

Housing & Community Research Unit: NEWSLETTER



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National award for HACRU researcher

Assoc. Prof. [Daphne Habibis](#), HACRU's Director, was awarded the prestigious 'Berry' award at the 2017 Australasian Housing Researchers' Conference in Melbourne in February. Named in honour of an internationally renowned housing and urban scholar, the [Professor Mike Berry Award for Excellence in Housing Research](#) is awarded annually and recognises scholarly achievement that has had a positive effect on policy and enhanced housing outcomes in the wider community.



Daphne and Michael Fotheringham, Deputy Executive Director of the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute which, together with Housing Choices Australia, awards the Berry.

Daphne's award recognised her contribution to research on Aboriginal housing issues, particularly her most recent work, which examined the impact and effectiveness of changes to the way in which housing is managed in remote Indigenous communities.

Daphne's overarching motivation as a researcher is to bring about positive change in the lives of vulnerable Australians. "One of the attractive things about housing research is that it does combine scholarly and policy relevant research," she said. "The issues in Aboriginal housing are complex, and it is a privilege to be working in this space."

All of us at HACRU congratulate Daphne for her achievement, which is much deserved — but sadly we are also wishing her goodbye as she has recently announced her retirement (see below).

Talking about the 'big squeeze' in the rental market



In May, HACRU partnered with the Institute for the Study of Social Change (ISC) and [Anglicare Tasmania](#) for The Big Squeeze, a public forum on the state of the Tasmania rental market, particularly for lower income and vulnerable households. ISC Vice-Chancellor's Fellow Saul Eslake and HACRU Deputy Director [Kathleen Flanagan](#) spoke at the forum (above), which was moderated by Anglicare's Social Action and Research Centre Manager, Meg Webb.

The event followed the release of [Anglicare's Rental Affordability Snapshot](#), which documents the difficulties low income households face in finding housing that is affordable and appropriate in the private market.

Anglicare's data shows that, as the private rental market comes under pressure from contracting social housing systems and ever-increasing housing purchase prices, disadvantaged tenants are being squeezed out of safe, secure and affordable housing for themselves and their children. The importance of this issue to many Tasmanians is illustrated by the full house at the event, which also attracted a healthy online audience.

If you missed it, The Big Squeeze is still available to watch on the University of Tasmania's website — go to <https://livestream.com/UniversityofTasmania/events/7255283>.

Class and housing reform: Hong Kong keynote address

HACRU's incoming Director, Prof. [Keith Jacobs](#), delivered a plenary address at the International Sociological Conference (RC43: Research Committee on Housing and the Built Environment) in Hong Kong in June 2017. The conference was organised around the theme of 'Unreal estate? Rethinking housing, class and identity'.

In his address, 'Class, ideology, and contemporary housing policy reform', Prof. Jacobs advanced a class-based analysis of the current housing 'crisis'. He concluded that, contrary to the popular view, the present state of 'crisis' in housing and urban development is not an exceptional moment in time but the normal state of affairs as far as low income households are concerned. Cultivating an atmosphere of exceptional 'crisis' makes it easier for governments to advance neoliberal reforms such as planning deregulation which will lead to little meaningful change for these people. Prof. Jacobs concluded by saying that policy-makers are increasingly recognising that this is producing economic dysfunction at a range of levels, but the increasing commodification of housing is undermining more collective forms of politics that might support the development of a different vision for housing policy.

Solving the nation's energy dilemma

Can we adapt our existing electricity grid to benefit from renewable energy being generated by customers through their solar panels? HACRU researchers are involved in a significant trial of battery technology on Bruny Island that will help to answer this pressing and nationally-relevant question. Thirty-five batteries, connected to solar panels, are being installed at randomly selected homes on the island, and importantly, the batteries will be aggregated, so they will appear to the network as a single, large battery. This means that TasNetworks can buy energy stored in the battery if required during peak usage times to help achieve a more stable electricity supply and a smarter electricity grid.

The CONSORT project, as it is known, involves researchers from ANU, the University of Sydney and UTAS, technology start-up Reposit Power and TasNetworks. HACRU's Assoc. Prof. [Heather Lovell](#) is leading the social science research team with support from Dr [Pip Watson](#), Dr Andrew Harwood and PhD candidate Veryan Hann. They are exploring how the households involved in the project are responding to and interacting with the new technology.

HACRU PhD candidate profile: Gina Zappia

HACRU PhD candidate **Gina Zappia** is nearing the end of her PhD journey and is already making a mark in her field of expertise. Gina's research examines the experiences of women aged 55 and over in the private rental market. This is a timely topic due to the increased risk of women in this group experiencing first-time homelessness, thought to be the accumulative effect of structural inequalities experienced across the life-course.

In April, Gina travelled to York in the UK to present on her research at the prestigious Housing Studies Association annual conference. Her paper was called 'Uncertain and insecure: the state of dwelling for women who are long-term renters in Australia's home-owner nation'. In the paper, Gina described the lived experience of housing insecurity for women who are long-term renters in a home-owning culture. She found that the women she had interviewed had internalised the stigma associated with renting, and that this had undermined their perception of themselves as legitimate consumers of housing. A further paper, presented at the 2017 Housing Theory Symposium in June this year, explored the social-relational aspects of tenure that underpin living in the private rental sector.

Gina is a recipient of a University of Tasmania Elite scholarship and an Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Top-Up Scholarship, and is supervised by Prof. [Keith Jacobs](#) and Dr [Julia Verdouw](#). Evidence of the immediate relevance of her work for policy and practice can be seen in the fact that she was recently approached by the Western Australian Association for Mental Health and Tenancy WA to provide a keynote address at their State Conference on housing and health. The conference will be held in Perth at the end of November this year.

Farewell to Daphne Habibis

HACRU is bidding farewell to our energetic and accomplished Director, Assoc. Prof. [Daphne Habibis](#), who is retiring at the end of this year. With a PhD in sociology from the London School of Economics, Daphne has had a distinguished career as a sociologist, with a particular focus on understanding and addressing social inequality. She has authored and co-authored over 60 publications, including *Social Inequality in Australia: Discourses, Realities and Futures* and Australia's best-selling sociology text book.

In recent years, Daphne's research has been focussed on the inequality experienced by Indigenous Australians, particularly with regard to housing injustice. She has also been working with colleagues Dr Nick Hookway and Dr Anthea Vreugdenhil to develop a research agenda on kindness as an ethical emotion that extends beyond the interpersonal to institutional domains.

Daphne's tenure as HACRU Director has been marked by significant research success. Since 2013 HACRU has secured \$6.3 million in external funding and currently hosts two ARC Future Fellows. Daphne has also devoted considerable time and effort to building capacity within HACRU, in particular by providing support and encouragement to HACRU's early career researchers and mentorship to women starting out in an academic career.

We will miss her enormously and we wish her all the best. Prof. [Keith Jacobs](#) will take over the Directorship following Daphne's departure.

Tax, infrastructure and family violence: current AHURI projects

HACRU is a member of the [Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute](#), contributing to the ongoing National Housing Research Program which supports evidence-based policy development on housing and urban issues. We are currently involved in a number of significant projects-in-progress.

Pathways to housing tax reform

Led by [Richard Eccleston](#), and involving HACRU's Prof. [Keith Jacobs](#), Dr [Julia Verdouw](#) and Dr [Kathleen Flanagan](#), as well as a number of colleagues at other universities, this inquiry explores the political economy of housing tax reform in Australia. The inquiry has broken new ground empirically and, by contextualising technical reform against the political challenges of implementing it, has made a significant contribution to policy development. The work is nearing completion, with supporting project final reports presently under peer review, and the Inquiry final report soon to be completed. Prof. Eccleston will be presenting the key findings at the

upcoming AHURI [National Housing Conference](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/research/research-in-progress/inquiry-41110) in Sydney at the end of November. For more: www.ahuri.edu.au/research/research-in-progress/inquiry-41110.

Social housing as infrastructure

This inquiry is being led by Assoc. Prof. Julie Lawson of RMIT, and explores whether social housing can be conceptualised as a form of infrastructure, how its contribution can be measured, and the options available for an appropriate investment pathway. HACRU's Dr [Kathleen Flanagan](#) is leading the supporting project examining the conceptual basis for social housing to be treated as infrastructure, working with HACRU Director Prof. [Keith Jacobs](#) and colleagues at RMIT and UNSW. Social housing is critical for its tenants, but this inquiry will explore the ways in which its contribution extends beyond the provision of a 'welfare' service to provide broader social, economic and environmental benefits as well. For more: <https://www.ahuri.edu.au/research/research-in-progress/evidence-based-policy-inquiry-53140>.

Integrated housing support for vulnerable families

This inquiry is a research partnership between AHURI and [ANROWS](#), Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety. The inquiry is investigating the provision of integrated housing and other support for vulnerable households, especially those affected by domestic and family violence, with a focus on housing pathways and transition points at which culturally safe and holistic service responses are effective for women and children. HACRU is involved in all the Inquiry's supporting projects, with Dr [Kathleen Flanagan](#) leading a project on housing outcomes after domestic and family violence, and Assoc. Prof. [Daphne Habibis](#) contributing to projects on improving responses to Indigenous families affected by family violence and on the consequences of landlords' legal responses to misconduct in social housing. For more: <https://www.ahuri.edu.au/research/research-in-progress/evidence-based-policy-inquiry-71160>.

Events

Coming up...

The National Housing Conference 2017, convened by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, will be on the theme of 'Building for better lives'. It is being held between **29 November and 1 December** at the International Convention Centre, Sydney. For more information, see the conference website, at www.nhc.ed.au. The program includes Prof. [Richard Eccleston](#) on the recent AHURI-funded research project 'Pathways to housing tax reform', speaking on the topic 'Scalpels and sledgehammers: breaking the tax deadlock'.

HACRU Deputy Director Dr [Kathleen Flanagan](#) will be presenting a paper as part of the ISC Friday seminar series: "'It was decided to use the term 'no-hoper'": problem families, public housing and eugenics in Tasmania', **1-2 pm, 20 October**, Harvard Room 1, Centenary Building, Sandy Bay Campus.

So far this year...

In April, HACRU's Assoc. Prof. [Heather Lovell](#) chaired a panel discussion examining '[Future energy in Tasmania](#)'. Energy and energy security are critical to the future of our economy, but also affect ordinary Tasmanians on an everyday basis. The forum discussed what Tasmania's energy sector might look like in 2050, and speakers canvassed the opportunities available to Tasmania as the world adjusts to climate change and shifts towards renewable sources of energy. The forum is still available to [livestream](#).

Also worth checking out via the University of Tasmania's livestream page: '[Sharing Hobart: managing the rise of Airbnb](#)' — how is the emergence of the short-term accommodation market and the 'sharing' economy affecting the availability of housing in the private rental market, especially for households on low incomes?

We have also recently welcomed Prof. Jamie Peck from the University of British Columbia on 'Transatlantic city: conjunctural urbanism, contagious governance', Mark Stephens from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, speaking on 'How housing policy is changing — and why', and Brendan Coates from the Grattan Institute on 'Options to address housing affordability: the good, the bad and the cosmetic'.

Recent publications

Selected publications by HACRU's core staff and associate researchers since January 2017:

Altmann, E. (2017) [Downsizing cost trap awaits retirees — five reasons to be wary](#). *The Conversation*, 31 July.

Altmann, E. and Yang, Z. (2017) [Why Chinese investors find Australian real estate so alluring](#). *The Conversation*, 1 May.

Atkinson, R., Burrows, R., Glucksberg, L., Ho, H.K., Knowles, C. and Rhodes, D. (2017) Minimum city? The deeper impacts of the super-rich on urban life. In R. Forrest, S.Y. Koh and B. Wissink (eds), *Cities and the super-rich* (253-271). Palgrave Macmillan U.S.

Burrows, R., Webber, R. and **Atkinson, R.** (2017) Welcome to "Pikettyville"? Mapping London's alpha territories. *Sociological Review* 65(2): 184-201.

Donoghue, J. (2017) Intensive tenancy support services (ITTS) for ex-offenders. *Parity* 30(1): 27-28.

Eccleston, R. and Krever, R. (eds) (2017) *The future of federalism: intergovernmental financial relations in an age of austerity*, Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, U.K.

Eccleston, R., Hardy, A. and Tinch, D.R. (2017) Case study: Tasmania driving innovation in the visitor economy. In *Improving service sector productivity: the economic imperative* (112-116). Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA), Melbourne.

Fagan, A. and **Donoghue, J.** (2017) Salvation Army Housing Common Ground Tasmania: addressing housing needs of disadvantaged people but also striving to solve their poverty issues. *Parity* 30(5): 13-14.

Flanagan, K. (2017) Homelessness, Tasmania... and Airbnb. *Parity* 30(5): 11-12.

Flanagan, K. (2017) Review of 'The geopolitics of real estate: reconfiguring property, capital and rights'. *Housing, Theory and Society*. Published online 23 August 2017.
doi:10.1080/14036096.2017.1367719

Flanagan, K. (in press) "Problem families" in public housing: discourse, commentary and (dis)order. *Housing Studies*. doi:10.1080/02673037.2017.1380784

Gabriel, M. and **Altmann, E.** (eds) (in press) *Multi-owned property in the Asia-Pacific region: rights, restrictions and responsibilities*, Palgrave Macmillan U.K.

Gale, F., Ascui, F. and **Lovell, H.** (2017) Sensing reality? New monitoring technologies for global sustainability standards. *Global Environmental Politics* 17(2): 65-83.

Gorter, T. (2017) Review of 'Migration, settlement and the concepts of house and home' by Iris Levin, *Housing Studies* 32(8): 1178-1182.

Gounder, S. (2017) Review of 'Housing and home unbound: intersections in economics, environment and politics in Australia' eds Nicole Cook, Aidan Davison and Louise Crabtree. *Housing Studies* 32(5): 712-714.

- Hardy, A., Hyslop, S., Booth, K.I., Robards, B.J., Aryal, J., Gretzel, U. and **Eccleston, R.** (2017) Tracking tourists' travel with smartphone-based GPS technology: a methodological discussion. *Information Technology and Tourism* 17(3): 255-274.
- Ho, H.K. and **Atkinson, R.** (2017) Looking for big "fry": the motives and methods of middle-class international property investors. *Urban Studies*. Published online 16 May 2017. doi: 10.1177/0042098017702826.
- Jacobs, K.** and Malpas, J. (2017) The language of resilience: ideas and action in contemporary policy-making. *Housing Theory and Society*. Published online 6 April 2017. doi:10.1080/14036096.2017.1308435
- Lovell, H.** (2017) Mobile policies and policy streams: the case of smart metering policy in Australia. *Geoforum* 8: 100-108.
- Lovell, H.**, Pullinger, M. and Webb, J. (2017) How do meters mediate? Energy meters, boundary objects and household transitions in Australia and the United Kingdom. *Energy Research and Social Science* 34: 252-259.
- Lovell, H.** (in press) Policy failure mobilities. *Progress in Human Geography*.
- Lovell, H.**, Hann, V. and **Watson, P.** (in press) Rural laboratories and experiment at the fringes: a case study of a smart grid on Bruny Island, Australia. *Energy Research and Social Science*.
- Natalier, K.** (2017) Micro-aggressions, single mothers and interactions with government workers: the case of Australia's child support bureaucracy. *Journal of Sociology* 53(3): 622-636.
- Riedy, C., McKenna, K., **Wynne, L.** and Daly, M. (2017) [Co-housing works well for older people, once they get past the image problem](#). *The Conversation*, 23 June.
- Rogers, D., Sisson, A., Condie, J., **Wynne, L.** and Chatterjee, P. (2017) [We live here: how do residents feel about public housing redevelopment?](#) *The Conversation*, 6 September.
- Verdouw, J.J.** and **Habibis, D.** (2017) Housing First programs in congregate-site facilities: can one size fit all? *Housing Studies*. Published online 3 July 2017. doi:10.1080/02673037.2017.1346192.

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