquiry highlights the central role that the rural land system plays within China’s social protection structure, which in turn, helps illuminate one of the most important foundations of the Chinese Communist Party’s legitimacy today.

## Pilar Rioseco<sup>1</sup>, Nadine Liddy<sup>2</sup>, Cuc Hoang<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Australian Institute of Family Studies, <sup>2</sup>Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Australia

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Leighton Hall

### Settlement outcomes of humanitarian youth: combining research, policy and practice

Young people from humanitarian backgrounds have enormous potential to be active participants in Australian society. However, they face a range of challenges in achieving this. These include: learning a new language and culture, navigating new systems, and the impact of their refugee experiences. They are also, negotiating the developmental tasks of adolescence and new family dynamics in the context of settling in a new country. The Australian Government funds a range of services to assist the settlement process of young people. The Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Australia (MYAN Australia) has developed the National Youth Settlement Framework (NYSF): the first national framework to guide and measure youth settlement policy and service delivery in Australia. Using a set of indicators, across four domains, the Framework is designed to enable services to respond more effectively to the needs of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

This paper first presents the main aspects of the framework, followed by a discussion of recent findings from the Building a New Life in Australia –the longitudinal study of humanitarian migrants- in three domains of the NYSF: economic participation, social participation, and personal well-being. Outcomes for 103 adolescents (aged 15–17) and 358 young adults (aged 18–25) who participated in three waves of data collection are examined. The paper then presents case studies on working with humanitarian youth that put the NYSF into practice. This presentation will provide an example of how research, policy



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and practice can work together to improve the wellbeing of humanitarian youth.

## Sally Robinson

Southern Cross University

Monday 3.40pm–5.00pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

### What is important to children and young people with disability about safety in institutional settings?

Children and young people with disability experience significantly higher rates of abuse and violence than non-disabled peers (Llewellyn et al, 2017). Against this backdrop, this study explored what helps children and young people with disability and high support needs to feel and be safe in institutional settings. Twenty-two children and young people contributed to a participatory study conducted for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, alongside family members and service providers. This paper reports on methods and findings of priority to children and young people.

In addition to traditional interviews, the researchers used a range of creative methods to prioritise participation of children and young people with diverse needs and preferences, including pictorial mapping, photo elicitation, walk-along interviews and Talking Mats. A detailed picture emerged of the ways that children and young people conceptualised safety, facilitators and barriers, and ideas for improvement in their lives.

A number of key issues important to children and young people, policy and practice can be drawn from the study findings. These include identified need for understanding of the impact of systemic limitations and failures, segregation, lack of choice and discrimination on children and young people's lives; work to assist children and young people and their supporters to recognise and assess the relative risk of harm; concerted monitoring of the nature and quality of support relationships; and support of active participation of children and young people with disability so they are better involved in decisions across in a number of domains.

## Steven Roche

Institute of Child Protection Studies

Monday 3.40pm–5.00pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

### Improving safety in residential care: recommendations from young people

This presentation discusses findings from research commissioned by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse that investigated the safety of young people in residential care, and highlights the policies and practices that impact their safety and wellbeing. In Australia, residential care remains a significant type of out-of-home care (OOHC), despite generally being considered a placement of last resort, with 2,394 children living in this form of care. It provides care for some of the most disadvantaged, vulnerable and challenging young people in the OOHC system. Many children leaving out-of-home care are frequently found to be experiencing significant health, social and educational deficits. Our study interviewed 27 children and young people aged between 10 and 20 years of age with experience of living in residential care, and explored their perceptions and experiences of safety. Participants felt that residential care, as it currently exists, is unsafe for most children and young people, and that more effort should be put into finding alternate care arrangements. To improve the safety of young people participants recommended policy changes such as preventing young people from entering residential care, exploring alternate residential care models, viewing residential care as a long-term placement, as well as improving staffing policies and practices.

## S

### Peter Saunders, Megan Bedford

Social Policy Research Centre

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Tyree Room

### New budget standards for low-paid and unemployed Australians

The SPRC conducted a major budget standards study in the 1990s commissioned by the federal government in the 1990s that produced Modest but Adequate (MBA) and Low Cost (LC) budgets for over 40 household types that varied by size, composition,

housing tenure and labour force status. These estimates are now over two decades old and need to be revised to make them consistent with current conditions if they are to provide useful guidance on questions relating to income adequacy. This paper reports the results from an ARC Linkage project that has reviewed, refined, revised and updated the 1990s budgets for a smaller range of individuals and families who are either in low-paid employment or are unemployed. The new budgets represent the Minimum Income for Healthy Living (MIHL) standard that has emerged from the public health literature. The new estimates have been made relevant to current circumstances by revising the products included in the budgets, making them consistent with current product availability and pricing and ensuring that they reflect the feedback provided by a series of focus groups conducted with unemployed and low-paid working Australians. This presentation will discuss some of the issues encountered in producing the new estimates and show how the new budgets compare with other adequacy benchmarks (poverty lines) and with the incomes provide by existing social safety net provisions.

## Peter Saunders, Megan Bedford, Yuvisthi Naidoo

Social Policy Research Centre

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Tyree Room

### A child-centred approach to measuring child poverty: Initial findings of a NSW study

Conventional studies of child poverty help to identify how many and which children face the greatest risk of exposure to poverty, but are limited because they focus on family income and take no account of the views of children and young people. The deprivation approach pioneered by Townsend but modified since to become the 'consensual approach to poverty measurement' takes a broader living standards approach and is able to identify specific forms of poverty that affect children, but still relies mainly on the views of adults. However, recent studies have applied the modified consensual approach to capture children's own views on what constitutes poverty and develop deprivation-based measures that embody those views. This paper will report the initial results from a study that applies this new approach to a sample of 2,600 high school-aged children living in New South Wales.

After briefly describing how the study was conceptualised, developed and conducted, attention will focus on what the findings imply about the extent of poverty among young people, what forms it takes and how the experience of poverty affects children's sense of well-being and (in a limited way) relationships with others. The survey was also completed by around 300 young people who are participating in the 'Learning for Life'(LFL) program run by The Smith Family that provides extra support to encourage disadvantaged children to stay at school. Comparisons of results between the school-based and LFL sub-samples will be used to highlight how different groups of young people understand and experience poverty.

## Peter Saunders, Yuvisthi Naidoo

Social Policy Research Centre

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Tyree Room

### Poverty and deprivation in Australia: towards better measures and improved understanding

Unlike many other countries, most Australian poverty studies continue to rely solely on income to measure poverty using a poverty line. These studies identify households that are at risk of poverty but fail to provide convincing evidence that poverty is actually experienced. They can also only identify individuals living in households that are poor but not individuals who are themselves poor. In contrast, the consensual approach to poverty measurement that builds on Townsend's conception of 'poverty as deprivation' is able to reveal the lived experience of poverty by identifying households and individuals who cannot afford the basic necessities required to participate in customary ways in society. Although small in scale and subject to possible response bias, available Australian deprivation and exclusion studies show that the approach is capable of generating important new findings. These studies indicate that the overlap between income poverty and deprivation is rather low, suggesting that the choice of approach matters. The empirical support for, and implications of, these findings can now be better examined using data generated by a suite of deprivation questions included in wave 14 (2014) of the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey. This paper will present results from an initial analysis of the new HILDA deprivation data, focusing on what it reveals about the

extent and nature of deprivation. The degree of overlap between deprivation and income poverty will be identified, as will the impact of both measures (in isolation and together) on different dimensions of subjective well-being.

## Xiaoyuan Shang

Social Policy Research Centre

Monday 3.40pm–5.00pm, Gallery 2

### Analysis of a child protection case in China's new legal context

From the prospective of child rights and interests, the article uses qualitative methods to examines a case in which a child was physically punished by a parent, who found guilty in a child protection case , resulting in the guardianship rights over the child being deprived. The case was very influential in China because few parents lost their guardianship of a child because of physical punishment for educational reasons. The main findings of the research are: this case appeared does not follow the principle of child best interests through the whole process, and ignored the voice of the child, made the secondary harm to the victim. The principles, procedures and methods used in this pioneering case could provide a unsuccessful example for future cases. There are a number of issues which should be addressed in the future.

## Sarah Sinclair

RMIT University

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Tyree Room

### Using HILDA and LSAC to assess the well-being of separated families: methodological issues

Dr Sarah Sinclair will present on the Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey, which is a household panel survey that collects data about the economic and social wellbeing, labour force dynamics and family life over time. The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) is another major study following the development of 10,000 Australian children and families. Sarah will discuss the HILDA survey and LSAC in the context of changing family dynamics and consider some of the strengths and weakness in the use of large panel datasets in understanding the dynamics of families post separation. She will assess contexts in

which data is useful, or alternatively difficult to manipulate, irregular (e.g the wealth module in HILDA) or simply not fit-for-purpose to capture the specific issues relevant to assessing the well-being of separated families.

## Jen Skattebol, Cathy Thomson, Myra Hamilton

Social Policy Research Centre

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

### Developing affective practice: accessing biographical experience in policy research with young people using secondary and tertiary services

Interest in biographical narratives as a tool for understanding and empowerment is increasing in youth work and research. Such work enables policy makers rich insights into the way service systems are experienced by those they aim to support. However, biographical work with young service users is replete with delights and dilemmas. On the one hand, biographies enable young people's strengths – their funds of knowledge, competencies, values, social networks and resources - to be unfurled and better understood. On the other, 'difficult knowledges' often lurk in the folds of stories – typically this material remains untold in young people's accounts of themselves as they seek resources and services from unfamiliar adults. Biographical work seeks full accounts of encounters, critical moments, identities and relationships. Love, desire and shame loom large and require research and practice skills involving delicate political and emotional boundary riding. This paper shares research findings that explores the practical, ethical and political landscapes of biographical work. We have sought biographical narratives over several waves from young people who rely on secondary and tertiary services. The project aimed to better understand how service systems worked for them. This paper focuses on critical moments and the practice of researcher decision-making in interviews, and embedding opportunities for knowledge exchange in research design. The lenses of affect and care have been important conceptual tools. We found the question of how we seek, hear, interpret, feedback and exchange biographical work is critically important to young people whose stories are sometimes their main resource.

## Lyndal Sleep

Griffith University

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Tyree Room

### The use of domestic violence police reports in applying the ‘couple’ or ‘de facto’ rule in Australia and New Zealand for the purposes of social security payment

In Australia’s heavily targeted social welfare apparatus, couples are assessed jointly for their eligibility for social security payment. Specific guidelines for deciding if a social security recipient’s relationship is a couple is provided by the ‘couple rule’ in section 4(3) of the Social Security Act 1991 (Cth). If a social security recipient is found to be part of an undeclared couple they can be denied payment, have their payment reduced or changed, be asked to repay any overpayment and also be criminally prosecuted for fraud. A plethora of information can be used to decide if a social security recipient is indeed a member of a couple for social security purposes. Of particular concern is the use of domestic violence police reports as evidence of a relationship. This is in contrast to the approach in New Zealand, where a similar ‘de facto rule’ can consider situations that involve domestic violence as NOT a de facto relationship for social security payment purposes. This article compares Australia’s and New Zealand’s use of domestic violence police reports in applying the ‘couple’ or ‘de facto’ rule for the purposes of social security payment. It reports on a small research project which aimed to determine how New Zealand decision makers use domestic violence police reports as evidence when applying the ‘de facto rule’ by analysing Social Security Authority (NZ) decisions. It compares and contrasts this project’s findings to a previous similar project which analysed Australian Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) ‘couple rule’ decisions (Sleep, 2016).

## Bruce Smyth

Australian National University

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Tyree Room

### The impacts on separated families of major child support reform in Australia: evidence from a quasi-natural experiment

Associate Professor Bruce Smyth will discuss the benefits and challenges of working with multiple partners on a large cross-sequential study of the impacts on separated families

of the 2006–08 child support reforms in Australia. The ‘Child Support Reform Study’, that forms the basis of the presentation, was developed with Professor Bryan Rodgers, and funded by an Australian Research Council Linkage Project, with support from the then Child Support Agency and the Department of Families, Housing and Community Services. Key findings, along with the benefits of cross-sequential designs and challenges of analysing dyadic data, will be briefly discussed, and suggestions for future methodological approaches offered.

## Bruce Smyth

Australian National University

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Leighton Hall

### When love turns to hate after divorce: implications for policy

‘High-conflict’ divorce cases have been consistently identified as difficult, complex, time consuming, and costly. They place great strain on individuals, practitioners and courts, as well as on the family law and child support systems more generally. In this symposium presenters explore ‘interparental hatred’ as a key relationship dynamic driving some high-conflict cases.

In this first paper Smyth sets out the conceptual thinking behind this work, (b) offers some recent data, and (c) briefly touches on the policy and practical implications of recognising and working with hate-driven conflict.

## Aino Suomi<sup>1</sup>, Stephanie Taplin<sup>2,3</sup>, Morag McArthur<sup>2</sup>, Margaret Kertesz<sup>4</sup>, Cathy Humphreys<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University, <sup>2</sup>Australian Catholic University, <sup>3</sup>UNSW Sydney, <sup>4</sup>The University of Melbourne

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

### Profiles of carers and children in long-term-care in kContact study: improving contact between children and their birth parents

There is clear evidence that contact between children in out-of-home care (OOHC) and their parents, when positive and well-managed, is important for optimal child development. Policy and practice about contact with parents for children in OOHC between and within



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Australian states and territories are scant and inconsistent, particularly around supports and preparation for carers who are the primary caregivers of these children. kContact is an ARC and NSW FACS funded project that aims to find better ways to support contact between children in long-term care and their parents in Australia (ACT, Victoria, NSW). The project includes a cluster randomised controlled trial of a contact enhancement intervention for which carers, case workers and parents were interviewed at baseline and after the intervention. This paper focuses on the information about 140 children who were the subjects of kContact intervention and is predominantly obtained from the carers at the baseline interviews. It describes the care and protection history of the children and their psychosocial profiles including trauma, behavioural, emotional and other health problems. It also reports on the nature of preparation and supports the carers of these children received at the commencement of and during their carer responsibilities. The main findings point to complex psychosocial profiles of high needs children with significant trauma history and an alarming lack of preparation and information for the carers. The paper makes specific recommendations how to better equip carers to understand the specific needs of the children including ongoing contact with parents.

## Emily Steel

The University of Southern Queensland

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Gallery 1

### An interpretive policy analysis of Australia's disability services reforms since ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

This paper explores how contemporary disability rights are implemented in Australia through an interpretive policy analysis focusing on the National Disability Strategy (NDS) and National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). It argues that the meanings ascribed shape the ways in which disability rights, as established by United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), are implemented. This paper captures progress at a single point with the aim of influencing future debate and progressive policy development. Multiple data sources were identified and key documents produced since Australia ratified the CRPD were investigated through

the qualitative process of category analysis, to reveal interpretations of disability and choice from the perspectives of policymakers (government), implementers (government agencies) and affected citizens (service providers and consumers). The findings suggest that many people in Australia are still operating in an old paradigm that conflates disability with impairment, and considers disability a health issue. The ambiguity of choice as a policy principle means that it aligns with both liberal ideals that adopt market competition in public services and the human rights agenda, though these adopt different mechanisms and appear to deliver different outcomes. Alternative conceptualisations of disability and choice and approaches for policy development and the cultural change required to realise disability rights will be discussed. This paper contributes to the theoretical and practical challenge of realising the CRPD's vision for an inclusive society that embraces diversity.

**Zachary Steel<sup>1,2</sup>, Richard Bryant<sup>3</sup>,  
Meaghan O'Donnell<sup>4</sup>, Angela  
Nickerson<sup>3</sup>, Derrick Silove<sup>1</sup>, Ben  
Edwards<sup>5</sup>, Miranda Van Hooff<sup>6</sup>, Winnie  
Lau<sup>4</sup>, Dusan Hadzi-Pavlovic<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>UNSW Psychiatry, <sup>2</sup>St John of God Health Care, <sup>3</sup>UNSW Psychology, <sup>4</sup>The University of Melbourne, <sup>5</sup>ANU Centre for Social Research & Methods, <sup>6</sup>The University of Adelaide

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Leighton Hall

### Intrusive fear for family amongst family resettled as refugees in Australia

Introduction: A major stress that faces refugee and humanitarian entrants during their resettlement period Australia is the safety of separated family members who remain in the country of origin.

Research Questions: (1) Do refugees experiences a distinct symptom cluster of intrusive fear symptoms related to family safety during resettlement in Australia; (2) What are the mental health and resettlement correlates associated with intrusive fear for family symptoms three years post settlement.

Method: This analysis of this study draws on data from wave 1 and wave 3 of Building a new life in Australia Study undertaken with humanitarian migrants in Australia assessed at approximately 6 months and 3.5 years

post settlement. A sub-sample of 397 primary care givers answered questions regarding intrusive fears for the safety of separated family members due to migration.

Results: Confirmatory factor analysis of PTSD and intrusive fear symptoms confirmed for family as a related but distinctive cluster of traumatic stress symptoms. Caregivers reporting higher lifetime exposure to potentially traumatic events reordered higher intrusive fear for family symptoms. Higher levels of intrusive fear for family symptoms was associated with heightened posttraumatic stress ( $p < .001$ ) and psychological distress ( $p < .001$ ) symptoms as well as increased levels of post migration stress ( $P < .001$ ).

Findings: The findings demonstrate the impact of ongoing fear for family on mental health and resettlement amongst humanitarian entrants.

### Dai Su, Yingchun Chen, Haomiao Li

Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Gallery 2

#### The impact of new rural endowment insurance policy in China on the health level of the elderly

This article uses the Chinese micro household survey data, analysing the impact of new rural endowment insurance policy in China on the health level of the elderly through the fuzzy regression discontinuity design (fuzzy RDD). Three important issues are focused on: First, whether the policy is significantly improve health care service utilization of the rural elderly. Second, how does the policy influence the mental health and physical health of the elderly in rural areas. Third, which channels do the policy influences the health of the rural elderly. The results show that the new rural endowment insurance policy improves the outpatient services utilization for the old in rural areas, enhance the individual mental health level, the impact on physical health is not significant, mental health is influenced by the improvement of life satisfaction and cognitive ability. Therefore, the new rural endowment insurance policy should improve their own system design and cooperation with other pension policy at the same time, so that comprehensively increases the health of rural elderly.

## T

### Yanyan Tang, Hongxia Gao, Jing Wu, Zhiguo Zhang, Qifei Wu, Juan Xu

Huazhong University of Science and Technology

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Gallery 2

#### The health behavior improvement of chronic disease patients in community

Introduction: Adapting to the health needs of the aging society, strengthening the urban and rural elderly health education and health promotion, improving the health of the elderly population and quality of life. To establish an urban community health education and health promotion network and to improve the health behavior of chronic disease patients.

Methods: The research using cluster random sampling method to select 305 patients with hypertension and diabetes in Jingmen City, Hubei Province. One-on-one questionnaires conducted in 2015 and 2016 respectively. Using descriptive statistics and the Mann and Whitney methods for scoring data and evaluating the effect of medical opinion leaders' intervention.

Findings: Medical opinion leader intervention, the means of health behavior for chronic diseases patients are  $6.90 \pm 1.74$  and  $1.74 \pm 1.27$ . The means of diet behavior in intervention group and control group are  $1.75 \pm 0.51$  and  $1.61 \pm 0.53$ , the difference was statistically significant ( $Z = 0.54$ ,  $P = 0.54$ ). The means of diet behavior of OL Opinion Leadership and ordinary group in the intervention group are  $1.93 \pm 0.27$  and  $0.27 \pm 0.53$ , the difference was statistically significant ( $Z = 1.93$ ,  $P = 1.93$ ). But the intervention group and control group in the exercise, smoking/drinking behavior, there were no statistically significant difference ( $Z = 1.64$ ,  $P = 0.10$ ;  $Z = 0.59$ ,  $P = 0.56$ ).

Conclusion: Medical opinion leaders can effectively improve the diet behavior of chronic diseases patients in community, and whether can improve exercise, smoking/drinking behavior, still need further discussion.

### Stephanie Taplin

Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University

Monday 2.10pm–3.10pm, Leighton Hall

#### How does the child protection system intervene with pregnant women and



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## newborns?

Prenatal reporting to child protection services has been enacted into most jurisdictions across Australia, its aims being to intervene early and provide supports which will either identify or prevent the need for a baby to be taken into care and protection once born. Comparisons between jurisdictions show relatively large variations in rates of reporting and infant removals. Little is known, however, about the characteristics of those reported, the timing and reasons for reports, service responses, and the impacts of being reported on the mother, the infant and others.

This paper uses administrative data to examine the characteristics of prenatal reports in one Australian jurisdiction. Many of the pregnant women were reported because screening by antenatal services identified potential risks, such as maternal substance use. The women were predominantly disadvantaged, reported relatively late in their pregnancy due to 'future risk concerns'. A significant proportion of their babies were removed by child protection soon after their birth.

Balancing the rights of a mother to parent her child against the rights of the child to be safe and well is a complex issue. Currently, there is limited Australian evidence which allows us to determine whether prenatal reporting and the placement of infants in the out-of-home care system, leads to improved outcomes for infants and their birth families. It is likely that longer term supportive interventions are needed, to reduce the risk factors evident in women reported during pregnancy, and to improve their ability to safely care for their children.

## Matthew Taylor

ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Gallery 1

### The fiscal and distributional impacts of Parental Leave Pay reform

Parental Leave Pay (PLP), formerly known as Paid Parental Leave, is a Commonwealth government payment that provides \$12,000 to just under 170,000 families every year at an annual (gross) cost of \$1.97 billion to encourage mothers to remain on parental leave for at least 18 weeks after the birth of a child.

PLP stands out from other Australian family payments in that, while taxable, it is means tested based on mother's pre-birth earnings

rather than family income such that only those mothers with annual pre-birth earnings in excess of \$150,000 are ineligible provided they meet the work test.

In recent years PLP has been the subject of a number of reform proposals – of varying levels of quality – that seek to better target PLP expenditure. While the Turnbull government has recently backed away from its most recent reforms the Minister for Social Services has not ruled out the prospect of reform in the future.

This paper will use data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey to model the impact of the introduction of PLP on both the labour force participation of mothers and their rate of return to work after birth. These estimates of the labour supply impacts of PLP will be combined with tax-transfer modelling to assess the fiscal and distributional impacts of current PLP policy, and various approaches to the targeting PLP payments. This paper will also explore the horizontal and vertical equity implications of current PLP policy and proposals for PLP reform.

## Cathy Thomson

Social Policy Research Centre

Monday 3.40pm–5.00pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

### At what cost? Blueprint for fair and sustainable care in society

The care crisis has become a central social policy issue in Australia, and internationally, due to the intersection of demographic and policy changes. Providing unpaid support to people with disabilities or who are frail or ill involves costs for carers, both direct and indirect. Indirect costs are associated with spending time caring rather than participating in education or employment. Direct costs include the additional expenditure or monetary costs associated with care for example, transport, medication and respite. The full extent of these direct costs has yet to be fully investigated in Australia.

This paper reports on a mixed method study of the direct costs of informal care. The qualitative component is based on in-depth interviews with carers. The quantitative component, based on a nationally representative dataset, employs a standard of living approach. Previously this approach has been used to estimate the direct costs of disability. The

analysis explores the complex relationship between disability and care in households using an ethic of care lens and applies a new conceptual framework to identify the nature and extent of direct costs.

The implications of the findings are considered in view of the fiscal and policy dilemmas posed by an ageing population and the negative long-term costs of providing care. The development of a policy blueprint for a more equitable distribution of these costs across the family, society and the state is critical if we are to sustain the current supply of carers and to meet future care needs

## Tian Tian

University of York

Monday 3.40pm–5.00pm, Gallery 2

### The social construction of child abuse in the Chinese society

Child abuse takes many forms (physical, emotional and sexual) and is a grievous source of distress and harm for the children that it affects. (Butchart, Harvey et al. 2006) In mainland China, there is neither an official definition of child abuse nor a dominating perception of it in the society. The absence of consensus on what constitutes maltreatment has become an obstacle that blocks the development of child protection practice.

Child maltreatment is socially constructed, which is defined by different “culture values and norms about children and parenting”. (Wattam, Parton et al. 1997) A culturally responsive definition of child maltreatment is influenced by differences in child rearing practices and deviant abusive discipline behaviours. (Korbin 1997). To explore this definition, this research was focused on the social construction of child abuse in China.

This research brought together a diverse range of influences from social constructionism and cultural anthropology to explore how child abuse (physical & emotional abuse) within the family in the Chinese cultural context. Qualitative methods were applied; 12 focus group discussions and 13 in-depth interviews with vignette were conducted in urban and rural areas in China with parents, young adults, and social workers. The boundaries and grey areas from adequate family discipline to unacceptable child abuse on various specific family discipline behaviours were explored between interview groups. The reasons behind

these perception gaps and their implications for further social work practice and child protection policies were discussed. The specific findings and discussions would be presented in the conference.

## V

### kylie valentine<sup>1</sup>, Jan Breckenridge<sup>2</sup>, Michael Salter<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, <sup>2</sup>Gendered Violence Research Network, UNSW Sydney, <sup>3</sup>School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University

Monday 2.10pm–3.10pm, Gallery 1

### Perpetrators of gendered violence: responding, intervening, understanding

More public attention is being paid now to gendered violence, especially family and domestic and family violence, than in decades. As policies and action plans to address gendered violence develop and mature, the place of perpetrators of violence in these policies becomes more pressing and complicated. What theoretical and normative accounts of gendered violence should drive policy and practice? How are perpetrators understood in different cultural and social contexts? How are perpetrators framed in prevention and early intervention policies? This paper, based on two evaluations of perpetrator programs, investigates the conceptual and empirical implications of these policy questions and representations.

### kylie valentine<sup>1</sup>, Fredrick Zmudzki<sup>1</sup>, Michael Fotheringham<sup>2</sup>, Ciara Smyth<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, <sup>2</sup>Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

### Reporting on reforms to the NSW Specialist Homelessness Services Program

In 2014 the NSW Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) Program underwent significant changes, under a reform known as Going Home Staying Home. The reform was intended to improve access to SHS and deliver a better balance between prevention and early intervention, as well as crisis and post-crisis support. This presentation reports on the Early Review of the reforms, conducted by researchers from the Australian Housing and



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Urban Research Institute and the Social Policy Research Centre. The Early Review is the first assessment of the reform transition and we report on the impact on service delivery and make recommendations for the development of data, information and support.

## W

### Lisa Walsh

Australia Council for the Arts

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Room G1 (Civil Engineering Building)

#### The arts and social cohesion: key findings from the 2016 National Arts Participation Survey

The 2016 National Arts Participation Survey is the third in a landmark series by the Australia Council for the Arts, following editions in 2009 and 2013. The National Arts Participation Survey examines both Australians' attitudes to the arts and their arts engagement, with a large nationally representative sample. The time series provides a comprehensive picture of Australians' evolving relationship with the arts in their daily lives. Society has changed since the previous surveys, and the rate of societal change seems ever increasing. There are geopolitical shifts and conflicts, coupled with changing economic and social structures. Digital platforms have made the world more connected than ever, yet in many ways divisions in society appear to be growing. Against this backdrop, the 2016 National Arts Participation Survey found that Australians increasingly believe the arts are critical to social cohesion – the arts reflect Australia's diversity; shape and express identity; and create empathy, understanding and connection. Through the arts, people have the opportunity to see themselves and their worlds reflected, and to gain insights into the lives and worlds of their neighbours near and far. This paper will present key findings from the 2016 National Arts Participation Survey, building the evidence base about the value of the arts to Australians and informing national policy conversations.

### Chunguang Wang

Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Gallery 2

#### Four stages of China's social policy transitions: a functional perspective

There are different interpretations of the functions of social policy in the literature. Social policy can be used to solve social problems, especially in preventing people from falling under the poverty line in the process of industrialisation and modernisation in history and when facing economic transition and crises in modern history. Social policy can be a way to develop social citizenship as suggested by T.H Marshall. In this context, welfare state helps to establish and guarantee social rights for citizens. These days, social policy is increasingly used in the context of social investment. The argument is that social policy should not be only about providing welfare. Social policy should be used more actively to improve human capital and provide space for multi-dimensional governance. Even though these interpretations have been used to understand China's social policy reform in China, they were not developed based on the experience in China and therefore often do not fit well.

### Jie Wang

Social Policy Research Centre

Monday 3.40pm–5.00pm, Gallery 2

#### Parents' justice evaluation of commercial extracurricular tutoring in China

The Quality-Oriented Education Policy in China results in the popularity of commercial extracurricular tutoring (CET). However, compared with public school teaching, the CET is expensive but seems unnecessary because most of CET companies operate like just a normal school. The privatization of part curricular time of public school should be concerned in terms of educational inequality since the CET is to help students prepared for admission examinations and is for profit. Through interviewing 22 parents of students from five public junior high schools in Nanjing City, this research is to find out what is parents' justice evaluation of CET, especially its role in distribution of educational resources namely admission, and why. The research finds that parents acknowledge that many students from low SES families cannot afford the CET fees and thus could be worse off in admission. However, parents do not criticize the privatization as unjust. Through analysing parents' explanations, the research finds three reasons that: (1) using the Neoliberalism discourse parents emphasize students' own efforts into admission success

and their parents own efforts to provide financial support; (2) the fade or stigma of communist egalitarianism along with free public schools and other public subsidies makes parents justify some extent of inequality; and (3) compared with other fields, the CET is embedded in an admission system with procedural justice. It will be interesting to explore whether such an evaluation is associated with the educational policy of ignoring the inequality between different strata of society.

## Jing Wang

Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Gallery 2

### Allocation of public goods and housing investment behavior in urban China

This paper analyses the driving factors for urban households to buy houses. The analyses use the datasets of Chinese Social Survey 2006-2015. The research tests two hypotheses: 1) households acquire housing assets to obtain capital gain; 2) households acquire housing assets to pursue better quality public goods. The research finds that over the past 10 years, China's urban families indeed tend to buy houses to win capital gains. Two income groups are most likely to pursue capital gains: low income and risk taking families; and high income and risk taking families. However, as people increasingly appreciate local compulsory education, health services, and good quality community infrastructure, they are becoming more important factors in people's housing purchase decisions. People are less likely to invest in the housing as a building only. This has important policy implications: in the long run, the urban government needs to improve urban public goods, and guarantee quality education and medical services.

## Melinda Walker, Kim Beadman, Stephen Griffin, Carla Treloar

Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW Sydney

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

### Engaging community in research: the UNSW Community Reference Panel

Incorporating the lived experience of affected people and a community perspective into all stages of research offers opportunities to improve research quality and ensures it is

relevant to community needs. This involves community input into research objectives, design, and conduct including issues of consent, confidentiality and considerations specific to the study or population. How to achieve this, and with appropriate representation of Indigenous people, has been a challenge for academic institutions

To fulfil this role, the UNSW Centre for Social Research in Health (CSRH) established a Community Reference Panel in 2016 to review proposed research and provide ongoing advice and oversight of projects from conception to publication and dissemination of findings. The panel was further supported by a UNSW Research Network Lab award (a joint application by CSRH and SPRC). This funding will enable the panel to consider expansion to include other key populations (such as people with lived experience of disability). Further support has been provided by the Kirby Institute as a number of projects conducted by this group will use the services of the panel. While the Panel will be engaged for a wide variety of projects, a key role is to support consultation with Aboriginal people.

This presentation will explain how the panel works, how panel members are recruited and consulted and plans for expansion. This presentation will serve as a prompt for broader discussion about community engagement in research.

## Diana Warren<sup>1</sup>, Ben Edwards<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Australian Institute of Family Studies, <sup>2</sup>Australian National University

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Leighton Hall

### Young carers: the influence of informal caring on NAPLAN outcomes

Using data from the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children, we provide new evidence about the number of Australian adolescents (aged 14-15) who are providing informal care for a family member, how much time they spend doing caring activities and the types of care they provide. We also examine whether being a young carer is associated with lower NAPLAN Scores in Year 9.

We find that 6% of 14–15 year olds helped a household member with core activities of daily living (personal care, moving around and communicating). A further 3% provided assistance with non-core activities only (e.g. preparation of meals, housework, shopping).



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After controlling for a range of socio-demographic characteristics, the differences in average NAPLAN scores for those who provided some type of care, compared to those who did not, were substantial—ranging from 0.6 years of schooling for numeracy for boys to 1 year of schooling for reading for girls. Young people who spent two or more hours per day on caring activities had substantially lower levels of achievement in reading - boys were 1.9 years behind and girls were 1.6 years behind their peers. In numeracy, boys who were providing care daily were 1.3 years behind non-caring peers; and girls who cared for four or more people were 1.2 years behind.

These findings show that intensive caring does undermine young peoples' educational prospects. Future investments in support for this small minority of youth may well pay dividends for these young carers and provide broader benefits to society.

## Ayah Wehbe<sup>1</sup>, Thushara Senaratna<sup>2</sup>, Charlotte Smedley<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, <sup>2</sup>Advance Diversity,  
<sup>3</sup>UNSW Sydney

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Gallery 1

### Accessing the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS): views and experience of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities

Voices of people with disability from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds are significantly underrepresented in research and in the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The NDIS Annual Report 2015-16 shows only 4% of people from CALD communities accessed the NDIS (NDIA, 2016). This study aims to explore the views and experiences of people from different CALD communities in Sydney about their ability to access the NDIS. In its first stage, language specific focus group discussions and individual interviews have been conducted attended by people with a disability and/or carers living in St George; this is an area where the NDIS has not yet rolled out.

In the second stage, research is to be undertaken in Bankstown where the NDIS has been already rolled out, to provide a comparative analysis of the experiences the different CALD communities have when

preparing for the NDIS and those who are already using the NDIS.

So far, focus groups have been conducted in Arabic, Mandarin and Auslan (Australian sign language), along with 7 individual interviews with participants from different CALD backgrounds. Language and communication barriers, lack of computer skills, stigma towards disability and limited exposure to disability services are significant barriers highlighted by these communities in relation to their ability to access the NDIS.

Findings will provide valuable data when the voices of people with a disability who come from CALD backgrounds will be utilized to develop strategies which will better support these communities in accessing and preparing for the NDIS.

## Harriet Westcott, Garner Clancey

Institute of Criminology, The University of Sydney

Monday 2.10pm–3.10pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

### The impacts of marketisation on NGO manager's professional relationships

There have been significant shifts over recent decades in the provision of not for profit human services and how these are funded. Neoliberal models of "marketisation" now proliferate in Australia (Meagher and Goodwin 2015). This research draws on semi-structured interviews with NGO managers at a case study site of Glebe, NSW, to examine the ways that marketisation impacted upon their working relationships. The position of an NGO manager requires interacting with a diverse range of individuals in a variety of roles, which encompasses different kinds of relationships and corresponding relationship skills. This includes, for instance: clients and the wider community, staff, volunteers, and staff and managers at other similar organisations. Findings showed that short-term funding models and a climate of funding uncertainty directly impacted upon managers by imposing bureaucratic imperatives that were often incongruent with their personal values and ethics, and with organisational values. Consequently, managers experienced internal stress as they attempted to negotiate various relationship tensions in their role. For example, the desire to build meaningful, long-term relationships with clients, staff and for partnership working with other agencies, was stymied by short term funding that

resulted in unpredictability about whether or not the service would continue to operate. Marketisation led to the paradox of managers simultaneously developing and retracting from relationship obligations at various times. This work is novel because it illuminates the personal and relational experiences of managers working under a neo-liberal funding regime, an area that has previously been neglected.

## Peter Whiteford

Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Tyree Room

### Left behind? Inequality and inclusive growth: assessing the Australian experience

The combination of rising inequality in income and wealth with stagnating living standards for much of the distribution represents a fundamental societal challenge for the rich countries of the OECD. Together with related concerns about globalisation and technological change, increasing insecurity and precarity, and the 'squeezed middle', and compounded by the impact of the Great Recession, it calls into question the sustainability of their long-standing economic and social models, and it has been argued that these trends have contributed to the current period of political uncertainty in many OECD countries.

As part of an international comparative project on inequality and inclusive growth, this paper assesses the experience of the lower half of Australian working age households over the last 35 years. Over this period Australia has experienced strongly contrasting periods of income stagnation and growth. This paper will assess the factors behind these contrasting trends and discuss the extent to which the policy approaches of the past are relevant to the current challenge of low income growth, or whether new policy paradigms are required.

## Mandy Whitford

Australia Council for the Arts

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Ronald Lu + HK Alumni Rooms

### First Nations participation in arts and cultural expression, and the relationship with wellbeing and other outcomes

Australia is home to the most enduring art

and culture makers on earth. The Australia Council for the Arts supports First Nations arts and cultural expression, and recognises the integral links between arts, culture, identity and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Using data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS), this paper will present a new picture of how many First Nations people connect to their culture through arts participation; demographic breakdowns of participants and audiences; and how First Nations peoples' arts engagement has changed between the latest NATSISS (2014-15) and the previous one (2008). The paper will also present findings of analysis by the Australia Council and the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research examining the relationship between First Nations arts participation and wellbeing, and other socioeconomic and cultural outcomes. What is the relationship between elements of traditional culture (such as language maintenance and recognition of homelands) and contemporary arts practice? Or the relationship between arts practice and mainstream outcomes such as employment and education? Are there marginalised groups who could most benefit from access to the arts who do not? What is the relationship between arts practice and elements of Indigenous wellbeing such as community connectedness and empowerment? The paper will address these questions and their implications, contributing to the evidence base to inform policy and advocacy.

## Erin Whittle<sup>1,2</sup>, Karen Fisher<sup>2</sup>, Julian Troller<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry (3DN), UNSW Sydney, <sup>2</sup>Social Policy Research Centre

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Gallery 1

### Barriers and enablers to accessing mental health services for people with an intellectual disability

Background: People with intellectual disability experience poorer mental health outcomes compared to the wider population, and face barriers to accessing appropriate mental health care. The aim of the study was to examine the lived experience of accessing mental health care to identify key barriers and facilitators that impact mental health services

access for people with intellectual disability.

**Method:** A qualitative study using an inclusive design of the lived experience of barriers and enablers to accessing mental health was undertaken. Data were collected from people with intellectual disability, carers and service providers. Consumer engagement and inclusion was a feature of the research process from inception to dissemination. This study formed one arm of a larger study, which represents multi-disciplinary collaboration with key health, disability, and consumer agencies and included analysis of large scale linked datasets and analysis of policy related to mental health service access for people with intellectual disability.

**Results:** Multiple barriers and enablers were identified at systemic and personal levels, including service availability, service quality, communication and collaboration, and advocacy.

**Implications:** Findings will provide the evidence base to develop improved access and quality of mental health services for people with intellectual disability. The project emphasises translational outcomes, and the intersection of the linked data and lived experience has a wide range of implications for policy development, service design, and implementation, including recommendations for improving the capacity of mental health services to meet the needs of people with intellectual disability via collaborative working, relationship building and clinician education.

## Brooke Wilmsen

La Trobe University

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Gallery 2

### Damming China's rivers to expand its cities: the social consequences of rural-urban resettlement in China's hydropower projects

Over the next two decades, China, the country with the world's largest urban population, is orchestrating the urbanization of some 300 million rural people. In its National New-Type Urbanization Plan (2014) the State Council has outlined a range of strategies to grow its cities not least of which is rural-to-urban migration. This plan will have significant effects on other types of displacement, particularly, the forced displacement and resettlement of those living in the path of large dams. This paper reviews what is known about New-Type Urbanization Approach to Reservoir Resettlement.

Then, based on a longitudinal study of 145 resettled households at the Three Gorges Dam, the livelihood effects of rural-to-urban resettlement are unpacked to provide lessons for its use in advancing urbanization and its social implications. It finds that rural-to-urban resettlers have lower incomes than their urban-to-urban and rural-to-rural counterparts, and higher rates of food and income insecurity.

## Emily Wolfinger

Southern Cross University

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Tyree Room

### Welfare debate in the comments section: online user perceptions of sole mother poverty and welfare in Australia

At a time of increasing online communication, this research explores online news comments about sole mother poverty and welfare in Australia within a theoretical framework of feminist perspectives and Foucauldian ideas. More specifically, it draws on online responses to Australian news stories published during the announcement and implementation of the Gillard government's sole parent welfare amendments (May 2012-January 2013) – a period of intense debate about sole mother poverty and welfare. In the last several decades, neoliberal discourse has dramatically reshaped welfare policy in the Western industrialised world through its emphasis on economic participation, self-reliance and personal accountability. Literature shows that institutional discourses about sole mothers shifted during this period to concerns over welfare dependency and reduced responsibility. However, less is known about the role of neoliberal ideology in shaping people's perceptions of sole mother poverty and welfare. This paper will report on preliminary findings from a) a qualitative content analysis of anonymous data collected from news websites and, b) a poststructural discourse analysis of emerging themes to examine the relationship between neoliberal discourse and perceptions of sole mother poverty and welfare. It will also seek to illuminate other dominant discourses, alternative perspectives and resistance to the Gillard government's welfare amendments. This study will make an empirical contribution to relevant literature through its use of online data. Crucially, it will build on knowledge of discourses about sole mothers, poverty and welfare.

## Bruce Woodhouse<sup>1</sup>, BJ Newton<sup>2</sup>, Jen Skattebol<sup>2</sup>, Megan Bedford<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>St George Community Housing, <sup>2</sup>Social Policy Research Centre

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Leighton Hall

### Experiences of young people living in community housing who receive an educational scholarship

Community housing organisations are increasingly providing opportunities for tenants to support improvements to their quality of life and opportunities to change lives through education. St George Community Housing (SGCH) is a leading not for profit community housing provider in NSW that offers Strive educational scholarships to their tenants and families in primary school, high school and higher education. The scholarships assist tenants and families with educational costs such as school fees, text books, computer equipment and extra-curricular activities. The Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) is conducting a three year, mixed method longitudinal study that will track the experiences and educational outcomes of a sample of these scholarships holders to better understand the extent of any positive impacts that are linked to receiving the Strive scholarships, the provision of stable and affordable housing, or to other factors. The research aims to provide key insights into the reasons behind positive educational progress and career aspirations. This paper will present the findings from the first wave of qualitative interviews with young people and their families.

## Fengshi Wu

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Tuesday 3.10pm–4.30pm, Gallery 2

### Non-state actors, the state, and health care in China

During the period of rapid economic development, China also witnessed the emergence of various social welfare problems that are common in post-industrial societies. This paper presents three cases of health care provision championed by either non-state actors, or the state, or both (to different degrees), in contemporary China: specialized NGOs helping children with autism, rare disease patients' rights and self-help groups, and HIV/AIDS assistance policy. These mixed patterns of health care provisions designed

for particular social groups offer relevant empirical and comparative materials to further discern the nature of the Chinese state with regard to state-society relations and welfare policies. Faced with complex demographic and socio-economic challenges, the Chinese state has evolved and adopted a variety of pragmatic strategies, allowing the participation by non-state actors in some fields, to cope with the rising demand from the general public. Supported by informed citizens and via various methods (e.g., public campaign, self-organizing, establishing NGOs), a new generation of social entrepreneurs have emerged in China, who have the potential to transform how social services and other forms of welfare are delivered in the country.

## Qiaobing Wu

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Gallery 2

### To go or not to go? Experiences of migration, social capital and the education of rural-origin children in China

Education of children is one of the critical factors that people consider while making a decision on migration. This is especially the case in the context of rural-urban migration in China, given the vastly different systems and quality of education between rural and urban areas, as well as the various barriers to receiving public education for migrant children in the urban cities. Therefore, whether bringing children along or leaving children behind in the place of origin is often a decision after weighing the costs and benefits of migration to children's education. However, to date research has rarely examined which strategy would generate more positive educational outcomes for children, given the limitation of available data. Employing data from a large-scale survey in three metropolitan cities and three rural provinces in China (N=5735), this study investigates how children's experiences of parental migration, as well as their own migration at a certain point of life, contribute to their educational outcomes including educational performance, aspiration, investment and plans. It also investigates how social capital embedded in the children's family, school and neighborhood mediates the effects of migration experiences on their educational outcomes. Findings of this research will have profound implications for education policy targeting on children with

rural origin, either living in or migrating from rural areas, with the aim of reducing inequality in education for children with different experiences of migration. The findings will also inform the development of intervention programs, such as social capital building, to promote children's educational outcomes.

## X

### Juan Xu, Yanyan Tang, Hongxia Gao, Jing Wu

Huazhong University of Science and Technology

Wednesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Gallery 2

#### New performance measurement method for community practitioner in community: Social Network (SN)

Background: Chronic disease patients, community practitioners, patients' family and other related person was in a complex social network. The study tried to provide rational evaluation on practitioners' chronic disease management work and find a new performance measurement method for community practitioner in community.

Methods: 265 hypertension patients in Jingmen city were selected by stratified cluster random sampling. Using the Social Network Analysis (SNA) drew the network, and analyzed the network density, network centralization, and components to assess the community chronic disease network characteristics; analyzed the degree of community practitioners to assess the centrality in the network.

Findings: The network densities of four communities were 0.013, 0.012, 0.017, 0.016; network centralization were 35.1%, 50%, 28.7%, 34.7%. Community practitioners occupied the center position of network. deleted community doctors from network, average degree and network centralization decreased rapidly, the components from 15, 15, 13, 17 increased to 67, 83, 42, 57, the maximum components' number of nodes from the original 119, 108, 58, 57 decreased to 9, 4, 5, 4, network connectivity was damaged. The correlation between point centrality and length of work was 0.520(P=0.039).

Conclusion: The community practitioners in charge of the chronic disease management should be stable especially the chronic disease management team; Follow-up work should be an important content for the

community practitioners; chronic disease social network analysis could provide another perspective for evaluating the work of community practitioners in community.

## Y

### Jae-jin Yang

Yonsei University

Monday 11.30am–1.10pm, Tyree Room

#### Political unsustainability of the Korean welfare state: an institutionalist view

This paper systematically examines the political sustainability of the Korean welfare state development based on the recent welfare politics since 2010 from the perspective of institutional power-resources model.

For 10 years after the 1997 economic crisis, the Korean welfare state developed rapidly under the center-left governments. Moreover, the Wind of Free Welfare started to blow from the local election in 2010 and was amplified by party competition ahead of the general election and presidential election in 2012. The pro-welfare move culminated when the conservative presidential candidate, Park Geun Hye, aggressively seized the issue of 'welfare' and 'economic democratization,' which would otherwise have been progressive opposition's best electoral strategy. Park's election heralded a new wave of welfare state development by conservatives in Korea. Park's embrace of social welfare, however, turned out significantly constrained by middle class' backlash against tax increase.

Unorganized popular demand for redistribution was not sustainable. Politicians, who swiftly rode on the wind of welfare, keep holding on to pork barrel issues, and firm-based organized labor distance themselves from the bottom up pro-welfare movement. Economic bureaucrats repeatedly issued a warning on the cost of unrestrained welfare expansion, and the middle class rolled back in favor of no tax increase over more welfare. American-style politics of welfare and tax became visible in Korea.

Korea is no longer a developing economy, but its welfare state remains underdeveloped. The Korean case strongly suggests that prortional representation electoral system and industrial unionism are necessary conditions for a European-style welfare state development.

## Sisi Yang, Fei Guo

Macquarie University

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Gallery 2

### Institutional legacy, citizenship and the changing settlement intentions of migrants in China

In studies of international migration and settlement decisions, the structural perspective highlights the socio-economic context within which structural forces operate at the national and international level to understand how migration and settlement decisions are made. In Chinese migration studies, prior studies draw heavily on migrants' ineligibility for full citizenship as urbanites under institutional constraints (e.g., the household registration (hukou) system), forcing them to choose temporary migration. Unlike the previous literature, which tended to focus on the hukou system as the only channel to grant migrants eligibility for citizenship, this paper adopts a structural perspective that not only considers the transitional context of hukou reforms and marketization but also considers the enabling role of migrants in their striving for acquiring citizenship and achieving permanent settlement at urban destinations. Under this perspective, migrants' eligibility for full citizenship is reconceptualised by highlighting their endeavour under China's economic transition from a planned economy to a market one and the hukou reforms in creating new channels for permanent settlement beyond hukou constraints. This paper also explores municipal governments' thresholds of access local social benefits, which creates the emerging differential citizenship between 'outsiders' and 'locals'. Using the case study of Ningbo, in Zhejiang Province, this study finds that the economic transition and hukou reforms provide migrants with opportunities to pursue citizenship, as their eligibility for access social benefit entitlements is not necessarily related to their hukou status. Their endeavours to acquire citizenship thus broaden their channels to achieve permanent settlement.

## Lei Yu

The University of Melbourne

Monday 2.10pm–3.10pm, Gallery 2

### Affordable housing provision in urban China: a solution for whom?

China's housing affordability crisis has

emerged alongside its extraordinary urban expansion and real estate boom brought about by land and housing marketization reforms through the 1980s and 1990s. On the one hand, following the 1994 fiscal reform, the growing dependence on land sales for cities' public finance has essentially turned local governments into "land entrepreneurs", distorting their motivations for managing housing issues. On the other, whereas the promotion of urbanization and the gradual liberalization of the labour market has witnessed hundreds of millions of rural labourers finding their way to urban employment, hukou restrictions in public service provision have persisted, hindering their access to basic social protections in host cities. When it comes to government's responsibility for "ensuring adequate housing for all", the sub-standard living conditions of many low-paid rural migrant workers have been continuously neglected, given their "non-urban hukou" status. Acknowledging such complexity of China's housing affordability challenge, this research explores the recent evolution of China's affordable housing provision, aiming to unravel the paradoxical aspects of housing intervention in the context of China's transitional political economy. Drawing on a comparative analysis of policy implementation in case study cities, including Guangzhou, Chongqing, Shanghai and Shenyang, the paper highlights the self-interest serving mentality of the local government in engaging with affordable housing schemes that align most closely with their own objectives and resources. From this perspective, the paper argues that until local governments reconcile their growth-oriented motivations with their responsibility to safeguard social equality, housing problems will persist.

## Yuehui Yu

The University of Hong Kong

Monday 2.10pm–3.10pm, Gallery 2

### Mental disability and household poverty dynamics: what happened during China's rapid social development?

Promoting development has been taken as a main strategy in China to alleviating poverty. According to trickle-down theory, social development can provide more market opportunities for those who can compete in labor market; while for those who cannot, development also means more money to



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spend on social protection. While the effects of development in poverty-alleviation have been documented in many macro-level studies, its role for some specific social group like mentally disabled has not been examined. Global cross-sectional evidence suggests the link between social development and poverty among families with mental illness members to be complex. However, most studies are cross-sectional designed, with limited explanatory power to reveal the process of getting and running out of poverty during social development. In this paper, we examined the poverty dynamics of household with mentally disabled persons using a 21-year longitudinal data collected in Chengdu, China. The first wave of data was collected in 1994 and the last in 2015, which exactly structured a natural experimental field for testing the role of rapid social development in poverty-reduction. Our preliminary findings suggest households with mentally disabled are more likely to be trapped in chronic poverty, especially in terms of the multi-level defined poverty. Meanwhile, long-term outcome of persons with mental illness are associated with household's poverty status. In the last part, a social model of examining the relationship between mental illness and poverty is proposed for further study.

support behaviour, housing situation, and their cognitive and non-cognitive outcomes.

## Z

**Anna Zhu**

The University of Melbourne

Tuesday 10.45am–12.25pm, Leighton Hall

**The effect of family financial incentives on youth development**

We examine how a reduction in the financial resources available to lone parent families affects the well-being of youth. We exploit an Australian natural experiment that reduced the financial resources available to a subset of separating parents. Using biweekly administrative data (from the Trans-generational Dataset) and linked survey data (Youth-in-Focus) of low and middle income couples who separate around the time of the reform, we show that the policy reform significantly reduced the receipt of Parenting Payment for a less generous Unemployment Benefit for affected separating mothers. We then examine how this may have affected youth in terms of their income

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- Contributed paper program coordinators: Bruce Bradbury, Natasha Cortis and Myra Hamilton

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