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Associate Professor Chris Chamberlain became Director of CASR at the end of April, 2005. Chris was previously in the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute at RMIT, and before that he was Head of Sociology at Monash University (1999-2001). Chris is an expert on homelessness. He is most well known for his book, ‘Youth Homelessness: Early Intervention and Prevention’, and for his work on Counting the Homeless 2001 with the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

I would like to congratulate my predecessor, Associate Professor John Murphy, who has left CASR to become Deputy Director of the Australian Centre at the University of Melbourne. John taught history and politics in the School of Social Science and Planning at RMIT for many years. In August 2001, he became Director of the Centre for Applied Social Research and he held this position until April 2005. John made a huge contribution to the School of Social Science and Planning, and to the development of the Centre for Applied Social Research. John will be missed by his many friends and colleagues across the School.

CASR saw other staff changes in 2005. In July 2005, our Post-Doctoral Fellow, Dr Louise Humpage, left to take up a Lectureship in Sociology at the University of Auckland. Congratulations to Louise on her new position. Later in the year, we farewelled Ms Rose Scasni, CASR’s Centre Coordinator. Rose has become Finance Manager of the School of Social Science and Planning. Our thanks to Louise and Rose for their outstanding contributions to CASR.

There have also been a number of new appointments. In July, Mr Guy Johnson was appointed as an ARC Research Associate to work on an ARC Linkage project, Pathways into and out of Homelessness. Early in 2006, two new staff were appointed to work on another ARC Linkage project, Life After Care – the Life-Histories of those who left Institutional and Other Forms of Out-of-Home Care, 1945-1989. They are Dr Liz Branigan (Post-Doctoral Fellow) and Ms Jenny Malone (Research Assistant). Ms Anastasia Powell (Research Assistant) was also appointed to work on the ARC Discovery project ‘Australian Domestic Violence Public Policy: History, Discourse and Impact 1985-2005’. We have also appointed Dr Alperhan Babacan as a Post-Doctoral Fellow. Alperhan has recently completed a PhD on ‘Citizenship Rights in a Global World: a Comparative Analysis of Refugee and Asylum Seeker Laws and Policies in Australia, Canada and New Zealand’. Welcome to all our new staff members.

Expertise in CASR

CASR conducts nationally significant research on key areas of social change and social policy. We are committed to the idea that effective and equitable policy choices need to be founded upon insightful public debate and that debate requires historically and theoretically informed applied social research. Research staff in CASR have a broad range of interests, but our work converges around two themes.

One group of colleagues have particular expertise in the changing character of the labour market, workplace re-structuring and related policy issues. The people in this cluster are Dr Iain Campbell, Dr Sara Charlesworth, Dr Jenny Chalmers, Dr Kerri Whittenbury, Ms. Robyn May and Ms. Sheree Cartwright. Their research interests include: working time; gender equality and paid work; workplace understanding of discrimination; work and family balance issues; industrial relations; casualisation of working time; and quality part-time work. In 2005, CASR took over hosting the prestigious journal, ‘Labour & Industry’. The editors are Dr Iain Campbell and Dr Sara Charlesworth (CASR), Professor Bruce Wilson (School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning, RMIT) and Dr Al Rainnie (Monash University).

Another group of colleagues in CASR focus on various marginalised groups, the changing nature of welfare provision and related policy issues. They are Assoc. Prof. Chris Chamberlain, Dr Suellen Murray, Dr James Rowe, Dr Alperhan Babacan, Dr Liz Branigan, Mr Guy Johnson, Ms Anastasia Powell and Ms Jenny Malone. They have particular expertise in: the enumeration of the homeless population; pathways into and out of homelessness; issues related to domestic violence policy; the history of the women’s refuge movement; research focusing on persons with disabilities and their families; asylum seekers and refugee policy; research focusing on community groups; and issues related to drugs policy, sex workers and health issues.

There is a vibrant research culture in the Centre for Applied Social Research, and since my arrival I have been impressed by how well my colleagues work together and support each other in their various endeavours.
ARC Projects, Contract Research and the Future

Most social science research centres have unstable funding regimes, because they are dependent both upon success at the ARC and success in attracting contract research. The success rate for ARC linkage applications nationally is 50 per cent, and the success rate for ARC discovery applications nationally is 30 per cent. Colleagues in CASR have a strong track record of success with ARC grant applications. We have 14 ongoing ARC projects (eight Linkage and six Discovery) and four new ARC projects will begin in 2006 (three Linkage and one Discovery). A successful ARC project attracts considerable prestige in the university, because the successful applicant has been judged by his or her peers to be a leader in their research area. ARC grants generate money for the university and money for researchers’ salaries - though, except in the case of post-doctoral fellowships, ARC grants do not pay the salaries or on-costs of chief investigators. RMIT University has wisely developed a Research Investment Fund strategy, known colloquially as ‘RIF funding’. Presently, this covers the salaries of three staff members in CASR. This funding needs to be continued to maintain our strong record of ARC success.

CASR also has a strong record in contract research. Contract projects in 2005 included an evaluation of the Salvation Army’s Access Health Centre which provides services for street based IV drug users, carried out by Dr James Rowe. In conjunction with the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault, Dr Suellen Murray carried out a project for the Victorian Office of Women’s Policy and the Victoria Police. This research involved the analysis of police investigations into sexual assault. In 2005, there was also a project for the Salvation Army on ‘Regional Futures Social Indicators and Regional Profiles’, carried out in conjunction with the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI). Dr Louise Humpage, Dr Suellen Murray and Dr Matthew Clarke carried out a project for World Vision Australia entitled ‘After the Tsunami’. This project documented the experiences of WVA staff while assisting with tsunami relief in Sri Lanka and Indonesia. In 2005, CASR was also planning ‘Counting the Homeless 2006’. This will be a three year project (2006-09) funded by the Commonwealth and all State and Territory governments. This project is carried out in conjunction with the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

CASR is an established research centre with a track record of ARC success and substantial contract research. This augurs well for the future, although there are clearly challenges ahead. The School of Social Science and Planning has recently merged with the School of International and Community Studies to form the School of Global Studies, Social Sciences and Planning.

It is unclear what the implications of the merger will be for the five research centres in the new school. The University is also in the process of creating up to four research institutes and CASR is actively engaged in the discussions around a research institute focused on global change and sustainable communities. In 2007, we will see the introduction of the Commonwealth Government’s changes to higher education known as the Research Quality Framework (RQF). The RQF will assess the research output of universities in terms of ‘quality’ and ‘community impact’. The Centre for Applied Social Research at RMIT is well positioned to demonstrate both the quality of its research and also its ‘community impact’ in a wide range of policy areas.

Chris Chamberlain
Director
Objectives and Strategies

The objectives and strategic focus of the Centre are:

- To conduct high quality research with a focus on the restructuring of employment and social welfare;
- To promote informed public discussion about these policy areas;
- To provide postgraduate research students with the opportunity to be involved in CASR’s interdisciplinary research activities;
- The Centre maintains an emphasis on balancing peer-reviewed competitive grant research with contract research for industry partners and community agencies; and
- The Centre for Applied Social Research (CASR) is a research centre committed to having vibrant links with its environment. These links include relationships with the School of Social Science and Planning in which it is located, with other researchers in Australia and Internationally, and with a range of industry partners and community agencies.
We saw some significant staff changes in 2005. In April, Associate Professor John Murphy, Director of CASR from 2001-05, left to become Deputy Director of the Australian Centre at the University of Melbourne. The new Director of CASR, Associate Professor Chris Chamberlain, joined us at the end of April.

In July 2005, we said goodbye to Dr Louise Humpage who left to take up a Lectureship in Sociology at the University of Auckland. Louise’s replacement, Dr Alpheran Babacan, joined us as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the beginning of 2006. Much later in 2005, we farewelled Ms Rose Scasni, CASR’s Centre Coordinator. Rose has become Finance Manager of the School of Social Science and Planning.

In July, Mr Guy Johnson was appointed as an ARC Research Associate to work on an ARC Linkage Project, Pathways into and out of Homelessness. Ms Sue Grigg and Ms Jacqui Theobold have been appointed as Research Assistants on this project.

Early in 2006, two new staff were appointed to work on another ARC Linkage project, Life After Care – the Life-Histories of those who left Institutional and other Forms of Out-of-Home Care, 1945-1989. They are Dr Liz Branigan (Post-Doctoral Fellow) and Ms Jenny Malone (Research Assistant). Ms Anastasia Powell (Research Assistant) was appointed to work on the ARC Discovery project ‘Australian Domestic Violence Public Policy: History, Discourse and Impact, 1985-2005’.

In the second half of 2005, CASR took over hosting the journal ‘Labour & Industry’. Dr Annelise Balsamo joined us as the Assistant Editor of ‘Labour & Industry’ in September, but with a change in Annelise’s family circumstances this was a brief stay. Ms Adelka Sarkozi took over this position in November.

CASR employs postgraduate research students for sessional work, like Emmanuel Peeters, to assist during the frantic ARC application period. Emmanuel also contributed to preparing the School’s DEST publications submission to RMIT’s Research and Innovation Office.
Academics Associated with CASR

CASR has associations with many researchers both within and beyond RMIT. Those who were most closely associated during 2005 and were involved in CASR research projects, included:

Associate Research Fellows

Professor Belinda Probert
Pro-Vice Chancellor Academic
University of Western Australia

Emeritus Professor Martin Mowbray
Associate Research Fellow

Emeritus Professor Lois Bryson
Associate Research Fellow

Associate Professor John Murphy
University of Melbourne

Dr Greg Marston
University of Queensland

School Staff Associated with CASR

Professor Mike Berry
Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)

Associate Professor Linda Briskman
Social Work

Dr Matthew Clarke
International Studies

Associate Professor Tony Dalton
Social Science

Dr Kim Humphery
Social Science

Dr Kelley Johnson
Social Work

Associate Professor Jock McCulloch
Social Science

Associate Professor Pavla Miller
Social Science

Associate Professor Bob Pease
Coordinator- Postgraduate Research

Dr Judith Shaw
International Development

Associate Professor Judith Smart
Social Science

Professor Rob Watts
Social Policy

Professor Gavin Wood
Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)
Advisory Committee

RMIT Internal Appointments

**Professor Neil Furlong**
Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation

**Professor Bruce Wilson**
Head of School, School of Social Science and Planning

**Associate Professor Chris Chamberlain**
Director, Centre for Applied Social Research

**Dr. Iain Campbell**
Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Applied Social Research

**Professor Megan-Jane Johnstone**
Professor of Nursing, School of Health Sciences

External Appointments

**Dr. Michael Bittman**
Research Fellow, Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales

**Professor Lois Bryson**
Emeritus Professor, Newcastle University and Adjunct Professor, RMIT University

**Ms. Jeanette Pope**
Research Manager, Strategic Policy & Research Division, Department for Victorian Communities

**Mr. David Thompson**
Chief Executive Officer, Jobs Australia

**Ms. Cath Bowtell**
Industrial Officer, Australian Council of Trade Unions
Research Projects

CASR staff undertake a variety of research projects which can be divided into Australian Research Council (ARC) and contract projects.

ARC Projects

Continuing ARC Projects:

ARC Linkage Project. A Longitudinal Study of the Housing Stability of the Homeless in Victoria
This is a partnership with a consortium of five housing agencies, led by Argyle Street Housing Services, with the primary research being conducted by Guy Johnson as a PhD candidate, supervised by Tony Dalton and Chris Chamberlain. The project is funded by an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant (APA[1]) from 2002 to 2005.

ARC Discovery Project. Casual Employees and Trade Union Representation in Australia: An Analysis of Channels and Barriers to Effective Trade Union Representation
This study aims to describe and explain the barriers and channels to effective representation of casual workers in Australian unions, using analysis of ABS data, a survey of casual workers, semi-structured interviews with union officials, and case-studies of union campaigns. The study offers an innovative multidisciplinary framework for analysis of two of the most significant and interlocking trends affecting Australian workplaces: the growth of casual work and the decline of union influence. Outcomes will include published contributions to the international academic literature on labour restructuring and union renewal and a policy-oriented discussion paper for an Australian audience. Iain Campbell is conducting this project together with Robyn May and Jenny Chalmers. It runs from 2004 to 2006.

ARC Discovery Project. The Quality of Part-Time Employment in Australia: Dimensions, Prospects and Policy
Part-time employment is an important and growing phenomenon in Australia, as in most OECD countries. While research has focused on the quantity of part-time employment, the key dimension of quality has been neglected. This project is developing a sophisticated conceptual framework for assessing the quality of part-time employment, drawing on cross-national comparisons and using a gender systems approach. It is producing a comprehensive and practical assessment of the quality of part-time employment in Australia, including two detailed industry case studies. Finally, the project is evaluating the main policy paths for improving the quality of part-time employment. The project runs from 2004 to 2006 and is being conducted by Iain Campbell, Jenny Chalmers and Sara Charlesworth.

ARC Discovery Project. Understandings of Women’s Disadvantage at Work: Discourses of Discrimination in the Workplace
In analysing the persistence of women’s disadvantage in the workplace, research has focused on the inadequacy of anti-discrimination law and both government and corporate EEO policies. Less attention has been paid to the myriad ways in which these proscriptions of discrimination are understood and implemented in the workplace. This project is examining workplace discourses around sex discrimination through a range of industry case studies. It will contribute to a better theoretical understanding of the ways in which women’s disadvantage is constructed and negotiated within specific organisational contexts and cultures and also provide practical guidance for human right agencies. It is being conducted by Sara Charlesworth.
ARC Linkage Project. Policing and Quality Part-Time Work: Constraints and Options

Research suggests that a major barrier to retaining women both in sworn and unsworn positions in police work is the limited provision and uptake of part-time work. A related impediment is the conditions associated with the part-time work available in policing services. This project uses an action research approach to analyse the constraints on and options for ensuring that part-time work within Victoria Police is good ‘quality’ work. The project outcomes will contribute to better theoretical and organisational understandings of the dimensions of quality in the implementation of part-time work in public policing and in other organisational contexts. The project is being conducted by Sara Charlesworth, Kerri Whittenbury and Iain Campbell.

ARC Linkage Project. Low Paid Services Employment in Australia Dimensions, Causes, Effects and Responses

Iain Campbell is working with Barbara Pocock, Susan Oakley (both University of Adelaide) John Buchanan and Ian Watson (both University of Sydney), in collaboration with the Brotherhood of St Lawrence, the Liquor Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers Union, the Labor Councils of NSW and South Australia and the Victorian Trades Hall Council on this four year project. The project brings together academic researchers, with those who assist and advocate for the low paid in both the union and welfare sectors, to develop understanding about low paid services sector work in Australia. The Victorian component of the project centres on a case study of the cleaning industry. It is being conducted by Robyn May from 2005 to 2007.

ARC Linkage Project. Work-Life Integration: Developing the ‘Dual Agenda’ in Theory and Practice

Sara Charlesworth is working with Marian Baird from Sydney University, in collaboration with Sydney Water and Holden on this two year project. This project addresses the reconciliation of requirements for organisational efficiency with employee needs to balance work, personal and family life. Current research indicates that the adoption of standard ‘family-friendly’ policies is hindered by traditional, gendered work processes, organisational norms and structures. A new approach called the ‘dual agenda’ for change is advocated to resolve this problem. The project tests the application of the ‘dual agenda’ in two large Australian organisations. The data produced will identify policies and processes which meet the ‘dual agenda’ of gender equitable, improved work-life outcomes for employees and improved business outcomes for organisations. The project commenced early in 2005. The Victorian component is being conducted by Sara Charlesworth and Sheree Cartwright.

ARC Linkage Project. Girls, Empowerment and Markets in Education

This project was funded by an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant and supports a PhD student from 2002 to 2005. It is being conducted in collaboration with MacRobertson Girls’ High School, and the primary research is being conducted by Pauline Parker, supervised by Pavla Miller and Judith Smart.

ARC Linkage Project. Professional Discretion in Child and Youth Welfare Services

This project is in partnership with MacKillop Family Services, and is funded by an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant (APA[I]) from 2001 to 2005. The primary research is being conducted by Nick Halfpenny as a PhD candidate, with supervision by Linda Briskman in collaboration with Victoria University of Technology.

ARC Discovery Project. Anti-Consumerism in the Contemporary West

This project investigates contemporary critiques of Western consumption emanating from within Western societies themselves. Divided into three interconnecting research themes, the project offers a selective review of recent media and intellectual commentary on the consequences of consumption, a brief documentation of recent ‘anti-consumption’ activism in Europe, North America and Australasia, and an Australian-based ethnographic exploration of how people limit consumption activities within contemporary everyday life. The project will culminate in a book-length study, representing one of the first attempts to fully document how ‘Western consumerism’ is currently being challenged by intellectuals, social movement activists and ‘consumers’ themselves. Kim Humphery is conducting this project.

ARC Discovery Project. Asbestos: The History of a Commodity
This is the first world history of the asbestos industry and its social impact. It investigates key aspects of the mineral's life story in regard to mining, manufacture, medical discovery, labour, social movements, the law and the state. The project is theoretically innovative in linking the distinct bodies of knowledge that flow from each of those sites. It also raises significant questions that cannot be answered within separate disciplines. The resulting book and articles will provide practical tools for those seeking improved working conditions and assist those seeking legal redress for asbestos related disease. Jock McCulloch is conducting this project.

ARC Discovery Project. Migrant Masculinities: The Impact of Migration on Gender Identity among Immigrant Men from Non-English speaking backgrounds in Australia
This research project proposes a comparative inquiry into the subjectivities of men who have migrated to Australia from six culturally diverse regions of the world. It intends to investigate the effects of migration on the (re)construction of male gender identity and men’s attitudes in relation to women. In understanding the ways in which men from other cultures negotiate what it means to be a man in Australia, it will fill a major and increasingly important gap in our knowledge about contemporary masculinity and it will make a significant contribution to an understanding of the gendered dimensions of the migration experience. This project is being conducted by Bob Pease.

ARC Linkage Project. Ethnographies of Housing: Exploring the Role of Housing Officers in Public Housing Service Provision
This research examines the everyday practice of public housing officers working in the Victorian Office of Housing. It is funded by the ARC with an APA(I) scholarship from 2004 to 2006, in partnership with the Victorian Office of Housing in the Department of Human Services. The project aims to analyse the ways that workers exercise discretion, and the patterns of meanings that they construct, through their interactions with clients, departmental managers and other human service providers. The PhD student is Tony Chalkley and the project is supervised by Tony Dalton and Rob Watts.
New ARC Projects, 2005

ARC Linkage Project. Pathways into and out of Homelessness

Chris Chamberlain and Guy Johnson are carrying out this project in collaboration with The Salvation Army Crisis Services and HomeGround Services. Effective interventions to assist homeless people depend upon understanding the reasons why people become homeless and how they exit from homelessness. This research will investigate people’s pathways into and out of the homeless population, and explain why some households experience a short period of homelessness, whereas others remain homeless for a sustained period of time. The findings will inform our knowledge about best practice and effective service delivery. The research will influence the thinking of policy makers and service providers for some years to come.

New ARC Projects, 2006

During 2005, CASR was successful in winning the following ARC Linkage and Discovery grants.

ARC Discovery Grant. Australian Domestic Violence Public Policy: History, Discourse and Impact, 1985 to 2005

In this project, Suellen Murray and Anastasia Powell will be investigating the development and impact of domestic violence policy in Australia over the past twenty years. Through a combination of textual analysis and interviews with key policy makers, the research will document the history of public policy responses to domestic violence in Australia and analyse the range of approaches and their implications over this time. The identification of domestic violence as a policy problem was at least partly a response to feminist activism and the project will consider how public policy has made sense of these feminist interventions.

ARC Linkage Project. History of the Women’s Refuge Movement 1974 to 2004

With Industry Partner, Domestic Violence Victoria, PhD student Rose Kitching will trace the unique history of the women’s refuge movement in Victoria, from its initiation in 1974 through to a period of significant change in 2004. Rose is being supervised by Suellen Murray and Judy Smart.

ARC Linkage Project. Life After Care - The Life-Histories of Those Who Left Institutional and Other Forms of Out-of-Home Care, 1945-1989

This project, developed in close collaboration with the Industry Partner, MacKillop Family Services, will examine the impact of having been in out-of-home care for the subsequent identities and life histories of successive generations of care leavers. While focused on Catholic institutions in Victoria, it will provide more general insights into the role of the church-based children’s homes. The project is being undertaken by Suellen Murray, John Murphy (University of Melbourne), Liz Branigan and Jenny Malone.

ARC Linkage Project. Leveraging Remittance with Microfinance - A cross Country Study

This study recognises the high and growing significance of overseas migrant remittances as contributors to GDP and household livelihoods in many countries. It responds to current policy interest in remittances as a development resource, as well as security concerns related to informal funds transfers. This groundbreaking study will work with microfinance providers in six Asia-Pacific countries (Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Samoa, Fiji and Tonga) to investigate the impacts of remittance-linked financial services on household well-being and economic development. The study will identify how existing and new services can best promote development and poverty reduction in migrant-sending areas. The project is being run by Judith Shaw and Robyn Eversole.
Contract Projects

Through short-term contract projects with a range of partners, CASR researchers are committed to making a difference, to building partnerships with government and community organisations, and to laying the groundwork for potential larger projects. These contract projects listed here were undertaken in 2005.

Access Health: Towards Best Practice in Primary Health Care for Marginalised Populations
Data collection has been completed for an extensive evaluation of Access Health, a primary health care facility established in Grey St, St Kilda for use by street based injecting drug users and sex workers as well as homeless persons. James Rowe worked on-site throughout 2005, collecting information through interviews and surveys with staff and service users. The final evaluation report will be completed by March 31 2006.

After the Tsunami: The Experiences of World Vision Australia Tsunami Relief Workers
The research was undertaken by Dr Suellen Murray, Dr Matthew Clarke and Dr Louise Humpage. Commissioned by World Vision Australia (WVA), this project documents the experiences of WVA staff recently returned from Tsunami affected areas.

An Analysis of Police Investigations into Sexual Assault
This project identified the factors that most influence the outcomes of investigations of rapes reported to Victoria Police over a three-year period, 2000-2001 to 2002-2003. Suellen Murray is coordinating the project, and is contracted to undertake this work by the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault at the Australian Institute of Family Studies. The project is funded by the Department of Victorian Communities’ Office of Women’s Policy, having been identified as a research priority by the State-wide Steering Committee to Reduce Sexual Assault.

Beyond Stereotypes: Righting the Research Imbalance
This was a qualitative research project based upon a number of interviews with individuals who are ‘functioning’ injecting drug users, meaning those who inject drugs but maintain employment and/or private accommodation. The data from this research will address significant knowledge gaps and better inform policy makers about the realities of drug use. It will also be used to question those stereotypes associated with injecting drug users upon which many prohibitionist policies continue to rest. The research was conducted by James Rowe.

Community and Participant Outcomes at Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres
This project was conducted for the Association of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres, and is funded by the Department of Human Services. The project aimed to analyse quantitative and qualitative data in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of the sector, and describe the outcomes it generates, particularly for participants at Neighbourhood Houses, as well as the wider community. It was completed in 2005 by Louise Humpage and Natalie Myers.

Evaluating the Achievements and Potential of the SPAN Volunteer Tutor Program
This project was an evaluation of the volunteer tutor program at SPAN Neighbourhood House in Thornbury, which provides English tutoring to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. It was conducted by Natalie Myers and James Rowe.

Evaluation: Quality of Life Outcomes Following Kew Residential Service Redevelopment
This project evaluates the quality of life outcomes following the Kew Residential Service (KRS) Redevelopment. The Redevelopment aims to provide KRS residents with an enhanced quality of life through accommodation support and lifestyle opportunities more consistent with those experienced by the broader community. It is intended that the Evaluation will inform ongoing service provision during the Redevelopment and any future redevelopments undertaken by the Department of Human Services. Further, it is anticipated that the
Evaluation will identify critical success factors for providing accommodation support consistent with the aspirations of the State Disability Plan, and that these findings will add to the body of contemporary research in disability services. The project is funded by the Department of Human Services and is conducted by Kelley Johnson and Christine Bigby.

Streetwalking Blues: St Kilda Sex Work and the Street
A longitudinal study completed with 15 street sex workers in St Kilda (10 women, 3 men and 2 transsexual workers) over a period of 18 months. This project, completed with the assistance of Inner South Community Health Services, Sacred Heart Mission, Salvation Army Crisis Services and Port Phillip Council, explored the life histories of street sex workers so as to move beyond the street-corner stereotypes that characterise debates and, consequently, derail potentially useful policy options (such as recently recommended ‘tolerance zones’ and ‘safe houses’). Deputy Chief Magistrate Jelena Popovic will launch the final report, Streetwalking Blues, on 31 March 2006. It is being conducted by Dr James Rowe.

Regional Futures and Local Profiles
The Salvation Army’s Melbourne Central Division is proposing to reorganise its social programs onto a regional basis, with five service regions clustering local government areas (LGA).

- Inner West Region – Cities of Maribyrnong, Hobsons Bay & Moonee Valley
- Central Region – Cities of Port Phillip & Melbourne and a section of the City of Stonnington
- North West Region – Cities of Moreland & Hume
- North East Region – Cities of Yarra, Darebin, Banyule, Nillumbik & Whittlesea
- Outer West Region – Cities of Brimbank, Wyndham & Melton

This project investigates the current socio-demographic and quality of life profiles by LGA; forecasts (with a 10 year time-frame) by LGA; and evaluation and interpretation of trends and of emerging needs, and policy guidance on using this data for a regional planning framework. This project is being jointly undertaken by CASR and AHURI.
Other Projects

Other projects include projects that are self-funded or funded from internal sources.

Indigenous Capacity Building in Australia and New Zealand
This project aims to fill a gap in the literature by analysing the similarities and differences between the capacity building initiatives adopted in Australia and New Zealand over the last five years. This project was conducted by Louise Humpage.

Transitions to adulthood: Young people with disabilities, their families and life after school
The project extends research undertaken in 2004 by Suellen Murray that examined families’ care of children with severe disabilities and developed in response to discussions with the Association for Children with a Disability. The project aims to present case studies of the experiences of families of young people with severe disabilities who are transitioning to post-secondary school options.
Publications

Books


Book Chapters


Research Reports


Achievements
Refereed Journal Articles


Charleworth, S. and Whittenbury, K. ‘Part-time and Part committed?: The Cultural Challenges of Part-time Work in Policing’ (accepted for publication by the ‘Journal of Industrial Relations’).


Murray, S. (forthcoming) ‘“Make pies not war”: Protests by the women’s peace movement of the mid 1980s.’ ‘Australian Historical Studies’.


Refereed Conference Proceedings


Babacan, A. ‘Overhaul or Acceleration of Former Policies: Regulating Asylum in the Aftermath of September 11: The Case of Australia, Canada and New Zealand’ at Racism in the New World Order: Realities of Culture, Colour and Identity, Coolum, December 8-9 2005.


Conference and Seminar Presentations


Murray, S. is supervising Jenny-Lynn Potter’s MSocSci (Policy and Human Services), on ‘The Application of Health Impact Assessment to Domestic Violence Policy Development’.

Murray, S. and Chamberlain, C. are supervising Robyn Martin’s PhD on, ‘Revolving or Evolving doors: What Factors, Conditions and Contexts Promote Sustainable Pathways Out of Homelessness for Women?’ in the School of Social Science and Planning, RMIT.

Murray, S. is supervising, Theresa Lynch’s PhD on ‘Understanding Women and Homicide: Exploring the Circumstances of Why Women Kill Friends, Strangers and Acquaintances’ in the School of Social Science and Planning.


Rowe, J. ‘Street Sex Workers – Deviant or Disenfranchised’ 16th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug-Related Harm, Belfast, Northern Ireland, 20-24, March, 2005.


Working Papers


CASR Submissions


Invited Presentations


Newspaper Articles


Academic Supervision of Students

Campbell, I. is second supervisor for Sharon Parkinson. “Precarious employment and housing instability: understanding the connection”. Sharon is currently studying for her PhD in the School of Social Science and Planning, RMIT.

Chamberlain, C. is supervising Guy Johnson’s PhD on ‘a Longitudinal Study of the Homeless in Victoria’.

Chamberlain, C. is supervising Chris Davies’ PhD on ‘Governing the Fortunes of Problem Gamblers’.

Charlesworth, S. is first supervisor for Sheree Cartwright PhD thesis ‘Women’s decision making about paid work and family after childbirth’ in the School of Social Science and Planning.


Murray, S. is supervising Elli Halse’s MA at the Melbourne College of Divinity on ‘Charting Change in Domestic Violence: A Study of Mary Anderson Lodge’.

Murray, S. is supervising Jenny-Lynn Potter’s MSocSci (Policy and Human Services), on ‘The Application of Health Impact Assessment to Domestic Violence Policy Development’.

Murray, S. and Chamberlain, C. are supervising Robyn Martin’s PhD on, ‘Revolving or Evolving doors: What Factors, Conditions and Contexts Promote Sustainable Pathways Out of Homelessness for Women?’ in the School of Social Science and Planning, RMIT.

Murray, S. is supervising, Theresa Lynch’s PhD on ‘Understanding Women and Homicide: Exploring the Circumstances of Why Women Kill Friends, Strangers and Acquaintances’ in the School of Social Science and Planning.

Guest Lecturing

Campbell, I. ‘Casualisation’ seminar, HUSO 2203, RMIT University, April 27, 2005.

Campbell, I. ‘Family-Friendly Workplaces’ seminar, HUSO 2203, RMIT University, May 11, 2005.


Chamberlain, C. ‘Social Surveys’ one-day workshop for HUSO 1312/2079/2095, Research Methods, RMIT University, May 14, 2005.

Chamberlain, C. ‘Youth Homelessness’ guest lecture to BA Social Science (Youth Work) students, RMIT University, 11 August, 2005.


Charlesworth, S. ‘Research: Tales from the field’ Social Work 4th year Semester 2, RMIT University, 13 July, 2005.


Murray, S. ‘From the politics of independence to the politics of liberation’, HUSO 1184 Women, History & Politics, RMIT University, 26 May 2005.

Murray, S. Weekly Tutorials, HUSO 1184 Women History and Politics, RMIT University.


Rowe, J. Coordinated ‘Welfare and Work’, HUSO 2203, RMIT University, Semester 1, 2005.
During 2005, CASR’s work included a number of events that continues to build links with community partners, and with wider policy communities.

May:

Public Seminar - Dr Tuule Helne
Dr Tuule Helne, Senior Researcher at the Research Department of the Social Insurance Institution of Finland (Kela), gave a seminar on ‘What do We Speak of When We Speak of Social Exclusion? Reflections Upon Policy in Finland and France’.

Dr Helne’s popular book, “Syryäytymisen yhteiskunta” (The Society of Exclusion, 2002) draws upon her research into social exclusion in the French and broader European context. She is also the main editor and co-author of ‘Sosiaalinen politiikka’ (Social Policy 2003), a textbook of social policy with a critical approach, which advocates the inclusion of environmental and global issues among the basic questions of social policy. Her current research and book focus on changing values of social policy and the clash of previous values (e.g. solidarity) with the harsh realities of economic ‘necessities’ and the more or less neo-liberal reforms in social policy.

Work and Welfare Conference May 6th
The Centre for Applied Social Research hosted a conference examining a number of issues around the broad themes of Work and Welfare. Four speakers presented papers;

Leonie Morgan from Industrial Relations Victoria gave a paper on ‘Quality Part-time work and the Victorian Government Action Agenda for Work and Family Balance’. Leonie is a Senior Policy Analyst (Work and Family) with Industrial Relations Victoria. Her major focus is the Quality of Part-time Work Project, which will provide guidance to employers on the creation of quality part-time work through research into international and national best practice.

Cath Bowtell from the ACTU gave a paper on ‘New Rights for Parents and Carers: The ACTU Work and Family Test Case’. Cath is an industrial officer at the ACTU. Since early 2002 Cath has assumed responsibility for equal pay, parental and carers leave, and paid maternity leave. She co-ordinates the work of the ACTU Women’s Committee. In 2004 she ran the ACTU Work and Family Test Case before the Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

Dr Tuule Helne from the Social Insurance Institution of Finland gave a paper on social exclusion International and Australian perspectives. Dr Helne is a Senior Researcher at the Research Department of the Social Insurance Institution of Finland. She drew upon research conducted for her book, ‘The Society of Exclusion’, (2002) to present a largely theoretical exploration of social exclusion in a French and broader European context. Dr Helne’s expanded on her current research which focuses on the changing values of social policy, notably the clash of previous values (e.g. solidarity) with economic ‘necessities’ and a trend towards neo-liberal reform.

Dr Greg Marston placed Dr Helne’s largely theoretical overview of social exclusion in the European context in a practical Australian context. Greg, is a former research fellow with the Centre for Applied Social Research. He is now lecturing in the School of Social and Behavioural Sciences at the University of Queensland. The course he teaches include ‘The Practice of Social Policy’.

RMIT Foundation Visiting Fellow - Dr Colette Fagan
Dr Colette Fagan visited Melbourne from the 9th to the 13th of May. CASR hosted her visit, which was sponsored by the Victorian Government and supported by an RMIT Foundation Visiting Fellowship.

Dr Fagan is Co-Director of the European Work and Employment Research Centre and Reader (Associate Professor) in Sociology at the University of Manchester, UK. She is a co-ordinator (with Professors Jill Rubery and Janneke Plantenga) of the European Commission Expert Group on Gender, Social Inclusion and Employment (EGGSIE network).
Her research focuses on gender relations in employment and domestic life, with particular interest in international comparative analyses and the topic of ‘time’. She has an extensive record of international comparative research funded by major international organisations, including the European Commission, International Labour Office, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, the European Trade Union Institute and the Anglo-German Foundation, and UK grants secured from the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Dr Fagan gave a Public Lecture on ‘Gender & Working-Time National Models and Policy Debates in the European Union’, which drew on her recent international comparative research on gender and work-time issues. Dr Fagan’s lecture was opened by the Victorian Minister for Women’s Affairs and Minister for the Arts, Hon Mary Delahunty MP. In addition to her public lecture she gave a speech to a major policy round table on quality part-time work, gave an interview on the ABC ‘Livematters’ program, participated in an experts workshop for researchers and presented another paper at a seminar at The University of Melbourne.

June:

Public Seminar on Part-time Work in Sweden.

Dr Inger Jonsson is a researcher in the Economic History Department University of Uppsala, Sweden. Dr Jonsson’s research interests include gender and working time issues, with particular focus on part-time work.

The seminar outlined how part-time work has developed in Sweden in response to demand and supply factors and discussed the influence of changing institutional arrangements. Two current, slightly contradictory, Swedish Government inquiries were discussed - one investigating ways of strengthening the right to full-time work, and one considering a legal entitlement for all employees to temporarily reduce their work hours. Dr Jonsson’s analysis of part-time work in Sweden focused on gender issues as well as interaction between welfare systems and labour market regimes.

Social Science and Planning Postgraduate Research Conference.

Associate Professor Chris Chamberlain gave the keynote address on “Applied Social Research and Public Policy”.

September:

The 2nd Annual RMIT Women and Work conference was convened by Dr Sara Charlesworth from CASR and Dr Maureen Fastenau from the School of Management on September 29. The Conference was designed to foster discussion and provide the foundation for future collaborative research across the University. The conference was opened by Prof. Margaret Gardner, Vice Chancellor, RMIT University.

Academics and research students from across the University presented papers on a wide range of topics including:

- Australian Female Project Managers
- Illicit Street Sex Work in Melbourne
- The New Zealand Designer Apparel Industry
- Industrial Sport and Women in the First World War
  - The Role of Volunteerism in Women’s Skill Development
  - The Impact of the Tsunami on Women’s Work in South-Eastern Sri Lanka
  - The Effect of Maternal Employment on Mothers’ Psychological Well-Being
- Transnational Migrant Brides in Asia.
October:

Symposium on IR Reform: Social and Economic Dimensions, 11 October
This symposium was convened by the Brotherhood of St. Laurence and CASR and held at St. Hilda’s College, University of Melbourne. The Symposium canvassed the broad issues around the integration of IR with social and economic policies; looked at the relationship between the proposed IR changes and social exclusion; discussed whether reducing minimum wages and other changes will have a positive effect on employment and competitiveness; and examined future directions. Speakers included Mr Tony Nicholson, Executive Director, Brotherhood of St Laurence; Ray Evans, President, HR Nicholls Society; The Honourable John Button, Former Senator, and Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce; and Greg Combet, Secretary, ACTU.

November:

The Salvation Army (TSA) Melbourne Central Division Research and Advocacy Portfolio and CASR held a conference on ‘Current Research and Advocacy Projects’ on November 24. Speakers at this conference reported on interim findings from the following current projects; ‘Ten thousand homeless people’; ‘Development of the student placement program’, ‘Access Health, towards Best practice in Primary health Care for IDU’. Longitudinal Study of Homeless Households in Victoria’.

Professor Rob Watts presented the key note address, ‘Public Policy Advocacy: Reframing the Values Debate’ and Major Doug Thomas from the Salvation Army gave the welcoming address.
## Higher Degree Research Students associated with CASR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Research Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alperhan BABACAN</td>
<td>Citizenship rights in a global world. A comparative analysis of asylum seeker laws and policies in Australia, Canada and NZ.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheree CARTWRIGHT</td>
<td>Women’s decision making about paid work and family after childbirth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony CHALKLEY</td>
<td>Ethnographies of housing: exploring the role of housing officers in Public Housing service provision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris DAVIES</td>
<td>Governing the fortunes of problem gamblers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas HALFPENNY</td>
<td>Professional discretion in child and youth services: the impact APA(l) of the contract states.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa HARRIS</td>
<td>Individual, capital or community: an exploration of what makes us click on line to the net.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gerard HUGHES</td>
<td>Imposing on the rural: the activity and perceptions of globalisation in a rural town.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guy JOHNSON</td>
<td>A longitudinal study of the housing stability of the homeless in Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theresa LYNCH</td>
<td>Understanding women and homicide: exploring the circumstances of why women kill friends, strangers and acquaintances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sybil NOLAN</td>
<td>Robert Menzies and The Age: a relationship in Liberalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robyn MARTIN</td>
<td>Revolving or evolving doors: what factors promote sustainable pathways out of homelessness for women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pauline PARKER</td>
<td>A History of MacRobertson Girls High School.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emmanuel PEETERS</td>
<td>How do social security participants experience Mutual Obligation? Interrogating the discourses of recent welfare reforms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter ROBINSON</td>
<td>What ageing means to homosexual men in Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilary SAWER</td>
<td>‘One fundamental value’: young unemployed people’s views about work, unemployment and Mutual Obligation</td>
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</table>
Financial report the year ended 31 December 2005
- with comparative data for 2003 and 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2003</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARC (Discovery &amp; Linkage)</td>
<td>525,060</td>
<td>473,896</td>
<td>172,205</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Contracts</td>
<td>388,670</td>
<td>75,518</td>
<td>158,239</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference income</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30,395</td>
<td>502</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Investment Fund*</td>
<td>239,292</td>
<td>239,292</td>
<td>171,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Grants Scheme</td>
<td>27,636</td>
<td>36,221</td>
<td>21,925</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Infrastructure Block Grant</td>
<td>45,412</td>
<td>42,469</td>
<td>40,646</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>104,494</td>
<td>217,573</td>
<td>126,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations &amp; Bequests</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL INCOME</td>
<td>1,338,564</td>
<td>1,115,364</td>
<td>703,611</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and On-costs</td>
<td>762,185</td>
<td>706,842</td>
<td>416,809</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consumable Materials</td>
<td>37,302</td>
<td>28,735</td>
<td>24,963</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minor Equipment, Repairs &amp; Hire</td>
<td>19,428</td>
<td>20,270</td>
<td>8,613</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Costs</td>
<td>5,439</td>
<td>4,685</td>
<td>3,562</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>35,963</td>
<td>52,630</td>
<td>74,648</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing, Advert. &amp; Public Relations</td>
<td>4,316</td>
<td>6,674</td>
<td>11,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel &amp; Motor Vehicle Expenses</td>
<td>65,259</td>
<td>42,234</td>
<td>41,759</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Administration Costs</td>
<td>41,376</td>
<td>45,961</td>
<td>55,808</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance, Legal &amp; Other</td>
<td>8,719</td>
<td>16,359</td>
<td>4,580</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facility Expenses</td>
<td>926</td>
<td>11,327</td>
<td>940</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants to other institutions</td>
<td>39,895</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,761</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Scholarships</td>
<td>72,357</td>
<td>98,038</td>
<td>80,755</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Related Expenses</td>
<td>4,648</td>
<td>1,259</td>
<td>5,117</td>
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<tr>
<td>University Overheads</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>57,228</td>
<td>(7,998)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,254</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</td>
<td>1,097,813</td>
<td>1,092,242</td>
<td>732,240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| OPERATING RESULT              |          |          | (28,629) |
| Surplus/(Deficit)             | 240,751  | 23,122   |          |

Notes:  * Research Investment Fund income supports salaries of three staff in both years. School funding support and other income does not appear in SAP financial reports.