



ISSR NEWSLETTER

Quarter 3, 2020 Issue

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear ISSR Stakeholders and friends

2020 has been a different year than any of us had planned and a challenging one for most sectors including higher education. ISSR has been extremely fortunate to have had a strong pipeline of research work in each of our [four impact areas](#). I am extremely proud of our ISSR researchers and professional staff team. They have been amazing in maintaining productivity, connecting via video, innovating to respond to COVID-19 research questions adapting data collection methods and supporting our PhD students, a number of whom have also had to adjust their projects because of the pandemic.

This newsletter focuses on our impact area, the [Social Science of Policy and Practice](#). It is extremely timely to highlight this work given the many policy and practice implications occasioned by COVID-19. We are finding that the COVID-19 has impacted all the policy and practice areas addressed by the Institute as governments, service providers and other organisations attempt to manage their responses to the pandemic.

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This issue of the newsletter demonstrates how ISSR seeks to align research with policy impact in areas such as child, family and community wellbeing, inequality, social disadvantage, vulnerable populations and international development.

We are extremely proud of the work we do that contributes to the evidence base for population- and place-based policy interventions, innovative social governance and other policy approaches to address the complex challenges of inequality, poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion.

Since our last newsletter we have also published our [2019 Annual Report](#) which also provides a good summary of the work and achievements of ISSR.

I would also like to recommend to you our Social Sciences Week Seminar Series in September – 3 key initiatives will be showcased in online webinars, questions will be welcomed. For more details see [here](#).

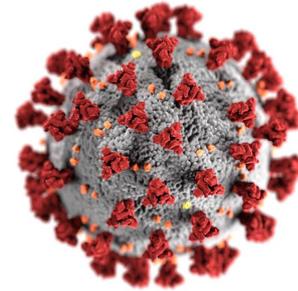
I wish you all good health and stay safe.

Mark Western, Director ISSR

ISSR RESEARCH – SOCIAL SCIENCE OF POLICY & PRACTICE

ISSR research into the impact of COVID-19 on society and the recovery

ISSR researchers have been considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on society. They have been undertaking research studies exploring the impact on educational outcomes for children and young people; reviewing the implementation of technologies to support contact tracing; surveying families to assess their experiences during the pandemic, considering University student experiences and working with social solution leaders across Australia to develop a framework for recovery. [Read more here](#)



Practical support to measure Yarrabilba Community Hub outcomes and partnership benefits

Public and private sector agencies are working in partnership to develop the Yarrabilba Community Hub in Logan City. The ISSR Social Solutions group has been engaged to support Hub partners to design and deliver a suite of practical tools to evaluate this place-based initiative. [Read more here](#)



Partnership support for the evaluation of the Queensland Housing Strategy

The Social Solutions group at ISSR is working in partnership with the Queensland Department of Housing and Public Works to set the foundation for the evaluation of the ambitious ten-year Queensland Housing Strategy that is aiming to transform Queensland's housing and homelessness service system. This flagship activity has demonstrated the benefits of working in partnership to support collaborative and evidenced-based policy development. [Read more here](#)



ISSR researchers supporting the design of the new National Mental Health Workforce Strategy

Effectively meeting the current and future demands of the mental health system depends on an appropriately structured and skilled mental health workforce. A team of ISSR researchers, led by Associate Professor Fran Boyle with co-leads Dr Anne Cleary and Dr Natalie Thomas, worked with the Australian Government Department of Health to help shape the forthcoming National Mental Health Workforce Strategy 2021-2031. Their rapid review of policy-relevant literature provided an evidence-informed analysis of best practice options for mental health workforce strategies. [Read more here](#)



RESEARCH LEADER PROFILE

Dr Jenny Povey - Applied Research for Policy Impact

Dr Jenny Povey is an agile researcher who has delivered a range of co-developed research for clients addressing societal challenges. Jenny currently leads a research group within ISSR that focusses on the utilisation of research by policy-makers and practitioners to address educational disadvantage. [Read more here](#)



TRAINING AND EVENTS

Social Sciences Week

7 - 13 September 2020

As part of [Social Sciences Week](#), The University of Queensland's School of Social Science and Institute for Social Science Research invite you to virtually attend a series of UQ events offering insight into the impact of social sciences on our lives:

8 September 2020: [Webinar: The Life Course Centre -](#)



[Looking Back, Looking Forward](#)

10 September 2020: [Webinar: Triaging Child Abuse Material Cybertips for Investigative Prioritisation](#)

11 September 2020: [Webinar: Ethical Data Science for Social Impact](#)

We look forward to seeing you online.

2020 & 2021 ISSR training schedule

ISSR provides training for government, academic and industry professionals who need research methods and evidence based approaches to support the design, implementation and evaluation of research projects, policy and programs.

Methods for Social Analysis and Statistics (MFSAS)

The MFSAS program is designed for those who need to use, understand, and interpret statistical information, but who may not necessarily have a background or training in statistics:

- [MFSAS Gathering Qualitative Data Course \(2 days\)](#)
- [MFSAS Program Evaluation Course \(1 day\)](#)
- [MFSAS Essential Social Analysis Skills Course \(3 days\)](#)
- [MFSAS Social Cost-Benefit Analysis Course \(3 days\)](#)
- [MFSAS Longitudinal Data Analysis Course \(5 days\)](#)
- [MFSAS Modelling change and event occurrence \(2 days\)](#)
- [MFSAS Introduction to Longitudinal Data Analysis and Panel Regression Models \(2 days\)](#)



Our courses are ideal for professionals in government departments, agencies, non-government organisations, university staff and postgraduate students who want to learn more about methods for social analysis and translate scientific social research into public policy outcomes. [See all upcoming course dates for 2020 and 2021](#)

Advanced Indigenous Development Approaches (AIDA)

This three-day intensive short course will support staff working in Indigenous Affairs and Social Services to build their proficiency to work developmentally. Participants will develop skills in place-based approaches, locally-led decision making, frontline leadership, institutional brokering, and adapting to complexity. [Learn more here](#)

Custom and group bookings

For groups, the course content can be customised to meet your research training needs, and can potentially include working on your research problems and data. Group courses can be held at your location or at [ISSR's training facilities](#). To discuss group training options please contact issr.education@uq.edu.au.

[Download MFSAS Training Brochure](#)

[Download AIDA Flyer](#)

HIGHER DEGREE BY RESEARCH (HDR) OPPORTUNITIES

ISSR's HDR research opportunities

The Institute for Social Science Research is a national leader in advanced interdisciplinary social science and evidence based policy research. ISSR researchers address some of the most important issues and challenges facing Australia today in areas such as

education, employment, housing, social wellbeing, homelessness, sustainability, and Indigenous studies. Using qualitative and quantitative methods, our scholars work closely with policy makers and frontline development workers to ensure our research directly impacts upon policy and practice and contributes to systemic institutional change. A list of our current HDR project topics can be found [here](#).



Please share our newsletter with colleagues who may be interested.



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