

Welcome to the December issue of ISSR Review

We hope you enjoy this issue of ISSR Review that highlights some of our achievements and events from 2011. We take this opportunity to wish you a safe and happy Christmas.

Wellbeing of Queenslanders



The University of Queensland's premier social science institute – the Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR) released findings of a major 3-year longitudinal study of 4000 Queenslanders on their social wellbeing by region, gender and age at a symposium last week.

Despite the pressure on infrastructure with population growth in Queensland rising from 1.8m in 1970 to 4.6m in 2010 – the findings showed, in 2010, 76% were satisfied with their ability to afford essential items, 65% were satisfied with their health, 59% were satisfied with their savings and other financial assets and 53% were satisfied with their stress levels. [See full story](#)

Just a little respect goes a long way



Criminology researchers at the University of Queensland completed a world-first trial that tested the theory of procedural justice in policing and found that respectful dialogue with citizens during routine encounters makes a big difference to the way citizens think of police.

Funded by the Australian Research Council's (ARC) Centre for Excellence in Policing and Security (CEPS), Criminology Professor Lorraine Mazerolle's team at the Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR) conducted the Queensland Community Engagement Trial (QCET) – a randomized field trial of police-citizen encounters at 60 Random Breath Testing (RBT) operation sites in Brisbane over a period of seven months. [See full story](#)



Using evidence to set the political and social agenda

It's widely accepted that evidence-based research is necessary in medicine and science but the leap to making social policy decisions based on social research has a long way to go in Australia – former senior public servant and University of Queensland researcher Professor Brian Head has set out to change that.

Professor Head, leader of the Policy Analysis program at the Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR), is one of the Chief Investigators on a landmark ARC Linkage grant project, 'The Utilisation of Social Science Research in Policy

Development and Program Review'. [See full story](#)



Innovation Award for homelessness research

Dr Cameron Parsell was awarded the 2011 Institute for Social Science (ISSR) Research and Innovation Award for his research on homelessness.

The Research and Innovation awards for social science research are presented each year in the lead up to The University of Queensland's Research Week by the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences. [See full story](#)



Professor John Western remembered

In September UQ hosted the inaugural public lecture to honour the legacy of the late Emeritus Professor John Western AM – the founding father of sociology at the University. Professor Western arrived at UQ in the early 1960s after obtaining his PhD from Columbia University and was instrumental in building and establishing the new discipline.

Head of the [School of Social Science](#) Professor David Trigger paid tribute to his former colleague and said his work gave UQ sociology the reputation it has today. "His work was empirical, quantitative, collaborative, and team-based. In the early days these were all distinctive characteristics, and still distinguish UQ sociology at a national level," Professor Trigger said. [See full story](#)

UQ to host unique research centre to benefit Queenslanders

UQ will be the headquarters for a new world class research centre that will improve the social and economic wellbeing of Queensland communities. The University will collaborate with the Queensland Government and four other Queensland universities to establish the Queensland Centre for Social Science Innovation (QCSSI).

Funding for this state-of-the-art centre was announced by Premier Anna Bligh last week, with the Government and universities jointly committing \$10 million for the first five years. Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield welcomed the government's recognition of the role of high-quality social science in improving service in areas as fundamental as health and education. [See full story](#)

Double Accolade for ISSR



ISSR Director and sociologist Professor Mark Western has been rewarded for his outstanding research after receiving two prestigious accolades with the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA) and the Australian Research Council (ARC).

Professor Western, a sociologist, was elected as a Fellow of the ASSA while also being appointed as a Research and Evaluation Committee Chair of the ARC's Excellence in Research for Australia Initiative for 2012 (ERA2012).

The ASSA is Australia's premier independent social science academy, and promotes the discipline's research while recognising distinguished careers through the awarding of Fellowships.

[See full story](#)

Changing face of Australian families explored at UQ workshop

Experts from government attended presentations by the nation's leading researchers on families and family policy at a two-day workshop, [Family, Work and Well-being over the Life Course](#), at The University of Queensland, held on October 20–21.

The University of Queensland's Australian Research Council Professorial Fellow Janeen Baxter is a co-convenor and will also present at the workshop hosted by the [Institute of Social Science Research](#) and the [School of Social Science](#). [See full story](#)

UQ book launch hits at the heart of the welfare debate



The heavily debated issue of individual versus collective responsibility in social welfare policy was the theme of a book launch at the UQ Art Museum. The book, *Transforming the Dutch Welfare State* by UQ researcher Dr Mara Yerkes was launched by leading welfare policy expert Professor Sheila Shaver.

Dr Yerkes is a senior research fellow at the University's Institute for Social Science Research. She said the lessons of the social welfare policies in the Netherlands were relevant for policy makers worldwide as each country struggled to spread the welfare dollar as effectively as possible. [See full story](#)