Recent successes by Dr Susan Dennison, Professor Stephen Smallbone and Dr Bruce Buchanan in the ARC Future Fellowship scheme highlights just how strongly the Institute’s centres are performing in ARC granting schemes. To date in 2009, members of the Institute’s 8 centres have secured over $5 million in ARC project funding, with over 30% of Griffiths total 2009 ARC grants being led by Institute researchers. While the ARC represents only one of many sources funding our researchers’ work, the highly competitive nature of the ARC schemes makes it a key indicator of research quality.

While the projects taking place across the Institute represent a diversity of disciplines, a uniting feature is their focus on issues of social justice and community wellbeing - the driving theme of the Institute. To assist to strengthen the research performance of our centres and the application of our research for the benefit of society, the Institute has gathered some of Australia’s leading thinkers to its new Advisory Board, which will meet for the first time in November.

... New Centre Director ...

During June, Griffith Institute for Educational Research (GIER) had a change of Director. Professor Robyn Jorgensen left to take up the position of CEO with the Nyangatjatjara Aboriginal Corporation (NAC), which is based in Yulara and serves three Anangu communities: Impampa, Mutitjulu and Docker River. The primary role of the NAC is education provision for secondary students in this region. The position is an exciting one and involves working with the communities and various agencies associated with Indigenous education.

We are happy to welcome Professor Greer Johnson as the new Director of GIER. Professor Johnson’s research is focused on narrative inquiry into several aspects of education. Most recently there is recognition of her scholarship on the Cambridge University Carpe Vitam: Leadership for Learning project which has led to her editing with international colleagues, a special issue of the prestigious journal International Journal for Leadership in Education. She is also involved in an ARC-SSRC Linkage International project that examines the learning needs of older workers and an ARC (Discovery) project, tracking school to post school transitions for at risk youth.

In the local domain, she is leading the evaluation of Education Queensland’s implementation of the Key to Literacy Framework through a professional development program for all Prep to year nine teachers.

News in Brief from the Director

They include Chair, Professor Millicent Poole, former Vice-Chancellor of Edith Cowan University, who will be joined by Mr Peter Bridgman, former Cabinet Secretary, Deputy Director of Queensland Government and co-author of The Australian Policy Handbook, Australia’s leading text book on public policy; Ms Clare Martin, CEO of the Australian Council of Social Service and until recently the Northern Territory’s Chief Minister; Professor Peter Saunders, Professor in Social Policy at the University of New South Wales, and Director of its Social Policy Research Centre until 2007; Ms Ann Arnold, a veteran journalist and producer with ABC, Sydney Morning Herald and the Sunday Age, and a recipient of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission’s Radio Award. The Advisory Board brings a wealth of expertise in policy, government, research, community and media engagement to inform our future direction and ensure that we continue to engage closely with the most pressing issues in social and behavioural research.

Dr Paul Harpur will be joining Griffith University in November to work on three interrelated research projects under the theme of “Regulating the Institutions of Work”. Paul’s position is funded jointly by the Griffith Institute for Social and Behavioural Research, the Socio-Legal Research Centre and the Centre for Work, Organisation and Wellbeing. Paul is currently a Research Fellow at QUT and Associate Lecturer of Employment Law. He was awarded his PhD in June 2009 at QUT on his thesis titled, ‘Human rights as labour rights: Workers’ safety at work in Australian based supply chains’. The project comprises the following three subprojects:

- “Towards Effective International Regulation of Egregious Breaches of Labour”. The lead investigator is Professor David Peetz (WOW).
- “Whistleblowing and Organisational Justice: Effecting Workplace Change in Australia”. The lead investigator is Professor A.J. Brown (SLRC).
- “Regulation and Protection of Marginal Workers”. The lead investigators are Professor Richard Johnstone (SLRC) and Associate Professor Michael Barry (WOW).

While this is a one year project investigating the regulation and protection of marginal workers, it is envisaged that the project will lead to further research funding.

The Institute’s new statistician (due to commence in February 2010), Dr Ayoub Saei, presented a seminar in August on Small Area Estimation. Dr Saei is currently a senior statistician with the UK’s Health Protection Agency. The seminar introduced participants to concepts and definitions of small area estimation, and provided introductory knowledge about the types of methods of small area estimation.
The Institute's Professor Ross Homel and Jenny Wilson were among the Griffith - Fitzgerald Initiative steering committee members who joined a host of distinguished guests at the sell out inaugural Griffith University - Tony Fitzgerald Lecture at the State Library of Queensland on 28 July 2009, hosted by the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance. The event which included an inspiring lecture on human rights by the Hon Arthur Chaskalson, South Africa's first President of the Constitutional Court, and Chief Justice, and one of the architects of post-apartheid South Africa, was surpassed only by Mr Fitzgerald's introductory speech which has been much reported in the media. At the close of the event, which was expertly chaired by Professor Paul Mazerolle, Director of the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance, the audience rose as one to give a resounding standing ovation to Mr Fitzgerald. On a perhaps lighter note, Jenny Wilson in collaboration with Professor Paul Cleveland, Director of Queensland College of Art, and Mr Simon Wright, Director of Griffith Artworks and Gallery@QCA, coordinated The Fitzgerald Collection - an exhibition of artworks, media coverage, social history artefacts and on-line recollections by Griffith staff and others, to accompany the inaugural Griffith - Tony Fitzgerald Lecture.

The exhibition ran from 29 July to 9 August and included items and artworks by Griffith staff, and from Mr Fitzgerald's personal collection that recalled the years surrounding the Fitzgerald Inquiry. The opening event was a mixture of excitement and nostalgia. Dr Debra Beattie, one of the Institute's members whose work was featured, summed up the nostalgia of the event well "It was quite a strange feeling really seeing so many old faces and realising just how old we were!" Cartoonist Sean Leahy brought thoughts back into current time with a suggestion for a new Queensland coat of arms featuring former Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen and the recently imprisoned former Minister Gordon Nuttall.

Mr Simon Wright, and Professors Paul Mazerolle and Marilyn McMeniman provided context for the works while Mr Fitzgerald was star of the show, donating his personal collection to the State Library of Queensland, which was accepted by State Librarian Ms Lea Giles-Peters.

"It was quite a strange feeling really seeing so many old faces and realising just how old we were!"
Angie Hart, Professor of Child, Family and Community Health at the University of Brighton in the UK, presented a seminar on Resilient Therapy to a packed house in August at the Mt Gravatt campus. Professor Hart explained that Resilient Therapy is a new therapeutic methodology that draws on resilience research and strategically harnesses selected principles and techniques to find the best ways of helping disadvantaged children and young people. Notes from the seminar can be downloaded from the Institute website: www.griffith.edu.au/social-change.

Mysteries of Citation Analysis

Homel opened the seminar and introduced Professor Ned Pankhurst DVC Research. Professor Pankhurst spoke about the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative being developed by the ARC which will assess research quality within Australia’s higher education sector. Tony Shell, Associate Director, Office for Research, provided general observations about the performance of Humanities, Art and Social Sciences at Griffith and explanations about relevant citation data used for assessment. Professor Adrian Wilkinson, Director, Centre for Work, Organisation and Wellbeing, delivered a comprehensive presentation on journal impact factors and citation indices. Dr Sandra Lawrence, Centre for Work, Organisation and Wellbeing, and Carmel Connors, KCELJAG demonstrated worked examples of citation analysis using Scopus, Thomson and Publish or Perish. Notes from the seminar (for Griffith staff only) can be downloaded from the Institute website: www.griffith.edu.au/social-change.

Institute Researchers lead Griffith's 2009 Future Fellowship success

Dr Dennison’s project “What about the children? A Study of the intergenerational consequences of paternal incarceration” explores the long term impact of parental incarceration upon children, to identify policies and prevention strategies to interrupt the cycle of disadvantage, social exclusion and risk of offending that may shape the future lives of this high risk population; and Professor Stephen Smallbone’s project “Testing theoretical propositions concerning the onset and progression of child-sex offending and field testing a new sexual abuse prevention model” continues his influential and successful work in this challenging area of preventative criminology, to provide new knowledge about the causes of sexual abuse and develop new evidence-based prevention methods both within Indigenous communities and in the wider community. These recent accolades represent over a third of Griffith’s total Future Fellowships, confirming our growing strength and reputation in social science research, and will undoubtedly assist to support these researchers as future national and international research leaders.

Macquarie University Distinguished Alumni 2009

Professor Ross Homel, Institute Director, has been one of Griffith University’s research leaders for many years so it is unusual to see his name linked with another university. Yet on 4 August 2009, Ross’s earlier institutional affiliation was brought to light when Macquarie University, where Ross studied, taught and gained his PhD, between 1976 and 1991, awarded him with the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award at a black tie function in Sydney.

Cheered on by his wife Beverley, nominators Professor Paul Mazerolle and Jenny Wilson, and recent Griffith ‘export’ to Macquarie University, Marianne Mitchell, Ross accepted the award from Chancellor Michael Egan and Vice-Chancellor Professor Stephen Schwartz. Acknowledging the changes at Macquarie University since the time that he was in residence, and perhaps with reference to his current position at Griffith, Ross quoted artist Nathalie Hartog-Gautier, one of the artists in the Remembering Paris exhibition currently on show at the Macquarie art gallery - ‘...time transforms our physical environment as much as our emotional self’, - a truisim that resonated with many attending.
Centre Roundup

The Institute, in association with Associate Professor Malcolm Alexander from the School of Humanities has established a Sociology Network. This Network is an opportunity for Griffith sociologists and anyone interested in social research to meet on an occasional basis and discuss shared interests and any collaborative projects.

... Sociology Network ...

Congratulations to Professor Charles Sampford, Director Institute of Ethics, Governance and Law, who has been appointed to the roundtable, chaired by the Queensland Premier, on Integrity and Accountability in Queensland. The Queensland Government has produced a green paper that provides, as stated by the Premier, “an opportunity for Queenslanders to help shape the state’s future. It provides an overview of the broad range of checks and balances currently in place and asks Queenslanders for their views on what they think should be done to make our state’s political landscape more transparent, open and accountable.”

... Economics Forum ...

The Institute has also, with the assistance of Professor Christine Smith, Head, Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics, decided to set up an economics forum. The purpose of this forum is to facilitate the formation of a network of economists who will work with other members of the Institute to conduct research on social issues of major national and international significance.

If you would like to be involved in either of these networks, please email Susan Lockwood-Lee (s.lockwood-lee@griffith.edu.au) to be added to the email list.

Law and Literature Association of Australia and Law and Society Association of Australia and New Zealand: Joint conference: 2 – 5 December, 2009, Brisbane, Australia

Trans(l)egalité


What is this era if not one of transformation, both good and bad - of boom becoming bust; tension, becoming truce; climate, catastrophe; despair, the “audacity of hope”? Unless, of course, it is an era in which these differences are transcended, their sublation promising a new synthesis, a law of hybridity that blurs binaries, collapses boundaries. Trans(l)egalité enacts, as well as engages with, this twinned, yet conjoint thematic, being, itself, a unique institutional merger: that is, the collaborative coming together, for the purposes of this event, of the LLAA and LSAANZ, the former addressing “Transformation”, the latter, “Transcendence”. Despite this (seeming) reinscription of dualism, LLAA and LSAANZ are united by, and in their shared explication of the topos of “trans”, exploring its manifold meanings: from the micro- to the macro, from the trans-body to the trans-planetary. In so doing, this trans-conference holds out the prospect of a new trans-discipline, blending the semiotic and the socio-legal: namely, the jurisprudence of trans(l)egalité. For further information and updates, visit the conference website: www.griffith.edu.au/conference/translegality.

Professor Ernest Ojukwu, who visited the Socio-Legal Research Centre recently, is the Deputy Director General and Head of Campus Nigerian Law School, Augustine Nnamani Campus Enugu. He is also Director at the Institute of Continuing Legal Education of the Nigerian Bar Association. While in the Centre, Professor Ojukwu gave a presentation titled Reform of the

Nigerian Law School Curriculum: From traditional to clinical legal education which explored the extensive review of the Nigerian Law School’s academic programme. The review consisted of several components including discussions with relevant stakeholders (law teachers, the judiciary, government and the legal profession), advice from external consultants and a programme of staff development and training.

While many police officers undertake their work confirming to the highest ethical standards, the fact remains that unethical police conduct continues to be a recurring problem around the world. With examples from a range of jurisdictions, Police corruption: Preventing Misconduct and Maintaining Integrity examines the causes of police misconduct and explores applied strategies designed to maximise ethical conduct and identify and prevent corruption.

Grant Successes

Professor Parlo Singh, GIER member and Dean, Griffith Graduate School has joined two teams of researchers to achieve a tremendous success in the Australian Research Council linkage round, securing two major grants, contributing $1.2million research funding to Griffith University. Smart education partnerships: Testing a research collaboration to build literacy innovations in low socioeconomic schools. Lead by Dr Kath Glasswell, this project will build and test a model of school improvement that will develop increased capacity for effective literacy teaching, and will address significant issues of equity in the provision of high-quality schooling for Australian students from diverse cultural, linguistic, and/or socioeconomic backgrounds. Both smart and healthy: Learning communities as settings-based approaches to health promotion. Led by Dr Elizabeth Kendall, this project will use a collaborative learning model to build health promotion capacity and brings together two innovative approaches to develop new knowledge about how settings-based approaches to health can be implemented in the future.

Seminar: In August, Ms Maria Drakopoulou, Senior Lecturer, Kent Law School, University of Kent, UK visited the Socio-Legal Research Centre. She gave a seminar titled Nomos, Physis and Sexual Difference in the 17th century tradition of Natural Law. The seminar offered a critical reading of 17th century natural law philosophy and in particular, the civil philosophy of Samuel Pufendorf. Maria is a member of the Kent Law School’s Centre for Law, Gender and Sexuality and is the Director of Postgraduate Research. Her research interests include Feminist Theory, Feminist Jurisprudence, Legal Theory and Philosophy, Legal History, Roman Law, Equity and Trusts.

Urban Research Program project receives national recognition in Planning Institute of Australia awards

Associate Professor Darryl Low Choy’s research into changing land use on both the fringe of metropolitan conurbations and in the wider regional context has been honoured at the Planning Institute of Australia’s recent national awards ceremony in Darwin. The citation, in part, read: "This study best fulfils the award criteria and makes an outstanding contribution to our understanding of a very relevant and difficult area of planning ... This research (part of a South East Queensland and Melbourne comparison) seeks to understand the processes of change and their planning and management implications. It develops an innovative typology of spatial settings, links them to landscape management challenges and identifies possible institutional arrangements. It is supported by a sound methodology and extensive understanding of previous research and literature." More information can be found at the website for the Urban Research Program: www.griffith.edu.au/urp
The 'Creative Communities' program focuses on a number of themes:

- Community arts-based projects, creativity and cultural expression.
- Festivals as spaces for multi-culturalism and cosmopolitanism.
- Youth culture, cosmopolitanism, citizenship and political engagement.
- Embodiment, performativity and pathways to inclusion.
- Street art and civic participation.
- The internet and communities of creative interest.
- Ageing, leisure and social inclusion.
- Urban regeneration, city spaces and cultural participation.

To explore these issues, the team at Griffith’s CPCI organised an international event inviting the participation of scholars, practitioners, policy makers and postgraduate students. Between 15 – 17 April, 2009, this three-day international conference was hosted by the Centre for Public Culture and Ideas (Griffith University) at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Surfers Paradise, Queensland with support from the Innovative Universities European Union Centre and the Griffith Institute for Social and Behavioural Research. Keynote speakers at the conference were Professor Helen Thomas (London College of Fashion) and François Matarasso (an independent community arts and cultural policy researcher based in the UK). An edited book with an international publishing house featuring papers from the conference is now being planned. The book will make an important, innovative contribution to extending literatures on social and cultural inclusion in Australian and international contexts.

On 20 April, a post-conference workshop involving Professor Helen Thomas (pictured left) and seven CPCI-based researchers (Professors Michael Balfour, Andy Bennett, Kay Ferres, Dr. Suzanne Goopy, Associate Professor Michael Meadows and Dr. Jodie Taylor) was held to examine ageing, leisure and social inclusion from a variety of perspectives including music, dance, theatre, cultural identity, and community media.

Brisbane City Council and Queensland Transport have jointly funded Australia’s first Cycle Centre, a high-quality end-of-trip facility for cyclists in Brisbane’s CBD. The Cycle Centre, marketed as cycle2city (C2C), is located within the King George Square Busway Station. Opened in June 2008 the facility provides storage for 420 bicycles, changing rooms, showers, lockers and ancillary services including a workshop for bicycle service and repair.

Dr Matthew Burke of the Urban Research Centre is presently leading an evaluation of the Cycle Centre as a travel demand management measure. The research is trying to find out who is using the Cycle Centre, how they are using it, what their commuting behaviour is like, and whether the development of the Centre has helped them to change modes, thereby reducing traffic congestion in the city. This, the first evaluation of a Cycle Centre anywhere in the world, seeks to better understand the value of such active transport innovations in both reducing car use in the city and improving the health of our urban populations.