

ECU TRACS Migration Research Network
2024 Seminar Series



Summary of 2024 seminar presentations

Date	Lecture Title	Presenter
1st February	Majority-group Acculturation: How does cultural change occur for non-immigrant groups in culturally plural societies?	Assoc/Prof Justine Dandy, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
8th February	Cruelty, Moral Disengagement, and the Politics of Migration Deterrence	Dr Jamal Barnes, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
15th February	Is there an etic perspective? Researcher identity in ethnographic work	Dr Shantha Karthigesu, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
22nd February	Human Journeys in the Digital Age	Prof Paul Arthur, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
29th February	Perth, Ethnicity and the Nightclub scene in the 1980s	Prof Panizza Allmark, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
7th March	Transnational Family Care: from social death to digital kinning over a century of Australian migration	Prof Loretta Baldassar, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
14th March	Rainbow Migrants (LGBTIQA+ Migrants) within the broader contexts of intersectionality and social network analysis	Dr Lukasz Krzyzowski, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
21st March	TRACS HDR Proposal Seminars	
	The impact of the 'Chinese island' settlement pattern on intergenerational relationship in Australia and Canada	Yvonne Huang, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
	Transnational Care and Dementia	Nelgyn Tennyson, ECU School of Arts and Humanities

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<i>28th March</i>	Exploring the path to successful settlement: Principles & insights from settlement Experiences of Refugee and Migrant Youth in Australia, Canada, and USA	Prof Tahereh Ziaian, University of South Australia
<i>4th April</i>	Returning from Fieldwork: Ukrainian War, Collective Memory, and Social Inclusion among Estonians in Australia	Dr Keiu Telve, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
<i>11th April</i>	American Muslim Perspectives on Radicalization	Prof Nahid Afrose Kabir, BRAC University, Dhaka
<i>18th April</i>	Afghan immigrants in Western Australia and their Integration Challenges	Dr Omid Rezaei, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
<i>9th May</i>	Exploring the 'Mobility Turn' in Ageing and Migration Research: A Case Study of Vietnamese Migrant Grandparents in Australia	Dr Hien Thi Nguyen, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
<i>16th May</i>	Using an interdisciplinary approach to understand behaviors of travel-eligible tourists with mild dementia with a focus on travel therapy	Dr Jun Wen, ECU School of Business and Law
<i>23rd May</i>	Rhythms of drums and Vajra bells as Sanctuary beyond Borders: Exploring Religion's Role in Migrant Identity and Belonging	Dr Sonam Pelden, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
<i>6th June</i>	The arts engagement and arts-based research methods network	Dr Manonita Ghosh, Dr Simone Marino and Dr Jane Mulcock, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
<i>20th June</i>	They call the Spirituality of my Ancestors madness" – Embracing spiritually sensitive practice in child protection with African background children and families in Australia	Dr Penny Kansiime, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
<i>4th July</i>	Beyond Workshops – What can Visual Arts contribute to Interdisciplinary Research?	Gregory Pryor, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
<i>8th August</i>	National class frames in motion: Bringing class (back) into studies of Australian migration	Dr Catriona Stevens, ECU School of Arts and Humanities



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<i>15th August</i>	Diaspora Studies and the Italian Case. Theoretical Problems and Perspectives	Prof Margherita Ganeri, University of Calabria
<i>29th August</i>	Case studies of Digital Media Use in Early Childhood: Birth to Six	Professor Lelia Green, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
<i>5th September</i>	Exploring beyond authenticity: an ethnographic study of Italian communities in Australia and Italy. A case study of Calabrian-Australians.	Dr Simone Marino, ECU School of Education
<i>12th September</i>	Synthesizing the Literature for Social Markers of Acceptance: National Identity Criteria in Receiving Societies and Their Impact upon Migrant Well-Being in Japan and Beyond	Professor Komisarof, Keio University, Faculty of Letters
<i>19th September</i>	So that you would not remember: Humanising refugee narratives of sacrifice and desperation	Dr Kim Huynh, Australian National University
<i>3rd October</i>	Mapping Early Encounters of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) with Australia through emotions, feelings, and stories	Assoc/Prof Paul Uhlmann, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
<i>17th October</i>	Metaphors of Migration: A critical discourse analysis of the intersections between immigration, race, and the nation in Australian press reports (1854–2018)	Dr Catherine Martin, McCusker Centre for Citizenship
<i>24th October</i>	Cohesive Harmonies: an exploration of music outreach as a mechanism for community engagement	Dr Tenley Martin, Leeds Beckett University
<i>14th November</i>	Becoming adults elsewhere. The recent migration of young Italians to Australia	Dr Giulia Marchetti, University of Florence, Department of Political and Social Sciences
<i>12th December</i>	Where Words Fail, Music Speaks	Darren Abraham, Musicians Without Borders

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Seminar Series Presentations

Title: Majority-group Acculturation: How does cultural change occur for non-immigrant groups in culturally plural societies?

Assoc Prof. Justine Dandy, ECU School of Arts and Humanities

Date: 1st February 2024

Speaker Bio

Justine is an Associate Professor in Psychology within the School of Arts and Humanities. Justine Dandy has worked in teaching and research positions at Flinders University (1996-2000) and the University of Western Australia (2000-2003). She moved to Perth in 2000 and commenced at ECU in October 2003. Justine is a member of the ECU TRACS Establishment Committee.

Title: Cruelty, Moral Disengagement, and the Politics of Migration Deterrence

Dr. Jamal Barnes, ECU School of Arts and Humanities

Date: 8th February 2024

Abstract:

Since the 1980s, Europe, North America, Australia, and partner countries have implemented migration deterrence policies that have aimed to prevent refugees and migrants from arriving on their shores. Scholars and policy experts have shown how these policies not only undermine international human rights and refugee law, but they also make migration journeys more dangerous as migrants and refugees are exposed to torture, ill-treatment, killings, slavery, and sexual violence. However, what has not been adequately examined is how governments continue to support and promote such policies in the face of so much human suffering. This presentation examines how governments adopt psychosocial strategies of moral disengagement to ameliorate the moral tensions that come from harming others. By 'disengaging' from moral norms, governments deny the existence of harm, and the responsibility and wrongdoing for it, enabling bureaucrats, policy makers, and domestic populations to put the negative human rights consequences of their policies out of mind and out of sight. Utilising insights from international relations, international law, social psychology, and criminology, this project makes a key contribution to the human rights literature by shedding new light on how moral disengagement advances our understanding of international human rights norms, laws, and socialisation strategies.

Speaker Bio:

Jamal is a Lecturer in Criminology and Justice and the coordinator for the Criminology and Justice Practicum Program. He specialises in human rights and international relations, with a specific focus on torture and inhuman treatment, migration and refugee issues, and international human rights norms and laws. Jamal has presented his research to academic and policy audiences in eight different countries and in 2017 published the book, A

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Genealogy of the Torture Taboo (Routledge), which traces a history of the torture taboo from the eighteenth century to the present day.

Title: Is there an ethic perspective? Researcher identity in ethnographic work

Dr. Shantha Karthigesu

Date: 15th February 2024

Speaker Bio:

Shantha is a postdoctoral researcher on the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren project within the School of Medical and Health Sciences. She has extensive experience teaching human anatomy and physiology, human nutritional ecology and the anthropology of the contemporary world in Canada.

Title: Transnational Family Care: from social death to digital kinning over a century of Australian migration

Prof. Loretta Baldassar, ECU School of Arts and Humanities

Date: 7th March, 2024

Abstract:

This paper begins with an overview of transnational migration and family studies. I compare and contrast the forms of caregiving, kin work, and co-presence experienced by different cohorts and generations over the past 150 years of Australian migration history. The second half of the paper explores new developments in care and social uses of new technologies. Drawing on the methodological and conceptual frameworks in development in two current collaborative ARC projects: Ageing and New Media and Youth Mobilities, I examine the way today's polymedia environments have created the conditions for synchronous, continuous, multisensory co-presence across distance that challenge the normative and ontological privileging of proximity in care and kinship relationships. Such conditions require us to consider the importance of human relations to the material world, of both technologies and nonhuman actants, and their role in mediating care exchange. Raelene Wilding and I propose the notions of 'digital kinning' and 'digital homemaking' as ways to theorise the resultant human-technology interactions, and to explore how the rapidly changing polymedia environment is transforming how we communicate, imagine ourselves, and organise our everyday lives, including across distance. The concept of kinning (Howell 2013) highlights the processes of becoming kin, not on the basis of biological ties, but on the basis of what is done, performed and exchanged. For older people in particular, these digital kinning practices often require facilitation by others, emphasising their social relational, intergenerational and performative character. It is in the creative and diverse practices at the intersections of mobilities and materialities that we see how technologies can transform the experience of caring, in and across place.

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Speaker Bio:

Loretta Baldassar is a leading migration scholar and Professor of Anthropology and Sociology. She is currently Vice Chancellor Professorial Research Fellow, Director of the Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab, and co-convenor of the TRACS Migration Research Network at Edith Cowan University. In 2020, 2021 and 2022 she was named Australian Research Field Leader in Migration Studies (Social Sciences) and in 2021 and 2022 she was also named Research Field Leader in Ethnic and Cultural Studies (Humanities, Arts and Literature) (The Australian, 23 09 2020; 8 12 2021; 10 11 2022). Professor Baldassar has published extensively and her widely cited work is foundational to the field of Transnational Family Studies. She is an award-winning supervisor with over 30 PhD completions and 9 postdoctoral fellowships. She has led many large research projects with a total grant income of over 10 million dollars. Among her many current projects she leads a Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) project, Befriending with Genie, trialling an intervention to support people living with dementia and their carers from migrant communities. She is social support stream lead on an MRFF Fittest Trial, National Frailty Project and co-lead investigator on the longitudinal YMAP Project (Youth Mobilities, Aspirations and Pathways), funded by the Australian Research Council. Her career has been devoted to better understanding the impact of migration on families and communities, with a focus on intergenerational relations, the ageing process and the social uses of new technologies. Her SAGE Futures research team at ECU is leading innovation in social care across the life-course, contributing social science perspectives and arts-based methodologies to the creative and caring professions.

Title: Rainbow Migrants (LGBTIQ+ Migrants) within the broader contexts of intersectionality and social network analysis

Dr. Lukasz Krzyzowski, ECU School of Arts and Humanities

Date: 14th March, 2024

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Krzyzowski is a Vice Chancellor's Research Fellow at the School of Arts and Humanities, Edith Cowan University (ECU). He works as Board Member in GLBTI Rights in Ageing since 2021. He also works as advisory committee members in LGBTIQ+ Health Australia. His most recent work has been in developing social technology, community interventions, and evidence-based policy recommendations increasing social support networks of vulnerable people, including culturally and linguistically diverse and LGBTIQ+. Published research findings support establishment of national guidelines for the aged care sector around digital access for residents, staff and families designed to support the wellbeing, dignity and cultural safety of diverse adults.

TRACS HDR Proposals

Title: The impact of the 'Chinese island' settlement pattern on intergenerational relationship in Australia and Canada

Yvonne HUANG, ECU School of Arts and Humanities

Date: 21st March, 2024

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Title: Transnational Care and Dementia

Nelgyn TENNYSON ,ECU School of Arts and Humanities

Date: 21st March, 2024

Speaker Bios:

Yu (Yvonne) Huang is a PhD candidate in the SAGE Futures Lab. Her research delves into Chinese migrant families in Australia and Canada. She also serves as research administrator for the ECU TRACS Migration Research Network.

Nelgyn Tennyson, a PhD Candidate and Research Officer, specializes in economics and demography. His research interests include transnational care, neurodegenerative and neurodevelopmental disorders, health policy, life course demography, social epidemiology, and gerontology. He contributes to designing data collection tools, quality checks, and analysis.

**Title: Exploring the path to successful settlement: Principles & insights from settlement
Experiences of Refugee and Migrant Youth in Australia, Canada, and USA**

Professor Tahereh Ziaian, University of South Australia

Date: 28th March, 2024

Abstract:

Australia's history of immigration over the last two centuries has included people arriving from all over the globe and currently half of all Australian people were either born overseas or have one parent who was born overseas. International research suggests that children and adolescents of refugee background are at greater risk of developing mental health problems and experience higher rates of mental health problems compared with children of the host culture.

Australian youth with a refugee and migrant background have diverse skill and abilities, with many showing independence and resilience. Professor Ziaian presentation will highlight some of her key research findings from her past and current ARC Project, focussing on the key elements for re-building a happy and successful life after migration by sharing settlement experiences of refugee and migrant youth living in Australia, Canada, and the USA. The presentation also includes challenges and joys of conducting multicultural, multi-sites and multi-national research.

Speaker Bio:

Professor Tahereh Ziaian is a Community Health Psychologist at the Justice and Society Academic Unit, the University of South Australia, a Visiting Professor at the University of NSW, Faculty of Medicine. She is also affiliated with UNISCO RILA (Refugee Integration through Language and the Art), Glasgow University. Her career has been devoted to improving the psychological health and wellbeing of communities and minority groups from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Prof Ziaian is specialized in the field of Transcultural mental health and public health. She is driven by a powerful personal commitment to

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contribute to the realization of a socially inclusive, just and fair society as an informed advocate for those who struggle to have their voices heard. She is exceptionally productive researcher working closely with many NGOs that provide settlement services to migrants and refugees both nationally and internationally. Prof Ziaian is possessing a deep-seated aspiration to support marginalized communities and prepare her students for a future of inclusionary practice.

Prof Ziaian has published widely in the field of Transcultural mental health and public health and has been awarded many competitive National and International research grants including her current large-scale ARC funded international project on “Rebuilding Life after Migration for Young Refugees and Migrants”. This multi-national research will provide a comprehensive understanding of refugee and migrant youth settlement experiences and their impact on psychological wellbeing and the role of support services in Australia, USA and Canada, with a focus on policies and practices that shape the settlement experiences of refugee and migrant youth and their families. Her research has also influenced Australian policies in relation to multicultural mental health and has achieved research impact both nationally and internationally.

Professor Ziaian’s intense meditation training and experience has also enabled her to conduct meditative and relaxation therapy research examining the impact of these therapies on quality of life of both educators and the learners within the higher education sector and health care settings.

Title: Returning from Fieldwork: Ukrainian War, Collective Memory, and Social Inclusion among Estonians in Australia

Keiu Telve, ECU School of Arts and Humanities

Date: 4th April 2024

Abstract:

The article builds upon the rich literature on diaspora and transnational studies, exploring how each field contributes to our understanding of communities with national ties and civic activities that span borders, including through the impact of new technologies. The article explores the interplay among micro-, meso-, and macro-structures, particularly focusing on how digitally empowered meso-level dynamics emerge from individual actions aimed at achieving broader societal impacts and engagement. The article pays attention to the people’s daily, mundane lives, and simple gestures, behaviours and shared thoughts that show how ‘the political’ is activated within micro- and meso-level informal and domestic spaces.

The Ukrainian war provides a compelling context in which digital platforms function not only as tools for connection but also as mechanisms for activating meso-level civic engagement within transnational communities. Drawing on six months of ethnographic fieldwork among the Estonian diaspora in Australia, I examine how the war has reawakened long-distance nationalism rooted in collective memory; how presence by proxy makes everyday transnationalism on civic level possible and how meso-level lived citizenship (Kallio et. Al. 2020) layer appears in transnational communities.

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Speaker Bio:

Keiu Telve, PhD, earned her degree in Cultural Studies from the University of Tartu in collaboration with Eastern Finland University. Currently, she is conducting postdoctoral research at Edith Cowan University under the supervision of Professor Loretta Baldassar, focusing on digital social inclusion and the role of virtual engagement with the country of origin among Estonians in Australia. Over the past decade, Telve has extensively studied cross-border commuting men and family relations, Estonian work culture, youth subcultures, and the intricate relationship between humans and technology. She co-founded the Applied Anthropology Centre of Estonia, leveraging her expertise to implement human-centered solutions within Estonian society.

Title: American Muslim Perspectives on Radicalization, Palgrave Macmillan

Nahid Afrose Kabir, PhD, is a Professor of History in the Department of English and Humanities at BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Date: 11th April 2024

Speaker Bio:

Nahid Afrose Kabir, PhD, is a Professor of History in the Department of English and Humanities at BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh. She holds an Adjunct Professor position at the University of South Australia, Adelaide, and Edith Cowan University, Perth, Australia. She holds a PhD, two Masters and a Bachelor (Hons) degree; all in History.

Dr Kabir worked as a senior research fellow at the International Centre for Muslim and non-Muslim Understanding at the University of South Australia, 2011-2016, and as a research fellow at the Edith Cowan University in Perth, 2005-2010.

Title: Afghan immigrants in Western Australia and their Integration Challenges

Dr. Omid Rezaei

Date: 18th April 2024

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Omid is a recent PhD graduate from ECU, whose research delved into Afghan immigrants in Western Australia. Currently, Omid is engaged in postdoctoral research within ECU's School of Medical and Health Sciences, exploring new horizons.

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Title: Exploring the 'Mobility Turn' in Ageing and Migration Research: A Case Study of Vietnamese Migrant Grandparents in Australia

Hien Thi Nguyen, Research Fellow at the Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab

Date: 9th May 2024

Speaker Bio:

Hien Thi Nguyen is Research Fellow at the Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab and actively involved in the ECU TRACS Migration Research Network. Her current scholarship focuses on four areas: migration and diversity; ageing across the life course; social frailty and wellbeing; and gender and development. Hien uses social science perspectives and methodologies to support creative and caring professions. In addition, Hien serves as Project Manager for the international Decentering Migration Knowledge (Demiknow) Project, an international collaboration which brings together four research entities in Canada, India, China and Australia. In her role with the Demiknow Project, Hien leads the Australian Research Component on Transnational Grandparent Migration. Hien is currently co-conveners of TASA's Ageing and Sociology Thematic Group and the ECU SAGE Lab's Annual Research Forum on Ageing.

Title: Using an interdisciplinary approach to understand behaviors of travel-eligible tourists with mild dementia with a focus on travel therapy

Dr Jun Wen, a lecturer, the School of Business and Law, Edith Cowan University (ECU)

Date: 16th May 2024

Speaker Bio:

Dr Jun Wen is a lecturer in Interdisciplinary Research between Tourism and Health at the School of Business and Law, Edith Cowan University (ECU). Dr. Wen has been committed to conducting meaningful research that contributes to academia and the public. He has published around 100 peer-reviewed journal articles since 2018, his research has been cited over 5500 times (h-index: 31 as of March 2024). Dr. Wen's research streams include the following: 1) marginalized populations in tourism (e.g., tourists living with health conditions); 2) socially deviant consumer behavior and social issues in tourism (e.g., human trafficking); 3) travel medicine in tourism; and 4) global health (e.g., suboptimal health) in tourism. His publications are interdisciplinary and integrate expertise in tourism, marketing, and medical science.

Dr. Wen's research performance has earned him national and international acclaim; he was named one of Australia's top 40 young researchers per The Australian Tourism Field Rising Star Award two years in a row (2020 and 2021). Dr. Wen was awarded "2020 CAUTHE Fellows Commendation for Hospitality, Tourism and/or Events Research" by the Council for Australasian Tourism and Hospitality Education (CAUTHE) in 2021 based on excellent research performance in Australia and New Zealand. In addition, Dr. Wen co-authored research paper entitled "The role of tourism in healthy aging: An interdisciplinary literature review and conceptual model" was awarded the 2023 Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management (JHTM) Highly Commended Paper Award. Dr. Wen's interdisciplinary research

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project (tourism and health) received international awards such as CETT Alimara Awards 2023 in the Research category in Spain, and Gold Winners at the Chinese Tourism Welcome Award in the Innovation category at Guangzhou International Travel Fair, China.

Dr. Wen serves as the Regional Vice President of the Australasia and Oceania region for the International Tourism Studies Association (ITSA).

Title: Rhythms of drums and Vajra bells as Sanctuary beyond Borders: Exploring Religion's Role in Migrant Identity and Belonging

Dr Sonam Pelden, School of Business and Law, Edith Cowan University (ECU)

Date: 23th May 2024

Abstract:

Amidst the uncertainties of migration and the unfamiliarity of new environments, individuals often gravitate towards the comfort of the familiar. Among Bhutanese migrants settling in Western Australia, this yearning for belonging manifests through the emergence of Buddhist communities and temples. Within this intricate mosaic, twelve distinct sub-religious groups have arisen, fostering camaraderie, and offering sanctuary.

This conceptual paper begins to explore the natural inclination of Bhutanese migrants towards religious organization while navigating the complexities of multiculturalism. How do these communities harmonize traditional beliefs with secular values? What paradoxes and unspoken tensions arise? By delving into these inquiries, this study initiates an exploration into identity formation, the evolution of sacred spaces, and the establishment of new institutions within the Bhutanese diaspora in Australia.

Speaker Bio:

Dr Sonam is the Academic Lead for counselling discipline. She is a principal supervisor for doctoral and master students, teaches in the counselling and psychotherapy programs within the school of arts and humanities.

Title: Launch of the ECU TRACS arts engagement and arts-based research methods network

Manonita Ghosh, Simone Marino and Jane Mulcock, Edith Cowan University (ECU)

Date: 6th June 2024

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Title: "They call the Spirituality of my Ancestors madness" – Embracing spiritually sensitive practice in child protection with African background children and families in Australia
Dr. Penny Kansime, the School of Arts and Humanities, Edith Cowan University

Date: 20th June 2024

Speaker Bio:

Peninah Kansime (PhD) is a lecturer of social work in the School of Arts and Humanities at Edith Cowan University. She holds a PhD, Masters, and bachelor's in social work, as well as a Master of Philosophy in Public Mental Health. Penny has engaged in research and publication involving conflict-related sexual violence, decolonisation, religion and spirituality, plus indigenous world views.

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Title: Beyond Workshops – What can Visual Arts contribute to Interdisciplinary Research?

Gregory Pryor

Date: 4th July 2024

Speaker Bio:

Gregory Pryor is an artist, writer and academic based in Boorloo/Perth, Western Australia. He is currently undertaking research into concepts and processes of art conservation as a framing device to explore landscape loss, damage and restoration in Western Australia. This long-term project is being developed parallel with a series of paintings with the working title Procession. These works examine the awkward and often futile trajectory of settler Australians as they move through the Australian landscape; for recreation, in search of wealth, or simply to get lost. His work is featured in the collections of the National Gallery of Australia, The National Gallery of Victoria, The Art Gallery of Western Australia, The Queensland Art Gallery and numerous important corporate and private collections. Pryor works as a lecturer and is the academic lead in visual art at Edith Cowan University.

Title: National class frames in motion: Bringing class (back) into studies of Australian migration

Dr. Catriona Stevens

Date: 8th August 2024

Abstract:

This paper proposes the concept of national class frames in motion as an analytical framework to explore dimensions of social class in transnational contexts. National class frames in motion refers to the diverse ways that first generation migrants interpret their own intra-ethnic classed positions, as well as the positions of others, through the lens of homeland class maps and class discourses, while simultaneously contesting and changing the meanings of those nationally bounded class frames as they move with them through new transnational contexts. As migrants are socialised into class frames that are formed and forged in homeland national contexts, these same national class frames necessarily have

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ongoing meaning during and after their movements across borders; they are transported, reformed and reinterpreted in receiving country contexts.

Speaker Bio:

Dr Catriona Stevens is a Vice Chancellor's Research Fellow in the Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab. Cat is an early career sociologist and anthropologist with expertise in migration, ageing, care workforce, transnational caregiving, and the abuse of older people (elder abuse). The ECU SAGE team lead research in social care across the life-course, contributing social science perspectives and methodologies to the creative and caring professions. Prior to joining ECU, Cat was Manager of Research Engagement with the Social Care and Ageing (SAGE) Living Lab at UWA. She has significant experience in applied social research through collaborations, evaluations, and consultancies with government and NFP sector partners. She has previously held Associate Lecturer teaching positions at Murdoch University and at UWA and is an Alumnus of the Forrest Research Foundation having been awarded a Forrest Prospect Fellowship in 2021-23.

Title: *Diaspora Studies and the Italian Case. Theoretical Problems and Perspectives*

Prof. Margherita Ganeri, University of Calabria

Date: 15th August 2024

Speaker Bio:

Margherita Ganeri is a Full Professor of Contemporary Italian Literature and the founding Director of the Seminar "Italian Diaspora Studies" at the University of Calabria. She also founded and directs the course CLIA (Italian American Culture and Literature), which is operated through an annual Fulbright Lectureship.

She has a broad publications record, with ten authored books and more than sixty essays in recognized national and international academic journals. Her research interests focus on Italian and Italian Diasporic prose in the 19th and 20th centuries and related issues of literary criticism and theory.

Receiver of two Fulbright fellowships, she was appointed visiting professor at Cambridge University (UK), Stony Brook University (NY, US), Italian School at Middlebury College (VT, US), University of Chicago (IL, US), Karl Ruprecht University of Heidelberg (DE), Seton Hall University (NJ, US), University of Saskatchewan (SK, CA), Fordham University (NY, US) and University of Toronto (ON, CA). She is on the board of Directors of the journal «Moderna» and directs the book series "Italian Diaspora Studies" for the publisher Rubbettino.

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Title: Case studies of Digital Media Use in Early Childhood: Birth to Six

Professor Lelia Green

Date: 29th August 2024

Speaker Bio:

Lelia is a Professor within the School of Arts and Humanities, ECU. Professor Lelia Green's research interests concentrate on children's digital lives from birth to adulthood, particularly marginalised and disadvantaged children and teenagers. Lelia leads the node of Edith Cowan University researchers drawn from every stage of a research career and across health, education and connectedness. As an Office of Learning and Teaching national award winner (2015), Lelia has been recognised as a leading PhD supervisor.

Kylie is an associate investigator with the national ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child with research expertise in young children's lived experience of digital technologies. Her broad field of research is media and communications. She has also conducted research about creativity and knowledge creation in higher degrees with a particular focus on creative practice-led pedagogy. Her research approach applies qualitative and creative methodologies, is often ethnographic, and investigates people's lived experience. She is associate editor of Media International Australia Journal, and co-editor of the Routledge Companion to Digital Media and Children (2021) and Digitising Early Childhood (2019). Her most recent publication is the co-authored book Digital Media Use in Early Childhood: Birth to Six (Bloomsbury, 2024). At Murdoch University, Her role is Academic Chair, Graduate Research Education and Training.

Title: Exploring beyond authenticity: an ethnographic study of Italian communities in Australia and Italy. A case study of Calabrian-Australians.

Dr Simone Marino

Date: 5th September 2024

Speaker Bio:

Dr Simone Marino is a Research Fellow in the Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab. Dr Marino's interdisciplinary expertise focuses on ethnic identity, migration and ageing and dementia studies, grounded in ethnographic research. He is currently developing a new evidence-based music intervention 'Comusichiamo' to support first language connection in older Italians living with dementia. This project explores the co-creation of songs and the relevance of music, migration life-storytelling, and first language to support the cultural identity and wellbeing of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds with dementia. Simone also a CI on the NHMRC funded MRFF project 'Befriending with GENIE'.

In addition to academic writing, Simone has shared his research initiatives through the Australasian Centre for Italian Studies newsletter, Australian Ageing Agenda and he has been interviewed twice for SBS Italian and twice has contributed to Inpress magazine.

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Title: Synthesizing the Literature for Social Markers of Acceptance: National Identity Criteria in Receiving Societies and Their Impact upon Migrant Well-Being in Japan and Beyond

Professor Adam Komisarof

Date: 12th September 2024

Abstract:

This lecture will focus upon the nexus between immigrant acceptance and national identity, a critical global issue in these times of human displacement due to war, famine, and natural disaster, as well as intentional economic migration. The speaker, Professor Adam Komisarof, will begin by describing his work about social markers of acceptance (SMA), which are the criteria used by host country nationals when deciding whether to socially accept migrants as members of their communities. He will first define belonging and then explain not only what SMA are, but also how they change based upon context (such as perceived migrant contributions, threat, and status). Adam will focus on his research in Japan, then expand to include findings in Finland, Canada, Singapore, and Australia. The talk will conclude with research-based advice about how to make host societies more inclusive and accepting of migrants.

Speaker Bio:

Adam Komisarof, PhD, is Professor in Keio University's Faculty of Letters in Tokyo. He has spent two sabbaticals at the University of Oxford, first as a Visiting Academic at the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies (2012-13), and then at the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) (2022-23). Adam has published 3 books, with a fourth forthcoming in January, 2025: The Sage Handbook of Intercultural Communication (with Shuang Lui, Zhu Hua, and Levi Obijiofor). He has also authored numerous journal articles and book chapters with publishers including Cambridge University Press, Elsevier, and Routledge, and served as the editor of two special issues for the International Journal of Intercultural Relations. A widely sought public lecturer, he has given over 130 invited lectures and paper presentations around the globe. As an intercultural trainer, Adam has performed scores of workshops over the past 27 years for large companies and governmental organizations in the United States, Japan, Southeast Asia, and Europe. Adam is Past President and a Fellow of the International Academy for Intercultural Research, an academic organization dedicated to advancing research in intercultural studies and intergroup understanding in the world.

Title: So that you would not remember: Humanising refugee narratives of sacrifice and desperation

Dr. Kim Huynh

Date: 19th September 2024

Abstract:

This is a story about telling refugee stories. It recounts my efforts to preserve and pass on my family's history as Vietnamese boatpeople through writing, radio, and activism. It provides insights into how to honour refugee narratives, while also reflecting upon the emotional and psychological toll. This story and the refugee stories recounted within it are

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conveyed with the four aims: first, to challenge stereotypes of refugees that require them to be grateful and pliant, and that demonise them when they are not; secondly, to humanise refugees in the face of widespread objectification and deterrence strategies; thirdly, to consider how asylum seekers and refugees might be the centre of history and politics rather than on the extremities; and lastly, to challenge the nation-state's—particularly post-colonial Australia's—hold over popular sovereignty, thereby prompting us to see different ways to belong

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Kim Huynh is a teacher, writer, researcher and broadcaster who helps people tell their stories. He convenes courses on refugee politics and political philosophy for which he received the ANU Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Kim contributes to public life by coordinating a current affairs discussion group for rough sleepers at the Early Morning Centre, facilitating exchanges of stories and ideas with the Vietnamese Australia Forum, and writing essays on politics and culture for a range of outlets. He ran as independent candidate in the 2016 ACT election and in the 2022 federal election, is an ABC presenter and producer and Deputy Director of the ANU Humanities Research Centre.

His latest book on Australia's Refugee Politics in the 21st Century (Routledge) develops ways to enhance national security, refugee rights and social cohesion. Kim's published a collection of stories about contemporary Vietnam entitled Vietnam as if ... (ANU Press). He co-authored Children and Global Conflict (Cambridge University Press) and co-edited The Culture Wars (Palgrave-McMillan). His biography of his parents Where the Sea Takes Us (HarperCollins) attracted academic and literary acclaim.

Title: Mapping Early Encounters of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) with Australia through emotions, feelings, and stories

Associate Professor Paul Uhlmann

Date: 3rd October 2024

Abstract:

The Batavia shipwreck (1629), for example, the Dutch VOC, the United East India Company was a highly successful corporation, which achieved tremendous power in the 17th century through trade with Asia and in so doing they charted new lands and trade routes holding the knowledge painstakingly gained across endless journeys through maps. This power is now being viewed as coming with immense human cost. Dotted along the coast of Western Australia are many VOC shipwrecks and material from these wrecks tell multiple stories. In this talk I will outline my initial thoughts of what I aim to produce as part of my investigation through the ARC Linkage project Mobilising the VOC Collection. As an artist / researcher I aim to create a series of conceptual maps as artworks which reveal something about the human story, the flow of emotions, the struggle, awe and wonder within initial encounters with Australia by the Dutch East India Company (VOC) in the 17th Century. I am curious about the potential of maps to move beyond being objects of navigational power and control and to instead reveal something haunting and elusive about the human condition.

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Title: Metaphors of Migration: A critical discourse analysis of the intersections between immigration, race, and the nation in Australian press reports (1854–2018)

Catherine Martin

Date: 17th October 2024

Abstract:

Certain metaphoric tropes of racial Otherness have persistently been used to racialize immigrants as essentially exterior and threatening to the nation. This construction of immigrant Otherness is, and historically has been, foundational to ethno-nationalist discourses of Australian national identity. Whether as invasions, floods or swarms, the metaphoric construction of racialized immigrant out-groups has consistently been utilized to naturalise and legitimate an Anglo-white national in-group. Based on a diachronic study of metaphors used within the Australian press (1854 to 2018) to frame immigration to Australia, the research presented takes a Critical Discourse Analysis approach to qualitatively examine the metaphors used to construct both immigrants and the nation.

Speaker Bio:

Catherine Martin has a MA in Migration and Diaspora Studies (SOAS) and a PhD in Sociology (UWA) with research interests that centre on race, migration, nationalism, and national belonging. Her PhD took a critical discourse analysis approach to examine the use of metaphors in press discourses around immigration to Australia (1854-2018) and was awarded the TASA Jean Martin Award for Best PhD in Sociology 2021-2023. Cathy is co-convenor of the Sociology Out West group and is one of the co-convenors of the TASA MEM thematic group. She is currently the Academic Coordinator at the McCusker Centre for Citizenship (UWA), educating students about social need, social justice, and civic participation.

Title: Cohesive Harmonies: an exploration of music outreach as a mechanism for community engagement

Dr Tenley Martin

Date: 24th October 2024

Abstract:

How can community-based music activities be deployed to facilitate active citizenship, shared identities, cohesion and sense of belonging? This seminar explores this question in the context of individual English locales, through a series of case studies which represent varying ways music activities can increase active citizenship. I will draw on data gathered from interventions and collaborations, largely co-created with non-academic organisations and practitioners and in the context of increasing arts de-funding.

Over the past 15 years, England has undergone a gradual but deliberate devaluation of music through drastic reductions of school music provision, a slashing of arts funding, and an aggressive anti-arts-as-a-career narrative coming from the government and echoed by

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national media. Devaluation processes run in tandem with economic downturn, a widening of the wealth gap, reduction of government services, and an increase in anti-immigrant rhetoric. I maintain that, instead of removing music and the arts, it can be used as a tool to build citizenship and sense of belonging.

I will provide an overview of the disciplinary approach that informs my research – applied ethnomusicology. Then, I will outline the case study interventions that have formed the backbone of my data collection. Finally, I will provide a comparative analysis of these case studies, extracting the ways in which music worked to develop non-musical competencies, aiding in addressing individual community needs.

My approach of co-creation enables musical interventions to address issues at the heart of communities. Moreover, it suggests how music outreach [applied ethnomusicology] research, in collaboration with local community music practitioners, advocates for and expands the reach of their activities, resulting in demonstrable impact within their specific localities. Ultimately, my research demonstrates how grassroots music activities can contribute to bolstering local engagement, cohesion, and building healthy communities.

Speaker Bio:

Dr Tenley Martin is an ethnomusicologist, percussionist, and senior lecturer in music at Leeds Beckett University. She teaches popular music performance, ethnomusicology, and arts and social engagement, as well as supervising 6 interdisciplinary Ph.D students. She received her Ph.D in Music from The University of Leeds in 2016, with an ethnomusicological study on British and Spanish flamenco cultural exchange. Tenley is a specialist in a variety of popular and world music cultures with a keen interest in unusual percussion instruments. She is the author of *Transnational Flamenco: Exchange and the Individual in British and Spanish Flamenco Culture* (Palgrave Macmillan 2020). Tenley's practical activities include several ongoing music outreach projects in Leeds and Bradford, as well as being a freelance percussionist and workshop technician.

Title: Becoming adults elsewhere. The recent migration of young Italians to Australia

Giulia Marchetti

Date: 14th November 2024

Abstract:

Giulia, connected online from Italy, will present the main findings of her PhD research (2018-2023), which was supervised by Professor Loretta Baldassar and received an honourable mention on the Dean's list. Giulia's study contributes to scholarship on youth transnational mobilities and transitions to adulthood. It explores the diverse, multiform and surprising influences of transnational mobility on youth life course trajectories and the progressive process of reflexive individuation from the family of origin involving practices of choice-making and self-making. It takes the case of the lived experience of young Italians moving to and from Australia and draws on fine grained qualitative data with 36 participants in the Perth area (WA) via ethnographic interviews and visual research techniques. These include filming of interviews - from which the documentary film *The Movers. A journey to*

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adulthood (2022) originated, Photostories (Gomez 2020), and analysis of participants' tattoos.

Giulia's temporary mobility to Australia for study reasons was recently featured in a graphic novel edited by Carola Perillo (CSER- Centro Studi Emigrazione Roma) and titled *In senso inverso. Storie di donne in movimento* (In reverse. Stories of women on the move). It tells the stories of two women, one moving to Italy and one leaving Italy, who use transnational mobility to achieve their goals. At the end of her presentation, Giulia will talk about this visual project.

Speaker Bio:

Giulia Marchetti is a Research Fellow at the Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Florence (Italy). She is an Adjunct Research Fellow at Edith Cowan University (WA). In 2023, she received her PhD in anthropology from the School of Humanities, University of Western Australia (WA). Her research interests include transnational mobility, migration, youth cultures, transition to adulthood, and social effects of Covid-19.

Title: Where Words Fail, Music Speaks

Darren Abraham

Date: 12th December 2024

Abstract:

Darren Abraham highlights that music is one of the most effective ways to encourage social transformation. He explains that music interacts with humans on every level of their being—our bodies, emotions, behaviors, and relationships—without the need for explanation or instruction. In his presentation, Darren will discuss why music is so effective in trauma regulation, community building, and conflict resolution settings, providing examples of best practices from around the world.

Speaker Bio:

Darren Abraham, Singer, Coach, and Founder of Walk, is a multi-passionate individual and the founder of multiple organizations and projects. While this may seem to suggest a lack of focus, there is a unifying thread in all he does: his deep desire to help everyone live their best life and fulfill their true potential. Darren expresses this purpose through music, as a singer, workshop leader, and performing artist; through therapy and coaching, as a trauma specialist, mentor, and High-Performance Coach; and through projects and partnerships with individuals, teams, and communities worldwide. Additionally, he shares his knowledge and skills by training artists, activists, and changemakers to make a difference wherever they are. In everything he does, Darren's primary goal is to create the best conditions for transformation to occur while supporting the natural emergence of what is meant to be, without imposing too much.