The School of Social Sciences Newsletter

This Month’s Highlights

- Jane Mears and Debbie Horsfall received DADHC Research Grants (details below).
- The Master of Art Therapy at UWS was approved by the Accreditation Sub-committee of the Australian and New Zealand Art Therapy Association.
- Kevin Dunn gave an illuminating professorial lecture on Challenging Racism: The Anti-Racism Research Project.
- Second year tourism student, Troy Clayton, was awarded with the NSW Tourism Ministers Student Achiever Award.

Research News

Publications


Research Grants
Debbie Horsfall received a DADHC Research Grant for a project entitled Active Engagement of Older People in the Community: Mapping and Developing the Caring Networks of Older People Receiving DADHC and Home Hospice Services.

Jane Mears was also awarded a DADHC Research Grant for work on Transformations of Care: Living the Consequences of Changing Public Policies in Australia.

Thesis to Book
Sheridan Linnell has recently had her thesis accepted by Bentham Science Publishers. It will be published in early 2010, as the first in a new Social Sciences E-Book series. The book is a monograph based on her thesis, Towards Ethical ‘Arts of Existence’: Through Art Therapy and Narrative Therapy. The working title of the series is ‘Rethinking Research and Professional Practices in terms of Relationality, Subjectivity and Power’.
**SoSS Seminar Series**

*Please note - the seminar by Therese Kenna scheduled for July has been postponed and will now take place on 7 September.*

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**Chinese Capitalism and Chinese Religion**

*Jack Barbalet*

1-3pm, 3 August 2009

*Kingswood 0.2.02 (video-link to Bankstown 1.1.114)*

The Chinese economy is the most dynamic in the world today, a situation which arises against all expectations. Sociological expectations, fashioned by Max Weber’s theories of Western capitalism in *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* and more especially his argument in *The Religion of China*, that the Chinese family structure and religions are inhibiting factors in the development of capitalism in China, have been shown to be in need of revision. Weber’s account has proved to be unhelpful. The paper will outline the nature of Chinese capitalism, and propose an alternative to Weber’s theory of action and his characterisation of both capitalism and Chinese religions.

**New SoSS Scholarship**

**Penrith City Council Urban Planning Scholarships**

Thanks to the generosity of Penrith City Council, students in the new Bachelor of Social Science (Geography & Urban Studies)/Master of Urban Management have the chance to access funding and work placement to support their studies and develop the skills to tackle planning issues in Western Sydney.

Penrith City Council will offer the first of their new two-year scholarships in 2010, with another to be available for students commencing in 2011 and every year thereafter. The scholarships not only provide talented, local students with financial support to help meet some of the costs of university study, but recipients will have the opportunity to undertake significant work experience with Penrith City Council through out their degree.

The new four-year planning program builds on expertise in the UWS School of Social Science and the Urban Research Centre and seeks to meet more effectively the needs of the profession in Greater Western Sydney.

Kevin Dunn is extremely grateful for the generous support of Penrith City Council and hopes their commitment serves as an example to other councils in Western Sydney who he also hopes to engage in the program.

“The new program deliberately involves significant engagement with the professional aspects of planning to ensure our graduates are well prepared. Relationships with key employers across Western Sydney, particularly including local councils, will therefore be integral to the operation and success of the program.”

“The scholarships provided by Penrith City Council highlight Council’s commitment to supporting the education and career ambitions of students in Western Sydney. The support of Council will help to ensure our course is relevant to the planning profession and that our graduates are equipped to address the planning needs of Greater Western Sydney.”

Further on scholarships available to students can be found at [http://future.uws.edu.au/scholarships](http://future.uws.edu.au/scholarships).

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**SoSS Travels**

*Sanja Milivojevic* travels to Grenoble, France in July, to teach at a Summer School in Criminology.

*Sanja Milivojevic, Craig Osmond, Stephen Tomsen & Denise Weelands* will deliver papers at the Critical Criminology Conference in Melbourne 8-9th July. Stephen’s new book will also be launched in Melbourne.

*Meg Smith* heads to Fremantle to present at a conference from 13-22 July. She will also attend the national meeting of the College of Community Psychology.

*Kevin Dunn, Therese Kenna & Jacqueline Nelson* are off to Adelaide 6-8 July to meet the Equal Opportunity Commission of SA and mayors/CEOs of local councils.

*Geir Henning-Presterudstuen* continues fieldwork in Fiji (15 June - 15 September).

*Lisa Armitage* travels to Armidale 11-14 July to attend the Australasian Narrative Inquiry Conference.

**Postgraduate News**

A two-day Research Retreat at the Jemby-Rinjah Eco Lodge, Blackheath ([www.jemby.com.au](http://www.jemby.com.au)), is being organised for research candidates & their supervisors. The retreat will take place 19-20 November. The retreat will provide a forum for research students to present their research and receive detailed feedback and advice. Intensive sessions will also be planned on publishing, writing and future careers. Please contact *Therese Kenna* at T.Kenna@uws.edu.au for more information.
Introducing the Tourism Group

Robyn Bushell

Robyn’s research interests revolve around heritage management and visitation, including problems associated with social, cultural and environmental impacts on heritage sites and local communities. Equally, she is interested in the opportunities that visitation creates for community development and engagement in conservation and the interpretation of heritage values. Robyn works closely with a number of heritage agencies and bodies, including UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. She is a member of the Blue Mountain Regional Advisory Committee, the Board of Management for Booderee National Park with the Wreck Bay Indigenous community, and the NSW Environmental Education Council. Current research is work for ASEAN Secretariat about delivering health benefits from tourism in developing ASEAN nations and work with NSW Environmental Trust, with local government and tourism encouraging socially and environmentally responsible business practices. Together with Russell Staiff, Robyn is currently developing an ARC linkage application with CCR and NSW NPWS examining implications of digital media and digital social networking on the interpretation of heritage sites and places in NSW National Parks. Russell and Robyn co-supervise 6 doctoral candidates.

Russell Staiff

Having graduated in modern history and geography Russell was thrown into a SA country high school and asked to teach HSC Classical Studies! That wore thin quickly and he was soon on the road travelling and deciding on a career change. So Russell packed his car with all his worldly possessions and drove to Melbourne and began postgrad studies in Art History & Theory. During his PhD, Russell and a friend decided to run art and history tours to Italy. This was his entree into educational tourism and tour guiding. In 1995 Melbourne Uni set up the first postgrad course in tourism and the visual arts. On the day he submitted his PhD, Russell had a job interview for the position and the very next day found himself designing courses. Despite the success of the venture, the arrival of a new professor and the end of the funding from the Pratt Foundation ‘conspired’ to close the course. Russell happened to be in Sydney and came across the UWS position ad. And so, in 1998 Russell arrived at Hawkesbury to help create the new BA in tourism. Several restructures and major changes later, he’s still working at the interface between heritage, communities and tourism in a variety of cultural settings - Australia, SE Asia and Italy. This year Russell was invited to join the International Cultural Tourism Committee of ICOMOS and he is currently writing a monograph on re-imagining heritage interpretation for visitors.

Ian Knowd

Ian has been working with the Department of Agriculture, local government and local entrepreneurs to develop the Hawkesbury Harvest and Farm Gate Trail. Hawkesbury Harvest is a community-based organisation with a vision to ensure the future of agriculture in the Sydney basin through a network of growers markets and fine food markets. The markets are part of the agri-tourism enterprise and strategy to rebuild local food systems and tackle global problems of sustainability at the local level utilising local knowledge, food, culture and landscape. Ian completed PDP last year and has gained an international reputation for expertise in this form of community development/cultural tourism.

Corazon Sinha

Corazon will be on PDP leave in Spring 2009 to collect primary and secondary data for her second book Sustainable Tourism - Case Studies in the Philippines. Her first book Philippine Biodiversity Conservation: Theories and Practice (2006) has inspired her to explore more in depth how tourism in protected areas and other ecologically sensitive destination areas has affected the traditional livelihoods and sustainable use of natural resources in the Philippines. She also hopes to complete a book chapter, “Zoo tourism and conservation of threatened species: A collaborative program in the Philippines” for Zoo and Tourism: Conservation, Education, Entertainment. She is in the last phase of a collaborative research with Malaysia’s Institute of Medical Research on developing a conceptual framework on the sustainable management of coastal recreational water and impact on human health. Corazon is ‘research active’ and has published 4-5 academic papers in 2009. She coordinates and teaches core units in both the Tourism and Peace and Development programs.

Poll Theerapappisit

Poll Theerapappisit has worked with UWS as a tenured lecturer since 2001. His background was in a wide range of practice over 10 years in architecture, landscape, urban design, urban and regional planning as well as real estate and project management. He teaches Tourism Policy and Planning, Cultural Heritage Tourism and Indigenous Tourism. His research studies in the last 10 years have been in multi-disciplinary fields linking tourism, cultural studies, planning and development ethics. His concepts of Buddhist ethical applications in tourism planning in the Mekong region have been cited in the two key texts; Tourism Ethics (Fennell, 2007) and Codes of Ethics in Tourism: Practice, Theory, Synthesis (Fennell & Malloy, 2007) as well as in a few refereed papers. His first book, Planning Mekong Tourism (VDM, 2008), is based on his Ph.D. thesis. It investigates how ethnic communities in Thailand, as a target tourist destination in the Greater Mekong Subregion, considered the development impacts and local participation in the tourism planning process. His current research theme is about peace through tourism: a new Buddhist approach to tourism planning and policy, combining the concepts of ethical planning approaches and collaborative stakeholder participation models with cultural mapping interpretations.

Julie Wen

Before Julie joined the Tourism Group in the University of Western Sydney in May 1999, she worked in China as a lecturer at Zhongshan University, assistant manager of the Longshan Scenic Area in Guangdong Province, a management consultant, and a hotel manager. She was also the marketing manager of a construction company in Hong Kong. In Brisbane, she worked for the Queensland Department of Economic Development and Trade, and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. Julie undertook her PhD study at the University of Queensland, focusing on tourism in regional economic development, conservation and decentralisation. She has published on the evaluation of natural resources, tourism development in protected areas, and spatial distribution of tourism. Her current research interests include tourism management, environmental economics, sustainability issues, modelling of regional economy, China economic reform, Taoism, Asia studies, human resource management, and international business.
**Other SoSS News**

Jack Barbalet has recently returned from a trip to Lisbon, Portugal, where he was working with an inter-disciplinary team of sociologists, psychologists and economists planning a cross-national research project on emotional elements in economic decision-making. While there, he presented a seminar, *Disrupting - and constructing - theory: Explorations of Weber, Passions and Profits*, at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, New University of Lisbon.

Industry guests who are UWS Tourism graduates were invited to share their experiences in the tourism industry with our first-year tourism students in the unit *Introduction to the Tourism System*. They included Dean Long from Tourism NSW (pictured on the right), Diane Barrera from Parramatta City Council and Fatimah Bahmad from Crowne Plaza, together with current PhD student Garth Lean who has also worked for Tourism NSW in the past.

In the final week of first semester, Jackie Simpson, Careers Education Consultant, from the Careers and Cooperative Education unit at UWS presented Career Mapping ideas to the first-year tourism students. She provided the students with some very useful advice for seeking work experience, selecting electives (or choosing majors/sub-majors) that will match well with their prospective career path.

**Q & A with Deborah Stevenson**

Deborah is the Head of the School of Social Sciences.

1. **What album is in your CD player at the moment?** Too embarrassing to say.
2. **What was your dream job growing up?** Journalist.
3. **If you could have dinner with any politician, present or past, who would it be?** Paul Keating.
4. **Favourite thing to do in your spare time?** Work.
5. **What three words would you use to describe yourself?** I'll leave that to others!
6. **Fiction or non-fiction?** Fiction.
7. **If you could have a free ticket to any city in the world, where would it be?** Currently, it would be Damascus but that's research related...otherwise, New York.
8. **Beatles or rolling stones?** Rolling Stones.
9. **Most interesting topic you researched for an essay/paper?** They've all been interesting but the Sydney Olympic Games was probably the most fun.
10. **Any “academic crushes” you’d like to share?** John Urry and Stuart Hall.
11. **Are people inherently good or evil?** Good.
12. **Internet sites you visit when procrastinating?** Google, newspapers and real estate.
13. **The book that changed my life was…** Academic: The Anatomy of Capitalist Societies: The Economy, Civil Society and the State (John Urry); Fiction: Wuthering Heights (Emily Bronte).
14. **It’s not intellectual, but the TV show I secretly love is…** Life on Mars (British version with John Simm and Phillip Glenister not the American remake).
15. **If I wasn’t me, I’d like to be…** I really have no idea.

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.