Griffith Institute for Social and Behavioural Research

... focus on contemporary global challenges ...
The Griffith Institute for Social and Behavioural Research is a new initiative to bring together nearly 200 researchers to focus on contemporary global challenges to society and community wellbeing.

Rapid social change since the 1950s has created great wealth and improved health and wellbeing for many. However, other indicators suggest deteriorating trends in individual, community and societal wellbeing. The Institute explores the nature of ‘societal wellbeing’, examines the impact of social change on wellbeing; and develops interventions that promote positive change.

**Our core objectives are to:**
- explore the nature of societal and individual ‘wellbeing’;
- understand the reasons for trends and patterns in individual, family, community and societal wellbeing in post-industrialised societies; and
- develop ways of improving wellbeing in Australia and internationally.

**Multi Disciplinary themes:**
Through the Institute researchers focus their disciplinary expertise in 6 core themes:
- *Pathways, Transitions and Interventions for Change* is a program focused on the life-course, changing social contexts for human development, and preventative interventions;

---

**Our Research Centres**

**ARC Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security (CEPS)**
[www.ceps.edu.au](http://www.ceps.edu.au)

CEPS is the only Centre for policing and security to be acknowledged, and funded, by the Australian Research Council as a Centre of Excellence. Established in 2007 in collaboration with Australian research partners, police and forensic science services, the Australian Institute of Criminology, and National Information and Communications Technology Australia, CEPS research informs and drives local and global policy and practice reform to strengthen security and wellbeing. As part of an international research network, it includes formal partnerships with universities in the UK, USA, Canada and Israel and informal links with many more countries.

**Griffith Centre for Cultural Research (GCCR)**

With members drawn from the humanities, social sciences and creative arts, GCCR brings history, literary and cultural studies, sociology, applied philosophy, theatre and drama studies, visual arts and arts theory together to engage with contemporary debates in public culture and ideas. Its work includes a strong focus on popular culture, the role played by our cultural institutions and the use of information and communication technology to facilitate public engagement with our heritage and culture. International, particularly European, research collaboration is a distinct feature of GCCR research.

**Centre for Work, Organisation and Wellbeing (WOW)**

Significant global social, economic and technological changes have brought changes to the world of work. Grand narratives of the knowledge worker, empowerment and portfolio careers coexist with concerns about intensification, surveillance and casualisation. WOW researchers examine the changing nature of work, organisation and workforce to address how imperatives for efficiency, quality and high performance can be configured so that good pay, dignity, wellbeing and social justice are also achieved.

**Griffith Institute for Educational Research (GIER)**

Learning has the potential to effect social change. GIER focuses on understanding the processes of learning and the factors that affect participation and engagement in learning. Through national and international collaboration, its research focuses on: School leadership; Literacy and assessment; Workplace learning; Mathematics education and numeracy; Classroom learning environments; Technology and Design; Policy; Special education and inclusion.
Space and Place incorporates spatial analysis into a study of how social change affects people’s lives and the fortunes of places, including local communities;

Causes and Prevention of Violence explores the causes, consequences, and prospects for the control of violence in a period of change and social dislocation;

Creativity and Social Inclusion addresses the importance of creative pursuits, including music, drama and dance, in personal and social skills development and as key resources in the facilitation of social inclusion and cultural participation;

Leadership, Learning and Change focuses on understanding the links between leadership and learning in homes, schools and communities and how that understanding can be used to help alleviate disadvantage; and

Regulating the Institutions of Work focuses on topical issues surrounding regulatory institutions for worker protection and organisational justice in the changing workplace which seek to achieve a balance between organisational productivity and worker wellbeing.

Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance (KCELJAG)
www.griffith.edu.au/kceljag

Originally established with Australian Research Council funding, the Key Centre takes a ‘prevention’ and evidence based approach to crime control, policing and criminal justice including early intervention; violence research, especially sexual violence and abuse; justice modelling and innovative justice systems and processes. Its research on global values, corporate governance, integrity, anti-corruption and Islamic Studies in Australia is interlinked with the work of the Institute for Ethics, Governance and Law.

Institute for Ethics, Governance and Law (IEGL) (Including the Griffith Islamic Research Unit)
www.griffith.edu.au/iegl

Closely linked with the Key Centre, the Institute for Ethics, Governance and Law is one of a small number of United Nations University affiliated centres, and the only one in Australia. Through partnership with two other Australian universities, it takes an international perspective on issues of good governance, ethics, integrity and corruption. It hosted the World Ethics Forum in 2006 and its researchers have worked with international parliamentary and legislative organisations including in East Timor, Georgia and Indonesia. It also houses the Griffith Islamic Research Unit, a specialist entity focusing on research issues relating to Islam within a ‘western’ context and a node of the National Centre of Excellence in Islamic Studies.

Socio-Legal Research Centre (SLRC)
www.griffith.edu.au/law/socio-legal-research-centre

Using interdisciplinary, theoretical and empirical approaches, researchers at the SLRC investigate the impact of law on our lives in such diverse areas as consumer and credit law, family law, social justice, law and culture, governance, risk regulation, water management and other environmental issues. The SLRC has strong links with research experts across the globe in both northern and southern hemispheres.

Urban Research Program (URP)
www.griffith.edu.au/urp

The sustainable city is the primary focus of URP research. URP research includes investigations into the social, human, physical and environmental dimensions of urban structure, policy and regulation. The articulation of community perspectives in urban research is an URP priority. The main areas of URP research are: urban governance; spatial dimensions of social inclusion, transportation; rural and peri urban landscape management; urban livability; housing; infrastructure; ecology; urban economy and health.
Griffith University opened its first campus in 1975 with just 450 students. Today, Griffith has five campuses extending from Southport on the Gold Coast to South Bank in Brisbane and has a population of almost 36,000 students.

Social justice and increasing opportunity across all sectors of society have always been a major hallmark of research and teaching at Griffith University. These values are reflected in the commitment to research-led social change pursued by the Griffith Institute for Social and Behavioural Research. This is reflected in Griffith University being ranked in the top 200 universities in the world for social science (2009 Times Higher Education QS World University Rankings).

Contact details:

Professor Ross Homel
Director
r.homel@griffith.edu.au

Jenny Wilson
Strategic Development Manager
jenny.wilson@griffith.edu.au

Susan Lockwood-Lee
Administration Manager
s.lockwood-lee@griffith.edu.au

Griffith Institute for Social and Behavioural Research
Griffith University, Mount Gravatt campus
Queensland 4111, Australia

tel: +61 (0) 7 3735 6996
fax: +61 (0) 7 3735 6985

www.griffith.edu.au/social-change

Institute Advisory Board:

Emeritus Professor Millicent Poole (Chair and former Vice-Chancellor of Edith Cowan University)

Ms Ann Arnold (ABC Radio)

Mr Peter Bridgman (Decisive Consultants)

Professor Brendan Gleeson (Griffith University)

Professor Wayne Hall (University of Queensland)

Professor Greer Johnson (Griffith University)

Ms Clare Martin (Australian Council of Social Service)

Professor Peter Saunders (University of New South Wales)