



Image taken by Jill Sweeney



Image taken by Liz Acemczyk

The Geographical Society of New South Wales

# Honours/Masters Conference 2017

**Thursday, 9 November, 10am-5pm**

Showcasing Honours and Masters Research from across NSW universities.

**VENUE**

University of Newcastle  
Social Sciences Building  
Room number: TBA

**REGISTRATION/ ABSTRACTS**

To register for this event please email abstracts to:  
Meg Sherval [meg.sherval@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:meg.sherval@newcastle.edu.au)

Abstracts should be a maximum of 200 words and are due 31 October.

Hosted by



The Geographical Society  
of New South Wales

[www.geogsoc.org.au](http://www.geogsoc.org.au)

## Conference Location - Directions



The Honours/Masters Conference is being held at SR G03 and SR G07. The front of the building is recognizable with its yellow brick façade. From the car park (P2) or bus stop, identified on the map above, walk down the main walkway (past V- Mathematics) until you see the 2<sup>nd</sup> entrance of the yellow brick building. Please note that parking on campus will cost you \$4.50 for the day. If catching a train to Broadmeadow station, get the 226 Bus to Wallsend, (in Browns Rd – Opposite the station) to the University. Buses are about every half an hour and drop you about 140 metres from the Uni. We recommend car – pooling as the best option.



### Map Key

 Bus Stop     Emergency Phone



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\*Please Note that all presentations should be 15 minutes maximum with 5 minutes question time afterwards. We have a lot of speakers, so please time your presentation accordingly\*.

## **Acknowledgment of Country**

We acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal lands of the Pambalong Clan of the Awabakal Nation on which the main campus of the University is located. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future and welcome Indigenous people to this conference.

## **Welcomes**

The Council of the Geographical Society of New South Wales extends a warm welcome to all participants attending the NSW Geography Honours/Masters Conference, 2017. This is a particularly significant year as the Society celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, having been established in 1927 as one of three state-based geographical societies (along with Queensland and South Australia). The mission of the Geographical Society is to elevate the discipline of geography, as well as to excite and engage the public in geography. The Geography Honours/Masters Conference is an important means by which we fulfil this mission.

This conference began 21 years ago as an opportunity for Honours students to showcase their work and provide an opportunity to meet other people who are passionate about engaging in geographical research. Today we welcome both Honours and research Masters Students, recognising the changes in educational structures that have occurred in some universities in recent times. Over the years we have witnessed fantastic presentations from students who have gone on to successful professional careers and/or PhD studies before entering the academic workforce. I am confident that today's presentations will continue this proud tradition.

Each year the conference rotates between Schools where geography is taught within the universities of New South Wales. This year the Council is indebted to the generosity of the University of Newcastle, notably the School of Environmental and Life Sciences (Geography and Environmental Studies) and particularly Dr Meg Sherval and her team. We also recognise the efforts of all those people in the GSNSW and elsewhere who have made this conference possible.

Finally, please stay connected with the Geographical Society of NSW as we continue to foster the development of geography and geographers in this state by publishing the journal *Australian Geographer* (which is a wonderful outlet for a journal article based on your thesis research), by holding functions for postgraduate students, initiating conference travel awards for post-doctoral geographers and holding events such as the NSW Geography Honours/Masters Conference.

For further information, please contact the Society's Executive Officer Bronwyn Bate (B.Bate@westernsydney.edu.au). Enjoy the day, make new friends and stay connected with the Geographical Society of New South Wales.

**Professor Phil McManus**

**President**

**Geographical Society of New South Wales**

## **Welcome to the University of Newcastle**

On behalf of the Discipline of Geography and Environmental Studies, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the University of Newcastle and the 2017 - Geographical Society of NSW Honours/Masters Conference. I am sure that we will hear some wonderful papers today and engage in some really stimulating conversations that capture and reflect all that Geography encompasses. Conferences are great opportunities to network with peers and to take the time to remember all the great things we love about Geography and its continuing value in our world today.

**Dr Meg Sherval**

**Senior Lecturer and RHD Convener – Geography and Environmental Studies  
Vice-President of the Geographical Society of NSW**

## **Programme**

### **9.45 Welcome to the Honours/Masters Conference**

10.00 - 10.20 - Lana Frost – Macquarie University

10.20 – 10.40 – Colette Fontaine – University of Wollongong

10.40 -11.00 – Rupert Legg – University of Sydney

11.00 – 11.20 – Patrick McEvoy - Macquarie University

### **11.30 – 11.50 – Morning Tea (SR 07 Opposite).**

11.50 - 12.10 – Brittany Betteridge - University of Sydney

12.10 – 12.30 – Paige Casacchia – Western Sydney University

12.30- 12.50 – Leah Emmanuel - University of Sydney

12.50 -1.10 – Hilton Penfold - University of Wollongong

1.10- 1.30 – Jean-Louise Olivier – University of Newcastle

### **1.30- 2pm – Lunch (SR 07).**

2.00 – 2.20 – Harriet Narwal - Macquarie University

2.20 – 2.40 - Kathryn Cox - Western Sydney University

2.40 – 3.00 – Kate Eager - University of Sydney

3.00- 3.20 – Felicity Dunbar - Western Sydney University

### **3.30- 4.00 - Afternoon Tea (SR 07).**

### **4.00 – Presentation of Jim Rose Awards**

Best Paper at the annual conference- \$250 cheque

Highly Commended presentation on a physical geography related topic - \$100 cheque

Highly Commended presentation on a human geography topic - \$100 cheque

### **4.30 – Finish and Farewell**

## **Abstracts**

### Session 1

**Lana Frost**  
**Macquarie University**

#### ***'Examining Diverse Understandings of Social Justice in Planning for Sea Level Rise: A Case Study of Lake Macquarie, NSW.'***

How can planning for sea level rise and the option of planned retreat be undertaken in a socially just way? This research applied a social justice framework to examine planning for sea level rise in the densely populated Lake Macquarie area. The Lake Macquarie area has the highest number of dwellings vulnerable to sea level rise in NSW and local adaptation planning for sea level rise is already being undertaken. An in-depth case study was developed through document and media analysis, observations of a community planning workshop, and interviews with key informants and householders. Interviews included local and state government, community stakeholders, and people living in low-lying coastal areas which are likely to be affected by sea level rise, as well as those living in more elevated areas around Lake Macquarie. This qualitative data was analysed thematically through a social justice lens incorporating procedural and distributive justice concerns to identify: the range of understandings of what is just in planning for sea level rise; and key factors that influence perceptions of justice in planned retreat scenarios. The study concludes that there is a need for guiding principles to explicitly address social justice, these are: responsibility; beneficiary pays; redistribution and intergenerational equity.

**Colette Fontaine**  
**University of Wollongong**

#### ***'Asian-Australian Cultures of Recreational Fishing.'***

Recreational fishing is one of the most popular recreational activities in Australia. At the same time, in the context of the sustainability of oceans, the practices of recreational fishers are increasingly coming under the scrutiny of management authorities. Most recreational fishing research focuses on recreational fishers from Anglo-European backgrounds. The recreational fishing practices of ethnic minorities living in Australia is given little attention. The aim of the research is to gain an understanding of the environmental knowledge of Asian-Australian recreational fishers. Fishing ethnographies were conducted with 15 men-who-fish for recreation from a range of Asian ancestries. The analysis provides insights into how Asian recreational fishers' talk and experiences are embedded in ethnic difference, where race and racism are embedded in sustainability management. The project outcomes will assist in informing future recreational fishing research and managing recreational fishers.

**Rupert Legg**  
**University of Sydney**

***'Is Green Good? Environmental Politics and Green Gentrification at Barangaroo.'***

This research explores the potential for gentrification resulting from sustainable urban or green developments. With their increasing occurrence, along with environmental and economic improvements, many view the impact of green developments with a win-win mentality, where inherently, green is good. However, there is growing concern that they may result in green gentrification, the process by which developments aimed at improving the environmental quality of an area result in gentrification, encompassing displacement, exclusionary displacement and exclusion of the disadvantaged. This thesis examines these claims at Barangaroo, one such green development in Sydney, Australia, that has received acclaim and triumph for its world-leading sustainability agenda, effective resource use and benefits for Sydney's economy. Drawing from the available literature (sustainable development, environmental justice and urban political ecology), a framework for assessment was developed and applied to Barangaroo. It revealed empirically that various forms of injustice and inequality can be associated with the local environment context, consumption, governance and metabolisms and flows of Barangaroo. This suggests that green developments should be approached with growing concern and an understanding that their implementation is likely to result in green gentrification, consequently reproducing social inequality.

**Patrick McEvoy**  
**Macquarie University**

***'Discourse of Rural Development and Community Benefits in NSW Sustainable Energy Transition.'***

My MRES project was a case study using critical discourse analysis of White Rock Wind Farm, one of a cohort of renewable energy projects being built in rural NSW following the 2015 political consensus that preserved the Renewable Energy Target. The first part of my project investigated representations of White Rock and its benefits in Goldwind's public communications about the project, as well as media releases by local politicians and local newspaper articles. The second part analysed the meaning of the term community and the conditions for the appointment of community representatives within NSW guidelines for community engagement. It then tracked the development of the White Rock Wind Farm Community Fund, which was carried out within the community consultative committee framework. My research found that major discursive elements of Goldwind Australia's representations of White Rock were reproduced within politician media releases and news articles, giving it considerable influence over public discussions of the project. Its representations of the project's benefits resonated with existing discourses about rural economic development. Processes for appointing community representatives to community consultative committees were found to favour people with high social capital, with consequences for community representation in the development of White Rock's community fund.

## Session 2

**Brittany Betteridge**  
**University of Sydney**

### ***‘Everyday Resilience: Responding to Livelihood Threats in North Jakarta’s Kampung.’***

In this presentation, I analyse how kampung (urban village) residents in North Jakarta construct diverse everyday practices of resilience when facing the threats of flooding, land reclamation, and eviction. To do this, I draw from critical resilience theory, everyday urbanism and situated urban political ecology. By bringing together these three bodies of theory, I introduce the concept of ‘everyday resilience’ to elucidate everyday responses of kampung residents in the context of urban development. The empirical data in the presentation was collected through twenty five semi-structured interviews across three kampung in North Jakarta: Kampung Aquarium, Kerang Ijo, and Tembok Bolong. I also draw from observations of community places and infrastructures. I discuss three diverse forms of everyday resilience—maintenance, reworking and resistance. These forms are differentiated by kampung residents’ level of agency in transforming their livelihoods in response to environmental threats (flooding and land reclamation) and associated governance interventions. Social infrastructure – meaning practices that connect people in socio-material relationships – highlighted the diversity of kampung residents’ everyday responses. Kampung residents have different levels of access and ability to invest in social infrastructure, with the dividends from the three resilience strategies percolating through existing kampung hierarchies.

**Paige Casacchia**  
**Western Sydney University**

### ***‘A Discursive Psychological Analysis of Sexual Racism within Heterosexual Geosocial Dating.’***

With the emergence of geosocial dating applications (apps), existing social inequalities such as racism are being reproduced. This presents another environment to address contemporary race relations. A literature review found two related but distinct bodies of knowledge: 1) framing of race-based partner choice as sexual racism in gay communities within critical social science disciplines, 2) framing of race-based partner choice as a racial ‘preference’ in heterosexual communities within ‘mainstream’ psychology. I adopted a critical psychological position to acknowledge underlying racial issues that influence race-based partner choice as a mainstream approach overlooks these social factors. Using a social constructionist epistemology and critical realist ontology, I explored heterosexuals’ experiences of sexual racism and operations of ‘preference’ on geosocial dating apps. Eight participants partook in face-to-face semi-structured interviews, involving mental mapping. A discursive psychological analysis identified two overarching strands: ‘Understanding Race and Sexual Racism’, and ‘Exploring ‘Preference’’. Sexual racism was found to be subtle in nature, encompassing racial fetishisation of women and undesirability of Brown women and Asian men.

Conversations captured White privilege, exhibited by ‘othering’, racial hierarchies, and spatialised racism across metropolitan Sydney. ‘Preference’ was found to be operating as a hegemonic truth, with seven of eight participants voluntarily mentioning racial ‘preference’.

**Leah Emmanuel**  
**University of Sydney**

***‘Tolak Gusuran!’ Repertoires of Resistance to Forced Eviction in Jakarta, Indonesia.’***

The mass forced eviction of informal settlements in postcolonial cities has been called ‘global phenomenon’ and ‘global crisis’, characterized by critical urbanists as a form of ‘accumulation by dispossession’. But empirical accounts from these cities also demonstrate that urban poor communities are not simply ‘passive victims’ of these processes – they are actively resisting, defending their homes and proposing alternatives. However, our understanding of how such resistance occurs – both theoretically and empirically, is lacking. Responding to calls by postcolonial scholars and critical urbanists to ‘provincialise urban theory’ and seek ‘latent alternatives in the present’, this thesis explores resistance to forced eviction through a close study of efforts by urban ‘kampung’ residents and their supporters in Jakarta, Indonesia. I demonstrate a dynamic ‘repertoire of resistance’ (cf. Tilly 1978) has been developed and mobilised by these groups to resist forced evictions from their homes; identifying and analyzing four related but distinct elements of this repertoire: holding our ground; pre-emptive transformation; networking; legal contestations. This repertoire, I argue, is not only shaped by Jakarta’s context, and in particular, its ‘political opportunity structures’ – but also by the heterogeneity of communities, their internal conflicts and hierarchies, as well as the role of individuals and leaders.

**Hilton Penfold**  
**University of Wollongong**

***Indigenous Geographies of Home - ‘Yarning about Home with Elderly Jerrinja People at Orient Point, NSW.’***

This Indigenous-led research project focuses on the meanings of home drawing on my Indigenous-non-Indigenous collaboration with the Jerrinja Aboriginal community at Orient Point, NSW. Well-rehearsed in the housing literature are the challenges of providing houses for Indigenous Australians. To address these challenges this research is part of larger project to design houses for elderly Indigenous Australians to return to Country that are underpinned by Indigenous principles. What makes a house a home for Indigenous Australians? To help answer this question this research— led by the Jerrinja community— explores the meaning of home drawing on mixed-qualitative methods. With a focus on establishing design principles this thesis conceives of home in relation to house, kinship and Country. This research points to what it means to do Indigenous-led

research and the ambivalent understanding of house-as-home for Jerrinja people. An important methodological finding was produced through a process of learning that occurred through the 'doing' of Indigenous-led research in practice, which highlighted a need for cross-cultural researchers to remain sensitive and flexible to the local social terrain. Flexibility required working within the context of local Indigenous housing politics, social mobility practices and adhering to important cultural protocols. Key empirical contributions include elderly Jerrinja people's discussions of embodied knowledges of the material house-as-home. In particular, I demonstrate how Jerrinja people were consciously alert to the relationships between bodies, spaces, materials and affective flows of light, wind, warmth and sound. Additional findings included the productive tensions between objective, aesthetic and relational aspects of the material house-as-home, as shown through elderly Jerrinja people's discussions of home. To conclude, the research offers four design principles: adaptability, sustainability, permeability and spatial freedom.

**Jean-Louise Olivier**  
**University of Newcastle**

***'When the Grandmothers are Protesting, you know there's something up' - Gender, Space and the Body'***

Minority world governments have responded to the crisis of forced migration in a range of ways, as the movement of vulnerable people has reached record levels since World War II (Anderson, Sharma and Wright, 2009 and James, 2014). The dominant policy response has been mandatory detention (Gill, 2010; Mountz et al., 2012), which has led to the proliferation of public protests across the world. Conventional research in geo-politics has continued to prioritise state-centric and disembodied accounts of forced migration (Clark, 2017; Gill, 2010). While there is an emerging literature in feminist geo-politics on embodied asylum seeker challenges to these dominant policy responses, there is a dearth of research on bodily forms of protest in the minority world. This research seeks to fill this gap by exploring a feminist geo-politics that foregrounds the body and gender in spaces of protest. Specifically, I focus on the Grandmothers against Detention of Refugee Children, Newcastle, as they protest in opposition to the Australian federal government's policy on mandatory detention. I make explicit the way grandmothers' subversive subjectivities are enacted at a weekly vigil. Here the grandmothers, other vigil attendees, and onlookers are affected and affecting in ways that embody solidarities with each other and across space through fleeting and creative interactions. What underscores their embodied politics is the way affect, materiality and space are co-constitutive of lived experiences. Highlighting the embodied politics, this research argues that it is through these performativities of protest bodies are able to enact the world they want to see.

### Session 3

**Harriet Narwal**  
**Macquarie University**

***‘Engaging in more-than-conservation in multispecies cities: A study of One Central Park, Sydney’.***

This research engages with how ‘living walls’ could play a role in familiarising urban human populations with multispecies cohabitation, contributing to an ethic of conviviality in cities. A bricolage approach, comprised of semi-structured interviews, observation, participatory photography and review of grey literature, historical sources and ethology literature, has been used to develop a more-than-human geography of the East and West towers at One Central Park, Sydney. Bringing more-than-human geography into close dialogue with approaches in the broader environmental humanities, this project looks to engage with the unequal experiences of dwelling in multispecies cities in the Anthropocene, and advocates for the practice of ‘more-than-conservation’ in the policy and planning of cities. Using a storied approach, this research focuses on three key themes: temporality, biocultural belonging, and multispecies conflicts. It argues that living walls provide a forced close proximity between human and nonhuman dwellers that, if coupled with facilitated engagement and thoughtful urban design, could provide opportunities to foster attentiveness to nonhumans, contributing to an ethic of conviviality among residents. If this coupling does not occur interventions like living walls may instead entrench existing dualisms, like that of nature/culture and wild/domestic, within the city.

**Kathryn Cox**  
**Western Sydney University**

***‘Constrained by Choice and Traditional Womanhood: Women’s Negotiation of Tinder in their Narratives of Identity’.***

Being hailed as upending conventional courtship and creating a hook-up culture, Tinder has become a prominent topic of discussion. Much of the research to date has investigated the uses of the application but overlooks how it may be influencing social norms around monogamous relationships and marriage. This study aimed to explore how women negotiate Tinder in their talk about relationships and identities. Semi-structured one-to-one interviews were conducted with eight women (aged 21-27 years) who have lived, or currently live, in The Hills District of Sydney. A narrative-discursive analysis identified three higher-order concepts within co-constructed talk: ‘The Hills Master Narratives’, ‘Enacting Place Identity Through Tinder’, and ‘Tinder as Barrier and Opportunity’. Results suggest that Tinder is positioned by women as enabling choice for sexual expression and connecting with others, but simultaneously constraining their ability to engage in idealised notions of womanhood. Additionally, Tinder is used by people as a means of enacting place identity in a digital space. This study has practical implications as it identifies the need to geographically contextualise results in studies of

identity, and recognises the importance of gaining insight into Tinder's place within master and individual narratives for a clinical setting.

**Kate Eager**  
**University of Sydney**

***'Preferences and emotions towards urban bluespace in Sydney'.***

Australian cities must be designed to include restorative spaces because of the impact urbanisation has on our well-being. Therapeutic landscapes, including green and blue spaces, positively influence our well-being. This study focuses on bluespaces due to gaps in current literature where water is included as part of greenspace in research and studies focus on coasts. Emotional and affective geographies are applied to analyse preferences and well-being. The suburb of Glebe in Sydney provides a non-coastal, urban location for the study. Online survey and semi-structured interviews used photo elicitation and the WHO-5 Well-being Index as methods. Results show bluespaces, and the combination of blue and green spaces, are preferred over built and green spaces. WHO-5 results suggest well-being increases with more visits to bluespace, however this needs to be confirmed by future research. Bluespace preferences are explained by four key themes: (1) ineffable emotions and the 'affect' of space; (2) childhood and memory; (3) the separation of human and nature through language; and (4) sustainable urban development. It is concluded that these themes should be addressed in the urban design of bluespace across Sydney to improve the quality and access to non-coastal urban bluespaces such as lakes, rivers, creeks and canals.

**Felicity Dunbar**  
**Western Sydney University**

***'Swipe Me Right: an Analysis of Swiping Practices on Tinder'.***

This study aimed to use an agential realist framework to explore how design, motivations of use, and human users intra-act within Tinder. Thematic analysis of 10 interviews identified three primary themes: Human-Technology Intra-action, Playing the Game, and Designing an Interaction. Location played a role in where people swiped, how they experienced the app, and how they made decisions around meeting up. Participants navigated Tinder through traditional dating norms including geographical proximity and physical attraction, as well as perceived similarities. Swiping techniques on the app differed between genders, with men employing a wide-net technique, and women being more selective. When choosing meet up locations, men focused more on convenience and travel time, and while convenience was a factor for women, safety and familiarity of locations was a greater concern for women interviewed. Perceptions of the app within the wider community influenced the decision to use the app. The results from this study suggest that location affects how people experience Tinder, which has further implications in how apps can be designed, and the integration of technology into modern life.