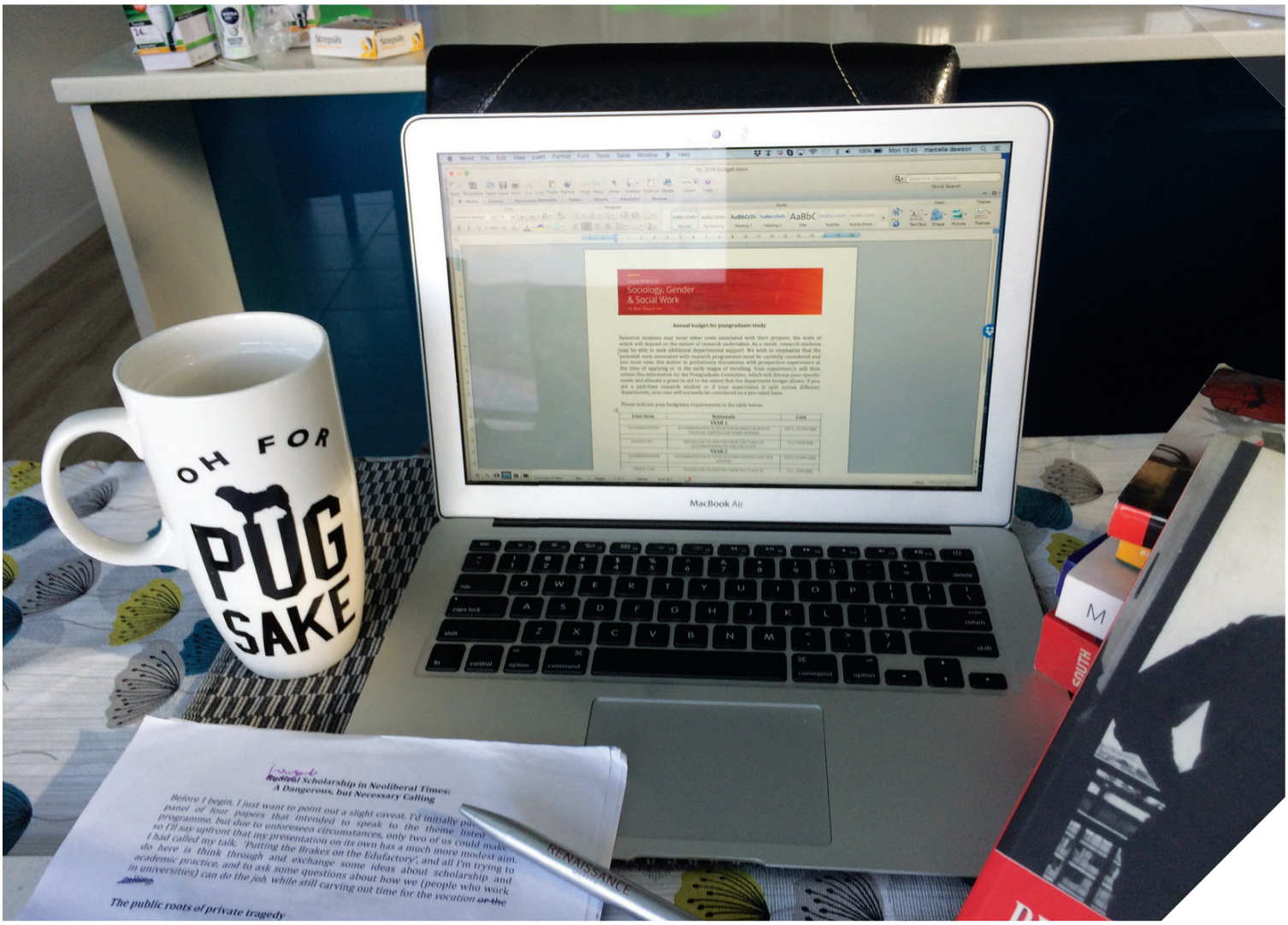
Department of Sociology, Gender and Social Work

UNIVERSITY of OTAGO
Te Whare Wānanga o Otāgo
NEW ZEALAND

Postgraduate Symposium II Proceedings

Friday 10 August 2018
St Margaret's College, 333 Leith Street



SOCIOLOGY, GENDER AND SOCIAL WORK
POSTGRADUATE SYMPOSIUM II
10 AUGUST 2018

Published by the Department of Sociology, Gender and Social Work, University of Otago.

This publication is also available on the website of the Department of Sociology, Gender and Social Work, University of Otago
https://www.otago.ac.nz/sgsw/

Abstracts may be cited as appearing in Dawson, M. C., Vakaoti, P. & Tolich, M. (eds). 2018. *Sociology, Gender and Social Work, Postgraduate Symposium Proceedings II*, Department of Sociology, Gender and Social Work, University of Otago.

Copyright © 2018 Department of Sociology, Gender and Social Work, University of Otago.

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced in any form by any means without the written permission of the Head of Department, Sociology, Gender and Social Work.

ISSN 2624-0289

Sociology, Gender and Social Work: Postgraduate Symposium Proceedings II.

This page is intentionally blank.

Mariam Abdul-Dayyem

Born in Jerusalem, Mariam is a social activist, facilitator, and project manager. She has a BA in Chemistry from Birzeit University and a Master's degree in the Sociology of Education from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The topic of her Master's degree was, 'The folk models of shahids (martyrs) among Birzeit University students.' Mariam worked as a research assistant on two projects. The first of these, namely, 'Belonging to the outsider and established groupings: Palestinians and Israelis in various figurations'," was completed at the Centre of Methods in Social Sciences in Goettingten University in Germany. The second project was titled, 'Palestinian Refugees of 1948', and was conducted at the Institute of Historical Justice and Reconciliation in The Hague.

Programme: PhD in Sociology
Supervisors: Dr Marcelle Dawson and Prof. Bill Harris
Email: abdma774@student.otago.ac.nz

Everyday Resistance in Palestine: An exploration of the digital Culture of contention among Palestinian youth in the West Bank

Mariam Abdul-Dayyem

Palestinians in the West Bank have been born into a conflict zone where they experience isolation, lack of freedom and political repression. In this context, Palestinians in the occupied territories are increasingly utilising virtual space as a way to escape their lived realities of oppression. Palestinians' use of the internet is unique and full of tensions and contradictions that are worthy of exploration. This paper revolves around one central, guiding question: To what extent does the everyday use of digital spaces by Palestinians in the West Bank constitute a digital culture of contention? This thesis will examine features of this culture by illuminating the relatively mundane uses of digital spaces practised by Palestinians in the West Bank. Analysing these practices that are daily, personal and apolitical contributes to understanding whether the Palestinians' use of digital spaces constitutes a political space of daily resistance and survival, which has been described as 'quiet encroachment of the ordinary'. A qualitative approach, utilising semi-structured in-depth interviews with activists, journalists, scholars and students, will shed light on this digital culture of contention among Palestinians and its intricate meanings.

Keywords: Palestinians, the West Bank, Web 2.0, everyday life, digital culture of contention, quite encroachment of the ordinary

New Zealand Film Families

Third generation film workers on location, 'Pork Pie', dir. Matt Murphy, Invercargill 2015.
From camera left, Saiorse Murphy Twigg, Bella Bollinger, Costume Runners, Jimmy Bollinger Art Department Assist.
Photograph by Lily Lawrence.

I am a seventy-year-old part-time distance student from the West Coast. I suppose I am an example of on-going education; whether a good or bad example is debatable.

I've never had a straight run at academic life but have always juggled it around family and work; children, grandchildren, farming and film making. I enjoy the mental stimulation of research, writing and discussion.

Programme: MA in Gender Studies
Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Annabel Cooper
Email: helbol@kinect.co.nz

Film Families: Generations and gender in a NZ project-based industry

Helen Bollinger

This study explores the factors contributing to the phenomenon of multiple generations of families working in the New Zealand freelance screen industry. It focuses on the continuities and differences in screen work practice and culture from the filmmaking renaissance of the 1970s to current times. This timeframe is significant, because it marks the transition of New Zealand film making from being a cottage industry to a major cultural and economic player.

The study employs a qualitative methodology, using semi-structured interviews with participants representing three generations of film-making families. Many of the participants have contributed to the establishment of a national cinema and continue to contribute to the way New Zealand culture is portrayed and shaped. The participants were asked questions around four main themes; (i) the evolution of the screen industry in NZ, (ii) film as a project-based industry, (iii) family career legacies in film, and (iv) cultural transition and change in the screen industry. The interviews were recorded on sound and camera, with a view to making a documentary film to accompany the thesis. The data is being analysed via thematic analysis and the findings of the study are embedded within two theoretical models. These are Latour's Actor Network Theory and Bourdieu's theories of habitus and social capital.

Keywords: film families, screen industry, career legacies, Actor Network Theory, social capital, habitus

Charlotte Mary Alice Bruce Kells

I am currently in my fifth year of study at the University of Otago and completing my first year of postgraduate study. I hope to continue studying until I have completed my PhD. I have an undergraduate degree in Gender Studies and English Literature, but my main focus is now Gender Studies. Specifically, my main interests lie in the media portrayal of gender and the impact this has on our society.

Programme: Hons in Gender Studies
Supervisor: Dr Fairleigh Gilmour
Email address: kelch560@student.otago.ac.nz

"But it's just a joke?": The role of romantic comedies in normalising gendered dynamics in dating relationships

Charlotte Bruce Kells

Films are an accessible and popular medium where dominant ideologies are portrayed to populations on a mass scale. Romantic comedies have been an enduring and popular genre. This study draws on interviews with young people to consider how romantic comedy films normalise gender dynamics in dating relationships. Eight one-on-one interviews with male and female university students (aged 18-25) were carried out in order to explore how these young adults interpret the romantic relationships portrayed in romantic comedy and which gendered dynamics they admire or deem inappropriate. Preliminary findings suggest that participants were able to identify gendered dynamics in films and critically engage with the texts. Key gendered patterns that were of concern to participants included the 'beauty and the beast complex'; acts of aggression turning into sex acts; men as the drivers of humour; and the emphasis on the physical attractiveness of women. While the ability to critically analyse gender dynamics varied, based on age and gender, all participants expressed concern about the impact that gendered portrayals may have in normalising gender dynamics in dating relationships. I argue that although young people are able to critically analyse gendered patterns in romantic comedy films, they still play a role in normalising dynamics in dating relationships.

Keywords: romantic comedy, gender dynamics, dating relationships

Photovoice

I am interested in the visual image and consciousness. In particular, I am interested in the notion of 'powerful spaces' and 'weak spaces' - what it means when these spaces are contextualised in specific cultures and political systems. In my free time, I enjoy taking photographs, museums, independent bookstores and good coffee.

Programme: PhD in Sociology
Supervisors: Dr Patrick Vakaoti, Assoc. Prof. Annabel Cooper and Prof. Amanda Barusch
Email address: joanna.chin@otago.ac.nz

Sketching out an epistemological framework for photovoice

Joanna Chin

The presentation focuses on photovoice, the main research method used in my doctoral project titled, 'Framing Poverty in Singapore'. Photovoice is widely understood as a community-based participatory research method seeking to engage research participants in 'seeing the world and transforming it'. This presentation offers an epistemological framework to photovoice by drawing from my field notes, focus group interviews and the analysis of participant-generated photographs from 13 elderly and six youths. The development of this framework involves deconstructing ideas of 'seeing' and 'transforming' and placing each theme into broad categories of consciousness and action. Hence, 'seeing' becomes conscious interpretation and 'transforming'; an opportunity for participatory action/empowerment. The presentation is contextualised within an East-Asian narrative and argues that participation is both culturally and politically driven. This de-romanticises the concept of photovoice and creates sustainable research rigor that will, in the long run provide 'real' transformation for my participants and acknowledge their lived realities that could be different from the dominant culture and values.

Keywords: methodology, photovoice, epistemology, East Asia

Louisa Choe is a recipient of a University of Otago PhD scholarship, conducting a mixed methods sociological project that asks, "Do the poor pay more?" Her research question is drawn from Desmond's (2016) book *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* and is influenced by her own experience as a bank officer, working to fund her undergraduate degree. At the bank she observed that poor customers were often overdrawn on their accounts, and the servicing of bank fees meant they routinely paid more. Her PhD project involves the participation of adolescent girls, a group with whom she identities closely. Louisa was born in Singapore and had her education disrupted when her parents sent her to New Zealand, where she had to make many life adjustments. Her project highlights young people's experiences of housing instability. Central to this are research approaches and methods that enhance young people's participation in research and respect their rights throughout the research process.

Programme: PhD in Sociology
Supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Martin Tolich and Dr Bryndl Hohmann-Marriott
Email address: louisa.choe@postgrad.otago.ac.nz

Evicting my childhood: Adolescents' experience of transient housing in a marginalised world

Louisa Choe

Poverty manifests itself in many forms in New Zealand, ranging from income inequality to material deprivation. Among the many issues intertwined with poverty, unstable housing has always been a recurring concern; with children and young people being some of the most vulnerable when faced with tenure insecurity. My post-graduate research project explores young people's experiences of poverty; in particular housing instability. I volunteered at a local youth group, in a low socio-economic part of a New Zealand City. The weekly get-together group provided me with access into the worlds of young people from low-income households; in particular, into the worlds of senior girls aged between 15 to 18 years old. There, three worlds opened up for me. First, the stories they told me suggested why the poor pay more, not just in the domain of housing, but with other incidentals such as groceries, transportations and school uniforms. The second world allowed me glimpse into the intersectionality of food insecurity and unstable housing, and the many ways which young people cultivate and demonstrate resilience as means to navigate their way through poverty. Third, one narrative; *Ravenous Lunchtime*, tells a distinctive story of a teenage girl's perpetual hunger. Although filled with a zest for life, many of these young people traded their childhood for survival in this marginalised world where housing instability is a constant battle for them.

Keywords: poverty, youth, eviction, housing, resilience

"Hide My Face P2", Rebecca Oliver

Hailing from the tropics across the Tasman, Simon is mid-way through his PhD in Gender Studies. His research explores what self-care means for gay men, and how sex, drugs, and 'risky' behaviours might be part of this. More broadly, he also dabbles with literature, expressions of queer theory, fashion & dress, and snippets of postmodern feminisms and the occult. He has a penchant for plants, knitting miscellaneous things and finding the 'perfect' caramel slice.

Programme: PhD in Gender Studies
Supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Chris Brickell and Dr Gareth Treharne
Email address: simon.clay@postgrad.otago.ac.nz

Sex, Drugs, & Disease – Health and Self-Care in the Gay Community

Simon Clay

Can drugs be part of caring for ourselves? What is the relationship between risky sex and self-love? Can forgoing treatment for HIV actually be considered a healthy decision? These are a few questions that my research poses, in an attempt to understand how self-care practices are performed and approached by members of the gay community. Over the past decades international practices have been proposed to address the health and well-being of this group, however, meaningful improvements still appear to be out of reach with issues like new HIV transmissions and poor mental health recently hitting new peaks. My study suggests that by examining practices labelled as deleterious to health in a new light, the issues experienced in the gay community can be constructively redressed in a manner that explores the deeply nuanced nature of these practices. Drawing on interviews conducted across New Zealand and two major cities in Australia, a radical new approach to understanding what it means to be a gay man in contemporary times and how we care for ourselves can be realised.

Keywords: gay men, drug-use, HIV, health, self-care, sex

Kerri Cleaver

Kia ora, Ko Wai au? Ko Kerri Cleaver au, I am Kāi Tahu and Kati Mamoe. I am a social worker and current PhD student researching the connections to belonging and identity for Kāi Tahu women post foster care system. My experiences include representative roles for her local runaka, Puketeraki and for Ngāi Tahu in the area of children and whanau ora.

Programme: PhD in Children's Issues
Supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Nicola Atwool and Prof. Jacinta Ruru
Email address: cleke960@student.otago.ac.nz

Mana Wahine, Mana Kāi Tahu

Kerri Cleaver

Māori women and Kāi Tahu women have had our history written and re-written, always in the voice of the patriarchal colonial agenda. The Indigenous women's place and space to tell our own history was almost entirely denied through the process of colonisation and the implementation of "Man", with a capital M, to the context of Aotearoa. We are talked about and talked for throughout history. However, as Māori, and more locally as Kāi Tahu, we have many other stories to tell that demonstrate *our* truth of who we are, were and will be. Our being will always be tightly intertwined with maternity but we were and are more than this. The state implemented multiple policies to box us into 'women as womb', confined to the role as mother and in that space, the right to protect children was also taken away for many. But Māori women are strong and the limits placed on us through multiple generations have not hindered our ability to reach inside and outside of maternity and define and challenge the state definition of Māori wahine. This part of my thesis is the reclaiming of the Kāi Tahu women's right to self determine and flourish both in the now and through our generations of survival.

Keywords: Mana Wahine, Kāi Tahu, children, colonisation, self-determination

After falling in love with sociology back in 2015, I finally completed a BA degree in Sociology at the end of 2017. Across the various sociology papers that I have completed, I have always been drawn to social theory. I am astounded by the ways in which mundane aspects of everyday life, that are so easily taken for granted and accepted, can be conceptualised in some of the most complex and fascinating ways. In addition to graduating with a BA degree, I would say that I also graduated as a professional procrastinator.

Programme: Honours in Sociology
Supervisor: Dr Marcelle Dawson
Email address: croli785@student.otago.ac.nz

Digital symbolic interaction: Investigating the relationships between online communication and peer group interaction among millennials

Lia Crosland

The ways in which millennials interpret and express themselves within interpersonal relationships have become largely digitised through the interpretation of new digital symbols. Using a symbolic interactionist approach, this dissertation examines millennials social and digital interactions to consider the ways in which they interpret and derive meaning from symbols that influence their expression of emotion and understanding of interpersonal relationships. A review of the literature found that punctuation (e.g. full stops, semi-colons) and digital symbols (e.g. emojis 😊) were significant in representing nonverbal cues to aid in emotional expression. These symbols also created new dynamics of friendship on social media platforms. Gaining insight into the use and meaning of digital symbols in human interaction is important for understanding the ways in which individual expression and human connection are shifting in the twenty-first century 🤐.

Keywords: symbolic interaction, interpersonal communication, digital technology, social media, millennials, emojis

Luke Fitzmaurice

I am a PhD student based in Wellington. My research interests are childhood studies and children's rights, particularly the rights of children in contact with the child protection system. I currently work for Oranga Tamariki in the Voices of Children and Young People Team at the national office. I am passionate about children's right to participate in decisions about their lives. I grew up in Taupo and whakapapa to Te Aupouri in the far north.

Programme: PhD in Children's Issues
Supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Nicola Taylor and Assoc. Prof. Nicola Atwool
Email address: fitlu424@student.otago.ac.nz

Children's participation in child protection decision-making: An ecological perspective

Luke Fitzmaurice

Children in contact with the child protection system have a right to participate in decisions about their lives, but this right is rarely upheld in a meaningful way. A recent review of Child, Youth and Family (now known as Oranga Tamariki) found that children do not feel as though they have enough of a say in decisions, confirming the findings of previous research, and echoing the experiences of children overseas.

My presentation will examine the range of enablers and barriers which affect children's participation in a child protection context. Some of these exist at a micro level; for example, whether children's voices are heard depends significantly on the strength of their relationship with their social worker. Other factors exist at a macro level; for example, the way children are seen by society in general affects the extent to which they are involved in decisions. I will use an ecological framework to examine the range of factors which affect participation and explain how they fit together.

The intent is to propose a more effective way to involve children in child protection decision-making, by examining the different levels of a child's ecosystem which impact on that involvement. In doing so, I hope to contribute to ensuring that children's right to participate in decisions about their lives is finally meaningfully upheld.

Keywords: Child rights, childhood studies, child protection, child welfare, participation, article 12

Kirsten Mary Gibson

I am originally from Dunedin, but have lived the majority of my life in other places. The most recent place was Wellington, where I had the pleasure and privilege of completing my BA Hons and Master of Arts in Criminology. I have moved back to Dunedin and am now embarking on a PhD journey. I am passionate about research on issues that affect marginalised communities. In my free moments I enjoy reacquainting myself with Dunedin, making subversive cross-stitch pieces and spending time with my best buddies, Nico and Paco.

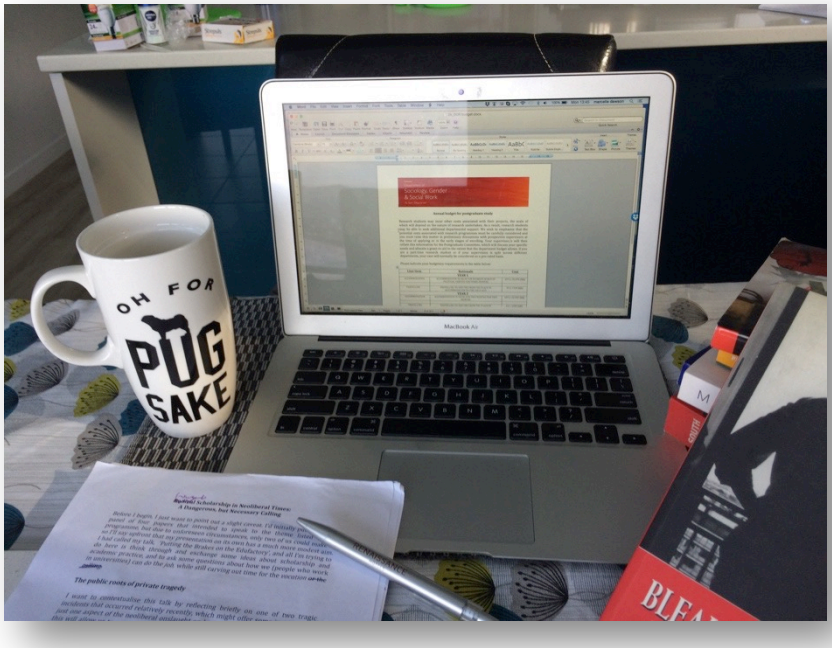
Programme: PhD in Gender Studies
Supervisors: Dr Rebecca Stringer and Dr Fairleigh Gilmour
Email address: gibki542@student.otago.ac.nz

Women and their experiences after release from prison

Kirsten Mary Gibson

Although in the very initial stages of research, this study seeks to critically explore the life experiences of women after their release from prison within a New Zealand context. The research will be underpinned by a feminist framework and seeks to address some of the gaps in literature around women and their experiences after prison. Criminological literature and research around life in and after prison has focused predominantly on men's experiences and is largely absent of women's experiences. The paucity of research focusing on women indicates their experiences of challenges after prison, such as homelessness, lack of employment, marginalisation, and mental and physical health issues, and shows how these are gendered and can be magnified in comparison with challenges men face. As most women currently in prison in New Zealand will be released, alongside increasing rates of women being incarcerated, it is important to understand how women experience life after prison. In this study, I plan to explore how women adjust to life after their release from prison and understand how they navigate barriers and access support after release.

Keywords: feminist, women, incarceration



Steve Glassey is the former CEO for Wellington SPCA and UN disaster management officer. He founded the SPCA's National Rescue Unit in 1995 when he was an Animal Welfare Inspector with them in a previous period of employment. Since then he was worked for Ambulance, Fire Service, Ministry of Social Development Ministry for Civil Defence & Emergency Management. He is also the co-founder and current Chair of Animal Evac New Zealand Trust.

Programme PhD in Sociology
Supervisors: Dr Mike King, Dr Peter Walker and Mr Marcelo Rodriguez Ferrere
Email address: steve.glassey@postgrad.otago.ac.nz

An evaluation of the companion animal emergency management response to the 2017 Edgecumbe Flood

Stephen Glassey

During the height of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, 44 percent of the population chose not to leave their homes during the evacuation because there were unable to take their pets. As a result, emergency planners have started to realise the importance of including animals in emergency plans and evacuations. Subsequently, law makers in the United States, passed the Pet Emergency and Transportation Act in 2006 to address the lessons of Hurricane Katrina.

Although there has been a reasonable amount of research into the new discipline of animal emergency management in the United States and Australia, few empirical studies on the topic exist in New Zealand. This project seeks to address this gap by using the Edgecumbe flood in 2017 as a case study; where many animals were left behind during the evacuation of the township's population of approximately 1,600 people. In the days following the flood, more than 1,000 animals were rescued, making it the largest animal rescue in New Zealand history. This project proposes to conduct an online survey of residents in Edgecumbe affected by the 2017 floods and semi-structured interviews with those who responded to the disaster. It aims to document their experiences with specific regard to companion animal welfare and to establish positive and negative observations that may help to evaluate and improve emergency management practices and laws with respect to animals and those responsible for animals.

Keywords: animals, disaster, Edgecumbe, flood, pets

John Beach Hancox (wearing the away shirt in Auckland)

Long before 40 years in social work, including 20 in social work education; long before coming out as gay and finding my life partner of over 30 years, I was born into a working-class family in the City of Liverpool, where, as a four year old, I was taken two miles up the road to watch Everton, the team in blue. From that moment, life events became measured and woven together by seasons and matches, results and a bond. My research combines my passion for football with my passion for gay expression and experiences to be known, seen and heard.

Programme: PhD in Sociology
Supervisors: Dr Peter Walker and Assoc. Prof. Chris Brickell
Email address: johnbeachhancox@gmail.com

"I can't wear this strip – the colours clash!" — The real voice of gay football supporters?

John Beach Hancox

For over 50 years, gay men in the United Kingdom have experienced continuing legal and social change, which has produced greater inclusion and visibility of gay men in all facets of society, except one. The Professional Football Association, (PFA) appears to be the one major British institution content to stand in isolation from the transformation taking place around it. Whilst other professional sports associations have embraced the emergence of its gay players, by utilising gay players as new role models and welcoming gay men as new supporters, football — the national game and singular most popular sport in the country — has maintained an ambivalence to any meaningful, strategic engagement with the gay community.

To date the taboo surrounding disclosure of gay players within professional football has been maintained since the game's origin more than 130 years ago. Recognising that the prevailing environment in which professional football is currently governed, continues to tolerate the invisibility of gay players and minimises any commitment to acknowledging gay men as supporters, the question emerges: why is it that such a potentially hostile, homophobic environment continues to attract support from the gay community? What can be learnt from understanding the lived realities of gay men who chose to identify with, contribute and commit to football?

In asking these questions, this research seeks to position and make known the stories and experiences of gay men who feel passionate and connected to football and who self-identify as supporters of the professional game.

Keywords: sport, football, gay, homophobia, inclusion

(Original design by O'Dell Toi)

Ko Ben Lomond te maunga
Ko Clyde te awa
No Glasgow ahau, engari no Whanganui-a-Tara e hea ana ahau
Ko Jo Harrison ahau

I work for Oranga Tamariki and have been a social worker for the last 26 years, always working in statutory settings for tamariki, rangatahi in need of protection or care and their whānau. I have done this in England, Scotland and, for the last 6 years, in Aotearoa. I have two children, Ieuan and Rhys, with my partner and far too many pets. In research terms I am interested in systems, relationships, stories, sense-making and I want to combine this with my practice interest of trying to make things better in the experience for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau with state systems.

Programme: PhD in Social Work
Supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Nicola Atwool and Prof. Robin Gauld
Email address: johlo213@student.otago.ac.nz

Tamariki, whānau and community: The impact of intergenerational trauma and the role of resilience

Jo Harrison

This presentation will explore the literature that pertains to child maltreatment and the research on trauma, intergenerational trauma, resilience and neurobiology. In particular, I am interested in exploring the system of child-in-family-in-community (tamariki-in-whānau-in-community) and what the research tells us about how intergenerational trauma plays out within these relationships.

The literature on intergenerational trauma derives from exploration of the impact of traumatic events experienced by mass populations, such as colonisation or the holocaust. It explores a wide spectrum of individual and collective domains that can be impacted, including physical, spiritual, emotional, social and psychological. The literature explores how this impact can be passed down through generations.

The literature on trauma suggests that exposure to multiple or repeated forms of maltreatment in childhood can lead to outcomes that are not simply more severe than that of single incident trauma but are qualitatively different in their tendency to affect multiple affective and interpersonal domains. These can include difficulties with affect and impulse regulation, self-perception, somatisation, attachment and interpersonal relationships.

Recently, it has been observed that the generational impact for Māori whānau of historical and interpersonal trauma is far-reaching for families presenting to child welfare systems. The impact of generational chronic interpersonal trauma is also visible for non-Māori families. This presentation will explore whether there is any relationship between the literature on historical intergenerational trauma and the presentation now seen in child protection systems among many families in communities with generational trauma symptomology.

Keywords: intergenerational trauma, whānau, community, maltreatment

Laura Hill

I am completing the second year of my PhD by distance whilst living in Tauranga. I am passionate about theology and gender studies and am loving my doctoral journey so far!

Programme: PhD in Theology
Supervisors: Prof. David Tombs, Dr Bryndl Hohmann-Marriott and Dr Nicola Hoggard-Creega
Email address: hilla892@student.otago.ac.nz

Practical theology and experiences of gender egalitarianism within Christian partnerships: why is this useful for sociologists?

Laura Hill

My interdisciplinary PhD research integrates practical theology and sociological analysis. It uses qualitative research methods to examine how Christian couples in New Zealand practise gender egalitarianism. Practical theology focuses on the practice of the Christian church and its interaction with society and sociological realities, seeking wisdom from these relationships in order to transform Christian practices. Whilst researchers acknowledge that sociology and theology have historically been cautious of each other, practical theology dynamically brings these disciplines together in a mutual, constructive process where each discipline is open to critical assessment by the other. This will allow me to address the question: what can sociology offer practical theology, and what can practical theology offer sociology?

Key words: gender egalitarianism, practical theology, sociology, masculinity, partnerships

Courteney Hume

I am in my fifth year at the University of Otago, currently enrolled for an honours degree in Sociology, having completed an undergraduate degree in Psychology and Sociology. Student behaviour and alcohol has always been of interest to me, particularly the different perspectives that people hold regarding alcohol consumption. Being a student at Otago has provided me with rich insight into this area, which I have been able to incorporate into my research and study.

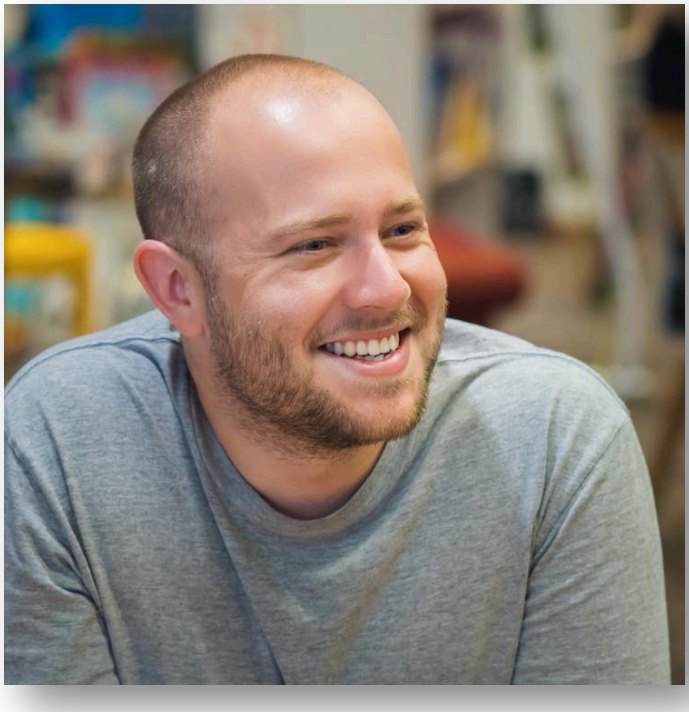
Programme: Honours in Sociology
Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Martin Tolich
Email address: humco298@otago.student.ac.nz

The institutionalised drunk: A content analysis of alcohol as a moral panic at the University of Otago

Courteney Hume

Student binge drinking has come under increasing scrutiny by health researchers and by University administration in their attempt to crack down and protect the University corporate image. This dissertation has two components. First it undertakes a literature review of how academics treat student drinking as a health issue. Second, the study engages in a content analysis of how the media portrays university student drinking. The thematic content analysis draws on newspaper accounts of three historic events: the 2009 Toga Parade, the 2009 Undie 500 and the annual Hyde Street party. This analysis sheds light on how the University of Otago has come to institutionalise deviant student behaviour through the implementation of a code of conduct that all University of Otago students are expected to sign upon initial enrolment. Alcohol is seen as a problematic folk devil that mediates between students and the institution.

Keywords: alcohol, student binge drinking, moral panic, media, University of Otago



Joshua James

Kei te rangatira, tēnā koe. My name is Joshua James and I am a Master of Arts candidate in Gender Studies. My areas of interest are exploring the relationship between sexuality, gender and politics, queering academia, and decolonising pedagogies and political systems. Growing up in the north of Ākarana, I have migrated down the country over the years, stopping in Pōneke to do my Bachelor of Arts and Master of Strategic Studies, and now to Ōtepoti to do my MA. When I'm not writing, I can be found in the sun with coffee planning my next adventures.

Programme: MA in Gender Studies
Supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Chris Brickell and Prof. Janine Hayward
Email address: joshua.james@otago.ac.nz

Understanding the 'Pink' vote in Aotearoa

Joshua James

The investigation of gay men's voting behaviour faces many barriers within the social sciences, including, in particular, the 'invisibility' of the subjects of the studies. Many models exist to predict how people may vote based on gender, class, income, race, etc. However, as yet, no model exists for those who are queer. This study seeks to fill this gap by helping us understand why gay men vote and whom they vote for. It canvasses the existing literature on voting behaviour and finds that its application to queer people is often problematic, given their place in society. By utilising data from the 2017 Election Study we can see whom gay men have voted for, and I will discuss how my forthcoming focus groups will help me explore these trends.

Keywords: political science, queer theory, voting behaviour, elections, New Zealand, gay voting

Nathan Jaquiery

I have recently joined the University of Otago as a Professional Practice Fellow in the Department of Sociology, Gender and Social Work. I am extremely excited about sharing my experiences of front line social work with University students. I am married with four beautiful children. I enjoy surfing, cycling, playing music and exploring the great New Zealand outdoors. I am a qualified and registered Social Worker. I have been working in a range of Social Work positions over the past 20 years, ranging from Social Worker in Schools, Youth Justice and Care and Protection, both in NGO and Government sectors. I am passionate about advocating for children and young people, to ensure that they receive the most exemplary and most appropriate care, resourcing, life chances (educational, vocational, recreational, health outcomes) and support (legal, financial, therapeutic) as possible.

Programme: PhD in Social Work
Supervisors: Dr Emily Keddell and Assoc. Prof. Nicola Atwool
Email address: nathan.jaquiery@otago.ac.nz

Independence: A journey through state care

Nathan Jaquiery

My thesis explores the perceptions and experiences of foster parents, social workers as well as the voices and views of young people who are in permanent foster care placements, to examine the elements, characteristics and attributes that contribute to placement stability for young people as they journey out of the foster care system. Why are some placements successful and some not? Why are some young people 'in care' better equipped and resourced as they transition (or journey) out of the state care system? Influences that will be considered include: social work planning, legal advice, financial issues, access and contact with birth family, attachment/relationships between foster care household members and with their biological family, cultural and ethnic placement match, young person's behaviour, historical factors, level of resourcing both formal and informal (family supports etc.), guardianship, number of previous placements, engagement with education and foster care training and further professional development.

The bulk of this research relies on an explorative qualitative methodology, with a smaller proportion making use of quantitative data (demographics). In time, this research may develop into a longitudinal study, in which participants will be interviewed at various stages of their journey out of the care system, over a number of years.

Keywords: independence planning, 'Home For Life', permanency, placement stability, transition to independence

Not just a roof over our heads
(Photo taken by author)

My name is Lori Johnston and I am completing a Masters in Social Work by research on housing issues in Invercargill. My interest in this topic stems from observations about the current housing landscape, which is leaving many families and individuals literally out in the cold.

I am a registered Social Worker, trained at Curtin University, Perth, Australia. I graduated in 1991 with a BSW (Hons) and a BA in Sociology. I had a variety of roles in Western Australia, some of which involved working with homeless people and advocating for social housing. I've been in Invercargill since 2013.

Programme: Masters in Social Work
Supervisors: Dr Peter Walker
Email address: johlo213@student.otago.ac.nz

Housing in Invercargill — Who benefits and who falls through the gaps? A case study comparison of the different sectors

Lori Johnston

Housing, is a political-economic unit; a vehicle for financial investment, a tradable commodity. Housing, also implies "Home" and has meaning beyond the bricks and mortar of physical building. Home is where people create their identity, live out their relationships, their plans and their social and cultural obligations. It offers a basis for their psychological wellbeing. A house is a means to an end – personal fulfilment - not an end in itself.

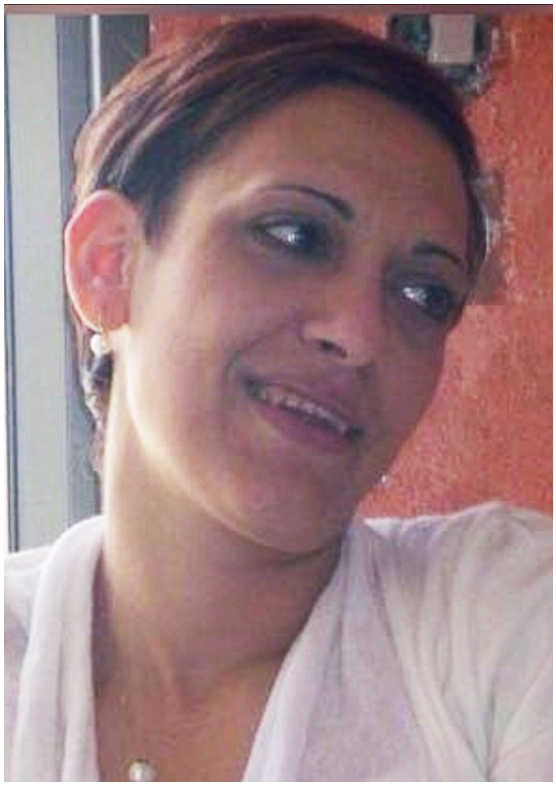
Housing in Invercargill includes a mix of models, both market and non-market. How do the different models of housing meet the complex needs of those who live in them? Whose needs are left unmet?

This study takes a comparative approach to building a snapshot of the way in which housing is configured across the market–non-market spectrum in Invercargill. It explores how various needs are met by the existing housing market and whose needs are left unmet.

A constructivist, ethnographic methodology enables the development of a comparative analysis of housing from multiple points of view. This should result in a context-rich exploration of Invercargill's existing capacity to adequately house its population in homes that are not only secure, warm and safe, but that also provide a sense of *turangawaewae* for their residents.

. . . . . .

Keywords: Invercargill, housing, inequality, housing policy



Ola Kattoura

I am a Palestinian woman, I work as a clinical social worker mainly in two domains; family violence and bereavement. I enjoy travelling and discovering new places.

Programme: PhD in Social Work
Supervisors: Dr Melanie Beres, Dr Fairleigh Gilmour and Assoc. Prof. Nicola Atwool
Email address: katol614@student.otago.ac.nz

Violence against Arab Palestinian women in Israel

Ola Kattoura

Domestic violence is the most common form of violence against women worldwide and its incidence increases annually. Domestic violence affects women's lives physically, emotionally and socially. These experiences are well documented in the literature. However, there is a dearth of domestic violence research in North Africa and in Arab countries in the Middle East. This knowledge gap is even more pronounced among Arab women, who are citizens of Israel.

This study aims to deepen the understanding of domestic violence against Arab Palestinian women, citizens of Israel. It examines the relationship between conflict violence and domestic violence, with an emphasis on the ongoing political conflict in the state, which began at the time of the catastrophe – Al-Nakba.

To understand what a woman is experiencing in an abusive relationship, she must be heard. Therefore, the study adopts a qualitative methodology and employs in-depth interviews with 36 Arab battered women residents in shelters and/or treated in family welfare centers in Israel. The study draws on the narrative approach aimed at encouraging participants to express themselves and their experiences. The interview data is being analysed using thematic and discourse analysis.

This study is significant for two reasons. First, it sheds light on a population that has been neglected empirically and theoretically and, in doing so, illustrates the tightened entrapment of Arab battered women who endure patriarchal political structures. Second, the study will provide new insights to policy makers, and professionals engaged with violence against women by demonstrating the significance of macro level factors, complementing the understanding of micro level stressors, that are critical in understanding and addressing the phenomenon of violence against women.

. . . . . .

Keywords: violence against Arab women, narrative method, patriarchy, political mechanisms, macro structure, micro level

Yoon Jin Kim

I am a PhD candidate in the School of Physical Education, Sport and Exercise Sciences at the University of Otago, New Zealand. My research interests include sport coaching and sport pedagogy, and my PhD project addresses sports coaches' social identities. These are informed by sociological/social theories and draw heavily upon the methodology of qualitative research. Before starting my PhD, I worked as a physical education teacher in public secondary schools for ten years in South Korea. In my teens, I was a national representative for South Korea's swimming team.

Programme: PhD in Sport Coaching and Sport Pedagogy
Supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Tania Cassidy and Dr Marcelle Dawson
Email address: yoonjin.kim@postgrad.otago.ac.nz

Crafting a one-dimensional identity: Exploring the nexus between totalisation and reinvention in an elite sports environment

Yoon Jin Kim

Despite burgeoning literature on the agency of sports coaches and the nature of coaching fields, scant attention has been paid to the process through which coaches' identities are socially constructed. Informed by classic concepts such as 'total institutions', and contemporary notions of 'reinventive institutions,' this thesis explores how coaches' athletic experiences within totalising sports environments influence the formation of their identity as coaches. Drawing on South Korea's elite sports context, where almost all high-performance coaches are former athletes who share an experience of being trained under an authoritative sport regime, a qualitative analysis was conducted on data from documents and in-depth interviews with 26 participants. Findings reveal that: (1) individual selves in the coercive sports setting were eroded and rewritten by the totalising nature of the social architecture; (2) nevertheless, the individuals displayed a certain degree of agency in their desire to reinvent themselves in the sports setting; and (3) the nexus of institutional power of the sport setting and voluntary participation of the individual athletes engendered a *one-dimensional* identity that was optimised only for the elite sports setting. These findings suggest that the identities shaped within South Korea's elite sports environment steered athletes to become coaches upon retirement from sports, reluctantly returning to, or remaining in, their *comfort zone*—the totalising environment of elite sports.

Keywords: coach's identity; elite sports; South Korea; Goffman; total institutions; reinventive institutions

Kirsten Koch in upcycled, ecodyed ensemble

I was brought up on a small farm on the Otago Peninsula. This early teaching centred on sustainability and leading creative lives connected to nature. These ideals influence my outlook on life. My research interests include textiles, art and economics, and examining structural restraints and personal agency at play in practitioners' creative practice. For these reasons I choose qualitative, participatory and visual methods of research.

My academic background is in anthropology and sociology, indigenous development, textile design and fine arts. My other interests include drawing, collecting, printing, adornment and music, gardening and cooking, identity and well-being, self-determination and community engagement in social planning.

Programme: MA in Sociology
Supervisors: Dr Katharine Legun and Dr Natalie Smith
Email address: kocki817@student.otago.ac.nz

Clothing upcyclers in Otago: How local practitioners critique the global fashion industry and situate their practice

Kirsten Michelle Koch

This project seeks to investigate upcycling fashion enterprises in Otago through a qualitative study involving 8 to 10 participants including myself. I will use inductive ethnographic methods with a visual component that includes an exhibition and photographic documentation of the research process.

My inquiry takes place within the context of growing research interest in the rise of fashion enterprises that seek to critique the fashion industry. This project draws on the work of scholars who study contemporary art as a form of social enterprise as a means to interrogate the tensions and contradictions between artistic practice and contemporary capitalism. I also draw on scholarship that explores the conditions of the new creative economy, its gendered nature, the precarious position of fashion workers and the accompanying freedoms of entrepreneurial attainment that come with following 'a life of one's own'.

While Otago may be globally peripheral as a fashion centre, Dunedin operates as a New Zealand fashion hub. This predicament raises questions about how the global industry and global fashion movements impact on the practice of local practitioners.

Keywords: clothing upcycling, local fashion enterprise, textile practitioners, women's labour, economics

Rudi Kresna

I am PhD candidate from Indonesia and working as a civil servant for the Agricultural Agency of Bandung Regency-Indonesia, which is involved in many agricultural development programmes. I am one of the recipients of an Indonesian Education Scholarship provided by the Indonesian Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP). I am interested in research on the link between community-based forest management (CBFM) and resilience of smallholder dairy farming systems in Indonesia. Focusing on the collective behaviours and social capital in the CBFM, I conducted fieldwork at four villages in West Java Indonesia guided by institutional, analysis and development (IAD) framework.

Programme: PhD in Sociology
Supervisors: Dr Katharine Legun and Prof. Hugh Campbell
Email address: kreru557@student.otago.ac.nz

Social capital and collective action for smallholder dairy farmers' resilience: A case study of integrated dairy-agroforestry farming systems in Indonesia

Rudi Kresna

Communities surrounding forest areas, including smallholder dairy farmers, have the opportunity to get licences to utilise the forest land for foraging and growing grass underneath the protected forest trees. Owing to the Indonesian Forestry Laws No. 41 of 1999, local communities may obtain forestland licences by using social forestry schemes such as *kemitraan* (partnerships) and *Pengelolaan Hutan Bersama Masyarakat* (PHBM) (community-based forest management). The schemes, however, require the collective efforts of multiple actors from the community, institutions and authorities at different levels. This study examines the collective actions of multiple actors aimed at acquiring forest licences and managing forestland phases, the critical social capital factors involved in the collective behaviours and the outcome of joint forest management for the smallholder dairy farmer community.

Keywords: dairy, smallholder, social capital, collective action, resilience

Rachael Olwen Laurie

Rachael Laurie is an Honours student in sociology at the University of Otago. She is passionate about social and climate justice, and spends her free time volunteering for local community groups that work in these areas. Rachael has been interested in politics from a young age, encouraged by lively family debate, and hopes one day to become a politician herself. She aims to accomplish her honours degree and move on to completing her doctorate at Victoria University of Wellington.

Programme: Honours in Sociology
Supervisor: Dr Bryndl Hohmann-Marriott
Email address: laura512@student.otago.ac.nz

Metiria Turei: A convenient 'folk devil'

Rachael Olwen Laurie

Metiria Turei's speech admitting to benefit fraud was a turning point in the New Zealand 2017 general election. Turei's speech created a two-part media frenzy; first she gained wide support for her honesty, then her past was turned against her, culminating in her resignation less than four weeks later. Media coverage from the time of her speech on July 16th to her resignation August 13th across three news outlets (Stuff, New Zealand Herald and Radio New Zealand) are analysed to uncover how the media framed and amplified concern about welfare fraud. Intersectionality, along with Cohen's theory of moral panic, provides theoretical frames to examine how Turei's position as a Māori woman, and previously a solo-mum on the benefit, made her a convenient candidate to act as a modern-day 'folk devil'.

Keywords: Metiria Turei, moral panic, intersectionality, beneficiaries, media framing, Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand

Joseph Llewellyn

Joseph Llewellyn is PhD candidate at the University of Otago. His research focuses on anarchism, pacifism, nonviolent resistance and Gandhian nonviolence. Outside of his research, he has been involved in multiple activist groups, mostly focusing on peace work; anti-war and anti-militarisation campaigns; and nonviolence; as well as working on issues relating to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Free Tibet activism. Before starting post-graduate study, Joe trained as an occupational therapist. Joe's thesis has recently been examined and he will soon do his oral exam.

Programme: PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies
Supervisors: Prof. Richard Jackson, Dr Marcelle Dawson and Dr SungYong Lee
Email address: joe.llewellyn@postgrad.otago.ac.nz

Envisioning an Anarcho-Pacifist Peace: A case for the convergence of anarchism and pacifism and an exploration of the Gandhian movement for a stateless society

Joseph Llewellyn

No political theories pursue the aim to build a world that is free from the suffering that results from violence in all of its forms than anarchism and pacifism: pacifism through its utter rejection of physical violence as a tool of politics and anarchism through its staunch opposition to the structural and direct violence that results from violent forms of authority. This thesis explores the rejection of violence and the building of a nonviolent world through the lens of anarcho-pacifism, which is the amalgamation of both anarchism and pacifism.

In the first part of this thesis, an argument is made for the joining of anarchism and pacifism. Put simply, this argument is that because *pacifists oppose violence as a method of politics, they should therefore reject the state, as the state is rooted in violence.* This means that pacifists should adopt anarchism as an ideology and a practice. On the other side, anarchism can be defined through its opposition to domination and violent authority, and on this basis it rejects the state, capitalism, patriarchy and racism, along with any other past, present or future forms of privileging and violent hierarchical structures. The argument is made that *if anarchism opposes domination, it should reject physical violence and killing, the ultimate form of domination, as a tool of politics and social transformation.*

The second part of this thesis is a preliminary exploration into how anarcho-pacifism can be practised in the real world. This is explored through the Gandhian Sarvodaya movement, which is possibly the largest, most sustained, and most successful example of anarcho-pacifism in practice. In the final part of the thesis, some conclusions are offered about the Gandhian experience and what it can offer to similar movements in the future.

. . . . . .

Keywords: anarchism, pacifism, anarcho-pacifism, Gandhi, sarvodaya, nonviolence

Bell A. Murphy

Bell A. Murphy is a pākehā woman with Celtic ancestry. She holds a BA (Hons) in Social Anthropology from Otago. She is also an accredited teacher and member of the Women's Self Defence Network-Wāhine Toa. Her PhD research is concerned with the meaning of 'empowerment' in the context of women's self defence programmes. She seeks to illuminate the way that feminist self-defence teachers understand and navigate tensions between agency and victimhood in the settler-colonial context of neoliberal Aotearoa and how these understandings inform their teaching. In her spare time she enjoys playing music with friends, gardening and getting lost in the bush.

Programme: PhD in Gender Studies
Supervisors: Dr Rebecca Stringer, Dr Melanie Beres and Dr Fairleigh Gilmour
Email address: bell.murphy@postgrad.otago.ac.nz

Taking back the (em)Power(ment): Self-defence in neoliberal times

Bell A. Murphy

'Empowerment' has become a buzzword in service of everything from 'luring customers' and increasing employee productivity, to selling lipstick and solving world poverty. Decades of research into sexual violence prevention show that feminist empowerment-based self-defence training for women is an essential component of effective interventions into this complex social problem. However, the term 'empowerment' is also used to market highly problematic prevention efforts, which depoliticise violence and place the onus of prevention onto potential victims. So, how should feminists working in the area of sexual violence prevention define and defend the term? In this research presentation, I explore popular iterations of 'empowerment' in visual culture. Engaging with critical feminist and social work scholarship, I consider the troubling implications of neoliberal empowerment discourse evident in these texts, and offer some suggestions towards a reclamation and (re)definition of empowerment that can serve as an anchor for feminist analyses and activism. I explore the theory of 'empowerment' as a process that is inherently political and social, as well as personal. I hold that attending to all three of these dimensions should be considered a marker of feminist empowerment-based self-defence training, an approach that is necessarily at odds with neoliberal interventions into sexual violence.

Keywords: empowerment, feminism, self-defence, victimhood, neoliberalism, sexual violence

Myunik Panthi

Myunik Panthi is a PhD student at the Department of Sociology, Gender and Social Work. Her research is entitled, 'Leisure activities and subjective wellbeing of older adults in residential care centres in Dunedin.' She received her M.Phil. in Population Studies from Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Before starting her doctoral studies, Myunik worked as a primary/secondary schoolteacher for five years and as a teaching assistant in colleges for three years in Nepal. She has tutored Sociology and Social Work papers at the University of Otago. Her research interests lie in ageing, leisure engagement and wellbeing. When not working or studying, Myunik enjoys travelling.

Programme: PhD in Sociology
Supervisors: Prof. Amanda Barusch and Dr Bryndl Hohmann-Marriott
Email address: panmy766@student.otago.ac.nz

Leisure participation and ageing well in rest homes: Lived experience of older adults in New Zealand

Myunik Panthi

The population of older adults living in rest homes is likely to increase rapidly. There is, therefore, a need for New Zealand to meet the demand for quality care. Many studies have highlighted leisure participation as a powerful mediator in reducing the risk of loneliness, depression and boredom among older adults. Yet recognition of this mediator is very scant from older residents' perspectives. This study explored the lived experiences of older adults and their participation and non-participation of day-to-day activities in care facilities. Twenty-four in-depth interviews, ten key informant interviews and one-day participant observation were conducted in six different rest homes in Dunedin. From the thematic analysis, two main themes emerged presenting both active and passive residents, and what ageing well means to them. The participants applied different strategies to achieve wellbeing in their facilities, despite their diverse health conditions. The results highlighted the importance of participation and inclusion of the older adults living in rest homes in a range of activities. Participants engaged in the activities in order to remain active and age well. The most enjoyable activities included outings and spending time with family and friends. Such a preference highlights the importance of companionship and a person-centred approach to elder care in enhancing the wellbeing of older adults. This research seeks to inform policymakers, as well as staff and managers of rest homes of the importance of developing leisure pursuits that respond to the interest of individuals, ultimately creating a safe and comfortable place for older adults to age well.

Keywords: leisure participation, older adults, ageing well, rest home

Adele Parkinson

I live in Christchurch and have been a distance student for the duration of my PhD studies. As a social work practitioner, working for a community mental health organisation that supports families in which parents/ caregivers had serious and complex mental illness, I became aware of the need to gather evaluatory data. In an environment in which funding and resources were tight, a thesis seems a perfect opportunity. My thesis explores what child, adolescent and adult clients of the service feel are important social service supports in their circumstances. I am passionate about client perspectives in research, and interested in locating these perspectives and social service delivery in the broader socio-ecological environment.

Programme: PhD in Social Work
Supervisors: Dr Emily Keddell and Dr Peter Walker
Email address: adele.parkinson14@gmail.com

To dominate or be dominated? On resisting the state

Adele Parkinson

The adage, "if you sleep with the devil you become like him", may be applied to the organisational hybridisation of the third sector in Aotearoa New Zealand due to partnering with the state for funding. It is argued as organisational hybridity deepens, NGOs move away from community values, which meet diverse client needs and support social work 'best practice', towards state values, which meet the needs of whichever government is in power.

This presentation presents findings from a research project that examined service user perspectives of an NGO in Christchurch via 10 child/youth interviews, four age-differentiated child/youth focus groups, and 32 mixed method adult surveys.

Congruency was found between participant preferences for socio-ecologically informed, resilience-focused practice and the literature for this client group. However, state logics governing secure contracting arrangements were found to resist and prevent this. Utilising the 'Strategic Model', strategies are suggested for resisting the state and creating more even power relationships to better meet client needs and support social work 'best practice'.

Keywords: organisational hybridity, ecological theory, resilience theory, social work

B. Nishanthi Perera

My research project focuses on the 'Sexual health knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of international university students in New Zealand'. This reflects my academic interests in sexual health, reproductive health, fertility, ageing and migration. Before moving to Otago I worked as a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Demography, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. I have an MSc. in Population and Development from London School of Economics, Post-graduate Diplomas in Population Studies and Development Studies and a BA from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. I like to spend time with the family and watch movies in my spare time.

Programme: PhD in Sociology
Supervisors: Dr Bryndl Hohmann-Marriott and Dr Melanie Beres
Email address: perni849@student.otago.ac.nz

Importance of sexual health knowledge among international students in New Zealand universities

B. Nishanthi Perera

The understanding of sexual health is linked to one's culture, values and norms. Sexual activities are relative; considered liberal in some societies but conservative in others. New Zealand universities, attract a considerable number of international students from developing countries. Some of these countries have low levels of economic wellbeing, negatively influencing the overall social and health status of these students. In addition, there are higher rates of teenage pregnancies, lower rates of contraceptive use and higher rates of sexually transmitted diseases. It can be argued that some international students are not well equipped with sexual health knowledge. New Zealand has a liberal environment in in terms of sexual relationships; risky for students without adequate sexual health knowledge. The migration process also increases the risk of exposing sexual health issues. It has the potential to increase the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections and a number of unwanted pregnancies in New Zealand. Sexual health issues are not just individual issues; they have a wider impact on society. Therefore, it is important to research the sexual health knowledge of international students and propose appropriate action to minimise negative sexual health outcomes.

Keywords: sexual health, international students, sex education, developing countries, New Zealand universities

Peshela Hansini Pillearachchige

I am a fourth-year student at the University of Otago, and I am currently completing a PGDipArts in Gender Studies. I am interested in victimology and have based my research on the role of attrition in rape and sexual assault cases. I am interested in the experiences of victims within the criminal justice system. I am a New Zealand-born Sri Lankan and, in my spare time, I enjoy creative work such as drawing and painting along with cooking and baking.

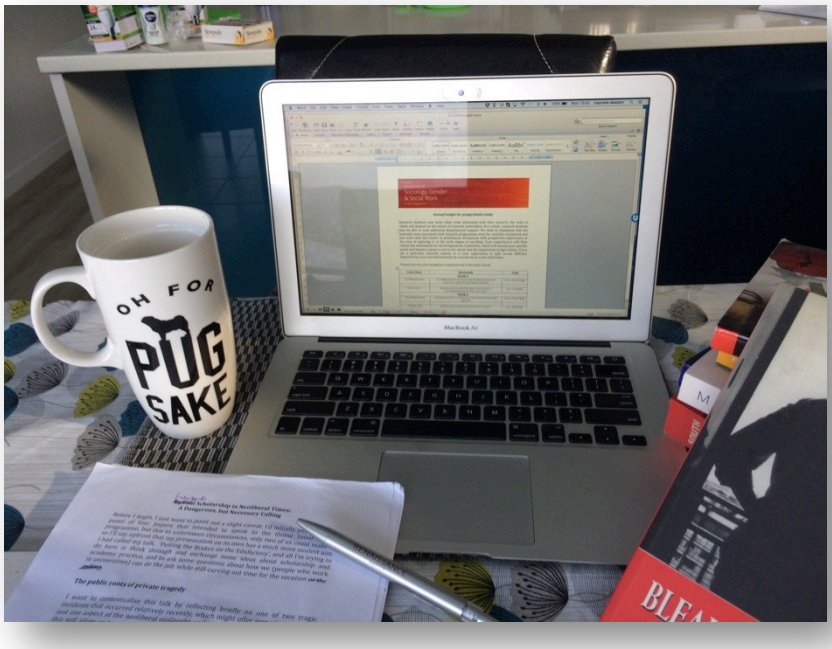
Programme: PGDipArts in Gender Studies
Supervisor: Dr Rebecca Stringer
Email address: pilpe737@student.otago.ac.nz

Assessing the role of attrition in sexual assault and rape cases

Peshela Hansini Pillearachchige

This dissertation focuses on the dropout rate in the police investigation, prosecution, and court trials of cases involving rape or sexual assault. I conducted a critical literature review on attrition, which refers to rape and sexual assault cases that drop out of the criminal justice system, or do not lead to a conviction. The study compared and contrasted the New Zealand systems with countries like the United Kingdom and Canada, which have similar laws and procedures for such cases. The gaps within these systems were evaluated to uncover the factors that contribute to fewer convictions. Additionally, societal factors that affect the construction of a victim were analysed. The study indicated that there is evidence of attrition within the investigation, prosecution and court trials for rape and sexual assault. The findings focused on female complainants and involved a gendered approach. In my dissertation, I discuss changes that could potentially be made to the views of society via the media, or to the various aspects of the criminal justice system like the police, prosecution service and judiciary, for the betterment of victims of sexual violence and society in general.

Keywords: attrition, rape, sexual assault, criminal justice systems, victim



Based in Dunedin, Radhika Raghav is working towards a PhD in the Department of History and Art History at the University of Otago. Her research examines the iconography associated with female stars of the early Indian Cinema. She is a committee member of the Dunedin Film Society and Dunedin Public Art Gallery Society. Her research interests include women's film history, celebrity and gender performativity, race, ethnicity and celebrity, visual culture of Indian cinema and film ephemera.

Programme: PhD in History, Art History and Visual Culture
Supervisors: Prof. Barbara Brookes, Assoc. Prof. Annabel Cooper and Prof. Hilary Radner
Email address: radhika.raghav@postgrad.otago.ac.nz

Nationalism, photography, and the iconography of female stars in India 1880s–1940s

Radhika Raghav

Celebrity Studies' scholars such as Leo Braudy, Richard Dyer, Chris Rojek and Graeme Turner, among others, have established that celebrity images play a key role in defining a given national cultural landscape. This project seeks to illuminate the codes and conventions used to define and represent celebrity within the Indian subcontinent from the 1880s–1940s by examining the iconography associated with Bombay female film stars emerging in the 1920s–1940s. This thesis further posits that the fashionable persona of celebrity, as manifested in photographic promotional images, serves as a powerful signifier of gender relations, power structures, and national identity. This study demonstrates the range and contradictions that define these concepts as Indian urban culture evolved out of the nineteenth century into the twentieth century by providing a close study of the largely overlooked photographic images of a number of film stars and their precursors.

Keywords: film star, courtesan, early Indian cinema, iconography, Bombay cinema, ephemera.

Lily Kay Ross

Our society has been grappling with sexual violence for decades — it's a tough reality to face. My PhD research is dedicated to understanding how friends and families respond to victims of sexual violence, and how victims are expected to overcome their suffering. A lot of our cultural common sense, our shared values, foster a climate that is hostile to victims struggling with life after rape. We place responsibility where it doesn't belong. We try to minimise our own fears. But the ways we avoid the realities of rape come at a cost to victims. By revealing some of the basic assumptions and emotional needs that shape how our culture responds to victims, we can develop compassion and start working to shift them. It's one brick on the path to a world without rape.

Programme: PhD in Gender Studies
Supervisors: Dr Rebecca Stringer, Dr Melanie Beres and Prof. Amanda Barusch
Email address: lilykayross@gmail.com

Posttraumatic growth: Wisdom repackaged, cheapened and sold by neoliberal ideologies

Lily Kay Ross

Neoliberal imperatives encourage victims of sexual violence to overcome and escape victimhood and press on toward survivorship. In this context, posttraumatic growth is often positioned as a de facto transcendence of victim status. As a stalwart of positive psychology, posttraumatic growth is simpatico with a range of cultural values, including individual responsibility to manage the consequences of social injustices. Meanwhile, individual accounts of PTG are overwhelmingly common, and many researchers and clinicians call for greater emphasis in research on growth or "positive" outcomes to sexual violence, claiming it opens discursive space for new articulations of experience. The risks of such a positive enterprise include the minimisation of suffering, the condoning of rape as having positive outcomes, and fosters imperatives toward silver linings and self-improvement in the face of adversity and trauma. With this complex context, it is crucial to take victims'/survivors' words at face value, when they reports on experiences of sexual violence and they ways in which they make sense of those experiences. I am to explore the social construction of victimhood as it relates to that of posttraumatic growth, and consider how this may shape victims'/survivors' self reports on growth outcomes.

. . . . . .

Keywords: sexual violence, posttraumatic growth, victimology, feminism, positive psychology, survivor imperative

Swati Shah

Swati is a PhD scholar who shares supervision between the Departments of Geography and Sociology at the University of Otago. Her research problem pertains to the stigma of surrogacy faced by Indian commissioning parents. With booming market and ambiguous laws on surrogacy, India presents an interesting case where Indian commissioning parents are often ignored, leading to a half-baked picture of surrogacy. Swati took up an opportunity to work with different frontiers such as Food and Nutrition, Health and Communication, Gender and Agriculture, Urban Agriculture and Edible Greening. Before joining Otago, she worked as a Research Fellow at the Centre of Women at a national institute run by the Ministry of Agriculture Govt. of India, where she completed three research projects assessing government policies impact on the social and economic status of women. The cognisance of manifold experiences led her to appreciate the importance of defining people's health and wellbeing.

Programme: PhD in Geography
Supervisors: Dr Christina Ergler and Dr Bryndl Hohmann-Marriott
Email address: swati.shah@postgrad.otago.ac.nz

"It was like do or die situation for me": Understanding experiences of Indian commissioning parents

Swati Shah

India is recognised as a surrogacy hub for the world. Potential parents from across the globe, and more recently Indian prospective parents, utilise these well-known clinics, hoping to welcome their genetically linked offspring. Despite the pressures to have a child, forming a family through surrogacy remains a socially unacceptable practice in India. Therefore, only a small number of prospective Indian parents engage with surrogacy and often hide their decision from their families and the public. The current focus remains on the experiences of surrogates and their entanglement in unequal power relations with clinics and commissioning parents. I argue for the need to also understand the complex experiences of the commissioning parents in India. These experiences entail identifying themselves as infertile or voluntarily childless, to becoming parents using surrogacy. My work draws on semi-structured interviews with Indian commissioning parents to reveal their feelings – such as loneliness, helplessness, and the pressure to keep a secret – when becoming a commissioning parent. Drawing on theories of power and stigma, we show that these experiences are shaped by their social standing and practices as well as how their social networks and extended families subscribe to societal norms. By focusing on experiences of the commissioning parents, this study extends reproductive justice debates by including an under researched group and highlights the precarity and stigmatisation that Indian intending parents face.

Keywords: surrogacy, commissioning parents, reproductive justice, stigma, precarious

Rachel Shaw

I am a PhD student in Gender Studies, interested in researching the history of lesbian lives within New Zealand. I have a passion for connecting with people, and find the interviewing process of my research a very fulfilling area. I work part-time at Te Whare Tāwharau, and assist in the coordination of sexual violence prevention education. In my spare time, I enjoy working on novel writing.

Programme: PhD in Gender Studies
Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Chris Brickell and Dr Marcelle Dawson
Email address: shara267@student.otago.ac.nz

Lesbian bar culture within New Zealand

Rachel Shaw

My research looks at the history of lesbian experiences within New Zealand, with a particular focus on the 1970s and 1980s. Much of this research is being gathered via oral histories about this time period from women throughout New Zealand. Key areas of exploration thus far are the differences between women located in large cities and those who weren't, lesbians who were activists and those who weren't, lesbian bar culture, and lesbian AIDS activism. My research also explores identity construction and how women navigated sexuality and activism in different ways. I intend to give an overview of my research thus far, with a particular focus on the lesbian bar culture of New Zealand during the 1970s and 1980s, highlighting the various class and activist divisions that existed, even within this small subculture.

Keywords: lesbian activism, lesbian life New Zealand

Kayla Stewart is a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology, Gender and Social Work at the University of Otago where she previously completed her LLB (Hons) and BA (Sociology). Her PhD topic examines the prevalence and context of sexual violence at the University of Otago. She is also employed as an Assistant Research Fellow at the University of Otago Legal Issues Centre and has been researching issues concerning access to justice. Kayla enjoys undertaking research where the fields of law and sociology intersect. She is passionate about social justice and social responsibility.

Programme: PhD in Sociology
Supervisors: Dr Melanie Beres, Dr Rebecca Stringer and Dr Bryndl Hohmann-Marriott
Email address: kayla.stewart@otago.ac.nz

Measuring and reporting sexual violence prevalence: The case for reporting by tactic

Kayla Stewart

Scholarly research on sexual violence on university campuses suggests that university students are an at-risk group for sexual victimisation. In 2017, I conducted a mixed-methods study on this issue in the New Zealand Aotearoa context, specifically examining the prevalence and context of sexual violence at the University of Otago. I used the Sexual Experiences Survey (SES) to collect prevalence data. Researchers typically employ a categorical scoring method to analyse and report such data. Under this method, a person is placed into a single category according to their most *objectively severe* sexual victimisation experience and results are reported accordingly (Non-victim, sexual contact, attempted coercion, coercion, attempted rape, rape). This method is based on legal precedent, and assumptions regarding bodily intrusiveness and corresponding trauma. In this paper, I problematise this scoring method and propose an alternative. Research shows that when comparing objective severity to women's subjective trauma ratings, only modest support for a linear relationship has been found. There are other factors that influence trauma outcomes. The alternative scoring method I propose – a tactic-based analysis – does not score according to severity but instead by experiences of tactics used by perpetrators to execute victimisation (thereby allowing people to be counted in multiple categories). A tactic-based analysis allows for "lesser" offences to be reported and reframes victimisation by shifting focus to the perpetrator's actions. This analysis has implications for sexual violence prevention and resistance work.

Keywords: sexual violence; sexual victimisation; sexual experiences survey; universities

Tuangi (cockle) foraging

I am a cis, white, female PhD candidate, originally hailing from Canada. I began foraging, or collecting wild materials for medicine and ritual approximately three years ago and, when I moved to Dunedin, I became more interested in how other people relate to or navigate spaces through foraging. This inspired me to answer these questions in the form of a thesis. Politically, I am very interested in feminist and indigenous theory, particularly perspectives on decolonisation. I hope to weave these elements into my work in a way that challenges the present hegemonic settler ontology.

Programme: PhD in Sociology
Supervisors: Dr Katharine Legun and Dr Sean Connelly
Email address: abbi.virens@postgrad.otago.ac.nz

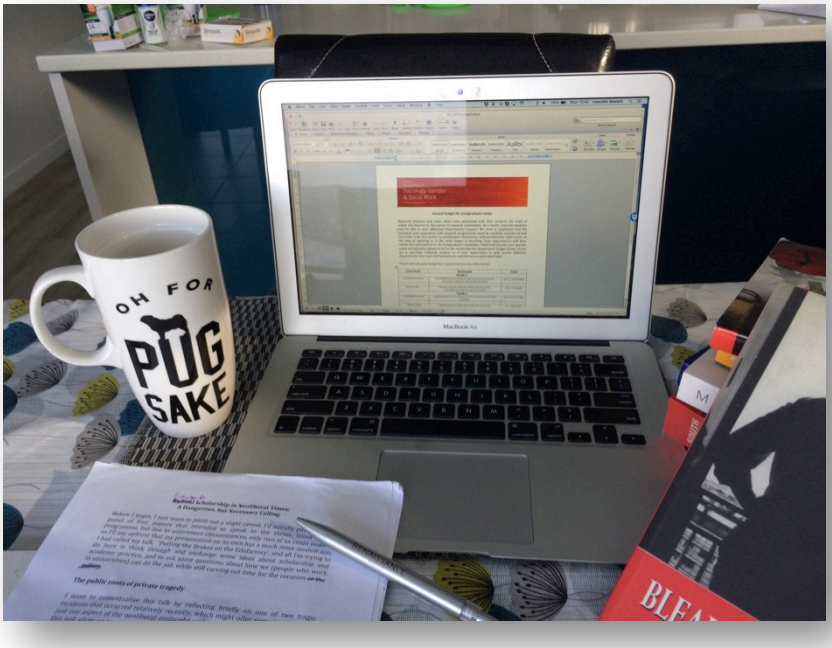
Urban Foraging: Messy, more-than-human spaces

Abbi Virens

My research on the dynamics of urban foraging in Dunedin falls within the interdisciplinary spaces between geography, sociology and anthropology. In simple terms, foraging can be defined as the intentional human collection of wild materials for spiritual, medicinal, craft or subsistence purposes. Alternatively, foraging can also be described as a messy ecological assemblage, which requires the temporal interaction of various elements such as place, culture, the self and the more-than-human (i.e. plants, animals, technology).

Through ethnographic interviews with local urban foragers, my thesis hopes to expand understandings of foraging beyond resource collection. By conducting 'more-than-human' research that simultaneously acknowledges the theoretical roots that have arisen from indigenous ontologies, my research hopes to contribute to the shifting of anthropocentrism in academic literature, while also participating in the process of decolonisation. The forager's tales will reveal the complex, ephemeral spaces where actors navigate history, nature and politics. These stories have the potential to contribute to current imaginings of living differently in a post-capitalist future.

Keywords: more-than-human, post-capitalism, decolonisation, foraging



My passion is to work in an environment that is conducive to the empowerment and strengthening of family and community. I also have a passion and strength for research, teaching and working alongside indigenous communities.

Programme: PhD in Social Work
Supervisors: Dr Peter Walker and Assoc. Prof. Anita Gibbs
Email address: suzi.wereta@otago.ac.nz

Talking about it

Suzi Wereta

Suicide has been, and continues to be, a critical matter in Aotearoa. Literature and statistics share a consistent and disturbing theme regarding youth suicide in Aotearoa/New Zealand, this being that our youth are killing themselves at far higher rates than in other OECD countries. A further disturbing and consistent theme shows that suicide rates for Maori have, since the mid 1990s, surpassed that of non-Maori. Research in the area of suicide among Maori, particularly Rangatahi (Māori young people), requires a shift in methodological focus. It requires an approach that allows true narratives to emerge through asking the hard questions and listening to the hard answers.

A narrative enquiry of Rangatahi and whānau was the scope of my research project undertaken in Otepoti (Dunedin), Aotearoa/New Zealand, where interviews were conducted with those who had attempted suicide or with whānau bereaved by suicide. The aim of the study was to hear whānau perceptions of why Rangatahi engage with suicide and to hear whānau perceptions of potential response strategies to aid in alleviating youth suicide. The obligation to realistically address whānau and Rangatahi needs was integral to the research. Findings suggest that intersecting oppressions play a role in both whānau perceptions of why Rangatahi engage in suicide and in whānau perceptions of response strategies at a whānau grassroots level. Alleviation of suicide among Māori requires recognition of the diversity of being Māori, alternative research/ approaches to alleviating suicide among Māori, and a paradigm shift to open dialogue around suicide.

Keywords: suicide, Māori suicide, Rangatahi suicide

OTHER POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH CURRENTLY SUPERVISED IN THE DEPARTMENT

Karly Burch (PhD in Sociology): *Eating a nuclear disaster: A vital institutional ethnography of the coordination of everyday eating in the aftermath of Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster*. (Recently completed).

Saemyi Chung (PhD in Social Work): *In pursuit of beauty within the ageing body: Voices from older Korean women in New Zealand.* (Recently completed).

Katharine Cresswell Riol (PhD in Sociology): *Right to food, and hunger in New Zealand.*

Katelyn Ferguson (PhD in Bioethics) *Rethinking 'cultural competence': examining purpose and potential within medical education.*

Anna Hawkes (MA in Psychology): *The impact and effectiveness of GPS monitoring of offenders.*

Hannah Herchenbach (PhD in Gender Studies): *Beyond the Dunedin Sound: South Island music 1971-2015.*

Penelope Kinney (PhD in Sociology): *Becoming an ex-forensic psychiatric client: Transitioning to recovery within the community.* (Submitted)

Nicola Liebergreen (PhD in Children's Issues): *Now do Niue youth negotiate intimacy online?*

Petronilla Mazai (Master of Social Work): *Exploring migrants' and refugees' cultural background and how it influences their engagement with play therapy.*

Kirsty McKenzie (Master of Social Work): *Ripple Effect of Moana House programme on wahine whanau members.*

Natasha Munro (MA in Childhood and Youth Studies): *Within a Public Health Model perspective, examining how effectively ECE services and other universal and secondary early years services are working.*

Ella Robinson (PhD in Anthropology): *Anthropology of Ageing, Sexuality and Wellbeing.*

Jocelyn Springthorpe (PhD in Education): *Does a short term stay in a residential setting make a difference for children who have experienced complex trauma in their lives?*

Gina Tompkins (PhD in Social and Community Work): *Section 18A of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 and its implications for vulnerable families.*

NOTES

With special thanks to:

SGSW support staff
Rozi MacRae and St Margaret's College
Research supervisors within and
beyond the department