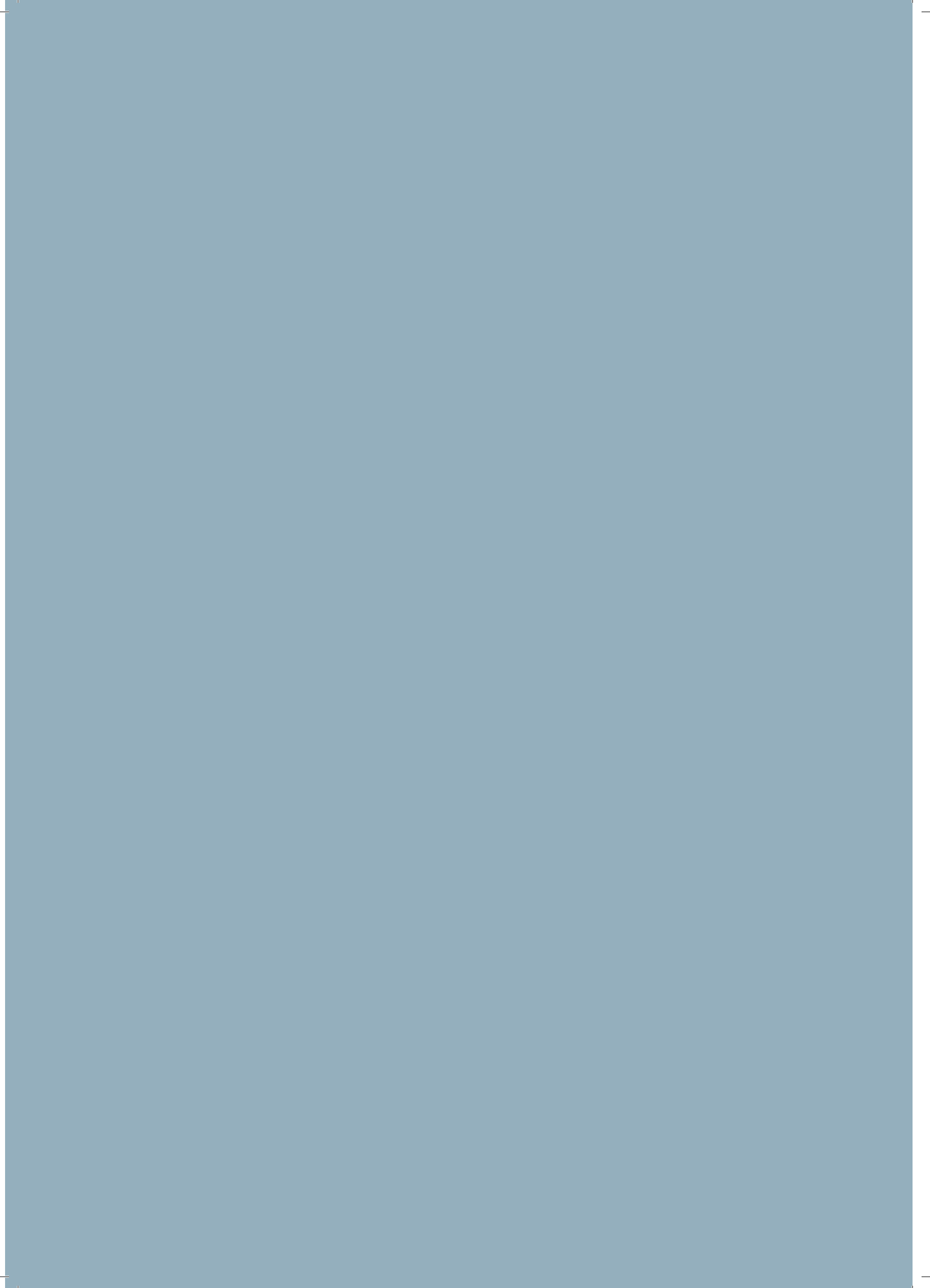




Australian
National
University



SIR ROLAND WILSON FOUNDATION
2017



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THE FOUNDATION

The Sir Roland Wilson Foundation was established in 1988 with a donation from the Wilson family estate to the Australian National University (ANU). In 2011 the Australian Government and the ANU provided a substantial funding injection to expand the activities and achievements of the Foundation.

The Foundation's purpose is to honour Sir Roland's contribution to public policy by advancing the study and development of public policy in Australia, its regions and the rest of the world.

To achieve this purpose, the Foundation engages in three core activities:

> The Sir Roland Wilson scholarship program

The scholarship program helps to develop the capability of the Australian Public Service (APS) by each year awarding a small number of full-pay PhD scholarships to the ANU to high potential Executive Level staff in the APS. The scholarship program helps to equip future leaders of the APS with the knowledge, skills and capabilities they will need to excel in their future roles. This prestigious, highly competitive scholarship enables its 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.

In 2017 there were fifteen scholars from a range of APS agencies undertaking research on a diverse range of topics and disciplines. The Foundation now has six graduates who have returned to work in the APS, bringing with them the benefits of their new knowledge

and national and international networks.

> Public Lectures and events

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

> Supporting links between the ANU and the APS

The Foundation continues to be an effective interface between the APS and the ANU by facilitating the exchange of research ideas across the two institutions.



Sir Roland Wilson scholars, graduates, Board members and Foundation staff.

From left: Helen Benassi, Tess McGirr, Lauren Bartsch, Sean Innis, Siddharth Shirodkar, Szabina Horvath, Camille Goodman, Owen Freestone, Assoc Prof Asmi Woods, Chris Moraitis, Prof Jenny Corbett, Dr Ken Henry, Melanie Fisher, Steve Sedgwick, Prof Bruce Chapman, Ted Crook, Nathan Deutscher, Dr Angelia Grant, Jen Andersson, Emma McMahon, and Joseph Chien

Photo by Dorian Photography

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 in 2012.

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 that include climate change negotiations, understanding Chinese State Owned Enterprises, irregular maritime migration and indigenous entrepreneurship.

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.

THE AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SERVICE

Public service is a vocation – and that vocation is to make Australia a better place for each and every member of our population. While the Australian public sector ranks in the top three in the world, we are in the early phases of a period of massive global disruption and the Australian Public Service needs to be genuinely ready to meet the changes facing us over the next 25 years.

We need to harness this revolution on our own terms and to make sure that no-one is left behind. Done right, we will help to drive the next wave of jobs and productivity growth and will deliver transformed public services. To do this we public servants need to be well read and well informed, able to situate current policy and future trends in a longer term time-scale, and able to think big, aim high and innovate.

The Sir Roland Wilson Foundation scholarship provides a unique opportunity to develop our staff and strengthen our institutions. The ability to spend three years researching a PhD topic on an issue of national significance, together with the targeted talent and leadership development opportunities, equips our future leaders with knowledge and skills that will help the APS to seize on and respond to the opportunities and challenges coming our way. I have been a strong supporter of the Foundation since its inception and am pleased to see the significant benefits that its graduates and scholarship holders have been able bring back into the APS.

Martin Parkinson

Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



A unique leadership opportunity promoting excellence in public policy and leadership in the Australian Public Service.

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

2017 was the sixth year of operation for the Sir Roland Wilson Scholarship and its associated activities.

The Board has been very pleased to see the hard work of the establishment phase bear fruit as we move into a new phase of building and consolidating on our successes.



Each scholar has access to an international travel fund and a targeted talent management program

Our alumni program has been designed to give each alumni, and the APS more broadly, the maximum return on investment

Dr Michael McKenzie is the first Sir Roland Wilson Fellow

Our scholarship winners and graduates

The Foundation now has a critical mass of scholarship holders from across the Australian Public Service undertaking PhD research on a wide range of topics of national importance. We are now starting to see Foundation graduates returning to the APS; in 2017 there were six graduates and this number will steadily increase each year.

Along with full pay, our scholars get a generous international travel fund to help them build networks with their public sector counterparts and international academics. This broadens their worldview and understanding of what works and what lessons can be learned from other countries' public policy experiences. We supplement this with a carefully targeted talent development program and public and private events to help develop their knowledge, networks and leadership capability.

Once our scholars graduate, they enter our alumni program which has been designed to give each of them, and the APS more broadly, the maximum return on the investment that has been made through the scholarship. Each graduate is matched up with an SES mentor from outside their agency, they have a talent plan and are offered support and opportunities to disseminate the knowledge they have gained during their scholarship. As one example, the first Sir Roland Wilson Fellowship was signed in 2017 by Chris Moraitis, Secretary of the Attorney General's Department and Professor Brian Schmidt, Vice Chancellor of the ANU. This will enable Dr Michael McKenzie, one of our recent graduates, to spend some time preparing to publish his thesis on Australian-Indonesian cooperation on crime through Oxford University Press.

I have been pleased to see that most of our scholars have been promoted either while on scholarship or shortly after return to their workplace, some of them into the SES. This tells us not only that we are selecting high potential scholarship winners but also that the opportunities they are exposed to equips them well for their return to work.

An active program of events, open to the public and available as podcasts or videocasts

We encourage and support our scholars and graduates to design and run workshops, seminars and other initiatives

Indigenous postgraduate scholarship for APS staff

International PhD scholarship

The Foundation is expanding its contribution to the study and development of public policy and building APS capability

Our events program

The Foundation has an active program of events, many of which are open to the public and available as podcasts or videocasts. The Board sees these events as having two important purposes. Firstly, we are helping to inform policy debates and decisions by partnering with other areas of the ANU in providing expertise, evidence and opportunities for discussion through relevant and engaging formats. The second, and equally important, purpose is to give our scholars and graduates exposure to world leading experts on a variety of topics to provide them with breadth of knowledge and worldviews to supplement the depth of the PhD experience. All of our public events have been 'sold out' which we take as an indicator that we are providing a useful service. Our invitation only events are well attended and the feedback very positive.

We also encourage and support our scholars and graduates to design and run workshops, seminars and other initiatives to build effective bridges between the policy arena and academic expertise. Some of these activities have been highlighted in this report and give a flavour of the variety and relevance of these 'outreach' activities.

Our new initiatives

The Board has been concerned for some time now that we have been unable to attract Indigenous applicants for our scholarship and in 2017 we agreed to a detailed consultation proposal to establish a Sir Roland Wilson Indigenous postgraduate scholarship for APS staff to study at either the ANU or Charles Darwin University. There was an enthusiastic response and we are looking forward to establishing the scholarship in the coming year.

We also began investigating establishing an international PhD scholarship that would provide high potential national public sector employees from the Asia Pacific region with a tailored talent and network development experience to supplement their PhD studies. This will help to develop deep understanding and links between these students and our scholars, graduates and APS agencies that will serve us well in the future.

One of the most innovative events we ran in 2017 was the Future Shapers Forum. The purpose of Future Shapers is to continue the leadership development of our graduates by connecting them to the next cohort of Australia's leaders from business and social enterprise, policy, research, advocacy, and the media. It proved such a success that it will now be an annual event.

Together with the Crawford School of Public Policy we revived the Secretary's Lunch series which designs a small group meeting with senior APS and academic experts around the interests of a guest APS secretary on a topic of their choosing. The first guest secretary was Dr Martin Parkinson on the topic of 'Preparing better for living a longer life'. This proved to be a fascinating and valuable discussion and we look forward to continuing this series.

In summary, we are pleased that the Foundation is expanding its contribution to the study and development of public policy and building APS capability. 2017 was a very busy, successful and rewarding year and the Board has been delighted with the contributions and achievements of our scholars and graduates.

Dr Ken Henry, AC
Chair, Sir Roland Wilson Foundation Board

EVENTS & AWARDS

In 2017 the Sir Roland Wilson Foundation hosted and supported a number of high profile events.

In May, the Foundation hosted the first of the Wilson Dialogues on the topic 'Dead duck or just resting: has economic liberalism run into a dead end?'. The event featured Professor Bruce Chapman, Dr John Hewson, Professor Helen Sullivan and Laura Tingle. It was attended by over 300 people from the ANU, the public and the APS. The speakers addressed the question, providing their views on one of the most controversial debates of our time.

Over 300 members of the public, public servants and academics also 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 Mr Peter Davidson, Dr John Hewson, Professor Miranda Stewart and Ms Lenore Taylor, who offered their thoughts on the 2017-18 Budget, particularly in the context of what needs to be done to prepare Australia to deal with current domestic and global environments.

The Foundation also hosted the Annual Secretaries' Dinner at the Boathouse in December. 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.

The inaugural Future Shapers Forum brought together the capable, innovative and engaged next generation of Australian leaders from Government, business, research, advocacy, social enterprise and the media for a series of unique, tailored activities that were designed to provide each participant with real opportunities to make a difference. The forum's core activities expose participants to leading thinkers from across the country and around the world

and helps to equip them with tools to imagine and create a future of their choosing.

As part of the Forum, the Foundation hosted the public lecture 'Globalists or Nationalists: who will shape the future in an era of distrust?' which saw an impressive panel including ANU Chancellor Professor Gareth Evans, Dr Parag Khanna, Professor Helen Sullivan, Dr Andrew Charlton and Ms Yassmin Abdel-Magied come together for a lively Q&A facilitated by Dr Nicholas Farrelly.

The success of the forum will see it endure as an event, a network of people and a platform for meaningful engagement.



Martine Cosgrove, Talia Avrahamzon, Zoe Piper and Michael McKenzie attending the opening of Future Shapers 2017



JOAN UHR PRIZE

In May 2017 the Foundation Board agreed to establish a new prize to be awarded to the scholar or alumni who has made the greatest contribution to public policy in the past year, particularly through strengthening the links between the APS and the ANU. The prize was named after the founding Executive Director of the Foundation, Joan Uhr, in recognition of her contributions. The inaugural Joan Uhr prize was awarded to Camille Goodman at the annual Secretaries' Dinner in December 2017.

Camille was involved in an impressive array of activities, including establishing workshops, interest groups and publishing the associated papers, in addition to making significant progress on her PhD thesis.

Joan Uhr, Camille Goodman and Chris Moraitis at the Secretary's Dinner

SCHOLARS

Siddharth Shirodkar 2018

Supervisor

Dr Boyd Hunter

Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy and Research

Mentor: Subho Bannerjee, Department of Education and Training

Research title: *Where are all the Indigenous entrepreneurs? A study of the pathways and barriers to entrepreneurship*

Siddharth joined the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in 2015 to work on Indigenous economic development, in particular on promoting Indigenous entrepreneurship. He has worked on the upcoming Indigenous Grants Policy, the Indigenous Business Sector Strategy, reforms to remote employment service delivery and developing the first Indigenous business fact sheet. Prior to joining PM&C, Siddharth worked as an economist across a number of government departments including Treasury and DFAT.

Siddharth's PhD is on understanding the pathways and barriers to Indigenous Australians starting a business. The rate of Indigenous business ownership is currently 3% (of the working age population) compared to 10% for non-Indigenous Australians. He will take a mixed-methods approach to investigate factors that are limiting opportunities for potential Indigenous entrepreneurs to get into business, including the impact of racial bias on economic freedoms using quantitative techniques.



The cost of not investing

Four weeks into my scholarship at ANU and I'm just starting to get the hang of being a uni student again. It's not as easy as one would think. Moving from a 'Working Your Way' environment in PM&C into academic life, the change of pace strikes immediately; along with the lack of demands on my time, the nonexistence of structure, and significantly, the isolation.

But these changes are essential for the next phase of my life. By offering me a PhD scholarship, the Sir Roland Wilson Foundation and PM&C have provided me with an incredible opportunity to think deeply and ask the big questions about a key economic access issue for Indigenous Australians. The space afforded will help me address the question: where are all the Indigenous entrepreneurs?

The enormous success of the Commonwealth's Indigenous Procurement Policy (IPP) is highlighting to the country that we have a highly capable Indigenous business sector. Since the IPP's inception, Indigenous businesses have won around a billion dollars in Commonwealth contracts on a value for money basis. And Supply Nation registered Indigenous businesses generate more than a billion dollars in revenue a year. These entrepreneurs are building family and community wealth, and helping shift the Indigenous narrative from deficit to aspiration and economic independence.

The rate of Indigenous business ownership is only around 3% of its working age population, whereas the rate of business ownership for non-Indigenous Australians is around 10%. I reject the idea that Indigenous people are somehow less entrepreneurial than the rest of Australia. Talk to anyone who has worked in Indigenous communities and they'll likely point to the contrary. So where are the other 7% of entrepreneurially inclined Indigenous Australians going, if not into business?

Not everyone is cut out for the life of an entrepreneur. Certain qualities increase one's likelihood. For instance, a penchant for risk taking, recognising and acting on opportunities, and an unwillingness to follow other people's rules. Many in the public service wouldn't qualify. Evidence suggests the characteristics of an entrepreneur often manifest as antisocial behaviour at early ages within males. But if you are a young Indigenous male who takes risks and shows antisocial tendencies at an early age where do you end up in modern Australia? The answer may lie in the fact that our Indigenous children are 25 times more likely to be in juvenile detention than our non-Indigenous children.

My research will test if racial and other barriers are restricting the majority of entrepreneurially inclined Indigenous people from expressing their talents in the formal economy. If so, is our society forcing many to express their inherent capabilities in the informal economy? Can we afford to squander this pool of raw talent, energy and resources?

From a career perspective, just attempting to address the issue is worth the next three years of my life, including the upfront personal costs. For the public service the calculation is simple, what is the ongoing cost of not asking the big questions and not investing in this kind of research?

Siddharth Shirodkar



Melanie Broder 2018

Supervisor

Professor Roger Bradbury

ANU National Security College

Mentor: Allan McKinnon, Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet

Research title: *Cyber deterrence: a flexible framework for Australia in peace and conflict*

Melanie joined the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet in 2015 after eight years in the Department of Defence working across policy, analysis, and capability portfolios. Melanie's Defence experience contributed to her passion for protecting Australia's strategic interests from non-traditional security threats. Melanie's most recent roles have focused on national security through Crisis Management, and then in the Office of the Cyber Security Adviser.

Melanie's doctoral research will use a mixed methods approach to examine principles of deterrence in cyber space. Her study will investigate the methods and relative success of key allies including the United State and the United Kingdom; identify principles that may be appropriate for the Australian strategic context; and contribute towards a whole of economy cyber deterrence strategy for Australia.

Penelope Sullivan 2018

Supervisor

Dr Daniel Connell

ANU Crawford School of Public Policy

Mentor: Russell James, Murray-Darling Basin Authority

Research title: *An analysis of alternative approaches for federal government interventions in natural resource management policy, drawing on comparisons in Australia and other federal systems*

Penny joined the Australian Public Service in 2010 to work at the Murray-Darling Basin Authority on the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, one of the most significant Australian government interventions in water policy since Federation. The experience has given her a passion for solving national scale natural resource management problems, combined with an understanding of the challenges of ensuring appropriate regional and state engagement and ownership of policy solutions.

Penny's PhD examines approaches to solving trans-boundary natural resource management problems in Australia and internationally, to identify when the Federal government should intervene and how best to do so. Penny will use her experience working on the MDB Plan as an initial example to learn from and compare it to experiences with alternative approaches used in Australia and other countries. Her study will investigate and analyse these examples to determine the best approaches for future Federal government interventions.





Tess McGirr 2017

Supervisor

Professor Peter Whiteford

ANU Crawford School of Public Policy

Mentor: Michael Lye, Department of Social Services

Research title: *Welfare reform and social services: Nudging people towards employment and self-provision through optimal policy supports and interventions*

In her 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.

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.

During 2017 Tess travelled to the UK to present at the 7th International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Studies.

Helen Benassi 2017

Supervisor

Professor Bryan Rodgers

ANU Research School of Social Sciences

Mentor: David Morton, Department of Defence

Research title: *E-health solutions to support early identification and self-management of mental health in the Australian Defence Force.*

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. 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, and the ADF Mental Health Prevalence and Wellbeing Study.

Helen's 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.

During 2017 Helen attended the Warrior Care in the 21st Century Symposium, the Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research conference, and also represented the Australian Department of Defence at an international meeting to discuss a comparative policy analysis of definitions of military family.





Christiane Gerblinger 2017

Supervisor

Professor John Uhr

ANU School of Politics and International Relations

Mentor: Michael Brennan, Treasury

Research title: *Good for the Nation? The language of Australian economic reform*

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.

The power of policy advice

When I started my thesis in early 2017, my topic was rock solid. I was going to examine recent Australian leaders' rhetoric of economic reform. It was fascinating. I'd even written a chapter on the GST as a case study of how economic reform is rhetorically 'done' before I started. But as I read and thought more, I decided that – for me, and as part of the Sir Roland Wilson scholarship – the real story was not about how political leaders imagine or articulate change. Certainly, it's rich and sparkling terrain... but, by itself, I wasn't sure how it contributed to an academic discourse of direct and enduring relevance to the Australian Public Service (APS).

By targeting my thinking towards the APS, I started wondering about how it articulates its expertise to governments to inform their decision-making. In other words, how influential is APS advice? Much is made of the APS value to provide advice that is frank and fearless, clear and robust. If that is its ideal, how closely has it adhered to those tenets? According to a spate of reviews in recent years, not very. Indeed, the quality of APS policy advice and, more specifically, its language, have been labelled timid, obfuscatory and deficient, and even cited as playing a role in some recent major policy failures. The issue of conveying expertise to help governments make optimum decisions is obviously playing out against the backdrop of a much larger dilemma: a wholesale crisis of expertise, particularly across Western democracies in the sciences but also more broadly across academia and other public institutions. Each sector wonders why it is becoming so easy to ignore

expertise, and why opinion seems to have a greater impact – yet perhaps it's really no surprise.

Is there something in this for the APS? Has its rhetorical stance affected policy outcomes and the public's ability or willingness to engage? Has its language contributed to ministers becoming less persuaded? And is this an issue for other governments? That's what the coming year will be about for me. I'll travel to Germany, New Zealand and the United Kingdom to talk to other academics who have noticed similar themes, as well as officials in various policy agencies. I hope to discuss specific policies, such as immigration and energy, and look forward to finding out how overseas counterparts view obligations such as accountability and transparency. The opportunity to do all of that certainly wouldn't be possible without the Sir Roland Wilson Foundation.

Christiane Gerblinger
2017 Sir Roland Wilson Scholar

Joseph Chien 2016

Supervisor

Professor Alan Welsh

ANU Mathematical Science Institute

Mentor: Jonathan Palmer, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Research title: *Using semantic technology to better capture labour market network dynamics for productivity analysis*

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.



Owen Freestone 2016

Supervisor

Professor Bob Breunig

ANU Crawford School of Public Policy

Mentor: Nigel Ray, The Treasury

Research title: *The role that Australia's income support system plays in people's lives, especially its impact on labour market participation, savings behaviour, economic welfare and inequality.*

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 is exploring the life-cycle dimension of income and consumption among Australian households, and how this is shaped by government policy. He is looking at questions such as the relative importance of individual differences versus other factors in explaining wage inequality in Australia, and the role that the tax-transfer system plays in cushioning workers from unexpected income changes.

The increasing demand for quantitative analysis in support of policy advice.

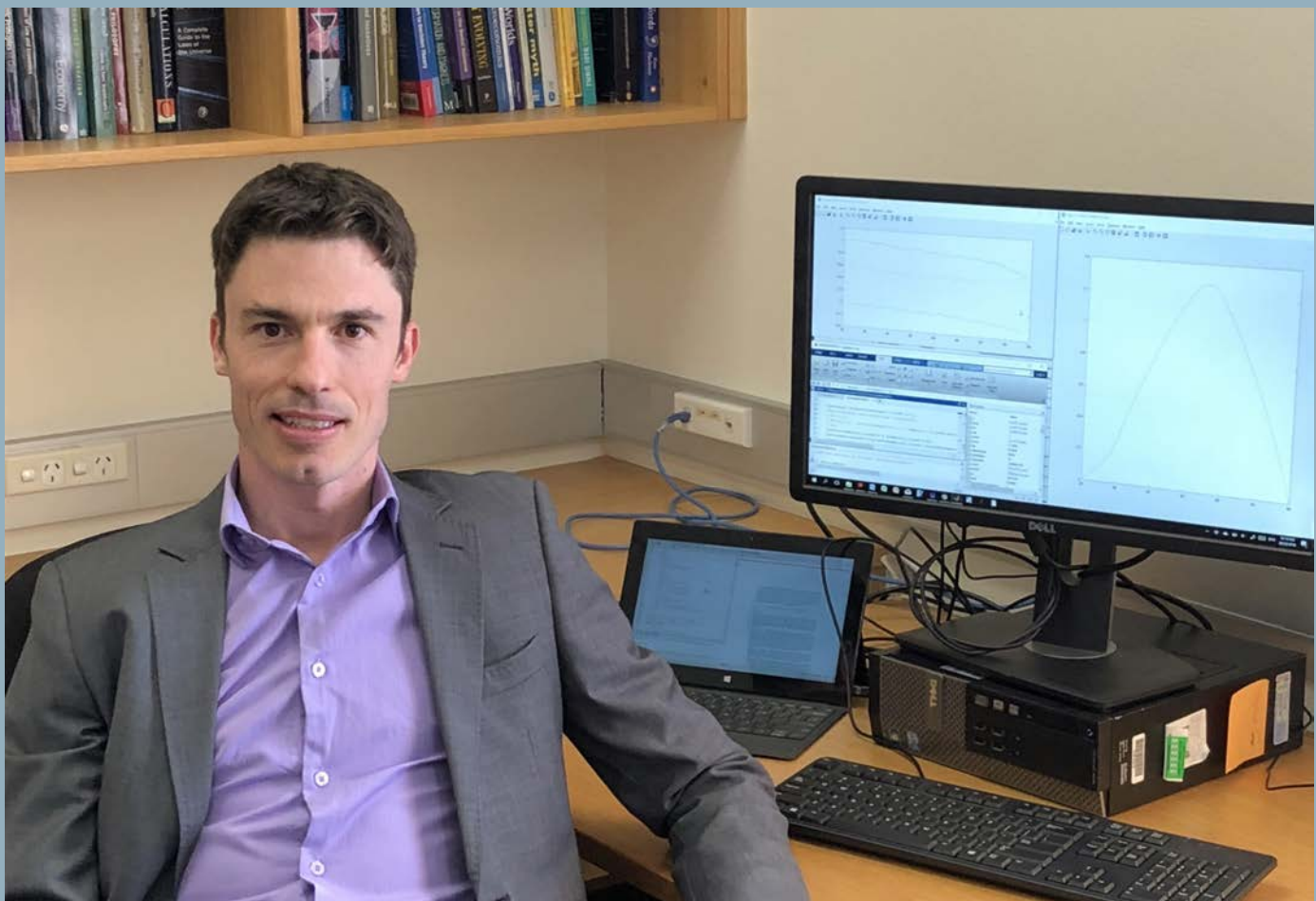
There is an increasing expectation in Australia and elsewhere that policy advice to governments be backed by rigorous and detailed quantitative analysis. In part this reflects the greater capacity for quantitative policy analysis that we now have, thanks to the increased availability of large administrative datasets, improved analytical techniques, and faster and more powerful computers. Quantitative analysis can now be done in cases where the complexity of the policy change would have made it impractical in the past, with a recent good example being the US Congressional Budget Office's detailed distributional analysis of the (highly complex) Federal tax reform package.

In pursuing my own research, I have gained an appreciation for these issues first hand, and have had the opportunity to learn many new skills. For example, my empirical research on the determinants of life-cycle wages inequality has required the use

of maturing and newly-available longitudinal datasets. I have also needed to learn new analytical and programming skills to deal with the challenges presented by large datasets and the complex economic interactions involved in my research questions.

While the results of quantitative analysis will always be contestable to some extent, these new and improved methods nonetheless have the potential to enhance the quality of policy advice provided to governments. This is especially so for policy changes that have significant effects on the distribution of household income and wealth, such as changes to the tax-transfer system.

Owen Freestone
2016 Sir Roland Wilson Scholar



Szabina Horvath 2016

Supervisor

Associate Professor Rob McLaughlin

ANU Centre for Military and Security Law

Mentor: Mark Cunliffe, Department of Defence

Research title: *Satisfying Australia's applicable human rights obligations during extra-territorial armed conflict.*

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, and 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.



Nathan Deutscher 2015

Supervisor

Professor Bob Breunig

ANU Crawford School of Public Policy

Mentor: Michael Brennan, The Treasury

Research title: *Intergenerational social mobility in Australia*

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 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.

During 2017 Nathan's first PhD paper (examining the effects of the Baby Bonus on early child development) was accepted for publication in the *Economic Record* and he was an invited discussant at the 20th (Australasian) Labour Econometrics Workshop in Auckland.

Camille Goodman 2015

Supervisor

Professor Donald Rothwell

ANU Centre for International & Public Law

Mentor: Iain Anderson, Attorney-General's Department

Research title: *The 'creeping' jurisdiction of coastal States: a legitimate way to fill gaps in the law of the sea, or an unwarranted expansion of power?*

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, and has been the Australian Government legal adviser at international meetings and negotiations.

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. The context of the rules-based international order, to ascertain the legitimate bases for, and extent of, coastal State jurisdiction in contemporary international law.

Camille has been a guest lecturer in ANU College of Law program; has had several papers published; and was awarded the inaugural Joan Uhr Prize.



Katy Jones 2015

Supervisor

Associate Professor Nick Biddle

ANU Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research

Mentor: Michael Lye, Department of Social Services

Research title: *School Attendance and Primary School-Aged Indigenous Children*

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 Sydney, and also with the Indigenous Coordination Centre in Darwin. 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 in remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory. It will take a multi-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, support or improve school attendance.

Martine Cosgrove 2014

Supervisor

Associate Professor Peter Butterworth

ANU Centre for Research of Ageing, Health & Wellbeing

Mentor: David Morton, Department of Defence

Research title: *Interactions of factors associated with the onset of common mental health disorders*

Martine has been employed by the Department of Defence since 2007. Prior to commencing the scholarship, her 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

Mentor: Rob Heferen, Department of Environment and Energy

Research title: *Understanding the character of Chinese State Owned Enterprises*

Paul joined the Treasury in 2006 where 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 to 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.

Paul's research 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. He was recently published in China Economic Journal.





Talia Avrahamzon 2014

Supervisor

Dr Jerry Schwab

ANU Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research

Mentor: Michael Lye, Department of Social Services

Research title: *Which social and cultural conditions contribute to a young child's readiness to participate in the reconciliation process?*

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. During 2017 Talia presented at conferences in Toronto, Oxford and Melbourne; has been invited to write a book chapter; and has established a year-long seminar series.

Shane Johnson 2013

Supervisor

Professor Bob Breunig

ANU Crawford School of Public Policy

Mentor: Nigel Ray, The Treasury

Research topic: *An analytical history of government debt financing and management*

Shane will submit his thesis in mid 2018 and has returned to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet where he is now the Assistant Secretary, Indigenous Affairs Group, Information and Evaluation.

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.





Agnieszka Nelson 2013

Supervisor

Professor Matthew Gray

ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods

Mentors: Paul McBride & Serena Wilson, Department of Social Services

Research title: *Impact of welfare conditionality on young vulnerable Australians - a quantitative enquiry using administrative data*

Agnieszka 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.

More recently, Agnieszka has been seconded for two years to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in the UK to help strengthen the exchange of policy and research ideas between Australia and the UK. As head of Disadvantaged Groups, Agnieszka leads a team of economists, social researchers and statisticians to deliver ground-breaking research to support policy development.

Her thesis is a quantitative enquiry into the impact of welfare conditionality policy levers on young vulnerable Australians. It seeks to understand the shifting objectives and impact of recent policy welfare reform initiatives. Specifically, Agnieszka is examining the effects of policy initiatives on income support exits among different treatment and comparison groups.

Eliza Murray 2013

Supervisor

Professor Frank Jotzo

ANU Crawford School of Public Policy

Mentor: Steven Kennedy, Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Research topic: *Efficacy of Carbon Capture and storage projects*

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 has recently returned to the Department of the Environment and Energy to take up the role of Director of International Climate Change Negotiations. Eliza's PhD research, based at the Crawford School of Public Policy, investigates inter-governmental cooperation on carbon markets and whether emissions trading could contribute to a more coordinated and effective global response to the threat of climate change.

Eliza will submit her thesis in 2018.



Jennifer Chang 2012

Supervisor

Dr Jane Golley

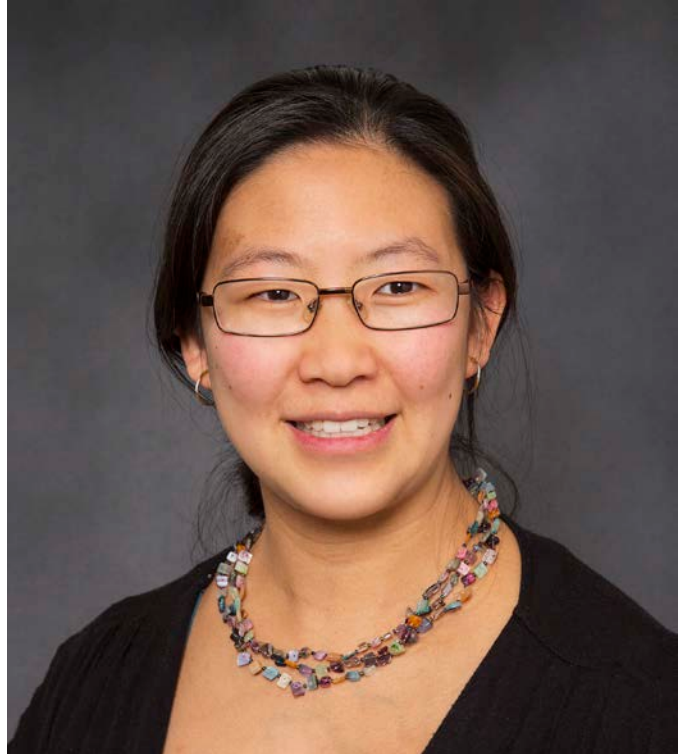
ANU China in the World

Mentor: Nigel Ray, The Treasury

Research title: *The dynamics of the Chinese labour market, particularly rural-urban migration and China's broader economic growth prospects.*

Since starting as a graduate at the Treasury in 2004, Jennifer's work experience has covered: 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.



ALUMNI



Marie McAuliffe

Graduated 2017

Supervisor

Professor James Raymer

Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute

Research title: *International irregular maritime migration to Australia: The migration processes and patterns of Afghan Hazaras and Sri Lankan Tamils*

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 Labour Organization as well as in the private sector.

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

Contributing to knowledge partnerships: reflecting on the Sir Roland Wilson scholarship program

The Sir Roland Wilson scholarship program provides recipients the unique opportunity to undertake rigorous research on issues of strategic national interest. I was particularly drawn to chance to contribute to the APS and the broader community by examining a topic relevant to both public policy and scholarly enquiry. I was also inspired by the high value placed on critical thinking to support better policy making within the APS. The Sir Roland Wilson Foundation board and participating APS agencies recognise that analysis and knowledge have a central role to play in an era that is seeing public discourses worldwide increasingly subsumed by opinion and anecdote. Actively supporting knowledge creation and strengthening knowledge partnerships between the APS, academia and other civil society actors is a significant strength of the program. It is about much more than just developing the individual scholarship recipients. It is about fostering knowledge partnerships for the benefit of the APS and the public we serve.

From an institutional perspective, there is no doubt that the APS has benefited significantly from professionalising its senior ranks over recent years and decades, including by instilling a stronger focus on management and leaderships skills and capability. The development of SES cadre has enabled the APS to respond to increasing complexity and interconnectedness in policy and programme spheres. Equally, there is recognition that fostering specialist 'knowledge leaders', including within senior ranks, with expertise in areas of enduring interest allows the generalist model to be complimented in specific areas of strategic need.

International migration, especially unsafe, disorderly and irregular migration, is one such area. In times of increasing interconnectedness and interdependence globally, contributing to a deeper understanding of the complexities of irregular migration and migrant smuggling is of significant relevance to Australia, our region as well as the international community. In this context, my thesis was designed to contribute to a neglected area of research and analysis by critically examining self-agency and asylum seeking. It develops a multi-faceted framework that enables analysis of the nature and extent of self-agency applicable to a range of groups, including those who are often characterised as forced migrants but who nevertheless often make difficult and risky decisions to migrate internationally.

On a practical level, the scholarship program offered the chance to attend and present at conferences as well as meet with academics and policy makers responding to this dynamic and challenging humanitarian, operational and public policy issue. While not related to the scholarship per se, I was offered the incredible opportunity to head up the migration policy research division with the International Organization for Migration during my scholarship period (so reducing my time on the scholarship program to 18 months). My key contributions at IOM to date include the establishment of the Migration Research Leaders' Syndicate to actively contribute to the 2018 Global Compact on Migration, and the revitalisation of IOM's flagship publication, the World Migration Report 2018. The report was launched by IOM's Director General in late 2017 at the UN Palais in Geneva, and I was privileged to also present key findings of the report at UN headquarters in New York on International Migrants' Day. Developing a deeper understanding of international cooperation on migration has further supplemented my experience in migration programme management, migration policy as well as migration research and analysis, which I hope will be of direct benefit to the APS upon my return.



Marie McAuliffe in action at the United Nations launch of World Migration Report

Rick Zentelis

Graduated 2017

Supervisor

Professor David Lindenmayer

Fenner School of Environment & Society

Research title: *Developing a management model to optimise use of Australia's military training areas*

Rick was employed by the Department of Defence in 2005. 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 examined a better way to manage military training areas (MTAs). His unique experience and in depth knowledge of environmental management ideally placed him to develop an 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.

Rick is now working with the Department of Environment and Energy from Geneva, Switzerland.



Nerida Hunter

Graduated 2017

Supervisor

Professor James Raymer

Australian Demographic & Social Research Institute

Research title: *Geodemographic and life course perspectives of population ageing in Australia: expanding the policy relevant evidence-base.*

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

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



Suzanne Akila

Graduated 2016

Supervisor

Professor Hilary Charlesworth

ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

Mentor: Jill Charker, Department of Jobs and Small Business

Research title: *Obligation of States to protect human rights of citizens abroad*

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

Mentor: Katherine Jones, Attorney General's Department

Research title: *Are we speaking the same language? Australia's engagement with Indonesia on criminal justice issues.*

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 PhD research examined the conditions that promote crime cooperation between Australia and Indonesia, drawing on over 100 interviews with participants in the cooperative relationship and extensive archival material.

Since graduating, Michael has published a number of articles based on his research, and he is currently being supported by an SRW Fellowship to prepare a book manuscript for publication by Oxford University Press. The working title of the book is 'Common Enemies: Crime, Policy and Politics in Australia-Indonesia Relations'.

Michael is the first Sir Roland Wilson Fellow.





Angelia Grant

Graduated 2015

Supervisor

Professor Warwick McKibbin

ANU Crawford School of Public Policy

Mentor: Chris Moraitis, Attorney General's Department

Research title: *'Three Essays on the US Business Cycle, Expectations Formation and Model Comparison'*

Angelia graduated in July 2015. Her thesis 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 now the head of 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

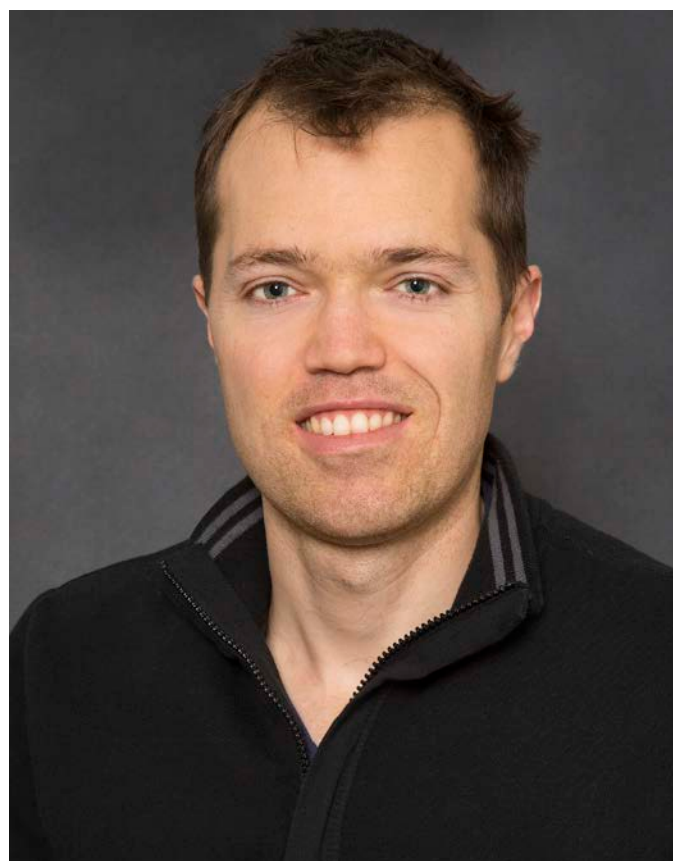
Professor Quentin Grafton

ANU Crawford School of Public Policy

Research title: *Water property rights in rivers with large dams*

Neal graduated in December 2015. He is currently Senior Adviser for Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Director of Climate and Water Economics at ABARES. Since returning to the public service Neal has progressed research programs on both the effects of climate change on Australian farms and water policy in the Murray-Darling Basin, for the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

Neal's thesis investigated the design of water markets in heavily developed river systems, like those of the southern Murray Darling Basin. A key aspect of Neal's thesis was the adaptation of machine learning and 'big data' techniques to economic problems. Much of Neal's current research involves the use of machine learning techniques, particularly in the analysis of large government data sets.



SIR ROLAND WILSON (1904 - 1996)

Sir Roland Wilson was a ground-breaking economist who served as a key economic adviser to the Australian Government.

Throughout his career Sir Roland Wilson displayed academic rigour and tenacity in developing policy for achieving policy outcomes. Attributes which are still recognised as major contributors to his success.

Born in Tasmania, Roland Wilson was awarded a Rhodes scholarship in 1925. He completed a DPhil at Oxford University and then a PhD at the University of Chicago.

From 1936-1940, Wilson was the Commonwealth Statistician for the Australian Bureau of Statistics. In 1940 he was appointed the Secretary to the Department of Labour and National Service and played a part in designing Australia's response to World War II.

In 1951, Roland Wilson was appointed Secretary to the Treasury. At the time, he was the youngest person to hold that position at age 47. He remained in this position until 1966, a tenure which has never been exceeded.

His years at Treasury were extraordinary, characterised by full employment, relative price stability and sustained economic growth.

One of his lasting contributions to the Treasury was the part that he played in taking the Department from performing primarily accounting and budgetary functions, to an institution whose chief responsibility was to provide economic advice to the government.

On retirement from the Treasury, Roland Wilson became the Chair of Qantas and the Commonwealth Bank until his retirement in 1979.

Sir Roland Wilson had a long history with the ANU, serving on its Council during his tenure as Secretary to the Treasury.

Taken from 'Sir Roland Wilson: a biographical essay'
by Selwyn Cornish (2002).



Sir Roland Wilson, 1964

“Wilson’s contribution to the Treasury...was that he gave it a sense of being led by an outstanding figure-someone, so to speak, that the department could look up to. He gave it intellectual quality.”

John Stone

Secretary to the Treasury 1979-1984

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