



Australia's
Global
University

Affective Shifts Inside and Outside the Nation and Body

Rethinking How Refugee Research is Engendered

Date: 21st February 2017

Venue: UNSW Art & Design Campus, Lecture Theatre EG02, Paddington, Sydney

[Map](#) (Map reference Block E)

Program

9:00 - 9:20am Welcome to country and participants, Professor Ross Harley,
Dean of Art and Design

Welcome to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Susan Dodds,
Dean of Arts and Social Sciences

Opening address, Professor Ian Jacobs, Vice Chancellor, UNSW

9:20 - 11:00am ***Shifting Perspectives, Interdisciplinary Research Spaces and
Transformative Agendas***

Stephanie Hemelryk Donald (chair) and Ruth Balint (co-organiser)

In this panel different disciplines and research traditions will interact and share ideas about the interdisciplinarity of their research on refugees and immigration. We invite panellists to focus on situated practice that characterises everyday life against the backdrop of increasing inequality and closing borders worldwide. These perspectives will interrogate and disrupt assumptions on how bodies and identities are conditioned, calculated and broken by flight and by the technologies of border protection, and the multitude of stories and memories that resist the silencing effects of immigration. From interests as diverse as biopolitics, emotion, labour policy, and the body as symbol and metaphor the aim is to harness a multitude of issues of being and becoming, knowing and remembering, bodily experiences and potentialities. It is hoped the nexus of this panel's theme of interdisciplinarity will open itself to a wide range of research fields with intent towards a fluid and productive collaborative spirit between diverse disciplines.

Panellists

Rose Butler (Ethnographer and Sociologist; UNSW)

Ruth Balint (Historian and Documentarist; UNSW)

Omid Tofighian (Philosophy; University of Sydney)

Stephanie Hemelryk Donald (Film, Media, Asian Studies; UNSW)

11:00 - 11:30am Morning tea

In partnership with:



11:30 - 1:00pm

***Researcher, Researched and partnerships with communities:
ethical and methodological issues in engaged academic practice***

Claudia Tazreiter (chair) Nayana Bibile (co-organiser)

The panel will highlight some of the tensions and ethical dilemmas of refugee-focused research and collaborations with research participants. The panel aims to draw out different disciplinary approaches and theoretical origins that steer methodology as well as the opportunities and challenges of working in a deliberative and inclusive manner, often antithetical to the priorities of the neoliberal university. Methodology that purposefully engenders a different politics of affirmation may help challenge the complexities of contemporary times and reframe the current tenor of public debate and its toxic undercurrents.

Panellists

Zanny Begg (Art & Design; UNSW)
Jennifer Hyndman (Human Geography; York University; Canada)
Belinda Liddell (School of Psychiatry; UNSW)
Sharon Pickering (Criminologist; Monash University)

1:00 - 2:00pm

Lunch in the courtyard

2:00 - 3:30pm

Post-representational Practice: Contemporary Art, Activism and Refugees

Caroline Wake (chair) and Veronica Tello (co-organiser)

This panel investigates the concepts of “post-representation” and “self-determination” in order to rethink relations between art, activism and refugees. The problems of representation are familiar: such practices risk reproducing refugees as silent spectacles, defined by their stories of displacement, and in need of a local expert’s translation. Hence, the turn to participation in recent years. Yet, as many scholars have pointed out, participation is not necessarily any more empowering for refugees and can in fact be just as limiting, premised on problematic power relations and assumptions. This panel asks: What might a post-representational and self-determined practice look like and how might we recognise it as such? And how might such a practice contest and recast the very concepts of, and relations between, “citizen” and “refugee”?

Panellists

Suvendrini Perera (Curtin University) and Joseph Pugliese (Macquarie University)
Veronica Tello (Art & Design, UNSW)
Mary Zournazi (Sociology, UNSW)

3:30 - 4:00pm

Afternoon tea

4.00-5.00pm

Roundtable discussion and Q&A

Chair: Jane McAdam (Law, UNSW)

Panellists

David Sanderson (Faculty of Built Environment, UNSW)
Violeta Moreno-Lax (Queen Mary University, London)
Eileen Pittaway (School of Social Sciences, UNSW)
Dan Tyler (Norwegian Refugee Council)

5:00 - 7:00pm Evening Event and exhibition at UNSW Galleries

Join us for a live performance by Vietnamese/Australian artist and UNSW Art & Design PhD candidate James Nguyen and a special viewing of EXIT.

Through his work, James Nguyen explores the difficulties faced by many migrant communities in their adopted countries. For this performance, Nguyen continues his collaboration with family members to reconstruct the story of his aunt's failed attempt to flee post-war Vietnam. The performance navigates gender politics within the family as each member retells the story from memory.

EXIT is a 360 degree immersive video installation that visually correlates global human migratory trends with urgent social and economic issues: increasing urbanisation, economic displacement, political disruption, climate change, natural disasters, and deforestation. Data gathered from over one hundred sources is geocoded, processed through a programming language, and presented visually by a rotating globe that translates statistics into maps, texts, and trajectories as it orbits the space.

Recently updated, EXIT was universally acclaimed when it was first exhibited at the Palais de Tokyo to coincide with the COP21 United Nations Climate Change Conference.

Commissioned by the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris based on an idea by Paul Virilio created by Diller Scofidio + Renfro with Laura Kurgan, Mark Hansen, Ben Rubin in collaboration with Robert Gerard Pietrusko, Stewart Smith.

RSVP to: unswgalleries@unsw.edu.au

Speaker Biographies

Ruth Balint

Ruth works on transnational histories of migration, displacement, refugees and family, with a current focus on the Displaced Persons of postwar Europe. She is fascinated in particular with the stories told by DPs themselves about their journeys of wartime displacement to the Allies and how this in turn contributed to the development of the modern humanitarian and legal idea of the refugee. A related project is the history of children disabled by war or birth, whose families were broken apart by the immigration policies of western nations after the Second World War. This feeds in to a broader interest in the persistent influence of eugenics in immigration in the postwar period in Australia. Ruth holds an ARC Discovery grant together with Professor Sheila Fitzpatrick from the University of Sydney and Dr Jayne Persian at the University of Southern Queensland.

Zanny Begg

Zanny works with film, drawing and installation to explore ways in which we can live and be in the world differently: this has included working with macro-political themes, such as anti-globalization protests, and in micro-political worlds, such as with kids in prison. She is the 2016 winner of the Incinerator Art Award, Art for Social Change for a film made with Iraqi refugees, 1001 Nights in Fairfield.

Nayana Bibile

Nayana is a Research Associate with the Forced Migration Research Network at UNSW. She researches existential realities of migrant and refugee lives with a focus on invisible violence of the everyday and gendered racism. Nayana's doctoral thesis *Cartographies of Resettlement: The Performativity of Containment and the Ontological Uncertainties of Certainty* elaborates on ethical imagination, subjectivity and intersubjectivity to theorise ethnography, which highlights processes that engender what she terms 'compassionate condescension' enacted in routine interactions of humanitarian regimes of care.

Rose Butler

Rose Butler is a Research Associate in the Centre for Social Impact at UNSW Australia. She researches the work of children, young people and families to adapt to changes in the economy, with a focus on class, intimacy, identity and cultural diversity. Her new book, *Fair Play: Childhood, Economy and Belonging* is forthcoming with Springer, and new co-edited Special Issue on Asian Migration and Education Cultures with the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.

Stephanie Hemelryk Donald

Professor Stephi Hemelryk Donald is currently an ARC Future Fellow. Her project 'Migration and Mobility: the question of childhood in Chinese and European cinema since 1945' will be undertaken at UNSW, 2012-2014; 2016-2017 inclusive. In 2012 she was Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professor at the Centre for World Cinemas at the University of Leeds, and in 2011 Visiting KNAAW/ASSA Professor at the University of Amsterdam. She was the overseas CI on the Leverhulme Trust Network (Childhood and Nation in World Cinemas). She was on leave for two years (2014-2016 during which time she undertook work at the University of Liverpool and Kingston University UK). Her research covers film, the media, and children's experiences in the Asia-Pacific region, with a particular focus on visual culture. Previous positions held include Professor of Chinese Media Studies at the University of Sydney, and Foundation Dean of Media and Communication at RMIT University, Melbourne

Jennifer Hyndman

Jennifer Hyndman is Professor in the Departments of Social Science and Geography, and is Director of the Centre for Refugee Studies at York. Her research focuses on conflict asylum and related human displacement, humanitarian emergencies, well as refugee resettlement in Canada. Current research projects probe identity and politics in the Toronto Tamil diaspora after 2009; the conundrum of protracted displacement among Somali refugees in Kenya (with W. Giles); and refugee settlement among 'new and few' groups in British Columbia. Jennifer's research traverses political, economic, cultural and feminist dimensions of migration, focusing on people's mobility, displacement, and security. Her scholarship is particularly concerned with the dynamics of conflict and disaster that create refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as international humanitarian responses to such crises. Recent work examines the intersection of conflict with the 2004 tsunami in Sri Lanka and Aceh, Indonesia, as well as the geopolitics of international aid in these locations.

Belinda Liddell

Belinda is a Research Fellow in the School of Psychology, UNSW Sydney and Deputy Director at the Refugee Trauma and Recovery Program (RTRP). Belinda has worked across the fields of international development and mental health, engaging in evidence-based policy development with UNICEF, Cambodia in 2007-2009, and was Research Director for a longitudinal mental health project in Timor-Leste 2009-2011. She commenced her postdoctoral research at UNSW Australia in 2012, and her research synthesizes her multidisciplinary interests in neuroscience and psychological research, human rights and refugee issues. Her research focuses on examining the neural mechanisms underlying refugee trauma including torture and other human rights violations, as well as the psychological processes underpinning refugee

adjustment and settlement. She is also undertaking several projects investigating cultural differences in emotion and traumatic stress.

Jane McAdam

Jane McAdam is Scientia Professor of Law and Director of the Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at UNSW, and the leader of the UNSW Grand Challenge on Refugees & Migrants. Professor McAdam is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, a Research Associate at Oxford University's Refugee Studies Centre, an Associated Senior Fellow at the Fridtjof Nansen Institute in Norway, and a Senior Research Associate of the Refugee Law Initiative in London, and was a non-resident Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy at The Brookings Institution, Washington DC from 2012-16. In 2017-18, she will be a Visiting Fellow at the Harvard Law School Human Rights Program. Her research has been supported by a number of Australian Research Council grants, including a prestigious Future Fellowship (2012-15). She has published nine books, over 50 peer-reviewed scholarly articles, and hundreds of other publications, presentations and parliamentary submissions.

Violeta Moreno-Lax

Dr Violeta Moreno-Lax is Lecturer in Law, inaugural Director (2014-16) and co-founder of the LLM in Immigration Law programme, and inaugural Co-Director (2014-16) and co-founder of the Centre for European and International Legal Affairs (CEILA) at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL). She is also EU Asylum Law Coordinator at the Refugee Law Initiative of the University of London, Co-Chair of The Refugee Law Observatory, Convener of the Society of Legal Scholars (SLS) Migration Law Section, as well as member of the Steering Committee of the Migration Law Network. Since January 2016, she is part of the Editorial Board of the European Journal of Migration and Law. And since March 2016, she is a Fellow of the High Education Academy.

Suvendrini Perera

Suvendrini (Suvendi) Perera is John Curtin Distinguished Professor and Research Professor of Cultural Studies in the School of Media, Culture & Creative Arts. She completed her BA at the University of Sri Lanka and her PhD at Columbia University, New York. Since coming to Australia she has published widely on issues of social justice, including decolonization, race, ethnicity and multiculturalism, refugee topics, critical whiteness studies and Asian-Australian studies. Suvendi began teaching career at the City University of New York. She has combined her academic career with participation in policymaking, public life and activism. Suvendi is the author/ editor of seven books, including *Reaches of Empire: Australia and the Insular Imagination: Beaches, Borders, Boats and Bodies* and *Survival Media: The Politics and Poetics of Mobility and the War in Sri*

Lanka. She is coeditor, with Sherene Razack, of the anthology, *At the Limits of Justice: Women of Colour on Terror*. She is currently the lead investigator on two ARC funded projects "Old Atrocities, New Media" and "Deathscapes." She is a founding member of Researchers Against Pacific Black Sites

Sharon Pickering

Sharon Pickering is a Professor of Criminology at Monash University. She was most recently an Australian Research Council Future Fellow on Border Policing. She is Series Editor with Katja Franko Aas (Oslo University) and Mary Bosworth (Oxford University) of Routledge Studies in Criminal Justice, Borders and Citizenship and is the former Editor of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology. Sharon is the Founder and Director of the Border Crossing Observatory - an innovative virtual research centre that produces high quality and independent research on border crossings. With A/Professor Leanne Weber she established the Australian Border Deaths Database and with co-operation of major international agencies is now expanding that to be the leading international research platform on border deaths in South East Asia.

Eileen Pittaway

Adjunct Professor Eileen Pittaway, AM, PhD (Refugee Policy and Management). From 1999 to 2013 Eileen was Director of the Centre for Refugee Research, University of New South Wales, and Associate Professor in the School of Social Sciences and International Studies, co-ordinating and teaching in the Master Programs of International Social Development, and Refugees and Forced Migration. She now continues her research activities and involvement with the University in an honorary capacity. During that time her major focus has been the prevention of and response to the rape, sexual abuse and gender based violence experienced by refugee women at risk, both overseas, and following resettlement to Australia. Over the past twenty years, she has conducted research, provided training to refugees, UN and NGO staff in refugee camps and urban settings, acted as technical advisor to a number of projects, and evaluated humanitarian and development projects in 18 different countries.

Joseph Pugliese

Professor Joseph Pugliese is Research Director of the Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies. Joseph's research and teaching are principally oriented by issues of social justice. He deploys critical and cultural theories in order to examine and address the relationship between knowledge and power, issues concerned with discrimination and injustice, state violence, institutional racism, and regimes of colonialism and empire. He examines these issues in the context of everyday cultural practices, the state, institutions of power such as law, and the interface of bodies and technologies.

His most recent publications include two monographs: *State Violence and the Execution of Law: Biopolitical Caesurae of Torture, Black Sites, Drones* (Abingdon and New York: Routledge, 2013). The book was nominated for the following international book prizes: the UK's Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize 2014 and the US Law and Society Herbert Jacob Book Prize 2014.

David Sanderson

David has over 25 years experience working across the world in development and emergencies. David worked for eight years for the NGO CARE International UK, as head of policy and subsequently regional manager for southern and west Africa. From 2006-2013 David was Director of CENDEP, a centre at Oxford Brookes University focusing on development and emergencies. Between 2013-14 he was a Visiting Professor at Harvard University. David was appointed the Inaugural Judith Neilson chair in architecture at UNSW in February 2016. He is a member of several NGO boards and committees, including the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF), where he chairs the Funding Committee. David is editor of the 2016 IFRC World Disasters Report.

Claudia Tazreiter

Claudia is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of New South Wales, Australia. Her research focuses on the social and affective impacts of forced and irregular migration, on human rights culture, the role of civil society in social change and gender in migration. Her most recent book is co-authored with Leanne Weber, Sharon Pickering, Marie Segrave, and Helen McKernan (2016) *Fluid Security in the Asia Pacific, Transnational Lives, Human Rights and State Control*, Palgrave MacMillan. She is currently managing editor of *The Australian Journal of Human Rights* and is an associate of the Australian Human Rights Centre. Claudia has had visiting appointments at the Center for Place, Culture and Politics, City University New York CUNY (2014) and the Centre for International Studies (CERI) Science Po (2011) and is a fellow at Institute for Migration and Intercultural Studies (IMIS), University Osnabrück.

Omid Tofighian

Omid is a lecturer, researcher and community advocate, combining philosophy with interests in rhetoric, religion, popular culture, transnationalism, displacement and discrimination. His current roles include Lecturer in Rhetoric and Composition for the Writing Hub and Honorary Research Associate for the Department of Philosophy at the University of Sydney; faculty at Iran Academia; board member for Powerhouse Youth Theatre; campaign manager for *Why Is My Curriculum White?* - Australasia; and Project Executive for the Religion, State and Society Research Network. He contributes to community arts and cultural projects and works with asylum seekers, refugees and young people from Western Sydney. He

has published numerous book chapters and journal articles and is author of *Myth and Philosophy in Platonic Dialogues* (Palgrave 2016).

Veronica Tello

Veronica is a Chilean-Australian writer. Her research broadly focuses on biopolitics and critical border studies. Her forthcoming book *Counter-Memorial Aesthetics: Refugee Histories and the Politics of Contemporary Art* (Radical Aesthetics Radical Art series, Bloomsbury Philosophy) analyses the protracted 'refugee crisis' from the 1990s to the present era in countries such as Australia, Cuba, the US and the UK and the role of contemporary art in manifesting 'counter-memories' of not only diminishing histories but also neglected futures which prioritise locating a critical, post-identity (non-citizen/nation-based) form of inter-subjectivity and thinking. She is currently Vice-Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the National Institute for Experimental Arts, UNSW.

Dan Tyler

Dan Tyler has worked with the Norwegian Refugee Council for over four years and is currently based in NRC's Oslo Headquarters where he holds the position of Regional Protection and Advocacy Adviser for Asia. Between 2010 and 2014, Dan was based in NRC's Kabul and Islamabad offices and most recently led NRC's efforts to regionalise its programme and advocacy response to Afghan displacement across Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. Dan has written extensively on humanitarian and protection challenges faced by Afghan internally displaced persons and protracted refugees, most recently co-authoring a report on urban displaced women and girls. Dan has eight years professional experience with international humanitarian organisations across Africa, Middle East and Asia and holds a LLB (Hons) in Law and an MSc in Democracy and Democratization from King's College London and University College London, respectively.

Caroline Wake

Caroline is an Australian Research Council DECRA Fellow and Lecturer in Theatre and Performance. Her research interests include contemporary Australasian performance; the participation and representation of refugees in performance and visual art; theatres of the real; and theories and practices of witnessing. She is co-editor, with Bryoni Trezise, of *Visions and Revisions: Performance, Memory, Trauma* (2013) and author of articles in *Theatre Research International*, *Text & Performance Quarterly*, *New Theatre Quarterly* and *Modern Drama*, among others. She is also Deputy Editor of *Performance Paradigm* journal, Series Advisor (Australia) to *Methuen Modern Classics*, and reviewer for *RealTime* arts magazine. She currently holds two ARC grants: her DECRA, *Restoring the Contemporary: Remembering Live Art*

at the Performance Space, and a Discovery Project, *Power and Performance: Revaluing Theatre in the 21st Century*.

Mary Zournazi

Mary is a Senior Lecturer of Sociology at the School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, UNSW. Mary has worked extensively at the interface of scholarly work and media production, most notably with ABC Radio and in producing documentaries for Radio National. She currently teaches and researches in areas of social justice, ideas of hope, peace, cinema, culture and emotions, political love, the body and self, and issues of communal belonging. Her previous research has explored issues of war, terror, language, hope, and the impacts of migration and displacement on the self and familial life. She is currently interested in the ethics of care, peace and the politics of hope in a new world. Her work traverses both traditional academic practices and public communication. Mary has recently completed the essay-style documentary film *Dogs of Democracy*. The film explores life on the streets of crisis-stricken Athens through the eyes of dogs. Mary describes it as "a universal story about love and loyalty and what we might learn from animals and people's timeless quest for democracy".

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