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Introduction

The Discipline 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). 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.

2020 was a challenging year. The outbreak of COVID-19 changed the way universities operate. At Macquarie University, early in the year, there was a rapid transition of all teaching online. Staff within the Discipline of Geography and Planning displayed incredible resilience and innovation as classes were shifted online. COVID-19 also had a significant impact on research, as fieldwork was delayed, conferences cancelled, and publications and funding applications put on hold as staff concentrated on addressing the needs of our students.

Despite these challenges, 2020 was a successful and productive research year for the Discipline of Geography and Planning. We continued to publish in quality internationals outlets, secure competitive research income for ground-breaking research, and it was a bumper year for PhD and Master of Research completions.

2020 reinforced the timeliness and relevance of research conducted within the Discipline of Geography and Planning. Our research strengths in the fields of human rights, climate change, housing studies and urban governance, refugee camps, migration and borders, digital spaces, Indigenous cultures, human-environment relations and geopolitics has us well placed to respond to the big issues of a post-COVID world. Our research continues to have a major impact on policy and offers the public access to state of the art knowledge on some of the most urgent environmental, political, cultural and social challenges faced by our society.

The Faculty of Arts was also restructured during 2020. This restructure saw us join with colleagues from Anthropology, Politics and International Relations, and Sociology to form the new Macquarie School of Social Science. We look forward to working with colleagues from across the social sciences on interdisciplinary research which addresses the important questions facing the world.

Field research during COVID-19

COVID-19 had a strong impact on University research in 2020. While the decline in international students has attracted plenty of media attention and drained University budgets less is known about the impacts of the virus upon field research. Field work plans were thrown into disarray when the pandemic emerged. Researchers faced a wide array of challenges as kids needed extra care with home schooling; workplaces were off limits and lessons were being taught from home; field trips, workshops and in person interviews banned; scheduled grant rounds were cancelled; and conferences and meetings abandoned. People were also stressed about loved ones and what the future might hold. If there ever were a year for research to slow down this was it.

Over the year, however, new research rhythms emerged as the pandemic spread its disastrous tentacles across the world. Researchers built skills and confidence in online technologies, conducting interviews and meetings through videoconferencing tools and became more competent in juggling their home spaces and times. More desk-based and conceptual research took place and some took a moment to slow down and reconsider their research directions and priorities. There can be no doubt that field research has declined during the pandemic and the effects of that slow down will ripple through the years ahead. Despite this the Discipline of Geography and Planning has been incredibly active in the research space, from Masters students right through to senior staff all proving adaptable to the incredibly challenging conditions. The Discipline's passion for research, to contribute to positive social change has shone through.

We hope to capture some of that passion in this report.
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 relationships 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.

Environments, 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.
## Discipline Staff and Research Expertise

### Staff

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</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>
</tr>
<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 justics 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 and critical development geographies, Caring as Country, Practicing decolonisation through transdisciplinary methodologies, University/community engagement and collaboration</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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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>
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<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dr Hollis Taylor</strong></td>
<td>Zoomusicology, ornithology, violinist / composer, animal aesthetics, Australian songbirds, Environmental humanities</td>
</tr>
<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 Kate Lloyd

For over 14 years A/Prof Kate Lloyd has been part of the Bawaka Collective, a deeply collaborative Indigenous-non-Indigenous more-than-human research collective made up of five female Yolŋu researchers and three female non-Indigenous researchers (http://bawakacollective.com/). This enduring ‘more-than-human’ collaboration is built on the conceptualisation of all participants as co-researchers and recognises Bawaka Country as a sentient actor and lead author in the research. This aspect of the Collective’s work has been widely recognised as “building a new scholarly norm” (McKinnon, 2016: 348) changing the landscape of academic thinking in the way it works with ethical Indigenous methodologies and innovative conceptual framings. The Collective have “pushed far beyond” classic ethnography and “fundamentally question[ed] the standard protocols of academic research into people and non-humans” (Castree 2015: 10).

The Collective’s academic and more popular outputs explore innovative modes of intercultural communications that work towards societal transformations to help build ethical, just and inclusive communities. The Collective’s innovative outputs include an Intercultural Communication Handbook (https://bawakacollective.com/handbook/) and three books, including Welcome to My Country, which has sold over 10,000 copies, is found in every school library in Australia and is used extensively in primary and high school curriculums. Popular commentary highlights the contributions towards inter-cultural communication: “The sharing of these stories will build more bridges between Australia’s Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities than any political movement could ever hope to achieve” (Salins, FWT Magazine, 2013). The Collective’s most recent book, Songspirals, was short/long listed for five literary awards and in 2020 jointly won the Prime Ministers literary award for non-fiction with the judges commenting on “exemplary collaborative work ..one that will surely serve as a model for future projects. This book marks a major contribution to our understanding of contemporary Indigenous culture.” (PM literary award judges report). Working in the critical and dynamic inter-cultural spaces where Indigenous Yolŋu cultures and western cultures intersect ensures our work contributes directly to understanding cultures and human-environmental relationships in our changing world.

Associate Professor Sandie-Suchet-Pearson

A/Prof Sandie Suchet-Pearson’s research supports Indigenous rights and knowledges in the context of ecological and social justice. She works as part of two long-term collaborative teams - the Bawaka Collective (https://bawakacollective.com) from north east Arnhem Land with Bawaka Country including Yolŋu co-researchers and academics, and the Yanama Budyari Gumada Collective with Darug Ngurra, Darug Country in western Sydney including Darug custodians and academics. Their work together seeks to value and enable Yolŋu and Darug knowledges through facilitating inter-generational and inter-cultural sharing. In particular, they work to honour and centre the active agencies of Country in everything they do.

The Yanama Budyari Gumada Collective is working on a project supporting a whole of community approach to environmental management (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tXIAeQ-4sg). The collective emerged four years ago. Under the leadership of Darug Ngurra (Darug Country), which includes a large part of Sydney and the Blue Mountains, and Darug custodians Uncle Lex Dadd and Aunty Corina Norman-Dadd, the Darug Ngurra collaboration brings key academics (Dr Paul Hodge, University of Newcastle, Dr Marnie Graham, Johannesburg and Stockholm Universities, and A/Prof Sandie Suchet-Pearson) together with Darug custodians and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) through a whole-of-community approach to environmental stewardship at Yellomundee Regional Park, western Sydney. The project won the 2019 Green Gown Awards Australasia - Benefitting Society category and was a finalist in the international awards. Green Gown judges noted the project: “was the first they had seen that demonstrated true collaboration, where multiple partners came together and all exchanged contributions that benefit society”. The project recently won the 2020 National Trust Heritage Awards – Aboriginal heritage category.

A/Prof Suchet-Pearson’s collaborative research with the Bawaka Collective spans over 14 years, focuses on intercultural and intergenerational learning and has led to diverse academic and policy-oriented outputs (see Kate Lloyd’s profile above).
Dr Andrew Burridge

Dr. Andrew Burridge is a political geographer, based in the Discipline of Geography and Planning. He is co-convenor of the Migration, Mobilities, Diversity research stream at Macquarie University, and co-convenor of the Cultural and Political Geography research cluster. Andrew is academic-lead for the Making Connections: academic mentors for students from refugee backgrounds program, at Macquarie University. He is also Research Coordinator for the Cities and Settlement Initiative at the Centre for Policy Development, and a co-organiser of the Australian Critical Border Studies Network.

Andrew's work has focused primarily upon undocumented migration, the effects of border securitisation and immigration detention, as well as asylum and refugee reception and settlement. He situates his work primarily within political geography, but also within refugee studies, critical border studies, carceral geographies, legal geographies, mobilities, and counter-cartographies. He has published in journals including Antipode, Progress in Human Geography, Territory Politics Governance, and Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers, and is co-editor of Beyond Walls and Cages: Prisons, Borders and Global Crises (UGA Press, 2012). Andrew has also co-authored several policy-related publications.

Andrew received his PhD from the University of Southern California in 2009, where he explored humanitarian-aid counter-mapping practices in the Mexico-U.S. borderlands. Between 2010 and 2013, Andrew was a member of the International Boundaries Research Unit (IBRU), a consultancy that works to minimise conflict associated with international boundaries on land and at sea, based at Durham University in the UK. From 2013-2016, Andrew was based at the University of Exeter, where he was Lead Researcher on an ESRC-funded project concerned with asylum-seeker appeal hearings in the UK First-Tier Immigration and Asylum Tribunal.

Andrew is currently researching the historical and present-day use of onshore mandatory detention of asylum seekers in Australia, as well as the impacts of Covid-19 upon Australia's state borders and their closures. He continues to work with colleagues internationally on asylum reporting and tribunal appeals hearings, and more broadly on critical border studies.

Dr Miriam Williams

Dr Williams is an urban geographer whose research focuses on the politics and practices of care, justice and diverse economies in the city. Dr Williams work is concerned with understanding how we might facilitate collective wellbeing in an age of climate change through an empirical focus on food urban commons, and spaces of care and a theoretical focus on a feminist ethics of care and justice-thinking. Williams is a member of the International Community Economies Institute and has been co-convenor of the Cities, Planning and Governance Research Cluster for the Discipline of Geography and Planning in 2019-2020. Williams is currently writing a book with Dr Emma Power at Western Sydney University on Caring Cities.

Dr Williams is currently working on a number of research projects. Funded by a New Staff Grant from Macquarie, Williams is leading a project documenting The Diverse Geographies of Community Food Provisioning across Metropolitan Sydney. This work is concerned with understanding the role of food poverty relief, food waste alleviation and ethical/ sustainability-oriented food schemes including community gardens, food pantries and food cooperatives. Williams has written about some of this work for the international Share City project and the Australian Right to Food Coalition. With an ongoing interest in sustainability, Williams is part of a team of Geography and Planning Researchers with Ruming, Houston and Fuller, who in 2020 conducted a national survey exploring Sustainable Household Practices in Australian.

With partners Baptist Care and Churches Housing, Williams is leading an Enterprise Partnership Scheme grant along with Ruming, Wise and Mitchell to explore resident experiences of living in multicultural high-rise and the role Faith Based Organisations might play in facilitating community wellbeing. This project is titled the Vertical Villages Community, Place and Density Pilot and aims to engage with current practitioners to inform urban design, place-making and community development.
Research with Impact

Dr Jessica McLean - Digital Geographies

Dr Jessica McLean does research on how humans, more-than-humans, environments and technologies interact to produce geographies of change. In 2020 her first book Changing Digital Geographies: Technologies, environments and people was published, attracting thousands of downloads. This book analyses how technologies are providing new opportunities for communication and connection, while simultaneously deepening existing problems associated with isolation, global inequity and environmental harm. By offering a reading of digital technologies as ‘more-than-real’, her monograph argues that the productive and destructive possibilities of digital geographies are changing important aspects of human and non-human worlds. Her book was launched at a public talk in Marrickville Library in February 2020 to an audience of over 100 people.

Her work is internationally recognised. She was invited to contribute to the international Feminist and Accessible Publishing Tech Series, hosted by Prof Alexander Ketchum of McGill University (Canada) in 2020. Her talk on ‘The Environmental Costs and Benefits of Digital Technologies’ was open to everyone and live captioned to increase accessibility, as well as recorded for distribution after the event. She also gave a 2020 keynote as part of the Digital Research Group’s Virtual Annual Symposium (a research group of the Royal Geographical Society – Institute of British Geographers) on ‘Decolonising digital technologies? Digital geographies of Indigenous knowledges and settler colonial practices in higher education’.

Dr McLean is also a member of the Roundtable for the Sustainable Digitalisation Project that is developing principles to help corporate and government institutions assess how they use digital technologies and to improve the environmental and social sustainability of that usage. Dr McLean’s research examining corporate claims about the green credentials of digital technologies was published in The Conversation and she has been interviewed by The Times (UK), CAN Singapore radio (national radio station), Eastside Radio (Sydney), FBi (Sydney), and 2SER (Sydney).

Associate Professor Donna Houston - Multispecies Cities

Associate Professor Houston’s research encompasses the fields of cultural geography, urban planning and the environmental humanities and is broadly concerned with questions of environmental and multispecies justice in an era of climate change. Much of her recent research has been concerned with nature in cities and how the planning, governance, and design of urban spaces can better recognise, care for and co-exist with biodiverse life.

Associate Professor Houston has recently undertaken research project on endangered Carnaby’s Black Cockatoos in Perth, exploring how cities both nurture and harm animals and plants threatened with extinction. She found that while urban residents, planners, designers are deeply interested in the potential of cities to become more resilient by nurturing species and biodiversity, there are remain many practical challenges to understanding how communities and planning systems interact with the living ecologies of cities. A/Prof Houston has been invited to discuss these challenges in public settings with a CityRoad Podcast on ‘Planning Multispecies Cities’ and she was invited by Willoughby City Library to speak on the regenerative potential of cities for Science Week in August.

With her colleague A/Prof Andrew McGregor, A/Prof Houston has launched a ‘multispecies geographies’ website and formed the ‘Multispecies Justice Working Group’ with upper-level undergraduate, postgraduate, Masters and PhD students which has now extended to members outside of Macquarie University. The working group is undertaking a research project that aims to map multispecies geographies of care in metropolitan Sydney. This re-imagining of the city as a place of multispecies interrelationships and interdependencies is key to a new research project that A/Prof Houston plans to start in 2021, a story-mapping project that will document community responses to species on the brink in four Australian cities.
Outside Studies and Honorary Research

A/Prof Fiona Miller

Report on a COVID-adjusted Outside Studies Program

Fiona had originally planned to spend time in Vietnam and Sweden as part of her OSP this year, continuing her research collaborations with colleagues at Cần Thổ University and Linköping University. However, her (and everyone else’s!) research plans were disrupted by the border closures and funding freeze accompanying COVID. Fiona nonetheless was able to adjust her research plans and instead has spent her time in Sydney where she has been hosted by the School of Geosciences, the University of Sydney.

As well as participating in a number of research forums and delivering seminars, much of Fiona’s time has been dedicated to her ongoing research on climate-related displacement and ‘loss and damage’. Fiona also worked with members of the Shadow Places Network (Donna Houston and Emily Potter) to edit the “A to Z of Shadow Places Concepts Collection”, which was launched in October. In addition to writing collaborative papers with colleagues in Vietnam, she has also been working on a couple of other collaborative writing projects with colleagues based in Australia and elsewhere. She has commenced work on two book projects: one is an edited collection (with Krishna K Shrestha and Sarah Wright) entitled the Handbook on Climate Change Vulnerability, Environments and Communities (with Edward Elgar Publishing); and the other is a solo book project with the working title Geographies of Loss. She still has some way to go with both book projects, but is extremely grateful for the time afforded by her colleagues and the OSP grant to focus on her research.

Honorary Associate Professor Jim Forrest

Racism, Structural, Social and Spatial Integration of Immigrants to Australia

For two decades, Dr Forrest’s research has been into two main aspects of the immigrant experience in Australia. He, the late Professor Ron Johnston and Associate Professor Mike Poulsen have since the late 1990s undertaken extensive studies of immigrants in ‘classic immigration countries’, mainly in Australia, but also in America, Canada, Britain and New Zealand. This has focused on the measurement of and dynamic residential patterns.

This aspect has recently expanded to two ways, the first into advanced multi-level analysis of spatial integration patterns with colleagues in the University of Bristol’s Centre for Multi-level Modelling. The second, again with colleagues at Bristol and at other overseas and Australian universities, has expanded the spatial integration emphasis to an intergenerational integration process more generally: structural (educational attainment; occupational status), social and cultural (linguistic shift to English; identificational or degree of assumption of Australian identity) and associated spatial dispersion patterns. We have found that classic spatial assimilation theory, in an age of super-diversity, is less relevant than it used to be, challenged by modern views that numbers of the second and third generation of immigrants no longer feel inclined towards a spatial integration process through dispersion into host society suburbia only, but also by remaining in larger regional amalgams of ethnic groups intermixed with a minority of host society members.

Since the early 2000s, Dr Forrest has also been involved, with Professor Kevin Dunn, the Challenging Racism Project at Western Sydney University and colleagues in other Australian universities in analysis of racist attitudes, experience of and the geography of racism in Australia. Starting from a constructivist perspective – that racism is a product of class position and age – we appreciate that class and age are less important in contemporary Australian society, as is contact theory. Instead, we highlight the importance of Anglo hegemony, belief in the need for a social hierarchy and of public discourse and the media generally for the presence and perpetuation of racism in Australia.
Ioannis Rigkos

The Anthropocene is a proposed new geological epoch in which humans have become akin to a geological force. Large-scale activities such as mining and oil drilling accelerate and amplify global ecological change. Climate change, biodiversity loss, and deforestation are all being seen as global problems with anthropogenic cause. Many scholars, however, invite us to see the Anthropocene not only as a negative event engraved on the planet’s geological strata but also as ground for more hopeful narratives and future possibilities.

These hopeful narratives can be located in local contexts. In places where Anthropocene related problems occur, one can also locate spaces where hopeful possibility can flourish. I explore an example of hope through the case study in my PhD thesis. I focus on the small-scale collective practices of care that have emerged as a response to large-scale mining in Skouries of Halkidiki, Greece. The goal of large-scale mining in Skouries is the creation of a space smoothened and appropriate for valuable metal extraction free from disturbances produced by the existence of trees, waters, and troublesome human and non-human species which are located around the mining area. In contrast, through collective practices of care, local communities challenge the idea that productive activities require the eradication of vital relations that maintain social cohesion, cause severe health problems and destabilize the ecosystems around Skouries.

In exploring these collective practices of care, the research seeks to shine light on the question: how can the positive effects of collective care practices be amplified in the Anthropocene epoch? This thesis is intended to help understand the role of collective care practices for institutions and political decision making in a period of global uncertainty. It also suggests to re-think the importance of the many times unseen diverse world of social practices into local, national and global politics.

Helga Simon

More-than-human geography is playing a key role in encouraging urban planning to adopt a pluralistic approach that mirrors the diversity of human and non-human life worlds that form cities. Interested in urban planning for health and wellbeing, Helga collaborated with Dr John Hunter, Indigenous leader and co-founder of the Murama Healing Space at Sydney Olympic Park. Their research explored the ways in which an Indigenous-led engagement between an Indigenous Cultural Council and the Sydney Olympic state government authority was harnessed to re-imagine and re-purpose a disused, heritage-listed site at the Newington Armory. The Murama Healing Space and its youth-focused programs utilise an adapted building, a dance circle, a yarning circle, memorials, and artwork to embed First Nation’s models of healing for Indigenous youth and all who visit. Key to the site is the acknowledgement of Indigenous narratives, and the narratives of a diversity of people, flora and fauna connected to the site.

Using semi-structured interviews with key people involved in the collaboration and activation of the healing space, and a review of key documents and videography, their findings outlined the conceptual and practical methodology that formed the Indigenous-led engagement. The Indigenous-led engagement offered deeper, authentic cross-cultural learning, place-based care work, and a situated and ontologically pluralistic response to healing on urban Country. Key learnings for leaders and policy makers were drawn, which may be of particular interest to individuals and organisations wishing to address the gap in Indigenous engagement in urban planning.

Helga is continuing her research journey in the department with a PhD that aims to explore the politics and narratives around urban extinction, biodiversity and climate change, and how recovery projects relate to the more-than-human agenda in planning for health and wellbeing.
Research Events

Launch of the Australian Critical Border Studies Network

Co-founder Dr Andrew Burridge

The Australian Critical Border Studies Network (https://acbsworking.group/) was launched in early 2020 and brings together critical scholars working on border related questions in different disciplines. It seeks to provide an intellectual and inspiring space to share and develop new ideas for critical border research. The network is co-convened by Dr. Andrew Burridge (Macquarie University), Dr. Ari Jerrems (Monash University), and Dr. Umut Ozguc (Deakin University).

Borders define the spaces and subjects of politics. The act of bordering marks out a jurisdiction, affirming notions of sovereignty and identifying those who have a right to circulate and participate in political processes. Attention to bordering practices highlights how political space is not static or timeless but is continually being defined, policed and negotiated. Bordering occurs at diverse sites and scales through a range of technologies and practices. States control mobility by employing barriers and surveillance technologies at physical border sites but also by policing and detaining bodies inside and beyond them. While contemporary bordering practices are sometimes taken as a departure from a previous world of stable boundaries, attention to the histories of borders – and particularly their colonial lineages – underlines both continuity and change. The border is not solely a site of exclusion but also of encounter, interpenetration and transformation. Novel forms of political subjectivity and community continually emerge by negotiating, rethinking and contesting diverse boundaries. Indeed, border thinking, that engages with the knowledge and lived reality of those inhabiting border spaces, has become prominent in attempts to imagine politics otherwise.

In 2020, the ACBSN held two virtual seminars – the first, ‘Time, Borders and the Making of Worlds’ with Associate Professor Anne McNevin (New School, CUNY) was held in July, and the second, ‘Movements Across Space’ with Dr. Rachel Sharples (Western Sydney University) was held in August. For 2021, the network is organising an online symposium, ‘Pandemic Borders: Hotels, Spaces of Detention, Quarantine and Resistance’ on 16 February.

Workshop: Australian Research Council Grant Writing

Convened by Dr Emily O’Gorman (Deputy Research Director)

Grant writing is a very particular genre. In September 2020, Dr Emily O’Gorman convened a two-hour workshop to facilitate the sharing of insights by staff and postgraduate students from Geography and Planning and Indigenous Studies at Macquarie University, and guest speakers, on writing grant applications for Australian Research Council (ARC) schemes. The workshop began with an overview of the current ARC assessment processes from Professor Bronwen Neil, ARC Executive Director Humanities and Creative Arts, followed by questions about this process from participants along with group discussion. Next a panel of three current and former members of the ARC College of Experts – Associate Professor Kristian Ruming (Geography and Planning, Macquarie University), Professor Bronwyn Carlson (Indigenous Studies, Macquarie University), and Professor Ross Thompson (Institute for Applied Ecology, University of Canberra) – gave enlightening talks with their top tips and insights on ARC application writing and assessment processes. The workshop ended with a group discussion of ARC grant writing and questions to the panel.
Higher Degree Research Programs

The Discipline of Geography and Planning has a vibrant, dynamic and inspiring cohort of MRes and PhD students at the heart of our research culture. Our students are attracted to our research postgraduate programs 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. The Covid-19 pandemic presented a range of challenges for our HDR students, who needed to quickly re-design their projects to accommodate these new circumstances. They have done a terrific job in accommodating this shifting research landscape, producing important research theses.

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 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 2020, Helga Simon (see profile), Anisha Humphreys, and Anthonia Soligbo completed their Year 2 theses. Helga’s research focused on Indigenous-led engagement in urban adaptive re-use at the Murama Healing Space, Sydney Olympic Park. Anisha examined the relationship between individual and collective pro-environmental behaviour in community renewable energy groups in Australia. Anthonia’s thesis analysed home making and sense of community among migrants in Sydney apartments. 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. 2020 has been a bumper year for PhD completions as we saw no less than 11 of our students successfully graduate from their PhD programs – congratulations to:

Dr Ena Ying-tzu Chang for her cotutelle thesis with National Dong Hwa University entitled Rethinking Indigenous pathways to health in Eastern Taiwan: Negotiating the complex terrains of local sociality, cultural sovereignty, and biomedical governmentality.

Dr Tasmin Dilworth for her thesis entitled Risking trouble and troubling risk: Children’s outdoor play and risk in the more-than-human city

Dr John Heydinger for his thesis cotutelle thesis with the University of Minnesota entitled Humans, livestock, and lions in northwest Namibia.

Dr Jeremy Mah for his this entitled Focusing-oriented transformative coaching: supporting the journey of personal and social change.

Dr Lara Mottee for her cotutelle thesis with Groningen University entitled The assessment and management of social impacts in urban transport infrastructure projects: Exploring relationships between urban governance, project management and impact assessment practices in different geographical contexts.

Dr Zahra Nazreen for her thesis entitled Shared room housing in Sydney: An exploration of housing informality, platform technology and home making.

Dr Sabiha Yeasmin Rosy for her thesis entitled An ethical political ecology of tourism in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh: Engaging with Indigenous and gender concerns.

Dr Corrinnne Sullivan who was awarded the VC’s Commendation for her thesis entitled Indigenous Australian experiences of sex work: Stories of agency, autonomy and self-determination.

Dr Lois Towart for her thesis entitled Supply and location drivers of Australian retirement communities

Dr Navchaa Tugjamba for her thesis entitled Exploring climate change adaptation in the Mongolian steppes using an Ecosystem Services approach.

Dr Wayne Williamson for his thesis entitled Community and government planning authority use of social media in planning practice: A mixed methods analysis from Sydney.

The Discipline has a cohort of wonderful students currently working on diverse research areas. 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. Sandie-Suchet-Pearson, Emily O’Gorman, Jessica McLean, Miriam Williams
2020 Discipline Research Seminars

10 March
Jessica Collins
Macquarie University
*The Political Geographies of Institutional and Makeshift Refugee Camps in Serbia*

9 June
Jathan Sadowski
Monash University
*Tearing Down, Building Up Or, How to Deconstruct and Democratise Innovation*

30 June
Uncle Lex Dadd and Sandie Suchet-Pearson
Macquarie University
*Nurturing connections: from the calm waters of Yarramundi to the red dunes of the Kalahari*

7 July
Matthew Kearnes
UNSW
*Knowing Earth, Knowing Soil: Epistemological Work and the Political Aesthetics of the Carbon Frontier*

11 August
David Bissell
University of Melbourne
*Anaesthetic geographies: unfeeling insecure digital labour*

24 November
Andrew Lapworth
UNSW Canberra
*Gilbert Simondon and the technical mentalities of art-science*
2020 Research Awards

Songspirals: Sharing Women’s Wisdom of Country through Songlines written by the Gay’Wu Group of Women, (including Sandie Suchet-Pearson and Kate Lloyd) is joint winner of the non-fiction award in the 2020 Prime Minister’s Literary Awards. ($80,000)

The Yanama Budyari Gumada project was a finalist in the International Green Gown Awards in the Benefiting Society category (https://www.greengownawards.org/international-green-gown-awards-2020-finalists). The project won the Australasian category last year. The project was conducted by Sandie Suchet-Pearson, Marnie Graham and Uncle Lex Dadd (the latter two are Honorary Associates in the Department).

The Andrea Durbach prize was awarded to HDR student Lauren Tynan and Michelle Bishop for their jointly authored paper "Disembodied experts, accountability and refusal: an autoethnography of two (ab)Original women in the Australian Journal of Human Rights.

Walking Together Winner of the Geography Society of NSW Photography competition 2020

Location: Erin Game Ranch, Kalahari Desert, South Africa
Photo: Sandie Suchet-Pearson

"Dirk Pienaar’s son G, together with my son Kai, walk over the stunning red sand dunes of the Kalahari Desert after a dramatic and welcome summer storm. I have been privileged to research with Dirk, a #Khomani San leader, since 2013 and over the years he has welcomed me and my family into his breathtaking homelands on the border of South Africa and Botswana. The relationships between our kids is especially heart-warming and here G takes Kai on a walk through the dunes, showing him animal tracks and sharing some of the knowledge taught to him by his father." Sandie Suchet-Pearson
2020 Research Grants

External Funding


Wright, S., Lloyd, K., Daley, L., Suchet-Pearson, S. Geographical Society of NSW, GSNSW Symposium Award for your workshop entitled “Not lone wolf: nurturing and valuing often hidden relationships in academic research practice”. $3000

Zurba, M., Suchet-Pearson, S. and Howitt, R. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Insight grant for project “Designing governance frameworks for protected areas with meaningful Indigenous participation” Awarded C$99,746 (2020-2023)

Internal Funding

McGregor, A., Houston, D., Rickards, L., Goodman, M. Plant based meat pilot project. Macquarie University Safety Net Scheme. $19,940 (2021)
2020 Publications

Book Chapters


Journal Articles


Alam, A., McGregor, A. Houston, D. 2020 Women’s mobility, neighbourhood socio-ecologies and homemaking in urban informal settlements. Housing Studies 35, 9, 1586-1606


**Journal Articles (Continued)**


Ey, Melina, Kathleen Mee, Jai Allison, Susan Caves, Eliza Crosbie, Ainsley Hughes, Faith Curtis, Rupert Doney, Penny Dunstan, Ryan Jones, Adam Tyndall, Tom Baker, Jenny Cameron, Michelle Duffy, Rae Duffy-Jones, Kevin Dunn, Paul Hodge, Matthew Kearnes, Pauline McGuirk, Phillip O'Neill, Kristian Ruming, Meg Sherval, Miriam Williams & Sarah Wright (2020): Becoming Reading Group: reflections on assembling a collegiate, caring collective, Australian Geographer 51, 3, 283-305

**Fuller, S (2020) Towards a politics of urban climate responsibility: insights from Hong Kong and Singapore, Urban Studies, 57(7): 1469-1484**


**Houston, D (2020) Urban re-generations: afterword to special issue on the politics of urban greening in Australian cities, Australian Geographer, 51:2, 257-263.**


**Miller, F., McGregor, A. Rescaling political ecology? World regional approaches to climate change in the Asia Pacific. Progress in Human Geography 44, 4, 663-682.**

Journal Articles (Continued)


Other Research Outputs

Burridge, A. 2020 Hotels are no 'luxury' place to detain people seeking asylum in Australia. The Conversation April 14 https://theconversation.com/hotels-are-no-luxury-place-to-detain-people-seeking-asylum-in-australia-134544

Burridge, A., 'Here's how the Victoria-NSW border closure will work – and how residents might be affected', The Conversation, July 6, 2020https://theconversation.com/heres-how-the-victoria-nsw-border-closure-will-work-and-how-residents-might-be-affected-142045


Graham, M., Suchet-Pearson, S and Dadd, L. 2020 Non-Indigenous Australians need to educate themselves. One way to do this is to take an Indigenous tour. 12 June 2020. The Conversation.


2020 Keynotes and invited seminars

**Burridge, A.** (invited speaker) The politicisation of seeking asylum’ symposium, co-sponsored by Challenging Racism Project and the Diversity and Human Rights Research Centre, Western Sydney University, 28 October

**Burridge, A.** 'Alternative Places of Detention: Expanding a hotel geopolitics agenda’ University of Wollongong, Australian Centre for Culture, Environment, Society and Space (ACCESS), May 27

**Burridge, A.** 'Australian State Border Closures under Covid-19'. University of Newcastle, Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (CURS), August 13

**Fuller, S.** "Reframing urban climate responsibility: perspectives from the Asia Pacific". Department seminar, Australian Centre for Culture, Environment, Society and Space, University of Wollongong, Australia

**Howitt, R. and F. Miller** (invited speakers) “Geographers declare (a climate emergency)?” workshop, Australian Centre for Culture, Environment, Society and Space (ACCESS) University of Wollongong and the Geographical Society of NSW, 13 October, 2020

**McGregor, A.** (keynote address) "Just food futures? Food science, technology and socioecological change" Australian Institute for Food Science and Technology conference: Food Science Revolution, Building a Sustainable Future. 30 June 2020

**McLean J.** "Environmental management in Australia: Ways to centre Indigenous knowledges'. Geographical Association in England 16 September 2020


**McLean, J.** "Digital Technologies and their (hidden) environmental costs" Sustainable Speakers Series. Art Gallery of NSW. 27 October 2020


**Miller, F.** "Tracing the geographies of loss and displacement in an era of climate change", Thinking Space Seminar, School of Geosciences, University of Sydney, 11 November 2020