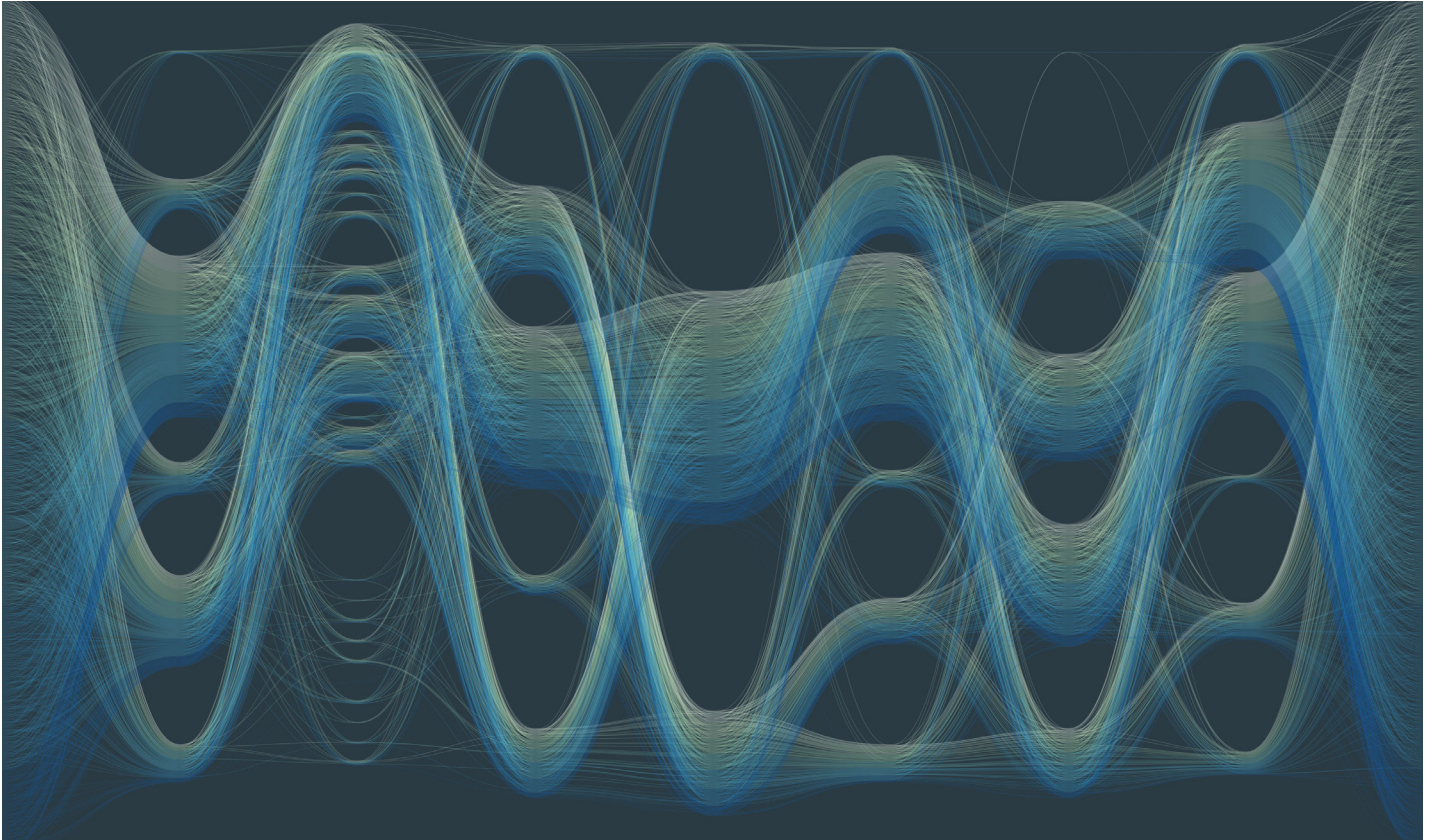




Australian  
National  
University



CENTRE FOR SOCIAL  
RESEARCH AND METHODS  
BIENNIAL REPORT 2015-2016

ANU Centre for  
Social Research  
and Methods

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# FOREWORD

The Australian National University (ANU) Centre for Social Research and Methods (CSRSM) was established by the College of Arts and Social Sciences in November 2014 to provide national leadership in the study of Australian society. CSRSM has a strategic focus on: the development of social research methods; analysis of social issues and policy; training in social science methods; long-term maintenance of crucial ANU surveys; and providing access to social scientific data.

In August 2014, the ANU purchased the Social Research Centre Pty Ltd (SRC), a leading Australian social research and data collection services company, which is a major provider of consultancy and social research to the government, academic and not-for-profit sectors. As part of the acquisition, it was agreed that the University establish the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods as a joint initiative between the ANU and the SRC. This close partnership between the two entities is unique in Australia. It enables the world-class academic expertise of the Research School of Social Sciences through CSRSM – along with commercial operations of the SRC – to have a significant impact on the quality of social research being undertaken, and consequently improve social policy making at federal and state levels.

Although social surveys and qualitative research are widely used in Australia for academic research purposes, evaluating government social and health policies and programs, and ascertaining community attitudes – and despite the high costs associated with undertaking such research – there has been limited investment in advancing social science methodologies. This has significant impacts on the quality of work being undertaken and the capacity for government and the private sector to build a credible evidence base both to inform and to evaluate policy programs and initiatives. The ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods is designed to fill this gap.

It is becoming increasingly difficult and costly to collect primary survey data in the social sciences. It is therefore imperative that when high-quality survey data are collected that the use of these data is optimised. Too often, data collected by individual researchers and research teams are not made available or analysed by others to validate initial findings, or to extend the analysis with new and innovative questions and methods. Thus the original conception of CSRSM has included a revitalised Australian Data Archive that incorporates an open repository for data, enhancing the ANU's reputation as a leader in this area.

These three axes – academic excellence and innovation in empirical social science research, successful commercial acumen and applied consultancy experience, and large-scale data management – underpin CSRSM's activities and demonstrate the ANU's capacity to be an innovative and unique leader in the social sciences, nationally and internationally.

CSRSM has made significant contributions to a range of social policy issues in the areas of labour market programs, criminal justice and policing policy, family law, the social security system and Indigenous policy.

As Australia transitions to a knowledge and services economy, the availability of diverse data in the public and private sectors is highlighting significant workforce shortages in social research methods and data analytics. A strategic goal of the Centre is to produce a more sophisticated Australian skills base via training and educational activities. To address this gap the Centre has been actively developing and revitalising masters programs and executive education. To complement this, in late 2016 the Criminology Program was established, and the Centre took on the convenorship of the Bachelor of Criminology.

The Centre for Gambling research has recently joined CSRSM. This will enhance CSRSM's ability to contribute research and social policy in these important areas, with links to criminology and the CSRSM's broader social policy remit.

This report demonstrates that significant progress has been made in establishing the CSRSM as a high-quality, credible research Institute that demonstrates an impact academically – on teaching and on research – as well as informing social policy development and the practice of service providers.

## Acknowledgements

I would particularly like to acknowledge the roles played by Emeritus Professor Toni Makkai, who was the Dean of the College of Arts and Social Sciences at the time of the establishment of CSRSM, and Darren Pennay, the CEO of the SRC. Both were instrumental in having the vision and leadership necessary to bring about the creation of the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods. I would also like to acknowledge Professor Ian McAllister, the interim Director of the Centre during first six months of its establishment.

The Centre will only ever be as good as its staff – I would like to acknowledge both academic and administrative staff for actively engaging with the implementation of the Centre's vision and mission. Much has been achieved through your indispensable collaborative efforts and support of me – thank-you – I look forward to building on our two foundational years with further significant achievements in 2017.

### **Professor Matthew Gray**

Director, ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods

April 2017

# SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2015 AND 2016

## Staffing

A diverse team of over twenty high-calibre researchers and data archivists undertaking quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research has been established.

## International linkages

New international linkages have been developed, with Memoranda of Understanding having been signed with the University of Michigan (joint with the Social Research Centre), the Jill Dando Centre for Crime Prevention, University College London, and Nanjing University. Linkages have been strengthened with the UK Data Archive, University of Essex (UK); University of Maryland (US); Pew Research Center (US); GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (Germany); Foundation for the International Study of Social Security; University of Manchester (UK), University of Otago (New Zealand), and Harvard University (US). The Centre also hosted visiting international academics.

## Surveys

Six ANUpolls were run and released, and the 2016 Australian Electoral Study (AES) survey was undertaken. The Centre made a significant academic contribution to the development of the Life in Australia panel with the SRC. This is Australia's first nationally representative online panel, and thus represents new Australian social science research infrastructure, affording Australian researchers, policy-makers, academics and business leaders ready access to a scientifically sampled cross-section of the Australian community. The first survey using the Life in Australia panel was undertaken in late 2016.

## Research

Areas in which significant research has been undertaken include:

- > Modelling of the tax-transfer system
- > Behavioural insight and public policy
- > Crime and justice
- > Socio-legal research and family studies
- > The economic and social impacts of extreme climatic events and climate change
- > Discrimination and unconscious bias and the impact on children's developmental outcomes
- > Indigenous economic and social policy
- > Labour market analysis, and
- > Online social networks.

The number of publication outputs during this reporting period was considerable: 62 journal articles were published; two books; 13 book chapters; 23 research reports; and 20 opinion pieces appeared in the media.

## Modelling

Major investment has been undertaken in the development of a micro-simulation model of the Australian tax-transfer system, which will be available for use from May 2017.

## Grants and consultances

Over the past two years six competitive research grants were obtained, and 28 research contracts were secured with government, community, and the private sector.

## Conferences, workshops and seminars

The Centre has conducted a number of events including the International Conference on Welfare Reform, a jointly hosted conference on The Current status and Future of Online Research in Australia, initiating a data for Policy Series, public lectures, and a regular methods seminar series. In total CSRSM hosted or co-hosted 33 events.

## Enhancing australia's skills base

The Master in Applied Data Analytics (with the College of Business and Economics and the College of Engineering and Computer Science) was established in late 2015, with the first intake of over 100 students occurring in 2016.

The new Bachelor of Applied Data Analytics will commence in 2017.

The Centre will assume responsibility for the Master of Social Research and Methods and the Bachelor of Criminology in 2017.

A suite of short executive courses was developed with ANU Enterprise during 2016, and the first of these ran in late 2016.

## Social impact

The Centre made seven formal submissions to parliamentary government enquires. Staff have been asked to sit on a wide range of external advisory boards for government, NGO organisations, and editorial boards of academic journals. Staff were frequently invited to make presentations at external events.

## Increasing access to nationally significant data

During 2015 and 2016 important new data deposits were made into the Australian Data Archive. These include the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey, the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC), the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children (LSAC), and the Beginning a New Life in Australia (BNLF) survey of humanitarian arrivals. Significant datasets from the Australian Institute of Criminology were also deposited.

# ABOUT THE CENTRE

## Background and aims

To fulfil its role as a national leader in social research, the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods has five main objectives:

- > Build a world-class team of researchers and graduate students in social research methodology, applications and techniques
- > Develop and validate new and cost-effective data collection methods
- > Increase the availability and access to secondary data for research across Australia
- > Ensure long-term maintenance of critical ANU surveys, and
- > Produce a more sophisticated Australian skills base via training and educational activities.

## People and capabilities

Researchers come from a range of disciplines including economics, econometrics, political science, psychology, public health, social policy, criminology, sociology, and statistics.

We have particular expertise in:

- > Survey design, administration and analysis
- > Quantitative, qualitative and experimental research methodologies
- > Policy analysis and evaluation
- > Public opinion and behaviour measurement
- > Data archiving and management, and
- > Professional education in social research methods.

# STAFF



## Professor Matthew Gray

### Director

Matthew is Professor of Public Policy at The Australian National University. Previous appointments include Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, and Deputy Director of the Australian Institute of Family Studies. He has published research on a wide range of social and economic policy issues and has undertaken major evaluations of government policies and programs, including the family law system, income management, service delivery models, and place-based interventions.



## Dr Nicholas Biddle

### Deputy Director, Associate Professor

Nicholas is Deputy Director of the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods and Senior Fellow at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR). He is a quantitative social scientist and has a Bachelor of Economics (Hons) from the University of Sydney and a Master of Education from Monash University. He also has a PhD in Public Policy from the ANU, where he wrote his thesis on the benefits of and participation in education of Indigenous Australians. He previously held a Senior Research Officer and Assistant Director position in the Methodology Division of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.



## Dr Naomi Priest

### Fellow

Naomi's broad research interest is in the integration of social and epidemiological methods to examine and address racial-ethnic inequalities in child and youth health and development across populations and place. This includes the conduct of social epidemiology and qualitative research to understand racial-ethnic differences in child health and development, and explanations for observed differences, particularly the patterns, mechanisms and prospective influence of adverse early life exposures and stressors, including racial discrimination. In 2014-15 she was a Visiting Scientist at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



## Professor Toni Makkai

### Emeritus Professor

Toni is Emeritus Professor at the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods. She has held a number of executive leadership roles, including the Directorship (CEO) of the Australian Institute of Criminology, and is currently Deputy President of the Governing Board of the Ted Noffs Foundation. She is a quantitative social scientist who has worked extensively in socially key policy arenas including drugs and crime, crime statistics, victimisation, aged care and regulation, politics and immigrants, and professional socialisation. She has published widely across these areas and has been involved in the collection of major datasets, many of which are available for secondary analysis through the Australian Data Archive.



## Dr Bruce Smyth

### Associate Professor of Family Studies

Bruce is a family sociologist with a background in psychology, research methods, and social policy. He has been at the ANU for almost a decade. Previous appointments include Senior Research Fellow at the Australian Institute of Family Studies, and member of the Ministerial Taskforce on Child Support. He recently completed an ARC Future Fellowship.



## Ben Phillips

### Associate Professor

Ben is a Principal Research Fellow at the Centre for Social Research and Methods. He has nearly twenty years of experience as an economic and social researcher in Australia. Prior to joining the ANU Ben was responsible for a range of modelling projects at NATSEM, including the STINMOD microsimulation model of Australia's tax and transfer system. Ben managed several critical projects including the distributional analysis of the Federal Government's 2014-15 and 2015-16 Budgets.



## Dr Sriram Shankar

### Fellow

Sriram has a strong background in economic theory (both micro and macro), econometrics, mathematics, statistics, and computer science. He is actively pursuing research in a number of topics in: risk and uncertainty, environment and resource economics, labour economics, development economics, and applied econometrics.



## Dr Shuvo Bakar

### Fellow

Shuvo's research focuses on understanding complex data using a hierarchical Bayesian approach and algorithms. He is a competent programmer, and has written several open-source software programs for analysing data. He obtained his PhD from the University of Southampton and moved to Australia to join the CSIRO. He has also worked as an Assistant Professor at Yale University, and has an honorary position at the Institute for Applied Ecology at the University of Canberra.



## Dr Robert Ackland

### Associate Professor

Robert is an Associate Professor with a joint appointment in the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods and the School of Sociology. He has a background in economics, and has been conducting quantitative research into online social and organisational networks since 2002. He leads the Virtual Observatory for the Study of Online Networks Lab (<http://vosonlab.net>) and he created the VOSON software for hyperlink network construction and analysis, which is used by researchers worldwide.



## Dr Matthew Manning

### Associate Professor

Matthew is an applied microeconomist who predominantly researches the economics of crime and enforcement. Matthew was previously a Director of Griffith University's Social and Economic Research Program (SERP), and an economist in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University. His research involves using economic methods for measuring outcomes associated with situational and developmental crime prevention programs and policies.





## Dr Royston Gustavson

### Associate Professor

From 2015 to 2018, Royston has been seconded full-time to the Office of the Dean as the College of Arts and Social Sciences Associate Dean (Education). Royston joined the ANU in 2003. A passionate educator, in 2009 he received the ANU Vice-Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence, from 2010 to 2011 was Associate Dean (Education) of the ANU College of Business and Economics, and from 2010 to 2012 served on the ANU's 15-person governing body, the ANU Council.



## Dr Ann Nevile

### Honorary Associate Professor

Ann is a social policy researcher with strong qualitative research skills. A major concern of Ann's research is the impact of funding and performance management frameworks on third-sector service delivery agencies and their clients, most recently in the area of disability employment. A second strand of Ann's research considers values, in particular the values held by those with experience of poverty and how these can inform policy and implementation issues.



## Dr Tania King

### Research Fellow

Tania's background is in social epidemiology, and her research interests are in understanding how social and environmental influences and processes shape health and educational outcomes throughout the life course. Tania has a strong interest in inequity, including the processes and consequences of bias, prejudice, stereotype, discrimination, and bullying among vulnerable groups including ethnic minorities, women, and people with disabilities.



## Rob Bray

### Research Fellow

Prior to joining the ANU Rob had a long APS career. At the ANU he has undertaken research and evaluation including employment services, income management, young carers, retirement savings and financial management including behaviour aspects. His key areas of research include the Australian tax-transfer system, income distribution and well-being.



## Dr Jason Payne

### Senior Lecturer

Jason is Convenor of Undergraduate Criminology at the Australian National University (ANU). He is a mixed-methods criminologist with interests in longitudinal methodology, life-course criminology, and policy analysis.



## Dr Jill Sheppard

### Lecturer

Jill is a survey researcher in the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods and a lecturer in the School of Politics and International Relations. Her research interests are elections and voting, political participation, public opinion, and survey methodology.



## Matthew Taylor

### Research Fellow

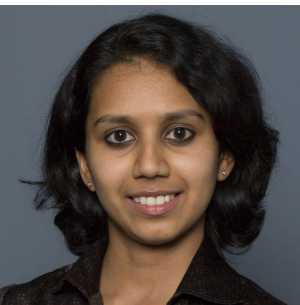
Matt is a Research Fellow in the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods. His research interests include economic modelling, applied econometrics, labour economics, and social policy. Before joining the ANU Matt worked for the Centre for Independent Studies and a number of government agencies and universities, including the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling at the University of Canberra, and the Australian Institute of Family Studies.



## Sue Regan

### Fellow and Head of Strategic Engagement

Sue joined the ANU in 2012 to run the Social Policy program of the HC Coombs Policy Forum, based at the Crawford School of Public Policy. Previously, Sue was chief executive of the UK's Resolution Foundation and Associate Director and Head of Social Policy at the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) in London. She has also worked as a ministerial adviser and as a public servant in the Department of Work and Pensions (UK).



## Cukkoo Joseph

### Research Assistant

Cukkoo is a Research Assistant in the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods. Her research interests are in the areas of quantitative public policy analysis, microsimulation modelling, and applied statistics. Prior to her current role, Cukkoo worked at the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling at the University of Canberra.

## ADA STAFF



### Dr Steven McEachern

#### Director and Manager, Australian Data Archive

Steve is Director and Manager of the Australian Data Archive at the Australian National University, where he is responsible for the daily operations and technical and strategic development of the archive. He has high-level expertise in survey methodology and data archiving, and for over fifteen years has been actively involved in the development and application of survey research methodology and technologies in the Australian university sector.



### Janet McDougall

#### Senior Data Archivist

Janet is a Senior Data Archivist at the Australian Data Archive, with a background in systems IT, data management, GIS, and social research. Her role encompasses outreach and curation of research data for preservation, archiving, and publication; including implementation of metadata, standards, and programming for data manipulation, preservation and retrieval.



### Sharron Turner

#### User Services Officer

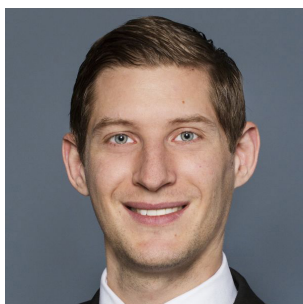
After several years working for the Department of Defence, Sharron joined the Australian Social Science Data Archive (ASSDA) at the ANU, the former Australian Data Archive (ADA) as an Archive Officer in 2005. Sharron is currently the User Services Officer at ADA, where she provides user support and access. She manages the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) data for all ANU staff and students.



### Dr Heather Leasor

#### Data Archivist

Heather is a Data Archivist with the Australian Data Archive (ADA) at the Australian National University, where she is responsible for the curation of research data for preservation, archiving and publication. Heather holds a PhD in Bioanthropology from the ANU, a Master's degree from California State University Fullerton in Physical Anthropology, and a Bachelor in Anthropology and Zoology from Miami University.



### Sebastian Kocar

#### Data Archivist

Sebastian is a Data Archivist in the Australian Data Archive (ADA) at the Australian National University. He holds a Master of Science degree in Statistics and a Bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences from the University of Ljubljana. Sebastian joined the ADA in 2015 after he was awarded the Endeavour Executive Fellowship Award.

## SRC ADJUNCTS



### Darren Pennay

#### **Chief Executive Officer, Social Research Centre**

Darren is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Social Research Centre and an Adjunct Professor with the University of Queensland's Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR). He is a full member of the Australian Market and Social Research Society and has QPMR (Qualified Practicing Market Researcher) accreditation. Darren is also a member of the American Association of Public Opinion, the World Association of Public Opinion Research, and the European Survey Research Association.



### Sonia Whiteley

#### **Executive Director (Research Strategy), Social Research Centre**

Sonia is a professional research methodologist, data manager, and program evaluator. Her particular interests include program evaluation, data management, large scale survey design and management, crime and safety research, approaches to statistical disclosure control, and service delivery assessment. Sonia is a full member of the Australian Market and Social Research Society and a registered Psychologist.



### Karen Kellard

#### **Director, Qualitative Research Unit, Social Research Centre**

Karen is an experienced applied social researcher specialising in qualitative methods. Karen's expertise covers a broad range of social policy areas including health, disability, community cohesion, welfare, education, and employment. Karen is responsible for all qualitative research at the Social Research Centre, applying the full range of qualitative approaches including focus groups, in-depth interviews, workshops, and online qualitative models. Karen also leads on all cognitive and usability testing for survey questionnaires and associated instrumentation.

## PHD SCHOLARS

The Centre host a growing number of PhD scholars:

- > **Agnieszka Nelson** – a Sir Roland Wilson Foundation scholar, undertaking a quantitative inquiry into the impact of welfare conditionality on disengaged youth.
- > **Talia Avrahamzon** – a Sir Roland Wilson Foundation scholar, examining children's participation in reconciliation.
- > **Margarita Vorsina** – applying economic methods to estimate reasons for and consequences of terrorism.
- > **Gabriel Wong** – researching adolescent drug use, knowledge synthesis, and economic analysis of crime prevention and efficiency in policing.

## INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

**Professor Matthew Woollard** – Director, UK Data Archive and UK Data Service, University of Essex

**Beth-Ellen Pennell** – Director, International Survey Operations at University of Michigan – Research and Sponsored Projects

**Professor Yun-Han Chu** – Director of Asian Barometer Survey, Distinguished Research Fellow, Institute of Political Science, Academia Sinica, Taiwan

**Jennifer J Sinibaldi** – Assistant Research Professor, Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland, College Park

**Paul J Lavrakas** – Senior Research Fellow, Office for Survey Research, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, Michigan State University

**Yu-chieh (Jay) Lin** – Survey Methodologist and Project Manager, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

**Lars Kaczmirek** – Deputy Head, Department Monitoring Society and Social Change, GESIS

**Professor Peter Dwyer** – Professor of Social Policy, Department of Social Policy, University of York, United Kingdom

**Carlo Knotz** – Department of Political Science, Lund University

**Alasdair Stewart** – Researcher, Urban Studies Department, University of Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom

**Simon Chapple** – Senior Research Fellow, University of Otago, New Zealand

## GOVERNANCE

The ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods sits within the Research School of Social Sciences in the College of Arts and Social Sciences. Governance of the Centre comprises a management committee, and the Centre benefits from the advice and contribution of members of its scientific advisory board. The board members include international and Australian leaders in survey research, with particular expertise in survey design, internet-based surveys, sampling error, and longitudinal research.

Members:

### **Professor Peter Davis**

Professor, Centre of Methods and Policy Application in the Social Sciences, University of Auckland

### **Professor Rob Donovan**

Professor, School of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Curtin University

### **Dr John Henstridge**

Managing Director, Data Analysis Australia

### **Professor Leonie Huddy**

Professor, Department of Political Science, SUNY at Stony Brook

### **Professor Paul Lavrakas**

Independent consultant

### **Professor Peter Lynn**

Professor of Survey Methodology, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex

### **Professor Melanie Wakefield**

Director, Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer, Cancer Council Victoria

### **Professor Mark Wooden**

Professorial Research Fellow and Director, HILDA Survey, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, University of Melbourne

### **Professor Matthew Woollard**

Director, UK Data Archive and UK Data Service, University of Essex

# RESEARCH

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

### Methods Research

The ANU CSRSM has worked very closely with the SRC on research into survey methods. A number of papers were presented at academic conferences, with these now under review in relevant academic journals. At the World Association for Public Opinion Research conference, staff from the CSRSM presented on the following topics:

- > Experience and Remuneration: Interviewer Effects in an Australian Time Series Survey
- > Recruitment Reminder Effects: How do Reminder Waves Recruit Different Profiles of Respondents in an Online Survey? and
- > Demographic Change in Australian Social Attitudes Surveys, 1984–2014.

The ANU CSRSM co-hosted a conference with the SRC on 'The current state and future of online research in Australia', which focused on the development and evaluation of Australia's first probabilistic online panel. A number of staff were involved in this conference, including a presentation on 'Predictive Relationships in the SRC Online Panels Benchmarking Study: Exploring self-assessed health'.

An important area of methods research was the use of Bayesian Spatial Models for Small Area Estimation. This research, presented at a number of conferences and workshops, explored new and innovative techniques that used data from sample surveys in combination with Census or other data to create estimates of important social phenomena at spatial scales that are not directly estimable. The techniques were developed using pooled ANUpoll data, and were applied to voting behaviour and a range of social attitudes.

### Surveys

The Centre maintains and financially supports a number of ANU surveys that constitute fundamental infrastructure for Australian social scientists and international scholars with an interest in Australia.

#### Australian Election Study (AES)

The AES provide a long-term perspective on stability and change in the political attitudes and behaviour of the Australian electorate, and investigates the changing social basis of Australian politics. The AES is part of the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES), which covers 50 countries. The 2016 AES wave has been collected and was released in December 2016 through the ADA.

#### World Values Survey (WVS)

The WVS forms part of an important long-term, world-wide study of values and their impact on social and political life. The WVS began in 1985 and now covers 97 countries, representing almost ninety per cent of the world's population. The latest wave of data was collected and released through the ADA in 2015.

#### ANUpoll

The ANUpoll is a regular survey of Australian public opinion. The topic of each survey is an issue of national importance and is determined by the advisory board. ANUpoll differs from other opinion polls by placing public opinion in a broad policy context and maintaining critical questions over time. At the end of 2016 data had been collected on 28,981 Australians across a range of important social issues. More details on specific ANUpolls are set out below.

ANUpolls

October 2016

#### Attitudes to National Security: Balancing Safety and Privacy

This ANUpoll explores Australians' willingness to trade off their personal rights and freedoms for national security. The survey finds widespread support for current counterterrorism measures, such as retention of telecommunications metadata, strict border control policies, revocation of citizenship of 'foreign fighters' with more than one nationality, and bans on travel to sites of certain international conflicts.

April 2016

#### Tax and Equity

Tax and Equity in Australia: What Australians Want poll asks Australians what they think about these issues. Should we be worried about governments holding debt? Which areas of spending should have priority, and which can be cut?

February 2016

#### Ageing and Money

The 20th ANUpoll – Ageing and Money: Public opinion on pensions, inheritance, financial wellbeing in retirement, and caring for older Australians – reveals that many Australians are worried about their retirement and their ability to afford a comfortable life after leaving the workforce.

October 2015

#### Social class in Australia

The 19th ANUpoll – Social class in Australia: Beyond the 'working' and 'middle' classes – reveals a greater stratification in Australian society than we might otherwise have thought. Almost all Australians perceive themselves as being from either the working or middle class of society.

April 2015

### **Australian attitudes towards national identity**

The 18th ANUpoll on national identity finds that Australians believe speaking English and respect for political institutions and laws are the most important factors in being Australian. Being born in the country was the least important factor.

March 2015

### **Indigenous Issues: Injustice, Disadvantage, and Support for Recognition**

Amidst debate on constitutional recognition of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, this ANUpoll of national public opinion provides a snapshot of Australian attitudes towards Indigenous issues.

## **Social policy research**

CSRSM has undertaken research on a range of social policy issues including in the areas of labour market policy, family law, and the consequence of relationship breakdown, education, child developmental outcomes, the social and economic consequences of extreme weather events, crime and justice and housing, and the drivers of prisoner remand numbers.

The ANU CSRSM has also been involved in the design and evaluation of several Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs) with the Australian Tax Office (ATO). In partnership with academic colleagues in the Crawford School of Public Policy, these RCTs have applied understanding of human behaviour (Behavioural Insights) to the tax system, with a focus on Small-Medium Enterprises. A select number of pilot evaluations led to an ARC Linkage Grant between the ANU and the ATO that commenced in January 2017.

## **Evaluations**

High-quality evaluations allow researchers to make inferences about the effect of policy change on important outcomes, and to identify the mechanisms through which interventions are likely to be having an effect. The ANU CSRSM were involved in a number of ongoing policy evaluations in 2015 and 2016. This includes the evaluations of:

- > Work for the Dole 2014-15 Pilot
- > Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Schools
- > jobhelp: A pre-release labour market trial in 5 Victorian prisons, and
- > ACT Restorative Justice Program.

## **Modelling of the tax and transfer system**

In 2016, CSRSM embarked on a new program of work for the purpose of research into Australia's tax and transfer system. An integral part of this research is the development of a new microsimulation model that will enable researchers at the Centre to model the existing and alternative tax and transfer policies.

The model consists of a cameo and distributional model. The distributional model allows researchers to estimate the winners and losers from a policy change, and to estimate the overall impact of policy in a financial sense across all households in Australia. The cameo model is used to consider existing and alternative policy for hypothetical families, such as a single-parent family with two children aged four and six years.

CSRSM expects to finalise and launch both models in mid-2017. These will be critical to the ANU and to the broader community in understanding the impact of changes in tax and social security policy.

## Consultancies and grants

The ANU CSRM undertook the following consultancies in 2015 and 2016:

COMMISSIONING AGENT	CONSULTANCY
ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety	ACT JaCSD high volume offenders
ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety	ACT JaCSD – JR evaluation framework
Australian Institute of Criminology	Executive training in statistics for criminologists
Australian National Data Service	The Australian Data Archive as a trusted digital repository for Australian social science
Australian Tax Office (through Crawford)	Payment Thinking: Pilot trials of applying Behavioural Insights
City of Melbourne	Building children's resilience through healthy, respectful and equitable relationships
Commonwealth Department of Employment	Increasing workforce participation for people not in the labour force
Commonwealth Department of Employment	Methodology for evaluating value for money and deadweight costs of employment programs
Commonwealth Department of Employment	jobactive collaboration – issues and options
Commonwealth Department of Employment (with the SRC)	Evaluation of Work for the Dole 2014-15
Commonwealth Department of Employment	Assessment of proposed methodology for evaluation of Employment Services
Commonwealth Department of Employment	Advice on the available options for controlling for macroeconomic changes in regression modelling
Commonwealth Department of Employment	Review of jobactive Star Ratings Collaboration Bonus
Commonwealth Department of Employment (with Crawford)	Evaluation of JobHelp
Commonwealth Department of Employment (with the SRC)	Topic papers from analysis of Stepping Stones Longitudinal Survey
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Redesign and delivery of short courses on behavioural insights and randomised controlled trials
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Indigenous populations project
Early Childhood Australia (ECA)	Distributional Impacts of childcare policy
Fairfax Digital	Australian political personas
Goodstart Early Learning	The impact of reducing access to early learning for children whose parents are not in the workforce



COMMISSIONING AGENT	CONSULTANCY
Goodstart Early Learning	Child care hours of attendance and parental labour market participation: A review of recent evidence
Interrelate and the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department	Certifying mediation: A study of section 60I certificates
Murray Darling Basin Authority	Short course on program evaluation
NSW Treasury and NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research	Review of WSIPP model
Queensland Government Department of Justice and Attorney-General	Building effective drug and alcohol court-based interventions
Queensland Parliamentary Services	Assessment of community attitudes surveys and advice on community attitudes to aspects of abortion
Reconciliation Australia	Evaluation of Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in schools
The Parenthood	Cameo analysis of single parents

The ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods staff have had success in winning competitive research funding.

FUNDER AND GRANT	PROJECT	Partner/s	Staff Member/s
UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)	University consortium for evidence-based crime reduction	University College London	Matthew Manning
ARC Linkage Grant	Applying Behavioural Insights to the Tax System in Australia	Australian Tax Office, Crawford School of Public Policy	Nick Biddle
ARC Linkage Grant	Australian school students, racism, and bullying	Western Sydney University, University of Technology Sydney, University of Melbourne, Trinity College Dublin	Naomi Priest
NHMRC Career Development Fellowship	Early life adversity and child development	-	Naomi Priest
Commonwealth Department of Health, NDERF Grant	Determining the cost of alcohol to law enforcement	-	Matthew Manning, Jason Payne, Toni Makkai
ARC Discovery Grant	Australian Election Study	School of Politics and International Relations, ANU	Toni Makkai

## PUBLICATIONS

This section provides a listing of publications undertaken in 2015 and 2016 by staff employed at the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods at the end of 2016. Some of the publications were completed prior to the staff member joining the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods.

### Books

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Manning, M., Johnson, S., Tiley, N., Wong, G. & Vorsina, M. (2015) *Economic Analysis and Efficiency in Policing, Criminal Justice and Crime Reduction: What Works?*, Palgrave Macmillan, United Kingdom.

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Taylor, M. (2016) 'Some cameos of the impacts of Family Tax Benefit reform,' ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods, ANU, Canberra.

## Formal submissions to parliamentary and government inquiries

ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods (2016) Submission to the 2016 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap Capability Issues Paper.

Australian Data Archive and the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods (2016) Submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry on 'Data availability and use'.

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# AUSTRALIAN DATA ARCHIVE

## About the ADA

The Australian Data Archive (ADA) provides a national service that collects and preserves digital research data, and makes the data available for secondary analysis by academic researchers and other users. The ADA central office is based at the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods. Since October 2015 ADA data has been available free of charge to all users. The ADA comprises seven sub-archives: Social Science, Historical, Indigenous, Longitudinal, Qualitative, Crime & Justice, and International.

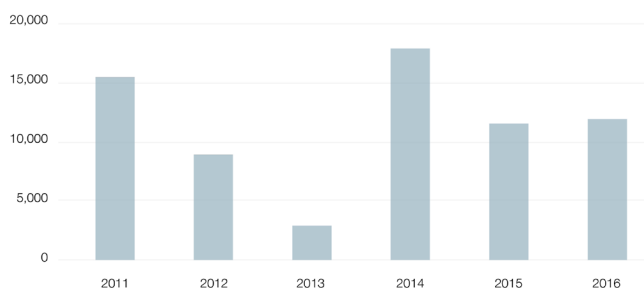
ADA highlights for 2016 included:

- > 972 new user registrations in 2016, 1,077 datasets downloaded, and 11,937 online analyses through the ADA online access systems.
- > Commencement of planned upgrades to the ADA website, catalogue and data discovery services. This work will continue in 2017, and will include replacement of the ADA Nesstar database with a new service.
- > Establishment of a DOI minting service for new datasets published by ADA.
- > Acquisition of the major longitudinal studies produced by the Department of Social Services, including the Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Study.
- > Acquisition of new waves of several major data series, including the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth, Australian Longitudinal Study of Men's Health (Ten to Men) and Women's Health, Lowy Institute surveys, and the Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey.

## Archive data usage activity, 2016

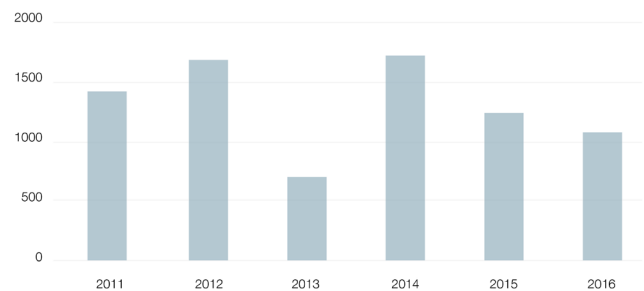
Usage of the ADA Nesstar archive occurs in two formats – online analysis and data downloads. Online analysis refers to the conduct of online analyses, such as cross-tabulations and regressions, using the statistical analysis tools included in the ADA's Nesstar system, but without enabling direct access to the raw data. Data downloads refers to the download of raw data files from the Nesstar system to the user's own computer for external analysis. Figures 1 and 2 depict the trends in archive usage by year since 2011.

Figure 1. Online analyses by year, 2011 - 2016



Usage of the ADA online analysis system increased slightly in 2016, with 11,937 uses of the system, compared to 11,583 analyses in 2015. This is broadly consistent with the level of usage since 2011, and triple the level of use occurring prior to 2009. Notably, the peak years in this period (2011 and 2014) are the years of the release of the Australian Election Study, which is the most heavily used dataset in the ADA collection.

Figure 2. Data downloads by year, 2011 - 2016\*



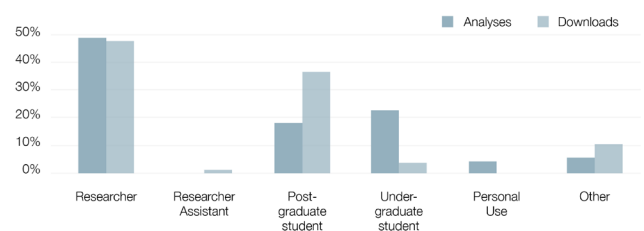
\*Note: there was been a considerable decrease in the level of use of the online analysis facility in 2013, largely due to the off-line status of the ADA Nesstar server following an attempted security attack in April 2013.

Usage of the ADA data download system decreased slightly in 2016, with a total of 1,077 datasets downloaded, compared to 1,243 downloads in 2015. While the data download activity has decreased slightly, it is again consistent with the level of use since 2011.

## Usage by user type

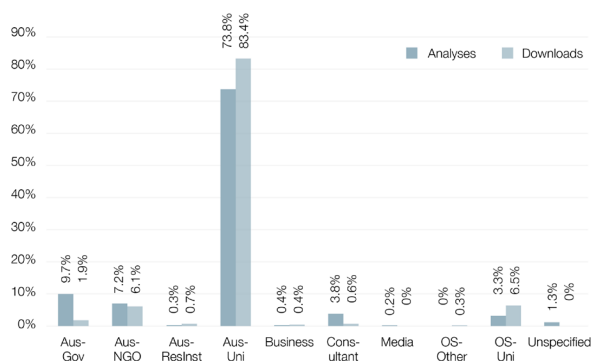
In order to understand the broad distribution of usage of our data, ADA tracks the basic characteristics of its users through our registration. As shown in Figure 3, the distribution of users of the ADA systems is primarily oriented towards researchers and postgraduate students. Approximately 85 per cent of the datasets in a given year are downloaded by these two groups. The usage of the online analysis system differs somewhat, with undergraduate users completing over 20 per cent of these analyses in 2016 (Figure 3).

Figure 3 Usage by user type.



In terms of the institution type and location of users of the ADA's systems, these are primarily within Australian universities, but with a notable proportion of both non-academic use and overseas use. Figure 4 illustrates that 83 per cent of the downloads of data from the ADA are by users at Australian universities, with clusters of use in Australian NGOs, Australian government organisations, and overseas universities, particularly in North America and Europe.

Figure 4. Usage by type of user



## User registrations

There were a total 972 new users who registered on the ADA Nesstar system of in the 2016 calendar year. This increased the total number of registered users on the ADA system to 13806 as of the end of 2016. As with previous years, the largest group of users registering on the Nesstar system was undergraduate students, with 296 new undergraduate students registering in 2016. There were however a significant proportion of registrations among postgraduate students (250) and researchers (236).

## ADA data acquisitions

The archive published 104 data and documentation files from 18 projects in 2016, an increase from 49 files and 12 projects in 2015. Major studies published this year include:

- > Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth - new waves of 2006 and 2009 cohorts (NCVER/DEEWR)
- > Australian Child Wellbeing Project (Flinders University / ACER)
- > Australian Survey of Social Attitudes 2013 and 2014 (ANU)
- > New Lowy Institute polls and ANU polls (Lowy, ANU)
- > Scanlon Foundation Social Inclusion Surveys, 2007-2010 (Monash)

In addition to these published studies, there are also a further 50 studies (incorporating up to 15 data files each) that have been deposited with ADA that are in various stages of processing, to be published in 2017.

The most notable of these is the four longitudinal studies managed by the National Centre for Longitudinal Data in the Australian Department of Social Services:

- > Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey (HILDA)
- > Longitudinal Survey of Australian Children (LSAC)
- > Longitudinal Survey of Indigenous Children (LSIC)
- > Building a New Life in Australia (BNLA)

Other studies currently in progress for publication include:

- > Australian Survey of Social Attitudes (ACSPRI and ANU) – 2015 wave
- > ANUpolls (ANU) – 2 waves
- > Lowy Institute Polls (Lowy Institute) – 2 waves
- > Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (Ausport) – 10 waves
- > Australian Institute of Criminology – 15 studies



# TEACHING AND EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

## Postgraduate education

In 2015 and 2016, the CSRM co-convened the Master of Social Research (MSR) with the School of Demography, with the Centre adopting sole convenorship from First Semester 2017. The MSR is a professional degree designed to provide training in social science research. Graduates of this program gain practical skills that can be applied in government, non-government organisations, and the private sector. Graduates of the Master of Social Research with a high level of performance also have a strong foundation for PhD studies. In addition to the convenorship, a number of CSRM staff taught individual courses in 2015 and 2016, including compulsory courses on Social Research Practice and Quantitative Social Research, as well as electives on Online Research Methods and Social Science of the Internet.

In 2016, the ANU launched a new program, the Master of Applied Data Analytics (MADA). This new and innovative program is a collaboration between the CSRM, the Research School of Computer Science (in the College of Engineering and Computer Science) and the Research School of Finance, Actuarial Studies & Statistics (in the College of Business and Economics). The MADA is designed to acquaint students with best practice in data analytics through cutting-edge courses in areas of relevance to data analytics practitioners. Students are able to focus on one of the three areas of computation, statistics, or social science, whilst gaining crucial exposure to the other two areas. The program is taught in intensive blended mode, with students expected to be enrolled part-time.

In 2016, Matthew Gray and Nicholas Biddle co-convened the inaugural MADA course, using data to answer policy questions and to evaluate policy. With over sixty students from across the public sector, the course engaged students with contemporary practice in policy research and evaluation, as well as the main sources of data in Australia and their strengths and weaknesses. A number of CSRM staff and affiliates provided guest lectures for the course, with many students gaining their first exposure to university studies or social research methods in a number of years.

## Undergraduate education

In 2016, the Bachelor of Applied Data Analytics (BADA) was approved by the ANU Council, and is open for students to commence in 2017. The BADA is a three-year full-time (or equivalent part-time) interdisciplinary degree designed to address a global shortage of graduates with skills in applying data analytics to high-quality, data-informed decision-making. It is designed to develop interdisciplinary knowledge across the three base disciplines of computing, statistics, and social science. CSRM will incorporate a number of courses in the program from 2017, and has been integral to the design and approval of the degree.

CSRM staff have contributed to a number of undergraduate programs across the ANU. The Bachelor of Criminology will be convened by the Centre from 2017, with many of the courses continuing to be taught from within the Centre. In 2016 Dr Payne convened courses on the Criminological Imagination and Doing Criminology: Research and Practice in Crime and Criminal Justice. In addition, in 2015 and 2016 Dr Shankar taught into the Bachelor of Economics program, convening courses on Economic Models and Introductory Econometrics as well as Applied Macro and Financial Econometrics. Finally, Dr Sheppard convened a course in the Political Science program on Australian Political Institutions, as well as convening the discipline's Honours program. All of these courses have had a strong methods emphasis, exposing a diverse range of students to rigorous and innovative social research practice.

## Executive Education

In addition to Undergraduate and Postgraduate teaching, the CSRM has provided a range of training programs to the wider policy and research community. The Centre is currently designing and delivering an extensive training package to the Australian Public Service (APS) in partnership with the Behavioural Economics Team for Australia (BETA). In 2016, courses were delivered to staff from a range of government agencies on Advanced Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs). This will continue into 2017 with courses on Behavioural Insights for Policy, as well as Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced RCTs. In 2016, the CSRM also designed and delivered a course in partnership with ANU Enterprise on 'Evaluating Policies and Programs', with a customised version of this course delivered to the Murray Darling Basin Commission.

CSRM designed a series of executive education short courses. These include:

### **A Short Course Primer on Data and Evidence for Public Policy**

This course introduces the main issues in data collection, analysis and interpretation in public policymaking, policy analysis and policy evaluation. Participants will learn about designing and executing policy projects, critically analysing or evaluating data from surveys or other databases, while also gaining an appreciation of the tools and methodologies for measuring policy or program impact.

### **Microsimulation Modelling for Policymakers: Strengths, Weaknesses, and Predictive Power**

If you have always wondered how simulation modelling can reliably predict the social and economic impact of taxes and budgets, then this is a course you should attend. Participants will gain insight from simulation modelling and discuss its predictive capabilities, strengths and weaknesses.

## **Designing and Running Field Trials for Policy Insight**

Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) are now gaining popularity as a powerful instrument with which to evaluate public policy. RCTs are increasingly used in behavioural economic-style pilot interventions to test the efficacy of behavioural change outcomes. Public sector participants will be introduced to the theory and practice of carefully designing and implementing RCTs that can provide reliable information – about policy or service interventions that work, or do not work, and why.

## **Collecting Survey Data: Principles, Design and Execution**

A must for anyone involved in commissioning social surveys as part of their role (e.g., project managers and policy analysts), and those who have direct involvement in social surveys and data collection in the APS or the private sector. Participants will learn to: identify and co-develop survey designs that can answer pertinent social research or policy evaluation questions; and, overall, develop a more critical awareness of available social survey instruments, measures and methodologies.

## **Evaluating Policies and Programs**

Explore the main issues concerning the evaluation of public policies and programs and the potential traps of poor evaluation methodology. Learn about the different techniques for evaluating costs and benefits, minimising bias and errors, recognising the limitations of existing data, and extracting evidence that is meaningful to policymakers and/or informs current policy debates.

## **Social and Behavioural insights for Enhancing Public Policies and Service**

Globally, policy tweaks and nudges have optimised behavioural changes in areas such as revenue collection, e.g., tolls, fines, tax compliance, etc. More recently, randomised evaluations of behavioural-type interventions are positively affecting policies and services in areas as diverse as integrity and compliance; cost-effectiveness, and operational streamlining; public affordability, access and uptake; and program efficiency, productivity and impact. Learn more about how behavioural insights are being applied in the public sector and brainstorm ideas with your peers in this course. Delivered by Dr Nicholas Biddle and invited APS practitioners.

## **Using Qualitative and Mixed-Methods Data for Evidence-Based Policy Making**

Mixed methods is a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches that provides a better understanding of policy issues than either approach in isolation. The course is targeted towards those who commission, undertake or apply empirical research as part of their role in the analysis, design or implementation of policy or service delivery. Presented by leading academics from the University's acclaimed Centre for Social Research and Methods (CSR/M) in association with skilled practitioners from the Melbourne-based Social Research Centre (SRC).

# ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

## EVENTS

### Social Research and Methods Seminar Series

Throughout 2016, CSRSM series. The series included speakers from a range of research backgrounds, all with an applied research methods focus.

#### Semester 1

Wednesday 24 February 2016

#### Mining booms come and go, immigrants are forever

Professor Bob Gregory AO, Emeritus Professor, Research School of Economics

There are now one million additional immigrants in Australia than was anticipated fifteen years ago. The seminar explored some of the implications of this extraordinary outcome. How did this exceptional growth happen? How did it impact on the economy? Have the additional immigrants contributed as much to Australian economic growth as the mining boom?

Wednesday 9 March 2016

#### Many questions, much data and approximate measures – Evaluating New Income Management in the Northern Territory

Rob Bray PSM, Research Fellow, ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods

New Income Management, a program which constrains how some income support recipients in the Northern Territory could spend part of their payments, was introduced in late 2010. The evaluation of Income Management drew upon extensive quantitative and qualitative data sources. This seminar explored the characteristics and uses of these different sources of data in the evaluation and how they were used to construct measures of outcomes, along with their strengths and weaknesses, and how the evaluation sought to draw findings from them.

Wednesday 23 March 2016

#### Evaluating the 2014-15 Work for the Dole trial sites – balancing evaluation questions, data sources and timelines

Karen Kellard, Director, Qualitative Research, Social Research Centre

The Social Research Centre, in collaboration with the ANU, was commissioned in November 2015 by the Department of Employment to evaluate the 2014-15 Work for the Dole trial in 18 Priority Employment Areas. This seminar explored the evaluation aims, the methodology and findings, and reflected on the crucial issues that emerged from the study and how these have informed the national roll-out of the program.

Wednesday 30 March 2016

#### The State-Contingent Approach to the Noah's Ark Problem

Dr Sriram Shankar, Research Fellow, ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods

Biodiversity outcomes arising from conservation programs depend on the future state of nature, yet standard economic models of biodiversity conservation are not state-contingent. This presentation set out a state-contingent approach to the Noah's Ark problem – the problem of efficiently allocating limited funds to conserve biodiversity – in order to model conservation actions under conditions of uncertainty.

Wednesday 4 May 2016

#### Hats, Chinese walls and contagion: exploring the implications of Abbott's decision to be Prime Minister of Indigenous Affairs and women

Dr Gemma Carey, Senior Lecturer & NHMRC Fellow, UNSW Canberra

In 2013, when the liberal government came to power, Abbott appointed himself the Minister for Indigenous Affairs and the Minister for Women. This act triggered a major restructure of government departments and meant that service-delivery staff across Australia (including remote areas) are now overseen by PM&C, representing a fundamental shift in the role of this central agency. This seminar explored the ramifications of the decision.

Wednesday 11 May 2016

#### Growing Up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) – Moving into adolescence and emerging adulthood

Associate Professor Ben Edwards, Executive Manager, Longitudinal Studies, Australian Institute of Family Studies and ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods

With the release of the sixth wave of LSAC, Australia now has nationally representative longitudinal data on children from birth through to age 16–17 years. This seminar explored many of the novel and exciting new measures of Wave 6 and discussed how LSAC is an exemplar of the next generation of longitudinal surveys, in which survey and linked data are used to augment the features of each other to maximise knowledge generation.

Wednesday 18 May 2016

#### Policy Reviews and Inquiries: what can we learn from their use in the Australian welfare arena?

Sue Regan, Policy Analyst, Crawford School of Public Policy

Government-commissioned policy reviews (sometimes referred to as a type of 'public inquiry') are an instrument of both evaluation and policy development. These reviews typically involve external experts and operate, to varying degrees, independently of government. What purpose do they serve, what methods do they employ, and what impact do they have? This seminar explored these questions by examining reviews of Australia's welfare system since the 1940s.

Wednesday 25 May 2016

### **A Bayesian Spatial Categorical Model for Small Area Estimation**

Shuvo Bakar, Lecturer, ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods

Sample surveys by definition are often carried out on a subset of a population in a subset of geographical areas that represents the whole geographical region. This leads to an absence of direct information in those areas that are not sampled, and to information prone to significant sample error in those areas that are sampled. In addition, sometimes researchers are interested in information in a spatial unit that is geographically different to the survey spatial unit. This seminar primarily involved discussion of the development of a model-based Small Area Estimation (SAE) technique.

### **Semester 2**

Wednesday 20 July 2016

### **Neither hasty generalisation nor slothful induction: Thinking through the value of 'aberrant' data**

Associate Professor Simone Dennis, Senior Lecturer in Anthropology, ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

This seminar asked what can be called data? How do we handle 'anecdotal data'? Is it useful and, if so, for what? What questions does it raise about methodology? What can we say about the state of research when one is attempting to study tobacco use in a field dominated by tobacco control researchers?

Wednesday 27 July 2016

### **GST Reform in Australia: Implications of Estimating Price Elasticities of Demand for Food**

Dr Mathias Sinning, Senior Lecturer, Crawford School of Public Policy

This paper used detailed information about household supermarket purchases from the Australian Nielsen Homescan Survey to estimate price elasticities of demand for a range of food categories. An instrumental variable strategy is employed to address endogeneity issues. The seminar discussed the preliminary findings, which indicated that the costs of compensating households in the bottom quintile of the income distribution for the loss in consumption induced by the tax increase is relatively small compared to the tax revenue resulting from the reform.

Wednesday 3 August 2016

### **An Introduction to the Australian Data Archive**

Dr Steven McEachern, Director, Australian Data Archive

This seminar provided an introduction to the services and data available through the Australian Data Archive (ADA), the history of the archive, and its development through to the present day. The seminar explored future directions for the ADA and social science data archives internationally, and how archives can continue to support social science and humanities research in the future.

Wednesday 10 August 2016

### **Explaining political satisfaction with validated Google Trends data**

Dr Nicholas Biddle, Deputy Director; Dr Jill Sheppard, Lecturer, ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods

Using data from a time series of Australian opinion surveys – the ANUpoll series of public opinion – this paper set out two aims: first, to reproduce analyses from these recent studies to examine the content validity of Google Trends data in the Australian case against probability-based survey data; and second, to use both probability-based survey data and the Google Trends data to predict temporal variation in Australians' satisfaction with the direction of their country.

Wednesday 17 August 2016

### **Hour-glass ceilings: Work-hour thresholds, gender and health inequalities**

Dr Huong Dinh, Research Fellow, Research School of Economics

Associate Professor Lyndall Strazdins, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health

Long work hours erode health, which the setting of maximum weekly hours aims to avert. This 48-hour limit, and the evidence base to support it, has evolved from a workforce that was largely male, whose time in the labour force was enabled by women's domestic work and care giving. The gender composition of the workforce has now changed, and many women – as well as some men – combine care-giving with paid work, a change viewed as fundamental for gender equality. However, it raises questions as to the suitability of the current work time limit and the extent to which it is protective of workers' health. We estimate workhour/mental health thresholds, testing if they vary for men and women due to gendered workloads and constraints on and off the job.

Wednesday 24 August 2016

### **Markets, Monopolies and Moguls: the relationship between inequality and competition**

The Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP, Parliament of Australia

Analysing private market research data, we estimate the degree of market concentration across 481 industries in the Australian economy. On average, the largest four firms control 36 per cent of the market. Some industries are considerably more concentrated. In department stores, newspapers, banking, health insurance, supermarkets, domestic airlines, internet service providers, baby food and beer, the biggest four firms control more than 80 per cent of the market. We suggest ways in which high market concentration may increase inequality, and discuss some policy ideas to address the problem.

Wednesday 31 August 2016

### Values - whose values? Incorporating the values of service users into measure of service quality

Dr Ann Nevile, Honorary Associate Professor, ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods

There is growing recognition in Australia of the need for information on service quality to be part of performance management frameworks, but little discussion of how service quality could be measured, or how indicators of service quality might be incorporated into existing performance management frameworks. This seminar explored one attempt to develop indicators of service quality for Disability Employment Services based on the proposition that when services are co-produced (i.e., realising government goals are dependent on the efforts of service users as well as service providers and funders), successful quality improvement efforts depend upon user definitions of quality being given equal, if not more weight, than funder or provider definitions of quality.

## Additional Methods seminars

The Methods seminar series also ran throughout 2015 and included the following seminars:

### Quality in Qualitative Research

Karen Kellard, Director of Qualitative Research, Social Research Centre

### Large scale surveys as campaigns: social media and the Student Experiences Survey

Sonia Whiteley, Executive Director, Research Strategy at the Social Research Centre and Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods

### Fun and Games with Data Access: principles and responsibilities for researcher access to sensitive data

Dr Felix Ritchie, Associate Professor in Applied Economics and Director of Bristol Economic Analysis, Bristol Business School, University of the West of England

### Intergenerational education transmission: How to measure it, why it is important, and what to do about it

Associate Professor Nick Biddle, Deputy Director, ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods

### Measuring and addressing implicit bias: Complexities, challenges and opportunities

Dr Naomi Priest, ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods

### Adaptive sampling from large-scale online networks

Dr Robert Ackland, Associate Professor, School of Sociology and ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods

## Qualitative Research Network

The Qualitative Researchers Network (QRN) is a network within the ANU established by the CSRSM and led by Dr Marisa Fogarty of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR). The aim of the QRN is to form a community of researchers from across the ANU who are interested in and engaged with qualitative research methods. A number of events were held in 2016, with engagement across the ANU and from the policy community.

15 November 2016

### Qualitative research and the policy process: How can qualitative research better inform decision making processes?

Speakers for the Forum included: Sean Innis (Special Advisor to the Productivity Commission); Susan Helyar (Director, ACT Council of Social Services); Karen Kellard (Director of Qualitative Research, Social Research Centre) and Kim Grey (Senior Advisor, Evaluation Policy and Advice Section, Indigenous Affairs Group, PM&C).

16 August 2016

### Qualitative research at the margins: case studies of innovative methods

Speakers for the Forum included Dr Naomi Priest (Centre for Social Research and Methods), Dr Vanessa Newby (Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs), and Dr Bonnie McConnell (School of Music).

17 May 2016

### Looking back, moving forward: What is the future of qualitative research?

The Forum hosted four panel members from a diverse range of disciplines and research backgrounds: Dr Johanna Rendle-Short (School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics); Dr Graham Fordham (ANU College of Medicine, Biology and Environment); Dr David Bissell (School of Sociology); and Associate Professor Cathy Banwell (National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health).

Some of the issues discussed included:

- > Innovative qualitative methods
- > Perceptions of qualitative methods
- > Future of qualitative research methods – are we moving more to the quantification of qualitative research?
- > Archiving qualitative research
- > Issues around analysis of qualitative research
- > How qualitative research methods can contribute to scientific fields of research that are traditionally quantitative, and
- > Issues around teaching qualitative methods.

## Conferences and workshops

### 27th Australian Labour Market Research (ALMR) Workshop (convened by CAEPR and CSRM)

Thursday/Friday 1–2 December 2016

The Australian Labour Market Research (ALMR) Workshop is an annual conference designed to disseminate high-quality research on labour economics and labour relations and to promote informed debate among economists and the government sector about current issues facing the Australian labour market. Professor John Ham (National University of Singapore) gave a keynote speech titled 'Using random assignment for program evaluation: What it can and cannot do.' The workshop brought together participants from different Australian universities (e.g., ANU, Flinders University, University of Western Australia), government departments (Department of Employment, ABS, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet) and international universities (National University of Singapore).

The sponsors for the workshop were: Australian Bureau of Statistics; Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre, Curtin University; Centre for Labour Market Research, University of Canberra; Department of Employment; Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; National Institute for Labour Studies, Flinders University; the Australian National University (Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Centre for Social Research and Methods, Research School of Economics).

### Data for Policy: the role of longitudinal and linked data

Wednesday 9 November 2016

The inaugural 'Data for Policy' workshop focused on the role of longitudinal and linked data in helping to answer policy problems. The primary aim of the workshop was to broker a conversation between academics, researchers, and policy-makers on the potential and challenges of this type of data. In addition to a keynote speech, the workshop had two panel sessions: the first on Intergenerational Mobility (and the role that longitudinal data can play in illuminating mobility across generations); and the second on the Power of Linked Data (which will provide a number of examples of linked data analysis, with a particular focus on linked longitudinal data). The Australian Data Archive, based at the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods, is home to many of the longitudinal datasets that were discussed. Speakers included: Jason McDonald (PM&C); Professor Toni Makkai (ANU); Associate Professor Peter Siminski (University of Wollongong); Professor Janeen Baxter (University of Queensland); Associate Professor Nick Biddle (ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods); Nathan Deutscher (Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU); Julia Neville (ATO); David Kalisch (ABS); Tim Reddel (DSS); and Dr Jenny Gordon (Productivity Commission).

### The Current State and Future of Online Research in Australia

Thursday 14 July 2016

Australia and worldwide the increase in internet penetration has seen a plethora of nonprobability online panels established. These panels provide researchers with access to panel members prepared to undertake surveys for 'rewards'. In the United States and parts of Europe the increased use of the Worldwide Web for data collection has also resulted in the establishment of probability-based online research panels based on the scientific sampling of the population. The same is not true in Australia where there aren't any commercially available national probability based online panels.

The organisers of this workshop are concerned that the rapid increase in the use of nonprobability online panels in Australia has not been accompanied by an informed debate regarding the advantages and disadvantages of undertaking online research via probability and nonprobability research panels. This workshop brought together leading Australian and international survey researchers to explore this issue.

### Current directions in shared parenting research: An international workshop

Monday 11 July 2016, Somerset House, King's College London, UK.

The focus of this workshop was on legislative approaches to shared parenting after divorce. It sought, among other things, to (a) promote dialogue between national and international experts on shared-time research and policies; (b) examine the best available evidence on the impacts of different legislative approaches to shared parenting; and (c) consider current and future challenges for post-separation parenting policy, research and service delivery. International speakers included: Stephen Gilmore (Kings College London), Rachel Birnbaum (King's Western University, Canada); Professor Eva Ryrstedt (University of Lund, Sweden); Yoav Mazeh (Ono Academic College, Israel), and Steve McKay (University of Lincoln, UK).

### Designing effective and innovative public policy in a complex environment

Monday 23 November 2015

The ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods partnered with the HC Coombs Policy Forum on this event to explore emerging ideas and good practice in dealing with complex public policy issues. It was an opportunity for participants to hear from leading global and Australian thinkers and practitioners, including a keynote address from Professor Cass Sunstein of Harvard University. The environment in which policymakers are working is complex and uncertain, but the Australian government has an ambitious reform agenda, including for regulatory reform. This conference explored the ways in which recent research can help in the development of more effective public policy. The aims of the conference were to:

- > Introduce participants to new ideas, approaches and techniques that can improve Australian public policy
- > Explore the insight offered by behavioural economics and other policy innovations for specific Australian policy challenges, and
- > Deepen collaboration between the public sector, business, academia, and civil society.

International speakers included Robert Walmsley (Founder and Director of the Program on Behavioural Economics and Public Policy, Harvard Law School, Harvard University); Lam Chuan Leong (Practice Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore); Michael Hiscox, (Clarence Dillion Professor of International Affairs, Harvard University; Founding member of Harvard Behavioural Insights Group); Nava Ashraf (Associate Professor in the Negotiations, Organisation and Markets Unit, Harvard Business School) and Benjamin Castleman (Assistant Professor of Education and Public Policy, University of Virginia). Associate Professor Nick Biddle (CSRM) and Dr Naomi Priest (CSRM) were among the domestic speakers.

### International Conference on Welfare Reform: Meeting the Policy Challenges of Change

Sunday/Monday 16–17 September 2015

The CSRM, the Sir Roland Wilson Foundation, the Social Policy Institute, and the Tax and Transfer Policy Institute at the Australian National University hosted the International Conference on Welfare Reform on 16–17 September 2015 at the ANU, Canberra, Australia.

Welfare reform is an important and hotly debated issue around the world. Governments in a number of countries, including Australia, the UK, and New Zealand are actively reviewing their welfare systems. This conference brought together university academics, the community sector, and policy-makers to provide perspectives from Australia, the UK, New Zealand and Sweden on future directions for social security systems.

Speakers included: The Hon Scott Morrison MP (then Minister for Social Services); Patrick McClure (Chair, Reference Group on Welfare Reform); David Kalisch (Australian Statistician, Australian Bureau of Statistics); and Peter Dwyer (University of York, United Kingdom).

## Public lectures

### Trusted access to government data – reflections from the UK

Thursday 24 November 2016

Australian departments and agencies have recently begun exploring models for trusted access to research data, culminating in the recent release of the ABS Trusted Access Model, and the Trusted user model, included in the draft report of the Productivity Commission into Data Availability and Use. Both of these models have their origins in the United Kingdom, and the '5 Safes Model', developed in collaboration between the UK Data Service and the Office of National Statistics. In this public lecture, Professor Matthew Woollard, Director of the UK Data Archive (University of Essex) proffered critique of the Productivity Commission report, from a UK – and European – perspective. He considered the Trusted User model outlined in the report 'Trust: The Foundation of the New Data Framework', in the light of his experience in providing secure access to sensitive data to researchers in the UK under the 5 Safes framework.

### Causal questions in education research: Methods, issues and policy responses

Tuesday 24 November 2015

The CSRM hosted Dr Benjamin L Castleman from the University of Virginia. Dr Castleman is an expert on behavioural insights into educational access and attainment in the United States. In this lecture, he shared his experiences and findings from conducting randomised controlled trials in education research.

### Evidence based policy: The value of longitudinal studies and administrative data linkage

Monday 23 March 2015

This public lecture was delivered by Professor Jane Elliott, Chief Executive of the Economic and Social Research Council in the United Kingdom.

Britain is unique in the world in having a portfolio of national birth cohort studies that follow individuals from birth through childhood and into adult life. These studies, the first of which was established in 1946, have already been instrumental in providing evidence relevant to a wide range of policy issues, particularly in the areas of health, child development, education, and employment.

This lecture drew on research based on the excellent portfolio of cohort studies in Britain to explore the methodological advantages – as well as the challenges – of using longitudinal research evidence as the basis for policy. It focused on the ways in which longitudinal research designs can help us to develop an understanding of causal processes when examining the links between early life circumstances and later outcomes. The lecture used a number of examples from the fields of health, education, and family life to demonstrate the value of longitudinal research and how it has informed social policy in Britain. The presentation concluded by suggesting the ways in which linked administrative data can potentially enhance the value of longitudinal studies, and some of the recent initiatives that facilitate research on linked administrative data in Britain.

## Selected Presentations

Staff from CSRM have given presentations at an array of domestic and international conferences. For example, CSRM had major representation at the National Longitudinal Data Conference, the World Values Conference, and the ACSPRI conference. Listed below is a selection of presentations to major national and international conferences.

Bakar, K. S. (2016) A Bayesian approach for SAE with an adjustment of different misaligned spatial units, Small Area Estimation Conference, Maastricht University, Maastricht, Netherlands.

Biddle, N. (2016) Gaining better insights into the Indigenous Australians' changing circumstances using the Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset, National Centre for Longitudinal Data Conference, Canberra.

Biddle, N. (2016) The relationship between nurse home visits and Indigenous child outcomes: Evidence from the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children, National Centre for Longitudinal Data Conference, Canberra.

- Biddle, N. (2016) Behavioural insights and longitudinal data: Analysing the effect of scarcity using Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia, National Centre for Longitudinal Data Conference, Canberra.
- Bray, R., Gray, M., Hand, K. & Katz, I. (2015) Income management and behaviour change: Evidence and policy, Australian Social Policy Conference, Sydney.
- Gray, M., Hunter, B. & Crawford, H. (2016) Who cares and does it matter for the labour market?: A longitudinal analysis of the labour force status of Indigenous and non-Indigenous carers, Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) Conference, Melbourne.
- Gray, M., Stanton, D., Qu, L. & de Vaus, D. (2016) The impact of policy change and macro-economic conditions on Australian single mothers, Foundation for International Studies in Social Security Research Workshop, Sigtuna, Sweden.
- Gray, M. (2015) Data (and research) for evidence based social policy, East Asian Social Policy (EASP) Conference, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, Singapore.
- Gray, M. (2015) The income consequences of relationship breakdown: A comparative cross-country analysis, Nanjing University, China.
- Leasor, H., McDougall, J. & McEachern, S. (2016) Making metadata perform: Metadata creation from past, present and future projects, ACSPRI Conference, Sydney.
- Makkai, T. (2015) The future of criminology research funding priorities, Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology Annual Conference, Adelaide.
- Makkai, T. (2016) Big data and open access: Opportunities and challenges, 3rd UN Conference on Governance, Crime and Justice Statistics, Merida, Mexico.
- Manning, M. & Wong, G. (2016) How much does that intervention cost: Using the Manning cost-benefit tool, UK Cost-Benefit Workshop, University College London, UK.
- McAllister, I., & Makkai, T. (2016) The Relevance of left-right position in postcommunist societies, International Political Science Association World Congress, Poznan, Poland.
- McDougall, J. (2016) Metadata production and the data lifecycle: Archives and producers as collaborators in metadata production, eResearch Australasia Conference, Melbourne.
- Payne, J. (2016) The influence of childhood trauma and internalizing behaviours on female offending pathways in event: Developmental and life course perspectives on early and late onset offending, American Society of Criminology, 72nd Annual Meeting, New Orleans, USA.
- Payne, J. (2016) Towards a gendered understanding of adult-onset offending: a comparative analysis of male and female prisoners in Australia, American Society of Criminology, 72nd Annual Meeting, New Orleans, USA.
- Payne, J. & Makkai, T. (2015) Risk in Australian drug markets: A multi-level analysis of offender perceptions and behavioural consequences, American Society of Criminology, 71st Annual Meeting, Washington DC, USA.
- Priest, N. (2016) The influence of racism on child health and development: How racism gets under the skin to influence lifelong health, Telethon Kids Institute, Perth.
- Priest, N. (2016) The influence of racism on child health and development, Clinical & Public Health Research Seminar, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Melbourne.
- Priest, N. (2016) Practical strategies for schools to tackle racism, The mental health & wellbeing of young people, Generation Next, Adelaide.
- Priest, N. (2016) Practical strategies for schools to tackle racism, The mental health & wellbeing of young people, Generation Next, Sydney.
- Priest, N. (2016) Practical strategies for schools to tackle racism, The mental health & wellbeing of young people, Generation Next, Melbourne.
- Priest, N. (2016) Unconscious bias in healthcare and health, Cultural Safety in Policy and Practice, CATSINAM / Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, AIATSIS, Canberra.
- Priest, N. (2016) Understanding and addressing racism and identity based bullying in schools, The mental health and wellbeing of young people, Generation Next, Sydney.
- Priest, N. (2016) Understanding and addressing unconscious bias: Complexities, challenges and opportunities, Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Australian National University, Canberra.
- Shankar S. (2016) Does information technology boost bank's profitability in developing nations? Unravelling threshold effects, RMUTP 7th International Conference on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Shankar, S. (2016) Spatial chaining methods for international comparisons of prices and real expenditures under heterogeneous prices and heterogeneous preferences, Society for Economic Measurement, 3rd Annual Conference, Thessaloniki, Greece.
- Shepperd, J. (2016) Explaining anomalous political assimilation among immigrants to Australia, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, USA.
- Shepperd, J. (2016) Legacies of autocracy: the pre-migration backgrounds of Australian party activists, European Consortium for Political Research, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic.
- Smyth, B. (2016) Current directions in shared parenting research, International workshop, Somerset House, King's College London, London, UK.
- Smyth, B. (2016) The high-conflict post-divorce shared-time family, (plenary address), Culture, Dispute resolution and the modernised family, King's College London, London, UK.
- Smyth, B. (2016) The high conflict post-separation shared-time family (plenary address), Family Law Practitioners Association of WA Conference, Perth.



Smyth, B., Rodgers, B. & Chisholm, R. (2016) Shared-time parenting after separation: Lessons from Australia, Current directions in shared parenting research, International workshop, Somerset House, King's College London, London, UK.

Taylor, M., Regan, S., Stanton, D. & Gray, M. (2016) Speaking truth to power: The role of policy reviews and evaluation in social policy, Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) Conference, Melbourne.

In addition to the presentations listed above, staff from the Centre undertook a diverse range of outreach activities. These included presentations to local community groups, public servants, and business organisations.

## Visiting Positions, Advisory Roles and Awards

Centre staff have a range of visiting positions and advisory roles, and have received a number of awards. In 2015 and 2016 these included:

Bruce Smyth, Editorial Board, *Australian Journal of Family Law*

Bruce Smyth, Editorial Board, *Family Court Review*

Bruce Smyth, Editorial Board, *Family Law Review*

Bruce Smyth, Editorial Board, *Journal of Family Studies*

Bruce Smyth, Steering Committee, Family Law Pathways Network, Canberra (auspiced by Legal Aid ACT)

Bruce Smyth, Family & Relationship Services Australia – National Conference Reference Committee

Jill Sheppard and Matthew Gray, 2016 Vice Chancellor's Award for Public Policy and Outreach (team)

Matthew Gray, Cashless Debit Card Trial Evaluation Steering Committee, Department of Social Services

Matthew Gray, Population and Social Statistics Advisory Group, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Matthew Manning, The Nordic Early Childhood International Advisory Group (University of Gothenburg)

Naomi Priest, Diversity Expert Advisor, Beyond Blue MindMatters

Naomi Priest, Early Childhood Reference Group member, Australian Human Rights Commission

Naomi Priest, Honorary Fellow, Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne

Naomi Priest, Honorary Fellow, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne

Naomi Priest, Scientific Advisory Board member, All Together Now (Anti-Racism charity)

Naomi Priest, Visiting Scientist, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, United States

Nicholas Biddle, ABS Demographic Studies Advisory Group

Nicholas Biddle, Technical Advisory Group for the ABS' Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Rob Bray and Matthew Gray, Best paper published in the *Australian Journal of Social Issues*

Royston Gustavson, Member, ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies

Sriram Shankar, Editorial board of *American Journal of Applied Sciences*

Sriram Shankar, Editorial Board of *International Journal of Development and Conflict*

Toni Makkai, Chair, Industry and International Advisory Board of Griffith Institute of Criminology, Griffith University

Toni Makkai, Chair, International and Industry Review Committee of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University

Toni Makkai, Deputy President, Ted Noffs Governing Board

Toni Makkai, Member Editorial Board, Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology

Toni Makkai, Member, Fulbright ACT Selection Committee

Toni Makkai, Member, Technical Advisory Group (TAG) the Drug Strategy Household Survey, AIHW

Toni Makkai, Member, Review Committee for the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (Code Review Committee), NHMRC and ARC

Toni Makkai, External Member, Review of Environment Studies, UNSW

Toni Makkai, Board Director, Social Research Company, ANU Enterprise Company

*The artwork depicted on the cover of this document is a visualisation of responses to the 2016 ANUpoll. The image was composed by the Data Visualisation Team from ANU Design, School of Art ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences.*