

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

Thursday, 11 August, 2 -5 pm. *Please note new date and time.

Multi-Function Room, Second Floor, The Graduate Centre,
1888 Building, University of Melbourne, Grattan Street, Parkville.

This special event replaces our usual Culture and Communities Researchers' Network Meeting.

Chaired by Dr. Lachlan MacDowall, Research Coordinator, Centre for Cultural Partnerships, VCAM,

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*.

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

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

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

We invite researchers and workers in community cultural development, arts evaluation, and local government to participate in the roundtable discussion.

RSVP (for afternoon tea) to lucyp@unimelb.edu.au or call 9685 9067 before August 8th.

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! Meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of the month. More information: www.culturaldevelopment.net.au

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.

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 that considers *cultural vitality, social equity, economic viability* and *environmental responsibility* as equally important aspects of sustainable communities. 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*'.

'Naming the World' as representation: a relational approach in socially-engaged arts and cultural indicators,

Marnie Badham, PhD 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 Freirean pedagogy 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.