



Social Change and Wellbeing

Centre for Public Culture and Ideas

Creative for Life

Brief Description:

This special research initiative applies a creative approach to issues facing our ageing society. It takes a fresh look at creativity and healthy living across all ages and cultures and celebrates creative processes and the ways they enrich our communities. Two ongoing projects indicate how *Creative for Life* contributes to Australia's social inclusion agenda.

Project 1: Local Heart Local History

Chief Investigators:

Professor Anna Haebich
Professor Paul Turnbull

The project engages creative new research processes and outcomes for community projects that bring generations and cultures together to record and interpret rich and diverse local histories and heritage. Community members work with professional historians and visual artists and, through the application of new technologies, create enduring quality resources and practical models of interest to all. Students from a local school record and share their local histories and heritage and, working with their elders, build a sense of community awareness and understanding, and create a valuable community website resource.

Project 2: My Home My History

Chief Investigator: Dr Suzanne Goopy

The project encompasses interdisciplinary teams who work with Italian communities in Queensland, to produce a range of ethnographic studies that incorporate photography and ethno-documentaries to elicit community understanding of different community groups, contributing to community tolerance and cohesion.

Cosmopolitanism, cultural citizenship and social inclusion

Chief Investigators:

Professor Andy Bennett,
Dr Ian Woodward, Dr Sarah Baker

Brief description:

This study of young Australians examines the way attitudes of social tolerance, inclusion and the valuing of cultural difference relates to participation in popular culture, media and leisure. In the context of global cultures and the increased mobility of people and things, this study asks whether exposure to global media texts through music, film, gaming and the internet will lead to increased patterns of social participation and cultural tolerance. It will address such questions as: do young people recognise the category of locally produced cultural goods, do they assign the local any value over the foreign, and what are the implications for Australian culture of the values they assign? Is this process making young Australians more or less culturally tolerant, and more or less culturally competent? Importantly, what will be the effects of shifting cultural consumption patterns for Australians and local culture? Do such global flows problematise a coherent notion of Australian identity among youth?

Creative Partnerships: Sustainable Solutions for Social Inclusion

International Conference to be held in Brisbane, 2009 in collaboration with the Innovative Universities European Union Centre.

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