

AWARDS



Innovation in housing research awards

Sponsored by Victorian Department of Housing

Panel

Professor Andrew Beer

School of Geography, Population & Environmental Management, Flinders University

Assoc Prof Judy Yates, Economics & Business School, University of Sydney

Professor Tony Dalton, Pro Vice Chancellor, RMIT University

David Batten, Housing and Community Building, DHS representative.

From the invited entries reviewed, the panel determined by consensus that two submissions stood out equally in their merit for this award. Both had solid frameworks, were well-researched and quality papers. The panel therefore recommended an equal award be made for each of the papers. (ie two awards). This reflects not only the diversity of the sector but also the quality that innovative researchers bring to their work.

CAMERON PARSELL Homeless Identities

This paper discusses the early findings of a study which used participant observation and qualitative interviewing methods. By engaging with people experiencing long-term homelessness, and/or, people whose assumed homelessness is on public display in Brisbane, observation aided in forming an understanding of how interactions and group affiliations can explain a 'homeless social identity'. Later, participants were interviewed where they constructed their felt-identities.

These methods are premised on the view that a 'homeless identity' may not have been sufficiently informed by those experiencing homelessness. An imposed 'homeless identity', therefore may ignore the complexities and fluidity of identity in this group. Emerging results from this study suggest that homelessness is not only peripheral to many research participants lives, but attempts to establish their homelessness or housing status raised further questions as to what constitutes homelessness.

Cameron Parsell is currently in the second year of his PhD, where he is looking at homelessness and identity. Cameron is enrolled in the School of Social Work at UQ, and comes to post-graduate research with direct practice experience in the areas of homelessness, social housing, and child protection.

TONY GILMOUR; VIVIENNE MILLIGAN Stimulating institutional investment in affordable housing in Australia: insights from the USA

America's Low Income Housing Tax Credit program has been the cornerstone of efforts to expand the supply of affordable rental housing for 20 years. Its perceived success, particularly in expanding the level of investment in the sector, had led to calls for a similar program in Australia. This paper describes the Low Income Housing Tax Credits of the USA both from a policy perspective and with reference to practical outcomes that the program has achieved in the Bay Area of San Francisco. It assesses American Tax Credits on four counts: are they cost effective, have they brought new sources of funding, do they help those in the greatest housing need and have they created a sustainable affordable housing sector? Finally the paper suggests what would be necessary or desirable to stimulate institutional investment in Australia. Two key issues are how to establish capacity to build and/or manage relatively large numbers of new rental properties and whether housing remains affordable when the period of tax incentives comes to an end. More/...

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Tony Gilmour is Research Policy Manager at the University of Sydney's Planning Research Centre. His current doctoral research focuses on the capacity of community housing organisations to increase the supply of affordable housing, comparing approaches in Australia, England and America. Tony is author of *Sustaining Heritage: Giving the Past a Future* (2007) and recipient of the 2007 Early Career Researcher Award.

Dr Vivienne Milligan has been Director, AHURI Sydney Research Centre since 2004. Later this year she will take up an appointment as Associate Professor, City Futures, UNSW. Her current research interests include national housing policies, comparative housing studies, innovation in affordable housing and the roles and development of non-profit housing organisations.

Recognition of Contribution to Housing Research Award 2008

Sponsored by the Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development

The conference of 2008 marked a proactive commitment by sponsors of the Australasian Housing Researchers' Conference and participants in providing not only supplementary funds to keep costs down, but also official recognition of achievements in the sector.

The Recognition of Contribution to Housing Research Award remains a subjective choice. In consultation with past Conference organisers it was agreed that this Award would:

1. not be given to someone in the home state of the conference;
2. would be decided by a majority vote of the conference steering committee; and
3. the conference convenor would have right of veto/casting vote if required.

The Steering Committee agreed unanimously that the commitment to the sector by **Associate Professor Judy Yates**, University of Sydney, should be recognised with the Recognition of Contribution to Housing Research Award.

Again, in consultation with previous conference organisers and with the support of the sponsor organisation for this award, the Committee went on to break Rule 1 of its own rules and also unanimously agreed (in his absence) to also recognise **Professor Mike Berry** RMIT University with an additional Award.

A moving Awards ceremony was held at the conference dinner with Yates receiving a spontaneous standing ovation and Berry unable to escape acknowledgement by his peers.

Early Career Researcher Awards

Sponsored by AHURI Limited

The 2007 AHURI Early Career Researcher Award winner was announced during the 2008 conference, giving **Tony Gilmour** of Sydney University further reason to celebrate.

The AHURI Early Career Researcher Award for 2008 will be assessed from eligible conference presentations and papers and duly advised.