CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN
POLITICAL AND SOCIAL THOUGHT
Supported by innovative and world-renowned scholars engaged in local, regional and international networks of research and praxis, the four-year Doctoral Program in Political and Social Thought is a Doctoral Program for people who think that the world can and should be different.

Unique in Australia, the DPPST breaks new ground in the Australian academic context where PhDs are generally three-year exclusively research-based programs. Beginning with an intense year of coursework, our students participate in four distinct doctoral seminars, each of which combines serious theoretical and conceptual work with a strong commitment to making sense of, and engaging with, the enormous challenges of our era. The demanding year of coursework provides students with a deeper understanding of the great debates in political and social thought, and prepares them for the task of undertaking original investigations of their own. The coursework also provides close contact with academic staff and other students, out of which a strong self-sustaining intellectual community emerges, enabling all members of the DPPST to learn from and support one another from the beginning to the end of the PhD.

Attracting students from all over the world (including, so far, Austria, Australia, Canada, Colombia, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Turkey, UK, and USA) the DPPST has a distinct interdisciplinary orientation, which encourages students to be both critically analytical and imaginatively creative in responding to the complex ethical and political issues facing contemporary societies. Our students also come from diverse disciplinary backgrounds – e.g. philosophy, political science, anthropology, geography, and political economy – backgrounds that they bring to bear on practically oriented and theoretically sophisticated research projects, which aim at the creation of a more just, participatory and sustainable world.

All doctoral students participate in courses, seminars and supervisory relationships with outstanding academic staff working in the following research areas:

» Citizenship, cosmopolitanism & human rights
» Rethinking ‘the economy’: reclaiming it as a site of politics; the integration of economic action with its human and more-than-human environments
» Subjectivity, ethics, and politics
» Constructions of gender, race, and identity
» Indigeneity and postcolonialism
» Religion and secularism
» Reconceiving freedom
» Transitional justice and reconciliation
» Social criticism, social learning and social change
» Rethinking the human in relation to the non-human
» Democratic theory and practice
» Governance as experimental practice

The Doctoral Program Coordinator is Nikolas Kompridis: n.kompridis@uws.edu.au
ABOUT THE PROGRAM STAFF

Professor Katherine Gibson: rethinking economy; ethical economic dynamics; building community economies in Australia and its region; a politics of place; micro-politics of self cultivation

Professor Nikolas Kompridis: political philosophy, critical theory, romanticism; reason, freedom, modernity; critique and normativity; secularism, recognition, identity, and culture; philosophy of art, literature, film and music

Professor Tim Rowse: Australia as a project in moral community; the protean nature of liberalism; Indigeneity and self-representation; public intellectuals in and outside government; reflection on government as experimental practice

Associate Professor Allison Weir: feminist theory, gender studies, theories of freedom, constructions of race, identities as relations of power and of interdependence, agency and solidarity, discourses of religion and secularism, social and political philosophy

Doctor Magdalena Zolkos: transitional justice and reconciliation; political subjects and subjectivity; collective trauma and subjective experience; literature, poetry and political thought.

Associated Staff at UWS:

Professor Lyn Carson: Deliberative Democracy (theory and practice), civic engagement, public participation

Dr. Chris Fleming: philosophy of religion, violence, René Girard, Darwinism

Dr. Gerda Roelvink: collective action and citizenship; diverse economies and citizenship; environmental studies and citizenship

Dr. Sonja Van Wichelen: science and technology studies, cultural economy and globalization, feminist and postcolonial theory, anthropology of law, religion and the body politic

Dr. Jessica Whyte: human rights and sovereignty, humanitarian intervention, critical legal studies, critical theory, contemporary European philosophy, biopolitics, radical and revolutionary political thought and movements

Associated Staff at the Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, University of Sydney

Associate Professor Danielle Celermajer: principles and practices required to construct socially just political communities in the context of diversity and in the light of historical violations, human rights law and institutions, mechanisms for dealing with violations, Hannah Arendt

Professor John Keane: democracy, globalization, global governance, early modern and contemporary conceptions of civil society and government, secularism, Islam and Europe, modern social movements, European citizenship, violence, the modern state system

Professor David Schlosberg: environmental politics and political thought, environmental and climate justice, climate change politics and adaptation, environmental movements, sustainable materialism, contemporary political theory

Professor Glenda Sluga: international history of the nation, American and British diplomatic history, history of international relations, gender in European history, Australian immigration history, history of human rights, cosmopolitanism, internationalism and empire, peacemaking
ADMISSION
Applications are now being accepted for admission for 2013. Classes begin March 1, 2013.

Potential Doctoral candidates will be either International or Domestic (Australia and New Zealand). Each applicant must follow a two-step process.

1. Expression of interest in the Program
Intending candidates will write an ‘expression of interest’ which demonstrates their interest and potential fit with the Doctoral Program in Political and Social Thought. There is a description of the Program on our website:

www.uws.edu.au/dppst

The expression of interest must include four items:

» a brief statement of why you would like to engage in this program;

» a one-page description of your research interests and potential thesis topic that demonstrates how it could be conceived as a study within political and social thought. You should also indicate someone among the academic staff whom you might choose as a thesis supervisor (not a binding commitment).

» a piece of writing (article length: 7,000-8,000 words) that gives us an idea of your abilities.

» your academic transcript(s)

After reviewing all Expressions of Interest, the Program will advise all those who have expressed interest whether the Program will support their applications for enrolment and for a scholarship.

Please submit expressions of interest by October 1, 2012. Expressions of Interest after this date may be considered.

2. Enrolment and Scholarship
You must apply to the University for admission and (if you wish) for a scholarship. For UWS admission procedures, please go to:

http://www.uws.edu.au/research/future_research_students

For Domestic students, the deadline for application for scholarships is October 31, 2012. Expressions of Interest after this date may be considered.
**SCHOLARSHIPS AND FEES**

All applicants can compete for scholarships covering the four years of candidature. Scholarships for International students cover tuition and a living allowance that is higher than the Australian Commonwealth funded rate. Scholarships for Domestic students include a living allowance paid at higher than the Australian Commonwealth funded rate. There is no tuition fee for domestic students.

**RESEARCH SUPPORT**

Research support, including conference assistance, is available at up to $AUD2000 per full-time year per candidate. All enrolled PhD candidates will have access to a computer, office facilities and work space.

**CONFIRMATION OF CANDIDATURE**

All Doctoral candidates at UWS must successfully complete a formal Confirmation of Candidature. In the Doctoral Program in Political and Social Thought the Confirmation of Candidature process will be conducted mid-way through the candidate's second year of enrolment. To prepare for this, candidates will participate in a thesis proposal workshop early in the second year of the program.

**CANDIDATE PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

The Program conducts regular student and staff work-in-progress seminars in which all members and students are expected to participate. From time to time there will be Master Classes, Workshops, Conferences, and Public Seminars that students will be urged to attend. In addition, many workshops, conferences and public talks are offered at UWS as well as other universities in Sydney.
2013 COURSE OUTLINES

Our distinctive PhD in Political and Social Thought begins with one year of advanced coursework, consisting of two courses per semester. Each course meets once a week for 3 hours.

Projected courses for 2013 are:

**Human, Posthuman, Non-human (Nikolas Kompridis)**

What does it mean to be a human being, and what is it about our lived answers to this question that frames our relation to non-human beings, animate and inanimate? What would it mean for us to share the normative space of reasons with non-human animals, giving non-human animals a human-like status in moral space? How would such sharing affect our understandings of what it means to be human, and how we frame our relation to non-human animals and to the non-human world? Would this entail the dissolution of the question of what it means to be a human being? Would this also involve dissolving our inherited (Western) ontological distinctions between the human and non-human. How far can and should we take anthropocentric critiques of the human and humanism? What are the implications of these diverse critiques (starting from very different premises, with quite different intentions) that we cannot yet foresee, or to which we have not yet given sufficient attention? This seminar will try to make sense of all these issues, probing for conceptual, normative, and ontological implications through close readings of key representative theorists: Haraway, Latour, Derrida, Habermas, Cavell, and others.

“The Indigenous problem”: an historical and theoretical perspective on the Northern Territory Emergency Intervention (Tim Rowse)

This unit will survey the current debate about the Northern Territory Emergency intervention and any programs and legislation that is associated with it. In this survey we will note that there are ‘human rights’ and ‘Indigenous rights’ arguments on both sides of the debate. Thus, one of the aims of this unit is to highlight the relevance and limitations of rights-based arguments about public policy. As well, the unit will ask: Why the Northern Territory? To answer this question requires an examination of policy discourse about the Northern Territory and its Aborigines since 1912. The unit will identify a series of policy documents in which we find accounts of Aborigines (their capacities, responsibilities and vulnerabilities) and of the state (its duty of care, its legitimate disciplines). Finally, the course will examine some theoretical perspectives (about social marginality, indigeneity and state power) that have been cited by those who have debated the Northern Territory Emergency Intervention.”
Environmental, Ecological, and Climate Justice (David Schlosberg, Professor of Environmental Politics, University of Sydney; this class is co-convened with the University of Sydney)

This seminar will survey a variety of conceptions, discourses, and policy implications of environmental, ecological, and climate justice. After a brief introduction to the history of environmental justice movements, we will examine a number of contemporary theoretical conceptions of justice, from standard distributional notions, to those that focus on recognition, participation, and/or human capabilities. As one of the key concerns of the unit is the way that political actors and movements use such political concepts, we will explore the way that environmental or climate movements (and others that use environmental or climate justice as an organizing theme) understand, articulate, and apply multifaceted notions of justice. Moving beyond a sole concern with environmental impacts on human populations, the seminar will also explore how these conceptions of justice apply to an understanding of ecological justice – or justice between humans and the non-human world. Finally, bringing together all of the above, we will examine theories, frameworks, and policy suggestions regarding justice in an era of climate change.

Theories of Freedom (Allison Weir)

What does it mean to be free? This course will explore a diverse range of theories of freedom. In the tradition of non-ideal theory, we will begin by looking at some theories of domination and colonization, focusing on intersecting oppressions of class, race, and gender, to consider the conceptions of freedom that emerge from these. We will then turn to several classic theories and contemporary arguments and debates, beginning with the debates around conceptions of negative and positive freedom, and continuing with theories of freedom as participation, as collective self-determination, and as critique and resistance. Finally, we will take up several theories of freedom as belonging, rooted in diverse indigenous and non-western traditions. Readings include work by Charles Mills, Iris Young, Karl Marx, Isaiah Berlin, Charles Taylor, Amartya Sen, Martha Nussbaum, Nancy Hirschmann, Hannah Arendt, Michel Foucault, Judith Butler, Saba Mahmood, Linda Zerilli, James Tully, Cynthia Willett, Lewis Gordon.
CONTACT INFORMATION

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