THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

POSTERA CRESCAM LAUDE

MELBOURNE SOCIAL EQUITY INSTITUTE

Annual Report 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This year marked 10 years of Melbourne Social Equity Institute's contributions to interdisciplinary research for social equity at the University of Melbourne. This was marked on a cold winter's evening by more than 70 members of the MSEI community, offering a chance for celebration and a face to face acknowledgement of the contributions of Founding Director, Emeritus Professor Bernadette McSherry.

While we all continued to navigate the pandemic in 2022, it was a year of renewal for the Institute. It was terrific to join the team early in the year and to work with our Directorate, researchers and advisory group to refresh our strategic priorities in light of the social (in)equity effects of the pandemic, climate change, changing economic and industrial conditions, and community and civil society responses to these. Our shared commitment to fairer societies through research that makes a difference was reconfirmed through our planning processes, as was our drive to support this by further leveraging our expertise in community-engaged and coproductive approaches to research.

Our shifts in research priorities led to some changes in leadership. We welcomed Professor Kylie Smith and Dr Victor Sojo Monzon as co-leads of our new priority in gender equity and farewelled with gratitude Associate Professor Helen Stokes, who has played an important role in leading our past research theme in mental health and society, now integrated with our focus on health equity. We also farewelled with thanks Advisory Group members, Wesa Chau and Paige Burton.

Left to right: Professor Jo Barraket (Director) with Charlene Edwards (Executive Officer) and Robin Banks (Advisory Group Chair)

Researchers across the University responded strongly to Melbourne Social Equity Institute's refreshed research priorities, with six interdisciplinary cross-faculty project grants awarded through our latest seed grant round across all priority areas. Our community engagement grants program also attracted strong responses, and we were delighted to be able to fund five projects led by University researchers building new research partnerships with communities and community organisations. We also established new external research collaborations through the year, working with Australians Investing in Women and Inner North Community Foundation with support from Paul Ramsay Foundation to undertake research related to gender equity and place-based wellbeing respectively.

The impacts of our flagship Community Fellows Program were recognised in 2022 with the University of Melbourne's Award for Excellence in Public

Benefit. An outstanding new cohort of Community Fellows was recruited late in the year, and we look forward to enabling their progress, as well as scaling the activities and impacts of this important program, in 2023.

My thanks to Interim Director Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan, our founders, colleagues, partners and advisors for a great start to the next chapter for Melbourne Social Equity Institute.

Professor Jo Barraket
Director
Melbourne Social Equity Institute

THE 2022 TEAM

Directorate

Melbourne Social Equity Institute's Directorate is responsible for coordinating communities of like-minded researchers, engaging with external partners, policy makers and the public, and allocating funding.

Professor Jo Barraket
Director

Charlene Edwards
Executive Officer

Kathleen Patterson
Project Coordinator

Claire Smiddy
Marketing and Communications

Research Priority Area Leads

Community-engaged and Coproductive Research (overarching approach)
Associate Professor Bridget Hamilton and Associate Professor Celia McMichael

Digital Access and Equity (enabling theme)
Professor Shanton Chang and Professor Jeannie Paterson

Migration and Mobility
Professor Karen Farquharson and Dr Karen Block

Gender Equity
Professor Kylie Smith and Dr Victor Sojo Monzon

Health Equity
Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan and Associate Professor Helen Stokes

Inclusive and Distributive Economies
Professor Jo Barraket

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 of Melbourne. As well as the Directorate and research priority area leads, the following researchers made up the 2022 reference group:

Dr Danny Butt
Victorian College of the Arts

Inala Cooper
Murrup Barak, Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Development

Associate Professor Jane Dyson
School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

Professor Kelsey Hegarty
Department of General Practice

Professor Cathy Humphreys
Department of Social Work

Professor Susan Kneebone
Melbourne Law School

Associate Professor Gyorgy Scrinis
School of Agriculture and Food

Dr Esperanza Vera-Toscano
Melbourne Institute for Applied Economic and Social Research

Associate Professor Sara Wills
School of Historical and Philosophical Studies

Advisory Group

The Advisory Group is made up of leaders in the community and business sectors and provides guidance to ensure research is aligned to contemporary and emerging social issues.

The Advisory Group also increases opportunities to disseminate research and to engage with like-minded organisations with the aim of making societies fairer. In 2022 the Advisory Group members were:

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

Paige Burton
Former youth representative to the United Nations

Tom Brunzell
Director – Education
Berry Street

Wesa Chau
Chief Executive Officer
Cultural Intelligence

Travis Morgan
Algabonyah Regional Coordinator
Kaiela Institute

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

ACHIEVING FAIRER SOCIETIES THROUGH RESEARCH THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

What we do

Melbourne Social Equity Institute conducts and facilitates interdisciplinary research that addresses the causes and consequences of social inequities and advances knowledge about effective ways to respond.

Our approach

Melbourne Social Equity Institute's work is informed by:

- Working systemically and at key intersections that amplify social inequities

- Bringing interdisciplinary research skills to the priorities of our partner communities and organisations

- Centering the voices, knowledge and agency of those most affected by inequities

- Respectful and reciprocal relationships that contribute to communities

- Innovating (with care) in designing coproductive research for social change

- Integrating the benefits of diverse knowledges, people and perspectives in our research practices and goals

- Purposefully sharing learning to advance knowledge and practice.

Our activities

Melbourne Social Equity Institute invests in interdisciplinary and coproductive research that addresses social equity issues through seed funding and co-funding.

We partner with others committed to tackling social inequities through research, policy and practice initiatives.

We support our Community Fellows to create social change through mentored action-research.

We both provide and enable leadership in community-engaged and coproductive research through our Doctoral Academy, PhD scholars program, and researcher development activities within and beyond the University of Melbourne.

We incubate emerging research programs that address social equity concerns.

We support the uptake and sharing of research knowledge through our events, project outputs, and knowledge exchanges .

We help connect interested people with social equity relevant research and scholarship activities of the University of Melbourne.
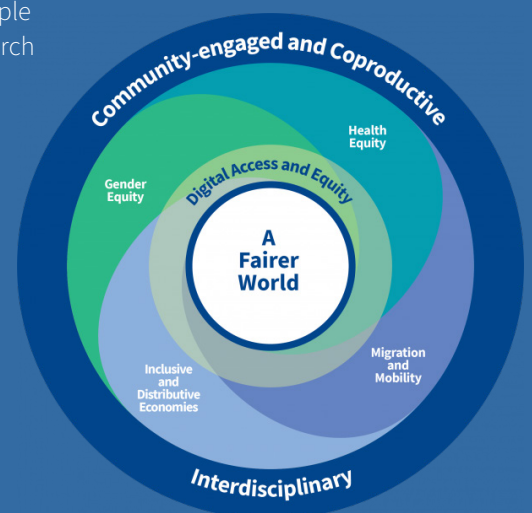
Current social equity challenges and priorities

World trends are amplifying existing social inequities. These trends include the social impacts of climate change, the effects of a global pandemic, labour market restructuring and the growth of precarious work, the resurgence of populist politics and the persistence of colonisation.

These issues are influenced – both positively and negatively – by the rapid pace of technological change and its impacts on economies, cultures and science, as well as on media and communications.

Where social problems arise, so too do new or renewed responses.

Civic movements in support of health and gender equity, climate resilience, peer-designed social programs, new business models, mutual aid and other community approaches to just economic transitions, and digitally-enabled social change are just some examples.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ENGAGED AND COPRODUCTIVE RESEARCH

An overarching approach

Melbourne Social Equity Institute is a leader in community-engaged and coproductive research. These ways of working inform all our research priorities. We also advance the use of community-engaged and coproductive methodologies through knowledge sharing and researcher training and development.

The core feature of community-engaged and coproductive research is a high level of community decision-making and partner involvement in the purpose, design, conduct and use of research. These approaches move beyond seeing members of communities as research 'subjects' to recognising people affected by social inequities as active agents in designing research for change. They also recognise the value of engaging across sectors to access diverse knowledge and research settings, and support the strong take-up of new research evidence.

This commitment to community-engaged and coproductive research is exemplified by the highly-regarded Community Fellows Program (see pages 10 - 11) and by our investments in developing community-engaged research activities across the University of Melbourne.

Community Engagement Grants

Launched in 2020, the Community Engagement Grants program is designed to build a researcher's ability to engage with community issues at a grassroots level.

Funding of up to $3000 enables researchers to develop interdisciplinary and community-engaged networks within and external to the University. The scheme also aims to support research ideas that may lead to a proposal for future rounds of the Institute's Seed Funding Program or the Community Fellows Program.

In 2022, the Community Engagement Grants scheme supported projects focused on:

- Sex/gender data collection and trans and gender diverse communities
- Info-anxiety among older Chinese migrants
- Working with LGBTIQA+ people working in peer roles
- Creative practise, criminalised women and transformative justice outcomes
- Developing a collaborative partnership with the Care Leavers Australasia Network (CLAN)

Capacity building

The Capacity Building for Community Engaged Research project was awarded a competitive Researcher Development Initiative Grant by the Research Development Unit in 2022.

The project engages with graduate (Masters by Research and PhD) and early career researchers from across the University of Melbourne to develop and build their knowledge, skills and competencies in relation to community- engaged and coproductive research.

In November, a full-day hybrid workshop was conducted for researchers from eight faculties. In addition to offering networking and peer learning opportunities, the program featured sessions on:

- Research frameworks
- Ethical considerations in community-engaged research
- Methods of community engagement
- Developing research partnerships.

Guest speakers included senior and early career academics, lived experience researchers and representatives from community organisations.

Stemming from the workshop, a graduate researcher-led Community of Practice is under development.
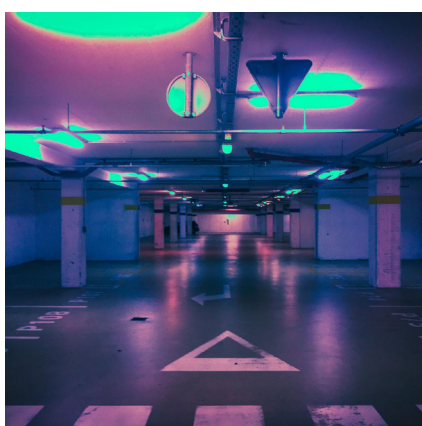
NEW RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Melbourne Social Equity Institute has redeveloped its priority research areas to reflect current social equity challenges, as well as complementary research across the University of Melbourne. Reflecting the nature of social inequities, many of our research initiatives engage at the intersections of these priorities.
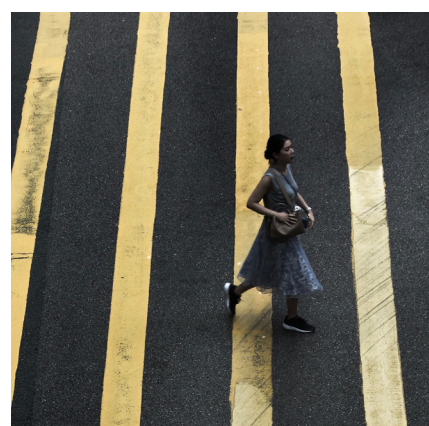
Community-engaged and Coproductive Research (overarching approach)

Community and cross-sectoral decision-making about the purpose, design, conduct and use of research. Co-led by Associate Professor Bridget Hamilton and Associate Professor Celia McMichael.

Digital Access and Equity (enabling theme)

Examining and improving the impact of a connected, digitally-focused society. Co-led by Professor Shanton Chang and Professor Jeannie Paterson.

Gender Equity

Working to ensure the collective and individual benefits of equitable access to opportunities, resources and freedoms regardless of gender. Co-led by Professor Kylie Smith and Dr Victor Sojo Monzon.

Health Equity

Improving equity of health and wellbeing across the community. Co-led by Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan and Associate Professor Helen Stokes.

Inclusive and Distributive Economies

Exploring economic participation and organisational approaches that advance just and sustainable societies. Led by Professor Jo Barraket.

Migration and Mobility

Exploring the multiple dimensions of migration and mobility, and their implications for equitable participation. Co-led by Professor Karen Farquharson and Dr Karen Block.

NEW FUNDED RESEARCH

Melbourne Social Equity Institute invests in innovative interdisciplinary and coproductive research through seed funding and co-funding. In 2022, five new seed funded research projects were supported, in addition to the awarding of one coproductive development grant.

SheShaka: addressing gendered and cultural barriers to participation in surfing
Responding to evidence of gendered and cultural barriers to participation in surfing for young women and girls from diverse backgrounds in coastal Victoria.
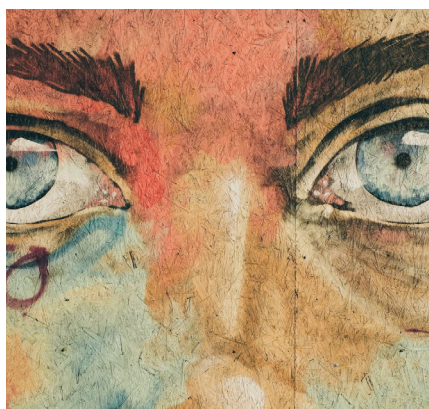

African Australians' experiences of domestic violence and health service utilisation
Focusing on African Australians' experiences of domestic and family violence.

Water rights for First Nations
Exploring cultural economic futures through agent based modelling with the Tati Tati Traditional Owners on Millu (Murray River) near Robinvale, Victoria.

Breaking down the barriers
Co-producing inclusive mental healthcare with young people on the margins.

The use and impacts of direct-to-consumer genetic testing and data platforms for family tracing after adoption or out of home care
A co-designed Victorian pilot study.

The Community Tax Project
Building capacity within and between the academic and community/welfare sectors (coproductive development grant).

MAEVe

MELBOURNE RESEARCH ALLIANCE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN

Researchers, survivors, practitioners and community organisations engaged in creating research that helps prevent and respond to violence against women and their children..

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.

Supported by the Melbourne Social Equity Institute, MAEVe is led by co-chairs Professor Cathy Vaughan (Melbourne School of Population and Global Health), Professor Kate McGregor (School of Historical and Philosophical Studies), Associate Professor Kristin Diemer (Department of Social Work) and Associate Professor Laura Tarzia (Department of General Practice).

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, legal responses, 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.

The overall aim of MAEVe is to bring together researchers – in partnership with community, industry and government agencies – to tackle the problem of violence against women and their children. Throughout 2022, MAEVe published monthly newsletters and held nine online seminars on topics including:
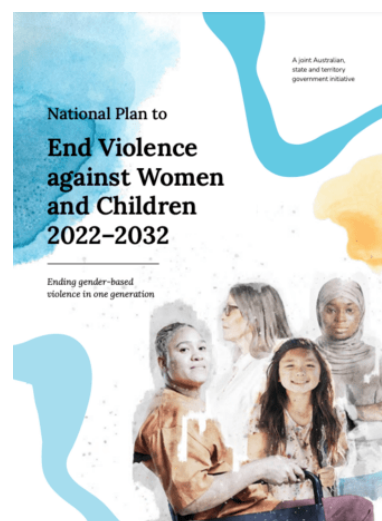
- Sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence in the Pacific
- Women who use force - thinking beyond the binary
- The nature and impact of tech facilitated abuse in young people
- Domestic and family violence responses during COVID-19.

The seminars were very well received, averaging over 100 attendees for each, with participants from Australia and around the world, including New Zealand, the US and the UK.

Researchers and academics were active in contributing to reference groups and submissions to inquiries and the Draft National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032.

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.

To learn more about MAEVE, visit **go.unimelb.edu.au/c2es** *to download a 20-page brochure.*

The National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032 is the overarching, national policy framework that will guide actions towards ending violence against women and children over the next 10 years.

PARTNERSHIPS AND EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

Cross-sector partnerships and externally funded projects have enabled innovative and coproductive research projects that work to address a range of key social equity issues.

DEVELOPING A GENDER-WISE PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

Improving investment in gender equality by increasing the understanding and application of a gender lens to philanthropic partnerships

Conducted in partnership with Australians Investing in Women and funded by Paul Ramsay Foundation.

COMMUNITY VISIONING INNER NORTH REPORT

Building community understanding of the issues that affect quality of life in Melbourne's inner north

Conducted in partnership with Inner North Community Foundation, with funding support from Paul Ramsay Foundation.

SEEDKIT – MEASURING IMPACTS AND AGGREGATING INSIGHTS ABOUT THE VICTORIAN SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SECTOR: A DATA AND EVALUATION PLATFORM

Providing social enterprises with a longitudinal measurement tool

Conducted in partnership with Centre for Social Impact Swinburne and supported by the Victorian Government as part of its Social Enterprise Strategy 2021-2025.

MAKING POLICY REFORM WORK

A comparative analysis of social procurement

Conducted in partnership with University of Technology Sydney, Glasgow Caledonian University and the Centre for Social Impact Swinburne. Funded by the Australian Research Council Discovery Grant program.

EQUITY FRAMEWORK: SYSTEMS ANALYSIS HEALTH AND WELLBEING QUEENSLAND

Identify and tracking who, where, and what needs to change to remove systemic barriers that create inequity

Conducted with the University of Queensland and funded by Health and Wellbeing Queensland.

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.

INCLUSIVE AGEING, FREE FROM RACISM: AFRICAN AUSTRALIAN SENIORS ANTI-RACISM PROJECT

African Think Tank Access, Equity, and Community Education Project

In collaboration with the African Research and Engagement in Australia Initiative (AREiA) and supported by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE ADVOCACY PATHWAY TO NDIS

Working with African Australians of all ages, providing educational materials using the Positive Change Model

A project with Afri-Aus Care funded by the Psyche Foundation.

THE BLUE NILE PROGRAM

A business masterclass program for African Australia entrepreneurs and not-for-profit leaders

Supported by the Scanlon Foundation.

COMMUNITY FELLOWS PROGRAM

A flagship program fostering community-engaged and coproductive research, the Community Fellows Program recognises that community organisations are often best placed to undertake the research most relevant to their organisation and the communities they serve.

Motivation

The Community Fellows Program is the only program of its kind in Australia. It was developed in recognition that community organisations possess deep and extensive practice knowledge, but often lack the capacity, time and resources to test, codify and share this knowledge.

The Community Fellows Program offers a respectful, supportive and focused space for practitioners to step outside the daily demands of their work and consider how they might document, evaluate, share and scale their work, working with experienced academic mentors in related fields.

The program also grows solutions-focused social equity research beyond the life of each fellowship by fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange between Community Fellows, the organisations they represent, and University of Melbourne researchers.

The Fellowship supports learning, reflection, new connections and grows Fellows' skills in knowledge development and management. These resources and opportunities are not typically available to practitioners in time-poor and resource-constrained small to medium not-for-profits.

Structure

Each Community Fellow is assigned an Academic Mentor with relevant expertise who supports and collaborates with the Fellow to design an impactful project.

Fellows have opportunities to participate in a range of academic and professional development activities and receive access to Canvas (the University's Learning Management System) and to library and internet facilities.

Modest grants are also made available to the community-based organisations to compensate them for the time that Fellows spend working on their research projects.

Public Benefit

In 2022, the Community Fellows Program was awarded the University of Melbourne Excellence Award for Public Benefit. This award recognises exemplar programs, events and publications that contribute to public debate on the issues affecting society.

The Institute would like to acknowledge the significant contribution of the Academic Mentors who are involved in the program, without whom the program would not exist, as well as to recognise Professor Deborah Warr who worked with Charlene Edwards to co-create the program.

Photo: Professor Deborah Warr (left) and Professor Jo Barraket (right) accepting the University of Melbourne Excellence Award for Public Benefit from the Provost, Professor Nicola Phillips.

"It is an experience that brings community and university together in a mutually enriching encounter to learn from each other and helped in shining a light on what are often overlooked community issues. I found that it has helped me to think more profoundly about the issue I am researching and to reflect on the links to broader social factors and impacts."

Dalal Smiley, CEO of Wellsprings for Women and a 2018 Community Fellow

WELCOME TO OUR FIFTH COHORT OF FELLOWS

Following a rigorous and competitive selection process, the Melbourne Social Equity Institute is delighted to introduce the twelve new fellows, representing eleven diverse community organisations, who will be joining the program in February 2023.

Meagan Gerrard and Alex McWhirter, Coota Girls Aboriginal Corporation
First Nations Stolen Generations Intergenerational Trauma and Healing
Academic Mentor: Associate Professor Shawana Andrews, Poche Centre for Indigenous Health

Bosede Adetifa, Yoruba Heritage and Cultural Association of Victoria
Connecting African Youths and Elders: Positive Change through Storytelling
Academic Mentor: Professor Adrian Hearn, School of Languages and Linguistics

Kobra Moradi, Australian Centre for International Justice
Conceptions of "Justice" Among Afghan Diaspora in Australia
Academic Mentor: Professor Jennifer Balint, School of Social and Political Sciences

Claire Livingston, Project Respect
Identifying Support Needs of International Students Who Work in the Sex Industry
Academic Mentor: Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

Rachna Madaan-Bowman, South East Community Links
Accessibility and Inclusion for Multicultural Australian Communities in the Financial Service Sector
Academic Mentor: Professor Jeannie Paterson, Melbourne Law School

Nandini Sengupta, Notting Hill Neighbourhood House
Neighbourhood Houses – Link Between Citizens and Local Governments?
Academic Mentor: Associate Professor Crystal Legacy, Melbourne School of Design

Penne Thornton, Platform Arts
Child Leadership: How to Embed Child and Youth Agency in Creative Programming and Performance Making
Academic Mentor: Dr Sarah Austin, Victorian College of the Arts

Edmee Kenny, Centre for Multicultural Youth
How Can Open Data Be Harnessed by Small Community Organisations for Social Change?
Academic Mentor: Dr Quentin Maire, Melbourne Graduate School of Education

Manu Kailom, THREE for All Foundation
Understanding the Challenges of Securing Housing for LGBTQIA+ Refugees and Asylum Seekers
Academic Mentors: Dr Nicholas Hill and Professor Karen Farquharson, School of Social and Political Sciences

Giorgia Hall-Cook, Birth for Humankind
Effective Monitoring and Evaluation Approaches to Improve Community-based Doula Program Outcomes
Academic Mentor: Associate Professor Meghan Bohren, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

Hannah Figueroa, Good Cycles
Understanding Unemployment, Underemployment and Structural Inequality Experienced by Young People with Intersecting Barriers to Employment
Academic Mentor: Professor Jo Barraket, Melbourne Social Equity Institute

GRADUATE RESEARCHERS

Melbourne Social Equity Institute is committed to investing in future social equity research leaders. A key way of achieving this is through the awarding of PhD scholarships to graduate researchers whose interest in social equity issues aligns closely to our research agenda.

Current Scholarship Holders

Rashika Bahl
Understanding Migrants' Misinformation Behaviour

Surriya Baloch
Antenatal screening for family violence with migrant south Asian women in Australia

Georgia Burn
Understanding the features of communication access for people with communication difficulties

Salsawi Feleke Debela
Settling well: a longitudinal study of refugees in regional Australia

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

Vrinda Edan
Consumer and clinicians experiences of Advance Statements under the Victorian Mental Health Act (2014)

Larissa Fogden
Children and young people living at the intersections of domestic and family violence, mental health, and alcohol and other drugs

Sara Guest
Examining the Informal, social and political networks utilised by international students to tackle food insecurity in the context of the neoliberal university in Victoria

Mireille Kayeye
Empowerment of women seeking asylum

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

Micheline Lee
Disability, law, and all that romance: a cross-disciplinary approach to equality rights for people with disabilities

Erika Martino
From shelter to security: affordable housing for intimate partner violence survivors

Thomas McGee
The displacement-statelessness nexus – Syrians in limbo

Dominica Meade
Gender dynamics in community volunteering practices

Hala Nasr
Safe spaces as a response to gender-based violence in refugee settings

Jacqui Parncutt
The social determinants of health of people with disability

Helena Roennfeldt
Crossing the threshold: a study of the lived experiences of people in mental health crisis who have accessed mental health crisis care

Alana Roy
Mental health and wellbeing of people who are deaf-blind

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

Juan Jose Tellez
Representations of chemical restraint: a case study of the Oakden Older Persons Mental Health Service

Maharti Triharta
Investigation of sustainable female engineers' career development – mitigating impacts of gender biological reproductive inequities

Dominic Troughton
Grounded theory research into best context for consumer leadership and capacity development within the Australian lived experience mental health consumer movement

Amita Tuteja
Reproductive health and contraceptive needs of migrants from Burma: practitioner and patient perspectives in the Australian context

Stephanie Weir
The relationship between communication autonomy, behaviours of concern and restrictive interventions in children who have little to no functional speech

Alicia Yon
Enabling sociospatial justice: an integrated local planning approach to addressing the disability-gender violence nexus

Doctorates Awarded in 2022

Dr Liz Gill-Atkinson
How do women with disability in the Philippines understand and experience participatory research practice?

Dr Samantha Mannix
Gender equity, social transformations and education

Dr Liz Gill-Atkinson celebrating her graduation with supervisors Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan and Professor Marilys Guillemin

DOCTORAL ACADEMY

The Doctoral Academy's intensive program supports and develops graduate researchers with an interest in social equity from across all faculties at the University of Melbourne.

The Doctoral Academy fosters knowledge-sharing and idea-exchange among its members, who are selected doctoral researchers working on a range of social equity issues.

In addition to receiving guidance and support from experienced academics, membership also exposes researchers to diverse disciplinary perspectives and research methodologies that can inform their own work.

Since its inception in 2014, the Academy has welcomed 82 participants from all faculties of the University of Melbourne, and its success has inspired the creation of similar programs across the university's other divisions.

Topics covered in the program include:

- Community-engaged, coproductive and participatory research methods
- The benefits and challenges of interdisciplinary research
- Working with government
- Careers for researchers outside academia.

The 2022 Doctoral Academy was conducted in a hybrid format for the first time. We extend our gratitude to Dr Piers Gooding for his leadership in organising the program.

2022 Participants

Loren Adams
Socio-spatial exploits: a critical anthology of urban heists, hacks, hijacks, and copycats

Georgia Burn
Investigating a theoretical framework for Communication Access that supports social inclusion for people with communication disability

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

Vrinda Edan
What is the experience of consumers who have an advance statement and a compulsory inpatient admission

Annisa Sabrina Hartoto
The gender dimensions of conflict: understanding the role of women in transforming local dynamics of conflict in Indonesia

Helen Henderson
Beliefs, understanding and access to male family planning in Timor-Leste

Kirsten Hillman
Exploring the space of music, music therapy and trauma in the adult mental health context

Samuel Holleran
Cemeteries as civic spaces: public participation in the planning of urban burial sites

Micheline Lee
Disability, law and all that romance: a cross-disciplinary approach to equality rights for people with disabilities

Odette Mazel
Queer jurisprudence: LGBTIQ+ perspectives on law, difference, and radicalism after marriage equality in Australia

Helena Roennfeldt
Crossing the threshold: a study of the lived experiences of people in mental health crisis who have accessed mental health crisis care

Anna Scovelle
Gender equality and the gendered division of labour in Australia

Puneeta Thakur
Pursuit of happiness for wheeled power mobility device users in urban public spaces

Rana Zahroh
Caesarean birth in Indonesia: understanding inequalities, inefficiencies and intentionalities

"The Doctoral Academy provided me with a valuable opportunity to connect with and learn from others tackling the social equity issues from various perspectives, in and beyond the academia."

Annisa Sabrina Hartoto, PhD Candidate in Development Studies, Faculty of Arts

INTERDISCIPLINARY PhD PROGRAM

The Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Migration, Statelessness and Refugee Studies provides advanced research training to graduate researchers and provides opportunities to build interdisciplinary networks.

Members of the Interdisciplinary PhD Program with Dr Karen Block and Charlene Edwards (Executive Officer) at the 2022 Welcome Event.

Migration, whether forced or voluntary, is a major contemporary phenomenon with implications for equity at global and local levels for sending and receiving countries. Resulting challenges demand responses based on enhanced understanding of its complex and multifaceted causes and consequences.

Continuing in 2022, the Melbourne Social Equity Institute's interdisciplinary PhD program provides 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, 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. Graduate researchers 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.

The program now has 54 participants whose diverse research areas include refugee shelter planning and design, social cohesion and resilience through intercultural music engagement, sexual and reproductive healthcare experiences of refugee families, and citizenship and statelessness in India.

A highlight for 2022 was the return of the successful one-day conference. A much-anticipated annual event for many years, COVID-19 lockdowns forced a hiatus over 2020 and 2021. The 2022 edition was held in a hybrid format for the first time and featured many of our

PhD program graduate researchers, as well as attracting researchers from other Universities and states.

Other program activities in 2022 included:

- Fortnightly "shut up and write" sessions
- A masterclass on migration and colonialism with Dr Andonis Piperoglou
- A student-lead reading group on statelessness and citizenship
- A workshop on insider/outsider research with Dr Julia Hurst and Dr Nicholas Apoifis.

The program also provides an opportunity for sharing information about relevant webinars, conferences, scholarships, post-doctoral opportunities, funding opportunities and more.

AREiA

AFRICAN RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT IN AUSTRALIA INITIATIVE

African Australian led research collaborations for social change.

Overview

The AREiA network was developed in partnership with key partners in the African Australian community and hosted by the Melbourne Social Equity Institute.

The network enabled collaborative research and knowledge exchange to address key issues identified by African Australian communities. The insights generated from AREiA projects were utilised by policy and decision-makers, business and community agencies and the broader Australian community.

Research Projects

Sense of Belonging for African Students at the University of Melbourne

Evaluation of the Black Rhinos Basketball Program

Empowering African Mothers: Ubuntu in Practice

Inclusive Ageing, Free From Racism: African Australian Seniors Anti-racism Project

Conference

In September, AREiA partnered with the African Studies Group to convene the Reimagining Migration in (out) of Africa in the Post-pandemic World: Taking Stock and Building Resilience Conference. Attended by over 200 guests, the conference brought together researchers, students, advocates, practitioners, policymakers, and community members within and outside Australia for a conversation on the increasing politicisation of mobility in and out of the African continent and the experiences of migrant communities and their resilient cultures.

Highlights included a poignant and reflective public lecture on Decolonising Asylum: Colonialism, Racism and Humanitarianism in the Shaping of Refugee (Un) Belonging in East Africa by Professor Patricia Daley, an Oxford Union-style debate between students from the universities of Western Australia and Melbourne, and a 'fireside conversation' on rethinking refuge for refugees in and from Africa. The three-day program concluded with a cultural performance by Drum Voices.

Blue Nile 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 faced by 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.

In 2022, the program welcomed its third cohort of twelve entrepreneurs and not-for-profit leaders for a six-day intensive program.

"The program presents a real opportunity for the community to strengthen their entrepreneurial ability through developing critical business skills and a network to encourage and support their business growth. This will empower them both at an individual and community level."

Dr Berhan Ahmed, Community Leader and the Victorian Australian of the Year 2009

UNDERSTANDING DIGITAL INEQUALITY

Seed funding from the Melbourne Social Equity Institute supported critical research into unequal connectivity in public housing during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

"Like water, the internet is now an essential resource providing connection, information, services, and opportunity, and should be available to people at an affordable rate and in a reliable matter. Research has also shown that if we follow this analogy of internet as an essential service, we must conclude that too often, supply runs dry, or the water flows dirty."

Australia has some of the best internet coverage globally, and yet in 2018 approximately 2.5 million Australians had no internet connection. This reveals significant limitations in access, digital ability, and affordability, despite major infrastructure investments (ACCAN, 2021).

While recent research suggests that these numbers have dropped due to the online demands that arose during the COVID-19 pandemic (ACMA, 2021), access, affordability, and adequacy of connection for some citizens remain out of reach due to a range of barriers. To ensure that everyone has equal opportunity to use digital technologies, and thus to ensure access to social and economic opportunities and essential government services, targeted investments to reduce digital inequality are necessary.

Digital inclusion in Australia is influenced by a person's income, age, education level, and residential location. This report demonstrates that digital inequality is not measured by access to internet alone, but also by quality of service and internet providers' accountability in the face of poor customer experience. Focus on the National Broadband Network (NBN) in Australia has led policymakers to overlook the many people who access the internet predominantly with their smartphones or who rely on their smartphones to augment poor home internet connections. The roll out of the NBN has led many to assume that high quality internet has been brought into everyone's reach. This assumption means that the consequences of poor connectivity risk becoming less visible, and exacerbates concerns for the people who continue to experience digital exclusion.

Working with principles of co-design with community partners and Carlton public housing residents, researchers conducted a case study of how people manage digital inequality. Our data analysis revealed that people were not as digitally connected during the pandemic and ensuing lockdowns as the services upon which they depended assumed they were. Online home-schooling demanded a 1:1 device to person ratio and many low-income families needed to buy or request

assistance to meet this demand. Additional constraints were felt in access to employment, and in essential services such as health and income support (Centrelink).

In addition to ten university-based researchers from four faculties, the Understanding Digital Inequality project team included ten external collaborators from local government and community organisations including the City of Melbourne, Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre, cohealth and Yarra Libraries.

Visit go.unimelb.edu.au/j8pe to download the Understanding Digital Inequality report and to learn more about the project.

A two-page research snapshot is also available in six languages – English, Cantonese, Oromo, Amharic, Arabic and Vietnamese.

ERADICATING MODERN SLAVERY IN AUSTRALIA

A report by Community Fellow Freya Dinshaw from the Human Rights Law Centre and Melbourne Law School's Professor Susan Kneebone highlights the risks of forced labour that are inherent in our visa system.

"On one hand, Australia is looking to strengthen its modern slavery response. On the other we are creating the conditions for modern slavery to thrive by forcing vulnerable people seeking safety to exist on punitive temporary visas that expose them to exploitation and abuse. We must do better, and allow people . . . to rebuild their lives in safety while requiring Australian companies to play their part in preventing modern slavery in their high-risk supply chains."

An extract from an article published on Pursuit on 18 January 2023:
The International Labour Organisation and Walk Free estimate nearly 50 million people are in modern slavery conditions worldwide, with up to 15,000 people estimated to be living in conditions of modern slavery in Australia. Over half are thought to be located in the Asia Pacific region.

While labour exploitation is more prevalent in high-risk countries overseas, it impacts Australian businesses and does happen within Australia. Indeed, some of the conditions for labour exploitation have been created by successive Federal Governments.

People who flee persecution have a right to seek safety in another country.

This is one of the core principles of the 1951 Refugee Convention, ratified by 149 countries including Australia.

However, many people seeking safety in Australia who arrived by boat are now living on a category of temporary bridging visa known as the "Final Departure" Bridging Visa E. The 'Final Departure' Bridging Visa E is a specific class of Bridging Visa E, commonly referred to as 'BVE'.

Those on BVEs are stripped of government support, with all social security payments terminated immediately and three weeks to vacate their public accommodation. They are granted the right to work, but adults are not entitled to undertake study or training.

This leaves any BVE visa holder without other support and desperate to find work to survive. Coupled with the ever-present threat of deportation, people are extremely vulnerable to workplace exploitation and abuse – including coercive practices such as modern slavery.

Current Australian government policy prohibits any person who arrived in Australia by boat after 19 July 2013 from ever being able to settle on a permanent basis.

As of January 2022, there were over 1000 people transferred from offshore detention in Nauru or Papua New

Guinea's Manus Island after medical or legal interventions.

It is estimated that more than 600 of these people (including children) have now been issued with a BVE and told to make arrangements to leave Australia within six months.

After years of living in limbo on Nauru or Manus, often with deteriorating mental health, the BVE (which in practice is typically renewed on a rolling basis) perpetuates uncertainty and increases the power imbalance between vulnerable people needing money to survive and employers.

LABOUR IN LIMBO: BRIDGING VISA E HOLDERS AND MODERN SLAVERY RISK IN AUSTRALIA

FREYA DINSHAW AND SUSAN KNEEBONE

Visit go.unimelb.edu.au/4gqe to continue reading this article and to download the Labour in Limbo: Bridging Visa E holders and Modern Slavery Risk in Australia report.
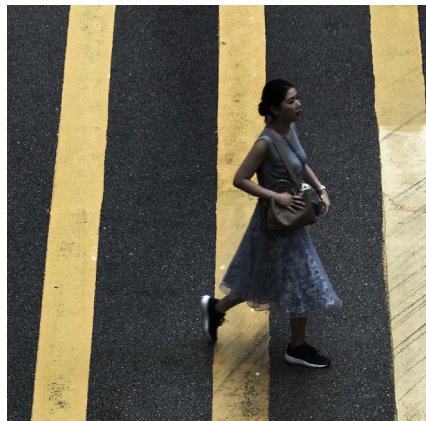
EVENTS & PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

Melbourne Social Equity Institute disseminates research findings and engages diverse audiences in social equity issues through a variety of events such as seminars, lectures, symposiums, film screenings, and conferences. The following events are some of the highlights of the 2022 program.

10 Year Anniversary Celebration
After over two years of pandemic lockdowns, in June we were delighted to have the opportunity to connect with old friends and new, and to mark a decade of interdisciplinary research for fairer societies.

Gender Equity Symposium
A new activity launched as part of our Gender Equity research priority area, the symposium featured graduate and early career speakers from across the University of Melbourne and attracted 73 registrants from eight faculties.
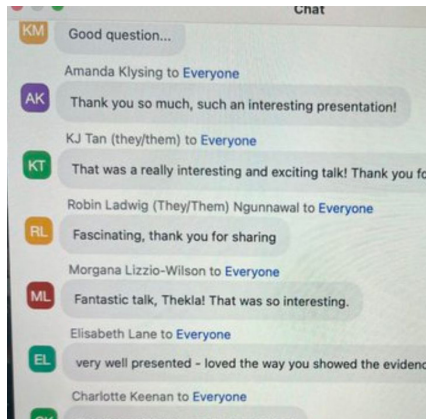

Migration, Refugees and Statelessness Interdisciplinary Conference
This long running interdisciplinary event attracts graduate and early career researchers, policy makers and practitioners from across Australia.

Migration and Social Justice Film Series
Presented with Screening Ideas, this four-event series featured film screenings followed by interviews and discussions on key related themes.

Responding to Contemporary Social Equity Issues: What Role for Social Innovation?
A very well attended online seminar presented by Professor Jo Barraket shortly after commencing as Institute Director in early 2022.

"Nobody helped me": Forced migration and sexual and gender-based violence
An online seminar to coincide with the release of the SEREDA report, launched in person at the Red Cross Museum in Geneva, Switzerland.

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

A total of 57 books, chapters, journal articles and other publications were generated by the Melbourne Social Equity Institute and its affiliated researchers in 2022. Their breadth highlights the diversity of research being cultivated and fostered.

DIASPORA PEACEBUILDING THROUGH INTER-ETHNIC HARMONY

Atem, A., Balint, J., Cauchi, D., Fuad, S. (2022). Diaspora Peacebuilding Through Inter-Ethnic Harmony: The South Sudanese and Sri Lankan Diasporas in Australia. In: Phillips, M., Olliff, L. (eds) *Understanding Diaspora Development*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

MOTIVATIONS AND EFFECTS OF ETHICAL PURCHASING FROM SOCIAL ENTERPRISE IN A REGIONAL CITY

Barraket, J., McKinnon, K., Brennan-Horley, C. & De Cotta, T. (2022). Motivations and effects of ethical purchasing from social enterprise in a regional city. *Social Enterprise Journal*, 18(4), pp. 643-659.

SAFE SPACES FOR REFUGEE WOMEN

Nasr, H. (2022). Safe Spaces for Refugee Women: Towards Cultivating Feminist Solidarity. *Feminist Review*, 131(1), 10–25.

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE THINK ABOUT MUSIC, RHYTHM AND TRAUMA

McFerran, K. S., Crooke, A. H. D., Kalendiridis, Z., Stokes, H., & Teggelove, K. (2022). What young people think about music, rhythm and trauma: An action research study. *Frontiers in Psychology*)

CARE AND SUPPORT RIGHTS AFTER NEOLIBERALISM

Maker, Y. (2022). *Care and Support Rights After Neoliberalism: Balancing Competing Claims Through Policy and Law* (Cambridge Disability Law and Policy Series). Cambridge University Press.

FEATHER FLOWERS, 'HOME' AND A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Edmonds, F., Clarke, M., Senior, K., Daniels, D. (2022), 'Feather flowers, 'home' and a global pandemic: Collaborative storytelling and the relationality of things', in *Massive/Micro Autoethnography: Creative learning in COVID times*, eds. Anne Harris, Mary Elizabeth Luka, Annette Markham, Springer Publishing.

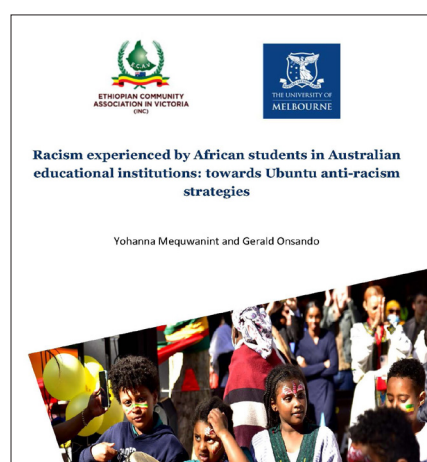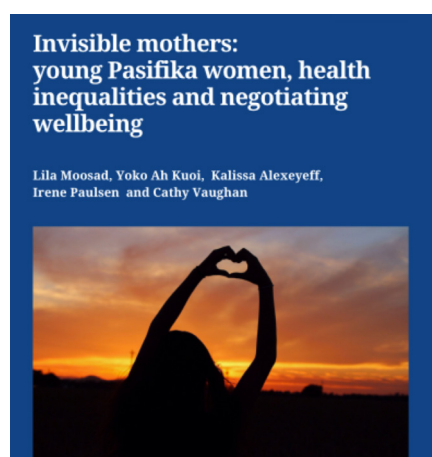## HUNGER FOR CHANGE: STUDENT FOOD INSECURITY IN AUSTRALIA

Jeffrey, C., Dyson, J. & Scrinis, G. (2022). Hunger for change: Student food insecurity in Australia. *Geoforum*, 136 pp. 186-193.

DEVELOPING A SEXUAL HEALTH CONSENT STRATEGY FOR REFUGEES

Tuteja, A., Riggs, E., Sanci, L., Mascarenhas, L., Power, A., VanVliet, D., Sangster, K., McGuinness, K., & Temple-Smith, M. (2022). Developing a Sexual Health Consent Strategy for Refugees: A Qualitative Approach. *The Qualitative Report*, 27(2), 509-538.

ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE EXPOSURE AND MENTAL HEALTH

Li, A., Martino, E., Mansour, A. & Bentley, R. (2022). Environmental Noise Exposure and Mental Health: Evidence from a Population-Based Longitudinal Study. *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*, 63(2), pp. E39-E48.

Invisible mothers: young Pasifika women, health inequalities and negotiating wellbeing

Lila Moosad, Yoko Ah Kuoi, Kalissa Alexeyeff, Irene Paulsen and Cathy Vaughan

Racism experienced by African students in Australian educational institutions: towards Ubuntu anti-racism strategies

Yohanna Mequwanint and Gerald Onsando

"Nobody helped me"

Forced migration and sexual and gender-based violence: findings from the SEREDA project

March 2022

International report

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME	
Balance brought forward	118,489
Funds from Chancellery	
– Core Melbourne Social Equity Institute funding	970,000
– Space charges contribution	30,000
Internal grants	12,000
External grants	640,189
Philanthropy	267,544
Total income	**2,038,222**

EXPENDITURE	
Directorate staff salaries	420,312
Research staff salaries	301,523
Research project costs	1,131,165
Operating expenses	979
Seed funded projects	79,706
Partnership development	4,604
PhD scholarships	57,725
Events	6,932
Space charges	30,000
Total expenditure	**2,032,946**
Surplus	5,276

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