Examples of Current Externally Funded Research Projects

Professor Kay Anderson, Dr Fiona Allon and Associate Professor Robyn Bushell
2005-2007 ARC Linkage Grant

Industry Partners: UWS Centre for Cultural Research and City of Sydney, Manly, North Sydney, Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils.

Backpacker Cultures, Residential Communities, and the Construction of Tourist Spaces and Landscapes: a regional study of changing community dynamics in Sydney
This project is gathering information on the backpacking phenomenon and exploring how residents, visitors and local government are responding to the dynamic cultural landscapes brought about by visitors from around the globe. The research aims to address in a comprehensive way the challenging opportunities Sydney and its resident communities and local Councils face as it continues to grow as a Global city and popular tourist destination. The project seeks greater understanding of issues that will inform policy and planning, and help to resolve conflicts and contradictions surrounding backpacker tourism.

Associate Professor Natalie Bolzan and Dr. Fran Gale
2006-2008 ARC Linkage Grant

Industry Partners: Department of Community Services; Illawarra Regional Co-ordination Program; NSW Premier’s Department Regional Co-ordination Program, New England North West NSW; Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service Inc.

Community Foundations of Resilience of Young People
This project aims, with young people and their communities, to identify social arrangements which facilitate resilience particularly, but not only, for marginalised young people from ethnically and linguistically diverse communities. By bringing together a research team from disciplines that generally do not inform each other, the project aims to fill a conceptual gap in current knowledge around care, control and social resilience using an applied community development project and a methodology of engagement with young people to bring about change. It will use this understanding to develop and increase a range of practical, sustainable, effective community level interventions that foster resilience among all young people.

Associate Professor Robyn Bushell and Dr Russell Staiff
2005-2007 European Union and Australian Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Grant

Partners: UWS as lead institution with Deakin University, Curtin University, Charles Darwin University in Australia; Brandenberg University of Technology, Germany; Leuven Catholic University, Belgium; Polytechnical University Vallencia, Spain; University College Dublin, Ireland. Supported by Parks Australia and UNESCO –World Heritage Centre.
Master Classes in Cultural & Natural Heritage Management: Third Pilot Project for Co-operation in Higher Education between Australia and the European Union

The core of the program was Master Classes at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris with field trip to the Val de Loire World Heritage Area. The other at the Kakadu World Heritage Site in the Northern Territory with participants learning from the traditional Indigenous owners and staff of Parks Australia. The project covered many aspects and perspectives on contemporary heritage management, and how to ensure culturally appropriate and sound policies and practices.

Professor Kevin Dunn, Dr Anne Pedersen, Prof Jim Forrest, Dr Yin Paradies, Prof David Ip, Prof Hurriyet Babakan.  
2008-2010 ARC Linkage Grant

Industry partners: The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission of Australian; The Equal Opportunity Commission of South Australia; The Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission

Constructing regionally appropriate anti-racism strategies for Australia

Racism is an international social scourge, and Australia is not immune from its injurious effects. The project is a multi-disciplinary analysis of the regionally varied nature of racism. Anti-racism guides will also be developed for each type of region across Australia. The guides will help local authorities and NGOs to frame their anti-racism efforts. The guides will be tested in case study regions. There will be an evaluation of the match between anti-racism guides and existing local policies, as well as stake-holder perspectives on what forms of anti-racism work, and the transferability of the guides. The project is a globally novel attempt at evidence-based regionally sensitive anti-racism.

Professor Kevin Dunn, Professor Martin Loosemore and Dr Florence Phua
2007-2010 ARC Linkage Grant

Industry partners: Multiplex Construction, Mirvac Group, Boulderstone Hornibrook, DeMartin & Gasparini / Boral, Baseline Constructions, Master Builders Association, Construction, Forestry, Mining, and Energy Union

Managing cultural diversity on Australian construction sites

Construction sites employ many non English-speaking background migrants and are among Australia’s most culturally diverse workplaces. Yet evidence exists of intercultural problems which inhibit productivity and expose migrant workers and those around them to significantly greater safety risks. The project investigates the extent of this diversity, how it is experienced by workers and how it is managed. By contributing to the limited and poorly conceptualised understanding of the positive and negative roles of cultural diversity on construction sites, the project will provide a framework in which diversity can be managed more effectively to create a more harmonious, safe and productive workplace.
Promoting ethical non-violent relationships of young women and men

The research aims to contribute to the prevention of sexual violence between young women and men aged 16-25 years to promote their ability to live healthy, productive and fulfilling lives. It will provide a multidisciplinary approach to developing an evaluated educational training programme based on young people's experiences of sexual intimacy, sexuality and anti-violence education. Delivery of a training programme in three rural and metropolitan sites and follow up interviews with young people six months after completion of the course. The findings of the research will inform policy makers, educators and community organisations working with young women and men.

Professor Deborah Stevenson, Professor Stephen Tomsen and Professor David Rowe
2008-2010 ARC Discovery Grant

The City after Dark: The Governance and Lived Experience of Urban Night-Time Culture

The stimulation and regulation of the city at night is among the most important issues facing urban life around the globe. Building on the findings of two pilot studies, this Project is the first comprehensive examination of the use, experience and governance of night-time cultures and spaces in metropolitan Australia. It will address competing uses of urban space and the levels of planning and regulation required to foster night-time cultures and minimize alienation among different interest groups. The Project will address issues of diversity, inclusiveness and public safety, and contribute to international interdisciplinary debates concerning cultural planning and crime prevention.

Professor Deborah Stevenson and Professor David Rowe
2006-2008 ARC Discovery Grant

Culture Circuits: Exploring the International Networks and Institutions Shaping Contemporary Cultural Policy

Cultural Policy is expected to achieve an ever-expanding range of social, aesthetic, economic and cultural objectives. This Project explores this agenda and the factors shaping it in four, historically connected countries - Australia, America, Britain and Canada. Specifically, the study tests the proposition that national cultural policy frameworks are increasingly being informed by inter- and supranational exchanges of ideas, personnel, principles and strategies. This task requires evaluating the influences of key nation-to-nation exchanges and the less obvious roles of suprastate bodies like UNESCO. The Project contributes to international debates concerning the formation of national cultural policy priorities and practices.