A very happy festive season to you and your families.

Supervisors and Students

What a great turn out it was for the School of Education’s Research Student Conference held at the Brunswick campus on the 23rd of November. We had over 70 people congregate in the Auditorium to hear Nicky Carr present Actor Network Theory. A very big thanks to Louise Prentice for the fantastic effort of finding everyone a place on the schedule and for Anne Mulcahy’s assistance on the day. An exciting event was the School of Education inaugural research awards. This year, the four categories and winner were:

1. SoE Research Active Supervisor with the most graduates in 2011. **Professor David Forrest**
2. SoE Research Active Supervisor with the most publications in 2011. **Dr Kathy Jordan**
3. SoE ATN Research Active ECR who is a Supervisor with the most publications in 2011 2 equal awards **Dr Narelle Lemon and Dr Aleksandra Acker**
4. SoE PhD candidate with the most publications in 2011. **Ms Cris Edmonds Wathen**

Congratulations to David, Kathy, Narelle, Aleksandra and Cris from everyone in the School of Education.

Students

Don’t forget the 2013 enrolment dates

Enrolment Online opened for 2013 enrolments at 9 am on Wednesday 7 November 2012. It will close at 5 pm on **Monday 17 December** and will re-open, after the University shutdown period, at 9 am on Wednesday 2 January.

Continuing higher education students should enrol by adding courses, or submitting an approved Application for leave of Absence form, before 5 pm on **Monday 17 December** or they will lose their place in the program and will have to apply for late enrolment to regain their
Enrolments for the upcoming 2013 ACSPRI Summer Program are now open.

The Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Inc (ACSPRI) is a not-for-profit organisation that has offered short courses in research methods, predominantly for staff and HDR students at its member institutions, for twenty-seven years. These courses cover a range of qualitative and quantitative research and analysis techniques of various levels and include training in a number of research-related software (e.g. SPSS, AMOS, Mplus, Nvivo, Stata, R).

The 2013 Summer Program is set to be the largest ACSPRI Program ever held; the first held across three weeks and the first Summer Program to be spread across two cities. 24 courses are now on offer; nine at Australian National University in Canberra from 14th - 18th January and fifteen across two weeks at University of Melbourne from 4th - 15th Feb.

RMIT is an ACSPRI Member so bookings across all three weeks from RMIT staff and students are eligible for considerable discounts. The full non-member rate is $2980 per course booking, whereas the early bird member rate available before Thursday 15th November 2012 is $1515. Full time post graduate students pay only $960 before the deadline. A couple of courses have already received a high number of bookings and are expected to fill up before that deadline so it is best to act quickly!

Program details, individual courses descriptions, FAQs, enrolment instructions and Terms and Conditions are all available at www.acspri.org.au/summerprogram2013. Queries can be forwarded to Marty Lynch (ACSPRI Program Coordinator) at summer2013@acspri.org.au.

Congratulation on Student and Staff Publications

Dr. Berenice Nyland and Shatha Alfayez

http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09669760.2012.743097

International Journal of Early Years Education

Learning Stories – crossing borders: introducing qualitative early childhood observation techniques to early childhood practitioners in Saudi Arabia

DOI 10.1080/09669760.2012.743097, Berenice Nyland & Shatha Alfayez

Received: 10 May 2012 Accepted: 15 Oct 2012 Version of record first published: 12 Nov 2012

The School of Graduate Research (SGR) reception hours have been reviewed and from 8 October, 2012 SGR reception opening hours are Monday 1pm to 5pm and Tuesday to Friday 10am to 2pm. Should you need face-to-face assistance outside these hours, please contact sgr@rmit.edu.au to make alternative arrangements.
Colleagues and PhD students,
Registration is now open for a 6 day structural equation modeling and multilevel modeling workshop using Mplus from February 11-16 2013 at the University of Melbourne. Both traditional and Bayesian methods of estimation and inference will be highlighted. Slides, published datasets, annotated program code, and program output will be provided to all participants. Catering will also be provided. Course information is as follows:

OVERVIEW:
This intensive course will provide attendees with practical knowledge of many issues surrounding structural equation modeling and multilevel modeling. Models incorporating both cross-sectional and longitudinal data from published work will be treated. Econometric methods for working with instrumental variables will also be discussed. Following completion of the course, participants will be able to creatively use structural equation models and multilevel models in a program of research with both cross-sectional and longitudinal data. This will allow using existing data to test new theories and hypotheses. Researchers will also gain insight into research design to allow more creative and comprehensive theorizing and hypothesis testing.

TOPICS COVERED:
1) Probability and Estimation, including regression and hypothesis testing with traditional p-values and sampling distributions versus posterior probabilities.
2) Mplus, including modelling options, commands, model specification, and output interpretation
3) Path Analysis, including model fit, interactions/moderation, mediation/indirect effects, and instrumental variables
4) Structural Equation Modelling, including latent variables, confirmatory factor analysis, model identification, and multi-group models
5) Multilevel Modelling, including random intercepts, random slopes, multilevel path analysis, and multilevel structural equation modelling
6) Latent growth modelling, including longitudinal data and processes, specified as a multilevel model, specified as a structural equation model, and extensions for more dynamic models

REGISTRATION FEES:
Academic and non-academic fees are $1495 AUD
PhD student fees are $495

COURSE WEBSITE:
http://gsbe.unimelb.edu.au/short_courses/mplus

Spaces are limited. Please sign up early to assure open registration. Look forward to seeing you there!

Michael J. Zyphur
Management and Marketing
Business and Economics
University of Melbourne
Foucauldian Methodology: Two workshops for staff and research students

With Professor John Pløger Roskilde University, Denmark

Much of the methodological work in the social sciences and cultural studies treats Michel Foucault's method primarily as discourse analysis. This is a highly restricted view, especially if we take into account not just Foucault's methodological texts, but also his empirical works. What was most original in Foucault's thinking is his much wider interest in historically specific totalities of discourses, materialities and practices.

The two workshops will discuss Michel Foucault’s methodological analytical approach to the study of such different topics as urban planning, art, and life through looking at relations of forces and dispositifs. The workshops will also outline Foucault’s genealogical and archaeological way of thinking. Foucault uses the word eventalisation to describe a process by which we may uncover what Foucault called the procedure of causal multiplication: analysing an event according to the multiple processes that constitute it.

Participants are welcome to join either or both workshops.

**Workshop 1 – Dispositifs**

*Date: Tuesday 4th December
Time: 10.00am - 12.00 noon
Venue: RMIT Building 8, Swanston St., Level 7, Room 6.*

Misleadingly translated as ‘apparatus’, Foucault's conceptualisation of the dispositif is more nuanced and potentially a much stronger and more important research tool than is generally assumed. The workshop will explain the meaning and implications of the term and explore methodological issues of dispositif in research. Foucault describes a dispositif as 'a thoroughly heterogeneous ensemble consisting of discourses, institutions, architectural forms, regulatory decisions, laws, administrative measures, scientific statements, philosophical, moral and philanthropic propositions - in short, the said as much as the unsaid. … The dispositif itself is a network of relations' (Foucault, 1980: 194-195).

**Workshop 2 – Eventalisation**

*Date: Tuesday 4th December
Time: 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Venue: RMIT Building 8, Swanston St., Level 7, Room 6.*

Every word, gesture and so on are in principle an eventalisation of space. Discursive practice is an eventalisation, and to Foucault eventalisation entails ‘rediscovering the connection, encounters, supports, blockages, play of forces, strategies and so on which at a given moment establish what subsequently counts as being self-evident, universal and necessary’ (Foucault, 1991: 76).

This aspect of Foucault’s ideas about discourse practice and effect is important, yet rarely discussed. The workshop will explain the meaning and implications of the term and explore methodological issues of eventalisation in analytical research.

**About John Pløger:**

John Pløger is an Associated Professor at ENSPAC, Roskilde University, Denmark. He has worked with applied research on planning in Norway and Denmark, and works part-time as consult with architects in Norway and Denmark. He has written extensively on planning theory, urban studies, and human geography. He is currently desperately trying to finish two books – ‘The Vital City’ together with Jonny Aspen, School of Architecture & Design, Oslo, and ‘The Ephemeral City’ – and starting a project with Jean Hillier on ‘Cultural Heritage’ part funded by the RMIT Foundation.

To register interest in attending either or both workshops please email Professor Jean Hillier on jean.hillier@rmit.edu.au

Thank you for your participation and support in 2012.
Best wishes, Heather, Anne, Louise and Karen.