Melbourne Social Equity Institute

Annual Report 2021

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, policymakers and people with lived experiences of disadvantage.

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

In 2021, 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 2021 members of the directorate were:

Professor Bernadette McSherry
Foundation Director (to June 2021)

Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan
Interim Director (July to December 2021)

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**

*In January 2022, the Melbourne Social Equity Institute welcomed **Professor Jo Barraket** to the role of Director. A political sociologist, Professor Barraket is Australia's premier researcher of social enterprise and a leading researcher of social innovation.*

Farewell Message from Professor Bernadette McSherry

After over eight years in the position of Foundation Director of the Melbourne Social Equity Institute, Professor Bernadette McSherry left the helm in June 2021 for a change of lifestyle.

The poet Shelley once observed that "Nought may endure but mutability". He highlighted the fact that change is inevitable and need not be feared because it can lead to positive renewal.

After over eight years in the position of Foundation Director of the Melbourne Social Equity Institute, the time has come for me to leave the helm for a change of lifestyle. I depart in the knowledge that the new Director will find a superb team in Charlene Edwards, Kathleen Patterson and Claire Smiddy working hard to ensure the daily activities and administration of MSEI continue to run smoothly.

My heartfelt thanks to all the members of MSEI's external Advisory Board and internal Reference Group and to MSEI's Deputy Directors for their advice and enthusiasm over the years. Space constraints prevent me from naming and thanking everyone who's been involved with MSEI. Suffice to say, it's been an absolute privilege to have worked with numerous talented and passionate researchers and members of diverse communities who want to make a positive difference to society.

The main purpose of MSEI is to facilitate and support interdisciplinary research to address social inequities in the form of disadvantage and marginalisation. This involves developing opportunities for relevant interdisciplinary research to flourish. For example, in 2013 a half-day workshop sparked multiple connections between researchers working on disability-related issues. That one workshop led to a plethora of projects through a centrally funded Hallmark initiative and subsequently to the creation of the Melbourne Disability Institute.

Various targeted themes and programs of research have thrived and transformed over the years, but an important focus throughout has been on community led and engaged research. It's been heart-ening to see the connections that have been made between community members and researchers across schools and faculties through MSEI's Community Fellows Program and through numerous seed funded projects. MSEI's nascent work supporting research led by African-Australian communities is but one example of the importance of community members directing research that can result in positive change.

The University of Melbourne states that "its enduring purpose is to benefit society". The Melbourne interdisciplinary research institutes are but one vehicle for sparking off research to address complex issues. It is gratifying to know that MSEI will continue its work for at least the next four and a half years and I wish my successor all the very best.

While I'll be retiring from full-time employment, I am very pleased to be staying on at the University in an honorary capacity. I look forward to watching MSEI flourish and thank you all for your interest in social equity issues.

To end on an optimistic note, when on occasion it may appear that societal divisions are becoming intractable, I am always spurred on by recalling Shelley's words, "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?"

Emeritus Professor Bernadette McSherry
Foundation Director (2013 – 2021)
Melbourne Social Equity Institute

Letter from the Interim Director

A lot of us here in Melbourne got to the end of 2020 feeling that it had been a very challenging year, but that 2021 was looking much brighter. But this was not the year many of us hoped for. Once again, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted and exacerbated existing social inequalities. This has been seen across the world and in Australia in inequitable access to vaccinations, testing, healthcare and the ongoing impacts of governments' responses to the pandemic. Community-engaged research about social equity has never been more important.

The Melbourne Social Equity Institute is incredibly fortunate to work with researchers and communities who are passionate about a fairer world. Despite – or indeed perhaps because of – the difficulties many people faced this year, our programs of work continued apace.

Early in the year we announced 17 new Community Fellows, undertaking a wide range of research with migrant and refugee communities, First Nations communities, and people with disabilities. You can read more about what continues to be a flagship initiative for the Institute in this report. We also awarded eleven Community Engagement Grants, a small funding scheme to support researchers to develop community partnerships. These grants enable researchers and communities to explore ideas and test assumptions, to develop shared understandings and effective ways of working together. This kind of work is central to relevant and impactful community-engaged research, but is rarely funded – so we are pleased there was so much interest in this scheme.

While many of us are 'zoomed out', our online seminars have continued to be extremely well patronised and recordings of many of these sessions are reaching new audiences online. We have also been proud to support the Talking Hunger Podcast on the hidden issue of students' food insecurity – you can read more about the compelling co-produced research behind it in the following pages.

The Institute has also supported a number of fantastic initiatives with African-Australian students and communities, including the Solidarity in Diversity conference with the African Studies Group, the 2021 Blue Nile African Australian Business Masterclass Program, and the African Research and Engagement in Australia Initiative (AREiA) which launched in December.

With all of this incredibly important activity underway, it may not be apparent that 2021 was also a year of enormous change for the Institute. In June, Foundation Director Professor Bernadette McSherry farewelled us after eight years at the helm. Bernadette's immense legacy shines in all the pages of this report. Our new Director, Professor Jo Barraket, will join in January 2022. She will no doubt be as in awe of the directorate as I am – Charlene, Kathleen and Claire, thank you so much for all your support to me as Interim Director. With you all there to guide and support Jo, who brings so much expertise and energy to the role, I have no doubt that the impact of the Melbourne Social Equity Institute will continue to grow.

Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan
Interim Director (July to December 2021)
Melbourne Social Equity Institute

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 2021 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

Professor Susan Kneebone
Melbourne Law School

Dr Kelum Palipane
Melbourne School of Design

Dr Cain Polidano
Melbourne Institute for Applied Economic and
Social Research

Associate Professor Gyorgy Scrinis
School of Agriculture and Food

Professor Kylie Smith
Melbourne Graduate School of Education

Dr Victor Sojo Monzon
Centre for Workplace Leadership

Associate Professor Sara Wills
School of Historical and Philosophical Studies

Associate Professor Michael Zyphur
Department of Management and Marketing

Advisory Board

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

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

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

Tom Brunzell
Director – Education
Berry Street

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

Wesa Chau
Chief Executive Officer
Cultural Intelligence

Travis Morgan
Algabonyah Regional Coordinator
Kaiela Institute

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

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 2021 we focused on the following research programs:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Melbourne Social Equity Institute provides support to MAEVe which is led by co-chairs Professor Kelsey Hegarty and Professor Cathy Humphreys. MAEVe is advised by a diverse steering committee of academics from across the University. These academics variously specialise in health sector responses to family violence, children's voices and experience of family violence, 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 2021, MAEVe published bi-monthly newsletters and held seven seminars via Zoom. The seminars were very well attended with participants from around Australia and from New Zealand.

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.

As part of MAEVe's commitment to putting the voices of women and children at the centre of its research, MAEVe is advised and guided by the WEAVERs panel (Women and their children who have Experienced Abuse and ViolencE: Researchers and advisors). In 2021 the WEAVERs worked with MAEVe to implement the Experts by Experience Framework across services in the family violence sector. A WEAVERs coordinator was appointed from the WEAVERs panel who assisted with the work.

← *Download the MAEVe Brochure*

African Research and Engagement in Australia Initiative

Officially launched on 6 December 2021 by the Provost, Professor Nicola Phillips, the African Research and Engagement in Australia Initiative (AREiA) is a new collaboration between the University of Melbourne and key partners in the African Australian community.

Supported by the Melbourne Social Equity Institute, it will provide an interdisciplinary, community-driven and solutions orientated approach to the health, cultural, social, economic and political wellbeing of African Australian communities.

AREiA will enable collaborative research and knowledge exchange in order to address existing knowledge gaps regarding African Australian communities. The insights generated from AREiA programs and projects are to be utilised by policy and decision-makers, business and community agencies and the broader Australian community.

AREiA will also support the implementation of government initiatives such as the Victorian African Communities Action Plan through various programs developed in partnership with the African Australian community and key partners both within and external to the University of Melbourne.

Precious Rametsana, AREiA's part-time Project Officer, can be contacted via are-ia@unimelb.edu.au.

Photographs from the AREiA launch event held at Melbourne Business School in December.

Latest Research Projects

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

WHY DO THEY DO THAT?

An investigation into the perpetrator perspective of technology facilitated abuse

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

GETTING BACK ON COUNTRY

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

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

The selected projects demonstrate a combination of interdisciplinarity, connection to communities and innovative research methodologies.

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

LEARNING FROM QTPOC VOICES: SUPPORTING POSITIVE EXPERIENCES OF MENTAL HEALTHCARE

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

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

INVISIBLE MOTHERS

Young Pasifika women, health inequalities and negotiating wellbeing

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

Latest Research Projects
Continued

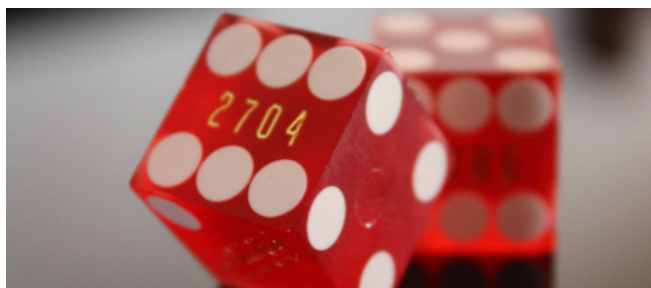## PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST YOUNG WOMEN EXPOSED TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

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

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

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF MENTAL HEALTH IN ONLINE GAMBLING CHOICES

Identifying targets for law reform to reduce harm from gambling through an economic experiment that explores how mental health relates to problem gambling

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

UNDERSTANDING DIGITAL INEQUALITY IN VICTORIA

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

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

Since its establishment in 2012, the Melbourne Social Equity Institute has provided over $2.3M in seed funding to at least 150 interdisciplinary research projects and community fellowships/ partnerships, involving more than 648 researchers.

Community Engagement Grants

In February 2021, the Melbourne Social Equity Institute announced that 11 projects had been awarded funding as part of its inaugural Community Engagement Grants round.

This new series of grants is aimed at University of Melbourne researchers with an idea to test, explore and develop in partnership with members of disadvantaged or marginalised communities. The funding enables the researcher 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.

Professor Farah Ahmed (Law)
Collaborating with Muslim Women Australia to review family violence case data and conduct roundtables to document and better understand the impacts of COVID-19 on culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Dr Ashley Barnwell (Social & Political Sciences)
Gathering evidence on the success of storytelling and creative writing programs at Lotus Place in Queensland, a service for Forgotten Australians and survivors of childhood institutional abuse.

Dr Candice Boyd (Geography)
Collaborating with Headspace to explore the experience of young people living in areas of regional Australia that will be the most affected by climate change to understand how 'eco-anxiety' creates further impacts on their mental health.

Dr Tania Cañas (Victorian College of the Arts)
Building a partnership between the VCA and cohealth Arts Generator to develop a community engaged research module for researchers in the creative arts, design and media fields.

Dr Liz Dean (Social & Political Sciences)
Developing a digital archive of the 3CR radio program Beyond the Bars, a series of prison broadcasts facilitated by 3CR's First Nations' Australian Community Radio broadcasters for NAIDOC week.

Prof. Adrian Hearn (Languages & Linguistics)
Working with the Yoruba Heritage and Cultural Association of Victoria to understand youth engagement with its program and activities.

Dr Claire Loughnan (Social & Political Sciences)
School of Social and Political Sciences
Mapping the gaps in legal assistance to imprisoned people facing visa cancellation in partnership with the Visa Cancellation Working Group, a national network of legal organisations.

Dr Troy Potter (Education)
Exploring youth popular culture texts to better understand how they inform boys' understanding of gender inequality and gender-based violence.

Dr Catherine Phillips (Geography)
Developing a research partnership with Cultivating Communities, connecting academic research with the broader food systems movement and beyond, addressing issues including sustainability, culturally appropriate food, food security and social justice.

Dr Katrina Raynor (Architecture)
Addressing barriers to secure and affordable housing for older women by working with community groups to build networks and establish a co-learning process between older women and housing providers to build a shared understanding of women's housing preferences, assets and options.

Dr Michael Santhanam-Martin (Agriculture)
Building a research relationship with St Paul's African House in Shepparton and supporting the Centre's Working for Victoria COVID-19 recovery data gathering projects.

Externally Funded Projects

Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System
Professor Bernadette McSherry's appointment as a Commissioner
Professor Bernadette McSherry concluded her two-year term as a Commissioner in February 2021. The Royal Commission's five-volume final report was delivered to the Governor of Victoria on 3 February 2021 and tabled at a special joint sitting of Parliament held at the Royal Exhibition Buildings on 2 March 2021. The Victorian Government committed to implementing all 65 recommendations made by the Commission and some policy reforms have already been implemented.

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

Inclusive Ageing, Free from Racism: African Australian Seniors Anti-Racism Project
African Think Tank Access, Equity, and Community Education Project
This project is in collaboration with the African Research and Engagement in Australia Initiative (AREiA) and supported by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. This project will map and evaluate African Australian seniors' experiences of access and equity to quality and safe support and care, through community consultations facilitated across Melbourne and regional Victoria. The intended impact of this exercise is to prevent and respond to racism and discrimination, by means of promoting positive intercultural understanding.

Culturally appropriate advocacy pathway to NDIS
A project with Afri-Aus Care funded by the Psyche Foundation
Many African Australians face barriers to accessing support and services, including the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), due to untreated trauma, resettlement complications and mental health taboos and stigma. This project is working with African Australians of all ages, providing educational materials using the Positive Change Model and supporting participants to receive culturally appropriate medical assessment and care. It will also support participants to apply for the NDIS. The approach is grounded in the principles of the *ubuntu* philosophy, a core design principle developed as part of an ongoing collaboration between University of Melbourne researchers and Afri-Aus Care. The Melbourne Social Equity Institute's role is to evaluate the effectiveness of Afri-Aus Care's intervention program.

Graduate Researchers

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

Surriya Baloch
Antenatal screening for family violence with migrant south Asian women in Australia
Supervisors: Professor Kelsey Hegarty and Dr Dr Elizabeth McLindon, Department of General Practice,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thomas McGee
The displacement-statelessness nexus – Syrians in limbo
Supervisors: Professor Michelle Foster and Professor Susan Kneebone, Melbourne Law School

Hala Nasr
Safe spaces as a response to gender-based violence in refugee settings: possibilities and limitations
Supervisors: Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan, and Dr Karen Block, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health and Dr Elise Klein, School of Social and Political Sciences

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

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

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

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

Juan Jose Tellez
Representations of chemical restraint: a case study of the Oakden Older Persons Mental Health Service
Supervisors: Professor Bernadette McSherry, Melbourne Social Equity Institute, Professor John Tobin, Melbourne Law School and Adjunct Professor Lisa Brophy, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

Dominic Troughton
Grounded theory research into best context for consumer leadership and capacity development within the Australian lived experience mental health consumer movement
Supervisors: Associate Professor Bridget Hamilton, Centre for Mental Health Nursing and Dr Alexandra Devine, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

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

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

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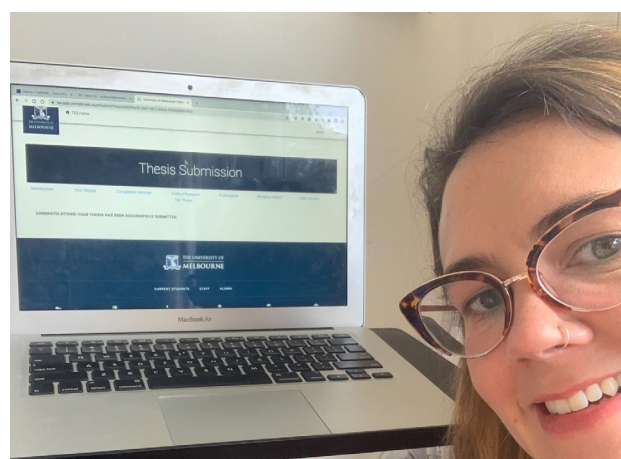Supervisors: Professor Brendan Gleeson, Melbourne School of Design and Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

Doctorates Awarded in 2021

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

Community Fellows Program

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Blue Nile African Australian Business Masterclass Program

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

"All the Modules in the Blue Nile program were really insightful and rich in knowledge. I have also been able to broaden my network with fellow start up entrepreneurs, business partners and friendly networks. After undertaking the program, I feel equipped to grow my business that culturally serves my community but also bring the wider Australian on board in partnerships. It's definitely a mini-MBA with practical industry expertise and whole community that supports your entrepreneurial journey!"
– Catherine Jonathan Founder, Emerging Brand Africa

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

Blue Nile ran as a pilot in 2020 with 15 African Australian entrepreneurs originating from 11 African countries selected to participate. The first program was very successful and received extremely positive reviews from participants. Spurred by the success of the first program, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing provided funding to run the program again. The 2021 program received 68 applications and of these, 18 African Australian entrepreneurs were selected to participate. The cohort comprised 9 women and 9 men, originating from 12 African countries.

2021 Program Overview and Participants

Over 12 days, participants engaged with entrepreneurs, academics, executives, managers and community leaders, who shared ideas and processes for developing businesses and economic opportunities for the community at large. Participants were also equipped with ideas on how to steer their business in a post-pandemic business environment.

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

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

The 2021 Blue Nile African Australian Business Masterclass Program Participants were:

Bilisuma Adem Founder, Disability Home Nursing	**Louis Adjei Danso** Founder, Fintik Finance	**Musangwe Kalowa** Founder, Lemba Group
Catherine Jonathan Founder, Emerging Brand Africa	**Lydia Tesema** Founder, Below The Surface	**Nagmeldin Peter Bol** Athlete and Entrepreneur
Francis Gala Founder, FoMu Design Lab	**Martin Mureithi** Founder, Simba Financial Services	**Pelontle Patience Rabai** Founder, Sheltering Arms
Goabaone Molelekwa Founder, Moremotala Osteopathy	**Maryjane Amos** Founder, Muve-box	**Salman Warsame** Founder, Local Transit
Keletso Adeola Founder, Base Disability	**Monica Aweng Deng** Pharmaceutical Entrepreneur	**Shukri Abi** Founder, Owner, Abi Hearing
Khadra Abdi Founder, SKJ Gold	**Mpho Keipidile** Founder, Builtup Solutions	**Walter Makoni** Founder, Glowing Pavers

There's been several benefits of undertaking the Blue Nile program, including the content and knowledge shared from different lecturers and guest speakers, working together with other Blue Nilers and listening to different business experience and finally breaking into small break-out rooms over zoom to do exercises. It has made me rethink the whole idea of doing it all on my own and entertain the idea of bringing in others to join my business because accountability breeds success. I appreciate and really enjoyed the program."
– Nagmeldin Peter Bol, Olympic Athlete, Speaker and Entrepreneur

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 2021, the Melbourne Social Equity Institute ran an interdisciplinary PhD program to provide advanced training to doctoral candidates from across the University of Melbourne.

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

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

Despite being away from campus for much of 2021 – and with the help of Zoom, WhatsApp and email – the program continued supporting students. In addition to formal events, including masterclasses with Professor Lynn Gillam (Managing Ethical Tensions in Research) and Associate Professor Cathy Vaughan (Using Photovoice in Research), program participants had regular casual catch-ups and virtual "shut up and write" sessions, as well as sharing information about relevant webinars, conferences, scholarships, post-doctoral opportunities, funding opportunities and more.

Program Participants and Thesis Topics

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thomas McGee
The displacement-statelessness nexus: Syrians in limbo

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

Shannon Owen
Projecting futures through documentary film

Daniel Pejic
The city as group agent in global migration governance

Gowri Rajaram
Help-seeking behaviours and service utilisation following self-harm in young people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

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

Eyram Ivy Sedzro
Risk assessment in migration: the impact of information campaigns on the risk perception of unskilled and semi-skilled Ghanaian female migrants

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

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

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

Sarah Strauven
Exploring collective narrative work with traumatised refugees

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

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

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

Martha Isela Vazquez Corona
Giving mums a fair go: culturally responsive care for refugee and migrant women

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

Talking Hunger Podcast and Report

A significant proportion of university students in Australia experience food insecurity. Socio-economic and cultural differences affect students' ability to access healthy, nutritious and affordable food on campus.

Poor nutrition and food-related stress can negatively impact the academic performance and mental health of the most vulnerable students. Until recently, this has largely been an invisible issue. Most universities in Australia, including the University of Melbourne, do not have institutional policies or programs in place to support students experiencing food insecurity. A research project supported by the Melbourne Social Equity Institute and funded by the University Student Services and Amenities Fee Grant Program aims to address this.

The Talking Hunger: Understanding Food Insecurity on Campus project used participatory research methods to gain a better qualitative understanding of the problem at the University of Melbourne and brainstormed possible solutions. Student co-researchers were trained to interview other students about their experiences of food insecurity.

In March 2021 the project launched a podcast that aims to start a conversation about student food insecurity on campus. Professor Craig Jeffrey interviewed the project's four student co-researchers to discuss what they learned from their own interviews with 40 food insecure students at the University of Melbourne about the challenges they have faced.

This was followed up in May by the release of a report that included suggested strategies to address food insecurity at the University of Melbourne.

Australian Research on Refugee Integration Database

Launched at in-person celebration on Friday 7 May, the Australian Research on Refugee Integration Database (ARRID) is an open-source database developed with the goal to facilitate access by academics, students, refugee-background communities, policymakers and practitioners to research on refugee integration in Australia.

The ARRID team at the launch celebration in May. Left to right: Charlene Edwards, Dr Louise Olliff, Dr Reyvi Marinas, Associate Professor Sally Baker, Dr Karen Block, Associate Professor Sara Wills and John Tran.

A collaboration between the Melbourne Social Equity Institute and the Refugee Education Special Interest Group, ARRID features over 2000 research items (articles, books, doctoral theses, reports) published since 1998 that relate to refugee integration in Australia. It includes both academic and 'grey' literature (e.g. research reports by government and non-government organisations).

The ARRID dashboard – which is web-based and free to use – allows users to search this database by thematic categories and sub-categories, authors, abstracts and publication year. Users can also narrow down search findings by using multiple filters.

It is hoped this tool will be useful for:

- graduate students to identify research gaps and existing literature;

- academics to locate research produced outside the academy (e.g. grey literature published by community service organisations);

- researchers to identify trends and gaps in research on refugee integration in Australia;

- identifying university-based research that could help to provide an evidence base to inform policy advocacy and practice;

- locating research that might help policymakers think through difficult questions, explore new ideas, innovate and learn from others.

Publication Highlights

The Melbourne Social Equity Institute and its affiliated researchers produced 73 publications in 2021. A select few are highlighted below.

Block Karen, Hourani Jeanine, Sullivan Claire and Vaughan Cathy (2021) "It's about Building a Network of Support": Australian Service Provider Experiences Supporting Refugee Survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. *Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies.* DOI:10.1080/15562948.2021.1930321

Brasier Catherine, Hamilton Bridget, Byrne Louise and Brophy Lisa (2021) Peer support work for people experiencing mental distress attending the emergency department: Exploring the potential. *Emergency Medicine Australasia.* DOI:10.1111/1742-6723.13848

Cooney-O'Donoghue Diarmuid, Adamovic Mladen and Sojo Victor (2021) Exploring the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis for the employment prospects of refugees and people seeking asylum in Australia. *Australian Journal of Social Issues.* DOI:10.1002/ajs4.177

Dyson Jane, Jeffrey Craig and Scrinis Gyorgy. Missing Fruit: International Students' Food Insecurity in Australian Universities. *Items: Insights from the Social Sciences.* Social Science Research Council. 16 December 2021 https://items.ssrc.org/covid-19-and-the-social-sciences/covid-19-fieldnotes/missing-fruit-international-students-food-insecurity-in-australian-universities/

Edan Vrinda, Sellick Kathryn, Ainsworth Susan, Alvarez-Varquez Susie, Johnson Brendan, Smale Krystyn, Randall Rory and Roper Cath (2021) Employed but not included: the case of consumer-workers in mental health care services. *The International Journal of Human Resource Management,* 32:15, 3272-3301. DOI:10.1080/09585192.2020.1863248

Gooding Piers and Kariotis Timothy (2021) T. Ethics and Law in Research on Algorithmic and Data-Driven Technology in Mental Health Care: Scoping Review. *Journal of Medical Internet Research: Mental Health,* 8(6), pp. 22-. DOI:10.2196/24668

Kertesz Margaret, Fogden Larissa and Humphreys Cathy (2021) Domestic violence and the impact on children. In *The Routledge International Handbook of Domestic Violence and Abuse,* 1st ed., edited by Devaney John, Bradbury-Jones Caroline, Macy Rebecca J, Overlien Carolina and Holt Stephanie, 128-140. Routledge. DOI:10.4324/9780429331053-13

Martino Erika and Bentley Rebecca (2021) Mapping the riskscape of using privatelyowned short-term lets for specialist family violence crisis accommodation. *International Journal of Housing Policy.* DOI:10.1080/19491247.2021.2002658

McSherry Bernadette and Maker Yvette (eds) (2021) *Restrictive Practices in Health Care and Disability Settings: Legal, Policy and Practical Responses* (London: Routledge) 301 pages plus Index

Robertson Hannah. Building collective knowledge for action. *Pursuit.* 7 March 2021. https://Pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/building-collective-knowledge-for-action

Tuteja Amita, Riggs Elisha, Sanci Lena, Mascarenhas Lester et al. (2021) Interpreting in sexual and reproductive health consults with Burma born refugees post settlement: Insights from an Australian Qualitative Study. *Frontiers In Communication,* 6 24-. DOI:10.3389/fcomm.2021.633855

Public Events

Lockdowns and COVID-related restrictions meant the Melbourne Social Equity Institute's 2021 public events program was largely focused online, reaching new audiences across Australia and around the world.

The year began with the launch of a new monthly seminar series as part of the Mental Health and Society Research Program. The Institute's Foundation Director, Professor Bernadette McSherry, presented the first seminar in the series speaking about the legal and ethical issues raised by the burgeoning industry of "neurointerventions", with a focus on brain-computer interfaces and brain stimulation and modification techniques. Other highlights in the series included Indigo Daya – a former Melbourne Social Equity Institute Community Fellow – speaking about welcoming diverse consumer and survivor views and voices into mental health, and Dr Magenta Simmons – Senior Research Fellow and the Youth Partnerships in Research Coordinator at Orygen and the Centre for Youth Mental Health – co-presenting with youth mental health advocate Melissa Keller-Tuberg on involving young people as partners in mental health research.

Throughout 2021 the Institute partnered with the Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness to present regular seminars on a range of migration, statelessness and refugee studies related issues. Highlights through the year include former Advisory Board member Durkhanai Ayubi sharing work from her Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity Fellowship on narratives of displacement and Eric Paulsen, Representative of Malaysia to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights providing an insightful update of contemporary statelessness issues in Southeast Asia.

Taking advantage of the window between lockdowns, on Friday 2 July a hybrid in-person and online event was hosted in Art West's Forum Theatre as part of the Community Engagement Grant awarded to Professor Adrian Hearn (School of Languages and Linguistics) and the Yoruba Heritage and Cultural Association of Victoria. It brought together around 110 community members with virtual participants from around the world and included demonstrations of talking gangan drums, ceremonial beads, storytelling, Afro-Cuban batá and rumba traditions, and a Zoom presentation from Nigeria on tribal scarring.

Performers and audience members at the From Nigeria to Australia: Celebrating Yoruba Heritage event.

Image: Speakers at the Solidarity in Diversity Conference. Left to right: Franka Vaughan (School of Social and Politics Sciences), Dr Stephane Shepard (Swinburne University), Abiola Ajetomobi (Asylum Seeker Resource Centre) and Jean Pierre Ndabakuranye (School of Physics).

Later in July, the Institute partnered with the African Studies Group on their second annual conference with the theme 'Solidarity in Diversity: Highlighting Marginal Voices in Academia, Practice and Society.' While scheduled in-person sessions had to be cancelled due to pandemic-related restrictions, the five-day event continued online and included two extremely well attended keynote public lectures: Professor Mahmood Mamdani, Herbert Lehman Professor of Government at Columbia University, spoke about his latest work, *Neither Settler nor Native: The Making and Unmaking of Permanent Minorities*, and Abiola Ajetomobi, Director of Asylum Seeker Resource Centre Innovation Hub, discussed the role of allyship and advocacy in amplifying marginal voices. The program concluded with a musical performance and presentation by Stéphanie Kabanyana Kanyandekwe from ABC Classic FM.

In August, the Institute partnered with the newly launched Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Ethics (CAIDE) to present a panel discussion on technology facilitated abuse. The session was hosted by Dr Yvette Maker and featured Dr Dana McKay and Dr Renee Fiolet from the Institute seed-funded project 'Why do they do that? An investigation into the perpetrator perspective of technology facilitated abuse.' Also in August, a workshop held in partnership with the Comparative Network on Refugee Externalisation Policies (CONREP) provided insights into post-PhD careers in academia and beyond for early career researchers working on migration and refugee studies related topics. The speakers included Warren Frehse (Senior Advisor, Careers and Employability), Professor Julie McLeod (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research Capability), Kate Taylor (Director, Research Strategy), Madeline Gleeson (Senior Research Fellow, Kaldor Centre) and Dr Louise Olliff (Senior Policy Advisor, Refugee Council of Australia).

Partnered events continued in September with a seminar presented with the Indigenous Settler Relations Collaboration on the politics of solidarity and anti-racism in settler-colonial contexts. The presentations by Dr Kim Alley and Professor Karen Farquharson attracted 257 attendees from across the world including Australia, Aotearoa/New Zealand, India, the United States, Canada, Lebanon, Japan, Hong Kong, Indonesia and South Africa.

The final public event of the year was an online seminar presented by Dr Tom Brunzell, Director of Education for Berry Street and a Melbourne Social Equity Institute Advisory Board member. The timely subject matter, 'A New Approach to Trauma-Informed Schools: Increasing Student Engagement, Achievement and Wellbeing', attracted over 1100 registrations and was the largest public event in the Institute's history.

Financial Statement

INCOME	
Balance brought forward	$28,445
Funds from Chancellery	
– Core Melbourne Social Equity Institute funding	$940,240
– Space charges contribution	$30,000
Internal grants	$25,000
External grants	$171,757
Philanthropic donations	$53,256
Total income	$1,248,698
EXPENDITURE	
Directorate staff salaries	$484,758
Research staff salaries	$133,041
Research project costs	$259,666
Operating expenses	$1,450
Seed funded projects	$159,046
Partnership development	$1,081
PhD scholarships	$57,941
Events	$3,226
Space charges	$30,000
Total expenditure	$1,130,209
Balance carried forward	$118,489

THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Contact the
Melbourne Social Equity Institute