

## IAG Conference July 2-4 2007 Abstracts

**Stephen ABLITT**  
La Trobe University

**Session 222**

Journeys and outings: a case study in David Malouf's closet

This paper will investigate the use of the metaphor of the closet/coming-out by Australian writer David Malouf, from the exploration of his childhood home in '12 Edmondstone Street,' to the is-he-isn't-he conjectures of *Johnno*, to the literary leap from the closet represented by *An Imaginary Life*. Written before 'he moved officially and gracefully from his glass closet' (Kiley, 1998: n.p.) in November 1996, these works each embody a tentative attempt by a closeted writer (consciously or not) to come out. His opened books are an opened closet; he helps others out of that confined space while coming to terms with his own non-normative sexuality. The reader/critic can thus observe the hermeneutics of the closet, and the plotting of a path (both narrative and spatial) out of that repressive space. Place is not as central to Malouf's closet/coming-out metaphor as are the journeys occurring across it. Physical movement through space signifies personal growth; journeys are sexual awakenings, exercises in the raising of a new (queer) conscious. These queer migrations are 'outings' in many senses of the word, becoming searches for a space beyond that both inside and outside of the closet, a heterotopic 'queer space' existing beneath/beside/within the straight world but also entirely outside of it. Portraying a queer preference for fluid identities and multiple meanings, for movement over settlement, Malouf's works assert that we must come out of the closet that is heteronormativity, embarking on an outing in search of a rhizomatous, dispersed, deconstructed and always-deferred queer utopia.

**Fiona ALLON, Kay ANDERSON and Robyn BUSHELL**  
Centre for Cultural Research  
University of Western Sydney

**Session 243**

From 'Influx' to 'Circulation': urban geographies of backpacker tourism in Global Sydney

This paper examines the tactical ways of occupying living spaces in a select number of Sydney coastal suburbs experiencing an influx of 'independent travellers'. 'Backpackers' are not just tourists; they are also frequently working holiday makers, highly skilled professional workers, students, and even, at times, long-term semi-permanent residents. How to define this group of physically and conceptually mobile travellers is often a problem. This is especially the case for local authorities who have a stake in the fixity and control of urban space, as well as formal and predictable regimes of property and occupancy. Focusing on tensions in residential communities which have developed as a result of backpackers not only *travelling through* but frequently *dwelling in* place, the paper analyses the 'backpacker phenomenon' as a complex mix of working, holiday and residential experiences that needs to be understood within a framework of increasing(ly) uneven, diverse and contested mobilities. In so doing, it connects with recent discussions in Human Geography and Cultural Studies on the 'circulatory spaces' out of which urban geographies of backpacker tourism are being produced and transformed.

**Fiona ALLON**

Centre for Cultural Research  
University of Western Sydney

**Session 225**

Water is the New Oil?: how to reconcile new values and old habits

In *Neo Power: How the new economic order is changing the way we live, work and play*, water is described as 'the new oil'. The authors proclaim: *'Expect to see water-based concepts and images incorporated into leading-edge design, luxury fashion and architecture as NEOs (the citizens of the new economic order) translate their explorations of water and its new symbolic value into consumption goods'*. Scarcity has certainly created a new value for water. Yet despite the increasing symbolic value of water in these kinds of future-oriented scenarios, many of the projects designed to actually cope with the water crisis are surprisingly past-oriented, harking back to modernity's Promethean project of conquest and control and the principles of 'Big Water', as exemplified in the current plans for new dams, desal plants and so on. Alongside this shift has emerged a growing practical and theoretical interest in water's role in the activities of daily life. This is the terrain of *everyday water*, where values are rendered meaningful through daily practice, and where consumption patterns, habits and routines are collectively acted out and maintained, and also most likely to change. This paper will focus on these kinds of contradictions, where new values meet old habits, and where old values meet new expectations of use.

**Deb ANDERSON**

University of Melbourne

**Session 311**

No worries? Rethinking drought in light of climate change

This paper offers excerpts of rural oral history to explore lived experiences of drought and perceptions of climate change. Over three years, I have gathered 13 oral histories through an ongoing dialogue with members of drought-stricken farm communities in the semi-arid Mallee of northwest Victoria. There, drought has been tangled up in a history of continuous geophysical experimentation, where capitalism remains a defining factor in the ongoing transformation of landscape. In the Mallee, drought is considered a 'fact of life', retold in narratives of endurance, uncertainty and risk. My focus on this volatile ecological site for oral history-making aimed to bring into relief elements of human agency embedded in cultural conceptions of climate. Further, climate change projections can be viewed as having intensified an already divisive argument over rural futures. The timing of my research (2004-07) has enabled the capture of significant moments of reflexivity — as interviewees responded to a rapid, marked shift in public discourse on climate change. Interpretations of drought (at once hopeful and recriminatory) were increasingly shaped by perceptions of climate change both as an abstract, scientific concept and an historical or lived experience. Thus the oral history-making process came to represent, for me, a bid to resituate 'drought' within a broader narrative of cultural survival, socio-economic struggle and rural environmental change. On that basis, I believe oral history offers us a powerful tool with which to explore political concerns in light of rural lived experience.

**Deb ANDERSON**

The Australian Centre  
University of Melbourne

**Session 323**

Going for broke? Perceptions of drought, vulnerability and climate change

Climate change projections have intensified an already divisive argument over rural futures in Australia. So how do rural Australians conceive of the vulnerability of social-ecological systems to climate impacts? Ways of thinking climate change are invariably tied to language, the operation of power and formation of histories. In this paper, I draw on oral histories of the lived experience of drought to explore how dominant, economic discourse on vulnerability has mediated anxieties over climate change. In particular, I focus on the language of opportunism, such that climate change has been rendered as merely adding to the gamble of farming. For three years I have gathered oral histories in Victoria's dryland Mallee, where droughts are considered 'a fact of life'. The timing of my research (2004-07) enabled the capture of significant moments of reflexivity, as interviewees responded to a rapid, marked shift in public discourse on climate change. Using excerpts of those interviews, I aim to show how climate change is being framed within a broader story of long-term social and economic decline in rural Australia. Indeed, the oral histories on drought revealed heightened perceptions of vulnerability — of economic exposure, political powerlessness and psychological wear and tear — and of the self-exploitative aspects of the productivist paradigm in which Australian rural communities operate. Critically, however, perceptions of climate change were being shaped by a discourse of agricultural opportunism as a means of social response to vulnerability, which I believe re-asserts the logic of industrial gain.

**Neil ARGENT\* and Matthew TONTS^**

\*Institute for Regional Development  
School of Earth and Geographical Sciences  
University of Western Australia  
^Division of Geography and Planning  
University of New England

**Session 122**

Seeing the wood (and people) for the trees: Blue gum plantations, rural land use and community change and the future of geography

In this paper we explore the origins and geographical and organisational development of the plantation blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) industry in Australia and its local-scale impacts upon the social and economic functioning and demographic composition of selected rural communities. In doing so, we chart the industry's development in the context of evolving regulatory frameworks, covering such diverse fields as taxation law, land use planning, foreign investment and regional development. However, rather than seeing this as another variation on the resource conflict theme, we discuss this topic in the context of recent debates concerning the apparently ever-widening ontological and epistemological rift between physical and human geography. Although we argue that a search for a solid unitary core within geography may be a somewhat fruitless and distracting endeavour, we nevertheless highlight the considerable scope for genuinely collaborative, theoretically-informed, practically useful research that this specific topic offers to human and physical geographers in demonstrating the 'geographer's art' and in re-asserting Geography's contemporary importance and promise to society.

**Neil ARGENT**

Division of Geography and Planning  
University of New England

**Session 221**

Density and spatial fields of belonging in Australian rural communities

Place-based attachment and locally-oriented social interaction patterns are fundamental aspects of rural community life across the vast majority of the Australian rural ecumene, notwithstanding the rise and growing spread of the internet and increasing salience of individuals' affiliations to supra-local networks and organisations. Using Lefebvre's triadic spatioLOGY as a means to connect patterns of local social interaction with broader networks of information flows, as well as lay and expert concepts and representations of space and place, this paper explores the relationships between local rural population density, social interaction patterns and the degree of individual satisfaction with local community life (a proxy for 'belonging') across nine Australian rural communities of vastly different local and regional population densities, environmental settings and industrial composition. The paper argues that 'community' — as an expression of local place- and interest-based attachment and belonging — is constantly and reflexively being negotiated and reconfigured within each of the three case studies in the context of substantial population, economic and technological change. The challenges posed to the sustainability of local social patterns and networks contrasts markedly depending upon a community's position along the density spectrum.

**Louise ASKEW**

School of Environmental and Life Sciences  
University of Newcastle  
louise.askew@studentmail.newcastle.edu.au

**Session 111**

Relationships, care and human service delivery: the collaborative practices of interagency workers

Collaborative modes of human service delivery currently predominate social policy in Australia. Much geographical research on social governing positions collaborative modes of service delivery (eg interagency working) as part of a recent form of neoliberalism, which attempts to remedy earlier economic excesses with an ostensible incorporation of the social. From this perspective, the rhetoric of collaboration obscures an underlying co-option, responsabilisation and activation of subjects and spaces as part of neoliberalism. Rather than necessarily resolving geographical analysis at the point of an all-conquering neoliberalism (Argent 2005), a close ethnographic investigation of interagency working reveals a much less strategic, dominating and determinately subjugating form of governing. In this paper, I follow the enactments and understandings of workers involved in two collaborative and community-based human service programmes in NSW Government: Families First and SaCC. In presenting workers' perspectives on collaborative modes of human service delivery, my research exposes enactments in which ethical practices are both possible and prevalent, revealing an engrained ethics which promotes caring, sharing, diversity and resilience amongst individuals and as part of the sedimented practices of institutions (Gibson-Graham 2006). My aim in the paper is to re-people and re-personalise theorisations of the state and neoliberalism, valuing workers understandings and actions of social governing and opening up spaces for cultivating caring practices of human service delivery.

**Douglas BARDSLEY and Geoff ROGERS<sup>^</sup>**

**Session 333**

\*University of Queensland

<sup>^</sup>Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation  
Govt of South Australia

A Partnership Approach to Respond to Climate Change for Regional Natural Resource Management

There is now broad acknowledgement that climate change due to an enhanced Greenhouse Effect is underway and will have major implications for our societies and environments. This paper examines the implications for Natural resource management and outlines an approach to respond to change developed within the Adelaide-Mt Lofty Ranges region of South Australia. Around the world, climate change is impacting on Mediterranean climatic systems, such as that experienced by South Australia, in a manner more severe than for most other climate types. Climate change of the magnitude projected for the Adelaide-Mt Lofty Ranges region during this century will challenge many conceptions of the way people perceive of their world, their places and the natural environment that sustains them. Natural resource managers within the Adelaide-Mt Lofty Ranges are increasingly looking to policy makers and planners to ensure that the inherent changes and risks associated with climate change are factored into management and planning processes. In this paper, an approach is described that was developed between the Adelaide-Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board and the South Australian Government, and applied within the region to begin the process of developing a regional adaptation planning response to climate change. The approach aims to engage with the major regional stakeholders, raise awareness of the

**Jon BARNETT\* and Heidi ELLEMOR<sup>^</sup>**

**Session 323**

\*School of Social and Environmental Enquiry

University of Melbourne

<sup>^</sup>Emergency Management Australia

Adaptation as a Social Practice

Top-down mathematical and conceptual models dominate climate impacts research, leading to the impression among decision makers that adaptation to climate change is an equally technical and a-social process. Technical responses are likely to be part of the adaptation policy portfolio for any given vulnerable entity, but for the most part policy-driven or ‘planned’ adaptation will be a highly social process. Informed by insights from resource and environmental management in Australia and abroad, and illustrated with examples, we explain three key ways in which adaptation is an inherently social process, the challenges this presents to policy, and some ways forward. First, the widespread nature of climate impacts and the diversity of intertwined ecosystems, sectors and social groups at risk across Australia makes planned adaptation a potentially enormous task. One of the first sets of decisions for a rational adaptation policy strategy is determining which vulnerable entities are most in need of the supplementary assistance of the state — and this raises hard questions about the uncertainty of impacts, the equitability of adaptation policies, and the distribution of the costs and benefits of action and inaction across space and time. We suggest that all of the concerns can be integrated into a strategy that focuses primarily if not exclusively on places as the sites where the multiple

potential pathways of climate impacts are ultimately borne. However, as geographers well know, places are contested, and so adaptation policies must also contend with the competing values of places at risk from climate impacts, but also from adaptation strategies, and the diverse groups that may hold these values. In this respect we suggest that for both reasons of justice and efficacy, the formulation of adaptation policies cannot occur outside of the places in which they will be implemented and requires the institutionalisation of participatory processes to determine policy goals. This process may be even more difficult and contested than in the everyday instances of participation in resource management given the uncertain nature of climate impacts and the potential politicisation of impacts science. Finally, if some common policy goals of adaptation policy can be determined, the setting of measures to assess their outcomes will be difficult given that the future of impacts is uncertain and the impacts that adaptive actions may have avoided cannot be known. It is nevertheless important that adaptation policies identify criteria for success and failure, and we suggest that it is more practicable to measure the pursuit of values rather than the avoidance of impacts.

**Simon BATTERBURY**

**Session 221**

School of Social and Environmental Enquiry  
University of Melbourne  
[simonpjb@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:simonpjb@unimelb.edu.au)

The rural world and agrarian transformations in the global South: key debates and challenges

The paper provides an overview of agrarian change and resource management in developing countries, using a new dataset of case studies assembled by PRIPODE, a research initiative funded by the French government [<http://pripode.cicred.org>]. Scholars are divided on the key components and driving forces of change, and thus about the trajectory of rural development. Three observable trends emerge: 1) diversification of livelihoods (termed 'productive bricolage'), 2) intensification or dis-intensification of agricultural production, and 3) changes in the political economy of agriculture, including new conditions of production. The increasing complexity of livelihood dynamics encourages diversification, in the light of globalizations, new risks, conflicts, urban drift, and the uncertain profitability of particular agricultural activities. Population-environment relationships and commodity production are also part of a diversification matrix, now stretching across millions of producers. Following the key observations of political ecologists, it is essential to conduct interdisciplinary and 'grounded' methodologies rooted in 'place' but extending much more widely.

**Hugo BEKLE**

**Session 225**

Edith Cowan University  
[h.bekle@ecu.edu.au](mailto:h.bekle@ecu.edu.au)

Disappearing Urban Wetlands: A Case Study of Pipidiny Swamp, Western Australia

This paper explores the effects of drought, urbanization and climate change on Pipidiny Swamp, located 50km north of Perth. Urban wetlands are among the most threatened environments in Australia. In particular, the Perth Region has lost more than 80% of its wetlands to urban development and agriculture. Of those remaining many are badly

degraded and continue to be threatened by changes to water habitats, water depth and water quality. Pipidinnny Swamp has been substantially modified in parts due to a long history of private ownership, however in recent years it has been incorporated within Yanchep National Park. Little baseline information is available for this wetland, and as a consequence there is much to be learnt about its ecological significance. Normally Pipidinnny Swamp contains shallow water on a seasonal basis. In the past decade, however, the combined effects of below average rainfall and increased regional groundwater abstraction have resulted in the disappearance of these seasonal wetland conditions. Successional changes in vegetation communities, as well as other ecological impacts, are likely to be magnified over the longer term with climate change. Urban wetlands, such as Pipidinnny Swamp, have a national and international importance when considered as part of a broader network of habitats that are protected by state, national and international wetlands policy agreements.

**Christina BIRDSALL-JONES\* and Wendy SHAW^**

**Session 241**

\*Curtin University of Technology

[c.birdsall-jones@exchange.curtin.edu.au](mailto:c.birdsall-jones@exchange.curtin.edu.au)

^University of New South Wales

Indigenous Urban Homelessness: a comparative perspective

According to the 2001 National Census, there were 7,526 Indigenous homeless people in Australia. Of this total, 1,376 were in NSW and 1,054 were in WA, and account for over 30% of the national population of homeless Indigenous people. These figures are, however, not necessarily reliable (Memmott et al. 2003; Morphy 2004; Sanders 2004; Trewin & Madden 2005), and do not account for dwelling in 'public places' (Memmott et al. 2003). This paper will present the beginnings of a program of ethnographic research on Indigenous homelessness in NSW and WA. This research seeks to understand some of the specificities of Indigenous homelessness, and will explore individual housing/shelter paths, shelter aspirations and the contributions of life stage, employment, family and community responsibilities, lifestyle choice as well as the varied availability of housing assistance.

**Chris BRENNAN-HORLEY and Chris GIBSON**

**Session 325**

University of Wollongong

[chrisbh@uow.edu.au](mailto:chrisbh@uow.edu.au)

Work and play: vagaries surrounding contemporary cultural production in Sydney's dance music culture

Much recent research has documented how, under 'creative' capitalism, approaches towards work and types of work are changing. This paper extends this research direction, uncovering the discourses that influence conditions of work in one sector of the cultural industries: what can be loosely defined as the 'dance music industry'. This paper examines the role that networking and social relations play in maintaining a music scene through which work opportunities are created. It also explores how attitudes toward work in this particular cultural pursuit are emblematic of wider shifts in working practices within the cultural and creative industries. The findings are based on interviews with DJs and promoters involved with various dance and electronic music scenes in Sydney. This

paper concludes that boundaries between work and non-work, and between 'industry' and 'scene' are porous for those engaged in this form of cultural production, and discusses the implications of these observations for the future of cultural work under advanced capitalism.

**Kathleen BRODERICK**

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority  
kathleen.broderick@gbrmpa.gov.au

**Session 224**

Adaptive management for water quality improvement in the Great Barrier Reef Catchments: a process for developing a shared conceptual framework.

Adaptive management requires integration of many ideas from human geography. Water quality improvement using an adaptive management approach requires attention to process and commitment to continually improving knowledge and practice. This also requires a degree of humility on the part of resource managers and a commitment to learning. Regional Natural Resource Management groups in Australia demonstrate many of the qualities required for adaptive management including: respect for social sciences perspectives; recognition of uncertainty and gaps in knowledge; a defined purpose but explicitly experimental approach; wide inclusion of stakeholders; and awareness of the need for sophisticated feedback mechanisms. Based on research with the Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional NRM group, this research focuses on a process designed to make learning in Water Quality Management explicit. This paper describes methods used to elicit stakeholders' understandings, explores the variation in understandings between key stakeholders, and outlines a process used to explicitly incorporate the various views in a conceptual model for managing water quality. The research findings reveal the importance of process in developing a shared conceptual framework of the system for adaptive management for improved water quality.

**Alison BROWNE and Brian BISHOP**

Curtin University of Technology  
Alison.Browne@csiro.au

**Session 234**

'The Mutant Has Two Heads': Contemporary Colonialism in 'Post-Colonial' Land and Water Management

In Australia, the construction of contemporary land, water and natural resource issues, is currently implemented through neo-liberal governance frameworks. Management of Australia's 'natural resources' is constructed in a way that reflects a contemporary form of colonialism. This paper argues that colonialism has mutated with two heads — it has adapted and found a space within globalised, neoliberal, post-modern, productivist and capitalist based scientific and political systems. This paper explores the application of 'contemporary geography' and community psychological theory and methodology to two PhD case studies of large research and development programs from 'Southern' (Murray Darling Basin) and 'Northern' (the Ord/West Kimberley) Australia. The contrast between the 'southern' and 'northern' case studies, raises a question to whether as Australia(ns) we may be currently 'colonising ourselves' through land and water management. As many people in the radius of collapsing natural resource systems such as the Murray Darling Basin (and other parts of southern Australia) begin to search for

new ‘frontiers’, there is a consistent gaze towards a ‘resource filled, exotic north’. Fuelled by a historical discourse of legal ‘rights’ to other places, spaces and resources in Australia, and shrinking ‘networks’ of a globalised world, a strange form of contemporary neo-liberal colonialism emerges. Contemporary colonialism is expressed by the seeking out of new, illustrious resources and sources of wealth from the north in order to support a (biopolitical) agenda for population health of those in the ‘South’. Colonialism again rears its’ ugly head — only this time there is two of them.

**Heather BUILTH and Peter KERSHAW**

**Session 215**

School of Geography and Environmental Science  
 Monash University  
[hbuilt@bigpond.com](mailto:hbuilt@bigpond.com)

The archaeological signature of Gunditjmarra aquaculture

Systematic Aboriginal landscape modification, covering approximately 100 sq kms of a 30,000 year old lava flow from Mt Eccles in south west Victoria, has been interpreted as the remains of a sophisticated system of water and resource control. The combination of basalt rocks, spring-fed ground water and wetlands with the anadromous Short-fin eels enabled Gunditjmarra to establish eel aquaculture and the means to preserve and trade this valuable resource. The consequence was the development of a very different social system than generally assumed for indigenous Australian societies. Following these findings research is continuing aimed at identifying the palaeo-environmental evidence of the development and timing of this ancient and specialised Gunditjmarra economy.

**Judith BURNS**

**Session 241**

University of New England  
[jburns2@une.edu.au](mailto:jburns2@une.edu.au)

The greatest traditional asset: residential mobility, employment and housing among Aboriginal people in rural and remote NSW

This paper draws on a much larger body of research, undertaken as a PhD project, which examined residential mobility among Aboriginal people within the former ATSIC Murdi Paaki region of far western NSW from a variety of perspectives. The focus in the current paper is on the two policy areas corresponding to the socio-economic attributes which had the strongest influence on residential mobility: housing and employment. An extensive process of field research indicated that housing is an influential factor in motivating movement. Most Aboriginal people in the study area are tenants, and tenure type and social housing availability appear to be strongly related to movement. Labour force status, too, is related to movement, but appears at the moment to be less a motivating factor and more an enabling one. This may, however, change with recent revision of the rules of the Community Development Employment Projects programme. The paper presents results which illustrate the nexus between mobility and both housing and employment, and explores the implications of the findings for policy-making in both these key areas.

**Gilbert CALUYA**  
University of Sydney

**Session 222**

'Take Away Corner': space, affect and racial formations on the gay scene

While for some Sydney's gay scene is a space of sexual liberation, for Asian-Australians it's also a space of racial segregation. Manalansan has drawn attention to the spatial segregation that accompanies the orientalist network of racialised desires in the Western gay communities. Extending my previous published work, this paper concurs with Manalansan's analysis of New York's gay scene by outlining how Sydney's gay scene is racially segregated through the categorisation of certain venues as being associated with Asians. Using Deleuze and Guattari's notions of 'striated space' and 'territorialisation', I explore the ways that racialised sexual desires constitute spatial formations and practices that literally confine gay Asian males into what might be called 'micro-ghettoes'. However, as Deleuze and Guattari point out, striated spaces can sometimes dissolve into smooth spaces just as territorialised, molar formations can be disaggregated through molecular flows of deterritorialisation. Thus, the second part of this paper asks, what processes of deterritorialisation are at play that might enable possibilities of connecting bodies not reducible to race? Using autoethnography, I draw on experiences of the space of a gay dance party in order to chart a set of affective connections, which while not demolishing race, is nevertheless irreducible to it.

**Jenny CAMERON (Convenor)**

**Session 334**

Researching in 'A Post-Capitalist Politics' world (panel)

Speakers: Jenny Cameron, Michelle Carnegie, Sarah Gall and Gerda Roelvin  
Respondent: Kathleen Mee

In 2006 J.K. Gibson-Graham's *A Post-Capitalist Politics* was published by University of Minnesota Press. The panellists discuss research projects that have been informed by key concepts elaborated in this work (and initially explored in J.K Gibson-Graham's earlier book, *The End of Capitalism (As We Knew It): A Feminist Critique of Political Economy*, republished in 2006 and profiled in 2007 in the 'Classics in Human Geography Revisited' series of *Progress in Human Geography*). In this session the panellists show how the diverse economy framework has been used to inventory economic practices in inner city and rural locations in Australia and Indonesia. From this foundation they discuss how the coordinates of the community economy (necessary and surplus labour, consumption and the commons) focus attention on everyday ethical negotiations. The projects demonstrate how the diverse economies framework and the community economy concept offer ways of doing research that cut across familiar distinctions between the "developed" and "developing" worlds, urban and rural areas, and economic, social and political geography. The discussion also highlights the value of weak theory, of largely descriptive work in which researchers seek not to confirm what we already know, but to look for the unexpected and for new possibilities, to suspend judgement and explore the question "what if". In so doing the discussion raises the issue of the performativity of research practice and the contribution of research to changing the world, particularly when researchers move from a stance of critique and certainty to adopt a more tentative and appreciative perspective.

**John CAMPBELL**

**Session 333**

Department of Geography, Tourism and Environmental Planning  
University of Waikato, New Zealand

Community Relocation as an Adaptive Response to Climate Change in Pacific Island Countries

While there remains considerable uncertainty about the effects of climate change on communities located in low-lying areas such as atolls and coastal plains, the issue of such communities having to abandon their current sites as they become less habitable has received widespread media and coverage. There are a number of issues that need to be addressed if such responses were to become necessary. It is not uncommon for village communities in the Pacific region to relocate, often in response to natural hazards. Usually, however, such moves are to nearby lands and in most cases remain within customary land boundaries. Relocation beyond traditional lands is often fraught and tensions may remain between relocated communities and their hosts for several generations. International relocation is likely to be even more problematical and those cases in the past where such movements took place were only made possible through the common colonial government of origin and destination countries. It is likely that any international relocation in the twenty-first century will result in community disintegration. In all cases relocation is a highly disruptive process and needs considerable time for negotiations and logistical arrangements to be completed.

**Peter CHRISTOFF**

**Session 316**

School of Social and Environmental Enquiry  
University of Melbourne

Introduction to film showing of *An Inconvenient Truth*

**Peter CHRISTOFF**

**Session 333**

School of Social and Environmental Enquiry  
University of Melbourne

A new South Seas bubble?: Adaptive governance, climate change and Australia's regional opportunities in the near-Pacific region

This paper explores the meaning of adaptive governance for climate change in a regional context. It is evident that, in tackling climate change, mitigation and adaptation needs to occur at various scales of governance, from the local to the global. The development of regional systems of cooperation — under the framework of the Kyoto Protocol and the guidance of the UNFCCC — has already been of benefit in Europe. The creation of a 'carbon bubble' through the European Union arguably has enabled a more equitable and efficient approach to emerge for meeting the need to reduce emissions across member countries of varying economic and institutional capacity. The Asia Pacific climate partnership (AP6) has been another attempt to undertake such a task, but by contrast — resting, as it does, outside and being institutionally contrary to aspects of the Protocol — it has proved less successful. Building on a discussion of these instances, this paper proposes and discusses the opportunities for Australia to be an initiator and major partner in a regional climate pact that assists both developed and developing countries

(Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Niugini, East Timor, and various near-Pacific Island states) to benefit from close cooperation in mitigation and adaptation activities.

**Brian COFFEY\*, James FITZSIMONS^ and Ryan GORMLY\*\***      **Session 214**

\*University of Queensland

[coffeybons@bigpond.com.au](mailto:coffeybons@bigpond.com.au)

^ School of Life and Environmental Sciences

Deakin University

[james.fitzsimons@deakin.edu.au](mailto:james.fitzsimons@deakin.edu.au)

\*\*formerly Department of Sustainability and Environment Victoria

[rynogee@gmail.com](mailto:rynogee@gmail.com)

Strategic public land use assessment and planning in Victoria: Over 30 years of trailblazing but where to from here?

Conflict over the appropriate uses and management of public land have been a feature of the Australian political landscape for at least the past 30 years. While various attempts have been made to establish land use assessment and planning institutions in various jurisdictions, the success of these often short lived attempts at institutional approaches for managing land use conflict have been patchy at best. The experience in the State of Victoria has been somewhat different, with public land use assessment and planning having been informed by a series of independent statutory bodies since 1970 (the Land Conservation, Environment Conservation, and Victorian Environmental Assessment Councils). To some degree at least the value of this approach is indicated by the extent to which Victoria's bioregions are now protected in conservation reserves. However, while there has always been a statutory body in operation, the roles and responsibilities of these bodies have been subject to significant legislative change, with existing bodies replaced by new bodies in 1997 and 2001. Justifications for these reforms included changing circumstances and new understandings about environmental management, as well as changing views about public administration. As a way of contributing to enhancing the design of institutions for mediating land use conflict and contributing to sustainable land use and management, this paper investigates the lessons that can be learnt from the Victorian experience by examining the implications of the changing roles and responsibilities of these institutions, and then discussing possible future directions for strategic land use planning.

**Christy COLLIS**

**Session 242**

Creative Industries

Queensland University of Technology

Moral Geographies of Mars: ethics and aerology

This paper attends to Martian spatiality for two key reasons. The first motivation driving this study is straightforward spatial accountancy: what kind of a space is Mars at this moment? What kind of a place is Mars, this paper asks, before the work of its physical colonisation begins? Can Mars be owned, and if so, through what processes, and by whom? And are any of the numerous lessons learned from European imperialism relevant to Mars? If the USA lands people on Mars, could they plant a flag and claim Mars for America? Would such an action be legal? Would it be ethical? The second

motivation underpinning this article is my research background in postcolonial studies, and specifically postcolonial spatial studies. I've spent a number of years attending to the spatialities of the British empire: what has always driven my inquiry is the ways in which geographies are produced as certain groups' owned, governed spaces. Colonialism, by definition, the drive to effect such spatial transformations — to turn land into sovereign territory — and the analytical literature explaining and anatomising this complex phenomenon as it was practiced by the British is by now substantial. Mars presents a unique case for postcolonial spatial analysts: it is precolonial, a space near the beginning of a significant spatial change. It represents an opportunity for postcolonial studies to refocus on the present — and future — tense, and on colonialisms other than those of the European past. Two specific questions emerge from this paper, questions which are not yet answered: should Mars be regarded as a *terra communes*, a *terra nullius*, or a space of intrinsic value? Second, should Mars be claimable space, and if so, how can it be transformed into a possession, and by whom? This paper focuses particularly on legal and geopolitical productions of Martian geography.

**John CONNELL and Phil McManus**

University of Sydney

**Session 211**

The Role of Country Week in Tree Change

For the past three years a Country Week Expo has been held in Sydney over a long weekend both to publicise the virtues of Country New South Wales and to encourage migration to country towns and regions. Different towns and regions have participated for a variety of reasons, but over time these have tended to be inland towns to the north of Sydney. Their different strategies and discourses are examined here. Several thousand visitors have turned up at each Expo. Those who were most interested in moving were either younger couples, often in recently formed households, or older couples whose children were independent. Cost of housing and, for the first group, availability of jobs were key factors in prompting consideration of moving. Relatively few people were motivated by any inherent dislike of large cities, despite Country Week assumptions. Most people contemplating movement were interested in movement to places that were not too far from Sydney, so that they could maintain ties, and on the coast rather than inland. Many found making choices extremely difficult and there were indications that the Expo played a role, even over a three year period, in allowing people to make a 'stage decision' as they became more precise about the location, costs and benefits movement. The greatest challenge for Country Week is to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Expo to the sponsoring and participating councils and other organisations.

**Annabel COOPER**

University of Otago, New Zealand

**Session 232**

Point Chev boys and the landscapes of suburban memory

This paper considers two autobiographical accounts of boyhoods in Point Chevalier, an Auckland suburb which embodies much that is emblematic of the mythology of early to mid-twentieth-century childhoods in New Zealand. Both a modern suburb in a fast-growing city, and a rich and particular coastal environment, it makes itself available as the setting for a childhood of the national imaginary. But as each of these narratives crosses

the suburban terrain it produces a different understanding of what it meant to grow up masculine then, and there: in *Halfway Round the Harbour* Keith Sinclair never questions the fit between boy and place, or the certainty of his belonging and his identity; Peter Wells in *Long Loop Home* recalls a tumultuous boyhood increasingly marked by exclusion, threat and intense family conflict. Place is created in these texts by gender, sexuality and class: and masculinity is shaped and positioned differently for each of these boyhoods and the men who reflect on them.

**Lauren COSTELLO**

School of Geography and Environmental Science  
Monash University

**Session 321**

Rednecks and Gumtree Fascists: cultural divisions in one rural place

This paper aims to contribute to an understanding of the impacts of migration on rural areas in Australia through an analysis of one non-metropolitan locality in Victoria, Castlemaine. This rural place has recently been the destination of migrants from metropolitan Melbourne. Castlemaine, in Victoria's north is witnessing a growth in relatively wealthy early retiree migration from the metropolitan area. The term treechange has been used to refer to this new settlement pattern, population movement and preference for different types of living amongst Australians. Much of the recent analysis on this type of migration has focussed on quantifying migration patterns, predicting the next seachange location (i.e. where will people go when housing prices get too high) and less on the impact of community and population change in receiving areas. Understanding the implications and effects of urban-rural migration has significant short and long term implications for policy and planning in these areas. As such, this paper focuses on the impact of changes to the local community of Castlemaine as a result of urban-rural migration. In particular the research analyses the divergent cultural values held by 'new' and 'old' residents and the ensuing community divisions that have become apparent.

**Lesley CROWE-DELANEY**

Curtin University  
[lc-delaney@optusnet.com.au](mailto:lc-delaney@optusnet.com.au)

**Session 211**

'Back to Nature': Using Tourism to Revitalise Rural Japan

In Japan, images of idealised rural lifestyles often conflict with images of conservatism, farming, hardship and a past which is no longer appreciated. While a fifty year old urban house can be considered old and 'dirty' — *kitanai*, an older rural house can be seen as a retreat, part of an alternative lifestyle and a treasure from a bygone era. Terms such as *furusato* (the old hometown), *furei* (broadly in this context, a 'connectedness to each other' — and assumed lost through modern living) and *shizen* (nature) have been coined in government campaigns for rural revitalisation and counter urbanisation to repopulate regional Japan. The promotion to get 'back to nature', the connection to the family hometown together with a concurrent tourism campaign involving the experience of farming, rural industry and traditions have been considered as a return to nationalism. Moon and Knight have researched image making of hometowns and village revitalisation and Tuan's explanation of a layering of human perception of the environment over time,

also gives some explanation of the re-imagining Japanese rurality. This paper focuses on the rural images invented by three stakeholders: the real-estate developers (to sell rural property), the Koizumi government (using a multiple approach to reverse rural depopulation) and a rural fishing community. The first two stakeholders are linked each other through loans, government ministries, telecommunication campaigns and connections to private entrepreneurs.

**Kate DARIAN-SMITH\*, Chris GIBSON^  
and Andrew GORMAN-MURRAY^**

\*University of Melbourne

^University of Wollongong

**Session 311**

### What is 'the rural'?

Geographers and historians have long known that defining places, regions and landscapes is no mean feat. Monikers such as 'regional', 'rural', 'urban' and 'remote' are regularly used in policy discourse, media coverage and everyday talk, with scant reflection on the historical and cultural baggage such terms bring with them. Historically, for instance, Australia has been perceived as both 'rural' and 'colonial', with the two ideas linked in particular economic ways. These connections, in turn, have positioned 'the rural' as central to the national imaginary, and continue to inform broad contemporary cultural understandings of 'the rural'. As researchers seek to reflect more fully on what future rural cultural research might entail (both theoretically and methodologically), more thorough documentation of the manner in which 'the rural' has been defined and interpreted is required. This paper subsequently draws on insights from the different perspectives of history, cultural geography and demography to illuminate how 'the rural' has been delineated and interpreted in Australia since Federation, and to discuss what this might mean for rural policy-making and research.

**Mark DAVIDSON**

Dartmouth College/Urban Research Centre, University of Western Sydney  
M.A.Davidson@dartmouth.edu

**Session 126**

Globalisation has given rise to a series of questions about territoriality, spatial relations, and scalar politics. A consideration of the city has been central to these debates as urbanism has been identified as pivotal to the shaping, basing and challenges of globalisation processes. However, there has been less consideration of how globalisation processes are reorganising the internal spatiality of the city. Historically, the city has been consistently divided into central and peripheral zones; city centres and suburbs; with the centre defined as a physical territory with common economic and social qualities. Although this characterisation certainly understates the complexity and geographical variability of the urban form, this paper will argue that the city is undergoing a significant change in how it defines centrality, and how centrality is being defined in light of neoliberal globalisation. The paper demonstrates this through an examination of how urban policies which have promoted social mixing through a reorganization of the city's urban social geography — affordable housing legalisation in the UK, housing voucher schemes in the US, and tenure programs in Australia — have generated processes of gentrification which retain associations with the central city, but in a form defined more by constructed associations than territorial propinquity. The paper concludes with some

thoughts concerning how globalisation might further challenge our conceptions of urban centrality.

**Tim DENHAM**

**Session 215**

School of Geography and Environmental Science  
 Monash University  
[Tim.Denham@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Tim.Denham@arts.monash.edu.au)

People, plants and practices: reflections on agriculture and landscape transformation in New Guinea

Agriculture was practiced in the Upper Wahgi valley in the highlands of Papua New Guinea from at least 7000-6400 years ago, with earlier equivocal evidence of plant exploitation dating to around 10,000 years ago. However, how meaningful are concepts of agriculture to understanding and representing the practices through which people use and, by inference, used plants across landscapes in New Guinea? In this talk, the diffuse conceptual and spatial boundaries of agriculture/plant exploitation practices in New Guinea are sketched.

**Jacqui DIBDEN\* and Chris COCKLIN^**

**Session 122**

\*School of Geography and Environmental Science  
 Monash University  
[Jacqui.Dibden@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Jacqui.Dibden@arts.monash.edu.au)  
 ^Faculty of Science, Engineering and Information Technology  
 James Cook University  
[Chris.Cocklin@jcu.edu.au](mailto:Chris.Cocklin@jcu.edu.au)

Multifunctionality and provision of public goods

A debate has occurred in all developed countries about the public goods and services that landholders are increasingly expected to provide as an adjunct to their farming activities. The inability of the market to meet the costs of these services represents a case of market failure. In Europe, European Union (EU) and national funds have been used to fill this gap. Multifunctionality has been used both to justify payment of incentives to landholders for provision of public goods and to provide ways of doing this that are compatible with trade liberalisation. For Australia, this approach offers a means to resolve the contradiction between its commitment to free trade and opposition to farm subsidies, and the country's dependence on the efforts of over-stretched farmers to overcome pressing environmental problems. However, until recently Australia has been reluctant to embrace this option, resulting in policy dissonance between, on the one hand, the neoliberal drive to 'deregulate' the economy that promotes the view of farmers as 'business managers' and creates 'winners and losers' and, on the other hand, the land stewardship ethos, which encourages farmers to be good natural resource managers, often for public rather than private benefit. Nonetheless, the acute environmental issues confronting Australia make the need for new directions particularly pressing. In this paper, we will explore policies and programs (federal and state) promoting the notion of ecosystem services that are currently being applied within selected Victorian Catchment Management Authority regions, and examine the responses of farmers to these policy settings.

**Michelle DOMINIS**

School of Geosciences  
 University of Sydney  
[mdom0452@mail.usyd.edu.au](mailto:mdom0452@mail.usyd.edu.au)

**Session 114**Landscape factors and spatial / temporal patterns of dryland salinity

Salinisation of the Murray Darling River, Australia, is one of the largest threats to the drinking water supply of Adelaide and the future of 70% of irrigated crops in Australia. A significant source of salt for the river system can originate from areas of land affected by dryland salinity. Understanding patterns of change of dryland salinity in the past can provide important insight about the potential for future change and therefore possible future impacts upon drinking water resources. Aerial photograph interpretation was used to determine the behaviour of dryland salinity at 12 saline sites between 1958 and 2004 at Baldry, a farming district in the Macquarie River Valley Catchment, located within the Darling section of the Murray Darling River. Several spatial and temporal scales of analysis were investigated from single bare patch to multiple-site and from years to decades. The influence of climate was considered separately and has important effects. This presentation is concerned with the influence of landscape and land cover factors such as geology, topography, soil type and remediation. A general increase in salinisation was observed during the 47 years of monitoring. Although fluctuations of salinity existed between sites and over time, topography was found to limit the spatial extent of a site. Remediation was not found to affect the behaviour of salinity probably due to stronger impacts by other external factors. The size of a saline site, however, appeared to affect the pattern of salinity over time. A spatial and temporal threshold may exist which determines the predictability of a salinity response to a change in external factors. Different scales of analysis can, in combination, provide a basis for better predicting salinity inputs to water resources.

**Robyn DOWLING\* and Pauline MCGUIRK^**

\*Department of Human Geography  
 Macquarie University  
[rdowling@els.mq.edu.au](mailto:rdowling@els.mq.edu.au)  
 ^Centre for Urban and Regional Studies  
 University of Newcastle  
[pauline.mcguirk@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:pauline.mcguirk@newcastle.edu.au)

**Session 213**Master-planned communities in Sydney: neo-liberal privatisation?

Urban spaces in Australia and elsewhere have been substantially reconfigured by forces of privatisation and privatism. In the Australian case, privatisation has been most obviously manifest in master-planned estates in which a private development corporation carries out activities that have historically been the purview of the state: planning, infrastructure provision and facilitation of community development. In Australian urban studies, the extent to which master-planned estates are instances of the privatisation has been assumed rather than investigated. Thus in this paper we cast a critical eye over this presumed process of privatisation. Based on interviews with development, planning and property organizations we explore the myriad, potentially contradictory, motivations and influences producing master-planned estates. Rather than evidence of the all-encompassing grasp of market-based processes and practices, we find a complex

enactment of privatisation in which geographies of sociability and sustainability are embedded.

**Danielle DROZDZEWSKI**

University of New South Wales  
danielled@unsw.edu.au

**Session 322**

Familial transmission and cultural memory

The transmission of cultural memories plays a defining role in the formation and maintenance of ethno-cultural identities within migrant communities. A major conduit for transmission of language, religion, social values and aspirations and ‘taken-for-granted ways of behaving’ (Bertaux and Thompson, 2005: 1) is the immediate and extended family. Migrant families in particular pass experiential knowledge generationally, and this process is important to the maintenance of ‘cultural’ identity. This paper examines the transmission of cultural memories within the private sphere of Polish migrant families. I seek to explore how family migration can be a critical influence on the narration of cultural memories, especially when migration was prompted by experiences of war and political conflict. This paper focuses on both the *content* and *process* of transmission of memories through generations of migrant families. Not only are cultural traditions, religious values and language transmitted through the generations, but familial stories and memories also implicitly convey the Polish sense of struggle for cultural survival.

**Michelle DUFFY**

The Australian Centre  
University of Melbourne

**Session 125**

Spatter: an extra-ordinary space of engagement

The description offered of the spatter project points to the ways in which the relations between space and matter are polyvocal and multivalent, and how we make sense of space/matter arises out of particular interpretations we give to such sensory information. *“Did you hear it coming and did it land on you? Spatter. Onomatopoeically it evokes a turn of the head, a second glance. Visually it produces a distribution. Touch it and perhaps it creates the multi-sensory, leaving an indelible mark on you...”*. In this paper, I want to think through the possibilities inherent in the unpredictable arising out of such ambivalent sensual relations between space and matter, for it is this unpredictability that enables a potentially extra-ordinary space of engagement. Drawing on Sonia Leber and David Chesworth's outdoor installation, Proximities: local histories/ global entanglements, a public art project for the William Barak Bridge commissioned by the Victorian Government to celebrate the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games, I explore how such artistic interventions help us rethink place and perhaps our relationship to it, through notions of performativity, creativity and affect.

**Rae DUFTY**

University of Newcastle  
[rae.dufty@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:rae.dufty@newcastle.edu.au)

**Session 325**

Governing locationally (in)flexible subjects: the pursuit of labour market flexibility through housing assistance reforms in Australia (1985-2005)

Flexibility has been a long acknowledged objective of neoliberalism. An important component of a 'flexibilised economy' is the expectation that labour (including those who are considered unrealised labour units, i.e. the unemployed) ought to be increasingly flexible in terms of how they engage and participate in 'the labour market'. This paper contributes to geographical understandings of 'flexibility' from a governmentality perspective. The paper grounds analysis in a series of policy documents at the Federal Government level, to show how increased locational flexibility of labour (both its costs and its geographical placement) are key objectives of government. The paper argues that, beyond labour market policies *per se*, one of the ways in which Australian Governments now pursue this flexibility and seek to govern the locational behaviours of 'the unemployed' is through housing policy. Shifts in how housing assistance is provided and how individual labour 'units' are governed, represents a new paradigm of redistribution away from the geographical reallocation of fiscal resources across regions to instead pursuing redistributive objectives through the spatial reallocation/flexibility of labour.

**Ronlyn DUNCAN**

School of Geography and Environmental Studies  
 University of Tasmania  
[Ronlyn.Duncan@utas.edu.au](mailto:Ronlyn.Duncan@utas.edu.au)

**Session 114**

Impact assessment practice and predictive models: creating distance and engendering credibility

Environmental regulation requires decision-making into an unknowable future. Yet, technological developments and their conditions for operation are approved on the basis that unknowns and unpredictability are manageable. Predictive models have become an indispensable tool to this end. While it is well known that predictive model outputs will be as credible as their inputs and the assumptions that configure the model, it is less well known how standard impact assessment practice can distort such outputs and, consequently, compromise evidence on which decision-makers rely in their deliberations on whether or not a project should proceed. This paper, which draws on an impact assessment process for a major energy infrastructure project in Australia, traces the distances created between knowledge users and knowledge producers. It analyses the epistemological implications of the interchangeability of these roles in the practice of impact assessment which is increasingly reliant upon the engagement of multiple groups of consultants across a range of fields.

**Kevin DUNN\***, **Jim FORREST^**, **Rogelia PE-PUA\*\***  
and **Maria HYNES\*\*\***

**Session 223**

\*University of New South Wales

[k.dunn@unsw.edu.au](mailto:k.dunn@unsw.edu.au)

^Macquarie University

\*\*The University of New South Wales

\*\*\*Australian National University

Cities of race hatred? The spheres of racism and anti-racism in contemporary Australian cities.

Cities are indeed places of everyday racism, experienced as ethnocentrism, prejudice and ethnic-based hatred. Drawing on an Australia-wide telephone survey of respondents' experiences of 'everyday' racism in various contexts, conducted in 2006, we examine the form of racist experience, as well as the contexts and responses to those experiences. Results show that between 1 in 10, and 1 in 3 respondents, depending on their background and situation, experience some form of 'everyday' racism. However, this particular aspect of urban incivility is shadowed by everyday good relations. There is an uneven geography of anti-racism, what we might call, following Thrift, a geography of cultural repair and maintenance. Both racism and anti-racism are unequally facilitated across space. The paper avoids both utopic and dystopic assessments of inter communal relationships in the city, drawing on performance theory to advocate a pragmatic on-going, agonistic politics of cultural exchange and tolerance.

**Hazel EASTHOPE\*** and **Michelle GABRIEL^**

**Session 321**

\*University of New South Wales

^University of Tasmania

Turbulent lives: young people's experiences of mobility and home

Migration is an important part of the lives of many young adults. In numerous areas around the world, and particularly in regional and remote areas, a culture of migration has emerged, whereby the migration of young adults is normalised and expected. While the impact of the migration of young adults on the areas they have left and have moved to has received considerable attention in both political and academic arenas, there is a need for more research that addresses the cultural aspects of migration and the importance of the migration process for young people themselves. The paper is based on two large research projects undertaken between 2000 and 2005, which focused on the experiences of migration of young adults in the island state of Tasmania, and includes data sourced from interviews and focus groups with young migrants as well as in-depth analysis of media and policy documents. The research discusses the expectations and aspirations of young adults growing up in a culture in which migration is normalised and their experiences of leaving, and returning to, their childhood homes. These issues are considered in the context of recent theoretical debates surrounding the impact of mobility and attachment to place on the identities of migrants.

**Rob EDWARDS**

University of Queensland

**Session 321**Toyota National Country Music Muster: a model of community involvement?

Many local events are run on a volunteer basis, but the kinds of volunteer associations involved in an event are often not examined critically. This paper seeks to address this problem by analysing the Toyota National Country Music Muster's volunteer workforce and the ways in which that workforce comes together to create a working sense of community. The Muster is a community-run event that has existed in the Gympie district, 200kms north of Brisbane, for twenty-five years. The event began as a celebration of very local occurrences but has now grown into the largest outdoor country music festival in Australia. From the outset, the Muster was run by volunteer associations — particularly the Apex Club of Gympie — with all profits generated being returned to the local community and/or charity groups. Since 1982, the amount of local community involvement has grown as fast as the festival itself, with around fifty community groups now assisting in its running. What makes the Muster unique is the kinds of groups that work at the event, and the way in which they are chosen. The Gympie Apex Club is the controlling body, with a large number of community groups all involved in providing labour to them. Various forms of exchange occur between the Apex Club and these volunteer associations through this work. These forms of exchange are:

1. Material gain for their association
2. Working senses of community
3. Social capital

These exchanges are all contingent on which volunteer associations Gympie Apex chooses to employ at the Muster. There is evidence to suggest that the Apex Club has a specific criteria for choosing which groups get work on the Muster site, thereby suggesting that a very selective kind of community is created by the Muster itself.

**Lisa ELFORD**

Monash University

[leelf1@student.monash.edu.au](mailto:leelf1@student.monash.edu.au)**Session 111**Refugees and Geographies of Care: From 'Human Rights' to 'Bare Life'

Throughout the world large populations of people exist as refugees outside the norm of the citizen — state relationship. Without a safe home to return to, refugees maintain a tenuous existence on the margins of both their countries of origin and temporary or permanent exile. Although international organizations such as the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and International Organisation for Migration follow traditional liberal principles of justice and human rights in seeking to respect the rights and basic needs of refugees and asylum seekers, it is evident that their approaches are not only inadequate, but also punitive in the way they strip down the identities of these individuals to the condition that the philosopher Giorgio Agamben calls 'bare life'. We need only refer to the Tampa crisis, excising of territories where asylum seekers arrive, extra-territorial processing practices, and detention centres in and outside Australia to recognize that something is fundamentally wrong with our supposed adherence to the principles of universal human rights and duty of care towards refugees. This paper will explore the inadequacies of the current approaches to universal human rights. In an effort to expand our limited conceptions of the geographies of care, it will argue for a

larger ontological shift in how we view refugees as ‘persons’ by situating refugees within the broader context of geopolitical struggles regarding the meaning, necessity, and assertion of the concept of sovereignty. The paper will draw on the ideas of social philosophers such as Foucault, Arendt, and Agamben to question current ‘traditions’ of human rights that define refugees in ways such that they effectively cease to have any political rights as humans.

**Heidi ELLEMOR\* and Jon BARNETT^**

**Session 333**

\*Emergency Management Australia

^School of Social and Environmental Enquiry

University of Melbourne

The Challenges of Climate Change to Emergency Management

Climate change will significantly increase the frequency and intensity of hydrometeorological disasters such as flood, bushfire, storms, cyclones, and droughts. Australia has well developed emergency management institutions that seek to mitigate vulnerability to such disasters, respond to their onset, and assist people to recover. This paper asks questions about the capacity of Australia’s emergency management system to ensure community safety in the future given the increased risk of hydrometeorological disasters. This is an important question given that the most immediate impacts of climate change will take the form of more intense, and increasingly multiple and sequential extreme events, yet it is one that remains to be adequately tackled by either policymakers or researchers. We begin by reviewing what is known about the increased disaster risk caused by climate change. We then describe Australia’s emergency management system, and summarise what is known about the best way to reduce the risk of various kinds of disasters, recognising that best practice is contingent on the nature of the risk and the places exposed to them. We then point to some key potential constraints to the ability of this system to adjust in order to continue to ensure community safety under climate change — the challenges of addressing the multiple drivers of vulnerability to hydrometeorological disasters, the demands for and on volunteer and professional emergency management personnel, and the rising costs and difficulties of recovery given the shortening of return times between events. We conclude by arguing for a systematic and comprehensive assessment of the capacity of Australia’s emergency management system to respond to climate change, and outline a broad approach to such a study.

**Adrian EMILSEN**

**Session 213**

Department of Human Geography

Macquarie University

[aemilsen@els.mq.edu.au](mailto:aemilsen@els.mq.edu.au)

The Property Thing: Lacan and the geography of desire

This paper aims to propose a theoretical engagement between Lacanian psychoanalysis and critical urban geography. Utilising empirical examples from recent newspaper reports and political speeches about property and real estate markets within Australia, this paper demonstrates how the Lacanian concepts of fantasy, enjoyment and desire can be made

applicable within geographical research. Finally, drawing from Lacan's account of sexualisation and the phallic signifier, this paper demonstrates how dominant discourses of property and home ownership reproduce a 'gendering' of subjective identifications between those who appear to 'have' and those who are perceived to 'lack' the desired object of property.

**Alex ENGLISH**

**Session 224**

Department of Geography and Resource Management  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong  
[alexfe@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:alexfe@cuhk.edu.hk)

Towards an integrated, participatory and cooperative institutional framework for achieving sustainable development

The study of institutional constraints on effective environmental protection is a growing concern within environmental governance research. Institutions are regarded as either the curse or solution to environmental policy implementation gaps. Based upon five years of research into the interaction between environmental policy and local state institutions in rural China, this paper will reveal how different contexts deeply shape the interplay and effectiveness of both formal and informal state institutions and environmental policy implementation and inaction. The challenge in China, from an institutional perspective, is achieving sustainable development during a period of rapid transition and economic growth. One of the key failings within current environmental policy in China, and elsewhere for that matter, is the dependence upon sector-based governance, as opposed to an integrative social-economic-environmental policy framework. Innovative solutions need to be adopted to resolve many of the major socio-environmental-economic contradictions, where the existing formal and informal institutions often lead to fragmentation and conflict. Moreover, there needs to be a move beyond the dominant one-sided negative view that bureaucratic fragmentation is dysfunctional and beyond management, constraining the implementation of environmental policy and the management of environmental protection. As such, a positive notion of active management, instead of passive avoidance, of institutional fragmentation should be developed to further the cause of environmental protection and sustainable development. A new integrated approach, based upon existing formal and informal institutions, is necessary encompassing the principles of sustainable development, active coordination together with stakeholder and community participation.

**Alex ENGLISH**

**Session 331**

Department of Geography and Resource Management  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong  
[alexfe@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:alexfe@cuhk.edu.hk)

Sustainable tourism development from an adaptive and participatory approach: the case of Jiuzhaigou Nature Reserve, China

Tourism is generally noted for its negative environmental and social impacts upon sensitive cultural and natural heritage sites with very few positive and sustainable solutions. However, during the past two decades one Chinese nature reserve has moved

beyond such an outcome by embracing an adaptive, participatory and sustainable management approach. Based on the case of Jiuzhaigou Nature Reserve in China's central Sichuan Province, this paper will discuss the evolution of a sustainable tourism approach, including many of the solutions adopted by the reserve to minimize and ameliorate the negative environmental, cultural and economic impacts of mass tourism. Today, Jiuzhaigou provides an effective model of tourism development within a sensitive cultural (ethnically Tibetan) and natural environment (limestone karst) from both a practical and theoretical perspective. With over two million annual visitors, the reserve has adopted world leading practices and policies in protected area interpretation, visitor impact, cultural tourism, institutional cooperation, research, local participation, marketing and corporate management. This paper is based upon five years of annual field trips to the reserve between 2000 and 2005, involving hundreds of interviews with local people, tourism operators, local government officials and the reserve management. It argues that the key to Jiuzhaigou's success is largely based upon local adaptive learning, participatory decision making and bold leadership.

**Christine ERIKSEN**

School of Earth and Environmental Sciences  
University of Wollongong  
[ce967@uow.edu.au](mailto:ce967@uow.edu.au)

**Session 124**

Why do they burn the 'bush'? Fire, rural livelihoods, and conservation in Zambia

Despite the historical importance of fire as a savanna land management tool, much controversy still surrounds discussions on anthropogenic fire utilisation and the sustainability of indigenous land management practices in savannas. This controversy is arguably a result of a discord between official fire policies and actual indigenous fire practices — a discord based on a gap in existing knowledge of and a lack of informed literature on the importance of fire for socio-economic and environmental survival in savanna environments. Addressing a continuing lack of research on the political ecology of fire, this study investigates the historical and present day socio-economic, environmental and political frameworks that affect anthropogenic burning regimes and land-management in the Kafinda Game Management Area and Kasanka National Park in Zambia. A series of participatory research activities revealed the continuing importance of fire to rural livelihoods but that a mismatch in desired burning regimes exists between local stakeholders. The paper argues that local power relations are preventing the local communities from adopting burning regimes that would be more environmentally sustainable and more in line with present day farming systems.

**Megan FARRELLY**

School of Geography and Environmental Science  
Monash University

**Session 112**

Community-based regional environmental planning in Australia: an evaluation of the Natural Heritage Trust

Strategic investment in regional planning and implementation is the focus of an Australian Government funding initiative, the Natural Heritage Trust Phase 2 (NHT2). Previously, the NHT funded local community groups for on-ground action, but now requires the formation of regional, community-based groups to develop and implement a nationally accredited regional plan and investment strategy. An emphasis from the NHT2 is 'regional empowerment through integrated regional planning'. Using a case study approach, the paper presents the key findings from research into three NHT2 regions of Australia, focussing on the experiences of local landcare and catchment groups. Through interviews with key regional stakeholders, participant observation and document analysis, the processes of regional group formation and operation, regional plan development and stakeholder involvement were examined. Despite the long history of community involvement established through the National Landcare Program; planning processes were largely disconnected from those individuals who are expected to create change. Inadequate community consultation, changing guidelines, insufficient communication, and limited monitoring and evaluation added to the complexity. The concept of regional-scale management was perceived favourably; however, there were concerns that NHT2 requirements would lead to increased bureaucracy and alienate the regional group from the community it represents. Efforts are now being made to address this through further strategies and capacity building projects. The success of the regional planning process will be evidenced by how many regional community members actively work to implement the regional priorities.

**Megan FARRELLY and Rebekah BROWN**

National Urban Water Governance Program  
Monash University  
Megan.Farrelly@arts.monash.edu.au  
Rebekah.Brown@arts.monash.edu.au

**Session 225**

Bringing about change: towards sustainable urban water management

We live in an increasingly turbulent environment with regard to water. While the focus of Governments is currently crisis-mode management, our research argues more is required than simply focusing on supply security. This presentation argues that in Australia, advancing the concept of sustainable water management in urban environments is not restricted by available technologies but is instead limited by governance arrangements. Preliminary findings from Perth, Brisbane and Melbourne showcase how different cities, each with different organisational arrangements, have similar barriers resulting from governance structures. Through interviews and an on-line questionnaire, professionals in the urban water sector helped identify these barriers. In an attempt to shift beyond these barriers, the National Urban Water Governance Program has discovered that in transitioning from a 'drained' city to a 'waterway' city there are a number of key contextual factors that help create an enabling environment for change. This

presentation will touch on the recent Program outcomes and discuss potential enabling factors for transitioning to water sensitive cities.

**Ruth FINCHER\* and Kurt IVESON^**

**Session 223**

\*University of Melbourne

[r.fincher@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:r.fincher@unimelb.edu.au)

^University of Sydney

[k.iveson@geosci.usyd.edu.au](mailto:k.iveson@geosci.usyd.edu.au)

Reconsidering urban encounter

Encounter, or interaction between citizens in urban public spaces, has a long history in discussions of the nature of cities and urbanity. Recent revivals of the idea in the thought and practice of (western) urban planning have considered encounter as a potential source of social cohesion, social mix and the expansion of social capital. Some urban theorists have viewed the facilitation of encounter as the antithesis of modernist planning with its rationality, scientific methods and broad vision. Commercial uses of the idea have stressed the significance of contemporary café culture, preferably through the location of facilities in urban thoroughfares and public squares. In this paper we reconsider encounter in order on the one hand to 'see' things that are precluded in current formulations both theoretical and political, and on the other hand to suggest a role for planning that reverses the current apparent view that planning and encounter don't mix. Central notions in our reformulation will be the fleeting and the temporary, for encounters of this kind are dissimilar to those envisaged in plans for community-based social cohesion and social mix. Identities cannot of course remain fixed in a view of encounter that sees fleeting and temporary interactions as significant, so the unsettling of identity groups is an additional notion, not just as a theoretical claim but also as a practical basis for planning and policy. Examples will be drawn from Australia and Europe, from emerging efforts in planning to facilitate an encounter not relying on the establishment of social and spatial permanence.

**Bob FISHER and Kate GRIFFITHS (Convenors)**

**Session 313**

School of Geosciences

University of Sydney

[rjfisher@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rjfisher@ozemail.com.au)

[kate.griffiths@geosci.usyd.edu.au](mailto:kate.griffiths@geosci.usyd.edu.au)

Reflections on geography and engagement with development in the Asia-Pacific region (panel)

Speakers: Barbara Rugendyke, Simon Batterbury, John Connell, Bob Fisher

In an article published in *Geographical Research* in 2005, Barbara Rugendyke suggested that development geography is declining as a focus of geography in Australia, following a period when it was a major focus of interest. Nevertheless, issues of poverty, economic development and environment remain of great relevance to the region and seem to be an important focus for engaged and relevant geography. This panel seeks to explore the engagement of geographers with development in the Asia-Pacific region (including Australia and New Zealand). It seeks to identify current interests, opportunities,

challenges and research priorities. Opportunities for exchange between geographers within the region will also be discussed. This moderated panel session, is the third activity of the IGU network 'SEAASWP' (The Southeast Asia, Australasia and the Southwest Pacific). SEAASWP was created in July 2006 and is the fourth International Geographical Union (IGU) regional network.

**Renee FULTON**

School of Geosciences  
University of Sydney  
[renee.fulton@student.usyd.edu.au](mailto:renee.fulton@student.usyd.edu.au)

**Session 211**

Green Resources in Coastal Peri-Urban Environments

Green resources, including all types of remnant and planted vegetation, are an important element of any landscape for the ecosystem services they provide. Ecosystem services are the processes by which green resources produce environmental, social and economic benefits that support urban development. This is particularly evident in the Shoalhaven local government area on the south coast of NSW, where the natural beauty of this region is one of its most valued assets. The rapid growth that the Shoalhaven region has experienced over the last two decades as a *sea change* and tourist destination is expected to continue, yet is dependent upon the preservation of its national parks, reserves, wetlands and privately owned woodlands and orchards, for which there is little scientific basis for decision making. The purpose of this research is to model the impacts and constraints of urban development on sustainable vegetation growth in coastal peri-urban environments, demonstrated in a case study of the Milton/Ulladulla district of the Shoalhaven region. GIS and remote sensing modelling techniques will be adopted to identify the historical and predicted state of green resources in the case study site. These techniques will also be used to quantify the ecosystem services provided by green resources for assessing their use as a readily measurable indicator in state of the environment reporting. Ultimately, this research aims to provide a scientific foundation for incorporating measures into management and land-use planning practices that ensure the conservation and sustainable use of green resources for supporting future coastal urban development initiatives.

**Wendy GARDEN**

University of Melbourne  
[w.garden@pgrad.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:w.garden@pgrad.unimelb.edu.au)

**Session 322**

Contact Zone — Photographic space and indigenous others in colonial Australia

This paper looks at the construction of photographic space in portrait photography. While portraits have traditionally privileged the visual and have been understood as 'records' of a moment frozen in time, this paper discusses the performative aspect of photographic space. This paper discusses photographic space as an activation of third space. Foregrounding the experiential aspect of space alters understandings of power structures which in the colonial encounter with indigenous others has generally been understood to privilege the power of the colonial photographer. This paper looks at several examples of nineteenth century portrait photographs of indigenous Australians and argues that by considering the embodied business of being photographed, and

indeed the photographic act over the photographic image, many indigenous Australians had far more agency and indeed power than has generally been credited.

**Alison GATES**

University of Sydney

**Session 311**

Acclimatisation societies: a new interpretation

Acclimatisation Societies were formed in both rural and urban Australia from the 1860s. Their aims included the deliberate introduction of plants and animals to ‘improve’ the environment. These organisations have traditionally been viewed contemptuously as agents for the introduction of many notorious pests that ran wild through rural Australia. This conventional interpretation emphasises the environmental impact of the acclimatised species and neglects a broader consideration of the acclimatisers’ stated objectives. However, a closer, critical examination of the acclimatisation societies suggests a different interpretation. This paper proposes a new framework for the investigation and evaluation of acclimatisation societies that recognises cultural, institutional and educational factors within the acclimatisation experience. It is argued that this framework can be used to re-tell the story of acclimatisation and that it has applicability for understanding and evaluating the impact of environmental movements beyond a narrow focus on physical environmental impacts.

**Chris GIBSON\*, Tess LEA^ and Susan LUCKMAN\*\***

\*University of Wollongong

[cgibson@uow.edu.au](mailto:cgibson@uow.edu.au)

^Charles Darwin University

\*\*University of South Australia

**Session 243**

How far can urban policy discourse travel? Reflections on Darwin as ‘creative tropical city’

This paper contributes to recent debates about how urban policy discourses travel, whether they are transferable and what is lost in their translation. It draws on recent ARC-Linkage funded research on Darwin, a tropical-savannah location which the local government wants to promote as a ‘creative city’. We contextualise our discussion in academic literatures on the creative city and the path-dependent character of governmental rationalities, and then discuss the geographical, demographic and cultural characteristics that make Darwin a challenging and distinct context for translation of global theories of creative city rejuvenation. As well as argue a case for more nuanced locationally-specific analysis of the capacity of places to embrace travelling policy discourses, we suggest two ways in which creative city research can be refreshed: through intersection with literatures on (post)colonial urban politics, and through consideration of policy initiatives other than those targeted at ‘creative industries’ *per se*. We also emphasise that tropical cities in remote locations provide particular challenges to accepted wisdom about creativity-led urban planning.

**Nicole GRAHAM**

Department of Law  
Macquarie University  
nicole.graham@law.mq.edu.au

**Session 234**

The Myth of the Drought-Busting Marketplace

This paper will explore and critique the conception of water in Australian property law that lies at the heart of current and controversial debate concerning private and therefore tradable property in water resources. The commodification of water enables and requires that a particular value of that resource, namely its economic value, assume dominance in a field of multiple experiences of and relationship to water. Does Australian property law adequately express and protect relationships experienced between Australians and their water resources? The second question of the paper is whether property law can resolve the water crisis? The shift from environmental regulation of water in the public sphere to private distribution and use of water in the private sphere assumes that the market is itself a natural phenomenon which regulates resources in a quasi-evolutionary manner — valuing scarce resources appropriately and consequently creating efficient use and distribution of those resources. The paper concludes that abstract market logic and accompanying property law are dangerously impotent to address real resource crises.

**Haydie GOODER**

University of Melbourne  
[hgooder@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:hgooder@unimelb.edu.au)

**Session 223**

‘Always was, always will be...’: imagined geographies of co-presence

In the 1990s, state sanctioned reconciliation programs in Australia emphasised the need for reconciliation activities to occur in the very locations people think of as home. However, politics of locality have produced very different reconciliation landscapes, which in turn have raised different opportunities and dilemmas for Aboriginal/ non-Aboriginal dialogue. In this paper, I focus on a non-Aboriginal reconciliation group in a Melbourne suburb where the absence of a local Aboriginal community has led to the subsequent re-imagining of an Aboriginal past. While the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation placed strong emphasis on understanding *history*, I argue that a desire for new legitimated, shared *geographies* of belonging is as relevant. In engaging with some of the dimensions of these new imagined geographies of co-presence, I question what the limits to reconciliation might be and the risks for all involved. I argue this enables a new ethic of relationality in the local; one that is often fraught but nonetheless allows for social relations to develop that may not previously have been there.

**Andrew GORMAN-MURRAY**

University of Wollongong

**Session 232**

Men on the home front: a review and research agenda for masculinity and domesticity

This paper critically reviews research into the intersections of home, domesticity and masculinity. Recently, there has been growing interest in home and domesticity across geography, sociology, anthropology and other disciplines, generating a body of

sophisticated literature on a range of topics. These include the social and gendered relations of home, domestic materiality, home and nationalist and imperial politics, and transnational geographies of home and belonging. A key consideration cutting across much of this work is the relationship between home, domesticity, and various identity categories, including gender, race, age, disability, nationality and sexuality. What is little developed here, however, is knowledge of the shifting relationship(s) between masculinity and domesticity. As such, I seek to critically review the research that has been conducted into home, domesticity and masculinity, and offer directions for future work. Broader literature demonstrates that neither home nor identity are fixed, but mutually and ongoingly (re)constituted. Likewise, I argue that masculinity and domesticity are mutually constituted through homemaking activities. To give conceptual shape to this claim, the review is organised into two themes: domestic masculinities and masculine domesticities. By domestic masculinities, I refer to the way both idea(l)s of home and changing homemaking practices have figured and refigured masculine identities. By masculine domesticities, I refer to the way men's changing engagements with domesticity can simultaneously refashion dominant discourses of home. I thereby argue that attention to the relationship between masculinity and domesticity crucially augments insight into the diverse and fluid gendered and sexualised meanings of home in contemporary society.

**Andrew GORMAN-MURRAY, Gordon WAITT,**

**Casey O'BRIEN and Chris GIBSON**

University of Wollongong

**Session 321**

*Flying the rainbow flag: rural festivals, landscape iconography and the politics of gay/lesbian belonging in Daylesford, Victoria*

This paper analyses the role of flags in generating feelings of belonging and invoking boundaries of inclusion/exclusion. We extend recent work on the politics of belonging by arguing that the material landscape makes a crucial contribution to socio-political inclusion. We focus on a particular example — gay men and lesbians in Daylesford, a town in rural Victoria, Australia. Thus, we also contribute to rural cultural studies by investigating the intersection of gay/lesbian sexuality and rurality in Daylesford. Against normalised understandings of rural spaces as hostile for gay men and lesbians, Daylesford is reputed as a gay-friendly country town: it has a sizeable gay/lesbian resident population, and hosts ChillOut, the largest gay/lesbian festival in rural Australia. But fieldwork conducted around ChillOut 2006 revealed a more nuanced story. Many gay/lesbian residents asserted a heightened sense of belonging during ChillOut which was tied to the presence of gay/lesbian iconography in the townscape. Most shops along the main street displayed rainbow flags, and this material symbolism enhanced feelings of gay/lesbian belonging to Daylesford. The importance of this landscape iconography for socio-political inclusion was reinforced in events following ChillOut. The council subsequently banned the display of rainbow flags on the Town Hall, provoking an outcry from gay/lesbian residents who felt socio-politically excluded from the local community. This sense of exclusion was heightened by letters in the local newspaper applauding the council's decision and demonising gay/lesbian sexuality. Thus, this conflict over flag-flying and landscape iconography evoked the contested boundaries of gay/lesbian belonging in an ostensibly gay-friendly context.

**Ian GRAY**

Charles Sturt University

**Session 113**

Trams versus Buses: imagery and conflict over urban transportation equipment and the spatiality of environment and administration

A long-running debate over plans for the development of public transport servicing Sydney's CBD has created two opposing politicised camps: those who favour improved bus services and supporters of the extension of a light rail system. Such contestation has occurred in many cities. Through the Sydney debate, the respective technologies have been given life by imagery in the media and used as extensions of broader orientations towards technology and public policy-making. The paper analyses these images and orientations, drawing on the work of Flyvbjerg in the politics of planning and Latour in the sociology of technology. The media have taken very significant roles in the debate by reporting and interpreting, and in one instance, a newspaper providing an arena for debate in the form of a conference which it reported. Content analysis of the framing of the issue in the pages of *The Sydney Morning Herald* between 1986 and 2007 provides a window on the public presentation and perception of ideo-technical disputation in the context of local-state government relations and the political economy of infrastructure. Frames indicate the range of values attached to the opposed types of equipment and the ways in which protagonists used those values. Framing extends to imagery of place and cityscape, with ideals of urban environment and lifestyle. These include positive and negative values attached to history, as Sydney's long-closed tramways provide referents for nostalgia and opposition to it. Overarching the debate lies the relationship between local and state government. The paper concludes with a discussion about the significance of the framing of technology to the agendas which pervade such debates, and the importance of the arenas and spatiality of administration under which debates occur.

**Donna GREEN\* and Benjamin PRESTON^**

**Session 323**

\*Climate Change Research Centre  
University of New South Wales

^Climate Change Impacts and Risk  
CSIRO

Climate change impacts in remote Northern Territory Aboriginal communities

Recent domestic and international literature suggests that climate change is likely to disproportionately impact particular sectors, regions and communities at a national level. Initial impact assessments for many remote Aboriginal communities in northern Australia have found evidence to support this concern. Although climate impacts will be experienced for many remote communities across Northern Australia from the Kimberley (WA) to Cape York (Qld), this paper deliberately focuses on identifying climate impacts that Aboriginals living in remote regions of the Northern Territory are likely to experience over the next 50 years. Despite many of these communities' previous experience and capacity in adapting to environmental change, this paper gives specific attention to their current sensitivity to biophysical impacts and their capacity to adapt (or not) to relatively rapidly changing conditions. Compounding factors that elevate the importance of this contemporary discussion include the existing socio-economic disadvantage found in many of these communities, the increasing population growth rate and the high level of Aboriginal land ownership. A key factor discussed in this

assessment is the very strong link between the health and well-being of many Aboriginal people to the perceived environmental health of their country and culture. Inadequate recognition of this cultural concern may reduce these communities' resilience to coping with climate change impacts.

**John HANDMER (Convenor)**  
RMIT University

**Session 116**

Bushfire resilience in Australia (panel)

Speakers: John Handmer (RMIT); Amanda Lynch (Monash); Josh Whittaker (RMIT); Robyn Betts (Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner).

Many rural areas have been impacted by bushfires over the last several years some areas have suffered on a number of occasions. These areas are not simply impacted by fires, they have had to deal with drought for many years, as well as demographic and other changes. Farming populations in Victoria are aging, in some areas counterbalanced by people moving in for non-farming activities. All rural production is being affected by Australia's relatively *laissez faire* attitude to global farm trade. An aging population and threats to livelihoods suggests decreasing resilience. The urban interface areas around Melbourne appear to stand in contrast in terms of bushfire resilience. The members of the Panel will examine the question of what makes communities more or less resilient to bushfires. This question will be considered both in terms of circumstances today and likely future circumstances.

**Lesley HEAD, Jenny ATCHISON and Alison GATES**

**Session 122**

GeoQuEST Research Centre and School of Earth & Environmental Sciences  
University of Wollongong  
Wollongong  
[lhead@uow.edu.au](mailto:lhead@uow.edu.au)

A cultural ecology of Australian wheat

Relationships between people and plants underpin our survival, but those we depend on most are the most taken for granted. We aim to provide innovative new perspectives on human-plant and rural-urban interactions by tracing and connecting the cultural, economic and ecological networks in which Australian wheat is embedded. The complexity of these relations lend themselves well to recent conceptualizations of networks, hybrids and assemblages within geography and elsewhere but, as Jones and Cloke (2002: 4) have argued, 'flora... remains a ... ghost-like presence in contemporary theoretical approaches'. In this paper we provide an overview of our current project, moving between the wheat belt of New South Wales, the Port Kembla grain terminal and the supermarket shelf.

Jones, O. and Cloke, P. 2002 *Tree Cultures*. Oxford: Berg.

**Deanne HICKEY**

School of Geosciences  
 University of Sydney  
[dhic3522@mail.usyd.edu.au](mailto:dhic3522@mail.usyd.edu.au)

**Session 235**

The application of GIS to a coastal wetland system to establish relations between wetland hydrology and fine scale vegetative patterns

Coastal wetland systems have a high conservation value, providing habitat for aquatic and terrestrial life. However their position within the intertidal zone subjects them to frequently changing conditions, resulting in a complex system where vegetation distribution is driven by biological, chemical and physical conditions. Increased human pressures and predicted sea level rise enhance the complexity of these systems. It is therefore vital for species conservation to attain an understanding of ecological response to the governing biological, physical and chemical conditions. These conditions are driven by wetland hydrology, with the interaction between tidal inundation and groundwater integral in governing fine scale vegetation distribution. This study takes an integrated approach incorporating field survey, monitoring and spatial modelling to evaluate the relationship between wetland hydrology and intertidal vegetation within a south east Australian wetland. The study site, Towra Point, Botany Bay is the largest coastal wetland habitat within the Sydney Region and is listed as a RAMSAR site. Topographic survey and vegetation mapping was undertaken and groundwater monitoring was carried out on site. GIS applications were used to evaluate field data and to facilitate investigation of the relationship between fine scale vegetative patterns and wetland hydrology. Surface models were established to simulate groundwater and tidal inundation conditions and enable the spatial examination of vegetation distribution and the governing conditions monitored throughout the study. The combination of transect monitoring and GIS based spatio-temporal analysis of wetland hydrologic conditions assisted in determining factors influencing intertidal vegetation distribution.

**Douglas HILL**

Department of Geography  
 University of Otago, New Zealand

**Session 233**

Political Society and Urban Space in contemporary India: the case of Kolkata

In this paper we consider the way that changes in India's political economy has led to different contestations of urban space in its major cities. In so doing, we are interesting in moving towards a culturally informed account of the growth of the middle class and its impact upon industrial, residential, and retail complexes in contemporary India. Since these processes are regionally differentiated, we concentrate on one state, West Bengal, and in particular several sites in Eastern India's largest city, Kolkata. In examining the tensions involved in these transformations, we show how the uneven development of the city will shape the economic transformation of different parts of both Kolkata and its hinterland and implications that this has for different groups within society. While there are many factors affecting the production of urban space in India, some of the most readily identifiable relate to the increase in disposable income amongst the middle class and socio-cultural shifts towards greater enthusiasm for western style consumption patterns that has coincided with the growth of services sector economy, such as outsourcing and Call Centres. The changes in the built environment, that have

accompanied the rise in the middle class, has included the construction of luxury townships, gated communities, corporate parks and the rehabilitation of slum sites. These developments have been facilitated by increased efforts to exclude the urban poor from large parts of India's major cities and evict agriculturalist from peri-urban areas. These processes have been far from uncontested, however, and the form of resistance to this changed built environment has varied depending on the political equations of each city. In this sense, Kolkata is a particularly interesting site for researching urban change, since it is ruled by a coalition government called the Left Front, which draws its major constituency from the poor and the trade union movement. By contrasting the transformation in Kolkata with that occurring in other cities such as Mumbai, Bangalore and Delhi, we suggest ways in which the nature of political society is shaping the uneven development of contemporary India.

**Mick HILLMAN and Lesley INSTONE**

**Session 242**

School of Environmental and Life Sciences  
University of Newcastle

Which Bank? Legislating nature for biodiversity offsets in New South Wales

A system of biodiversity offsets was recently introduced in NSW through the *Threatened Species Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Banking) Act*. The Act provides for “a system that enables ... biodiversity credits, once created and registered, to be traded (including by being purchased by developers) and used as an offset against the impact of proposed development on biodiversity values”. As part of this system, a biometric approach will be used to assess the impact of development on biodiversity values to allow appropriate credits to be purchased. Objections to various provisions of the Act have come in particular from conservation groups around principles of sustainability (precaution, equity etc.), likelihood of incremental and long-term biodiversity losses, and the absence of bottom line safeguards to protect natural capital. We argue that the act (or Act) of ‘Legislating nature’ reterritorialises biodiversity within reductionist narratives shaping new forms of spatiality and materiality of biodiversity conservation. Such a reframing runs counter to understanding biodiversity as an intrinsically unstable, dynamic, transdisciplinary and performative set of practices mutually constituted between humans and the non-human environment. The application of a biometric model and categorical/layered ‘conservation’ mapping serves to create an unscaled (or categorically scaled), static, silenced and placeless form of biodiversity that reduces nature to an exchange-value and reinforces a human-nature binary. We interrogate the ‘translation’ of nature required for black letter legislation and policy through recent geographical literature on hybridity and materiality, and through consideration of the requirements of sustainable governance and ecological justice, in particular the need for place-based and situated approaches.

**John HOLMES**

University of Queensland  
j.holmes@uq.edu.au

**Session 122**

The Multifunctional Transition in Australia's Northern Tropical Savannas: Complexity in Land Tenures, Property Rights, Actors, Agendas and Decision Processes

Over the last three decades, the land tenure map of northern Australia has been radically altered, with a mosaic of indigenous, conservation, tourism and defence lands displacing pastoral leaseholds and vacant crown lands. Tenure changes have been accompanied by new regimes of property rights, including common-law native title, non-transferable Aboriginal freehold title, conservation tenures and major revisions of the rights and duties of pastoral lessees, in recognition of a transition from monofunctional pastoral occupance towards multifunctional modes with enhanced consumption and protection values. Divergent regional trajectories can be identified, categorized and depicted within the triangular relativities between production, consumption and protection values. On the least productive lands, limited scope for capital accumulation has created an expansive space for non-market interests and ideologies to achieve practical outcomes. Major participants include Aboriginal traditional and contemporary interests, reconciliation advocates, conservationists, tourism entrepreneurs, pastoralists, development advocates, lawyers, courts and tribunals, agencies of federal, state and territory governments and statutory organizations, engaged in a complex maze of decision processes. Divergent trajectories are starkly revealed in a comparison of driving forces, decision processes and occupance outcomes between the Barkly Tableland and the adjoining Gulf Country.

**Johnathon HOWARD**

JHoward@csu.edu.au

**Session 234**

Amenity values challenge our ability to create environmental flows for the Murray River

Several large-scale programs are attempting to improve environmental flows in the Murray River. To date much of the debate has been on determining how to water is needed for environmental versus agricultural uses. This paper argues that superimposed onto this debate about water use, are non-use values such as tourism, recreation and lifestyle (i.e. amenity) which are likely to restrict our management options. Using data from a range of sources and case studies, I show tourism, recreation and lifestyle values in the Murray have significant economic value and have widespread community and political support. As these amenity values arise largely from the development of lakes and weir pools, any proposal that attempts to address the environment/agriculture water use dilemma through better in-stream management are strongly resisted by the local community. This means if our goal is to improve environmental flows down the River we need to more fully capture the essence of amenity-based values; and this can only be done through better public engagement and good scientific research.

**Richie HOWITT, Mitchell LENDRUM, Stephanie RUSSO,  
Lee SEYMOUR, Rosie SMITH and Nicole WERGELTOFT**

**Session 314**

Macquarie University  
[rhowitt@els.mq.edu.au](mailto:rhowitt@els.mq.edu.au)

Being-on-country-together: a framework for sustainability planning in remote Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory, Australia

Neither recognition of Native title, nor granting of land rights has been sufficient to secure sustainable economic futures for Aboriginal communities in remote areas of the Northern Territory. Policy debate continues to vacillate between supporting decentralised community development and abandoning outstations and remote communities as economically unviable. This paper reports on continuing research in the Daly and West Arnhem regions of the Northern Territory to outline a framework for rethinking the future of remote Aboriginal settlements in terms of ‘being-together-on-country’ — addressing issues of self-governance, new responses to social, economic and environmental challenges, and driving responses from within rather than seeking to import/impose external drivers of economic growth and performance. The paper offers both a framework for research and an overview of findings.

**Andrew HUBBARD**

**Session 121**

School of Environmental Planning  
Griffith University  
[a.hubbard@griffith.edu.au](mailto:a.hubbard@griffith.edu.au)

The bifurcation of policies of care in mental health

Since the early 1980s mental health care, in the Western world, has been guided (to a greater or lesser extent) by the principle of ‘least restrictive treatment’. This principle holds that the care of people with mental illness should take place in the least restrictive manner possible. Contemporary geographies of mental health have thus largely focused on the so-called ‘post asylum’ landscapes of care, with the implicit presumption that community care is, and will remain, the primary basis of mental health care. I present evidence from case studies in the United Kingdom and Queensland to argue that there is an increasing bifurcation in policy between those who are seen as deserving of care in the community, and those who are increasingly subject to a discourse of dangerousness and risk, resulting in an increasingly wide spectrum of geographic locations of care for people with mental illness, including a return to a focus on confinement for certain segments of people with mental illness. I argue that this increasing bifurcation in policy has important implications in relation in our understandings and approach to mental illness and poses a fundamental challenge to contemporary notions of care for people with mental illness.

**Rachel HUGHES****Session 125**

School of Social and Environmental Enquiry  
 University of Melbourne  
[hughesr@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:hughesr@unimelb.edu.au)

Talismanic geographies: Romantic quests, digital games and geopolitics

This paper examines how the trope of the quest for a talismanic object is 'played out' in contemporary geopolitical interventions and invasions. I trace this trope through video game, film and geopolitical representations and practices, using the highly successful *Tomb Raider* game series as a starting point. The game's heroine, archaeologist and toiled-up tomb raider Lara Croft, must obtain a series of objects from various exotic and ancient locales. Rather than 'following the thing', this object geography follows the logics of followers of things. Lara's 'real-world' embodiment, actress Angelina Jolie, is at once a film star, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, and mother to three adopted children. Through Jolie, the quest for a talismanic object is also played out in the work of the advocate for displaced and objectified life: refugees and orphans.

**Amity JAMES****Session 221**

Flinders University

Expectations of older people in sea change locations: the case of Victor Harbor, South Australia

It is misleading to think that the sea change movement is dominated by older people looking to spend their retirement years by the coast. Such migrant retirees form, in many places, only a small proportion of those who are seeking to make a fundamental change to their lifestyle. The cohort currently entering retirement is however, interesting because of how little is known about their housing expectations for this phase of life. Concerns have also been raised in regard to the ability of sea change locations to cope with the needs of this rapidly changing demographic. This paper focuses on the housing, health and retirement expectations of recent migrants aged 50-65 years to sea change communities such as Victor Harbor in South Australia. It also discusses the perceived challenges of services providers as they face the unknown expectations of this population. A model of residence, which includes not only the dwelling in the form of shelter, but also the decisions and aspirations of the individual, the location and the way that it provides access to service provision and also the social networks attached to that place, will be used to understand the expectations of older people in a sea change community.

**Sarah JAMES****Session 233**

Centre for Cultural Research  
 University of Western Sydney  
[s.w.james@student.uws.edu.au](mailto:s.w.james@student.uws.edu.au)

Ordinary complexities: scale and postcolonial urban studies

Recent debates around scale and complexity in geography have much to offer to a developing post-colonial urban studies that seeks to re-territorialise the city. This

approach, as it frames cities as both ‘ordinary’ and unique with their own history and trajectory, challenges the hierarchical and globalised ordering of the global cities discourse (Robinson 2006). Contemporary discussions around the issue of scale that propose an interrelation of dynamic sites (Marston et al. 2005), rather than vertical or horizontal hierarchies of scale, can enrich these ideas. This site-based perspective presents the city as produced from its many assemblages (Escobar 2006), both social — including migrant, indigenous and settler inhabitants- and environmental. The emergent and contingent nature of the city’s development is highlighted in this framing, presenting the individual city in both its uniqueness and its ordinariness. Such an approach also highlights the complexity of the city that stems from the intersections of divergent and diverse natures and cultures. This paper seeks to explore these themes through an interrogation of Sydney’s ‘global’ city status in light of its position as a post-colonial and emergent site that is both ordinary and unique.

**Natalie JAMIESON**

University of Melbourne

**Session 124**

Integrating social justice and environmental management: challenges for communities and environmental managers

Although we acknowledge that the experience of environmental degradation and the impact of environmental management vary spatially and socially, the conceptual task of elaborating how questions of environment and questions of social justice intersect remains. Some (eg Dobson, 1999, 2003) have argued it is problematic to assume there is a relationship given the contested nature of both environment and social justice. Others (Argyeman, 2005) have argued that the integration of ecological and equity considerations is both possible and crucial for sustainability, and must be embedded in all political, economic and social decision-making and practice. This debate is examined empirically with reference to community-based environmental management practices in regional South Australia. Case study evidence reveals that the integration of social justice and environmental management depends upon the way these notions are conceptualised, and their articulation resourced, in everyday environmental management practices. These practices, and the institutional contexts in which they are embedded, form the basis for an analysis which reflects upon the relevance, importance, and challenge, the achievement of a relationship between social justice and environmental management presents to communities and environmental managers.

**Lynda JOHNSTON and Robyn LONGHURST**

University of Waikato

**Session 212**

Queer(ing) geographies down under: some notes on sexuality and space in Australasia

Over the past fifteen years geographers in the UK, US, Canada, Australia, NZ and elsewhere have been increasingly concerned with issues of sexuality and space and have produced an array of work under the heading ‘queer geographies’. This paper considers the importance of place in the production of queer geographies. Complex politics of place mean that at a variety of scales — local, regional, national and global — queer geographies in Australasia are both similar to, and different from, queer geographies produced elsewhere.

**Tanya JUDD and Natalie MOORE**

**Session 243**

Centre for Urban and Regional Studies  
University of Newcastle  
[tanya.judd@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:tanya.judd@newcastle.edu.au)  
[natalie.moore@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:natalie.moore@newcastle.edu.au)

Flows and connections: new spatial representations of the lower Hunter, NSW

Typically cities and regions are conceptualised and represented as a set of characteristics or stocks attached to a particular place or territory. However, work by Thrift and Amin (2002) suggests that it is in the circulations of the city that urban life is formed and performed. Seen this way, cities and regions are a collection of sequenced activities with connections between homes, recreation spaces, consumption spaces and work spaces. In this paper we examine data from journey-to-work and household travel data, for the lower Hunter Region, NSW. We use this data to trace the multiplicity of movements and flows of daily travel within the region and adopt the argument that apparent in these flows are patterns of urban life. Performed on a daily basis these flows constitute the lower Hunter region.

**Therese KENNA**

**Session 213**

University of New South Wales  
[t.kenna@unsw.edu.au](mailto:t.kenna@unsw.edu.au)

“We’re not refugees from the real world!” Understanding residents quest for, and experiences within, a gated community in Sydney

Gated communities have a considerable presence in urban landscapes internationally. Obvious examples of the gated community phenomenon can be drawn from places like the US, South Africa and Mexico. Recently, Australia has taken to the trend of privatising residential developments, although the *gating* of residential space in Australia does not yet reflect the international scene. When considering reasons for the emergence of gated communities in Australia parallels are often drawn to the international experience — the desire to be secure, to keep ‘others’ out, etc. As such, the lives of those within gated communities in Australia have attracted negative attention without a thorough understanding of the circumstances. In this paper, I primarily present, and reflect upon, the findings from surveys and interviews with residents within a gated community in south-west Sydney — Macquarie Links Estate. The survey and interview data reveals residents motivations for moving to a gated community, the lived reality of a gated community, levels of neighbourhood interaction as well as movements and interactions beyond their own community. The place of children and young people within this gated community is also discussed. Consideration is given to some of the broader implications of gated communities as these new residential developments are transforming the geography of Sydney’s urban and suburban areas, and in some cases, generating quite a contrast with surrounding residential areas.

**Scott KIMPTON, Roy JONES\* and Alan PILGRIM**

Social Sciences Program

Curtin University of Technology

\*[r.jones@curtin.edu.au](mailto:r.jones@curtin.edu.au)

**Session 326**

Four Wheel Drive Tourism in Desert Australia: Potentially Responsible or Practically Irredeemable?

The Cooperative Research Centre for Desert Knowledge has almost completed the first phase of its “On Track” project on the social, economic and environmental impacts of four wheel drive tourism in desert Australia. While the main output of this work to date has been the production of a database on the location and growth of this activity by the CSIRO (the “VRUM” sub-project), research has also commenced on the topic of “responsible four wheel drive desert travel”. To date, this has involved surveys of four wheel drive travellers and hirers by researchers from James Cook and Charles Darwin Universities and collection, through Curtin University, of research, industry and governmental data on environmental, regulatory and safety issues. Preliminary findings indicate: that safety information provided by hirers is highly variable; that, while educational programmes probably have the greatest potential to achieve beneficial outcomes, the segmentation of the four wheel drive market probably means that those with most to gain from this are less likely to avail themselves of such opportunities; and that there may be some potential to assess state and territory policies (e.g. on the issue of permits and passes) in order to identify and disseminate “best practice”.

**Tegwen KING**

University of Adelaide

**Session 232**

Surgically altered land(body)scapes: repertoires of renewal as an interface between gender, corporeality, and the metropolis

This paper discusses the practices of renewing bodies and cities in anti-ageing cosmetic surgery and postindustrial waterfront redevelopment discourses. Rather than taking these events, and consequently the concepts of the body and the city as primarily intact and discrete entities, this examination takes the discursive practices of urban-body renewal as a dynamic and reciprocal process of meaning making. It is principally concerned with how, in this process, gendered concepts of the relationship between corporeality and the metropolis are brought together and drawn apart both in similar and disparate ways. Guiding this exploration is Elizabeth Grosz’s (1995) theoretical suggestion that the body and the city are mutually constitutive, although in a fundamentally disunified way. Based on an analysis of anti-ageing cosmetic surgery and postindustrial waterfront redevelopment repertoires used in the Australian newsprint media, it is argued the concept of renewal in these texts acts as an interface to intertextually traffic the gendered meanings of these practices. This trafficking resulted in the ‘humanising’ of cities and the ‘citifying’ of bodies. While postindustrial waterfront redevelopment texts imagined urban renewal through repertoires associated with bodies (such as cosmetic surgery, life, rebirth, and pregnancy), anti-ageing cosmetic surgery texts more generally drew upon repertoires of technology, science, medicine and war. The implications of this relationship point to a number of complex gendered socio-political concerns that warrant closer examination for future research.

**Peter KLEPEIS\*, Nicholas Gill^ and Laurie Chisholm^**

**Session 112**

\*Department of Geography  
Colgate University

^School for Earth and Environmental Sciences  
University of Wollongong

Lifestyler Landscapes: Invasive Weeds and Land Subdivision in Rural Australia

Throughout history invasive alien species have created environmental, economic, and social problems. Technological change, trade, and land system change are among the key factors in their spread and intensification. A recent global phenomenon holds the potential to exacerbate the invasive species problem: the subdivision of farm and grazing land and the introduction of alternative land uses and management regimes by new rural residents. An Australian case study explores the subdivision of fine wool sheep ranches, the arrival of new landholders and the resultant land-use change, and the impact of these changes on the management of one of the country's worst invasive weeds, serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*). Interviews with property owners, government officials, and members of the community-based conservation group, Landcare, expose cultural, institutional, and economic barriers to the control of the invasive grass. As the subdivision process leads to smaller properties and higher population densities it holds the potential to improve management of serrated tussock if the result is fewer livestock and more people to chemically and mechanically control the grass. But roughly 65% of the newcomers are part-time residents and absenteeism tends to result in weak efforts to manage noxious weeds. In addition, regardless of their full-time/part-time status, many of the newcomers are 'lifestyle' landholders whose cultural context and ideas about land and nature is diverse, and who do not seek their primary income from the land. Much of rural Australia now contains lifestyler landscapes, with the traditional social capital and capacity to manage regional-scale environmental problems fundamentally altered.

**Laurence KNIGHT**

**Session 326**

School of Humanities and Human Services  
Queensland University of Technology  
[l.knight@qut.edu.au](mailto:l.knight@qut.edu.au)

Purposeful Travel: Australian Twitchers (Birdwatchers) Searching for Grasswrens.

Grasswrens are a charismatic genus of birds residing outside of the Australian ecumene. Although they can be frustratingly difficult to find, they are an iconic group for twitchers chasing "ticks" for their Australian birdlists. Australian birdwatchers have been early adopters of GPS technology, and in many respects, are natural geographers who travel widely. While "hard core" twitchers will travel thousands of kilometres on short notice to see rare vagrants, many "normal" birdwatchers plan and undertake equally long journeys through outback Australia to see sedentary species such as grasswrens. Birding-Aus is an email newsgroup used by Australian birdwatchers to broadcast rare bird sightings, report on birding activities, canvass bird conservation issues and generally discuss their hobby. This paper reports the findings of an online survey of birdwatchers who access Birding-Aus regarding their search for grasswrens. Using origin and destination data, as well as situational details, this paper provides insights into the distances travelled and strategies used by birdwatchers to find each of 10 taxa of grasswrens.

**Nico KOTZE**

Department of Geography  
University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa  
nicok@uj.ac.za

**Session 331**

The Impact of Sport Tourism on Host Cities in South Africa: A Case Study of Three One-Day Events

In the leisure travel market, sport tourism has emerged as one of the fastest-growing components and has become a subject of interest at academic and governmental level alike. The reason for this is that sport, together with arts festivals and cultural activities, has been seen to make an effective contribution to the economic development of towns, cities and regions. It is claimed by the South African government that sport tourism generated R15.9 million for the country in 2003. This paper aims to determine the impact of annual one-day sport events such as the Two Oceans Marathon (with approximately 16 000 participants), the Comrades Marathon (13 000 participants) and the Argus Cycle Race (27 000 participants) on the urban infrastructure of the host cities. This case study will examine the people who participated in these events in 2005. Their demographic data will be analysed and the places of residence of those not from the host city will be identified, in order to determine the impact of sport tourists on urban infrastructure in Cape Town and Durban during the staging of these events.

**Christian A. KULL**

Monash University  
christian.kull@arts.monash.edu

**Session 124**

'Neo-Australian' landscapes: acacias in highland Madagascar

The Australian silver and black wattle are widespread on the plateaus and mountains of Madagascar. Rarely, however, do these trees attain their full size, leading to a surprising landscape of 'scrubby' wattles. This paper reviews the introduction of these trees, surveys their multiple uses in rural livelihoods and environmental management, and analyses the forestry policies, tenure rules, and ecological factors that maintain the trees' scrubby state. These well-adapted species are an important resource to farmers and serve to green treeless hills, but may become a conundrum to conservation managers due to their non-native, invasive status.

**Kuntala LAHIRI-DUTT**

**Session 315**

Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies  
 Australian National University  
[Kuntala.lahiri-dutt@anu.edu.au](mailto:Kuntala.lahiri-dutt@anu.edu.au)

(Re)presenting women in the coal mines in India and Indonesia

Large mining operations are characterised by isolation and remoteness, yet the globalised nature of their operations place the mines in developing countries at the centre from which new gendered cultures spread out. The minesites are places imbued with masculinity, the ‘plunge down the shaft’ producing powerful visual and metaphorical images in that gendered darkness. The seclusion of the pits, the hard and manual nature of work, the danger and risks, construct their masculinity; the physicality naturalising the power of men and obscuring ‘pit women’ as an analytical category. This paper examines the minesites as gendered places; I speak of ‘pit women’ in this paper as social subjects produced by the discourses around mines and mining, originating from early mining in Europe and USA, transplanted into third world countries where mining has been increasingly ‘breaking new ground’. The paper is informed by research in the coal mines of India and Indonesia, where the social, historical and organisational contexts are strikingly different. The publicly-owned coal mines in India had hired women — often from indigenous communities as part of the family labour unit — although their numbers are decreasing alarmingly causing the non-governmental groups to focus on the impacts of mining on women mainly as wives in affected communities. In Indonesia, globalised mining capital has recently moved to hire women as operators of heavy trucks and other machinery, but again the dominant representation of women is either as miners’ wives or prostitutes. Contesting these representations as victims and prostitutes, or wives and secretaries, the paper develops a critical understanding of the gendered nature of minesites as special places.

**Philip LANE and Robert A. R. KING**

**Session 235**

Faculty of Science and Information Technology  
 University of Newcastle  
[philip.lane@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:philip.lane@newcastle.edu.au)

Is it worth it? A comparison of spatial and non-spatial models to identify disadvantage in the Hunter region.

As part of a larger study, the authors are investigating how to target areas of childhood disadvantage. We will start by briefly mentioning some of the ways to try and model disadvantage (e.g. SEIFA, Vinson Report Dropping of the Edge), and in particular childhood disadvantage. The main section of the presentation compares two models — one a standard regression model, the other having a spatial effects component as well as a regression model. The spatial effects are modelled through a continuous auto-regressive (CAR) function using Bayesian hierarchical approach and the WinBUGS program. Limitations of the data are discussed, and feedback on future directions for the research would be welcomed.

**Ruth LANE**

School of Global Studies, Social Sciences and Planning  
RMIT University, Melbourne

**Session 242**

Waste and value in Melbourne: A political geography of household commodities disposed of through hard rubbish collections and the Melbourne Australia Freecycle Group

The political geographies of waste are as important as those of production and consumption and likely to become more visible in the future. Until recently, geographers have focused primarily on practices of production, distribution and consumption of consumer goods. However recent work has begun to address their disposal or their continued circulation in second-hand markets where they are attributed new values. This paper reports on preliminary findings of research into the mobility of discarded household commodities in the context of hard rubbish collections in Melbourne suburbs, and the Melbourne Australia Freecycle Group, an online not-for-profit email list where unwanted items may be given away to other subscribers.

**Kate LAWRENCE and Phil MCMANUS**

School of Geosciences  
University of Sydney  
klaw3555@mail.usyd.edu.au  
pmcmanus@mail.usyd.edu.au

**Session 225**

Towards Household Sustainability in Sydney? Impacts of Two Sustainable Lifestyle Programs on Water Consumption in Existing Homes

Residential water consumption accounts for approximately 70 per cent of Sydney's water consumption. The capacity of households to reduce water consumption is limited by expectations and conventions of water supply shaped by existing water infrastructure (Allon and Sofoulis 2006) and 'saver-unfriendly' household water fittings (Sofoulis 2005). Sustainable lifestyle programs — many of which address water use — are relatively new, and rigorous research into their impacts is scarce. Existing research generally relies on reported behaviour change from participants, which is then used to estimate resource savings. This paper examines water consumption data, and the questionnaire responses of participants in two sustainable lifestyle programs, to examine whether reported behavioural and technical changes are translating into significant water savings. The *Sustainability Street* (Penrith) and *GreenHome* (Parramatta) programs are changing participant behaviours, but reductions achieved by Sustainability Street are not significant at the 0.05 level and GreenHome reductions, while significant, cannot be fully attributed to the program due to the downward trend commencing prior to the program. The relationship between improved environmental behaviour and actual water savings does not appear to be as straightforward as program operators might assume. This has implications for future strategies to reduce household water consumption and for future research.

**Brian G. LEES<sup>\*</sup>, Zhi HUANG<sup>^</sup>, Kimberly VAN NEIL<sup>\*\*</sup>  
and Shawn W. LAFFAN<sup>\*\*\*</sup>**

**Session 235**

ADFA/ University of New South Wales

[b.lees@adfa.edu.au](mailto:b.lees@adfa.edu.au)

<sup>^</sup>Australian Govt Department of Environment and Water Resources

[zhi.huang@environment.gov.au](mailto:zhi.huang@environment.gov.au)

<sup>\*\*</sup>School of Earth and Geographical Sciences

University of Western Australia

[kvn@segs.uwa.edu.au](mailto:kvn@segs.uwa.edu.au)

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences

University of New South Wales

[shawn.laffan@unsw.edu.au](mailto:shawn.laffan@unsw.edu.au)

### The impact of DEM error on predictive vegetation mapping

Digital elevation data (DEM) is one of the most important data sources for Land Use-Land Cover (LULC) and Predictive Vegetation Mapping (PVM). A number of indices are derived from DEMs which are used in a variety of ways, depending on the nature of the classification problem and the tool being used. In some cases it is the practice to pre-classify these prior to modelling. This chapter examined the impact of two sorts of error. Firstly, the error due to pre-classification in the production of a LULC classification, and also in the production of a surface, or field, prediction of a single species. Secondly, the error in classification resulting from error in the original DEM is examined. It was found that, contrary to widespread practice, leaving the input variables in an unprocessed form was clearly better than almost any of the ‘improvements’ made. This applied to both classification of LULC and to the prediction of a surface, or field, representing a single species. Secondly, as expected, forest type mapping is likely to be quite sensitive to some level of DEM error. We can see that the DEM error has an uneven impact on the different forest types. However, when increasing the level of DEM error, we can expect to see a non-linear decrease in classification performance.

**Rebecca LESHINSKY**

**Session 113**

### Social Impact Assessment as a knowledge instrument for Planning Law Decision Makers

Planning law decision makers (‘PLDM’) in Victoria, Australia, are mandated by planning legislation to consider environmental impacts for significant land use and development. Contemplation of social and economic impacts is discretionary. In striving for ‘good’ planning and ultimately planning decisions which are ‘beneficial’ for ‘community well-being’, I propose that PLDM should take into consideration social and cultural impacts for significant land use and development. A social impact assessment (‘SIA’) may assist in providing such knowledge. A SIA is a tool anchored in qualitative and quantitative research which may ‘depict’ social and cultural impacts. Important too, for planning law decision makers in their determinations on social and cultural impacts, may be the values and ethics they bring to the table. This paper, pillared in socio-legal scholarship, planning theory and moral philosophy, proposes that as social justice, cultural diversity and ethical considerations are integral to equitable planning practice, policy and its legal framework, social and cultural impacts should be considered in determinations for significant land use and development. I further ponder on the place for moral autonomy in planning

decision making. I hope, in a modest manner, the theoretical framework I propose, may hold some value for planning praxis and planning law reform and policy issues.

**Iris LEVIN**

Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning  
University of Melbourne  
[i.levinazriel@pgrad.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:i.levinazriel@pgrad.unimelb.edu.au)

**Session 115**

Process of settlement and home-building practices: Chinese in Melbourne

The question of the architectural form of housing in the process of migrants' settlement has not been adequately addressed. It deals with issues of the built form, namely housing of all kinds, and its role in the migrants' lives during years of settlement (a process which could last many years). The studies on this question are scattered and appear randomly in various disciplines, and it seems that there is no comprehensive body of research on this topic. The paper will concentrate on this question as it has been revealed in literature from a number of disciplines. The different ways in which immigrants achieve their belonging and home building appear in recent research in anthropology, cultural studies, cultural geography and urban studies. It is examined through different perspectives, both spatial social. The diverse approaches taken in the examination of the role of housing in the process of settlement and home-building, demonstrate the importance and relevance of this inquiry, specifically the role of housing for the migrants in the host country. Furthermore, it emphasizes the need for other studies to explore more deeply the meaning of the architectural form in this process of settlement. The paper examines migrants' alterations to their housing and their built environment. It looks at modifications made by migrants of their domestic space, in order to trace the role of the built form in the process of settling in a new country. By studying housing types of Chinese migrants in Melbourne, and their significance in the migrants' process of settlement, the paper attempts to achieve a broader understanding of the role of the architectural form of housing in the process of migrants' settlement.

**Karina LUZIA**

Macquarie University

**Session 212**

Parenting places/family spaces

The involvement of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer identified (GLBTQ) people with children, whether as parents, or permanent and temporary care givers, is a subject that provokes much anxiety in wider society — anxiety simultaneously articulated and fuelled by regular outbursts of moral panic and righteous indignation in the mainstream press. With GLBTQ communities reportedly in the middle of a 'gayby boom', this paper investigates how becoming part of, and maintaining functional links with, child-care and parenting networks is made more complicated for GLBTQ people in their having to negotiate various heteronormative and/or homophobic discourses in 'child-centred' and ostensibly non-sexualised spaces such as schools and child-care centres. Using examples from recent articles on GLBTQ parenting and child care taken from the Australian press, this paper interrogates some geographic understandings of families and parenting to explore current notions of who, what, and where, constitutes 'family' and what this might entail for GLBTQ people and the increasing number of children in their care.

**Damian LUCAS****Session 234**

Cultural Heritage Researcher  
 Department of Environment and Conservation, New South Wales  
[damian.lucas@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:damian.lucas@environment.nsw.gov.au)

Aboriginal cultural values of water in western NSW: 'Was once water here'

Water holds important cultural values for Aboriginal people in western NSW. River flows are highly valued for animating wetlands and floodplains in this semi-arid environment — water literally brings to life important places, stories and living creatures. Rivers are an important part of Aboriginal cultural landscapes, recent rapid decline in inland rivers has intensified Aboriginal community concerns about rivers. However river management has been designed for, and dominated by, the needs of extractive users — conceptually there is little space in water management paradigms for considering cultural values. This paper will discuss these issues of cultural values and water through drawing upon a wetlands restoration project currently being conducted by the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW). The project is developing innovative techniques to document Aboriginal values of water and wetlands and incorporate these values into water management. This paper will argue for the importance of recognising contemporary Aboriginal values in water, and the importance of recognising complexity, and richness, of what makes up contemporary cultural values. The paper will also argue for the importance of demonstrating the spatial dimensions of cultural values — through 'cultural mapping' and 'counter-mapping' methodologies — as a strategy for communicating cultural values in a language recognisable to water managers and the wider community. Overall the paper will illuminate a particular cultural valuing of rivers and discuss how these values may be incorporated into sustainable management of river systems.

**Fraser MACDONALD****Session 322**

University of Melbourne  
[fraserm@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:fraserm@unimelb.edu.au)

The blindness of Patrick Geddes

The relationship between visuality and the construction of geographical knowledge is one of the longstanding themes in the history and philosophy of geography. In particular, feminist and other critical approaches have made much of geography's apparent 'ocularcentrism', abstracting the faculty of sight from a wider bodily sensorium, as the bearer of imperial or patriarchal power. This paper brushes against this grain by insisting on the connective character of all sensory modalities. Using a minor episode in the biography of the Scottish sociologist, botanist and geographer Patrick Geddes (1854-1932), this paper details how an instance of temporary blindness proved formative in the development of Geddes as a synthetic and 'synoptic' thinker. At a time when blindness and touch are being re-examined in relation to spatial awareness, the paper attempts to connect the development and expression of geographical ideas with Geddes' emphasis on sight, emotion and bodily experience.

**Cameron MCAULIFFE**

Australian Catholic University/ University of Wisconsin  
[cameron68@bigpond.com](mailto:cameron68@bigpond.com)

**Session 223**

Sister Cities and Immigration in Small Urban Centres in NSW

This paper marks the commencement of a research project looking at the role of ‘sister cities’ in the cultural processes of inclusion of immigrants in small urban centres in regional NSW. Australian attempts to decentralise immigration have focused on the dual aims of reducing the ‘burden’ of migrants on major cities and the need to drive employment creation and service provision in smaller urban centres. As the policy of Australian multiculturalism is increasingly drawn to a narrow conception of ‘social cohesion’, it has become increasingly necessary to ask how is social cohesion being realised in small urban centres that have become the focus of decentralised immigration? Many of these towns and small cities are far less diverse than the multicultural metropolises of Sydney and Melbourne, and as such, new immigration has the potential to destabilise notions of cohesion and community. Through the promotion of networks of economic and cultural exchange, Sister City status aims to produce intercultural acceptance. This research aims to investigate the processes behind ‘intercultural acceptance’ to determine whether sister cities play a part in producing the social conditions for the inclusion of migrants in small communities. Does having a sister city in China help in the processes of adjustment when a cohort of Afghan refugees come to live in a small urban centre? Using a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, including in-depth case studies of particular communities in NSW, this research hopes to determine the potential for sister city status to aid in the process of immigrant settlement in small urban centres. This paper will touch on the literature on sister cities and outline the research agenda and preliminary research findings.

**Cameron MCAULIFFE**

Australian Catholic University/ University of Wisconsin  
[cameron68@bigpond.com](mailto:cameron68@bigpond.com)

**Session 312**

The Geopolitics of the Image: Gendered representations of Iran and Iraq in the Australian press

Iran and Iraq loom large in the contemporary world press. Visual representations in the media play a key role in the construction of meaning from events unfolding in a region that has been designated a global flash point. This research follows on from previous work on the representations of Iran and Iranians to engage with issues of gender and religion in representations of Iran and Iraq. This paper investigates the way representations of women are deployed by the mainstream newspapers in Australia in order to produce particular preferred meanings of the tensions and conflicts in Iran and Iraq. Dominant representations of women as ubiquitous and undifferentiated, as subjugated by a universal Muslim male presence, tend to reinforce dominant perceptions in the West of Islam as a normatively negative influence. The persistent use of images of Muslim women as passive and anonymous subjects points to wider questions surrounding the political economy of image production within a dominant acceptance of the ‘Clash of Civilisations’ thesis. Even within the complex debates in the press that differentiate the many national contexts and religious actors in ‘the Middle East’, the

images accompanying articles often serve to conflate and simplify, reproducing normative difference and upsetting the balance of journalistic representations.

**Jess McLEAN**

University of Sydney  
[jmcl2280@mail.usyd.edu.au](mailto:jmcl2280@mail.usyd.edu.au)

**Session 314**

Indigenous water rights and current water allocations: an environmental justice analysis of rivers moving towards fairer distributions

Water continues to be a highly contested resource in Australia, much as it has been since early ‘settling’ days. The control of freshwater resources is inextricably linked to developments beginning or continuing. In light of this close relationship, the far distancing of Indigenous water rights in current debates about river management is comprehensible. This paper argues, through the case study of the Ord, that, due to the nexus between cultural values and natural resource management values in Miriuwung Gajerrong peoples traditional ways of being, riverine sustainability may be afforded through closer integration of Indigenous water values in water allocation processes. This may achieve a better recognition of Indigenous water rights as well as provide for a model transferable to other water allocations in unregulated catchments of northern Australia and those in southern Australia. For Indigenous water rights to be appropriately recognized in Australian water allocation processes, a series of steps must be undertaken. Indigenous water values must firstly be defined and understood, preferably through research processes that are less extractive and more participatory. Secondly, the way these values fit, or otherwise, with the current water allocation of a river needs to be explored. Finally, distribution of waters or compensation for the impossibility of this share should be provided. Integral to the evolution of a better recognition of Indigenous water rights is the growth in collaborative approaches to both research and natural resource management. The fieldwork for this paper was facilitated through a collaborative research agreement with the Kimberley Land Council which stipulated the exchange of volunteer work for research support.

**Kirsten McLEAN**

Monash University

**Session 222**

‘Coming out, again’: boundaries, space, and changing sexual identities

The practice of ‘coming out again’ — relinquishing or changing a non-heterosexual identity and having to subsequently come out again as something else — can have an enormous impact on feelings of inclusion or exclusion in particular social spaces, such as in the gay/lesbian and bisexual communities. These feelings are manifested through both real and imagined boundaries of sexual identity categories and the specific rules and expectations about how particular sexual identities should be performed. Drawing on interviews with eleven Australian women who once identified as lesbian or bisexual but who have subsequently changed this sexual identity, this paper examines the changes in social location the participants experienced and the impacts of these shifts in location on both their sexual and personal identities. The paper also speculates on how identity category boundaries may in fact produce specific changes in sexual identity such as those experienced by participants in this research, rather than allowing for a genuine fluidity of

sexuality and the inclusion of diverse ways of performing sexual identities within non-heterosexual communities.

**Phil MCMANUS and Graham HAUGHTON**

**Session 113**

Neoliberalisms and sustainability: Sydney's Cross City Tunnel

What are the sustainability implications of neoliberal institutional arrangements for infrastructure projects? This paper uses the Cross City Tunnel in Sydney as a case study of a particular form of Neoliberalism in practice. On 28 August, 2005, the Premier of NSW opened 2.1 kilometres of privately constructed and operated tunnel under the city centre of Sydney. The tunnel enables motorists to avoid 16 sets of traffic lights westbound and 18 eastbound. The sustainability and environmental benefits for Sydney were identified as being a reduced number of cars using city streets, thereby helping to solve central city congestion and improving the amenity of the city. In late December 2006, the 16 international and Australian banks who were owed money by the tunnel operators placed the project in receivership. Traffic projections of 90 000 cars per day were not realised, with approximately only 30 000 cars using the tunnel each day. The engineering accomplishment was overshadowed by concerns about transport policy, potential litigation, community divisions, the trustworthiness of the NSW government and the impact on business investment in NSW. What lessons about transport planning and sustainability can be learned from the Cross City Tunnel in Sydney? Are those lessons being learned in Sydney and in other cities? How do we move towards sustainable cities in an age of Neoliberalisms?

**Kim MCNAMARA**

**Session 312**

University of Western Sydney  
[kim.mcnamara@gmail.com](mailto:kim.mcnamara@gmail.com)

The hyper mobile celebrity body: travel, place and performance

Much has been written about distribution processes of the celebrity image in media studies and sociology (e.g., Gamson 1994, Turner 2005, Marshall, 1997), and of the industrial and technological media processes which facilitate this distribution (Couldry and McCarthy 2005, Turner 2005). This paper explores the mobility and travel of celebrity *bodies*, and the likely hubs to and from which they travel. Assumptions about the media must also be re-interpreted to include the equally hyper mobile paparazzi photographers, who follow their prey; the financially established agencies who these photographers work for; and the economically powerful entertainment media which buy their photographs for very high prices. In effect, the celebrity “travels” the globe, imaginatively *and* corporeally (Urry, 2002: 256). This paper seeks to map celebrities’ movements through physical landscapes and imaginative mediascapes, and considers the performative strategies they use to avoid, redirect, and/or beguile celebrity news gatherers.

**Donald MCNEILL**

Urban Research Centre  
 University of Western Sydney  
 d.mcneill@uws.edu.au

**Session 126**

In early 2007, the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore, released the City of Sydney's 'City of Villages' strategy. A local action plan governing a range of public space and urban policy interventions, the strategy identifies a series of strands which are now becoming orthodox: greening Sydney, pedestrian connections, improved public transport, creative industries, public art, cultural history, family orientation, and heritage 'celebration'. Arising as a partial result of the amalgamation of central Sydney with South Sydney councils, the plan is evidence of an attempt to govern centrality, to provide a unified sense of public space governance in an erstwhile fragmented institutional landscape. However, behind the normative power of the plan, a range of controversies and tensions sit. From fears of the 'Melbournisation' of central Sydney, to powerful economic geographies of property development and financialisation, to contestation of the cultural diversity of the plan, the 'city of villages' strategy reveals an interesting moment in the governance of Sydney, with parallels in major cities worldwide. This paper seeks to explain and explore some of these tensions.

**Ian J. McNIVEN**

School of Geography and Environmental Science  
 Monash University  
[Ian.McNiven@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Ian.McNiven@arts.monash.edu.au)

**Session 215**

In what ways did Torres Strait Islanders transform their island landscapes over the past 4000 years?

Hunter-gatherer-cultivators of Torres Strait (northeast Australian) intentionally manipulated their environments via three broad processes — *inclusions* (plant and animal translocations), *exclusions* (quarantining of certain plants and animals) and *transitions* (in-situ change of biotas, landforms and hydrologies, often through fire). These environmental changes resulted in deliberately and strategically constructed landscapes that not only supported societies but also established new contexts and conditions for cultural change. Torres Strait Islanders deliberately imported and established the dingo while actively ensuring that cuscuses, cassowaries and pigs imported from New Guinea never produced viable populations on islands. Floral resources of islands were augmented by introducing a range of food crop staples and raw material plants through long-established contacts with peoples from Papua New Guinea and more recent contacts with outsiders during the colonial era. Fire was a key tool of in-situ vegetation change resulting in forest clearance and lowland sedimentation. These terrestrial activities supported, maintained and in some cases entrenched specialized marine lifeways in the region. In many respects, Torres Strait Islanders engineered the deterministic qualities of their own environment.

**Kathleen MEE**

Centre for Urban and Regional Studies  
 University of Newcastle  
[kathy.mee@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:kathy.mee@newcastle.edu.au)

**Session 121**

Performing care/ demanding care: public housing, good neighbours and care in *900 Neighbours*\*

This paper considers geographies of care through an analysis of events depicted in the film *900 Neighbours*. The paper investigates care as a particular type of performance; one that is often assumed to be absent from public housing estates such as the Northcott Towers where *900 Neighbours* is set. The film narrates the everyday performance of care in Northcott Towers and the ways in which care-full practices are enabled by a community cultural development project undertaken within the estate. The film also narrates an event that leads to the positioning of public housing tenants as careless and uncaring. The paper concludes by considering the multiple demands for performances of care articulated by the film and the links between these demands and public housing policy.

\*The arts documentary *900 Neighbours* unravels the story of Northcott, an inner city public housing estate in Sydney, by following the tenants as they develop, rehearse and perform the play, 'Stickybricks' for the 2006 Sydney Festival. High profile Australian performers, including Leah Purcell, Kerry Armstrong and Lex Maronos work with the residents in both developing and performing the show.

**Emily MENDHAM and Allan CURTIS**

Institute of Land, Water and Society  
 Charles Sturt University  
[emendham@csu.edu.au](mailto:emendham@csu.edu.au)  
[acurtis@csu.edu.au](mailto:acurtis@csu.edu.au)

**Session 112**

Taking over the reins: trends, challenges and opportunities of changing property ownership for NRM

The rural rebound has been established as an important international trend. In Australia, there has been some significant research examining the emergence of multifunctional landscapes as part of the rural rebound. To the extent there is a rural rebound we can expect higher levels of change in rural property ownership. However, there has been no Australian research specifically examining trends in rural property ownership and the implications for natural resource management. This research analysed data from state government property sales records and spatially-referenced data collected through surveys of landholders in two large Victorian regions. Our research shows evidence of a substantial and increasing rate of change in rural property ownership, caused primarily by new residents. In our most recent study, 50% of properties surveyed are predicted to change ownership in the next ten years, doubling previous rates identified from the analysis of property sales data. Newer residents are significantly different from existing landholders. They own smaller properties, are less likely to be farmers by occupation or members of local catchment organisations. They have different levels of knowledge, priorities and value their properties for different reasons. The trend to increased property turnover and the extent of differences between new and longer-term residents will have

important implications for catchment management agencies and policy. Managers will need to adopt innovative engagement approaches to accommodate the different values, capacities and information sources of new residents.

**Mary MILNE**

**Session 323**

Social Sciences Programme  
Bureau of Rural Sciences

How adaptable are agricultural industries to climate change?

The impacts of climate change on agricultural industries are likely to differ between regions and industries in Australia. The vulnerability of an agricultural industry to climate change will depend on how it perceives the threat and its consequent risk behaviour in the short and long term. This case study looks at how dryland agricultural industries in two drought declared areas of NSW perceive the threat of climate change and what they have done and plan to do to manage the risk. It also considers the role of government in assisting agricultural industries to adapt to climate change. The preliminary findings have implications for climate change policy and the National Agriculture and Climate Change Action Plan.

**Salim MOMTAZ**

**Session 114**

School of Environmental and Life Sciences  
University of Newcastle  
[Salim.Momtaz@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Salim.Momtaz@newcastle.edu.au)

Quality of Environmental Impact Statements: the case of New South Wales

Authors have long been emphasising the need for good quality environmental impact statements (EISs) to ensure environmental and social sustainability of development projects. The debate in contemporary environmental impact assessment (EIA) literature is no more on whether and how we should incorporate EIA into decision-making process; it is rather on how to ensure quality of environmental impact statements (EISs) through effective assessment mechanism and through putting in place adequate follow up of EIAs. A number of articles published recently have examined the quality of various EISs using a variety of methods and evaluation criteria. This article examines the major EISs that are prepared and received approval of the relevant authority in the last five years in the Central Coast Region of New South Wales. This research uses an evaluation method based on the methods that are suggested in recent literature. However, the focus of this paper is on the simplicity of methods and the ease with which one can use them. This article identifies the weaknesses of these EISs using a simplified method developed by this author and makes some suggestions for improvements in future assessments.

**Phillip O'NEILL**

Urban Research Centre  
 University of Western Sydney  
 p.oneill@uws.edu.au

**Session 126**Infrastructure and a city's power geometries

Graham and Marvin (*Splintering Urbanism*, 2001) introduce the idea that infrastructure provision produces a city's power geometries (after Massey) giving rise to circumstances that produce new forms of privilege and inequality. This paper develops this idea through an examination of the evolution of hard economic infrastructure procurement in Australian cities over the past two decades. The paper presents a genealogy of the language of infrastructure, maps the shifts in infrastructure procurement broadly described as privatisation, and identifies new methods for infrastructure procurement. Growing differences in the ways urban life is accessed are explored.

**Dick OSBORN**

Centre for the Public Awareness of Science  
 Australian National University  
 greenmeasures@osborn.net

**Session 214**Towards the real meaning of implementing environmental policy: The logistics of its vertical integration across communities of place

The information deficit model has been the dominant means of environmental communication since the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. The deficit model assumes using mass communication channels to disseminate learning materials will shift target audiences to pro-environmental behaviour. That assumption fails (Kollmuss & Agyeman 2002). Conversely, evidence from a sample of some 200, 000 enterprises shows interpersonal communication to be a critically important channel for generating innovative behaviour — including pro-environmental behaviour (Eurostat 2004). Interpersonal communication through knowledge-sharing networks is therefore a necessary condition for achieving effective environmental policy. Such networks can be differentiated. One form diffuses knowledge to build a community of practice. Another diffuses knowledge within and across a decision-making hierarchy of existing communities of place operating at scales varying from, say, household and neighbourhood through regional institutions to a national government. Even at global scale, the communication challenge of building a community of environmental policy practitioners can still involve a relatively small number. For example, while operating in sixty countries and initiated in 1989 following the Bhopal disaster, the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) network of sustainability reporters only contains some 970 enterprises (GRI 2007). The paper will describe using General Morphological Analysis to comprehend the real meaning of implementing environmental policy. It does so by estimating all possible ties in a communication network connecting decision-makers within and across Australia's communities of place. The number of ties can be many billions, depending on judgements as to what constitutes a community of place within the analysis undertaken.

**Natalie OSWIN**

National University of Singapore, Singapore

**Session 222**

Cosmopolitics and queer homecomings in Singapore

While existing work on queer cosmopolitanism sets out a broad critique of the politics of abstractly defined white gay males (and to a lesser extent lesbians) hailing from western ‘queer cultural homelands’, this paper explores an unfolding queer cosmopolitical landscape for which the existing literature does not account. It presents findings from interviews conducted with Singaporean self-identified gays and lesbians who have returned to the city-state after spending considerable time abroad pursuing employment or educational opportunities. The paper argues that while it is a fact that a border crossing cosmopolitan mobility is available to very few queer bodies in very few places, neither all of these bodies nor the landscapes from which they wander can be understood in generalization.

**Jana-Axinja PASCHEN**

University of Melbourne

j.paschen@pgrad.unimelb.edu.au

**Session 312**

Greeting Uluru: Sharing perspectives in the tourist setting

The tourist gaze (Urry, 2002) has become almost synonymous with the voyeuristic and consuming aspects of tourism. Its obsession with the visual has been held responsible for the destruction of meaning and local environments (i.e. Bey, 1999), while its imagery appropriates and exploits Indigenous and place identities. If tourism is the search for an ‘authenticity’ that finds its expression in the perpetuated nostalgic imagery of the ‘noble savage’ or ‘pristine wildernesses’ and ‘last frontiers’, its gaze is justly called the continuation of the imperial gaze in current theory. However, recent field work at Ayers Rock resort and participant observation of tourist behavioural patterns at Uluru conducted as part of my PhD project has shown that actual geographical and cultural settings make a revision of this meanwhile classical critique necessary. At Uluru, various images and stories weave in and out of the site, competing with the ‘imperial gaze’ from the Rock’s summit or the ‘framed’ tourist gaze on Uluru as iconic sign of ‘Australia’. The Aboriginal presence is often (in-) visible in the ‘prohibition of the gaze’, as traditional owners ask visitors to respect their beliefs and cultural sensitivities and instead encourage ‘other’ ‘ways of seeing’ Uluru. In reading the visual as equal part of a multi-sensual ‘knowing practice’ (Crouch, 2002), the gaze comes to denote ‘a way of seeing’ that is not necessarily tied up with its negative theoretical connotations anymore. In this paper I look for an “Aboriginal gaze” that materialises in alternative instructions for tourist interaction with culture and place and resulting tourist behaviour. Cultural critique needs to acknowledge existing Aboriginal agency or it will continue to perpetuate the very gap between coloniser and colonised that it criticises.

**\*S.L. PFUELLER, ^X. Zhu and ^P. WHITELAW**

**Session 124**

\*School of Geography and Environmental Science  
Monash University  
^Centre for Hospitality and Tourism Research  
Victoria University

Mapping community values for the Murray River Reserves for use in planning for natural area management for conservation, recreation and tourism

This project aims to identify sites on the Victorian bank of the Murray River where community values indicate that either further conservation or development is undesirable. Communities value natural locations in different ways: from recreational, tourism, economic or natural resource perspectives. Through questionnaire surveys, residents, visitors and tour operators have shown places with a range of values e.g. biodiversity, scenic, economic, recreation, therapeutic, wilderness etc. Spatial analysis of the survey data using GIS reveals the locations of particular importance. In particular, values density mapping shows a considerable degree of congruence of several values indicative of conservation. Most significantly, the results indicate that Barmah State Park and Forest and Gunbower State Forest have high wilderness, biological diversity and aesthetic values at a level similar to that ascribed to National Parks. Sites acceptable for further tourism development were located around existing towns and minor reserves along the river, while those unacceptable for development were in National and State Parks. This research gathers and synthesises respondents' opinions about the region and its future, and provides strategic knowledge to the tourism industry by revealing places where further development is desirable and, through spatial analysis and mapping, indicates areas worthy of National Park status.

**Alan PILGRIM\*, Graham THOMPSON and Roy JONES**

**Session 331**

Curtin University of Technology  
\*a.pilgrim@curtin.edu.au

Environmental Impacts or Environmental Management? The Views of Event Organisers and Event Hosts in Western Australia

As part of a broader study on the impacts of events in Australia by the Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Tourism, the hosts and/or the organisers of a diverse range of events in Western Australia were interviewed over the course of 2005 and 2006. These included the state's largest event, the Australia Day "Skyshow" fireworks display, which attracts a six figure crowd to Perth Water in the centre of the city and the Avon Descent, which extends for almost 100 kilometres along the river, but also relatively small scale occasions, such as a vintage car rally/race in the regional centre of Albany and a local component of the RSPCA's "Million Paws Walk". Not surprisingly, many of the organisers expressed little concern over their event's environmental impacts merely seeking the most expeditious and economical means of dealing with these issues. For the hosts (i.e. the local authorities) the main concerns related to process and environmental management. They needed to ensure that the specifically local environmental impacts of a given event were clearly identifiable in advance in order to establish management/amelioration procedures. Even though organisers frequently had to deal with multiple local authorities in order to stage their events and though friction could arise between adjacent local authorities over the "externalities" of event management,

most respondents did not favour the development and use of use of environmental check lists for events. While several local authority officers felt that a standardised check list would be valuable for dealing with a range of specific issues, such as waste and local traffic problems, many feared that this would merely increase red tape, rather than generating any real improvements in the process. This research therefore underlines the dichotomy between the real research and environmental need to measure the global environmental/carbon impacts of events and the “on the ground” needs of organisers to ameliorate local problems.

**Charl du PLESSIS**

Department of Management and Entrepreneurship  
Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa

**Session 315**

Surviving outside the rat race; entrepreneurs and the micro-business sector in Pretoria, South Africa

The new, open market economy to which South Africa is now exposed, creates new opportunities and challenges for the population, private sector and the government of the day. In a country with a large unemployment problem, the micro-business sector is an essential sector for potential income creation for this country. In South Africa there are numerous people who may possess relevant skills in a specific trade and the potential to be successful in the micro-business sector, but lack the entrepreneurial skills and/or knowledge to establish a feasible and viable business. They also lack structural and financial support for successful business creation so very few potential entrepreneurs succeed the first time. There are various reasons for this failure and there are various obstacles which cause failure in this business sector. This case study investigates the skills and entrepreneurial backgrounds of a group of micro-entrepreneurs in the city of Pretoria. The paper will also look at the inability of potential entrepreneurs to empower themselves, to utilize their own potential, as well as the available sources and resources at their disposal. The inability of this group of people can be attributed to various causes which will be researched and analysed and is the final concern of this study.

**Majeed POOYANDEH**

Faculty of Geodesy and Geomatics  
K.N. Toosi University of Technology, Iran  
[majeed\\_pooyandeh@yahoo.com](mailto:majeed_pooyandeh@yahoo.com)

**Session 233**

A discussion on the results of considering urban environments as complex systems

Urban environments have always received special consideration from researchers of different fields. Issues like urban growth, population dynamics, congestion and segregation have inevitable impacts on human lives and sustainable development. For many years the traditional models were used for modelling complex urban structures, but with the expansion of urban environments and technological and scientific progress in both computer and Geospatial fields the need for new approaches became apparent. In the modern technological era computers are capable of handling complicated computations and certainly geographic analyses are among the most complex ones. One of the theoretical concepts which enjoyed practical application in urban domain was complexity theory. Complexity theory which where used in different disciplines seemed

to be suitable for urban modelling. But like any other modelling approach using complexity theory has its own limitations. So having an accurate perception about this theory avoids unrealistic employment of relative techniques. This paper discusses the basic concepts of complexity theory and reviews the characteristics of complex systems which distinguish them from other complicated systems. Also it evaluates the notion of considering urban environments as complex systems, i.e., it discusses the degree of conformity of urban systems to complex structures and mentions the benefits and limitations of such an assumption. This investigation concludes that applying a theory without considering all aspects of it results in unacceptable and doubtful results.

**Jason PRIOR**

University of Technology Sydney

**Session 212**

Sexuality, governance and urban space: the sexual restructuring of Sydney

Much recent scholarship on sexuality and urban spaces within the western cities has focused on contemporary forms of urban governance, particularly how planning authorities manage urban 'gay' space as part of cities' promotional campaigns and entrepreneurial strategies. These contemporary approaches to urban gay spaces operate in stark contrast to techniques that were used only decades earlier as political tools to exclude gay spaces from most western cities, including vice laws, licensing, zoning and land use planning. This paper contributes to this body of work which seeks to understand how changing perceptions of sexuality have been conscripted into formal processes of urban spatial governance. Focusing on planning processes within Sydney, this paper identifies three key shifts in Sydney's sexual landscape over the last six decades. First, in the decades following World War II, all spaces within the city became sexually-coded in the interests of the dominant social power, with non-heterosexual spaces and experiences coded as sexually depraved, dangerous and uncontrollable, and a catalyst for urban decay. Second, in the 1970s and 1980s, there was a shift from a largely hidden, deviant homosexual coterie — made up of myriad clandestine spaces — to a more distinctly visible gay community with its own territories, institutions and events within a specific part of the inner-city, in particular Oxford Street, Darlinghurst. Third, there has been a recent shift which is seeing Oxford Street enter into a process of de-gaying which has been coupled with the redistribution and emergence of territories and institutions within other parts of the city, in particular Newtown.

**Jason PRIOR\* and Carole CUSACK^**

\*University of Technology Sydney

^University of Sydney

**Session 222**

Ritual, liminality and transformation: secular spirituality in Sydney's gay bath houses

The twentieth century witnessed a radical transformation of religion, with the sacred becoming uncoupled from the institutional churches. This enabled the sacred to be experienced through what were previously understood to be secular activities. These included sport, rock music, psychoanalysis and sexuality. Individualism and prosperity combined to encourage a focus on the search for personal transformation as the primary religious process. The 1960s also saw the rise of protest and civil rights movements calling for self-determination and equality for previously oppressed groups; women,

blacks and gays. This paper uses the model of secular ritual and Victor Turner's concept of liminality to investigate the role that the gay bath houses of Sydney had in enabling gay men to experience the sacred and to transform themselves. A rich seam of interview research is mined to shed light on issues such as rites of passage, the role of pleasure and its relationship to religious ecstasy, and the development of a specifically gay askesis (way of becoming). It is also argued that the gay bath house must be recognised as crucial to the development of Sydney, as a transformative space for the city as well as for those men who were its initiates.

**Margaret REYNOLDS and Maryann WULFF**

**Session 221**

School of Geography and Environmental Science

Monash University

[Margaret.Reynolds@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Margaret.Reynolds@arts.monash.edu.au)

[Maryann.Wulff@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Maryann.Wulff@arts.monash.edu.au)

Property price trends in Victorian non-metropolitan housing markets, 1996-2001: exploring 'sea/ tree change' phenomena

During the latter half of the 1990s, housing markets outside of Australia's capital cities experienced diverse and even contradictory circumstances. Substantial differences in house prices, employment, and population trends began to emerge among regions and localities. Indeed, terms such as 'sea change' and 'tree change' came into popular usage to denote small regional housing markets that experienced notable upswings in their economic fortunes. This paper provides an overview of house price change in Victoria's non-metropolitan housing markets between 1996 and 2001. In particular, we investigate the range of factors that explain changes in dwelling prices and the differences between coastal and inland housing markets. The analysis takes into account geographic location, settlement size, and social and economic attributes of the area. We draw upon unit record data on individual sales of houses and flats provided by the Victorian Valuer General for the calendar years 1996 and 2001 and match these data with a comprehensive range of ABS population, household, and labour market information at the SLA scale for the corresponding census years. While the focus is on smaller communities, larger regional towns/centres and Melbourne are used as benchmarks/comparisons. Through the use of cross-tabulation techniques and multivariate analysis, this research compares 'sea-change and tree-change' housing markets as well as these buoyant coastal and inland communities against their counterparts where housing markets either stagnated or declined.

**Lauren RICKARDS**

**Session 311**

RMCG Consultants

Drought discourse and the 'self-help' message: exploring agriculture's place in the Western imaginary

Discourses around the current drought centre on the need for Australian agricultural communities to be self-resilient. Drawing on current qualitative research into the effects of drought on farming families in the Wimmera and Mallee, I discuss how some drought discourse celebrates agriculturalists' proven ability in this area, conjuring up the tough pioneer spirit of our early settlers. Concurrently, other discourse sternly warns them of

their need to try harder to 'help themselves', regardless of how tough conditions become. These conditions are being made all the tougher by the ongoing 'restructuring' issues that agricultural communities are facing. As with drought, such issues are accompanied by a 'self-help' message, albeit dressed up in many settings as a participatory approach to change. This broader context helps us to recognise how discourse about the current drought is being used to reinforce a consistent message to and about agricultural communities. Turning to earlier work about agriculture in England, where drought is not often among the problems agriculturalists face, I illustrate and explore the pervasiveness of the 'self-help' rhetoric directed at and largely accepted by agriculturalists. I argue that we need to appreciate how agriculture is uniquely and problematically positioned in Western images of progress to better understand its enduring image as a sector in need of self-administered help.

**Nicola ROBERTSON\***, **Harvey PERKINS^** and  
**Nick TAYLOR\***

**Session 325**

\*Taylor Baines and Associates, Christchurch, New Zealand

nicola.robertson@paradise.nz

^Lincoln University, Canterbury, New Zealand

Multiple job holding: Interpreting labour market change and economic diversification in rural communities

This paper contributes to the now significant literature on neo-liberalism and rural change, and focuses on multiple job holding and rural economic and social life. In New Zealand, multiple job holding has increased significantly over the whole workforce and more particularly in rural areas over the last 25 years. Our meta-theme is that multiple job holding is a very useful vehicle for interpreting changing rural social and economic relations associated with work and employment. The paper reports research which investigates the ways individuals, families and communities in New Zealand adapt to social and economic change through multiple job holding. Ninety-six in-depth interviews were conducted in the Ashburton District, located in the South Island province of Canterbury. The work focused particularly on the natural resource communities of Ashburton and Methven and their rural hinterlands, in which people are often directly employed or self employed in primary production and/or work in the service industries (e.g. in agriculture, tourism, health, education, and accounting). Census data show variations in multiple job holding in the district with lower levels in the provincial town of Ashburton compared to higher rates in the rural hinterland. Census data also show how work in various occupations changed in the 20 years 1981-2001. This census data plus case studies and narratives from these communities illustrate how multiple job holding reflects and creates new social and economic arrangements and place meanings.

**Cathy ROBINSON and Bruce TAYLOR**

Sustainable Ecosystems, CSIRO, Brisbane  
[Catherine.Robinson@csiro.au](mailto:Catherine.Robinson@csiro.au)

**Session 244**

Designing S.M.A.R.T Water Quality Partnerships to deliver water quality outcomes in Great Barrier Reef Catchments

Partnerships between government agencies, communities and industry sectors are a critical ingredient in the delivery of on-ground actions to achieve desired environmental outcomes. This paper outlines a ‘S.M.A.R.T partnership’ implementation support tool that has been developed to inform the design and review of partner networks, activities and roles. The design of S.M.A.R.T Partnerships recognises that the effectiveness of water quality activities are often influenced by a range of contextual and planning issues; achievable partnerships are those that embrace a wide range of actions that align with partner capacity and motivations; and measures of success are often sector specific but essential to negotiate to ensure sustained delivery of water quality outcomes. We discuss these partnership features in the context of our research contributions to negotiations over water quality delivery arrangements in the Tully Catchment of Far North Queensland.

**Michael ROCHE**

School of People Environment and Planning  
 Massey University, New Zealand

**Session 112**

The Tung Oil Boom — Ambition, Risk, and Networks in Australasia in the 1920s and 1930s

Tung Oil (*Aleurites fordii*) or Chinese wood oil is used in the manufacture of resins and varnishes. In the 1920s most of the world supplies came from China. On the coat tails of an exotic softwood afforestation planting boom in New Zealand and Australia in the 1920s, Tung Oil was touted by some entrepreneurs as a fast growing and particularly valuable tree crop. This paper discusses some of the information networks that underpinned this speculative planting effort. The entry point is provided by the quasi official correspondence between L M Ellis, a former Director of the NZ State Forest Service subsequently a forestry consultant in Australia and his protégé Alex Entrican himself later Director of Forests from 1939-1961. Their dialogue is enmeshed in a wider set of networks that include imperial economic botany connections as well as American industrial networks. Notwithstanding the efforts expended Tung Oil proved to be not only unsustainable but failed absolutely in New Zealand.

**Gerda ROELVINK**

**Session 315**

Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies  
The Australian National University  
[gerda.roelvink@anu.edu.au](mailto:gerda.roelvink@anu.edu.au)

The Constitution of Dignity in Community Economies: Hannah Arendt's politics in labour/necessity and work/surplus

As in the past, dignity is central to economic struggle in the Twenty-First Century. The concept of dignity offers a form of politics with which to gather and connect these diverse economic struggles. It does so, however, by stepping to the side of arguments for either a universal or culturally specific form of politics, arguments that in the past have plagued social movement activism. This paper draws on the work of Hannah Arendt to cultivate a different conceptualisation of the politics of dignity. From the perspective it develops, dignity arises in political practices that constitute unique beings in relation to others. In addition, this understanding of dignity offers a way to judge and value the quality of economic relationships. The paper applies this approach to relationships in the spheres of labour and work to argue that neither is intrinsically undignifying. It goes on to show how dignity is constituted through community economies and in particular through the political practices involved in decision making over what is necessity and surplus.

**Julie RUDNER**

**Session 123**

Making the City an 'Off Lead' Area for Kids, Independent Mobility & Children's 'Right to the City'

This research argues that planning can help to increase children's independent mobility by including their views and experiences into planning processes. Cultural values of freedom, the market and democracy are operationalised by competitive self-interest and symbolized by privatised lives. This focus on individualism also underpins institutional, community and family risk management activities aimed to protect children. Combined with the conceptualisation of children as 'incompetent' or as dangerous, they are removed from public space for their own safety or for the safety of others. As a result, children's independent mobility has decreased significantly in the western world. This has immediate implications for their personal physical, psychological and physical development. There are also long-term impacts on human mental and social health, as well as environmental health. A change of values toward a more collective approach to freedom, the market and risk is required to shift our 'mastery of the private realm' to 'mastery within the public realm'. This is important for increasing positive perceptions of the physical and social environment, and for the inclusion of children in public space. Planners may help to support this cultural change through processes of deliberative democracy. This approach can be used to define children as competent citizens who are legitimate participants in urban planning decision-making.

**Kristian J. RUMING**

City Futures Research Centre  
University of New South Wales  
[KristianR@fbe.unsw.edu.au](mailto:KristianR@fbe.unsw.edu.au)

**Session 214**

Institutions as actants: positioning formal and informal institutions within the heterogeneous associations of urban planning

Over the past decade there has been an increased emphasis placed on the institutional relations which mediate planning and development opportunities. In particular, special attention has been paid to the role of informal relations in the development of planning policy and residential property. This paper builds on this research through mobilising Actant-Network Theory (ANT) to produce a more detailed discussion of institutional interaction. Here it is vital to move beyond the formal and informal institutions mobilised for the purpose of securing development and planning to recognise a more diverse array of actants involved in policy negotiations. This paper argues that formal and informal institutions be theorised as actants and intermediaries enrolled, along with a multiplicity of others, for the purpose of securing planning policy. In this reading policy negotiation is a process of network translation where competing actants mobilise other actants and intermediaries to secure policy closer to their objectives. This paper explores the institutional relations which mediate the construction of a local council planning control centred on building quality and environmental condition — *Development Control Plan 100 — Quality Housing* — in one of the fastest growing areas on Sydney's fringe: the Wyong Shire.

**Kristian J. RUMING**

City Futures Research Centre  
University of New South Wales  
[KristianR@fbe.unsw.edu.au](mailto:KristianR@fbe.unsw.edu.au)

**Session 233**

Recognising Nonhumans: Three cases of nonhuman agency in residential development and planning

Urban planning and development is a field which unconsciously recognises the role of nonhuman actors in transforming the development and market environment — a process which often starts with exploring the constraints of sites or the cost implications of altered development forms. While developers and planners express a somewhat unconscious understanding of the role of nonhuman actants in residential development, this paper explores in more detail the role and power of nonhuman actants, by exploring them as part of a larger network of heterogeneous associations, where they both impact upon the capacity of planners and developers to facilitate development. This paper draws upon Actant-Network Theory (ANT) to position nonhuman actants as vital to the construction and maintenance of any networked reality or outcome, not least of which being residential development. This paper focuses on the role of nonhumans in residential development and planning in Wyong, the Central Coast — one of Sydney's largest development sites and provides three vignettes of the role of nonhumans. In particular, the paper explores the role of water tanks in transforming policy and building forms, endangered species and associated planning policy, and the role of topography in altering urban design. In each of these case studies, nonhuman actants become central in shaping the translations of residential development. By exploring the role of nonhumans

a more diverse and complex picture of power becomes clear. Power within planning and development is, thus, not centred in institutional or market hierarchy positions, but is distributed throughout networks of development and expressed by both human and nonhumans.

**Brad RUTING**

University of Sydney

**Session 113**

From brownfield wastelands to high-density sustainability: The redevelopment of Rhodes Peninsula

Economic, environmental and social sustainability have become crucial considerations in contemporary planning theory and practice, especially regarding the redevelopment of contaminated ex-industrial sites. The emerging high-density residential and commercial master planned suburb of Rhodes Peninsula, near Sydney, is a significant example of brownfield development. This site contains some of Australia's most contaminated land, with herbicide, paint and chemical manufacture during the 20th century leaving a legacy of dioxin and heavy metal pollution. Soil remediation, to eliminate environmental and human health hazards, is currently in progress, with completion expected in 2008. Over the past six years the site has been gradually converted into a mixed-use (mostly residential), high-density waterfront precinct. Government planning guidelines have emphasised the adoption of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) design principles and the need to foster community interaction. As private developers have reformed this site under these guidelines, master planned communities (MPCs) have emerged. With Sydney's Metropolitan Plan anticipating that 60-70 per cent of new housing until 2035 will be situated in existing urban areas, it is likely that brownfield redevelopment will become increasingly commonplace. Rhodes Peninsula serves as good redevelopment case study, given its extensive contamination and relatively fast conversion progress. Sustainable brownfield development has been attempted through public-private cooperation, and can be usefully assessed in terms of commercial viability, ecological resilience and liveability. However, there are ironies inherent in converting heavily contaminated land into a high-density residential zone whilst attempting to establish ecologically sensitive and community-aware attitudes among future residents. A critical evaluation is required.

**Brad RUTING**

University of Sydney

**Session 212**

Is Pink in the red? The economics of Sydney's declining gay space

Sydney is reputedly one of the world's foremost 'gay' cities.' A visible gay district, consisting of gay-oriented shops, clubs, services, residents and visitors, is situated around Oxford Street near the central business district. Over the past decade or so, the gay vibrancy of this area has been diminishing. Gentrification, retail change, greater acceptance of homosexuality, the commodification of 'gay,' resistance to the 'gay scene' by many younger gays, and the proliferation of Internet use among gays have been identified as factors behind this. Economically-driven forces, including urban renewal, property market dynamics, employment, place marketing, tourism, commerce and commodification, have played a substantial role in instigating and reinforcing the changes

that have occurred within Sydney's gay space. These are discussed in terms of existing frameworks of the formation (and decline) of gay urban spaces, the marketing of 'diversity' and commodification of 'Gay,' the consumption of gay space, and the role of gay spaces in city place marketing strategies. It appears that although the urban undesirability that once characterised visibly gay spaces throughout much of their growth has dissipated, as demand for 'vibrant' suburbs close to the CBD has increased, urban design has improved and attitudes within gay communities have changed. Increasing rents have resulted in mainstream retail forms pricing out independent gay-owned businesses from Sydney's gay space, and the commoditisation of 'Gay' has eroded its distinctiveness whilst reinforcing certain stereotypes. Economic forces appear to underpin Oxford Street's 'decline' as visibly gay space.

**Brad RUTING**

University of Sydney

**Session 321**

Bagpipes in the bush: a large Scottish festival in an Australian rural town

The Bundanoon is Brigadoon Scottish Highlands festival is held annually in the town of Bundanoon in the Southern Highlands of NSW, Australia. It is Australia's largest Scottish festival, attracting over 10,000 visitors annually to witness or partake in distinctly Scottish performances, dancing, music, sports, craft and cuisine. This festival has emerged in a small rural town that has no significant history of Scottish migration or association to Scotland. The rural has been idyllised and constructed, but as a form of Scottish rather than Australian rurality. The attraction is a mysticised notion of an authentic, historic Scottish village that has been playfully recreated, rather than an event that is noticeably grounded in its (Australian) local place. The Australian rural has been made peripheral as visitors seek out a form of rural idyll that is distinctly Scottish. For some participants the festival is simply a day of fun and entertainment, yet for others it is a deeper, more nostalgic experience that allows them to witness and act out their cultural heritage and ethnic Scottish pride. Experiences of participants will be discussed, with regards to the festival's creation of a pastiche of stereotypes that are of varying historical authenticity. The festival's popularity has occurred despite 'Scottishness' being out of place in Bundanoon, and as such has made wider place marketing and tourism attraction efforts difficult. Brigadoon is marketed as the Scottish idyll, whereas the surrounding area is sold using notions of the Australian rural natural environment and idyllic small towns.

**Bruce RYAN\* and Meredith A. YABSLEY**

\*cincinnati@ozemail.com.au

**Session 243**

Alcohol Alley

Community conflicts arise when a liquor-licensed entertainment district is developed immediately adjacent to an established residential area. It creates what we call an "Alcohol Alley" along the interface of incompatible land use zones. Associated problems may include increased traffic, confused and congested parking, environmental pollution (noise, light, cooking fumes, exhaust fumes, and litter), crime (assault, sexual offences, robbery, breaking and entering, malicious damage to property), mischievous delinquency, affray, trespass, loss of amenity (often night-long), property depreciation, and

impoverished lifestyles. This research traces the evolution of an “Alcohol Alley” in the town of Kiama, NSW, and the efforts to manage and contain it through Council regulations, resident action, responsible business practice, police intervention, and legal redress. Blame is placed on town planning that permits the adjacent development of potentially incendiary land use zones, the unavoidably slack surveillance of shadowy miscreants, dodgy developers, the inevitable conflict between those who want rowdiness and those who do not, and on liquor-licensing procedures (ensconced in distant Sydney) that pay scant attention to local community contexts. These matters should be mitigated, without fear or favour, by all parties involved. Amelioration of “Alcohol Alleys” could also be sought (a) in better organized neighbourhood vigilance and (b) in locational planning that separates residential areas from annoying activities. Distancing could be adjusted according to closing times and the level of grief being inflicted.

**Scott SHARPE**

ADFA/ University of New South Wales  
[S.Sharpe@adfa.edu.au](mailto:S.Sharpe@adfa.edu.au)

**Session 115**

Does Space Matter? Exploring the thought, space, matter and relevance relationship

Stemming from the long tradition within critical and post-structural geography to theorise the relationship between geography and materiality, the paper utilises a Deleuze-Leibnizian perspective to claim a constitutive role for space in understanding the thought-matter relations. Deleuze finds in Leibniz the articulation of a novel relation between the material and spiritual worlds which, stripped of its theological pretensions, can form the basis of a contemporary philosophy of immanence. From the point of view of a theory which would allow matter an adequate positivity, Deleuze’s rereading of Leibniz is best treated through a separate consideration of his treatment of the material and the incorporeal. Indeed, as Deleuze constantly insists, Leibniz’s specificity can only be appreciated when, to put it in Leibniz’s own terms, the distinctness of ‘matter’ and ‘the soul’ is preserved. So where many contemporary theorists attempt to ‘re-embodiment’ thought by breaking down the boundary between knowledge and embodiment, the originality of Deleuze’s reading of Leibniz lies in the specific communication he posits between concepts and matter, which are folded together without losing their distinctness. This paper argues that the rethinking of space as folded surface provides an impetus, and the necessary conceptual tools, to rethink human geography’s social and political relevance.

**Deirdre SLATTERY**

La Trobe University

**Session 311**

Land use and the Ridley Paddock 1897-2005

My story of 120 years of the making and remaking of a single paddock provides a long-term view of cultural relationships to land that is important in fully understanding rural land use change. Once the territory of the Brayabaulung Aborigines, since 1886 this 320 acres has been a family farm, a leased grazing paddock, a Covenanted area of remnant vegetation and a blue gum plantation. This paddock illustrates two extremes in the community's thinking about land use: exclusion of economic exploitation and dominance by it. My research tools for this story have been anthropological records, my

grandfather's diaries, land settlement records, my cousin's and my own memories. These location-specific materials are placed in the context of rural land management practices, information from newspapers, farming manuals and agricultural histories, current catchment management strategies. These two kinds of information provide the intertwined stories of personal and family involvement in the place and the broader social and economic trends that shape relationships to places. Without the former, there would be no story. Without the latter, the story would lose much of its meaning.

**Krishna K. SHRESTHA\* and R. A. CRAMB**

**Session 123**

The politics of urban environmental management: The case of Malabar Headland, Sydney, Australia

Sustainable environmental management through participatory processes is increasingly highlighted in the environmental policies of government, non-government, and community institutions. However, the politics involved in these processes and the outcomes for implementation, particularly in the urban areas of Australia, have received little critical analysis. This paper investigates the politics of environmental management in Malabar Headland in eastern Sydney, with a focus on the processes and outcomes of implementing government policies, influenced heavily by on-going conflicts among community groups, business owners, and three levels of Australian government in accessing, using and controlling the Headland. Informed by theories and concepts developed within political ecology and environmental governance, the research employs an 'actor-oriented approach' as a methodological strategy to assess the interests, values, and expectations of various actors involved in a historical struggle over access to, and control over, Malabar Headland. By employing triangulation of sources of data and methods, primary and secondary data were collected from relevant publications, interviews, oral history, observation, and informal discussions with local community members, environmental groups, a horse-riding school, and government officials at different levels. Newspaper articles on Malabar Headland were collected from the early 1990s to 2006 together with a collection and review of relevant political statements, press releases, and a number of plans proposed by local government in 1990 and a local environmental group in 2002. The findings suggest that environmental policy making and implementation processes concerning Malabar Headland are embedded within historically changing social, economic and political processes, which have resulted in, and been influenced by, on-going conflicts among various actors. As a result, the sustainable management of Malabar Headland is complex and uncertain, with little likelihood of a widely-accepted management plan being negotiated, finalised and implemented. It is concluded that rather than separate management plans being put forward by different stakeholders, which are informed by popular premises of environmental management based on stakeholder participation, one-off conflict resolution, and consensus, there is a need for an alternative approach based on a 'negotiated platform' established and maintained by local communities and local government for decision making and implementation. This will explicitly recognise the existence of conflicts and facilitate continuous discussion, co-learning, and negotiation among conflicting actors in order to work together in the face of existing conflicts, thereby enhancing environmental management outcomes.

**Hugh SMITH**

School of Geosciences  
 University of Sydney  
 hsmi7040@mail.usyd.edu.au

**Session 114**

Land use and climate change implications for water resource quality: findings from a multi-method study in an upland catchment, south-eastern Australia

An important pressure on water resources is degradation of water quality, with implications for both human consumption and ecosystem function. As climate change leads to reduced surface water availability across south-eastern Australia preservation of remaining supplies is vital. Fine sediment is associated with the transport of much of the nutrients and contaminants that reach streams. Therefore understanding the transfer of sediment through catchments is necessary for predicting the likely consequences of land use changes and declining water availability on the quality of water resources. In this study sediment transfer was monitored intensively for a period of two years in an upland headwater catchment of the Lachlan River. The multi-method approach provided detailed information on sediment flux over the short-term, which was interpreted in the context of longer-term records (aerial photographs and hydrologic data). The findings indicated bank erosion dominates fine sediment supply, with highly seasonal channel storage and delivery of fine sediment to the catchment outlet. Land use changes since 1954 are relatively small. With hillslopes largely decoupled from channels land use is probably of limited importance to sediment flux. Rather the decline in the extent of incised channels has probably lead to a general decline in sediment transfer over this period, punctuated by decadal climatic trends, leading to varying periods of net gain and loss in channel sediment storage. Possible implications of predicted climate change effects on water supplies for the quality of water resources in this upland catchment are discussed.

**Stephen SMITH**

ADFA/ University of New South Wales  
 sj.smith@student.adfa.edu.au

**Session 233**

A year of politics: The geography of minor party electoral performances in urban electorates at the Australian state elections in 2006.

The opportunity to provide a comprehensive geographical assessment of minor party performances at several state elections held in a calendar year is a rarity. This opportunity was provided in 2006, one of the busiest years for Australian state electoral politics. Four state elections were held in South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland and Victoria. For minor parties, these state elections produced different trends in the geography of their respective electoral performances. Some of these electoral trends were highlighted in urban electorates. Some minor parties managed to increase their primary vote and build upon their existing electoral support bases. In contrast, other parties suffered a decline in electoral fortunes, highlighted by small primary votes and a weakened electoral support base compared to previous elections. This paper assesses the geography of the lower house electoral performances of three minor parties (Australian Democrats, Family First and the Greens) in urban electorates at the state elections that they contested during 2006. Strengths and weaknesses in the geography of the electoral performances of the selected minor parties at the respective electoral events in urban electorates are

highlighted. This paper also evaluates the future prospects of minor parties. Such assessments of minor parties are crucial for building upon the existing knowledge base of these parties as participants in Australian electoral landscape settings.

**Sandie SUCHET-PEARSON\*, Sarah WRIGHT^ and Kate LLOYD\* Session 241**

\*Macquarie University

[klloyd@els.mq.edu.au](mailto:klloyd@els.mq.edu.au)

^University of Newcastle

Stories of crossings and connections in Bawaka, North-East Arnhemland

Australia as a nation bounded by water rather than land has predominantly conceived of itself as socially, culturally and economically isolated from its region. Anxieties stemming from the vast distance between Australia and the perceived centres of culture in Europe and the US have been compounded by static understandings of pre-European contact Indigenous cultures as disconnected and frozen in history (Burke 2001; Head 2000; Milner 2000). Australia's north has long been the vanguard of this perceived isolation. Close proximity to an unknowable 'Other' across the northern seas — at once too close and impossibly distant — has created a complex border zone. Yet a range of dynamic and diverse connections throughout this region such as the history of trade and exchange between Aboriginal groups in northern Australia and the Macassans traders belie this sense of disconnection and untranslatability. This paper aims to build a nuanced picture of some historical and contemporary crossings, connections and flows in Australia's north. We engage with the quotidian experiences of life lived on and through the border, focusing in particular on the indigenous families involved in running Bawaka Cultural Experiences in North-East Arnhemland, a newly established Yolngu Indigenous tourism venture. As part of this new business venture the community is engaged in a process of telling stories of the north as places of contact and connection. In this paper we focus on story-telling and story-listening as an important way of constructing identity and reflect on the development of Bawaka Cultural Experiences as a vehicle for this expression.

**Elissa SUTHERLAND**

**Session 315**

School of Geography and Environmental Science

Monash University

[Elissa.sutherland@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Elissa.sutherland@arts.monash.edu.au)

Enlivening the space and subjectivities of home-based work: livelihood strategies of Chinese migrant women in Sydney, Australia

Much research examines the gendered nature of industrial home-based work and positions the women who perform it as marginal, and the place of the home as oppressive. This paper draws on 5 years of ethnographic work and examines the work-life histories, family arrangements and aspirations that frame the livelihood strategies of eight Chinese-Australian women doing industrial sewing from their homes in Sydney. Their stories are neither typical nor unique to those doing this work but offer insights about the factors that combine to enable some women to create empowering livelihood strategies. Such accounts of home-based work offer valuable insights to policy-makers attempting to combat exploitation in the clothing industry.

**Gertrude SZILI and Matthew W. ROFE**

**Session 123**

School of Natural and Built Environments

University of South Australia

[Gertrude.szili@unisa.edu.au](mailto:Gertrude.szili@unisa.edu.au)

[Matthew.rofe@unisa.edu.au](mailto:Matthew.rofe@unisa.edu.au)

Greening Port Misery: Marketing the green face of waterfront redevelopment in Port Adelaide, South Australia

Port Adelaide is on the cusp of an urban renaissance. Once a thriving industrial centre, economic restructuring has left the Port in a vulnerable position. Suffering from the ills of economic and environmental decline, collaborative efforts between the South Australian State Government and private sector property developers have aimed to transform the Port to a cosmopolitan and progressive landscape. While much urban regeneration literature has focussed on the social and economic issues associated with such large scale redevelopments, the environmental improvements purported by these developments are largely unexplored. A significant aspect of Port Adelaide's transformation is the deliberate mobilisation of an environmental discourse in marketing materials. These materials are key texts serving to both promote and legitimise the redevelopment. Data presented in this paper problematises the purported environmental benefits associated with the marketing of Port Adelaide's redevelopment, revealing it as a rhetorical form of 'greenwashing'.

**Adeline TAY**

**Session 115**

School of Geographical Sciences

University of Bristol

[adetayyl@yahoo.com.au](mailto:adetayyl@yahoo.com.au)

The transmission of touch

Touch is widely recognised as one of the five senses we possess. However, it is also possible to conceptualise touch as relating to the multi-sensual and as a mediator of an interrelated sense of being. It is therefore to such considerations that it is suggested that the concept of touch propounded here is not a mere trope but produced by biological, psychological and social means. The transmission of touch then is an attempt to work these means towards splicing the sometimes-dichotomised categories of the individual and the social, as well as that of interior and exterior states. To do so, I use some interviews undertaken with members of a food community to foreground the material which is integral to this transmission of touch as it is to enjoyment of eating and cooking.

**Bruce TAYLOR**

**Session 244**

CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems

[Bruce.Taylor@csiro.au](mailto:Bruce.Taylor@csiro.au)

Water Governance and the 'problem' with agri-industry: new roles or old foes?

Society increasingly expects market and non-government sectors to act in the public interest as managers of critical environmental assets such as water. Both government and industry interests are also repositioning agri-industries as 'environmental managers' or

‘partners’ in the management of water assets. Actual modes of agri-industry operation in these managing institutions appear however on a different trajectory from other resource dependant industries, characterised by threat of prescription, conditional volunteerism and misdirected accountability measures. Observations from water quality initiatives in the Great Barrier Reef catchments are discussed to explore how industry sectoral values interface with multi-regional and catchment scale water governance processes. Opportunities to enhance these arrangements are also proposed.

**Melanie THOMSON**

**Session 125**

School of Social and Environmental Enquiry  
University of Melbourne  
[m.thomson2@pgrad.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:m.thomson2@pgrad.unimelb.edu.au)

Humans relocating bats relocating humans: surprising distributions across Melbourne

This paper looks at the unexpected distributions of human and bat bodies across Melbourne during the relocation of the bat colony in 2003, and at the sensory and representational effects of these distributions.

**Stephen M. TURTON**

**Session 326**

JCU/CSIRO Tropical Landscapes Joint Venture  
James Cook University  
[Steve.Turton@jcu.edu.au](mailto:Steve.Turton@jcu.edu.au)

Monitoring and Managing Tourism Impacts in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area of Queensland

The far north Queensland region is internationally recognised for their outstanding natural and cultural heritage values. The region uniquely contains two world heritage areas (WHAs) side by side, the Wet Tropics and the Great Barrier Reef, that are renowned for their high diversity of species and habitats, with both WHAs being considered as global biodiversity ‘hotspots’. Each year, over 3 million tourists visit these WHAs and contribute over AU\$2 billion to the regional economy. This paper focuses on tourism and recreational use of rainforests of the Wet Tropics WHA and is based on extensive research undertaken by the Rainforest CRC. Visitor use in the WHA is mostly associated with walking tracks, camping areas, day use areas and off-road vehicle use of old forestry roads and tracks. Adverse environmental impacts range from vegetation trampling, soil compaction, water contamination and soil erosion at the local scale through to spread of weeds, feral animals and soil pathogens along extensive networks of old forestry roads and tracks at the regional scale. Concentration of visitor use is the most desirable management strategy for controlling adverse impacts at most World Heritage Area visitor nodes and sites, and includes methods such as site hardening and shielding to contain impacts. For dispersed visitor activities, such as off-road vehicle driving and long-distance walking, application of best practice methods by the tourist industry and recreational users such as removal of mud and soils from vehicle tyres and hiking boots before entering pathogen-free catchments, together with seasonal closure of roads and tracks, are the preferred management strategies. Retention of canopy cover at camping areas and day use areas, as well as along walking tracks and forestry roads is a simple, yet effective, management strategy for reduction of a range of adverse impacts,

including dispersal of weeds and feral animals, edge effects, soil erosion and nutrient loss, road kill and linear barrier effects on rainforest fauna.

**Adam TYNDALL**

Centre for Urban and Regional Studies  
University of Newcastle  
[adam.tyndall@studentmail.newcastle.edu.au](mailto:adam.tyndall@studentmail.newcastle.edu.au)

**Session 213**

A Particular Public: Publicness and the Shopping Mall

Traditionally public space has been perceived as an integral part of a fully functioning liberal democracy. Yet much research argues that traditional public space is in decline due to regimes of ‘neo-liberal’ governance paralleled with a growth in new configurations of public space. It is argued that new spatial forms such as shopping malls posit a commercialised, sanitised and ultimately exclusionary spatiality in place of a more egalitarian, engaging and ultimately democratic public forms. Increasingly however, urban research has sought to both question the veracity of these claims about ‘traditional public space’ and to focus on the marginal and contingent nature of publicness as constituted by and enacted in place. This paper reports on a qualitative study conducted on a shopping mall in Sydney’s south west-Westfield Liverpool. In particular the paper reports on how interviewees and focus group participants spoke about and experienced the publicness facilitated by this space. The paper argues firstly, that this publicness is influenced by the particular economic, temporal, spatial and social arrangements which emerge within the mall. Secondly, that these arrangements influence the ways individuals experience the space in diverse and at times contradictory ways. The paper concludes by discussing the implications these findings have for notions of publicness, urban citizenship, and democratic practice.

**Nicola VAUGHAN**

University of Newcastle  
[nicola.vaughan@studentmail.newcastle.edu.au](mailto:nicola.vaughan@studentmail.newcastle.edu.au)

**Session 241**

“The Urban Tribes we have created...”: Representations and Narratives of Bangarra Dance Theatre and NAISDA in Aboriginal emplacement.

Creating and recreating places to belong is a fundamental struggle for indigenous people in a postcolonial nation like Australia. This paper will explore the positionings of Bangarra Dance Theatre and the National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association (NAISDA) in newspaper articles and documentaries. These texts engage with, endorse and contest dominant discourses about Aboriginal belonging and non-belonging at urban and national scales by utilising a range of narrative threads. The act of text production involves direct communications between the text producers (such as journalists and film makers) and members of Bangarra and NAISDA. Newspaper articles and documentaries therefore involve dialogical cultural practices. Journalists and documentary producers draw on the voices of key members of Bangarra and NAISDA to develop their texts, and this exchange actively influences the ideological claims about place within the texts. Simultaneously, members of the institutions use their access to journalists and documentary producers to circulate narratives about the role of the

institutions in both urban Aboriginal emplacement and Aboriginality in national identity. Newspaper articles and documentaries are therefore important sites in developing and circulating postcolonial claims for belonging and are engaged with symbolic processes of place remaking and recreating. The texts reveal that there are very different positionings of the institutions, with Bangarra's entitlement to space claimed to be significantly more legitimate than that of NAISDA.

**Ilan VIZEL**

Faculty of Architecture and Planning,  
University of Melbourne  
[vizeli@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:vizeli@unimelb.edu.au)

**Session 121**

Housing for people with intellectual disabilities in Victoria: diversity and choice

Recent disability policies in Australia emphasize individual choice as a key issue. In the case of housing for people with intellectual disabilities, it is far from clear what choice actually means and how it could be achieved. In this research I take a spatial perspective to examine these issues. Through interviews with people with intellectual disabilities, their parents, service providers and government officials I examine different aspects of location and place which affect their housing choices. I assume that physical access to other services is a major factor, but also that priorities and the process of negotiating location are different in each place; that the locations of institutions in the past still influence housing choices today; that although all regions operate under similar regulations, in each regional office a different institutional environment has developed which affects the interactions between housing services users and providers; and, that in certain places NIMBY attitudes persist in a way that affects housing choices of people with intellectual disabilities. All of these imply that the process of negotiating housing choices is very different in different places and, therefore, in order to achieve more individual choice in housing for people with intellectual disabilities, as recent policies promise, different approaches should be taken in different places.

**Gordon WAITT**

University of Wollongong

**Session 232**

'Killing Waves': surfboarders, gender and space

Following the increase in the number of young women-who-surf, this article is concerned with the changing relationships between space, gender and surfing bodies. To examine how gender and surf space are mutually constituted, this paper draws on empirical materials from qualitative research carried out with young people who surf the breaks of Wollongong, Australia. The article is framed within theoretical works relating the spatial imperative of subjectivities and the performance of corporeal femininities and masculinities. The results suggest while diversities, complexities and contradictions are present within the gendered attributes of surfing spaces, the power of dualistic ideas about gender continue to play an important role in the relationships between surfing bodies and surf space.

**Jim WALMSLEY****Session 211**

Geography and Planning, School of Behavioural, Cognitive and Social Sciences  
University of New England

Leisure Lifestyles and the Local Level

The paper argues that lifestyle considerations are becoming increasingly important in Australian migration. There is also a growing tendency, in some advanced economies, for “happiness” to appear alongside economic growth on the political agenda. The paper contends that one ramification of these trends is a re-evaluation of the way in which the local environment can contribute (or not) to human wellbeing. Renewed emphasis on “the local” might also stem from increased transport costs in a carbon-conscious world. This is likely to be a particular issue in rural Australia where distance can be a determinant of interaction and where leisure- and tourism-orientated activity may be at risk if transport costs soar. The paper asserts that the re-emergence of “the local” as a subject of concern has important implications for the discipline of geography.

**Lisa WEBBER****Session 332**

University of Newcastle  
Lisa.Webber@studentmail.newcastle.edu.au

Relationships with and between women’s NGOs in Fiji

Since the 1970s research conducted on the role of Non Government Organisations (NGOs) in development has increased in scope and variety. One important area of analysis focuses on the relationships and networks used by NGOs in their work as development practitioners. The research that I have carried out aims to explore the manner in which women’s NGOs in Fiji have and continue to utilise relationships as a mechanism of survival, control and empowerment. The information gained from this research was gathered via semi-structured interviews with six multi-racial women’s NGOs in Fiji, all of whom were interviewed once. Via these interviews I have found three core areas in which I have identified relationships to be important for the effective provision of services to the women of Fiji. These core areas are: relationships with constituents; funding and governmental relationships, and, relationships with other Fijian NGOs. Within each of these core areas relationships have been observed to be both complex and actively managed by the NGOs. I have found that these relationships are important mechanisms that are consciously employed by the NGOs to assist them in achieving the goals of their organisation, and are not as straight-forward as is often portrayed.

**Deirdre WILCOCK****Session 314**

Macquarie University  
[dwilcock@els.mq.edu.au](mailto:dwilcock@els.mq.edu.au)

Making the Maps ‘Living and Breathing’: examining ‘use and occupation mapping’ in the Murray Darling Basin cross-cultural context

Ontological pluralism is a critical element of natural resource management (NRM) systems in intercultural landscapes. Efforts to draw Indigenous knowledges into these

systems need to take careful account of the Indigenous knowledge holders. Using recent talks between the Murray Darling Basin Commission (MDBC), Murray Lower Darling Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN), the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Goulburn-Broken Catchment Management Authority as a focus, this paper considers how proposals to initiate ‘cultural mapping’ or ‘use and occupation mapping’ as a means of including Indigenous knowledge into NRM have addressed this issue. Drawing on research done as part of an honours project, the paper argues that the expectations of both MLDRIN and government institutions regarding ‘use and occupation’ mapping highlight critical issues of wider relevance in contested landscapes of co-existence. While modern cartographic methods of representing Indigenous knowledges offer exciting possibilities to articulate Aboriginal perceptions in NRM systems, producing maps centred on Eurocentric notions of scientific objectivity achieves little for Indigenous communities. This paper suggests that use and occupation mapping requires those working in NRM bodies and collaborative projects to recognise ontological difference, and in particular, the place-based nature and cultural context of Indigenous knowledges.

**Colleen WONG and Chris GIBSON\***

School of Earth and Environmental Sciences  
University of Wollongong  
\*cgibson@uow.edu.au

**Session 331**

### Measuring Environmental Impacts of Festivals and Events

Festivals and events are a segment of the tourism industry undergoing significant growth. Research on the impacts of festivals and events has predominately been conducted from an economic or socio-cultural perspective, often from within tourism studies, while environmental issues have been covered in only a very limited sense. This is in part due to the lack of suitable methods available to investigate the environmental impacts of special events — which are ephemeral by nature — in a comprehensive and yet uncomplicated way. This paper discusses the experimental application of the ecological footprint as a measuring tool to assess holistically the environmental impacts that occur due to the staging of festivals and events. This includes food production, waste generation, resource use and carbon dioxide emissions. The adaptation of the method to one festival — the Splendour in the Grass music festival in Byron Bay — is explained, and limitations that arose are discussed. Possible uses of the calculated festival ecological footprint include education and awareness, the development of management strategies, comparisons between different special events as well as aiding the forecast of future festival ecological footprints. The ecological footprint as a measuring tool has methodological limitations, although these are hardly fatal. Indeed, we would argue that, despite problems in measurement, estimations of the ecological footprints of festivals could aid substantially in provoking much-needed debate about the sustainability and climate change impact of future festival and event tourism.

**Oren YIFTACHEL and Batya RODED**

Ben-Gurion University, Israel  
[yiftach@bgu.ac.il](mailto:yiftach@bgu.ac.il)

**Session 314**

The Politics of 'Negative Recognition' in Israel/ Palestine: Indigenous Bedouins in Comparative Perspective

The lecture examines the evolving relations between Israel and the indigenous Bedouin-Arab population of the southern Beer Sheva region. Theoretical aspects are initially discussed comparatively, highlighting a structural conflict embedded in the 'ethnocratic' nature of nation-building typical to settler states such as Israel, Australia, and (pre-1994) South Africa. The nature of Israel's persistent policies of Judaization and modernization — framed within the Palestinian-Zionist conflict — is then analysed, focusing on their impact on the marginalisation of indigenous Bedouin tribes in Israel/Palestine. The lecture then traces the various legal, planning and economic strategies of Judaizing Bedouin lands in the study area. These have included the nationalization of Arab land, the pervasive establishment of Jewish settlements, the forced urbanization of the Bedouin-Arabs, and the denial of basic services from Bedouins who refuse to urbanize. However, the analysis also finds a growing awareness among indigenous Arabs to their ethnic discrimination, and the emergence of effective resistance, aided by the globalisation of indigenous struggle. In recent years, this has resulted in some indigenous gains vis-a-vis state authorities. The case of the Bedouin-Arabs demonstrates that the ethnocentric settler state is losing some grounds, partially at least, due to its own expansionist policies. The case also illustrates the gradual (if yet very partial and fragmented) strengthening of civil society and indigenous movements.