Department of Geography and Planning

2018 Research Report
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Introduction

Macquarie Geography and Planning is a vibrant and innovative research hub, whose intellectual environment supports scholars at all phases of their career to engage with projects that are socially relevant and academically excellent. Ranked in the top 100 geography departments in the world, our research is organised around four clusters reflecting the research cultures of the department and our main strengths, but also our commitment to interdisciplinary work in a close dialogue with the other social sciences and the humanities of the Faculty of Arts. Our research interest spans across human rights to water planning, climate change to social housing, refugee camps to digital spaces, tourist studies to urban regeneration, Indigenous cultures to human-environment relations, biopolitics to geopolitics.

Further, all our research is concerned with questions of social justice and inclusion, in line with the broader mission of Macquarie University. Ethical questions are therefore considered in all our projects as important as the quality of our contributions to exiting theoretical debates in the discipline. Our researchers also conduct adventurous and innovative empirical work which engages with a large number of international cases and methodological experiments. The department has over 30 higher degree research students (PhD and MRes) who contribute in a crucial way to our research culture and our international visibility. Finally, our research also has 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.

Professor Claudio Minca
Head of Department

Photo: Kristian Ruming
Our Research

Our research is focused on the complex relationships between human and environmental systems in cities and regions. Our researchers work on projects across Australia, Asia-Pacific region and Europe. These include major projects in urban planning and governance, Indigenous knowledges, refugee and migration studies, global environmental change, vulnerability and risk in the Asia-Pacific region, environmental justice, heritage and tourism studies. Our research expertise is consolidated in four clusters: Critical Development and Indigenous Geographies; Cultural and Political Geography; Environment, Societies and Power; and Cities, Planning and Governance. Established in 2018, these clusters draw together researchers in the Department to explore some of the big issues facing the world.

According to the Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) evaluation, our research is of a “world standard” in both the fields of Human Geography and Urban and Regional Planning.

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

While our research is theoretically informed, we are dedicated to having a “real world” impact and many of our projects have informed policy development and implementation. Our research has made important policy contributions in the areas of: urban planning and housing policy; disaster risk reduction, natural hazards and bushfire management; immigration and migrant populations; climate and environmental change; and, water management.

2018 has been a very successful year for the Department, with 78 academic publications, 16 Department research seminars, 11 Higher Degree Research students either submitting their thesis or graduating, over $1 million of research funding secured (including a prestigious Australian Research Council Discovery Grant), 3 research workshops/lecture series attracting international scholars, and a series of international presentations from staff and students.

In this report we provide an overview of our expertise, a series of researcher profiles, a snapshot of projects having real world impact, a profile of some of our Higher Degree Research students, and outline our 2018 grant and publication successes.

Associate Professor Kristian Ruming
Director of Research

Photo: Ashraful Alam
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 Sápmi and are active researchers in a number of fields.

Cultural and Political Geography

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

Environment, Societies and Power

Shifting socioecological conditions highlight the complexity of life in the Anthropocene, where the boundaries between environments and societies are problematised; and where there is increasing recognition of the politics and 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 multispecies communities.

Cities, Planning and Governance

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

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<th>Staff</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dr Andrew Burridge</strong></td>
<td>Migration, Borders, Political geography, Refugees and asylum seekers, Carceral geographies</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dr Richard Carter-White</strong></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>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dr Sara Fuller</strong></td>
<td>Climate justice, Energy and equity, Activism and politics, Urban climate governance, Cities in the Asia-Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dr Katharine Haynes</strong></td>
<td>Disasters, Hazards, Community and child-centred risk reduction</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Associate Professor Donna Houston</strong></td>
<td>Environmental justice in the Anthropocene, Urban political ecology, Social innovation in local climate adaptation, Biopolitics of climate mitigation, Planning the ‘more-than-human’ city</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dr John Hunter</strong></td>
<td>Indigenous studies, Healing and wellbeing; Intergenerational trauma; Cultural intervention; Cultural restoration and Indigenous policy.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ms Linda Kelly</strong></td>
<td>Urban planning, Local government, Development assessment, Strategic planning</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Associate Professor Kate Lloyd</strong></td>
<td>Indigenous geographies, Ethical methodologies embedding reciprocal protocols and processes, University / community engagement, Caring as Country</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Associate Professor Andrew McGregor</strong></td>
<td>Political ecology, More-than-human geography, Climate mitigation strategies (food and forests), Southeast Asian development, Alternative food networks, Post-development theory and practice</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dr Jessica McLean</strong></td>
<td>Digital geographies, Activism, Feminism, Water cultures, Anthropocene, Indigenous geographies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Fiona Miller</td>
<td>Social equity dimensions of environmental change, Climate change adaptation, Vulnerability assessment, Society-water relations, Political ecology, Critical development geography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Claudio Minca</td>
<td>Camps, Refugees, Geopolitics, Biopolitics, Tourism, Heritage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Emily O’Gorman</td>
<td>Environmental history, More-than-human geography, Environmental humanities, Water history, Animal history, Multispecies studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Margaret Raven</td>
<td>Protocol, Food security and sovereignty, Biodiversity, Indigenous knowledge, Plant bio-geography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Maartje Roelofsen</td>
<td>Tourism, Leisure, Digital platforms, Sharing/Platform economies, Future of work, Gender</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Professor Kristian Ruming</td>
<td>Urban regeneration and renewal, Affordable and social housing, Urban governance, Planning system reform, Community participation in planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor Sandie Suchet-Pearson</td>
<td>Indigenous rights and knowledges, Ethical methodologies, More-than-human relationships, Caring as Country, Social justice, self-determination, reconciliation, Cross-cultural environmental management and ecological sustainability</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Greg Walkerden</td>
<td>Adaptive capacity, Adaptive management, Regional planning, Socio-ecological systems, Reflective practice, Professional practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Miriam Williams</td>
<td>Care-full Justice in the city, A Feminist Ethic of care, Sustainability Practices, Food justice and community food initiatives, Diverse Economies, Urban Commons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Alison Ziller</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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Professor Claudio Minca

Professor Minca is a cultural geographer who, after starting his academic career in Italy, has worked in the UK at Newcastle University and at Royal Holloway, University of London, and in the Netherlands at Wageningen University.

His research interest is located at the *intersection between questions of space, culture, and power*. This interest is reflected in his writings on landscape and on the production of de-centred knowledge in the discipline and in a ten-year project on Morocco’s colonial and postcolonial spatialities (see *Moroccan Dreams*, 2016). His research has also interrogated the links between ‘the spatial’ and ‘the political’ in the work of Nazi jurist Carl Schmitt (see *On Schmitt and Space*, 2015) and Italian political philosopher Giorgio Agamben.

Theoretically Professor Minca’s research has focussed on the relationships between *geography and biopolitics*: the related project on the “Biopolitics/Geopolitics of Hitlerism” investigates how theories of space and culture have influenced their ways in which Nazi ideology has translated questions of life into spatial planning and geopolitical projects (see *Hitler’s Geographies*, 2016). The project “Geographies of the Camp” considers instead the *camp as a spatial political technology* and it analyses the refugee camps along the ‘Western Balkan route’, in Eastern Europe.

Professor Minca has a long-standing interest in the cultural geographies of travel and mobility. His research on the *biopolitics of tourism* reflects on how particular tourist spaces such as tourist/holiday camps are guided by distinct ideas of community, landscape and ‘a good life’, but also how ‘leisurely care’ can be at once liberating and oppressive (see *Real Tourism*, 2011).

Professor Minca’s work has received numerous international recognitions, including his appointment by the Italian Ministry of Research as a panel member of the *National Scientific Evaluation Agency*, and the 2012 *Lajos Lóczy Medal* from the Hungarian Geographical Society for his “career achievements and for the contribution to the advancement of the discipline”.

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Dr Fiona Miller

Dr Miller is a human geographer who conducts research from a political ecology perspective on the social and equity dimensions of environmental change in the Asia Pacific, notably Vietnam and Cambodia, as well as Australia. Her work engages with situated and cross-cultural understandings and experiences of risk and harm driven by climate change and associated processes of social, economic and ecological change. Through engaging with ideas of vulnerability, adaptation and justice, Dr Miller’s research seeks to understand the differentiated way people and places influence and are influenced by climate-related risks and responses.

Towards this aim, Dr Miller is currently collaborating with Vietnamese researchers at Cần Thơ University to understand the implications of climate-related displacement in the Mekong Delta, a so-called ‘climate hotspot’. This work is funded by a Macquarie University Research Seeding Grant (2018-2019). Dr Miller together with Dr Emily Potter (Deakin University) and Dr Eva Lövbrand (Linköping University) recently established the Shadow Places Network, which is supported by *The Seedbox: A Mistra-Formas Environmental Humanities Collaboratory*. The Shadow Places Network (Twitter: @shadowplacesnetwork) is a network of scholars, artists and activists who collaborate to document, co-produce and reimagine connections between places and peoples in an era of climate change.

Dr Miller also has a long-held interest in the political ecology of water, floods and dams in the Mekong Region and in Australia, and was recently part of a team of researchers from Macquarie University who worked with Aboriginal collaborators in Mudgee to engage with diverse water cultures. Dr Miller currently co-leads the Department’s Critical Development and Indigenous Geographies Research Cluster.
Associate Professor Donna Houston

As an urban cultural geographer, A/Prof Houston is interested in how human and nonhuman communities respond to, and are impacted by, climate change. A key aim of her research is to better understand entanglements between human and nonhuman worlds; and how by studying these entanglements, different possibilities for environmental and social justice can emerge. A/Prof Houston’s research brings together different theoretical and practice perspectives in order to address contemporary environmental problems. This is developed through three strands of research: 1) How can we plan for resilient, climate-adaptive, multispecies cities? 2) How are the ‘politics of life’ currently being enacted in climate change mitigation? 3) What does it mean to live on a damaged planet and what lessons might we learn in order to enact environmentally just and sustainable futures?

A recent example of A/Prof Houston’s research is an Australian Research Council funded project on how local climate adaptation is enabled in cities. This project has involved a national audit of climate adaptation plans as well as interviews and workshops with community, non-government, government and industry stakeholders. The research team collected stories of local climate adaptation from four urban regions across Australia and a key outcome of the project is the production of a ‘tactical guide to local climate adaptation’. The collaborating researchers on this project are A/Prof Wendy Steele (RMIT, Melbourne), Emeritus Prof Jean Hillier (RMIT, Melbourne), Prof Jason Byrne (University of Tasmania) and Dr Diana MacCallum (Curtin University, Perth).

A/Prof Houston is the Co-Director of the Environmental Humanities Research Stream in the Faculty of Arts and the Program Head of Planning. These two leadership roles converge to inform two current research projects: one investigating how biodiversity, environmental damage and extinction is culturally imagined in cities and the other exploring climate change in Australian agriculture through food and human-cattle relations and research on the growth of plant-based food and the potential for urban agriculture in the inner city (funded by a Macquarie University Research Development Grant and Landcom NSW).

Dr Jessica McLean

Dr McLean does research in two main areas: geographies of digital change and water cultures. Both research programs involve developing and growing collaborative research relationships with people and institutions from diverse contexts, including activist and government institutions, and draw on interdisciplinary approaches.

From working with Indigenous collaborators around Mudgee (NSW) and academic co-researchers, Dr McLean’s research on water cultures has involved developing a theoretical lens of ‘shadow waters’. This idea, drawing on Val Plumwood’s shadow places notion, is a metaphorical term used to identify how different bodies of water gain ‘visibility’ or priority for protection in planning and management processes, or becomes ‘invisible’ and largely overlooked in such processes. To date, Indigenous water values are not consistently recognised or included in waterway planning and management strategies. The research collaboration has produced an article called ‘Shadow Waters: Making Australian water cultures visible’ published in Transactions (2018). This article is in the top 5% of research outputs scored by Altmetric.

Within the geographies of digital change research program, Dr McLean is working on a book called ‘Changing Digital Geographies’ (Palgrave Macmillan) that recognises the ways in which multi-scalar social, environmental, cultural and political dynamics interact to produce change. From this research program, she has been invited to contribute chapters to the Routledge International handbook of Gender and Feminist Geographies and Interfaced lives, interwoven worlds: geographies of sexualities in the digital age (forthcoming 2019). In November 2018 Dr McLean was invited to give the keynote for the Geography Teachers Association NSW conference and spoke on ‘Climate Change as part of the Anthropocene’. To finish the year, Kill Your Darlings published ‘Those Anthropocene Feelings’, an essay that navigates complex emotional and affectual aspects of this proposed new epoch with a grounded walk along the Cooks River in inner west Sydney.
Research with Impact

Associate Professor Sandie Suchet-Pearson

Collaborating with Country

For over 12 years A/Prof Sandie Suchet-Pearson has been part of the Bawaka Collective, a deeply collaborative Indigenous -non-Indigenous more-than-human research collective from North East Arnhem Land, Northern Territory (http://bawakacollective.com/). The Bawaka Collective includes Bawaka Country, Laklak Burarrwanga, Ritjilili Ganambarr, Merrkiyawuy Ganambarr-Stubbs, Banbapuy Ganambarr, Djawundil Maymuru, Kate Lloyd, Sandie Suchet-Pearson and Sarah Wright. Bawaka Country is the diverse land, water, human, and nonhuman animals, plants, rocks, thoughts, and songs that make up the Yolŋu homeland of Bawaka in North East Arnhem Land, Australia. Laklak, Ritjillili, Merrkiyawuy, and Banbapuy are four Indigenous sisters, elders, and caretakers for Bawaka Country together with their daughter, Djawundil. Sarah, Sandie and Kate are three non-Indigenous human geographers from the University of Newcastle and Macquarie University who have been adopted into the family as granddaughter, sister, and daughter.

The Collective’s research enhances Laklak and her family’s ability to meet their cultural obligations to share aspects of Yolŋu knowledge with others. This has directly led to improved intercultural understandings, self-determination and reconciliation. This has been achieved through the co-authorship of a range of innovative outputs sharing Yolŋu knowledge with academic and popular audiences. These include an Intercultural Communication Handbook and two books, including Welcome to My Country, which has sold over 10,000 copies and is used in both primary and high school curriculums. The Collective is currently working on our third book, Songspirals, which will be released in 2019.

Ensuring the development of ethical research relationships underlies this work, including the conceptualisation of all participants, including Country, as co-researchers. This has been recognised as innovative and highly significant, shifting the power structures within and surrounding academia and helping to build ethical, just and inclusive communities. In 2016 The Collective achieved a research milestone with the awarding of an Honorary Doctorate by Macquarie University to Laklak Burarrwanga. The work of the Bawaka Collective makes a significant contribution in bringing an Indigenous-led focus to academic understandings of Yolŋu knowledge to support deep, resonant and healthy relationships between people (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) and environments.

Photo: John Hunter
Dr John Hunter

Indigenous Youth

Dr Hunter is an Aboriginal postdoctoral researcher whose work focuses on community based solutions that facilitate self-directed change as a means to address the marginalisation and disadvantage affecting Aboriginal communities. From a methodological position, he uses Indigenous research approaches that develop community capacity and cultural restoration through the framework of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. His research is titled ‘Murama: Intergenerational Trauma and Community Based Interventions - Cultural Pathways for Health and Wellbeing’

Murama is primarily an Indigenous youth leadership program that is based on healing and wellbeing. The Murama model is being moulded around an existing Indigenous methodology developed by Native American elders titled ‘Gathering of Native Americans’. The approach has been contextualised by the Australian Indigenous community into the ‘Gathering of Traditional Owners’ aptly titled ‘GOTO Healing’ through a process of international Indigenous collaboration. The partnership is centred on community cultural exchange that provides local impact by engaging International Indigenous communities at ‘grass roots’ levels. Much of the program centres on resilience which is central to community led and self-directed cultural intervention on inter-generational trauma. The program is both trauma informed, being a foundation to understand historical issues such as the generational impacts of ‘Stolen Generations’, and culturally restorative, aiming to heal the next generations from the strength of traditional culture and identity.

Dr Katherine Haynes

Bushfires and natural hazards

Dr Haynes is a geographer who researches the human dimensions of hazards and risk. She has considerable experience undertaking research in disaster affected communities and is committed to ensuring that her research impacts on policy and practice. She works closely with a range of emergency and disaster management stakeholders.

Soon after joining Macquarie University Dr Haynes led a research project that analysed coronial inquest statements for Australian bushfire fatalities. The research identified distinct patterns in bushfire fatalities and became an important piece of evidence during the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, for which Dr Haynes was called as an Expert Witness. Dr Haynes has undertaken similar research examining Australian flood fatalities, which led to changes in the policy endorsed by the National Flood Risk Advisory Group (NFRAG). Following the 2013 Blue Mountains bushfires in New South Wales Dr Haynes collaborated with Fire and Rescue NSW (NSWFR) to evaluate the responses of Community Fire Units. FRNSW subsequently received a grant of $1.375 million to implement the recommendations documented in the research report.

Dr Haynes has a particular interest in the intersection between children’s geographies, hazard and risk and has partnered with Plan International on a number of projects to assist in the implementation of their child-centred risk reduction programming. In 2016 Dr Haynes was invited to join an Academic Advisory Panel to inform and guide a suite of research projects undertaken by Save the Children. Dr Haynes is currently collaborating with a range of emergency management organisations responsible for flood risk on a project funded through the Bushfire and Natural Hazard CRC. To date, the research has been utilised as part of the development of a national flood safety strategy and by the NSW SES in the development of online videos communicating key flood safety messages.

Dr Haynes also has a passion for volcanic hazards, having completed her PhD on the volcanically active Caribbean Island of Montserrat. In mid 2018 she co-edited a book that draws together international research on volcanic crisis communication. In the short time since released, the book has been downloaded by over 3170 readers and cited by 147.

In 2015 Dr Haynes was awarded the Australian Academy of Science Prize for Innovation, Research and Education (ASPIRE). The award recognized her contributions in the area of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation.
Research Events

Eating the Anthropocene workshop

Convened by A/Prof Andrew McGregor, A/Prof Donna Houston and Dr Margaret Raven

The Eating the Anthropocene workshop focused on what and how people should eat in the Anthropocene. The meatification, standardisation and globalisation of diets has contributed to food systems and cultures that are causing planetary changes, and are vulnerable to those changes. The workshop encouraged participants to think through alternative food systems while considering issues of food justice, sovereignty, quality and multispecies flourishing.

The workshop ran over two days with 39 participants, including academics, teachers, entrepreneurs, and civil society representatives. The keynote presentation was given by Mike Goodman from Reading University, while Mariaelena Huambachano from Brown University and Kyle Whyte from Michigan State University provided further international perspectives.

At least three themes became apparent. Indigenous food knowledge and sovereignty was a recurring issue enriched by Aunty Julie’s Welcome to Country and Aunty Fran and Uncle Gavin’s bushfood walk. A second theme concerned the future of meat, exploring impacts, experiences and alternatives, from multispecies perspectives. A third theme focused on how more relational, affective and caring food systems can evolve.

HumanNature: The Humanities in a Time of Environmental Crisis
Sydney Environmental Humanities Lecture Series, 2018

Convened by Dr Emily O’Gorman, A/Prof Donna Houston and Dr Rebecca Giggs

In 2018, the leaders of the Faculty of Arts Environmental Humanities Research Stream – Dr Emily O’Gorman and A/Prof Donna Houston (Geography and Planning), and Dr Rebecca Giggs (English) – facilitated Macquarie University’s partnership in a landmark lecture series, “HumanNature: The Humanities in a Time of Environmental Crisis”. This Lecture Series was jointly funded and coordinated by Macquarie University, the University of New South Wales, Western Sydney University, the University of Sydney and the Australian Museum. The Series consisted of provocative public talks by eight leading scholars and writers in the field of Environmental Humanities from Australia and internationally, who took on issues from climate change to species extinction. For example, Professor Tom Griffiths (ANU) argued for radical histories for uncanny times; Professor Mike Hulme (University of Cambridge) unearthed cultures of climate; and Professor Cate Sandilands (York University) revealed the value of feminist approaches in reconsidering the Anthropocene as ‘the Age of Man’. Media coverage of the Lecture Series included ABC Big Ideas and The Guardian. Many of the speakers also ran associated HDR workshops and gave work-in-progress talks to those from the participating Universities and wider audiences.

For more details see: https://australianmuseum.net.au/landing/human-nature/
The ‘Geographies of Disruption’ symposium was held over two days at Macquarie University in late April 2018, and aimed to explore contemporary conceptualisations of ‘disruption’. The Symposium was funded through the Geographical Society of New South Wales (GSNSW) Symposium Funding Scheme and chaired by Margaret Raven and Jess McLean of the Department of Geography and Planning, Macquarie University.

The structure of the Symposium itself was disruptive as participants randomly selected presenters rather than following a pre-conceived timetabling. This spontaneity was both unsettling and stimulating as participants co-produced a lively set of dialogues.

Disruption can be a constructive force of change if it reveals hegemonic power structures or inequitable management of resources. For example, during the Symposium, Adam Fish from Lancaster University discussed a range of examples of drones helping to facilitate disruptive justice, describing how activists and local communities are using drone footage to contest illegal forestry. Another form of disruption was highlighted by Mitch Goodwin and Jack Latimore from the University of Melbourne who discussed Yarra Yarra, an Indigenous meeting place that is now overlaid with Melbourne city, and how augmented reality may peel back layers of the city to show this sometimes-buried presence.
**Higher Degree Research Programs**

The Department of Geography and Planning has a vibrant, dynamic and inspiring cohort of MRes and PhD students at the heart of our Departmental research culture. Our students are attracted to the Department from within our undergraduate programs, from other institutions elsewhere in Australia and internationally. Each student participates in the activities of at least one of the research clusters.

Our two-year MRes program offers a unique and exciting research training pathway, preparing students for diverse careers as well as further study in a PhD program. In Year 1 (BPhil), students complete advanced course work subjects that prepare them to undertake research projects in human geography and urban planning, as well as interdisciplinary subjects like environmental humanities and development studies. In Year 2 students work closely with a supervisor from our experienced academic staff to develop and complete an original research project, culminating in a research thesis of 20,000 words. In 2018, Sara Judge, Olivia Hsieh, Emily Speed and Ebony Appel completed their Year 2 theses. Their research covered a diverse range of topics, including: representations of Indigenous people at Australia’s National Folk Festival; barriers in corporate social and environmental responsibility; the importance of inclusive public play spaces for disabled children; and environmental education and conservation in Tanzania. 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. 2018 has been an exciting year in the Department as we saw four of our students successfully graduate from their PhD programs – congratulations Sunita Chaudhary, Ashraful Alam, Nicole McNamara and Kate McCauley. Dr Chaudhary’s PhD critiqued the notion of ecosystem services in Nepal, Dr Alam’s work focused on more-than-human understandings of home in Bangladesh, Dr McNamara’s research considered emergent cycling practices in Sydney and Dr McCauley’s investigated the micro-practices of developers and planners. This research illustrates the breadth of important contemporary challenges and concerns that HDR research in the Department addresses.

A further three students have submitted their theses at the end of 2018. Dauglas Juma, Sufia Khanom and Yayut Chen research explored water resources adaptation, the everyday experiences of insecurity amongst environmentally-displaced migrants in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and rethinking scale, property and Taiwan, respectively.

The Department welcomed five new students to our Department in 2018. This new cohort continues to contribute to the vibrant intellectual community of the department through their work on topics as diverse as Indigenous health issues in Taiwan, climate change and energy policy in Hamburg and Hong Kong, addressing the housing needs of an ageing society, commoning and resistance to mining, just more-than-human planning systems and attending to Country. 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.

A/Prof Sandie Suchet-Pearson and Dr Fiona Miller (Directors, Higher Degree Research)

and

Dr Emily O’Gorman (Director, Master of Research)
Climate change induced displacement is a major challenge for cities with an increasing number of rural migrants occupying urban spaces. Khulna city, being the major regional centre of southwestern Bangladesh is no exception. Ashraful, who finished his PhD in 2018, asks how rural peasants-turned-migrants despite formal rights and ownership negotiate urban space and make sense of home, and what are the contribution of these migrant spatiality in rethinking alternate forms of urban planning from below?

Ashraful recognises that the diverse experience of rural migrants in cities go unnoticed as they are often reduced to the ‘slum dweller’ stereotype. This stereotype informs regimes of planning that fall short of meeting the specific needs of the urban poor. To eliminate the problematic framing, Ashraful employs a more-than-human approach that identifies non-humans (such as, plants and animals) and non-living elements (such as, earth and water) as having vital agencies in shaping human places and practices.

Ashraful’s work focuses on particular migrant communities that are informally sheltered on vacant land in Khulna’s urban fringes. Ashraful has published the method in Area journal as ‘photo-response’ that involved migrant women, the most vulnerable cohort, to use disposable film cameras as a method of documenting and explaining their home and homemaking practice. His paper on ‘migrant imaginaries’ in Social and Cultural Geography provides important insights on the aesthetic, spiritual and economic appropriation of urban space.

Ashraful’s research highlights the critical need to consider non-humans in urban studies and planning in order to develop more inclusive urban forms. He argues that non-human urban landscapes enable more generative spaces of care relations through which marginalised communities increase their spatial chances.

In 2018 Ashraful was appointed as a Lecturer in the Department of Geography at the University of Otago.
Dr Sunita Chaudhary

With much research and policy momentum surrounding ‘ecosystem services’ - the benefits humans derive from ecosystems for their wellbeing - the recent PhD graduate Dr Sunita Chaudhary investigated the evolution of ecosystem services as a globalising discourse and analysed the frictions that emerge encountering particular locations in Nepal. The thesis explored the evolution of ‘ecosystem services’ concept internationally, and its advancement at the national scale highlighting the importance of disaggregated analysis to pursue intra-community justice and recognise cultural services in decision-making. She applied mixed methods approach and adopted post-structural political ecology drawing insights from scale, discourse and justice to address the objective.

The ‘ecosystem services’ concept, as a rapidly expanding discourse to a diverse range of disciplinary perspective shaping research, policy and practices, was found to be dominated by economic approaches. The international actors were disproportionately influencing the concept in Nepal, with particular emphasis being placed on economic approaches. Greater levels of injustice with uneven distributive outcomes, participation and recognition were noted. As such, the research discussed the opportunity and challenges it raised in the Nepalese context highlighting its evolution, articulations, contestations and the likely-implications.

Dr Chaudhary received the International Macquarie University Research Excellence Scholarship to pursue PhD. She was awarded Executive Dean’s Higher Degree Research award 2016 for contributing to raising profile of Macquarie internationally through excellent research, publications and successful networking with different universities, including the University of Cambridge. She also received the Pierre Agnes Memorial Award 2017 for best doctoral presentation and Faculty of Arts’ 3MT Thesis People’s Choice Award. Her doctoral research is published in high quality journals including Environmental Science and Policy (IMF: 3.75), Ecosystem Services (IMF: 4.07) and Land Use Policy (IMF: 3.08). One of the papers resulted in an accepted invitation from the Elsevier Encyclopaedia of Life Sciences to write the entry on ‘ecosystem services’.
Sara Judge

Sara’s research focuses on Indigenous relationships to the living, intentional land as an ethical and spiritual precedent for living well with the Earth, and each other, in these times of ecological crises. Her work occurs in service to life, to the healing of Country and culture, and to abundant futures for all beings, human and non-human. Sara is committed to collaborative, co-created research that nurtures Indigenous sovereignty, decolonising practices, and hope through resistance.

In collaboration with Mkuyu Guiding School, Sara’s MRes offered perspectives in support of culturally relevant conservation through greater Tanzanian ownership and decision-making. Sara’s project was built together from the ground up, with Mkuyu not only deciding on key research questions, but also analysing and sharing their own data using cultural approaches including original songs, stories, and art to express what was most important to them, and their communities.

In approaching a collaborative PhD with Darug custodians at Yarramundi, Western Sydney, Sara apprentices herself to Country and cultural eldership as a challenge to institutionalised structures that continue to ask Indigenous peoples, and the land, to conform to ongoing colonisation. To do this, Sara engages with non-verbal, more-than-human, and spiritual ways of knowing Country in accordance with guidance from cultural and personal elders. This research aims to challenge what can be considered a ‘thesis’, and to take seriously Indigenous ways of knowing what is important to them, and Country."
2018 Department Research Seminars

27 March
Dr Eklabya Sharma
Deputy Director General at International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal
*Climate change in the Hindu Kush Himalaya: Developing Solutions for Complex Challenges at the Intersection of Environment and Development.*

17th April
Dr Lisa Slater
University of Wollongong, Australia.
*Close to Home: Anxieties of belonging in settler colonialism.*

23 April
Professor Mike Goodman
University of Reading, UK.
*The psycho-political economies of celebrity humanitarians: The cultural vanguard of a virtuous capitalism?*

24 April
Dr Ju-Han Zoe Wang
University of Melbourne, Australia.
*Community-Based Natural Resource Management in China: Making and Unmaking Environmental Narratives.*

1 May
Dr Chris Beer
Adjunct, Macquarie University, Australia.
*Reforming Automobility: Congestion and the reshaping of Auckland’s institutions of urban mobility*

22 May
Dr Ian Rowen
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.
*One China, Two Taiwans. The Geopolitics of Cross-Strait Tourism.*

26 June
Professor Suguru Mori
Hokkaido University, Japan.
*Great East Japan Earthquake Seven Years: the relocation process and current situation of Koizumi district in Kesennuma city.*

31 July
Dr Anna Casagalia and Professor James W. Scott
University of Eastern Finland, Finland.
*European border regime(s) and political instrumentalization of the migration crisis.*
2018 Department Research Seminars

22 August
Dr Gareth Edwards
University of East Anglia, UK.
Fossil fuel developmentalism and climate justice: insights from Australia’s coal frontier.

8 August
Associate Professor Kyle Powys Whyte
Michigan State University, USA.
Indigenous Food Sovereignties: Resisting Environmental Injustice, Decolonizing Relations to Food.

18 September
Associate Professor Jim Forrest
Honorary Fellow, Macquarie University, Australia.
Racism, segregation, multiculturalism: a structural perspective on the Australian immigrant experience.

25 September
Peter Mares
Adjunct Fellow in the Centre of Urban Transitions, Swinburne University, Australia.
It’s time homeowners paid the rent for low-income households.

16 October
Dr Nina Brendel
Assistant Professor at the University of Potsdam, Germany.
Virtual Reality in geography education. How designing VR field trips supports students’ understanding of sustainable urban development.

23 October
Dr John Hunter
Postdoctoral Fellow, Macquarie University, Australia.
Murama: Intergenerational Trauma and Community Based Interventions - Cultural Pathways for Health and Wellbeing.

30 October
Professor Jenny Pickerill and Dr. Vanessa Sloan Morgan
Sheffield University, United Kingdom and the University of Northern British Columbia, Canada.
Settler Geographies of Responsibility.

20 November
Dr Geetha Abayasekara
Honorary Associate, Macquarie University, Australia.
2018 Research Grants

External Funding

Chun, K P., Choi, B., Fuller, S., Lo, K., Mah, D. and Yeteman, O., *An exploratory energy study of the Smart Grid and Smart City data from Australia*. Hong Kong Baptist University Research Grant $8,257


Mitchell, A, Suchet-Pearson, S., Wright, S, Lloyd, K. and General, S., *Caring for Kin, Confronting Global Disruptive Change*. SSHRC Connections Grant: $24,690 (Canadian dollars)


Suchet-Pearson, S., Lloyd, K. and Wright, S. *Yolngu women keening of songspirals: nourishing and sharing people-as-place*. Australian Research Council Discovery Project: $357,519

Pawson, H., Randolph, B., Milligan, V., van den Nouwelant, R., Martin, C., Scanlon, K., Williams, P. and Ruming, K., *How can an Australian ‘build to rent’ product contribute to urban renewal and affordable housing supply?* Landcom, $149,691

Competitive Internal Funding


Ruming, K., Houston, D., Fuller, S. and Williams, M., *The Australian Sustainable Household (ASH) database*. Macquarie University Infrastructure Scheme (small) grant: $96,960

Williams, M. *The geographies of community food provisioning in Metropolitan Sydney*. Macquarie University New Staff Grant, $10,000.
2018 Publications

Edited Collections


Journal Papers


Journal Papers (Continued)


Journal Papers (Continued)


Book Chapters


Book Chapters (continued)


Book Chapters (continued)


