

# News from Centre for Research on Social Inclusion

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## From the Deputy Director



This edition of the CRSI newsletter highlights some of the exciting things happening in 2006 in one of Macquarie's newest University Research Centres.

CRSI brings together social science researchers from across the campus - including the departments of anthropology, cultural studies, economics, human geography, philosophy and sociology - who are drawn together by their interests and expertise in social inclusion.

In my view, one of the most exciting things about CRSI is this broad research expertise which it can draw upon to develop new research projects, attract new postgraduate research students and organise cross-disciplinary research workshops.



This year has also seen CRSI attracting high profile international researchers as visitors.

One important aim of CRSI is to forge relationships with community groups and local governments seeking ideas and information about problems of social inclusion and exclusion. Some of these community links and applied research projects are reported in the pages that follow.

I invite you to subscribe to the CRSI email list (see back page for details) and to keep in touch with these important research developments at Macquarie University.

Bob Fagan  
Deputy Director,  
CRSI  
Professor of Human Geography

## Centre for Research on Social Inclusion

## Recent developments

In 2005 CRSI became an official University Research Centre. This new status gives official recognition of the growing impact of social inclusion researchers at Macquarie University.

The Centre has since been identified as one of the university's new Centres of Research Excellence (COREs). More information on COREs can be found at [www.research.mq.edu.au/excellence](http://www.research.mq.edu.au/excellence).

CORE status brings increased funding and resources to the Centre, including two new research fellow positions.

The Centre will also begin a graduate research program, enrolling its first cohort of students in 2007. The program will be supported by a small number of dedicated PhD scholarships that will be awarded as part of the centre's CORE status.



**MACQUARIE**  
UNIVERSITY ~ SYDNEY

# CRSI member profiles



**Emeritus Professor  
Gillian Bottomley  
from  
Anthropology**

## Professor Gillian Bottomley

Gillian Bottomley is the only Emeritus Professor in the Division of Society, Culture, Media and Philosophy (SCMP) at Macquarie University.

Gill has studied and published around the themes of migration, multiculturalism, dance and music. She is a life member of the International Sociological Association, and a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences and of the Australian Anthropological Society.

Gill's fieldwork among Greeks was rich with dance and music, including aspects of an interwoven past and present. She attended many dance schools in Australia and

Greece.

Over the last three decades, networks of dance organizations developed international gatherings with the support of UNESCO and the Dora Stratou Theatre in Athens. There is a network of 255 organizations in 116 countries of which Gill has the great honour of recently being elected to the Executive Committee.

At a more local level, Gill has a particular interest in ageing and ethnicity. She continues to conduct informal interviews with elderly people and workers at the Hannaford Centre in Rozelle.



**Dr Jean-Philippe  
Deranty, Philosophy**

'Recognition' is particularly important with regard to paid work – and this is the topic of Jean-Philippe's most recent work, 'Applying the Ethics of Recognition', which he is undertaking in collaboration with Professor Nicholas Smith. More details in our next newsletter.

## Dr Jean-Philippe Deranty

Jean-Philippe Deranty has published extensively in both English and his native French. After completing his education at the Paris IV-Sorbonne, he spent 2 years in Germany researching for his PhD, before returning to the Sorbonne to teach philosophy.

Jean-Philippe brings to the Centre fresh insight into the works of contemporary European philosophers. His passion is to strengthen the connection between social and political philosophy on the one hand, and the empirical sciences – in particular French sociology and psychology – on the other.

Jean-Philippe is particularly interested in how Honneth's notion of 'recognition' can be applied in concrete ways to current social problems,

particularly in the Australian context. Since we are social beings, we become who we are through a host of interactions with others. Our self-confidence or self-esteem - depends to a large extent on how others behave towards us and the image of ourselves that we receive from society. For example, an important aspect of our identity relates to how our contribution to society is recognised. This gives a social value to our existence.

"Those whose social value is not acknowledged end up feeling alienated and resentful, and experiencing low self-esteem", says Jean-Philippe. However, this is only the beginning: "Understanding the broader structural context in which this takes place can help us address the bigger issues of justice."

# Public Housing and Housing Affordability

## Overcoming Social Isolation: Department of Housing

Associate Professor Michael Fine, Dr Amen Gavarian and Dr Joshua Mullan. Assisted by Christina Jarron and Jessica Higgins

The CRSI was commissioned by the NSW Department of Housing to evaluate two innovative social support services in the suburb of Gladesville and in Sydney's inner city. These services are intended to provide low-intensity support services to people living in Public Housing who are older or have a disability.

The evaluation lasted 6 months (February-July 2006). It used interviews, focus groups and administrative data to assess the effectiveness of these services and to make recommendations about their continuing partnership with the Department of Housing. The findings will be of interest to all who are concerned with problems of social isolation.

We hope to make the results of the evaluation available soon.



## Affordable Housing Project

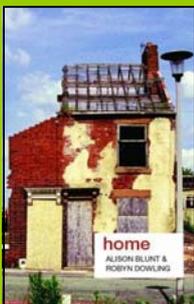
Professor Julian Disney continues to lead an Affordable Housing Project based at CRSI, where he is an Adjunct Professor.

The Project coordinated the recent two-day National Affordable Housing Forum in Canberra. For more information see our next newsletter, or visit [www.housingsummit.org.au](http://www.housingsummit.org.au).



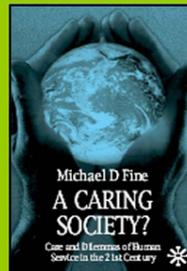
## Publications by Centre members in 2006

**Jean-Philippe Deranty, Robert Sinnerbrink, Nick Smith, & Peter Schmiedgen**  
*Critique Today*  
Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2006



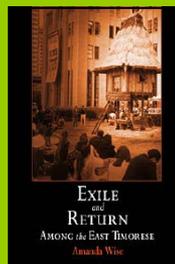
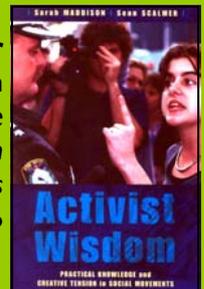
**Robyn Dowling & Alison Blunt**  
*Home*  
Routledge, 2006

**Pauline Johnson**  
*Jürgen Habermas: Rescuing the Public Sphere*  
UK: Routledge, 2006



**Michael Fine**  
*A Caring Society? Care and the Dilemmas of Human Service in the 21st Century*  
Sydney: Palgrave/MacMillan, Houndmills, 2006

**Sean Scalmer & Sarah Madison**  
*Activism Wisdom: Practical Knowledge and Creative Tension in Social Movements*  
Sydney: UNSW Press, 2006



**Amanda Wise**  
*Exile & Return Among the East Timorese*  
Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006

# Partnership with the City of Ryde

## Cultural Diversity, Community and Family Services:

**A study of the experiences among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse parents of local early childhood services**

**By Dr Amanda Wise, Assoc. Prof. Michael Fine and Mr Kevin Moloney**

*The CRSI has developed close partnerships with local governments throughout Australia*

This is part of a suite of projects the CRSI is undertaking with the City of Ryde. The project is funded through the Australian Research Council Linkage Scheme, and employs a full time PhD student supervised by Associate Professor Michael Fine and Dr Amanda Wise.

The study will involve following a group of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) and Australian born English-speaking parents living in Ryde, from the birth of their child until 3 years of age.

The study will investigate the experiences of new parents, exploring issues such as what formal and informal supports are available to them; their experiences with local family and early childhood services; and their subjective experiences of parenting.

The findings from the study will benefit the local community by informing the development of innovative models of service provision that are responsive to the needs of CALD families with young children.



**PhD student  
Kylie Sait**

## Research student profile: Kylie Sait

We welcome Kylie Sait to CRSI. Kylie will be carrying out the research for the Cultural Diversity, Community and Family Services Project, which will earn her a PhD.

Kylie received her Bachelor of Social Science from Macquarie University, majoring in qualitative sociology. Her hon-

ours thesis critically analysed government childcare policy, with a particular focus on the impact of the corporatisation of childcare services.

Kylie has an interest in disability issues. Her work has included research for the Centre for Flexible Learning at Macquarie University and a social research internship at the Disability Studies and Research Institute (DsaRI). She is also interested in issues facing people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds and is a trained volunteer English tutor for the Smith Family's Each-One-Teach-One Program.

Kylie was born and raised in the City of Ryde. She has witnessed the changing demographic profile of the area and recognises the need for services to be responsive to the diverse needs of local families.

Kylie is hoping to end up in a career in social policy research. "I hope to be able to help bring about change – to make a difference."

# Partnership with the City of Ryde



## Interview with Kevin Moloney, Community Services Manager, City of Ryde, on its partnership with CRSI

*Why is City of Ryde partnering with CRSI?*

One of the key objectives of local government social planning is to identify access and equity issues for the most vulnerable groups in the local community. Given CRSI's core values, there are obvious synergies between our objectives, practices and long term goals.

In addition, Macquarie University is a vital and dynamic institution within our municipal boundaries and therefore a major player in

community capacity building and the development of the social environment.

*What are the benefits of this partnership for City of Ryde?*

The partnership helps us to keep informed of current academic trends and movements. It provides my team with access to expertise in social and cultural research that provides academic scrutiny, and hence legitimacy, to our research.

And it provides access to an array of funding sources not usually available to Local Government.

*How do you see the City of Ryde's continuing partnership with CRSI and Macquarie University into the future?*

I think there is a growing understanding that the University is part of our community rather than being a 'walled city'. I would like to see a stronger relationship evolve between City of Ryde and Macquarie University in all facets of our work, be it the environment, cultural development, etc. The longitudinal study of carers and children is a first for us and, we are certain, not the last.

## Social Data Mapping for the City of Ryde

**Mr Frank Siciliano, Prof Bob Fagan, Assoc Prof Kevin McCracken and Dr Robyn Dowling**

The CRSI is also involved in a Social Data Mapping project for the City of Ryde. The project will develop and further enhance City of Ryde's statistical information and data mapping capability, through the collation and analysis of available data in partnership with Council's Community Services and City Information (GIS) Units.

The project will enhance the quality and usability of information with a particular focus on improving Council's social planning processes.

## Building Neighbourhood Community Harmony in Ashfield

Dr Amanda Wise, assisted by Dr Gillian Vogl and Dr Armen Gakavian

The Building Neighbourhood Harmony Project was funded by the Australian Government's Living in Harmony Initiative. The Project involved working with 3 local Councils – Ashfield, Griffith and Canning.

For more information go to

[www.crsi.mq.edu.au](http://www.crsi.mq.edu.au) and click on 'Building Local Harmony'.





Dr Selvaraj  
Velayutham

## Australian Research Council Discovery projects

### Transnational Affect and the Moral Economies of Temporary Skilled Migration of South Indians to Australia

**Dr Selvaraj Velayutham and  
Dr Amanda Wise**

Australia is in the midst of a major shift in its immigration policy. Temporary skilled migration has now overtaken permanent resident visas as the primary migration stream. Indians

are now the second largest migrant group coming to Australia under this program, after the UK.

Dr Selvaraj Velayutham and co-investigator Dr Amanda Wise will explore the experiences of temporary skilled

Indian migrants to Australia from a social and cultural point of view. The study has a particular focus on masculinity and gendered expectations within the migration process, and follows has four key threads of inquiry:

1. The methods of and motivations for migration;
2. Migrants' responsibilities and obligations to family and caste in India
3. The constraints of temporary skilled migration and how this structures the migration and integration experience;
4. The impact of this major new trend in migration policy on Australian society.

Government and service providers tend to view skilled migrants from India as 'low need' because they are generally

seen as well-educated and proficient in English. However this assumption is far from the truth. The interviews conducted for the project so far suggest that many Indians are experiencing a high degree of social isolation. In addition, many have little knowledge of services available, especially at the local government level.

There is also an emerging picture of exploitation, underemployment and discrimination in the workplace faced by these Indians.

A unique dimension to this study is its shift beyond the dry facts to investigate the everyday and emotional dimensions of the temporary skilled migration experience. The study explores, for example, how the temporary visa status intersects with emotions such as shame, pride and honour, and how these emotions give structure to, and regulate, the migrants' experiences.

"Indian migrants often leave their home village, town or city with the promise that they will send money home," says Selvaraj. "Some even borrow heavily from their families in order to pay their way to Australia, and are under pressure to repay this debt as quickly as possible".

The result is stories of migrants being underpaid, but not speaking out for fear of being sent back to India - "something that would not only be financially disastrous, but also shameful."

Selvaraj hopes the study will contribute to current debates and inform government and industry on policy decisions pertaining to temporary skilled migration to Australia.



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## Australian Research Council Discovery projects

### ‘New Regionalism’ and the Dynamics of Regional Economies

**Professor Bob Fagan, with Dr Matthew Tonts, University of Western Australia, and Professor Michael Taylor, University of Birmingham**

‘New regionalism’ has become a popular development perspective, emphasising the social and institutional drivers of local economic change in an era of globalisation. Over the past decade, new regionalism has become prominent in both the rhetoric and practice of regional development policy in Australia. Yet despite its popularity, little detailed research exists on the extent to which this approach is relevant to Australia, and whether it can contribute to the equitable social and economic development of urban and regional spaces.

Australia’s ‘regions’, which are usually thought of as comprising places outside Australia’s growing metropolitan centres, bring together both industrially- and rurally-based places that have experienced economic restructuring and significant population change.

This change has involved long term decline, as in many inland centres, and rapid recent growth, as in coastal ‘sea change’ localities. In both cases, problems of access to social infrastructure, community support networks, com-

mercial services and employment loom large among regional community groups and in attempts to formulate public policy to tackle regional access issues.

This new collaborative research focuses on how key local firms are embedded in local and non-local networks, and highlights the importance of institutional frameworks and local labour market dynamics in shaping regional opportunities. Bob Fagan’s particular focus is on local labour market issues, including problems of access to employment.

The project uses two non-metropolitan case studies: Albury-Wodonga, the unique ‘twin towns’ straddling the NSW-Victorian state border and growing strongly despite their inland location and collapse of earlier federal government development schemes; and the Illawarra Region immediately south of Sydney and recently experiencing major changes arising from large-scale job losses in its heavy industries.



*“Little detailed research exists on ... whether [new regionalism] can contribute to the equitable social and economic development of urban and regional spaces.”*

### The Circulation of Nonviolence: Gandhi and the History of Global Politics

**Dr Sean Scalmer**

How do political protests move across national boundaries? Has the form and scope of global contention changed? Sean Scalmer’s research project ‘The Circulation of Non-violence’ tries to find out.



Using a combination of archival work, newspaper sources and interviews with activists, Sean’s research traces the diffusion of Gandhian non-violence around the world over more than 80 years. The project aims to understand both the changing forms of global politics and the specific place of non-violence in the contemporary world.

The project starts by examining the reporting of Gandhi’s activities by the Western press, visitors, religious communities, governments and political supporters. It then focuses on the readings of Gandhi by members of the African-American civil rights and British peace movements between the wars. It traces how small groups of activists within each of these movements began to selectively apply and experiment with what they understood to be specifically ‘Gandhian’ following World War II.

The project then documents how these experiments have opened out into wider campaigns, beginning in the late 1950s through to the campaign against the war in Iraq in more recent times. Finally, it contemplates how these successful movements influenced others around the world, while also complicating the meaning of ‘non-violence’ and the role of Gandhi’s philosophy and practice.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Event details are listed on our website:

[www.crsi.mq.edu.au](http://www.crsi.mq.edu.au)

### Everyday Multiculturalism Conference

**28-29 September 2006**

The conference also features a full day of presentations on new research on the Cronulla riots

### Critical Theory in Crisis?

Postgraduate conference

**30 November - 1 December 2006**

Submission deadline: 30 September 2006

### New Horizons in Social Inclusion: CRSI's Postgraduate Research Workshop

**6 October 2006**

### BorderPolitics of Whiteness Conference

**11 - 13 December 2006**

For further information visit

<http://www.ccs.mq.edu.au/borderpolitics/>

### Critical Theory and Social Hope workshop: 'The Concept of Labour'

**29 November 2006**

By invitation only

## Event Report: Racism Within Forum

In August 2005, CRSI held a public forum to discuss the media controversy surrounding racism and former Macquarie University academic Andrew Fraser. The forum was attended by some 300 interested members of the community.



Afterwards CRSI received many messages of praise and support for creating a space for calm and informed discussion on this issue.

In addition, CRSI member

Dr **Robert Norton** (Dept. of Anthropology) has published a working paper debating a number of claims on racial determinism that emerged during the controversy. 'Still Our Most Dangerous Myth: The Race Fallacy' can be downloaded at [http://www.crsi.mq.edu.au/publications/working\\_papers.htm](http://www.crsi.mq.edu.au/publications/working_papers.htm)



