

Anthropology at Macquarie University

Annual report 2020

One of Australia's pre-eminent programs in Anthropology, setting a high standard for staff research, supporting innovative student-led projects, and serving Australia and the global community.



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Research Report

Introduction



According to the Excellence in Research for Australia survey by the Australian Research Council, 2018.

Introduction

The Anthropology Department at Macquarie University specialises in socio-cultural anthropology. The department has long held a reputation for being one of the most vibrant and dynamic homes of anthropology in Australia. It continues to collectively produce highly innovative research valued equally for its theoretical contributions and practical impact. In 2018, anthropology at Macquarie was assessed by ERA as being a '4' or 'above world standard', positioning it as the 2nd highest ranked anthropology department in Australia, producing a quality of outputs exceeding the Group of Eight (Go8) median, the most established research institutions in Australia.

The Anthropology Department's research maintains a broad international focus, extensive social engagement, concentration on the politics of everyday life, concern about the ethical requirements of anthropology, plus an ever-present eagerness to innovate. In 2020, restrictions due to COVID-19 impacted dramatically on staff members' ability to carry out ethnographic data collection, which relies heavily on field-based immersion in communities both inside and outside of Australia. Nevertheless, as this report details, we have remained highly productive, pivoting energy into other forums, virtual collaborations and workshops, reworking or publishing existing field data and gaining financial support for new endeavours.

Partly in response to COVID-19 upheavals, major structural changes have been rolled out across all university sectors in 2020. The Anthropology Department became one of four disciplines in the new Macquarie School of Social Sciences alongside Sociology, Human Geography and Planning, and Politics and International Relations. This augurs potentially productive synergies and new opportunities for cross disciplinary research projects.

Integrity, innovation and resilience have been hallmarks of the Department since its inception. This report summarises the Department's fields of study and ongoing activities in 2020 which, despite the adverse circumstances, collectively underscore the department's enduring ability to produce highest quality scholarship.

Research Report

Research Specialities

Research Specialities

The Anthropology program at Macquarie has particular research strength in four broad areas.

Development, Globalisation, Political and Social Issues

The department has long maintained its focus on development studies and political anthropology including the social impact of globalising economic formations, mobility and migration, Indigenous and human rights, and new social movements. We have strong commitment to ensuring the practical application of our research in these fields.

Religion Studies

Religions and the conflicts between them helped form the discipline of anthropology. At Macquarie, we study contemporary religion and culture particularly Islam, Christianity and new religious formations.

Medical Anthropology

This sub-discipline seeks to understand structural, social and psychological factors that influence health and wellbeing including the experience of illness and different healing processes. In our department we focus on global health, infectious diseases, and reproductive and sexual health.

Psychological and Phenomenological Anthropology

This specialisation considers the great variety of human experience including embodied consciousness and experience, and the anthropology of emotion. It explores how, as humans, we differ in our perception, cognition, and basic psychological functions, including our mental health. Macquarie's Department of Anthropology is unique in Australia for its concentration of researchers with psychological and phenomenological research interests.

Examples of Current Staff Projects

- new reproductive technologies in Egypt
- migration & health security in Southeast Asia
- mental health impacts of targeted development programs
- rural women's experiences of life changes and motherhood in India
- Sufism and musical practice in Turkey
- dreams and emotions in Mexico
- money or the lack of it in Africa
- novel developments in Christianity in the Solomon Islands
- martial arts & their transformation of embodied perception
- Muslim lives in Europe
- urban activism in Istanbul
- Marian pilgrimage in PNG
- midwives in Indonesia.

Research Report

Impactful Research

Impactful Research

The diverse and nuanced dimensions of anthropology at Macquarie can be seen in staff members' current research interests and activities:

Christopher Houston (Associate Professor and Discipline Chair)

Chris's current research focuses on the history and political movements of the Ottoman Empire, Turkey, and the mega-city of Istanbul. A range of topics have grabbed his attention: issues like imperial legacies and modern state projects of social transformation and cultural revolution; secular management of Islam and Muslim revolt; urban planning, architecture, politics, and social movements; and nationalism and ethnic identity. In seeking to understand these processes he has developed an interest in theories of perception and selves that help bridge the gap between state-sponsored projects and events such as nationalism and Islamism aimed at generating emotions and identifications in citizens, and individuals' own constitution of identities and interests.



His most recent book, *Istanbul, City of the Fearless: Urban Activism, Coup D'état, and Memory in Turkey* (2020) brings all these themes together. It explores political movements in the 1970s and 80s in Istanbul, years fractured by the 1980 military coup that restructured Turkish institutions (legal system, education and university governance, labour rights and economy, and civil society regulations) and political processes. By taking a phenomenological approach to politics, it pioneers a new method for studying militants' lived experiences, the mood of the city, and its citizens' spatial practices.

Greg Downey (Professor)

Greg's research focuses on the effects of skill acquisition and bodily training, especially motor and sensory learning, from an integrative biocultural and neuro-anthropological perspective. He studies these processes in the context of sensory learning, sports, music, dance, and sensory disability. He has significant secondary research projects in areas of international education, service learning, human rights, the 'new economy,' and evolutionary theory.



Greg is currently working with vision impaired individuals who echolocate or use active sonar in their daily lives and with other highly skilled individuals whose abilities require altering how their nervous systems function (such as free divers). His research suggests that it is possible to study cultural variation in cognition, perception, and even brain development from a wide variety of perspectives, and that anthropology is an essential partner for disciplines like cognitive science, cultural neuroscience and cross-cultural psychology that are increasingly recognising that humans vary more than they realise. Greg has also conducted a range of research in Learning and Teaching at the tertiary level, especially on ways to promote greater cross-cultural learning in students travelling or studying abroad. In 2020 Greg has publications forthcoming in the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* and the *Routledge Handbook of Psychological Anthropology*. Together with partners in the US, Greg is preparing a book on neuro-anthropology and working to get up a major project to explore biocultural approaches to human evolution.

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Kevin Groark (Lecturer)

Kevin is a medical and psychological anthropologist whose theoretical emphasis is on the integration of anthropology and psychoanalysis through the emergent paradigm of “cultural psychodynamics.” His primary geocultural focus is Latin America, with a long-term ethnographic engagement with the Tzotzil-speaking Maya of San Juan Chamula in highland Chiapas, Mexico. Kevin’s areas of expertise include psychoanalysis, ethnopsychology, non-western medical systems, anthropological theory, traditional environmental knowledge, and social theory.



Anna-Karina Hermkens (Lecturer)



Anna-Karina’s research covers Art and Anthropology, Historical Anthropology, Museum Studies, Gender Studies and Religious Studies, with a focus on Pilgrimage Studies. She has done fieldwork in West Papua (Jayapura area), the North Moluccas (Ternate), Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby, Madang, Collingwood Bay and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville) and Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal-Marau area). Her work on the Anthropology of Art analyses art and material culture in relation to identity (gender, clan, and religious identity), in the context of colonialism, nationalism, and local and transnational economies in West Papua (Indonesia) and Papua New Guinea (PNG). The Anthropology of Religion part of her work examines the politics of religion and violence in the North Moluccas (Indonesia) and the Pacific (Solomon Islands and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville in PNG). In both fields, she uses gender as an analytical tool to unravel issues of identity and power. For example, in Collingwood Bay (PNG) Hermkens focuses on the changing gender dynamics of barkcloth art among the Maisin people, while in AROB (PNG), she has been unravelling the interplay between religious identity, ideology and conflict.

Most recently, she has been looking at the interplay between faith and eco-conflict (tensions surrounding logging and mining), as well as the impact of climate change on indigenous art productions in the Pacific. She has recently secured two internal grants (a MQNS in 2017 and a MQRSG in 2019) and an external ARC DP grant (in December 2020), which will enable her to continue and expand her research on the interplay between faith, gender and resource extraction in AROB.

Chris Lyttleton (Professor)

Chris is a medical anthropologist whose fields of study include health and development focusing on infectious diseases, health security, sexuality and mental health in Southeast Asia. His research explores the impact of rapid social change on health and wellbeing, in particular among ethnic and other marginal groups in Laos, Thailand and China. Following his 2014 book *Intimate Economies of Development* that examined mobility and sexual health in SE Asia, he expanded research into two new thematic areas, malaria and mental health in the borderlands of Thailand.



His expertise is internationally-recognized in fields of development, mobility and applied health. Through regular consulting work with international donors and NGOs in programs addressing HIV, health security, malaria and migrant health his work also has significant applied impact and community benefit. In 2020 he assisted the Asian Development Bank in preparing their COVID-19 emergency response for Thailand.

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Impactful Research

Kalpana Ram (Associate Professor)

Kalpana's long term research interests examine the politics of knowledge in various domains: midwifery and childbirth; the instability between scientific and older ethical discourses on what it is to 'know one's body', as enunciated by rural poor women; the politics of class as performed in medical clinics, and the marginalisation of certain forms of ritual dance in the construction of Indian nationalism. Her research integrates emotion and affect into our understanding of politics and social life, both in aesthetic traditions as well as in the most rationalist of ventures.

Her 2013 monograph, *Fertile Disorder: Spirit possession and modern projects of subjectivity in the lives of rural Tamil Women*, re-examines various projects of modernisation that attempt to re-shape rural women's subjectivity and bodies. A more recent book she co-edited, *Objects and Standards: on the limitations and effects of fixing and measuring life*, is the result of a long-term collaborative research project on the impact of objectification, measurement and standardization of life. She also works in collaboration with colleagues at the University of Leipzig on health in India and the Max Weber Kolleg in the study of religion in South Asia. The former has resulted in being chosen as the Leibniz Professor, an appointment which she hopes to take up once COVID restrictions are lifted.



Banu Senay (Senior Lecturer)



Banu studies migration, transnationalism, diaspora politics, anthropology of Islam, Islamic pedagogies, Islam and music, skill acquisition, and ethics. Her current research focuses on Islamic art pedagogies in Turkey. Since 2012, Dr. Senay has worked closely with Sufi musicians and art practitioners in the city of Istanbul, examining relations between art traditions and larger socio-political processes. Her work offers much needed knowledge about relations between State-driven projects of modernity and citizens' everyday practices, investigating the power of Islamic musical pedagogy to transform selves.

Her recently published book, *Musical Ethics and Islam: The Art of Playing the Ney* (2020), takes contemporary Turkey as a case study to engage with current debates around Islam and the public sphere, cultural politics in the Middle East, and Muslim morality. It also contributes to the scholarship on the anthropology of learning and skill acquisition. Dr. Senay is working, together with Professor Julian Millie (Monash) and A/Prof Choon Wang (Monash), on an ARC funded project titled Islamic Bureaucracies and Pious Publics in Turkey and Indonesia. Combining expertise from the disciplines of anthropology and public economy, this project explores state-financed projects of Islamic piety and their effects for the formation of Muslim publics in these two Muslim-majority countries.



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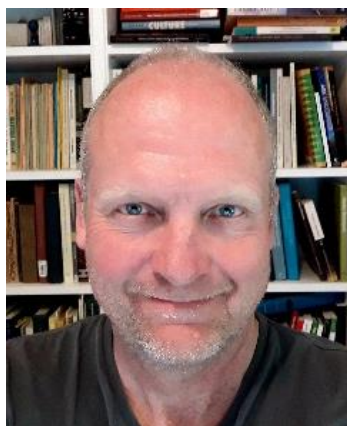
Catherine Smith (DECRA Research Fellow)

Catherine is a medical anthropologist whose research focuses on trust in medicine and health systems, maternal, reproductive and sexual health, health equity and applied medical anthropology. For the past three years, Catherine has been carrying out an ethnographic project with midwives in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Her work has focused on understanding issues of trust in medicine, including how interpersonal trust between practitioner and patient might translate into generalized trust in medicine and the health system. With support from the Indonesian Midwives Association, Catherine took the life histories of midwives, and interviewed women in Yogyakarta about their birthing experiences and their views of the health system. Through this Catherine is developing research that explores: a) how healthcare workers adapt and innovate when working in resource-poor settings; b) how cultures of medicine develop over time in interaction with the socio-political environment; and c) how social scientists and public health professionals can better support healthcare workers to build deeper levels of trust in health systems.



Soon after the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in Indonesia, Catherine published an article about the inequitable distribution of personal protective equipment and the vulnerabilities facing midwives and other healthcare workers. Like most of us, Catherine spent most of the year sitting at her kitchen table, relying heavily on zoom to interact with colleagues. She joined a number of workshops and events, including a workshop at the University of Melbourne about gender, health and sexuality in Indonesia and an online workshop at University College London about trust in healthcare. She gave online seminars at Gadjah Mada University and the University of Melbourne, and spoke about affect and the development of health systems at the online European Association of Social Anthropologists conference.

Jaap Timmer (Associate Professor)



Jaap has a broad regional interest in the Southwest Pacific and Southeast Asia, with particular emphasis on Melanesia (Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and West Papua) and Indonesia (Maluku and Kalimantan). He is the author of *Living with Intricate Futures* (2000), a monograph on knowledge and religion among the Imyan of West Papua, and numerous articles on culture change, millenarianism, and political developments in West Papua and Maluku, and on political ecology and access to justice in Kalimantan. Recently he has begun to focus on historicity, Christianity, and lost tribes in Solomon Islands, and on Islamic historiography versus Christian theocracy in West Papua.

In 2015 Jaap was awarded an ARC Discovery grant to further his research on the island of Malaita, Solomon Islands. In this project he is exploring people's wonder about new global geography and historicity and the ways in which this wonder is opening up a space for local state building by an Evangelical/Pentecostal movement. Jaap's recent anthropological explorations in Solomon Islands revolve around examinations of emerging sovereignty, theocracy, and local meanings of the state. During 2020, he developed an innovative approach to grasp the ways in which people's wonder about new global geography and historicity leads them to unite revelation with revolution. This is a timely topic as in many places around the world religious activists openly advocate for the Islamisation, Christianisation, Hinduisation or Buddhistisation of the state, and for the construction of a religious society. Theocratic hopes are alive and thriving.

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Chris Vasuntkumar (Lecturer)

Chris is an economic anthropologist with expertise in Money, Standardization, Metrology, Race and Ethnicity, and the History of Anthropological Theory. Initially trained in the anthropology of China and Tibet, he has shifted research focus to a second project on cash and cashlessness in the contemporary world.

Since 2018, supported by a Macquarie New Staff Grant and Research Seeding Grant he has conducted ethnographic research on monetary innovation/entropy in Zimbabwe. Once the COVID situation has improved sufficiently to allow foreign travel he plans to return to Zimbabwe to continue research on the topic “money and the future in Zimbabwe’s crisis economy.” The ethnographically grounded account of resilience in the face of economic insecurity that will result will offer insights for Australian policy for supporting vulnerable members of Australian society in times of economic uncertainty. In particular, it will yield insights on the personal and social effects of a rapid transition to a cashless economy, as well as on emergent forms of mobile money and other novel payment infrastructures that will be of significant interest for Australian policy makers who seek to remake money while simultaneously avoiding the missteps Zimbabwe has been unable to avoid.



Eve Vincent (Senior Lecturer)



Eve is currently working on two projects. The first attends to everyday experiences of the Australia welfare state in transition, as the welfare system becomes ever more disciplining. Her two case studies for this project are the first cashless debit card trial, in Ceduna, South Australia, and ParentsNext, an intensive support program for (mostly) mothers on parenting payments. These are being prepared for a book, titled ‘Look After Them?’ The second project, Love Across Class, involves interviewing people who have partnered across class difference. This research is a collaboration with Rose Butler (Deakin).

Eve has recently participated in global forums as part of an event organised by the Relative Poverty Network and Verso Books and a second event organised by NYU’s Centre for Human Rights and Global Justice. Read

about NYU event here: [Digital Paternalism: A Recap of our Conversation about Australia’s Cashless Debit Card with Eve Vincent.](#)

Lisa L Wynn (Associate Professor)

Lisa’s recent research has taken three directions. Her primary research interest has long been sexuality and society’s responses to new sexual and reproductive health technologies in both the Middle East and North America. With a colleague at the University of Ottawa, she has been working on two co-edited books on the topic: one on the abortion pill mifepristone and another entitled *Sex in the Middle East and North Africa* (Vanderbilt University Press for early 2022). She has also conducted research on research ethics and ethics bureaucracies in Australia, funded by an ARC Discovery Project grant, and is still dredging the data for papers.

Most recently, Lisa has received funding from both the Social



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Science Research Council (SSRC) in the US and from the ARC to investigate how Australians understand infectious disease. She's interested in how their folk models of illness and symptoms shape actions that have public health impacts. (For example, if someone has a stuffy nose and headache, do they call that a cold or the flu? Do they call in sick or go to work and "power through it"?) For this project, Lisa is collaborating with colleagues in New Zealand (University of Auckland) and Ireland (Maynooth University) to collect comparative data on responses to the COVID pandemic. Lisa supervises several PhD students, most of whom are doing projects on sexuality and reproductive health technologies, and a MURI intern. Thanks to COVID, her students are currently scattered around the world, in Bogota and Ottawa and Melbourne, and Sydney making the scheduling of Zoom supervision chats a real joy.

2020 Grant Success

Dr Anna-Karina Hermkens – ARC-DP 'Faith in Development: Religion, Gender and Resource Extraction in PNG.'

Australia's neighbour, the Autonomous Region of Bougainville in PNG, is about to become the world's newest nation. The proposed reopening of a highly divisive copper mine to finance its independence raises pressing economic and political issues for Australia. Both in Bougainville and its diaspora in Australia, people are passionate about Bougainville's future. But what kind of development do they aspire to and why? This collaborative, interdisciplinary and multi-sited project aims to examine the neglected roles of religion and gender in shaping people's 'faith' in development. The expected outcomes will improve understanding of Bougainvillean notions of development, facilitating better frameworks for development practices and outcomes.



Barkcloth painting by Anna-Karina Hermkens

2020 Grant Success

Dr Banu Senay – ARC-DP

‘Islamic Bureaucracies and Pious Publics in Turkey and Indonesia.’

The research will examine state-financed projects of Islamic piety in Turkey and Indonesia. It combines expertise from the disciplines of anthropology and public economy to establish the effects of these projects for the formation of Muslim publics in these two important Muslim-majority countries. The project will enhance understanding of how Islamic bureaucracies (the Directorate for Religious Affairs in Turkey and the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Indonesia) sponsor embodied religious practices in educational and cultural domains and the ways in which Muslim civil society groups respond to state initiatives in their respective contexts.

A/Prof Lisa Wynn – SSRC and ARC

1. SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL (SSRC), ‘RAPID RESPONSE GRANT ON COVID-19.’

This collaborative research aims to generate comparative data on pandemic imaginaries and state-society configurations in three countries: Australia, New Zealand and Ireland. It seeks to understand how beliefs about infectious disease inform imaginations of otherness, how it impacts on their health-protective behaviour, and how people imagine the relationship between state and citizens in protecting society during the pandemic.

2. ARC SPECIAL RESEARCH INITIATIVES GRANT

This research investigates how people in Australia understand the symptoms of acute infectious disease, as well as how that understanding then shapes their health-seeking behaviour.

Urban transformation in Kashgar by Tomas Wilkoszewski



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STAFF PUBLICATIONS

Books

- Houston, C.** 2020. *Istanbul, City of the Fearless: Urban Activism, Coup D'Etat, and Memory in Turkey*. University of California Press, Berkeley.
- Senay, B.** 2020. *Musical Ethics and Islam: The Art of Playing the Ney*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press.
- Larsen, T., M. Blim, T. M. Porter, **K. Ram**, and N. Rapport. 2020 *Objectification and Standardisation: On the Limits and Effects of Ritually Fixing and Measuring Life*. Carolina Academic Press, Durham.

Book Chapters

- Evans, J. R., R. Light, and **G. Downey**. 2020. Skillfulness on Country: Informal Games and Sports Culture.' In *Perspectives on Game-Based Coaching*. Shane Pill (ed.). Routledge.
- Houston, C.** 2020. 'Plotters and Martyrs: The Justice and Development Party's (AKP) Constituting of Political Actors in the 15 July Coup Event', in *Symbolism and Politics* eds. Graeme Gill and Luis F. Angosto-Ferrandez. Routledge, London: Chapter 7, 102-116.
- Lende, D. H., & **G. Downey**. (2020). Neuroanthropological perspectives on culture, mind, and brain. In L. J. Kirmayer, C. M. Worthman, S. Kitayama, R. Lemelson, & C. A. Cummings (Eds.), *Culture, Mind, and Brain: Emerging Concepts, Models, and Applications* (pp. 277-299). (Current Perspectives in Social and Behavioral Sciences). Cambridge University Press (CUP). <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108695374.014>
- Ram, K.** 2020, 'The magic of 'mudras' and performance as 'loving play': the limits placed on intellectualism and rationalizing reforms by the performing arts of India', in T Larsen, M Blim, T Porter, K Ram & N Rapport (eds), *'Objectification and Standardisation: On the Limits and Effects of Ritually Fixing and Measuring Life'*. Ritual studies monograph series, Carolina Academic Press, Durham.
- Timmer, J.** 2020. 'Pendahuluan: Pedoman untuk Membaca Budaya-Budaya Papua' (Foreword: A Guideline for Reading Papuan Cultures). In Adolof Ronsumbre, *Ensiklopedia Suku Bangsa di Provinsi Papua Barat*, pp. xxiv-xxxiv. Yogyakarta: Kepel Press.
- Timmer, J & Hermkens, A-K.** 2020. 'We are not an emblem': impermanence and materiality in Asmat worlds', in CD Warner, T Otto & H Geismar (eds), *Impermanence: Exploring Continuous Change Across Cultures*. University College London, London ; New York.
- Timmer, J.** 2020, A sea of resistance in Eastern Indonesia. in *The revolt of Prince Nuku: cross-cultural alliance-making in Maluku, c. 1780-1810*. Komunitas Bambu.
- Timmer, J.** 2020. Asmat (West Papua) Horizons of the Past and Koselleck. in S Coleman, A-K Hermkens & M Tomlinson (eds), *Christian Temporalities*.
- Wynn, L.** 2020. Masculinity under siege: the use of narcotic pain relievers to restore virility. in K Isidoros & M Inhorn (eds), *Arab Masculinities: Anthropological Reconceptions in Precarious Times*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington.

Journal Articles

- Bell, K. & **L.L. Wynn**. 2020. "Research ethics committees, ethnographers and imaginations of risk." *Ethnography*. Published online 30 December 2020.
- Cook, M. & **L.L. Wynn**. 2020. "'Safe Sex': Evaluation of Sex Education and Sexual Risk by Young Adults in Sydney." *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, published online 1 October 2020
- Groark, K.P.** 2020. Comment on Throop and Zahavi's "Bright and Dark Empathy: Phenomenological and Anthropological Reflections" *Current Anthropology*. 61, 3, p. 294-295.
- Hermkens, A.-K.** 2020. Barkcloth as permeable and perishable substance in Melanesian Ontologies. *Pacific Arts. Journal of the Pacific Arts Association* 18-19: 9-21.

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- Hermkens, A.-K.** 2020. Charismatic Catholic Renewal in Papua New Guinea: Revisiting the Power of Marian devotion as a cultural and national force. *The Australian Journal of Anthropology (TAAJ)* 31(2): 152-169.
- Hermkens, A.-K.** 2020. The Bougainville Referendum: from holy war to renewal? *Georgetown journal of international affairs*. <https://gija.georgetown.edu/2020/07/20/the-bougainville-referendum-from-holy-war-to-renewal/>
- Houston, C.** 2020 Event-Stanbul: Contemporary Istanbul as Site of Intersecting Urban Events, *Ethnos*, Volume 85:3, 491-506.
- Houston, C.** 2020 Pandemic in Melbourne, *City and Society*, Vol.32 (1): <https://doi.org/10.1111/ciso.12268>
- LaRoche, K., **L.L. Wynn**, & A. M. Foster (2020). “We’ve got rights and yet we don’t have access’: Exploring patient experiences accessing medication abortion in Australia.” *Contraception* 101(4):256-260.
- LaRoche, K., **L.L. Wynn**, & A. M. Foster (2020). “We have to make sure you meet certain criteria”: Exploring the criminalisation of abortion in Australia on patient experiences.” *Public Health Research and Practice*, published online 28 October.
- Lyttleton, C.** 2020 Borderline Well-being: Mental Health in a Development Zone, *Social Science and Medicine*.
- Mason, P.H., Lyttleton, C.,** Marks, G.B. & Fox, G.J. 2020. 'The technological imperative in tuberculosis care and prevention in Vietnam', *Global Public Health*, vol. 15, no. 2, pp. 307-320. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2019.1650950>
- Parsell, C., **E. Vincent**, E. Klein, A. Clarke & T. Walsh. 2020. Introduction to the Special Issue on Welfare Conditionality in Australia. *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, vol. 55, no. 1, pp. 4-12.
- Ram, K.** 2020. 'Are Dalit women healers allowed to claim "tradition"? The phenomenology and politics of tradition in rural Tamil Nadu', *Asian Medicine*, vol. 15, no. 1, pp. 161-182. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15734218-12341465>
- Senay, B.** 2020. “We Aren’t that Type of Muslim”: Exploring Islam and Music-Making in Istanbul. *Contemporary Islam* 14(3): 269-288.
- Smith, C.** 2020. The Structural Vulnerability of Healthcare Workers during COVID-19: Observations on the social context of risk and the equitable distribution of resources. *Social Science and Medicine*. 258. August:113119.
- Vasantkumar, C.** 2020. "Towards a 'contrapuntal' anthropology of the global. *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 10 (3): 1049–1051.
- Vincent, E.** 2020. 'Food and crisis', *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/plar.12362>
- Vincent, E.,** F. Markham & E. Klein. 2020 ‘Moved on?’ An exploratory study of the Cashless Debit Card and Indigenous Mobility. *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, vol. 55, no. 1, pp. 27-39.

Invited seminars, Keynotes, & Conference Proceedings

- Groark, K.P.** & Prager, J. 2020, 'The Psychic Life of Violence', Paper presented at Annual Meeting of the University of California / New Center for Psychoanalysis Interdisciplinary Psychoanalytic Consortium, Lake Arrowhead, United States, 6/03/20 - 8/03/20.
- Groark, K.P.** & Prager, J. 2020, 'Linking Psyche and Society', Paper presented at Annual Meeting of the University of California / New Center for Psychoanalysis Interdisciplinary Psychoanalytic Consortium, Lake Arrowhead, United States, 6/03/20 - 8/03/20
- Houston, C.** ‘*Altering the Self*’, Deakin University Anthropology Seminars, August 6, 2020.
- Houston, C.** ‘*Alternative Me? Anthropology and Self-Alteration*’, Department of Anthropology, Macquarie University, March 11, 2020.
- Senay, B.** “The Islamic Political Symbolism of the AKP in Turkey’s ‘War’ against Covid-19”, Political Symbols Symposium: Forms, Functions, Usages, Department of Anthropology, University of Sydney, 9 Oct 2020
- Senay, B.** Invited expert to provide opinion on how Covid-19 pandemic has affected Turkish citizens in Australia, Meeting organised by Presidency for Turks Abroad, The Office of Turkish Prime Ministry, Ankara, Turkey, June 2020. Timmer, J. Asmat (West Papua) Horizons of the Past and the Wonder of Identity,” Department of Anthropology of the London School of Economics, 4 December 2020.

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- Timmer, J.** *Perubahan Budaya dan Turunnya Basis Tradisional Pemerintahan di Papua* (Culture Change and the Government's Diminishing Traditional Base in Papua),” Conference Keynote address in the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences of the Cenderawasih University in Jayapura, Indonesia, 16 January 2020.
- Vincent, E.** Digital Paternalism: Australia's Cashless Debit Card. Center for Human Rights and Global Justice. NYU. Via Zoom. November 2020.
- Vincent, E.** Telling Other People's Stories. Presenter and discussant. Sydney Environment Institute HDR Workshop, University of Sydney. Via Zoom. October 2020.
- Vincent, E.** Pandemic Safety Nets and the New Economic Imagination. Panellist. Relational Poverty Network and Verso Books, New York. Via Zoom. May 2020.
- Vincent, E.** New Nature. Panellist and Moderator. State Library of NSW public events program in conjunction with the *Sydney Review of Books*. Via Zoom. May 2020.
- Vincent, E.** 'Social distancing' in the time of COVID-19: critical observations. Panellist. Deakin University Anthropology Seminar Series. Via Zoom. April 2020.

Other Publications

- Hermkens, A.** 2020. The Marian Mercy Movement. Website: 'World Religions and Spirituality'. <https://wrlrels.org/2020/03/21/marian-mercy-mission/>
- Hermkens, A.** 2020. 'Bilum (Stringbag)'. Entry for The Online Encyclopaedia of Crafts in the Asia Pacific Region. The World Crafts Council. <https://encyclocraftsapr.com/bilum/>
- Hermkens, A.** 2020. 'Tapa (Maisin)'. Entry for The Online Encyclopaedia of Crafts in the Asia Pacific Region. The World Crafts Council. <https://encyclocraftsapr.com/tapa-maisin/>
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Research Report

Impactful Research

Anthropology in Media

Houston, C. Interviewed for *This Week in History* (ABC Radio National) September 10, 2020 and broadcast September 13th, on 1961 coup d'état in Turkey.

Houston, C. Interviewed for special programme on *History of Istanbul*, in 'Talking History', Ireland National Radio, Broadcast Sunday 10th December, 2020.

Houston, C. Interview with *New Books*, USA: <https://newbooksnetwork.com/christopher-houston-istanbul-city-of-the-fearless-urban-activism-coup-detat-and-memory-in-turkey-u-california-press-2020/>

Houston, C. America Reads Blog: <http://americareads.blogspot.com/2020/03/pg-99-christopher-houstons-istanbul.html>

Vasantkumar, C. Cashlessness in Sweden and Zimbabwe. Radio interview on ABC Sydney Breakfast and ABC Darwin Morning.

Vincent, E. Cashless Card Inquiry to Report on Expansion *West Coast Sentinel*, November 13 2020.
(Print) <https://www.westcoastsentinel.com.au/story/7011287/cashless-card-inquiry-to-report-on-expansion/>

Vincent, E. After Robodebt retraction, will govt drop ParentsNext? *The Wire: Independent Current Affairs*, June 5 2020. (Radio) <https://www.thewire.org.au/story/after-robodebt-retraction-will-they-drop-parentsnext/>

Vincent, E. Welfare reform. *Radical Philosophy*, 3CR Community Radio, February 15 2020
(Radio) <https://www.3cr.org.au/radicalphilosophy/episode-202002151330/dr-eve-vincent-welfare-reform>

Other research achievements

Regular Category 2 and 3 grants (research consultancies and applied engagements):

Prof Chris Lyttleton has conducted numerous research consultancies for government, multilateral donors and NGOs, most recently 'COVID emergency response for Thailand' (2020), and 'migrant health program' (2019) for the Asian Development Bank.

A/Prof Jaap Timmer recently prepared a report on *Climate change resilience in the Pacific* (2019) funded by French Development Agency and the French Global Environment Facility.

Dr Eve Vincent submission to the Senate Community Affairs Committee regarding The Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Continuation of Cashless Welfare) Bill 2020 Department represented on high profile disciplinary bodies

Prof Greg Downey is editor in chief of *Ethos*, the flagship journal of the Society for Psychological Anthropology. He is the first editor of that journal based outside the US in the fifty-year history of the journal.

A/Prof Lisa Wynn served as the President of the Australian Anthropological Society in 2020 (she is President Emerita in 2021), where she mobilised the AAS to respond to higher education policy, pandemic policy, and Black Lives Matter protests. She also helped to launch an initiative to better serve Indigenous and Aboriginal anthropologists, culminating in the election of the first Indigenous Australian President of the AAS in 2020.

Strong international and national research collaborations

A/Prof Lisa Wynn: research with the University of Ottawa has produced edited books on sexual and reproductive health (and co-tutelle students); and COVID research project funded by the US Social Science Research Council with University of Auckland and University of Maynooth (Ireland).

A/Prof Kalpana Ram: collaboration with University of Leipzig on health in India research, and international research project funded by Norwegian Research Council.

Research Report

Impactful Research

Dr. Eve Vincent: a fellowship at ANU's Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) resulted in a publication regarding the Cashless Debit Card and Indigenous Mobility; a current collaboration with ANU colleague Elise Klein on welfare reform initiative ParentsNext is supported by the Council for Single Mothers and their Children.

Prof Chris Lyttleton: research with Chiang Mai University, Thailand on traditional medicine in SE Asia; and migrant health funded by Asian Development Bank.

Each year the anthropology department hosts an annual research week (see following agenda for 2020 research week) with invited international scholars that has led to jointly authored books – the current project organised by **A/Prof Chris Houston** with Prof Duranti from UCLA is preparing an edited volume on 'self-alteration'

Student accomplishments nationally recognised

Two recent graduates, **Dr Sophie Chao** and **Mr Daniel Tranter-Santoso**, were awarded Thesis prizes from the Australian Anthropological Society (AAS) in December 2019 at the AAS Annual Conference at the Australian National University, Canberra.

Sophie was awarded the 2019 AAS PhD Thesis Prize for her dissertation, *In the Shadow of the Palms: Plant-Human Relations among Marind-Anim, West Papua*. Daniel won the 2019 AAS Honours/Masters Thesis Prize for his dissertation, *'I Spoke to Her in My Mind, Not with My Lips': Pregnancy, Nausea, and Fetal Personhood in Manila City, the Philippines*.

Currently Sophie is an Honorary Postdoctoral Fellow with the Department of Anthropology, Macquarie university as well as a full-time postdoctoral researcher with the University of Sydney. Daniel is a current PhD candidate with the Department of Anthropology, Macquarie University and will embark on his ethnographic fieldwork in 2020.



Photo from Assam, India, by Paul Keil

Research Report

Impactful Research

Current PhD & MRes projects

Sophie Avard	Emotional Expression within Balinese Women's Organisations
Alegra Bahar	Human-Whale Interactions in Ha'apai, Tonga: Does the Intersubjective Exchange Create A Unique Reciprocal Experience for the Participants?
Philippa Barr	Atmospheres without limits
Gabriel Bayarri Toscano	Demands for Rights and Identities Recognition: a Comparative-reflexive Analysis between Brazil and Australia. An Ethnographic and Audio-visual Approach.
Lara Bell	Bodies through the Machine: An Ethnography of Prostate Cancer and Robotic-Assisted Surgery
Jessica Binet	Evolving perspectives: an anthropological approach to archaeology
Lucinda Boxall	Trans-Embodiment: Aesthetics of Being
Gemma Clendining	Masculinity and class in Sydney's underground hip hop scene
Anmarie Dabinet	Recuperating the 'Disappeared'. Memories and Stories from Argentina and Spain in the Post Dictatorship Era.
Ben Dean	People care and seed care on Pun Pun Farm
Elyse Fortier	Exploring the experiences and health needs of women in situations of reproductive coercion
Rebecca Grunsell	iGods: A transnational psychoanalytic ethnography on mind technology: An exploration into transformation symbolism in and through the unconscious, "immortal" and "bisexual", human psyche
Aaron Hammond	Displacing Estonia: An Ethnographic Study of Russian Communities in Estonia
Srishti Hukku	Exploring Knowledge and Perspectives on Artificial Womb Technology: A Qualitative Multi-Methods Study
Marlon Huwae	Buying Legitimacy in Paradise: Push and Pull Driven Development and Tourism in Raja Ampat, Indonesia
Damoon Jehani	Conceptions of the state and creation of a state-in-exile by Iranian activists in Iraqi Kurdistan
Nadia Lanos	Getting the blues: an ethnography of blues dance in Australia
Jack Mathieson	Flesh on the Bones: Narrating Displacement in Persian Life Stories
Michael Matteson	Safe Houses and Active Supporters in the Underground Draft Resistance Movement in Australia 1971-72
Lara McGirr	The effect of emerging adulthood on the wellbeing of training doctors in Australia
Jesse Negro	Living Cities: An Ethnography of Sydney's Sprawl
Nina Nymeyer	Migrant wellbeing and acculturation techniques through yoga
Mayane Pereira Dore	Creative Cities: A Study About Social Innovation Processes and New Forms of Political Organization
Rodrigo Perez Toledo	Experiences of discrimination by gay Chinese immigrants and Australian-born Chinese gay men in Sydney
Sophiya Sharma	Religious Performativity and Cultural Exchange Between Transgender Communities In The Indian And Pakistani Punjab: A Cross-Border Study
Fatmanur Tanriverdi	Discovering Women's Agency in Eastern Turkey: Kurdish Lives In The City Of Mus
Daniel Tranter	Water and Time: Ocean Entities and The Sama-Bajau of South-East Sulawesi
Aysegul Uygur Dogan	The AKP's Reproduction of Hegemony Through Religionization of Turkey
Sophie Wallace	The Significance of Local Food in Lipsi, Greece
Erin Young	Social Media: An Ethnographic Exploration of Virtual Spaces

Research Report

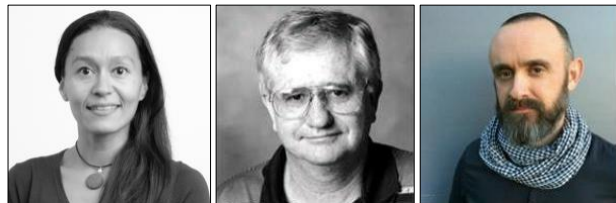
Associated Researchers

Adjunct Professors, Visiting Fellows, Honorary Associates

Dr Sophie Chao

Associate Professor Paul Cohen

Dr Aaron Denham



Dr Michael Goddard

Dr Max Harwood

Dr Paul Keil



Dr Lindy McDougall

Dr Robert Norton

Professor Ursula Rao



Associate Professor Susanna Trnka

Dr Deborah Van Heekeren

Dr Tomas Wilkoszewski



**Anthropology Administrator:
Ms Payel Ray**



DISCIPLINE OF
ANTHROPOLOGY
Faculty of Arts



The Discipline of Anthropology, Macquarie University celebrated Anthropology Research Week with a film festival, book reading session and workshops in 2020. The events were open to staff, students, and the wider community.

Macquarie University International Ethnographic Film Festival

Convener: Max Harwood

Co-Conveners: Lucinda Boxall and
Christopher Houston.

Panel Discussants: Christopher
Houston, Robert Sinnerbrink,
Max Harwood.

DATE: October 8 & 9, 2020

TIME: 3-6:00 pm (Oct 8) and 12-6:00 pm (Oct 9)

MUIEFF is a new Australian international ethnographic film festival.

In association with the Discipline of Anthropology at Macquarie University (Sydney), MUIEFF will screen a select number of short and feature length ethnographic films from around the world on the 8th and 9th of October 2020.

Over two days, the festival will open with a gala event on Thursday evening the 8th of October 2020 (details and final program TBA).



Photo by Tomas Wilkoszewski

FIND OUT MORE

Macquarie University NSW 2109 Australia T:
+61 (2) 9850 8077

ABN 90 952 801 237

Research Report

Other Research-related Activities

Discipline of Anthropology: Book Reading Session

Lisa Wynn, Banu Senay, and Christopher Houston will read extracts from their recently published books: *Love, Sex, and Desire in Modern Egypt: Navigating the Margin of Respectability*; *Musical Ethics and Islam: The Art of Playing the Ney*; and *Istanbul, City of the Fearless: Urban Activism, Coup D'état and Memory in Turkey*.

DATE: October 7, 2020
TIME: 10.30 am to 12.30 pm
VENUE: Function Centre 25
Wally's Walk Building C
Macquarie University
North Ryde, NSW 2109.



Other events

Professionalisation Workshop

Professor Greg Downey

Date: October 6, 2020, Venue: Delivered via zoom

Time: 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm.

Master of Research Information Session

Associate Professor Jaap Timmer

Date: October 7, 2020, Venue: Delivered via zoom

Time: 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm

Publication Workshop

Associate Professor Lisa Wynn

Date: October 7, 2020, Venue: Delivered via zoom

Time: 5 pm to 6.30 pm.

Research Colloquium Program 2020

4 March

Robbie Peters, University of Sydney
*The Motorbike-taxi Economy in Indonesia:
A Guerrilla Infrastructure*

11 March

Chris Houston, Macquarie University
*Alternative Me? Anthropology and Self-
alteration*

18 March

Jennifer Deger, James Cook University
Curating the Anthropocene

25 March

Kathleen Openshaw, Western Sydney
University
*I am Universal: Transnational Material
Networks of Spiritual Capital in the
Australian Universal Church of the
Kingdom of God*

8 April

Roberto Costa, Macquarie University
*Museums as Ritual: Exploring the Ritual
Significance of a Projected
Indigenous Museum in the Holy West*

29 April

Siad Darwish, University of Wollongong
*Corrupted Infrastructures: Illicit Finance,
Waste Flows and Blockages as
Infrastructural Assemblages*

13 May

Randa Abdel Fattah, Macquarie
University
*Bacon, Anzac Poppies and Performing the
Muslim in Hiding*

20 May

Pedram Khosronejad Toroghi, Western
Sydney University
*War, Force Displacement and Resettlement
in Australia: Anthropology of
Childhood Memory through Family
Photographs*

27 May

Roundtable Discussion on 'Self-Alteration',
Anthropology staff, Macquarie University
Lisa Wynn, *Ingesting Substances to Alter Life in
States of Disruption*
Jaap Timmer, *Self-alteration and Temporality in
Papuan Conversions to Islam*
Anna-Karina Hermkens, *Salvation as Self-
alteration in Post-Conflict North Moluccas*
Banu Senay, *Pedagogies of 'Self-Making' in an
Islamic Musical Context*

19 August

Gil Hizi, University of Cologne
*Self-improvement and Orchestrated Contingency in
Urban China*

26 August

Alessandro Duranti, University of California, Los
Angeles
*Self-Alteration in the Field: Uses of the Epoché for
Theorizing the Ethnographic Experience*

9 September

Pedram Khosronejad, Western Sydney University
*Memories' Mementos: Anthropology, Memory
and Migrant In-tangible Heritage*

30 September

Randa Abdel Fattah, Macquarie University
*Bacon, Anzac Poppies and Performing the Muslim in
Hiding*

14 October

Kathleen Openshaw, Western Sydney University
*I am Universal: Transnational Material Networks of
Spiritual Capital in the Australian Universal
Church of the Kingdom of God*

21 October

Angela Garcia, Stanford University
Coercion, Community and Transformation of Self

28 October

Alan Rumsey, Australian National University
*Children's Language Learning and the Making of
Human Lifeworlds*



Macquarie University is a vibrant hub of intellectual thinkers, all working towards a brighter future for our communities and our planet.

A PLACE OF INSPIRATION

Macquarie is uniquely located in the heart of Australia's largest high-tech precinct, a thriving locale which is predicted to double in size in the next 20 years to become the fourth largest CBD in Australia.

Our campus spans 126 hectares, with open green space that gives our community the freedom to think and grow. We are home to fantastic facilities with excellent transport links to the city and suburbs, supported by an on-campus train station.

RENOWNED FOR EXCELLENCE

We are ranked among the top two per cent of universities in the world, and with a 5-star QS rating, we are renowned for producing graduates that are among the most sought after professionals in the world.

A PROUD TRADITION OF DISCOVERY

Our enviable research efforts are brought to life by renowned researchers whose audacious solutions to issues of global significance are benefiting the world we live in.

BUILDING SUCCESSFUL GRADUATES

Our pioneering approach to teaching and learning is built around a connected learning community: our students are considered partners and co-creators in their learning experience.

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Macquarie University NSW 2109 Australia
T: +61 (2) 9850 7111
mq.edu.au

ABN 90 952 801 237
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