



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA

# RESEARCH & INNOVATION in the Social Sciences

FACULTY OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES  
INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH





**COVER PHOTO:**

***Head dress worn for festivals***

69 x 123cm, Birds of Paradise (Pteridophora alberti, Paradisaea rudolphi, Paradisaea raggiana, Epimachus fastuosus, Paradisaea minor), bark, cane, vine.

Nondugl Western Highlands Province Papua New Guinea.

Collected by Captain Neptune Blood, 1952.

This head dress was specially commissioned for the UQ Anthropology Museum.

Dr Winterbotham, the founding force of the Museum, paid Neptune Blood who procured this head dress for the Museum and whose hobby was orchid hunting, with orchid plants. We don't know how the makers of the head dress were paid.

Neptune Blood wrote:

“as far as money is concerned, the natives are not the slightest bit interested and there is nothing we have which the natives would care to take in exchange.”

*(Blood to Winterbotham*

*22 Jan 1952*

*typescript letter,*

*UQAM archives)*

Maker(s) undocumented 1952.

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# WELCOME

“Our philosophy is that social scientists need to be “do-ers” who respond to the big-picture questions asked of us by governments, industry and the community”



**It is our great pleasure to introduce this Research and Innovation profile, which showcases the depth and breadth of social science research excellence at The University of Queensland (UQ).**

With over 1000 staff, postdoctoral fellows and postgraduate students, the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences (SBS) and the Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR) represent Queensland's premier social science research institutions.

Our philosophy is that social scientists need to be “do-ers” who respond to the big-picture questions asked of us by governments, industry and the community. We seek to answer these questions using cutting-edge scientific methods, but always with an eye to translating knowledge into action. Consistent with this philosophy, social scientists at UQ have been awarded more consultancy, licensing and commercialisation income than any university in the country. With its extensive research infrastructure, disciplinary depth and breadth, methodological rigour, and national and international linkages, UQ is a logical choice for those wishing to examine society's most pressing social problems.

We are fortunate to have exceptional staff who have earned international reputations in their fields, including 17 staff who have had their lifetime achievements recognised as Fellows of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. Many of our staff's stories are profiled within this publication, including that of Professor Lorraine Mazerolle, who is a pioneer and leading advocate of the notion of Third Party Policing. This year Professor Mazerolle was one of only two social scientists to be awarded Australia's most prestigious academic award, the Australian Research Council Laureate Fellowship.

We also acknowledge the efforts of Professor Matt Sanders, the creator of the award-winning Triple P-Positive Parenting Program which has helped more than six million families in 20 countries. In recognition of his transformative research and practice, Professor Sanders has been honoured with a career achievement award from the Australian Psychological Society and by being elected as honorary president of the Canadian Psychological Association.

These two individual success stories headline what is a very broad and vibrant culture of social science research at UQ. Since 2009, staff in SBS and ISSR have led more than 40 grants from the Australian Research Council, and research income overall has more

than doubled compared to 2005. We are home to many multi-million dollar initiatives, including the Centre of Excellence for Behaviour Support (funded by Disability Services Queensland), the Queensland Centre for Mothers and Babies (funded by Queensland Health), and the Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (an AusAID project with a brief to understand and prevent genocide, ethnic cleansing, and other crimes against humanity). We are also key partners in the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security and the Australian Social Science Data Archive.

The stories contained in this profile were chosen because they reflect the ultimate resolution of UQ's mission of learning, discovery, and engagement. We hope you enjoy these windows into the passions and expertise of our staff, and we look forward to the prospect of further engagement in the future. ○

**PICTURED clockwise from top left: Professor David de Vaus, Executive Dean, Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences; Professor Mark Western, Director, Institute for Social Science Research; Associate Professor Matthew Hornsey, Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences; and Professor Paul Boreham, Deputy Director (Research), Institute for Social Science Research**

**peace building,  
safer communities  
and  
reducing crime**

## Supporting the RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

**A \$2 million research fund administered by the Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (APR2P) at The University of Queensland is advancing the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle at the regional, global and civil society levels.**

The 'Responsibility to Protect Fund', financed by the Australian Government, seeks to improve understanding of the conceptual, political and practical challenges associated with R2P.

Endorsed by world leaders at the 2005 World Summit and in 2006 by the UN Security Council, the R2P principle holds that states are responsible for the protection of their own civilians from grave mass crimes such as genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Under the principle, the international community assists states to exercise this responsibility. It is also expected to respond through diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means when a state is manifestly unable to provide protection to its civilians.

The Fund was made available on a competitive basis to Australian and international research institutions and non-governmental organisations, for projects or research that will materially contribute to making R2P a useful framework in dealing with international humanitarian crises and preventing mass atrocities.

Following the internationally competitive process, 14 projects were selected for funding by a selection committee chaired by the UN Secretary General's Special Advisor on R2P, Edward Luck.

APR2P Executive Director, Dr Noel Morada, said the funding, over two years, will be a practical way of supporting the R2P principle as well as establishing a body of evidence-based research on R2P.

"This commitment from the Australian government will support important research work on R2P that will contribute to making it an international norm in preventing and responding to situations that revolve around the four types of mass atrocities," Dr Morada said.

The projects encompass a diverse range of non-government organisations, universities and leading world think tanks, including the Australian Red Cross, Oxfam Australia, The University of Queensland, Griffith University, the University of Sydney, the Brookings Institution in the United States, and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta, Indonesia. ○



**“This commitment from the Australian Government will support important research work on R2P that will contribute to making it an international norm in preventing and responding to situations that revolve around the four types of mass atrocities”**

## World Press FREEDOM DAY creates opportunities for discovery



**The global UNESCO World Press Freedom Day (WPF) event has created many communication opportunities, resulting in the sharing of research knowledge with the international scholarly community.**

UQ's School of Journalism and Communication hosted WPF on the 2nd and 3rd of May 2010, the first time the global event has been held in the Pacific region.

Head of School, Professor Michael Bromley, and Conference Convenor, Associate Professor Martin Hadlow, welcomed more than 350 journalists and media professionals from 40 countries who met to discuss threats to the independence of the media and to celebrate the importance of free and fearless journalism.

"Access to a free press, the rights of journalists to go about their work unhindered and the enjoyment of freedom of expression by the citizenry are all key elements of a democracy," Associate Professor Hadlow said.

Each year, the WPF conference provides an opportunity to defend journalists and media organisations from attacks on their independence; to evaluate the state of press freedom around the world; and to pay tribute to those brave journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.

A major outcome from the hosting of the event has been a proposal to establish a *UNESCO Chair in Freedom of Expression* at the School of Journalism and Communication. The Chair would provide a focal point for future research and scholarly activities in the field. It would be part of UNESCO's global Orbicom network, headquartered at the University of Montreal, and comprising specialist Communications Chairs across the world.

A further outcome has been a WPF-themed edition of the *Pacific Journalism Review* which will feature peer-reviewed research papers, commentaries and articles on regional and global media freedom and Freedom of Information topics.

These topics include: Fiji media and civil society under a military regime; the genesis of the Fiji "coup culture"; media reportage and conflict struggles in Bougainville, East Timor and elsewhere; and media accountability and regulatory models and developments in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific region. The WPF edition is due for release in October 2010.

*The World Press Freedom Day Masterclass on Freedom of Information Laws and Issues* has generated another opportunity for the School of Journalism and Communication, including the development of a document relating to Freedom of Information in the Asia-Pacific region. This will feature contributions from participants of

the Masterclass and the Asia-Pacific Freedom of Information Forum.

The Masterclass Chair, Dr Rhonda Breit from UQ's School of Journalism and Communication, is collaborating with Dr Rick Snell from the University of Tasmania Law School to co-edit this Issues Paper.

Participants from the WPF Masterclass and delegates from the AusAID sponsored Asia-Pacific Freedom of Information Forum have been invited to contribute to the Issues Paper, with publication planned for late 2010.

Work has also begun on a proposed Asia-Pacific and regional Freedom of Information and media freedom research project.

Proposed by Asia-Pacific region WPF delegates, the cooperative research project would be conducted in collaboration with South East Asian partner organisations, including key regional media industry groups and academic institutions.

The proposed research project would map the status of Freedom of Information, creating a database of current Asia-Pacific region Freedom of Information initiatives and advocacy campaigns.

The proposed project would aim to provide baseline information and act as a catalyst for activities such as regional Freedom of Information and press freedom seminars, resource-sharing and information and exchanges. ○

## Criminology researcher wins ARC LAUREATE FELLOWSHIP

### Round two of the Australian Government's Australian Laureate Fellowships scheme has seen a select 15 Australians honoured with the prestigious Australian Research Council (ARC) Laureate Fellowship.

With the fellowships valued at up to \$3.1 million each over five years, positions are highly contested and only outstanding researchers of international repute are awarded the title of Laureate Fellow.

Distinguished University of Queensland researcher, Professor Lorraine Mazerolle, has this year been recognised as a Laureate Fellow for her work in the area of experimental criminology.

Professor Mazerolle has been awarded the funds for her research project *'Multi-Site Trials of Third Party Policing: Building the Scientific Capacity for Experimental Criminology and Evidence-Based Social Policy in Australia'*.

The work into the effectiveness of Third Party Policing is believed to be the first time in the world coordinated trials of a criminal justice intervention will run.

Third Party Policing is the growing shift towards sharing crime control between traditional state agencies and wider society including communities, businesses and other government agencies.

The experiments directed by Professor Mazerolle will be part of an international trial being conducted simultaneously around the world with different populations.

"The significant funding from the ARC Laureate Fellowship will enable Australia to participate in the trial," Professor Mazerolle said.

"Our international research partners will include Cambridge University, Hebrew

University in Israel and George Mason University in the US."

The randomised trials will examine and test the effectiveness of police working in conjunction with local communities, organisations and individuals to use regulations and civil laws to better control crime.

The first of the randomised trials will target truant children in Queensland, and will be conducted in conjunction with Queensland Police, particularly in the Oxley District, the Education Department and Department of Communities.

Each Australian Laureate Fellow leads and mentors a team of postdoctoral and postgraduate researchers, building Australia's next generation of research leaders and increasing its research capacity.

Professor Mazerolle is also the Foundation Director for the ARC Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security

(CEPS), which is located within the Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR) at UQ.

In this role Professor Mazerolle has led several research initiatives, including one that examines public perceptions of police legitimacy.

In 2009 Professor Mazerolle and the research team at ISSR launched QCET, (Queensland Community Engagement Trial) the world's first randomised field trial of police legitimacy.

Trials were carried out in collaboration with the Queensland Police Service at Random Breath Testing sites to test whether what the police said to citizens during an encounter could influence their perceptions of police.

"The Queensland CEPS research is part of a broader program of research to understand more about social ties in communities and the community processes that are important for





“Higher levels of perceived police legitimacy helps police reduce and control crime and disorder”

developing safe, healthy and prosperous communities,” Professor Mazerolle said.

“Overall, when people perceive police as legitimate, there are positive flow-on effects. Higher levels of perceived police legitimacy helps police reduce and control crime and disorder.”

Professor Mazerolle and CEPS have also been involved in the development of the world’s first counter terrorism database.

The Counter-Terrorism-i-Library (CTIL) is designed to assess the effectiveness of counter-terrorism measures used to disrupt terrorist incident patterns, violent activities and terrorist networks in South East Asia.

Professor Mazerolle said CEPS would focus first on understanding the terrorist networks and their patterns in Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines, and then project what interventions are most likely to disrupt these patterns.

“These interventions can be one of a number of things including legislation, multilateral task forces and home grown or off shore government initiatives,” she said.

Professor Mazerolle said the research behind the database was born out of the need to scientifically measure the effectiveness of counter-terrorism strategies.

“Ever since 9/11, billions of taxpayer dollars are being spent on counter-terrorism measures, with little thought given to if they will work. Like any tax-funded issue, especially a security issue, I think the public deserve to see if what they are paying for is working and keeping them safe,” Professor Mazerolle said. ○



## Don't be a FLAMIN' FOOL...

### Graphic television commercials

and newspaper ads have been used to reduce the incidence of young males being burned by throwing petrol on campfires, bonfires and outdoor BBQs.

*Don't be a flamin' fool*, a two-week burns prevention campaign, has been trialled in regional Queensland as part of a study to evaluate the effectiveness of a targeted burn prevention message.

Dr John Harrison and Bruce Redman, from UQ's School of Journalism and Communication, worked with burns surgeon Dr Michael Muller and a team from UQ's School of Medicine's Burns, Trauma and Critical Care Research Centre to develop the campaign.

Supported by an 11-year study of patients admitted to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital with new burn injuries, the development of the campaign included interviews with doctors, burns victims and their families.

“People throw petrol on a fire to get it going, and they get burned. Our TV commercials were designed to show the risks associated with doing this. One of our commercials was so graphic it was restricted to PG viewing times,” Dr Harrison said.

“We now know how little fuel it takes to get a big bang. And big bangs burn people”

Bruce Redman has been working with the Queensland Fire and Rescue Academy at Whyte Island to film fires accelerated by petrol.

“We now know how little fuel it takes to get a big bang. And big bangs burn people,” Bruce Redman said.

This study observed that a media prevention message had a significant impact on burn safety knowledge. In follow-up telephone interviews, 83 per cent of respondents who had seen the “Flamin' Fool” campaign thought it was effective in getting its message across.

The project is funded by a competitive research grant from Queensland Health. ○

## Research to help certainty of forensic science

**Despite cutting-edge identification technology,** crime investigation is still ruled by human-decision making; decision-making that can be affected by distraction, fatigue and bias.

These faults, to which even the most scrupulous professional can fall prey, are a necessary evil as fully automated decision-making in crime investigations is not feasible.

Dr Jason Tangen, from UQ's School of Psychology, is working to increase the accuracy of human forensic identification.

His aim is to increase the integrity of police investigation and minimise errors.

Dr Tangen said the project involves examining the information, methods, and rules-of-thumb that police and intelligence professionals rely upon in making identifications and arriving at their decisions.

"The project will essentially examine the visual noise, similarity and ambiguity that professionals face when deciding whether two pieces of evidence originated from the same source," Dr Tangen said.

With a recent United States report titled 'National Academy of Sciences Report on Forensic Science' highlighting the absence of solid scientific methods and practices in the forensic science domain, the pertinence of Dr Tangen's research is clear.

Queensland Police Service have also identified forensics as an area in need of improvement.

In particular, two areas were said to be demanding attention: tools to help police on the ground solve crimes more quickly and effectively; and research to reduce the uncertainty about the forensic evidence presented in court.

"The development of tools, techniques and training methods to aid professionals in correctly identifying forensic stimuli will assist in safeguarding Queensland – a Queensland Government R&D Priority," Dr Tangen said.

"Our research will improve current crime prevention and detection systems and help protect the Queensland community from criminal threats." ○

## Waging new media war



**Dr Sebastian Kaempf,** from UQ's School of Political Science and International Studies, believes that digital new media technology has altered the nature of war.

According to Dr Kaempf, the emergence of new digital media technology, such as the Internet, has fundamentally transformed the means through which contemporary war is being waged and war's visual representation.

"Contemporary war has a new frontline, one where war is no longer fought physically but virtually, where the actors involved on both sides have increasingly started to replace bombs and bullets with weapons in the form of bites and bandwidths," Dr Kaempf said.

Dr Kaempf's research investigates the changing landscape of war and the ethical implications of these changes. The research focuses on the 'mediatisation' of the American 'War on Terror', the first major conflict waged in today's digital new media age.

"The American 'War on Terror' saw an unprecedented diversification of media platforms, from traditional TV, print media, and radio to jihadist websites, blogs, YouTube videos and interactive social media networks.

"These platforms have been used by the US military as well as Al-Qaeda, and the Taliban and Iraqi insurgents. In addition to that, powerful new virtual actors have emerged, such as Wikileaks (an international organisation that publishes anonymous submissions and leaks of otherwise unavailable documents while preserving the anonymity of sources). So, what we're currently witnessing is the empowerment of individuals to become media producers who – through their global reach – have significantly challenged the previous monopoly of powerful states such

as the US to control the media representation of their wars," Dr Kaempf said.

The research critically examines US media practices in Afghanistan and Iraq; the use of digital media by US adversaries in Iraq and Afghanistan; the difference in the coverage of these conflicts between CNN and Al Jazeera; and new forms of political resistance via digital new media platforms.

This research is currently conducted in two ways. Firstly, and very conventionally, by reading and writing about these themes. And secondly, together with a Canadian film maker and media studies expert, Professor Peter Mantello (Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Japan), Dr Kaempf has started making a film documentary. The researchers have interviewed various journalists who were embedded in Iraq and Afghanistan, policy makers in Washington, artists, bloggers, critical thinkers and academics.

"While this project is just at the beginning, it represents an effort to find new academic forms of reaching out to a wider public audience than remaining confined to journal articles which on average are read by three to four people," Dr Kaempf said.

Dr Kaempf has been invited to speak about this topic at various conferences, including the Global Media Forum in Bonn, Germany; University of Wales, Aberystwyth; Japan; Brown University, US.

Dr Kaempf, along with Professor Roland Bleiker from the School of Political Science and International Studies, Associate Professor Eric Louw from the School of Journalism and Communication, Dr Andrew Phillips from ANU, and Professor James Der Derian from Brown University, is currently seeking funding from the next round of Australian Research Council Discovery Grants. ○

**social inclusion**  
and  
**reducing**  
**disadvantage**

“There are many areas to tackle, and Indigenous over-representation in custody is one of them”



## Research to foster UNDERSTANDING OF INDIGENOUS ISSUES in the legal system

**Researchers at The University of Queensland are investigating how the Australian Legal system is seen through the eyes of the world's oldest continuous culture.**

Professor David Trigger, from UQ's School of Social Science, has brought together speakers with extensive knowledge and experience of Indigenous issues in Queensland to help better understand the relationship between cultural rights and human individual rights.

A workshop for judicial officers, held at UQ, focused on the issues surrounding Indigenous Australians and the justice system, and involved collaboration with the Director of UQ's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit, Michael Williams.

Professor Trigger said the workshop aimed to share knowledge of Indigenous culture, and how Indigenous people experienced the judicial system.

"Traditional law and custom across Aboriginal Australia have been changing over time, and it is important for judicial officers to understand these issues in

the lives of people in court," Professor Trigger said.

"Working out the relationship between cultural rights and human individual rights is a complex matter, and the workshop included consideration of this issue."

Participants heard presentations from, and spoke with, presenters and visitors from a number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to gain an understanding of how Indigenous people view the legal system.

Sessions were held to highlight the importance of the Murri Court, where Aboriginal Elders participated in the Magistrates Court, work by community justice groups and community based groups such as the Oxfam Gulf Region Health Service, and the need for interpreters for traditional Indigenous languages.

The Honourable Justice Roslyn Atkinson was also instrumental in organising the workshop and labelled the initiative an overall success.

"Nobody at the workshop needs to be told of the importance of mutual understanding between judicial officers and the Indigenous community," The Honourable Justice Atkinson said.

"There are many areas to tackle, and Indigenous over-representation in custody is one of them. There is an obvious need for diversion programs, bail programs, youth justice programs, an understanding of Indigenous customs, language and norms in court, more effective community corrections and also health and education measures.

"As judicial officers, we must understand and share the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for a fair justice system which recognises and respects each of them. It is only through such mutual respect that we will all be able to truly say that we have a justice system that belongs to all of us," she said.

The workshop helped reinforce The University of Queensland's policy of Education Principles on Indigenous Australian Matters.

With more than 30 years of anthropological study on Indigenous systems of land tenure, Professor Trigger's research is also centred on broader understandings of land and nature, and the relationship between place and cultural identity. ○

**PICTURED: The Honourable Justice Roslyn Atkinson (left), conference conveners Professor David Trigger and Michael Williams**

## Career trajectories OF OLDER WOMEN

**Dr Mary McMahon**, from UQ's School of Education, is collaborating on an international study that is investigating the career trajectories of older women aged 45 to 65.

Dr McMahon is working with Professor Jenny Bimrose from the Institute for Employment Research at the University of Warwick England and Professor Mark Watson from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University South Africa on the international study.

The research involved interviews with participants recording their stories and experiences of career development since school leaving age.

"The aim of the research is to explore the nature of learning and work transitions experienced by older women, and to examine the support and strategies used to adapt to such transitions," Dr McMahon said.

Building on Dr McMahon's earlier work in Australia on career development stories of older women, the study also incorporates previous work done by Professor Bimrose on women and the role of careers guidance and Professor Watson's shared work with Dr McMahon.

The three colleagues realised that their research was transferable to other countries, and have combined forces to work on the international, multidisciplinary project.

Originally encompassing three countries, the project has now grown to include Italy and Germany, and possibly a sixth country in the near future.

"The results will help to inform policy makers and career practitioners about the nature of services that could benefit women," Dr McMahon said.

The study is expected to inform career guidance and counselling practices in the participating countries, and developments made can act as a model for other countries to incorporate.

"Despite equal opportunity legislation, women remain disadvantaged in the workforce. Greater understanding about how they may be supported in their careers may benefit them individually and the society as a whole," Dr McMahon said.

Dr McMahon and her colleagues have presented their preliminary findings at conferences in New Zealand, England, Italy and Australia. From here, the research has the potential to expand into a larger international study. ○



**“Despite equal opportunity legislation, women remain disadvantaged in the workforce”**

## Social Wellbeing in Queensland

### The importance of identifying

concepts and measures of inequality and social wellbeing, that are relevant to currently prevailing economic and social conditions, has recently been emphasised by Australian and international researchers.

In response to this, a number of international government agencies, including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Commission, the World Bank and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, have been seeking to develop standards for using various non-monetary indicators of human and societal development.

Researchers from UQ's Institute for Social Science Research are undertaking a major project that will make a significant contribution to this agenda.

The researchers have proposed an integrated set of measures of inequality and wellbeing that reflect the multi-dimensional nature of these concepts. The research is based on the analysis of three major social surveys undertaken in 2008, 2009 and 2010 involving more than 3,000 individuals in households across Queensland.

The project is led by Professor Paul Boreham together with Professor Mark Western, Associate Professor Warren Laffan and Associate Professor Geoff Dow.

"Understanding new forms of inequality is critical to developing the evidence-base to address inequality, social exclusion and consequent threats to Australia's economic and social fabric," Professor Boreham said.

"We are proposing new measures that enable researchers and policy makers to assess the impact of economic and social policies," he said.

The outcomes of the research, funded by the Australian Research Council and supported by the Queensland Public Sector Union, is to provide a rigorous evidence-base on which to inform policies critical to the quality of life in Australia's urban and regional communities.

## Battling HOMELESSNESS and its causes

“Homelessness is one of those issues that is symbolic of how a country treats marginalised people”

**Professor Andrew Jones, from UQ's Institute for Social Science Research, wants Australia to be an international exemplar in its approach to the issue of homelessness.**

“Homelessness is one of those issues that is symbolic of how a country treats marginalised people,” Professor Jones said.

“This is an area where research has an important role to play in making a difference in people's lives.”

With a recent grant of \$4 million by the Australian Government's Department of

Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Professor Jones and other researchers have an opportunity to make a significant contribution.

The University of Queensland will receive \$1.33 million of the funds, which are shared in a research partnership with Swinburne University of Technology's Institute for Social Research and Flinders University's research commercialisation body Flinders Partners.

The grant is part of the Federal Government's National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness that aims to halve homelessness and offer accommodation to all rough sleepers who seek it by 2020.

“Some of the areas we will cover in our research at UQ are Indigenous homelessness, housing for older homeless people, people sleeping rough and analysis of the homelessness workforce,” Professor Jones said.

“We hope to build an evidence-base to understand what works in helping the homeless and what it means to be homeless.”

The funds will be used for homelessness research projects within UQ's Institute for Social Science Research between now and 2013.

Professor Jones said the funding presented a real opportunity to provide evidence-based recommendations to help shape government policy.

“What we hope to do is find ways of preventing homelessness and assisting people who have experienced homelessness to re-engage with mainstream society,” Professor Jones said. ○



## Alternative Learning Centres teach mainstream schools a lesson

**For students who are** balancing parental or employment obligations, those returning to study after a long absence, or individuals who simply perform better in a more personalised learning environment, flexible learning centres present an alternative route to high school qualifications.

Professor Martin Mills, from UQ's School of Education, in collaboration with Dr Glenda McGregor from Griffith University, is investigating the factors making alternative learning centres a success, and how these factors can be applied to mainstream schools.

Their report, *Re-engaging students in education: Success factors in alternative schools*, is an initiative of the Youth Affairs Network Queensland (YANQ), the peak body for youth organisations in Queensland.

"The central aim of the research was to examine how alternative learning centres meet the educational, social and emotional needs of students," Professor Mills said.

The report is in response to the identification by YANQ of inconsistencies in support for youth that have become disengaged from education, and a lack of research into the effectiveness of alternative schooling.

With current statistics\* placing the Year 12 attainment rate in Australia at 74%, the research is significant in respect of its implications for improving student retention rates and the wider social and

economic impact of increasing the amount of people with Year 12 qualifications.

"The report highlights the importance of alternative learning institutions, not as behaviour management centres, but as a viable alternative to mainstream education," Professor Mills said.

"They play a critical role in catering to the educational needs of disengaged young people."

The research study involved interviews with community workers and the staff and students of five alternative learning centres in Queensland.

Students described the learning environment in the centres as supportive, positive and non-judgemental; recognising the different needs of students and the competing pressures on their lives.

"Alternative practises of flexible learning centres should be supported as models of effective teaching and used to inform practices within mainstream schools," Professor Mills said.

Smaller class sizes, self-paced study and a teaching style that is conversational and has an increased focus on the individual were identified as the main factors facilitating learning and success within the centres.

Professor Mills presented his findings with his co-researcher Dr Glenda McGregor as part of the North East Youth Organisations Network's Discussion forum in February 2010. ○

\*Australian Government Fact Sheet, 2009.

## Combating the under-representation of women in science

**Practising Gender Equality in Science (PRAGES)** was initiated in 2008 under the European Commission Seventh Framework Programme, to seek a deeper understanding of the effectiveness of programs and initiatives designed to promote greater gender equality in Science and Technology.

Professor Gillian Whitehouse, from UQ's School of Political Science and International Studies, led the Australian team of contributors to this worldwide project.

The project established a 'good practices' database, accompanied by a set of guidelines to inform policy makers and researchers, with the aim of overcoming the under-representation of women in leadership positions in Science and Technology.

Researchers from 20 countries collected information through a survey of 'positive actions'.

The Australian team collected and interpreted data from organisations, including universities, professional associations, government bodies and private enterprise, which have initiatives in place to increase the number and profile of women in scientific research careers.

"The Australian team made a significant contribution to the project, contributing 23 of the 109



initiatives drawn from the participating countries," Professor Whitehouse said.

"The research is an important and original contribution to debates about women's under-representation in leadership in these fields, which often focus more on the reasons why women choose alternative careers rather than documenting and evaluating interventions."

PRAGES was coordinated by the Department for Rights and Equal Opportunities, Presidency of the Council of Ministries (Italy) and the Assembly of Women for Development and the Struggle against Social Exclusion (ASDO, Italy).

Partners contributing to the project came from universities and research organisations in Australia, Denmark, Hungary, Italy, the UK and the United States. ○

## Dr Noritta Morseu-Diop, PhD

School of Social Work and  
Human Services

“The research aims to help the creation of a more humane and culturally appropriate approach to the Queensland legal, criminal justice and correctional systems”



### Up to 60% of young people in Brisbane's Youth Detention Centres are Indigenous and most, if not all, of these children will have a parent, grandparent, sibling, cousin, aunt or uncle in the adult prisons.

Statistics like these, in addition to the numerous custodial deaths of incarcerated Indigenous persons, has caused alarm bells to ring for Indigenous communities.

Dr Noritta Morseu-Diop, in UQ's School of Social Work and Human Services, investigated culturally appropriate ways in which to address the gross over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in the Australian criminal justice system. Her PhD thesis, awarded in July 2010, is titled *Healing in Justice: An International Study of Indigenous Peoples' Custodial Experiences of Prison Rehabilitation Programs and the Impact on their Journey from Prison to Community*.

“The findings of my research highlighted some of the key issues within the Indigenous Community in terms of bringing a more healing-in-justice approach to the criminal justice and

prison system when dealing with Indigenous peoples in custody,” Dr Morseu-Diop said.

“The research aims to help the creation of a more humane and culturally appropriate approach to the Queensland legal, criminal justice and correctional systems and advocates for the human rights, humane treatment and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in prison and in the community.”

The international study focused on the experiences of ex-incarcerated Indigenous people in Queensland and New Zealand, looking at their perspectives on the effectiveness of prison rehabilitation programs.

The study investigated the effectiveness of prison programs facilitated by Indigenous program providers in correctional facilities and examined their success in terms of the successful rehabilitation, restoration and reintegration of incarcerated Indigenous people.

Extensive experience in the social work field, particularly with grassroots Indigenous communities in Brisbane and Indigenous clients in prison, fostered Dr Morseu-Diop's desire to improve

Indigenous experiences within the criminal justice system.

“It concerned me deeply that an incarcerated Indigenous mother I visited in a women's correctional centre asked me to check on the welfare of her six children who were also in prison. The fact that seven members of the same family were incarcerated was, and is, very alarming and needed to be addressed,” she said.

Dr Morseu-Diop is an Indigenous Australian originally from Tamwoy Town, Thursday Island in the Torres Strait archipelago, Far North Queensland and is the first Torres Strait Islander PhD graduate from UQ.

She graduated from the then School of Social Work and Social Policy in 1992, and has worked as a Social Worker in areas including community development, cross-cultural education, welfare education and training, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, Indigenous mental health, Indigenous health and welfare, social and criminal justice and the prison system.

“It is envisaged that the outcome of this research will assist in giving a voice to the silent and forgotten people, the thousands of incarcerated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, men and children,” Dr Morseu-Diop said. ○



## COMMERCIALISING RESEARCH

to make the world a better place



**As Manager of Innovation and Commercial Development I see many examples within the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences (SBS) and the Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR) of how researchers ‘commercialise’ their expertise and research.**

Government and Industry have recognised that social sciences research is increasingly important. While there hasn't been an avalanche of funding, the signs are good.

The ISSR has continued to grow; the Queensland Government is considering a proposal it requested for a Queensland Centre for Social Science Innovation; and SBS and the ISSR have been active participants in two Cooperative Research Centre proposals.

While getting the big, attention-grabbing research initiatives is rewarding and satisfying, commercialisation is often about much smaller things that make the world a better place.

One project that comes to mind is a local non-government organisation (NGO) who, for a number of years, has been working with members of a local community in Brisbane to provide a comprehensive program aimed at helping refugees settle into Australian life.

The NGO developed its program in conjunction with a local inner-city primary school that had a high proportion of children from refugee families. The program initially dealt with nutrition and diet but soon expanded to cover literacy

and other aspects of adjusting to life in Australia. After a time, the program was relocated to a community centre in the outer suburbs as families were forced to relocate due to rising rents in the inner-city.

The NGO was at risk of losing the Commonwealth Government funding which had been provided for the program. It wanted to partner with a university to see if it could provide evidence of the program's effectiveness, and learn what worked and didn't work.

After putting out the call, four researchers spread across three schools said they were willing to explore the potential of the program from a range of disciplinary and theoretical perspectives.

The refugees program didn't receive continued funding leaving the NGO shattered.

Our meeting to discuss research into the program turned into a discussion about how we could support an application for funding that would include a rigorous evaluation component. We left the meeting with some hope that working together we could resurrect the program and ensure there was a program of research that would produce data that would both aid development of the program, and inform government on major issues affecting the integration of refugees into the Australian community.

It is examples such as this that remind me that it's a privilege to work with researchers who, beyond doing what is necessary to advance their academic careers, really want to make a difference.

I am very optimistic that there is a seat at the table of 'big science' for social sciences research. ○

**Joe McLean,  
Manager of Innovation and  
Commercial Development**

**“While getting the big, attention-grabbing research initiatives is rewarding and satisfying, commercialisation is often about much smaller things that make the world a better place”**

# ENCOURAGING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXCELLENCE

**The Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences and the Institute for Social Science Research are committed to encouraging innovation and creativity in our early career researchers to help them achieve success.**

**Our Research and Innovation Awards recognise those members of staff who have made an outstanding contribution to our research and innovation activities.**

## 2010 WINNER: RESEARCH AWARD

### Dr Paul E. Dux

Dr Paul E. Dux, a cognitive neuroscientist from UQ's School of Psychology, along with researchers from the United States, have pinpointed the region of the brain that limits our capacity to carry out more than one task at the same time.

Using a combination of functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and psychophysics, Dr Dux and his colleagues found that when people were juggling two tasks (multitasking) their brain appeared to deal with the tasks one-by-one – reflecting a bottleneck in information processing.

“Our brain is terrible at multitasking. Even performing simple tasks, that rely on different sensory and motor systems, can be problematic – as soon as the decision process for either task overlaps

in time, we can't do them both without performance suffering,” Dr Dux said.

Dr Dux and his colleagues have found that, with training, our brain's processing capabilities can be enhanced.

With training the processing time becomes shorter, markedly increasing our processing efficiency. Unfortunately, benefits of training might not apply to tasks other than those specifically practiced.

“It's not like you become able to multitask through practice, it's just that you become able to do each task very quickly, thus they overlap in time less,” said Dr Dux. “The jury is still very much out regarding whether or not one can become generally a good ‘multitasker’, independent of the task, with training.”

Dr Dux's research is significant for understanding performance limits in the real world and also in clinical settings, as many mental disorders are characterised by impairments in attention and multitasking.



## 2010 WINNER: RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AWARD

### Dr Katie Makar

Dr Katie Makar is well-respected nationally and internationally for her contributions to the field of maths education.

With a focus on inquiry-based teaching and learning in mathematics and statistics, Dr Makar's innovative research project is responding to a need to provide practical classroom guidance for teachers undertaking inquiry-based teaching practices.

The project has developed a new model for understanding the process of

teachers' learning to teach open-ended inquiry in mathematics and statistics.

“In an inquiry-based learning environment, teachers are seen as facilitators of learning rather than vessels of knowledge,” Dr Makar said.

“In order to create learning experiences for their students which foster persistence, flexibility and insightful mathematical thinking, they must develop this capability themselves as educators.”

Dr Makar and teachers taking part in her research co-authored three evidence-based books on teaching mathematical inquiry. The uniqueness of the books is their use of authentic ill-structured problems integrating deep mathematical



Dr Dux's research has appeared regularly in prestigious psychology and neuroscience journals, and the Australian Psychological Society recognised him for this in 2009 by awarding him their Early Career Research Award. ○

concepts with higher order thinking in new and engaging ways.

"My co-authors Sue Allmond and Jill Wells, and I, are really excited about these books, designed to help teachers get started and persist with learning to teach mathematics using authentic problems.

"These books are not about 'feel good' mathematics – they are about getting beyond calculations to extend mathematical concepts with depth and integrity," Dr Makar said.

Dr Makar's research has been presented across five continents and she recently received an Early Career Research Award for outstanding research from the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia. ○



## 2009 WINNERS: RESEARCH AWARD

### **Dr Belinda Hewitt** **Institute for Social Science Research**

Dr Belinda Hewitt is an Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Institute and has developed an innovative research program on the causes and consequences of life course transitions. Dr Hewitt's research has seen her develop a strong profile as a family researcher within Australia and internationally, and as one of a few social scientists in Australia who utilises the strengths of longitudinal and life course data.

### **Dr Mark Nielsen** **School of Psychology**

Dr Mark Nielsen's work focuses on the transmission of human culture, more specifically, how young children acquire cultural knowledge by imitating actions of adults. Dr Nielsen's research examines what makes us human. He has gained interest from the scientific world and from the wider community, who continue to see his career travel in a strong upward trajectory. Dr Nielsen is recognised as a world leader and a pioneer in this fascinating area whose research has the potential to radically alter our understanding of normal child development and of learning in childhood.

## 2009 WINNERS: INNOVATION AWARD

### **Dr Vanessa Cobham** **School of Psychology**

Dr Vanessa Cobham's research has led to innovative work in the area of post-traumatic stress in young people through working with children after natural disasters, such as Cyclone Larry, the Gap Storms and more recently the Victorian Bushfires. The research project formed part of a project with Queensland Health and the Australian Centre for Post-traumatic Mental Health. Dr Cobham's landmark research into anxiety and post-traumatic stress is currently being developed into a Triple P-Positive Parenting Program which will assist families with children aged 7-14 who are experiencing anxiety.

### **Dr David Geelan** **School of Education**

Dr David Geelan is a leader in the area of science education research, with a particular focus on how teachers explain concepts and use visual communications. Dr Geelan's dedication to science education of Year 8-10 students has been applied in co-authoring (with Greg Rickard) a series of books called Science Ways. The textbooks provide visually compelling explanations of scientific concepts that effectively link text with illustrations.

*“While we produce speech fluently in the course of everyday conversation, we understand very little about the mental processes involved in this ability”*



## Why successful speech is ALL IN THE TIMING

### **An innovative, Australian first project conducted at The University of Queensland will provide new insights into language disorders.**

Dr Greig de Zubicaray, from the School of Psychology, will use an \$80,000 UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award to study the mental processes and brain mechanisms underlying why we are able to produce language fluently, and why in the case of aphasia, we cannot.

“While we produce speech fluently in the course of everyday conversation, we understand very little about the mental processes involved in this ability and how they are represented in the brain,” Dr de Zubicaray said.

“The primary aim of the project is to investigate the timing and localisation of brain activity associated with different stages of information processing during speech production.”

This cutting-edge, multimodal research will examine the precise moment-to-

moment changes in brain activity during language production.

It combines the use of electroencephalography, or EEG, to provide information about the timing of the different processes contributing to speech production and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to provide information about the brain structures responsible for these processes.

The project is only possible in a small number of labs worldwide and is enabled by new equipment at the School of Psychology acquired as part of a UQ Major Equipment and Infrastructure grant.

“The significance of the research project lies in its capacity to enhance our understanding of the cognitive and brain mechanism responsible for a fundamentally human ability – speech.

“Speech production is usually thought of as involving several different processing stages. However, the precise timing of these stages and the brain structures involved in them need further investigation. To do this, we need to combine information from EEG and MRI

studies. This project should be able to tell us more about the when and where of speech,” Dr de Zubicaray said.

Dr de Zubicaray’s research will expand Australia’s capability in the cognitive neuroscience of language and provide new data to inform future clinical research and ultimately the treatment of language disorders.

Dr de Zubicaray is recognised internationally for his work on the brain basis for higher cognitive functions, with particular emphasis on language and on the representation of meaning. He has also been a pioneer within Australia in the application of functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) of cognitive brain function, in health and disease, and is a key player in the development of cognitive neuroscience as an area of emerging research strength at UQ. In addition to receiving an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship, he has received research funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council, the National Institute of Health (USA) and Pfizer. ○

**health**  
and  
**ageing**



## MOU to help advance education and research into dementia

**New opportunities for the next generation** of researchers and clinicians focused on the issues of ageing and dementia has been secured, thanks to a formal collaboration between UQ and Alzheimer's Australia (Qld).

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organisations will see collaboration on a range of initiatives including joint research and consultancy projects, the development of student internships and placements, co-hosting of workshops and seminars in promoting work with persons with dementia and their carers, and opportunities for Research Higher Degree students.

Associate Professor Pachana, from UQ's School of Psychology, said the MOU will formalise a strong partnership that has existed with the Queensland body

for the past five years, offering new opportunities for students and young investigators.

"Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) has been very supportive of research opportunities with researchers at the University, facilitating access to potential participants and advising on research initiatives. Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) and the Queenslanders they speak for have been important stakeholders in our research. We've also been supportive of their own research efforts and acted in a consulting role in their projects," Associate Professor Pachana said.

"We're looking forward to expanding our current relationship and creating new opportunities such as summer scholarship projects. We have already started student placements in clinical

psychology and hope to expand these to other disciplines. Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) represents an untapped resource for a wide range of students across our Faculties and Institutes. This will encourage and support the next generation of researchers and clinicians to consider a focus on ageing and dementia as exciting career choices."

The partnership between UQ and Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) will have several positive impacts. The peak body will benefit from improved access to UQ resources such as the Cybrary, as well as a closer relationship with UQ researchers and the UQ Ageing Mind Initiative.

Associate Professor Pachana believes young investigators at UQ in particular will benefit from the chance to pursue research involving dementia patients and their carers. ○

## Social work first for Australia

**An initiative from UQ's School of Social Work and Human Services** will support research students from around the country undertaking study in the area of social work and mental health.

The small-scale conference, Building Research Capacity: Social Work and Mental Health, was designed to provide an opportunity for PhD students to present their research and receive extensive feedback from researchers and fellow students.

Supported by Queensland Health and the School of Social Work and Human Services the conference welcomed 20 PhD Scholars and ten leading social work researchers from around Australia as well as visiting academics from the University of Wales, Professor Peter Huxley and Dr Sherrill Evans.

Conference Convenor Professor Robert Bland said the conference was a first for Australia and demonstrated the high level of commitment The University of Queensland has to supporting mental health research.

"The focus was on student presentation and discussion as a vehicle for developing high-quality research projects, and a wide diversity of topics were covered, including depression among rural women, supporting mentally ill offenders on release from prison, and teaching clinical skills to Social Workers," Professor Bland said.

Each student had a 40 minute time slot, with time for a formal presentation and detailed feedback and questions.

Visiting academic Professor Huxley praised the quality of student presentations as reflecting the vigor of Australian social work in mental health.



Professor Robert Bland is the UQ and Queensland Health Joint Chair in Mental Health and is the foremost social work authority on mental health in Australia. He is well known throughout the country as a pioneer and leader in the mental health field.

## Risk-taking RESEARCH



### The presence of a beautiful woman can lead men to throw caution to the wind, according to research conducted at The University of Queensland.

Richard Ronay, a former doctoral student from UQ's School of Psychology, examined the links between physical risk-taking in young men and the presence of attractive women.

Working with Professor Bill von Hippel, Head of UQ's School of Psychology, Dr Ronay conducted field experiments with young male skateboarders and found the skateboarders took more risks at the skate park when they were observed by an attractive female experimenter than when they were observed by a male experimenter.

Dr Ronay said during his undergraduate degree he became fascinated with the creative approaches to science that experimental psychology allowed.

"I became interested in the social and biological factors that influence decision making and risk-taking in particular," Dr Ronay said.

"Young men are a particularly risky demographic and I wanted to explore the reasons why this is the case and also why some young men push their luck too far, while others seem to know when enough is enough. This provided a foundation for my research."

This risk-taking research was recently featured on the ABC TV program *Catalyst* and in the academic journal *Social Psychological and Personality Science*.

Across these risk-taking studies Dr Ronay found that individual differences in testosterone influence how people are affected by competitive cues, and that competitive cues in turn affect fluctuations in levels of testosterone and subsequent risk-taking.

"Our results suggest that displays of physical risk-taking might best be understood as hormonally fuelled advertisements of health and vigour aimed at potential mates, and signals of strength, fitness, and daring intended to intimidate potential rivals," Professor von Hippel said.

Dr Ronay has completed his PhD at UQ and is undertaking a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at Columbia University, Graduate School of Business.

"While I am interested in continuing much of this ongoing research, there are a number of other avenues I would like to investigate in my post-PhD years. Each of these research domains is concerned with my central interest in how our contexts, be they extrinsic social contexts or intrinsic biological factors, help to shape our decisions," Dr Ronay said. ○

“Young men are a particularly risky demographic and I wanted to explore the reasons why this is the case”

### Just a minute...

As a PhD candidate in UQ's School of Psychology Dr Richard Ronay was the 2009 winner of the second annual UQ *Three Minute Thesis (3MT)* competition.

The 3MT competition gives Research Higher Degree (PhD and MPhil) students three minutes to present a compelling oration on their thesis topic and its significance in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience.

## UQ innovation provides BETTER HEALTHCARE for older people

### An assessment instrument developed at UQ has gained exposure on a global scale with the Visiting Nursing Service of New York conducting a trial with older people it provides care to in the Greater New York area.

The Geriatric Anxiety Inventory (GAI), used for assessing older people for anxiety, has been developed by UQ Associate Professors Nancy Pachana from the School of Psychology and Gerard Byrne from the School of Medicine.

Associate Professor Nancy Pachana said she was delighted to see use of the GAI being promoted to support better care of older people.

Translated into 13 languages and used in at least 20 countries across the world, the GAI was recently used by a major pharmaceutical company in a large international clinical trial.

The GAI was also recommended in a new clinical practice guideline published

by the US Government's National Guideline Clearinghouse, that any person over the age of 60 who exhibits a range of common difficulties experienced by older people should be evaluated for anxiety.

The GAI was the first of five instruments for anxiety screening recommended.

The GAI is a 20 item questionnaire health practitioners administer to older patients as an initial diagnostic tool to indicate anxiety levels.

Topics covered include feelings of fearfulness, worry, physical symptoms of anxiety (a nervous stomach, for example), and concerns about the impacts of worry and anxiety.

A five item version of the scale has recently been published in *International Psychogeriatrics* for use in epidemiological studies as well as in situations where rapid screening is required.

"The more we can do to ensure people are being correctly diagnosed and treated the better," Associate Professor Pachana said.

"The exciting thing for Gerard and I is seeing the instrument we developed through our research being used to improve clinical care of older people."

The GAI is available from [www.gai.net.au](http://www.gai.net.au).

The Visiting Nursing Service of New York was established in 1893 and makes two million home care visits annually to more than 130,000 people. ○

“The more we can do to ensure people are being correctly diagnosed and treated the better”





**families**  
and  
**parenting**



# TRIPLE THE PREPARATION

## for expectant parents

**Expectant couples have the chance to be among the first in the world to join a new program helping first-time mums and dads cope with the first 12 months of their baby's life.**

Baby Triple P, which is based on The University of Queensland's acclaimed Triple P-Positive Parenting Program, is being offered free of charge to expectant parents in Brisbane, Ipswich and Scotland this year as part of a coordinated international research project between UQ and the Glasgow Caledonian University.

Triple P's founder, Professor Matt Sanders, said local parents' assessment of the new program would inform future development of Baby Triple P, which aims to prepare couples for the physical and emotional challenges of life with a baby.

"Most first-time parents focus on getting as much information as possible about pregnancy and labour, going to pre-natal classes and workshops," said Professor Sanders.

"But there is very little available that prepares parents for that moment when they come home from the hospital and they're alone with their baby for the first time. Parents may have learnt how to

feed, bathe and change their baby, but little else.

"Baby Triple P will give parents the knowledge and confidence to manage other, often very challenging, situations such as settling a crying baby, helping a baby sleep and understanding what the baby needs."

Baby Triple P, created by Ms Carmen Spry and Dr Alina Morawska, builds on the distinguished Triple P-Positive Parenting Program which provides parents with simple strategies for solving children's behaviour problems.

Triple P was developed by Professor Sanders in 1992 at UQ's Parenting and Family Support Centre following decades of comprehensive research.

The program and its founder have experienced international success, helping more than six million families in 20 countries and translated into 18 languages.

Last year Professor Sanders contributed to a report compiled by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), reviewing international parenting program research in consultation with world health, social policy and family psychology professionals and researchers.

The UNODC report is designed as

a guide for countries or authorities launching parenting programs.

"It is the evidence-base of Triple P and the practical experience in tailoring programs to different needs that we were able to bring to the United Nations conference," Professor Sanders said.

"We know from our own research that parenting programs produce better results in preventing risky behaviour like substance abuse, than do programs that only give parents information about substance abuse."

The UN's Guide to Implementing Family Skills Training Programs for Drug Abuse Prevention says parenting programs are four times more likely to prevent drug abuse in children and teenagers than drug education programs delivered in schools.

The UN says such family skills programs have been found to ultimately save governments US\$10 for every dollar spent.

It is anticipated that Baby Triple P will be just as successful as its predecessors.

Baby Triple P groups will be held at The University of Queensland's St Lucia and Ipswich campuses and, depending on local demand, at various public libraries throughout Brisbane and surrounds.

For more information about the Triple P program please visit [www.triplep.net](http://www.triplep.net).



**“Baby Triple P will give parents the knowledge and confidence to manage other, often very challenging, situations”**

## Marriage and cohabitation PATTERNS AND EXPERIENCES in Australia

“These projects examine why people are marrying less, separating and divorcing more, marrying at a later age, and increasingly marrying after cohabiting and having children”



### A revolution in the social institution of marriage is taking place throughout the western world.

Researchers from UQ's Institute for Social Science Research have found that marriage no longer enjoys the privileged status it once did.

Contributing to the change in status is an increase in couples divorcing, marrying later or not at all, having fewer children and different expectations, and experiences of intimate relationships.

One of the most dramatic social trends is the rapid rise in rates of de facto cohabitation, indicating a significant shift in attitudes towards intimate relationships outside of marriage.

Australian Research Council Professorial Fellow, Professor Janeen Baxter, is leading two projects investigating these issues and is contributing to international understanding by investigating

marriage and cohabitation patterns and experiences in Australia.

Working with Dr Belinda Hewitt, Associate Professor Michele Haynes, Professor Mark Western, and PhD students, Sandra Buchler and Maelisa McNeil, Professor Baxter is developing new ways of understanding the changing significance of marriage.

Professor Baxter said the knowledge gained from these projects would lead to more effective social policies as well as new theories about the social organisation of personal relationships.

“These projects examine why people are marrying less, separating and divorcing more, marrying at a later age, and increasingly marrying after cohabiting and having children,” Professor Baxter said.

“The changes we have witnessed suggest that while marriage is still an important social institution, it no longer

enjoys the privileged status it once did as the only way for families and societies to organise intimate relationships and childrearing. The changes to marriage reflect deep changes in the values and organisation of modern societies.”

“There are a range of important implications from these trends, including changes in relationship quality and life satisfaction for couples, and potential changes to the social determinants of health and wellbeing for adults and children,” she said.

The research combines state-of-the-art data from large-scale national longitudinal surveys, advanced statistical methods and modelling techniques, and indepth qualitative research.

The projects are funded by grants from the Australian Research Council and the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. ○

*Pictured, from left: Dr Belinda Hewitt, Professor Janeen Baxter and doctoral candidate Sandra Buchler*

## Mothers and babies GET THE ATTENTION THEY DESERVE at UQ



### UQ's Queensland Centre for Mothers & Babies (QCMB) launched a state-wide survey in June for new mums to share their experiences – both good and bad – on having a baby in Queensland.

The survey, distributed in partnership with the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, is one of the largest of its kind in Australia with almost 22,000 mums invited to take part.

The Having a Baby in Queensland Survey is the first step to understanding women's needs and preferences for improved maternity care, with a focus on women's satisfaction with the maternity care they receive before and after birth and on improvements that would enhance their experience.

The survey is being sent out in a number of stages, with the first stage targeting new mums who gave birth in February 2010, followed by those who gave birth in March, April and May.

The results of the survey will give feedback to policy makers, local hospitals and birth centres to celebrate the things that are working well and improve things that may not be working so well.

The QCMB is an independent centre based at UQ and is funded by Queensland Health.

Now entering its second year of operation, the role of the QCMB is to work towards consumer-focused maternity care that is integrated, evidence-based and provides optimal choices for women in Queensland.

Other projects underway at the QCMB include the Having a Baby website, where expectant mothers can get up-to-date and relevant maternity care information, as well as the Having a Baby in Queensland book, which will be an evidenced-based guide helping women to be actively involved in decision-making during pregnancy, labour and birth and the post-birth period.

The QCMB recently welcomed the appointment of experienced midwife Hazel Brittain, current President of the Qld Branch of the Australian College of Midwives, to lead the Centre as Acting Director until the end of the year.

An adjunct Associate Professor with Griffith University, Ms Brittain is taking a six month secondment from Logan Hospital where she is the current Nursing and Midwifery Director of Women and Children's Services.

Ms Brittain said she believed in informed choice for women and their families in maternity care, increasing access to continuity of care and carer models for maternity care, and improving collaboration between maternity carers.

Ms Brittain will lead the Centre until January 2011 when Professor Debra Creedy, the Head of Nursing at the National University of Singapore, will take on the role of Director.

Professor Creedy has a background as a registered nurse and clinical psychologist and is a past President of ANZAME, The Association for Health Professional Education.

She has co-authored a textbook on health psychology, as well as over 100 journal articles and book chapters. Her clinical research involves randomised controlled trials on effectiveness of counselling interventions to assist distressed postpartum women; models of best practice and implementation of evidence into practice. Professor Creedy has also conducted nursing education research on problem-based learning, use of web-based technologies, and leadership development.

Professor Creedy has a long history of significant grant support, and will be well-positioned to direct future activities at the QCMB. ○

## UQ research finds a majority of same-sex attracted Australians say they want to marry

### A national survey conducted by UQ researchers has found

that the majority of same-sex attracted Australians reported marriage to be their personal preference for relationship recognition, dispelling the myth that most same-sex couples do not wish to marry or are content with de facto status.

The results of the survey have been submitted to the Federal Senate inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009 which seeks to amend the federal *Marriage Act* so that same-sex partners are able to marry in Australia, and to recognise same-sex marriages legally entered into overseas.

*Not So Private Lives* is the first national survey to include an investigation of same-sex attracted Australians' preferences for various forms of relationship recognition since the introduction of de facto status for same-sex couples at a federal level.

The survey, which examined many aspects of sexual-minority life, attracted 2,232 participants from across all states and territories and from both urban and rural areas. Participants were aged 18 - 82 years and two thirds reported to be in some form of same-sex relationship.

Findings from the relationship recognition measures of this survey, for the total sample, show that the majority (54.1%) of same-sex attracted participants selected marriage as their personal choice and close to 80% felt marriage should be an option for same-sex couples in Australia.

Researcher Sharon Dane from UQ's School of Psychology said what was most interesting was that marriage was still the personal choice of the majority irrespective of the current legal status of participants' same-sex relationships.

"For example, of those currently in a de facto relationship, 55.4% stated they preferred marriage for their own relationship, 25.6% stated they preferred a federally recognised relationship other than marriage, 17.7% preferred de facto and 1.3% preferred no legal status," she said.



Importantly, the percentage showing a personal preference for marriage was even more substantial among those currently in a state or municipal civil partnership or in an overseas civil union. "This suggests that alternatives to marriage, such as civil unions, can be important for those who do not wish to marry but are clearly not a substitute for the many who do," Ms Dane said.

Results from the survey showed that the preference for marriage was even greater for younger participants. Over 65% of those under 20, and over 62% of those under 30 selected marriage as their personal choice.

"The findings work to dispel the myth that most same-sex people do not wish to marry or are content with de facto status. This majority preference for marriage may be a reflection of the fact that fewer same-sex couples feel the need to live their lives in secret. Although same-sex sexuality is still stigmatised at some level, a generally less hostile environment means same-sex couples can live their lives more openly and honestly and in doing so wish to be treated like everyone else," Ms Dane said.

A report providing more detail on the above findings for Relationship Recognition can now be viewed at [www.notsoprivatelives.com](http://www.notsoprivatelives.com). ○

## Work-family balance in the Queensland Public Sector

**Family-friendly workplaces** are increasingly on the political agenda – but there are still many issues to address in making this a reality for Australian families.

Dr Carolyn Troup, a UQ Postdoctoral Research Fellow from the Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR), explored the way government workers in Queensland use family leave arrangements.

"A major goal of this study was to investigate the ways organisational culture impacted on the actual use of family leave entitlements," Dr Troup said.

The usage of family leave, both paid and unpaid, has long been an under-researched area.

Building on the close research partnership between ISSR and the Queensland Public Sector Union (QPSU), Dr Troup surveyed the use of family leave by QPSU members - with highly significant results from both a research and policy perspective.

"The public sector has good arrangements formally – it has implemented a substantial, flexible working program, and compared to the private sector, it is generous," Dr Troup said.

"However, the study also found that many employees are not aware of the range of leave entitlements that are available to them."

Dr Troup said preliminary findings suggest that men are increasingly making use of flexible leave arrangements, but misperceptions relating to support and access still exist.

"For employees with dependent children regular use of flexible leave was found to increase life satisfaction. However, when employees with dependent children work long hours, perceptions that work interferes in home life persist, despite using these policies. This suggests that for some employees the long hours culture continues to hamper their ability to meet both work and family commitments," she said. ○

## Sea and tree-change families face

# LIFE ON THE FRINGE

“*Social inclusion of young families in non-metro areas appears to be a matter of good luck rather than good planning*”



### University of Queensland researcher Professor Karen Healy has uncovered unexpected challenges facing families with young children moving from capital cities to non-metropolitan areas.

The Families on the Fringe report is funded by the Australian Research Council and is a cooperative research project between UQ, Mission Australia and The Benevolent Society.

The study interviewed families with young children who had recently moved from metro centres to the areas of Wyong (Central Coast, NSW), Camden (South Western Sydney metro fringe), Gladstone (coastal Queensland) (pictured above) and Oakey (an inland rural town west of Brisbane) and reports on the reasons for their move and the issues faced.

According to the report, most families relocated to non-metro areas for better lifestyle opportunities, more affordable housing options and, in some cases, for employment.

But families found that once they moved they faced significant barriers which affected their ability to participate in their new community including long commuting times, loss of social networks, poor local transport options and inadequate service systems such as dental, child care, community support and specialist and allied health services.

UQ's School of Social Work and Human Services Professor Karen Healy, one of the report's authors, said the study identified the push factors that led young families to consider moving away from their original location and what steps needed to be taken to reduce their impact.

“Key reasons that families relocate to these areas are for more affordable and better quality housing, for work opportunities, and for a change in lifestyle. The trend is likely to continue, and shouldn't be ignored,” Professor Healy said.

“Social inclusion of young families in non-metro areas appears to be a matter of good luck rather than good planning.

“Our report found some local agencies were doing a great job to reach out to families, but this was their own initiative which was generally unrecognised and unsupported by funding organisations,” she said.

The study also found evidence of disadvantaged families from the non-metro areas being displaced by the new arrivals as housing and other local costs rose. This led to a growth in disadvantage in the inland areas neighbouring the towns that were studied.

The study's authors believe government and policy makers can use its results to better plan for demographic shifts and non-metropolitan migration.

The report, *Families on the Fringe: Promoting the social inclusion of young families moving to non-metropolitan areas*, is available at

[www.missionaustralia.com.au](http://www.missionaustralia.com.au) ○

**sustainable  
development**



## Spotlight on food: security and supply

**In a world where food supply** is under threat from population increase, climate change, the speculative activities of some business firms, and a global decline in public investment in agriculture, food security is a big issue.

The term 'food security' refers to the availability of and accessibility to food, which is a daily concern for millions of people globally.

Professor Geoffrey Lawrence from UQ's School of Social Science and Professor Michael D'Occhio from the School of Animal Studies have been working to assist UQ's Global Change Institute to create a plan of action for the University's future involvement in addressing the problem of national, regional and global food insecurity.

"The plan will highlight the role UQ can play over the next five to ten years in addressing the causes and consequences of food insecurity, allowing the Global Change Institute to act decisively in addressing one of the major issues of the new century," Professor Lawrence said.

Combining the expertise of various disciplines within the University, the Global Change Institute creates solutions for global issues such as population growth, climate change and technological innovation.

The Global Change Institute is currently preparing a background paper that will identify the causes of food insecurity and explore the options available to enhance food security over the next few decades.

The paper will also identify the research, teaching, and public engagement directions for the University in this area.

In September 2010 the Institute will play host to a Food Security Summit and Workshop, creating an opportunity for distinguished leaders in the field to communicate with the public on the global issues of current and future food insecurity. ○

## Food security, ethics and consumer trust

**UQ researchers** are uncovering the strategies major supermarket chains use to convince customers to trust where their food comes from.

An article, which will be published in the international journal *Food, Culture and Society* in 2011, explores supermarkets' strategies to manufacture new trust relationships with consumers, in response to the documented decline in consumer confidence in mass-produced food products.

Dr Carol Richards, and colleagues from UQ's School of Social Science, are exploring a number of facets linked to the corporate control of the food supply chain and issues of consumer trust in the food system.

Following extensive interviews with food industry personnel in Australia and Europe, supplemented by a novel 'visual sociology' of supermarket packaging and store layout, the authors have highlighted how trust in food is increasingly commoditised.

Dr Richards said following a number of 'food scares' in Europe and Australia, supermarkets are increasingly engaged in 'standards setting' in relation to the safety, quality and cosmetic appearance of fresh produce.

"Whilst these standards can help consumers build trust in the mass produced and processed foods, farmers also report on the cost burden of multiple audits from the private sector which results in good quality food being rejected by supermarkets on the basis of its 'look' – with farmers and the environment essentially paying for this," Dr Richards said.

Dr Richards said farmers tend to have little option to sell their produce



elsewhere due to the concentration of food retail outlets into fewer and fewer chains. In Australia, two major supermarket chains control more than 70% of the retail market – meaning that such chains have the power to govern those outside of their own organisations.

In relation to the symbolism displayed on food packaging and supermarket advertising material, Dr Richards said foods, which are often industrially produced by distant actors in factory settings, are regularly marketed using 'trustworthy' symbols – such as those of a rural idyll.

"This belies a product's true origins which might be better depicted by a factory farm or processing plant," Dr Richards said.

Dr Richards said an equitable, sustainable and ethical food system can be achieved through a more diverse food retail sector where there is space alongside major chains for small-scale, ethical businesses that source locally and pay a fair price to farmers. ○



# UQ Culture and Heritage Unit provides CULTURAL AND HERITAGE ADVICE

## UQ's Culture and Heritage Unit (UQCHU) provides expert advice to public and private commercial entities engaged in heritage projects throughout Australia.

A commercial arm of UQ's School of Social Science, UQCHU provides a comprehensive range of cultural and heritage services to corporate, government and non-government clients.

The Unit has undertaken many diverse commercial projects throughout the country. More recently, these include projects in South West Queensland, Western Queensland, Far North Queensland, Western Sydney, Parramatta and Melbourne.

The Unit's Director, Dr Andrew Sneddon, said the services offered by UQCHU are varied and diverse, providing companies with excellence in the delivery of cultural and heritage services.

"We work in all fields of the heritage profession, including built heritage and both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal archaeology. We also provide a

comprehensive range of anthropological and sociological services. We undertake large multi-disciplinary commercial projects as well as smaller-scale and research-based work," Dr Sneddon said.

Specialists from across a diverse range of disciplines, including archaeology, anthropology, sociology, geography, historical research, urban planning, architecture and engineering have contributed to the following projects:

- The provision of specialist archaeological services to an excavation at the Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne (a World Heritage-listed site).
- Laboratory analysis of artefacts from one of the largest commercial development sites in Australia (the former Carlton & United Brewery site, Sydney).
- The preparation of a comprehensive Local Heritage Register for the Tablelands Regional Council in Far North Queensland, which will be used to manage the area's heritage resources for many years to come.

- An appointment to the Panel of Preferred Providers for the Murray Darling Basin Authority, the Murray Catchment Management Authority, and the Derelict Mines Program of the NSW Department of Industry and Investment. This presents the Unit with numerous archaeological and anthropological opportunities.
- Archaeological reports for a convict-built drain in Parramatta, a convict farm in Western Sydney, and the 1790s home of Governor Arthur Phillip, of First Fleet fame.
- Numerous anthropological and archaeological reports for mining companies in Queensland and Western Australia.

Dr Sneddon said the services that UQCHU provides have yielded positive commercial outcomes for mining companies and major infrastructure developers across Australia, but most importantly, it is producing great results for Australia's Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural heritage.

"Our team has generated a small library of professionally delivered reports that have become a valuable archive for future generations," Dr Sneddon said.

UQCHU is Queensland-based but also undertakes projects across Australia and internationally. ○

*Pictured: Aboriginal artefact from western Queensland (jasperoidal chert flake)*



**“We work in all fields of the heritage profession, including built heritage and both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal archaeology”**

## REMOTE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITIES

### to benefit from participatory development research



**The local communities of the north-western highlands of Vietnam have been identified as suffering from prolonged poverty attributed to a lack of market integration, inappropriate and unsustainable land management, and the limited ability of poor smallholders to absorb risk.**

Associate Professor Elske van de Fliert, from UQ's School of Journalism and Communication, saw the potential for improving the livelihood of this population.

Associate Professor van de Fliert aims to create positive change by increasing the connectedness of farmers with profitable markets and improving land and crop management practices.

This work is made possible through a \$2.2 million grant from The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research.

"I am passionate about the effects the research process has on all, or at least most, partners involved: it empowers the farmers and local government officials, and it changes the way the researchers plan and conduct research for development in order to achieve impact in farmers' fields and actually make a difference," Associate Professor van de Fliert said.

The research project focuses on farming communities that are currently in transition from subsistence to commercial agriculture and looking to connect with emerging markets while using the natural resource base sustainably.

"The project is expected to result in sustainable technologies for highland cultivation, enhanced market access, increased incomes of farmers, and improved capacity of all stakeholders involved," she said.

"Once farmers have the opportunity to connect to markets and/or to more diverse markets (due to the emerging availability of infrastructure, such as

roads, physical market places, etc), they will be able to sell surplus production and earn (more) cash, which in turn allows them to invest in more profitable enterprises and eventually should help them to get out of poverty."

Associate Professor van de Fliert is a specialist in participatory development communication, which is the approach applied to facilitate this highly transdisciplinary research project. The project team involves a diverse team of UQ and Vietnamese researchers with expertise in agronomy, crop protection, soil science, agribusiness, agricultural extension, social science and communication.

"The core of the project is to do research in such a way that it links directly to the needs and opportunities of the target communities. Farmers, extension officers and local government officials have been actively involved in identifying and prioritising the problems to be researched, formulating the research agenda, and evaluating the various options for feasibility," Associate Professor van de Fliert said.

"This approach tremendously increases the potential of the research actually being beneficial to the people." ○

**“The core of the project is to do research in such a way that it links directly to the needs and opportunities of the target communities”**

**PICTURED, from left: Ms Nguyen Thi Thuy, researcher from the Plant Protection Research Institute, Associate Professor Elske van de Fliert and Mr Giang A Say, leader of Giang Ma Commune, Lai Chau Province**

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