



ISSR NEWSLETTER

Quarter 4, 2021 Issue

[Let's yarn about
sleep](#)

[The Australian
Research Council
Centre of
Excellence for
Children and
Families over the
Life Course](#)

[The Australian
Research Council
Centre of
Excellence for the
Digital Child](#)

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear ISSR stakeholders and friends

Last year I said that 2020 will be a year that we all remember for a very long time. As the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our lives and communities continues to play out, I need to update that sentiment to include 2021. Despite the wonderful innovations and positive stories that have spun out of the pandemic, the restrictions on travel have continued to place stress and family and cultural distance on a large number of the ISSR staff and students. I continue to be impressed by the adaptability and resilience of the wonderful ISSR community, as well as the community at large.

As with last year, ISSR has had another very strong year and continued to build partnerships and deliver strong and impactful research outputs. As mentioned in the Q3 newsletter, ISSR also performed strongly through our Review and the Institute is already starting to action and build from the recommendations. As the pandemic continues to provide uncertain times, I continue to believe that the social sciences have a responsibility and are well-placed to engage, analyse and contribute to the recovery. ISSR's remit to continue to undertake

[State of the Social Sciences 2021](#)

[Researcher Profile: Dr Mark Robinson](#)

[HDR thesis showcase: Pride and Prejudice: The claiming and contesting of men's participation in Early Childhood Education and Care](#)

[Methods for Social Analysis and Statistics \(MFSAS\)](#)

[MFSAS training survey](#)

[Seeking young adult volunteers](#)

[Help us understand children's sleep](#)

[Driving under influence of drugs and medications study](#)

transformational research to make meaningful differences to people's lives therefore remains very relevant.

ISSR's commitment is to deliver partner-engaged, mission-oriented research, which we undertake via a range of funding sources that range from applied government partnership funding to more traditional higher education government research grants. This final issue of the newsletter for the year once again further showcases the diverse and quality research that our researchers continue to undertake, with a strong focus on prestigious higher education government research grant (Category 1) activities. In particular, ISSR was very successful in the 2020 Centres of Excellence round, and a flavour of the exciting and impactful research and partnership opportunities are presented herein.

Over the last 12 months I have also had the privilege of working with social science colleagues across Australia, and the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, on *State of the Social Sciences 2021*, a report describing trends, challenges and opportunities for Australian social science. I launched the Report at the Academy's 50th Anniversary Symposium last week, and we also briefly introduce it in the newsletter.

Finally, it is somewhat bittersweet writing this introduction for the final newsletter of 2021. For those of you who have not heard, after the privilege of establishing ISSR and working with so many talented people to build the Institute over the past 13 or so years, I have made the decision that it is time for my next challenge and I will be stepping aside as Director at the end of March 2022. It has been a privilege to help build ISSR into what I think of as Australia's leading social science institute, working with exceptional colleagues and partners. The Institute has an outstanding track record of research excellence and real world research impact and value. As for my next adventure, that story is not quite written yet, but when I do step down, it will be with great pride and confidence in the Institute, its people and its opportunities.

I wish all of you the very best for the festive season, and I hope that you all have a wonderful and relaxing break surrounded by positivity, fun, family and friends.

Regards,

Mark Western, Director ISSR

ISSR RESEARCH NEWS

[Let's yarn about sleep](#)

Most people would not question that sleep and mental and emotional health are closely connected, but until now, the options for sleep health promotion programs for remote First Nations communities have largely been absent. Working with community Elders, parents, carers, First Nations youth and service providers, ISSR researchers are well on the way to developing Australia's first-ever sleep health program for First Nations Youth. [Read more here](#)



[The Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over](#)

[the Life Course](#)

There are more than one million Australians experiencing deep and persistent disadvantage. Unlike those who temporarily dip below the poverty line, their disadvantage resists simple solutions and endures within families and across generations. Addressing this challenge is at the heart of the ISSR-administered Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course. [Read more here](#)



[The Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child](#)

ISSR researchers are part of a world-first centre dedicated to creating positive digital childhoods for all Australian children. The centre's program of research brings together experts and major industry partners from around the globe to investigate children's digital experiences. The Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child wants children to be **healthy, educated** and **connected** in an increasingly digital world. [Read more here](#)



[State of the Social Sciences 2021](#)

Reconciliation with Australia's First Nations, understanding and addressing threats to democracy, fairly managing the response to climate change, and using the recovery from COVID-19 to build a stronger, more equitable and prosperous Australia. These are some of the Grand Challenges for Social Science outlined in *State of the Social Sciences 2021*, a guide to the trends, challenges and opportunities impacting Australian social science. [Read more here](#)



RESEARCHER PROFILE

[Dr Mark Robinson](#)

Dr Mark Robinson is working to address population health inequalities through evidence-informed advocacy and action. As a Senior Research Fellow, Mark leads applied, policy- and practice-relevant research and evaluation projects at ISSR. Recent examples include the co-development and implementation of an organisation-wide Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework for Health and Wellbeing Queensland, as well as the strategic evaluation of a suite of six preventive health programs in Queensland. [Read more here](#)



HIGHER DEGREE BY RESEARCH (HDR) at ISSR

HDR thesis showcase

[Pride and Prejudice: The claiming and contesting of men's participation in Early Childhood Education and Care](#)

Recognising the critical shortage of qualified staff in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) and a significantly low number male educators, an ISSR PhD researcher provides new insight into the participation of male educators in ECEC and the factors that influence their ongoing retention in the workforce. [Read more here](#)



[HDR research opportunities](#)

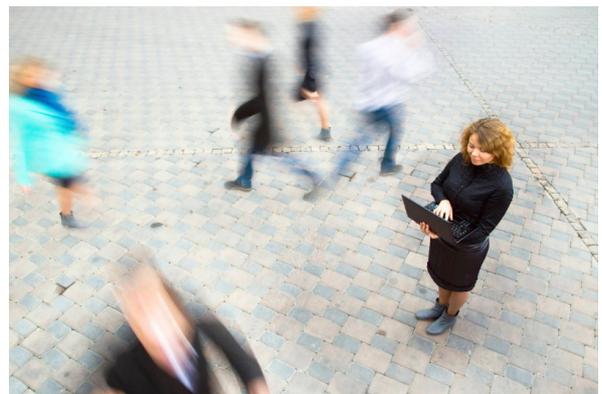
The Institute for Social Science Research is a national leader in advanced interdisciplinary social science and evidence based policy research. ISSR researchers address some of the most important issues and challenges facing Australia today in areas such as education, employment, housing, social wellbeing,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



TRAINING AND EVENTS

[Methods for Social Analysis and Statistics \(MFSAS\)](#)

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. The [MFSAS program](#) is designed for those who need to use, understand, and interpret quantitative and/or qualitative data, and who may not necessarily have a background or training in statistics or qualitative analysis.



The MFSAS program

[MFSAS Program Evaluation Course \(1 day\)](#)

[MFSAS Gathering Qualitative Data Course \(2 days\)](#)

[MFSAS Introduction to Longitudinal Data Analysis and Panel Regression Models \(2 days\)](#)

[MFSAS Modelling Change and Event Occurrence \(2 days\)](#)

[MFSAS Essential Social Analysis Skills Course \(3 days\)](#)

[MFSAS Social Cost-Benefit Analysis Course \(3 days\)](#)

[MFSAS Longitudinal Data Analysis \(5 days\)](#)

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](#)

[Help us understand your training needs](#)

We would like to take this opportunity to better understand your training needs, what courses you would like to see offered and whether offering credentials are important to you and/or the organisation in which you work.

We would greatly appreciate if you could take a few minutes and [complete this survey](#). (only 3 questions)



RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

[Seeking young adult volunteers](#)

Young adults (18-24 years) are more likely to be involved in road accidents. A study being conducted at ISSR is seeking to change this.

A team of ISSR researchers have begun a randomised control trial to test a new program that is investigating the role of sleep, nutrition, activity and transport use in young adults in lowering their risk of road crashes. [Find out more here](#)



[Help us understand children's sleep](#)

The University of Queensland is conducting The Sleep Transitions and Regularity study (STARs) - a four-year study aimed at understanding children's sleep and napping patterns.

The objective of the study is to understand how daytime naps influence children's development with the aim of providing better information to families and carers.

Researchers are calling for parents and kids to be involved in a national study into early childhood sleeping patterns at The University of Queensland. [Find out more here](#)



[Driving under influence of drugs and medications study](#)

The Institute for Social Science Research is conducting a

simulated driving study aimed at determining the health impacts and driving impairments of people who drive under the influence of illicit drugs or prescription medication. [Find out more here](#)



Please share our newsletter with colleagues who may be interested.



Copyright © 2020 [The University of Queensland](#)
ABN 63 942 912 684 | CRICOS Provider 00025B | [Privacy policy](#)
Authorised by: Institute for Social Science Research
Maintained by: issr@uq.edu.au

This email was sent by Institute for Social Science Research, University of Queensland Long Pocket
Precinct, Level 2, Cycad Building (1018), 80 Meiers Rd, Indooroopilly QLD 4068 to
x.aitekensmith@uq.edu.au

[Unsubscribe](#)

