CANDIDATE ABSTRACTS

Sarah Howe

presentation: Thursday 18 February 2016 (9:00 – 10:30) ROOM 37.03.18
program: PhD (GUSS)

supervisors: Prof. Bruce Wilson / A/Prof. Marta Poblet Balcell

project title: The role of EU regional policy in planning for competitiveness in the manufacturing sector; a case study of the role of Volkswagen in three regions in Europe (Dresden, Catalonia and Bratislava)

abstract/summary: During the 1960s and 70s, EU Regional policy projects concentrated on redistributing wealth from wealthier regions to poor regions through traditional infrastructure led economic and social projects. Over the past two decades, with the onset in the last decade of large economic and social challenges such as the global financial crisis, unemployment and poverty and climate change, the policy logic has shifted with the EU now linking policy settings to an overall economic strategy that is focused on a more explicit set of economic and environmental policy objectives. The new emphasis of the policy is now about encouraging business innovation and climate change initiatives. Increasingly social inclusion goals have been perceived of as intrinsically linked to economic goals. The embracing by the EU of the new paradigm of Regional policy has often been linked to the development of the Lisbon strategy in the year 2000 that explicitly stated that the new central aim of the policy agenda to be about increasing the competitive position of EU region’s in the world economy by placing growth, jobs and competitiveness at the top of a newly constituted policy agenda. This study investigates the extent to which EU Regional Policy settings impact upon the corporate strategy of the multinational corporation (MNC) in regional context. While many regional studies scholars choose to investigate regional economic growth models utilizing econometric modelling it is submitted that this study adopts a rigorous research agenda in utilising qualitative methods in the context of theorising about the role of firms and how they are organised in models of regional economic growth.

The study will utilise a multi-disciplinary theoretical approach and draw on the insights of new economic geographers (Morgan, 1997, Porter, 1990; Storper, 2013) who have highlighted the importance of institutions such as physical networks at the level of place in increasing cross sectoral development, collaboration amongst firms open innovation systems within a region. It will also utilize economic theories of ‘path dependency’ and strategic management literature that addresses the role of MNC strategy (Prahalad cited in Schmid and Grosche, 2008). Finally, it will seek to assess the extent to which the MNC is already embedded within the regional innovation system will determine the future capacity of the Regional policy to generate a ‘cross sectoral’ GVC industrial strategy. The study will address the strategy of case study MNC firm Volkswagen (VW) in the context of evolving EU Regional policy settings in four diverse regions of Europe; Saxony (Germany), Western Transdanubia (Hungary), Catalonia (Spain) and Bratislava (Slovakia).

Michael Georgetti

presentation: Thursday 18 February 2016 (9:30 – 11:00) ROOM 80.07.06
program: PhD (Art)

supervisors: Dr Phil Edwards / Dr Ian Haig

project title: META CULTURE: Absurdity as critique

abstract/summary: This research project examines the ways in which absurdist strategies may be used to investigate the impact of globalised visual culture upon expanded art practice. Through the use of installation, painting and readymade objects I aim to explore ways in which the literary and philosophical notions of Absurdity may be used as a form of critique through the making of cross-disciplinary artwork. This involves the making of large-scale environments, performative artwork and kinetic sculptures.
Ideas surrounding mass-media, entertainment and consumer culture will be investigated in relation to how they influence the social context and methodology in which paintings and installations are made. I aim to explore these overlapping conditions and the ways in which they influence expanded art practice in contemporary Western culture. Ideas surrounding satire, authorship and intervention will be used to expand upon the role of absurdity as both a form of critique and a working methodology for expanded art practice. This includes developing a critique through the making of artwork that reflects upon the social and economic contradictions that stem from Globalisation. These strategies will be materialised within a series of site-specific and collaborative art projects in which ideas surrounding appropriation, hybridity and intervention will be engaged. These inter-disciplinary art projects aim to provide an understanding of the ways in which the hierarchical boundaries between entertainment, capitalism and art have dissolved and how certain social and cultural values have developed from these relationships.

Sun Bang  
**presentation:** Thursday 18 February 2016 (9:30 – 11:00) ROOM 80.07.07  
**program:** PhD (Art)  
**supervisors:** Prof. David Thomas / Dr Nicholas Bastin  
**project title:** The recontextualised artwork: Reimagining pattern and symbol of nomadic relics in the digital era  
**abstract/summary:** The Recontextualised Transcultural Artwork: Reimagining Pattern And Symbol Of Nomadic Relic In The Digital Era is a practice-based doctoral project that investigates how new forms of jewellery & objects can be created by combining old and new technologies. The project explores actual and imagined cultural interactions between Celtic, Bactrian and Sillian: ancient Korean cultures in order to generate new artworks. The created jewellery & objects have been informed by a study of excavated relics from Celtic, Bactrian and ancient Korean cultures. These three ethnic groups have rarely been linked together in the historical or theoretical literature of transcultural discourse but I employ “imaginative linkage” as a method to connect the three different cultures. My use of “imaginative linkages” is to suggest the possible connections of the three cultures that open up a reconsideration of transculturality from an artistic position rather than that of a historian. This approach is employed to give me imaginative and expressive freedom to address my understandings of transculturality. This research has enabled me to investigate and develop original methods and artworks through the combination and juxtaposition of 3D digital printing and handmade processes derived from traditional Gold & Silversmithing techniques to make “new” jewellery & objects. The results of my investigations have been presented in solo/ group exhibitions during the PhD period.

Jennifer Lade  
**presentation:** Thursday 18 February 2016 (9:30 – 11:00) ROOM 80.07.08  
**program:** PhD (Art)  
**supervisors:** A/Prof. Linda Williams / Dr Peter Hill (sub. Prof. David Forrest)  
**project title:** Princes Park and the Persian Garden: Re-imagining urban parkland in Australia and Iran through on-line and in situ art practice  
**abstract/summary:** This research investigates how the social and aesthetic experience of public urban parks and gardens differs in arid countries, represented by the particular case studies of Princes Park in Melbourne, Australia and Bagh-e-Eram in Shiraz, Iran. The dialogues pertaining to each site reveal certain characteristics of the other, suggesting that there are shared values in each locale as well as differences. Parks and gardens serve an important role as the combined urban habitat for plants, animals and human occupants. These constructed environments are the sites of the intersection of nature, design and history. This cross-cultural art project seeks to develop an on-line connection and presence between people in order to explore these locations through the eyes of those with local experience and knowledge. By exploring the expression of place by those who are concurrently in-place and on-line in the digital realm, the project uses the existing protocols of social media as a tool for connection and collaboration around environmental themes. Through this web presence, the project embeds memory and stories germane to the experience of these particular places, adding to an understanding of cultural attitudes and practices in the forces shaping contemporary urban open spaces.

Matthew Hardy  
**presentation:** Thursday 18 February 2016 (10:30 – 12:00) ROOM 37.03.18  
**program:** PhD (GUSS)  
**supervisors:** A/Prof. Sarah Bekessy / Dr Ascelin Gordon / Dr James Fitzsimons  
**project title:** The use of decision-theoretic approaches to improve private land conservation  
**abstract/summary:** It is widely recognised that stemming the decline of biodiversity requires greater conservation efforts on private land. Acquiring important private property or protecting it with permanent conservation agreements with landholders are two common options, but in many instances organisations are limited by money and/or voluntary participants in areas that need protecting. A number of these organisations also run a revolving fund, through which they purchase and then on-sell private land with conservation value to new owners, with a condition to
enter a conservation agreement. The proceeds from the property sale are then reinvested back into protecting additional properties, making them a potentially self-sustaining model for conservation. However, their effectiveness as a conservation tool is strongly tied to property selection, and due to their intersection between conservation, social and financial factors, these decisions are complex. Through a mix of approaches this research intends to develop decision theoretic methods that assist in the application of private land conservation revolving funds.

Charles O'Loughlin
presentation: Thursday 18 February 2016 (11:15 – 12:45) ROOM 80.07.06
program: PhD (Art)
supervisors: Prof. David Thomas / Mr Peter Cripps
project title: Quantifying the Everyday: Generative numerical methodologies in the creation of the artwork
abstract/summary: The research applies numerical and statistical processes as a methodological framework for multimodal practice led research. The material and conceptual ideas of numerical and statistical based approaches are incorporated into the practice itself, emerging as a specific methodology for art making. Using numerical methods and their associated visual vocabulary of graphs and charts, the artworks created are informed by this information rather than simply describing it. The work engages the doctrines, tools and practices of administration to explore methods of enumerating my daily life as a systematic approach to create artwork. I will develop artworks that apply quantitative knowledge to create an experiential and subjective viewing experience. The artwork created explores the difference between abstract systems of knowledge and real, embodied perception. The research considers the accident of chance, the limits of representation, the relationship between the quantifiable and unquantifiable and questions the ability of a numerical and rational system to adequately describe life.

Skyle Kelly
presentation: Thursday 18 February 2016 (11:15 – 12:45) ROOM 80.07.07
program: MFA (Art)
supervisors: Dr Greg Creek / Ms Fleur Summers
project title: In Flux: Explorations of Material Indeterminacy through Sculptural Practice
abstract/summary: In Flux investigates a range of indeterminate, transitive materials through the languages of sculpture and installation. The research will focus on exploring the latent potentials within certain classes of materials, through both a studio-based and exhibition methodology. This project is situated within a rich context of material exploration within art history, contemporary thought around temporal sculpture and meaning within materials, and examples of temporal material transformation within the field of physics. In Flux will result in a series of durational, sculptural installation works that examine the mutable boundaries created by material indeterminacy within objects and their spaces of display. These sculptural installation works will be temporal material experiences that are transformative of both the material and the viewer.

Peta Murray
presentation: Thursday 18 February 2016 (11:15 – 12:45) ROOM 80.07.08
program: PhD (Media and Communication)
supervisors: Dr David Carlin / A/Prof. Francesca Rendle-Short
project title: Elderflowering creative endurance and the theatre of resistance
abstract/summary: This practice-based research project employs themes, variations, and most vital of all, mutations of “the performance essay” to map an erstwhile playwright’s first forays into creative non-fiction. Unfolding themes of the life cycle of the creative artist, and of eldering in arts practice, it employs performative, autoethnographic and exegetical “acts” and queered and intuitive methods to propose play/rites towards a sustained practice in advancing age. The work admits messiness and unruliness, applying an aesthetic of wabi-sabi to questions of form and expression, as it refracts allegories of senescence and inflorescence through multiple lenses. Its findings are to be delivered in performances, and as a public Mass, as well as through exhibitions and installations as Ware With A Translucent Body, a multi-modal work of essayesque dismemoir. These are to be accompanied by an interactive dissertation - perhaps the first of its kind - in the form of a FLORILEGIUM.

Damian Smith
presentation: Thursday 18 February 2016 (11:15 – 12:45) ROOM 80.07.09
program: PhD (Art)
supervisors: Prof. David Forrest / Dr Geoff Hogg
project title: Beyond the museum: contemporary art and the role of the freelance curator
abstract/summary: Analysis of a freelance curatorial practice in the context of Australian contemporary art is framed within broader issues concerning the role of the curator today. Arguing against the privileging of policy-determined art practices, Damian Smith presents the case for a mode of philosophically driven curating, which he describes as
"Barefoot Curating". In presenting the outcomes of the research the candidate outlines how the PhD process has propelled him into a new role curating for the Bienal de la Habana, one of the most important international biennales of contemporary art.

**Jharana Bhattarai Aryal**

**presentation:** Thursday 18 February 2016 (12:00 – 1:30) ROOM 37.03.18  
**program:** PhD (GUSS)  
**supervisors:** Dr Joe Hurley / A/Prof. Karien Dekker  
**project title:** Urban Climate governance: examining adaptation to climate change in the city of Kathmandu Nepal  
**abstract/summary:** The aim of this study is to: firstly, assess how does local governance in urban areas play a key role in building an adaptive capacity to climate change adaptation; and secondly identifying barriers to plan the adaptation action to deal with risks in future in Kathmandu. In summary the proposed study will try to find the many ways of enhancing governance capacity at the local level to adapt the impacts of climate change in the city of Kathmandu, Nepal with reference to the principles of governance.

**Helen Corney**

**presentation:** Thursday 18 February 2016 (1:30 – 3:00) ROOM 37.03.18  
**program:** PhD (GUSS)  
**supervisors:** Dr Melissa Neave / Dr Cecily Maller / Dr Peter Morison  
**project title:** The relationship between public perceptions of amenity and biodiversity in urban river corridors in Melbourne  
**abstract/summary:** The development of appropriate environmental management strategies requires that we understand the interactions between people and the environments in which they operate. However, public perception studies of urban rivers are generally limited and studies undertaken in-situ are particularly scarce. To address this shortcoming, the primary objective of this research is to improve the usefulness of public perceptions of amenity as a component of river corridor management by providing a clearer articulation of how amenity is perceived by the general public and how it relates to biodiversity. Gaining a clearer appreciation of public perceptions of amenity values of urban rivers has been identified as important for developing beneficial management strategies and therefore understanding the interaction between people and the environment will have implications for project success. Interactions between the social and ecological factors involved in managing for amenity and biodiversity values will be explored at four sites along two urban rivers that have different biodiversity levels. The first phase of the research aims to identify broad themes in public perceptions of amenity of urban rivers through in-situ audio recordings and open ended questionnaires and to explore the relationship between these themes and differing levels of biodiversity. The second phase of the research will use in-situ face-to face ‘walk-along’ interviews to obtain greater insight into the themes obtained from the Phase 1 activities. The results of this research will identify conflicts and synergies between perceived amenity and biodiversity and will improve environmental policy and decision making with regard to amenity and biodiversity values in urban river corridors.

**Lisa Hilli**

**presentation:** Thursday 18 February 2016 (1:45 – 3:15) ROOM 80.07.06  
**program:** MFA (Art)  
**supervisors:** Mr Peter Cripps / Dr Kristen Haydon  
**project title:** Remaking Middi: Re-contextualising historical Tolai material culture into the contemporary  
**abstract/summary:** The effect of colonialism upon Pacific people during the 18th and 19th century impacted greatly upon the material culture of the Pacific region. As new European customs were introduced, indigenous cultural frameworks were broken down, which caused the abandonment and discarding of knowledge and practice of historical crafts and cultural customs associated with a particular culture. The middi or shell collar as it is referred to by museums, was one such object that became devalued and destroyed through colonial and missionary impact. The predominant trajectory of Pacific art and artefacts has long been within an anthropological and ethnographical context and rarely from an indigenous perspective. My research aims to utilise an artefact that I culturally identify with as a tool to remake, reframe and reinterpret Tolai culture in a contemporary art context. Through remaking middi and other intangible histories, I intend to acquire historical cultural knowledge, reframe historical colonial and religious impacts upon Tolai culture and re-contextualise Tolai material culture and history through contemporary art.
Ecologies of light, dark, and time: a poetics of human-animal encounters in the illuminated city

The management and use of native forests in Australia has been the source of some of the most long-standing, socially disruptive and unresolved environmental conflicts. This is the case for Toolangi State Forest in Victoria, which is also at risk of collapse due to the interaction between devastating fires and native forest logging. If this forest is to be protected, it is critical to find ways to make decisions about its management and use that are cohesive, equitable and sustainable. Environmental justice offers a way to understand environmental conflict with a focus on three aspects of justice: 1) distributive justice, which is concerned with the distribution of environmental benefits and burdens; 2) procedural justice, which seeks meaningful public participation in decision-making; and 3) recognition justice, which aims to recognize communities associated with a case, with a specific focus on those that are marginalised, disadvantaged and/or vulnerable. The purpose of the study is to critically understand the diverse interests in the management and use of Toolangi State Forest from an environmental justice perspective, and identify strategies to engage viewers in questions about their relations with nonhuman animals within urban spaces and with the wider ecology of the nocturnal city.
insights that might support ongoing decision-making processes that address causes of injustice, empower communities, and bring cohesive, equitable and sustainable outcomes.

Fenita Indrasara
presentation: Thursday 18 February 2016 (3:00 – 4:30) ROOM 37.03.18
program: PhD (GUSS)
supervisors: Prof. Robin Goodman / Dr Crystal Legacy
project title: Shaping the form of housing estates towards walkability and accessibility? An exploration of planning policies and housing estate development practice in suburban Bandung, Indonesia
abstract/summary: Deriving from automobile dependency, debates have been addressed towards form and travel. How form at neighbourhood scale, highly represented by how housing estates have taken form, could be giving less travel option that of walkability and accessibility is one of concerns—the background problem. Taking case studies in the northwest suburban Bandung, Indonesia, this thesis provides an in-depth and nuanced understanding on the practice of shaping form of middle-class housing estates. Exploring the practice, semistructured interviews with a total of twenty local planners and developers have been done in addition to obtaining policy documents, conducting assessments and physical mapping. The findings of this thesis indicate that form has been highly influenced by neoliberalism. Developers are given much freedom in designing the housing estate. This is in addition to middle-class aspiration for physical disengagement to kampung. While planners have concerns on the built form and its associated effects, hands-off approach is put in shaping the form. Additionally, clienthood representation in the permit process adds to the problem. In the end, the problem of walkability and accessibility could not be resolved by simply bringing about different forms. Some practical implications on planning practice then identified to be in concert with broader policy.

Saffron Newey
presentation: Thursday 18 February 2016 (3:30 – 5:00) ROOM 80.07.06
program: PhD (Art)
supervisors: Dr Robin Kingston / A/Prof. Peter Ellis
project title: Reflexive Gestures: Painting’s material language and new media
abstract/summary: This practice-led research project investigates painting in our Post Internet era. In the vast database of the Internet, paintings both historical and contemporary are distanced from their makers and contexts. Their diachronic position in a once considered “linear” historical model has been disrupted. The Internet fractures historical narratives, identities and oeuvres and makes them miscellaneous. Through one practice I aim to communicate the paradoxical disparity and conflation that occurs between artworks, oeuvres and artistic identities online. Within the rhizomatic space of the Internet, I source and montage various digital examples of Romantic landscape painting into new mashed Romantic images that become source material for my paintings. Here I find synergy between the Post Enlightenment definition of the sublime and a contemporary fascination in the digital sublime - of which the Internet is champion. The project interrogates the Internet in a new and promiscuous way. I use the Internet to identify and disseminate what was once only trusted to the canonical archives of printed literature – the narrative of history.

Patrick O’Keeffe
presentation: Thursday 18 February 2016 (3:30 – 5:00) ROOM 80.07.07
program: PhD (GUSS)
supervisors: Dr Melissa Neave / Dr Nicole Pepperell / Dr Liam Magee
project title: Understanding ownership and competition within the Australian wheat supply chain
abstract/summary: The deregulation of the Australian wheat export market in 2008 resulted in the end of statutory marketing of wheat within Australia. Whereas statutory marketing had been intended to provide wheat growers with security and stability, deregulation was framed as being an essential policy shift which would primarily benefit growers and provide them with the capacity to maximise their incomes. Adopting genealogical inquiry as a primary research method, this study critically examines this purported ambition of deregulation, through analysing the development of policy impacting the wheat industry from the 1970s onwards. The shift in policy emphasis, from cooperation to competition, is explored as part of a wider change in discourse. This discursive shift resulted in the construction of neoliberal virtues such as competition and efficiency as ‘truths’, while marginalising alternate values and notions of achieving equity through policy governing the wheat industry. Furthermore, this change in discourse neglected to consider the power of corporations. In redressing this shortcoming, this study seeks to understand how power has been exercised by agribusiness firms in the deregulated wheat market.
Valentina Palonen  
**presentation:** Thursday 18 February 2016 (3:30 – 5:00) ROOM 80.07.08  
**program:** PhD (Art)  
**supervisors:** A/Prof. Linda Williams / Dr Jazmina Cininas  
**project title:** Reconfiguring Kinship: Fabricating affective connections between the human and nonhuman world through contemporary figurative art  
**abstract/summary:** The project focuses on how contemporary figurative art might be used to investigate affective connections between humans and nature. I will explore how material techniques such as casting, moulding, mixed media sculpture and watercolour painting might be used to poetically convey human connections with the flora, fauna and minerals of the natural environment. The purpose of this research is not only to acknowledge the evolutionary connections between human and nonhuman, but to move beyond them to uncover new creative strategies which suggest affective engagement through experiential contact. By portraying human beings immersed in natural environments through painting, and then highlighting key gestures indicative of this contact through discrete sculptures, my intention is to create works which suggest affective engagement between human and nonhuman — thereby suggesting an empathetic connection based on kinship. While the project builds on the recent research of writers, ecocritical theorists, and artists on points of confluence between human and non-human ecologies, my aim is to explore ways in which figurative art may provide new visual strategies for affective engagement, and subsequently a new sense of kinship, with the nonhuman world.

Elizabeth Walley  
**presentation:** Thursday 18 February 2016 (3:30 – 5:00) ROOM 80.07.09  
**program:** PhD (Media and Communication)  
**supervisors:** A/Prof. Craig Batty / Prof. Sarah Pink  
**project title:** Writing The Unspeakable: A search for authentic literary representations of lived trauma  
**abstract/summary:** The 20th century has been flagged by many in the field of trauma studies as the ‘century of trauma’ (Soshona Felman, 2002) and as testimonies from the abused and disaffected continue to stream into public consciousness, questions arise regarding their authentic re-presentation before an audience. This practice-based PhD seeks to explore literary forms as they communicate personal lived trauma and to question the authenticity of language in situations of psychic and physiological chaos. As a creative practitioner, this research will examine my own response to trauma, a shooting homicide in my street, and its attempt at re-presentation in my writing across a variety of literary forms. Samuel Beckett challenged existing literary practice suggesting that artists need to find a new form ‘that accommodates the mess’ (1961). Informed by the proliferation of life and autobiographical writings, and trauma theorists’ notion of ‘the unspeakable’, this PhD research will reflect upon my experience of physiological trauma memory beyond rational understanding through my background as an actor/director. Exploring the possibilities and limitations of authentic expression within dramatic performance, fiction, film and autoethnographic writing, my creative practice research aims to investigate innovative responses to trauma narratives, and gain insight into this communication process.
Kate Ferguson

**presentation:** Friday 19 February 2016 (9:30 – 11:00) ROOM 80.07.06

**program:** PhD (GUSS)

**supervisors:** A/Prof. Karien Dekker / Dr Yoko Akama

**project title:** Participatory design for youth inclusion in neighbourhood public space

**abstract/summary:** Through the practice of participatory design, this research aims to contribute to the inclusion of teenagers in the public sphere of disadvantaged Australian urban neighbourhoods, by developing and testing a mechanism to allow them greater influence in the creation and management of public spaces. Access to public space is important to teenagers, particularly in disadvantaged neighbourhoods where ‘push’ and ‘pull’ factors may be stronger than in other areas. Teenagers currently face exclusion, and there is a need for new strategies toward inclusion. Participation is a key element of inclusion strategies, however there are limitations in the way participation is currently mobilized in the context of teenagers and public space in Australian neighbourhoods. The key contribution of this research is in integrating and applying insight from these bodies of academic literature to a local context, through the innovative methodology of participatory design.

Sandra Moye Holz

**presentation:** Friday 19 February 2016 (9:30 – 11:00) ROOM 80.07.07

**program:** PhD (GUSS)

**supervisors:** Prof. Ralph Horne / Dr Brendan Barrett

**project title:** Decarbonizing low-income housing initiatives at city scale in Latin America

**abstract/summary:** As the world continues to urbanize and climate change accelerates, responses at city scale are increasingly critical. In this context, the provision of housing particularly for the urban poor needs to incorporate decarbonizing features, mainly energy efficiency and renewable energy, to allow households to mitigate and cope with the impacts of climate change. Latin America has made significant social and economic progress, and offers a wide range of interesting case studies of innovative approaches and strategies to solve urban issues. This PhD aims to respond to the question: What initiatives are emerging in Latin American cities to incentivize the uptake of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources for the low-income housing as response to climate change? It will explore how these initiatives are operationalized and how networks and relationships are involved in the process, by drawing upon theories of multi-level governance and socio-technical transitions in a developing context.

Louise Sawtell

**presentation:** Friday 19 February 2016 (9:30 – 11:00) ROOM 80.07.08

**program:** PhD (Media and Communication)

**supervisors:** A/Prof. Craig Batty / A/Prof. Lisa French

**project title:** One in a Million Girl: Developing female stories for the screen

**abstract/summary:** This practice-led research project focuses on the development of a ‘fictocritical screenplay’ for a proposed feature film, *One in a Million Girl*. This alternative screenwriting approach borrows from fictocritical prose writing where the creative, critical and personal weave together to make the text ‘say something else’ (Nettelbeck 1998, 4). As the screenplay form is re-imagined, it can incorporate many different narratives, reflections, images and recordings that connect with an individual practice and multilayered creative process. In this sense, I follow my own path of creative discovery by abandoning the restrictive industry standard formatting, scriptwriting software and structure in favour of ‘in the moment’ scene stories about the actress characters. Furthermore, at this stage of individual script development, I believe it is vital to build upon each character’s experience, applying Jacey’s (2010) ‘memorable female character’ principles, scene-by-scene, rather than present an overall narrative arc. The final document is both visual and personalised; it presents the actions and dialogue of the scenes (creative artefact) and the autobiographical account of the process, popular culture influences, and the theoretical framework (dissertation). As a result, the fictocritical screenplay is able to highlight the creative process of script development, from a writer-director’s perspective, while still being a record of the proposed film.
Tassia Joannides
presentation: Friday 19 February 2016 (9:30 – 11:00) ROOM 80.07.09
program: PhD (Art)
supervisors: A/Prof. Keely Macarow / A/Prof. Dominic Redfern (sub. Dr Ian Haig)
project title: Material bodies and the complications of desire
abstract/summary: This creative research project examines the sexual/ised female body as the focus of the gaze within Western popular culture. Informed by research into feminist art, history and theory, it considers the construction of desire within visual culture (such as film) with specific attention to materials that are used as an extension of the body and its identity, such as clothing and make up. The project explores the potential agency of these materials to express bodily qualities and asks: How do materials associated with the complex dynamics of desire influence our understanding of the sexual/ised female body? And how could a material investigation of such dynamics be applied within artworks to produce new knowledge about the body, gender and sexuality? Significantly, the research is situated in the area of interdisciplinary practice, located somewhere between the areas of contemporary art, jewellery (craft) and (textile) design, contributing new creative works that traverse photography, performance, wearable objects and sculpture. It reveals new knowledge about materials through its methodology, as well as contributing to contemporary feminist dialogue.

Mariana Dias Baptista
presentation: Friday 19 February 2016 (9:30 – 11:00) ROOM 37.02.03
program: PhD (GUSS)
supervisors: A/Prof. Marco Amati / Dr Ebadat Parmehr
project title: Tree architecture and rainfall: An investigation into the benefits for urban areas
abstract/summary: Trees are important components in urban environment and offer many benefits from ecological to psychological aspects. During rainfall events, trees can intercept water by their leaves and reduce runoff effect in impervious areas. The present study proposes to evaluate how rainfall is intercepted by the most common trees planted in Melbourne streets, analysing the impact of specie-specific traits on storing water. It will evaluate the influence of tree architecture and leaf traits on rainfall interception in urban scenarios, and recognize interception patterns in different species. Measurements will happen in two different stages: controlled scenario, where rainfall is simulated within a shed and parameters as wind and insolation are excluded; and real urban environment where rainfall interception will be measured by rainfall gauges beneath and outside tree coverture. Trees characteristics as height, canopy density and leaf area will be measured from tridimensional scanner images. Results will help to better understand how this method can be useful in urban forest projects. Moreover, it allows estimating how much water is stored by trees and comparing it with different methods for improving storm water management.

Timothy Wilson
presentation: Friday 19 February 2016 (11:15 – 12:45) ROOM 80.07.06
program: PhD (Education)
supervisors: Dr Tasos Barkatsas / Dr Jude Ocean
project title: The effect of reduced language by gender and age in student NAPLAN numeracy testing
abstract/summary: This research may lead to further investigation regarding how students learn to work mathematically. Is it reasonable to teach with the same emphasis on skills, problem solving and language at all levels of student development? Examining types of outcome predictor questions at Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 may demonstrate which facets of numeracy should be emphasised at which levels to provide the best outcome. Preliminary analysis suggests that Grade 3 students, especially girls, should have a greater emphasis on learning skills. This emphasis could change towards language and problem solving, as students move through to Year 9, once a mathematical toolkit is well established. Other outcomes of this research may suggest further study into better pedagogical processes for teaching mathematical concepts to different students. Teaching number skills through symbols may aid understanding for one group, or teaching students through the written word or verbally may promote learning to another group. It could be that students either do not understand the literacy component of numeracy, or conversely they may understand it too well and make assumptions that are not part of assessment tasks (Boaler, 1994).
Stayci Taylor  
**presentation:** Friday 19 February 2016 (11:15 – 12:45) ROOM 80.07.08  
**program:** PhD (GUSS)  
**supervisors:** Dr Georgina Heydon / Dr Michael Ewing  
**project title:** Funny, Peculiar: Screenwriting, Comedy and Writing the Female Perspective  
**abstract/summary:** Through the lens of screenwriting practice, this research project interrogates female perspectives in mainstream, comedy screenplays. Its central investigation asks whether or not these perspectives are under-represented, suggesting script development processes are both informed by, and reinforce, the culturally entrenched gendered biases that might see female perspectives, especially in comedies, confined to the margins. Given particular focus to the female protagonist, this research takes a practice-based approach to exploring the ways in which her perspective might be written into the pages of the screenplay, considering both content and form. The culmination is the writing of Funny/Peculiar, a comedy, feature-length screenplay, which aims to forefront the female protagonist and her perspective from within the confines of the same mainstream structures, formatting and conventions with which this research is critically engaged. Through creative practice a particular narrative device is defined, that of the 'flipped reality', which is recruited for the screenplay and dissected in the wider research. Discoveries and experimentation pertaining to perspective arise from the application of this device, including the employment of the second person point-of-view – or ‘Point-of-You’ – for describing screenplay action. Positioned within a postmodern-feminist sensibility, this research looks beyond a politics of inclusion and examines how the ‘norm’ is understood in discourses of comedy, screenwriting and feminism. Through screenwriting practice as a mode of enquiry come new approaches to notions of normal, and the possibilities for alternative perspectives.

R. Dian Dia-an Muniroh  
**presentation:** Friday 19 February 2016 (11:15 – 12:45) ROOM 80.07.08  
**program:** PhD (GUSS)  
**supervisors:** Dr Georgina Heydon / Dr Michael Ewing  
**project title:** All that pops into your mind: Can the cognitive interview be adapted to an Indonesian policing context?  
**abstract/summary:** This study investigates adaptation of the Cognitive Interview (CI) technique in police interviewing of witnesses in the Indonesian language and police investigation process within the framework of institutional discourse. By using specifically worded questions that are designed to prompt memory and cognitive function, the CI technique has been proven capable of increasing the amount of information that can be obtained from witnesses. Prior studies have generally demonstrated the psychological viability of the CI in English speaking countries, or have not considered the impact of language on the functioning of the CI. Therefore, the main question of this study is: “how well can the CI technique work in the Indonesian language and Indonesian police investigation?” The investigation of this question will reveal the linguistic and legal viabilities of the CI in Indonesian contexts which are non-existent in the literature. This study is significant in that it attempts to incorporate and blend psychology, legal and language perspectives about development of an interviewing model in Indonesia based on the existing CI. The findings of this study will help police investigators in Indonesia to professionalize their investigation process: ethical investigation can be enhanced and the information elicited can become more accurate and reliable.

William Smith  
**presentation:** Friday 19 February 2016 (11:15 – 12:45) ROOM 80.07.09  
**program:** PhD (Education)  
**supervisors:** Prof. Annette Gough / Prof. Mandi Berry  
**project title:** Deep ecology and secondary schooling: Exploring ecocentric alternatives  
**abstract/summary:** This thesis investigates ecocentrism in secondary schools by looking for evidence of ecocentric beliefs or actions in schools, and it determines if the anthropocentric view of conserving natural resources for future humans is present in the schools. The research is also designed to determine the beliefs of the school sustainability milieu regarding the philosophical aspects of sustainability, as seen through the lens of deep ecology. The study makes the original contribution to knowledge by describing the dynamics and socio-ontological structure of secondary school environment club. The thesis also describes for the first time the concept of student as ecosopher, explaining how this idea emerged from the data. A deep ecology lens was used to investigate the presence of ecocentrism and anthropocentrism in schools. This also provided a means for investigating the metaphysical aspects of connecting to nature and gave insights into the socio-cultural landscape of the schools' sustainability communities. By exploring the ecological self in a school setting this thesis contributed new understanding about sustainability education in schools. The study drew upon aspects of grounded theory to organise the data into themes. Strategic coding of the themes led to a coherent model for the socio-cultural story responses to the research questions. A deep ecology scale (DES) was devised and used to measure ecocentric inclinations in the respondents. Findings showed that many of the respondents had attributes or held beliefs from the deep ecology philosophy, like wilderness preservation, promotion of biodiversity, anti-consumerism, and love of nature. Many of the student responses were philosophically mature and
their capacity to embrace the nature of their own environmental existence was evident. Sustainability students set themselves apart because their lives had changed by being in an environment club. Their capacity to relate to the broader spiritual connectedness to the earth was evident, which was associated with a greater optimism about their capacity to make a difference to the environment. The data on the school-family dynamic revealed a multiplicity of responses, probably because no two families are exactly the same. In some cases the students influence their family to become sustainability focused, in others the reverse was true. The data analysis from the teacher interviews showed ecocentric beliefs similar to those of the students but there was a clear sense that subject disciplines came first before the sustainability overlay was accepted. This view became more polarized for teachers and students in senior years (Years 11 and 12). The study contributes to the literature by developing new social models for the operation of environment clubs in secondary schools. Explanations for the social interactions (lines of force) between members of the school sustainability milieu include child-parent knowledge transmission (reverse vector effect), sustainability coordinator as exemplar, principal as parent, and student as ecophilosopher. The thesis brings a greater understanding of the critical role that the sustainability community in schools plays in producing a cohesive effort to better the immediate school environment and the greater world of nature. The other key finding is that the environment club is key to the development of students’ situated identity within the club, their ecological self, and their larger self beyond the school into the natural world. The club students set themselves apart from the general school population, not in an elitist way, but in a proud manner because of the sense of duty they have with their enhanced knowledge of the environment. The club students exhibit ecological resilience, agency, and a capacity to be strong ambassadors for the earth. The study defines club students that have acquired this knowledge throughout their schooling, from primary to secondary school, as eGeneration or eGen students.

Tarana Begum

presentation: Friday 19 February 2016 (12:00 – 1:30) ROOM 37.02.03
program: PhD (GUSS)
supervisors: A/Prof. Suellen Murray / Prof. Judith Bessant
project title: The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010: Responding to domestic violence in Bangladesh

abstract/summary: This research will examine the making of domestic violence legislation in Bangladesh. It investigates the ways by which international and domestic stakeholders worked towards the eradication of domestic violence against women through the enactment of new laws, namely the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010. It will also explore this country’s previous responses to women’s development that led to the enactment of gender specific laws and programs to promote women’s equality, human rights and empowerment. This will be an interpretative study examining the role of policy actors in the legislative process. Purposeful snowball sampling methods will be used to identify research participants who were involved in the legislative process. Interviews will be conducted with key policy actors and other contributors to examine how and why they played a role in the legislative process.

Kristen Bell

presentation: Friday 19 February 2016 (1:30– 3:00) ROOM 37.02.03
program: PhD (GUSS)
supervisors: Prof. Robin Goodman / Dr Jan Scheurer
project title: Optimising the city: Priorities of public transport planners in cities with high-quality public transport

abstract/summary: There is no consensus on how cities should best plan their transport public transport systems. Previous research has focussed extensively on individual factors contributing to modal choice (Balcombe et al., 2004; Ortuzar and Willumsen, 2011). Rather than focusing on the users of public transport systems, this research examines the priorities of planners in cities with high-quality public transport to attempt to learn from their planning successes. Fourteen interviews were undertaken with public transport planners in Zurich, Munich, Vienna and London. It was found that by aligning their public transport planning with differing priorities for public policy integration, the cities took different policy pathways towards optimising their cities. However, due to the similarity of technical priorities used to achieve city optimisation, they have arrived at a similar outcome. This suggests it is not necessary to change the political and governance structures of a city to achieve high-quality public transport, and that public transport can be used to support a range of city optimisation goals.
Rosalie Scott  
**presentation:** Friday 19 February 2016 (1:45 – 3:15) ROOM 80.07.07  
**program:** PhD (Media and Communication)  
**supervisors:** A/Prof. Craig Batty / Dr Stephen Gaunson  
**project title:** The Bad Seeds: Evil children and the voice of empathy and morality in literature  
**abstract/summary:** The number of stories about ‘evil’ children or children who kill peaked in the 1950s, with these children generally depicted as being born ‘bad’. William March’s 1954 *The Bad Seed* is an example of this, where the young Rhoda Penmark is an evil, calculated and heartless killer, and her mother, the kind, gentle and guilt-ridden Christine is the moral compass of the story. Since then, depictions of children who kill have changed, with Stephen King’s 1974 *Carrie* an example of a child who is driven to kill as a result of her environment, rather than being born ‘bad’, and Lionel Shriver’s 2003 *We Need to Talk About Kevin* leaving the reader to ponder whether Kevin was born evil or whether his evilness was a predisposition of his upbringing or a combination of both. In all of these novels, the narration, and particularly point of view, play an important role in how the author wants the reader to feel empathy and understand morality. Where once there was a clear distinction between good and bad, as well as the use of a moral compass as the narrator or protagonist (usually the mother), these distinctions are increasingly equivocal, with some authors using the child who kills as a narrator/protagonist–antagonist, rather than a moral compass (i.e. Shirley Jackson’s 1974 novel *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*), and others having no moral compass at all (i.e. Peter Straub’s 2010 A Special Place). The purpose of this project is to inform my creative work by seeking to understand why authors use particular methods of narration, how this narration influences reader empathy and whether morality is ascertained as a result of this narration.

Leanne Compton  
**presentation:** Friday 19 February 2016 (1:45 – 3:15) ROOM 80.07.08  
**program:** PhD (Education)  
**supervisors:** Dr Kathy Jordan / Dr Jennifer Elsden-Clifton  
**project title:** Supporting teachers to mentor pre-service teachers to effectively use ICT  
**abstract/summary:** The issue around how to support pre-service teachers use ICT in their teaching practice is becoming increasingly important. There are significant challenges impacting on teacher education in Australia because of:

- changes to the regulatory environment, including national professional standards around ICT (Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership, 2011); and changes to the curriculum environment, resulting in a new Victorian Curriculum (Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, 2015b) and requirements for schools to offer a new subject, Digital Technologies for all students as well as ensure information and communication technology (ICT) is addressed through the content of curriculum areas;  
- prior research (Darling-Hammond, 2006; Henderson, Bellis, Cerovac, & Lancaster, 2013; Jordan, 2011) which suggests that initial teacher education (ITE) providers have had difficulty in providing pre-service teachers with learning experiences at university to support the development of their ICT capabilities when on professional placement; and  
- efforts of pre-service teachers to use ICT via the practicum are an ongoing issue, with opportunities not always available.  

This research will specifically examine the key question: “What knowledge and skills do teacher mentors need to support pre-service teachers to use ICT in their teaching practices?”  

The sub-questions are:

- what previous experiences of mentoring have the teachers undertaken?  
- what are the challenges to mentoring pre-service teachers to use ICT in their teaching practices?  
- what are the teachers feelings about their role as mentors in regards to using ICT in teaching practices?  
- what are the teacher mentors’ ideas for professional learning?

This research is significant as there are greater calls for pre-service teachers to be able to use ICT in their teaching practice through the release of the new Victorian Curriculum, and also to meet professional teaching standards. All teacher education providers in Australia need to attest that graduates meet the seven Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)’s Australian Professional Standards for Graduate Teachers, including to “implement teaching strategies for using ICT [information and communication technology] to expand curriculum learning opportunities for students” (Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership, 2011 n.p.).  

Pre-service teachers are expected to gain practical skills in teaching, including in the use of ICT, with the support provided by a teacher mentor, during the practicum component of their teacher education program. However, the development of ICT capabilities in pre-service teachers is neither straightforward nor simple—it is a complex, multifaceted, ongoing issue for initial teacher education providers to develop these ICT capabilities. This expectation has been challenging, and initial teacher education providers are often criticised for not preparing graduates for this
expectation (Baxter & Jack, 2008). There is a need to undertake this research study to gain an insight about the disjuncture that occurs. The aim of this research study is to gain an understanding of the factors that influence the development of ICT capabilities in pre-service teachers.

**Stephen Sculley**
**presentation:** Friday 19 February 2016 (3:30 – 5:00) ROOM 80.07.07
**program:** PhD (Media and Communication)
**supervisors:** A/Prof. Craig Batty / Dr Stephen Gaunson
**project title:** Writing the Screen Idea: Re-thinking script development for a high-end crime TV drama through the television novel
**abstract/summary:** This research asks how might a screen idea for a crime television series be rendered as a literary object whilst functioning as a development and marketing document for the imagined screen work? Ian Macdonald (2013) refers to a screen idea as ‘the core idea of anything intended to become a screen work’. In this sense the screen idea is the essence, the beginning and in terms of this research the core idea is developed using the novel form. Writing the screen idea stems from the emerging field of screenwriting practice studies and its relationship with creative writing rather than screen production (Harper 2016; Baker, 2013). My research questions the script development stage of film and television drama production and investigates the screenplay as novel. There are two key reasons for taking this approach. First, there is a need for the screen idea to be acknowledged before it becomes what Steven Maras (2009) terms the ‘vanishing screenplay’. Using practice-led research I am exploring the idea of a screenplay existing within a fixed domain as an artefact in and of itself. Secondly, approaching a screen idea using a modernist prose writing style has the potential to draw the reader into the story world. As such the screen novel seeks to engage the reader through story, plot and character and minimize technical and production information expected in existing screenplays, series bibles or pitch documents. The screen novel aims to provide an alternative to existing industry practice in developing a screen idea and speaks to independent screenwriters, the general public, practitioners and scholars interested in screenwriting practice studies.