Welcome to Natalie Bolzan who has taken on the role of Research Training Convenor. We thank Stephen Tomsen for his work in this role over the past 12 months and wish him well in his new position. We are also in the process of appointing new HDR representatives for the School - stay tuned for announcements on these in next months newsletter.

Micheal Kennedy appeared on ABC’s Stateline Program on Friday 18 September, discussing whether offering rewards assists in solving crimes.

Congratulations to Heather McDonald for winning a prestigious international award. This is for a 2008 article, City Planning and the U.S. Census 1910 to 1960, *Journal of Planning History, 7* (4). This article was selected for the Journal of Planning History Prize for 2009. This is a new award, sponsored by SAGE, that recognises the best article in planning history published in JPH between August 2007 and August 2009.

Congratulations and farewell to Therese Kenna who has accepted a position in the Planning Research Centre at the University of Sydney. Ashley Harris will replace Therese as the new HDR liaison officer.
SoSS Seminar Series

The Poverty of Community Consultations
Mariana Valverde, University of Toronto
12 October 2009, 1-2:30pm
Kingswood Campus Building 0.2.02 (video-link to Bankstown Room 1.1.30)

Professor Mariana Valverde is a scholar with a leading international reputation for her contributions to social theory, feminism and socio-legal studies with a research focus on moral regulation, sexuality, citizenship and urban governance. She is currently Director of the Centre of Criminology at the University of Toronto and editor of the Canadian Journal of Law and Society.


For the past few years her main empirical research project has been a study of law and urban governance in action in Toronto, covering by-law enforcement, dispute resolution, community consultations, and licensing and zoning as tools for enacting a certain vision of the well-ordered ‘civil’ community. This work will appear in a book tentatively entitled Seeing Like a City: Everyday Law in ‘the World’s Most Diverse City’.

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SoSS Travellers

Lisa Tudehope presenting at the Tertiary Education Management Conference in Darwin, and with a crocodile at the conference dinner

Neil Hall is off to Newcastle from 6 - 9 October to present at the National Men’s Health Conference. Neil’s paper is titled “Sport, civic engagement and young males”.

Fran Gale travels to Dubrovnik, Croatia from 24 September - 12 October to present “Challenging neo-colonial thinking and practices” at the Coping & Resilience conference. Natalie Bolzan is also presenting a paper, “Will controlling the risks increase the resilience?”

Robyn Bushell heads to Chile from 7 - 18 October to complete the Indigenous Tourism project, meet with the CEO of the FME Foundation in Santiago and to meet with State and Regional Development in Antofagasta.

Sheridan Linnell travels to Geelong from 30 October - 7 November to present at the biennial conference of Australian & New Zealand Art Therapy Association conference. Sheridan’s paper is titled “Honouring risk in the context of uncertainty”.

SoSS Publications & Presentations


Drawing on the explanatory traditions of sociology, human geography and tourism studies, this book examines the cultures of meaning, mobility and engagement that frame and define traveller identities. It argues that it is in understanding the imagined-real spaces of the traveller that it becomes possible to envisage tourist cultures and futures that empower and engage.


Kevin Dunn is co-ordinating a themed session at the Institute of Australian Geographers Annual Conference in Cairns, on 28 September. The session explores Harmony, Trust and Participation in Culturally Diverse Cities, with the work of Robert Putnam as a starting point. Kevin will give the first plenary address at the conference, Human Rights in Place? Anti-racism, Exports, Damage Limitation, Choices. Alanna Kamp, Brigid Treanery, Danielle Pelleri and Jacqueline Nelson will also present papers.
Introducing the Peace and Development Studies Group

Tim Griffin
Tim’s current roles in the School include Head of Program for Postgraduate Courses in Social Sciences, Counselling and Art Therapy and for the Undergraduate ‘Core’. His teaching areas are psychology / social psychology and research methods. Over the past few years, Tim has reoriented his research to constructively align with his interest in teaching and learning. He has been a keen adopter of e-learning and has an interest in learning design based on scholarly evidence and student evaluations. Tim publishes and presents on teaching and learning, especially blended and e-learning. Perversely, Tim enjoys the challenge of managing and teaching large enrolment units. Less perversely, in his various roles, he also enjoys and appreciates the many positive interactions and collaborations with valued colleagues in the School.

Debra Keenan
Debra is a lecturer in the Peace and Development Group and is based in Kingswood.

Debbie Horsfall
Debbie is passionate about working with communities and activist groups to explore social and environmental justice, especially for/with women and those who are on the margins of society in terms of power, control and decision making. Her research work centres on working with people creatively and collaboratively to develop alternative and sustainable ways of knowing and doing in the world, and she has a very broad definition of sustainability. At the moment Debbie is working on three projects: With HOME Hospice and the Cancer Council to explore if, and how, supporting people to die at home develops community and/or changes values and attitudes about death and dying; with the department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care to explore the active engagement of older people in the community - both of these projects use photovoice and network mapping as creative means to collaborate with research participants; she is continuing work in the area of creative qualitative research through contributing to an upcoming book on research practice methodologies in addition to researching Love and Belonging from the perspective of emotional geographies.

Sharyn McGhee
Sharyn McGhee has been a member of the School of Social Sciences for a number of years and has taught and conducted research in the sociology of health, particularly mental health and drugs, and the sociology of the life course, children and ageing. Her current research focus is on cannabis and youth with mental health issues and is working collaboratively with colleagues and non-government organizations in the field on two projects funded by the Mental Health Coordinating Council. These projects reflect her ongoing interest in issues of social justice for young people, people with a mental health issue and those who choose to use drugs for recreational purposes as well as reducing the stigma associated with mental illness and drug use. She is also interested in developing opportunities for further collaboration with NGOs such as the Richmond Fellowship of NSW. She is on the board of the Mental Health Association of NSW and is an active member of Oxfam. Her interest in Peace and Development studies comes from her teaching in the area of children’s health and the relationship with poverty, marginalisation and social conflict. She is also interested in the role of religious organisations (such as Engaged Buddhism) in the promotion of peace and social justice at the national and international level.

Internal Grants Scheme

Congratulations to Sheridan Linnell, Sanja Milivojevic and Erin Kruger who have all been given funds within the internal grants scheme! Sheridan will conduct a small pilot study of how the discourse of risk and practices of risk management influence counsellors’ and art therapists’ professional well being and shape their clinical responses to working with young people ‘at risk’. Sanja’s project, Policy shifts, changing social climate, global financial crisis and trafficking in women: a case study of impact and experiences, seeks to investigate potential shifts in policy in relation to trafficking in people, and impact of global financial crisis to women’s mobility and vulnerability to trafficking in countries of Global North and Global South. Erin’s research studies the impact of science and law at the specific point of asking: how exactly does the law know the ‘accused’ when DNA is the evidence at hand? Specifically, this research considers how DNA analysis in the forensic laboratory conceives of the ‘body’ as a series of technological interventions at the molecular level in order to consider alternative suggestions of what criminal law means when viewed as an extension not only outside of the human body, but also the traditional confines of justice, such as the courtroom.

Postgraduate Graduation

SoSS would like to congratulate Therese Kenna on completing her PhD, Private Community? The Lived Experiences of Privatism and Community in the Development and Management of a Private Residential Estate in Sydney, Australia. Shown below with supervisors Kevin Dunn and Deborah Stevenson.
Awais and our Environmental Planning and Design students visited Penrith Council at the end of August. He and his students are conducting a survey for them around improving urban spaces for outdoor living in the Penrith CBD.

Q & A with Stephen Tomsen

Stephen is Professor and leader of the Criminology and Policing Group. In September this year he was appointed Associate Head of School (Research).

1. I couldn’t live without… My partner and dog.

2. Most interesting conference experience you’ve had? Two weird experiences, the first was at the World Society of Victimology Conference in Amsterdam, 1997 - I was listed seventh and final speaker in a session with people going over time or cut off according to how the chairperson reacted to their material. This soon erupted into arguments and I knew I had no chance of presenting anything.

The other happened in San Francisco in 1999 at Kinsey at 50. I had to push my way through hundreds of anti-conference protesters and got jeered by fundamentalists in the audience. I turned the microphone up and kept going.

3. Advice for SoSS postgrads? Have absolute tunnel vision about getting draft chapters done.

5. If you weren’t an academic, what career would you like instead? Something in an art gallery.

6. The book that changed my life was… Freud, The Interpretation of Dreams.

7. What do you do to relax? Gin and tonic on the deck.

8. Internet sites you visit when procrastinating? Too shocking to mention.

Kevin Dunn, Therese Kenna, Alanna Kamp and Jacqueline Nelson in Cabramatta with students from ‘Geography of urban and regional development.’ This was part of a field trip to study the geographies of migration in Western Sydney.

Thank you for your contributions. If you would like something to be included in the next issue of the SoSS Goss, or have any comments or questions please contact Jacqueline.Nelson@uws.edu.au