



# Research News July 2018

## Director of Research Report

Welcome to our research newsletter for July 2018.

As you will see, there has been a lot of activity on the research front.

Our researchers continue to score **hits** in **high-ranking journals** and our **Research Clusters** have been integral in continuing to build a culture of collaboration and research excellence. As you will see in this edition of the newsletter, the **Tourism Research Cluster** recently hosted visiting scholar Professor Catherine Pickering from Griffith University who delivered a presentation on *Using social media images and data for tourism research*.

Our researchers have also been successful in terms of winning grants and securing research income. Congratulations to:

- **Dr Scott Niblock** on being awarded an AFAANZ grant to investigate the barriers to seeking financial advice; and
- **Professor Robyn Keast** on being awarded an ARC Linkage grant to examine reducing youth unemployment through social procurement in construction.



Finally, we profile doctoral candidate, **Barb Kinder**, whose PhD research falls squarely on investigating the social class relations involved in the production of poker machines or Electronic Gaming Machine gambling in Australia.

So, in conclusion, please take a moment to look at the achievements of our researchers.

Kind regards

**Michael Kortt**  
Associate Professor | Director of Research  
School of Business and Tourism

16 July 2018

## Research Hits

The journal rankings below comply with the current **ABDC** journal quality ranking. However, please let us know if you publish in a **Q1** ranked journal listed on **Scimago** (<http://www.scimagojr.com/>).

### A\*, A & Q1 Ranked Journals

**Brunetto Y & Teo S** (2018). Editorial Special Issue: The impact of organizational change on public sector employee outcomes *Australian Journal of Public Administration*. 77 (2) 149-153

Tran C, Dollery B, **Kortt MA** (2018). Population size or population density? An empirical examination of scale economies in South Australian local government, 2015/16, *Local Government Studies*, In press.

### B & Q2 Ranked Journals

Trincherio E, Farr-Wharton B & **Brunetto Y** (2018). A Social Exchange Perspective for Achieving Safety Culture in Healthcare Organizations *International Journal of Public Sector Management*, In press.



**Markwell K** (2018). Exploring leisure-nature relationships, Introduction to Nature and Leisure Special Issue, *Annals of Leisure Research*, 21, 3: 259-264.

### Books

**Markwell K** (2018). Foreword, pp. xv-xvii in *New Moral Natures in Tourism*, edited by B. Grimwood, K. Catton and L. Cook, Routledge

## PhD Candidate



### Barb Kinder

Since commencing my Bachelor of Social Welfare in 2014 and completing my Honours in Social Science in 2016, SCU has offered me enormous opportunities both socially and academically. Beginning university as a mature age student has been a momentous 'sea-change' for me, so I have been making up for lost time. I am also gaining some great life skills along the way in my voluntary role as the current President of SCU Postgraduate Association and the elected Post-Graduate representative on the Academic Board.

My PhD study investigates the social class relations involved in the production of poker machines or Electronic Gaming Machine (EGM) gambling in Australia. Most research in this area to date has focussed on individual problem gamblers and the harms associated with gambling behaviour. Scarce critical scholarly attention has been directed towards the structural and social relations that constitute the EGM industry – socioeconomic structures and processes within which individual behaviour plays out. This is problematic because a focus on individual gamblers fails to recognise the broader social and economic forces that produce EGM gambling and its associated harm.

We are unable to explain, and hence account for and regulate, the EGM industry, unless we understand the political and economic forces that drive it. So, part of my research is to 'map out' the entire flow to find where and how economic value is produced, extracted and distributed.

Being at the mid-way point of my PhD, I am currently working on obtaining pre-approval from gaming venues with poker machines to begin my data collection and interviews. This is an exciting and challenging time of my career. However, I am enjoying the process of learning in the supportive and collaborative environment that SCU has created for its students.

The aim of my research is to contribute to EGM knowledge and to inform policy-makers and regulators where harm could be reduced.

# Research Income & Grants



## ARC Linkage Success

Congratulations to **Professor Robyn Keast** on a successful ARC Linkage project application! Professor Keast has partnered with University of New South Wales (administering organisation), Swinburne University of Technology, Yourtown, Brookfield Multiplex, Blacktown City Council and Heyday Group on the following successful ARC Linkage application:

**Project Title:** Reducing youth unemployment through social procurement in construction.

**Project Aim:** This project aims to produce new conceptual insights into effective cross-sector collaboration in construction, in order to provide solutions to address youth unemployment. Youth unemployment is a significant economic, social and health problem. Yet Australia's largest youth employer, the construction industry,

faces skills shortages to deliver an unprecedented construction and infrastructure pipeline. Social procurement is a potential solution to both these challenges but requires new approaches to cross sector collaborations. This project aims to develop new insights, practical knowledge and practical tools for effective social procurement.

## Regional Research Connections – Research Income

The Regional Australia Institute (RAI) has launched Regional Research Connections (RRC) – a partnership with Universities that will provide new capacity for regional policy research in Australia. Four Universities have joined with the RAI to form Regional Research Connections – Southern Cross University, University of South Australia, RMIT University and Charles Darwin University.

**Associate Professor Michael Kortt** is SCU's lead researcher on the RRC. The following projects are scheduled for completion in 2018:

- **Project Title:** Case studies of place based transition policy in action. **\$80,000.**  
**Research Lead: Associate Professor Michael Charles & Associate Professor Michael Kortt**  
 This project will address the following research questions:
  - How have the recent place based economic transition packages (case studies) been design to respond to different local contexts within Australia?
  - What does success look like for these case studies?
  - What have been/are the main transition challenges for each case study?
- **Project Title:** Evidence of migrant business ownership and entrepreneurship in regions. **\$30,000.**  
**Research Lead: Associate Professor Michael Kortt**  
 This project will address the following research questions:
  - What is the international migrant contribution to business ownership and entrepreneurship in regions?
  - How could the prevalence and impact of migrant entrepreneurship in regions be enhanced?
- **Project Title:** Collaboration with RAI to assess the potential benefits of alternative Australian urban settlement patterns. **\$90,000.**  
**Research Lead: Associate Professor Michael Kortt**  
 This project will address the following research questions:
  - What are the benefits and costs of a more regional urban settlement pattern in Australia?
  - If significant benefits are possible, are the potential costs and risks associated with policy changes to facilitate this outcome feasible and worthy of more detailed consideration?

## Accounting and Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand (AFAANZ) Grant

Congratulations to **Dr. Scott Niblock, Dr. Jennifer Harrison** and **Associate Professor Michael Kortt** on a successful Accounting and Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand (AFAANZ) grant.

**Project Title:** Barriers to Seeking Financial Advice and Wellbeing: Theory, Evidence and Policy Implications. **AFAANZ. \$5,000.**

**Project Aim:** The aim of this research is to provide Australian financial advisers and policy makers with new insights on the behavioural determinants of financial risk-taking and economic well-being. It is envisaged that this research will assist stakeholders to better understand and overcome the inherent behavioural barriers facing clients who seek (or do not seek) financial advice, reduce client anxiety levels, promote rational and informed decision-making, and improve the adviser-client relationship. This research will also be helpful for tailoring products and services to client needs, improving adviser engagement, and enhancing the initial client consultation/profiling process in Australia.

# Engagement and Impact



## Making academia-industry collaborations work

As a result of an article published in *The Conversation* by **Professor Robyn Keast** and **Associate Professor Michael Charles** titled 'Ten rules for successful research collaboration', Robyn and Michael were approached by *Research Academy* – Elsevier's free e-learning platform for early career researchers, to speak on a webinar titled 'Making academia-industry collaborations work'.

SCU PhD candidate and Lecturer **David Noble**, who is undertaking his PhD in the area of university-industry research collaborations, joined Robyn and Michael in delivering this webinar. The webinar highlights the main red flags in industry-academic partnerships and narrows down the ways to avoid, overcome or cope with the challenges faced by researchers in collaborative research. The webinar was held on the 20 June and was attended by 230 live participants. Elsevier congratulated Robyn, Michael and David on their webinar and with the strong attendance numbers there is clearly a need for this knowledge in the international ECR community.



## Tourism Research Cluster hosts visiting scholar Professor Catherine Pickering

How do I efficiently get an overview of the pertinent literature relating to my research? And do the photos we take and share on social media show how we use and value places? These were two questions addressed by the Tourism Research Cluster's visiting scholar Professor Catherine Pickering. On 25 June she presented a workshop at the Gold Coast campus on literature reviews with a focus on the Systematic Quantitative Literature Review (SQLR) approach. Attended by HDR students, research staff and librarians, the workshop provided a thorough context to conducting successful literature reviews and provided an excellent introduction into the SQLR approach. Missed it yet interested? You can access the recording and other resource materials by contacting Dr. Pascal Scherrer.

In the afternoon, Professor Pickering gave a presentation on *Using social media images and data for tourism research*. Through examples from a range of projects by her and her students, she illustrated the power and potential of using images (and associated metadata) posted on social media sites such as Flickr. Social media provides a new way of looking at socio-cultural values of places. "Social media provides us with a new way to know more about who comes, when, what do they

do, and how do they value a site, what's special about that place. There is a massive amount of data out there with over 6.5 billion photos on Flickr alone. What is important is that this is people talking and sharing images among themselves, and when we have their permission to join in, we can find out what they value and want in our cities and our parks."



### PhD candidate Sivabalan Achchuthan presents at ANZMAC Doctoral Colloquium

PhD candidate **Sivabalan Achchuthan** recently attended and presented his PhD research proposal at the Australian and New Zealand Marketing Academy Conference (ANZMAC) mid-year doctoral colloquium (DC), hosted by Deakin Business School in Melbourne. The DC is a prestigious event for early career marketing higher degree research candidates.

Siva commenced his PhD on *'Antecedents and consequences of pro-environmental purchasing behaviour in the developing country (Sri Lankan) context'* with the School of Business and Tourism in April 2018, and is being supervised by Dr Tania von der Heidt (principal), Dr Golam Sorwar and Dr Pascal Scherrer.

Siva's attendance at ANZMAC provided the opportunity to gather valuable feedback from reviewers and leading marketing scholars, Professor Michel Polonsky and Professor Mark Uncles. Siva also had the opportunity to participate in several workshops such as Meta-Analysis and Employability of Higher Degree by Research Candidates and also learnt facts regarding Marketing Theories and Practice from the keynote address delivered by Professor Mike Ewing.

*Picture: Sivabalan Achchuthan (right) with Professor Mark Uncles (UNSW) at ANZMAC.*



### Caring for the Carers

**Professor Yvonne Brunetto** is part of a research project titled 'Caring for the Carers' with Dr. Ben Farr-Wharton (UTS) and Dr. Matt Xerri (Griffith University). The research aims to benchmark aged care organisations and their employees. It involves surveying employees (nurses and carers) using psychometric measures of:

- Organisational support
- Individual support
- Employee performance
- Patient outcomes.

So far, the research team have collected data from employees and CEOs from over 20 facilities in NSW, 8 in QLD and 9 in WA. The sample includes private and not-for-profit aged care providers, from both regional and urban centres. The team uses multi-level structural equation modelling to analyse data and examine synergies between policy and practice in Australian aged care facilities.

## Share your research success with us

Do you have a news item to share with the School of Business and Tourism and the wider community? If so we would love to hear and promote your research achievements within the School. Please email your research achievements to [tanya.stewart@scu.edu.au](mailto:tanya.stewart@scu.edu.au)