



Australian  
National  
University



## ONLINE SYMPOSIUM

‘THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING!?’  
AUSTRALIA AND THE POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

Thursday 22 October 2020  
9.00am - 5.00pm AEST

ANU  
Australian Studies Institute

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY



**We acknowledge and celebrate the First Australians on whose  
traditional lands we meet and work,  
and whose cultures are among the oldest  
continuing cultures in human history**

Image: from Siding Spring Observatory (SSO), on the edge of the Warrumbungle National Park near Coonabarabran, NSW. SSO is part of the ANU Research School of Astronomy & Astrophysics.

Image credit: ANU.

# AUSTRALIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE



“Australia  
and the  
World”

The Australian Studies Institute (AuSI) was established in July 2018 as a university-wide institute to drive the ‘Australia and the World’ strategy.

Our mission is simple: promote the study of Australia, share our research and bring an Australian perspective to comparative, transnational and international projects. In short, we hope to join and facilitate national and global conversations.

The institute programs include:

- Faculty and student exchanges
- Joint conferences and workshops
- Public lectures
- Visiting fellowships
- Collaborative research projects.

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**View our [Year Two Institute Report](#)**

# THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER

Time	Event
9.00-9.50am Session 1	<b>Preparing for an uncertain future: Research, policy and practice</b> Facilitated discussion and questions on four papers
	<b>Welcome</b> Professor Paul Pickering, Australian Studies Institute
	<b>Public Value Science</b> Professor Barry Bozeman, Arizona State University
	<b>Changing University Research: From Competitions to Missions</b> Professor Sally Davenport, Victoria University of Wellington & Professor Shirley Leitch, Australian Studies Institute, ANU
	<b>Mitigation: Proactive Response to Pandemics in Search for a Compassionate, Resilient Future</b> Dr Robert Heath, University of Houston, Texas
	<b>Drug repurposing for coronavirus treatment – a stimulus for an examination of drug development trials, regulation and financing</b> A/Prof Anneke Blackburn, John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU A/Prof Alice Motion, School of Chemistry, University of Sydney, NSW A/Prof Nikola Bowden, Centre for Drug Repurposing and Medicines Research, University of Newcastle, Hunter Medical Research Institute, NSW A/Prof Tom Chen, Canberra Business School, Faculty of Business, Government and Law, University of Canberra, ACT Prof Jennifer Martin Centre for Drug Repurposing and Medicines Research, University of Newcastle, Hunter Medical Research Institute, NSW
9.55-10.30am Session 2	<b>Gender in a pandemic</b> Facilitated discussion and questions on three papers
	<b>COVID-19 through a Gender Lens</b> Trish Bergin, Dr Pia Rowe & Professor Kim Rubenstein, 50/50 by 2030 Foundation, University of Canberra
	<b>Life After Lockdown: Women around the Globe</b> Ms Heidi Lipson, Cooking Circles & Podcast Host
	<b>Violence against women and the value of Men's Behaviour Change Programs in the COVID context</b> Ms Chay Brown, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, ANU



Time	Event
10.30-10.45am	<b>Coffee break</b>
10.45-11.35am	<b>Australian politics and democracy</b>
Session 3	Facilitated discussion and questions on four papers
	<b>Australia and human rights in a post-COVID world</b> Professor Sally Wheeler OBE, ANU College of Law
	<b>Will the pandemic destroy Australia's democracy or save it?</b> Dr Lindy Edwards, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of New South Wales
	<b>Changed everything or back to the trenches? COVID-19 and the ideological contest in Australian politics</b> Mr Nick Falcinella, Politics & International Relations, The University of Adelaide
	<b>From Nowhere Man to Mr Ubiquitous: The triple-trick of Scott Morrison</b> Professor Mark Kenny, Australian Studies Institute
11.40am-12.30pm	<b>Well-being in a pandemic</b>
Session 4	Facilitated discussion and questions on three papers
	<b>COVID-19 as community trauma: Potentials for acknowledging grief &amp; growth</b> Ms Victoria Siltan, The University of Melbourne
	<b>Protect, Survive or Rebel. The shifting roles of young adults during the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia</b> Mr Nathan Wiltshire, College of Arts & Social Sciences, ANU
	<b>Coronafire: Concatenation and convergent crises</b> Professor Simone Dennis, College of Arts & Social Sciences, ANU & Dr Deane Fergie, LocuSAR

Time	Event
12.30-1.00pm	<b>Lunch break</b>
1.00-2.00pm Session 5	<b>Education and online learning in a pandemic</b> Facilitated discussion and questions on five papers
	<b>E-learning and virtual transformation of histology and pathology learning during COVID-19: its impact on student learning experience and outcome</b> Ms Samantha Waugh, Dr James Devin & Dr Vinod Gopalan, School of Medicine, Griffith University
	<b>Lessons to be learnt from the impact of COVID-19 on medical students' wellbeing and learning experience</b> Dr. Anna Efstathiadou & Dr Suja Pillai, University of Queensland
	<b>A Possible Solution to Bridge the Gap between off-Shore Students and Australian High Education</b> Dr Ying Zhu, Adelaide Bio-Tech Development (Hengqin) Ltd
	<b>Australian Higher Education in the Post-pandemic World</b> Mr Tom Worthington, Research School of Computer Science, ANU
	<b>From butcher's paper to Zoom breakouts: developments and transformations in Australian trade union education</b> Dr Alice Garner, Centre for Vocational and Educational Policy, University of Melbourne Professor Anthony Forsyth, Graduate School of Business and Law, RMIT Dr Mary Leahy, Centre for Vocational and Educational Policy, Melbourne Graduate School of Education Ms Renee Burns, University of Melbourne Law School
2.05-3.05pm Session 6	<b>Society, Culture and Media</b> Facilitated discussion and questions on five papers
	<b>Fans in Search of a Contest: Eurovision 2020</b> Dr Chris Hay, University of Queensland & Dr Jess Carniel, University of Southern Queensland
	<b>Are we ready for Ready Player One</b> Ms Xinyuan Xu, Centre for Digital Humanities Research, ANU

Time	Event
2.05-3.05pm	<b>Society, Culture and Media</b>
Session 6	Facilitated discussion continues
	<b>COVID-19's potential effects on Western Civilisation</b> Dr Cameron Gordon, Research School of Management, ANU
	<b>The End of History? History in Post Pandemic Australia</b> Dr Meg Foster, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Cambridge
	<b>Interspecies Vulnerabilities: A 2020 Wake-Up Call for Australians</b> Dr Rebecca Hendershott, ANU
3.05-3.20pm	<b>Coffee break</b>
3.20-4.10pm	<b>Public policy and decision making</b>
Session 7	Facilitated discussion and questions on four papers
	<b>Social policy and post-pandemic Australia</b> Professor Peter Whiteford Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU & Dr Bruce Bradbury, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW
	<b>Accelerating the end of Pax Americana: COVID-19 and the return to early 20th century insecurity</b> Mr Alexander Lee, National Security College, ANU
	<b>Systems Thinking in the Chaotic Domain</b> Dr Chris Browne, Colleges of Science; Health and Medicine, ANU
	<b>Australian state border closures under COVID-19 – setting a precedent in uncertain times</b> Dr Andrew Burrridge, Macquarie University
4.10-5.00pm	<b>Sum-up and Closing Drinks</b>
Closing	Closing remarks, Professor Paul Pickering, Australian Studies Institute Group discussion (bring your own glass of wine or preferred beverage)

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 1: Preparing for an uncertain future: Research, policy and practice

### Welcome and setting the scene

**Professor Paul Pickering (Director, Australian Studies Institute, ANU)**

Professor Paul Pickering will be the chair and moderator of each session.

### About

**Professor Paul Pickering** is Director of both the Research School of Humanities and the Arts (2013-) and the new Australian Studies Institute (2017-). Prior to taking up his current posts Paul has undertaken numerous roles at ANU, including a term as Dean of the College of Arts and Social Sciences (2014-16) inaugural Director of the ANU Centre for European Studies (2010-12); Director of Graduate Studies (2004-9) and a Queen Elizabeth II Fellow at the Humanities Research Centre (2000-4). He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. In 2012 he was the recipient of the Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision.

His books include *Chartism and the Chartists in Manchester and Salford* (1995); *The People's Bread: A History of the Anti-Corn Law League* (2000) (with Alex Tyrrell); *Friends of the People: Uneasy Radicals in the Age of the Chartists* (London, 2003); *Contested Sites: Commemoration, Memorial and Popular Politics in Nineteenth Century Britain* (2004); *Unrespectable Radicals? Popular Politics in the Age of Reform* (2007); *Feargus O'Connor: A Political Life* (2008) and *Historical Reenactment: From Realism to the Affective Turn* (2010). His latest book (with Kate Bowan), *Sounds of Liberty: Music, Radicalism and Reform in the Anglophone World, 1790-1914*, was published in August 2017.

### Public Value Science

**Professor Barry Bozeman (Arizona State University)**

### Abstract

Can science policy be “regressive” in much the same way that tax policy can be regressive, by giving disproportionate advantage to the rich at the expense of the poor? This presentation suggests that, indeed, science policy, at least in the US is regressive. Science, technology and innovation are, among policymakers and most citizens, viewed as the “engine of the economy.” But what if the economy is increasingly unfair and inequitable? Is the science policy “engine” culpable? Are scientists culpable? Most importantly, what would science policy look like were it designed to to serve public values instead untrammelled economic growth?

### About

**Barry Bozeman** is Regents' Professor and Arizona Centennial Professor of Science and Technology Policy and Public Management at Arizona State University, where he directs the Center for Organization Research and Design.

Bozeman's research focuses on science and technology policy, public management, organization theory and higher education policy. He is the author or co-author of seventeen books. He recently completed *Designing Public Values-Based Institutions* (with Michael Crow) and has begun work writing two books, one focusing on “deep corruption” in government, the other on the decline of credibility in science institutions.



# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 1: Preparing for an uncertain future: Research, policy and practice

### Changing University Research: From Competitions to Missions

**Professor Sally Davonport (Victoria University of Wellington) & Professor Shirley Leitch (Australian Studies Institute, ANU)**

#### Abstract

Before covid-19, the sustainability of life on our planet was already a globally prominent concern (Hawken, 2007). Global pandemics are just one of the so-called 'wicked problems', which are as complex as they are urgent (Mazzucato, 2018). Climate change, soil degradation, mass extinctions, deforestation, and plastic pollution are other examples of wicked problems that are interrelated and defy simple solutions. In response, some nations and multi-lateral agencies have adopted a multi-dimensional, 'Grand Challenges' approach to developing environmentally, socially and economically sustainable solutions (Colquitt & George, 2011; Ferraro et al., 2016; George et al., 2016). This approach requires a co-ordinated, collaborative response across the boundaries that normally divide professions, organizations, sectors, and nations (Ferraro et al., 2016; George et al., 2016). However, many of the national research funding models for universities remain poorly aligned with the needs of grand challenge projects. In this paper we ask what a better model look like – one which would enable university researchers to fully engage in the long-term, broad-based collaborations needed to address wicked problems. We draw on the contrasting examples provided by the Australian and New Zealand university research funding systems to illustrate both the problems faced and some emerging solutions.

Antipodean universities have been hard hit during the pandemic mostly due to their dependence on international students. However, there are significant differences between the two nations. In New Zealand, most university research is reliant on fully-costed funding from government. In contrast, in Australia, universities have become increasingly reliant on international student fees to cross-subsidise research (Larkins, 2020; Norton, 2020). Nevertheless, both systems are already feeling the loss of not only fee income but also the post-graduate student labour that 'fuels' much research. Both nations also operate highly competitive funding 'markets', such that success rates in funding can be less than 10%. While competitive funding may look efficient (from the funder's perspective), it doesn't factor in the opportunity cost of all the efforts that go into the 90% unsuccessful grants. With rare exceptions, such competitive systems are 'bottom up'. Some excellent ideas and highly-cited curriculum vitae are rewarded but the limited funding means many are not.

Inter-institutional collaboration is often called for in both national systems but it is hard to achieve because all incentives are to hold funding as close to home as possible. Moreover, the dominant rhetoric within research policy has been market-

based and, in market terms, collaboration can be viewed as anti-competitive and suggest collusion. In the face of global challenges, such as the immediate crisis engendered by covid-19 as well as the unfolding crisis of climate change, it is timely to examine alternative approaches that might better equip us to meet these challenges. The scale needed requires pan-sector coordination, so the notion that government should not interfere in the operation of the innovation market may need to be side-lined.

Perhaps the most prominent advocate of new thinking has been UCL economist, Professor Mariana Mazzucato (2018), who argues for mission-led research. This approach embraces co-production early with stakeholders, flexibility, experimentation and sharing of rewards, all of which may be anathema to the bottom-up competitive approach. A New Zealand example of such mission-led, large scale approach to research project design has occurred under the auspices of the National Science Challenge, "Science for Technological Innovation" (SfTI). The SfTI mission-design process is a mix of top down selection and scoping of mission, with industry and Maori partners, and the surfacing of bottom up capability. The result is a facilitated collation of a 'one best team' designed to address the mission.

What can we learn from such experiments in mission-led research? For serious societal challenges that do not respect national boundaries and go far beyond the electoral terms of governments, it removes the risk-taking at least one degree from governments. It also moves discourse and practice from the extremes of either 'picking winners' or 'death by competition' to national and international team-based approaches that embrace flexibility and risk-taking.

#### About

**Professor Sally Davonport**, is Director of one of the New Zealand Government's National Science Challenges: "Science for Technological Innovation", a 10-year programme of research with the mission to 'enhance the capacity of New Zealand to use physical sciences and engineering for economic growth'. She is also a professor in the Management School of Victoria University of Wellington, and an adjunct professor at the Australian National University.

**Professor Shirley Leitch** is a Professorial Fellow with the ANU Australian Studies Institute. She previously held roles as Dean of the College of Business and Economics and then as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement) at ANU. Her research is focused on public discourse and change, including science-society engagement in relation to controversial science and technology.

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 1: Preparing for an uncertain future: Research, policy and practice

### Mitigation: Proactive Response to Pandemics in Search for a Compassionate, Resilient Future

**Dr Robert Heath (University of Houston, USA)**

#### Abstract

The call for The Interdisciplinary Virtual Symposium, Australian National University: "This changes everything!"? asks scholars to examine what a Post COVID 19 (C -19) Australia will be. How will this pandemic change Australia? Given this paper's author's submersion in public health policies and practices in the USA during this pandemic, the focus on the strategies of pandemic mitigation leads to the conclusion that one of Australia's post-C 19 outcomes, one of its wisest choices, is to use the USA response as an example of what to do and what not to do strategically as the next pandemic occurs. A best-case future requires focused, science-based analysis, with compassionate policy that is communicated clearly, coherently, and consistently in ways that sets subjective norms that can wisely be followed to achieve expert, personal, and community efficacy. This risk communication, issues management approach to pandemic mitigation, features why public health communicators are more than "channels" for "transmitting" expert guidance.

The overarching theme of this paper is that scientific information, carefully developed and tested policy, and principled communication based on research and best practices can mitigate the impact of a public health pandemic and protect the economy by fostering resilient recovery. This analysis draws on risk and crisis communication and management research which justifies principled multi-discipline, strategic public health policy development and implementation through a coherent, sustained, transparent, normative and compassionate communication plan. This paper suggests the value of adhering to operating precedence such as that left as a legacy by the Obama Administration for the Trump Administration to bring informed experience to bear from the day suspicion of a pandemic becomes evident. Comparing USA migration protocols and those of Australia can refine and reinforce best practices and outcomes that help Australia plan for its next pandemic. Such analysis sets a template against which to measure Australian response efficacy. A Post-C 19 Australia can approach the next pandemic with deepened insights if it uses the USA approach to refine its approach rather than as a model to be adopted uncritically.

#### About

**Robert L. Heath** (PhD, University of Illinois, 1971) is professor emeritus at the University of Houston. He is author or editor of 23 books, including handbooks and master collections, and 272 articles in major journals, chapters in leading edited books, and encyclopedia entries. In addition to strategic issues management, he has written on rhetorical theory, social movements, communication theory, public relations, organizational communication, crisis communication, risk communication, terrorism, corporate social responsibility, investor relations, engagement, public interest, and reputation management. His most recent books are the International Encyclopedia of Strategic Communication and the Handbook of Organizational Rhetoric and Communication.

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 1: Preparing for an uncertain future: Research, policy and practice

### Drug repurposing for coronavirus treatment – a stimulus for an examination of drug development trials, regulation and financing

**A/Prof Anneke Blackburn** (John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU)

**A/Prof Alice Motion** (School of Chemistry, University of Sydney, NSW),

**A/Prof Nikola Bowden** (Centre for Drug Repurposing and Medicines Research, University of Newcastle, Hunter Medical Research Institute, NSW)

**A/Prof Tom Chen** (Canberra Business School, Faculty of Business, Government and Law, University of Canberra, ACT)

**Prof Jennifer Martin** (Centre for Drug Repurposing and Medicines Research, University of Newcastle, Hunter Medical Research Institute, NSW)

### Abstract

The need for a rapid response to the COVID-19 pandemic prompted repurposing on many fronts – dressmakers as mask makers, aircraft as ICU units, hotels as places of quarantine, and also for medicines. Repurposing of medicines refers to a strategy of drug development where approved or investigational drugs are examined for uses beyond the diseases for which they were originally intended. The fundamental benefits of this approach are the reduction in time and cost of drug development, but there is still the requirement for demonstration of effectiveness and safety in the new disease context.

In this presentation, attempts to repurpose medicines for the treatment of COVID-19 and related viral pandemics will be reviewed. Particular attention will be focussed on the role of the pandemic in highlighting the need for clinical trials, the necessity for rigor in the dissemination of information about potential treatments, and the role of safe and efficient regulatory pathways when the health of the community is at risk. We will also examine how the response to the pandemic has raised questions in the community about the intentions of doctors, scientists and pharma companies, and the integrity and transparency of their processes. How did toxic and ineffective medicines such as hydroxychloroquine or antiviral therapies get supported by regulatory authorities and Government policy departments, whilst medicines that focussed on reducing the inflammation that caused death received scant attention? While much of this experience has played out overseas, the implications for Australian healthcare and the ability of Australia to contribute to the global COVID-19 response from a medicines perspective will be discussed.

The pandemic has highlighted the need for an examination of our drug development, regulatory, and financing processes, with an opportunity to increase focus on community and patient benefit-driven drug repurposing initiatives.

### About

**A/Prof Anneke Blackburn** is a translational research scientist and educator at the John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University. With a background in cancer biology, genetics and pharmacology, her research focuses on repurposing of medicines for cancer therapies, with the goal of developing more affordable and accessible therapies for all from a patient-centric, co-creation perspective. She is a member of the global Open Source Pharma movement and is currently studying for an MBA to facilitate the translation of medical research into businesses.

**A/Prof Alice Motion** is an open scientist, chemist, and science communicator at the School of Chemistry at the University of Sydney. Her research program focuses on open source drug discovery and methods to connect people with science, including her citizen science initiative Breaking Good.

**A/Prof Nikola Bowden** is co-Director of the University of Newcastle Centre for Drug Repurposing and Medicines Research and leads the Australian Program of Drug Repurposing for Treatment Resistant Ovarian Cancer. Her research group also repurposes drugs for treatment-resistant melanoma.

**A/Prof Tom Chen** is in marketing in the Canberra Business School at the University of Canberra, Australia. He holds an honorary position at the Research School of Population Health and a visiting fellowship at the Research School of Management at the Australian National University. His current research focuses on co-creation initiatives and solutions, and customer engagement strategies.

**Prof Jennifer Martin** is a practicing physician and clinical pharmacologist, and co-Director of the University of Newcastle Centre for Drug Repurposing and Medicines Research. She has conducted clinical trials of repurposed drugs in brain cancer and head and neck cancer and studies using cannabis to relieve symptoms at end of life.

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 2: Gender in a pandemic

### COVID-19 through a Gender Lens

**Trish Bergin, Dr Pia Rowe & Professor Kim Rubenstein**  
(50/50 by 2030 Foundation, University of Canberra)

#### Abstract

That effective leadership is crucial during global emergencies is uncontested. However, what that leadership looks like, and how it plays out in different contexts is less straightforward. In a system of representative democracy, diversity is considered to be a key element for the true representation of the society. Moreover, as numerous studies have shown, the problems associated with homogenous governance structures extend far beyond the issue of fair representation. For example, previous research has unequivocally demonstrated the positive impacts of gender equality in leadership both in the consequences for improved workplace culture, as well as the better economic outcomes more broadly. Crucially, the decisions made during a crisis on how to manage the situation do not only have significant differential impacts on individuals at the time, but can also have far reaching ramifications on the post emergency recovery period.

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare some of the real-world implications of gender inequalities in a range of contexts including when examining Australia's leadership and the decisions being made by those leaders. When Treasurer Josh Frydenberg outlined the July 2020 Economic and Fiscal Update, the numbers provided stark evidence of the gendered impacts of the pandemic. Women have experienced higher job losses than men, and their working hours have been reduced more due to factors such as the highly gender-segregated workforce, as well as a consequence of their disproportionate unpaid caring duties. Curiously, however, despite identifying the problem through indisputable and quantifiable evidence, the current political leadership has not offered any practical solutions for addressing these problems. What's more, some of the decisions that have been made so far, such as stopping the free childcare provided during the first stage of the lockdown, and identifying childcare workers as the first sector to lose 'JobKeeper' in July 2020 (despite the essential nature of the service for both the workers and the economy), signal a lack of understanding of the breadth of the problem, at best. At worst, these decisions can be construed as an active dismissal of the importance of gender equality.

In this presentation, we examine the differential impacts of COVID-19 on women, and reflect on potential pathways for improved women's active participation. We argue that in the first instance, a careful analysis of the situation through measures such as a Gender Impact Statement will be crucial for Australia's gender equal economic recovery. In addition, we demonstrate the benefits of increased childcare subsidies to improve workforce participation, and subsequently to the economy as a whole. We conclude by outlining some future recommendations when taking a gender lens to Australia's Post COVID recovery.

### About

**Trish Bergin** is the Co-Director, Governance of the 50/50 by 2030 Foundation, University of Canberra. Trish has held Senior Executive Band 2 positions with the Australian Public Service, most recently leading the Office for Women in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. She has also worked at the Senior Executive Service (SES) level within other Commonwealth portfolios, including the Finance, Education and Employment portfolios. In the private sector, she held General Manager and Regional Director level positions with listed companies such as SMS Management & Technology and Hudson Global Resources in Canberra. For 11 years Trish ran her own thriving small business, working with clients to implement organisational strategy, facilitate change and facilitating leadership development programs. She has also held Board positions in the not-for-profit sector. Trish holds academic qualifications in economics, management and leadership.

**Dr Pia Rowe** is a Research Fellow at the 50/50 by 2030 Foundation, University of Canberra. Pia holds a PhD in Political Science from the Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis, University of Canberra. She has extensive research experience in gender studies and innovative forms of citizen-participation, particularly in forums that are often overlooked in traditional paradigms. With a focus on qualitative studies, she regularly utilises mixed methods in her research. She is currently the project lead on an Australian study on the division of unpaid labour at home during COVID-19. Her other projects include a national survey into Australians' attitudes towards gender equality, which generated significant mainstream media coverage in Australia. Prior to her academic career, Pia worked as a Communications Adviser, which gives her the ability to communicate clearly to diverse audiences, and enhances the public impact of her research.

**Professor Kim Rubenstein** is the Co-Director, Academic of the 50/50 by 2030 Foundation, University of Canberra. Kim's academic and professional reputation as a legal scholar and leading gender equity advocate is second to none. From 2006 – 2015 she served as Director of the Centre for International and Public Law at ANU, and was a founding Convenor of the ANU Gender Institute. She has completed two ARC Research Council grants, as Chief Investigator and is the recipient of numerous awards, including a listing in the Financial Review's '100 Women of Influence' for her work in public policy, and awarded the inaugural Edna Ryan award for 'leading feminist changes in the public sphere.' Kim is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Social Sciences and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law. She regularly appears in mainstream media, in both print and broadcast, with her extensive commentary on citizenship keenly sought and widely reported.

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 2: Gender in a pandemic

### Life After Lockdown: Women around the Globe

**Heidi Lipson (Entrepreneur, Cooking Circles & Podcast Host)**

#### Abstract

COVID-19 has swept across the globe and upended most daily rhythms in a matter of months. As an Australian living in Washington DC, USA, I have been locked down with my 2-year-old son, and journalist husband reporting from our bedroom. Desperate to record this extraordinary time in our lives, I began speaking to friends across the world and have been recording their reflections and personal transformations in a podcast, Life After Lockdown.

Their stories are ordinary portrayals of living life upside down. When I began, I thought that recording and broadcasting their stories would strengthen the resolve for personal change. The women talked about spending more time with family, slowing down, and being grateful for health and a steady income. But as more time passes in various stage of lockdown, I believe that we won't need to be reminded that we wanted to change our lives in favour of 'less is more'. They are already forever changed.

I spoke to a New Zealand Mum who is an expatriate having lived in three countries in 12 months with her 3-year-old daughter, but is now separated indefinitely from her husband and father of her child. She is grasping at the small moments she previously didn't think twice about: the playground where she can push her daughter on the swing; speaking across the back fence from across the street to neighbours she hasn't connected with since childhood; and her parents who play with their granddaughter endlessly.

I heard from a Canberra-based freelancer and Mum who marks the days and charts her moods by colouring a stone and placing it on a number-less calendar. I spoke to an expatriate and Mum in Albania who didn't move beyond her apartment with her three small children for almost a month. I heard from a friend who works on the front line as a nurse in critical care in rural Australia about how she protects herself and her staff, while giving her all to keep patients alive. In the short term, each one of these women is determined to keep putting one foot in front of the other to keep herself, her children, and her community safe, and making it through each day. But when prompted about the long term, each feels COVID-19 and the ensuing lockdown has changed her irrevocably. These women are developing fortitude with each passing day. They are coming to peace with stillness and quiet for the first time since they were children themselves. They are building a smaller world for themselves and their families and making it a good one, as far as possible. They are inspirational and each one is helping setting the tone for how our communities will look in the future.

#### About

**Heidi Lipson** (nee Zajac) is the Founder and Manager of Cooking Circles, a community initiative that brings women and girls together to build connections and community. She currently lives in the United States where she is host of podcast, Life After Lockdown, that captures the stories of inspirational women across the globe dealing with COVID-19. You can find out more and contact Heidi through LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/heidizajaclipson/>



# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 2: Gender in a pandemic

### Violence against women and the value of Men's Behaviour Change Programs in the COVID context

**Ms Chay Brown (Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, ANU)**

#### Abstract

There was a rise in violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic. The measures in response to COVID-19 meant the few programs that work with men who use violence, such as men's behaviour change programs, had to fundamentally change the way they engaged with men. These programs, which typically emphasise group work, adapted to other ways of working. Stakeholders report that these programs began individual work with their clients, who include men mandated to attend as part of release conditions as well as men who are incarcerated.

Men's behaviour change programs have previously been criticised as ineffective as they are often assessed using recidivism rates. However, the COVID-19 pandemic highlights that men's behaviour change programs offer more than psycho-educational content to change an individual's behaviour, the most important work they do is monitor risk. This paper presents the different ways men's behaviour programs continue to identify, engage, and monitor men at risk of using violence. The paper argues that the rise in violence against women during COVID-19 shows that men's behaviour change programs are a vital service, because in a crisis, the absence of these programs make women and children further vulnerable to violence

#### About

**Chay Brown** is from Mparntwe/Alice Springs in the Northern Territory. Chay is a PhD Scholar with the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research. She has been researching violence against Indigenous women for seven years, and has lived experience of domestic, family, and sexual violence. She completed her Master's research on the impact of the Northern Territory Emergency Response on violence against women in Alice Springs' town camps. Her PhD research focuses on what works to prevent violence against women. Chay has led safety mapping exercises with women in town camps in Alice Springs; and a series of workshops throughout the Northern Territory to deliver specialist domestic, family, and sexual violence training and to develop a violence prevention framework.

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 3: Australian politics and democracy

### Australia and human rights in a post-COVID world

**Professor Sally Wheeler OBE (ANU College of Law)**

#### Abstract

Australia is unusual among democracies in that its Constitution is an entirely transactional document which deals with the rights of states in a federal structure rather than explaining the rights (or even obligations) of individuals against the state. This position has been maintained despite the world undergoing a global rights revolution in recent years. Consequently inequality, disadvantage, loss of civil liberties and restrictions on daily life in Australia are not articulated in terms of human rights and then breach of those rights.

The absence of rights from society's lingua franca makes arguing that restrictions imposed as a result of the pandemic are disproportionate in general or impact more severely on some groups than others very difficult. Will events such as the July 2020 lockdown of high rise public housing in Melbourne and the prohibition on citizens travelling to their holiday homes on the South Coast of NSW over the Easter 2020 holiday period fuel demands in Australia for a new rights based political settlement and recognition of individual rights at the level of the Constitution? What difference might this make to Australian life and social, legal and political culture?

#### About

**Professor Sally Wheeler**, OBE MRIA FAcSS FAAL is the Pro-Vice Chancellor for International Strategy and Dean of ANU College of Law. Prior to taking up these positions at ANU, Sally was a Professor and Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise at Queen's University Belfast.

Sally was elected to the Academy of Social Sciences and the Royal Irish Academy in 2011 and 2013, respectively. She became a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law in 2018. Sally was the Head of the School of Law at Queen's University Belfast for several years where she also served as Interim Dean of the Faculty of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS), Dean of Internationalisation (AHSS) and, in 2017, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise.

In the 2017 New Years' Honours list, Sally was awarded an OBE for services to higher education in Northern Ireland.

Sally works in the area of socio-legal studies with particular interest in business corporations, human rights, and technology

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 3: Australian politics and democracy

### Will the pandemic destroy Australia's democracy or save it?

**Dr Lindy Edwards, Humanities and Social Sciences,  
University of New South Wales**

#### Abstract

My 10 year study of corporate power in Australia in the decade leading to the pandemic painted a grim picture. It exposed a Liberal Party that had all but given up representing the community and the public interest and had become almost wholly beholden to the nation's most powerful companies. As the companies held sway behind the scenes and voters disengaged, it became difficult to see how Australian democracy could be reclaimed and reinvigorated.

Then came the pandemic. It is the crisis that could unravel our democracy or restore it.

It presents an extraordinary opportunity for the government to remake the nation in its own image, rewarding its friends and seeing off its enemies. The scope for corruption and the abuse of discretionary power is immense, as the government hands out eye watering sums of money with little scrutiny and oversight.

However the government also has a greater need to take the community with, build trust and social solidarity than has been required in generations. The threat of civil unrest and social breakdown is real if government does not act to support people in crisis and do all it can to alleviate the worst suffering. There is an imperative to rebuild social fabric and to facilitate the capacity of the society to act together. It has brought into focus that the interests of elites rest on a well functioning society, and a greater preparedness to make sacrifices to secure that society.

Which path or what combination of paths the Morrison government takes remains to be seen.

#### About

**Dr Lindy Edwards** is an academic from the University of New South Wales and her books include 'How to Argue with an Economist: Re-opening Political Debate in Australia' Cambridge University Press, and 'The Passion of Politics: the Role of Ideology in Australia', Allen & Unwin, and 'Corporate Power in Australia' Monash University Press.

Prior to becoming an academic she worked as an economic adviser in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, as a senior policy adviser to then Leader of the Australian Democrats, Natasha Stott Despoja, and as press gallery journalist for the Sydney Morning Herald. She has been a Fellow of the Australian Prime Ministers Centre, the Centre for Policy Development and was on the board of the Think Tank Catalyst. She has appeared on The Project, The Drum, has had regular slots on ABC radio, as well as appearing in most Australian newspapers.

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 3: Australian politics and democracy

### Changed everything or back to the trenches? COVID-19 and the ideological contest in Australian politics

**Mr Nick Falcinella (The University of Adelaide)**

#### Abstract

Does the Coalition's embrace of elements of traditional social democratic ideology (or Keynesian economics) in its economic response to the COVID-19 crisis (Johnson 2020: Rudd 2020) represent a change to the ideological contest in Australian politics? This paper argues that the Coalition's framing of its 'counter-ideological' response as an 'extraordinary' response to 'extreme' events (Morrison 2020) suggests the answer is no. Indeed, the Coalition has sought to frame its own actions as free from ideology, instead being guided by the 'national interest' (Morrison 2020: Cormann 2020), in an attempt to rationalise its actions as a deviation from its traditional ideology, rather than an embrace of another.

After having established that the Coalition did indeed adopt some social democratic principles, this paper will then detail its rapid return to a more traditional ideological position. This is particularly evident in the Coalition's emphasis on industrial relations reform, tax reductions and deregulation as economic drivers – even invoking Thatcher and Reagan as models for recovery (Frydenberg 2020). It will be argued that this is likely to lead to a consolidation of traditional ideological conflict around class interests – particularly given Labor's tendency to rely on such issues to unify its own internal ideological tensions (Ratcliff 2017: Edwards 2018). The issue of employment insecurity is likely to be central given its increased salience throughout the crisis, and the relatively straightforward way in which the issue maps on to traditional ideological conflicts.

It will also be argued that the Coalition's 'counter-ideological' actions may position it to rhetorically justify the negative impact of the crisis on some of its economic 'losers', implicitly (or explicitly) arguing that the government was benevolent in its initial response and must now place a renewed emphasis on self-reliance. Such arguments may thus provide a discursive rationale for austerity measures – or at least more restrictive government expenditure – in an effort to address what the Coalition (and indeed Labor) considers to be undesirable and unsustainable levels of public debt and deficit.

The effect of the crisis on the politics of identity (Bernstein 2005), sometimes understood as the 'postmaterial' political contest (Inglehart 1990), will also be explored. Particular attention will be paid to the question of whether relative economic deprivation will contribute to a reduction in the salience of such issues (as some theories of postmaterialist values suggest), or rather drive increasing conflict relating to issues of race, ethnicity, gender and the environment. This paper will argue for the inability to fully disentangle postmaterial and material issues (Bernstein 2005, p. 53). Thus, despite the

likely salience of economic issues, the multi-faceted impact of identities such as gender, race and ethnicity/immigrant status with regard to material outcomes will be central, particularly given the disproportionate impact of the economic downturn being felt by women (Jackson et al 2020) and insecure workers, of which recent migrants are a disproportionate number (Houghton 2020).

Arguments as to ways in which having adopted some elements of traditional social democratic ideology may help to manage (or alternatively exacerbate) internal ideological inconsistencies within the Coalition (e.g. between more economically populist and more economically rationalist members) will also be explored.

#### About

**Nick Falcinella** is a PhD Candidate in Politics and International Relations at the University of Adelaide. His thesis focuses on the electoral challenges facing parties of the centre-left in Australia, the UK and the USA. Specifically, it is concerned with socio-demographic changes in the character of those who vote for these parties, as well as their ideology and discourse.

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 3: Australian politics and democracy

### From Nowhere Man to Mr Ubiquitous: The triple-trick of Scott Morrison

**Professor Mark Kenny (Australian Studies Institute, ANU)**

#### Abstract

Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison has been broadly praised for the practical, consultative way he coordinated Australia's initially effective Covid-19 response. Through the creation of the National Cabinet, Morrison facilitated a re-working of sclerotic federal-state relations machinery forging a new spirit of cooperative problem-focused federalism. It is too early to tell if this change marks a lasting reform, or if it will fade and collapse after the Covid threat has passed. Morrison also led the switch to record deficit funded Covid support for the economy, which also was broadly welcomed for saving millions of jobs and positioning the economy for a return to higher activity at the earliest opportunity. Hundreds of billions of dollars were ploughed into temporary wage subsidies, a Covid supplement to the dole, free childcare, and a series of sector-specific packages. Although key sectors were functionally excluded including the public university sector which provides the third largest export earnings for the economy and has been hard hit by the collapse in foreign students. Morrison's popularity has soared through the crisis. This marks a sharp turn-around for the unpopular compromise candidate installed as his party's leader in 2018 who snuck through to the leadership, somehow survived the 2019 election and has now had an urgent, nationally unifying, recovery agenda thrust upon his otherwise directionless government.

#### About

**Mark Kenny** joined the Australian Studies Institute in 2019 after a high-profile journalistic career culminating in 6 years as chief political correspondent and national affairs editor of The Sydney Morning Herald, and The Age. A fixture on the ABC's Insiders program, Sky News Agenda, he is a sought after commentator across the country. His research interests include national politics, comparative studies, democracy, and the rise of populism. Mark hosts Democracy Sausage, a twice-weekly look at politics and public affairs.



# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 4: Well-being in a pandemic

### COVID-19 as community trauma: Potentials for acknowledging grief & growth

**Ms Victoria Silton (The University of Melbourne)**

#### Abstract

This paper explores the impacts of COVID-19 in Australia through frameworks of trauma and grief, with particular attention to community trauma, collective trauma events (CTE) and disenfranchised grief. The virus has enormously disrupted our lives, at the level of the structural and the everyday. Disparities in housing and insecure employment have significantly impaired Australia's ability to respond to the virus, and our aged-care system has been yet again exposed for how woefully it fails its residents. Epidemics of domestic abuse and male suicidality which already plagued Australia are exacerbated by global stressors, an economic downturn and physical distancing. We are reckoning with grief on a scale and with an openness we are unaccustomed to, but without our funerals and rituals to help us mourn. The devastating and disappointing reality that we value certain lives over others has once again become a matter of public debate, with some deaths considered inevitable and somehow less worthy of grief. In one sense, this is very much a communal trauma – politicians reiterate that we are all in this together; but some of us are better positioned for recovery than others. With existing societal vulnerabilities and disparities exposed so explicitly, how can we work towards a recovery that is not only a return to but an improvement upon what was normal? White Australia has often been considered the 'lucky country', with a sense that we manage to emerge unscathed from problems that damage other nations. Experiencing a national crisis of this magnitude at all levels shatters our collective assumptive frameworks, which this paper will further examine using trauma theory and understandings of post-traumatic growth. With our usual modes of trauma recovery disrupted by social distancing measures and heightened insecurity, Australia is in the midst of determining what our collective recovery will prioritise. This paper aims to conceptualise possibilities for post-traumatic growth in Australia, and critically analyse for whom those possibilities are available.

#### About

**Victoria Silton** is completing a Master of Social Work at the University of Melbourne, after graduating from the Australian National University with a Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours). She has conducted research on the framing of abortion in public and legislative discourse, the gendered nature of emotional labour and language use, and LGBTIQ+ mental health following Australia's marriage equality plebiscite. Her research interests include trauma, grief and resilience, queer and gender theory, and political and structural power

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 4: Well-being in a pandemic

### Protect, Survive or Rebel. The shifting roles of young adults during the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia

**Mr Nathan Wiltshire (College of Arts & Social Sciences, ANU)**

#### Abstract

As Australia continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing and isolation are measures used to contain the virus. During the early phase of the pandemic, young adults were characterised as uncaring and selfish, as media reports highlighted anti-social behaviour supposedly demonstrating widespread lack of regard for others in the community. It has been widely reported that this demographic is unlikely to suffer severe health outcomes if contracting the virus. Conversely, they face an uncertain economic future and adverse social consequences from extended periods of social distancing and isolation practices. This juxtaposition seems to strengthen the case against young adults and their attitudes and behaviours during the initial period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This study set about uncovering realities of lived experiences of young adults during the first wave of the COVID19 pandemic. Involving in-depth semi-structured interviews (n=28) conducted via Zoom to explore attitudes and behaviours towards social distancing and other personal preventative measures, personal social implications and experiences of connection to others. Participants were aged 18-29 years and residing in major metropolitan centres in New South Wales or Canberra between March 2020 and June 2020.

Far from anti-social stereotypes, the study found three new social identities emerge through the behaviours of young adults. Furthermore, role-taking of vulnerable others from family, friendship networks and wider society supported prosociality for many during this time. This research provides implications for policymakers seeking to promote prosocial behaviours during future crises.

#### About

**Nathan Wiltshire** is a post-graduate research student at Australian National University's College of Arts and Social Sciences. His research focuses on pro-sociality, empathy and role-taking within society. In addition, Nathan is a practitioner in the fields of inter-cultural understanding and community development, as Co-founder of non-profit social enterprise, Empathy Action Labs. This work, over the last ten years has involved developing and implementing a range of social innovations in Australia, India and Japan. Previously, Nathan taught social innovation and empathy at University of Technology Sydney, where he designed and led an acclaimed empathy-based mentorship program and a popular series of experiential empathy training workshops.

Read more: [www.nathanwiltshire.com](http://www.nathanwiltshire.com) & Twitter @nathwiltshire

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 4: Well-being in a pandemic

### Coronafire: Concatenation and convergent crises

**Professor Simone Dennis (College of Arts & Social Sciences, ANU) & Dr Deane Fergie (LocuSAR)**

#### Abstract

Rather than making close considerations of what –socially, economically, politically, structurally, temporally, physically – has been changed by coronavirus, our contribution engages the virus in terms of convergence. The novel corona virus hit Australia in the midst of a bushfire crisis, itself the manifestation and fruition of larger environmental crises.

Characteristically academic and governmental enquiries single out and distinguish between different types of emergencies and disasters and particular events to assess their nature, course and management in order to make better plans for next time. There is no such singularity for people who live through convergent crises. Survivors, as bodies and communities, know the concatenations that develop as twists and turns in convergence. Feeling homes in one emergency and being locked down in them in the next. Shops that could accept cash in one context refusing cash in the next. The threat in the air that was smoking and visible in fire, an invisible enemy in another.

Our presentation draws on information from people living on the southern coast of NSW and details the complex and sometimes contradictory sensory and broader experiential meanings of home, movement and the most habitual of human bodily activities: breathing itself. Such experiences give us rich opportunity to develop and apply a frame of convergence that reworks 'risk' and 'resilience' to deal with what our informants called 'the double whammy' of being impacted by fire and then virus. We are interested in particular in what such a reworking they may offer for future theoretical and practical understandings of and responses to crises

### About

The joint authors, **Dr Deane Fergie** and **Professor Simone Dennis**, are social anthropologists with especial joint interest in developing a new basis for understanding convergent crises.

**Simone Dennis** is a specialist in the anthropological study of Australian communities and in the development of new, phenomenologically informed theoretical concepts for thinking through a variety of human social practices - from community recovery post disaster to the consumption of licit drugs.

**Deane Fergie** is an anthropologist who, after lecturing at Adelaide University for 25 years, retired in to the south coast of NSW. From there she runs a small interdisciplinary research team called LocuSAR: [www.locusar.com.au](http://www.locusar.com.au).

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 5: Education and online learning in a pandemic

### E-learning and virtual transformation of histology and pathology learning during COVID-19: its impact on student learning experience and outcome

**Ms Samantha Waugh, Dr James Devin & Dr Vinod Gopalan (School of Medicine, Griffith University)**

#### Abstract

Histology and pathology teaching for pre-clinical years in MD program at Griffith University was traditionally delivered in a multi-campus (Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast) teaching environment and in face to face mode using gross pathology specimens, conventional light microscopy (limited), virtual microscopy and integration of other biomedical disciplines such as anatomy, radiology and pathophysiology. University shutdowns due to COVID-19 pandemic has led to the complete transformation of the face to face learning into an online mode. Virtual live classrooms were created using Blackboard Collaborate Ultra, an e-learning platform where instructors could host live chat sessions and use virtual microscopy to instruct. Tutor assisted practical sessions were delivered in smaller groups via Microsoft team sessions and were supplemented with e-slides (<https://www.best.edu.au/slice/>).

This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of online histopathology teaching in medical education during the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2nd year MD students (n=220) enrolled in both campuses in Griffith University, who had previously completed one whole year of face-to-face histopathology teaching, were invited to complete an online questionnaire rating the value of their learning experiences before and during COVID-19 after the completion of all their histology and pathology practical sessions. The students' pathology assessment results from their first and second year of medicine were then compared to determine if the switch to online histopathology teaching had an impact on students' performance. A total of 150 students took part in the online survey, and > 75% of students have either agreed or strongly agreed that the switch to online learning during the Covid-19 pandemic was more effective and engaging than face-to-face practicals and lectures. Nearly 90% of students have felt that the clinical self-assessment section of the e-practical sessions was done in a much better way compared to face to face sessions. However, a proportion of students (7-15%) students have disagreed that the online transformation was not beneficial for their learning.

A thematic analysis of the qualitative comments have strongly indicated that online histopathology teaching was 'extremely useful', 'easier to engage' and 'better structured' compared to face-to-face teaching. On the other hand, there was numerous feedback from many students that 'the personal face to face learning experience cannot be replicated online'. Analysis of the final online practical assessment has indicated

that there was a significant improvement in students' learning outcome. Compared to the previous years' face to face practical assessment, the mean overall marks was significantly improved from 38.14+ 15 to 45.21/70 + 14 (p <0.05) during the COVID-19 impacted online teaching period, and there was ~ 12% improvement in student learning outcome due to the interventions adopted during the pandemic. To conclude, the COVID-19 impacted online transformation of teaching methods has resulted in improved student engagement and a positive learning outcome in histology and pathology education.

#### About

**Samantha Waugh** completed a Bachelor of Medical Science at Griffith University. She has a keen interest in medical education, research and histopathology. Currently, she is completing the Doctor of Medicine program at Griffith University and works as a pathology and anatomy laboratory demonstrator in medical education.

**Dr James Devin** is an early career researcher who received his PhD from the University of Queensland. James also completed a Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science, majoring in Clinical Exercise Physiology, and concurrently works as a Clinical Exercise Physiologist. His research interests include exercise oncology for colorectal cancer patients and survivors aiming to better understand the mechanistic link between exercise and colorectal cancer progression. He is also completing the Doctor of Medicine program at Griffith University and has an interest in pathology and medical education.

**Dr Vinod Gopalan** is a Senior Lecturer in Medical Education/ Histopathology and a Mid-Career Researcher in School of Medicine and Menzies Health Institute Queensland, Griffith University. Dr Gopalan has >110 peer-reviewed publications including multiple book chapters and research articles. Vinod's successful innovative teaching and educational leadership have been recognised through many awards including a National Teaching Citation (2018) and a Vice Chancellor's Commendation for University Teacher of the Year (2018). In addition, Vinod's ongoing academic and research leadership has influenced histopathology learning nationally and internationally through international symposiums, Asia Pacific education courses, and he provides his discipline expertise to Australian and international institutions for program accreditation and development.

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 5: Education and online learning in a pandemic

### Lessons to be learnt from the impact of COVID-19 on medical students' wellbeing and learning experience

**Dr Anna Efstathiadou and Dr Suja Pillai, (University of Queensland)**

#### Abstract

Covid-19 pandemic has forced sudden changes in the learning and teaching delivery mode across Australian Universities in 2020. By mid-March, due to institutional lockdown, all clinical sites were off limit for medical students. Semester 1 teaching for Year 1 and 2 medical cohort at the Faculty of Medicine, The University of Queensland paused for a week and classes resumed by 23rd March in a virtual mode.

Concerns were raised about students' mental health and learning experience as COVID-19 changed the way medical students interacted with their colleagues and friends, disrupting face to face interaction, on campus teaching and immersion into clinical setting. Discussions began for a transformed approach of teaching and learning to enhance students' wellbeing and learning experience, while respecting government health directives. A revised mode of curriculum was delivered during semester 2 via consolidated in person sessions and a rotating system of student access into the clinical environment.

This study discusses the impact of virtual learning and the effects of digital transformation on medical students' wellbeing and learning experience with limited access to the clinical setting. It questions how their perception of being a medical student and future doctor during unprecedented times has been affected, trialling a staff-student partnership project that explores ways to promote networking with peers, to foster wellbeing and promote a rewarding student learning experience.

The study findings will assist Universities to reimagine their traditional, socially immersive and participatory character in demanding and extraordinary situations, in a way that will allow the future generation of medical students to enjoy this unique way of social learning and development and continue to receive an improved and gratifying student experience.

#### About

**Dr Anna Efstathiadou** is a language tutor and cultural historian with an interest on the First and Second World War propaganda, war and visual image. More recently, she has been exploring the role of medical humanities and how best they can support a rewarding student experience through extracurricular activities.

**Dr Suja Pillai** is a Lecturer in Pathology and an Early Career Researcher in School of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Queensland. Suja's exceptional teaching has been recognised through multiple teaching awards notably the John Pearn Medallion and the Higher Education Academy Fellowship. Suja's research in medical education is in the field of online education, assessments, innovative technologies, and integrated learning in pathology along with disciplinary research in molecular pathology and cancer genetics.



# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 5: Education and online learning in a pandemic

### A Possible Solution to Bridge the Gap between off-Shore Students and Australian High Education

**Dr Ying Zhu (Company Founder, Adelaide Bio-Tech Development (Hengqin) Ltd)**

#### Abstract

The pandemic covid-19 has changed much to the world in the past six months and would possibly go on for another two or one year. Rise to the challenge we should be doing on every occasion, as the challenge has readily been out there and much more may be to face. High education in Australia has focused on overseas students in the past decade, now heavily confronts with study arrangements for off-shore students. Due to the precariousness of the pandemic, it appears unwise to wait up till everything gets back to normal. How to revert its covid-19 status quo for the focus of Australian high education? A necessary reform on teaching and learning activities should be made for next years to come. A possible solution to bridge the gap between off-shore students and Australian high education is proposed in this abstract.

Online teaching has come to be the best in current situation for the large number of universities, even though there exist perceptible chasms between online teaching and on-site teaching. What would be a good practice to solve the issue regarding the chasms? How to bridge the gap between online teaching and on-site teaching, effectuating online teaching for the universities and off-shore students alike? Based on our experiences, we suggest on-site tutoring may be feasible to address the issue.

Tutoring session plays a key part in Australian high education and proves its efficiency and coherence in teaching and learning activities. We consider on-site tutoring plans at Chinese universities, through collaborating with Australian universities and selecting those capable of instructing students in learning on both English proficiency and discipline competence, we then anticipate to continue the international education for Australian high education in the post-covid-19 age.

More than 100,000 Chinese young people enrolled with Australian universities and have one or two years to complete their studies. Under the current circumstance, on-site tutoring, assisting online teaching from Australia, would soothe the burning question for Australian high education institutions and those off-shore students.

Note: This abstract proposed a feasible solution for Australian high education to continue its focus on overseas students. It is not demonstrating a big idea, or great analysis for the changing world. But it is a practical suggestion to cope with the real problem.

#### About

**Dr. Ying Zhu**, graduated from The University of Adelaide, and completed a post-doc. project at Waite Research Precinct in 2016. As an independent scholar, Dr. Zhu is the founder of Adelaide Bio-Tech Development (Hengqin) Ltd. in Zhuhai, Guangdong province. The company runs businesses in the fields including but not limited to translation service, education collaboration, and agri-tech investment.

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 5: Education and online learning in a pandemic

### Australian Higher Education in the Post-pandemic World

**Mr Tom Worthington (Research School of Computer Science, ANU)**

#### Abstract

Like many educators, my world changed suddenly in early 2020. I was called to an emergency meeting of the staff of the ANU Research School of Computer Science. We were told that due to COVID-19 many of our international students would be unable to get to campus: could we teach them online? There was a moment of shocked silence, then a roar of questions: "How many? How long for? Will they have Internet access? What about assessment?" It happened I had a Masters of Education in how to provide online education to international students at a research intensive university. It has been a challenging semester and the next will be as well. But how will this change higher education for domestic and international students into the future?

Some relevant past presentations papers and books:

Worthington, T. (2020). The Higher Education Whisperer on COV-19 (Blog). URL <https://blog.highereducationwhisperer.com/search/label/COVID19>

Worthington, T. (2020, April). Responding to the Coronavirus Emergency with e-Learning, Athabasca University. Video URL [https://youtu.be/CUiVH\\_g4PL4](https://youtu.be/CUiVH_g4PL4) Text URL <https://blog.highereducationwhisperer.com/2020/04/responding-to-coronavirus-emergency.html>

Worthington, T. (2020, June). Blend and Flip for Teaching Communication Skills to Final Year International Computer Science Students. Paper accepted for the IEEE International Conference on Teaching, Assessment and Learning for Engineering (TALE), 10-13 December 2019, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. URL <https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/204833>

Worthington, T. (2018, December). Blended Learning for the Indo-Pacific. In 2018 IEEE International Conference on Teaching, Assessment, and Learning for Engineering (TALE) (pp. 861-865). IEEE. URL <https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/148733>

Worthington, T. (2017). Digital Teaching In Higher Education: Designing E-learning for International Students of Technology, Innovation and the Environment (ebook). URL [http://www.tomw.net.au/digital\\_teaching/](http://www.tomw.net.au/digital_teaching/)

Worthington, T. (2014, August). Chinese and Australian students learning to work together online proposal to expand the New Colombo Plan to the online environment. In 2014 9th International Conference on Computer Science & Education (pp. 164-168). IEEE. URL: <https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/11724>

#### About

**Tom Worthington** is an independent computer professional, educational designer and Honorary Senior Lecturer in the ANU Research School of Computer Science. He previously worked on IT policy for the Australian Government and in 1999 was elected a Fellow of the Australian Computer Society for his contribution to development of national Internet policy. Tom is a Past President, Honorary Life Member, and a Certified Computer Professional of the society, a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, member of ACM and IEEE. Tom has a MEd in Distance Education from Athabasca University and blogs as "The Higher Education Whisperer". More <https://www.linkedin.com/in/tomworthington/>

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 5: Education and online learning in a pandemic

### From butcher's paper to Zoom breakouts: developments and transformations in Australian trade union education

**Dr Alice Garner (Centre for Vocational and Educational Policy, University of Melbourne)**

**Professor Anthony Forsyth (Graduate School of Business and Law, RMIT University)**

**Dr Mary Leahy (Centre for Vocational and Educational Policy, Melbourne Graduate School of Education)**

**Ms Renee Burns (University of Melbourne Law School)**

#### Abstract:

The pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of workers around the world, particularly those in the gig economy or employed as casual labour. At the same time, the lockdowns have revealed the crucial contribution that the lowest-paid are making to our collective well-being, in ensuring our shared spaces are cleaned regularly, in caring for the youngest, oldest and sickest in our communities, in transporting and restocking shelves with essentials, and much more.

For those working in or with unions, either as paid officials or in volunteer positions, lockdown has simultaneously opened up new avenues for a public recognition and discussion about the value of certain kinds of low-paid work and closed down the possibility of coming together to make their cases heard in physical spaces. Digital communication, meeting and protest tools have had to be ramped up and this requires rethinking, retooling and retraining for many.

Training for trade union actors is developing apace to respond to this new set of circumstances. Where, traditionally, trade union training took place in physical spaces and drew on a variety of well-established adult education methodologies, the new training, as exemplified in the work of the Australian Trade Union Institute, is all happening online. This paper explores the extent to which preexisting approaches to training, such as those developed by the Trade Union Training Authority, can still be used effectively and asks current practitioners what new methods or practices they have had to experiment with to meet new needs.

This paper arises out of an ARC Linkage research project investigating the history of the Australian Trade Union Training Authority (1975-1996), a world first in government-funded union education whose legacy can be seen in the current work of the Australian Trade Union Institute.

#### About

**Alice Garner** is an historian, teacher and performer based at the Centre for Vocational and Educational Policy (University of Melbourne). She is researching the history of trade union training in Australia with an interdisciplinary team of historians, experts in labour law and educational policy scholars. Dr Garner brings expertise in oral history and archival research to the project. She has published books in Australian-US educational history and French social and spatial history and has also worked as an actor and high school teacher.

**Anthony Forsyth** is a Professor in the Graduate School of Business and Law at RMIT University. His research focuses on collective bargaining, the regulation of trade unions, labour hire and the gig economy. He is Vice-President of the Australian Labour Law Association and chaired the Victorian Government Inquiry into the Labour Hire Industry & Insecure Work (2015-16). He blogs at [labourlawdownunder.com.au](http://labourlawdownunder.com.au)

**Mary Leahy** is Senior Lecturer with the Centre for Vocational and Educational Policy, Melbourne Graduate School of Education. Her research examines transitions within education and between education and employment; the nature of vocational education; young people's decisions about tertiary education; vocational education funding and teaching. She is the Lead Chief Investigator of an Australian Research Council Linkage project exploring the history of trade union education in Australia.

**Renee Burns** has a substantial knowledge of Australian workplace relations law, policy and current workplace issues through her work in human resources and industrial relations for local government and private sector employers. She is currently undertaking a Masters in Employment and Labour Relations Law through the University of Melbourne Law School, was Executive Director of the Australian Institute of Employment Rights for two years and is active in the Australian Labour Law Association.

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 6: Society, Culture and Media

### Fans in Search of a Contest: Eurovision 2020

**Dr Chris Hay (University of Queensland) & Dr Jess Carniel (University of Southern Queensland)**

#### Abstract

The unprecedented cancellation of the 2020 Eurovision Song Contest in the face of the COVID-19 global pandemic — the first cancellation of the annual event in its 64-year history — radically altered the nature of Eurovision fandom. Instead of the televisual spectacular around which the fandom usually coheres, there was instead an absence. This content void was filled not only by activities sanctioned by Eurovision's organisers the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), but also by fan-driven and -produced interventions that sought to occupy the space vacated by the Contest.

In this presentation, we propose to interrogate the disjunction between the EBU-led and the fan-led responses to Eurovision's 2020 cancellation to consider post-pandemic fandom. What does it mean to be a fan of an event whose basic structure has been fundamentally altered, and to what extent is the live event the structuring element of the fan experience? We also consider the implications of the popularity of the fan-led innovations of 2020, and ask how the EBU can mobilise these responses in reshaping a future (pandemic-proof?) Eurovision.

In so doing, we argue that the future Eurovision fandom will resemble more closely the Australian fan experience, which has always been more distant from the live event than our European counterparts'. Drawing on our research into the Australian Eurovision fan experience, we suggest that better understanding how contemporary Australian fans have engaged with Eurovision despite the limitations of geography can index alternative routes for reconceptualising post-pandemic Eurovision fandom. As experts in negotiating the tyranny of distance, we argue the Australian perspective on Eurovision is more vital than ever.

#### About

**Chris Hay** is a Lecturer in Drama and ARC DECRA Fellow in the School of Communication and Arts at the University of Queensland.

**Jess Carniel** is a Senior Lecturer in Humanities in the School of Humanities and Communication at the University of Southern Queensland.

Together, they are the editors of *Eurovision & Australia: Interdisciplinary Perspectives from Down Under*, despite their unresolved creative differences about whether bangers are superior to ballads.

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 6: Society, Culture and Media

### Are we ready for Ready Player One

**Xinyuan Xu (Centre for Digital Humanities at the ANU)**

#### Abstract

This short presentation provides an overview of social media virtual reality (social media VR).

Humans are social creatures. It is in our nature to be drawn towards social interaction. That is why social media platforms are seemingly so indispensable in people's lives. Social media VR is predicted to be even more compelling, because it not only enables remote work, improves entertainment, facilitates social connections, but also brings back face-to-face interaction, as VR technology will map users' movement, including facial expressions. In some cases, it will automate a movement such as walking, while mimicking the movement of faces, heads, hands, and torsos.

Moreover, interactions in social media VR can, and will, take place anywhere, as long as the user can imagine it, even in places as wild and surprising such as distant planets, underwater, at historic sites or indeed in historical times.

The ability to interact with others as yourself while also being someone else already exists in virtual social games such as World of Warcraft and virtual worlds like Second Life, but on those platforms, the social interaction is happening "over there", on a flat screen, remove from the user. In social media VR, we experience direct participation.

This work is a unique and timely research work which defines social media VR, accesses likely preconceptions of social media VR based on popular culture, presents an evaluation of the use of social media VR platforms in the COVID -19, and assesses public perceptions of this technology, before COVID-19 and during the pandemic. It facilitates our understanding of the role of VR technology and the increasing role it will play in social interaction and as part of the near-ubiquitous communication technologies that we encounter in our daily lives.

### About

**Xinyuan Xu** is a PhD candidate in the Centre for Digital Humanities at the ANU. Xinyuan has worked with Dr Terhi Nurmikko-Fuller on the Social Media Mourning research for the last three years. Her first publication in this field was published in 2018. Xinyuan's expertise is in the collection and analysis of cross-cultural and multilingual digital content from various different online platforms and digital environments.



# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 6: Society, Culture and Media

### COVID-19's potential effects on Western Civilisation

**Dr Cameron Gordon (Research School of Management (Research School of Economics) ANU)**

#### Abstract:

Will COVID-19 lead to a major paradigm shift in western culture? One narrative is that the current pandemic puts us at a civilisational crossroads that will either push us forward towards greater unity, social purpose and rational self-interest, or backwards towards the darkness of neo-barbarism. Frank Snowden, a noted scholar of the history of epidemic and pandemic, has made such an argument.

However, our current scientific/technocratic civilisation, while rendering COVID-19 less deadly in material terms, has arguably enfeebled our cultural and social responses. In fact, we are likely to go ahead, back and in entirely new directions all at the same time. A “better case” scenario is that we invite back in immaterial social dimensions (e.g. spiritual) in some collective (though not authoritarian) sense, with technology and science being means to higher social ends. One “poorer case” scenario is one in which technical control manages society by tracking and controlling individuals for valid epidemiological ends, but using socially invalid means, such as mechanised algorithm-driven social control. This presentation considers the possibilities of such outcomes and what the government and citizens might do to ensure social as well as public health advancement.

#### About

**Cameron Gordon** is Associate Professor of Economics, with appointments in Economics and Management. Cameron's research focuses on interdisciplinary economic history, particularly on where the social implications of technology and technical change intersect. Cameron is known as an expert in the economic evaluation of public policy and he has been asked to contribute his expertise to entities including the State of New York Governor's Office of Storm Recovery; the New York City Mayor's Office; the City of Chicago Inspector General; the Victoria Auditor-General's Office; the Ministry of Finance in Iraq; and the Australian Department of Infrastructure and Transport.

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 6: Society, Culture and Media

### The End of History? History in Post Pandemic Australia

**Dr Meg Foster (University of Cambridge)**

#### Abstract

History was one of the first disciplines mobilised in response to COVID-19. Politicians used historical analogies, historians of disease were asked to share lessons based on past experience, while the general public have engaged in family history and other forms of everyday history making not only to combat boredom in quarantine, but create an anchor point in 'these uncertain times.' However, this does not mean that history's value is inherent or even publicly recognised.

This paper provides a brief survey of how history has been mobilised in the COVID-19 pandemic before venturing some suggestions for how the pandemic will affect history's role in Australia. It looks at the contraction of the humanities and the Australian University Sector as well as popular and public forms of history making to examine whether we shall see an end of history as we know it after COVID-19, or whether this is simply a new beginning.

#### About

**Dr Meg Foster** - I am an historian of settler colonial, ethnographic and public history who received my PhD from the University of New South Wales in March 2020. I have been awarded the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Research Fellowship from Newnham College at the University of Cambridge, from 2020 to 2023, to investigate the connections between British highway robbery and the origins of Australian bushranging. I have also been appointed a Visiting Fellow at the School of Humanities and Languages, University of New South Wales from March 2020 to March 2023 to assist me in this endeavour. I am currently working at the University of New South Wales as a researcher on the Australian Research Council Funded Project: Inquiring into Empire Project (DP180100537), and will continue to do so until my Newnham fellowship begins in October 2020.

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 6: Society, Culture and Media

### Interspecies Vulnerabilities: A 2020 Wake-Up Call for Australians

**Dr Rebecca Hendershott (ANU)**

#### Abstract

In much of the developed world, humans have an uneasy relationship with their nonhuman animal brethren. We actively remove ourselves symbolically, physically, emotionally and politically from the interwoven nature of interspecies co-existence, through a range of justifications. These justifications – such as humans being civilised, rational, cognitively ‘superior’ and cultured (and thus outside the evolved world of biologically-determined animals) – are taken at face-value. They aren’t challenged until something reminds us that we are subjected to the same biological realities as other animals; we, too, are vulnerable animals who must fear threats to our homes and bodily health. That reminder hit Australians hard in 2020, with drought and bushfires that threatened all local nonhuman and human animals (either via loss of a food/water or home or smoke inhalation) and then the zoonotic-originating coronavirus pandemic that illustrated the biological similarities between nonhuman and human bodies. Both of these issues made us aware of our shared susceptibility – to extreme climates and deadly viruses – and ultimately make us stop and analyse the nature of human-nonhuman relationships and the justifications we have around them. For, although all animal bodies are vulnerable, one particular species – *Homo sapiens* – has developed methods of buffering themselves from the ‘natural world’; such material items (e.g. air filters and masks) reflect awareness that we share a biological reality while also re-asserting that we are above such biological realities (thus reinforcing the common narrative of superiority). In this talk, I cross anthropological disciplines to consider how our relationships to animal Others – from dehydrated and burnt koalas to disease-laden wet markets, from livestock to underprivileged humans – have been reinforced and challenged (and changed?) due to the horrific events that hit Australia in 2020.

#### About

**Dr Rebecca Hendershott** - I am a primate that studies primates – including nonhuman and human culture, cognition, evolution and sociality. I am particularly interested in understanding nonhuman animals in their own terms – through ethology – and our own – via the anthropology of human-animal interactions. I cross between Biological/Physical and Social/Cultural Anthropology in order to marry supposedly-objective biological and ecological processes with clearly-subjective socio-cultural dynamics; I am particularly interested in what all of this means for ethical, respectful interactions between nonhuman and human animals and a reconsideration of humans’ bio-social place within the interconnected web of life.

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 7: Public policy and decision making

### Social policy and post-pandemic Australia

**Professor Peter Whiteford (Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU) & Dr Bruce Bradbury (Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales)**

#### Abstract

The Australian government has responded to the Covid-19 pandemic through a range of significant but temporary changes to social security and related policies to support households. This has included two stimulus payments to millions of low-income households, a \$70 billion program to support workers and firms (JobKeeper) and a temporary doubling of support for the unemployed through the Coronavirus Supplement paid to those receiving JobSeeker and a range of other social security benefits. The government has also temporarily changed eligibility conditions for the JobSeeker payment, including suspending assets tests and waiting periods and dramatically reducing the withdrawal rate at which benefits are reduced as a result of income still being earned by one partner in a couple. Childcare was also temporarily made free to families. The practical effect of these changes is to make the Australian social security system more like a social insurance system common in other high-income countries. The fact that these changes were necessary highlights pre-existing weaknesses in the Australian model of social protection. While these changes have involved very large increases in public spending, there are still significant gaps in support, including for short-term casuals and temporary foreign workers. Evidence is also emerging that other aspects of the Australian social and employment model such as the absence of employer-paid sick leave for close to 40% of the Australian workforce and multiple short-term shifts for workers in aged care and other care sectors has potentially undermined the effectiveness of the public health response to the pandemic. This paper assesses the effectiveness of these responses to date and identifies further social policy reforms that will need to be considered in the later part of 2020 and beyond. The paper discusses alternative scenarios for a post-pandemic Australia and the challenges these pose for social policy and employment protection.

#### About

**Dr Bruce Bradbury** is an Associate Professor at the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC). **Peter Whiteford** is a Professor in the Crawford School of Public Policy at the ANU and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

They have co-authored a range of commentary on the 2020 pandemic: COVID-19 has exposed a key weakness in Australian social protection (11 March 2020),

Social protection and the viral recession (20 March 2020), The Corona virus supplement (25 March 2020), If we want workers to stay home when sick, we need paid leave for casuals (13 May 2020).

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 7: Public policy and decision making

### Accelerating the end of Pax Americana: COVID-19 and the return to early 20th century insecurity

**Mr Alexander Lee (National Security College, ANU)**

#### Abstract

Australia's precarious national security situation has been accentuated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic is not the cause of the rise of China or the relative decline of the United States, however, it has brought these twin threats into sharp relief. Australia is poised to be confronted with an increasingly different and volatile strategic environment. The situation Australia faces in a post-pandemic world is not unprecedented. A consideration of the first decade post-federation (1901-1911) reveals Australia has faced such circumstances before. The modern parallels with this decade are two-fold. First, the decline of Pax Americana, Australia's naval guarantor, mirrors the decline of Pax Britannica. In both cases the existing global hegemon was confronted by a number of domestic and global challenges that called into question the dependability of their commitments to defending distant Australia. These declines were gradual, frequently denied by Australian policymakers, and preparations for a new geopolitical order resisted. Second, COVID-19 has provided a disruption to the status quo that has forced Australia, and other states, to radically reconsider their geopolitical situation. Japan's victory in the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905) represented a different phenomenon but caused similar shock to Australia in the early years of the 20th century. It profoundly overthrew prior notions of what was and was not possible in the region. It revealed the strength of the potentially hostile power and the limitations of Australia's superpower guarantor. The war demonstrated to Australia that it was tangibly vulnerable in the immediate future and needed to shift to a policy of flexible self-reliance. It was the catalyst for significant change to national security strategy. Within four years of the end of the Russo-Japanese War Australia had legislated a compulsory military training scheme. Additionally, plans were drawn up for how Australia could defend itself against a hostile great power alone. This presentation contends that the COVID-19 pandemic has roughly recreated these circumstances. It has been a catalyst for broader realisations of the insecurity that Australia faces. The pandemic has highlighted the weaknesses and distractibility of the United States. It has rendered countless strategic projections obsolete and shown that nothing can be taken as axiomatic. COVID-19 has created a security situation with striking parallels to the early 20th century. Understanding these connections is highly relevant for Australia as it moves into the uncertain and insecure post-pandemic world.

#### About

**Alexander Lee** is a PhD candidate at the Australian National University's National Security College. The focus of his research is Yugoslavian diaspora nationalism in Australia. Specifically, the relationship between the Australian government and Croatian nationalists. He has also researched topics ranging from Australia's home defence in World War Two to Australian relations with Southern Africa and Portugal in the Cold War.

# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 7: Public policy and decision making

### Systems Thinking in the Chaotic Domain

**Dr Chris Browne (Colleges of Science; Health and Medicine, ANU)**

#### Abstract:

It is clear that COVID-19 has had a disruptive effect on Australia across all facets of society. As the virus began to circulate around our communities, public discussion of the concepts and language of systems thinking became commonplace: flattening the curve; doubling time; v-shaped recovery (referring to the shape of time-series graph); model transparency; delays. However, the concepts of systems thinking did not: making mental models explicit identifying balancing feedback loops; considering leverage points; planning for unintended consequences. Further, decision-makers at all levels were forced into action with high levels of uncertainty and competing priorities, moving from the complexity domain to the chaotic domain. For example, the actions to implement clear public health measures and the unintended widespread interruption that this causes on business and to daily life. This then leads to further unintended consequences – such as panic buying leading to supply chain disruption and then oversupply. In many cases, action was guided by health and economic experts, but where the expertise of the systems perspective was absent, leading to an unclear, dynamic and fluid decision-making environment.

To help extend the literacy of systems thinking within communities of decision-makers, we propose a novel generative methodology, based in participatory modelling, which prompts discipline-based experts to transparently consider the unintended consequences of their mental models, and ultimately their decisions. The causal relationships in mental models are often constrained to linear causal chunks: that is, “if A happens, B will happen”. Our structured approach prompts decision-makers to consider the next step: “if B happens, C will happen”. Then, “how will C effect A?”, completing a feedback loop and planning for a possible unintended consequence. We repeat this general structure to build out archetypical scenarios in a structured way starting with a common causal chunk. We then use this as a frame for analysing decisions over time in Australia and the region to illustrate the need for a systems view in decision-making. Through this methodology, we hope to equip decision-makers with a tool for considering unintended consequences in times of disruption.

### About

**Chris A. Browne's** research and teaching focus is on building literacy in systems and complexity. This includes investigating conceptual models of complex systems, methodology of problem-solving processes, strategies for developing intuition of dynamic systems, and processes for constructing shared conceptual models of social and technical systems. Chris is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, Certified Systems Engineering Professional, and a member of the INCOSE Technical Leadership Institute.



# ABSTRACTS & BIOS

## Session 7: Public policy and decision making

### Australian state border closures under COVID-19 – setting a precedent in uncertain times

**Dr Andrew Burrridge (Macquarie University)**

#### Abstract:

In May 2020, Australian Minister for Home Affairs Peter Dutton – the person tasked with overseeing the country's national borders – stated in response to the ongoing closure of the NSW-Queensland state border due to COVID-19 that citizens should question the constitutionality of such measures. However, it is not only these states, or cross-border urban communities such as Tweed Heads-Coolangatta, that have been impacted. Every state and territory have now experienced some form of border 'closure' or restriction since Tasmania first declared a state of emergency on 18 March 2020.

The outbreak of COVID-19 and the subsequent travel restrictions imposed provides an important moment in which to reflect upon the role of state borders in free movement within Australia, rarely considered by border studies scholars since initial boundary surveys demarcated each state and territory prior to, and immediately after federation. The resulting disputes and constitutional challenges over recent state border closures therefore have the potential for long-lasting impacts upon relations between states, and the day-to-day lives of Australian citizens and residents.

Within this presentation, I consider not only the current swathe of border restrictions that have been implemented across Australia since March – the first substantive closures since the 1919 influenza pandemic – but also consider the likely role of Australia's state borders, and of Australian border studies, into the future.

#### About

**Dr. Andrew Burrridge** is a political geographer, based in the Department of Geography and Planning at Macquarie University. He is the convenor of the interdisciplinary Refugee Studies undergraduate major and is also Research Coordinator for the Cities and Settlement Initiative at the Centre for Policy Development.

Andrew's work has focused primarily upon undocumented migration, the effects of border securitisation and immigration detention at the Mexico-U.S. and European Union borders, as well as the legal geographies of asylum appeals and refugee reception and settlement in the UK and Australia. He is co-editor of *Beyond Walls and Cages: Prisons, Borders and Global Crisis* (UGA Press, 2012).

## NOTES

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