

2017-2025
Arts & Social Sciences | School of Social Sciences
Research Strategy



UNSW
SYDNEY

Australia's
Global
University

Contents



Introduction	4
Our research commitment	5
Impacting policy development and community engagement	7
Our research strengths	9
Emerging research strengths	10
Research priorities for 2017-2025	12
Global development week - annual research event	14
Key achievements	19
Key statistics	20
Research culture	26
Research leadership and governance	29
Key research leadership roles	30

The background features a dark grey field with several overlapping, semi-transparent circles of varying shades of grey. On the left side, there is a vertical bar that is white at the top and transitions to a solid orange at the bottom. The text is centered within the overlapping circles.

[The SOSS Vision

“We will be a global leader in interdisciplinary and rigorous social science scholarship, mindful of our unique local context. Our work will connect students, scholars and communities to better understand, challenge and enhance our social world in creative and distinctive ways”.

Introduction

The School of Social Sciences (SOSS) at UNSW produces world leading research recognised for its academic excellence, interdisciplinarity and social impact. In 2017 we have 57 active researchers and a vibrant cohort of 102 higher degree research students. We undertake fundamental and applied research to better understand, challenge and enhance our social world.

Our research is motivated by social justice and local and global impact. Our researchers work with a diverse range of Australian and international partners and in many different settings. SOSS is home to four research networks - Gendered Violence, Globalisation and Governance, Forced Migration and Biopolitics as well as the Chair, Intellectual Disability Behaviour Support and the Practical Justice Initiative.

Excellence in research is core to UNSW's 2025 Strategy. UNSW strives to be among the leading research-intensive universities worldwide and provides an innovative, creative and stimulating environment which enables the School's research – and researchers – to flourish.

While this provides substantial opportunities, competition for research talent, partnerships and resources is increasing. To keep our research program vigorous, we need to focus our efforts in ways that both advance knowledge and make visible our significant contribution to contemporary society.

This document sets out our research strategy along with our research priorities and planned initiatives for 2017-2025.

OUR RESEARCH COMMITMENT

We are committed to actively supporting and growing our research program, strengthening our contribution to world leading research and realising social justice. This means



1

World leading research

High quality, interdisciplinary research of local and global significance



2

Innovative partnerships

Genuine partnerships of mutual exchange that translate knowledge into action



3

Active Research Culture

A stimulating research environment that celebrates achievements, nurtures talent and promotes collaboration

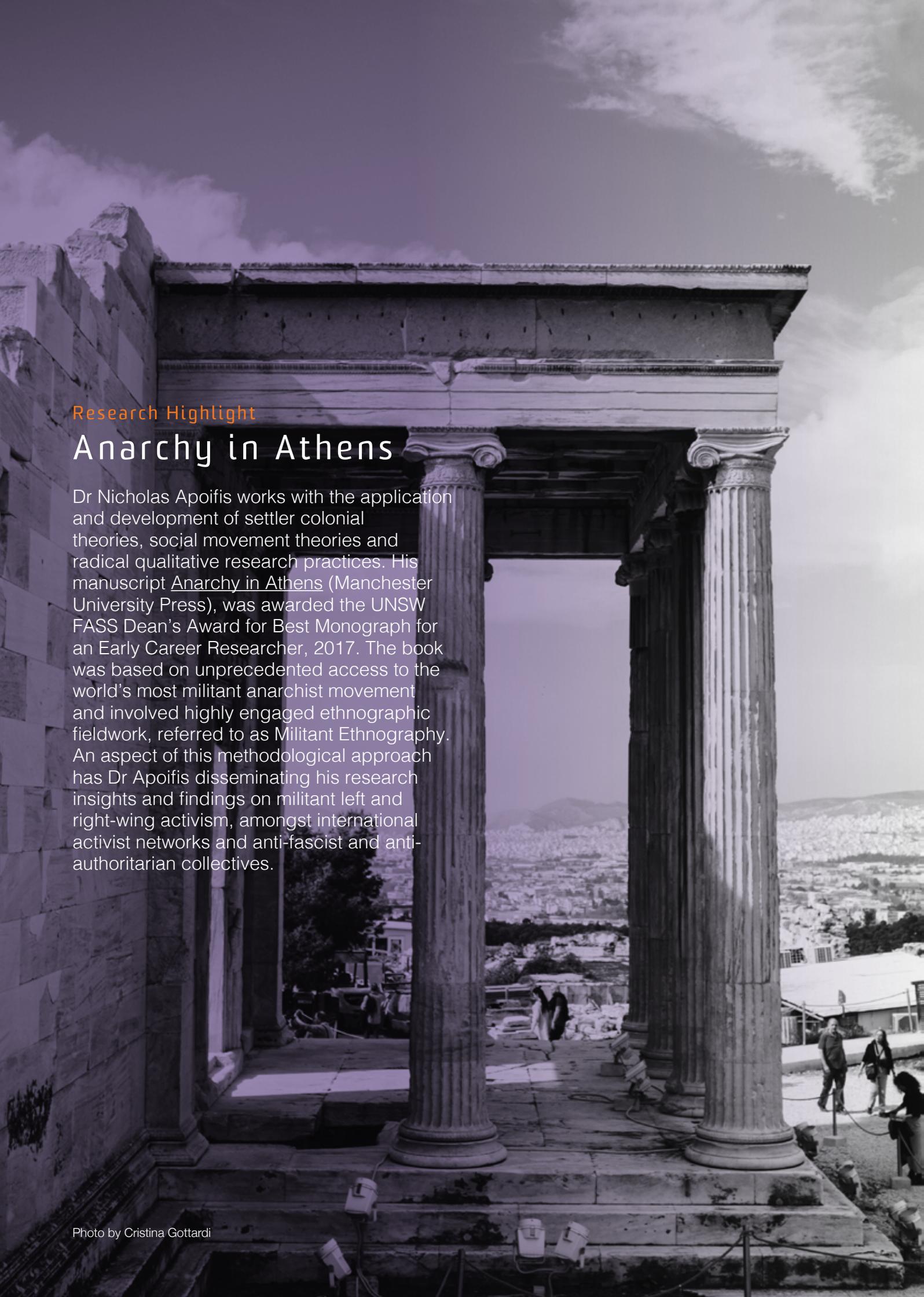




Research Highlight

Impacting policy development and community engagement

The Gendered Violence Research Network (GVRN) led by SOSS researcher Associate Professor Jan Breckenridge has pioneered research, policy advice and training related to domestic, family and sexual violence and its impact on the workplace for over a decade. Gendered violence is increasingly recognised as a major global problem and constitutes a violation of human rights for women, men, children and elders. It has a profound impact on workplaces, relationships and communities. Through a series of innovative knowledge exchange programs SOSS researchers have provided training to over 1000 employees in 13 organisations including consulting firms, banks, non- government organisations, government departments and universities. Our research has directly impacted workplace policies and labour agreements. A team of researchers from GVRN have recently partnered with the International Finance Corporation , a member of the World Bank Group, along with the Business Coalition for Women and Pacific Adventist University in Papua New Guinea (PNG) to examine the impacts of family and sexual violence on the workplace in PNG. The team has created PNG's first 'Model Policy on Family and Sexual Violence' directly aimed at impacting employment practices.



Research Highlight

Anarchy in Athens

Dr Nicholas Apoifis works with the application and development of settler colonial theories, social movement theories and radical qualitative research practices. His manuscript *Anarchy in Athens* (Manchester University Press), was awarded the UNSW FASS Dean's Award for Best Monograph for an Early Career Researcher, 2017. The book was based on unprecedented access to the world's most militant anarchist movement and involved highly engaged ethnographic fieldwork, referred to as Militant Ethnography. An aspect of this methodological approach has Dr Apoifis disseminating his research insights and findings on militant left and right-wing activism, amongst international activist networks and anti-fascist and anti-authoritarian collectives.



OUR RESEARCH STRENGTHS

Research strengths are our flagship research areas where we direct most of our research effort and support. They address significant local and global social issues and demonstrate our commitment to scholarship, knowledge exchange and to advancing a just society. Each strength is evidenced by active researchers and research students, income and publications.

Our research strengths support the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Research themes of 'Informing social change: social policy, education, and health' and 'Acting globally: development, rights and security'.

The following strengths highlight where our effort excels. However, this is not exclusive of our research activities in other thematic areas or of our work with identified groups for example, refugees and Indigenous communities.

RESEARCH STRENGTHS



Justice, rights, inequality, poverty and vulnerability



Disability, inclusion, young people, health and well-being



Governance, policy, local and global development



Identity, gender, culture and (dis)order



Environmental change, security and sustainability



All new researchers will be recruited with a view to how they will contribute to the School's current and emerging research strengths. Emerging research strengths are areas where we have a growing research interest that complements and enhances our major areas of focus. These are areas we will continue to nurture and support.

EMERGING RESEARCH STRENGTHS



Peace and conflict



Global development



Decolonising knowledge



Our areas of research strength are supported by:

Disciplines

- Criminology
- Development Studies
- Politics and International Relations
- Social Research and Policy
- Social Work
- Sociology and Anthropology

Networks and programs

- Gendered Violence Research Network
- Globalisation and Governance Research Network
- Forced Migration Research Network
- Intellectual Disability Behaviour Support Program
- Practical Justice Initiative
- Biopolitical Studies Research Network

RESEARCH PRIORITIES FOR 2017-2025

To realise our commitment to the UNSW 2025 Strategy and to actively support and grow our contribution to world leading research and social justice, **we will give priority to:**

- **continuously improving the quality** of our disciplinary research and research training
- **building interdisciplinarity** into our work by supporting deep engagement with scholars in other fields
- developing our capacity to **access diverse funding** sources
- **creating opportunities for collaborations** with industry, government and community organisations to extend the local and global impact of our research activities.
- integrating our research program with current and emerging UNSW interdisciplinary Institutes including the Disability Innovation, Australian Human Rights, Global Water and Global Development Institutes as well as the UNSW Grand Challenges and UNSW Futures
- improving our capacity to measure the scope and quality of our non-traditional research outputs (NTRs) to ensure the significant social impact of this work is recognised and understood
- expanding our Global South Scholar Fellowships and embedding the ongoing collaborations with exchange universities
- strengthening our relationship and engagement with the Australian New Zealand School of Government and its programs
- building and sustaining explicit research engagements with leading regional and global partners. This may include but is not restricted to:

In addition to these overall priorities we will progress a number of specific initiatives to strengthen our research program **during 2017-2025**, including:

- targeting support for increased Category 2-5 research funding in line with Faculty and UNSW priorities
- improving the integration of HDR students in our research communities of practice to better align research and supervisory efforts
- targeting recruitment of HDRs, Scientia Fellows and high quality scholars to further enhance our areas of research strength
- UNSW partnership and PluS Alliance members.
- key Chinese institutions in the social sciences
- key Indian institutions – in particular those identified as priority partners by UNSW International
- extending knowledge exchange opportunities and capacity across all areas of our research and research partnerships
- building and communicating a strong account of our research impact.



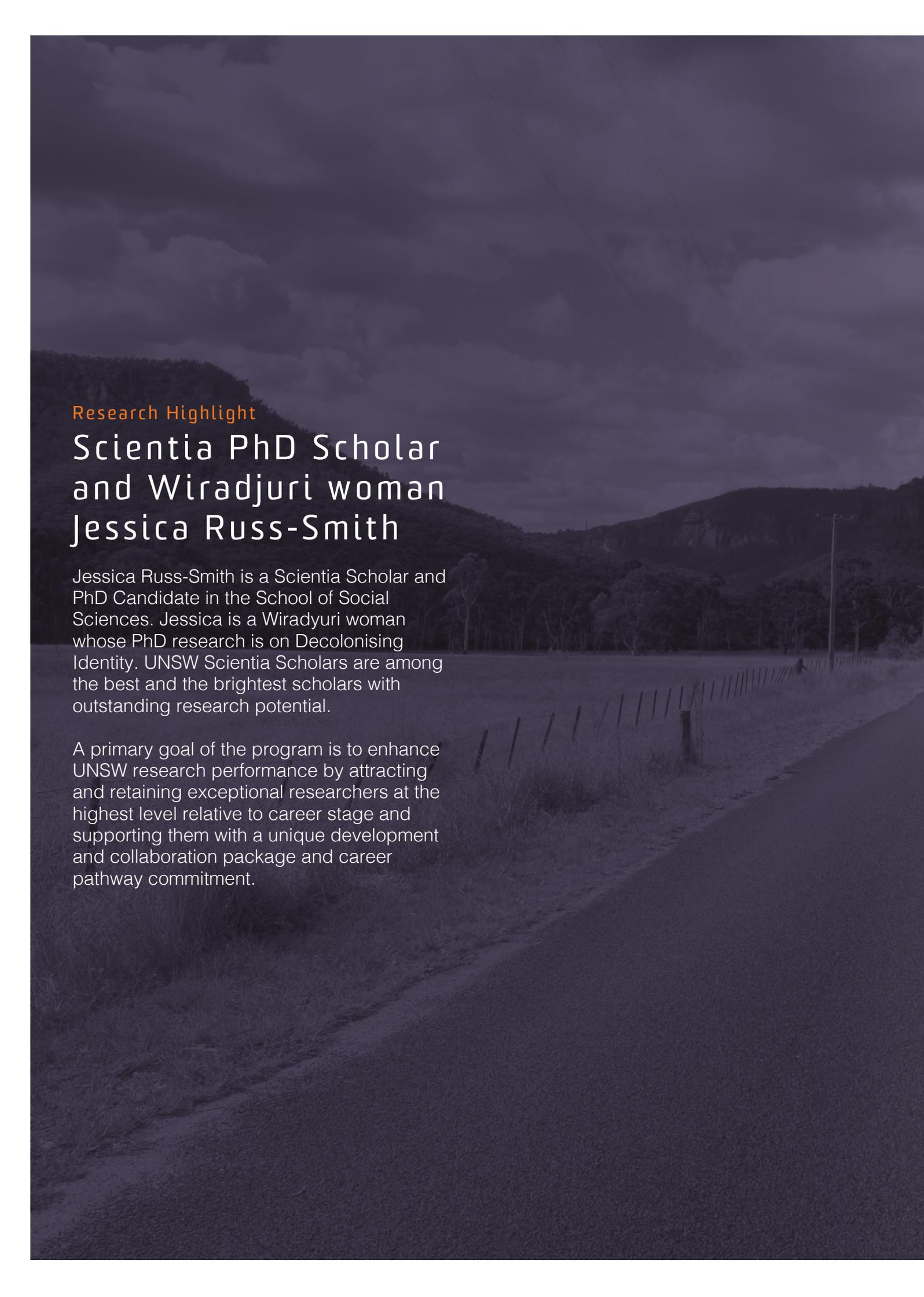
Research Highlight

Global Development Week - annual research event

In 2017 the Globalisation and Governance Research Network partnered with the UNSW Institute for Global Development to hold a successful Global Development Week on the theme of peacebuilding and development. This involved major collaboration with organisations including Sydney Peace Foundation, Peaceifica and the University of Otago. Global Development Week showcased the expertise in this important area present at UNSW and in the greater Sydney community. The week's program included a series of seminars on topics related to peacebuilding in a global context, as well as a keynote speech from Professor Kevin Clements, Director of the New Zealand National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (NCPACS) at the University of Otago. Global Development will be scheduled as an annual event in the SOSS research calendar.







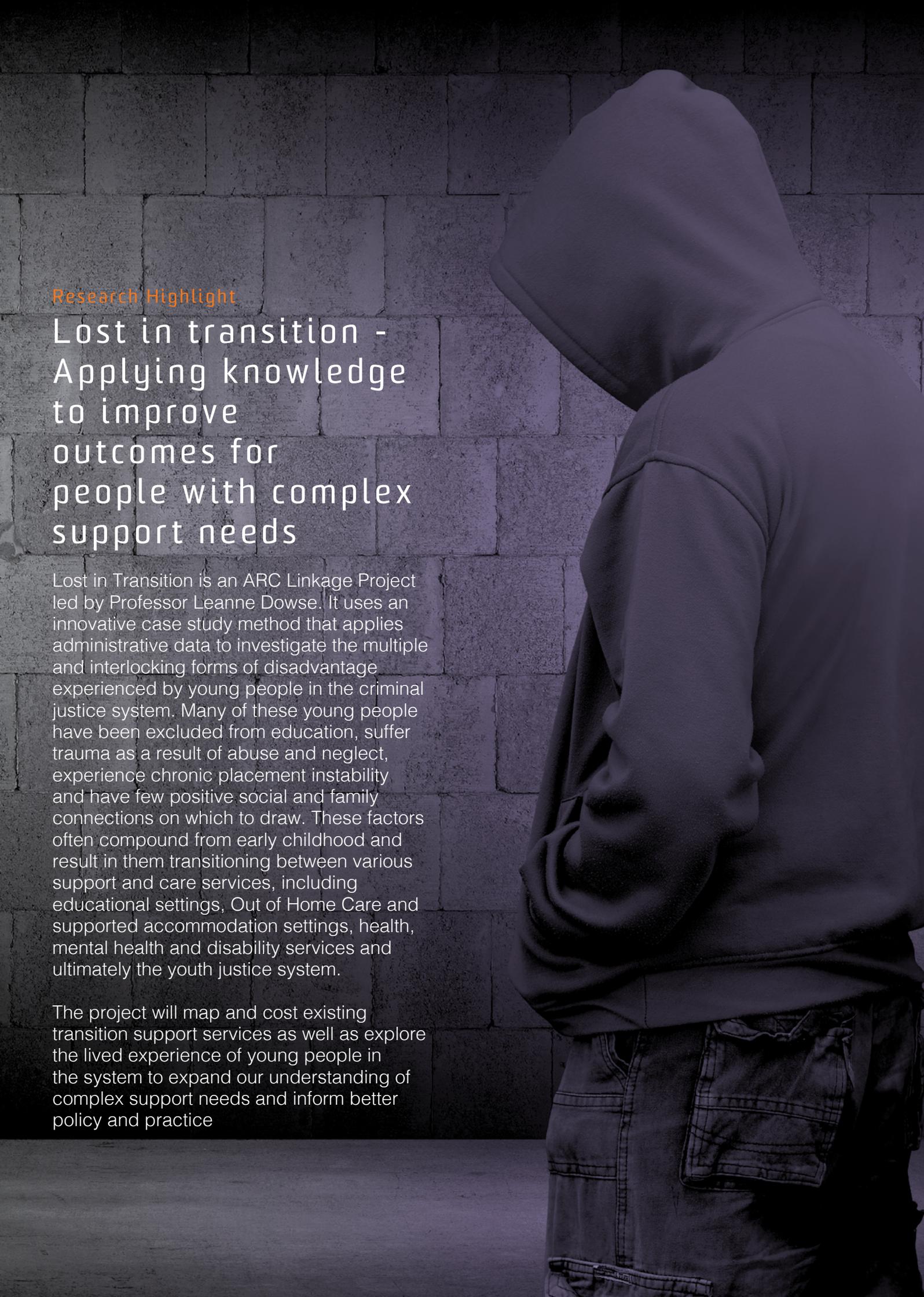
Research Highlight

Scientia PhD Scholar and Wiradjuri woman Jessica Russ-Smith

Jessica Russ-Smith is a Scientia Scholar and PhD Candidate in the School of Social Sciences. Jessica is a Wiradyuri woman whose PhD research is on Decolonising Identity. UNSW Scientia Scholars are among the best and the brightest scholars with outstanding research potential.

A primary goal of the program is to enhance UNSW research performance by attracting and retaining exceptional researchers at the highest level relative to career stage and supporting them with a unique development and collaboration package and career pathway commitment.



A person wearing a dark hoodie and jeans stands with their back to the camera, looking towards a brick wall. The scene is dimly lit, with a purple/blue tint. The person's hands are in their pockets.

Research Highlight

Lost in transition - Applying knowledge to improve outcomes for people with complex support needs

Lost in Transition is an ARC Linkage Project led by Professor Leanne Dowse. It uses an innovative case study method that applies administrative data to investigate the multiple and interlocking forms of disadvantage experienced by young people in the criminal justice system. Many of these young people have been excluded from education, suffer trauma as a result of abuse and neglect, experience chronic placement instability and have few positive social and family connections on which to draw. These factors often compound from early childhood and result in them transitioning between various support and care services, including educational settings, Out of Home Care and supported accommodation settings, health, mental health and disability services and ultimately the youth justice system.

The project will map and cost existing transition support services as well as explore the lived experience of young people in the system to expand our understanding of complex support needs and inform better policy and practice



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

SOSS currently ranks as one of the world's leading producers of high quality research on society and policy. We have 57 active research staff and 102 higher degree research students. We continue to be successful in securing funding from a diverse range of highly competitive sources including the Australian government, State government, industry and community organisations and globally competitive schemes. In 2017, we are currently managing research projects with funding of \$11M – and each year we add nearly \$3M in new research funds.

SOSS is a leading contributor to **UNSW's Grand Challenges** Program which promotes informed discussion, debate and policy formulation on the Grand Challenges facing Australians and humanity worldwide. We have growing programs of research on each of the areas identified for UNSW-wide focus: **Climate Change, Refugees and Migrants, Inequality and Living with 21st Century Technology.**

Key Statistics

\$11 m

Current research funding (2017)

245

Research Publications (2016)

\$2.9m

Annual New Research Funds (average 2012-2016)

102

Active HDR students (2017)

57

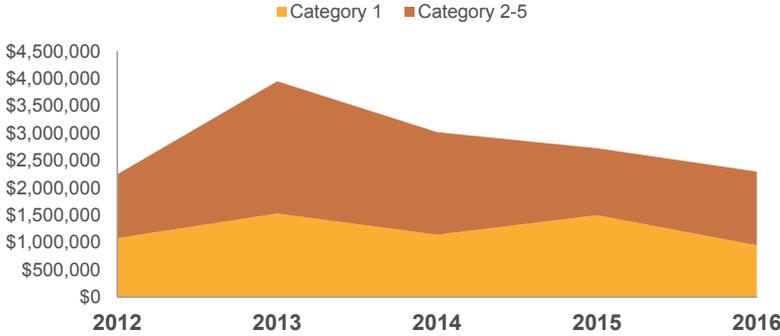
Active research staff (2017)

17

HDR Completions

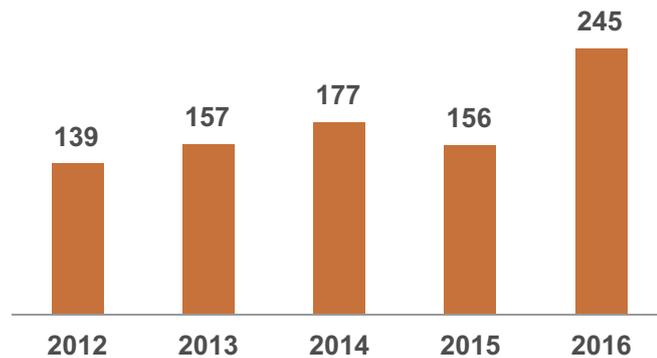
Over the last five years we have achieved an average inflow of new **research income** of \$2.9M each year. We have been particularly successful in securing funding from non-traditional sources such as industry, co-operative research funds and other public sector research funds. In 2016, non-traditional sources (Category 2-5) provided almost 60% of our total new research funds.

Sources of new research income



Our publications are substantial and increasing. In 2016 we recorded our highest ever number of publications – 245 - including books, book chapters, journal articles and peer reviewed non-traditional outputs such as commissioned reports. We have achieved this result over a period of incremental reductions in staff numbers and a constraint on recruitment.

Publications



As well as our impressive standard of scholarly publications, SOSS researchers have strong links with decision makers to **share and apply knowledge** to achieve better outcomes in a wide variety of settings.

We have **89 projects underway that directly connect** our researchers with many different Australian decision makers and stakeholders. 52% of these projects engage with multiple stakeholders and more than 88% include a peer review component to increase integrity and transparency of findings. Our work impacts policy related to responses to child sexual abuse, domestic violence, mental health policy, complex intellectual support needs, disaster response, migration and civil regulation.

89

Australian based social engagement projects in 2016-17. 52% with multiple categories of stakeholders.

156

in 2016-17 we delivered direct support to 156 Australian government, community, business and other organisations and groups

88%

More than 88% of the outputs of our social engagement projects are subject to peer review

SOSS partnerships extend our reach even further to regional and global communities. Along with our high profile work with local organisations we also undertake **substantial international projects** – participating and shaping responses to some of the greatest issues facing humanity.

Our scholars work in over **45 countries** undertaking international fieldwork and engaging with international partners for more than **140 projects**.



International SOSS projects 2016-17





Research Highlight

Visiting Scholar from the Global South Fellowship

Dr Babere Kerata Chacha is our inaugural Global South Scholar – joining our research and teaching staff for six months in 2017. Dr Chacha is a Senior Lecturer in African History in the Department of Public Affairs and Environmental Studies at Laikipia University in Kenya. He has an MA and PhD in History from Egerton University. He currently serves as the Director of External Linkages and coordinator of the Centre for Human Rights at Laikipia University. His main research interests are political assassinations and human rights, environmental justice, terrorism, reconciliation, religion, and sexuality. Dr Chacha worked with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nairobi to introduce Human Rights as a common core course at Laikipia University. He also spearheaded the launch of the police science programme as well as other peace and security studies in the same university. In 2013, Dr Chacha headed a task force for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on political assassinations in Kenya



SOSS Vision

- We will be a global leader in interdisciplinary and rigorous social science scholarship, mindful of our unique local context. Our work will connect students, scholars and communities to better understand challenge and enhance our social world in creative and distinctive ways.



UNSW Research Outcomes

- Academic Excellence
- Social Engagement
- Global Impact



SOSS Research Priorities 2017-2025

- Continuously improving the quality of our disciplinary research and research training
- Building interdisciplinarity into our work by supporting deep engagement with scholars in other fields
- Developing our capacity to access diverse funding sources
- Creating opportunities for collaborations with industry, government and community organisations to extend the local and global impact of our research activities.



SOSS Research Strengths

- Justice, rights, inequality, poverty and vulnerability
- Disability, inclusion, young people, health and well-being
- Governance, policy, local and global development
- Environmental change, security and sustainability
- Identity, gender, culture and (dis)order



SOSS Research Commitment

- World leading research
- Innovative partnerships
- Active research culture

RESEARCH CULTURE

The way we conduct our research is informed by our shared commitment to collaboration, collegiality, integrity and accountability. The School is committed at every level of management to facilitating and developing a research environment in which all its members - both staff and students - feel connected and supported as they participate and engage in the production of high quality research. In real terms, this means that our researchers operate in an environment where research networks are actively supported, opportunities for development of research skills are available and accessible, research priorities are openly and clearly articulated and there is mutual accountability for achieving results.

We submit our work to rigorous review and provide opportunities for the exchange of constructive critical feedback. Our researchers are visible and active in mentoring and sharing their achievements with others through the dissemination of their research, including seminars, conferences and other activities. SOSS actively works to build a culture of engagement for HDR students through seminars and events that bring students and staff together to share ideas and interests in research and scholarly activity.

Our strong commitment to collaboration extends beyond the boundaries of the University and enables socially responsible and mutually beneficial partnerships with industry, community and government organisations (domestic and international). SOSS researchers constitute significant voices in scholarly and public debates across diverse areas of expertise.

There is more information on the SOSS core values in the SOSS Strategy 2015-2020.





Research Highlight

Our early career researchers: leading research innovation

Policing cities and preventing harm

Dr Phillip Wadds

Dr Phillip Wadds' primary research focus concerns the policing and governance of urban nightlife. In particular, he examines the working dynamics between, and occupational cultures of, both public police and private security. His recent research has included projects looking at patron offending, intoxication and related harms in urban nightlife precincts, the pluralisation of policing and its impact on safety and occupational culture, and the politics of law and order relating to alcohol and drug consumption in sites of night leisure. He is currently a Chief Investigator on a NSW Department of Justice funded project evaluating the cost-effectiveness and community perception of the Take Care Safe Space Program that aims to reduce alcohol and drug related harm in Sydney's night-time economy.

Preventing crime and improving social policy

Dr Stacy Tzoumakis Early prevention and intervention in antisocial behaviour and offending

Dr Stacy Tzoumakis' research takes an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the developmental origins of antisocial behaviour and offending. Specifically, her research examines how individual, family, and community risk and protective factors interact from birth through adulthood to influence antisocial behaviour at different

points over the life-course. Her work is concerned with when and how these multi-level factors can be most effectively targeted for prevention and intervention. She is involved in a number of prospective longitudinal cohort studies in Australia and Canada. Stacy works closely with several NSW government partners (e.g., NSW Departments of Family and Community Services, Health, and Education) to provide evidence-based research that is used to inform policy development. She has received grant funding from the Australian Research Council, the Australian Institute of Criminology, the Lowitja Institute, Australian Rotary Health, and the NARSAD Brain & Behavioral Foundation to support her research.

Role models for social change

Dr Abner Weng Cheong Poon

Dr Abner Poon's research aims to develop innovative ways in order to improve the recovery and wellbeing of families caring for people with serious mental illness. He has active engagement with services such as headspace, Transcultural Mental Health Centre and Carers NSW to conduct innovative practice-based research. He has received an award for a family inclusive practice headspace project in the 8th International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health. Within the context of the second Australian prevalence survey of psychosis, his longitudinal study of carers of people with psychosis has provided critical insight of the changes in needs and health of carers. He is currently leading an international study to explore socio-cultural factors, health and wellbeing of carers of people with mental illness from culturally and linguistically diverse populations in Australia and Islamic families in Singapore.



RESEARCH LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Our success in delivering our research program depends on the insight, commitment and experience of our researchers. The

School provides the leadership and infrastructure to enable this success to occur. We manage our performance and progress through an integrated leadership and governance framework which reflects our commitment to collaborative decision making and accountability.

The Deputy Head of School Research oversees the research program and ensures that systems and processes are in place to support, recognise and align our research efforts. The Postgraduate Research Co-ordinator is the central point of contact for our research students and provides advice and guidance on all matters related to higher degree research candidates. In conjunction with the SOSS Leadership Team, these service role holders are central to our research planning, resourcing and reporting.



Key research leadership roles



Deputy Head of School Research

The DHOS Research is the central SOSS contact for all research matters and is accountable for the planning, development, integration and reporting of the SOSS research program.

Postgraduate Research Co-ordinator

The Postgraduate Research Coordinator leads and manages the higher degree research program and is the central point of contact for research students.

We assess our research performance using metrics provided by the Research Outputs System (ROS) and BORIS. In addition we monitor the progress of our strategy implementation including initiatives where outputs and outcomes relate to partnerships, social engagement, non-traditional research and research training. Conduct of our research activities is also subject to review by the various UNSW Research Ethics committees.



Companion documents

- SOSS Strategy 2015-2020
- A&SS Research Strengths
- UNSW 2025 Strategy

Contact for further information

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
UNSW Sydney, NSW 2052
Australia.
Fax: + 61 2 9385 1492
Email: arts@unsw.edu.au