



# Melbourne Social Equity Institute

Annual Report 2019



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Enquiries about reprinting information contained in this publication  
should be made through:

Melbourne Social Equity Institute

University of Melbourne VIC 3010

[social-equity@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:social-equity@unimelb.edu.au)



# 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 which helps build fairer societies.

The Institute prioritises rights-based and interdisciplinary research, involving partners from the community and giving those with a lived experience of disadvantage voice 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 better solve complex problems of disadvantage. Involving community partners ensures that research is relevant to those outside the academy.

In 2019, 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 2019 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**



# Letter from the Director



In 2019, the Melbourne Social Equity Institute underwent its ‘consolidation’ review. This involved providing documentation to a panel of three University leaders and a representative of the community. Happily, the panel members commended our work to date and recommended that MSEI continue to be a key member of the interdisciplinary research institutes portfolio.

The importance of community led and engaged research was one of the key themes highlighted throughout the review process. Over 100 people responded to a short survey about their engagement with MSEI and it was gratifying to read the overwhelmingly positive responses. That alone gave our small directorate a real boost in ensuring that we continue to support truly collaborative and participatory research.

During 2019, we reinvigorated our continuing program of research on Migration and Social Cohesion and developed two new ones – Mental Health and Society as well as Digital Access and Equity – to sit alongside it. These programs are underpinned by a focus on community-engaged research and you’ll find information about some of the projects MSEI supported throughout the year in the ensuing pages.

My gratitude goes once again to our Deputy Director Associate Professor Sara Wills from the Faculty of Arts and the members of an outstanding professional team – Executive Officer, Charlene Edwards, Project Coordinator, Kathleen Patterson and Communications, Marketing and Events Coordinator, Claire Smiddy – who make working at the Institute such a delight.

I hope you enjoy reading this overview of MSEI activities and achievements in 2019 and that you’ll keep up to date via our email newsletter, Twitter and Facebook.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernadette McSherry".

Professor Bernadette McSherry  
Foundation Director, Melbourne Social Equity Institute



# 2019 Overview



5

interdisciplinary programs of research covering migration, digital equity, mental health, community-engaged research and ending violence against women



92

academic publications including 68 journal articles and 5 book chapters were generated by Institute initiatives



20

PhD candidates supported through Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarships and other Institute scholarships



10

international and Australian visiting Fellows including from the National University of Ireland, Auckland University of Technology, Maastricht University and the University of California



24

graduate researchers participated in the Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Migration, Statelessness and Refugee Studies



69

events including public lectures, seminars, workshops and film screenings



4628

social media followers across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram



121

media mentions across television, radio, podcasts, newspapers and blogs



22,516

website visitors and 66,299 page views by visitors from 160 countries



# 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 2019 reference group:

Professor Hari Bapuji  
Department of Management and Marketing

Dr Jane Dyson  
School of Geography

Professor Susan Kneebone  
Melbourne Law School

Dr Kelum Palipane  
Melbourne School of Design

Associate Professor Kylie Smith  
Melbourne Graduate School of Education

Dr Victor Sojo  
Faculty of Business and Economics

Dr Cain Polidano  
Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and  
Social Research

# 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:

Jan Owen AM (Chair)  
CEO, Foundation for Young Australians

Durkhanai Ayubi  
Restaurateur, freelance writer and inaugural  
Atlantic Fellow for Social Equity

Robin Banks  
Former Anti-Discrimination Commissioner,  
Equal Opportunity Tasmania

Michael Black AC QC  
Former Chief Justice, Federal Court of Australia

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

Roz Hansen  
Former Ministerial Advisory Committee member  
for the Metropolitan Planning Strategy

Ross Honeywill  
Executive Director, Centre for Social Economics

Nyadol Nyuon  
Lawyer, Arnold Bloch Leibler

Paul Ronalds  
CEO, Save the Children

Michael Traill AM  
Chair, Goodstart Early Learning and Social  
Ventures Australia Leadership Council

# 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 2019 research was focused on the following key themes:**

## **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 Associate 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 inequalities 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 and 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 our commitment to putting the voices of women and children at the centre of our 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.

MAEVe also won an Engagement Grant from the University to develop a database of survivors of family violence willing to support teaching and research on family violence at the University. Throughout 2019 MAEVe published a monthly newsletter, held ten seminars, collaborated on another two seminars with the Melbourne Social Equity Institute and collaborated with the Safer Families Centre of Research Excellence to host Professor Nadine Wathen, University of Western Ontario, Canada, for a week-long event on Knowledge Translation.

# Externally Funded Projects

## **Accessibility and the Water Codes Review**

### *A project for the Essential Services Commission*

This project will develop guidance to support Victorian water businesses to produce accessible information and processes for customers with cognitive disabilities.

## **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 new 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).

## **Minimising Coercion in Mental Health Care**

### *A project for the World Psychiatric Association and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists*

In this project, a team of researchers at the Melbourne Social Equity Institute prepared a discussion paper on strategies to support psychiatrists and other mental health professionals to reduce and minimise the use of coercion in mental health care.

## **Model Laws to Regulate the Use of Restraint on Persons with Disabilities**

### *Addressing the current lack of a common legal framework for regulating the use of restraint on persons with disabilities*

This ARC Discovery project's key objective is to benefit mental health, aged care, and disability services users by supporting government policies aimed at reducing, with a view to eliminating, the adverse consequences of coercive practices in these sectors.





# The SEREDA Project

## *Self Care: A Part of Ethical Research Practice*

**Through the SEREDA Project, Melbourne Social Equity Institute researchers are part of an international team focused on sexual and gender-based violence against refugees and their experiences from displacement to arrival.**

*The following piece by Research Assistant Jeanine Hourani is part of the SEREDA Project's blog series, featuring reflections and commentary by the research team.*

I have always been acutely aware of the importance of culturally safe and ethically sound practices when conducting research with and for refugees – it's something that has been hammered into me throughout my Masters of Public Health. Something that was less central to my understanding of ethical research practice was the importance of self-care; the notion that ethical research should protect both the research subjects and the researcher.

Ethical research practice requires comprehensive socio-political and cultural understanding of the challenges facing refugees. This means fieldwork is best led by those with experience of the culture, norms and challenges faced by refugees. While this doesn't necessarily ensure culturally competent research practices, it provides an above-average baseline entry point. This is what drew me to refugee research; I believed that my

lived experience provided me with a solid baseline understanding of the challenges and opportunities across all stages of research:

1. Interviews. Being an Arab, a Muslim, and having come to Australia as a refugee meant that I felt well-positioned to interview participants with an inherent sense of cultural sensitivity. This was further strengthened by the fact that I was interviewing participants in their first language – Arabic.
2. Write-up. Having been subject to negative media portrayals of Arab women and women in Islam, I am painfully aware of the many meritless stereotypes that ensue and felt comfortable challenging these when framing both the problems and the solutions during project write-up.
3. Providing recommendations. Having worked on the service delivery side of the refugee sector and having a handle on the challenges that exist within my own community meant that I felt I could provide an 'insider's perspective' of possible unintended consequences of recommendations.

I felt a sense of relief when I first started conducting interviews. In one of my first interviews, our interviewee revealed that it was arranged that she was engaged to be married at 12 years old. As hard as I tried, I couldn't stop thinking about how someone else might have reacted to this information, someone whose own grandmother hadn't had an arranged marriage at 16. I cringed at the thought of the insensitive ways this could have been perceived both during the interview, and in the analysis and write-up of findings. Despite this sense of relief, interviewing participants revealed a relative, and undeniable, privilege that I hold.

I am a researcher – regardless of my lived experience. While that does not dampen the value of my lived experience, it brings with it power and privilege. This not only manifests during interviews, but even during interpretation of the data, something I realised while transcribing and translating the transcripts. Through my practice of research, the subjects had trusted me with their stories. In doing so, they were trusting me to become the conduit of their voices and gate-keeper of the information that they shared. My role as a researcher aside, I am a university-educated Australian citizen who is fluent in the English language. I have never experienced sexual or gender-based violence, nor am I currently in a position of financial instability. This further exacerbated my relative privilege. I quickly learned that while I may not hold ethnic privilege over the research subjects, I certainly hold immense social privilege.

Realising this social privilege meant that I often left interviews with a heavy sense of guilt – commonly known as 'survivor guilt'. It was at this point that I realised the importance of self-care. For me, there are three things that have really helped:

1. Debrief sessions with other team members. I remember reading about debrief sessions in the ethics application and thinking to myself 'oh, that's cute'. Having felt significantly lighter after debriefing with a team member on car rides home from interviews, I now realise that debriefing is not only nice to have but a must-have.

2. Spacing out the interviews. At one stage, we did 6 interviews in the space of 3 days. By the end of those 3 days, I was completely drained of all my energy. From then on, I have made sure that I space out interviews. The same



*Jeanine Hourani is a Research Assistant whose work focuses on refugee women's experiences of violence. She also founded the 'In My Own Words Program' at Road to Refuge.*

applies for transcribing and translating – I've learnt to space them out and take regular breaks.

3. The importance of saying no. After a day of three consecutive interviews, I had pre-arranged dinner plans with a friend. I felt exhausted at even the thought of expending more energy through social interaction. Instead, I treated myself to multiple cups of tea, a long bath, and lots of trashy TV to replenish my energy levels. Most importantly, I told myself that it was OK to do so.

At first, all this self-care stuff seemed pretty self-indulgent, but then I asked myself: what good am I to the refugee movement if I burn out before I've even really begun?

*SEREDA project data collection has been completed in the UK and Turkey, and is underway in Sweden and Australia. The Melbourne team has almost completed the target number of interviews with service providers, and partially completed interviews with Syrian and Iraqi refugees who have experienced gender-based violence – further interviews will be done when it is safe to do so following lifting of COVID-19 related physical distancing measures. The SEREDA design and early findings were presented to international audiences at the European Conference on Domestic Violence in Oslo in September and Sexual Violence Research Initiative Conference in Cape Town in October 2019, generating considerable interest and positive feedback.*

**To learn more about the SEREDA Project visit <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/j5kr>**





# The Burndawan Project

## *A Community Acting Against Family Violence*

**The Wadawurrung Community has co-designed an online family violence resource for their own people, prioritising the voices of Australia's First Nations populations in positive change. The project was seed funded by the Melbourne Social Equity Institute.**

*The following by researcher Renee Fiolet is an extract of an article published by Pursuit in November 2019. Visit <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/53kr> to read the full story.*

In Australia, ongoing systemic racism directed at First Nations peoples has created a significant level of mistrust. This mistrust is often associated with police and welfare services who were involved in the traumatic forced removal of children from their Indigenous parents, leaving scars for an entire people as a result of the Stolen Generations.

It is not surprising then, that many First Nations peoples do not feel safe when seeking support, particularly when it comes to family violence.

Australia's First Nations peoples experience high

levels of family violence caused by a multitude of factors. This despite the fact that the core values of the community are built on harmony with family, community and land.

But many First Nations peoples will not seek support for family violence because of barriers such as shame, judgement, fear and culturally inappropriate responses that put many people off accessing family violence resources.

However, one Aboriginal community has worked to make a positive change for their people who are impacted by family violence.

The Wadawurrung community of the Kulin Nations in Victoria, approached researchers at the University of Melbourne to work together to improve the information and advice available on



family violence for their people.

After forming an advisory group and developing a terms of reference, the Wadawurrung family violence project was established with support from the Melbourne Social Equity Institute, philanthropic organisation Give Where You Live, and the Safer Families Centre of Research Excellence. As part of the project, I worked with the community to help determine their needs when it came to providing the right support for family violence.

The Wadawurrung community identified a solution; an online resource tailored to the community's needs. One that included specific features to make getting help easier.

The community was looking for a resource, available at any time of the day or night – but also one accessible from a cultural perspective including appropriate use of language, imagery and content. The community also identified the need to make sure the resource met the needs of both men and women.

Many people also emphasised the fact that those who witness family violence need support too, in addition to those who experience it. Importantly, the resource needed to offer anonymity, particularly because of fears surrounding child removal.

And finally, it also needed to be culturally safe – allowing a healing space that focussed on Indigenous strengths.

Working together, the community advisory group and the University research team collaborated with focus groups to design and develop an online family violence resource for the community.

These group sessions with men and women ultimately informed the eventual design of Burndawan – a Wadawurrung word meaning “safe”.

*Image left:  
A Journey Forward  
2018 by Ammie Howell*

*Image right: The project team at  
the launch of the Burndawan site in  
Geelong, November 2019.*

**“People working in these sectors can refer their Indigenous clients to the site or explore it themselves in order to develop a clear understanding of what resources are available.”**

While Burndawan is specifically for the First Nations peoples in Wadawurrung Country who experience family violence, are concerned about family violence or who use harmful behaviours in their relationships – it's also a resource for those working in spaces like justice, health or specialist services.

There are three main areas on Burndawan – Assess, Act and Heal.

Burndawan is a resource that provides support and encouragement to those who need help. Crucially, because the community have been instrumental in designing and creating the site for their own people, it empowers those who need it to seek help and advice in a safe place, from people they trust.

*To learn more about the Burndawan Project visit [burndawan.com.au](http://burndawan.com.au).*



# 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.

**Aviva Beecher Kelk**

**Sustainability vs 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, School of Business, University of New South Wales (Canberra)

**Mollie Daphne**

**How can/does the Victorian education system support social inclusion, educational engagement and successful educational outcomes for students from refugee backgrounds in both primary and secondary schools in the growth areas of Melbourne?**

Supervisors: Professor Joseph Lo Bianco, Melbourne Graduate School of Education, Dr Julie Choi, Melbourne Graduate School of Education and Dr Karen Block, 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 Psychiatric Nursing, Associate Professor Lisa Brophy, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health and Professor Bernadette McSherry, Melbourne Social Equity Institute

**Liz Gill-Atkinson**

**How do women with disability in the Philippines understand and experience participatory research practice?**

Supervisors: Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan, Gender and Women's Health Unit and Professor Marilyns Guillemin, Centre for Health Equity

**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**

Supervisor: Professor Julie McLeod, Melbourne Graduate School of Education and Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan, Gender and Women's Health Unit

**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

**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**



Supervisor: Professor Anne Kavanagh, 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 Psychiatric Nursing, Dr Nicole Hill, Department of Social Work and Dr Louise Byrne, RMIT

**Alana Roy**

**Mental health & wellbeing of people who are deaf-blind**

Supervisor: Professor Keith McVilly, School of Social and Political Sciences

**Claire Sullivan**

**Syrian refugees, adoptions, adaptations and rejections of legal responses to experiences of family violence and sexual and gender based violence**

Supervisors: Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan, Gender and Women's Health Unit and Dr Karen Block, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

**Juan Tellez**

**Model laws and guidelines to regulate the use of chemical restraint on persons with disabilities**

Supervisors: Professor Bernadette McSherry, Melbourne Social Equity Institute, Professor John Tobin, Melbourne Law School and Associate 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, Associate 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, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning and Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan, Gender and Women's Health Unit

**Doctorates Awarded in 2019**

**Jaz Dawson**

**Queering constructivist international relations: analysing norm implementation in sexual orientation based refugee law**

Supervisors: Professor Michelle Foster, Melbourne Law School and Professor Sarah Maddison, School of Social and Political Sciences

**Lauren Kosta**

**Parenting after a disaster: experiences since Black Saturday**

Supervisors: Professor Louise Harms, Department of Social Work, Professor Lisa Gibbs, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health and Dr David Rose, Department of Social Work



*Dr Lauren Kosta (third from left) with her supervisors at her graduation ceremony in December 2019.*



# Diversity in Decision-Making

**Aviva Beecher Kelk's PhD research focuses on co-designing informed choice under the National Disability Insurance Scheme.**

Human rights need to be built into the National Disability Insurance Scheme if it is to succeed, says PhD candidate Aviva Beecher Kelk.

"I have been thinking about what business can bring to the sector and how we can consciously use capitalism as it seeps into our social welfare system. Human rights are a really hard thing to pin down, whereas for consumer rights there are all these frameworks set up."

Where the money goes, attention follows.

After graduating from a Master of Social Work, she quickly began thinking about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) through this lens. The NDIS promises choice and control for its participants – but what does that mean in practice? Doctoral study became one way to explore this question.

"A lot of the spaces we occupy as professionals don't have that human rights focus. But as social workers, we can't help ourselves. I think that's a really beautiful strength."

Funded by the Melbourne Social Equity Institute, Beecher Kelk's doctoral studies explore what people with disabilities need to feel informed when they're choosing services. She says that though she's interested in these big picture questions, it was important that her work also be connected to people's lived experiences.

"It was important that my work be community-focused. I really appreciate everything I receive from participants in my study, but I want to make sure they're getting something out of it too."

"There's no point in doing a PhD that doesn't produce some kind of tangible outcome, some utility."

This attitude drives her other endeavours too. In 2014 she founded Clickability, a service directory for NDIS users, together with her friend and business partner Jenna Moffat.

“I saw that from the social work perspective, making referrals to services was really hard. I would often have to call up people I had studied with who were working in homelessness, or drug and alcohol services, in order to get information about where I could refer people and the intake requirements.

“There was just no way that my clients could have done that for themselves.”

The start-up has been so successful facilitating that exchange of information that even the people responsible for connecting participants with services are using it.

“We get phone calls from Local Area Co-ordinators all the time. They’re using our service instead of the internal lists provided by the agency.”

Clickability has grown alongside the rollout of the NDIS, and Beecher Kelk says it has been an interesting platform from which to view the scheme.

**“The marketplace is really immature – there is still way too much demand and not enough supply. As a consequence, a lot of people don’t care about quality. That’s a problem – for the insurance scheme, and the idea of embedding rights into it.”**



*Aviva Beecher Kelk’s interdisciplinary research is supported by the Melbourne Social Equity Institute and an Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship.*

Despite these setbacks, she says that there are reasons to be hopeful.

“It has been interesting watching service providers becoming savvier: better with technology, better with their marketing. When we go to expos now in places where the NDIS has been present for a couple of years, we are getting much more informed questions from consumers.

“Getting 460,000 people into this scheme is a massive undertaking, but there are signs of positive change.”

*In 2019 Clickability was awarded a \$400,000 grant by the NDIS as part of its Information, Linkages and Capacity Building National Information Program Grant Round to develop tools and information to help service users identify and find relevant supports with disability cohort expertise, much like the Rainbow Tick indicates expertise with LG-BTIQA+ issues.*

*Aviva Beecher Kelk submitted her PhD thesis in early 2020.*



# Visiting Fellows

## International

Dr Mark Rainey, Urban Geographer and Migration Scholar, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland

Dr Karly Kehoe, Canada Research Chair in Atlantic Canada Communities, St Mary's University, Nova Scotia, Canada

Eugene Hyman, Former Judge, Superior Court of Santa Clara County, California, USA

Professor Jan-Christoph Heilinger, Academic Director of the Ethics-Centre, University of Munich, Germany and Permanent Visiting Professor, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Professor Kate Diesfeld, Health Law Academic, Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand

Professor Lisa Waddington, European Disability Forum Chair in European Disability Law at Maastricht University, Netherlands

Professor Meredith Minkler, Health and Social Behavior, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley, USA

Professor Steven Segal, School of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley, USA

## National

Commissioner Alistair McEwin AM, Disability Discrimination Commissioner

Dr Ibolya Losoncz, Research Fellow, Centre for International Governance and Justice, Australian National University



*Dr Ibolya Losoncz (third from left) with Charlene Edwards, Dr Karen Block and Dr Christoph Sperfeldt*

# Collaborations

**The Melbourne Social Equity Institute is committed to working with like-minded organisations and individuals with lived experience to ensure that research is relevant and impactful.**

## **Partnering with African Australian community organisations**

Throughout 2019, the Institute focused on developing its relationship with the African Think Tank and the broader African community in Victoria. The African Think Tank is a well-regarded organisation that serves the interests of African Australian communities through representation, advocacy and support initiatives. The African Think Tank has been a major collaborator in the co-design of the Blue Nile African Business Masterclass program, which aims to respond to the specific challenges faced by African Australian entrepreneurs in the Australian business landscape. The masterclass program will be piloted in 2020 and has received financial support from the Scanlon Foundation and the University of Melbourne. Building upon this, the African Think Tank and the University is seeking to establish a research and community-engaged initiative focussed on the health, cultural, social, economic and political wellbeing of African Australian communities in Victoria. The initiative will enable knowledge exchange, collaborative research and community relationships that will result in long term and mutually beneficial outcomes. It will direct and stimulate significant research that will fill gaps in knowledge regarding African Australian communities to support policy and decision-makers, business and community agencies and the broader Australian community.

## **Partnering with organisations supporting people from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds**

In 2019, the Institute initiated two PhD research projects with the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (known as Foundation House) and with the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. The project with Foundation House, undertaken by Mollie Daphne, seeks to understand how the Victorian education system supports social inclusion, educational engagement and successful educational outcomes for students from refugee backgrounds. The project with the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, which will commence in 2020, seeks to understand the effectiveness of empowerment strategies in supporting people seeking asylum to settle in Australia.

## **Continuing collaboration with Scope Australia**

The Institute continues to work closely with Scope Australia, a leading provider of disability services throughout Australia, in creating opportunities for Scope employees to take up PhD study opportunities at the University of Melbourne. The first employee, Stephanie Weir, commenced her studies in early 2019 focusing on the relationship between communication autonomy, behaviours of concern and restrictive interventions in children who have little to no functional speech. A second employee is due to commence a PhD in early 2020.

## **Collaborating with members of the Thriving Communities Partnership**

In 2019 a Institute facilitated research team continued a collaboration with seven members of the Thriving Communities Partnership, an alliance of essential service providers concerned with improving access to services for all Australians. Working with consumers with cognitive disabilities, the collaboration produced industry guidance and tools to help providers to support members of this consumer group in accessing essential services. The guidance and tools were launched at a well-attended industry workshop in April.

# 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.**

The program began in 2016 with a pilot of six fellowships. Its key objectives are to generate quality research outcomes, meet community-based needs for research and to foster community-academic collaborations. Each fellow is assigned an Academic Mentor with relevant expertise. The mentors and the program team work with the fellow to design the project. During their placement Community Fellows are encouraged to participate in a range of academic and professional development activities.

The following research projects were part of the Community Fellows Program in 2019:

**Saba Alemayoh, Bigoa Chuol and Piriye Altraide, AfroHub**

Academic Mentors: Dr Ashley Barnwell and Dr Karen Block

Exploring traditional gender norms within Nuer, Tigrian and Nigerian communities living in Melbourne

**Tessa Hens, Bayley House**

Academic Mentor: Dr Kim Dunphy

Developing a participant self-assessment tool for people with an intellectual disability  
*Supported by the Melbourne Disability Institute*

**Hayley Black, Carringbush Adult Education**

Academic Mentor: Dr Julie Choi

Accessing online government services: digital literacy teaching strategies

**Kelly Whitworth, Homeless Persons Union Victoria**

Academic Mentor: Dr Crystal Legacy

Improving institutional responses to housing and homelessness activism

**Freya Dinshaw, Human Rights Law Centre**

Academic Mentor: Professor Susan Kneebone

Modern-day slavery in Australia

**Mike Collins, Moreland City Council**

Academic Mentor: Dr Crystal Legacy

Improving institutional responses to housing and homelessness activism  
*Public Policy Fellowship*

**Kate Teggelove, PaKT4change**

Academic Mentor: Professor Katrina Skewes McFerran

Benefits and challenges in delivering rhythm based programs for children  
*Linked with the Exploring the Value of Rhythm-based Support Research Project*



**Indigo Daya, Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council**

Academic Mentor: Associate Professor Bridget Hamilton  
Equitable consumer advocacy in mental health

**Minh Nguyen, Vietnamese Community in Australia - Victorian Chapter**

Academic Mentor: Dr Jane Dyson  
Learning how to support the children of Vietnamese immigrants to thrive in Australia

**Dalal Smiley, Wellsprings for Women**

Academic Mentor: Dr Mohajer Hameed  
Engaging men in gender equity and the prevention of violence against women

**Tess Matthews, WEstjustice (Western Community Legal Centre)**

Academic Mentor: Professor Jeannie Paterson  
Creating Clearer Contracts: Consumer Law and New Australian Residents

**Emma Wagg, Women's Health Goulburn North East**

Academic Mentor: Associate Professor Jane Tomnay  
Understanding stigma and social barriers to testing and treatment for STDs

***Community Fellows Mike Collins and Kelly Whitworth***

*Kelly is a peer homelessness activist and Mike is a social policy officer for Moreland City Council. Kelly and Mike are both passionate about housing as a human right, and as a responsibility of governments and communities to provide for all. They want to find ways for local councils to listen to and support the needs of people who are homeless or in marginal housing and the organisations that represent them.*

*Both Kelly and Mike are mentored by Dr Crystal Legacy, Deputy Director of the Informal Urbanism Research Hub. Crystal is excited that this project will help foster connections between housing and homelessness activists and local government in a way that will cultivate a culture of shared advocacy for those experiencing homelessness in our cities.*



# Understanding Diaspora Peacebuilding

**Achieving lasting peace takes more than just the absence of war, says Community Fellow Denise Cauchi, and diaspora communities can make significant contributions toward it.**

“When we talk about peace, we’re talking about many different things. It’s not just the peace-making that ends conflicts: mediators, treaties, peace-keepers putting an immediate stop to violence. After that comes reconciliation, building understanding within communities about how to live together after violence,” says Denise Cauchi.

“More profoundly, we’re talking about the reconstruction of a society in which conflict is resolved without violence, and in which people are able to live meaningful lives in which they can access all of their human rights.”

When conflict spans multiple generations and decades, its impact can follow people even as they settle on the other side of the world.

“Diaspora communities are often divided in ways that mirror the conflicts in their countries of origin. The young people in the South Sudanese community, for example, if they’re Dinka they’re sometimes forbidden from attending Nuer events. Or if you’re Tamil and you’re helping out

the Sinhalese, you’re considered a traitor and ostracised.”

Changing this isn’t easy, but within any diaspora there are people committed to inter-ethnic harmony. As Executive Director of Diaspora Action Australia, it was Denise’s job to support the people and organisations that are doing this hard work of peacebuilding.

“They know it’s to everybody’s benefit to mutually co-exist, but it’s also something that they want to do for back home,” she says. “It’s important to understand that the communities here are a part of the communities there. The South Sudanese diaspora is still embedded within South Sudan, the Sri Lankan diaspora are deeply connected to Sri Lanka. They’re affected by the conflicts, and everything that happens there impacts them.”

*Image: A/Prof Jennifer Balint (School of Social and Political Sciences), David Nyuol Vincent (Peace Palette), Denise Cauchi and Shyama Fuad (Bridging Lanka) at the launch of the Long-distance Peacebuilding Report.*

That works in the other direction too, and many in the diaspora are actively involved in conflict resolution projects in their countries of origin. A group of the South Sudanese diaspora in Australia has trained hundreds of peace mobilisers over a period of years in the country. Another community organisation has a messaging strategy premised on building a new nation from a base belief in ethnic diversity. Its members deliberately talk about multiculturalism with their families both here and abroad.

As a Community Fellow at the Melbourne Social Equity Institute, Denise interviewed 22 people from the South Sudanese and Sri Lankan diaspora to better understand these diaspora peacebuilding efforts.

“The whole area of diaspora work in the development sector – particularly in peacebuilding – is not really understood in Australia. There has been some literature overseas, but the focus here has been very limited. That affects our policy advocacy to government: you can make claims, and point to international research, but it was hard without that rigorous research that was specific to Australia.”

There are as many approaches to peacebuilding as there are definitions of peace, but in her research she found a common belief among those interviewed that political and military solutions alone aren't enough. For long-lasting peace, it's important to change what's in people's hearts and minds.

“The people I interviewed talked about finding ways for different ethnic groups to understand each other, understand their experiences. To understand that the line between victim and perpetrator is not always clear, and that many people are both.”

“What's interesting is that the peacebuilding wisdom says that reconciliation comes when the conflict is over. The diaspora was saying that you can't be that linear. You can't wait until there's an official ceasefire, until some magic peacetime comes when everybody suddenly says 'Sorry'. It's an ongoing process.”

Some of these efforts involve going back to home countries and confronting what happened. One member of the Burgher diaspora organised a reconciliation road trip with the Uniting Church,

taking each of the four main groups to sites of importance around Sri Lanka.

“It was like Noah's Ark: one man and one woman from the Tamil, Sinhalese, Muslim and Burgher communities together on a bus. They drove around to visit temples, shrines and mosques, where people would tell their stories and the stories of their families, the massacres that had happened.

“It was very emotional. People were talking about it like it was this watershed moment.

“What was really interesting though was that for the people involved in those trips it became a catalyst. Many of them have been motivated to do more of this kind of work. Some are now living back in Sri Lanka and are doing further projects there. I think it has had a really profound effect.”

Denise's research led to the Long Distance Peacebuilding report. She is also writing an academic article with her supervisor Associate Professor Jennifer Balint (School of Social and Political Sciences). The research wouldn't have been possible without Jennifer's mentoring and the support provided by the Community Fellowship Program.

“I knew before the program that I wanted to do a piece of academic research but I wasn't really sure how to go about it. Jennifer helped me think it through, and supported me with methodology and data analysis. It was great to have somebody to talk things through with.”

“From the beginning it was a really good fit,” said Jennifer. “I was really excited about the project and we met regularly. I really enjoyed my conversations with Denise, about her findings and the need for her project. It was helpful for my thinking around these issues generally.

“I think the community fellows model is fantastic. This is what we should be doing as academics and as a public institution. It's part of our role to do this public work, and this is a great model for everyone.”

Visit <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/7okr> to download a copy of the Long-distance Peacebuilding Report



# 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 2019, 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.

Masterclasses, workshops and seminars in 2019 included a focus on ethics, approaches to international fieldwork and current issues related to global compacts and regional refugee processes. The 2019 program culminated in a one-day conference which attracted over 200 registrations and presentations by graduate and early career researchers from twelve different institutions.



## Program Participants and Thesis Topics

### Adrienne Anderson

Every woman is an island: bridging the gap between 'mainland' refugee claims and women's domestic abuse cases

### Sayomi Ariyawansa

Tackling the exploitation of migrant workers in the Australian agriculture sector

### Deirdre Brennan

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

### Louisa Bufardeci

There's beige in brown: towards an aesthetic language to challenge white superiority

### Jonathan Daly

Out-of-placeness: mediating intercultural encounter through urban design

### Philippa Duell-Piening

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

### Caitlin Douglass

Exploring alcohol and other drug use among migrant communities in Victoria

### Shane Harrison

Humanitarian responses to the protection needs of adolescent boys in emergencies: A case study of the Rohingya crisis response

### Rose Iser

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

### Evan Jureidini

Trauma and the altered self

### Sarah Khaw

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

### 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

### Jade Roberts

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

### Farnaz Shahimi

Identifying, improving and creating psychosocial resilience factors among refugee children survivors of sexual and gender-based violence

### 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, adaptations and rejections of legal responses to experiences of family violence and sexual and gender based violence

### Tamara Tubakovic

Responsibility sharing on refugees: an analysis of policy change to the Dublin system

### Francisca 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 92 publications in 2019. A select few are highlighted below.**

A. Arstein-Kerslake, P. Gooding, S. Mercer, M. Raymond and B. McSherry (2019). Implementing a Participatory Human Rights-Based Research Methodology: The Unfitness to Plead Project. *Journal of Human Rights Practice*. 11(3): 589-606.

R. Fiolet, L. Tarzia, R. Owen, C. Eccles, K. McGough, M. Owen, S. Fry, J. Knox and K. Hegarty (2019). Indigenous perspectives on help-seeking for family violence: voices from an Australian community. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. 1-19 (published online).

P. Gooding (2019). Can laws “commit” governments to provide mental health services? A role for human rights in securing resources? In S. Okpaku (ed) *Innovations in Global Mental Health*. Cham Switzerland: Springer.

A. Haw, F. Fozdar and R.I. Cover (2019). Resistance to the dehumanisation of asylum seekers in Australia’s mediated public sphere: An audience perspective. *Media, Culture and Society*. 1-17 (published online).

R. Khan (2019). ‘Be Creative’ in Bangladesh? Mobility, empowerment and precarity in ethical fashion enterprise. *Cultural Studies. Special issue. Mobilities, Borders and Precarities in Asia’s New Millenium*. 33(6): 1029-1049.

G. McKibbin and C. Humphreys (2019). The perceptions of Australian Workers about caring for sexually exploited children in residential care. *Child Abuse Review*. 28(6): 418-430.

J. McLeod and S. Mannix (2019). Educating society: Sociological debates and dilemmas. In J. Germov and M. Poole (eds) *Public Sociology: An Introduction to Australian Society* (4 ed., pp. 511-538). Australia: Allen and Unwin Academic.

B. McSherry (2019). Pre-trial and civil detention of “dangerous” individuals in common law jurisdictions. In D. K. Brown, J. Iontcheva Turner and B. Weisser (eds) *Oxford Handbook of Criminal Process* (pp. 521-540). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

N. Oishi and A. Ono (2019). North-North migration of care workers: ‘Disposable’ au pairs in Australia. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. 1-18 (published online).

K. Smith (2019). Children’s voices and gender pedagogies for equity in and out of early childhood classrooms. In E. Swadener and S. Kessler (eds) *Education for Social Justice in Early Childhood*. London: McGraw-Hill Education.

C. Vaughan, S. Khaw, G. Katsikis, J. Wheeler, J. Ozge, V. Kasidis, L. Moosad (2019). It is like being put through a blender: Inclusive research in practice in an Australian university. *Disability and Society*. 34(7-8): 1224-1240.



# Media Highlights

The Melbourne Social Equity Institute counted 121 media mentions in 2019. They were related to a broad range of themes including family violence, mental health, deaths in custody, LGBTQIA rights, digital equity, refugee policy and accessibility. A selection include:

A. Beecher Kelk. 'Tipping point': Disability support start-ups are coming of age. *Sydney Morning Herald*.

J. Dawson. These are the "inappropriate" questions asylum-seekers were asked by Australia to prove they were gay. *Buzzfeed*.

R. Fiolet. The Burndawan Project. Morning Show. Bumma Bippera 98.7FM.

P. Gooding, Y. Maker and B. Hall. Isolation, restraint used more in Victoria. *The Age*.

K. Hegarty. How dangerous is Australia for women? *BBC News Sydney*.

C. Humphreys. Vulnerable women trapped by changes to bail laws. *The Age*.

R Khan. Is sustainable fashion really helping? *RN Drive, ABC Radio National*.

Y. Maker. Energy Access and Cognitive Disability. *City Limits, 3CR Melbourne*.

Y. Maker and R. Morton. Nursing Home Residents "Doped for Years at a Time". *The Australian*.

B. McSherry. Deaths in custody: family wants answers after two brothers die in similar situations. *The Guardian*.



# Community Engaged Research Symposium

**In February 2019, the Melbourne Social Equity Institute hosted a one-day symposium focused on successful models for community engaged research.**

The symposium built on six thematic workshops hosted across 2017-2018 which brought together people from a range of backgrounds to explore the ethics, methods and approaches to community-engaged research. These workshops focused on experiences of undertaking engaged research with diverse communities – children, the aged, Indigenous peoples, refugees and people seeking asylum, people living with disabilities, and survivors of violence.

Attended by 155 delegates from the University and beyond, the symposium examined and reflected upon the common themes raised across the workshops and discussed successful models for community-engaged research.

The symposium featured a keynote lecture delivered by Professor Meredith Minkler from the University of California, Berkeley. Professor Minkler is an internationally renowned expert and pioneer in community-based participatory research as a strategy for public policy in the fields of social and health equity.

Topics discussed by symposium panellists included perspectives from community researchers, successful careers, as well as designing and delivering community engaged projects. The symposium strengthened cross-disciplinary research engagement, with a publication in process.





# Public Events

**The Melbourne Social Equity Institute hosted and supported over 60 events in 2019 including public lectures, research seminars, film screenings and workshops.**

2019's busy and diverse calendar of events began in February with a lecture by Professor Lisa Waddington, European Disability Forum Chair in European Disability Law at Maastricht University. Dave Peters, a Community Researcher from the Institute-supported Choice, Control and the NDIS project, acted as the discussant for the event on assessing disability which attracted a diverse audience of community members, graduate researchers, public servants and academics from numerous universities.

February also saw a half-day workshop focused on who has the responsibility for refugee and migration integration. Guest speakers included Dr Jan-Christoph Heilinger from the University of Munich and Dr Karly Kehoe from Saint Mary's University in Nova Scotia.

Across 2019, the Institute supported two monthly seminar series. MAEve's popular monthly lunchtime seminar series continued with a diverse range of speakers presenting on topics including domestic violence and its impacts on children, early engagement with men who use domestic abuse, and substance-related intimate partner abuse.

The Institute also partnered with the Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness to present regular seminars on a range of migration, statelessness and refugee studies related topics including the structural marginalisation of refugee migrants in Australia, Romani citizenship in Europe, the Global Compacts and policies and practices in Myanmar.

In October Professor Kate Diesfeld from the Auckland University of Technology visited Melbourne and presented a seminar on decisions of New Zealand's Human Rights Review Tribunal. In the same month, the Institute partnered with the Australia India Institute to host the Melbourne premiere of Spirit, a documentary by Dr Jane Dyson on longing and belonging in the Indian Himalayas.

In November, the Institute sponsored a plenary session at the Psychiatry, Psychology and Law: Collaboration and Challenges Across the Global South conference, an event jointly hosted in Singapore by the Australia and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology and Law (ANZAPPL) and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists Faculty of Forensic Psychiatry. The session, an ANZAPPL conference first, featured the perspectives of people with lived experience and focused on co-producing research to combat stigma in health service provision. The four panellists represented community and consumer organisations from Singapore, the Philippines, Hong Kong and New Zealand, with Dr Piers Gooding from the Melbourne Social Equity Institute acting as moderator.



**Vrinda Edan**  
@Carinya1990

#PPL2019 panel on co produced research with consumers and peers



5:05 pm · 7/11/19 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

6 Retweets 15 Likes



# Financial Statement

INCOME		
Balance brought forward		\$45,108
Funds from Chancellery		
– Core Melbourne Social Equity Institute funding		\$1,127,000
– Space charges contribution		\$30,000
Internal grants		\$285,052
External grants		\$311,162
Philanthropic donations		\$7,800
	Total income	\$1,806,122
EXPENDITURE		
Directorate staff salaries		\$538,201
Research staff salaries		\$338,245
Research project costs		\$553,610
Operating expenses		\$13,040
Seed funded projects		\$247,562
Partnership development		\$16,522
PhD scholarships		\$60,675
Events		\$7,740
Space charges		\$30,000
	Total expenditure	\$1,805,595
	Surplus	\$527



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**MELBOURNE**

## Contact the Melbourne Social Equity Institute

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📍 [socialequity.unimelb.edu.au](http://socialequity.unimelb.edu.au)

📞 +61 3 9035 4738

f [facebook.com/MSElatUniMelb](https://facebook.com/MSElatUniMelb)

🐦 [twitter.com/MSEI\\_UniMelb](https://twitter.com/MSEI_UniMelb)

✉ [social-equity@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:social-equity@unimelb.edu.au)