

Cultural Development Network

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

CULTURE AND COMMUNITY RESEARCHER'S NETWORK

Hosted by the **Cultural Development Network** and the **Centre for Cultural Partnerships, Victorian College of the Arts and Music**, University of Melbourne. This informal group meets monthly for collegiate support and discussion about community research experiences, cultural topics, and creative methodologies. **PhD students are encouraged and others are welcome!**

Enquiries: admin@culturaldevelopment.net.au

PROGRAM 2011

Thursday, 11 August, 2 -5 pm, The Graduate Centre, 1888 Grattan Street, University of Melbourne

Towards a Conceptual Handshake: Bringing together theory, policy and practice of cultural indicators

This special event replaces our usual Culture and Communities Researchers' Network Meeting. Chaired by Dr. Lachlan MacDowall, Research Coordinator, Centre for Cultural Partnerships, VCAM, RSVP (for afternoon tea) to lucyp@unimelb.edu.au or call 9685 9067 before August 8th.

Join us for a roundtable presentation of three unique perspectives from the burgeoning field of cultural indicators. From UNESCO's benchmarks for cultural freedoms, comparison of LGA cultural provision, to community arts evaluation - diverse approaches to quantifying cultural value exist. Responding to Colin Mercer's (2002) call for *conceptual and policy 'handshakes'*, our speakers draw on their doctoral research to progress the dialogue about cultural measurement, aiming to *enhance the knowledge base for cultural policy, planning and development*. We invite researchers and workers in community cultural development, arts evaluation, and local government to participate in the roundtable discussion.

1. *The political context of cultural indicators: evidence and values in democratic governance*, Emma Blomkamp

'What's measured matters' is a common assumption in the development and application of indicator frameworks. My presentation considers reasons for the 'cult of measurement' in contemporary governance by exploring the political and strategic use of cultural indicators within the broader context of evidence-based policy and democratic accountability.

Emma Blomkamp is currently researching knowledge and indicator frameworks in municipal cultural policy as part of her joint PhD with the University of Auckland's Department of Political Studies and the University of Melbourne's Centre for Cultural Partnerships.

2. *Understanding outcomes of participatory arts: a framework for evaluation*, Kim Dunphy

This presentation introduces a framework for evaluation of participatory arts activities. It takes a multi-dimensional approach, providing a method for considering cultural, social, economic and environmental outcomes of such programs, using Hawkes' four pillar model. It is proposed as useful for government, (national, state and local), non-government and community organisations as well as individual artists and arts workers, who seek to understand the implications of their work.

Kim Dunphy is Program Manager of the Cultural Development Network, where she works to promote the cultural vitality of local communities. She is also undertaking her PhD at Deakin University, investigating *'the role of participatory arts in social change in East Timor'*.

3. 'Naming the World' as representation: a relational approach in socially-engaged arts and cultural indicators, Marnie Badham, completion seminar

A relational approach to representational practice (in socially-engaged art and cultural indicators) offers meaningful ways for communities to 'name the world'. Resisting hierarchies of cultural value, this thesis uses Freire to argue firstly, culture is the social production of meaning and secondly, meaning is located within place-based contexts. Two practice-led case studies on local cultural indicators are explored: the *Community Pulse* in Port Phillip, Australia and in North Central, Regina, deemed *Canada's Worst Neighbourhood*. Conclusions bring together ethical and aesthetic concerns with implications for multiple representational fields in art and politics.

Marnie Badham Originally from Canada, Marnie is an artist, researcher, and cultural planner. Her participatory and creative research places multiple community stakeholders in dialogue regarding local social issues through engagement in socially-engaged art.

September: Thursday 1, 3.30-5.30 Cardinia Room, Level 8, CH2, 240 Lt Collins St, Melbourne

Be:Longing – Enacting Indigenous leadership in the arts, Michelle Evans, PhD candidate, Melbourne Business School

My PhD research investigates the leadership enacted by Indigenous Australian artists and arts leaders. I have interviewed 32 Australian arts leaders (30 indigenous and 2 non-Indigenous Australians) from across Australia and across disciplines. I have also conducted a small cross cultural comparison study in Canada having interviewed 6 arts leaders (5 indigenous and 1 non-Indigenous). I am focusing on the discourses available to Indigenous arts leaders in the action of their leadership and how these discourses limit and free us to lead. In this presentation I will present an overview of the methodology chapter of my thesis.

Michelle Evans (B Communications, Grad Dip Arts Management, M Creative Arts) is the Centre for Social Impact Research Fellow at the Melbourne Business School's Asia Pacific Social Impact Leadership Centre, and Board member of Berry Street Victoria. Michelle works independently as a consultant, mentor and practitioner and was the founding Head of the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development at the Victorian College of the Arts.

October: Thursday 6, 3.30-5.30 Cardinia Room, Level 8, CH2, 240 Lt Collins St, Melbourne

Shifting Identities, Becoming Peacebuilders, Lesley Pruitt, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Victoria University

For this study, I conducted fieldwork with two non-government organizations – in Australia and in Northern Ireland - involved in youth peacebuilding projects that utilize music. Findings from this study suggest that music can play a major role in encouraging identity work that may offer alternative understandings of identity for young people, both of themselves and others. While limited, the evidence discussed here shows that music may be used in developing more peaceful understandings of the self, developing greater self-esteem, and aiding in healing. At the same time, music-based peacebuilding programs may also enable youths to develop different concepts of the identities of others, challenging stereotypes and actually experiencing working together collaboratively.

Lesley Pruitt received her PhD from the School of Political Science and International Studies at UQ, with her completed doctoral dissertation, *The Use of Music in Youth Peacebuilding Projects*. Her publications include articles in the *Australian Journal of Peace Studies*, the *International Journal on World Peace*, and *Global Change, Peace and Security*. Lesley is grateful to be able to do research alongside young peacebuilders who constantly amaze her with their talent and dedication.

November: Thursday 3, 3.30-5.30, Cardinia Room, Level 8, CH2, 240 Lt Collins St, Melbourne

Research for Developing Documentary Film, Jen Hughes, documentary filmmaker

In preparation for the development of a longer form documentary film, I am researching the politics of friendship while examining representations of identity and nationalism in both Australian and Timorese art and culture. These explorations will help me with story choices from my large stock of existing footage. At this talk, I will present ideas and questions to stimulate a conversation that will help me clarify some ideas.

Jen Hughes is a documentary-maker with 27 years experience in media, art and cultural development in Adelaide and Melbourne. I have spent the past ten years working on a documentary about a friendship between my community of Port Phillip and Suai in the South-west of East Timor. During this time I have also been actively exploring the potential of fast evolving digital technologies and art for connecting the two communities. Work to date can be seen on www.suaimediaspace.org and www.crimsonthreads.org

TBC, Elisabeth Body, PhD candidate and visual artist, Australian National University

Elisabeth is looking at Central Desert Warlpiri women's painting within the context of contemporary painting and her own practice.

The Researchers' Network will take a holiday in January.

Researchers that are interested in attending or speaking at future meetings are invited to contact Marnie Badham for discussion: marniebadham@gmail.com.