



Australian
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University



SIR ROLAND WILSON FOUNDATION
2016

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THE FOUNDATION

The Sir Roland Wilson Foundation was established with a donation from the Wilson family estate to the Australian National University. The Foundation's purpose is to honour his contribution to public policy by advancing the study and development of public policy in Australia, its regions and the rest of the world.

Sir Roland Wilson was a remarkable man who went from being the first person in his family to attend high school to winning both a Rhodes Scholarship and a precursor to the Harkness Fellowship, allowing him to attain two doctorates in economics. He went on to become one of Australia's most influential public servants. As a long serving Secretary to the Treasury, he had a major role in developing Australia's post WWII economic policy settings, and he also played an influential role in helping to design the post WWII international institutional arrangements.

The Foundation contributes to developing public policy by engaging in three arenas:

> **The Sir Roland Wilson scholarship program**

The scholarship program aims to help develop the capability of the Australian Public Service (APS) by awarding a small number of PhD scholarships to the ANU each year to high potential Executive Level staff in the APS. The intention of the scholarship program is help equip some of the future leaders of the APS with knowledge, skills and the capabilities they need to excel in their future roles.

This is a prestigious, highly competitive scholarship and enables scholarship winners to undertake a PhD on a topic of national significance and relevance to the APS, as well as providing an international travel component and targeted leadership development opportunities to complement the PhD program.

There are currently sixteen scholars from a range of APS agencies undertaking PhD studies across the ANU. Their research covers a diverse range of topics and disciplines.

> **Public Lectures and events**

The Foundation also hosts and supports public events by eminent speakers on topics of national significance. The purpose of these events is to bring together members of the policy community, and the interested public, to inform debate and engender a culture of critical analysis and debate and evidence based decision-making.

> **Supporting links between the ANU and the APS**

The Foundation helps to develop the interface between the APS and the ANU by facilitating the exchange of research ideas across the two institutions.

From the Director

In 2016, we had 18 scholars and I am pleased to report that Suzanne Akila and Michael McKenzie were both awarded their doctorates and returned to their APS agencies ready and well equipped to take on new challenges. Several others are close to completion and as our alumni start to return to the APS fold we are starting to see the investment in their capability bear fruit and several have been promoted before or on their return to work.

We have now reached a critical mass of scholars and consequently only three scholarships were offered this year. It was pleasing to see the fierce competition for scholarships and the high quality of applicants.

The Foundation hosted or supported a number of public events during the year. The highlight was the Foundation's Annual Oration and this year we featured Dr Ken Henry AO in conversation with Prof Bruce Chapman AM and the Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt. We also hosted our Annual Budget Policy Forum, a major event bringing together senior figures from the academic and policy arenas to discuss policy responses to the 2016 Budget.

Through events like these, the Foundation has facilitated engagement between the APS, ANU academics and the interested public.

The Foundation will continue to foster the links between the APS and the ANU through its current activities and Alumni engagement. As policy issues become increasingly complex it is vital to have a cadre of senior public servants who have academic credentials as well as extensive policy development experience. Most importantly, these leaders will be able to reinforce the bridge between academia and the public service.

Melanie Fisher

Executive Director

THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Sir Roland Wilson Scholarship program began in 2011 in partnership with the Commonwealth Government and offered the inaugural Sir Roland Wilson Foundation PhD scholarships for high performing Australian public servants.

The scholarship program brings together these public servants and some of the best academics at the Australian National University to tackle issues of national significance and enduring interest.

Current scholars are investigating topics ranging from climate change negotiations, understanding Chinese State Owned Enterprises, and irregular maritime migration.

Over the next 20 years the Foundation will graduate up to 65 doctorate scholars from the program, many of whom will become crucial in the next generation of leaders in the APS. They will bring to that role an intellectual rigor and appreciation for the place of rigorous research in the context of policy development. These scholars will have first-hand knowledge of the contribution academia can make to important policy deliberations. This can only strengthen the ties between policy makers and academic researchers.



Sir Roland Wilson Scholars from left: Tess McGirr, Nathan Deutscher, Eliza Murray, Christiane Gerblinger, Camille Goodman, Rick Zentelis, Martine Cosgrove, Szabina Horvath, Helen Benassi, Paul Hubbard and Suzanne Akila

EVENTS

In 2016 the Sir Roland Wilson Foundation hosted and supported a number of high profile events.

In May, the Foundation hosted '*Lining up the ducks: a rare insight into how impossible policies become possible*'. This Annual Oration, featured Professor Bruce Chapman and the Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt in conversation with Dr Ken Henry. This oration was attended by over 300 people from across the ANU and the APS. The three speakers reflected on their experiences of how power, politics and personality influenced the ability to introduce innovation policy both in Australia and the UK.

> [Listen to the podcast](#)

Over 300 public servants and academics attended '*Balancing the Books*', the SRW Annual Budget Policy Forum at the National Library in May. Chaired by Mr Steve Sedgwick AO, the diverse panel included Ms Michelle Grattan AO, Ms Jan Harris, Dr John Hewson AM, Dr Mike Keating AC, Prof Warwick McKibbin AO and Prof Miranda Stewart who offered their thoughts on the 2016 Budget, particularly in the context of what needs to be done to prepare Australia to deal with current domestic and global environments.

> [Listen to the podcast](#)

The Foundation also hosted the Annual Secretaries Dinner at the Lobby in June. Vice Chancellor Prof Brian Schmidt welcomed guests who included APS Secretaries and Heads of Agencies, SRW Scholars, their ANU supervisors and their APS mentors. The guests heard from Dr Martin Parkinson, Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet who outlined his vision for the future of the public sector and the importance of academic and policy engagement.



Lining up the Ducks: The Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt (L) with SRW Chair, Dr Ken Henry AC and Professor Bruce Chapman, speaking at the Annual Oration
Photography by Dorian Photography

In a new initiative the Foundation supported scholar Joseph Chien to host a mentoring roundtable titled 'From data to policy: using data to rethink public policy and service delivery'.

Featuring Prof John Abowd, Chief Scientist of the US Census Bureau and Dr Steven Kennedy PSM from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, experiences in the use of big data were compared and contrasted across the Australian and United States contexts.



Balancing the books: from left: Ms Jan Harris, Professor Miranda Stewart, Professor Warwick McKibbin, Mr Steve Sedgwick, Dr Mike Keating, Dr John Hewson and Ms Michelle Grattan.
Photography by Dorian Photography

ALUMNI



Suzanne Akila

Graduated

2016

Supervisor

Professor Hilary Charlesworth

Distinguished Professor, ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

Suzanne graduated in December 2016 and is now an Assistant Director, International Legal Branch at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Suzanne is also a Visitor at the School of Regulation and Global Governance (RegNet), ANU College of Asia & the Pacific.

Suzanne's research examined how and why States intervene to protect their citizens abroad. Informed by her experience as a legal adviser to government, she undertook an empirical investigation of three national case studies of State protection. This included an in-depth study of Australia's consular and protection framework. Her work developed recommendations for government on the protection of Australian nationals abroad based on the comparative case studies in her research.

Michael McKenzie

Graduated

2016

Supervisor

Professor Veronica Taylor

Regulatory Institutions Network

ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

Michael graduated in December 2016 and is now Counsellor (Legal) at the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia. He is also a visitor at the School of Regulation and Global Governance (RegNet), ANU College of Asia & the Pacific.

Michael's research examined the conditions that promote cooperation between Australia and Indonesia on criminal justice issues. It drew on over one hundred interviews with participants in the cooperative relationship. In addition to helping improve this relationship, Michael hopes the research will provide insights for practitioners and scholars working on international cooperation in other regions and policy domains.



ALUMNI



Angelia Grant

Graduated

2015

Supervisor

Professor Warwick McKibbin
Crawford School of Public Policy
ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

Angelia graduated in July 2015. Her thesis 'Three Essays on the US Business Cycle, Expectations Formation and Model Comparison' examined the role of particular shocks during the 2001 US economic slowdown and Great Recession, and whether the assumption of rational expectations or adaptive learning in a large macroeconomic model for the US economy provides a better model fit. Her thesis also proposed a new econometric method for computing a model selection criterion that is rarely used in applied work given its computational burden.

Angelia returned to Treasury after submitting her thesis and is currently working as a Principal Adviser in the Macroeconomic Conditions Division. She has also retained a part time research position at the Research School of Economics, further strengthening the links between the Treasury and the ANU.

Neal Hughes

Graduated

2015

Supervisor

Professor Quentin Grafton
Crawford School of Public Policy
ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

Neal graduated in December 2015. He is currently a Senior Economist, at ABARES working across the water, productivity and biosecurity areas, while also maintaining contact with the ANU via an honorary position in the Crawford School.

Neal's thesis "Water property rights in rivers with large dams", is concerned with the allocation of for water in heavily 'regulated' rivers like those of the Australian Murray-Darling Basin and the western US. Neal's thesis presents a series of computational experiments testing different systems of property rights for water and reservoir storage capacity, in order to determine which yields the most efficient allocation of water. To do this, Neal adapts novel artificial intelligence techniques from computer science, in order to populate his models with realistic selfish agents (e.g., water users).



SCHOLARS

Jennifer Chang 2012

Supervisor

Dr Jane Golley

China in the World

ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

Mentor

Ms Jenny Wilkinson, Treasury

Since starting as a graduate at the Treasury in 2004, Jennifer's work experience has covered a wide range of policy areas including: the rigorous analysis of Asian economies, a deep understanding of the Australian economy and an appreciation of the importance of effective international economic engagement.

Jennifer commenced her Sir Roland Wilson Foundation PhD Scholarship in 2012 and is currently examining the dynamics of the Chinese labour market and linking her findings to an analysis of China's broader economic growth prospects. A deeper understanding of the Chinese economy is of critical policy relevance, with China's overall growth trajectory of particular importance to Australia's prosperity.



Nerida Hunter 2012

Supervisor

Professor James Raymer

Australian Demographic & Social Research Institute

ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences

Mentor

Rebecca Cross, PSM, Prime Minister & Cabinet

Nerida has submitted her thesis and is now the Branch Manager of the National Disability Insurance Scheme Financial Policy and Performance at the Department of Social Services.

Nerida's thesis is titled 'Geodemographic and life course perspectives of population ageing in Australia: expanding the policy relevant evidence-base'.

Population ageing is the consequence of a great achievement of modern society—the lengthening life span. Population ageing, particularly when accompanied by an increase in life lived in health, wealth and activity, should be embraced. Thus, while an ageing future should be celebrated, the changing population age structure presents challenges.

Nerida's thesis examines the geodemographic and life course perspectives of population ageing in Australia to expand the policy relevant evidence-base and address current policy concerns. She explores, in particular, the period 1901 to 2011 and a projection horizon of 2011 to 2031.

Shane Johnson 2013

Supervisor

Professor Bob Breunig
Crawford School of Public Policy
ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

Mentor

Dr David Gruen, Prime Minister & Cabinet

Shane will submit his thesis in early 2017 and has returned to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet working as an economic advisor. Shane's research interests include domestic and international tax policy and fiscal policy. His current research is focused on examining taxpayers' understanding of, and responses to, the Australian taxation system. Shane hopes his research will provide insights for the future design, implementation and administration of the tax system.



Eliza Murray 2013

Supervisor

Professor Frank Jotzo
Crawford School of Public Policy
ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

Mentor

Ms Helen Wilson, Department of Environment and Energy

Since joining the Department of the Environment in 2007, Eliza has contributed to a wide range of biodiversity and climate change policies, covering everything from national parks and forests to light bulbs and landfills. Before commencing her PhD, she played an instrumental role in the design of Australia's Carbon Farming Initiative. Eliza graduated from the Master of Climate Change course at the ANU in 2012 and was awarded the Garnaut Prize for Academic Excellence.

Eliza is now conducting her research at the Crawford School of Public Policy. She is investigating whether the proliferation of climate change initiatives outside of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is leading to a fragmented, inefficient system, and whether it is possible to establish linkages to deliver a more coordinated and effective global response.

Agnieszka Nelson 2013

Supervisor

Professor Matthew Gray
ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods
ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences

Mentor

Serena Wilson, Department of Social Services

Agnieszka Nelson has been employed by the Department of Social Services since 2001. In her capacity as Director of Evaluations, Agnieszka has worked to strengthen the Department's evaluation capability and culture through provision of training, advice and leading a team of researchers managing major policy evaluations.

Her thesis—a quantitative enquiry into the impact of welfare conditionality policy levers on youth disengaged from education, training and the labour market— seeks to understand the shifting objectives and impact of recent policy welfare reform initiatives in Australia. Specifically, Agnieszka is using econometric analysis (including survival analysis) and government longitudinal administrative data to examine the effects of recent policy initiatives on income support exits among different treatment and comparison groups.



Talia Avrahamzon 2014

Supervisor

Dr Naomi Priest
ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods
ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

Mentor

Michael Lye, Department of Social Services

Talia has been employed by the Department of Social Services since 2002, primarily in roles that focused on children, family and Indigenous policy, program development and implementation. Key roles included working with communities under the Remote Service Delivery National Partnership Agreement in NSW, developing a workforce development strategy for the Northern Territory Intensive Family Support Services, and undertaking community development with regional communities in NSW to establish the Commonwealth-State Flexible Child and Family Service initiative.

Talia's research aims to use a qualitative mixed methods approach to understand the ethnic-racial socialisation of school children towards Indigenous history, culture and people. Increasing this understanding is central to designing effective, evidence-informed policies and programs that foster respect and understanding, and not just knowledge of culture and history of Indigenous Australia.

Martine Cosgrove 2014

Supervisor

Associate Professor Peter Butterworth
Centre for Research of Ageing, Health & Wellbeing
ANU College of Medicine, Biology & the Environment

Mentor

David Morton, Department of Defence

Martine has been employed by the Department of Defence since 2007. Martine's most recent role was coordinating the implementation of the 2011 ADF Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy in Southern NSW. Martine played a pivotal role in delivering a range of mental health services and mental health promotion initiatives to Army, Navy and Air force training in the area. She was involved in practice-policy forums which informed primary mental health care policy development that improved the delivery of mental health services to members of the ADF.

Martine's research will explore the determinants of wellbeing and mental health outcomes across the military lifecycle. She will examine the interaction between individual characteristics and institutional conditions to determine the kinds of support that influence health trajectories at points of occupational and personal transitions. The research will inform the development of policy and interventions which promote and sustain practices that support positive mental health outcomes.



Paul Hubbard 2014

Supervisor

Dr Shiro Armstrong
Crawford School of Public Policy
ANU College of Asia and the Pacific

Mentor

Rob Heferen, The Treasury

Paul joined the Treasury as a graduate in 2006. In that time he worked on tax policy, including the Australia's Future Tax System review. He was seconded in 2010 to the Office of National Assessments for two years, before returning the Treasury's International Economy Division. In 2013 Paul worked closely with the Indonesian hosts of APEC to launch a pilot Public Private Partnership (PPP) Centre, and managed the team responsible for the Treasurer's attendance at the APEC Finance Minister's Meeting in Bali.

Since commencing at ANU in February 2014, Paul has focused on understanding Chinese state owned enterprises (SOEs). This is important not just for Australian businesses and government dealing with individual Chinese firms, but also for understanding the likely long-term trajectory of the Chinese economy.

In 2015, Paul was a visiting scholar at Peking University. He writes for the East Asia Forum, and chronicles his ongoing research at chinasoe.wordpress.com.

Rick Zentelis 2014

Supervisor

Professor David Lindenmayer

Fenner School of Environment & Society

ANU College of Medicine, Biology & the Environment

Mentor

Michael Healy, Department of Defence

Rick has been employed by the Department of Defence since 2005. During this time Rick has been involved in the environmental management of the Defence Estate, developing policies and approaches on biodiversity, heritage, biosecurity, bushfire and erosion. Rick's last position prior to commencing his scholarship was the development and implementation of the Defence Environment Management System – arguably the biggest EMS in the world.

Rick's research is looking at a better way to manage military training areas (MTAs). His unique experience and in depth knowledge of environmental management ideally places him to develop a MTA management model that will increase training utility, reduce costs associated with training area management and increase environmental protection. The model will have wider applicability to sectors such as forestry and agriculture.



Nathan Deutscher 2015

Supervisor

Professor Bob Breunig

Crawford School of Public Policy

ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

Mentor

Ms Jenny Wilkinson, The Treasury

Nathan has been working in the Treasury since 2008 in a variety of roles across social and tax policy. He worked as a Departmental Liaison Officer in the Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer's Office between late 2011 and 2013, where he advised on individual income tax, indirect taxes and welfare policy. He is currently Acting Manager of the International Outlook Unit.

Nathan's PhD research, based in the Crawford School of Public Policy, will focus on intergenerational mobility - the extent to which economic outcomes are passed down from parents to children. Using maturing longitudinal datasets, twin studies and administrative data, his thesis will examine how mobility varies across groups in Australian society, and investigate causal mechanisms, such as the role of nature versus nurture, and the potential impact of public policy.



Innovating change in global fisheries governance

In September 2016, Sir Roland Wilson Foundation Scholar Camille Goodman co-hosted a workshop on 'Innovating for Change in Global Fisheries Governance' at the KG Jebsen Centre for the Law of the Sea in Tromsø, Norway. Camille's PhD research, based in the ANU College of Law, concerns the nature and extent of the powers that States can exercise in respect of the fishery resources in the exclusive economic zone adjacent to their coastline. 'The workshop was conceived during the course of my SRW overseas travel program, when I attended an international law conference in the UK, and the Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy in Greece, and met PhD students from the UK and Norway who shared my research interests in the law of the sea and international fisheries,' Camille explained. 'We began sharing ideas and resources, discussing complex issues arising in our field, reviewing each other's work, and providing feedback using email and electronic communications. All at once, we were able to easily discuss our work with other researchers who understood it, and access a broader range of ideas and influences from other parts of the world.'

To broaden this network, Camille and her colleagues (Mercedes Rosello from the University of Hull, UK, and Eva van der Marel from the University of Tromsø, Norway) decided to organise a workshop on international fisheries law, hosted by the University of Tromsø during Camille's period as a Visiting Scholar at the KG Jebsen Centre for the Law of the Sea in August and September 2016. The workshop was focused on the thorny issue of how international law can contribute workable solutions for the complex and continually evolving challenges of international fisheries governance. It attracted participants from the UK, Iceland, Norway, Poland, the Netherlands, Germany, Australia, and Canada, including both early career scholars and eminent academics in the law of the sea, whose commentary and feedback provided a stimulating atmosphere for debate and discussion.

'The workshop was a valuable opportunity to present my doctoral research in front of an expert audience, and receive feedback from other researchers,' Camille said. 'And it was an invaluable opportunity to broaden my international network and build links with other researchers working on law of the sea and international fisheries, so that I can ensure my research has a global perspective.' In addition to the workshop, Camille's SRW overseas travel program allowed her to spend a concentrated period working on her research alongside other doctoral students and academic staff specialising in the law of the sea at the KG Jebsen Centre for the Law of the Sea, and to participate in a range of events involving the world renowned law of the sea academics who make up the Centre's Scientific Advisory Board. Camille's paper, 'Striking the right balance? Applying the jurisprudence of international tribunals to coastal State innovations in international fisheries governance' will be published in a forthcoming special edition of the Marine Policy Journal, featuring all the papers from the workshop.



Sir Roland Wilson Scholar Camille Goodman (R) with fellow PhD candidate Eva van der Marel, outside the KG Jebsen Centre for the Law of the Sea at the University of Tromsø, Norway.

Camille Goodman 2015

Supervisor

Professor Donald Rothwell

Centre for International & Public Law, ANU College of Law

Mentor

David Fredericks, Attorney-General's Department

Camille Goodman joined the Attorney-General's Department in 2005, and the Office of International Law in 2007. Camille provided advice to Government on a wide range of public international law issues, has been the Australian Government legal adviser at international meetings and negotiations, and managed litigation before international courts and tribunals. She has a particular interest in maritime law and international fisheries law, on which she provided advice as an out-posted lawyer at the Department of Agriculture from 2010-2012.

Camille's PhD research, based in the College of Law, will examine coastal State powers at sea. Finding a legitimate basis to enact, apply and enforce legislation is crucial for any State wishing to regulate activity at sea – whether in relation to crimes at sea, oil and gas production, fisheries, workplace relations or pollution. This research will analyse the exercise of coastal State powers in the context of the rules-based international order, to ascertain the legitimate bases for, and extent of, coastal State jurisdiction in contemporary international law.



Katy Smith 2015

Supervisor

Professor Matthew Gray

Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research

Mentor

Michael Lye, Department of Social Services

Katy commenced work in 2006 at what is now the Department of Social Services. An interest in the well-being of Indigenous people, particularly in remote areas led her to take on work for the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) in the Northern Territory, and also with the Indigenous Coordination Centre. Since 2012, Katy's work has been on the evaluation and policy development of income management.

Katy's PhD will explore the historical, political, social and economic context of the non-attendance of Indigenous primary school-age children. It will examine policies implemented domestically and internationally, particularly in regard to those that employ welfare conditionality at their core, and endeavour to find the policy responses to this issue that may be suited to Indigenous children in the Northern Territory. It will take a mixed-method approach, investigating attendance trends through use of school attendance data, and will use qualitative data to explore on individual and community levels the reasons why some policies may, or may not, work.

Investigation school attendance in remote Indigenous communities

During 2016, SRW Foundation Scholar Katy Jones spent six months conducting fieldwork in the remote community of Yirrkala in Northeast Arnhem Land, to support her doctoral research on the factors that influence decision-making around the school attendance of children in remote Indigenous communities.

In order to immerse herself in the school community, Katy started her stay by volunteering at the Garma Education Fair. Garma is a gathering of the Yolngu people (the Indigenous peoples of Northeast Arnhem Land) that has been occurring for many generations, in which clans come together to trade, negotiate clan politics, share information and perform important ceremonies. In recent years, Garma has become a pre-eminent forum in which Australian and international academics, business leaders, politicians and public policy-makers convene to focus on the key issues facing Indigenous peoples in Australia and around the world.

While helping to supervise children from the Yirrkala Community School and visiting students from around Australia, Katy was able to engage with community and refresh her learning about important Yolngu kinship relationships and languages.

During her time in Yirrkala, Katy spent time each week at the school with the strong women of several generations who work at the school and make up the Yolngu Action Group. Under their guidance, she was able to expand her field of enquiry to draw together information from community members and service providers alike to get a richer understanding of the factors that promote or discourage school attendance in that community.

Yolngu people have a range of views on how to improve their community's health and economic wellbeing while maintaining their unique identities, to which school attendance and education are widely acknowledged as fundamental.

Katy was struck by the warmth and dedication of many of the families and staff in the community whose priority is to ensure that Yolngu children get a good quality, consistent education. Many community members view education as a tool to help Yolngu children operate in their capacity both as holders of Yolngu language, culture and law, and as citizens of a nation and a world that is increasingly accessible to people who live in remote communities via communications technology.

Katy looks forward to continuing her research and working with the people of Yirrkala in 2017 to explain what factors influence Yolngu decision-making about school attendance.



Sir Roland Wilson Scholar Katy Jones with Dimarley
Photograph by Rob Jones

Marie McAuliffe 2015

Supervisor

Professor James Raymer

Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute

ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

Marie McAuliffe commenced in the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) in 2000 and has worked in DIBP's offices in Canberra, Seoul and Moscow. Marie has led branches and sections in DIBP, the Australian Public Service Commission, and the Department of Workplace Relations, and has consulted to the International Labor Organization as well as in the private sector.

Marie's own research focuses on the conceptualisation of international migration, and irregular maritime migration specifically. She has recently published papers on migrant decision-making, Sri Lankan irregular migration, global irregular maritime migration and environmentally-related international migration. Her PhD research examines the migration patterns, processes and factors involved in irregular maritime migration to Australia of Afghan Hazaras and Sri Lankan Tamils between 2008 and 2013.



Owen Freestone 2016

Supervisor

Professor Bob Breunig

Crawford School of Public Policy

ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

Mentor

Mr Nigel Ray, The Treasury

Owen Freestone has worked in the APS since 2004. Since 2010 he has managed various teams within the Macroeconomic Group at Treasury, responsible for providing advice on the Australian and Chinese economies.

Over this time, Owen has also undertaken significant further studies at ANU in areas relevant to his work at Treasury. He holds master degrees in economics and finance, having graduated from ANU's economics honours program in 2006. Owen has also authored a number of research publications on economic topics such as Australian household saving behaviour and structural change in the Chinese economy.

Owen's PHD research will be designed to uncover the dynamic impacts of the tax-transfer system on people's labour market experiences using data from Australia's key longitudinal household survey (HILDA). He also plans to assess the overall impact of the welfare system on the macroeconomy, and explore the impact of alternative tax-transfer policies on individual and aggregate outcomes.



Joseph Chien 2016

Supervisor

Professor Alan Welsh

ANU Mathematical Science Institute

ANU College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences

Mentor

Jonathan Palmer, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Joseph began his career in the APS as an ABS graduate in 2001. Prior to starting his PhD, Joseph was a director in the Methodology Division responsible for data integration, access and confidentiality methodology. Before joining the division, he spent three years in the Economics Directorate at the OECD working on global macro simulation models.

Joseph's research is analysing complex labour market dynamics to better understand the micro drivers of productivity. He will combine semantic web and network analysis methods to study the connections between firms and employees and their impacts on productivity. Joseph hopes that his research will shed new insights on productivity drivers and help the Australian public service make better use administrative data.



SRW roundtable: From data to policy

Joseph organised the SRW roundtable: From data to policy with Professor John Abowd, US Census Bureau Chief Scientist and Dr Steven Kennedy as keynote speakers. The event was well attended by senior public servants and academics. The purpose of the roundtable was to exchange ideas on better use of public data to inform policy. The two main discussion topics were on (i) what is the US and Australian experience in open and linked data? and (ii) What are the main issues the government needs to consider to encourage better use of data for public policy and service delivery? Joseph provided a ten-minute speech to open the discussion for first topic.

The roundtable was timely because the Australian Government, through PM&C, is undertaking a Public Sector data management project to ensure better use of public data for policy development and service delivery. The Productivity Commission is also conducting a public inquiry on Data Availability and Use. There were interesting discussions on the issues of helping the Australian public understand the value to be gained from better use of data for policy development.



SRW Roundtable participants from left: Ms Jenny Gordon, Professor John Abowd, Sir Roland Wilson Scholar Joseph Chien and Ms Cath Ingram

Szabina Horvath 2016

Supervisor

Associate Professor Rob McLaughlin
Centre for Military and Security Law
ANU College of Law

Mentor

Mark Cunliffe, Department of Defence

Szabina Horvath joined the Directorate of Operations and International Law at the Department of Defence in 2009. Szabina has provided advice on detainee management issues, maritime operations, domestic implementation of international legal obligations, gender issues, interrogation doctrine, a range of other international humanitarian law issues, as well as human rights matters relevant to military operations.

Szabina's PhD research, based in the College of Law, will examine Australia's extraterritorial human rights obligations. Specifically, the research will consider Australia's human rights obligations when engaged in extraterritorial armed conflict and will reference other extraterritorial situations which may enliven Australia's human rights obligations. The research will postulate on the means and mechanisms that could reasonably satisfy Australia's human rights obligations extraterritorially.



Helen Benassi 2017

Supervisor

Professor Bryan Rodgers
Research School of Social Sciences
ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

Helen joined the Department of Defence in 2005, where she has worked in mental health screening, surveillance and unit climate, epidemiology and personnel selection research. Ms Benassi completed a psychology internship with Defence, registering as a psychologist in 2010. Prior to starting her PhD, Helen was responsible for the coordination of strategic mental health research within Defence and managed the delivery of a number of influential research projects, including the Longitudinal ADF Study Evaluating Resilience, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Mental Health Prevalence and Wellbeing Study and the Transition and Wellbeing Research Programme.

Helen's research will explore e-health solutions to support early identification and self-management of mental health in the ADF. Her research will examine stigma and barriers to care, the role of mental health screening as a means of enabling treatment-seeking behaviour and identify the role that technology plays in supporting screening, early intervention, and self-management in a workplace context.

Christiane Gerblinger 2017

Supervisor

Professor John Uhr

School of Politics and International Relations

ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

Christiane joined the Treasury as a speechwriter in 2012. Before that, she worked across a range of areas in the APS, from analysing financial intelligence to providing advice on counter-proliferation, energy, health and rural policy. Along the way, and partly as a result of completing her first PhD in literature in 2000, Christiane continued to critically analyse discourse – but, instead of closely reading literary texts, her attention turned to analysing how public policy is communicated to governments and the public.

Her research topic comes both as a consequence of these experiences and as a culmination of her work as a speechwriter in an economic portfolio, which she views as beset by unfinished business. With Australia's 'reform nostalgia' in full swing, Christiane's research will explore why governments of the last few decades have struggled to articulate and sustain a vision for Australia's economy. By examining the role of language in persuading or dissuading others that economic reforms are needed, Christiane posits that the rhetorical choices made by both the public service and governments have played a critical role in determining whether such reforms will rise or fall.



Tess McGirr 2017

Supervisor

Professor Peter Whiteford

Crawford School of Public Policy

College of Asia and the Pacific

Mentor

Michael Lye, Department of Social Services

Tess has a long-held passion for social policy. In her most recent role in the Department of Social Services, Tess provided advice on children's policy, family policy and programs, homelessness policy, family safety, gambling and financial wellbeing (including welfare quarantining measures such as income management and the cashless debit card trial).

Tess' doctoral research will use a mixed-methods approach to examine how social services can best complement reforms in the tax and transfer systems to improve employment outcomes. Her study will investigate the impact of social services on welfare receipt, and consider options for service supports and interventions such as case management and individualised mutual obligation compacts. This will involve exploring how conditionality arrangements can be tailored to the individual needs of the welfare recipient, including addressing non-vocational barriers to employment.



2016 BOARD MEMBERS

Dr Ken Henry	Chair
Mr Steve Sedgwick	Deputy Chair
Mr John Lloyd	Australian Public Service Commissioner
Prof Jenny Corbett	Distinguished Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU
Mr John Fraser	Secretary to the Treasury
Prof Michael Wesley	Dean, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU
Mr Chris Moraitis	Secretary to the Attorney General's Department
Prof Shirley Leitch	Deputy Vice Chancellor, Global Engagement, ANU
Dr John Hewson	Chair, Tax and Transfer Policy Institute, ANU
Mr Ted Crook	Family Representative
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