

Welcome to the ISSR Review

We hope you enjoy reading about our researchers' recent achievements – two have published books and another two received ARC College appointments. And two of our research assistants won prizes for their Honours theses.

Work on the environment and policy continued with a water management project releasing important findings. A funding boost was received for our research in criminology, and analyses of the results of the Community Capacity Study continue.

ARC College appointment for ISSR leading social science researchers



Two University of Queensland professors at the Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR) have been awarded with prestigious appointments to the Australian Research Council College (formerly known as College of Experts) – an acknowledgement that they are leaders in their field of research.

Institute Director Professor Mark Western congratulated Professors Janeen Baxter and Brian Head.

"Appointment to the College signals that someone is internationally eminent in their field. It is both an individual achievement and something which the Institute collectively can be proud of," Institute Director Professor Western said.

"Members of the College are appointed by the CEO of the ARC and in addition to having a pivotal role in the assessment and funding of national competitive grants, also provide the ARC with strategic advice on developments in their fields of expertise," he said. [See full story.](#)

UQ study uncovers covert prejudice in the suburbs



Covert prejudice and negative perceptions towards minority groups are a significant problem for Australian communities, according to a new Australian study.

The Australian Community Capacity Study, led by University of Queensland criminologist, Dr Rebecca Wickes, was conducted among almost 10,000 Brisbane and Melbourne residents living across 300 suburbs.

The study results show that residents are more likely to perceive disorder — such as public drinking, loitering and drug use — when they over-estimate the number of ethnic minorities, in particular Muslims, and Indigenous Australians

"The study found perceptions of neighbourhood crime and disorder are heightened when residents distort the number of non-Anglo Saxon living in their suburb," said Dr Wickes of UQ's Institute for Social Science Research. [See full story](#)

ISSR researchers awarded prizes for Honours theses



University of Queensland [Institute for Social Science Research](#) (ISSR), research assistants Renee Zahnow and Andrew Clarke have both won School of Social Science prizes for their Honours theses.

Supervised by Dr Rebecca Wickes, Ms Zahnow, won the John Braithwaite prize in Criminology for her thesis entitled, 'Examining changing neighbourhood contexts and their impact on resident perceptions of disorder'.

Ms Zahnow said a significant finding of her research on Brisbane's urban communities, was that people believed there was more disorder than there actually was, specifically when their neighbourhood had Indigenous residents. [See full story.](#)

ISSR Summer Scholarships open



The Institute is offering 12 [summer research scholarships](#) as part of the UQ Summer Research Scholarship Program for undergraduate students to gain research experience over the summer break.

The scholarship winners have an opportunity to engage in formal research projects, gain valuable academic and professional skills and to develop links with industry and academic contacts.

It's a great way for students who may be interested in a career in research to test drive research before embarking on further research studies or higher degree research projects. [See full story.](#)

UQ start-up launches online collaborative research portal



Academics and student researchers everywhere can benefit from a new web-based application for performing qualitative analyses using [Leximancer](#), a software platform developed by [the Institute for Social Science's Dr Andrew Smith](#) and his team at [The University of Queensland](#).

Leximancer Pty Ltd and [Lexical Edge](#) (a Leximancer North American Partner) have launched [TextInsight.net](#) - a free portal to a unique online community and resources for qualitative data analysis using Leximancer software.

Leximancer Pty Ltd was established in 2006 by UQ's main commercialisation company, [UniQuest](#), to make the groundbreaking text analytics software accessible on a global scale.

"The Leximancer text analytics software has thrived in the academic communities of more than 100 universities internationally, as well as being used extensively in the commercial world and by government agencies," said UniQuest Managing Director, [David Henderson](#). [See full story.](#)

Funding boost to the Institute's research in crime control

The Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security (CEPS) recently awarded a one million funding extension to continue their research in improving policing, national and global security.

Acting ARC CEO Ms Leanne Harvey said the ARC Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security made a vital contribution to addressing a range of important issues from everyday policing to national and global security.

Professor Lorraine Mazerolle is the Leader of the University of Queensland's node of CEPS and foundation Director of CEPS. Based now at the Institute for Social Science Research, Professor Mazerolle was delighted at the announcement.

"The extension funding will provide CEPS with the resources to fully capitalise on producing high quality research output using the massive data holdings collected since the inception of CEPS in 2008," Professor Mazerolle said.

"Our staff members are fully engaged in using these data to build a better understanding of the challenges facing vulnerable communities and the way police can work in partnership with other emergency, government and community service providers to reduce crime and disorder and improve people's quality of life," she said. [See ARC Media Release.](#)

Wider agreement recommended for water resource planning

The Millennium Drought of 2002-2009 made a permanent mark on South East Queensland (SEQ), and there is now far greater recognition of the value of water and the need for effective water resource management.

ISSR program leader, Professor Brian Head, lead the Urban Water Security Research Alliance (UWSRA) project on Institutional Change in the Urban Water system in Southeast Queensland.

The project team, which included CSIRO's Tabatha Wallington and Cathy Robinson, examined how this package of measures was developed, including the inevitable stresses which emerged between the various State and local institutions.

The project focussed on the management of water during this time, Institutional Change for Water Management, has identified the need for bridging or "boundary" organisations to help government and the community be better prepared for future crises.

Professor Head, said boundary organisations which identified potential problems, examined evidence and encouraged wide discussion, were an alternative to the top-down approach to crisis management. [See full story.](#)

Do we no longer care about the collective good?



The Transformation of Solidarity, a book co-edited by University of Queensland sociologist Dr Mara Yerkes, tackles the subject of globalisation of national economies and societies where we put a high value on individual rights and self-expression.

In her Dutch case study, Dr Yerkes finds that people are prepared to help others but prefer welfare policies that have more "strings" of individual accountability attached.

"Does this mean we no longer care for the collective good and aren't prepared to help people out and what does that mean for welfare policies?" Dr Yerkes asks in her book.

The Transformation of Solidarity, jointly edited by Professor Romke van der Veen, Dr Mara Yerkes and Dr Peter Achterberg shows that globalisation and individualisation do not shake the foundation of social solidarity, or the desire for collective caring of others. [See full story.](#)

Geographies of Ageing book published



Geographies of Ageing, a book co-authored by ISSR Research Fellow Dr Amity James and Amanda Davies examines patterns and causes of uneven population ageing.

It identifies countries and localities most likely to experience population ageing. Attention is given to the role that youth migration, labour force migration, retirement migration and ageing in place have in influencing the spatial concentrations of older people.

The book brings together a range of diverse international case studies to illustrate the importance of understanding the causes of population ageing. Case studies include a review of ageing in Florida's (USA) labour force, an investigation into the housing arrangements for the elderly in Northern Ireland and an assessment of the environmental stewardship activities of Grey Nomads on Western Australia's remote north coast. [See full story.](#)