

Cultural Development Network

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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

More info: www.culturaldevelopment.net.au/events/

PROGRAM 2011

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.

To register: <http://www.trybooking.com/SUW>

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.*

To register: <http://www.trybooking.com/SVB>

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

Video-as-process: experiments in thinking with a video camera , Poppy de Souza

The idea of 'walking with video', according to Sarah Pink, implies an engagement with a 'world in progress' (Pink, 2007, 249) which is constantly being reshaped both in the imagination and through human action. Videomaking for Pink becomes a process which gathers together people, things, sensory and embodied experiences in and along complex and intricate paths of meaning-making in movement and in place. Here, audiovisual media is a generator of meaning and knowledge – one which finds itself in the gesture of its own unfolding. Video-as-process opens up ways of thinking about video which can explore questions of becoming: through entanglement with the medium (for the researcher and the research subject), we may begin to reveal something of ourselves and our place in the world. Drawing on some of Sarah Pink's recent work on sensory ethnography and video, I will reflect on my own experiments in video-as-process (or process video) as part of my fieldwork exploring questions of voice with long-term caravan park residents living on Melbourne's urban fringes.

Poppy de Souza is a community-based artsworker and creative researcher currently undertaking a practice-led PhD at the Centre for Cultural Partnerships at the University of Melbourne. Her research is focused on questions of voice and process for populations living on the social, cultural or political fringes of society.

To register: www.trybooking.com/SVC

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

Speaker to be confirmed

The Researchers' Network will take a holiday in January.

Researchers who are interested in attending or speaking at future meetings are invited to contact Kim Dunphy to discuss: kim.dunphy@culturaldevelopment.net.au