Welcome to the 2017 Highlights report for the Research School of Social Sciences. It has been a busy year for all the different Schools and Centres, with many successful events and publications, as well as important research that deserves celebrating.

The strength and ongoing success of the Research School lies in the diverse backgrounds of our academics, our innovative research techniques, and our strong disciplinary cultures. RSSS comprises the School of Sociology, the School of Politics and International Relations, the School of History, the School of Philosophy, the School of Demography, the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, and the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods, I couldn’t be more thrilled with the outcomes and successes that have resulted from a prosperous 2017.

Within this 2017 Highlights report, you will find a selection of the top successes from each school and centre, ranging from events, conferences and exhibitions, consultancies and outreach, to publication, and awards won by the Research School staff and students.

I hope you will join me in congratulating each School and Centre on a job well done and a terrific 2017.

Professor Catherine Waldby
Director, Research School of Social Sciences
ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences
The Australian National University
ABOUT THE RESEARCH SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Research School of Social Sciences (RSSS) is one of the foundational schools of the Institute of Advance Studies at the Australian National University. As a major institution of theoretical and empirical research in social sciences, RSSS is also a significant presence in the nation’s undergraduate, postgraduate and postdoctoral training.

The Research School of Social Sciences was formally established by the Australian National University Act of 1946, which stated that one of the functions of the University should be “to encourage, and provide facilities for, postgraduate research and study, both generally and in relation to subjects of national importance to Australia”.

Since its founding RSSS has pursued these aims and has been able to contribute to public debates in Australia across the many social science disciplines. To do so, the School convenes workshops, public lectures, debates and roundtables that address issues of significant public and community importance.

The first appointment to the Research School of Social Sciences was made in January 1949, and by December 1952 there were seven departments, including Demography, Economics, History, Law, Philosophy, Political Science and Statistics. Today, the Research School is made up of eight departments including the School of Sociology, the School of Politics and International Relations, the School of History, the School of Philosophy, the School of Demography, the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, and the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods.

Each School and Centre has their own unique objective and aims that assist in ensuring an innovative research culture, strong disciplinary and interdisciplinary focus, supportive intellectual environment and a quality learning environment that is synonymous with the Research School of Social Sciences.
The Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) is an internationally unique, high quality research environment with an outstanding research impact. The primary objective of CAEPR is to undertake research that will further the social and economic development and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people throughout Australia.

Events, Conferences and Exhibitions

- An exhibition entitled **Open Cut** by Jacky Green, Therese Richie, and Sean Kerrins, ran from 5 August to 10 August 2017 at the Northern Centre for Contemporary Art in Darwin, Northern Territory (NT). The exhibition was of significant impact to the community in the NT, as Jacky Green provided important teaching opportunities and cultural knowledge as part of a CAEPR co-badged undergraduate course with the Fenner School.

- CAEPR paired with NSW Aboriginal Affairs to host a successful interstate forum entitled Australian Government and Aboriginal Nations: Creating a New Relationship. The forum ran in Sydney with seven different jurisdictions and a report was produced on the issues that were facing these jurisdictions in changing their relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people. The report produced here was also used to contribute to two chapters of “Transforming the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the NSW Government: Aboriginal Affairs NSW research agenda 2018 - 2023.”

Consultancies and Outreach


- 9 Employees within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet successfully undertook the postgraduate course of ‘Australian Indigenous Policy’ by CAEPR representatives. The course teaches students to analyse policy by exposing them to academic theories of policy and the diverse range of views involved in Indigenous affairs.

Publications

- Dr Janet Hunt presented a paper on **Normalising Aboriginal housing in the Kimberley and the cultural challenges at the interface of new public management approaches.** The paper was presented at the Critical Management Studies Conference in Liverpool, UK.
Dr Katherine Curchin, an ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher at CAEPR, presented a paper entitled Exploring the Ethical Limits of Welfare Conditionality: The Case of Childhood Immunisation. The paper was presented at the Australian Social Policy Conference at the University of New South Wales (NSW) and then published in the Sydney Morning Herald.

Awards

- Dr Janet Hunt and CAEPR's Dr Deirdre Howard-Wagner were the 2017 recipients of the ARC Discovery award, reconfiguring new public management to recognise the distinctive role of Aboriginal organisations and rights of Indigenous peoples in social service delivery.

Awards Continued

- Dr Deirdre Howard-Wagner also was the recipient of the ANU Futures Scheme Award. The $450,000 award will be establish urban Indigenous development as a new sub-field of Indigenous development and governance research that is conducted at CAEPR.

- CAEPR Research Scholar Ms Stefanie Puszka was awarded the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Postgraduate Scholarship for her PhD project on the political economy of dialysis for the Yolngu people. Her PhD project highlights the social and economic hardship of the Yolngu people who have end stage kidney disease and need to travel from remote areas to Darwin for treatment.
The Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (CAIS) is Australia’s premier location for studies in this field, with a high international standing and connections to major counterparts in the Middle East. CAIS integrates the study of Middle Eastern and Central Asian contemporary politics, history, culture, language, economics, and the role of Islam within the broader framework of the changing global order.

Events, Conferences and Exhibitions

- CAIS Hosted A Century of Revolutionary Change: 1917 - 2017 as part of the Australasian Association for Communist and Post-communist Studies. The Conference focused on the study of contemporary states and societies that were affected by revolutionary turmoil in Russia over the past 100 years.
- CAIS also convened its third postgraduate and early career researcher conference In their words | In our Words from 23 - 24 November 2017. The two day interdisciplinary conference focused on providing in-depth discussions on contemporary issues, themes, and theoretical problems in the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia.
- From the 13 - 16 September, ANU took part in the Australia-Iran Dialogue with the Institute for Political and International Studies. The Dialogue, which was hosted in Tehran, Iran, was attended by former ANU Chancellor Professor the Hon Gareth Evans and Professor Amin Saikal, the Director of CAIS.

Consultancies and Outreach

- Many Australian Government departments funded and were involved in many CAIS consultancy seminars, including the Political islam Seminars funded by the Attorney General’s Department and held at CAIS in April and September, as well as the Islamic Awareness Seminar held at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in November.
- CAIS presented at several educational seminars, including a talk on the Yemen crisis at Geelong Grammar school, as well as a short course on The Political Economy of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries for the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.
- Professor Amin Saikal was also appointed the NSSP Distinguished Visiting Professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

Publications

- Professor Amin Saikal published “Afghanistan: A state in limbo” for the Routledge Handbook of Security Studies. Professor Saikal also presented numerous papers including at the Middle Powers in the Middle East Conference in Doha, Qatar, as well at the International Conference of Persian Studies in Tehran, and the “Afghanistan and the Region” Conference in Perth.
- Many of CAIS’ professional and academic staff presented papers at many different international conferences throughout 2017. Researcher Dr Huda Al-Tamimi presented at the Oxford Women’s Leadership Symposium in the United Kingdom, as well as the 2nd Arts and Humanities Conference at the International Institute of Social and Economic Sciences in Italy. Professor James Piscatoro, Deputy Director of CASS, presented a paper at The Academy of Hong Kong Studies Lecture Series in Hong Kong, while Dr Zahra Taheri presented at the 12th International Conference on Persian Language and Literature Association in Iran, and published a paper on Introducing Teaching Persian Language Online at ANU: The case of Introductory Persian in the Journal of Iranian Studies.
Awards:

• Professor Amin Saikal was awarded with the 2017 Chancellor’s Peter Baume Award. The Peter Baume Award is the ANU’s most prestigious award that recognises eminent achievement and merit of the highest order. Professor Saikal was the recipient of the award due to his advice and public commentary being regularly sought by governmental, non-governmental organisations and media, as well as for being an advisor to former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser.

• Dr Huda Al-Tamimi was awarded the 2017 Vice-Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence, an award that celebrates the University’s most outstanding teachers in their fields, as well as on their presentation skills and their contribution to enhancing the quality of learning and teaching in higher education.

• Dr Jessie Moritz received the 2017 Dissertation Award from the Association for Gulf and Peninsula Studies on the paper Slick Operators: Revising Rentier State Theory for the Modern Arab States of the Gulf

• Six PhD Scholars conferred their degrees with CAIS, including Dr Yahya Haider, Dr Shurat Baratov, Dr Aminat Chokobaeva, Dr Tome Vangelovski, Dr Elisabeth Yarbaksh, and Dr Jessie Moritz.

• The CAIS Language staff received funding through the CASS Conference Grants scheme for the conference. Three Languages - Three Cultures: Narratives from the Middle East that will be held in November of 2018.

• Professor Saikal was awarded a grant through the Council for Arab-Australia Relations at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for his project on Greater understanding of the Arab World and its implications for Australia.

• The ANU Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) will be funding an ANU eText Grant to publish an Introductory Arabic e-Text based on the online Arabic courses currently provided with CAIS.

• Dr Kirill Nourzhanov was jointly awarded funding through the RSSS Inter-Schools Grant for the Australasian Association for Communist and Post-Communist Studies Conference.
The Centre for Social Research and Methods (CSRM) focuses on the development of social research methods, the analysis of social issues and policy, training in social science methods, and providing access to social scientific data. CSRM also hosts the Australian Data Archive, which provides a national collection and preservation service of digital research data.

**Events, Conferences and Exhibitions**

- A/Prof Toni Makkai represented the CSRM at the Joint Quantitative Political Science Conference for Asia and Australasia in Sydney with the presentation ‘World Values Survey – Australian Overview’, as well as presenting ‘Gender and Crime’ at the ANU/NTU Research Forum in Singapore.
- Dr Robert Ackland and Dr Tim Graham presented their report on ‘Governing news production via blockchain technologies,’ at the Mundane Governance Conference: Exploring the Hardwiring, Disappearance & Politics of Everyday Government event that was held at the ANU from 28 - 29 November 2017.
- Throughout 2017, the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods ran the Social Research and Methods Seminar series. The series included speakers from a range of research backgrounds, all with an applied research methods focus. These Seminar series included presentations such as “The role of informal wage negotiations in explaining the gender wage gap”, “Mental health and the employment careers of young people in Australia - what is the casual relationship?”, “Work and Socio-economic differences in biomarkers of stress”, “PolicyMod: ANU’s model of the Australian tax and transfer system”, “Using an ‘Intermediate Data structure’ for sharing and analyzing historical life course data”, “Non-Parametric spatial bayesian crime regression”, and “Methods in the madness: Research design, logistics and luck in remote Indigenous community contexts”

**Consultancies and Outreach**

- The CSRM presented at a range of international conferences which included the 67th Annual Conference of the International Communication in San Diego in May 2017. The presentations at the conference included New Software and Tools for Analyzing Communication and a presentation at the Panel on Network Methods for Communication Research. These presentations were conducted by Dr Robert Ackland, Associate Professor at the School of Sociology.
- Dr Steven McEachern and Dr Heather Leesar presenting their report on ‘The Data Seal of Approval in the Australian context-Assessing the Australian Data Archive as a Trusted Digital Repository’ at the International Association for Social Science Information Service & Technology Annual Conference in Lawrence, Kansas.
- The CSRM also presented reports on a national scale, including presenting a report on ‘Self-Auditing as a Trusted Digital Repository-evaluating the Australian Data Archive as a trusted repository for Australian social science’ at the Open Repositories Conference, in Brisbane.

**Awards:**

- Dr Liz Allen was awarded with the 2017 Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Excellence for Media and Outreach, which is an award that encourages and recognises University staff for outstanding contributions to public policy formulation and debate.
- Dr Jason Payne, a Senior Lecturer in Criminology was awarded the 2017 Australian Award for University Teaching Award for Teaching Excellence (Early Career). Dr Payne received the award for bringing to the classroom a new philosophy of genuine change to the Australian criminal justice system.
The School of Demography aims to be the leading demographic centre for research and training in the Asia and Pacific region, informing policy and the broader public on major demographic issues facing Australia and its region. Currently the school is conducting research in fertility, family formation and change, mortality, ageing and health, and international and internal migration.

**Events, Conferences and Exhibitions**

- The School of Demography held a Symposium on Reproduction and Family Formation with the School of Sociology which brought together 20 researchers involved in a diverse range of topics relating to this area of research. Paper topics included paleo-demography, fertility and climate change; the feminist economics of donor milk; the patchwork of arrangements in family law relating to non-normative families; Australian demographic data re sex selection; the economics of future demand for infertility treatments; the importance of relationality in the mother-infant relationship; drugs and the production of good and bad mothers; sex and youth transitions in Indonesia; and, scripting methodologies to explore young men's fertility desires and intentions.

**Consultancies and Outreach**

- A/Prof Vladimir Canudas-Romo has been working with visiting PhD and Research Students on topics relating to 'Mortality Forecasting with Modified Lee-Carter Method: Adjusting for Smoothing and Lifespan Disparity', The impact of urbanization on the evolution of life expectancy in Scotland, 1861-1920, Modelling and forecasting human mortality', and Decomposing changing sex-gap in life expectancy: Period and cohort perspectives'.

**Publications**

- The School of Demography have published the first comprehensive study of population change across the whole of Asia with the handbook *The Routledge Handbook of Asian Demography*. This publication was edited by Professor Zhongwei Zhao and Dr Adrian Hayes, and contributed to by Heather Booth, Peter McDonald, and Terence Hull. It was published in early 2018 and covers demographic transitions on the continent, their considerable variations, their causes and consequences, and their relationships with a wide range of social, economic, political and cultural processes.

- Professor Zhongwei Zhao and his colleagues have published some early results from their study of examining changes in daily mortality and their determinants in the *Vienna Yearbook of Population Research*. The results were also presented at the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population conference.

**Awards:**

- School of Demography graduate Amina Keygan won the 2017 Charles Price Prize in Demography with her PhD thesis. The award was for outstanding research in Demography or migration studies.
School of History

The School of History specialises in early modern and modern history with a focus on Western history, and includes three centres of Biography, Environmental History, and Indigenous History. Each centre is a globally recognised research hub in their field and reflects both research excellence and public engagement on historical issues.

Events, Conferences and Exhibitions

- Aboriginal History Inc, along with the School of History and the College of Arts and Social Sciences, all celebrated the 40 year anniversary of the Aboriginal History Journal. The celebration involved the hosting of a masterclass and a symposium on the 27 October 2017, which was a series of discussions led by past and present editors of the Aboriginal History Journal, as well as Board Members. The discussions focused on assisting those wanting to turn their research into an article for submission to the journal or a book proposal for the Aboriginal History’s monograph series.

- The School of History was involved in many different Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre (KALACC) conferences and forums including the KALACC Cultural Solutions Forum in Broome, the KALACC Directors Meeting in Kununurra (which discussed Facilitating Cultural Solutions Statements) and the KALACC Festival and AGM, in which a session was facilitated on Cultural economies and Country based suicide prevention and division programs.

- The School of History also presented a Facilitating Cultural Economies Session at the National Native Title Conference in Townsville. The Conference was an opportunity to reflect on the impact of the decision of the rights to lands and waters under Indigenous laws and customs.

Publications

- School of History National Centre of Biography scholar Dr Chris Wallace was recognised by academic and research media outlet The Conversation for her essay entitled Note to Liberals: On the leadership front, best to keep calm and carry on. The essay has been published in their book 50 Standout Articles from Australia’s Top Thinkers.

- The School of History Book Writing Group was given the opportunity to make extensive revisions to the draft manuscript of Before Racism? Human Variation in Early Modern English Culture, in which the manuscript will be published by Manchester University Press.

Awards

- PhD Candidate Annemarie McLaren has been awarded the prestigious Hakluyt Society Essay Prize for her submission ‘Neither Middle Ground nor Native Ground: Reading the life of Goggey, an Aboriginal Man on the Fringes of Early Colonial Sydney.’

- Professor Tom Griffiths has won the 2017 Ernest Scott Prize for History, as supported by the History Program in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies at the University of Melbourne. Professor Griffiths won the award for his book The Art of Time Travel: Historians and their Craft.

- Professor Ann McGrath received two outstanding awards, including the Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia for her significant services to tertiary education and to the social sciences as an academic researcher in Indigenous history. She was also awarded the Kathleen Fitzpatrick Australian Laureate Fellowship Rediscovering the deep human past: global networks, future opportunities in June 2017. She will spend her time analysing Australia’s epic Indigenous narratives alongside relevant new scientific evidence in order to develop future-oriented transdisciplinary techniques for researching the deep human past.
The School of Philosophy focuses on the research and education in many areas, more notably the philosophy of mind, science, moral and political philosophy, epistemology, metaphysics, and European philosophy. The heart of the School is the thriving research culture and Philosophy was a foundation discipline for the Research School of Social Sciences.

**Events, Conferences and Exhibitions**

- The School of Philosophy hosted a 2017 John Passmore lecture entitled ‘Can we be rational and fair under risk and uncertainty?’ The lecture was delivered by Professor Marc Fleurbaey on August 10 2017 and focused on leading the audience through key three problems of relying on other approaches than expected utility, the relevance importance of ex ante fairness and ex post inequalities, and whether individuals bear the consequences of the risks they take.
- Also in August 2017 came the public lecture of ‘Animal bodies and animal minds’ in conjunction with the launch of the Centre for Philosophy of the Sciences. The lecture was presented by Professor Peter Godfrey-Smith and paid special attention to the octopus regarding the nature and origins of the mind.
- Professor Peter Godfrey-Smith also presented a 2017 Jack Smart Lecture entitled ‘Materialism, subjectivity and evolution’ which focuses on the first versions of Australian materialism and how the landscape of debate changed over time.
- Over 300 people attended a lecture by Professor Peter Singer, AC, from Princeton University on ‘Living ethically in the 21st Century - Philosophy and Public Policy Lecture Series’. Professor Singer highlighted in his lecture that it is not enough to abide by conventional moral rules and that due to a changing world, our responsibilities towards global poverty, climate change and animals have changed.

**Consultancies and Outreach**

- Professor Christian Barry from the School of Philosophy was the lead consultant on the ABCTV series *Ethics Matters*, a series for young people that explores the rights of an individual and their consequences.
- ANU’s own Fiona Jenkins joined other Professors from around the world in a discussion on “Terror and Art - Can Violence Be Divine?” at the Heide Museum of Modern Art. The presentation was broadcasted for ABC RN.

**Publications**

- Professor Daniel Stoljar from the School of Philosophy had his detailed study of ‘Philosophical Progress: In Defence of a Reasonable Optimism’ published at Oxford University Press. The publication is a much needed defence of philosophy against disparagement and self-doubt.

**Awards**

- Professor Bob Goodin received the Chancellor’s Peter Baume Award recognising eminent achievement and merit of the highest order. Professor Daniel Stoljar received the CASS Supervisor award, and Dr Bronwyn Finnigan received the CASS Education award.
- Professor Philip Pettit received two awards, including being named the Royal Institute of Philosophy Lecturer for 2019, and the Companion of the Order of Australia, an award given for eminent achievement and merit of the highest degree in service to Australia or humanity at large.
The School of Politics and International Relations has a long history of excellence in research, undergraduate education and postgraduate supervision, and has produced path-breaking work on political parties, public administration, international relations, elections and political behaviour. ANU has consistently ranked among the top universities for Politics and International Relations, and is currently 8th in the world.

**Events, Conferences and Exhibitions**

- The School of Politics and International Relation’s (SPIR) Dr April Biccum coordinated the Interpretation, Method and Critique Conference hosted at the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR). The aim of the conference was to raise the profile of Interpretivist Social Sciences within the Australian academy and drew a range of International visitors.

**Publications**

- Professor Darren Halpin has published two articles which have recently received awards, including The Sam Richardson Award for the most influential paper in the *Australian Journal of Public Administration* on “Commercial Lobbying in Australia: Exploring the Federal Lobby Register” and the Harold D. Lasswell Prize for the article “Think Tanks and strategic policy making: The contribution of think tanks to policy advisory systems”

- Professor John Uhr from SPIR and the Centre for the Study of Australian Politics has published his latest work called *The Language of Leadership*.

- Many staff also published articles in top-ranking journals around the world.

**Awards**

- It was announced that SPIR graduate Hayley Pring has been accepted into the University of Oxford with an Honours degree in International Relations.

- SPIR undergraduates have likewise been recognised for their excellence as many recent graduates have been accepted into a number of prestigious international universities to continue their postgraduate studies. One of these students is graduate Johnathon Argent, who has been accepted to the London School of Economics and Political Science.
SCHOOL OF SOCIOLOGY

The School of Sociology created an exciting program of research and teaching that combines the theoretical and applied dimensions of sociology. The ethos for the school is centered around the critical analysis of social transformations, publically-engaged aspirations and impact, and dedication to examining inequality in its various manifestations.

Events, Conferences and Exhibitions

- 2017 saw many fantastic seminars in the Sociology Series, including Dr Natalia Ruiz-Junco’s ‘A New Sociology of Empathy’ and Professor Mary Lou Rasmussen’s ‘Prophylactic sexuality education, “young people” and sexual futures’.
- Along with the ANU Gender Institute and the School of Demography, the School of Sociology hosted a one day cross-disciplinary symposium for ANU researchers focusing on reproduction and family formation. The symposium, entitled ‘Reproduction and Family Planning’ brought together 20 researchers involved in a diverse range of topics relating to this area of research.
- In November, the School of Sociology hosted the inaugural conference on Mundane Governance, which explored the subtleties and intimacies of governance as demonstrated in Woolgar and Neyland’s foundational work of the same name, which was a publication with the Oxford University Press. The conference featured a public lecture given by Professor Steve Woolgar, one of the founders of the publication.
- The 15th Dangerous Consumptions Colloquium was held over a two day period in December and focused on research that examined any form of “dangerous”, “risky” and contestec consumption of products such as alcohol, tobacco, pharmaceuticals, coffee, sugar, illicit drugs, gambling, sexuality, reproduction, the internet, social media, pornography and food, drawing information on social, cultural and critical theory.
- Associate Professor Dr Robert Ackland has been researching the tracking of Twitter activity of Australian politicians and this vitriolic abuse directed towards the politicians has been brought to life as an artwork series by PhD candidate Jen Fullerton. The artwork is part of the ANU 2017 Vice Chancellor’s College Artists Fellows Scheme which pairs the ANU School of Art and Design PhD and Honours students with academic researchers.

Consultancies and Outreach:

- Professor Roger Burrows visited the school in August 2017 and gave a public lecture on exploring gentrification in order to interrogate recent socio-spatial changes in some of London's most affluent neighbourhoods.
Consultancies and Outreach:

- Internationally renowned public lecturer Professor Nikolas Rose gave a lecture on exploring how we can rethink the experience of living in the city in the light of recent developments in the sciences of life.

- Sociology Masters candidate and PARSA President Alyssa Shaw travelled to the UN Commission for the Status of Women’s annual gathering as part of the YWCA Australia delegation.

Publications

- Emeritus Professor Anthony Hopkins published an article in *The Conversation* on ‘How the gas industry can help fight climate change in Siberia’. The article discusses the contribution that the gas industry can make to fight against climate change in providing technologies to capture methane gases released from melting permafrost.

- Dr Timothy Graham and Associate Professor Robert Ackland published a chapter entitled ‘Do Socialbots Dream of Popping the Filter Bubble? The role of socialbots in promoting participatory democracy in social media’ in *Socialbots and Their Friends: Digital Media and the Automation of Sociality*. It was one of the first academic collections to consider the socialbot in a critical manner.

- Associate Professor Helen Keane, published an article called ‘Anytime, Anywhere’: Vaping as a social practice examining the way vaping has been established as a practice through a range of factors such as the increased burdens of smoking and the online availability of information and advice.

- Dr Jenny Davis published an article called ‘Curation: a theoretical treatment’ analysing how people curate the digital content that they share, and that which they consume.

- Professor Mary Lou Rasmussen edited and wrote an introduction to to the Palgrave Handbook of Sexuality Education, which provides an authoritative overview of issues within sexuality education, coupled with groundbreaking discussion of emerging and unconventional insights in the field.

Awards:

- Sociology PhD candidate Gemma Killen received the CASS Tutoring Award for Excellence in Tutoring for her contribution to the School of Sociology, tutoring and lecturing in Gender Studies while working towards her PhD.

- Dr Anna Tsalapatanis, Dr Helen Law, Dr Clare Southerton, Dr Tim Barrett and Dr Dolruedee Kramnaimuang all received their Sociology PhDs in December 2017.
Cross-College Grants

In 2016 the RSSS initiated a program to collaborative interdisciplinary research projects between RSSS academics and colleagues from the ANU College of Science, Engineering and Computer Science, the ANU College of Health and Medicine, and the ANU College of Business and Economics. In 2017, $159,295 was awarded to staff under this grant for the following projects:

- A/Prof Naomi Priest was awarded funding to examine how racism gets ‘under the skin’ to influence lifelong health. This Cross-College grant was in collaboration with Ray Lovett, Emily Banks, and Lyndall Strazdins from the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH) and enabled additional research into sensitive measures such as immune and inflammatory biomarkers that capture stress and physiological changes in children. The project was later incorporated into the ARC Linkage grant Speak Out Against Racism and Prof Priest also received a NHMRC Career Development Fellowship.

- A/Prof Nicholas Biddle received funding to investigate socioeconomic variations in fatal burden of disease through the analysis of linked ABS census-mortality data. The project collaborated with Rosemary Korda from the NCEPH and Heather Booth from the RSSS School of Demography. The aim of this project is to create a cohort study of the entire Australian population using recently linked ABS census-mortality data to examine socioeconomic variation in fatal burden of disease. Since its inception, this project has been leveraged into a NHMRC Partnership Grant with the University of NSW, University of Adelaide, ABS, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, and the National Heart Foundation of Australia."

RSSSS Statistics

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RSSS Director’s Award for Higher Degree Research

The RSSS Director’s Award for Higher Degree Research is offered to two of the most highly ranked applicants in the Research School during the Australian Postgraduate Award Round. It is a “top-up” scholarship that provides $20,000 in research funding per annum for up to two years. In 2017, the RSSS Director chose two recipients from the School of Philosophy and the School of History:

• Ms Dominie Dessaix was the representative from the School of Philosophy who received one of the RSSS Director’s Award for Higher Degree Research was for her PhD on foundational issues in lexical semantics in linguistics and how such work squares with approaches to semantics in philosophy of language and philosophy of cognitive science. Of the award, Ms Dessaix said, “I am extremely grateful for having received the RSSS Director’s Award in 2017. This extra funding has helped immensely in supporting my research activities this year, and it general has taken the financial pressure off my PhD program and allowed me to focus on what matters: the research and engagement in the department life.”

• Mr Stephen Kinnane was the recipient of the RSSS Director’s Award for High Degree Research as a representative of the School of History. Mr Kinnane received the award on his PhD in competing historical narratives of development, reclamation and transformation in the Kimberley region of WA. Of the award, Mr Kinnane said, “the Award has been utilised to support preliminary research activities in the Kimberley and Canberra, including car hire, to support after-school and holiday child-care for my two young boys to enable full-time study, and to attend relevant community knowledge forums;”

RSSS Postdoctoral Fellowships

• In 2017, RSSS continued to fund three three-year postdoctoral fellows who commenced in 2016: Dr Timothy Graham, Dr Katherine Carroll and Dr Shmuel Nili. The fellows are pushing the boundaries of current research on the commercialization and commoditization of human tissue and genetic material, the ethics of fertility preservation, the rise and rise of socialbots and bot networks in influencing our thinking, elections and lives, and moral and ethical integrity in the public sphere.
In Walter Burley Griffin’s 1913 preliminary general plan for the federal capital, he made provision for the location and arrangement of the future national university – its establishment still thirty-four years distant – between the municipal centre and the shores of the lake which would later bear his name.

While a necessarily abstract arrangement, his plan nonetheless illustrates the inherent links between the natural, the theoretic and the applied – or social – sciences. It is fitting that we are about to embark on an ambitious building project of our own, to reunite the social sciences at ANU into a single building after almost four decades’ separation.

His neatly hand drawn concentric circles are perhaps an oversimplification, and over time they may have led us to focus too much on what separates and makes us different, rather than on what unites us and what we share. At a time when universities in Australia are facing ever-increasing financial and political pressure, social and economic challenges, and technological and structural change, it is critical to remember what lies between Burley Griffin’s lines: an institution that continually strives for academic excellence, remarkable research that seeks solutions to the significant challenges facing us, and finding the answers that will shape Australia’s future.

Burley Griffin’s design vision was for a university ‘where the sciences will be utilised in real life’; in these pages you have seen how we in RSSS are striving to meet that mandate.

Mr Russell Buzby
Executive Officer, Research School of Social Sciences
ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences
The Australian National University

This illustration is the Walter Burley Griffin design of *The Federal Capital: Preliminary General Plan*. Melbourne 1913.

The buildings of the future university, for example, are planned in concentric circles intended to illustrate the expansion of human knowledge from the fundamental sciences through the theoretical sciences to the applied sciences, beyond which are “those spheres where the sciences will be utilised in real life”.
