Melbourne Social Equity Institute

Annual Report 2020

Melbourne Social Equity Institute

Supporting interdisciplinary research for fairer societies

About the Melbourne Social Equity Institute

The Melbourne Social Equity Institute brings together researchers to address disadvantage across social life, including health, education, housing, culture, work and transport.

The Melbourne Social Equity Institute acknowledges an imperfect world. Chances of birth such as class, ethnicity, caste, ability or gender can lead to marginalisation and societies are sometimes beset by divisions of culture, economic status or creed. The Institute supports collaborative research between academics, members of community organisations, policy makers and people with lived experiences of disadvantage.

The Institute prioritises community-led interdisciplinary research to ensure those with a lived experience of disadvantage participate in the focus, design and outcomes of research. Interdisciplinary research means drawing on the strengths of each of our university's faculties in order to help solve complex problems of disadvantage. Involving community partners ensures that research is relevant to those outside the academy.

In 2020, the Melbourne Social Equity Institute's research focused on migration and social cohesion, digital access and equity, mental health and society and community-engaged research. The Institute also auspiced the important work of the Melbourne Research Alliance to End Violence against women and their children (MAEVe). The lived experiences of disadvantage, revealed by many people with disabilities, Indigenous people, children, LGBTQIA+ people, people seeking asylum, women and older people intersect with each of these research programs.

The Melbourne Social Equity Institute is staffed by a small directorate, the members of which co-ordinate research and engagement activities.

The 2020 members of the directorate were:

Professor Bernadette McSherry
Foundation Director

Associate Professor Sara Wills
Deputy Director

Charlene Edwards
Executive Officer

Kathleen Patterson
Project Coordinator

Claire Smiddy
Marketing, Communications and Events Coordinator

The Melbourne Social Equity Institute's work is underpinned by a commitment to community-led research, as exemplified by its highly-regarded Community Fellows Program

No Smoking

Penalties apply.

Wear a face covering over your nose and mouth

i You must wear it for your complete journey

For more information visit dhhs.vic.gov.au/clothmask

PT

WERRIBEE LINE
PLATFORM

UPFIELD LINE
PLATFORM

BROADMEADOWS LINE
PLATFORM

ST ALBANS LINE
PLATFORM

ALTONA LINE
PLATFORM

WILL LINE
PLATFORM

Police Monitored Video Surveillance

YOUNG &

Letter from the Director

The multiple challenges of 2020 highlighted continuing social inequities across the globe. At the same time, the level of cooperation across and between governments, organisations and communities in response to COVID-19 provided a hopeful glimpse of new ways of working together.

The pressing need for collaboration, information sharing and reliance on trustworthy research resonated with all of us at the Melbourne Social Equity Institute. We were fortunate to be able to continue our programs of research while adapting to new methods of working via various online platforms.

There was a record number of applications in response to our invitation to apply for funding for interdisciplinary research projects. Because of the high quality of these applications, it was difficult for our panel to select those able to be funded and we did what we could to point to alternative sources of funding wherever possible.

We also launched a new series of small grants for University of Melbourne researchers who wanted to develop partnerships with community organisations and people with lived experiences to explore ideas for projects aimed at addressing social inequities. You'll find information about some of the projects we supported in the ensuing pages.

An unexpected benefit of working from home during the lockdown was that more people were able to attend our online seminars than if we'd run them on campus. It was also less onerous for the interstate members of our Advisory Board to attend meetings. Nevertheless, it was a wonderful experience when a few of us could meet again in person towards the end of 2020.
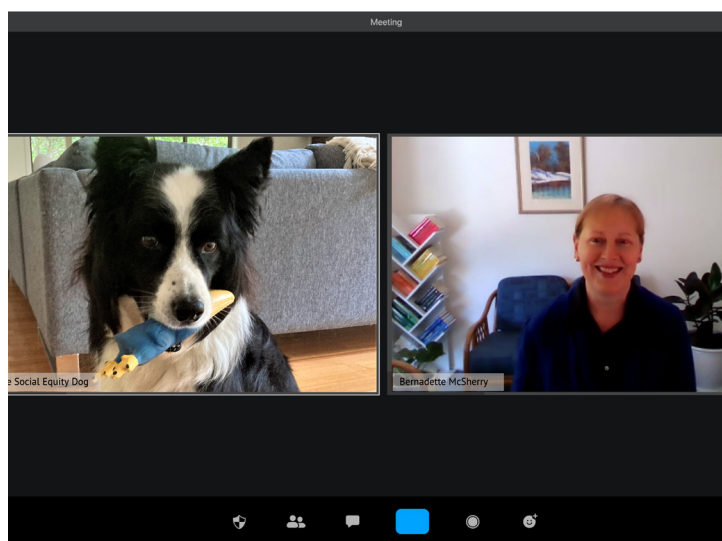
Our Deputy Director, Associate Professor Sara Wills stepped down at the end of 2020 and I thank her for her sound advice and support over the past few years. As always, my deepest gratitude goes to the tremendous trio of Executive Officer, Charlene Edwards, Project Coordinator, Kathleen Patterson and Communications, Marketing and Events Coordinator, Claire Smiddy for their excellent work. Our postdoctoral researchers, Dr Piers Gooding and Dr Yvette Maker regularly joined our weekly team meetings and the entire directorate's resilience and adaptability made the challenges of 2020 surmountable. Thanks also to Toby, the Social Equity Dog, who provided much needed comedic relief during many online meetings.

Finally, an unfortunate result of the financial pressures on the University saw us say goodbye to our Grattan Street office which served us well for almost five years. We have now moved to the 7th Floor of 185 Pelham Street. We look forward to using that as a base to continue our work supporting interdisciplinary research that aims to ameliorate disadvantage.
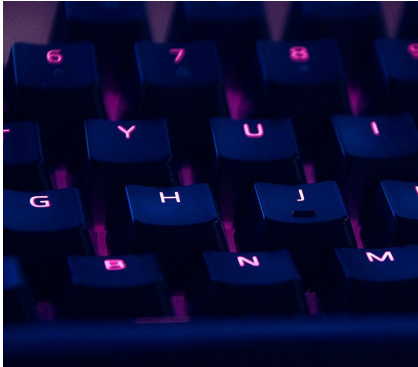
Bernadette McSherry

Professor Bernadette McSherry
Foundation Director
Melbourne Social Equity Institute

Toby the Social Equity Dog and Professor McSherry learning to communicate via Zoom.

COVID-19 Blog Series

Throughout 2020, the Melbourne Social Equity Institute explored new ways of working together to ensure we continue to integrate knowledge and methods from different disciplines in order to address pressing societal problems. On our website and through our social media networks, we shared a series of blog posts that enabled some of the researchers whose work we support to consider their research in the light of responses to COVID-19. These posts contained personal reflections on the key concerns for research that aims to assist people who are experiencing social inequities during this global pandemic.

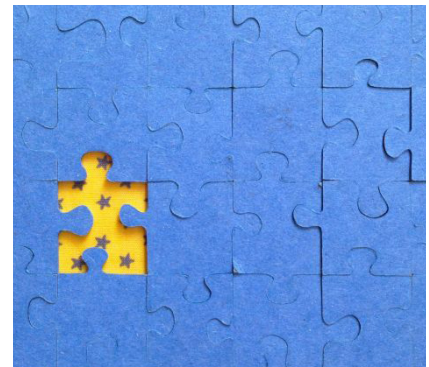**Digital Mental Health Technologies**

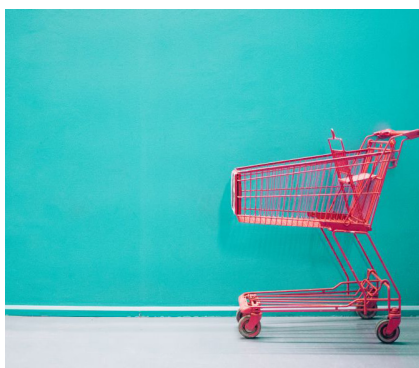**Working from Home**

Care, Support and COVID-19

Digital Access and Equity in a Time of Social Distancing
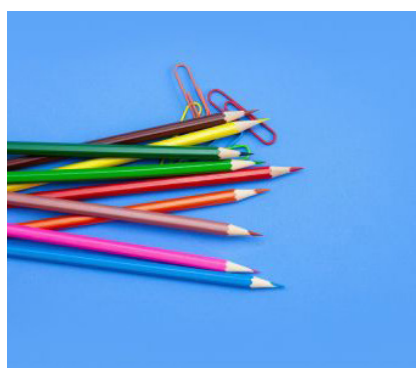
Health Inequalities for Refugees and People Seeking Asylum

Collaboration in a Time of COVID-19

What Happens to Consumer Equity During a Pandemic?

Education Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing

Lived Wisdom on Panic and Worry

Research Programs

The Melbourne Social Equity Institute supports interdisciplinary research on social equity issues across the full spectrum of social life including health, law, education, housing, culture, work and transport. In 2020 we focused on the following research programs:

Community Engaged Research
Led by Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan and Dr Celia McMichael

Through all of the Melbourne Social Equity Institute's research programs there is a commitment to community-led and community-engaged research. The key feature of community engaged research is a high level of community decision-making about the purpose, design, conduct and use of research. It moves beyond seeing members of communities as research 'subjects' to enabling them to drive the research agendas that concern them. The Melbourne Social Equity Institute's Community Fellows Program brings members of community organisations into the University to undertake a research project of importance to their organisation and to develop their research skills, while assisting scholars to understand the context in which their research may be used. Wherever possible, those with lived experience of the research issue being addressed advise and co-design institute-supported interdisciplinary research projects.

Digital Access and Equity
Led by Professor Jeannie Paterson and Professor Shanton Chang

Digital technologies have potential for overcoming social, economic and geographic barriers and improving outcomes in health, access to justice and economic inclusion. However, they also risk increased discrimination, differentiation and exclusion. Importantly, issues of digital equity are not just about access to technology, but also about language, content, comprehension and safety. This research program supports interdisciplinary research examining the impact of a connected, digitally-focused society. It evaluates the presumptions about knowledge, language, accessibility and consent that inform the design and implementation of new technologies. It works to develop innovative and inclusive ways to make a technologically-integrated society a fairer and more equitable one.

Mental Health and Society
Led by Associate Professor Bridget Hamilton and Associate Professor Helen Stokes

Mental health and wellbeing are shaped by society and social inequities are associated with an increased risk of mental health conditions. The aim of this research program is to support interdisciplinary research relating to mental health across all stages of life in order to reduce risks associated with mental health conditions and to promote mental health and wellbeing across the community. The program focuses on using research methods that give a central place to the voice of people who have lived experience of mental health challenges and conditions.

Migration and Social Cohesion
Led by Professor Karen Farquharson and Dr Karen Block

The Australian population is increasingly culturally diverse, with more than a quarter of all Australians born overseas and almost half having at least one parent who was born overseas. Migrants, particularly those from backgrounds where English is not the first language, can face social exclusion and marginalisation. This research program focuses on the multiple dimensions of migration and its implications for social and community cohesion. Together with the associated PhD Program in Migration, Statelessness and Refugee Studies, it aims to build a stronger evidence base for tackling associated inequalities and strengthen local and international opportunities for collaboration and engagement.

Melbourne Research Alliance to End Violence Against Women and their Children (MAEVe)

The Melbourne Research Alliance to End Violence against women and their children (MAEVe) is an interdisciplinary research network of researchers, survivors, practitioners and community organisations engaged in creating research that helps prevent and respond to violence against women and their children.

The Melbourne Social Equity Institute provides support to MAEVe which is led by co-chairs Professor Kelsey Hegarty and Professor Cathy Humphreys. MAEVe is advised by a diverse steering committee of academics from across the University. These academics variously specialise in health sector responses to family violence, children's voices and experience of family violence, sexual violence, technology as a tool in the early intervention of family violence, family violence in migrant and refugee communities, gender-based violence throughout history and across the Asia Pacific, legal responses and Indigenous experiences of family violence.

MAEVe's overall aim is to bring together researchers – in partnership with community, industry and government agencies – to tackle the problem of violence against women and their children. MAEVe is focused on the production of research that is rigorous, significant and which arises from a deep engagement with those who have lived experiences of domestic and family violence.

As part of MAEVe's commitment to putting the voices of women and children at the centre of its research, MAEVe is advised and guided by the WEAVERs panel (Women and their children who have Experienced Abuse and ViolencE: Researchers and advisors). In 2019 the WEAVERs worked with MAEVe to develop an Experts by Experience Framework for the family violence sector. This work was funded through Domestic Violence Victoria and by a number of philanthropic organisations. The Family Violence Experts by Experience Framework aims to enhance the ability of specialist family violence services to provide opportunities for victim-survivors to influence policy development, service planning and practice. This work was extended in 2020 to support the implementation of the Framework at Domestic Violence Victoria (DVVic) and the Eastern Domestic Violence Service (EDVOS). Throughout the year MAEVe also published bi-monthly newsletters and held seven seminars via Zoom. The seminars were very well attended with participants from around Australia and from New Zealand.

Download the new MAEVe Brochure

Reference Group

Members of the reference group act as champions of the Melbourne Social Equity Institute and its research, as well as providing input on matters of management and strategic focus.

The reference group is comprised of academics with demonstrated strengths in social equity research from across the University. As well as the directorate and research program leaders, the following researchers made up the 2020 reference group:

Professor Hari Bapuji
Department of Management and Marketing

Dr Danny Butt
Victorian College of the Arts

Inala Cooper
Murrup Barak, Melbourne Institute for
Indigenous Development

Dr Jane Dyson
School of Geography

Professor Susan Kneebone
Melbourne Law School

Dr Kelum Palipane
Melbourne School of Design

Dr Cain Polidano
Melbourne Institute for Applied Economic and
Social Research

Associate Professor Kylie Smith
Melbourne Graduate School of Education

Dr Victor Sojo
Faculty of Business and Economics

Associate Professor Michael Zyphur
Department of Management and Marketing

Advisory Board

The advisory board is made up of leaders in the business and community sectors. It provides strategic guidance to ensure that research supported by the Institute is relevant to and aligned with important, contemporary social equity issues.

The advisory board also increases opportunities to disseminate research and to engage with like-minded organisations with the aim of making societies fairer. The advisory board is made up of:

Robin Banks (Chair)
Former Anti-Discrimination Commissioner
Equal Opportunity Tasmania

Tom Brunzell
Director – Education
 Berry Street

Paige Burton
Australia's 2017 Youth Representative to the
United Nations

Wesa Chau
Chief Executive Officer, Cultural Intelligence

Travis Morgan
Algabonyah Regional Coordinator,
Kaiela Institute

Nyadol Nyuon
Lawyer, Arnold Bloch Leibler

Soo-Lin Quek
Executive Manager, Knowledge, Advocacy and
Service Innovation, Centre for Multicultural Youth

Externally Funded Projects

Digital Mental Health Care and the Law
Mozilla Foundation
Research Fellow Dr Piers Gooding was awarded a prestigious Mozilla Fellowship to examine web-based mental health initiatives and their socio-legal implications. His focus is on machine learning technologies, such as digital phenotyping and artificial intelligence-based suicide alerts, with the goal of ensuring safeguards in laws of data protection, privacy, non-discrimination, human rights and public administration.

Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System
Appointment of Professor Bernadette McSherry as a Commissioner
The Royal Commission was established in February 2019 to inquire into and report on how Victoria's mental health system can most effectively prevent mental illness and deliver treatment, care and support so that all Victorians can experience their best mental health. Professor McSherry was appointed as one of four Commissioners.

The SEREDA Project
SExual and Gender Based Violence in the REfugee Context: From Displacement to Arrival
Funded by the Wellcome Trust, Volkswagen Stiftung and Riksbankens Jubileumsfond through the Europe and Global Challenges Initiative, the SEREDA Project is a major research initiative being undertaken in the United Kingdom, Australia, Sweden and Turkey by a multi-country research team (University of Birmingham, University of Melbourne, Uppsala University and Bilkent University).

Accessible Communication Guidance and Easy English templates for Water Businesses
A project for the Essential Services Commission
The purpose of this project was to develop resources to assist Victorian water businesses to communicate with customers in an accessible and effective manner. With the Essential Services Commission, the researchers produced a 14-page guide for water businesses on making their processes and communications accessible to consumers with cognitive disability. The research team also produced two sample Easy English documents (in collaboration with Scope) to demonstrate how water businesses can enhance the accessibility of their written information.

Guidance for Regulators on Inclusive Engagement with Essential Services Consumers
A project for the Essential Services Commission
This project was designed to inform the Essential Services Commission's forthcoming vulnerability strategy, and to contribute to thought leadership and capability in the sector. The researchers produced a report that reviewed and analysed existing guidance for regulators on how to conduct inclusive consumer engagement activities, devised 12 principles for inclusive, universal consumer engagement, and developed a roadmap to guide the implementation of those principles across the Commission.

Latest Research Projects

The Melbourne Social Equity Institute's Seed Funding Program is designed to support medium-scale projects that create opportunities for researchers, policymakers, practitioners and people with lived experience of disadvantage or marginalisation to undertake research together.

WHY DO THEY DO THAT?

An investigation into the perpetrator perspective of technology facilitated abuse

Technology Facilitated Abuse (TFA) is a form of controlling behaviour that involves the use of technology as a means to coerce, stalk or harass another person. This project aims to understand the motivations, tactics and strategies of perpetrators engaging in TFA. It will engage with perpetrators to better understand their drivers, motivations and tactics. Research, policy and practice in this area is growing but has largely been focused on victim/survivor, advocate and practitioner perspectives and needs. There has been limited work engaging with perpetrators of all genders and this significant knowledge deficit hinders the prevention of and responses to TFA. The insights and new evidence base from this work will be used to generate strategies to minimise TFA, including prevention resources for those escaping abuse and design guidelines for technology to minimise the possibility for abuse.

GETTING BACK ON COUNTRY

Traditional owner-led repatriation, digitisation and exhibition design of Olkola cultural archives

Getting Back On Country is a Traditional-Owner led transdisciplinary research project that furthers ongoing partnerships between the University of Melbourne and the Olkola Aboriginal Corporation. This project will harness innovative technologies to digitise Olkola cultural heritage. It combines participatory design, mixed reality technologies (virtual reality and augmented reality), archaeological science and digital cultural heritage to deliver innovative solutions for the repatriation of Olkola heritage. Getting Back On Country will establish a pilot process for digitising Olkola cultural archives and significant sites. Expected project outcomes include the digitisation of key cultural artefacts from archives across Australia, culminating in a mixed-media exhibition of the collection. This project innovatively transcends disciplinary expertise to provide significant social, cultural and economic benefits for Olkola People and a collaboration process that supports Indigenous peoples across Australia.
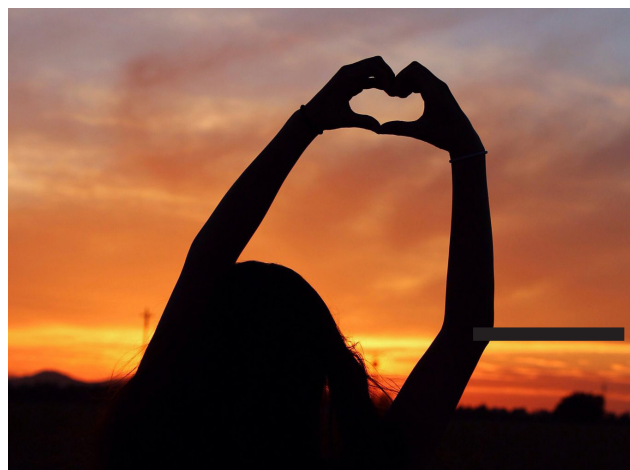
The selected projects demonstrate a combination of interdisciplinarity, connection to the community and innovative research methodologies.

Visit **socialequity.unimelb.edu.au/projects** to learn more.

UNDERSTANDING AND IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR CULTURALLY DIVERSE LGBTQIA+ YOUNG PEOPLE

Creating evidence with, and for, young people who have intersectional experiences of sexuality, gender, and cultural diversity

Using community-driven qualitative research methods and collaborative design processes, this project will draw on decolonising practices to create evidence with, and for, young people who have intersectional experiences of sexuality, gender and cultural diversity. Research protocols will be co-designed by investigators, community partners and lived expertise advisors. Findings will inform the development of resources for mental health professionals to support the mental health of culturally diverse LGBTIQA+ young people. This is the first known study to work with community and clinicians to co-design research to focus specifically on the mental health care needs of culturally diverse LGBTQIA+ young people, as well as the professional development needs of the workforce who support them.
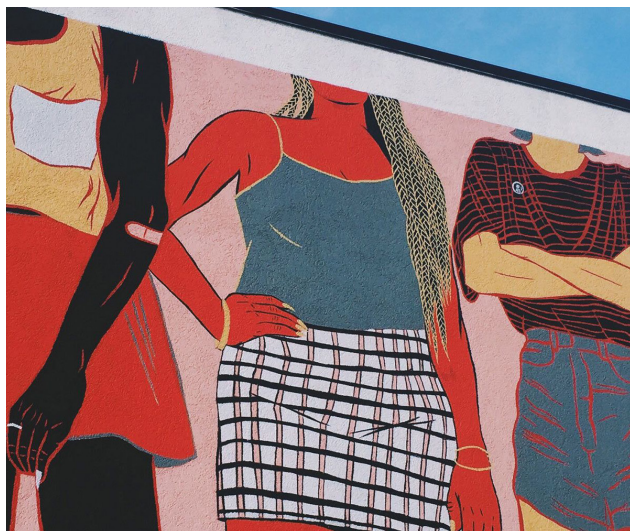

INVISIBLE MOTHERS

Young Pasifika women, health inequalities and negotiating wellbeing

The voices of young Pasifika mothers are largely absent in the Australian scholarship on Pasifika. Invisible Mothers aims to address that by working with young Pasifika mothers between the ages of 18 and 24 to bring to light the complexities of young parenthood in culturally diverse societies. The project will explore the priorities and practices that constitute motherhood for these women, with the aim of collaboratively designing inclusive health services. Outcomes will inform both academic and policy understandings of parenthood at the intersection of gender, race, health and migration. The project will take a 'talanoa' or conversational approach that is central to Pasifika research. This invites researchers to share with, and contribute to, the knowledge generated by the participants. It will be guided by Pasifika community members and will draw on research practices that incorporate Pasifika cultural frameworks and strengths-based approaches.

Latest Research Projects
Continued

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST YOUNG WOMEN EXPOSED TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Developing recommendations for violence prevention programs for justice-involved young women

It is estimated that between 70 and 90 per cent of justice-involved young women have a history of violence victimisation, including family and intimate partner violence. These experiences have immediate and long-lasting health and social impacts including homelessness and post-traumatic stress disorder. Despite this, there are few violence prevention programs in Australia that recognise the ways violence victimisation shapes young women's interactions with the criminal justice system. Co-developed with, and incorporating the expertise of people with lived victim-survivor and criminal justice experience, this project will synthesise the literature and develop recommendations for violence prevention programs for justice-involved women. Every stage of this project, from design to dissemination of outputs, engages people with lived experience and relevant organisations.

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF MENTAL HEALTH IN ONLINE GAMBLING CHOICES

Identifying targets for law reform to reduce harm from gambling through an economic experiment that explores how mental health relates to problem gambling
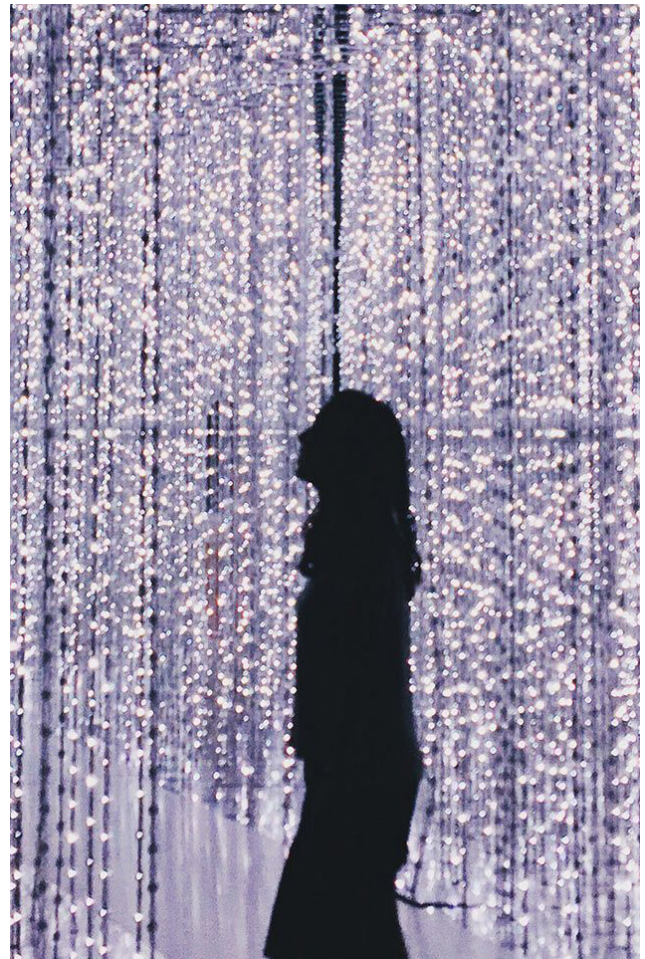
Problem gambling is correlated with high rates of mental health problems and suicide. The relationship is two-way: harm from gambling has an impact on mental health, and those with mental health problems are at a greater risk of gambling harm than other gamblers. However, the mechanisms by which mental health problems could increase susceptibility to gambling harm have received little attention. This project brings together complementary expertise from economics and law, lived experience and community organisations to address the intersection of two important areas of disadvantage. Using a discrete choice experiment, the research team will seek to quantify responsiveness to features of online gambling, including the use of inducements or advertising, that could be particularly risky for people with mental health problems. This project establishes a timely program of policy-relevant research that will provide empirical evidence to support targeted regulatory and law reform responses to online gambling and gambling harm.

UNDERSTANDING DIGITAL INEQUALITY IN VICTORIA

Combining a state-wide inequality analysis with an in-depth examination of lived experiences of digital inequality to assist community advocates and policymakers in their work towards greater digital equality

Digital inclusion in Australia is influenced by a range of factors including income, age, education level and residential location. Approximately 2.5 million Australians do not have access to a reliable internet connection, revealing significant limitations in access, digital ability, and affordability despite major infrastructure investments. This research project is a partnership between University-based researchers and the Carlton Local Agencies Network (CLAN) to create an in-depth understanding of digital inequality in Victoria. At a macro level, this project will undertake a spatial inequality analysis to create interactive maps that identify the distribution of digital infrastructure in Victoria. The mapping component of this project enables users to visualise the mismatch of digital services and provides community members, policymakers and community advocates with information on digital and technology resources. According to NBN 2020 figures, 32% of households at the Carlton Public Housing Estate are not connected to the internet. The microanalysis component of the project consists of a detailed case study of this local digital inequality. It will focus on the impacts of unequal internet access and affordability in the Estate by developing a qualitative research approach including a digital access survey, focus groups and in-depth interviews with members of the Carlton Public Housing Estate community.

Since its establishment in 2012, the Melbourne Social Equity Institute has provided over $2M in seed funding to at least 125 interdisciplinary research projects and community fellowships/ partnerships, involving more than 415 researchers.

Postgraduate Students

Each year the Melbourne Social Equity Institute provides Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarships and other scholarships to students whose interest in social equity issues aligns closely to our research agenda.

Georgia Burn
Understanding the features of communication access for people with communication difficulties
Supervisors: Professor Keith McVilly, School of Social and Political Sciences and Dr Jerome Rachele, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

Philippa Duell-Piening
The right to be counted for people with disabilities who are refugees or from refugee backgrounds
Supervisors: Professor Michelle Foster and Associate Professor Anna Arstein-Kerslake, Melbourne Law School

Vrinda Edan
Consumers and clinicians' experiences of Advance Statements under the Victorian Mental Health Act (2014)
Supervisors: Associate Professor Bridget Hamilton, Centre for Mental Health Nursing, Associate Professor Lisa Brophy, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health and Professor Bernadette McSherry, Melbourne Social Equity Institute

Larissa Fogden
Children and young people living at the intersections of domestic and family violence, mental health, and alcohol and other drugs
Supervisors: Professor Cathy Humphreys, and Dr Margaret Kertesz, Department of Social Work

Liz Gill-Atkinson
How do women with disability in the Philippines understand and experience participatory research practice?
Supervisors: Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan and Professor Marilys Guillemin, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

Mireille Kayeye
Empowerment of women seeking asylum: a voice for change
Supervisors: Dr Celia McMichael, School of Geography Associate Professor Bina Fernandez, School of Social and Political Sciences

Meghan Lee
Exploring mental health supports, needs and access with young people of a refugee background in western Victoria
Supervisors: Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health and Dr Olivia Mitchell, Department of Rural Health

Micheline Lee
Disability, law, and all that romance: a cross-disciplinary approach to equality rights for people with disabilities
Supervisors: Dr Eddie Paterson, School of Culture and Communication, Professor Bernadette McSherry, Melbourne Social Equity Institute and Professor Beth Gaze, Melbourne Law School

Samantha Mannix
Gender equity, social transformations and education
Supervisors: Professor Julie McLeod, Melbourne Graduate School of Education and Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

Erika Martino
From shelter to security: affordable housing for intimate partner violence survivors
Supervisors: Professor Rebecca Bentley, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health and Dr Ilan Wiesel, School of Geography

Thomas McGee
The displacement-statelessness nexus – Syrians in limbo
Supervisors: Professor Michelle Foster and Professor Susan Kneebone, Melbourne Law School and Dr Christoph Sperfeldt, Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness.

Hala Nasr
Safe spaces as a response to gender-based

violence in refugee settings: possibilities and limitations
Supervisors: Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan, Gender and Women's Health Unit, Dr Karen Block, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health and Dr Elise Klein, School of Social and Political Sciences

Carol O'Dwyer
The gender sensitive care project
Supervisors: Professor Kelsey Hegarty and Dr Laura Tarzia, Department of General Practice, Dr Sabin Fernbacher, North West Mental Health

Jacqui Parncutt
The social determinants of health of people with disability
Supervisors: Professor Anne Kavanagh and Dr Tania King, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

Helena Roennfeldt
Peer workers within emergency departments: evaluating the impacts for consumers, peer workers and traditional staff
Supervisors: Associate Professor Bridget Hamilton, Centre for Mental Health Nursing, Dr Nicole Hill, Department of Social Work and Dr Louise Byrne, RMIT

Alana Roy
Mental health and wellbeing of people who are deaf-blind
Supervisor: Professor Keith McVilly, School of Social and Political Sciences and Professor Beth Crisp, Deakin University

Claire Sullivan
Syrian refugees, adoptions, adaptions and rejections of legal responses to experiences of family violence and sexual and gender based violence
Supervisors: Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan and Dr Karen Block, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

Juan Tellez
Representations of chemical restraint: a case study of the Oakden Older Persons Mental Health Service
Supervisors: Professor Bernadette McSherry, Melbourne Social Equity Institute, Professor

John Tobin, Melbourne Law School and Adjunct Professor Lisa Brophy, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

Amita Tuteja
Reproductive health and contraceptive needs of migrants from Burma
Supervisors: Associate Professor Meredith Temple-Smith, Professor Lena Sanci, and Dr Lester Mascarenhas, Department of General Practice

Stephanie Weir
The relationship between communication autonomy, behaviours of concern and restrictive interventions in children who have little to no functional speech
Supervisors: Dr Shiralee Poed, Melbourne Graduate School of Education and Professor Keith McVilly, School of Social and Political Sciences

Alicia Yon
Enabling sociospatial justice: an integrated local planning approach to addressing the disability-gender violence nexus
Supervisors: Professor Brendan Gleeson, Melbourne School of Design and Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

Doctorates Awarded in 2020

Aviva Beecher Kelk
Sustainability versus profitability: locating stakeholders of Australian disability services in the individual support package model
Supervisors: Professor Lynette Joubert, Department of Social Work and Associate Professor Helen Dickinson, UNSW

Read about Dr Beecher Kelk's work on co-designing informed choice under the National Disability Insurance Scheme on our website

Community Fellows Program

The Community Fellows Program is the Institute's signature initiative that enables small to medium-sized organisations to access academic expertise for the benefit of their organisation and the communities that they serve.

Through the program, we aim to support research that will lead to positive outcomes such as improved service delivery, the development of new services, improved ability to advocate effectively or the improved capacity to undertake future research projects.

Each fellow is assigned an Academic Mentor from the University of Melbourne with relevant expertise. The Institute and the Academic Mentor work with the Fellow to design a feasible project. During their placement, Community Fellows also have the opportunity to participate in a range of academic and professional development activities. Grants of up to $5000 each are made available to the community-based organisations to compensate them for the time that Community Fellows spend working at the University.

After a hiatus of over two years, the Institute reopened the call for Community Fellows Programs applications in July 2020 and was overwhelmed by the number and high standard of applications. In total 17 fellows from 16 community organisations were selected to join the program.

Vivian Ying Hang Tong, Afri-Aus Care
Academic Mentors: Professor Karen Farquharson and Dr Diana Johns
Application of the Positive Change Model with African Australians in facilitating posttraumatic growth

Najeeba Wazefadost, Asia Pacific Network of Refugees
Academic Mentors: Professor Adrian Little and Dr Terry Macdonald
Empowering refugees through self-representation

Morgan Cataldo, Berry Street
Academic Mentor: Dr Eduardo Oliveira
Lived experience reflective practice tool

Elle Morrell, Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre
Academic Mentor: Dr Victor Sojo Monzon
Striving for more colourful outcomes: creating space for People of Colour to lead community organisations

Yohanna Mequwanint, Ethiopian Community Association in Victoria
Academic Mentor: Dr Gerald Onsando
Experiences of racism and discrimination for African Australian students in Victorian schools
Supported through the University of Melbourne's emerging African Research and Engagement in Australia initiative

James Houghton and Gabriele Rukas, Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria
Academic Mentors: Dr Mediya Rangi and Alexandra Devine
Health literacy of people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds: Impact of the pandemic
Supported by the Melbourne Disability Institute

Bronte Gosper, First Nations Media Australia
Academic Mentors: Dr Sharon Huebner and Dr Lyndon Ormond-Parker
Amplifying and internationalising Australia's First Nations media
Supported by the Indigenous Knowledge Institute

Ebony Lawson, First People of the Millewa-Mallee Aboriginal Corporation
Academic Mentors: Associate Professor Kate Howell and John Delpratt
Native plant protection
Supported by the Indigenous Knowledge Institute and the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute

Rei Alphonso, Flat Out
Academic Mentor: Associate Professor John Fitzgerald
Co-organisation development and support: a framework for peer-based harm reduction and decarceration

Brenna McIntyre, Kevin Heinze Grow
Academic Mentor: Jennifer Davidson
Exploring the use of non-verbal movement based therapies for adults who experience a speech disability
Supported by the Melbourne Disability Institute

Annelise Lecordier, It's Not A Compliment
Academic Mentor: Dr Megan Sharp
Capturing the voices of marginalised communities facing street harassment
Supported through the University of Melbourne's emerging African Research and Engagement in Australia initiative

Loretta Asquini, North Melbourne Language and Learning
Academic Mentors: Dr Nicky Dulfer and Catherine Smith
Digital inclusion of CALD communities

Maya Ghassali, Road to Refuge
Academic Mentor: Dr Denis Muller
Refugee representation in the Australian media

Barathan Vidhyapathy, Tamil Refugee Council
Academic Mentor: Associate Professor Bina Fernandez
Addressing Tamil refugees key concerns during COVID19

Emma Antonetti, Whittlesea Community Connections
Academic Mentor: Dr Karen Block
Volunteering and new arrivals: a social cohesion opportunity

Karen Jones, Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
Academic Mentors: Dr Julia Hurst and Dr Erin O'Donnell
Jacksons Creek (Sunbury) Cultural Values Study
Supported by Melbourne Law School and the Indigenous Knowledge Institute

Blue Nile African Australian Business Masterclass Program

The Blue Nile African Australian Business Masterclass Program is a subsidised, intensive course designed to address the unmet business education needs and specific challenges of African Australians operating businesses and not-for-profit organisations.

The program developed out of the Co-designing Business Education Programs with the African-Australian Community Project, seed funded in 2018. It is hosted by the Melbourne Social Equity Institute and is a flagship activity of the African Research and Engagement in Australia (AREiA) initiative, a collaboration between the University of Melbourne and African Australian community groups and leaders.

The program ran as a pilot in 2020, with 44 applications received and of these, 15 African Australian entrepreneurs were selected to participate. The cohort comprised 8 women and 7 men, originating from 11 African countries.

Over 12 days, participants engaged with entrepreneurs, academics, executives, managers and community leaders, who shared ideas and processes for developing businesses and economic opportunities for the community at large.

The course content included six foundational modules:
- Business strategy: formulating effective growth-oriented business strategies
- Accounting and finance: developing sound financial management tools for enterprises
- Marketing: crafting unique market value propositions
- Managing people: developing and leading effective workforces
- Australian business culture: effectively negotiating deals and managing business relations
- Leadership and social impact: developing leadership skills and empowering your community.

In addition to delivering tailored business knowledge and skills, the Blue Nile Program aims to build participants' business networks through its mentoring program. Participants were matched with a business mentor from the African Australian Chamber of Commerce who provided ongoing support following the completion of the program.

"I joined the Blue Nile program because I was interested in developing my business skills and adding value to my work. What drew me to the program initially was the diverse range of professionals conducting the course who are highly successful in their respective fields and the opportunity to learn from them, and most importantly, who were African Australians.

One of the main benefits of the program and the conversations that took place was improving my real-world experience through other people. The other students in the class were from various fields and I got the opportunity to learn from each of these people, and this enabled me to have a greater understanding for their different walks of life."

Matthew Adekponya, Content Creator and Media Specialist

Program Participants

Matthew Kwame Adekponya
Content Creator and Media Specialist

Taidanyasha Mabel Chigogora
Behavioural Therapist and Entrepreneur

Dawit Fesseha
Director, Yanga Coffee

Lorna Deng
Co-founder of DivTal

Angelina Dampson
Founder, Angie's Kitchen

Abdillatif Fiqi
Managing Director, Gratitude In-Home Care

Ruth Karupeni
Owner and Managing Director, Ebenezer Group

Selba Gondoza Luka
Co-founder, Afri-Aus Care

Guido Melo
Founder, Melko

Sylvain Momo
Founder and Managing Director, Seniors Alarm

Mina Mosaad
Founder, Glory Architecture

Nyarai Ndhlala
Founder, Sela Care

Eva Sarr
Founder, Centre for Multicultural Program Evaluation

Clyde Sharady
Founder and CEO, Africa Media Australia
Managing Director, iMove Solutions

Zara Hassan
Founder, Trefem Agency
Co-founder, African Female Founders Network

Doctoral Academy

The Melbourne Social Equity Institute's Doctoral Academy began in 2014. For each cohort, the Institute selects research higher degree students from across the University of Melbourne to share their research, knowledge and ideas on social equity issues.

Held every 18 months, the Academy aims to support students through peer-learning opportunities and mentoring from experienced academics. Membership of the academy exposes doctoral students to different disciplinary perspectives and research methodologies that can inform the development of their own research. Speakers from outside academia, including people with government, not-for-profit and media affiliations, provide insights on the ways research can have direct social impact.

In 2020, the Doctoral Academy was convened by Research Fellow Dr Piers Gooding and conducted as a four-day summer intensive. Speakers and topics covered in the program included:

- Dr Nikki Moodie on research impact and translation
- Dr Diana Johns on activism, academia, and working with marginalised communities
- Dr Jasmin Chen on research career pathways in non-government organisations
- Associate Professor Jane Dyson on storytelling, filmmaking and community connection
- Dr John Chesterman on the academic/government nexus
- Associate Professor Michael Zyphur on social indices, statistics and probabilities
- Dr Gemma McKibbin on turning a PhD into policy brief
- Dr Julie Wells on the University Executive and community and cultural partnerships.

A modest stipend was made available for people accepted to the Doctoral Academy who have caring responsibilities to help cover costs associated with participating in the program, such as childcare.

Program Participants and Thesis Topics

Rebecca Bunn
Advocacy strategies in post-release contexts: how NGOs advocate on behalf of people leaving prison

Bethia Burgess
Rethinking post-conflict justice in Myanmar: addressing structural harms through community-based projects

Nadia Degregori
This is (not) over: The socio-environmental legacy of large-scale mine closure

Chabel Charles Din Khan
Precarious risks: the governance of 'at risk' and 'vulnerable' welfare populations

Isabel Fangyi Lu
Digital placemaking and public participation: planning, programming and governance of urban public spaces

Rewa Marathe
Crowdsourcing safety: examining the role of digital women's safety audits in shaping feminist advocacy for women's 'right to the city'

Erika Martino
From shelter to security: improving the quality and quantity of long-term affordable housing for survivors of intimate partner violence

Margaret Josephine McCarthy
Morality and justice associated with everyday living in urban landscapes in times of climate change

Lubna Meempatta
Modelling the interactions in decision-making by irrigators, irrigation water supply authorities and environmental water managers

Jacqui Parncutt
Who cares? The lives and trajectories of Australian carers with disability

Karina Putri
Urban planning and the search for social justice in the global south: lessons from resettlement planning practice in Jakarta

Pia Treichel
The political economy of international climate finance: justice, adaptation, and the Green Climate Fund

Franka Korantemaa Vaughan
Who is a Liberian anyway? The claim for formalised identity by diasporic Liberians

Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Migration, Statelessness and Refugee Studies
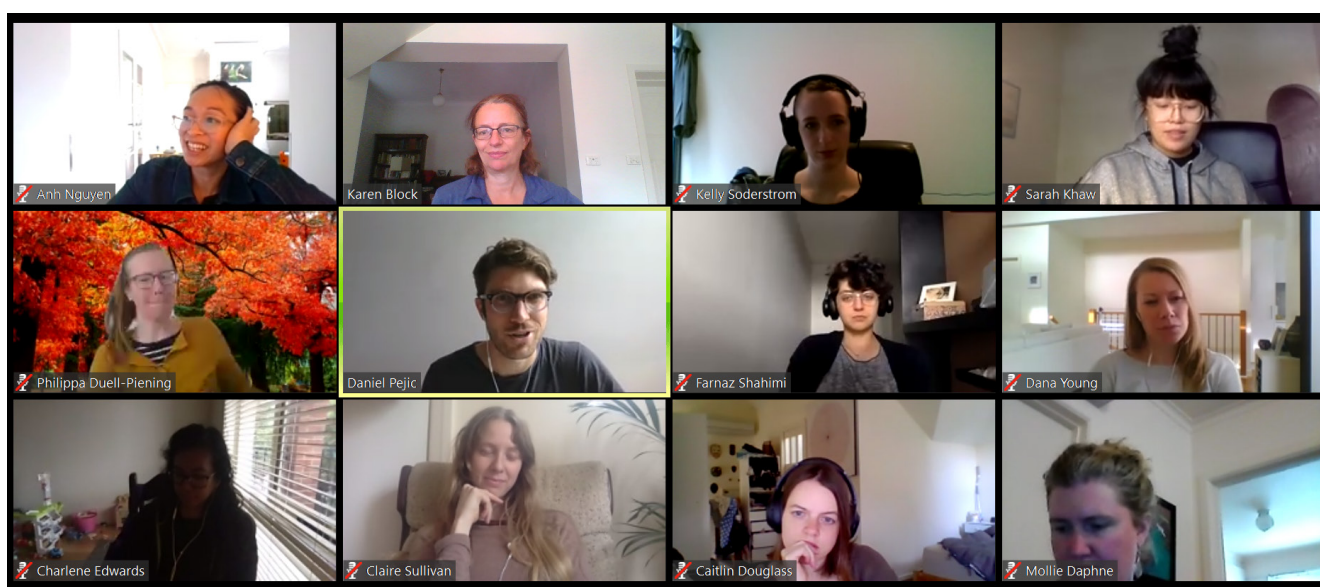
Forced displacement is a major contemporary global challenge demanding responses based on enhanced understanding of its complex and multifaceted causes and consequences.

Across 2020, the Melbourne Social Equity Institute ran an interdisciplinary PhD program to provide advanced training to doctoral candidates from across the University of Melbourne.

Co-ordinated by Dr Karen Block, the program addresses the contemporary issues of asylum-seeking, forced migration and statelessness across the areas of law, health, culture, education, creative arts, history, social policy, housing, social sustainability, community wellbeing and mental health.

It includes research training informed by a range of disciplinary, theoretical and philosophical perspectives. Students are also supported to build networks across the University and with relevant external organisations and to develop their research in reference to current real-world challenges.

Despite being away from campus for much of 2020 – and with the help of Zoom, WhatsApp and email – the program continued supporting students. In addition to formal events, including masterclassses with Professor Deborah Warr (community based participatory research methods) and Professor Karen Farquharson (critical race theory), program participants had regular casual catch-ups and virtual "shut up and write" sessions, as well as sharing information about relevant webinars, conferences, scholarships, post-doctoral opportunities, funding opportunities and more.

Program Participants and Thesis Topics

Adrienne Anderson
Refugee law and gender-based violence against women: uncovering the political dimensions

Sayomi Ariyawansa
Tackling the exploitation of migrant workers in the Australian agriculture sector

Estelle Boyle
Interstitial spaces of belonging: the role of digitally networked spaces in refugee and migrant inclusion

Deirdre Brennan
Campaigning for citizenship in Nepal (2006 – 2018): assessing how activism impacts upon law reform and the public perception of the stateless

Duncan Caillard
The art of looking: contemplating emptiness in the films of Apichatpong Weerasethakul

Vincent Dogbey
The dilemmas of development: forced migration, displacement and involuntary resettlement

Jean Dinco
Framing the Rohingya conflict: can social media and traditional media frames forecast conflicts?

Caitlin Douglass
Exploring alcohol and other drug use among migrant communities in Victoria

Philippa Duell-Piening
The right to be counted for people with disabilities who are refugees or from refugee backgrounds

Rose Iser
Understanding Second-Generation African Australian (SGAA) students from refugee backgrounds in the classroom

Mireille Kayeye
Empowerment of women seeking asylum: a voice for change

Sarah Khaw
Migrant and refugee mothers: putting cultural safety into Australian maternity care

Meghan Lee
Exploring mental health supports, needs and access with young people of a refugee background in western Victoria

Thomas McGee
The displacement-statelessness nexus: Syrians in limbo

Hala Nasr
Safe spaces as a response to gender-based violence in refugee settings: possibilities and limitations

Shannon Owen
Projecting futures through documentary film

Daniel Pejic
The city as group agent in global migration governance

Jade Roberts
Beyond the state: an individual rights approach to recognising and protecting the rights of stateless people

Nina Serova
Inheritances and encounters: Russian migrant women's experiences in Australia

Farnaz Shahimi
Resilience and sense of identity among refugee children: a social ecological perspective

Kelly Soderstrom
The 'I' in Team: an analysis of the implementation gap in EU refugee policy. A case study of solidarity

Sarah Strauven
Exploring collective narrative work with traumatised refugees

Claire Sullivan
Syrian refugees, adoptions, adaptions and rejections of legal responses to experiences of family violence and sexual and gender based violence

Catherine Townsend
Continental European Architects who migrated to Victoria between 1930 and 1940: their experience and contribution to Australian architecture.

Franka Korantemaa Vaughan
Who is a Liberian anyway? The claim for formalised identity by diasporic Liberians

Max Walden
Where to now, if anywhere? The role of international NGOs and grassroots civil society actors in advocating on behalf of asylum seekers and refugees in Indonesia

Dana Young
Understanding the contextual factors that generate social capital and promote health and wellbeing for refugee and migrant young people through sports participation

Publication Highlights

The Melbourne Social Equity Institute and its affiliated researchers produced 118 publications in 2020. A select few are highlighted below.

Gooding, P. 2020. 'Can laws "commit" governments to provide mental health services? A role for human rights in securing resources,' in Okpaku, S (ed.), *Innovations in Global Mental Health* (New York: Springer) pp. 1-23.

Gooding, P. McSherry, B. and Roper, C. 2020. 'Preventing and reducing "coercion" in mental health services: a scoping study', *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavia*, vol.142, no.1, pp. 27-3

Dawson, J. 2020, 'The externalization of Australian refugee policy and the costs for queer asylum seekers and refugees,' *Australian Journal of International Affairs,* vol 74, no. 3 pp. 322-339.

Edmonds F., Khan, R., Thorner, S. and Clarke, M. 2020. 'The living archive of Aboriginal art: expressions of Indigenous knowledge systems through collaborative art-making', *Journal of Global Studies and Contemporary Art*, vol 7, no. 1, pp. 267-311.

Fiolet, R., Tarzia, L., Owen, R., Eccles, C., Nicholson, K., Owen, M., . . . Hegarty, K. 2020. Indigenous perspectives on using technology as a supportive resource when experiencing family violence, *Journal of Technology In Human Services*, vol 38, no. 3, pp. 203-225.

Haw, A. 2020. 'What drives political news engagement in digital spaces? Reimagining 'echo chambers' in a polarised and hybridised media ecology,' *Communication Research and Practice*, vol 6, no. 1, pp. 38-54.

Hens, T. and Dunphy, K. 2020. 'Developing client capacity for self-assessment in dance movement therapy,' *Disability and Society,* published online 17 September.

Maker, Y. 2020. 'Gender, trauma and the regulation of the use of restraint on women in Australian mental health services,' *Journal of Law And Medicine*, vol.28, no.1, pp. 68-74.

McKibbin, G., and Humphreys, C. 2020. 'Service navigation in the context of domestic violence,' in J. Donovan, R. Hampson, and M. Connolly (eds.), *Service Navigation: Research and Practice in Health and Human Services*, (London: Red Globe Press).

McSherry, B. 2020. 'Predictive algorithms, risk and preventive justice: back to the future?' in Pratt, J. and Anderson, J (eds.) *Criminal Justice, Risk and the Revolt against Uncertainty* (London: Palgrave Macmillan) pp. 17-42.

Moosad, L., and Vaughan, C. 2020, 'Care, collaboration and critique: The intersection of creativity and wellbeing in older women'. *International Journal of Wellbeing,* vol 10, no. 5, pp. 100-116.

Wagg, E., Hocking, J. and Tomnay, J. 2020. 'What do young women living in regional and rural Victoria say about chlamydia testing? A qualitative study,' *Sexual Health,* vol 17, no. 2, pp. 160-166

Public Events

After beginning the year with in-person lectures, seminars and conferences, the Melbourne Social Equity Institute pivoted to running online events, reaching new audiences across Australia and around the world.

The year's public events program commenced with a booked-out public lecture by Professor Shoshana Grossbard from San Diego State University on the economics of family violence laws, presented with the Economic and Social Participation Hallmark Research Initiative (ESPRIt). In February, the Institute supported the Gender and Sexuality at Work, a multidisciplinary research and engagement conference Researchers from 14 Australian universities presented their work, alongside speakers from community organisations, Victoria Police and the private sector.

A highlight of 2020's in-person events was the Borders, Identity and Belonging in a Cosmopolitan Society Conference, presented with the African Studies Group. The three-day event included a masterclass for graduate and early career researchers, presented by Professor Michael Baffoe from the University of Manitoba, a public lecture by Professor Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni from the University of South Africa and two days of academic and practitioner panels. The conference also hosted the launch of *Reintegration and Resettlement of African Australians Released from Prison: Towards an Ubuntu Framework of Support*, the final report of an interdisciplinary project seed-funded by the Melbourne Social Equity Institute.

Throughout 2020, the Institute partnered with the Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness – first in person and then online – to present regular seminars on a range of migration, statelessness and refugee studies related issues. Topics covered in the program included citizenship in India, refugee self-representation in international-level advocacy, the Rohingya emergency response and the role of immigration policy and gender in immigrant's diverse employment trajectories.

In October, a half-day workshop for early career and higher degree researchers working on migration, ethnicity, multiculturalism and refugee-related projects was presented in partnership with The Australian Sociological Association. The session focused on writing and publishing for early career researchers, with attendees representing 20 universities across Australia as well as attracting audience members from 14 different countries.

In the final public event of 2020, Dr Piers Gooding – a Research Fellow at the Melbourne Social Equity Institute, an Australian Research Council DECRA Fellow and a 2020 Mozilla Foundation Fellow – presented a webinar titled 'Your Robot Therapist Will See You Now" exploring social equity issues and the rise of digital mental healthcare. The session covered overlapping issues related to two of the Institute's emerging research programs – Mental Health and Society, and Digital Access and Equity – and raised many important social equity questions and challenges facing our society as we enter the third decade of the 21st century.

The Reintegration and Resettlement of African Australians Released from Prison research team at the report launch in early March.

Financial Statement

INCOME	
Balance brought forward	$527
Funds from Chancellery	
– Core Melbourne Social Equity Institute funding	$920,000
– Space charges contribution	$30,000
Internal grants	$179,371
External grants	$479,122
Philanthropic donations	$93,727
Total income	$1,702,220

EXPENDITURE	
Directorate staff salaries	$551,122
Research staff salaries	$158,795
Research project costs	$723,768
Operating expenses	$1,237
Seed funded projects	$161,447
Partnership development	$10,403
PhD scholarships	$36,833
Events	$697
Space charges	$30,000
Total expenditure	$1,674,302
Balance carried forward	$28,445

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