ISSR is looking forward to a great year ahead in 2020

We will be establishing our successful new Australian Research Council Centre (ARC) Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course. We were the only Centre in the 2020 round to be re-funded, all of the other Centres are new - testimony to the quality of the existing centre. Congratulations to Professor Janeen Baxter (Director of the Centre), her team based at ISSR and our partners in the new Centre for all of their contributions. The new Centre significantly deepens and expands the current Centre’s research and is half as big again as the current Centre; the new Centre has three main research programs:

- **People** – policy solutions that account for psychological and physiological functioning
- **Places** – addressing the entrenched and inherited nature of disadvantage in complex communities
Opportunities – structural and behavioural barriers to exploiting pathways out of disadvantage.

We will also establish a node of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child exploring the key challenges and benefits of childhood in a digital age. Professor Karen Thorpe, Professor Simon Smith, and Dr Sally Staton are Chief Investigators, and will lead the UQ node.

ISSR and Auckland University of Technology will continue to develop our partnership in growing and developing the reach of the Centre for Social Data Analytics. Professor Rhema Vaithianathan is currently working with QLD Government to look at potential areas to incorporate advanced data analytics, such as predictive risk modelling, to support policy and program development.

In 2019, ISSR developed its new Strategic Plan for 2020-2025. Our vision and mission is to make meaningful difference to people’s lives by undertaking transformational research to solve critical social challenges. We will do this by focussing on key impact areas for our research; these are exploring the social science of social policy and practice, health, education and new innovation and technological advances. Read here for more. Research in each of these impact areas will often consider the impact for populations, the impact of life course stages and the impact of different spaces and places using the latest cutting edge research methodologies. We will be focussing the content of our newsletters over 2020 on each of these impact areas. This newsletter will highlight our work and researchers in the impact area of the social science of health.

We are also pleased to be offering a range of research methodology and implementation training programs throughout 2020, including our new program for senior government leaders in data science for public good and our suite of courses on methods for social analysis and statistics. Read more here.

ISSR looks forward to working and sharing our research with you over the course of 2020 and demonstrating how ISSR is making meaningful difference to people’s lives. Please keep track of ISSR activities by following us on Twitter and LinkedIn.

Professor Mark Western, Director

LATEST NEWS AND RESEARCH

Developing the Keep Queenslanders Healthy Evaluation Framework

In response to the growing trends in suicide and concerning number of overweight and obese Queenslanders, the Queensland Government identified the Keep Queenslanders Healthy priority as part of Our Future State: Advancing Queensland’s Priorities. Read the full story here

Mental health and wellbeing among gender and sexually diverse young people: exploring the potential impact of
climate change

There is increasing concern about the challenges that young people face as they grow up today. And who can blame them when you look at the uncertain environment in which we live: framed by climate change, political uncertainty, and job insecurity to name but a few. As a result, young people face extraordinary pressures in an ever-changing environment and this can have significant impact on their health and wellbeing. Read the full story here

Beyond the first 2000 days: exploring the potential for a child digital health record

Health records covering the period from the birth of a child to 4 years of age – the first 2,000 days of life – have been a standard feature of health care in Australia for many years. However, no similar widely implemented record exists for older children. ISSR worked with the National Children’s Digital Health Collaborative to scope the requirements for a digital health record for children in the 5-14 year age group. Read the full story here

ISSR evaluation of new Australian Government pilot for people at risk of opioid overdoses

Australia is experiencing rising trends in the number and rate of drug-induced deaths. Trend analyses by ISSR researchers show that drug-related deaths have increased significantly over the past decade in Western Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. Read the full story here

ISSR leads the development of a Priority Research Agenda for Sleep in Society

Sleep is an important health and social issue. It strongly predicts a number of life-long development outcomes, work-related outcomes and many important health and social outcomes. Read the full story here

Newly promoted ISSR Professor to explore the social science of sleep
Congratulations to Professor Simon Smith who has recently been promoted to Professor, and for receiving a UQ Partners in Research Excellence Award (PIREA) commendation for his work promoting sleep health in Australian children. Read the full story here

TRAINING AND EVENTS

2020 ISSR training schedule

ISSR aims to provide training opportunities for government, academic and industry professionals interested in using research methods and evidence based approaches to support the design, implementation and evaluation of research projects, policy and programs.

Short courses are available to both groups and individuals. For groups, the course content can be customised to meet your research training needs, and potentially include working on your research problems and data. Group courses can be held at your location or at ISSR. To discuss group training options please contact issr.education@uq.edu.au.

Download MFSAS Training Brochure
Download AIDA Flyer
Download Data Training Flyer

See all upcoming course dates here

Seminar & Book Launch

'Too Close to Ignore: Australia' Borderland with Papua New Guinea and Indonesia

Professor Mark Moran will present the results of three years of research into the unique social and political geography of the borderland. Join us for a seminar and book launch:

Date: Monday 16 March

Time: 12pm - 1 pm Presentation and Q&A / 1pm - 2pm Networking Reception

Venue: Room 275, GCI Building, UQ St Lucia Campus

RSVP: by 4pm, Friday 6 March

Register here
Download Flyer here
Please share our newsletter with colleagues who may be interested.