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Argent, Neil - University of New England

Bringing the bush to the city to get the city to go bush: An examination of the 'Country Week' programme

According to conventional wisdom, the demographic futures of the Sydney region and inland New South Wales are diametrically opposed. As the primary destination for Australia's immigration intake, Sydney faces ongoing robust population growth and, according to high profile commentators like the Premier, Bob Carr, unsustainable pressures on regional infrastructure (e.g. roads, public transport, sewerage) and the environment. On the other hand, inland New South Wales is often thought to be caught in a downward spiral of net migration loss and associated demographic and economic decline. The reality is much more complex than this stereotype but one solution to the problems of both regions, perceived or otherwise, is the release of the population pressure within Sydney via increased out-migration to rural New South Wales. This paper considers a recent attempt to encourage greater migration from Sydney to rural areas. 'Country Week', which held its inaugural event in 2004, is largely a private sector marketing exercise designed to make interested Sydney residents aware of the career and lifestyle opportunities available in NSW rural towns and cities. The paper provides an outline of the 'Country Week' concept, describes the characteristics of the registered visitors to the 'Country Week' event and compares these to 'typical' counterurbanisation migrants. It concludes with an examination of the programme's success in attracting Sydney residents to rural regions, observing that there is considerable potential for promotional programmes such as 'Country Week' to bring needed population and, importantly, to fill labour and skills shortages to inland New South Wales.

Argent, Neil - University of New England

Perceived density, social interaction and morale in New South Wales communities

Much research has focused upon the pressures facing rural communities from processes of demographic, economic and technological change. However, little research to date has sought to relate rural community viability to the relationship between social interaction patterns and networks, on the one hand, and local population density (a statistical measure of people per spatial unit) or the more complex and abstract notion of 'perceived' density, on the other. Using data gathered from three New South Wales rural communities, each representative of either a high, low or median (and stable) density community, this paper explores the relationships between rural population density - and changes in it over time - and feelings of overcrowding, isolation, morale and perceptions of community viability.

Argent, Neil - University of New England
Smailes, Peter - University of Adelaide
Griffin, Trevor - University of Adelaide

Tracing the Density Impulse: An Analysis of the Factors Underlying Rural Population Density Across South-Eastern Australia, 1981-2001

The authors' previous research has established that the density of rural population has an important and independent effect upon the social, economic and cultural vitality and viability of Australian rural communities. In this paper we treat rural density as a dependent variable, itself produced by a wide variety of more fundamental conditions reflective of the potential of the local environment to yield a living to a local population and/or the residential attractiveness of a given environmental setting to people drawing an income from elsewhere. The causal model comprised of these factors explains a substantial proportion of the variance of rural density across the study area of south-eastern Australia (n = 414 communities), with four variables accounting for the majority of its explanatory power: median annual rainfall, farm productivity, ruggedness of terrain and remoteness. Given the internal heterogeneity of the study area in relation to land use, economic base and environmental setting, the model was applied to different 'zones of occupance' following cluster analysis. Perhaps surprisingly, the round of testing revealed that the model was strongly supported in both 'multifunctional countryside' and 'agricultural heartland' zones. The addition of an amenity variable to the model lifts its explanatory power, particularly in 'multifunctional countryside' zones, helping to explain the contrasting, and diverging, trajectories of change in contemporary rural Australia

Askew, Louise - University of Newcastle

Practising a whole-of-government approach to human service provision

The forms of restructuring dominant in the current world political economy have come to be represented by the term neoliberalism. In the arena of social policy, neoliberalism has had particular discursive and material influences on service delivery characterised by whole-of-government approaches, partnerships, community-based programmes and the activation and responsabilisation of citizens. Much of the literature on current social policy trace such shifts as linear, determined and inexorable realisations of neoliberalism through an epochal transformation from "government" to "governance". As a result, research concerning social policy and programmes has primarily addressed issues of "success" or "failure" in the transformation process. This paper argues that a developed concept of governmentality that takes into account social relations allows for an exploration of neoliberalism as a complex, multiple, historical and partial project facilitating research on social policy and programmes as inherently contextual and variable. In particular, the paper utilises Families First, a NSW Government initiative aimed at the improved provision of services to communities and families with children 0-8 years, as a particular "moment" in current social policy shifts. Families First is approached as a governmental programme in the making that acts to both reinforce and challenge the neoliberalising political economy.

Atherley, Kim - University of Western Australia

Challenges for Community Capacity and Threats to Local Community Identities in Rural Australia

Over recent decades there has been much political and public consideration for the social and economic well-being of Australian rural communities, many of which are in a state of decline. During this time Australian governments have increasingly focused on implementing policies that advocate rural community sustainability and self-reliance. Associated with these policies (even if only in a rhetorical sense) is the notion of 'capacity building', which has become a central component in the debates about rural community development. This paper considers the nature of community capacity, together with the factors that facilitate or impede the maintenance or development of this quality. It draws on a case study of two small rural communities in the wheatbelt region of Western Australia, and focuses on the viability of mainstream sporting clubs. High levels of community capacity are illustrated despite the communities having endured the impacts of rural restructuring over recent decades. The paper also addresses the impacts of broader economic political agendas, arguing that challenges to local community identities, and threats to 'social' and 'emotional' capital are evident.

Baker, Robert - University of New England

Australia's Poor Global Internet Connectivity: Is it Bad News for Telstra?

There is a global Internet demand wave circumnavigating the Earth every twenty-four hours. This wave has been studied previously in a global network and for the first time in 2004, an Australian monitoring site (caia.swin.edu.au) was included in the network. The results showed that this monitoring site in Melbourne had the worst global connectivity for 2004. The phase statistic of 0.754 (ranging from zero for excellent to one for very poor global connectivity) was a significant outlier in the distribution of the 31 monitoring sites. The next worst performer was rainbow.inp.nsk.su in Novosibirsk (near the Russian-Kazakhstan border) with a statistic of 0.417. This paper will present the techniques developed to study Internet exchanges using data from the Stanford Linear Accelerator Centre's (SLAC) global network. Further, it will discuss whether the Melbourne result is an anomaly or whether there is a general problem for sites in Australian capital cities and/or in non-metropolitan areas. This is of particular interest with the debate on the full-sale of Telstra.

Baker, Robert - University of New England

Is Tasmania Sinking since the Mid-Holocene? Reviewing Fixed Biological Evidence from Tasmania

Inter-continental comparisons of relatively stable shorelines using specific fixed inter-tidal (FBI) species between Australia, South America and Southeast Asia indicate a possible common mid- to late-Holocene fluctuating relative sea-level. This position is supported by longitudinal and latitudinal inter-continental transects and analysis of former Holocene shorelines. This paper reviews evidence obtained from Tasmania (42° S lat) to see whether there is a coincidence in the time-elevation data with the periodicity and rapidity of the change suggested in other southern hemisphere sites. The results suggest that the assumptions and models of hydro-isostatic rebound need to be re-evaluated because such FBI evidence does not correspond with current predictions.

Bardsley, Douglas - Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation

Planning for biodiversity conservation within anthropogenic landscapes during an era of rapid climate change

Climate change projections for South Australia in 2030 suggest there could be substantial reductions in spring rainfall, shorter growing seasons, and increasing frequencies of hot days and droughts. While anthropogenic systems will be relatively adaptable to the changing environment, native ecosystems could be particularly vulnerable to rapid climate change. The ability of native species and ecosystems to remain within bioclimate envelopes by migrating along climatic gradients will be a vital component of any adaptive response. Relying on the reserve system alone, as a basis for biodiversity conservation, will become increasingly inadequate within many landscapes. Yet ecosystem fragmentation ensures that dispersal routes will be severely disrupted without research, planning and action to create and conserve ecological linkages and buffers. Directions for ecological research and landscape planning will need to respond to this challenge. In particular, strong arguments can be made for substantial increases in regeneration and subsequent conservation of largely underrepresented ecosystems within landscapes. As the value of on-farm habitat restoration is recognised as an increasingly vital component of such a landscape approach to conservation planning, forms of compensation will need to be developed and specifically directed to landholders for the provision of social goods and environmental services.

Bartel, Robyn - University of New England

The Moral Architecture of Environmental Regulation

Land clearance in Australia has changed dramatically both the nature of the landscape and the culture of the humans living in the landscape. Land clearance has been regarded as beneficial and, through the institution of property, landholders have come to consider themselves as sole occupiers, rights-holders and beneficiaries. Other consequences of land clearance; declining biodiversity, the enhanced greenhouse effect and water and land degradation, are far from beneficial. Satellite remote sensing has contributed much to our understanding of the extent and effects of land clearance, and is also now assisting in the enforcement of a new institution: the criminalization of unpermitted clearance. By introducing conservation as a private responsibility land clearance regulations have crossed the tenure boundary while maintaining the division between the natural and the human. Enforcing this latter divide may be counter productive to the aims of the laws. Is it right to criminalize an activity that has been seen as productive and desirable? Are there further questions about our appreciation of the nature of human activities, or their “unnaturalness”, which deserve consideration? And how can the utilisation of satellite technology help or hinder us in this endeavour? This paper will address these questions and promote an answer that seeks to rehabilitate the distinction that past human institutions have drawn between the human and the natural.

Bedford, Richard - University of Waikato
Didham, Robert
Ho, Elsie
Hugo, Graeme

Maori internal and international migration at the turn of the century: An Australasian perspective

By the beginning of the twenty-first century there were two major national clusters of Maori: New Zealand, the ancestral home for Maori, and Australia, home to a much smaller Maori population from the early years of the nineteenth century. In the 2001 censuses of New Zealand and Australia, the usually resident Maori populations were, respectively, 526,281 (ethnic group classification) and 72,954 (ancestry classification). In this paper we examine dimensions of Maori internal and international population movement between 1996 and 2001 using the census data from New Zealand and Australia. There has never been a comprehensive assessment of Maori migration in an Australasian context before but, in the light of developments in population exchanges between New Zealand and Australia, this sort of analysis is critical if one wishes to understand contemporary Maori population dynamics. The paper builds on an earlier analysis of a Maori mobility transition by Bedford and Pool (2004). Bedford, R.D. and Pool, I. (2004) Flirting with Zelinsky in Aotearoa/New Zealand: a Maori mobility transition. In J. Taylor and M. Bell (eds) Population Mobility and Indigenous Peoples in Australasia and North America, London: Routledge Taylor and Francis Group, 44-74.

Burns, Judith - University of New England
Chenery, Cliff - Burns Aldis Community Development Consultants

Community development or bust? Regional partnership approaches to Indigenous disadvantage

The former ATSI Murdi Paaki Regional Council, located in far western and north-western NSW, has been a leader in the area of regional autonomy for Aboriginal people, with all this entails not only for service delivery but also for governance. Regional Council's objective of autonomous decision-making informed the Regional Council's early Regional Agreement process with the NSW Government for the provision of housing and associated services, through the vehicle of the Community Working Party. More recently, the regional approach facilitated the initiation of the River Towns Project in partnership with the NSW Premier's Department, through its Regional Co-ordination Management Groups, and the pilot COAG co-ordination project. What changes has this partnership approach brought about? This paper argues that a uniformly conceived regional approach to co-ordination, when applied across a region characterised by uneven development of leadership and governance capacity from locality to locality, will inevitably underachieve.

Burns, Judith - University of New England

Roots are stronger than branches: residential mobility and place attachment among Aboriginal people in western NSW

Although mobility among Aboriginal people has been described as their 'greatest traditional asset', the geographical literature is characterised by a dearth of systematic investigations of Aboriginal residential mobility. This paper reports on an attempt to remedy this situation. The paper discusses the background to, and presents preliminary results of, a study examining residential mobility among Aboriginal people within the former ATSI Murdi Paaki region of far western NSW. The overall study focuses on spatial and temporal patterns of residential mobility, the historical and contemporary influences that shape both mobility and belonging, the value of mobility to Aboriginal people, and the implications of mobility for access to services, especially housing. The paper itself provides an overview of the historical context within the study region and a summary of patterns of mobility in the region, derived from ABS Census data, together with the findings of an initial round of qualitative interviews.

Childs, IrAPHNE - Queensland University of Technology
Hastings, Peter - Queensland University of Technology

Geography at QUT: opportunities taken and constraints overcome

The paper focuses on the constraints encountered in developing and introducing a strong geography discipline program, with a distinctive regional focus, within a university of technology. The paper briefly covers the history of teaching geography at QUT, having grown from being primarily in the Faculties of Education and Arts but now linked to Science, Planning and Mapping Sciences through co-major arrangements. Major obstacles to the development of Geography within the QUT environment are outlined including: practical aspects of working in a multi-campus setting; limited staff resources; policy obstacles to discipline identification and labelling; faculty-wide downgrading of discipline-based majors as opposed to “trans-disciplinary” majors. Strategies utilised by the QUT geography team in overcoming these constraints have included: cross-faculty linkages to secure the necessary breadth of program by incorporating units (particularly GIS /RS) from other faculties; establishing “co-majors” in other degree programs to increase the “value” of geography at QUT; team-teaching; flexible-delivery options and on-line resources. The program has also been designed to address QUT graduate outcome requirements. While the development and establishment of the current geography program at QUT has been somewhat of a struggle in the past, the QUT institutional context has provided opportunities to create a distinctive and innovative geography program.

Collis, Christy - Queensland University of Technology

Renovating Australia’s Antarctic Homes: Australian Polar Spatialities in the 1980s

In the early 1980s, Australia’s three permanent Antarctic stations—Mawson, Davis, and Casey—were in poor physical condition: originally constructed in the 1950s, the stations were showing signs of wear in Antarctica’s brutal conditions. At the same time, Australia’s massive and contested sovereignty claim to 42% of Antarctica was coming under increasing legal and geopolitical challenge as the potential for polar mineral extraction attracted attention to the South. For these two reasons, the Australian Antarctic Division decided to rebuild its three stations: the new stations would reflect Australia’s continuing commitment to modern Antarctic research and settlement; they would also fulfil the legal sovereignty requirement of building and maintaining colonies in imperially-claimed territories. The new stations, however, were not met with delight by Australian Antarcticans, many of whom perceived these new polar spaces as installing the ‘wrong’ types of spatiality in the Australian Antarctic Territory. By attending to the station rebuild debates and outcomes, this paper considers the cultural geographies of these Australian Antarctic ‘homes’, focussing particularly on the shift from the imperial spatiality of territorial exploration and claim to the colonial spatiality of permanent settlement. How have the rebuilt stations impacted Australian Antarctic spatiality?

Conacher, Arthur - University of Western Australia

Sustainable Management Of Land Degradation: The Example Of Secondary, Dryland Salinity In South-Western Australia

Problems of land degradation are both widespread and complex. However, solutions are often piecemeal, focussing on only one issue. There are several reasons for this. They include the structures of the bureaucracy dealing with the problems, the (usually) narrow focus of political decision-makers, costs, and ignorance. This situation is illustrated with reference to the serious problem of secondary soil and water salinity in southwestern Australia. Two 'solutions' are currently in vogue: planting extensive areas of farmland with plantations of Tasmanian blue gums (*E. Globulus*), and constructing hundreds of kilometres of deep drains. These solutions focus on only one land degradation problem. Likewise, they focus on only one cause — rising groundwater tables resulting from land use change. Amongst the consequences is the introduction of a range of new (for each affected area) social (depopulation), economic (for both individuals and the region), and environmental problems (soil degradation and the spread of acidic and saline waters on to adjacent lands, waterways and wetlands). Further, the 'solutions' do not treat a broad array of other problems of land degradation (including reduced soil quality, the spread of agricultural weeds, and eutrophication of water bodies), and may even make them worse. This kind of situation is not unique to this particular problem in this particular part of the world. What can be done? It is suggested that scientists need to educate the decision-makers and managers.

Connell, John -

The Global Health Care Chain: Winners and Losers

Forty years after Gish and Mejia first sounded the alarm about the brain drain of health workers, once localised movements have become more global involving new players, including Cuba, the Pacific islands and perhaps China. The expanded EU has brought new European players such as Poland. Nurses especially are migrating, particularly from sub-Saharan Africa, at some cost to local health systems already affected by structural adjustment. The Philippines has almost literally 'sold out'. The 'remedies' that Gish and others once considered, centred on compensation, have been ignored, and unreasonable faith is being placed on remittances and the diaspora, and the new mantra of 'managed migration', originating from the Caribbean, has scarcely been implemented. After almost half a century the broad winners and losers are much the same but there are now more of the latter.

Connell, John - University of Sydney
Gibson, Chris - University of New South Wales
Brennan-Horley, Chris - University of New South Wales

The Parkes Elvis Revival Festival: invented tradition, economic development and contested place identities in rural Australia

This paper discusses the annual Elvis Revival Festival in the small town of Parkes, in rural Australia. It highlights the way in which a remote place with few economic prospects has created tourism, and subsequently captured national publicity, through a festival based around commemoration of the birthday of Elvis Presley, a performer who had never visited Australia, let alone Parkes, nor had any other links to the town. The Festival began instead in the early 1990s, when a keen Elvis fan rallied promoters around the idea of bringing Elvis impersonators to the town for an annual celebration. Since then, the Festival has grown in size, with notable economic impact. Parkes now trades on its association with Elvis, an 'invented' tradition linked to place. Yet the festival is not without its tensions. The performances, images and traditions generated by the festival challenge those who wish to promote Parkes through more austere, sober notions of place and identity. This case study demonstrates how 'tradition' is constructed in places (rather than being innate), how small places, even in remote areas, can develop economic activities through festivals, and create new identities – albeit contested.

Cotter, Maria - University of New England
Davidson, Iain - University of New England
Members of the Gamilaraay (Kamilaroi) community

Indigenous natural resource use in northern New South Wales: Perspectives gained from the Gamilaraay Resource Use Project

The Gamilaraay Resource Use Project is focussed on the documentation of modern and historical Aboriginal knowledge of natural resources in the Namoi, Gwydir and Border River catchments of northern New South Wales. The project has been designed and coordinated by members of the Gamilaraay community of northern NSW in full partnership with academic researchers and the government agency (Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources) responsible for land use decisions in Gamilaraay country. In this region of rural New South Wales such traditional life-ways are generally publicly perceived as being lost. Yet it is readily identifiable that Aboriginal traditional ecological knowledge within Gamilaraay country is substantial, and of continuing social and cultural importance to the Gamilaraay community. It is also readily identifiable that this knowledge has been maintained despite an ever-increasing decline in access to such culturally important resources. We broadly discuss some of our research findings in the context of a changing bureaucratic landscape both in terms of resource management, and Indigenous representation in New South Wales.

Cox, Shaphan - Curtin University of Technology

North of the Line: The demonisation of Northbridge (WA) and the exclusion of Aboriginal and 'Asian' youth

The area now known as Northbridge (Perth, Western Australia) has consistently battled against its stigmatisation as an area of ethnic concentration, illegal activities and crime. Separated from the CBD by the Perth to Fremantle railway line in 1880, Northbridge has since grown into a unique and diverse, yet controversial, cultural and social area. A more recent emphasis on its night-time economy and its promotion as Perth's 'premier entertainment precinct' has been largely overshadowed by its media representations and wider perceptions as Perth's 'crime capital'. The 'demonisation' of Northbridge in the media where 'Asian' gang fights and 'anti-social' Aboriginal youth have come to symbolise the perceived dangers of the night-time trade, has plagued the redevelopment of a typically blighted inner city area that, equally typically, began to boom in the 1980's. Coinciding with the world-wide shift in zeitgeist with regard to inner city renewal in Western Cities, Northbridge is being heavily promoted and re-developed in commercial and political terms as a vibrant cosmopolitan living and meeting area. However, the extent to which Northbridge continues to draw controversial and negative headlines within the Western Australian media, against the backdrop of a recent government youth curfew, suggests that the plans and vision for the area are at best, 'romanticised'. The extent to which the media representation of Northbridge has focused on Aboriginal youth and, to a lesser extent 'Asian' and ethnic gangs, provide an excellent site in which to view the issues and processes involved in the exclusion of people based on 'race'.

Crabtree, Louise - Macquarie University

I can See my House from Here: Visionary Development and Stories of Obstacles to and Opportunities for Ecocity Efforts

Basic aspects of sustainable housing design such as increasing density, mixed use and proximity to public transport, are being increasingly adopted in Australian cities. Sustainable building codes such as NSW's BASIX and Victoria's Green Star rating systems are also being implemented and advanced. More substantial improvements and endeavours such as onsite food production, energy generation and waste treatment, are being increasingly seen as necessary for urban sustainability, yet little is being done to institutionalise or normalise these through the housing system. Similarly, social sustainability concerns identify the need for mixed, flexible tenure and dwelling types, with again little uptake despite evidence of demand. Given that we seem to know what needs doing, this paper investigates two ecologically and socially sound community-based housing developments in Australia, with a view to finding what helped or hindered these efforts and what may further the uptake of sustainable design. Assessment of the uptake of sustainable planning initiatives reveals a decidedly neoliberal agenda, shying away from the more substantial challenges to this that ecocity design and community-based enterprise may represent.

Curry, George - Curtin University of Technology
Koczberski, Gina - Curtin University

Privileging 'place' over nation in contemporary Papua New Guinea

Recent socio-political trends in Papua New Guinea have opened up a space for a robust (re-)assertion of local place-based identities that, until recently, were submerged within the postcolonial identity of the nation state. This re-assertion of local identity is challenging state authority and is exemplified by the growing intolerance of migrants by customary landowners at migrant destination sites throughout the country. This is occurring at a time when increasing numbers of Papua New Guineans are moving from areas of rural disadvantage to locations offering greater economic opportunities and better services. Drawing on several examples we discuss how emerging local/regional identities which emphasise "customary rights" in relation to place, land and resource control are pitting customary landowners against migrants and undermining the citizenship rights of the latter. We conclude by reflecting on how the process of development and 'modernisation' is being negotiated by Papua New Guineans.

Curtis, David - University of New England

Rural festivals and environmental sustainability

Despite over twenty years of government intervention, Australia's environment continues to worsen in several key areas such as soil salinity, urban sprawl, the greenhouse effect, water quality, and biodiversity. These issues require the engagement and participation of the whole of society if they are to be reversed, however, existing programs and development strategies from the government, non-government and private sectors are failing to achieve this level of engagement. Only limited attention is usually given to the cultural elements which reduce the efficacy of conventional modes of promoting change, or of using cultural elements to effectively create change. This paper suggests that the visual and performing arts have a valuable role in improving long term environmental sustainability in Australia. It does this through an analysis of four case study events which combine the arts and the environment: The Two Rivers Festival (Gunnedah), The Bungawalbin Wetlands Festival (North Coast NSW), Nova-anglica - the web of our endeavours (Armidale), and The Plague and the Moonflower (Armidale). These events show that the arts can have a powerful effect in enlarging audiences to environmental messages, engaging and mobilising communities, celebrating the natural environment, engaging the emotions, and creating behavioural changes. Comparisons will be made between these events and events elsewhere in Australia and overseas.

Dewar, Neil - University of Capetown

'A River Runs Through It': Investigation of The Potential Claim of a Landscape For Certification as a Cultural Heritage Artefact

Cultural heritage is a hotly contested issue in the 'new' South Africa, given its potential to build unity, identity and pride or, conversely, to generate tension, division and conflict. Recognizing cultural heritage is integral to heritage conservation and management. The National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) mandates that any element of the 'national estate' accorded cultural heritage status in terms of the Act has a management plan developed for it as a prerequisite for its conservation. A community based organization (CBO) commissioned the author to investigate the potential of the Liesbeeck River in metropolitan Cape Town for certification as a cultural resource as part of their strategy to ensure its conservation through officially sanctioned management. The investigation is located within a theoretical framework that addresses the nature and significance of culture and heritage and how these can be used and abused. The problematic of how landscapes might be deemed cultural heritage is discussed using such concepts as genius loci and topophilia. Methodology included archival research, field analysis, questionnaires, interviews, cognitive mapping and the application of evaluative criteria. Ultimately it was concluded that the river and its littoral would not meet the criteria required to have it declared a cultural heritage resource but that its characteristics and history could be 'packaged' to satisfy various markets through interpretation initiatives which would also serve to inform future policy and management.

Dowling, Robyn - Macquarie University

Pink Ceilings and Lime Green Walls: Style and Comfort in Sydney Homes

Home interiors have never been a more popular topic of discussion in Australian life. Here, as elsewhere, there is a plethora of television shows, magazines, books and newspaper discussions devoted to the inside of Australian houses, as well as a series of more 'everyday' discussion of the materialities of home. This paper makes an intervention into these discussions by considering the ways issues of taste, family and comfort intersect. My argument is that though style and family are commonly opposed in most contemporary discussions, their connections and disjunctures are rather more complex than a simple opposition. Family homes are, instead, created and maintained through networks, social relations and materialities of style. I make this argument through a series of interviews with residents of project homes in suburban Sydney.

Duffy, Michelle - University of Melbourne
Sharpe, Scott - UNSW@Australian Defence Force Academy

Refraining dislocation: the use of rhythm and music in the constitution and orientation of subjects-in-place

With the advent of post-structuralism in human geography much attention has been given to the project of 'mapping the subject.' Consistent with this project, our interest is in the formation of ourselves as subjects-in-place, specifically examining the affective and embodied processes that constitute subjectivity in ways that lie outside of language. With dislocation being a major theme in a so-called globalised world, we examine extra-linguistic strategies that allow a creation and maintenance of embodied subjects that are momentarily oriented to place. One of these strategies is the production and reproduction of music and rhythm. This paper draws on two different and at times conflictual theoretical perspectives: Kristeva's semiotic and Deleuze and Guattari's concept of the refrain. Drawing on excerpts from the feature films 'Shine' and 'Little Voice', we utilize Kristeva's 'semiotic' to show the fundamental role of the bodily drives and affective states in the creation of a so-called rational spatially-aware subject. While in geography Deleuze and Guattari is more well-known for their concept of nomadism as the correlate for smooth as opposed to striated space, here we draw on their concept of the refrain to show how music and rhythm can give the semblance of structure and order to overcome the dislocation of contemporary life.

Duffy, Michelle - University of Melbourne

Boolarrians, Strzelecki Stringbusters, and Jack Daniels: theorizing the constitution of a local rural community through music

The significance of music to the developing literature on festivals is that it is a practice that informs, creates and shapes our perceptions of a place in ways that are quite different to the theoretical and methodological frameworks that rely on visual or textual data. Most studies produce texts arising out of ethnographic practices that tell us how people think the world is, that is, these texts are representative. What these sorts of studies don't tell us is how people do things, how people constitute their worlds through sensing and experiencing. Our engagement with music offers a means to analyse non-representational practices of how we imagine the self in relation to other selves, and the spaces in which those selves interact. Moreover, music demonstrates the continuity and discontinuity of our subjectivity; we are immersed in its sounds and can either be drawn into its 'participatory discrepancies, [which] gives you that participation consciousness' (Keil and Feld 1994: 22), or we can feel alienated, separate, even violated. This paper will explore how the emotional responses to the music performances of a small folk festival in Gippsland contribute to creating as well as disrupting spaces of local community identity, social cohesion and feelings of belonging.

Duffy, Rae - University of New South Wales

Governmentalities of rural public housing in Australia

In Australia there is extensive research available analysing the impact of social and economic changes brought about by shifts in liberal governmental rationalities and how this has impacted on rural communities. However, to date there has been limited work, except that identifying the need for research to be undertaken (Jones and Tonts, 2003), which investigates the role of housing in the governmentalities of rural communities especially that of public housing. This paper aims to present a preliminary analysis of interviews conducted with those involved in public housing in the rural town of Griffith in south-western New South Wales. In particular, the paper seeks to outline the role of public housing spaces in the ongoing evolution of governing knowledges in this rural community, looking at how both administrators and tenants of public housing have negotiated broader policy changes in the provision of this form of welfare.

Duguman, John - University of Newcastle

Momtaz, Salim - University of Newcastle

Gladstone, William - University of Newcastle

Critical Evaluation of Integrated Conservation and Development Programmes in PNG: A Case Study Approach

Preliminary review of four Integrated Conservation and Development projects (ICDP) in Papua New Guinea (PNG) has revealed deficiencies in the implementation of ICDP. While these are similar to others in the developing countries introduced by multilateral financial institutions (MFI), development agencies and conservation organisations, the socio – cultural and political settings in PNG provides planning and development of them to be innovative. Using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methodology in four case studies, the community, provincial and national government's views are discussed and suggestions are provided that would enhance the sustainability of the ICDPs. Available data from other related projects in PNG reiterate the ICDP rationale that proponents of ICDP must be equipped to provide community incentives such as economic enterprise while overseeing biodiversity conservation, but the approach need to be appropriate following a project workplan that is conducive to the community. Better relationships with all tiers of government and a definite exit strategy must be built into the plan. Additionally, project managers must have a broader appreciation of the socio – political, economic and cultural settings of the community together with a genuine willingness to work with the communities. This approach and considerations, if undertaken initially would result in sizable time and expenses saved. Communities would own this approach and not consider it alien to their own sustainable livelihoods. In summary, the implementation of these ICDP must have socio – political structures of communities embedded in decisions. And, together with these, strengthened relationships and exit strategies linking together with Local Level and Provincial Governments would make them more beneficial to the intended communities.

Dunn, Kevin - University of New South Wales

Repetitive and troubling discourses of nationalism in the local politics of mosque development in Sydney, Australia

The contested nature of multiculturalism in Australia is stark in local debates over mosque developments in Sydney. Queer theory concepts ('citation', 'repetition', 'sedimentation' and 'troubling') are used to reveal the differing utilities of discourses about multiculturalism at this everyday level. Neo-conservatives oppose the declining normativity of Anglo-Celtic culture and nostalgically invoke 'White (or Anglo-Celtic) Australia'. Mosque opponents are both limited and empowered by this discourse of nationalism. The official recognition of Australia's multicultural composition, and the shift in rhetoric on national identity, have provided a counter ideology to the still hegemonic constructions of an Anglo-Celtic-Australia. Muslim associations and their supporters have drawn on these symbolic tools in their arguments with planning consent authorities, and in other local political forums. Through the repetition of their claims to local and national citizenship, and by evoking the rhetoric of multiculturalism, they challenged the hegemony of Anglo-Celtic culture. A deeper and broader multiculturalism may be sedimented through the reiterative deployment of the national discourse of multiculturalism.

El Khoury, Ann - Macquarie University

The Infrapolitics of Globalism: Bringing Agency Back In

Another globalism is not only possible, it already exists. Rather than either accepting prevailing structures or simply 'resisting' them, critical agential globalists seek to create alternatives as well as the spaces for alternatives. Globalisation has opened up the possibilities for agency such that the mono-processes of corporate control, centralisation and homogenisation can be limited within a strategic diversity of practises and multiple pathways. Within the spectrum of global transformative action I examine the notion that there resides hidden histories of 'ordinary' people (re)making their worlds, including subterranean actions in the infrapolitical scale that may not be immediately visible to mainstream and hegemonic readings. Applying James C. Scott's concept of 'infrapolitics', I seek to illuminate some of these networked nodes of communities "doing things differently". I argue that it is both desirable and achievable to enact an ethic and praxis of possibility and actuality rather than merely opposition and reaction. With a heralded shift from Protest Agency to Constructivist Agency, the presentation refers to those global social movements which are alternatives-in-action rather than protest movements per se, which are both signalling and catalysing a shift from oppositional to propositional mindsets, with the associated shift in language and practices.

Emilsen, Adrian - University of New South Wales

Heartburn at the Gates of Heaven: the cultural politics of fastfoods in the Blue Mountains

This paper examines the politics of one anti-McDonald's movement in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales. Contrary to some popular representations of anti-McDonald's activists as leaders in the fight against corporate globalisation, this study found that movements against McDonald's are far more complex and are likely to include a diverse range of interests and concerns. Opposition to the proposed development of two McDonald's restaurants in the Blue Mountains sparked a lively debate that continued in the local government and media for over eight years. Residents against McDonald's felt that fastfoods were incompatible with the Blue Mountains' natural and historic qualities and 'sense of place'. The Blue Mountains was considered a 'unique', 'pure' and 'distinct' place – in vast contrast with what were perceived as the 'dirty', 'ugly' and 'corrupt' qualities of McDonald's. Alternatively, other residents argued that anti-McDonald's protesters represented the privileged interests of 'elites' and 'yuppies', neglectful of the interests of 'ordinary' and 'working' people. Through the application of theories of aesthetic distinction and symbolic capital (Bourdieu 1984, 1990), as well as a psychoanalytic understanding of place, otherness and abjection (Sibley 1995, Pile 1996, Kristeva 1982), this paper considers how urban developments can become politicised around a politics of place-identity, social class and consumption.

Fincher, Ruth - University of Melbourne
Goeder, Haydie - University of Melbourne

Home as community in medium-density Melbourne

Drawing on the narratives of housing providers (planners, developers) about medium density housing in inner Melbourne, this paper finds that the principal dimension of belonging envisaged for those living in medium density housing is their close community encounter with diverse neighbours and environments. This is in distinction to the 'home' understood to exist and be appropriate for families (adults with children) which is the suburban house with surrounding bounded land, and the form of belonging claimed for high rise apartment dwellers in the city, which is the exciting world outside the apartment of lifestyle and cosmopolitan consumption. Examples are given of medium-density housing developments in inner Melbourne that are situated by the narratives in this way.

Fitzpatrick, Bernard - Spatial 3i Pty Ltd

Barker, Tim - Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland Treasury

Spatial Imagery as strategic datasets for regional sustainability: who should provide the funds?

Spatial imagery is now recognized as a fundamental dataset for regional development and sustainability. It provides an overview of existing infrastructure and environmental assets and can be used for assessing environmental condition. It has become an important Government used dataset for regional planning exercises, support of vegetation and biodiversity legislation, policy assessment and public consultation. At the same time, there is growing commercial use of spatial imagery as a business tool for property management, crop assessment, and a business planning tool. There is a sustained call for the continued and expanded purchase and provision of spatial imagery as a Government funded exercise. However, considering the growing commercial interests of spatial imagery provision and applications, increasing social and political initiatives (including Government policy and legislative directions) for more informed and structured regional planning and formal environmental management at property and catchment scales, the question of who and how funding is provide is becoming more complex. This paper explores the Public and Private Sectors perspectives and interrelationships of spatial imagery provision and use in the context of the NLWRA, State and Local Government "State of the Environment" Reporting, Catchment Groups and the land holder for use in sustainability planning from a Queensland perspective.

Forrest, Jim - Macquarie University

Dunn, Kevin - University of New South Wales

Towards A Geography Of How People Experience Racism In Australia

Results from a UNSW/MQU Survey of Racism in eastern Australia shows that the experience of racism impacts on close to 1 in 6 Australians. More than half of these experiences comes from the workplace, but is also strong within the education sector. Degree of cross-cultural contact is used to explain this incidence. Other work based on the survey results suggests, however, a distinctive geography to the experience of racism based on variations in tolerance of minority ethnic groups which reflect a clash between Contact Theory and Conflict Theory. Other findings indicate that the experience of racism is itself culturally uneven. Using the UNSW/MQU survey results of racism in both institutional and 'everyday' settings, this paper examines such variations among people and places.

Frazier, Paul - University of New England
Prior, Julian - University of New England

Remote sensing wetland rehabilitation: providing objective data to address community concerns

Wetlands are amongst the most important and least understood environments in the world. Until recently they were seen as useless wastelands that harboured hoards of annoying or deadly insects. Large wetland reclamation programs were conducted to drain these areas and convert them to “useful land”. We now know that they are environmental hotspots with significant roles in catchment hydrology and ecology. However, community interests are often perceived to be at odds with restoration and a lack of objective data can cloud the success or otherwise of restoration attempts. In addition, the resolution of disputes between stakeholders over issues such as the condition of the resource or appropriate management actions will often require joint fact finding strategies. Such strategies should utilise objective information. This project investigates the potential of high-spatial resolution remotely sensed data (pixel size < 3 m) to provide objective information on the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs. We studied the Little Broadwater wetland located on the north-east coast of NSW. Multi-temporal Quickbird satellite imagery (pixel size < 3 m) were used to document changes in vegetation and open water on the restoration area and 2 adjacent wetlands there were not undergoing targeted environmental restoration.

Gibson, Chris - University of New South Wales
Duffy, Rae - University of New South Wales
Drozdowski, Danielle - University of New South Wales

Resident attitudes to rural land use conflicts in Northern Rivers New South Wales

In-migration to the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales has produced conflicts between rural land users. New suburban developments have been built on much of what was previously prime agricultural land, while farmers (in particular those negatively affected by the deregulation of the dairy industry) have sought to secure retirement incomes by subdividing land for development. Although developers, local councils and individual farmers sometimes see eye to eye on the mutual benefits of in-migration and population growth, land use has nonetheless become the subject of a hotly contested local political battle. Conflicts occur at the interface of growing urban developments and surrounding farmland, with new residents finding the sights, sounds and smells of rural production intrusive; and more generally in the region between environmentalists, farmers, the state, and residents (who variously contest the impacts of suburban development, land clearing and conservation initiatives). This paper discusses the results of a survey conducted as part of a final year student field school, which sought opinions from local residents about the pressures on the region’s land uses by in-migration, the future role of farmland as both economic and cultural landscape, and views on possible planning options for farmland in the region.

Gibson, Chris - University of New South Wales

Tamworth, Australia's 'country music capital': festivals, place marketing, and contradictory ruralities

Tamworth has become well known as Australia's 'country music capital'. Its annual music festival has become the leading event of its type in Australia, so much so that country music is central to the town's identity and tourism marketing. This paper examines Tamworth's transition to 'country music capital' within the context of debates about the politics of place marketing. Textual analysis of promotional material and built landscapes reveals representations of rurality. In their most commercial form (festival marketing, and associated advertising by major sponsors), these converge on a dominant, or normative 'country' that is predominantly masculine, white, working class and nationalist. But links between musical style and discourses of place are complex. Normative 'country' contrasts with other, heterogeneous ruralities in Australia. These include the lived experiences of Tamworth residents (who have become more supportive, despite early resistance to 'hick' connotations), and on stage – in country music – where multiple 'ruralised' identities are performed. The result is a complex and entangled politics of national identity, gender, race and class, where meanings for place are variously interpreted and negotiated.

Ginn, Franklin - University of Canterbury

Re-imagining nature in Aotearoa New Zealand: the Riccarton Bush collective

New Zealand's 'natural' heritage – in particular its forests, mountains and native bird and marine life - is increasingly seen as the terrain on which a unique national identity will be founded. Much work of this emerging eco-nationalist discourse has involved the historical and geographic 'fixing' of nature. This paper mobilises Actor Network Theory to problematise this (re)reading of nature. I trace the role of a heterogeneous collective of actants in the process of 'ecological restoration' in Riccarton Bush, a native forest reserve in Christchurch, on New Zealand's South Island. Exotic species were redefined from saviours to villains in a process of native 'purification'. Humans relied on negotiations with the active agency of native trees to achieve a certain vision of nature; this vision, however, was resisted by both local people and the unpredictability of non-human actors. The paper argues that Riccarton Bush needs to be understood as an evolving collective of human and non-human actors, not as a 'living museum' of nature. Such a reading of the Riccarton Bush story resists the idea that nature can provide a 'foundation' for national identity and instead offers a more placed and relational account of the relations between humans and the non-human world.

Godber, Allison - Queensland University of Technology
Hastings, Peter - Queensland University of Technology
Childs, Iraphne - Queensland University of Technology

Addressing Acceptable Flood Risk: Case Study of Guragunbah on the Gold Coast, Queensland

During the 30 years since South-East Queensland last experienced major flooding (1974), urban development has occurred at a rapid rate. Much of this recent development has been on the floodplains of coastal rivers, such as the Nerang River and around the Guragunbah Floodplain, on the Gold Coast. While development and construction generally conformed to the most accurate information about flood risk of the time, some developments are now located at elevations below today's accepted planning standard - the 1-in-100 year flood. Consequently, land-use planners and risk managers face the dual challenges of how to address the potential exposure of existing land-use to flood hazard (under policies of ecologically sustainable development), and also how to communicate risk to a community which may be largely unaware of the hazard and may hold different perceptions and interpretations of acceptable flood risk. Could differing perceptions of acceptable risk held by the local community and local government be contributing to the continued development of areas that are unacceptably hazardous from the community's point of view and to increasing vulnerability? This paper will present four potential solutions to address variations in perceptions of acceptable risk and the incorporation of community risk perceptions into land-use decision-making. Management opportunities and constraints at the local government level are addressed.

Gorman-Murray, Andrew - Macquarie University

Coming out, making home(s): gay, lesbian and bisexual youth coming out within, and without, supportive family homes

Geographic literature has largely presented the family home as an oppressive and alienating environment for GLB youth. Such research reports that homophobic abuse, violence and expulsion are not uncommon outcomes of coming out at home. While not denying the widespread reality of these experiences, little has been done to understand the experiences of young people coming out in supportive family homes. This paper begins to fill this gap, contributing to geographies of sexuality, home and the 'family'. Through reading coming out narratives written by GLB Australians, I find that parents' and siblings' positive responses to coming out underpin the creation of family homes which resist heteronormativity and actually encourage the development of GLB identities. I also find that these emerging GLB youth remap their ideas of home and belonging. While maintaining deep attachments to family, they use certain external spaces - especially support groups - to meet like others, explore same-sex desire, and affirm their emerging GLB identities. Both familial and external spaces are thus utilized in a complementary manner by these youth in the process of identity-transformation. I consequently propose that well-supported GLB youth experience both familial and certain external sites as homes, in the process creating multi-situated networks of belonging.

Griffin, Amy - UNSW@Australian Defence Force Academy
Beaty, Matt - CSIRO-Sustainable Ecosystems

A coupled social-ecological urban classification approach for Sydney

Rapid urbanisation presents significant challenges for the future social and ecological sustainability of Australian cities. Yet, only recently have scientists taken an interest in understanding how cities are organized and function as complex ecological systems. An important step towards understanding the ecological dynamics of urban areas is identifying linkages between urban spatial patterns and key social and ecological processes. In this paper, we advance this goal by presenting a detailed spatial analysis of Sydney's urban environment aimed at identifying urban patches and alternate urban development patterns. Urban patch characteristics (e.g., urban form, land use connectivity, intensity and heterogeneity) were identified and mapped using an object-oriented classification system. Environmental and social variables from urban infrastructure, socioeconomic, and biophysical datasets and high-resolution satellite imagery were considered together to identify urban patches for two time periods. We then quantified variability in urban spatial patterns along multiple dimensions using FRAGSTATS and other GIS-based landscape metrics and describe trajectories of change in the Sydney Basin. We conclude with a discussion of how results from this analysis will be used in subsequent research to assess the implications of urban landscape heterogeneity for human health and urban biodiversity.

Harte, Wendy - Queensland University of Technology
Hastings, Peter - Queensland University of Technology
Childs, Iraphne - Queensland University of Technology

Community Resilience to Fire Hazard: a case study of Imizamo Yethu informal settlement, South Africa

Sustainable Communities/Hazard Geography Imizamo Yethu is an informal settlement located in Cape Town, South Africa. The residents of Imizamo Yethu, on the whole, live in abject poverty, and are highly vulnerable to a number of environmental hazards. A fire in the settlement on the 8 February 2004 caused widespread damage to the built environment, left many people homeless and resulted in the significant loss of personal material resources. There was, however, minimal loss of life or major injuries as a result of the fire, and the community has persisted. The aim of the study was to identify the factors that enhanced the resilience of the community in the response and recovery phases of the fire. Under a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) framework, a semi-structured interview technique was used to allow self-assessment of a sample of the community with regard to their resilience. The most important finding of the study was the role of social networks, and some formal networks which foster community participation, in enhancing the community's resilience. Family and friends were the most significant in both phases; while various churches and a community centre within the settlement supported these social networks emotionally, spiritually, materially and financially. The study also found forces which threaten to erode the community's resilience, including ongoing land-rights disputes; inequitable resource allocation, and some formal networks (including emergency management agencies) which operate with minimal community consultation and participation. Several of these networks, at local and national level, have sided with individual political factions in the settlement, further eroding social cohesion and hence community resilience. The study has application in other less developed settings.

Haslam McKenzie, Fiona - Housing and Urban Research Institute of Western Australia, c/-Curtin University
Kelly, Gail - CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems

Housing Affordability Issues in Sea Change and Tree Change Communities

Sea change and tree change communities throughout Australia have unique features which are being 'discovered' by a range of people, many of whom are moneyed, wanting to escape their often busy lives, usually in urban environments, to pursue nostalgic or alternative, typically beachside or bucolic rural, lifestyles. There is a greater reliance on these communities to provide a recreational as well as a lifestyle and even a 'workstyle' alternative environment for many in urban Australia. The increased resident population together with the intensified visitor numbers to particular places creates numerous tensions. The identified issues are multi-faceted and complex. From a planning perspective, problematic issues include development pressures from population and tourism growth leading to increased property prices, lack of affordable housing and funding shortages for infrastructure. As a consequence, some long term residents and less affluent sectors of the general population find themselves either squeezed out or unable to afford to live in the community. This creates a number of difficulties, not least of which is the availability of service staff for the businesses that inevitably flourish in these transforming communities. Using a Western Australian regional case study, this paper will investigate the consequences of unaffordable housing in sea change and tree change communities from spatial and socio-economic perspectives. It will consider potential responses to the issues and discuss the plausibility of potential solutions.

Haworth, Robert - University of New England
James, Rosalind - University of New England

A 13 000 year sedimentation history from the Sydney Basin

Sediment cores were analysed taken from 10 sites from the major estuaries as well as inland wetlands of the Sydney Basin. Composite Lead-210 and Carbon-14 age profiles were constructed for most sites. These profiles have provided a framework for ongoing analysis of charcoal counts as well as pollen, phytolith, diatom, geochemical, mineralogical and magnetic susceptibility determinations in an endeavour to tease local from regional Holocene environmental changes. The pre-European environmental record was generally quiet except for two periods of change, at around 500 and 3000-4000 years BP. As well as the 3000-4000 BP disturbance zone in the estuaries, the one core that reached back to the terminal Pleistocene (Burralow Swamp in the Blue Mountains) indicated a massive fire event between 11000 and 12000 BP, and a smaller peak in indicators around 3000 BP, roughly contemporary with the indications of estuarine disturbance.

Hillman, Mick - Macquarie University

Just sustainability? Change and transition in catchment management in New South Wales

Recent changes to natural resource management in New South Wales reflect a national trend to regional scales of planning and decision-making. For example, the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) now covers an area of 37,000 km² and a population of nearly one million. Implementation of these new institutional arrangements raises issues of environmental justice and equity, issues which ultimately underpin sustainable regional management. The larger scale of management alters the biophysical and social settings within which planning and priority-setting operate, posing questions of distributive justice. Scientific tools for assessment and planning at this scale are not readily accessible, whilst the new demographic mix creates tensions between high-growth coastal areas and inland regions with static or declining populations. A radical change from stakeholder-based management to small, skills-based Boards throws up challenges for procedural justice and the question 'what's in a stake?'. In itself, the very nature of institutional change and transition risks a loss of trust, goodwill and resources. Finally, attempts to establish uniform standards under the new statewide CMA regime create a tension when set against the need for authentic place-based management.

Hirsch, Philip - University of Sydney

Transboundary water governance and issues of scale in the Mekong River Basin

The Mekong River Basin has achieved prominence among the world's more than 260 river basins that cross national boundaries, as a river and a basin that is actively managed across borders. One of the reasons for such prominence is the long-standing institutional basis for cooperation among the four lower countries of the Basin and the international support for this governance framework. At present, however, the Basin is moving toward something of a crisis of transboundary water governance. This paper explores the extent to which the problems of transboundary governance can be seen as an issue of resolving national interests of one riparian nation versus another, and the extent to which more complex arrays of interests at multiple scales need to be brought into the analysis. The paper draws on case studies of the Sesan transboundary tributary, the Chinese dams and the Thai water grid to demonstrate some of the shortcomings of the current river basin governance arrangements. It outlines a forthcoming study that will address issues of national interest in transboundary river governance by looking more closely at how these multiple national interests are constructed and at different ways of understanding the "common good" at multiple scales.

Holmes, John - University of Queensland

Complexity and Heterogeneity in Modes of Rural Occupance in the Lockyer Valley in the Transition to Multifunctionality.

The direction, complexity and pace of rural change in affluent, western societies has been conceptualised as a multifunctional transition, in which a variable mix of consumption and protection values has emerged, contesting the former dominance of production values, and leading to greater heterogeneity in rural occupance at all scales (Holmes, submitted). In Australia the transition has seen the emergence of six distinctive modes of rural occupance, identified, according to the relative precedence given to production, consumption or protection values. These occupance modes are: productivist agricultural; rural amenity; small farm (pluriactive); peri-metropolitan; marginalised agricultural; and conservation/indigenous. Of these modes, all save the peri-metropolitan, can be clearly delineated in the Lockyer Valley, with these modes being recognised and gazetted in the Laidley local government strategic planning scheme as the rural agricultural, rural residential, rural landscape and rural upland zones, respectively. Multifunctionality is leading to increased complexity and contest in the differentiated occupance of rural space. Reference: J. Holmes (submitted) Impulses towards a Multifunctional Transition in Rural Australia: Gaps in the Research Agenda (submitted to Journal of Rural Studies).

Howitt, Richard - Macquarie University

Getting the scale right? A relational scale politics of native title in Australia

The establishment of a legal doctrine of native title in Australia since its recognition in a High Court decision in 1991 has transformed relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The emerging native title system – a system of laws, tribunals and procedures framed in the Native Title Act – claims to establish an authoritative account of native title at the national scale. While the national court system’s subsequent decisions seem to have reduced the recognition space for native title in the national polity, a complex scale politics is producing a range of responses across the nation through processes of negotiation, litigation and protest. Getting the scale right is no longer simply a matter of engaging with the traditional scales of sociality and governance developed by Indigenous cultures. It is unequivocally also a matter of engaging with multiple and hybrid scales, and constructing new scales of sociality, governance and accountability. In analysing the politics of native title in terms of a relational view of scale, this paper argues that transformational new practical possibilities for Indigenous self-determination and inter-cultural engagement emerge to challenge the conventional confrontations across geographical and cultural borders.

Hughes, Rachel - University of Melbourne

Fields of memory: popular geopolitics and museum space

This paper is interested in the museum and the field, two exemplary spaces for the production of geographical knowledge. The case presented involves a national museum of genocide (a former site of incarceration) and a nearby 'killing field' in Cambodia. An examination of cultural practices designed to locate and placate the dead in Cambodia is situated within an exploration of the geographical motif of the 'killing field' in Cambodian memorialisation of past mass political violence. Film and tourism practices, as domains of popular geopolitical knowledge about Cambodia, are also interrogated in light of theorisations of the relationship between museum and field.

Instone, Lesley - Charles Darwin University

At home on the northern frontier

This paper takes as its problematic the possibilities and impossibilities of 'being at home' in Darwin. The mix of colonial and postcolonial dynamics, coupled with the vagaries of a tropical climate, create a complex setting through which to explore geographies of home. In Darwin, multiple and active frontiers – between north and south, between Australia and Asia, and between Indigenous and non-Indigenous – criss-cross the social and political landscape, underscoring the contested nature of home and belonging in the north. In order to investigate some aspects of this 'theatre of multiplicities', this paper draws on theoretical work around performativity to explore two performances of 'home' and 'being at home' in Darwin – firstly, the delineation of the home block, and secondly, the recent controversy over pool fencing legislation. I am keen to identify how both belonging and 'difference from' resonate in the 'making' of home, and how the multiple layers of 'them/us' are confronted and reinforced in the everyday flow of being at home.

James, Sarah - University of Melbourne

Closing the Climb? Negotiating Tourism at Uluru

The Climb at Uluru is a site of contest between settler and indigenous Australian over uses of space. The Traditional Aboriginal Owners of Uluru, the Anangu, do not want visitors to climb Uluru. However, despite Anangu ownership of Uluru, visitors continue to choose to and are allowed to climb it. The Climb has been a central part of the tourist experience of Uluru since it was opened to tourism, part of the settler Australian Western tradition of experiencing space. The Climb remains open, to protect tourism, and settler Australian, interests at Uluru. However, closing the Climb would not have to equate with a loss for tourist, and settler, interests in this space. If a different experience of Uluru was promoted, one in which there was no climbing, the tourist experience at Uluru would be changed rather than lost. By promoting Uluru's Anangu heritage and visitor experiences that respect this, the sharing of space at Uluru could be a negotiation rather than contest.

Jones, Roy - Curtin University of Technology

Social bandits' in place(s): identifying with - and cashing in on - Robin Hood, Ned Kelly and Louis Riel

Hobsbawm contends that rural people are, simultaneously, dependant upon and resentful of the rich and powerful members of their wider societies. This resentment can lead to local resistance by 'social bandits', such as Robin Hood, Ned Kelly and Louis Riel, but rural dependance on the cities and the wider world remains. In the modern context, while such resentment can be perpetuated through the symbolic linkage of these characters to their local and/or ethnic identities, it can also be tempered, or even nullified, by a range of complex political and financial connections between these places and national or even global identities and economies. A range of festivals: Celtic in Beechworth, Victoria; Metis (Francophone and First Nation) in Batoche, Saskatchewan and Medieval (but privileging the Anglo-Saxon over the Norman) in Edwinstowe, Nottinghamshire juggle with local, national(ist) and ethnic issues while using representations of these three 'social bandits' to bring in economic investment and tourist revenue to peripheral rural areas. This presentation will compare and contrast the ways in which these three legendary characters (at least two of whom are real) are portrayed and used as local heroes, ethnic symbols, tourist icons and/or national figures, both for local and national and for economic and political ends.

Kenna, Therese - University of New South Wales

Desperately seeking exclusion? Testing the hypothesis that master planned estates exacerbate socio-spatial exclusivity

The proliferation of master planned estates in Australia has generated much discussion and debate regarding the exclusive nature of such developments. Commentators have speculated that master planned estates are more exclusionary than traditional suburbs. Master planned estates are thought to be exacerbating segmentation and polarisation in the urban landscape, specifically creating exclusive spatial segments. Do master planned estates purposefully inculcate an image of exclusivity, and do these constructions result in socio-spatial polarisation when estates are finally built and occupied? The use of a social constructionist framework facilitated an examination of intentions, imagery and outcomes. A combination of quantitative and qualitative methods were used to analyse a specific master planned estate in Sydney – Glenmore Park. This study reveals how the established, socially constructed, image of western Sydney has been used as a platform from which an alternative – albeit exclusive and distinct – construct was advanced. The intended image that was constructed was one of residential homes in a prestigious estate for white nuclear families. The socio-spatial outcomes are largely consistent with the intentions and imagery, whereby the estate is dominated by affluent young families and Anglo-Australians. The overriding conclusion from this research is that there is an explicit connection between intentions, imagery and socio-spatial outcomes of master planned estate development.

Kirkpatrick, Jamie - University of Tasmania

Why is tree cover in suburbs strongly related to their socioeconomic status?

Trees provide many environmental and economic benefits in suburbs. Yet, tree cover in suburbs in western cities is strongly positively related to socioeconomic status. This phenomenon seems unlikely to relate to the cost of growing trees in gardens, as in most cities trees will self-establish. Nevertheless, trees can be expensive in their maintenance costs, and, especially, in their removal after they misbehave by penetrating drains or falling over. Other hypotheses that may deserve testing relate to socioeconomic variation in: the desire for privacy; the need for working space in the yard; attitudes to nature; and, aesthetic perceptions. It may even be that treeless gardens are expressions of power on the part of those who have little power in the rest of their lives.

Laffan, Shawn - University of New South Wales

Bickford, Sophie - CSIRO, Plant Industry

Analysing continental scale fern species richness patterns and their environmental correlates

We describe an approach to the analysis of continental scale fern species richness patterns and their environmental correlates. By identifying the type, strength and spatial scale of these relationships one can begin to investigate the causal processes determining species diversity. We used Geographically Weighted Regression to allow for spatially non-stationary relationships. We separately compared the species richness of ferns with the mean and standard deviation of the climatic surfaces within 50 km cells using a Gaussian sample window with bandwidths of between 100 km and 800 km. Identifying the spatial scale of a relationship is essential, but is difficult to assess because local goodness-of-fits statistics have a greater chance of achieving better relationships with smaller sample sizes than with larger ones. Consequently, we conducted a series of spatial randomisations. The first randomisation operated at the cell level, while the second randomly allocated species to cells, with the constraint that all the records for a species were must be spatially clustered. The best scale was then chosen as that which had the best local r-squared AND that was better than random for 95% of 1000 randomisations. Such an approach allows greater confidence in the results of multi-scaled, geographically local analyses.

Laffan, Shawn - University of New South Wales
Ward, Michael - Texas A&M University

Simulating the spatio-temporal dynamics of an FMD outbreak

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is one of the most economically devastating livestock diseases worldwide. It is very easily transmitted through aerosol, faeces and body tissues, and affects all cloven hoofed animals. Australia is currently free of FMD but has large feral animal and unfenced livestock populations that would be at risk if there were an outbreak, primarily pigs, cattle and sheep. Knowledge of how the disease may spread is essential to aid in any management actions. We use a susceptible-infected-recovered model implemented in a generalised cellular automata framework to assess a series of scenarios. The cellular automata approach explicitly incorporates geographic relationships, is extremely flexible and can incorporate the effects of management actions as they are implemented. We describe the results of a series of simulation studies using pig and cattle distribution data from a region of Texas, USA, an environment very similar to large regions of Australia.

Lahiri-Dutt, Kuntala - Australian National University

Indigenous people in the coal mining tracts of eastern India: From victims of development to agents of change

The adivasis (indigenous peoples) of India have been seen as 'victims of development' and represented as such in development literature. My objective in this paper is to see the adivasis as agents of change. In doing so, I emphasize the creativity of individuals and groups rather than passivity and resignation. I also reflect on what my training as a geographer can offer in reinterpreting these resistances put up by displaced groups who are indeed rooted to the local but are using non-local and even global tools that transcend artificial borders and boundaries, and explain the conflicts and tensions between local needs and non-local wants. Struggles over representation of adivasi communities in the coal-bearing tracts of the Raniganj-Jharia-Karanpura area of eastern India have intensified in recent decades as coal mining has displaced many people and has left increasingly larger ecological footprints. However, due to the scattered, project-to-project nature, and the symbolic value of coal to 'national interest', it has not generated as much attention as have the large dams. The adivasis have responded to their dispossession in various ways, and this paper narrates three local-based movements that have had varying degrees of success.

Lummani, Joachim - Curtin University of Technology

The social influences on economic decision-making by Papua New Guinea cocoa and coconut smallholders: the case of transport and marketing

This paper explores how socio-cultural factors influence smallholders' decisions regarding the transportation and marketing of cocoa and copra in PNG. Fieldwork was undertaken in Buin district, Bougainville from December 2004 to March 2005 and involved an ethnographic approach combined with quantitative surveys of 36 smallholder families residing in the district. A preliminary analysis of the data indicates that transport costs are influenced by non-economic factors, such as kinship and perceptions about the relative value of goods to be transported. The study reveals the importance of taking into account non-economic factors in the economic decision-making of smallholders. The implications for smallholder development policies will be explored.

MacDonald, Fraser - University of Melbourne

Marxism and the art of geopolitics: the later photography of Paul Strand

The emerging field of 'popular geopolitics' has revealed popular culture to be an important arena for the contest of statecraft. This shift has relocated the question of agency away from the nation-state to the popular practices and meanings of everyday life and 'ordinary' people. While welcoming this development, this paper takes a different approach. It considers 'high' art practice as a site of Cold War geopolitical tension by examining the later photography of the American modernist Paul Strand (1890-1976). As a Marxist exile from McCarthyite America, Strand spent the postwar period making apparently 'straight' photographs of rural folk cultures in Europe and Africa. Through a close visual exegesis of images from the Scottish Hebrides, I argue that Strand's modernism encoded a Marxist critique of NATO militarism.

Maeder, Karin - University of New South Wales

The partial circulation of Australian national identities: perceptions amongst Chinese students

While Australia attempts to increase its engagement with Asia, my recent experiences in China made me wonder how close the two countries really are. Talking to Chinese people I realized that Australia remains foreign because their access to knowledge is restricted by selective information. This paper outlines Masters research which focuses on the way Chinese University students who have never been to Australia perceive the country and its population. It questions how Chinese students understand what it is to be 'Australian' and what they identify as the sources of these ideas. Analyses include the way Australia is portrayed in student textbooks, the media, by native English-speakers and other sources. A review of Australians' own perceptions of identity has led to an exploration of the images that are then projected overseas. There is a focus on stereotypical imagery which partly accounts for the narrow view of Australia I found amongst Chinese students. Social construction theory provides a framework for understanding the dominance of certain themes. While there have been past studies on Chinese perspectives of Australia, none have focused specifically on potential applicants for study in Australian Universities and they have not traced the sources of these perspectives. Research into this area is further warranted by the increase in PRC students to Australia, who now represent the largest group of overseas students.

Malam, Linda - University of Tasmania

Contesting Global Masculine Hierarchies: negotiating masculine difference in a Thai beach bar

Much recent scholarship within human geography has focused on masculine identities in various contexts, including representations of masculine identities for working-class youth, masculine vulnerability in bathroom spaces, masculine identities as expressed through magazine readership and masculine identities at car-boot sales, to name a few. While these studies have brought the everyday practices through which masculinity is enacted into focus, there has been little research that explores situations and sites where there is overt contestation for hegemonic status between different competing masculine identities. Cross-cultural masculine encounters are one such site where hegemonic masculine identities are contested. This paper extends the current literature on cross-cultural negotiations of masculinity by exploring negotiations of masculinity between Thai bar and bungalow workers and particular (White) tourist men in the bars and bungalows of Koh Pha-ngan.

Marsh, Jillian - University of Adelaide

The Evolving Research Process: Ethical and Academic Dilemmas

This paper explores the parameters of control that a researcher has over a project and the extent participants and academic institutions share in this arrangement. It highlights some of the 'control' issues that have arisen during the lifetime of my PhD project, and ways I have sought to address these as an Indigenous researcher and Adnyamathanha person. As I reflect on my own experiences of the research process in relation to my PhD, I wonder if my experiences are unique and more pertinent to Indigenous researchers. Alternatively, are they primarily linked to working in an Indigenous context regardless of the researcher's background? A third alternative is that social research generally involves a range of ethical and academic dilemmas. In responding to these research dilemmas I wish to share the ways that I sought to address these issues (indeed, why they became issues in the first instance). Some issues require intensive consultation with my supervisors and the HREC secretary, and some require careful discussion within my proposal and within my HREC application. Most important, research issues in the context of my project require an ongoing commitment to a sensitive and open approach when interacting with Adnyamathanha people.

Maude, Alaric - Flinders University

Sustainable regional development: integrating regional development and environmental sustainability

This paper argues that successful sustainable regional development, here defined as environmentally sustainable regional development, depends on developing strategies to improve environmental sustainability that also contribute to the maintenance or growth of jobs and incomes in regions, and strategies to promote regional economic development that also contribute to environmental sustainability. This dual approach to integrating regional development and environmental sustainability is likely to produce better outcomes than the more common focus on managing the environmental impacts of regional development. The paper reports on the experience of a visit to Sweden in June 2005, after this abstract was written, which examined Swedish national, regional and local programs for sustainable regional development. It discusses examples of the two strategies noted above, and also the methods, tools and structures of governance used to combine regional economic development and environmental sustainability.

McAuliffe, Cameron - University of Sydney

A Home Far Away?: Transnational Imaginings of Homeland in the Iranian Diaspora

This paper will discuss the influence of religious identity on the discourses of national belonging that traditionally dominate trans-‘national’ discussions. Many of the children of the Iranian diaspora live in a state of exile from contemporary theocratic Iran. Living at a temporal and physical distance from the ‘homeland’ has resulted in differential long-distance imaginings mediated by the diasporic context. Through the reflections of the children of Iranian migrants on media representations, formal and informal communal forms, and the desire to ‘return’, a picture is painted of differing transnational trajectories divided along religious lines within the Iranian diaspora. For many of the second generation from a Muslim background their centrality in the discourses of national belonging, typified through the conflated ‘Muslim Iranian’ of media representations, feeds a desire for return. In contrast, for many second generation Baha’is their positionality as a ‘minority’, in both the homeland and the diaspora, combines with an eschatological problematising of national belonging, to lead them away from ‘Iran’. This work, based on recent PhD research with the ‘Iranian communities’ of London, Sydney and Vancouver, underscores the fact that global movements are not only mediated by government controls but also by the distinctive desires of individuals and communities to foster and maintain transnational connections.

McIntosh, Alison - University of New England

How Well is Neighbourhood Wellbeing? An Empirically Based Investigation of Salient Issues for Place-Belonging

Geographers and social scientists have long been concerned with the significance of place in day-to-day living and in the quality of urban life. Having a sense of attachment to place is recognised as contributing to a sense of belonging. This paper is based on a recently completed PhD thesis which investigated, among other matters, the salience of issues for place-belonging and associated impacts on wellbeing within contemporary Sydney neighbourhoods. Whilst the phenomenon of belonging is difficult to measure, the approach taken recognised the individuality of the area that people identified as their neighbourhood and encouraged both current and historical experiences of individuals to influence responses given. The paper explores the extent to which survey respondents related to, were involved in or were affected by community characteristics of social structure that are believed to promote a sense of belonging and the development and maintenance of wellbeing. Elements of neighbourhood satisfaction and safety are examined and social capacities and civic qualities of neighbourhoods are considered. Issues that participants recognised as promoting a sense of belonging are also investigated. Some results are presented with reference to the consolidated data set and are also briefly discussed for each of six survey locations.

McIntosh, Alison - University of New England

Neighbourhood as Community – What’s the Use? An Empirical Examination of Contemporary Sydney Communities

For some decades within academic literature, there has been recognition of the desperate need for descriptive information about how contemporary Australians relate to the communities in which they live. Such research should provide verifiable and repeatable baseline data which would not only inform but would also facilitate other types of research. This paper comes from a recently completed larger PhD project that examined the Community Without Propinquity (CWP) hypothesis within a contemporary Australian context. Fieldwork was conducted within six geographically, demographically and socio-economically diverse localities in Sydney. Surveys sought answers to a number of pertinent questions about the functioning of communities. Do people identify with their place-based community, their neighbourhood area? Are these areas being used and, if so, for what types of activities and how frequently? To what extent does social interaction take place within neighbourhoods? Are important social ties neighbourhood-based or are they generally with others who live elsewhere, within CWPs? How are these social networks maintained? The results both support and contest a number of commonly held conceptions about contemporary metropolitan communities in Australia.

McKinnon, Katharine - Massey University

Imagining post-development subjects: taking contemporary dialogues on the left to the ‘third world’

Recent critiques of development have identified the ways in which development acts as a mechanism of domination and control. One of the consequences of the debate is that it is now impossible to conceive of development as simply an altruistic project for empowerment and social justice – development is always embedded in particular geo-political agendas. This paper explores how contemporary discourse theory, in particular the work of Ernesto Laclau and Judith Butler around discourse, hegemony and the subject, might provide new openings in the debate. I argue that it is possible to think a way out of the bind of development-as-power by drawing on Laclau’s conceptualisation of hegemonic struggle. Drawing on ethnographic research undertaken with development professionals in northern Thailand, I argue that professional subjects take shape in and through an identification with universalising discourses of improvement and emancipation. An opportunity to imagine post-development practices exists in moving away from such universalising discourses to the clear acknowledgement of development as a political decision – the decision to work for a particular (contingent and ideological) set of ideals and desired outcomes rather than a moral imperative.

McNamara, Karen - University of New South Wales

The Current Discourse on ‘Environmental Refugees’ at the UN: [Re]silencing their Cause for Protection

The platform for this paper is based on Australia’s rejection of the Tuvaluan government’s request to migrate to Australia as an adaptation strategy to the impacts of climate change. So can anything be done at the multilateral level, with respect to providing protection for ‘environmental refugees’? This paper, based on my PhD fieldwork in New York, Bangkok and Geneva, traces the current discourse on ‘environmental refugees’ generated by UN member states, various UN Programmes, Funds and Secretariat bodies, and in recent UN migration initiatives. This paper will present preliminary conclusions on the how and why there is an on-going lack of protection for this refugee type by the international community.

Measham, Tom - CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems

Capacity to manage salinity: evaluating the impacts of best practice demonstrations.

Salinity remains a significant challenge affecting the sustainability of major agricultural regions of Australia. A series of ‘Catchment Demonstration Initiatives’ (CDIs) in Western Australia are an important component of the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, aimed at demonstrating best practice in salinity abatement techniques. A useful way that social geography can add value to the CDI process is through evaluating the impact of such initiatives on landholders’ capacity to manage the problem at the farm and sub-catchment scale. This presentation will report on research in progress involving an evaluation of the CDI in the Wallatin and O’Brien sub-catchments of Western Australia, including in-depth interviews and workshops with landholders. The research addresses individual and collective capacity to manage salinity, considers different approaches to knowledge and describes expectations for the CDI process. In doing so, the research seeks to inform best practice for salinity management and future policy responses to a challenging and persistent problem.

Mee, Kathleen - University of Newcastle

“I aint been to heaven yet? Living here, this is heaven to me”: Geographies of home for public housing tenants

Home in Australia is strongly associated with the tenure of home ownership and living in a detached house. In this paper I explore the ways in which public housing functions as home for a group of public housing tenants from inner Newcastle, most of whom live in apartments or terraces. The experiences of home for these tenants are mediated by a number of factors, including the circumstances through which the tenant arrived in public housing; their experiences of living in public housing; their age, family circumstances and gender; the type of dwelling in which they reside; their interactions with and perceptions of neighbours and the neighbourhood in which they live. For some tenants living in public housing is ‘heaven’, and for most the experience is a positive one. However the experience of these tenants also highlights that home-places can be simultaneously experienced as positive and negative, for example as secure and threatening, and the paper will explore importance of this in considering geographies of home.

Metusela, Christine - University of Wollongong

The Illawarra Beaches 1900-1945: A Place to Become Bronzed

The Illawarra beaches can be seen as a place that has been made through social relations; a place that is both dynamic and gendered. 1900-1945 is a significant time in this beach making process as it is when the beach was first utilised as a western recreational tourism space. It is when sea bathing became an acceptable practice, when surf life-saving became institutionalised and surf board riding became popular; all things that make up an important part of Australian beach culture today. To examine the beach as a place-making process a collection and analysis of various cultural ‘texts’ was made. These texts included Surf Club, Bank of NSW, Council and State Rail records as well as images. This paper will focus on findings of the surf club historical records. Through the method of critical discourse analysis these historical records can bring insights into the beach making processes of 1900-1945 and help unpack meanings of the bio-physical and human made environment.

Montoya, Daniel - University of Sydney

A Relational assessment of catchment management in the Murrumbidgee

This paper looks at recent natural resource management reforms in NSW, with a focus on the implications for catchment management in the Murrumbidgee region. The paper has two aims: (1) to test the predictive capacity of several social assessment tools on legislation and policy, and (2) to understand the implications of the new natural resource management institutional framework on pre-existing relationships and new relationships formed by the framework. Natural resource management in the Murrumbidgee has been marked by change over the past decade. New acts in NSW for water (2000), native vegetation (1997 and 2003) and catchment management (2003), change in catchment management institutions, community-government committees and government departments, and changes in personnel, have led to shifting roles and responsibilities and ineffective relationships. This paper focuses on the Catchment Management Authorities Act (2003) within the context of the new institutional structure adopted by the NSW Government. Three concepts are used in the assessment of the legislation – embeddedness, social capital, and relational proximity.

Ooi, Giok Ling - Nanyang Technological University

Sustainability and the Southeast East Asian City

Sustainability remains a highly contested concept in spite of the decade or so which has seen effort to apply it at both global as well as more local scales. Voluntarism continues to characterise much of the language with which sustainability is discussed. While proponents claim that sustainability has been more about processes than actual destinations, this is patently less clear at national and local levels where the concept has been incorporated into development agendas. Until the onset of the 1997 Asian economic crisis, the Southeast Asian region had seen industrialisation and urbanisation on an unprecedented scale. Much of the development has been concentrated in cities and particularly the largest cities. If sustainability has been found in the discourse on development in these cities, the reality often provides contradictory and conflicting evidence. Urban sprawl, traffic congestion, poor water and air quality as well as wretched housing conditions going hand in hand with the development of gated communities present but some of the indications that the Southeast Asian city is struggling in the face of challenging times and conditions as far as sustainability is concerned. While sceptics suggest that cities are inherently unsustainable, there are others who argue that cities can be far more sustainable than they have been. This paper highlights the key themes of the argument that cities can be far more sustainable than they have been by focusing on the Southeast Asian city. Development pathways and policy agendas are discussed in relation to the conceptualisation of sustainability as it applies to cities.

Paddison, Ronan - University of Glasgow

Social Cohesion and Urban Sustainability in the Rhetoric of Urban Regeneration

This paper looks critically at the connections made between social cohesion and urban sustainability. It is argued that both have become central to the notion of the competitive city – social cohesion being a necessary condition for urban competitiveness, itself an essential foundation for sustainability. But what constitutes social cohesion needs to be unpacked. This paper looks at recent experience in urban Scotland and the campaigns, both national and local, that have centred on countering sectarianism. It is argued that sectarianism, while an historically rooted problem in Scotland, has been ‘reimagined’ as a threat to social cohesion, in which its continued presence is seen as a threat to the competitiveness of the region and the city.

Pearson, Stuart - University of Newcastle

Honeywood, Steven - Central Coast Environmental Network

O’Toole, Mitch - University of Newcastle

Learning for Sustainability – the challenge of Environmental Education in a University

Environmental Science and Geography are dynamic and exciting fields of research and education that, reasonably, should be capable of engaging in Education for Sustainability at the highest levels. However, the experience of the University of Newcastle shows enormous tension between integrative environmental education and the existing curriculum elements, staff workloads and discipline specializations. Grass-root and middle-management responses have included curriculum mapping (failed), silo-breaking (failed) and individual efforts (unsustainable). Other approaches to curriculum design have been explored without delivering an integrated environmental education. The salient points of this experience need to be shared. This paper will report on this experience of curriculum at the University of Newcastle and how these challenges might be overcome through the reinvigoration of some academic traditions. The report of failing curriculum reform is necessary because the project was originally conceived as an action research project and secondly because failures can be learning opportunities. The aim of the paper is to show that some reflection on the ‘cul de sac’ experiences can suggest ways around and forward the organizational . If nothing else they mark the risks to others of piecemeal and poorly managed curriculum articulation and change management. The secondary environmental sustainability curriculum and its links to the universities’ curriculum and teacher training are also problematic. Geography is one of the few disciplines with an explicit sustainability curriculum although cross-discipline programmes exist. Using the experience of a Environmental Science graduate we will demonstrate major structural problems that reduce the learning for sustainability outcomes we all espouse. This is another dispatch from one of the bleeding edges of Sustainability.

Peterson, Jim - Monash University
Kunapo, Joshphar - Monash University
Khan, Usman - Monash University

Pipe Vesicles and Palaeoslope: An unusual example from the Young Volcanic

Walker's rule' (Walker 1978), that pipe vesicles are formed only in thin pahoehoe flow units standing on ground slopes of $<4^\circ$, has been applied to apparently rootless flows at present standing on cinder slopes of 26° - 32° , Mt Rouse, western Victoria. Geomorphic interpretation of such an incompatible juxtaposition of landforms refers to cooling of the edge of a incompatible juxtaposition of landforms refers to cooling of the edge of a cone-girdling basaltic flow shortly before collapse of the molten bulk of the lava to form a stony-rise apron around the cinder cone. This interpretation rests upon detailed and ground-truthed terrain modelling and landscape reconstruction by means of DTM building via digital photogrammetry and the wire-frame approach to visualisation.

Poulsen, Michael - Macquarie University

Changing Location of the First Generation Australians: Sydney 1966-2001

One of the key issues regarding ethnic concentrations is how long do they continue to exist. This paper examines this question using data from all of the censuses since 1966. It is argued that these structures remain for decades, and continue as long as there is continuing flow of immigrants from the host country. However, over time the characteristics of those concentrations can change considerably.

Practices of Gardening

Gardening practices have received little overt attention within academic writing about gardens. Work that has drawn attention to such practices has tended to do so within a human-cultural framework, considering the meanings of these labours within the lives and multiple identities of garden owners. This paper addresses this absence, investigating suburban gardening practices through a focus on the engagements that occur between humans and nonhumans. The paper draws attention to the ways that gardeners negotiate the agency of nonhumans, while recognising the active role that nonhumans play in the construction of gardens and the ways that people understand and engage with these spaces. I argue that gardening is never simply a process of 'knowing' nonhumans, for example through scientific classificatory systems or gardening manual imagery. Rather, it also involves active engagements between the humans and nonhumans that dwell in the garden. In this way, gardening moves from a unidirectional 'knowing' to an ongoing and often contested dialogue between the diverse entities that dwell in the garden. Processes of learning, experimentation, practice and care are recognised as central to this relation. This is an important step in acknowledging that gardens are never simply human spaces.

Rolley, Fran - University of New England
Argent, Neil - University of New England

Inhabiting the Margins: A Geography of Rural Homelessness in Australia

In a country in which the ownership of a two or three bedroom home with a quarter-acre block has long been seen as a readily attainable goal for all who worked and saved conscientiously, homelessness is often seen as both a paradoxical and peripheral issue. As in many other developed world societies, the homeless in Australia are largely invisible to the mainstream population. To the extent that it is acknowledged at all, homelessness is dominantly represented as an urban issue, involving 'roofless' people, sleeping rough. Yet statistics from the 1996 and 2001 national censuses reveal that homelessness in rural areas of Australia often exceeds national and State averages. This paper examines the different and shifting spaces and scales of rural homelessness in Australia. It begins with an overview of the geography of rural homelessness across the country in 2001. The regional dimension of the issue is explored within New South Wales, focussing on the spatial unevenness of the homeless population, the nature of their housing deprivation, and their socio-economic and demographic characteristics. Especial attention is paid to Indigenous people's experiences of homelessness. Finally, via case study research in two selected regions, the paper examines the causes of rural homelessness at a local scale, as well as the causes of its relative invisibility as a significant public issue, worthy of concerted research. The complex interrelationship between particular sub-groups within Australia society, regional and local housing markets and Federal and State welfare agencies and their respective local 'gatekeepers' are also explored.

Rugendyke, Barbara - University of New England

Shaping Global Futures: NGOs, Advocacy and Development

Representing local, regional and national constituencies in Western nations, historically NGOs have acted primarily at the local scale in 'developing' nations as they sought to improve the quality of life of people in disadvantaged communities. In the last decade though, the same NGOs have increasingly devoted resources to advocacy campaigns directed at global actors such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organisation and multinational corporations. In so doing, NGOs have themselves globalised in order to maximise their impact, forming new strategic alliances and engaging in advocacy campaigns at the global scale. This paper traces the reasons for these changes, describing the historical shift in the focus of NGO advocacy activities. To date, there has been little empirical work as a basis for gauging the extent to which NGOs 'going global' with their advocacy work has contributed to poverty alleviation. This paper presents evidence for the increasing efficacy of NGOs in influencing the policies and practices of global institutions, as well as in harnessing increased public support for their goal of achieving greater global equity.

Ryan, Bruce - Independent Scholar

Writing A Novel About Geographers

Outside the fiefdom of geography, the common reader of fiction (i.e., the lay public) probably thinks geographers are either unintelligible scientific deep-thinkers or nerdish computer nonentities. They have little or no idea what contemporary geography is about, how its institutional homes are organized, or how academic geographers treat one another. A novel about geographers might help to improve these lay perceptions, and could advertise the discipline to a larger audience. The manuscript of such a novel has just been completed. It concerns an imaginary geography department in northwestern Ohio during the 1990s, when it achieves the pinnacle of its academic success, but then falters and disintegrates. The geographers concerned find a life of crime more remunerative than lecturing and grading papers. They represent most sub-fields of geography, and come from six different continents. Melodrama and sexuality animate these otherwise stodgy geographers. Critics of the manuscript typically expect strict verisimilitude (as though fiction should be scientific reportage), and recoil from the falsity of settings. They strive in vain (so far) to identify actual geographers among the characters.

Sharpe, Scott - UNSW@Australian Defence Force Academy

Overcoming the 'real' world: thinking the field beyond the inside/outside relation

In deciding the value and particularly the political relevance of knowledge a familiar spatial relation is frequently evoked in the social sciences, whereby the cloistered academy is separated from the 'real world'. This paper argues that the inside/outside relation of academy/real world mirrors the subject/object relation, providing this relation's spatial equivalent. As such the academy/real world relation is rehearsed not just in evaluations of the appropriateness of the end products of knowledge production, but the actual process of this production. To this end the field is placed in a privileged position, since the field is viewed as either the corrective to theoretical claims or the source of raw material for knowledge. This paper questions these roles attributed to the field en route to challenging the underlying assumptions. Presenting data from in-depth interviews conducted with academic geographers working at the interface of political economic and cultural geography, I argue that the field can have a more productive function when freed from the strictures of the subject/object relation and when the spatiality of the inside of the academy and the outside of the 'real world' is challenged.

Sharpe, Scott - UNSW@Australian Defence Force Academy

Hynes, Maria - Australian National University

The Role of Affect in Public Space: the anti-globalization protests of Seattle, Melbourne and Genoa

As captured in the title of Kingsnorth's populist 'One No, Many Yeses', one of the more productive features of the anti-globalization movement has been that its refusal of the distributive mechanisms of global capital goes by way of the championing of diverse political strategies. Its retreat from more prescriptive political strategies heralds the arrival of a new experimental attitude. This experimentalism is distinct in character from the kind of identity politics once described as the new social movements and, as such, calls for a new mode of analysis. This paper argues that a theorization of the specificity of the anti-globalization movement requires a focus on the relationship between political action and embodiment. The paper takes as its starting point the highly visible and populist image of 'bodies on streets,' focusing on the events of Seattle, Melbourne and Genoa. How might we understand the meaning of the embodied action represented by mass protests and street parties, when bodies are not seen merely as symbols of a united front, nor as bearers of identity politics? We argue that it is in the development of affective strategies that the public space can be reinvigorated as the site of a potent and experimental politics.

Sherren, Kate - Australian National University

Insights from Geography for Education for Sustainability Curriculum Development

Sustainability is not yet well integrated in Australian university curricula (Sherren in review). There are some notable exceptions, but this lack of change – despite long-held agreement about what is required – seems to be caused largely by institutional barriers. Both disciplines and formalised organisational structures are challenged by the breadth of sustainability, but the literature is largely dominated by discussions of ideal curriculum content that assume a hospitable academic climate for it. In setting their priorities, Australian ‘enterprise universities’ (Marginson and Considine 2000) are simply mirroring the values of government, society and industry, on all of which – in different ways – they are financially dependent (Sherren in press). The case of Geography, a field of study which has experienced fragmentation and demoralisation since the early 1990s (Harvey 2002, Holmes 2002), demonstrates the difficulty of achieving holism in the modern tertiary setting. In light of insights from Geography, this presentation will discuss the challenge of developing curriculum appropriate to Education for Sustainability (EfS). It will reflect using data from recent surveys by the author at both Australia-wide and case study scales. Finally, it will outline the opportunities for Geography in the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, which has begun this year.

Smith, Stephen - University of New South Wales

Analysing the geography of minor party electoral performance: The 1999 and 2003 New South Wales State Elections

Assessing the electoral performance of political parties has long been an integral part of electoral geography research. Such assessments of electoral performances have been important for developing an understanding of the geography of electoral support for a political party. The electoral performances of Australians Against Further Immigration (AAFI), One Nation (ONP) and Unity (UNI) at the 1999 and 2003 New South Wales State elections have provided examples of how the geography of electoral support for minor parties vary between elections. Voter support for AAFI and the ONP decreased between elections whilst support for UNI increased between the two elections. Variations in the electoral performances of minor parties have illustrated vulnerabilities to fluctuations in voter support between elections, the impacts of decreased availability of resources for election campaigning and increased competition from other political parties. The future of minor parties in the political landscape is dependent upon their ability to be able to maintain a presence in the minds of voters, especially in circumstances of an increasingly dynamic political landscape.

Sorensen, Tony - University of New England

Rural Creativity: a response to Florida

Richard Florida's immensely influential book "The Rise of the Creative Class" sees urban regions as the primary fount of creativity, which in turn is the primary ingredient now driving economic advance. Indeed Florida seems to deny explicitly the notion that rural areas can be creative, but this reflects his definition of creativity and its consequent effect on the variables selected to measure it. Florida privately now concedes that his measures appear to disadvantage rural localities. This paper attempts to set the record straight for Australian rural regions in three distinct ways. First, it examines the notion of creativity in order to remove Florida's urban bias and to reflect better the reality of rural life. It is not good enough to condemn agriculture as uncreative when large numbers of primary producers are highly inventive in commodities produced, production and marketing methods employed, and equipment used. The same applies to other productive sectors and lifestyles pursued. Secondly, it attempts to measure spatial variations in rural creativity on at least the few dimensions for which data are available. Finally, it examines the relevance of the redefined idea of creativity as a means of enhancing rural sustainability. In the author's view, creativity is one of the major drivers of economic advance and likely to become more dominant in future years, not least because the share of intellectual capital in goods and services is rising rapidly compared with other inputs.

Stratford, Elaine - University of Tasmania

Island status and the geopolitics of vulnerability and resilience

Contention exists about islands' vulnerability as islands but it is generally agreed that they are entities more, rather than less, exposed to various ecological, economic and social perturbations. Tasmania is the only sub-national island state of Australia, is subject to significant conflict over resource management, and has a reputation as the nation's basket-case because of its size, relative isolation, peripheral status and dependence on extractive industries. In 1989, a new Labor-Green 'Accord' Government introduced a Resource Management and Planning System (RMPS) to advance the principles of sustainable development in planning and land use and development control in particular. Forestry, marine farming and mineral exploration were kept outside of the RMPS, which affords high levels of public participation in decision-making about planning and resource management. Interviews with the architects of the RMPS and other stakeholders in power at the time reveal that they did not consider Tasmania's island status in their formulation of policy except by invoking that status as something to be silenced or minimized. In this paper, I want to trace the effects of a constant reinscribing of 'islandness as vulnerability' in Tasmania, and explore the possibilities of new landscapes of resilience for this island and its communities of place and interest.

Suchet-Pearson, Sandra - Macquarie University
Lloyd, Kate - Macquarie University
Wright, Sarah - University of Newcastle

Borderland geographies: the excision of Melville Island in policy and practice

The Australian government's retrospective excision of Melville Island in November 2003 lasted for two weeks and highlighted the ambiguous role of border construction in local, national and international imaginations. This paper explores the political, social and discursive 'practice' of excision through the specifics of the Melville Island case. The excision of Melville Island is indicative of a broader politics of sovereignty, citizenship and power that is enacted through quotidian practices including map making, immigration policy, protection measures, media coverage and legislation. The politics and practices of border construction, however, are not isolated to the national level. Access regulation to Melville Island by the Tiwi Land Council is indicative of multiscale processes at work highlighting the potential of borderlands to be sites of contestation and self-determination. In this paper we develop the idea that borderlands, far from peripheral, are central to the way that sovereignty, citizenship and the nation are imagined, policed and performed. We argue that an understanding of borderland geographies could make a significant contribution to a reshaping of Australia's northern borderlands towards self-determined landscapes.

Suchet-Pearson, Sandra - Macquarie University
Davui, Saimoni - Napranum
Howitt, Richard - Macquarie University

Self-governing: implementation of community development initiatives in Napranum, western Cape York Peninsula

This paper examines recent community development initiatives in Napranum, Western Cape York Peninsula. Initiatives such as Druamalon Safe and Healing Centre, the Justice Group, Men's Group and Napranum Kid's Club illustrate the ability of indigenous communities to govern themselves by building community development programmes firmly based on an engagement with and respect for local culture and knowledge. The paper examines mechanisms through which community members are self-governing programmes as well as opportunities and constraints presented from government and industry. In particular, it explores how these programs are set up in order to achieve goals such as economic prosperity, social wellbeing, and spiritual and cultural growth, how these goals interrelate and why they are so critical to achieve. It explores how this approach supplements existing shire and government social programmes and how these 'on-the-ground' solutions are seen as stepping stones for more intensive participation. The programmes are seen as a standard whereby incoming or imposed social initiatives are challenged and redefined.

Trowbridge, Beverley - University of Auckland

Subjectivities and Socialities in Sustainable Development

Our current experience in the post- industrial world, is of a tightening disjuncture between two competing paradigms and discourses. The old neo-liberal economic model still hold sway under its most recent morph of social democracy (thirdwayism), a paradigm which continues to privilege individualism and accumulation of wealth by a global elite. This ideology has reached its nadir from Enlightenment times, with its belief in unlimited economic growth and 'man' the 'rational' actor. However, the upcoming discourse of 'sustainability' has its origins in an ideology of limits-to-growth within the carrying capacity of our environment, and of equality of rights to resources. There is also a growing realization of the fallacy of the 'rational man' model, with the knowledge that humans operate largely from an unconscious emotional agenda which is set during childhood from evolutionary developmental needs. There is currently an uneasy tension between these two competing ideologies under politically motivated efforts to graft the latter onto the former. This paper uses the New Zealand Dairy Industry to attempt some early theoretical insights into these 'human' barriers to sustainable development, interlacing views from neurobiology, developmental psychology, evolutionary sociology, political ecology and governmentality, in a critical social theory approach.

Tyndall, Adam - University of Newcastle

Publicness, urban citizenship and the shopping mall

This paper is situated within a growing literature on the increasingly privatised, fragmented and regulated nature of contemporary urban. Much of this literature contends that the contemporary city posits a sanitised and exclusionary public form in place of traditional democratic public space. This, in turn, is argued to limit the representational and ultimately democratic possibilities of the city with implications for urban citizenship and community. Recently however, authors drawing on post-structuralist understandings of contemporary urban space have queried both whether this normative concept of public space was ever actualised and whether the expansion of semi-public space has occurred at the expense of 'truly democratic' public space. This paper reports on current research which seeks to extend post-structuralist analysis to encompass the semi-public spaces of the city, most notably the contemporary shopping mall. In doing so it seeks to examine the modes of publicness and public culture these spaces facilitate by investigating empirically the role shopping malls play in the ways people come together and shape the way they act 'in public'. The ultimate aim is to theorise about the implications that the modes of publicness and public culture facilitated in these spaces have for urban citizenship, community and democratic practice in the city.

Wadley, David - The University of Queensland

The Garden of Peace

It is suggested that, in terms of both intent and operation, neo-liberalism and managerialism are dulling our ability as individuals to think for ourselves. Respite can be found in the garden of peace where we might chance to rediscover our intellectual identity. Yet, in that sanctuary, we could be obliged to face the meta-issues of the era. A list of 10 'big questions' in geography proposed by Cutter et al. (2002) is eschewed for four issues more directly relevant to the continuity of social capital. As both exogenous and endogenous risk factors, the development of terrorism, the limits of liberalism, work-life balance, and the future of labour emerge as matters worthy of contemplation in the garden of peace.

Walmsley, Jim - University of New England

A million centimetres a year: quality newspaper coverage of "leisure" in Australia

Although many claims are made about the emergence of a "leisure society", definition of the core concept of "leisure" is problematical. Many see leisure as "time left over" after obligatory commitments have been met. From this perspective, leisure, recreation and tourism are viewed as components of "leisure time", defined on the basis of the location of the activity in question (home, day trip, overnight stay). This actor-based approach to defining leisure is widely used but has drawbacks. The paper explores an alternative approach. It focuses on how leisure is socially constructed in the media. Specifically, it reports on a content analysis of the coverage of "leisure" in the main "news" section a quality broadsheet (the Sydney Morning Herald) in 2004. Adopting the agenda-setting approach to media impact, the paper gives an insight into what society as a whole might deem to be "leisure".

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Weller, Sally - University of Melbourne

Regional Implications of the Ansett Airlines collapse

The collapse of Ansett Airlines formed part of a continuing process of restructuring and internationalisation of capital in the Australian civil aviation industry. While most of Ansett's regional subsidiaries have survived in a revised form, scheduled air services have declined in many areas. This paper assesses the value of scheduled regional air services as essential infrastructure and explores the implications of contemporary changes from a regional development perspective.

White, Nicole - University of New England
Faulkner, Richard - University of New England
Frazier, Paul - University of New England
Wilkes, Janelle - University of New England

Modelling the Effect of Tidal Restoration on a Wetland

The coastal wetlands of the Clarence River Catchment (north coast of NSW) have been dramatically altered by the installation of drains and floodgates since the early 1900's. In many cases this alteration reduced fish and bird habitats, produced acid sulphate soils and mono-sulphitic black ooze, and led to reduced water quality in the wetland and river. Management agencies are trying to restore some of these wetlands by re-establishing aspects of the tidal regime, but the effects of restoration are unknown and could potentially lead to further environmental problems. The Little Broadwater wetland is a large coastal wetland that has been the subject of a restoration trial since July 2003. This study aims to evaluate and model the impact of tidal restoration and tidal gate manipulation on water quality in the Little Broadwater. A combination of systematic water sampling (surface and ground water) are being undertaken and analysed to facilitate the development of a water quality model capable of predicting water quality responses to various water input scenarios.
