Department of Geography and Planning
2019 Research Report
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Introduction

The Department of Geography and Planning at Macquarie University is a leading centre of geographical and planning research. Ranked in the top 100 geography departments in the world, our research has been assessed as "world standard" (Excellence in Research Australia). Reflecting our commitment to interdisciplinary we work in a close dialogue with the other social sciences and the humanities of the Faculty of Arts.

Our research focuses on the complex relationships between human and environmental systems in cities and regions. We have research strengths in areas such as human rights, water planning and cultures, climate change and environmental justice, urban planning and governance, refugee and migration studies, digital geographies, tourist studies, Indigenous cultures and knowledges, human-environment relations, and biopolitics. At the centre of our research lies a commitment to questions of social justice and inclusion. Our research expertise is consolidated in four clusters: Critical Development and Indigenous Geographies; Cultural and Political Geography; Environment, Societies and Power; and Cities, Planning and Governance. These clusters draw together our staff and students to critically engage with many of the challenges facing society.

Our researchers conduct adventurous and innovative empirical work across national and international case studies. While our research is theoretically innovative and has made important contributions to global debates in geography and urban planning scholarship, we are equally dedicated to addressing "real world" problems and working towards a more just and sustainable future. Our research has influenced policies and programs in the areas of urban regeneration and social housing, urban food initiatives, social impact assessment, climate related population displacement, and Indigenous recognition in planning and development.

Higher Degree Research (HDR) students—Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Masters of Research (MRes)—play an important part of the research culture of the Department. HDR students attend and present at Department seminars, are key members of our research clusters, and actively publish results in academic and public outlets. Staff are dedicated to training the next generation of geography and planning researchers. Importantly, this extends into the undergraduate curriculum, where learning research skills is core to all our programs.

2019 has been a very successful year for the Department, with 62 academic publications, 15 Department research seminars, 9 Higher Degree Research students either submitting their thesis or graduating, over $400,000 of research funding secured, multiple workshops and lecture series attracting international scholars, and a series of international presentations from staff and students. Particular highlights include: the awarding of our first Australian Research Council Future Fellow (Dr Hollis Taylor), a successful Australian Research Council Discovery Project (exploring resident-led collective property sales), and the publication of Song Spirals (a book from the Gay’wu Group of Women that includes A/Prof Sandie Suchet Pearson and A/Prof Kate Lloyd).

The remainder of this report provides an overview of our expertise, a series of researcher profiles, a snapshot of projects having real world impact, a profile of some of our Higher Degree Research students, and outlines our 2019 grant and publication successes.
## Research Clusters

### Critical Development and Indigenous Geographies

Honoured to be situated on Darug Country in northern Sydney, our research engages critical post-development and Indigenous geographies to rethink rights, responsibilities and belonging. We nurture the theory–practice nexus through innovative research approaches including close collaborations with communities, families, NGOs and place. Our research focuses on the interface of Indigenous and local communities, institutional frameworks, governance, sustainability and justice. We work to challenge the dominance of Western knowledges and colonising processes and go beyond categorical thinking and dualisms to nurture relations and spaces of belonging, sharing and care. Our staff, research students and collaborators, work in Australia, Asia, Africa, the Pacific, Aotearoa-New Zealand and Sami and are active researchers in a number of fields.

### Cultural and Political Geography

The Cultural and Political Geography cluster brings together faculty, researchers, postgraduates and MRes students whose work explores the inextricable relationship between cultural and political worlds. Drawing on a range of geographical and philosophical traditions, including postcolonialism, feminist geographies, political philosophy, post-structural theory and social and spatial justice, the cluster’s research is concerned with how cultural and political forces converge and interact in shaping environments, communities, identities, memories, bodies, knowledges, landscapes and mobilities. The cluster seeks to advance critical theoretical thinking and praxis, through a diversity of formats, while promoting the cutting edge work being done in the department.

### Environment, Societies and Power

Shifting socioecological conditions highlight the complexity of life in the Anthropocene, where the boundaries between environments and societies are problematised; and where there is increasing recognition of the political power relations that shape the ‘more-than-human’ worlds we inhabit. This research cluster focuses on new approaches to understanding power and human-environment relations on a dynamic planet. Our research centres on connections across social and environmental systems, as well as rethinking these categories in Australia, the Asia Pacific and beyond. Our researchers draw on a range of Indigenous, cross-cultural, interdisciplinary, geographical, historical and philosophical approaches that bridge theory and practice, and emphasise the importance of engaging and collaborating with diverse communities and publics. The cluster is committed to critical research that highlights social and environmental injustices whilst also fostering resilient ways of living in and with multi-species communities.

### Cities, Planning and Governance

Research on the social, political, economic, cultural and environmental processes shaping cities is paramount to respond to the dynamic global urban challenges manifest in the Anthropocene. Our research provides a critical lens to interrogate urban processes and their diverse outcomes. We address conceptual and policy challenges related to the way our cities are planned, governed and experienced. Our research is based on a transformative politics and dedication to improving urban futures through enabling justice and care in the city. Our research draws together critical urban theory and planning practice to investigate the ways cities are managed and experienced by urban stakeholders, including policy makers, private sector actors, communities and a diverse array of non-human actors. Central to our research is a multi-scalar lens which sees cities in relation to local, national and global practices and processes. We are dedicated to improving the policy and practices of urban governance through applied, comparative and collaborative research with governments, non-government organisations and communities which address real world urban issues.
# Department Staff and Research Expertise

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<tr>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Research Expertise</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Andrew Burridge</td>
<td>Migration, Borders, Political geography, Refugees and asylum seekers, Carceral geographies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Richard Carter-White</td>
<td>Geographies of violence, genocide and disaster, Camp geographies, Memory, trauma and witnessing, Visual and digital culture, Poststructuralist theory and non-representational geographies, Spatial theories of community, biopolitics and affect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Sara Fuller</td>
<td>Climate justice, Energy and equity, Activism and politics, Urban climate governance, Cities in the Asia-Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor Donna Houston</td>
<td>Environmental justice in the Anthropocene, Urban political ecology, Social innovation in local climate adaptation, Biopolitics of climate mitigation, Planning the ‘more-than-human’ city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Linda Kelly</td>
<td>Urban planning, Local government, Development assessment, Strategic planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor Kate Lloyd</td>
<td>Indigenous geographies, Ethical methodologies, Embedding reciprocal protocols and processes, University / community engagement, Caring as Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor Andrew McGregor</td>
<td>Political ecology, More-than-human geography, Climate mitigation strategies (food and forests), Southeast Asian Development, Alternative food networks, Post-development theory and practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Jessica McLean</td>
<td>Digital geographies, Activism, Feminism, Water cultures, Anthropocene, Indigenous geographies</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Associate Professor Fiona Miller</strong></td>
<td>Social equity dimensions of environmental change, Climate change adaptation, Vulnerability assessment, Society-water relations, Political ecology, Critical development geography</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Professor Claudio Minca</strong></td>
<td>Camps, Refugees, Geopolitics, Biopolitics, Tourism, Heritage</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dr Emily O’Gorman</strong></td>
<td>Environmental history, More-than-human geography, Environmental humanities, Water history, Animal history, Multispecies studies</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dr Maartje Roelofsen</strong></td>
<td>Tourism, Leisure, Digital platforms, Sharing/Platform economies, Future of work, Gender</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Associate Professor Kristian Ruming</strong></td>
<td>Urban regeneration and renewal, Affordable and social housing, Urban governance, Planning system reform, Community participation in planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Associate Professor Sandie Suchet-Pearson</strong></td>
<td>Indigenous rights and knowledges, Ethical methodologies, More-than-human relationships, Caring as Country, Social justice, Self-determination, Reconciliation, Cross-cultural environmental management and ecological sustainability</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dr Greg Walkerden</strong></td>
<td>Adaptive capacity, Adaptive management, Regional planning, Socio-ecological systems, Reflective practice, Professional practice</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dr Miriam Williams</strong></td>
<td>Care-full justice in the city, feminist ethics of care, Sustainability practices, Food justice and community food initiatives, Diverse economies, Urban commons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dr Alison Ziller</strong></td>
<td>Social impact assessment, theory and practice, Social impacts of liquor licensing and gaming machines, Land use planning decision making policies and practice</td>
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### Associate Professor Andrew McGregor

A/Prof Andrew McGregor is Director of Research in the Department of Geography and Planning and co-convenor of the Environments, Societies and Power research cluster. He is a human geographer who works on human-environment relations in Australia and Southeast Asia. His research explores innovative responses to global environmental change, focusing particularly upon climate mitigation efforts involving forests and food. His work draws on insights from political ecology, more-than-human approaches and post-development theory to argue for more locally-derived, just and creative responses to challenging socioecological conditions.

A/Prof McGregor currently has two main research projects. The first, entitled Food in the Anthropocene, explores efforts aimed at developing more resilient and just food systems. His particular interests lie in how animal agriculture industries are responding to growing environmental concerns and the alternatives emerging that challenge this mode of food production. Working with Departmental colleague A/Prof Donna Houston and others, this project has involved working with plant-based food businesses and proponents, exploring local food production in dense urban areas through a project funded by Urban Growth, and analysing the possibilities and limitations of the cattle methane mitigation efforts.

The second research project approaches development as a more-than-human achievement. This requires analysing not just the human impacts of development but the ways in which the relations between societies and their environments change through development processes. Much of this work was initiated through a large Marsden Fund research project exploring the social impacts of the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation initiatives in Indonesia, however he is increasingly applying this lens to other environmental and development issues.

A/Prof McGregor is lead editor of the Routledge Handbook of Southeast Asian Development (with Lisa Law and Fiona Miller), former Editor-in-Chief of Asia Pacific Viewpoint, author of Southeast Asian Development and has previously worked at the University of Otago, Victoria University of Wellington and UNICEF Australia.

### Dr Greg Walkerden

Dr Walkerden's research centres on practical problems of adaptation to, and transformation of, socio-ecological systems, with a particular emphasis on building adaptive capacity. His adaptation research is at three resolutions: regional, organisational and personal. Action research - working with partner organisations and practitioners - is central to his approach. Prior to joining Macquarie University, he worked for 18 years as an environmental manager and planner, using professional practice as a medium for action research.

His regionally focused research has supported a series of efforts to enhance resilience and explore possibilities for transformation. He is currently working with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority and Goulburn Murray Water contributing to their efforts to explore adaptation pathways for an irrigation region facing increased commodity and water market volatility, and a drying climate. This work draws on a long tradition of adaptive management of socio-ecological systems, beginning with Buzz Holling's work, and is influenced by social learning approaches (particularly the work of his colleague Val Brown).

His research on personal adaptive capacities centres on reflective practice, and has a particular emphasis on microprocesses for orienting and reorienting in ambiguous and uncertain circumstances, where analytic modes of decision making falter. He is currently working on three overlapping projects in this area: with postgraduate students in environment, sustainability and planning, with higher degree research students, and with highly skilled reflective practitioners. These projects are exploring how taking an explicitly experimental, reflective approach to changing practice, and in particular exploring shifts in the micropractices that practitioners are relying on, can foster more skillful practice. This work draws particularly on Donald Schön's and Eugene Gendlin's research. Gendlin's explication of somatically grounded microprocesses that support relatively holistic sensitivity to situations, and creative thinking, plays a central role in this work, because of the contribution it makes to understanding how we can act astutely.
Dr Sara Fuller

Dr Fuller is an urban and environmental geographer whose research explores concepts and practices of justice in the context of climate change and energy. Dr Fuller’s work primarily focuses on understanding how activist, grassroots and community actors might facilitate more equitable responses to climate change. She co-leads the newly formed Faculty of Arts research stream on ‘Activism, Rights and Justice’ with Dr Amy Barrow.

Dr Fuller’s current research investigates urban climate justice across the Asia-Pacific region, with a particular emphasis on climate responsibility. To reflect this, Dr Fuller is currently leading a Macquarie University Research SeedingGrant (2019-20) project, in collaboration with Dr Daphne Mah from Hong Kong Baptist University and Ms Melissa Low from National University of Singapore. The project aims to provide a theoretical and empirically based analysis of the dynamics, discourses and practice of urban climate responsibility in the Asia Pacific region, drawing on case studies of Hong Kong, Singapore and Sydney.

In 2016, Dr Fuller was appointed as a Fellow at the Asian Energy Studies Centre, Hong Kong Baptist University in recognition of her work on the politics and governance of urban energy transitions in the Asia Pacific. A current collaborative project, funded by Hong Kong Baptist University, entitled ‘The diversity and critical processes of urban energy transitions through community engagement’ explores the role of communities in progressing energy transitions a number of cities around the world. Dr Fuller has a longstanding involvement with the institutional Trilateral partnership between Macquarie, Hamburg and Fudan Universities, and is a visiting fellow at Fudan Tyndall Centre in Shanghai.

Dr Richard Carter-White

Dr Carter-White is a human geographer whose research interests lie at the intersection of cultural and political geography, coalescing into three main themes: i) geographies of disaster, trauma and testimony; ii) spatial theories of community, biopolitics and the camp; and iii) visual and digital cultures.

These interests are reflected in Dr Carter-White’s work on Nazism and the Holocaust. His research on survivor testimony accounts of the Nazi concentration camps has drawn on geographical theories of distance, proximity, and (non)relation, to engage with interdisciplinary debates on the broader representation of suffering and trauma, with a particular focus on the writings of Charlotte Delbo and Primo Levi. In parallel with this work, he has analysed the political geographies of Nazism through a critical engagement with the concept of community, examining both the spatial imagination of belonging and exclusion within Nazi ideology, and the extreme implementation of social and spatial divisions within the camp and other sites of biopolitical violence. He has also published on filmic representations of the Holocaust, and has recently begun to examine the implications of new digital technologies for Holocaust education and heritage.

Dr. Carter-White was previously based at the University of Tokyo, and is currently researching the post-disaster spatialities of Tōhoku, the northeast region of Japan afflicted by the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters of March 2011. In collaboration with researchers at Tokyo, Tōhoku and Hokkaido universities and Swansea University in the UK, this research analyses the traumatic coastal and nuclear landscapes of Miyagi, Fukushima and Iwate prefectures, as well as the diverse experiences of community amongst displaced and returning residents of these areas.

Dr. Carter-White has a longstanding interest in French poststructural philosophy, particularly theories of absence, negativity and impossibility in the works of Jacques Derrida, Maurice Blanchot, Emmanuel Levinas and Jean-François Lyotard. He currently co-convenes the Cultural and Political Geographies research cluster.
Dr Williams is an urban geographer who researches how everyday practices of care, justice commoning and sustainability are practiced in the city. Her work draws on a feminist ethics of care and urban justice theory to analyse the ways cities can become more caring and just places. She is working on a number of projects at present including a project that documents the diverse geographies of community food provisioning in Sydney.

Dr Williams draws on a diverse economy framing to understand how the community food sector operates and is uniquely resourced beyond conventional market mechanisms. Her work seeks to understand the multiplicity of ways people practice care and address various injustices through the community food sector.

The community food provisioning sector in Sydney is made up of a diverse group of initiatives including food box schemes, community gardens, food cooperatives, food pantries, food poverty relief initiatives, community farms, community supported agriculture schemes and social enterprises. The research has involved developing a database of 420 initiative locations, creating a typology of community food provisioning initiatives, as well as questionnaires and interviews with key actors. Dr Williams has produced a number of maps of the geographical distribution of community food initiatives.

In August 2019 Dr Williams presented some initial findings of the research at the Royal Geographical Society Annual conference in London and at a research seminar at the University of Newcastle. She also presented a seminar at Trinity College in Dublin in September 2019 and met with the Share City team who are documenting food sharing initiatives across 100 cities globally. In addition to academic publications, the research will be distributed as an online research report to key groups. The research seeks to highlight the contribution of the community food sector in Sydney to addressing issues of food insecurity and sustainability.
Dr Emily O’Gorman

Liquid Geographies

Dr Emily O’Gorman’s research encompasses the fields of environmental history, more-than-human geography, and the environmental humanities, and is primarily concerned with contested knowledges within broader cultural framings of authority, expertise, and landscapes. Her research has focused on the Murray-Darling Basin, a region rich in environmental contestations. She is currently undertaking an ARC-funded project on the history and future of wetlands in this region, combining archival research, interviews, and oral histories. Earlier this year, this funding supported a workshop jointly convened by O’Gorman with Macquarie University colleagues Uncles Phil Duncan (Walanga Maru), and Associate Professor Sandie Suchet-Pearson (Geography and Planning). The workshop aimed to centre Gomeroi/Kamilaroi knowledge in discussions about water and environmental management, and took place on Country. The workshop included Gomeroi/Kamilaroi custodians, Wayilwan custodians, staff and HDR students from Macquarie University and the University of Canberra, the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, the Murray-Darling Basin Association, floodplain graziers, and many others. Participants visited the Gwydir wetlands, Terri Hie Hie Aboriginal Area, Boobra Lagoon, and the McIntyre River where they were guided by Gomeroi/Kamilaroi custodians in learning about these places and rethinking the possibilities for their management. O’Gorman is currently completing work on a book titled Imagined Ecologies: A More-than-human History of Wetlands in the Murray-Darling Basin, Australia.

Associate Professor Kristian Ruming

Social Housing Regeneration

For the past 16 years A/Prof Kristian Ruming has undertaken research on the planning, development and management of social housing estate across New South Wales. This work has included the development of a series of estate regeneration evaluation frameworks, associated baseline monitoring reports, post-project evaluations and reviewing project social impact assessments. Much of this work has been completed in partnership with State Government agencies responsible for managing social housing estate regeneration, such as Housing NSW or the NSW Department of Family and Community Services.

As part of this work, A/Prof Ruming has engaged with government agencies, not-for-profit organisations, community advocates and residents to explore the impacts (both short-term and long-term) of estate regeneration. Methodologically this research has drawn on large administrative datasets, resident surveys and in-depth qualitative work (interviews and focus groups). The research approach adopted by A/Prof Ruming (and his colleagues) on these projects has drawn on the complex and contradictory outcomes of estate regeneration, which often results in the displacement of disadvantaged residents. A/Prof Ruming’s work has brought to the fore the needs, experiences and desires of tenants living in estates undergoing redevelopment.

Much of A/Prof Ruming’s earlier work on social housing estates challenged the principle of social mix (where private housing tenants move on to an estate and are seen to act as “role models” for social housing tenants). A/Prof Ruming’s work (along with others) challenged social mix as a planning and development ideal, illustrating how social and private residents rarely interact and how the stigma attached with social housing shifts from locations dominated by social housing (the estate) to individual social housing properties and households.

A/Prof Ruming’s most recent work has explored the process of forced tenant relocation associated with estate regeneration. This work, conducted in collaboration with Maria de Lourdes Melo Zurita (UNSW), has involved in-depth discussion with residents, state housing authorities, private sector developers, community housing providers and not-for-profit organisations. This research highlights the challenges of forced tenant relocation, the strategies used by the state and private sectors to facilitate relocation, the social and emotional costs experienced by residents, and the role of not-for-profit organisation in mediating the impact of forced relocation. This research has been presented to the state housing authority (NSW Department of Family and Community Services) and has informed current and future redevelopment and tenant relocation processes.
Research Events

Workshop: Modes of Activism under Authoritarian Governance Regimes in the Asia Pacific

*Convened by Dr Sara Fuller (Geography and Planning), Dr Amy Barrow (Macquarie Law School) and Dr Thomas Baudinette (International Studies)*

In November 2019, the newly formed Faculty ‘Activism, Rights and Justice’ research stream convened a film screening and workshop that brought together scholars and activists from across the Asia Pacific region to explore the types of authoritarian governance regimes that are emerging across the region and the challenges and opportunities for activism in both theory and practice.

The public screening was the award-winning documentary ‘Our Youth in Taiwan’, a film which explores the experiences of activists in the 2014 Sunflower Student Movement. This was followed by a Q&A session with the director, Fu Yue, who joined us from Taipei via videolink.

The workshop opened with a keynote from Associate Professor Lynette Chua (National University of Singapore) on *Law, Authoritarianism, and Social Movements in Asia* and closed with a keynote from Associate Professor Edmund W. Cheng (City University of Hong Kong) on *Protest Response and Movement Radicalization in a Hybrid Regime*. Across the two days, we had 18 papers, divided into panels on Authoritarian Practices and Political Regimes; Protest Movements; Art and Activism; Environmental Activism and Development; and Modes of Activism – Film and Communication.

The workshop was funded by a Faculty of Arts Themed Research Workshop Grant and the Centre for Agency, Values and Ethics (CAVE). The film screening was supported by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Sydney and the Taiwan Film Festival in Sydney.
Research Events

Refugee and asylum seeker events

Dr Andrew Burridge

Report launch: ‘Seven Steps to SUCCESS: enabling refugee entrepreneurs to flourish’
Macquarie University City Campus, 9 April 2019
Convened by Dr. Andrew Burridge (Geography and Planning) with the Centre for Policy Development

Refugees are Australia’s most entrepreneurial migrants. They are nearly twice as likely to be entrepreneurs as Australian taxpayers as a whole. A new report from Philippe Legrain at the Open Political Economy Network (OPEN) and Dr. Andrew Burridge from the Department of Geography and Planning at Macquarie University and also the Centre for Policy Development (CPD) outlines how Australia can make the most of this entrepreneurial potential. The report - Seven Steps to SUCCESS: Enabling Refugee Entrepreneurs to Flourish - was officially launched to the Federal government in Canberra on 11 April. Ahead of the launch, a discussion of the report’s main findings and recommendations with the report’s co-authors, chaired by Professor Lucy Taska (Department of Management and Co-Director of the Centre for Workforce Futures, Macquarie University), was held at the City Campus of Macquarie University. The launch served as an informal opportunity to consider the research findings and the action Australia can take to encourage refugee entrepreneurship to flourish. Media coverage of the report included The Guardian and ABC Radio National.

To read the report see: https://cpd.org.au/2019/04/seven-steps-to-success-report/

Workshop: ‘Fast-Track Asylum and Removal Procedures: Comparative approaches and key areas of concern’
Macquarie University, 31 July 2019
Convened by Dr. Andrew Burridge (Geography and Planning) and Dr. Daniel Ghezelbash (Law), with support of Migration, Mobility and Diversity and Ethics, Governance and Justice Research Streams.

Sabrineh Ardalan, assistant director at the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program, Andrew Burridge (Geography) and Daniel Ghezelbash (Law), were co-speakers for a workshop on fast track asylum procedures, held at Macquarie University. Recent years have seen the proliferation of fast track procedures for assessing asylum claims and facilitating removal of undocumented migrants. With reference to examples from the United States, Australia and Europe, the speakers examined the aims and shared characteristics of fast track procedures, discussing the risks they pose for individuals who are subject to them. Guests from the Sydney-based Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS), also provided insights from their work with clients subjected to fast track procedures in Australia. Following the workshop, Daniel and Andrew are conducting further comparative research into fast track procedures globally.
Higher Degree Research Programs

The Department of Geography and Planning has a vibrant, dynamic and inspiring cohort of MRes and PhD students at the heart of our Departmental research culture. Our students are attracted to the Department from within our undergraduate programs, from other institutions elsewhere in Australia and internationally. Each student participates in the activities of at least one of our four vibrant research clusters: cultural and political geography, critical development and Indigenous geographies, critical urban studies, and environments, societies and power.

Our two-year MRes program offers a unique and exciting research training pathway, preparing students for diverse careers as well as further study in a PhD program. In Year 1 (BPhil), students complete advanced course work subjects that prepare them to undertake research projects in human geography and urban planning, as well as interdisciplinary subjects like environmental humanities and development studies. In Year 2 students work closely with a supervisor from our experienced academic staff to develop and complete an original research project, culminating in a research thesis of 20,000 words. In 2019, Lillian Tait (see profile) and Milena Bojovic completed their Year 2 theses. Lillian’s research centred on co-designed and decolonising methods as she worked closely with Ngalakgan and Ritharrngu Aboriginal Elders to document a series of complex stories about the site of Urapunga in the Northern Territory. Milena examined the vegan community economies emerging in New Zealand’s South Island. For many of our students, their MRes research resulted in the publication of journal articles, conference presentations, and prizes, as well as inspiring them to pursue advanced roles in their careers or to continue their research through a PhD.

Our PhD program offers students the opportunity to pursue in-depth and original three year research projects under the supervision of our experienced and dedicated staff. Part-time study opportunities are also available for domestic PhD students. 2019 has been an exciting year in the Department as we saw four of our students successfully graduate from their PhD programs – congratulations to Yi-Shiuan (Yayut) Chen, Dauglas Wafula Juma, Sufia Khanom and Ropafadzo Moyo. Dr Chen’s research considered Indigenous Tayal experiences of dispossession in Taiwan through a focus on property and Indigenous rights. Dr Juma’s research drew applied concepts of resilience and adaptation to explore how irrigation systems can be managed adaptively in a changing climate, using the Shepparton Irrigation Region in south-eastern Australia as a case study. Dr Khanom’s research focused on the everyday, gendered experiences of human security from the perspective of environmentally-displaced migrants in Dhaka. Dr Moyo’s research focused on a case study of the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area in Southern Africa to examine power relations that occur at multiple scales in nature conservation.

This research illustrates the breadth of important contemporary challenges and concerns that HDR research in the Department addresses. A further three students have recently been awarded their PhDs: Wayne Williamson, Jeremy Mah and Tasmin Dilworth (see profile) and will graduate in 2020, with a number of other PhD students nearing the end of their PhD journey.

The Department welcomed two new students to our PhD in 2019, Lauren Tynan and Jessica Collins, who continue to contribute to the vibrant intellectual community of the department through their work on Aboriginal cultural burning knowledge and practices and the political geographies of refugee camps in Serbia (respectively). We warmly welcome new students who have a strong academic track record, a passion for research and whose research interests align with the research strengths of the Department. Please keep an eye on the Macquarie University website for PhD scholarship opportunities or contact A/Prof Fiona Miller for further information.

A/Prof Fiona Miller (Director, Higher Degree Research)
and
Dr Emily O’Gorman (Director, Master of Research)
Children in many urbanised countries in the Minority World, including Australia, are spending significantly less time playing outdoors than previous generations. It is regularly suggested that anxieties and social constructions of ‘risk’ are impacting Australian children’s ability to access outdoor spaces in their neighbourhoods and what children are permitted to do in these spaces. Tasmin’s doctoral research, submitted in 2019, explores how different risk constructions and interventions at individual, family and institutional levels are shaping children’s experiences of playful outdoor spaces during middle childhood in Sydney.

Engaging in research with Sydney families employing collaborative, child-centered and more-than-human methods and interviewing a range of professionals concerned with the design and management of outdoor spaces, her thesis develops a conceptual framework for thinking through different ontologies of riskiness in categorical or relational ways. Tasmin’s work highlights key challenges to getting kids playing outdoors, examining the way different risk concerns interact with particular structural forces shaping Sydney, including issues of housing affordability, shifting architectural form, the legacies of planning orthodoxies and demographic changes. It advocates wider adoption of a more relational ontology of riskiness that can help invite and enliven children’s playful outdoor encounters with the multifarious creaturely, microbial and foliate ecological denizens that share and shape our cities.

In exploring the interconnected roles of risk and play her research seeks to shine more light on the important overlaps between the child-friendly, the ludic and the multispecies city and contribute to the emergent picture of what more convivial, ethical and recuperative ways to live and flourish in shared urban worlds might involve. It is intended to help in the formulation of policies concerning risk management and outdoor play and in the development of strategies to get more Sydney children playing outdoors, more often.
Lillian Tate

Lillian entered the second year of the MRes program with a project developed in collaboration with Ngalakgan and Ritharrŋu elders Margaret and Rhonda Duncan. Their research was driven by Margaret and Rhonda’s aspiration to write a bi-lingual book about the history of their community, Urapunga, situated on Ngalakgan Country in the Roper Region of the Northern Territory. Together the co-researchers developed an emergent and reparative research approach that foregrounded ethical and reciprocal relationships (with each other and with Country) in the pursuit to find, connect and share stories about Urapunga.

The MRes thesis documented and reflected on this collaborative process in the context of decolonising research theory and praxis and offered contributions around participatory creative methodologies, specifically in their ability to engage with more-than-human worlds. Their approach recognises Ngalakgan Country as a collaborator in the co-constitution of knowledge, designing methods such as Jidan la Kantri | Sharing on Country, Dalim Stori Garra At | Telling Stories Through Art (painting, photography and drawing on top of photos) and Madjurimap Ebrijing Gija | Bringing it all together (Co-analysis) to make visible and audible Country’s role in shaping research.

Lillian is continuing her collaborative journey with Margaret, Rhonda and Ngalakgan Country into a PhD to enable a deeper engagement with the stories and new leads that have emerged through the MRes. In pursuing a PhD by (co-authored) publications, this team of academic, non-academic and more-than-human collaborators seeks to contribute towards the decolonising of academia and Australian society more broadly by foregrounding Indigenous-led and recuperative research practice; Ngalakgan perspectives and histories; and Kriol, the largest language spoken exclusively in Australia.
2019 Department Research Seminars

12 February
Dr. Margaret Raven
Postdoctoral Fellow, Macquarie University, Australia
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households’ and families experiences of food insecurity: coping strategies and cultural protocols

12 March
Sarah Prebble
MPhil candidate, Macquarie University, Australia
Digitally-mediated human-nature relationships in more-than-human
Smart Cities: Australian case studies of Urban Forest governance.

19 March
Harriet Narwal
PhD candidate, Macquarie University, Australia
Fostering multi-scalar conversations between legislated systems of environmental planning/management and Indigenous living cultures

19 March
Sara Judge
PhD candidate, Macquarie University, Australia
Being Earth & Spirit: Indigenous and Pagan approaches to more-than-human collaboration

26 March
Prof. Simon Springer
University of Newcastle, Australia
The Violence of Homelessness. Exile and Arbitrary Detention in Cambodia

23 April
Dr. Rebecca Lawrence and Dr. Alison Ziller
Macquarie University, Australia
Stockholm University, Sweden
Social Impact Assessment, Key Omissions, and Wilful Ignorance:
The Case of Rocky Hill.

28 May
Yasmin Khan
University of Toronto, Canada
What are the unintended consequences of Rohingya humanitarian aid and their gendered impacts on Bangladeshi host communities?

11 June
Dr. Emma Power
Western Sydney University, Australia
Assembling the capacity to care: caring-with precarious housing
2019 Department Research Seminars

25 June
Dr. Tyler Sonnichsen
University of Tennessee, Knoxville (US)
*Music Video, Sense of Place, and the Symbolic Gentrification of Memory*

7 August
Dr. Tom Baker
University of Auckland, New Zealand
*Securitised citizenship. How investors bought a stake in the welfare state*

2 October
Lauren Tynan
PhD candidate, Macquarie University, Australia
*Burning for Country. Relationships with Country through fire*

22 October
Prof. Mark Carey
University of Oregon (USA)
*The war against icebergs: A new view of ice, oceans, and oil extraction*

29 October
Tara Cater
Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada
*Fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) work practices and the crisis of social reproduction in the Canadian North*

5 November
Emeritus Prof. Richie Howitt
Macquarie University, Australia
*Challenging the Colonial Legacy of/at Macquarie*

26 November
Dr. Rini Astuti
National University of Singapore, Singapore
*Mapping illegal oil palm inside Indonesia’s forest zones and the environmental governance emerging to address its socio-environmental impacts*
2019 Research Grants

External Funding

Carter-White, R. 2019 Association of Commonwealth Universities, Swansea University Fulton Fellowship £4319

Ruming, K. 2019 Reassembling the city: understanding resident-led collective property sales, ARC Discovery Project (DP200101744) (with S. Pinnegar, H. Easthope & L. Crommelin) $322,601.


Roelofsen, M. 2019. Echo360 Research Grant. Project title: Media Based Assessment as a Primary Document Format in the Humanities. (with Michael Rampe, Dr. Ronika Power and Dr. Bénédicte André) $7,000.

Competitive Internal Funding

Carter-Wright, R. 2019 Faculty Research Travel Scheme, April 2019, A$4,987

Carter-Wright, R. 2019 New Staff Grant, 2020-2021, A$19,962 ‘Communities of relocation and return in post-disaster Tōhoku, Japan’.

Lloyd, K. and M. Tofa, 2019 Category 2 and 3 seed funding, Faculty of Arts Research Office and Corporate Engagement $360

Roelofsen, M. 2019. Faculty Research Travel Scheme. Macquarie University $1,339

Roelofsen, M. 2019. Emerging Scholars Scheme. Macquarie University, Australia $500

Photo: Milena Bojovic (Second prize Geography Society of NSW photo competition 2019)
2019 Publications

Books


Book Chapters


Book Chapters (Continued)


Journal papers


Chaudhary, S., **McGregor, A.**, Houston, D., Chettri, N. 2019 Spiritual enrichment or ecological protection?: A multi-scale analysis of cultural ecosystem services at the Mai Pokhari, a Ramsar site of Nepal. Ecosystem Services 39, 1-10. [100972]. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoser.2019.100972
Journal Papers (Continued)


Journal Papers (continued)


Other research outputs


McLean, J. (2019). For a greener future, we must accept there's nothing inherently sustainable about going digital. The Conversation


