



INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHERS

CONFERENCE 2008

ABSTRACTS

30th JUNE – 3rd JULY

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

HOBART

PLENARY SESSIONS

Reflections on 50 Years of the IAG

Jim Walmsley, Harold Brookfield, Alaric Maude, John Holmes, Murray Wilson

Jim Walmsley - Presidential Address: The work-life balance: geographical perspectives on lifestyle, leisure, stuff and the future

Tim Cresswell - Dromologies: Towards a Politics of Mobility

Hayden Lorimer - Bio/Geo/Graphy: Life in beauty's secrets and nature's surfaces

Ronlyn Duncan – A question of balance: A path to sustainability or business-as-usual?
The Basslink case

White agendas and AIDS campaigns: AusAID's campaign to reduce the spread of AIDS in PNG

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Research examining the campaign against the hookworm and the response to the AIDS in Africa shows how health development campaigns have been used to further 'white' agendas rather than meeting the health needs of the general population. Following the agenda established by such research, this paper examines the positioning of HIV/AIDS campaigns in Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea has the highest incidence of HIV and AIDS in the Pacific region. This has prompted AusAID, in conjunction the PNG government, some NGOs and churches, to fund and facilitate a campaign to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS. Since the 1987 when the first PNG AIDS case was "discovered" development activities taken by AusAID have consisted of multimillion dollar national campaigns. This research will use manifest and latent content analysis and critical discourse analysis to explore how 'white' agendas influence HIV/AIDS campaigns in Papua New Guinea. It will combine Turnbull's theory of knowledge space with Said's theory of Orientalism to indicate that poetic endowments in texts like myths and metaphors are an important way in which knowledge about a disease is subverted to create, strengthen and reinforce white power structures.

Rethinking resource wars: The case of the conflict in Solomon Islands

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This paper employs empirical evidence from Solomon Islands to interrogate and critique a number of influential theories concerning the causes and dynamics of civil wars in the Third World. Neoclassical economists such as Paul Collier argue that these conflicts are driven by the 'greed' of the men who participate in them. Rebels are regarded as indistinguishable from pirates or bandits, and the 'ethnic' dimensions of intrastate conflicts are interpreted solely in terms of competition to control natural resource wealth. In-depth interviews with men who fought with the rival militant groups during the recent conflict in Solomon Islands (1998-2003) indicate that while the role of greed and criminality cannot be entirely dismissed there were other motivating factors that were equally if not more important. Foremost of these are the ex-militants' own conceptions of history and geography, and of the places of their respective peoples in the processes of colonisation, development and nation-building. Both sides draw upon a rich tradition of resisting the state, particularly its perceived imposition upon customary law and local sovereignty over land and resources. Both sides also engage with discourses of development, highlighting perceived inequities in the distribution of primary resource rents, the geographical pattern of development, and the provision of government services. The Solomons conflict serves as a salutary reminder that the effective analysis of particular conflicts cannot be divorced from the social, historical and geographical contexts in which they occur.

Amenity-led counter-urbanisation? An analysis of ex-urban migration across south-eastern and -western Australia, 2001-2006

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There is growing consensus among academics, regional development organisations and rural communities that the future growth and development of rural regions is increasingly dependent upon their ability to highlight, to both established and prospective residents alike, the amenity of their local physical, social and economic environments. Building upon an exploratory analytical and predictive framework for measuring rural amenity and its relationship with rural in-migration trends, this paper examines the relationship between ex-urban in-migration flows into the ecumene of south-eastern and –western Australia between 2001 and 2006 on the one hand, and the amenity values of destination communities, on the other. Specifically, the paper will document the spatial distribution of ex-urban migration gains, amenity values and the extent to which these correlate with local rural land values.

Performing human service delivery: The everyday practices and potentialities of interagency workers

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The performances of human service agencies and workers are commonly positioned in current research as shaped by an overarching mode of governance—neoliberalism. In governmental research particularly, human service workers are often viewed as bureaucratic subjects who translate neoliberal priorities promoting moralisation, responsabilisation and surveillance of social service recipients. Whilst such analyses expose recent shifts in governance, there is a proclivity to study the performances of workers for their co-options under neoliberalism. I argue that such governmental accounts may be enhanced through a contingent perspective on the 'peopled performances' of states—the diversity and vitality of workers' performances often obscured by overarching stories of neoliberalised governance. The paper draws on ethnographic accounts of agency workers engaged in an Australian interagency human service programme who describe a diversity of performances including practices of care, support and co-existence. The aim of the paper is to explore the diverse performances of 'peopled' states and value the already existing practices and possibilities for ethical actions, respectful relationships, and care in human service agencies.

Where is the wheat? Towards a new geography of Australian wheat

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The significance of wheat in rural Australia as commodity, as icon, and as an agent of landscape change is obvious, but wheat also underpins the lives of most urban Australians. By illustrating the cultural, economic and ecological networks in which we are embedded, plants can emerge as a ‘lively presence’ (Whatmore 2002), where people and places are (unknowingly) connected and entangled. Wheat was recently classified by Food Standards Australia New Zealand as a substance requiring compulsory identification on all food products, and by others as a ‘hidden’ ingredient in food. In this paper we ask where the wheat is at the supermarket, in order to illustrate some of the obvious and also the more hidden relationships between Australian and wheat. We draw on findings from retail surveys and from interviews across the NSW wheat network, to contrast the ubiquity of wheat among people who process it, with alternative visions from others who negotiate it. We illustrate how in addition to feeding the nation, contemporary agricultural and industrial modes of production and processing also render wheat as something that is hidden, unseen, unknown, and unsafe.

Whatmore S. (2002) *Hybrid Geographies. Natures, cultures and spaces*. Sage Publications, London.

The aesthetics of squatter settlements versus gated communities in Istanbul

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Istanbul is one of the most important metropolises in the world. It is growing rapidly with its own spatial structure of metropolitan areas. Socio-cultural shifts have significant effects on urban residential environments of Istanbul. In this era of change, the concept of dwelling has also converted into a new notion with its new spatial organizations.

Although Gaston Bachelard argues that a house is a vertical entity, today's houses are apartment blocks which are designed as horizontal layers for each family. Not only being vertical, but also being unrelated to the topography of Istanbul; gated communities should be argued in comparison with the squatter settlements. Even though squatter settlements are illegal, they are much more successful than gated communities in the context of creating an urban pattern.

Squatter settlements are small in scale, designed in accordance to the data of the topography, unique for each family, ready to reproduce and appropriate for human scale. On the other hand, gated communities are large in scale, designed on an excavated land, same for each family, impossible to reproduce and inappropriate for human scale, etc...

This characteristic not only affects the quality of life, but also affects the aesthetics of urban pattern in the city. In this paper I would like to discuss about the qualities of the squatter settlements [which are illegal and considered as unplanned and bad parts of a city] and their design parameters in comparison with the gated communities [which are legal, planned and considered as the new attractive housing areas of a city]. By giving examples of both, I would like to show the differences of these settlements in the context of urban pattern and the success of squatter settlements on the organic form of spatial organizations.

The search for cultural continuity in housing design on the Bodrum Peninsula of Turkey

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The Bodrum peninsula, located in the southwestern Turkey, was called as Myndos in ancient times. In fact, it was one of the most delightful and, until the 1970s, untouched geographical spots in the Mediterranean. It gives the impression that, since antiquity time has stopped, with its highly indented coast resembling to lacework and its quite uneven topographical structure. The people there lived a calm and unhurried style, and their main means of existence was fishing. Thick stone walls painted white, flat roofs, small windows are the main characteristics of the traditional houses in Bodrum which are seen as precious examples of vernacular architecture.

Over the last thirty years the boom of tourism, and especially the growing interest of global actors in the real estate market, and tourism investments in the region have caused a great change in the existing natural and architectural environment. The winter population in the region is now about 90,000; however, this number increases 15-20 times during the summer period. The summer population coming from foreign countries and other places in Turkey generally prefers to stay in the houses they have bought or rented there instead of staying in hotels or motels. Consequently, many units have been constructed even though they are left empty during winter. This poses a serious problem considering the value of natural and traditional architectural environments. Moreover, the existing local building regulations which necessitate the stability of regional identity and the sensitive approaches of some architects about cultural continuity are stopping this problem from getting more intense. Within this context, we refer to Turgut Cansever's Demir Holiday Village which won the prize of Aga Khan in 1992 due to its favorable attitude towards the natural environment, climate and the notion of cultural continuity. This paper aims to investigate housing design approaches that try to preserve cultural continuity in Bodrum and to discuss the role of local building regulation.

Some proposals for public facilities in marina designs

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The Mediterranean and Aegean coast of Turkey are still relatively untouched and a lot of international yachtsmen are quite enthusiastic about visiting them. However, the inefficient number of marinas limits the realization of their plans in this respect. Ports in Turkey serve for only 2.4 % of the yachts that number is roughly 500,000 throughout in the Mediterranean. This deficiency has brought about the subject of new marina construction. It has become one of the most important agenda items of the tourism policy in Turkey. In addition to the marinas under construction, lots of new marinas are planned to be built and the existing capacity is aimed to be doubled in five years.

However, marinas are required to be built on the seashore and this situation creates justifiable social reactions as it restricts people's facilities related to the shoreline. Moreover, the Turkish law that requires the utilization of the coast for public welfare is violated because marinas are closed to the public considering the safety of the boats and thus, the coast line has become open only for boat owners. As many other new marinas will be built soon, people living there may to some extent lose their connection with the sea. This situation makes the problem much more serious especially for Turkey. A basic principle should be the necessity of equilibrating the consideration of both the needs and expectations of the community that benefits from the coast's facilities in various ways and of the boat owners who directly use the marinas. The purpose of this paper is to propose alternative solutions for this problem within the framework of this principle.

The geography of environmental sentencing

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The leniency or otherwise of sentences handed down in criminal cases for environmental offences demonstrates a spatial distribution linked to a number of factors other than those merely legislative and legal. Sentences for environmental crimes reflect some of the social mores related to environmental offences which have at times militated against such transgressions being viewed as “real” crimes worthy of significant punishment. These social mores are distributed unevenly, as are the biophysical characteristics of the environment which these social mores may reflect or be antagonistic. This paper will briefly review the history of environmental crime, from protecting people against pollution to protecting the environment from people; outline the difficult birth of environmental moral culpability; and explore the ways in which the environment itself plays a part in how environmental crime is viewed and how environmental law is enforced. Criminal broad-acre land clearance on private property will be selected as the focus for the paper and will be contrasted with tree clearance in metropolitan areas and on public reserves.

Trans-equatorial migratory birds and Avian Influenza: An Australian perspective

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The Avian influenza, commonly known as ‘bird flu’, has emerged as a high priority global public health issue with potential risks to the Australasian region. It is a contagious disease of animals caused by viruses that normally infect only birds, and to a lesser extent, pigs. These viruses are highly species-specific but have, on rare occasions, crossed the species barrier to infect humans. Government and media speculation has also identified the possibility that migratory birds could be responsible for spread of this disease. This paper briefly considers the history and geographical extent of reported virus outbreaks where migratory birds are likely to have transported the virus.

Trans-equatorial migratory birds, such as shorebirds, breed seasonally in the Arctic region, then fly through south east Asia to spend the non-breeding season in Australia before returning to their northern hemisphere breeding grounds. The migration route used by these birds is known as the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, which caters for about four million individuals of the eighty species occurring in Australia. Shorebirds share Australian wetland habitats with wild ducks, swans and other waterbird species (including feral domestic ducks). Many Australian waterbirds are nomadic and their movements span the continent in an unpredictable fashion, both in timing and direction. The possibility exists that some of these waterbirds may also come in contact with domestic poultry.

Concerns about migrating birds causing an outbreak of avian influenza require further investigation by Australian authorities. Such steps are already being taken in North America, in light of suspicions that migrating birds may have caused the outbreak of avian flu that recently killed thousands of domestic fowl, and at least one known human fatality, in Siberia. Bird experts are presently testing migratory birds in Alaska, where several flyways intersect making it the most likely entry point for the virus to spread into North America. The gravity of the current situation can be measured against the energy and commitment shown by international organisations, governments, private industry and researchers.

The water crisis: A geography of Western Australia's water policy and development

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This paper will bring a multi-disciplinary perspective to the water problem in Western Australia. Severe droughts, and associated water restrictions during summer months have made this issue a priority for the WA Government's water development and policy. WA is currently experiencing a resources boom with associated population increase, which places a further strain on its already limited water resources.

WA experiences lower rainfall compared to the rest of the Australian continent. For over 50,000 years, the Aboriginal people sustainably used water resources as an important source of food, respite and spiritual comfort. Since European settlement these same water bodies have only been given status as an economic resource.

This research critically evaluates the social, political, economic and environmental impacts of past and present Government policy responses to water to reconstruct the evolution of water approaches leading to the current water crisis. It will identify what is a realistic sustainability approach to Perth's water problem and have broader applications for water policy in other states and overseas. It will contribute to the body of knowledge and understanding of the water problem, using a holistic approach, based on the notion of water as part of an ecological system. It will also encourage researchers to improve best water practice with a goal to reduce, re-use, recycle and re-design".

Cultural influences on ecological footprint: A case study of Kathmandu City

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The ecological footprint has been a popular tool for many policy makers to quantify environmental ‘goods’ and ‘bads’ so as to address various issues of human impacts on environment. The fluid, less quantifiable but critically important cultural factors and their effects on conditioning ecological footprint have rarely been analysed, particularly in urban settings of developing countries. This study is a proposal for doctoral degree at Sydney University which aims to investigate the cultural influences on ecological footprint, with three case studies from Kathmandu city - the city which has rich culture, transitional economy and fragile ecology. Triangulation approach will be used to the sources of data, and methods of data collection and analysis. A mix of qualitative and quantitative methods will be employed to collect data. It is expected that cultural factors have enormous impacts on the ways people define environment, their impacts and how impacts could be minimised or managed.

With its pros and cons, the ecological footprint is still a powerful tool to understand human impacts on environment. With its popularity and easy to understand approach, ecological footprint has become synonym to environmental impacts and is a useful tool to understand the impacts created by so called “modernisation”. Even though plenty of studies have been carried out to comprehend influence of culture on economics and nature, there is a research gap which looks into the understanding of the relationship between culture and ecological footprint.

In conclusion, it is hoped that instead of focusing on modernist idea of measuring and quantifying ‘goods’ and ‘bads’, urban planners and policy makers need to situate policies that take account of cultural processes that condition environmental behaviour.

Me and machine: A relational understanding of machines and self within the home

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I know what this machine is now! Flayed fingers fiddling knobs from plastic moulding; an open cut mine ten rings deep and falling daily; shadows fleeting cross a cinder floor; the sun burnt sienna through oil hung smoke. The once-was-water river lancing the arid-creeper plain; the proselytized slumber of no-place people; underground chess in a far eastern pit; carrion on corpse of carrion passed.

I ken threads connecting far flung places and absolute strangers, threads that run taut, crossing, tangling, entwining and bunching in a global webwork of progress and development. And all leading across ocean, over hill, through air to my home, to my kitchen and my machine.

My machine – a hub of the careless chaos of extraction, production, competition and consumption. This thing in my home! How can I live with this, be with this thing now I know what it is!

This paper is a philosophical consideration of my relationship with my washing machine. Through a phenomenological reawakening to the role played by my machine within my home the agency of this machine is revealed. Whitehead's theory of internal relations – of conceiving relations as being essential to things and beings in that beings and things are not what they are without these relations – is offered as means of conceptualising this agency and as a means of enlivening 'the machine'. The ramifications for identity, for understanding urban natures and for the role of technologies within urban natures are explored. This paper is part of a larger study focused upon a re-conceptualisation of self within the urban context, specifically with regards to the notion of 'sustainability'.

Changing landscapes, climates and ideals of home in a hyper-neoliberal city: A Gold Coast story

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Histories of the Gold Coast depict rapidly changing landscapes, partly because it is a neoliberal city and partly because land, and in particular residential land, is limited. The Gold Coast population continues to grow with the majority of people continuing to migrate from within the eastern states of Australia. The difference between the migration cohorts of the 50s through to the 80s and the current cohorts is significant. The early years saw entrepreneurial, professional and business cohorts swell; currently it is Baby Boomers moving to the Gold Coast to retire and the 20-25 cohorts seeking part-time work, mainly in the tourist and hospitality industries. A land shortage coupled with high population growth and climate change factors has significant impacts for individuals, communities, populations, the local, state and federal economies and the Government.

I am particularly interested here in the physical and social transformations evidenced in the residential landscapes of the Gold Coast City from the 1950s. In this paper I will begin to map these metamorphisms, specifically in relation to meanings of home, and in doing so I will draw upon rationalities of risk and theories of ontological security. Climate change concerns are central to my readings of the Gold Coast residential contexts. The areas of the city most vulnerable to sea level rise are where the majority of the residential landscapes are located.

In keeping with the session aims, this paper begins a theorisation and critique of residential transformations in the Gold Coast City. My emphasis is on the physical and social implications of change, specifically in relation to meanings of home.

Neoliberal nature – the carbon property rights conundrum

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As we confirm the details of our next flight we are given the option of ticking the box for carbon offsets, paying an extra few dollars and settling back in our seat feeling sustainable having done our bit for the environment. But what of our in-flight snack – where did the sugar, egg, flour, salt, cocoa and inevitable hydrogenated fat come from to make our chocolate brownie. What greenhouse gas omissions were released in its production, packaging, storage, and delivery? In the post-signatory era of the Kyoto Protocol, *carbon neutral* has become a competitive marketing slogan for a diversity of consumer products and experiences. With a proliferation of carbon footprint calculators (some 500 at the time of writing) the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission launched an inquiry into the Trade Practices Act and carbon offset claims in January 2008. With sustainability as the catchword, consumer sentiment is influencing the policy development of the Rudd labour government. Superannuation and hedge funds are keen to allocate competitive investor capital into the new carbon offset sector. Heavy polluters are suddenly setting aside billions of dollars of shareholder capital to win political advantage for their next refinery / smelter / power station. In March 2008, Prime Minister Rudd announced an investigation into the benefits of soil in sequestering carbon and its place in emissions trading schemes. The notion of sustainability is not to create a lucrative market in carbon offsets by polluters. Currently the policy intent, together with the evolving public will and corporate responsibility is ahead of both the science and legal framework for managing property rights in carbon (used broadly to represent the six greenhouse gases). In 2001, the State Government of Victoria identified a ‘carbon sink’ as ‘any tree species with the potential to grow over two metres in height and have a canopy cover or at least 20%’. They excluded shrubs and grasses. Meanwhile, the succinct Western Australia Carbon Rights Act 2003 broadens the scope. The Australian Property Institute has taken the lead in its 2007 Policy Paper: *Conceiving Property Rights in Carbon*, and more recently in Sheehan and Kanas’ investigation of *Carbon Property Rights in Soil*. This paper takes the discussion to the next stage by offering a framework for Property Rights in Carbon and asking if such rights should be vested in the State or Nation, rather than merely creating a commodity that can be ‘efficiently allocated’ and thus speculated upon.

A rapid field sampling method for vegetation terrain modelling and satellite image classification

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Terrain analysis of vegetation distribution and satellite image classification generally require training data from numerous field sites. On remote subantarctic islands, where access is difficult and the opportunities for aerial photography are limited by cost and weather conditions, such data are often hard to acquire. There is an urgent need for highly accurate fine resolution mapping of Macquarie Island, one of Australia's two subantarctic territories. Vegetation patterns on the 12 785 ha island are changing rapidly, largely due to grazing by rabbits. The Australian and Tasmanian Governments have committed \$25 million to eradicating all introduced vertebrates from the island. In order to assess the success of this program in restoring vegetation communities, baseline data is required across the island's extent and at a sufficiently fine resolution to capture changes in community distribution.

At present, most work on plant communities on Macquarie Island is conducted in small quadrats and along transects. In order to scale up the analysis to the whole island, we used a pole-mounted camera to photograph 5 x 5 m plots of vegetation, and compared the classifications to those resulting from previous field sampling techniques. PoleCam provides a rapid and efficient method of capturing fine resolution data in a harsh climate and remote location. These data will now be used to train image classifications and statistical terrain models of community distributions.

‘All the time we were moving I was looking for that place ...’ Contemporary movement patterns of Aboriginal people in western NSW

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This paper draws on a much larger body of research which examined residential mobility among Aboriginal people in north-western and far western NSW from a variety of perspectives. The focus in the current paper is on the spatial patterning of contemporary mobility, and the paper aims to convey a picture of the complexity of movement and its causes. Current movement patterns are shaped by a variety of influences: traditional ties to country and family, cultural identity, historical experience of forced mobility, availability of employment opportunities, services and resources, and other factors. These influences are examined, the patterns arising from each explored, and a typology of movement suggested which reflects the pattern, purpose and character of the relationships between the movers and movement paths. Finally, issues of policy relevance are explored and the early impacts of recent policy changes are canvassed.

An integrated modelling approach to predict future scenarios of desertification risk under climate and land use change

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Global changes are likely to have a significant effect on desertification processes. In this study, two future scenarios of desertification risk in Sardinia (Italy) were produced using an innovative spatial science approach which integrates land use and climate change with environmental degradation modelling. Temporal and spatial patterns of land use change were derived through the implementation of several bio-geophysical and human driving factors into a spatially explicit model. Two different socio-economic policies and a climate scenario for 2040 were used to supply the model with a future climate regime and two hypothetical land use scenarios for 2040. Both scenarios served as a basis for the implementation of an integrated modelling methodology (Santini et al., in review) which assessed and quantified indices of desertification for six degradation processes: overgrazing, water erosion, wind erosion, vegetation productivity, soil fertility and seawater intrusion. Two 2040 scenarios of risk were produced (IDI1 and IDI2) by combining the indices into an Integrated Desertification Index (IDI). A comparison between IDI1, IDI2 and a control scenario (desertification risk realization for 2005) revealed a consistent increase in desertification risk over Sardinia by 2040. This supports the premise global climate change will intensify desertification risk.

Supporting the community enterprise sector in Australia: Lessons from grass roots enterprises

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Community or social enterprises aim to build community benefit directly through running commercial community-serving ventures. In the Australian context, the community enterprise sector is relatively small, and generally made up of small initiatives, often employing only a handful of people at any one time. Until recently community enterprises in Australia tended to be “grass roots” affairs, initiated through the efforts of sometimes only one or two people with a strong passion and growing over time into something more substantial. More recently local, state and federal government agencies and large non-government organisations have become interested in the potential of community enterprises to address social, economic and regional disadvantage. For example, in the State of Victoria, the Department of Communities has partnerships with the Brotherhood of St Laurence and Adult Multicultural Education Services to support people in public housing areas or from migrant and refugee backgrounds develop community enterprises. However, this recent policy interest seems to have been more influenced by developments overseas (particularly from the UK and the support given to social enterprises and the social economy more generally) than by the experiences of existing grass roots community enterprises in Australia. Given that government funding tends to be available during a relatively short start-up phase of one to two years, one important insight we can learn from existing enterprises is what happens in the post start-up phase as enterprises consolidate or change direction. In this paper I examine the experience of two grass roots community enterprises in the post start-up phase as they go through a period of change. Their experiences provide insights into the challenges community enterprises face as they move out of start-up into a new phase of activity, and insights into the type of government support that is needed.

From problem-solving to performativity, expertise to experimentation: Researching poverty and marginalisation

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Social science research into issues like poverty and marginalisation often uses a problem solving approach in which experts describe the problem, isolate causes and then devise solutions. Another approach focuses on the discourses that construct social problems in the first place, and the techniques used to govern populations such as the marginalised and disadvantaged. An interest in performativity—in the ways knowledge performs the world—leads to an alternative approach in which social scientists work alongside those who are in economic hardship attending to the strategies they already use. If the goal of social research is to contribute to resilient communities and economies, we can perform this by amplifying how “local experts” are already experimenting and building resilience. In this paper I outline these three approaches to social science research, and then elaborate strategies for working with local experts to amplify their endeavours, focusing on the role of participatory action research and the importance of shifting representations of communities and economies.

Fictions of self and nationhood: Jane Campion's Brilliant Career

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Since Benedict Anderson famously described the nation as 'an imagined political community that is both limited and sovereign', and since Jacqueline Rose argued that the unconscious dreams of nations have purpose and effect in the world, the question of what it is to understand ourselves as national subjects - as creatures of these imagined communities and unconscious dreams - has been on the table. This paper considers Jane Campion's transnational career as a self-narrative which leaves specific traces of imagined nations (New Zealand, where she grew up, and Australia, where she has lived and worked since the mid-1970s). Specifically, it addresses the ways in which a more or less self-conscious identification as 'Antipodean' has inflected Campion's persona in filmed and printed interviews and in her films. I argue that a certain style of the feminine is rehearsed in the cultural nationalism of both New Zealand and Australia and that this style of the feminine also characterises a series of Campion's heroines. But it is a truism that any identity will fracture on closer inspection, and 'Antipodean' is no exception. Australia and New Zealand may define themselves against Britain and Europe, but they also have a long tradition of defining themselves against each other. Campion has addressed this cultural divide on a number of occasions, explicitly in interviews where she expresses a preference for Australia's informality and cultural liveliness over the stultifying conservatism of New Zealand, and implicitly in the films where quite another way of framing the differences emerges.

Performing gender, sex and sexuality

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Understandings of performativity have been instructive in a wider variety of geographical scholarship. Butler (1990) presented one theory of performativity to question the fiction of gender and this has been adopted and critiqued within geography. One of the most instructive elements of performativity includes a theoretical positioning premised on two notions: (1) the body represents a surface from which culture emerges and (2) gestures, thought to be gendered, are in fact performed where identity is maintained through the coherence and stability of these performances. As such subjects do not exist prior the enactment of discourse and the coherence of gender is maintained by the performance of established normative codes.

This paper uses two examples to demonstrate the utility of performativity to understandings of the intersection of identity and space. These examples include recent decisions by Australian courts, to allow a gay-male pub to exclude heterosexuals and lesbians (2006) and a decision to allow a 13 year old to undergo sex re-assignment procedures (2004). In both these cases the instability of identity is illustrated and the citation processes that attempt to (re)place individuals within normative codes of sex, gender and sexuality.

Understanding communities - why locality remains important for bushfire mitigation, response and recovery

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Agencies yearn for a quick and simple method for categorising and prioritising the level of vulnerability of communities to bushfire. This paper discusses the traps that lie in this type of approach and offers a community based method for better understanding vulnerability and capacity at the local level. The underlying principles, methodological issues and limitations of this method are also discussed.

The Number Eight Fence Wire Man: Building masculinity and home in New Zealand

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‘Making home’ is often thought of as a quintessentially feminine activity. It is women who are expected to produce comfortable surroundings for their families and to maintain standards in the home. This paper, however, reflects on the more literal ‘making’ of homes and the importance of home building and maintenance activities to the construction of masculinities in New Zealand. The paper draws on findings from a small, in-depth, research project that worked with homeowners and ‘Hubbies’ from the handyman company Hire-A-Hubby. The research found a common pattern of responsibility for home maintenance amongst interviewees and that the carrying out (or not) of home repairs was part of men’s relationships with family and friends and was mediated by lifecourse stage, income, work patterns and generation. While not all male interviewees carried out repairs in their home, the ability to deal with home maintenance problems, (or as it was put by interviewees, ‘to mend anything with number eight fence wire’) was portrayed as a specific, and desirable, New Zealand masculine identity. Reflecting this, the paper suggests that masculinities as well as femininities can be thought of as produced and performed within the home, as well as in the context of particular histories and material cultures.

Contributing objects: On memory, performance, architecture and other things

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This paper considers the case of the area around Maxwell Street Market in the near West Side of Chicago. This was the largest open air market in the United States in the early and mid twentieth century until it was relocated to nearby Canal Street following an unsuccessful campaign to save it from the redevelopment plans of the University of Illinois, Chicago. Here I excavate some of the stories of Maxwell Street through the lens of over 100 years of journalism as well as an archaeological report on the area conducted in order to assess the area's significance. This report focussed on the value of the architecture in the area based on the analysis of facades and the reputation of architects involved. Protesters pointed instead to the significance of the activities that took place there over 100 years as well as the inevitability of change in the physical architecture of the space. An important part of the story are the other kinds of "things" that performed the architectural spaces of Maxwell Street - food, trash, tailored clothes, salted fish, hub-caps - all the detritus of a flea market. As well as being an account of Maxwell Street this paper will reflect on the interweaving of memory, human practice and the performance of things.

Workshop for post-graduates/ ECRs on how to recognise cross-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary research opportunities and how to utilise these skills to nurture their careers

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In July 2007, 30 post graduate and Early Career Researchers mostly from Australia and New Zealand were selected to participate in a CAPSTRANS (Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies) conference/ workshop with the theme of cross-discipline approaches to research and teaching. Focussing on the future of tertiary teaching opportunities and the increase in demand and competition for research funding outside of the normal sources, this conference, held at the University of Wollongong, encouraged participants to embrace the cross and multi-disciplines that many Asian studies research projects embody. The purpose of this approach was to foster and maintain post graduates at tertiary level and to retain ECRs beyond the shock of their first year of university employment. Earlier, in a show of hands, less than half the group intended to seek a career in a university or similar educational institution. However, as the days progressed, we were given the opportunity to consider our futures as ECRs through to advanced career options via lectures and workshops. This encouraged many in the group to reconsider their future plans, both in terms of teaching and research whilst somewhat already jaded ECRs gained new insights. A sociologist and I (being the only geographer in the group), discussed recent experiences of the lack of multi-discipline approaches both in terms of paper presentations and in learning at under graduate level.

In various state and level of education systems, I have had to use multi-discipline approaches. Firstly, in my role as an educator at secondary school and TAFE levels, I had used a multi-discipline approach, and as a teacher consultant offering professional development courses for beginner and advanced teachers again multi-discipline approaches both as technique and thematic were used particularly when introducing curriculum change. Secondly in my role as teacher mentor, it was brought to my attention that undergraduates and graduates were disappointed at the lack of cross-discipline approaches in their tertiary studies, particularly as their experience as secondary students where they had gained multiple thinking skills often in a multi-disciplined context. At this time, I had also attended a Deakin University seminar on a similar though expanded theme of co-operation between educational, government and business institutions of which I have had extensive experience in implementation.

Rather than present a paper which I have done in several past IAG conferences, I would like to offer a 20-30 minute workshop for post-graduates/ ECRs on how to recognise the various cross-discipline and multi-discipline opportunities there are in and for their research and to utilise these skills to nurture their careers. In an informal setting I would like to give a brief discussion on the awareness of our cross-discipline opportunities, set up groups to create –‘other discipline’ concept maps from their own research experience and then conduct a brief forum on their findings.

Gentrification, Social Mix and Urban Policy: A study of class-based neighbourhood change in London, UK.

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This paper examines the recent employment of ‘pro-social mixing’ urban policies in the UK and how the class-based neighbourhood changes instigated by them relate closely with gentrification. It begins by briefly identifying various social mixing concerns in the post-industrial city before illustrating how these have become incorporated into contemporary political thought and rhetoric. Particular attention is given to the distinctive collection of concepts and initiatives that have been conjoined by the Third Way-inspired (Giddens, 1999) Blair, and subsequently Brown, UK government. Following this, the paper presents the results of an empirical research project which sought to investigate whether the scenarios of social mixing set out in New Labour’s urban policy vision are being realised. The paper therefore contributes to the filling of the empirical void that surrounds the presumption-laden, policy promotion of social mix. The research found limited evidence of neighbourhood-based social mixing between diverse groups alongside strong senses of community within recently-constructed, high-density residential developments. With few signs that this situation will change, the paper concludes by warning of the risks gentrification poses for certain inner city neighbourhoods under such urban policy agendas and by calling for a heightened awareness of the multiplicity of displacements generated by gentrification.

Rethinking the park: Post-industrial landscapes

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Major urban parks have long been a central aspect of modern urban planning. Key exemplars such as New York's Central Park or San Francisco's Golden Gate have long reflected elite conceptions of a city's publics, from horticulturalists to civil engineers to public health experts. Yet these parks were largely projected within a tradition of invoking a pastoral ideal, the country in the city, which is now seen as increasingly anachronistic within contemporary urban design circles. New examples such as Chicago's Millennium Park highlight the importance of the creation of new civic spaces on ex-industrial sites, a trend echoed around the world. A key feature of these new sites is that they increasingly mix new uses – including commercial, cultural, and sporting activities – within close proximity to each other. Horticultural landscapes may be integrated with industrial remnants, and avant-garde architectural structures may sit next to spaces of repose and reflection. This is partly due to changed economic circumstances, where such spaces have to be economically self-sustaining as well as socially dynamic. But it also emphasises the fact that new parks are increasingly seen as woven within metropolitan rhythms, rather than aloof or segregated from them. The paper draws on an on-going study of Sydney Olympic Park.

Neoliberal methods of rule in Australian natural resource management: Implications for governance

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Recent work on the governance of Australia's multi-level natural resource management system has exposed several contradictory effects resulting from the application of methods of rule that enable the national and state governments to govern at a distance even as they devolve responsibilities for resource management to regional governing bodies and their communities. In this paper we argue that although these neoliberal influences may be almost hegemonic, the tensions generated by neoliberal methods of rule enable its ongoing problematisation and so open up the spaces necessary for adjustments to roles and regulation and hence resolution of neoliberalism's internal contradictions. We utilize the explanatory power of Foucault's governmentality approach and its central concept of the 'conduct of conduct' to interrogate and problematise the operations of three particular methods of neoliberal rule – governing at a distance, vertical accountability and governing through community. In doing so, our objective is first, to identify sites where inconsistencies generated by these methods may provoke changes that lead to more effective environmental governance and second, to suggest governance practices more likely to achieve this end.

The geography of ageing in the rural labour force

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Australia has an ageing population and an ageing labour force, which has considerable implications for the economy and society. Substantial research attention has been given to identifying trends in Australia's ageing population, and assessing what this could mean for health care, housing and service provision. However, there has been little consideration in this research agenda of ageing in the labour force and the spatial variability of this process. Understanding the spatial dynamics of ageing in the labour force is essential to inform effective planning for economic and social development. This paper will explore the geographical dimensions of ageing in the rural labour force, with a particular focus on identifying the areas and industries most vulnerable to socio-economic pressures as a consequence of ageing in the labour force. The major causal factors of higher than average concentrations of older workers in particular regions and industries will be assessed

Applicability of generic contaminant fate models to analysis of trace metal loadings from a small highly urbanised catchment of Sydney, Australia

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Two standard modelling techniques are applied with typical parameters to the analysis of trace metal loadings in a highly urbanised catchment for comparison with high-quality monitoring data. A land-use analysis is also performed for the study catchment, the Iron Cove Creek catchment in inner Sydney, allowing the 'general urban' or 'whole-of-catchment' models to be compared with more detailed results by land use. Simulations using a simplistic model by the NSW EPA and the MUSIC program developed by the CRC for Catchment Hydrology produce remarkably accurate results for Pb, and to give results for Cu and Zn consistent with measurements to within a factor of two. These raw simulations are thus surprisingly close to real values considering the level of abstraction, particularly for the simplistic EPA model. Further refinement of the models by slight modification of the nominal pollutant loads yields simulations that reproduce the observed annual loadings with good accuracy. The estimated pollutant loadings determined by a whole-catchment MUSIC model using the modified EPA parameters (187.0, 522.7, and 746.5 kg•km⁻¹•y⁻¹ for Cu, Pb and Zn) are in good agreement with observed loadings (188.0, 544.7, and 776.8 kg•km⁻¹•y⁻¹), and the land-use decomposition reveals that over 90% of the trace metal load is derived from diffuse urban sources such as roads and residential property rather than discrete sources such as commercial or industrial sites. This study demonstrates that even simplistic models can be highly useful for analysing pollutant loadings on a catchment scale given an appropriate region-specific set of standard loading parameters.

Sustaining urban technonatures: A meta-methodological reflection

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The city was a relatively late inclusion into now ubiquitous talk of sustainability in Australia. The chief reason for this delay was that much early sustainability-talk built atop the modern schism between nature and culture, a schism most notably embodied in the binary of urban space and non-urban space. Siding with fragile, finite nature, such early talk rarely addressed the city, other than to hold it up as a prime example of unsustainability. Since the 1987 Brundtland Report, however, the focus in sustainability-talk has shifted considerably from ‘green’ issues of nature towards ‘brown’ issues of technology. Reflecting the fact that cities have been predominantly viewed as technological spaces, this shift paved the way for the rise of questions of urban sustainability. Thus, for example, none of the 32 recommendations of, Sustainable Cities, the 2005 report of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage, are concerned with ‘green’ issues of wildlife, habitat, biodiversity, ecosystem services or nature conservation. Although yet to inform such policy discussion, ecological and social research into the neglected figure of urban nature in Australia has gained considerable momentum over the last decade. To the limited extent that this research has been explicitly connected to questions of urban sustainability, it has effectively created a ‘green’ research agenda in parallel to dominant ‘brown’ research agendas. This green agenda is preoccupied with questions of where and in what form nature exists or can be re-introduced within the city. There is nonetheless potential for research into urban nature to destabilise the ecology/technology binary on which so much urban sustainability discourse rests. This destabilisation requires that the city be constituted as a truly technonatural research subject: that it be encountered as a space that in no sense exists before, beyond or against nature; as a space in which the social and the natural are coproduced and inseparable. Learning from recent theoretical manoeuvres in urban political ecology this paper considers some of the meta-methodological implications of such destabilisation, particularly in relation to the call for interdisciplinary research on questions of sustainability.

Changing places

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The imperative for more compact and sustainable forms of urban development has brought issues of place more sharply into focus in recent years. Worldwide, as cities have adopted strategies of urban concentration and redevelopment, so an increased awareness and sensitivity to the specificities of place has emerged as a response. This sensitivity is manifest in the way that a perceived threat to the existing character or identity of a place is increasingly used to defend certain areas from change. Whilst resistance is usually cast as an extremely negative response, this paper draws on empirical evidence gathered in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and United States to suggest that a strong identification with place can, in fact, be a very positive tool for shaping urban change. Through an approach to analysis that combines extended interviews with stakeholders, document analysis and detailed mapping of the built form, the paper explores the ways in which conceptions of place have shaped, and been shaped by, processes of urban change in four very different case study locations. Engaging with the question of how pressures for a more compact city might be reconciled with a desire to protect the specificities of place, the work looks at how different experiences, representations and physical characteristics of place have been reflected in the redevelopment of these four places. Understandings of place are found to be fluid and highly subjective, and to be based in a surprisingly broad and varied range of physical, economic, and socio-cultural characteristics. The paper concludes by highlighting some of the key risks and opportunities that changing places presents for urban practitioners. The four case study locations are Collingwood (Vancouver); Dalston (London); Fruitvale (Oakland CA); and Subiaco (Perth).

The policy-implementation gap in decentralised natural resource governance in NSW, Australia

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The purpose of this paper is to explore decentralised natural resource governance in NSW in relation to overarching policy goal of achieving ecologically sustainable development outcomes. There is considerable evidence that environmental policies and programs at the regional level of decentralised natural resource governance in NSW are not delivering the intended outcomes at the ‘on ground’ implementation stage. Decentralised natural resource governance requires collaborative work involving government agencies, landholders and community groups for the long term protection, maintenance and enhancement of the natural resource base through the implementation of sustainable environmental practices. But the effectiveness of these collaborative partnerships in delivering successful outcomes is questionable which alludes to the ‘policy—implantation gap’—an endemic problem well known in both environmental planning and public policy literature. This research analyses data from three Catchment Management Authorities and three corresponding Landcare networks. A significant finding is that despite a substantial allocation of financial resources and government agency support, the collaborative arrangements fell way short of delivering on policy intentions. The principle reasons for this policy failure were due to a top-down process where newly appointed Catchment Management Board executives and members were directly accountable to their respective ministers and bureaucracies. The corollary was that field staff were reluctant to work cooperatively with the local communities because their job descriptions tied them to the narrow efficiency maximising interests and values of the centralised bureaucratic system. This in turn led to considerable frustration within the community groups, who, although keen to work with the government agencies, felt their contributions were largely ignored. They also saw an erosion of the positive relationships and trust they has established with state government agencies in previous partnerships and their frustrations were further exacerbated by the complex arrangements for accessing funding resources needed to implement the ‘on ground’ programs. We conclude this paper by bringing to bear the findings from the cases to answer the fundamental question about why the overarching policies and programs are not delivering the intended environmental outcomes at the implementation stage. In addition, the research will help provide insights into devolution and empowerment in relation to effective outcomes for environmentally sustainable land care policies and programs.

Beyond McMansions? Living in detached houses in suburban Sydney

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Detached houses on the fringes of Australian cities are now commonly termed ‘McMansions’, a derisory label used to denote not only their increasing size but also criticism of that size. In both academic and popular writings this term has been uncritically accepted despite limited empirical or theoretical engagement with the practices of living in such new detached houses. In contrast, in this paper I draw on studies that highlight the complex materialities of domestic space, to present an in-depth exploration of how house size is imagined and lived in suburban Sydney. In depth interviews with Sydney households reveal that notions of spaciousness, privacy and clutter are used to understand the increasing size of new houses. Simultaneously, the valuing of comfort and togetherness leads to a desire for small spaces. The paper concludes by reflecting on the ways these complex practices force the need for a re-evaluation of the term ‘McMansions’.

Rethinking the State and residential development processes

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The social fabric, built form and planning of new, large-scale residential environments, in Australia and elsewhere, raise a number of issues germane to how we understand cities. Most centrally they challenge notions of urban governance – its processes, purposes, actors and enactment. In this paper we explore, theoretically and empirically, alterations in urban governance as inflected through the planning processes that produce new residential environments. Our theoretical starting point is that the planning of new residential environments is a process that involves multiple actors that cannot be characterised as simply public or private, state or non-state. Instead, these multiple actors engage in complex negotiations that, amongst other things, produce state effects. In this paper we explore these processes drawing on detailed case studies of the planning and development of master-planned estates in Sydney.

Remembering Polishness: Exploring spaces of cultural memory

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The maintenance of relationships between diasporic communities and their homelands is routinely understood as emerging principally via the establishment of material cultural infrastructure such as ethno-cultural organisations. In this paper I argue that these relationships are also developed and maintained through the (re)productions and transmissions of cultural memories, which act as narrative spaces. By (re)creating and maintaining a space for cultural memories within the family and the diasporic community, links to the homeland are (re)articulated and (re)imagined. Brockmeier (2002:18) defined cultural memory as ‘a worldview rooted in a set of social rules and values as well as in the shared memory of a commonly inhabited and similarly experienced past’. The unifying threads linking diaspora and homeland into an ‘imagined community’ are the family and community stories – the cultural memories of shared histories and experiences. Using Australia’s Polish community as a case study, this paper examines the (re)production, transmission and reception of cultural memories between and within differing diasporic migrant vintages and generations. Cultural memories as performed through narrative contribute to the continuance of historically embedded Polish narratives of resistance and struggle against their foreign occupiers.

Experiments in sound: Listening and the role of a regional music festival in (re)making social worlds

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'Performativity', a contested term in geography, is used here to examine the importance of place-based practices of listening in generating experiential knowledge to sustaining a sense of self and belonging-in-place. Performativity has drawn attention to the reciprocity of feelings of place-making and self-actualisation. Alongside this, how understandings of subjectivity–spatial relations are constituted within complex sets of discursive structures, emotions also play a crucial role in sustaining understanding of self and place. Yet, performativity, the sensual body, and experiential knowledge of being-in-the-moment all raise methodological challenges for geographers.

Our work-in-progress presents our methodological experiments to investigate the emotional responses to listening. We termed our experimental methodology 'festival sound diaries'. Our research context is the active listening environment of a regional music festival. The Four Winds Festival, held biannually at Easter in Bermagui, NSW, focuses on classical and contemporary music. The organisers frame the music as essential to producing a liminal place, where transformative possibilities can happen through sound. The festival's website tells us, the event has "established a reputation for excellence in music that is enhanced by being performed in a magical site, where artists, winds, birds, even on occasion a Four Winds frog, all contribute to the proceedings (www.fourwinds.com.au)." Festival sound diaries, by providing insights to the experiential knowledge of being-in-the-moment, provide possibilities to explore how this festival operates to make or remake social worlds of the festival participants.

Housing the people, distributing the population and defending the nation: The provision of rural public housing in Australia (1935-1955)

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This paper traces the historical development of the provision of public housing in rural New South Wales (NSW), Australia. Using archival documents from the National and NSW State Libraries the paper investigates how the 'housing problem' was identified and defined and what solutions to this problem were proposed during the period 1935-1955. The paper finds that Governments sought to use the provision of public housing not only as a means of addressing the housing shortage in post-WWII Australia, but also as a tool to engender certain internal migration patterns away from major metropolitan centres into rural and regional locations. Influenced by both the uncertainty of the Great Depression and WWII, and the measured hope of Keynesian economic approaches, the development of public housing in rural Australia was as much about nation building as it was about providing shelter on a mass-scale.

Rethinking the politics of distribution

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This paper revisits the ‘redistribution versus recognition’ debate in geography. In particular the paper develops around two central concerns in this debate: first, that the shift to neoliberal forms of governance have resulted in nation-states withdrawing from distributional political agendas; and second, that poststructuralist influences in geography have led the discipline to be less engaged in the charting and critiquing of these significant changes. Employing a Foucaultian approach to power and governance, this paper investigates the spatial implications of the governmental shift from supply- to demand-side forms of housing assistance in rural Australia (i.e. the shift from public housing to the provision of rental assistance).

The paper finds that while there has been an important policy shift in how welfare (including housing assistance) is provided in this neoliberal era, this does not necessarily entail the nation-state withdrawing from distributional political agendas entirely. Rather, the paper argues that distributional political agendas of nation-states are pursued through more than just the redistribution of fiscal resources, but also include the redistribution of human resources. Housing assistance has been, and is used today, to perpetuate certain internal migration patterns to aid this human-distributional agenda. While the broad shift to neoliberal forms of government have resulted in changes to how distributional geopolitical agendas are pursued, ‘distribution’ remains an integral feature of the geopolitical objectives of those who seek to govern in neoliberal ways.

Making place on farms: Are government processes helping or hindering?

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Farms are not only biophysical environments in which farmers act in order to earn a livelihood. They are places rich in relationships and meaning, and are integral to the identities of those who live there. There is an increasing recognition of the importance of Place within the farming community, made conscious by the physical changes threatening our environments and the intervention into the making of place on farms by state and federal governments. This paper discusses the incompatibilities between the organic and fluid place-making processes of farmers-in-place and the hierarchical and structured processes of governments. I use examples from my experience as a farmer to illustrate some of the consequences of this incompatibility. My call is for collaborative planning processes which value difference and use it as a base from which to develop innovative and inclusive solutions that will empower both farmers and governments together in the creation of a sustainable future for Australia.

Science narratives: Bridging the knowledge gaps in integrated impact assessment

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Decisions about if and how major projects should proceed are based on proponents' conclusions about a development's future social, economic and environmental consequences and mitigation. Project supporters inevitably claim that proponents' conclusions are 'scientific' and 'independent'. This paper focuses on the assessment process that approved Tasmania's Bass Strait power cable where it was found that these essentialist categories were, not surprisingly, difficult to sustain. Indeed, disclosure of data, model and analysis limitations abound. The question posed from these findings was: given the disclosures, how was the proponent's case in support of Basslink constituted, deployed and legitimated by the project's assessment body? In answer, I discuss how three stories were woven through the presented documentation and argue that such played a pivotal role in the construction, mobilisation and validation of the proponent's conclusions about environmental impacts on Tasmania's iconic Gordon River. It will be argued that a narrative framework is a useful analytical tool for gaining insight into both the epistemological and ontological aspects of a contentious regulatory issue.

The racialisation of religion in everyday space

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Contemporary anti-Muslim sentiment in Australia is reproduced through a racialisation that includes well rehearsed stereotypes of Islam, perceptions of threat and inferiority, as well as fantasies that the Other (in this case Australian Muslims) do not belong or are absent. Racialisation occurs at the scale of the body, suburb and nation. These spaces involve reactions to hijab wearing, applications for mosques and Islamic schools, contests for ballot boxes, and fear of the geopolitical Other. Positioning these processes as a racialisation, in this case a racialisation of religion, better encapsulates the outcomes and intentions of the exclusionary politics involved. Racialisation is a more robust concept for geographers than are static terms like 'old racism' and 'new racism'. The case for a distinction between these two terms is weakened by the functional equivalences between them. The 'Geography of racialisation' is offered as a way forward for research on the spaces of culture-based exclusion.

Selling private communities: understanding the desires for privatised urban residential communities

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This paper reviews research on the selling of new private communities in urban areas. Ultimately, the success of this marketing relies upon some existing or insipient consumer preferences. The urban studies literature offers five related sets of explanations for the emergence of desires for privatised residential communities. The first explanation points to the expansion of the affluent-end of the middle class. The selling of private communities is said to tap into this emergent consumer market – an economically powerful segment of the middle class. However, the explanations do not help us understand why this sector has a preference for private communities, nor why developers would consider them a prime market for their products. A second set of explanations point to an international housing demand for neighbourhoods with all-inclusive lifestyle benefits (recreational facilities, golf courses, landscape maintenance) and status (exclusivity, conspicuous consumption). The marketing for these new communities both reflects and reinforces these global trends in consumer preferences. Few studies have undertaken an inter-textual analysis to test the relations between housing desires, marketing and experiences. A third and less numerous set of explanations point to the community benefits that residents imagine will accrue from living within a private residential community. The most conceptually robust version of this literature has used the concept of a ‘social club’ to understand resident preferences. But those literatures tend to imagine an ‘economic community’ (clubbing together to buy infrastructure and services) rather than a ‘social community’. Fourth, it has been generally asserted that the desire for private residential living reflects an underlying neo-liberalism in which greater stocks of faith are placed within the private provision of services. The flip side of this is a decline of public faith in public services and the public sector generally. The latter is related to failures of public service provision and protection (police, transport, education, etc), but it is as much about perceptions of decline. Indeed, the former (neo-liberalism) will struggle if confidence in public service delivery is robust, and this point is poorly acknowledged in the literature to date. Fifth, it has been argued that social and economic transformations in cities over the past two decades have created a desire for ordered, peaceful and stable residential environments. The twin influences of geopolitical instability and urban malaise are also argued to have generated a desire for private residential communities. There have been only a handful of critical assessments of these fears and preferences. Private communities signal a significant transformation in the organisation of urban residential space and a transition in the very nature of our urban residential living environments. The research to date on the selling of private residential communities has tended to investigate specific features (the marketing, demand, structural changes, or popular discourses) and has eschewed a more holistic encapsulation of the phenomenon.

The desirable apartment life? Residential preferences of apartment residents in Sydney and Melbourne

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The current shift towards urban consolidation within the metropolitan strategies of Australia's two largest cities (Melbourne 2030 and Sydney's City of Cities) has seen policy attention focused on a perceived need for a greater proportion of the population to live in apartments in order to ease the pressures imposed by urban sprawl. But while planners and developers are forging a new compact city future for Australians, little attention has been directed towards the drivers of demand or the desirability of these new higher density dwelling alternatives. Drawing on data from a survey of 1597 apartment residents in Sydney and Melbourne as well as in-depth interviews with residents, this paper explores the desirability of apartments as opposed to other housing types amongst those people already living in apartments in both cities and analyses those factors that are the most influential for apartment dwellers when choosing to move into particular apartments. It compares these findings (weighted to reflect the total apartment-dwelling population in each city) across broad location, tenure, household, age and occupational variables in order to provide a demographically- and spatially-aware analysis of the apartment sector in both cities. The paper concludes with a discussion of the implications of these findings for compact city policies in Australia.

Can neoliberalism deliver? A critique of Australia's water reform package

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Water scarcity has emerged as one of the key issues facing Australia at present, and one of the most significant global environmental issues of recent times. The Australian government considers itself a world leader in the area of water reform, formalising a reform package under the National Water Initiative (NWI) in 2004. Concurrently, a consensus has emerged in recent years that water scarcity is not merely a natural condition but instead is socially constructed and politically mediated. The distribution of water between different human stakeholders and between people and the environment is therefore the basic problem in the context of scarcity.

Australia's water reform program has adopted neoliberal approaches to manage the distribution of water. The program's stated aims are to deliver social and economic benefits and environmental sustainability, and it is being held out as a 'best practice' governance model for water resource management. This paper argues, though, that the NWI reform package is failing to distribute water sustainably. It posits that this failure flows from an entrenched inability of the neoliberal model of resource governance to equitably manage both the primary distribution of water and the distribution of the *costs* and *benefits* of water provision and access. Drawing on local empirical research as well as critical theory, it suggests that equity, rather than efficiency, must be the goal of water governance if sustainable management of scarce water is to be achieved in Australia or abroad.

Living with fire on the land: Local environmental knowledge for bushfire management in new rural landscapes

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This paper presents the preliminary outcomes of a PhD research project on the production of Local Environmental Knowledge (LEK) for bushfire management in New Rural Landscapes (NRL) in New South Wales. NRL are rural areas experiencing population growth as a result of either their proximity to major urban areas or their high amenity value. With the influx of tree changers and the subdivision of farmland, lifestyles and values more commonly associated with urban areas are being brought into rural places, whilst conflict over land use and management practices is increasing. Despite the recognized bushfire hazard in many NRL, little is known about how LEK on bushfires is produced and/or shared amongst diverse landowners in NRL and how this influences the dynamics of NSW Rural Fire Service brigades and local bushfire management. This research project considers the extent to which, and the ways in which, local environmental knowledge regarding bushfires is being reconstructed as part of the re-composition of rural landscapes and the influx of tree/sea changers.

Demographic change in Tasmania and the implications for agriculture

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Human population structure and distribution in Tasmania have undergone significant recent change. Tasmania's population is now the oldest of all Australian states and territories, overtaking South Australia. Tasmania is also expected to age more rapidly. Australian population census data demonstrate a 'population turnaround' in Tasmania with a recent net gain from migration into the state. However, demographic change may produce different impacts in different areas. Spatial variations in demographic change are shaped primarily by patterns of internal migration and mobility. Many researchers have reported a transformation in landscape change and population structure in rural Australia, with a blurring in distinction between urban and rural. Traditionally, rural land use has been primarily family farming, but the evidence is that this is no longer true, with rural land use and demography becoming increasingly complex and heterogeneous.

Understanding the nature and extent of demographic change in Tasmania is important for sustainable regional development, the future management of the agricultural sector and the natural resource base underpinning primary production. Current trends will shape the future rural community in Tasmania with significant implications for policy makers. Rural demographic change signifies changes in responsibility for managing the land, land use, land management practices and environmental stewardship outcomes.

In this paper we discuss temporal and spatial demographic trends in Tasmania and introduce a new PhD in the field of rural geography. State-wide analyses through to regional and Statistical Local Area analyses will be used to examine the spatial heterogeneity of demographic and land use change. The PhD aims to establish the drivers of demographic and land use change and the implications for agriculture in Tasmania.

Feeding Sydney: Issues of scale and place in localising food systems

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This paper reports on preliminary research for a cross-institutional, multi-disciplinary project focused on ‘feeding Sydney’. It reviews assumptions made about place and geographical scale in initiatives aimed at localising food. Against a background of political and community concern about rising oil prices, future energy sustainability and climate change, localised food provision networks have grown rapidly in variety and significance during the early 21st century. People involved in such networks often see themselves as positioned outside globalised food provision systems which have dominated commercial agrifood since the mid 1980s. Somewhat belatedly, academic interest in the array of local food networks has burgeoned. Yet academics, food writers and some food activists often simply assume local food systems are progressive and empowering for both farmers and consumers, as well as more economically-, socially- and ecologically-sustainable than corporate food worlds. Advocates of localisation often focus on coming needs to shorten commodity chains and reduce ‘food miles’ involved in provisioning affluent urban societies. Yet the importance of localisation goes well beyond this narrow focus to include its potential role in strategies to address inequality of access to nutritious and affordable food, even in cities of affluent countries like Australia, and in urban public health campaigns and ‘healthy cities’ programs. In many cities, however, food localisation is contradicted by dramatic loss of food-producing land to continued suburban expansion and a general unwillingness of metropolitan planners to deal with urban agriculture rather than ‘rural lifestyle’. As yet, there are few comprehensive empirical studies of food provision systems for large urban regions and the extent to which they could be re-territorialised. Especially in Australia, the importance of regions like greater Sydney metropolitan area as places of food production, as well as consumption, is poorly understood as is the role such food production could play in a world of climate change and high oil prices.

University students and the ‘creative city’

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Over the last five years city governments throughout the world have pursued Richard Florida’s (2002) prescriptions for a ‘creative city’ with varying degrees of success. In Melbourne, strategies have included a revitalised arts policy, liberalisation of liquor laws, an increase in ‘al fresco’ dining, and the encouragement of celebrity architects in the design and development of new buildings and precincts. Although Florida’s notion of a ‘creative class’ actually originates with university students at Carnegie Mellon, and in many ways centres on students, the role and place of students in Melbourne has not been taken into account in any substantive local policy initiatives or place-making strategies.

Educated young people are major players in the ‘creative cities’ of urban geography and planning literatures, especially those of multi-local orientation who might be expected to bring ‘cosmopolitan’ attitudes and treat social differences as a source of creative potential. Drawing on the situation in contemporary central Melbourne, in which a large population of transnational university students is indeed located within the boundaries of what the capital city council considers a ‘creative city’ precinct, this paper explores the extent to which the students themselves are engaged in the production of space. Through analysis of their uses and views of city spaces, the kind of city to whose formation they are contributing is revealed.

More place-based community approaches to natural resource management: social catchments and deliberative forums

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Place-based and community-collaborative approaches to conservation and resource management have been given much attention in recent years. In 2007-8 the authors evaluated the effectiveness of a series of Landcare forums held in the Central Tablelands of NSW. Special focus was given to the forums' use of social catchments and deliberative processes as ways of identifying and engaging communities of interest located in place (the forum location).

Much government NRM policy builds on the premise that Landcare (and water catchments) remain one of the most effective ways of engaging rural residents in NRM. In this project, social catchments were used as a means of identifying those people living in rural communities not already involved in NRM to become 'engaged'. While social catchments were found to have potential as a method of identifying community networks based on social capitals, this value was undermined by the failure of the forum organisers to consistently and specifically invite non-Landcare related individuals and community groups to participate in the forums.

The deliberative processes used in the forums were originally anticipated to be a valuable tool for resolving conflict; however the largely cohesive communities represented at the forums resulted in the deliberative processes working as a way of creating a safe space to brainstorm new opportunities and partnerships for NRM. Despite a number of NRM projects being proposed at the forums, there were no large changes in participation during the six month follow-up period. Feedback from participants indicated this could be attributed to the lack of follow up from the forum organisers and prolonged drought. However, it is also possible that leadership and broad based support necessary for successful implementation were not sufficiently engaged by the one-off community forums. Achieving this outcome requires more focused and sustained community engagement strategies incorporating comprehensive recruitment strategies penetrating all community and place-based networks.

Knowledge keeps no better than fish; something must be done about it

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The title is in fact a quote from a famous mathematician and philosopher from the early part of the 20th century, Alfred North Whitehead. Similarly, in his poem “The Rock” T. S. Eliot writes “Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?” Had he been writing at the start of the 21st Century, I think he may also have added “Where is the information we have lost in data?” This talk examines how we might get our hard-won knowledge from our own heads, into our systems, and thence into the minds of other scientists?

Science resources, such as datasets, methods, workflows and even experimental equipment are now more accessible than ever, and are often ubiquitously available. Yet there are few indicators that this has improved the quality of science. It seems that sharing our resources is not sufficient—we need also to share our understanding of these resources.

Science communities are beginning to construct elaborate cyber-infrastructures for themselves to try to overcome some of the fundamental inefficiencies in the science process. This talk introduces the idea of a layered cyber-infrastructure to support e-science activities, concentrating on the problem of sharing understanding via one layer in a cyber-infrastructure—the knowledge layer—whose purpose is to capture, preserve and communicate meaning associated with sharable science resources. The talk highlights two such e-science initiatives: the Human-Environment Regional Observatory (HERO: <http://hero.geog.psu.edu>) and the Geosciences Network (GEON: <http://www.geongrid.org>) and shows how knowledge-level computational tools can help communicate and mediate understanding between collaborating scientists.

Environmental economic geography

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Although attempts are underway to define the mandate of environmental economic geography within the ambit of economic geography, a better overall approach for geography as a discipline is to recognise a broader scope of inquiry. While economic geographers have under-theorised the environment and environmental geographers have under-theorised the economy, the opportunity of both to study environment-economic relations creates a more integrative research agenda at both an academic and public policy level. One potentially beneficial line of inquiry, pursued here, is to apply environmental economic geography to finding sustainable development paths. Because environment-economy interactions involve the human use of environmental resources – the “natural capital” inputs to the development process – and emissions to air, land, water and oceans that constitute sinks for absorbing the effects of pollution, there is tremendous opportunity for geographic research on “integrative” links and bridges between the biophysical and socio-economic problems of sustainability.

On the ITQ system in NSW fisheries

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In New South Wales, state action to limit the harvests of fishing stocks to levels that are biologically sustainable while at the same time improving economic returns from fishing led to changes in the management of the abalone and lobster fisheries in the late 1990s. The assignment of harvest share rights through Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs) to people or firms in the abalone and lobster fisheries in the late 1990s was part of a broader strategy to create share managed fisheries in the state. Because ITQ fisheries depend on setting an optimal Total Allowable Catch (TAC) as well as trading rules that provide operators with incentives to be efficient in harvesting catch, decisions about the annual TAC determination and ongoing trading rules are crucial to the income that shareholders (fishers) derive from the resource. The small scale and low value of NSW fisheries, however, creates a situation in which scientific and management costs may be disproportionately high compared to larger ITQ fisheries elsewhere. These costs may be compounded if finer spatial scale management is required. The paper reports evidence of positive biological and economic impacts of the ITQ system in the lobster fishery and accounts for a deteriorating situation in the abalone fishery. In both fisheries, however, the management systems continue to evolve and consequently are subject to further modification and change. Finer spatial scale management of the resource is emerging as a new area of attention.

Talkin' sustainability in West End: The (diverse) ethics of economic life in the inner-city

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Ideas of the city are commonly embedded in understandings and writings about the workings of capitalism: inner cities are places where land is arguably at its most commodified; workers are located in close proximity to employment; commercial and property investments receive the highest returns; and even basic activities such as food preparation and childcare are often relegated from their traditional place in the home to restaurants, childcare businesses, and so forth.

Within this picture of a commodified urban world, a world driven by the unitary ethic of capitalist accumulation, little conceptual room is given over to other (economic) ways of being. Yet, arguably, it is within the context of impending ecological crises such as climate change, that other ways (and ethics) of being in the world must surely be explored.

Can the city, so often purported as the engine room of a capitalism that is “everywhere”, be a place underpinning and supporting diverse and sustained livelihoods, connections to land and meaningful engagement in subsistence work? Or will the inner city remain posited as a site of consumption, a ready and captive market for new “green” industries and more ethical trading arrangements?

This paper re-considers the ethics driving people’s decisions about how to live in the inner city, looking not just for evidence that capitalism is alive and well, but considering the diverse array of activities, decisions and strategies that make up everyday life in the city. This paper in particular considers “sustainability” as one such politico-ethical framework and explores specific materialities of and conversations about sustainability within a particular local (inner-city) context.

The relationship between space and policy in education, health and policing

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This paper outlines the groundwork and direction of a PhD project into the relationship between space and policy in the professional practice fields of education, health and policing. Using a relativist understanding of space and a social construction perspective on policy, this project will provide a theoretical basis for understanding the spaces of professional practice, the role of policy in producing those spaces and the way particular spatial understandings shape the policy process. Particular emphasis is placed on Henri Lefebvre's concept of the social production of space, with his spatial triad used as a guide to understanding the discursive role of policy in shaping spaces, the practices that produce and reproduce the spaces of each profession and the lived experiences of those for whom these spaces provide everyday meaning and understanding. The aim of this project is for policy-making, particularly in education, health and policing, to become more spatially aware; to recognise that professional practice is a spatial endeavour across many scales and that policy-makers must be familiar with the discursive power of policy in producing the spaces of professional practice.

Rural festivals in Australia: Hybridities and contradictions

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This paper addresses the diverse economy special session theme through a case study of rural festivals in Australia. It stems from the three-year ARC Festivals Project, which sought to document the extent and significance of rural festivals. The largest ever database of rural festivals in Australia was compiled (with over 2800 participating festivals), and through subsequent postal surveys (with 650 festivals in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania) and collaborative research partnerships for qualitative research with rural festivals in Daylesford (Vic), Parkes (NSW), Bermagui (NSW) and Inverell (NSW), insights were gleaned on the ability of festivals to catalyse social and community development, to generate regional income, and to challenge or sustain rural cultural identities. Conceptually, most rural festivals could be described as hybrid economic forms: they are on the whole modest affairs, run by local volunteer groups, with aims targeting social and cultural vitality, celebration and pride in locality. Yet they regularly involve the sponsorship and coordination expertise of local government, and catalyse profit-making for private sector businesses (particularly in retail and accommodation sectors). In direct economic terms, festivals have a substantial impact (we estimate that, based on survey data, direct visitor expenditure impacts alone are likely to top \$1 billion p.a. in the three participating states). In this sense festivals are potentially another example of activities in the diverse economy worthy of better recognition and promotion. Yet, despite such significance, festivals have been rarely incorporated into formal local regeneration strategies and thus are not usually taken seriously by local politicians and regional development policy-makers. Where they have, festivals initiated by volunteer groups with strong community involvement became larger affairs garnering more media interest, tourist arrivals, commercial sponsorship support, professional coordination and investment from state and local governments. Ideals of identity and community appeared to be threatened as local debates emerged about the directions, meanings and impacts of more slickly-run, professional events. Even though larger, more established festivals continued to be governed by non-profit organisations, and usually maintained social and community goals, they employed expert event managers, and sidelined – or in some cases even wholesale replaced – grass-roots local participation in their management. Perhaps most importantly, they struggled to retain a sense of local ownership and emotional belonging. A central tension thus seems to characterise rural festivals in light of debates about the diverse economy: recognition appears overdue of their significance as alternative economic development opportunities, and further promotion is warranted of their ability to catalyse important socially empowering benefits for rural communities. But such recognition and promotion might only prove welcome if sympathetic to the spontaneity and generosity that inspired local people to stage festivals in the first place.

Building community economies through social enterprise development in the Philippines: Ethical challenges and diverse pathways

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As an intervention in local development in the Philippines the strategy of building community enterprises is being pursued by NGOs and municipal governments. While mainstream development approaches advocate support for individual micro-enterprise development, this strategy aims to establish group-owned businesses with a variety of legal forms whose objectives are to achieve direct community benefit rather than generate private wealth. This paper explores how community benefit is being defined and achieved in four community enterprises—two in Bohol that were started as a result of action research that the author was involved in and two in southern Mindanao that were initiated by Unlad Kabayan Migrant Services Foundation Inc., an NGO that harnesses the savings of overseas migrant workers for local community development. The enterprises include two producing food products for local consumption, one producing agricultural products for local markets and one producing coco fibre for export and domestic markets. Key decisions about business management and social objectives made in the establishment phase of each enterprise are identified and the different development trajectories that have emerged are traced. I ask whether the definitions of community enterprise coming out of the ‘western’ social economy context are applicable to community-based enterprise development in the Philippines. Do these enterprises model different kinds of community economic relationships in which ethical decisions around necessity, surplus, consumption and commons are made explicit? Can these enterprises strengthen the sustainability and resilience of diverse rural economies? How might my analysis of these experimental interventions assist in their development and consolidation?

Woody thickening in northern savannas: Towards a brown and black ecology

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“Woody thickening” and “bush encroachment” are world-wide phenomena of grassy ecosystems, where the cover of shrubs and trees in woodlands increases and woody vegetation encroaches into grasslands. A multidisciplinary Savanna CRC project has studied woody thickening in northern Australia for the last three years. Available data indicate that where woody thickening occurs it tends to be rapid, with substantial changes occurring over 10-30 year time spans. It is accentuated by episodic climatic events and locally influenced by plant species, topography and soils. It is clearly very sensitive to variation in grazing pressure and fire regimes. Elucidation of a state and transition model has led to the development of a “brown and black ecology” based on the relative influences of climatic variability, grazing pressure and fire regimes.

Assessing and modelling wild sandalwood stocks in Vanuatu

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Characterizing sandalwood (*S. austrocaledonicum*) abundance in Vanuatu is challenging due to the broad, discontinuous yet highly modified distribution of sandalwood and the lack of systematic historical inventories or detailed harvest documentation. The preliminary distribution has been estimated from spatial analyses and recorded sandalwood locations collected during surveys in 2005 and 2007. A delineation of potential sandalwood habitat was constructed both for evaluating existing wild sandalwood areas and for determining suitable habitats for cultivation. The spatial analysis methodology was based on three principal datasets: a bioclimatic surface where a variety of climatic parameters from BIOCLIM were matched with either the known climatic tolerances of sandalwood; a subset of the VANRIS resource management units of most relevance to sandalwood; and a non-forest exclusion layer based on digital classification of LANDSAT and Quickbird satellite imagery. Surveys were conducted in regions of known sandalwood populations. The low aggregated density (0.4 trees/ha) of commercially sized trees found in these surveyed populations is a cause for concern. Based on the field data, we estimate that the current resource on the four islands surveyed is approximately 210 tonnes, with another 80 tonnes estimated on other islands of Vanuatu. At current harvest rates this resource may be quickly depleted and there will be a major shortfall until plantation sandalwood is available in 10-15 years.

Implementing sustainability in the socio-technical landscape of Sydney – a precinct scale analysis

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The built environment in many developed countries is one of the most resource consuming sectors in society, which has environmental, economic and social implications. This research is based on a case study in Sydney, where a 5.8 hectare former brown field area will be transformed into an “outstanding development”, based on a “sustainability management system to guide all development on the site from the reuse of building materials through to environmentally sustainable design for energy, water, buildings and public domain” and the “recognition of the importance of establishing and maintaining communication and receiving input regarding the project from local residents, neighbours and stakeholders”. At the same time, the developer expects the project to be “economic viable”.

The starting point of the analysis is the socio-technical landscape of this precinct in Sydney. The geographical notion of socio-technical landscape is based on the work of the Swedish geographer Torsten Hägerstrand, often referred to as time-geography, and on research which can be defined as Science and Technology Studies looking on how innovations are translated by users as new ideas are implemented.

Empirical findings from one year of planning show how sustainability became a key issue for the project and how global excellence in construction and focus on the local scale can be combined. All forms of sustainability are ultimately local sustainabilities and the local community of this development played an important part in preparing the socio-technical landscape for sustainability. Social sustainability came to play a crucial role in how sustainability in this development was translated when implemented in the Sydney socio-technical landscape.

Intimate mobilities: Embodiment and re-scaling queer migration

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Patterns of intra-national migration are important for scholars researching the lived experience of gay men, lesbians and other sexual dissidents. Motivations for ‘queer migration’ have been linked to coming out, quests for identity, and the need to explore and express sexual desires. Much work, however, has focused on rural-to-urban movements of sexual dissidents within Western nation-states, insinuating the city as the site of sexual freedom and self-invention. But what of those gay men, lesbians and others born and raised in cities – especially given the predominantly urban populations of Western nation-states? How does migration figure in their processes of coming out, and what trajectories of displacement do they take? Drawing on interviews with urban born-and-bred gay/lesbian Australians, this paper explores these questions. I find that moving out to come out is important for these respondents, but the scales of queer migration are recast. Rather than leaving cities of origin to come out, intra-city movements from the family home to another residence a few suburbs away were common and, moreover, a fundamental condition for coming out and exploring same-sex desires and alternative sexual identities. This also raises the importance of other scales of inquiry in queer migration, such as the body. The desire for change at the scale of the body – experimenting with sexual identities and practices – drives displacement across space. After moving out and coming out, embodied identity and desire remain important in subsequent larger-scale inter-city and inter-state migrations, such as moving with or to find a same-sex partner.

Revaluing human-environment interactions and relations in the Australian Alps in the light of climate change

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Human-environment interactions and relations provide a key interface between the human and physical dimensions of geography. Moreover, such interactions and relations are perhaps most tangible and intense in rural and regional areas. In Australia, key recent concern has centred on the possible impacts of climate change on human-environment relations in agricultural, pastoral and mining production, with associated fears about drought, ecosystem damage and increased carbon and methane emissions. This paper extends this focus, specifically examining human-environment interactions and relations in the snow country – the Australian Alps – in the light of climate change. Rather than agriculture or mining, the snow country is characterised by tourist use of a natural environment, especially the ski industry. Climate change, however, is predicated to have a major impact on the cover, depth and duration of snow cover in this environment, with deleterious implications for the viability of ski and winter sport industries. These are serious concerns given the marginality of the snow and alpine country, in terms of both the natural environment and ecosystem, and the winter ski industry itself. Drawing thematic and empirical data from a mixed-method survey about the cultural significance of snow in Australia and to Australians, in this paper I investigate three key human-environment relations affected by climate change: alpine recreation, ecosystem biodiversity, and artificial snow-making in the context of scarcer water resources. I find that the contours of these human-environment relations are cross-cut by intermingling perspectives of both social class and environmental politics.

The cultural significance of snow in Australia

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By now it is clear that the impacts of climate change will be wide-reaching, encompassing global warming, rising sea levels and changes in precipitation. It is predicated that south-east Australia, for instance, will become generally drier and warmer. This will have specific impacts on particular environments, such as the mainland alpine region. The CSIRO predicts a significant reduction in the area, duration and depth of winter snow fall and snow cover, with serious implications for the ski industry and winter tourism. Prompted by this scenario, this exploratory paper considers the cultural significance of snow in Australia and to Australian identity, and contributes to an important and growing body of work on nature-culture connections. Drawing on a range of historical, archival, textual and survey data, I explore the place of snow, the snow fields and 'snowy' places in Australian memory and identity. While Australia is internationally and locally imagined as largely dry and warm, and national mythologies focus on the outback, the bush and the beach, engagements with and attitudes to snow and snowy environments have been important to the memories and identities of a great many Australians. These engagements with snow and snowy places are therefore integral to Australian identity. Through exploring some of these defining nature-culture relationships, this study adds to demands to act on climate change warnings: not only should snowy and alpine environments be protected in their own right, but the cultural significance of these places for Australians augments the urgency of response to climate change.

An argument for greater priority to be given to spatial analysis in regional rail policy-making

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Australia's regional freight railway systems, other than that of Queensland, have all been privatised to some degree. This process has had substantial economic and spatial impacts on the railway systems. In some states privatisation has not gone as far as sale or lease of the infrastructure (tracks and fixed facilities), but apart from Queensland Rail, there is no public freight train operator. Governments decided to sell their railway operations in the wake of a period declining use of some services, notably those on rural branch lines. Government railway organisation deficits became a national issue during the 1970s, though a 'railway problem' had been a public issue since the 19th Century. Regional railways and freight services were policy targets for change despite the bulk of the deficit emanating from urban systems. The approach taken by governments to reforming regional systems was placed under the same blanket of competition policy-derived measures: creating competing businesses by way of privatisation and 'open access' to tracks, or at least allowing competitors for the government's operator in the case of Queensland, onto the States' tracks. It appears to have been assumed that this process would take care of costs imposed by all uneconomic lines. It also appears that little consideration was given to the spatial arrangement of the main line and regional systems, which in the light of experience in Canada and the USA, appear to be better treated separately due to different conditions and constraints on branch lines and the greater productivities available on main lines. Following a spatial analysis of the circumstances of the branch line systems of New South Wales and Victoria, the paper attempts to propose the counterfactual: that a geographical analysis in company with the basic economics of railway operation would have pointed towards different planning for branch and main line systems and avoided the conditions now threatening regional freight railways. In so doing, the paper attempts to lay a geographically-informed framework for the establishment and regulation of a regional railway system.

Signal detection theory and its potential application to quantifying uncertainty in decision-making

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As a discipline, geovisualization tries to design visual representations that promote users' ability to see signals (real patterns generated by a known or unknown process) and suppress noise (patterns generated by chance). This paper presents the basic principles of signal detection theory as well as an example of its application to a dataset derived from an experiment that examined two representations that were designed to support a particular geovisualization task: visual cluster detection. Signal detection theory is a framework used by psychologists to study decision-making under uncertain conditions. In the context of visual cluster detection, this decision is whether or not the subject saw a cluster in the representation or not. The signal detection framework provides a methodology for quantifying and describing a subject's ability to discriminate between signals and noise. It also allows the quantification of the difficulty of the task and the strategies that the subject used to complete the task. I argue that this framework, if more widely applied, could be used to compare the performance of different types of geovisualization representations for specific visualization tasks.

Alternative perspectives on resources in an indigenous and first peoples context: The case of Northern Province, New Caledonia

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Kanak are known all over the Pacific for their struggle for independence. What had happened since their revolt in nineteen eighty four (1984)? What are their (Kanak) policies to manage the natural resource in the Northern Province of Kanaky/New Caledonia? Those are the main questions of this paper; including political conflict link to natural resources control and management, economic development in Indigenous and first people contexts. The main theories used in this paper are the political anthropology of Georges Balandier about conflict and Pierre Bourdieu study on geographical context and social class.

This paper is presented in two parts:

1. The term of “resource conflict” adapted to the situation of the Northern Province of Kanaky/New Caledonia. I’ll study the consequences of the 1984s leading to natural resource access, how a conflict has been resolved by the question of natural resources and generally how it can have a main role in a conflict.
2. I’ll study the natural resource working and management by indigenous people and also their vision of social justice, sustainable development and their cultural practice. In this part, I’ll use example of management resource by pro independence Kanak and concerning employment in response to the theory of geographical context and social class.

Active participation in natural resource governance? Community connections, networked institutions and black boxes at the Living Murray

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The state-community partnership has emerged as a key institutional space for improved governance of natural resources. While there is debate over the merits of representative or direct public participation in governance, the representative interest model prevails in advanced liberal democracies. As a result the 'state' often assembles various interests to speak for 'others' and shows a preference for governing community as a site of common association over a diffuse society. As part of the neoliberal aversion to direct intervention and participation, this paper critically explores the way community is being reconfigured and the role it performs in a contemporary Australian state-community natural resource management partnership. In this case study representatives are enrolled and mobilized into 'community advisory groups' to assist with policy implementation and provide advice to a Ministerial Council on local and broader community interests in Australia's largest river. The partnership aims to deliver improved environmental outcomes through water recovery for the environment. Policy analysis and in-depth interviews with group members and the bureaucracy reveal multi-layered roles performed by community representatives. Representatives are expected to act as advocates, experts, communicators, risk managers, deliberators, moderators, facilitators and change agents. As state-community intermediaries, representatives are enlisted into a hybrid governing network which champions and legitimizes devolution, efficiency, mutual obligation and egalitarianism. Interestingly, tensions between community recommendations for environmental water-buyback and consternation over its implementation by government exist. Analysis of partnership interactions suggests community inhabits the in-between spaces of neoliberal and third way politics, power and '*surrogate collectivism*'.

Emerging themes in the geography of African refugee settlement in Southeast Queensland

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Between 2001 and 2006 over 4,000 African refugees resettled in Queensland through the Australian Government's Humanitarian Program. Research on the settlement geography of this immigrant group is, however, limited. This paper outlines a conceptual framework to investigate the settlement and secondary migration patterns of African refugee communities in Southeast Queensland. Quantitative data from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's (DIAC) Settlement Database (SDB) are used to map the settlement patterns of the communities, and qualitative data from focus groups and individual structured interviews provide the means to establish the causes and patterns of secondary migration. The research identifies gaps in the settlement data of African refugee communities in Southeast Queensland. Key themes to emerge from the research indicate that housing-related issues, for example housing affordability problems and discrimination in the Australian housing market, and the need to be close to reliable public transport networks underpin a large proportion of secondary migration in these communities. Close proximity to public transport allows for better access to employment opportunities, educational institutions and social and ethnic networks – important factors in the successful resettlement of refugee communities.

Doom and Gloom in the Boom

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Housing affordability has become a problem in regional and urban settings in Western Australia because the traditional measures of housing affordability have failed to identify such areas as problematic. Such measures concentrate on affordability for average residents and ignore the key issues of housing availability and suitability for many sectors of society. Regional housing policy has not been a government priority and consequently housing and land supply has not kept up with demand.

While much of the media hype has been centred on the urban setting, this paper will explore the impact of long term housing and social infrastructure shortfalls in the Pilbara region, where much of the nation's export wealth is derived, but little appears to be flowing back. This paper will focus on Karratha, a remote regional town at the centre of the Western Australian minerals boom and a regional hub for fly in/fly out activities.

Our work shows that access to housing determines who are the likely winners and losers in this town, but houses in this place are not necessarily homes. The toxic combination of a lack of strategic planning, minimalist government investment and a voracious resources sector has rendered this town socially and economically dysfunctional, despite being one of the wealthiest towns, per capita, in the nation. Using housing as an indicator of community health, this paper will show that scarce and often inaccessible housing together with inappropriate housing design have had an adverse impact on the social, economic and environmental health of this town, expressed by poor community development and social cohesion and high levels of exclusion.

Geography's poverty – the super-rich

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It is four years since Beaverstock et al. (2004) first alerted geographers to the need to give consideration to contemporary geographies of the super-rich yet the pages of geography journals remain devoid of work on this important group. In the meantime the pockets of nearly ten million people who hold investable assets totalling about US\$37.2 trillion have filled and the gap between the world's poorest and the world's wealthiest people has grown. In this paper, I highlight the number and distribution of the super-rich across the planet before setting out reasons for geographers to care about the super-rich. I contend that our myopia is troublesome, causing us to overlook potentially valuable insights to the institutions, practices and cultural values of our society, as well as allowing us only a partial view of the consequences of global capitalism.

An examination of bushfire fatalities in Australia

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This paper will explore trends in bushfire fatalities in Australia in order to identify the most vulnerable groups and dangerous behaviours during fires. To date, no detailed analysis of the circumstances of bushfire-related civilian deaths exists. This research has developed a database of bushfire fatalities through a thorough documentary analysis of forensic, witness and police statements within coronial inquest reports. The database includes details of more than 550 fatalities over the last 100 years. It provides a unique opportunity to assess the circumstances in which people perished by examining their actions prior to, and as the fire front passed.

Analysis of the data aims to address a number of important questions relating to the nature of Australian fire deaths. Firstly, a simple analysis of demographic factors, such as age and gender, has demonstrated the heightened vulnerability of women, children and the elderly. This is due to their propensity to evacuate late and their greater reliance on others for assistance. In particular, there is evidence of a gendered division of roles and responsibilities during bushfires that contribute to these vulnerabilities. While men are most often killed outside while attempting to protect assets, most female fatalities occur while sheltering in the house or attempting to flee. In recent times, the number of men killed by bushfires has decreased; however, this is not the case for women and children, who in recent years have died in high numbers. Where possible, the decisions leading to fatalities have been examined based on people's awareness of the fires and warnings and the effectiveness of the actions that they took to reduce their risk.

The paper will cover the main trends emerging from an analysis of Australian bushfire fatalities over the past 100 years. Attention will be paid to the deaths over the last 50 years and, in particular, deaths during the 1967 bushfires in Tasmania and the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires in South Australia and Victoria. The implications of these findings for Australian bushfire management and the limitations of this study will be discussed.

Risk, resilience and climate change in the NSW wheat belt

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Agriculture is an inherently risky enterprise, and has been so for the last 10,000 years. Climate change projections for the NSW wheat belt indicate that various types of risk are likely to be enhanced, particularly in combination with the economic challenges of globalised trade. Australian wheat farmers are well practised at coping with regular droughts, but the 2006 and 2007 seasons were the first since the mid 1940s in which near total harvest failures occurred in consecutive years. In this paper we draw on findings from fieldwork with NSW wheat farmers in 2006-07 to discuss how long standing strategies for coping with risk position farmers to respond to climate change. We identify existing social and cultural resources for, and constraints to, more sustainable wheat farming.

Power, space and scale: Rethinking the politics of water and forest resources

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Recent work has sort to demonstrate a clear causal relationship between resource abundance and a propensity for civil strife and social disorder, particularly in the countries of the global South. Implicit in such work are overly economic, state-centric and ahistorical understandings of power, leading to a rather mechanistic analysis of the influence of resources on the nature of governance and development. In this paper, the historical and contemporary contestation of forest and water resources in South and South East Asia are examined as a first step towards a critical reappraisal of the politics of resources. In so doing, the paper draws on governmentality and political ecology approaches that suggest alternative conceptions of the relationship between resources, territoriality and identity. In analysing how these governable spaces operate in the contemporary era, it is argued that the politics of resources have become increasingly rescaled, since transnational, regional and local forces have all become more significant in the countries of these regions.

Developing Australian geography's postcolonial engagements with Southeast Asia and the Southwest Pacific

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This two-hour panel session will float the idea of establishing an IAG study group that brings together those interested in collaborative geographies of the SEAASWP region. It seeks to debate and shape the nature, scope, objectives and modus operandi of such a study group. Among other things, the roundtable will reflect on:

- the background to, current status and limitations of development geography in Australia (introduced by Barbara Rugendyke);
- existing networks and collaborations (introduced by Philip Hirsch); and
- issues in postcolonial networking (introduced by Iain Hay).

The panel seeks to involve both geographers interested in development and those who do not identify themselves as development geographers but have interests in collaborative work in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. This raises the question of the place of development as a defining theme of such collaboration. Third World Geography is dead and buried, but the same cannot be said of Development Geography. Beyond the development/post-development tension, development geography creates ambivalence amongst many of us who are interested in processes and transitions for which "development" serves as a useful shorthand, yet who are also uncomfortable with the "them and us" demarcation that keeps studies of our neighbouring region in a disciplinary ghetto. The Southeast Asia, Australasia and Southwest Pacific regional network (SEAASWP) has attempted a move beyond what Iain Hay has recently referred to as "educational and cultural colonization".¹ Other networks within which geographers are at the core similarly seek a more fully collaborative sort of engagement. Does this require a move away from development (and post-development) as the defining thematic area of common interest? Or is there scope within Australian geography for an engagement with geographers in our wider region that preserves a common interest in studies and debates around development and post-development? If not, what are the alternative defining themes and motifs for postcolonial engagements? The panel will take on a roundtable format, with 30 minutes of introductory statements followed by 90 minutes of moderated discussion.

¹ Ian Hay, 2008, Postcolonial Practices for a Global Virtual Group: The Case of the International Network for Learning and Teaching Geography in Higher Education (INLT), *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, 32, 1, 15-32. p 16

Fifty years of disciplinary flux within Human Geography: Changing sociocognitive subdisciplines and subcultures

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Contemporary academic Human Geography is irretrievably marked by disciplinary flux driven by divergent cognitive, cultural and social positions within Geography's archipelago of subdisciplinary territories. The cognitive and social attributes of some leading subdisciplines prevalent in the 1960s and 2000s are compared, using an amended version of Becher's four dimensions, namely soft-hard, pure-applied, convergent-divergent and disengaged-interventionist. Diagrams are presented indicating the postulated location of each subdiscipline within these four domains. Subdisciplines identified in the 1960s are traditional regional, traditional cultural, spatial analysis, radical and empirical. For contemporary Human Geography, cultural and empirical are retained, while acknowledging that these are radically different from the 1960s versions. In place of regional and spatial analysis, three major contemporary preoccupations are identified, namely critical, analytical and instrumental. Current disciplinary fragmentation is, in part, driven by expansion and specialization in sociocognitive territories and by cross-disciplinary engagement, but is reinforced by loss of momentum towards a shared coherent disciplinary identity and by exclusionary strategies within some subdisciplinary fiefdoms. Reciprocity and acceptance of multiple perspectives may be the best strategy towards realizing disciplinary potential.

The press of memory and things: Nature, culture and the neoliberal city

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This paper explores the press of memory and things in the material spaces of the neoliberal city. Neoliberal urban processes remake urban space through regenerative practices that mobilise the past in the present through narratives of anticipatory change that blur the boundaries between public culture and private development. Neoliberal ‘memory-work’ in cities poses considerable challenges for enacting socially just and green urban futures and for collective projects that struggle to sustain material alternatives across time and space. Drawing on the work of Walter Benjamin and examples of the entanglement of nature, culture, memory and things in Las Vegas and the Gold Coast, this paper discusses ontologies, objects and resiliences that shape the neoliberal present and the possibilities of inhabiting urban lifeworlds that threaten to disappear in the process.

Sustainable Indigenous futures in remote Indigenous areas: Relationships, processes and failed state approaches

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In many Indigenous territories, continuing processes of primitive accumulation driven by governments' claims to resources and territory simultaneously deny Indigenous rights and insist on market forces as the foundation for economic and social futures in Indigenous domains. Drawing on research in North Australia, this paper identifies the erasure of Indigenous governance, the development of wickedly complex administrative systems, continuing structural and procedural racism and state hostility to Indigenous rights as constructing Indigenous vulnerability to poverty, addiction and underdevelopment. Shaping sustainable Indigenous futures in remote areas that are characterised by long-term development failure requires rethinking of remote local and regional economic relationships. Recognising remote regional economies as hybrid economies that rely on environmental, social and cultural wealth is an important first step in reorienting policy settings. It is also crucial that we acknowledge sustainable Indigenous futures cannot arise from policy interventions that rely on creating wealth for state and corporate appropriation and assume enough of this wealth can be redistributed to local Indigenous communities to constitute 'development'. Politically constructed crisis interventions, such as Australia's recent actions in remote Northern Territory communities, represent a failure of state relationships rather than an appropriate and sustainable response to the challenge of Indigenous vulnerability. This paper argues that attention to Indigenous rights and development of good relationships and good processes of governance, autonomy and responsibility within communities as well as between them and governments is fundamental to sustainable Indigenous futures. Without this, neither government programs nor large-scale natural resource-based development projects can deliver sustainable futures for remote Indigenous groups.

Social control and the performativity of confinement

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This paper addresses the nature of the performance of social control by the state over people with mental illness. The deinstitutionalisation of people with mental illness in the 1960s and 70s saw a shift in the nature of social control, towards more dispersed forms of social control. This is part of a shift away from the disciplinary societies identified by Foucault, towards what Deleuze (1992) calls 'societies of control'. In societies of control the defined boundaries of the disciplinary society have given way to smoother social space. This then is a shift from the centralised power of institutions, towards decentered (rhizomatic) networks of control. In terms of mental illness Castel (1991) identified this as involving the dissolution of the notion of the subject (or concrete individual) and putting in its place a combination of 'factors', the factors of risk.

In this paper I argue, based on developments in England and Wales, that there has been a reassertion of disciplinary modes of control and that this has been driven by the desire of the state to be seen to be performing a social control role. That the need to be seen to be performing this role has been a driving factor in public policy. That social control is not a role that can operate abstractly; it needs to be publicly performed to operate effectively.

Moving forward through justice? Materiality and memory on trial

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This paper speculates on the relationship between testimony, physical evidence, discourses of traumatic memory and contemporary geopolitics. Its focus is the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) — the ‘hybrid’ legal proceedings underway in Phnom Penh, co-sponsored by the United Nations and the Government of Cambodia with additional support from international government and non-government donors. I am especially interested in the role of physical evidence, divined by GIS technologies, in the enactment of this unique geopolitical space.

(Re)positioning children and young people's everyday lives in contemporary urbanism

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An important dimension in the array of economic, social and cultural processes that shape the built environment and characterise contemporary urban life is related to children and young people. Yet this is rarely acknowledged in much of the literature on contemporary urbanism. On the one hand, urban geographers have tended to align children and young people with the impacts of urban processes more so than their agency in shaping them. On the other, children's geographies, in emphasising the input of children in shaping their urban worlds, have tended to neglect the infrastructural contexts in which children and young people negotiate their everyday lives.

This paper presents initial findings of a qualitative study investigating the travel and activities of children (aged 9-11 years) and young people (aged 14-15 years) living in five different localities in Blacktown NSW. The research examines how children and young people are negotiating space and the meaning of different places to their lives. It shows that where they go and what they do is in part related to where they live, and the forms of transport – both informal and more conventional – that constitute their everyday mobilities. By charting these geographies, the paper aims to show how the patterns of everyday lives of children and young people reflect both informal (local/everyday) and formal (institutional/citywide) mobility infrastructures – the understanding of which helps to (re)position children and young people in the contemporary discourses of urbanism.

If you go down to the woods park today ...' Performing Flockhart Reserve

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The park is a complex and multilayered socionatural space in contemporary society that embodies a range of regulatory practices, and is implicated in contestations over the boundaries between nature and culture. This paper considers two performances of park space within the intensely domesticated site of a local park. One is enacted in documents, maps and other technologies of planning practice that set constraints and possibilities for nature and bodies and which enrol the park within an 'open space system'. The paper then complicates and questions such practices by highlighting transgressive performances that decentre the park as passive, ordered and delineated space and calls into question what counts as 'proper' practices of being-in-the-park. From this perspective the constitution of local park space is reconceptualised as a messy site of active negotiation and encounter.

Understanding the enactment, commodification and consumption of transnational practices in contemporary Australia

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Many migrants to Australia create a sense of transnational identity, by maintaining material and symbolic connections with their former home. These connections can be enacted in a variety of ways - language, friendship, music, cooking, religion, sport, homemaking and gardening are the most obvious examples. In this paper, I argue that, collectively, transnational practices not only impact on traditional orderings within Australia but also reshape our understanding of Australian collective identity. Yet how we interpret and make sense of these practices is problematic not least because the connections that flow through and from migratory encounters and networks are difficult to trace in any precise way. To address this challenge, I discuss some of the interdisciplinary approaches that are used to understand transnational practices. In the second part of the paper I advance a framework for the study of transnational practices in Australia that incorporates three domains: the historical context of European settlement; the processes associated with globalisation; and the lived experiences of residents. Finally, I draw together some concluding comments about the commodification and consumption of migrant transnational practices.

Winds of change: Retirement expectations in non metropolitan regions

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Residential mobility trends across all demographics have created patterns of accumulating and congregating retirement populations in non metropolitan regions. Despite the diversity across all non metropolitan regions, many share challenges of service provision, transport options and housing outcomes for specific cohorts – including older people. These challenges may be further exacerbated by changing expectations by those entering retirement. Each generation enters retirement with expectations that differ from those who have retired before them. The cohort now aged between 50 and 65 years is no different. Despite a track record of altering all significant social institutions as they have moved through the life course, comparatively little is known about their housing expectations. Housing, in this research, has a number of dimensions including dwelling, locality, individual aspirations and social networks. The most widely held understanding of this cohort is their desire to ‘age in place’, that is grow old in their own home or community. Fuelled by social change, expectations of independence, appropriate housing as well as changes to the nature of service provision, the purpose of this paper is to understand how retirement housing expectations might impact upon the reality of ageing in place in non metropolitan regions.

‘I wish I was allowed on top of Darling Harbour to put a green house.’ A (re)vision of urban growth from the fringe

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As Sydney plans for its next 25 years of growth, the contribution of Sydney Basin agriculture to goals of urban sustainability warrants greater attention. The market gardens on Sydney’s fringe, which supply a large percentage of its fresh perishable vegetables, are threatened by plans for housing. Many of the growers consider their role of providing fresh food a vital service for the city that should be protected and assisted by both the public and government. When this land use conflicts with plans for housing, however, government planners consider these farms as being easily transferred outside of the Metropolitan area. Globally, issues such as ‘food miles’ and ‘food security’ have gained an increased currency in light of concerns such as peak oil, terrorism, and climate change. One response to these perceived threats to city food supplies has been an increased advocacy for urban agriculture. From green roofs to community gardens and small scale commercial farming, urban agriculture in its many forms has been presented as an important means of ensuring the supply of fresh food. With urbanisation an increasing trend within Australia and internationally, the city becomes an important site through which to consider the elements that should comprise the vision for this urban ‘growth’. The assertion by government planners that agriculture is not needed within the Sydney Basin, and therefore does not need to be planned for in urban growth, fails to acknowledge that this productive green space is likely to become only more important to the development of a sustainable city over the next 25 years.

New from old: Challenging post-Fordist Geelong

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Ford Australia is joining other major car manufacturers in Australia – most notably Mitsubishi in Adelaide – in scaling back its production and workforce. Linked to intensified global competition from new corporate and geographical players, car plants in Australia are increasingly driven by technology, design and their vulnerable place in an ever-shifting global production and consumption system.

As part of this process, in June 2007 Ford announced the closure in three years of its six cylinder in line engine plant in Geelong, Victoria, with the loss of 600 jobs. Ever conscious of the economic, social and political impact of such a decision, the Federal government created an economic redevelopment fund to encourage new employers to enter the region and supported the expansion of training facilities at the local technical college. The **Ford Project** at Deakin University will be tracking the socio-economic, public relations and cultural heritage implications of this decision on the workers and their region over the next three years. Within this larger project, this paper will document the ways in which one group of trade unionists have responded to the closure announcement.

While often located within a bland description of a shift from a manufacturing to a service economy, the decline of industrial employment is often met with spirited resistance. In the case of the *Geelong Manufacturing Group*, the aim is to exert industrial and political muscle to promote imaginative alternatives to ensure a manufacturing future for themselves, their children and the region. Such alternatives are not outside the mainstream economy but firmly located within it, nor are they intended to transcend existing class relations and physical locations. Rather the alternatives are to ensure manufacturing continues, if not making cars then defence equipment, wind turbines or a new for old replacement of Ford Geelong.

Outer suburban access to infrastructure: Insights from the Central Coast region, NSW

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Outer suburban regions in Australia are vastly under researched. Given the Australian population is overwhelmingly suburban, and that suburban areas are anticipated to continue growing, empirically rich research that explores the challenges facing these suburban regions and informs the policies and services needed to support them is vital. Addressing this research need, this paper examines the Central Coast of NSW, a predominantly suburban region located between the global city of Sydney and the regional city of Newcastle. Like many outer suburban regions, Central Coast development is shaped by its two regional centres Gosford and Wyong, and a scattered settlement pattern. It is predominantly low density and substantially car dependent. Again, like many outer suburban regions, questions of access to infrastructure are particularly acute. This paper explores the key dimensions shaping regional suburban life on the Central Coast with a focus on the challenges to infrastructure access. Specifically, GIS capture mapping and density-based-capture mapping is used to examine travel time and travel distance in relation to key infrastructure. The aim of this paper is to contribute to the understanding of suburban regions and provide insights into the challenges these regions face through the use of spatial representations of car dependency and infrastructure accessibility on the Central Coast.

Fleeing the nation-state: performing the radical geographies of the micro-nation

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Over the past decade, cultural geography has become increasingly active in interdisciplinary discussions around the (re)production of subjectivities and agencies under the conditions of globalisation. On a molar level, significant shifts occurring in how we understand the present concept of the nation-state and its implications for labour, mobility and citizenship have been observed. Co-adjutant to this, on the more local and molecular levels, investigations around performativity have focused on the formation of relationships between bodies, spatialities and productions of power.

Bringing these two trajectories and currents of inquiry together, this paper investigates some of these ideas through an empirically informed examination of a creative project; the autonomous Transnational Republic micronation. Established in Germany in 1995, the project offers itself as an experimental response to the question of human mobility and agency under the geopolitical changes of the nation-state and transnational corporatism. The project asks questions such as; in light of these developments who is defending our global civil rights? Can nation-states act transnationally, or do they merely block one another? And, does the geopolitical division of people into nation-states reflect the spirit of modern times? Through opening up spaces for these discourses, the Transnational Republic poses critical questions on how we situate ourselves, how we move across and through territories and how we (re)produce ourselves as agents in a globalised world.

Comparing urban spaces and identities in Moore Park

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Sydney's inner city suburb of Moore Park has recently experienced a new urban residential character change that is exemplary of the gentrification process. This paper will explore two new apartment developments: Crown Square (CS) and Moore Park Gardens (MPGs), which have contributed to Moore Park's transformation from an industrial to post-industrial landscape. Their uniqueness lies in their striking differences to each other, regardless of their close proximity. MPGs is found to consist of 'higher classed' residents, while CS contains far less specific 'types' of residents. From the results of a historiography, it is found that the similar histories of CS's and MPG's journey into a post-industrial landscape account for few differences that currently exist at the site. Other factors such as architecture, heritage and neighbourhood design, as well as promotional material that attempts to create distinction from other surrounding suburbs or nearby developments, have been found to be far more influential in creating cultures of exclusivity and exclusion. From the results of surveys and in-depth interviews it is clear that these have had effects on the residents that occupy the sites and their neighbourly relationships. This has created two separate new urban identities between the sites. MPGs' residents have been found to have higher overall satisfaction rates than CS's residents. This is influenced by issues pertaining to the quality and design of the developments as well as neighbourly relationships. Overall, this study contributes to a greater understanding of the localised effects of gentrification. It combines research that explores production, consumption and promotion mechanisms that have contributed to the place-based reconstruction and re-imaging of CS and MPGs.

Private communities in Australian cities: Exploring the trend towards privately governed urban residential environments

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The growth of private residential communities is an international phenomenon to which Australian cities are not immune. The spread of private communities has been accompanied by rapid transformations in urban residential governance, specifically the rise of private community governance, or homeowner associations. This paper is largely an exploratory one to draw attention to the issue of private community governance in Australian cities. As such, this paper charts the emergence of private communities in urban areas throughout the world, as understood through the theory of residential 'clubs'. The paper draws on an Australian example of this growing trend, portraying some of the lived realities of this emerging form of residential development as told by the Chairperson of a private 'club' community. In considering the neighbourhood experiences of community title, I want to draw attention to a number of areas. The first of these is in relation to the structure and establishment of a community title scheme. Second, is in regards to the financial costs associated with living under a community title scheme and impacts on housing affordability. Thirdly, I want to discuss issues of economic sustainability for these privately funded communities. And finally, I want to draw out some of the issues associated with restrictive covenants and the potential for reverting back to a public governance structure if needed. This paper concludes with a discussion of some of the broad concerns of privately governed communities in urban areas, making reference to areas for research and policy attention.

‘Sliding Doors’: The multiple closets of Australian State, Territory and Commonwealth regulation of Queer families

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The Legislative Assembly of the Victorian parliament passed historic legislation on 12 March 2008, allowing same-sex and de facto couples to formally record their relationships with the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Nevertheless, the Labor government was at pains to point out that the legislation does not create gay marriages or civil unions, but would improve access to entitlements such as superannuation for gay couples. This bill now forms part of a patchwork of legislation throughout state and federal jurisdictions governing many aspects of the family life of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Australians, an example of the multiple scales of Brown’s ‘Closet Space’. Access to Assisted Reproductive Technologies, various forms of relationship recognition, fostering and adoption, and the status of non-biological parents and gamete donors vary from state to state and between federal and state jurisdictions. This paper will address how the legalities relating to queer families are structured differently at state and commonwealth levels, and the impact that this has on their practices, identities and communities. It will then provide a sketch of what is known at this point about the response of these communities to the ongoing process of the legitimisation and legal protection of Australian children and their parents living in post-traditional forms of family.

Australian construction sites and cross-cultural contact

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Australian construction sites are a point of cross-cultural contact for workers from a diverse range of ethnic groups, who occupy a variety of positionalities in relation to the nation state. This paper examines the nature and extent of such ‘contact’ by reporting on a study that documents both positive and negative cross-cultural encounters on construction sites in Sydney. Although most workers tended to express a positive attitude towards cultural diversity and wanted more opportunities to interact with people from other ethnic groups, experiences of racism on construction sites were frequent. This paper discusses these apparently divergent trends. Particular attention is paid to the manner in which some ethnic groups have been subjected to processes of racialisation and cast as ‘out groups’ on construction sites. The construction industry is an interesting and unique context within which to study such processes because it is at once an ethnically heterogeneous and ethnically-segmented industry. It is also an industry within which poor cross-cultural relationships are of urgent concern from an occupational health and safety perspective. Furthermore, experiences of racialisation in the construction industry cannot be divorced from the highly masculinised context within which they occur.

Twitchers, ornithologists or bird-lovers? Mapping a virtual community of birdwatchers in Australia

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Birdwatchers are an unobtrusive lot. While they have been studied in the United Kingdom and the United States of America, relatively little is known of their numbers, movements and roosting sites in Australia.

Birding-Aus is an internet chat group used by birdwatchers to discuss bird-related news and topics. Items posted on Birding-Aus are received by subscribers and read by people accessing the archives. Its “membership” varies from day to day, but posts are typically sent to 700-800 email addresses.

An online census of people accessing Birding-Aus was conducted in 2007 in an effort to map this virtual community. Close to three-quarters of the 311 survey respondents were regular subscribers and a similar proportion posted messages at least once a year. Geographically the distribution of respondents living in Australia was generally comparable to the Australian population (2006 ABS census) and the membership of Birds Australia – with the exception of Western Australia (which was under-represented).

This paper examines the demography, chat group and birdwatching activities, and travel patterns of the survey respondents. It provides insights into both a virtual birdwatching network and the wider birding community.

What is waste that we should account for it?

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Queensland legislation defines waste as materials surplus to, or left-over or unwanted byproducts from, domestic, commercial, industrial and other activities. The definition includes solids, liquids, gases and energy, regardless of whether or not the materials are “of value”.

Typically waste reporting in Australia has focused on solid wastes generated by households, businesses, and construction and demolition activity. Much is made of landfill diversion for these wastes and there is a particular emphasis on packaging materials. Little or anything is said about the much larger amounts of fly ash and mineral processing wastes generated each year.

Conceptually “wastewater”, gaseous emissions and waste energy (heat) appear to be on different planets to solid waste. Very rarely are solid, liquid and gaseous wastes discussed together, and waste energy is rarely discussed at all.

Generally, it appears that gaseous emissions (particularly “greenhouse gas emissions”) are viewed solely as pollution and not as waste. Interestingly the amounts of waste “dumped” into the atmosphere and hydrosphere are an order of magnitude greater than the waste deposited in landfills. While the waste deposited in landfills can be reasonably immobilised, there is little if any control of waste deposited into the atmosphere and hydrosphere once it is emitted.

This paper examines the subject of waste accounting using the case of waste reporting in Queensland.

Community-supported agriculture: full engagement or business as usual?

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It is increasingly being claimed that the unsustainability of neo-liberal capitalism has emerged as the critical problem facing humanity. Recent research both in the agriculture and food arena and more broadly in environmental politics however, has indicated the pervasiveness of capitalism, including the subsumption of alternative modes of agriculture such as organics. The perspective that capitalist hegemony is the basis of our current (for example environmental) problems is encapsulated by the term post-ecologism. Opposing this viewpoint is the contention that post-ecologism is a problematic 'capitalocentric' view, the main danger of which is that it denigrates the non-economic, alternative realm. One form of food provisioning which may provide an alternative capable of spanning these two views is Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). CSA is an alternative food distribution system that enables consumers to directly interact with farmers, gain understanding about farming, and receive locally-produced fresh produce that is grown in ways that are environmentally-sound and valued by consumers. CSA is claimed to oppose the values implicit in neo-liberal capitalism, by promoting non-economic values such as a moral and civic commitment to equality and justice, rather than purely economic values. However sociological research in the USA on CSA indicates it remains somewhat grounded in the capitalist mindset. This paper will explore the potential of CSA to balance the post-ecologist and the capitalocentric views, as part of a recently commenced PhD.

Illicit and ‘legitimate’: Rethinking mineral extraction practices as livelihoods in India

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This paper addresses a deceptively simple question: ‘How do peasant communities pursue their livelihoods in mineral-rich tracts in developing countries?’ Mineral resource extraction and the livelihood practices surrounding them continue to remain a poorly theorised area, the physicality of the extraction process reducing them to either engineering or economic interpretations. This neglect has hindered the development of a nuanced understanding of the everyday forms of livelihoods of poor people on and around mineral-rich tracts – as many as 23 million in the last global count. Increasingly we have seen an emergence of a range of critiques of the generalising mainstream macroeconomic theories concerning natural resources.

These theoretical positions imagine a need for resource security leading to ‘resource conflicts’², and even ‘resource wars’, strengthening further theories of resources as the ‘curse’ portraying complete lack of regulation and disorder in the third world. In suggesting deviant and unruly, the mainstream theorisations arise, in part, from a paranoid fear about the unruly third world, paint a landscape of apprehension, risk and insecurity where resolution of resource conflicts lies in handing over the control and ownership of mineral resources to either state-owned or multinational corporations for systematic management.

In this paper, I suggest that the micro-reality is much more complex, and involves an understanding of the contextualised ‘every day’ life and struggles of survival of the poor in peasant or forest communities in the mineral-rich tracts of the third world. In examining how the mineral extraction practices are influenced by rules, habits, norms, conventions and values that belong to and operate in extra-legal domains, I rearticulate mineral economies beyond statist, market or capitalist perspectives. I conclude that illegality in mineral economies cannot be understood in separation from the social and cultural, and that our interpretations must ponder over the relations between economic practices, moral order and the social good.

² ‘Conflict diamonds’ are an example that has received demands for regulatory measures at the production end or at the downstream end (through certification).

Routes of reuse of second hand goods in Melbourne households

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While various state governments in Australia have set targets for the reduction of waste to landfill, so far more attention has been paid to the development of bulk materials recycling industries than to other strategies for waste reduction such as the re-use of second hand goods. Many second hand channels are informal and do not involve market transactions, making it difficult to identify patterns. In this paper we report on the findings of a survey conducted with 306 Melbourne households about their practices of acquiring and disposing of used household goods. The results indicate that socio-demographic characteristics such as household composition, employment status, education level and country of birth, along with infrastructure issues, such as dwelling types and residential tenures, are significant predictors of the use of various second hand channels. A fuller understanding of the routes of re-use of second hand goods will require grappling with complex inter-generational and gender effects, and large differences between the types of dwellings and living situations among Melbourne householders.

Social license, corporate social responsibility and the resource curse: Mining and indigenous communities in Australia

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The lessons of the resource curse case studies for the institution and policy environment in Australia are explored in this paper, drawing on research conducted on the negotiation and implementation of agreements with indigenous Australians. We show how the resource curse theories are partially applicable in areas in which Australian indigenous communities neighbour mining operations and outline the legal frameworks in Australia that apply especially in native title matters. Also, we include in our analysis the application of the concept of the 'social licence to operate' that informs the mining industry relationship with these communities. We also discuss the way that these practices form the basis of the industry's approach to 'corporate social responsibility', which along with legal compliance with the statutory framework, are intended to ameliorate the disadvantages faced by those communities. Despite these reforms, however, little socio-economic improvement has been made in these communities and we look to the inequitable distribution of impacts on local peoples, issues of rent seeking and substitution, and the potential impacts of low levels of economic diversification, as explanations. Finally, we consider what institutional and other reforms might be effective in these circumstances

The effects of re-scaling terrain variables

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Most environmental modelling takes place within the toposequence. Conventionally, the terrain variables for these purposes have been derived from digital elevation models (DEMs) produced from large scale topographic maps or topographic data at a large scale. The optimum scale appears to be between 1:10,000 and 1:15,000. Coverage at this scale DEM is very limited. However, global and continental coverage of DEMs is becoming available at coarser scales (SRTM).

We have demonstrated that it is possible to rescale terrain variables with only a local sample of the fine scale DEM using the concept of geomorphic terrains within which DEM histograms are stationary, and between which they vary. We used a straightforward back-propagation network and sampled three datasets to provide the learning sample. These were the slope derived from the original, 30m resolution DEM, slope derived from the generalized 90m resolution DEM, and geology.

The results were encouraging. This presentation reviews the analysis and discusses the errors induced when calculating slope, aspect and topographic wetness. The original error between the slopes produced by the 30m and 90m DEMs was considerably reduced. It was not eliminated however. The areas of maximum error were reduced by about 70%, in mid-range slopes they were reduced by about 85%. The area and amount of reduction was not evenly distributed with the slope difference on the volcanic rock type being reduced least. An analysis of these results suggests that, because steep slopes and volcanic rock types are rare here, the representative sample had under sampled them.

Coral reef geomorphology and carbonate production in Torres Strait, Northern Australia

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Coral reefs are some of the most productive ecosystems on Earth and appear particularly vulnerable to the impacts of global climate change. Extensive coral bleaching is already occurring in response to elevated sea-surface temperatures and the upper surface of reefs and the islands formed on them appear susceptible to anticipated sea-level rise. The geomorphology of coral reefs is mainly a function of biological carbonate-calcium production which is controlled by sea-level variation, the antecedent topography or substrate and oceanographic/weather processes. This study aims to quantify contemporary carbonate production of coral reefs in Torres Strait, Northern Australia. A combination of remote sensing and GIS techniques were used to classify the geomorphology of coral reefs in Torres Strait using Landsat ETM+ images. A hierarchical classification scheme based on Hopley's (1982) work, field measurements and observations was elaborated. Due to limited field data for ground-truthing, a novel approach based on expert-driven interpretation, supervised classification and contextual editing was used to classify the Landsat ETM+ images. Topological relationships and rules applied to the ESRI's geodatabase model resulted in a very efficient approach to assess the consistency and accuracy of the classification. Published carbonate production rates from typical geomorphological units were used to estimate contemporary production in the area of study.

Mineral governance, conflicts, and rights: Case studies of informal mining of gold and tin in Indonesia

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Mining has been ongoing in Indonesia long even before the nation came into being. Mineral resources form part of the nation's diverse livelihood bases to local communities. However, the globalised and capital intensive operations have assumed legitimacy with the government as the strategic sector to attract big investments from abroad. Consequently, it has tended to protect mainly the big players, often at the cost of undermining – or even illegalizing – the presence of informal miners.

The informality in Indonesian economy extends into mineral industries, beginning from extraction through digging, processing, transportation and marketing. On an average, these activities employ nearly ten times of formal mining employment. In Indonesia, all people's mining are required to have permit from the authority, although most informal miners choose to operate secretly and fall into the category of 'any mining activity without permit from government institutions according to the laws.' The stance regarding informal mining also involves local politics of resource governance; for example, the 1999 Autonomy Law enables district heads (bupati) to regulate and issue mining permit to individuals, groups, or cooperatives without obligation to inform the provincial government. Consequently groups of miners claim to be operating with this permit, but are still regarded as illegal by the provincial and state government. This often contradicts with the existing large mining companies who receive permits from the state government.

The present study is part of my ongoing work in West Bangka and Pongkor, Indonesia. Besides thrashing out the gaps and inconsistencies in the legal structure of mineral resource governance, I have used field-based methodologies in the study to track the informal 'gold and tin cycle' – from mining to marketing. The paper will also throw light on the operation of the informal networks, the demand and supply responses, and above all, an enumeration of the informal mining economy of the region.

‘It was a nice house, we were happy there...’ Transformations of Italian houses in Melbourne and beyond

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The settlement of immigrants in their new country is rarely a fixed process, static process. It is a dynamic process that involves continual readjustment to the host society and entails not only transformations of identities and memories, but also of housing. In this paper I investigate notions of settlement in relation to homes of migrants. I explore the specific ways in which settlement processes have been revealed in narratives of Italian immigrants in Melbourne. I have documented the housing history of Italian immigrants, identifying three phases within the settlement process: the first is the house in the former land, the second is the first houses in early years after arrival, and the third is the current home in which they are now living. The housing in this process of settlement is a major attribute to its success. In the paper I present different houses in different times and places, and trace them throughout the years. The settlement process, expressed through the transformations of houses, is thus revealed as a process that encompasses an ongoing change.

History and Aboriginal cultural values of rivers: Recognising the historical context of Aboriginal interaction with rivers

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Aboriginal cultural values of rivers is currently a focus of community activism and governmental activity in south-eastern Australia. For instance Aboriginal groups are seeking engagement in the management of the Murray River, in restoration of wetlands and in the work of Catchment Management Authorities. This paper will argue that understanding the historical context of Aboriginal peoples' interaction with the riverine environment is crucial for recognising contemporary Aboriginal cultural values. This historical context takes in the exclusion of Aboriginal people from access to riverine environments, strategies for maintaining connection to riverine places, and the meaning of this history today. Emphasising the historical context stands in contrast to approaches deployed in northern Australia, where traditional ecological knowledge is a key focus. In more closely settled south-eastern Australia the historical context is important for understanding the legitimacy of Aboriginal claims and for understanding the nature of Aboriginal interests in water. This presentation will draw upon current research being undertaken on Aboriginal cultural values of two large floodplain wetlands in north western NSW, the Macquarie Marshes and Gwydir Wetlands. Overall this talk draws attention to the importance of history and historical experience in recognising Aboriginal cultural values of environmental areas.

Satellite imagery for change detection in the sub-Antarctic: Using Heard Island as a proof of concept

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Heard Island is a pristine and remote volcanic sub-Antarctic island in the Southern Ocean, south of the Antarctic Polar Frontal Zone (APFZ). Heard Island arguably provides one of the most rapidly changing environments for plant growth in the sub-Antarctic region, due to extensive and rapid glacial retreat which has been accelerated by rising temperatures. There has been minimal human impact on the ecosystem of Heard Island, but warmer conditions will increase the ease for invasion of new species. Its location, climate conditions, and pristine nature make Heard Island an ideal site to study the regional effects of climate change. Up-to-date and accurate spatial information on vegetation is of crucial importance to manage this World Heritage Area and to study its changes. During previous expeditions to Heard Island in 1987/1988 and 2003/2004 terrestrial plant ecology has been studied and vegetation maps have been produced from field samples and aerial photography. These field surveys are expensive, labour intensive, potentially intrusive, and often only cover small areas. Because of the island's remoteness and harsh environment, satellite imagery provides advanced and cost-effective means to map its vegetation cover and to quantify vegetation changes.

The first step in identifying vegetation changes is the development of a methodology to reliably map Heard Island's vegetation communities. Image classification is a suitable technique to translate the spectral information in a satellite image into thematic vegetation classes. Transition zones between vegetation types (ecotones) are abundant in natural areas like Heard Island, therefore thematic and spatial uncertainties play an important role in classification of vegetation. Quantification of the spatial extent of transition zones is crucial for a solid understanding of the effects of climate change on vegetation types, as transition zones are most sensitive to environmental changes. This paper presents the first study that applies fuzzy classification and change detection based on high-resolution satellite imagery for sub-Antarctic vegetation mapping. The main objective of this study is to develop and apply fuzzy classification and change detection techniques to map sub-Antarctic vegetation types and quantify uncertainty across transition zones from high-resolution Quickbird and IKONOS satellite imagery of Heard Island.

‘We’re invisible here, over-visible there.’ The scales of same sex parenting

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In/visibility and recognition have long been issues of fundamental concern to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer-identified (GLBTQ) communities. The recognition of GLBTQ people and cultures outside their communities, as those communities are typically differentiated from the mainstream, is particularly seen as something to be desired and strived for, individually and collectively. This paper seeks to question this perception through discussion of these themes as they arose in interviews with 32 lesbian parents. Rather than confirm the need for recognition at national and state levels as current debates around legal recognition of same sex relationships would suggest for example, these respondents indicated that issues of visibility and recognition can be sometimes – and often unnecessarily - problematic for GLBTQ people with children (or sometimes even redundant). Through examining some of the ways these ‘alternative’ families manage and negotiate their identity as family, through everyday interactions with biological and non-biological kin, social and professional networks, local communities, and state and national institutions, it is argued that the benefits, relevance and even the need for increased GLBTQ visibility and recognition cannot be easily generalised. Rather, I argue that it is more useful to explore how both the perceived and actual benefits (and drawbacks) of visibility and recognition are highly spatial and scale-specific, and how they are currently negotiated and managed by GLBTQ people and their children in the everyday spaces of home, work and play.

Ludic geopolitics: enacting the Cold War through play

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This paper explores the imbrication of play and war by taking seriously the ludic activities of both children and adults. Disrupting the now familiar categories of 'formal', 'practical' and 'popular' geopolitics, the paper examines 'play' as a phenomenon that unites the diverse practices of state elites and children. While gamesmanship - say, chess or sport - has been a longstanding geopolitical domain, the paper turns instead to look at the co-constitutive character of military hardware and their toy analogues during the Cold War. It follows the trajectory of the world's first nuclear missile - the US-made 'Corporal' - which was miniaturized and domesticated into a variety of children's toys at the end of the 1950s. The paper is theoretically informed by the writings of Donald Winnicott and other like-minded psychoanalysts, bringing to bear a neglected theoretical canon that pre-dates geography's contemporary 'performative turn'.

Valuing bushland as terrain: A case study of the Illawarra Escarpment

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How Australian bushland is valued in an urban setting by the contemporary mainstream culture is being investigated using a case study of the Illawarra Escarpment – a linear tract of rugged cliffs, forest and rainforest which forms the western boundary of the City of Wollongong. The escarpment provides a close, visible and dramatic contrast to the city's urban and heavy industrial terrains. How to preserve this iconic feature of the city from suburban encroachment, for biodiversity conservation, and for recreational use is a difficult management challenge especially given its fragmented public and private land tenure. This project is attempting to assist this process by discerning how people relate to, and engage with bushland terrain, that is, what kinds of two-way relationships exist between the escarpment and its human inhabitants. Following Thrift (2004), Crouch (2000) and Jackson (2006), valuing is conceived as a process of knowing by doing, of the creativity of the individual in making sense of their worlds...both the non-human and the cultural worlds. The project is combining a number of different methods: firstly, a conventional survey by questionnaire, and secondly, an ethnographic study using the more non-conventional methods of walking and talking, taking part in people's everyday routine activities, collecting oral narratives and diaries of everyday activities supplemented by other materials such as photographs, drawings and poems. The data will be analysed with an emphasis on performance as revealed in oral narratives, autobiographies and the researcher's records of the subject's everyday rhythms, rituals and practices and the texture of their activities in relation to bodily sensory experience and emotions.

Samui women's geographies: Mapping gender roles and relations among elite Thai women

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In this paper I examine the links between everyday geographies and the performance of 'respectable' femininity for a group of Samui-born Thai women. I seek to document the women's mobilities and consider how the citational practices of 'respectable' Thai femininity have been linked to different spaces as the island has been integrated into global circuits of capital through involvement in the tourism industry. While these local women do not usually participate directly in the tourism industry (this is the realm of intra-national migrants, who face very different opportunities and constraints to their movement and gendered identity scripts), local Samui women's geographies and their gender roles have been significantly influenced by the changing economy and culture that has resulted from tourism development.

Wild White West: Youth and race in Western Sydney

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Following on from recent work by Shaw on processes of whiteness operating through gentrification in inner Sydney this paper seeks to untangle some of the issues around youth and race in Western Sydney. Research on youth in Western Sydney has focused on the production of a particular racialised youth presence, dominated by Lebanese youth gangs and young men of Middle Eastern appearance. However, beyond the explicit conflation with race, young people in Western Sydney in the form of a problematised ‘youth’ have become a widely deployed social category. The construction of a threatening ‘youth’ presence through the media drives debates about the presence/absence of young people in public spaces. Racialised perceptions of youth are an important aspect of this debate. However, in many formal and informal settings youth and ethnicity are separated. It is worth extending existing analyses to consider some of the less explicitly racialised constructions of young people to observe how processes of whiteness are serving to (in)validate youth identities. This paper will reflect on local government processes that formalise the separation between ‘youth’ and ‘culture’ through a discussion of National Youth Week events in Western Sydney.

Religion and development: Exploring transnational aid networks in Aceh, Indonesia

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The development industry has historically presented itself as a secular industry unconcerned and removed from matters of religion. Secularisation theorists originally believed that religion would decline as countries developed, contributing to a problematic divide between the public practical realm of ‘development’ and the more personal and spiritual concerns of religion. In practice, however, development and religion have always been entwined and are becoming increasingly connected as development institutions adopt more culturally-informed approaches through grassroots development initiatives. In this paper I concentrate upon the relationship between religion and development by focusing on the rebuilding of Acehese communities in the wake of the 2004 Asian tsunami. First I explore how institutional policies regarding religion shape the aims and activities of transnational development networks operating in Aceh. Second I explore how the religious landscapes of the Acehese affect the implementation of development projects. Finally I explore the outcomes of this particular encounter between development and religion by looking at the slow and problematic rebuilding of sacred spaces.

Indigeneity as political strategy

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In mainland Southeast Asia the use of the term ‘indigenous’ is much contested, especially when used by organisations representing highland minority groups who straddle the borders between Thailand, Burma, Laos, Vietnam and China. The use of ‘indigenous’ in reference to these minorities denotes a certain troubled relationship with nation-state, and is a welcome alternative to the more derogatory use of ‘tribal’, but what does it mean (and what does it achieve) when used outside of the context of settler societies? This paper explores how concepts of indigeneity are used by advocacy groups in their negotiations within and beyond nation-state boundaries. Such advocacy groups employ a discourse of indigeneity in their engagements with an international movement for indigenous rights and their negotiations with state bodies at the same time as they foster links between highland groups across nation-state borders. How do these complex engagements with, and use of, discourses of indigeneity alter an understanding of indigeneity based on place and origin. I suggest that in the context of these complex political processes, indigeneity is both an available and powerful tool for minority advocacy groups. Using a post-marxist approach, I argue that discourses of indigeneity are being used as a political strategy, and explore how such strategies might be understood as part of a hegemonic struggle as advocacy groups work to create a legitimate place for highlanders within the contemporary nation-state system.

Informing better land use decisions with qualitative research: A methodological trial in north-western Costa Rica

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Over the last century, the process of land use/ land cover change (LUCC) has intensified to the extent that it is now threatening the earth's life support systems. One prominent example is large-scale deforestation, which significantly contributes to greenhouse gas emissions that drive global warming. The global scale of LUCC makes ongoing research of its drivers and impacts imperative. The urgency of addressing LUCC problems also means that research must be able to inform better land use decision making. However, this situation calls for researchers to push beyond the boundaries of standard research methods in order to increase the relevance of findings to land managers.

The current study plays a part in answering this call. It investigated the social drivers of LUCC in the Guanacaste Conservation Area in north-western Costa Rica using a qualitative research design. In Costa Rica, regional Conservation Areas structure land use decision making. Land use managers require access to information about LUCC drivers and impacts that is timely and relevant at the scale of decision making.

However, standard qualitative research is generally time consuming and is most suited to small scales, such as single communities. The current study aimed to expand the relevance of its findings to regional land use managers by trialing a non-standard methodology that increased both its timeliness and the scale of analysis.

The methodology had two stages. First, semi-structured interviews conducted with landholders and community leaders in a single community were analysed using standard qualitative methods. Second, an analysis framework was developed using the results of the first stage and applied to a targeted investigation of the social drivers of LUCC in the region as a whole. Data collection for the second stage also used semi-structured interviews, conducted with landholders, community leaders and regional land use managers.

The non-standard methodology enabled regional patterns in the social drivers of LUCC to be identified, while remaining relatively sensitive to smaller-scale social drivers within the region. However, in doing this it made a necessary trade-off between the rigorous requirements of standard qualitative research and the need for timely, regional level information in land use decision making. A degree of trade-off must be accepted if qualitative research is to realize its potential contribution to understanding LUCC and informing better land use decisions.

Environmental and social engagement in rural heartlands

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Changes in primary production practices in Australia's rural heartlands are having profound economic and social impacts on the farm, and on rural service centres. The aging of primary producers, increased administrative demands on their time and the recent drought have changed, or exacerbated changes already occurring, in the relationships between primary producers and rural centres. This presentation draws on questionnaires undertaken in three dryland agricultural regions in the Murray Darling Basin. In each of these study areas (northern New England, Lachlan and the Wimmera) there was no large regional centre. The changing engagement of primary producers in environmental and social issues and organizations has significant ramifications for the viability of these organizations and the ability of rural centres to address important issues.

Overlooked geographies: Thoroughbred breeding in Australia

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Thoroughbred breeding is an important Australian export industry, a part of our national cultural identity and a dominant industry in parts of the country. It has been overlooked by Australian geographers, perhaps because of the way ABS categories are constructed, or maybe because geographers studying rural geographies do not identify thoroughbred breeding as agriculture. The main economic geographical analysis of the industry was undertaken by a visiting English geographer. Cultural studies tend to focus on horse racing, while animal studies have looked more at the construction of brumbies as part of nature. Environmental geographies have overlooked the impacts of the thoroughbred breeding industry, perhaps because it looks “clean and green”, or maybe because the environmental transformation of the land occurred under previous land uses, such as dairy farming. This presentation explores perceptions of nature in environmental management, the bioethical implications of 'natural breeding' and the emerging importance of reproductive technology issues, drawing on a nationwide survey of thoroughbred breeders.

While there are noticeable variations among Australian thoroughbred breeders, the perceptions of nature generally accord with international anthropological studies of thoroughbred breeding.

City of villages? Neighbourhood governance in central Sydney

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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 an orthodoxy in urban planning worldwide: 'greening' Sydney, walking connections, improved public transport, creative industries, public art, cultural history, family orientation, and heritage 'celebration'. Along with an ambitious public space strategy developed by the Danish architect Jan Gehl, and 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 growing complaints of street violence among the gay community, to the contribution of the village strategy to a housing affordability crisis, to the validation of strategies of gentrification, to the potential for overdevelopment among the city's property tycoons, 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.

Performing public housing: Performing Windale

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This paper examines the ways that public housing neighbourhoods are performed. Mark Peel has argued that a limiting script is often applied to public housing estates, a script that makes it difficult for residents and advocates of residents to speak outside the script. The paper focuses on a neighbourhood of Newcastle called Windale, where public housing is the dominant tenure form. I examine two events that led to performances of Windale in 2007, the release of the Dropping off the Edge report and a controversy surrounding a local radio character called “Wayne from Windale”. Drawing on the geographical literature on performativity I argue that within these events we can see speaking and writing within the public housing script (that re-speaks and re-writes the script anew), but also performances which move outside the confines of the public housing script.

Interdisciplinary collaboration

A panel discussion organised by Kathy Mee, sponsored by the Cultural Geography Study Group, and involving Roy Jones, Richie Howitt, Elaine Stratford, Kevin Dunn and Kathy Mee

**Complex systems theory, critical political ecology and geography:
Exploring the possibilities for synergy in vulnerability and resilience research**

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The concepts of vulnerability and resilience have emerged in recent years as important ways of framing analysis of the social dimensions of environmental change, notably in the fields of natural hazards and environmental risk, climate change, sustainable livelihoods and food insecurity. These frameworks have their roots in very different disciplines and theories, ranging from critical political ecology to complex systems theory. There are many different interpretations and applications of the concepts of resilience and vulnerability, and researchers have for a long time not referred to or been well informed of each other's work (Janssen 2006). Whilst there are now interesting possibilities for trans-disciplinary research and some evidence of growing convergence in these fields (Janssen and Ostrom 2006; Nelson, Adger and Brown 2007), key theoretical differences persist.

Considering geography has long been recognised as the 'inter-disciplinary' discipline it is not surprising that many geographers have made important contributions to research in these fields (Watts 1983; Blaikie et al, 1994; Dow 1999; Pelling, 2003; Cutter, 2003; Turner, 2003; Bohle et al, 2004; Wisner et al, 2004; Kasperson and Kasperson 2005). Through their emphasis on processes of social differentiation and marginalization; equity; values and knowledge systems; structure and agency; and the role of scale geographers have provided important critical perspective on the social dimensions of environmental change. This paper draws on such perspectives to explore the extent to which the rich theoretical and methodological traditions of resilience and vulnerability research offer synergy in the ways we think about (and rethink) the social dimensions of environmental change.

‘That’s nothing to do with me !’ Environmental history at the frontiers

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One of the principal themes in the conference is the place of geography in engagements with environment, the sense of sustainability and the critical discourses between nationalism, myth and belonging. This paper is an exploratory one, asking questions about how these meta-narratives can be translated into curriculum for courses offered in regional sites which are now a fundamental part of Australia’s university system. Students are often aware of international and national discourses on these issues that lock into their place, but have little guidance on how those discourses can be applied and make sense of their place. The paper begins with an examination of a range of environmental history subjects taught by Australian and American universities into small rural communities. The second part explores outcomes for these communities from this teaching. The final section explores and develops the central argument of the paper; that if small communities are seeking an interrogation of major themes such as meaning of place and belonging, then environmental history can make an important contribution. The paper uses a possible environmental history strand to be developed by the University of Wollongong for teaching at its rural access centres.

Avian invasion within the southwest region of Western Australia

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This study investigates occurrences of avian invasion within the Southwest region of Western Australia. Primarily it seeks to identify patterns of dispersal of the target species throughout the study area subsequent to their arrival in order to investigate associations between dispersal and various geographic and anthropogenic factors including climate, topography, vegetation, land-use, transport and urbanisation.

Dispersal analyses using Geographic Information Systems technology will be conducted on comprehensive sightings lists compiled for each of the target species consisting of historical records from the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (Birds Australia), Birds Australia (WA), Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme, Agriculture and Food (WA), Western Australian Museum and Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme. Detailed ecological profiles for each of the target species featuring its taxonomy, feeding and breeding requirements, daily activities and inter-specific interactions will also be compiled in order to address possible impacts or implications for other local species and environments. Attention will be given to identifying activities of the target species that result in damage to personal property, agriculture, or industry. Field verification will be sought to substantiate findings from the literature. The research will be considered in relation to other avian invasion events occurring throughout Australia and overseas.

The study incorporates techniques that can be applied to other species, areas and environments. It augments existing knowledge about avian invasion events, allowing the development of models to improve understanding of the phenomenon and assist the creation of effective strategies to manage biological invasion events should they occur.

Rethinking the concept of finite mineral resources: Understanding the future sustainability constraints of ‘peak minerals’

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This paper will present major data sets on the historical trends in mining in Australia, and selectively for other countries (eg. gold), combined with a comprehensive analysis of sustainability data reported for various mines and commodities. This data will then be used to construct some classical ‘Peak Minerals’ projections and scenarios, illustrating the critical importance of sustainability constraints such as greenhouse emissions, energy, chemicals and water. The future of mining will not therefore be governed by how much we believe is economically mineable, but by the sustainability constraints already being faced across the world. This requires the rethinking of many fundamental issues by the mining industry, governments and communities worldwide – and the evolving journey will be challenging for all.

The challenges of two ways: transforming institutions for a science of equals in Yolngu land and sea management

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Fundamental differences between Indigenous and Western constructions of knowledge have significant implications with respect to power relationships for decision-making in natural resource management. Western scientific knowledge is ontologically dominant and often privileged as 'objective' thus creating unintentionally colonizing environmental practices, even where more equal partnerships are targeted. This paper considers the term 'two ways management' depicting collaboration between Western and Indigenous knowledge in cross-cultural environmental management for Yolngu people in NE Arnhem Land, Australia. The Crazy Ant Eradication Project, hosted by Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation, provides a detailed case study of Yolngu and Western ontological and institutional perspectives of two way management. This paper challenges natural resource management institutions to transform to a point where Indigenous and Western science are ontologically recognised and therefore institutionally resourced as equals.

Land and dislocation: Effects of Indonesian resettlement on rural livelihoods in East Timor

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1979 marked a significant year in transforming the lives of East Timorese under Indonesian occupation. To isolate local populations from contact with and influence by the remaining resistance hiding in the rugged and densely vegetated interior of East Timor, resettlement sites quickly sprung up along accessible low lying coastal areas. The consequent livelihoods led by those forcibly removed from their former residence have been neglected. This paper aims to fill this research gap by exploring the effects of spatial dispersal on two rural communities that resulted from Indonesian resettlement, in the districts of eastern Baucau, and central Manufahi. Overcoming restricted mobility, the local populations relied on kinship, restored historical clan-alliances, and created new networks with host communities to negotiate land access for a means to 'sustainable' livelihoods. It argues that dislocation is as much as the physical loss of land, as it is the loss of connections to ancestral settlements. This paper will also discuss the implementation of USAID's Strengthening Property Rights in East Timor in early 2008, a nation-wide land titling program, and the potential implications of formalising property rights in a nation where eighty percent of its inhabitants live in rural districts and access land under customary tenures.

Sea changers and climate change: Communicating and managing risk without fear

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The State of the Environment Report for Tasmania (RPDC, 2004), Australia, has identified evidence that sea levels are rising and will continue as a result of climate change. This constitutes risk for local government in regard to protecting public infrastructure and providing appropriate development control. Nonetheless, Tasmania is a favorite destination for those seeking to build new lives; the 'seachangers'. Planning decisions need to be well informed and communicating good natural resource hazard management essential. Building on previous climate change adaptation research, this paper presents results from research into a Tasmanian local government (Kingborough), which (i) built an inter-disciplinary risk assessment methodology for dealing with climate change for the local government of Kingborough, and (ii) developed interactive communication tools in relation to sea level rise and coastal vulnerability. The outcome is a risk assessment tool, specifically designed to be interdisciplinary in both nature and implementation. This paper focuses on the communication aspect of the research, and reflects on the challenge of how climate change issues can be appropriately communicated, but in a way that builds confidence not fear amongst the rate paying community. The tension between development and environment is examined in this context, and in particular the paper considers what tools planners need in order to be able to negotiate with sea changers in their area. Lessons learned from this research for other local governments are presented.

Labour markets in western Sydney after a decade of prosperity

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The paper presents the results of a detailed analysis of the re-composition of labour markets in western Sydney 1996-2006. It focuses on shifts in industrial concentration, occupational structure and employment status in answering the question: how has a decade of prosperity affected Australia's most significant labour market region.

Dynamics of agricultural R&D and extension system in Australia

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As the WTO system increasingly constrains governments' abilities to make agricultural subsidy payments or tariffs, the agricultural Research and Development and Extension (R, D & E) system of each country have become vital tools to support the viability of agricultural communities. Since the 1980s, Australia has been restructuring its R, D & E system. The core of these changes has involved "Research and Development Corporations" (RDCs), which are organizations funded both by levy payments from farmers and by matching grants from the Commonwealth Government. These arrangements are intended to enable RDCs to be responsive to farmers' interests, and evidence supports the claim that Australian agricultural productivity has grown rapidly since their advent in the 1980s. The purpose of this paper is to assess this system from an international perspective. Australia's R, D & E system is highly dynamic. Various actors such as government agencies, private companies, extension services, and farms interact with each other in an interrelated way. Moreover, such a system is entrenched within Australia's agricultural political economy. Therefore, interactions between specific actors underpinning the system should be examined in order to explore full implications from this system. This study will situate Australia's agricultural research agenda in these terms, and offer insights with respect to its significance internationally.

Memory, meaning and materiality: How cultural memory-work constitutes cultural spaces in East Gippsland

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In this paper, I am concerned with how cultural processes surrounding particular landscapes and material objects produce meaningful spaces. I will look at these ideas through a case-study of a cairn commemorating the explorer, Angus McMillan, constructed in East Gippsland, Victoria. I will investigate how objects classified as ‘historical monuments’ serve as a locus of cultural-memory, which in turn constructs particular cultural landscapes. An analysis of the cairn as a ‘material fiction’ alludes to historical ‘truths’ not represented in written accounts. This works as a starting point for an exploration of how commemorative ‘memorialising’ performances, occurring in relation to the cairn in 1927; 1965 and 2007, constitute contradictory meanings for the cairn, and the space in which it is situated, in dialogue with histories of white colonial violence towards Indigenous Australians.

Power and the Pink Palace: Home-making practices and gentrification in Northcote

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Cultural performative practices constitute cultural spaces which include, or exclude, specific identities. This paper seeks to examine a set of particular ‘home-making’ cultural performative practices surrounding gentrification in Northcote, Melbourne. I use the notion of home-making to understand the implications of gentrification on a particular site, the Pink Palace. The Pink Palace was a former warehouse, located on Eastment Street, Northcote, which operated as a home, a punk music venue and a space for radical political activism between 1998 and 2005. It was closed in 2005 when the lease was not renewed. Through empirical research, including ethnographic interviews I conducted with people involved at the Pink Palace, I understand the punk subcultural activities which were practised there during its operation as instances of home-making. These performance of ‘punk-ness’ attempted to fix a meaning for the Pink Palace and its surrounds. I posit this articulation of home-making against the home-making practices of the Darebin City Council, which attempted to re-signify Eastment Street as a ‘creative community’ through cultural planning. The Council mandated a different, and I propose gentrifying, set of performative practices for the Pink Palace site and its surrounds. These practices were intended to constitute Eastment Street as the home-space of a creative-consumer identity. The creative-consumer is a gentrifying identity whose home-making practices enacted the creative community imperatives laid out by Darebin City Council. The home-making practices of the gentrifying creative-consumer worked to overdetermine the punk home-space constituted through the (sub)cultural practices of the Pink Palace-residents. The punk significance of Eastment Street was invisibilised as the practices of home-making by gentrifiers gained ascendance. With the gentrification of the space, the Pink Palace-residents no longer felt ‘at home’ in Eastment Street. They were excluded from their former home-space and the Pink Palace closed.

Embracing the diverse economy in a ‘post-conflict’ city: Resources and the undertow of custom and tradition in Baucau, Timor Leste

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This paper explores how the state and others involved in the ‘development enterprise’ in Timor Leste are (mis)recognizing the potential of the existing governance and exchange capacities of local customary institutions. It ponders too, how these customary institutions might be better supported to extend their range of political and economic credibility (and adapt to other demands such as gender and resource equity). The paper draws on the political and economic theory developed by Gibson-Graham (2006) and draws out in a particular place based instance the workings of a diverse economy where a customary economy is enmeshed with a weak capitalist sector driven by intermittent funds provided by a centralist state, international aid assistance and church institutions. The paper argues that a failure to engage the strengths and import of local customary institutions will have serious ramifications for the successful implementation of Timor Leste’s national development objectives in the city of Baucau and elsewhere in Timor Leste. As such the paper also seeks to critique approaches to a customary recognition space which is based on a rural/urban divide—the customary economy admitted to some extent in the former but elided in the latter.

‘In this country you have space to move.’ German tourists performing Self in Australia

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In my PhD project I look at German tourists’ expectations, experiences and practices when travelling Australia, particularly the desert regions. The long distance from home as well as Australia’s vast spaces of nature and extreme climate make the continent a very special destination for German travellers: Australia is imagined as an ‘authentic’ space that – in contrast to the overcrowded and over-regulated spaces in Germany – still gives room to the performance of a “true Self” as a form of self-actualization and self-authentication. Looking at accounts from selected interviews conducted with German tourists, I explore the following questions: How do German tourists act out Self? In what ways does ‘performing self’ conflict with ‘performing as tourist’? What strategies do tourists find to negotiate this conflict? (How) do the practices of performing Self account for the identity of place – or vice versa, how does place affect the expression of Self? Reporting from a work in progress, my paper explores how the interplay of cultural identity with the embodied experience of space influences both the performance and the experience of Self.

Middens to Home Beautiful Magazine: The millennia of habitation at Coles Bay and the Freycinet Peninsula, Tasmania

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What is the nature of the relationship of peoples to the natural environment? This paper is the result of investigation - conducted as part of doctoral research - of the relationships of diverse peoples inhabiting a particular place for millennia – Coles Bay and the Freycinet Peninsula. In this paper I discuss the distinctive physical evidence – the marks on the landscape - of the ways that people have lived at this place over time.

Coles Bay is a holiday village situated on the east coast of Tasmania, Australia's island state. Though it has a population of only around 240, Coles Bay attracts approximately 169 000 tourists from outside the state a year (2004 figure). It is part of the Freycinet National Park which comprises the Freycinet Peninsula, Schouten Island, and the Friendly Beaches north to the town of Bicheno. It was home to the Oyster Bay tribe of Tasmanian Aborigines for 36 000 years, and to the first white settlers and holiday-makers for the last 200 years. It is now a sought-after tourist destination.

In contemplating the millennia of habitation at Coles Bay and the Freycinet Peninsula, I seek to penetrate the strata not only of time, but of the ordinary and everyday to reveal the evidence of the lived relationships in light of the debate about the impact of modern society on the natural environment.

Living with bushfire risk: Social and environmental influences on preparedness

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Interviews were undertaken with householders living in high bushfire risk areas of Hobart to identify factors that predict whether or not people prepare for bushfires. Data were analysed using grounded theory analysis strategies and the qualitative data analysis programme ATLAS.ti. Results identified how personal, social and environmental beliefs interact to determine whether or not people prepare for bushfires. A substantive model was developed based on the results of the qualitative analysis. Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) was used to test the model with survey data from 482 residents living in those areas in Hobart where interviews were conducted. The SEM fit indices ($\chi^2 = 8.30$, $df = 5$, $p=0.138$; $RMSEA = 0.037$ (90% 0.0 -> 0.080), P-Value for Test of Close Fit ($RMSEA < 0.05$) = 0.628; $NFI = 0.983$, $GFI = 0.995$, $AGFI = 0.972$) indicate that the model derived from the qualitative analysis is a good fit for the data. This model predicted 39% of the variance in householder preparation, suggesting its ability to account for differences in levels of bushfire preparation between people was very good. The model and its implications for risk communication is discussed.

Observations on the ‘thrills and spills’ of a corporate-funded research project

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Undertaking a corporate funded research project, while having tangible benefits, can also at times be problematic. This paper examines some of the benefits and challenges that emerged from a major corporate funded research project that involved writing a book documenting one corporation’s long-term funding of community-based Landcare initiatives.

The research project brought numerous benefits. The immediate benefit was in attracting research funding from industry into the Humanities, an occurrence less common than in areas such as engineering, science and to a lesser degree, commerce. With an industry partner funding the project one can expect access to current and archival documents and a high level of cooperation from, and ready access to corporate personnel, relevant government officers and members of the community involved in receiving funding support.

There are also challenges, some of which are not just limited to partnerships with the corporate sector. Moving from an agreement in principle to a signed contract can take some time, especially when the project is not in the nature of a consultancy or of high priority. Yet once a contract is in place, time-lines become important. If the task involves writing a manuscript, then the process may once again slow down, once the manuscript is complete, especially if the corporation funding the project holds the copyright. This is likely to mean that, for example, the presentation of a conference paper prior to publication of the research findings will require the approval of the corporate partner. The copyright issue also raises the conundrum of academic independence. A research project spanning several years is also likely to involve changes in personnel and even, generational change within an organisation. In addition, the quality (and quantity) of archival material may also be less than expected as corporations are not governed by the same records management legislation as applies to all levels of government and universities in Australia.

Regional parks - from concept to the reality of managing parks in a multi-agency environment

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The concept of regional open space was introduced to Western Australia in the 1955 Stephenson - Hepburn Report. The report recommended a statutory region plan be prepared for Perth and that private land required for future public purposes be reserved. In 1963, the Perth Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) was established with areas reserved for "Parks and Recreation". This land (subject to amendments of the MRS) has been gradually acquired by State planning authorities with the objective of protecting open space of regional significance for conservation and recreation.

The Department of Conservation and Environment's 1983 System 6 Report identified areas considered worthy for conservation. It also recommended that some of these areas be managed as regional parks. In 1989, the State government gave responsibility for regional park management to the Department of Conservation and Land Management (now part of the Department of Environment and Conservation) with responsibility for the acquisition of lands for regional open space retained by the then Department of Planning and Urban Development (now the Department for Planning and Infrastructure), on behalf of the Western Australian Planning Commission.

Several years later, a Regional Parks Taskforce Report detailed a proposed administration, planning and management structure for regional open space and in June 1997, the State government announced a commitment to give regional parks legal standing and vesting in the former National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNCA), now the Conservation Commission of Western Australia. By 2007, seven regional parks had been established within the coastal plain of metropolitan Perth, with a further four in the Darling Range. Overall planning and management responsibility rests with the Department of Environment and Conservation which works closely with local government and the community, the latter through Community Advisory Committees established for each regional park.

Management of regional parks in metropolitan Perth occurs in an environment where multiple tenure (including private landowners) and multiple agency involvement across different levels of government is the norm, rather than the exception. While there are benefits of this management model, there are also challenges in dealing with planning issues and park management.

Domestic temporalities: ‘nature’ times in the house-as-home

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Studies of domestic temporalities have emphasised the timing of social activities and interactions in the home, including how family members negotiate their use of home spaces and technologies, the impact of flexible work practices on home, and the organisation of care and mothering activities. But home is also shaped by the rhythms and times of nonhumans that inhabit and travel through the house-as-home. Drawing inspiration from recent discussions of nature times the paper explores the more-than-human temporalities of domestic space. It charts the ageing and decay of house structures, the disruption caused by nocturnal animals, and the seasonal cycles of pests and dog moulting, attending to the ways that these events shape everyday experiences of home and home-making. These times and rhythms are examined through interviews undertaken with people living with uninvited brushtail possums in the ceilings of their homes, interviews with new dog owners, and analysis of popular Australian home-making magazines. These stories emphasise the dynamic and unfolding nature of the house-as-home as a hybrid space produced through an ongoing entwinement of human and nonhuman, living and non-living, culture and nature.

The unspoken landscape of sex work: Violence in New South Wales sex industry settings

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Research indicates sex workers are subject to a range of violence including physical assault, rape, verbal abuse, harassment and persecution by a range of offenders from police and city planners through to clients, voyeurs, local communities and residents, and other sex workers. This research highlights the fact that sex workers, especially street-based sex workers, experience high levels of violence, including violence of the most extreme kind and are more at risk of harm than other members of the community. Despite this growing body of evidence and the legality of sex work within such places as New South Wales, there remains a greater focus in the public arena on ‘protecting the community’ from the perceived negative impacts of sex work, than on protecting sex workers themselves from the harm they experience from their clients, peers and the community as a result of engaging in this type of work. Since the late 1990s, in an attempt to redress violence against sex workers, initiatives have been set up within Australia and over seas to encourage sex workers to report violence against themselves. Drawing on a detailed qualitative and quantitative analysis of a few hundred of these reports lodged between 2000 and 2007 by sex workers from across New South Wales, Australia, this paper provides detailed insight into the relationship between the locations of sex work – street, private, parlour, escort – and levels and types of violence perpetrated against sex workers.

What's the context? Situational community characteristics and the effectiveness of bushfire risk communication

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The Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) identifies the importance of encouraging homeowner bushfire preparedness as a means of increasing homeowner safety, and reducing the burden of defence for local fire protection authorities. To increase homeowner preparedness, fire authorities utilise mass communication techniques to provide targeted and standardised information to at-risk members of the community. However, such standardisation in the risk communication message fails to accommodate the innate variability between communities, particularly the situational characteristics of the community and the resulting context in which risk communication messages are interpreted. This paper presents findings from interviews conducted with homeowners living on the peri-urban fringe of several localities in Tasmania (Hobart, Scamander, Four Mile Creek, Falmouth). Situational characteristics including agency trust, previous bushfire experience, perceptions of bushfire severity, homeowner responsibility and sense of community were found to influence the effectiveness of recent bushfire risk communication efforts. These results suggest it is necessary to couple mass communication techniques with community engagement to overcome the influence of situational characteristics, thereby encouraging collective preparedness, ensuring the correct interpretation of risk communication messages, and engendering confidence and trust in those organisations that communicate bushfire risk information.

Emerging trends and problems of housing supply in urban housing transformations in Istanbul

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This paper aims to shed light on the developments of the housing supply in terms of urban housing transformation processes in Istanbul over the last two decades. The Housing Development Law issued in 1981 and the Housing Development Administration of Turkey, established with the aim of giving housing credit by using Housing Development Funds, have created important changes in the housing supply in Turkey. Within this framework, the number of private housing firms has rapidly increased and these new firms have created a new market by constructing mass housing settlements having various quality characteristics. In this paper, various (four different) types of housing supplies emerging after the year 2000 have been examined, such as the applications of the Housing Development Administration, local governments, private sector and public-private partnerships. The applications of the Housing Development Administration are mostly the urban transformation projects, including the improvement studies of squatter settlements. The local government has produced and marketed housing groups in various parts of the city by means of a firm established for this purpose. Private sector and public-private partnerships have created various housing projects on the unplanned areas near motorways, forests and water dams with the new development plan proposals. Common points in all these applications are a promising new lifestyle, the building of high density housing settlements, the constructing of high rise buildings to save space for social, cultural, sport and recreational areas, with secure gated borders and well-controlled entries.

In the paper, we first analyze the housing settlements provided to the legal housing market since 2000, then discuss the contributions of these settlements to the city by considering their locations, layouts, built environment, house territory and social areas. For this purpose, we have carried out an extensive literature survey and collected data from housing firms. In the paper, we try to answer the following questions: How was this supply realized and why was it supported by both local and central governments? Why does the central government support this process by providing very attractive credits? Is there a real demand for these houses by the target users? Why are those houses constructed with such a high density? Why are they constructed as tall buildings? Why do local governments give permission to these housing settlements?

Environmental and management-based risk factors associated with shrimp farming in Australia

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Globally, aquaculture is the fastest growing food production sector in the world. Currently, more than 25% of shrimp and up to 50% of salmon consumed have been farmed. In 2003/04, the Australian aquaculture industry was valued at \$743 Million and has a goal to reach \$2.5 Billion in annual sales by 2010. The shrimp farming industry consists of approximately 35 farms which are predominantly located in regional areas of Australia and provide significant input into the economic sustainability of rural communities. Strict legislation in Australia has prevented the large-scale clearance of marine and estuarine vegetation communities which has occurred with the expansion of brackish-water shrimp farming in other parts of the world. However in Australia, variable productivity and failure to meet production targets are common. Recurring production problems have been putatively linked to inappropriate site selection and unsuitable pond management strategies; the causes of variable productivity on Australian farms are still not fully understood. The main risk factors identified in Australia are endemic disease, quality of PL (post-larvae), environmental constraints including acid sulfate soils, dispersive clays and erodible soils, and overfeeding. However, past research has focused on a small number of farms in Australia.

The main aim of this research is to identify and describe environmental and management-based risk factors that may be limiting productivity in Australian shrimp farms across the spectrum of environments. Environmental and management data will be collected from as many, if not all, farms in Far North Queensland, South East Queensland and Northern NSW. Farm managers/owners will be surveyed to identify differences in farm management practices between productive and unproductive farms. Farm soil and water properties will be determined from samples collected at the time of conducting surveys. Multivariate statistical analysis will be used to identify relationships between environmental and management factors with high and low productivity.

Initial piloting of the survey in two prawn farming regions has shown variability of lay knowledge between and within regions. Management techniques, such as pond preparation, water exchange, stocking densities, monitoring protocols and disease response vary between farms and also between technicians within farms. Further analysis of meteorological, topographical, hydrological and biological data will elicit any relationships between environment, management practices and productivity patterns. The research findings will be incorporated into revisions of current regional aquaculture planning and site selection criteria and disseminated to the relevant stakeholders via workshops and industry events. Data from surveys will also feed into State government planning and implementation of a Best Management Practice benchmarking system for Australian shrimp farmers.

Implementation of a Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) – a remote island experience in Rambutso, Papua New Guinea

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Globally, many wild caught fisheries are either fully exploited (~50%), or over-exploited, depleted or in recovery (~25%)(FAO 2006). This overall decline in marine resources is being felt in many Pacific Islands which rely heavily on marine products for hard currency and protein intake. Historically many of these coastal island cultures encompassed traditional mores that acted as management tools for natural resources. Such mores or clan rules included seasonal closures, no-take areas, obtaining permission from the local land owner to access resources, or fishing taboos around spawning events or aggregation sites. However, in recent years, many of these traditional forms of natural resource management have been lost or abolished as a result of economic factors driving demand/supply chains.

Rambutso Island is located approximately 40 nautical miles from Manus Island in the Admiralty Islands region of Papua New Guinea, and has a current human population of approximately 2300 (Pers. Comm. 2008). Its remoteness has been both a constraint on local development as well as a relatively effective conservation mechanism. The coral reefs in the Manus region have been described as some of the best seen in the world. Despite this, fish populations, and sea cucumbers such as the sandfish, *Holothuria scabra*, are in steady decline in the area.

A fieldtrip to the island was undertaken in April 2008 in order to investigate the current fisheries management strategies on Rambutso Island. Scoping was carried out via a series of workshops with the fishers in three villages on Rambutso. The workshops consisted of a PADI safety diving course (there was a death in 2007 as a result of free-diving for sea cucumbers), an introduction to coral reef health assessment, and a questionnaire on fisheries practices and management. Each workshop attracted approximately 30 divers varying in age from 12 years to 44 years.

The results from the workshops found that there were no fisheries management practices currently in place on Rambutso Island. All target species were taken despite size or number present, and gear was only limited by availability. The fishers in all three villages, which represented the north, centre and south of the island, were well aware and concerned about the declining numbers and sizes of target animals. As a result of the questioning, the fishers were alerted to the fact that a management strategy was required and sought assistance with the process. This scoping exercise formulated the 'initial assessment' phase of the implementation of a locally managed marine area (LMMA), an increasingly used management strategy for marine resources in developing coastal communities. As a result of the workshops and the Rambutso fishing community's participation, a long term LMMA strategy is currently being created with strong community involvement. This presentation will share the experiences of the initial stages of implementing a LMMA in a remote island community.

Hydraulic assessment of flow regimes to facilitate fish passage through natural riffles: Shoalhaven River below Tallowa Dam, New South Wales, Australia

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Proposed flow regime changes in the Shoalhaven River from augmentation of Sydney's water supply, have been assessed in terms of effects on depth, velocity and fish passage across natural riffles. Flow regime options centred on variations to transparency/translucency thresholds for releases from Tallowa Dam that dictate a threshold flow below which no water harvesting occurs (transparency threshold), and a percentage of water greater than the transparency threshold that is released to the river to maintain a degree of natural flow variability (translucency threshold). This study focussed on passage requirements for Australian bass (*Macquaria novemaculeata*), an iconic catadromous fish species of major ecological and recreational angling importance for which minimum depth and maximum velocity tolerances for upstream migration have been well established. Some 21 major riffles/rapids occur between Tallowa Dam and the tidal limit over a river length of 25 km. Reconnaissance investigations of riffle headloss, length, width, depth and morphologic characteristics indicated that wide-shallow, steep-turbulent and bifurcating flow morphologies were most likely to cause problems for upstream bass passage under low flow conditions. Two approaches were used to investigate riffle depths and velocities over a range of flows. A rapid assessment approach directly measured thalweg depths and velocities in riffles identified in reconnaissance surveys as being potentially problematic to upstream bass migration. Detailed topographic surveys and two dimensional hydraulic modelling with River2D was undertaken for two riffles identified as 'worst case' examples of wide shallow and steep-turbulent riffle morphologies. Results from both approaches were consistent and complementary. Both approaches identified several riffles where minimum depths and maximum velocities were likely to be problematic for upstream passage by Australian bass at a flow rate of 130 Mld-1 (the current environmental flow release) but were mitigated at flow rates of 300-500 Mld-1. Assessment of flow regime transparency/translucency options with regard to a 300-500 Mld-1 target flow range indicated that options where the transparency threshold is set below the daily 80th flow duration percentile provided sub-optimal conditions for upstream bass migration.

Wetland credit markets and the problem of assessment

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Wetland mitigation banking is an American neoliberal environmental policy that has created a functioning market in ecosystem services, commodities defined using the holistic measures of ecological science. In a critical examination of the development of a wetland credit banking market around Chicago, USA, I argue that the wetland banking industry serves as a bellwether that presages problems that other strategies of neoliberal environmental governance will experience. Ethnographic, economic and ecological data from the Chicago-area wetland banking industry inform discussion of a major obstacle to neoliberal strategy: the problem of relying on ecological science to define the unit of trade. Studies of capitalist modernity have made it clear that standardized methods of abstraction are a basic tool in the regulation of a smoothly-running socio-economic system (*e.g.*, capital treats only with labor-power, which is an abstract quantifiable homogenizing diverse particular labors). But the task of creating abstract and generalizable *measures* of “ecosystem service commodities,” or more recently of segregable *bundles* of such commodities, has been challenging. The story of wetland banking indicates that there may be important differences *within* neoliberal strategies aimed at the commodification of ecosystem services. It is also suggested that assessment strategies adopted in the wetland credit market are connected to developments in assessment technology adopted in water and carbon markets.

The neo-liberalisation of nature through intellectual property rights in plant varieties

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International agreements such as the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) have reframed the ownership of nature internationally. The TRIPS Agreement reflects the insertion of a massively influential protectionist text in the predominant “free trade” regime that exists today – representing a true paradox of neo-liberalisation. Included in the text is a requirement for intellectual property protection of plant varieties (essentially via patents or plant variety protection) that all WTO Member states must comply with. The UN Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat is complicit with this commodification of nature encouraging “facilitated access to genetic resources” and continually stating that its objectives are not in conflict with TRIPS. This paper discusses the geographies of resistance (and compliance) to this international trend through case studies from Asia and the “developing world”. The paper notes how specific countries have utilized flexibilities in the Agreements, have demanded amendments (or revocation of whole sections), or have ceded to multilateral pressures and bilateral coercions through “free trade agreements”.

Professor Jenny Robinson and Comparative Urbanisms

Panel Session (Chair: Therese Kenna)

This panel discussion will explore contemporary ways of understanding the city and urban spaces. The panel brings together urban geography academics with an interest in urbanism and the growth and development of cities in diverse contexts.

The panel discussion will be held in conversation with Jenny Robinson from the Open University, UK, author of *Ordinary Cities* (2005; Routledge). Other members of the panel will be Ruth Fincher, Sarah James, Donald McNeill and Katharine McKinnon.

Gentrifiers, cosmopolites, transnational elites: new facets of urban identity

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Debates about the gentrification process increasingly engage with the nature, character and motivations of the gentrifiers themselves. In essence, gentrification may be perceived as a process of identity construction and reconstruction that is spatially specific and symbolically strategic. Despite popularist claims that globalisation is heralding the decline of spatial significance, for the gentrifying class place matters. However, under globalisation the range of places significant to the gentrifying class arguably multiples in accordance with the emergence of a global imagining predicated upon, what I have elsewhere referred to as, spatial longing (see Rofe 2003). Unravelling the development of locally-based, globally-oriented identities is a significant and complex process. Here the choice of descriptors employed is most critical. This paper grapples with the slippages and points of traction between the terms gentrifier, cosmopolite and transnational elite. While these three terms and the literatures that underpin them, share points of intersection I suggest that conflating them unproblematically may well serve to cloud rather than illuminate new facets of urban identity that may be emerging within the city.

Connectivity and movement: the key to metapopulation persistence of common wombats

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Heterogeneous landscapes are composed of multiple habitat patches that are distributed over a large geographical area. Often overlooked is the spatial component of these patches, and thus the connectivity between them. Dispersal across patches is a key process in the survival of local populations connected by this interpatch dispersal, while the existence of several or many populations is critical for species that inhabit patches in a shifting mosaic of habitats. Loss of individuals in one population can therefore affect the longterm persistence of the metapopulation, particularly if an area is acting as an attractive sink and immigration is not sufficient to sustain populations. The integration of spatially explicit population models with threats operating at the same scale allows management to determine the capacity of an area to sustain a viable metapopulation, while the potential effects of no management and alternative management strategies can also be examined. For already identified threatened species this importance is often obvious, but for species generally perceived as common the contribution of subpopulations to metapopulation persistence is often missed until the species is in decline. We present an analysis of the metapopulation structure of the common wombat within a 750 km² area of the north-western corner of Kosciuszko National Park in southern NSW, Australia. We developed a habitat suitability model for this species and defined the subpopulation patch structure within the study region using published data and expert opinion to construct a stage-structured spatially explicit metapopulation model using RAMAS GIS. Amongst modelled conservation strategies targeting the different threats, mitigating road-kill was the most effective in maintaining both localized road populations and metapopulation persistence in the area.

At risk? The changing nature of independent mobility along a child's walk to school

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Social, environmental, and cultural forces have limited children's capacity to freely explore their local surroundings. In particular, there is concern directed towards the diminishing rates of children walking independently to and from school. Despite the implications attributed to the declining levels of independent mobility among children, children are being driven to school with an underlying parental belief of good intentions. Yet how does the school journey contribute to a child's health and well-being in the context of independent mobility? This paper documents the research undertaken in eight schools located within the Sydney metropolitan region. Surveys and group discussions were used to define the levels of and preferences for independent mobility during children's school travels. The findings indicated that this group of children are not independently mobile during their school journeys. Furthermore, instead of walking alone, they would rather be accompanied by parents, peers and siblings during such travels. These findings do not imply, however, that children's health and well-being are at risk. For these students, the notion of accompanied travel may cater to their motor, cognitive, and emotional developmental needs. These findings endeavour to contribute to a new perspective towards designing and planning neighbourhoods: designing for a shared rather than solitary experience along the walk to and from school and accepting the changing nature of independent mobility among children.

Children's citizenship in Australian cities: Avenues for child participation

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Children are one of the most regulated yet politically voiceless groups within Western democracies, legally recognised as citizens but with a highly limited and restricted say in public affairs and community decisions. Although largely justified, restrictions on children's citizenship in their current form negatively affect children's use of public space, physical development and education. It would be irresponsible to extend full citizenship rights to all children yet a case for change can be made.

This paper gives a geographically-oriented overview of children's citizenship, presenting both conceptual and practical arguments in favour of rethinking and expanding the opportunities for young children to actively participate as citizens. It argues that a variety of 'moral panics' have acted to increasingly restrict children's use of public space and thus their ability to shape their own life-paths and their social engagement. Efforts taken to protect children may thus have the consequence of hindering their contributions to society and development into citizens.

The paper then evaluates existing avenues for citizenship and public participation for children in Australian cities, finding the majority of existing programs to be either deficient or fragmented. The city needs to be thought of as a political space for all groups, including young children and teenagers. However, certain initiatives are likely to be more effective than others, although the boundaries of where and how children can participate need not be rigidly set by adults. The paper finishes with recommendations for improving children's citizenship in Australian cities.

Gay citizens, gay districts: Sexual citizenship, urban governance and social change in the post-industrial city

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This paper explores the relationship between visibly gay urban districts and notions of sexual citizenship. Recent transformations being experienced by gay districts can be evaluated through their consequences for sexual citizenship, and these changes can be evaluated at various overlapping scales. First, changes to the way that sexual citizenship is reflected and articulated at the bodily scale has altered the ways that individuals utilise gay urban spaces, with gay districts having to compete with a growing range of places and spaces. Second, actions by urban authorities at the neighbourhood or city scale to either repress or promote gay districts have affected the ability of these districts to operate as spaces of sexual citizenship. This is seen through zoning law changes in New York for sex-oriented businesses or through the promotion and 'touristification' of Manchester's gay district. Third, at a social level, changing laws and attitudes concerning homosexuality over recent decades have impacted the relationships between gay citizens, gay districts and wider society. This is apparent when the evolution of Sydney's Oxford Street district and Mardi Gras parade are considered. Fourth, processes of globalisation have facilitated the above processes whilst exerting their own influences on sexual citizenship. Connectivity between gay districts has also been enhanced, mediated by the internet and tourism. Drawing on the literatures for sexual citizenship and the gay districts of Sydney, New York and Manchester, this paper examines the multiple implications of the changing relationship between sexual citizenship, urban governance and social change.

Nostalgic tourism: Reflections on migration and return travel

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Investigators of migration and tourism have largely neglected the relationships between these phenomena until quite recently. However, rich understandings of both can be uncovered through investigating their intersections, such as the link between past migration and contemporary tourism behaviour. For example, economic growth, technological development and global geopolitical changes over the past two decades have made it increasingly possible for migrants and their children to visit their 'homelands.' This paper examines how the motivation to visit 'homelands,' and the experience of those who do so, are strongly affected by specific migration histories, the political views of migrants regarding changes to the homeland, nostalgia for past times or childhoods, or a search for one's 'roots' and place of belonging in the world. The paper uses the return travel behaviours of Estonian-Australians as a case study to discuss 'nostalgic tourism.' Many Estonians who migrated to Australia did so soon after the Second World War, yet were unable or unwilling to visit Estonia until it regained independence from the USSR in 1991. Nostalgia, memory, identity and national politics have informed both the ways in which Estonian culture has been maintained in material ways in Australia, and the forms of tourist behaviour that have resulted in certain material encounters in Estonia. A fuller understanding of these processes has important implications for tourism markets, migration and tourism studies, and personal and national identities.

Riots on the beach: The social geographies of Sydney's Cronulla riots

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On the afternoon of Sunday, 11 December 2005, thousands of white Australian youths engaged in a violent protest against persons of Middle Eastern appearance using Cronulla beach, an event which surprised many and received substantial media attention at the time. This paper examines this riot, its broader context and the way it has been evaluated, in both mainstream media and the academic perspectives that it has generated. It argues that this beachside disturbance and reactions to it can be more richly understood through examining the intersection of various phenomena at six geographic scales—the body, the beach, the suburb, the city, the nation and the globe. It argues that the Cronulla Riots were simultaneously an incarnation of defensive localism centring on the contestation of public urban space, indicative of difficulties in migrant integration in Australia, and part of a wider history of resurgent racial tensions within Australian society. However, a full understanding of what happened must also recognise the role played by bodily displays and actions, the social geography of the beach, and the wider geopolitical context. The form and symbolism of this distinct event precipitated a strong reflexive shift within media and public discourses, and has re-raised numerous questions about Australia's history and status as a 'migrant nation.'

What is new about ‘New Migration’? A case study of low-status European workers in the UK food industry

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This paper examines the economic geography of contemporary intra-European labour migration using the UK food industry as a case-study. It is divided into three parts. First, it reviews the extensive and long-established ‘segmented labour market’ literature. It uses this literature to argue that the so-called ‘new’ migration in Europe is best understood as part of a longer-term structural economic ‘continuum’ rather than as a distinct ‘break’ with the past. Second, the paper argues that this continuum has assumed a new prominence over the past decade as a result of a particular coincidence of political and economic circumstances in Europe (EU enlargement, economic growth, globalisation). Third, the paper focuses on the UK food industry – one of the economic sectors most closely associated with intra-European labour migration – to highlight a new rural geography to the settlement patterns of contemporary low-status migrant workers. We identify and discuss these new areas of migrant settlement, examine reasons for their prominence, and conclude by arguing that, whilst intra-European labour mobility is not new in a structural economic sense, it has a very important ‘new geography’ associated with it.

Coming and going: The influence of population turnover on place production in the Northern Territory of Australia

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This research aims to investigate the impact of population mobility on place production. In contemporary times, non-Indigenous population mobility in the Northern Territory (NT) of Australia is relatively high. Between 1986 and 1991 the NT had a higher proportion of in-movers and out-movers than any other Australian state or territory (ABS 1994). Of the many social impacts possibly associated with these migration patterns, this research restricts itself to an investigation of the primary research question: How does population turnover impact upon the production of place?

Specifically, this study will analyse the impact of population mobility on the organisations that influence place production. A humanist (symbolic interactionist) viewpoint will be adopted to analyse the impacts of population mobility on place production processes within the relevant public organisations, and on place narratives created by these organisations. Theoretical frameworks developed by Berger and Luckmann (1966), and Giddens (1984) will be central to this analysis. The case study site (a place known as Mindil Beach in Darwin) is (re)produced by mobile agents (micro phenomena) operating under the influence of organisational place making structures (macro phenomena). According to the humanist approach, place making agents will have the capacity to “modify the circumstances in which they find themselves, while simultaneously recreating the social conditions (practices, knowledge, resources) which they inherit from the past” (Layder p.134). The influence that a mobile agent has on macro organisational place making structures, and ultimately place itself, is the fundamental concern of this project.

Networks and the diverse economy of the Papua New Guinean betel nut trade

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The betel nut trade in Papua New Guinea is an informal trade which comprises virtually the entire population and contributes to the livelihoods of around $\frac{1}{4}$ of all Papua New Guineans. This paper examines the trade through the complex networks of actors, focussing on the range of diverse economic practices which daily shape and reshape the market.

Theft and deceptive trading are common within the market, as a result traders construct their networks in such a way as to minimise the risks that this presents. Instead of anonymous exchanges many traders rely on networks of friends and relatives, who are linked together through practices of gifting, barter, exchange of information and other diverse economic exchanges which are traditionally conceived as existing outside of the economy. It is argued that relationships between different actors are far more than purely market exchanges. For example, traders will often live in the production villages for up to a week where they are housed and fed. Minor items such as cigarettes, coca cola and betel nut are continually gifted within the market and traders will also often provide credit to growers or alternatively sell on their behalf. In many cases what at first appears to be a purely market exchange between actors is underwritten by other practices encompassed within the diverse economy.

This paper suggests that the diverse economies within which the market actors participate is critical to the functioning of the market. It is also argued that these practices are as much a part of the market as those more conventional economic exchanges.

Geographies of racialisation and cities of whiteness

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Geography, as a discipline, has a long history of engagement with issues of 'race' and racialisation. The classic accounts of racialised 'ghettos' in the USA, by DuBois (1899), Weaver (1948) and Morrill (1965), and David Harvey's *Social Justice and The City* (1973) and David Ley's *The Black inner-city as frontier outpost* (1974), provided a disciplinary foundation for critical race studies . More recent geographies of racialisation are enriched with cultural perspectives. In settler contexts, such as Australia, studies of racialisation in geography have also benefited from post-colonial perspectives, which have enabled a re-engagement with Indigeneity, as well as studies of migration and settlement, and whiteness.

Preserving Alaska's resource integrity post-Prudhoe Bay

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Historically, Alaska - on the western Pacific coast of the United States - is well-known for its 'wilderness' areas. Less well-known, however, is the burgeoning mineral production industry which is seeking to displace oil as the number one sector in the state's resource economy. The North Slope oil fields of Prudhoe Bay that once transformed the Alaskan economy are today in decline and the state faces a post-Prudhoe future where it will have to rely on other resources for the revenue to survive. This paper considers what options exist for Alaska and what role minerals such as gold and base metals such as zinc might play in securing its future. The vital role that indigenous communities play in this future is also examined.

Community participation in decentralised natural resource planning and management in Australia: Who wins, who loses?

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Community participation is fundamental to decentralised natural resource planning and management. In Australia, however, it is unclear how and why community groups such as Landcare participate; what factors affect their participation; and who wins, who loses from the regional approach to decentralised resource governance. Important factors in this respect are the participatory mechanisms and the influence of key stakeholder groups in relation to outcomes. Hence the aims of this study are to examine critically the processes and outcomes of community participation through case studies of three Catchment Management Authorities in NSW and their respective landcare networks in the areas of Randwick, Lake Macquarie and Armidale. The study has found that while decentralised resource policy strongly encourages participation of individual landholders and provides access to funding and other support from government agencies, the new policy approach has significantly undermined social capital, community spirit and cohesion - all being essential elements in effective natural resource management. It is notable that while these same community groups have carried out similar activities over many years and fostered networks of individuals and groups for co-ordinated action on planning and implementing successful projects, the current policy emphasis on individuals is in direct opposition to any notion of collaborative action in decentralised natural resource management practice. In effect, this increases rather than reduces conflict thereby compromising ecologically sustainable development outcomes. And while landcare and other community groups are keen to participate in the entire range of decision making processes, they are restricted to narrow involvement in the implementation of on-ground activities. This is because key decisions on policies and plans are still the exclusive domain of State level ministers and senior bureaucrats. This has resulted in government agencies using community participation as a cheap and effective implementation instrument. This paper argues a critical need to enhance opportunities for community groups to effectively participate in the full range of decision making so as to provide greater input into resource planning and management agendas.

Water for the gods? The struggle for natural values in Kosciuszko National Park

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The development of the first Master Plan for KNP in 1959-65 was a turning point in approaches to nature conservation in this protected area. The Trust that 'managed' the park from 1944 until this time had supervised and regulated a set of exploitative colonialist practices. These had developed willy-nilly in the park over the previous 100 years. With some notable exceptions, its membership and outlook supported and reinforced an attitude to the land that was dominant in those times and interest groups.

Change in evaluations of the land, concern for its condition, and interest in a different future came from an alliance of bushwalkers, interested in protecting the bush on aesthetic and preservationist grounds, and a growing body of ecologists, especially soil conservationists. As the new Master Plan developed, it gradually replaced the former assumptions about the Park's values with new scientific principles for protection of the land's resources, especially water catchment. In the process, the philosophy and practices of key individuals involved both for and against activities such as high country grazing were crucial. Individual members of the Trust and others responded to the planning exercise by developing more complex understanding, by changing sides, or by digging deeper into their long held views.

Forester turned nature conservationist, Baldur Byles, Park Superintendent Neville Gare and scientist/ecologist Alec Costin typify some of these new ideas about protected area management. These ideas are described in this paper, and placed in a context of current management preoccupations about the alpine area of NSW.

Cultural geographies of Indigenous regional governance

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Traditional forms of regionalism in Indigenous Australian societies have been well documented. There are regional systems of economic exchange, ceremonial networks, mobility, and collective identity. The past thirty years have also witnessed a flourishing of incorporated organisations delivering regional services.

But what constitutes ‘the region’ for the purposes of contemporary Indigenous governance arrangements? For governments and their departments this is often a matter of seeking a population size sufficiently large enough to promote desired economies of scale, cost efficiencies and more effective service delivery. The geographic coverage of the service population is invariably contained within formal cadastral or administrative boundaries.

For Indigenous Australians what is a region is, first and foremost, a question of who is the collective ‘self’; ie, it is a matter of cultural geography. But there are few accounts of the process of how Indigenous people are actually designing new regional governing arrangements to work in an intercultural post-colonial Australian environment.

Many difficult questions and issues are involved. For example: What constitutes the ‘region’ for the contemporary purposes of Indigenous governance? Are boundaries important? How are ‘new’ determinations of ‘region’ being linked to traditional culturally-based forms of Indigenous regionalism? How are ‘regions’ being linked to the concept of ‘community’ and the diverse rights and interest of their members? What kind of governance models seem to best suit regional scales? And are there particular principles and institutions guiding Indigenous efforts? Finally, what impacts are the substantial changes currently being implemented by governments having on Indigenous efforts to design effective and culturally legitimate governance arrangements for a regional voice?

The author addresses these questions and issues through a case-study of Indigenous engagement in a regional local government initiative in Western Arnhem land, Northern Territory, that she has been involved with for over four years.

Drawing lines between places: Two points on the line

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As part of the process of conducting this research, I drive between the University and my home. I call this movement 'drawing a line'. This line then forms the foundation for how it is that I intend to explore the betweenness of place. In this presentation (itself a performance) I draw upon my own personal experience of betweenness – my line – and weave a story within and through two pieces of experimental, auto-ethnographic writing. These apparently 'mute' experiences/ performances are revealed firstly in their writing and then read aloud in this presentation.

A new electoral barometer? Exploring the electoral geography of the Greens in Australian cities

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The emergence of the Greens as a participant in the Australian political landscape has been one of the most significant electoral barometers of recent times. The Greens emergence in Australian politics has been part of the increased global prominence that has been received by this political movement, and has helped to direct attention towards minor parties. The emergence of the Greens has been highlighted by an increased level of electoral presence and voter support across Australia. Some of the most significant growth for the Greens, both in terms of electoral performance and presence, has occurred in electorates based in Australian cities. This paper examines the geography of the Greens electoral performance and presence in Australian cities at federal elections held between 1998 and 2004. The case studies of Sydney and Melbourne highlight how the Greens have increased their primary vote, constituency base and electoral presence in Australian cities. Findings on the Greens electoral performances and presence point towards distinct geographies of strengths and weaknesses in the party's primary vote and candidate standings in these two cities. This paper will highlight how the electoral geography of the city can be a barometer of the electoral performance and presence of minor parties in an urban electoral setting.

Iceberg transportation for a new freshwater resource

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The amount of iceberg water that annually dissolves into the sea is 3 trillion m³, close to the world's annual consumption of freshwater (3.3 trillion m³). To solve the global problems of the freshwater supply, Antarctic icebergs could offer an enormous renewable freshwater resource which needs a transportation system. The idea of towing icebergs was raised since 1890 and systematically dropped because of technological and institutional lacks. In 1970's the international context changed and nations rich in oil and poor in water initiated and supported big projects for freshwater supply and icebergs transportation. The publication of the proceedings of the First International Conference on iceberg utilization held in 1977 was a key event in the history of iceberg transportation. The main points discussed were related to iceberg detection and selection, the harnessing, the towing boats, the iceberg behaviour during transportation, the freshwater loss, the itineraries for transportation, the sea and meteorological conditions, the sailing plane, the effect of Earth rotation. Different techniques were imagined to wrap an iceberg of 3000 tons and to cover its entire mass to preserve ice quality. Since 1980 new technological advancements were proposed, as for example to wrap the iceberg in a big bag, with the aim of encapsulating the ice, preventing the infiltration of sea water. Once safely wrapped, the iceberg will be carried by surface current activity anywhere on Earth. When the iceberg is fully melted, the bag can be transported after drifting with favourable currents and freshwater can be delivered at the required destinations. The average drift speed is around 0.7 km/h and is influenced by their size and shape, the currents, the sea temperature, the waves and the wind. The icebergs increasing production rate required the development of modern techniques of management. The techniques for sustainable and economical iceberg transportation will be discussed in this report.

Ecosystem services valuation: A critical appraisal

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Ecosystems are being characterised as goods and services to allow their valuation in monetary terms. This follows an orthodox economic approach to environmental values, but is also being undertaken by ecologists and conservation biologist. There appears a lack of clarity and debate as to the model of human behaviour, specific values and decision process being adopted. Arguments for ecosystems service valuation are critically appraised and the case for a model leading to value pluralism is presented. The outcome is to identify the need for value articulating processes which involve open deliberative judgment rather than instantaneously stated preferences, concealed expert opinion and global cost-benefit analysis.

Sustainable dwelling: A phenomenography of house, home and place in Australia

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Current debates regarding the provision of new suburban development to meet housing demand in Australia include significant attention on sustainability. Sustainability issues are generally framed as an environmental problem, and the legislative proposals to address them tend to be technology focused. This phenomenon is not unique to Australia. Indeed, bricks and mortar solutions have dominated relevant policy for decades in Europe, with very few signs of successful reductions in environmental burdens of housing. Where householders are considered, they are invariably seen through the static lens of behaviour change, rather than as people with memories and feelings towards home and place. The authors indicate that deeper understanding of the significance and dynamics of human behaviour and home are required before a sustainable outcome can be achieved, and that sustainability issues are in fact environmental symptoms of a human problem.

This paper presents the results of an exploration of domestic architecture, as experienced by fourteen people, eleven of whom have voluntarily chosen to design, build and live in sustainable houses around Melbourne. Using phenomenography as a research approach, the qualitatively different ways in which these respondents describe their understanding and experience of house, home, place and sustainability are explored. Insight into these understandings and experiences is achieved through the use of unstructured in-depth interviews and a purposefully designed mixed-media package (cultural probe), which aims to provoke inspirational and creative responses. Conclusions are drawn regarding the interplay of notions of house, home and place, and the implications of these for the future direction and success of housing sustainability policies.

Happy mediums: Whales and the exploration of the Southern Ocean

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The Southern Ocean surrounding Antarctica is commonly described as cold, harsh and isolated. It is imagined, through various media, as a space inhospitable to humans, and thus frequently devalued to the level of its utility with regards to research, transport and resource use. However, this picture changes with the inclusion of whales. Through these 'beautiful animals', the Southern Ocean is remade as a sanctuary, a precious wilderness or a lively, fertile space. This paper seeks to examine the ways in which various public media are involved in making permeable the boundaries between whale and ocean, and the role whales may play in shaping human relationships with the ocean. It will further aim to highlight the fluid co-constitution of whales and ocean, and the formation of the Southern Ocean as a valuable, diverse and present space.

Greening governance: A critique of the mobilisation of environmental discourses in the governance of Mawson Lakes, South Australia

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Entrepreneurial governance practices regulate urban spaces, promoting primarily market-based approaches to the restructuring of the built environment. Central to the policies and aims of urban restructuring and (re)development is the overall notion of improvement. The master planned community (MPC) is just one example of the physical manifestation of a restructured urban environment. Drawing upon the utopian place-making ideals from the Garden City movement, MPCs similarly profess to improve redundant or decaying urban landscapes. A key component to this improvement is the enhancement of the environment. However, as the impetus for development comes from primarily entrepreneurial visions, economic outcomes tend to be privileged over social and environmental objectives. Since the 1990s, a heightened public awareness of environmental issues has now permeated through to the planning and governance of many western cities. Consequently, the principles of sustainable development have become the guide for contemporary development practices and policies. However, the integration of ‘sustainability’ into development policies and programs is often partial, where city marketers and developers take advantage of a ‘green’ consciousness, without making any real environmental reform (see Szili & Rofe, 2007). This paper seeks to explore how such discourses of environmental improvement and sustainability are mobilised through entrepreneurial governance practices of the Mawson Lakes MPC in South Australia. As a joint venture between the South Australian Government’s Land Management Corporation (LMC) and private property developer Delfin Lend Lease, the development is typical of highly entrepreneurial collaborations between various tiers of government and private sector property developers. Most notably, the development asserts an explicit environmental sensitivity as its primary feature. Through the example of Mawson Lakes, the paper problematises notions of environmentalism employed in the governance of MPCs, arguing that the concept of sustainable development may be viewed as primarily a corporate concept, with ‘greenwashing’ becoming an unabashed marketing strategy.

Children's geographies/cultural geography: 'de-naturalising childhood'

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In their editorial preface to *Social Nature*, Castree and Braun (2001: xi) suggest that by thinking through the nexus of social nature, we might be better able to reconceptualise all sorts of geographical topics - but also to question the 'nature' of taken-for-granted human categories such as 'sexuality' and 'race'. In a similar spirit, this paper deploys a socio-nature analytic not only to de-purify nature, but also to de-naturalise an additional human category – that of 'childhood'.

Over the last three or four centuries, the concepts of childhood and nature have become increasingly co-implicated within the structuring dualisms of western thinking. In order to de-naturalise childhood, the paper teases out some of the epistemological convergences of childhood and nature within these dualistic framings. It begins with the late eighteenth century philosophies of Jean-Jacque Rousseau, whose romantic conflation of childhood with nature, and the radical separation of both 'pure nature' and 'innocent children' from the evils of 'adult society' has had an enduring influence upon modern western thinking. It then considers the ways in which the nature/culture divide - popularised during the Enlightenment and subsequently reinforced by colonialist discourses of 'savagery' and 'civilisation' - has naturalised the contemporary western construction of childhood as a pre-rational stage of development. Finally, the paper unpacks the notion of 'pure nature' that is embedded within contemporary wilderness discourses, and which easily articulates with the popular imaginary of 'childhood innocence' as an undefiled space. In the place of such pure, essential and sanitised imaginaries of nature and of childhood, this paper promotes an engagement with the messy and imperfect world of socio-nature co-inhabited by real and messy children and adults.

Fieldwork matters: Finding method in the madness

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My doctoral thesis examines how well appropriate knowledge and understanding is being acquired and shared in environmental and natural resource management, both at and between the various bureaucratic levels and geographical scales, largely from the perspective of local community groups. Fieldwork for the thesis was conducted in rural Western Australia and in urban metropolitan Perth. It not only helped shape the geographical methods of enquiry used in collecting and collating data but also through this process enabled the development of a method for monitoring quality learning in the field of environmental and natural resource management. Geographers often describe the nature of their fieldwork in published papers as part of a methodology section; they also often report on the importance of fieldwork and how difficult it can be for those involved physically and mentally. There appear few detailed descriptions, however, on geographical fieldwork as an evolving process. This paper describes how the geographical methods of enquiry used in this thesis evolved sometimes in unexpected ways, to yield some positive practical outcomes. In so doing, the paper again stresses the importance of fieldwork - that it very definitely matters – but hopefully will also encourage especially early career researchers to persevere with their fieldwork in what can seem moments of madness.

Self-assessment and reflective learning for first-year university geography students: A simple guide that matters much?

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In 2003 a self-assessment schedule was developed for first-year geography students at Curtin University of Technology. Its purpose was to guide students towards independent learning by encouraging them to reflect more on 'what' and 'how' they learn. Results of the 2003 and 2004 trials showed that the self-assessment schedule had a positive impact on student learning by helping students to plan and organise their thoughts, and describe the geographical characteristics related to their fieldwork exercise. The results suggested that the level of student interest and desire for learning would be enhanced if the self-assessment schedule were better integrated into the existing introductory geography unit (Geography 111). The self-assessment schedule was subsequently integrated into the Geography 111 program in 2006 and 2007 as part of a Problem Solving Exercise (PSE). Results of these trials indicate that integrating the self-assessment schedule as part of a PSE has merit in terms of enhancing students' positive learning experiences. By assisting first-year university students to engage in reflective learning students begin to appreciate, from the outset, the relevance of acquiring geographical knowledge, understanding and practical skills not only for their advancement in geography but as valuable learning aids in other disciplines.

Regional disparities and policy in the UK

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This paper looks at the evolution of regional disparities and regional policy in the UK. Since 1997 New Labour has pursued a distinctive regional policy, which has generated much academic comment and the attention of international policymakers. To date, existing analyses have tended fall into two categories. On the one hand, there is a literature on the economics of devolution - focusing on actual or potential 'dividends', changes in economic performance and competitiveness and variations in levels and, on the other hand there is a literature about the forms of public expenditure at different government levels - or the politics of devolution - focusing on the emergence of differentiated varieties of devolution, the effectiveness of tailored policy delivery and the impact on institutions, democratic practices and participation. The aim of this paper to attempt a synthesis of these approaches by conceptualising and integrating the economics with the politics of devolution to develop a political economy of regional development in the UK and draw broader lessons from this for regional development policy.

Children's perceptions of bushfire risk: Implications for education

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Inquiries into bushfire disasters repeatedly acknowledge the need to increase levels of community bushfire knowledge and preparedness. Schools have been identified as a valuable resource for pursuing this objective. In order to enhance the effectiveness of school-based bushfire education programs, it is important to first ascertain how children of different ages conceptualise issues associated with bushfire risk and mitigation. These conceptualisations must then be accommodated in the content of risk messages. Additionally, if messages can be disseminated and reinforced through the elements of social context that children spontaneously draw on to construct their perceptions of bushfire risk (e.g. family, school, peers), the effectiveness of education can be further enhanced. The research presented in this paper aims to develop a model of bushfire risk perception that represents the perspectives of children and youth and delineates the role of social context in their construction. To develop this model, a large number of detailed focus groups have been conducted with children, youths and parents in bushfire prone communities across Tasmania and Victoria. Preliminary analyses suggest that in the absence of any formal bushfire education, children construct their own conceptual models of bushfire risk and mitigation. The danger is that within these models there exist a multitude of misconceptions. Unless targeted directly, these misconceptions are resistant to change and will persist into adolescence and possibly adulthood. This has implications for those agencies responsible for bushfire education in schools. If school-based education programs can accommodate children's perspectives and foster the development of more accurate models of bushfire risk, children will be better equipped to cope with the threat of bushfire and better placed to capitalise on their unique position as agents for change in their homes - increasing levels of family knowledge and awareness and, by extension, increasing opportunities for the adoption of preparedness measures.

Cultural scripts as sociocultural mechanisms that influence rural understandings of human-environment interactions

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The concept of ‘cultural script’ from symbolic interactionism has been applied to farming and rural life by Silvasti and by Vanclay et al. Most often used in the context of sexual identity, but also used more generally, scripts refer to shared normative narratives that specify the parameters for action in given social contexts. In terms of understanding farming life and human-environment interactions and relations in rural spaces, this concept augments other explanations of the behaviour of farmers, such as provided by van der Ploeg’s styles of farming. We highlight the existence of various scripts in farming communities and demonstrate how they affect the perceived management options of farmers in particular circumstances.

Gentrification in Western Melbourne

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This paper investigates the impacts of gentrification on the most disadvantaged communities living in Inner Western Melbourne. The paper begins by reviewing some statistics which suggest that the area is rapidly gentrifying and that poorer residents are possibly being displaced. It then presents the results of ongoing interviews with social service providers working in the Inner West of Melbourne about how disadvantaged communities are affected by gentrification (and rising housing costs in general). The hidden costs of trying to 'stay put' and some of the mechanisms that make it difficult for poorer communities to remain in the Inner West are discussed. The paper concludes by discussing some of the difficulties with measuring displacement and of trying to track where disadvantaged people may be moving in response to rapid changes within the housing markets of the Inner West.

‘Gardens growing communities’: Positioning gardeners and gardens in Department of Housing documents

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Gardening – both in community and domestic setting – is increasingly acknowledged as a way that communities can be physically and socially transformed. However, it has also been argued that government sponsored gardening programs are a way of regulating residents to perform active citizenship, an argument increasingly associated with critiques of neoliberal management. The NSW Department of Housing (DoH) has a range of programs to support gardening practices, most notably a biannual gardening competition and a community greening program. This paper will examine different positionings of gardening and gardeners across two DoH produced documents – annual reports and tenant newsletters over time. Annual reports focus on gardening as a participative practice which facilitates community cohesion and development. In contrast, tenant newsletters, a prime means through which DoH communicates with tenants, focuses on individual gardeners, often as active citizens. There are remarkable continuities over time in how both annual reports and news letters position gardens and gardeners as performing civic duty through which they “grow communities”, and participate in neighbourhood. Through exploring the long history of the use of gardening as a management practice I focus on the continuities between neoliberal practices which encourage ‘participation’ and older policy programs which emphasized civic interactions.

Indigenous input into natural and cultural heritage management

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This paper puts a strong emphasis on Indigenous people's need to make their own decisions and maintain control over their lives and the physical landscapes around them. To help explore this issue, case studies of Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park, Minyirr Park (Shire of Broome), Western Australia and an international comparison from Canada (Nunavut Land) were compared, analysed and evaluated. The key issues raised by the evaluation were communication, substantive participation and respect for both non-Indigenous and Indigenous people and their knowledge.

Leading from these key issues, the results of the evaluation indicated that change to Australia's existing legislative and political structure should be implemented. Creating policy that allows for substantive participation by Indigenous people in the decision making processes that surrounds natural and cultural heritage management may result in an increase in Indigenous self-determination. The successful sustainable management of natural and cultural heritage would benefit from an approach that utilised knowledge and expertise from both non-Indigenous and Indigenous people to achieve a balance between natural values, Indigenous significance and value of developed areas.

The City of Grace

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Though some years ago Leonie Sandercock found herself criticised as a utopian or ‘girl from outer space’, the alternative to visioning is the life of ‘quiet desperation’ painted in *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau in 1854. The City of Grace is a critical construct which parodies the best practice, benchmarking and key performance indicators of neoliberal managerialism. Eschewing Edward Banfield’s (1967) *Unheavenly City* and informed jointly by Daly’s (1977) arrangement of disciplines among means and ends and Maslow’s (1954) hierarchy of human needs, it invokes John Friedman’s ‘guiding normative images’ to model what might be optimal states of physical form, political process and welfare determination in 21st century urban settlement.

‘Grace’ connotes an atmosphere or bearing. It suggests a high-level experiential function which, necessarily, will be effectuated through Kevin Lynch’s (1981) *Theory of Good City Form*. More sufficiently, however, the definition presumes a quality which cannot be conferred but must be earned. Given the nature of human affairs, grace remains in short supply, as revealed by a quick tour of potential locations and review of the Gregorian deadly sins. The paper goes on to suggest ways in which grace might be achieved by the few progressive communities prepared to trade certain goods in the quest for self-actualisation.

The use of a mixed-methods approach in understanding the influence of World Heritage zoning on forest cover change

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World Heritage Site (WHS) boundaries are often defined on administrative lines, with boundaries imposed on local communities who have lived in these areas over generations. Newly formed boundaries are often ambiguous where local boundary demarcation has evolved over long time periods. This ambiguity has contributed to differing levels of constraints on access to resources being placed on communities. At the Angkor World Heritage Site, Cambodia, restrictions on forest use have been imposed as a consequence of the inscription of the site on to the World Heritage List in the early 1990s. The result has been reduced access and with it reduced vegetation cover beyond the influence of the local communities.

The purpose of this research is to examine vegetation response to changing use levels enforced through forest management policy across the broader Angkor area. The current research uses a mixed-methods approach; adopting a combination of remote sensing based change detection, spatially referenced field botanical surveys and interviews with local communities and the management authority to examine the influence of World Heritage zoning on forest use and change in forest cover.

Vegetation change was examined using existing knowledge in combination with recent field surveys in a supervised classification of medium resolution multi-spectral ALOS imagery. A series of iterations using field validated data improved the accuracy of the classification. This process assisted in better understanding vegetation change by relating usage levels to different patterns of vegetation change that have occurred both locally and at the landscape scale. To augment this process, three separate qualitative field-based studies were completed to engage representatives from local communities in semi-structured interviews involving twelve villages. This provided an understanding of how restrictions on forest access at the local level has influenced vegetation change. There is growing recognition by APSARA and UNESCO of the need to incorporate the broader cultural landscapes of Angkor, which extend beyond the current WHS boundaries, into management. This highlights the importance of understanding links between differing constraints on the subsistence use of forest resources imposed by heritage listing and observed rates of vegetation change.

Parameterisation of morphometric features from DEMs

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Digital Elevation Models (DEMs) are fundamental datasets for environmental modelling, the first key step of which is to give a quantitative characterisation of DEMs. As different morphometric features e.g. ridge, valley etc. potentially cause different environmental, hydrological and ecological process, the parameterisation of them is of critical significance to quantitatively characterise DEMs.

In this research, a method of parameterise morphometric features from DEMs is developed. The algorithm first approximates a local quadratic surface from the elevations in a local analysis window around the current point by least-square method, and then morphometric classification is conducted based on the mathematical shape of this local quadratic surface and its positional relationship with the analysis window. Memberships to different morphometric features are then calculated based on the geographical distance of the current point to the centre points or axes of a conic section, which is generated by clipping the quadratic surface by x-y plane. Six types of memberships (terrain indices) are calculated in this research including peakness, passness, pitness, ridgeness, valleyness and combined morphometric terrain index (CMTI). These memberships are then combined into multi-scale terrain indices to summarise terrain information across different scales.

Within this algorithm, the following issues are taken into account: (1) classifications of different morphometric features (e.g. peak, pit or ridge) should be simply and clearly defined; (2) the output should be spatially continuous and be able to reflect the fuzzy characteristics of the landform; (3) the output should be easily combined into a multi-scale index across a range of scales; (4) first and second order derivatives should be easy to calculate, so that the general morphometric parameters can be easily quantified using the same system; (5) the algorithm should be applicable to different data structure. An example application is conducted to demonstrate the validity of this method, including a comparison with existing valley and peak features.

Participation of young people in the creative life of cities

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This paper discusses my PhD research on the participation of young people in the creative life of cities. Much academic work has emerged in recent years on the contributions of creative activities (such as music, art, design, film-making and writing) to the social, cultural and economic vitality of cities. The role of children and young adults in this is often ignored, and is assumed to be marginal or somehow 'pre-professional' (in the sense of amateur, hobbyist activities). The implication is that when children or young people are creative, their creativity is more like 'play' than 'real work'. The result is the reinforcing of a specific adult/childhood binary that has been widely critiqued in youth studies, more generally as the source of ideas that young people are somehow 'less capable' than adults. Responding to the current state of creative cities research, this PhD project seeks to challenge these ideas, and explore - through in-depth and participatory methodologies - how young people become creative, and what creativity means to them in their everyday lives in the urban and regional context.

A critical discourse analysis of print media portrayals of Sudanese refugees in Sydney and Melbourne

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Social networks, be they kinship, friendship, or service based networks, each provide unique and highly interconnected mechanisms for the provision of support for any person. However a new arrival to a nation, particularly a refugee, is in need of a highly interactive and dedicated social network to provide the necessary support mechanisms to aid the settlement process. However these networks may be inadvertently altered via outside forces, such as negative portrayal of groups of people in print media. This paper will present findings from one aspect of a broader research project aimed at producing a nuanced picture of the social networks of Sudanese refugees via a relational and a spatial examination of connections both in regional and urban locations in Australia. The paper will report on a critical discourse analysis of mainstream print media articles addressing Sudanese refugees living in Australia. Melbourne and Sydney's mainstream print media have been selected for analysis as they are the two urban sites that will be the focus of the research. National print media sources have also undergone analysis. This paper aims to explore the portrayal of Sudanese refugees in print media reporting and to draw out the potential impacts of this reporting on the formation of refugees' social networks.

Natural resource management is not caring for country

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In this paper I will argue that natural resource management is not caring for country, and that caring for country is not natural resource management. These two approaches have a lot of common ground, as evident in Indigenous peoples' targeted engagement with natural resource management institutions and programs. Our increasingly urgent need to respond to ecological devastation creates more grounds for environmental collaborations between Indigenous peoples and governments. However, fundamentally different conceptual approaches make such collaborations a complex decision-making context for Indigenous people. I will discuss these conceptual issues in relation to the negotiations traditional owners are holding with governments in the Murray Darling basin. I will discuss the complexity of this engagement context, and how it is transforming both caring for country and natural resource management in this time of rapid social and ecological change.

Where is the labour market in regional policy?

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Since Workchoices individualised Australia's labour relations system, the labour market as a collective institution has disappeared from Australia's policy landscape. The rhetoric of prosperity and labour shortages has stifled discussion of the labour market, labour market segmentations and the problems of regional labour market adjustment. Instead of targeting precarious working conditions, poverty and social inequality, the policy and research effort now focuses on producing healthy workers, measuring their happiness and building their social capital. Although new indexes of disadvantage systemically avoid straightforward economic measures, they nevertheless reveal uneven regional effects of twenty years of labour market reform and the increasing marginalisation of particular neighbourhoods. But since the problems of depressed regions are now understood as problems of the disadvantage individuals living in those regions, the neo-liberal policy solution is to encourage inter-regional mobility to push workers to locations with labour shortages or to break up pockets of disadvantage and disperse low income households through the suburbs. This paper uses detailed Centrelink data to shed new light on the distribution of disadvantage in the Western suburbs of Melbourne. It then uses this information to critique the notion that the poor would be better off if they lived in richer suburbs.

Modelling the dynamics of shifting cultivation using an extended Constraint Cellular Automata land use model

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The Constraint Cellular Automata (CCA) land use model has many applications in research and planning. The model was used to simulate land use dynamics of an area where shifting cultivation is substantial but incapable of capturing the proper dynamics particularly of shifting cultivation. The 'short memory' of the model can neither account for the gradual decrease in soil fertility after an area of forest has been cleared for cultivation, nor capture the process of regeneration once the plot is fallowed. Therefore, the model was extended with a component that modifies land suitability as a function of the time since the last land use transition. In the extended model the transition potential of a cell is determined by five factors, which we discuss.

An extended CCA model (the Ruhunupura model) was set up for the Ruhunupura area of Sri Lanka. The Ruhunupura model contains eleven land use classes out of which seven are dynamic and four are static. One dynamic land use class, the Chena, is a particular practice of shifting cultivation, and is a common land use class (15% of the model area in 2001). The Ruhunupura model was calibrated for the period 1985 to 2001 and the results were assessed in terms of location-to-location overlap as well as structural similarity at multiple scales. These results give confidence in the representation of land use dynamics for all the main land use classes except for the class other crops. The class build-up area, which is expected to become more important in future developments, did not expand much over the calibration period and therefore remains untested. A scenario was formulated to examine the model's ability to capture the stylized facts related to chena dynamics, and was transformed into a model simulation from 2001 to 2030. The simulation results show that the model adapts to produce shortening fallow periods and long cultivation periods of chena, as a result of increasing pressure on land. We conclude that the model extension is crucial for a model area which includes shifting cultivation. The extension affects not only the land use class shifting cultivation, but through spatio-temporal interactions that are already present in the original CCA model the whole land use system is better represented.

Vulnerability to bushfires in East Gippsland

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Traditionally, Australian bushfire research has focused on the geophysical dimensions of bushfire hazards and disasters, with little consideration of how cultural, economic, political and social factors shape people's vulnerability to fires. This paper presents findings from an analysis of human vulnerability to bushfires in the Wulgulmerang district of East Gippsland, Victoria. The small communities of this remote and sparsely populated district were devastated by bushfires in 2003, which destroyed homes, agricultural assets and infrastructure, and have adversely affected people's health, livelihoods and social lives in the longer term. The vulnerability analysis undertaken for this PhD research focused on two key questions: (1) How and why were people differentially exposed to hazards during the bushfires? and (2) How and why were people differentially capable of coping with and adapting to the fires' impacts? Qualitative research methods were used to investigate these questions, including semi-structured interviews with residents and landholders of the Wulgulmerang district, representatives of government departments and authorities, and others who participated in responses to the fires. The paper highlights how the pressures and challenges of everyday life in the district – such as drought, declining farm incomes, limited access to basic services, depopulation, political marginality and social disadvantage – increase people's exposure to bushfire hazards and reduce their capacities to cope with and adapt to possible impacts. The paper concludes with a discussion of the prospects for reducing vulnerability and building resilience in the Wulgulmerang district. It is argued that, given the social and economic challenges facing many small, rural Australian communities, and despite the recent policy rhetoric of 'resilience' and 'self-reliance' in emergency and disaster management, it is increasingly important that governments have the knowledge and capacity to support and protect communities that may be unable to protect themselves.

Supplying the ethical latte: A study of the discourses shaping the Fair Trade movement in Australia

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This paper undertakes an analysis of the diverse discourses shaping meaning and practice within the Australian Fair Trade movement through the entry point of the Fair Trade coffee supply chain. The analysis shows that the Fair Trade movement was historically embedded within a capitalocentric discourse that positioned it in opposition to a hegemonic capitalism. However, more recently it has been repositioned by a shift towards the adoption of a discourse of *the diverse economy*. Inspired by Gibson-Graham's (2006) project, this paper undertakes an analysis of the diverse discursive origins of the Fair Trade movement and of the discourses surrounding its practice in Australia. Drawing on multi-method research it identifies three discourses—of *mainstreaming*, *fairness* and *care*—and investigates how particular actors mobilise these discourses in order to promote Fair Trade. The analysis highlights the complexity of the way the identity of the ethical economy is communicated as actors mobilise both capitalocentric and diverse economy allied discourses simultaneously in order to encourage continued participation in the ethical economy. The paper discusses the implications of supplying Fair Trade products in conventional retail spaces for the perceived viability of ethical, caring and just economies.

Are government efforts being allocated to the right areas? Site selection in reducing the skewed sex ratio at birth in Shandong province, China

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The highly skewed sex ratio at birth (SRB) in China has stimulated numerous studies, but the geographic distribution of SRB is seldom investigated. The need to understand spatial association of SRB at the county level arose when the Chinese government initiated the “Care for Girls” campaign in a set of selected counties, referred to as experimental points. We argue that the experimental points should be selected from those areas where counties with high SRB tend to cluster. An analysis using local spatial association statistics identified a spatial cluster of high SRB (hot spot) in the southwest region of Shandong province. A transition probability test indicates that these results are robust with respect to the choice of spatial scale. We recommend that a good configuration of experimental points should focus on this hot spot. Two measurements, aggregated SRB and female difference are used to evaluate the goodness of the original and our hotspot based configurations in comparison with a series of randomly selected configurations using a Monte Carlo simulation test. These results indicate the hot spot configuration has a significance level of 0.01, while in comparison the current configuration is significant at the 0.05 level.