

# RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

## Hot Science Global Citizens

Dr Fiona Cameron, Professor Robert Hodge and Associate Professor Brett Neilson from the Centre for Cultural Research are collaborating with Dr Juan Salazar from the School of Communication Arts and Professor Jann Conroy from the Centre for Plant and Food Science to explore the role of museums in supporting climate change interventions, through an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Project. To do this study, the team has partnered with the Powerhouse Museum, Museum Victoria, Australian Museum, Questcon, Liberty Science Centre (USA), University of Melbourne, and University of Leicester (UK).

'Climate change is a serious global risk affecting all citizens and needing a response from everyone' says Dr Cameron. 'The science of climate change is complex, and the related social and cultural climate is just as complex. Australia's important role in the global response to climate change means the Australian community needs to understand the complex issues involved. This project will investigate the roles and agency of the museum sector (science and natural history museums and science centres) in climate change interventions. In particular, it focuses on how institutions might mediate between the various sectors and communities to prepare Australians as global citizens to participate more fully in climate change decisions and interventions.'

The research team will use cultural theory to analyse issues and reframe thinking about museums, citizenship, and climate change as a cultural problem. This will be complemented by a series of data collection and analysis activities, including surveys, interviews and focus groups. The researchers will build a more complete picture of the



current climate change debate, and how different players influence that debate through document and website analysis, observation of museum exhibitions, and evaluation of sample interventions.

This project will benefit Australian communities by building capacity to effectively respond to and make informed decisions about climate change. It will develop institutional capacity to communicate high-level state-of-the-art knowledge about climate change thus arming Australia to contribute to global action against climate change.

**Project Title:** Global Citizenship and the Agency of the Museum Sector in Climate Change Interventions  
**Funding has been set at:** \$570,000 ARC, plus \$175,500 partner cash and \$626,439 in-kind.  
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**May 2008**