

## Housing & Community Research Unit: NEWSLETTER



### National grant success for HACRU researchers

HACRU researchers [Dr Kathleen Flanagan](#), [Assoc. Prof. Daphne Habibis](#) and [Prof. Keith Jacobs](#) have been awarded six competitive national research grants worth \$365,000 in the 2017 [National Housing Research Program](#). Four of the grants address the issue of housing support for vulnerable families such as those experiencing domestic and family violence and will be used to look at how housing services can best be integrated with other types of support to enhance individual and family safety and wellbeing. The projects will provide new knowledge on the nature of housing insecurity, housing pathways and transition points for families leaving violence. The other two projects will consider the question of how social housing can be reconceptualised as a form of essential infrastructure, akin to other public goods such as roads, and what this might mean for investment in social housing. The two research programs will be conducted in collaboration with researchers at UNSW and RMIT respectively, and will draw on the expertise of leading national and international policy makers and scholars.

HACRU affiliates [Prof. Bruce Tranter](#) and [Dr Kate Booth](#) were successful in the 2017 ARC Discovery round, being awarded more than \$327,000 for a project examining questions of insurance and natural disasters in order to develop an understanding of the geographies of inadequate insurance and the implications for disaster management. This research will strategically improve disaster policy and practice at a time when the incidence and severity of natural disasters is a significant national problem.

### Accolades for 'Get Bill Smart'

'Get Bill Smart', is an innovative community engagement project aimed at improving home energy efficiency, increased indoor comfort and reduced energy bills for low-income households. It has been awarded the prestigious Ricoh Business Centre Hobart Environment Award at the 2016 [Community Achievement Awards](#). 'Get Bill Smart' was a collaborative effort between a HACRU research team (Dr Michelle Gabriel, [Dr Pip Watson](#) and [Dr Millie Rooney](#)), Sustainable Living Tasmania and Mission Australia. It trialled a community-driven approach to supporting households to make changes to their homes and energy use. The knowledge gained has created a foundation on which future energy efficiency support programs can be built, and delivered tangible, day-to-day benefits to its many participants.

### Two projects on Tasmania's population growth strategy

[Daphne Habibis](#), [Brendan Churchill](#) and [Prof. Richard Eccleston](#) have completed two projects for the Tasmanian Government's Department of State Growth. These projects will inform the Tasmanian state's population growth strategy, which aims to grow Tasmania's population to 650,000 by 2050. One project identifies the push and pull factors driving international and interstate migrants to come to, and settle in or move away from, Tasmania. The other analyses the international student experience in Tasmania and barriers to international students remaining in Tasmania post-graduation.

## Special edition of Housing Studies

[Keith Jacobs](#) and [Kathleen Flanagan](#) are guest editors for a forthcoming special edition of the leading journal *Housing Studies* on the theme of 'The Long View'. This edition encourages authors to adopt a historical perspective on contemporary research and policy questions in ways that advance theoretical and methodological exploration. By looking backwards, engaging critically with the present, and looking towards the future, papers will step back from the immediacies of current policy concerns and consider how housing and related issues might be situated in a more critical, contextualised and problematised framework. The theme is the same as that of the recent successful Housing Theory Symposium, convened in mid-2016 by HACRU at the University of Tasmania.

## New research modes: art and stigma

In December, artworks created by communities in Melbourne's western, and Hobart's northern suburbs were exhibited in 'Not THAT place: art vs stigma' at Melbourne University. An earlier exhibition, 'Curtain Call', was held at Tasmania's Moonah Arts Centre at the beginning of 2016. These exhibitions were part of an ARC Discovery project on 'Challenging place-based stigma'. The project investigators were HACRU's [Keith Jacobs](#) and Deborah Warr from the University of Melbourne.



## Staff news

HACRU is delighted to welcome Kathleen Flanagan to the position of Deputy Director of HACRU. And although we are very pleased for his new position, we are sad to farewell Brendan Churchill who is leaving HACRU to take up a position with UNSW's Social Policy Research Centre. We will also miss Dr Anne Coleman who has left the homelessness research community due to retirement.

## Recent AHURI publications

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. Over the last 12 months, HACRU and HACRU-affiliated researchers' contributions, past and current, to AHURI research projects have included:

### Current inquiry—Pathways to housing tax reform

Led by [Richard Eccleston](#), this inquiry explores the political economy of housing tax reform in Australia with the aim of developing a feasible pathway to policy changes that would enhance economic efficiency and promote housing security and affordability for Australian households. As well as leading the overall inquiry, Prof. Eccleston, along with [Dr Julia Verdouw](#), [Kathleen Flanagan](#) and Neil Warren, are undertaking a related research project exploring how State Governments might move from transfer duties on fixed property to a broad-based, recurrent land tax. For more: [www.ahuri.edu.au/research/research-in-progress/inquiry-41110](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/research/research-in-progress/inquiry-41110).

### Recent housing transfer experience in Australia: implications for affordable housing industry development (AHURI Final Report no. 273)

This report by Hal Pawson, Chris Martin, [Kathleen Flanagan](#) and Rhonda Phillips draws on case study analyses of public housing transfers in Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania. The analysis explores aspects of transfer practices which capture enhanced rental revenue through access to Commonwealth Rent Assistance, the transfer of housing management rather than freehold title and the participation opportunities available to tenants. Financial modelling

indicates that if community housing providers are assured of cash flow from rental revenue, housing management transfers may be a viable means for addressing moderate maintenance backlogs, enhancing community development activities and modestly expanding affordable housing portfolios. For more: [www.ahuri.edu.au/research/final-reports/273](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/research/final-reports/273).

#### Safe and sound? How funding mix affects homelessness support for Indigenous Australians (AHURI Final Report no. 272)

Indigenous Australians are 14 times more likely to become homeless than other Australians, and their experiences are likely to be more severe. This research by Angela Spinney, [Daphne Habibis](#) and Sean McNelis examines how the changing mix of government and non-government and direct and indirect funding influences the provision of services to Indigenous Australians and the outcomes. For more: [www.ahuri.edu.au/research/final-reports/272](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/research/final-reports/272).

#### Reviewing changes to housing management on remote Indigenous communities (AHURI Final Report no. 271)

This report, by [Daphne Habibis](#), Rhonda Phillips, Angela Spinney, Peter Phibbs and [Brendan Churchill](#) examines how well tenancy and housing management policies, practices and approaches are working under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH). It identifies policy and practice lessons from the NPARIH experience, and also includes some consideration of non-NPARIH communities. For more: [www.ahuri.edu.au/research/final-reports/271](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/research/final-reports/271).

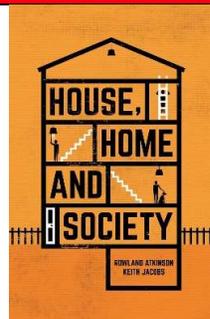
#### Individualised housing assistance: findings and policy options (AHURI Final Report no. 269)

This research, undertaken by [Keith Jacobs](#), Kath Hulse, Wendy Stone and Ilan Wiesel, examined how the 'individualised' approaches being taken in other areas of human service delivery, such as the NDIS, might operate in the context of housing services. It found that due to shortages of affordable accommodation, it is difficult for low income households to exercise meaningful choice in the private rental market, and that competition and consumer choice in housing services depends on an increase in affordable housing supply. For more: [www.ahuri.edu.au/research/final-reports/269](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/research/final-reports/269).

#### Indigenous lifeworlds, conditionality and housing outcomes (AHURI Final Report no. 212)

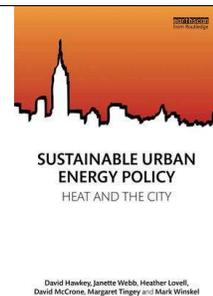
This report, by Mark Moran, Paul Memmott, Daphne Nash, Christina Birdsall-Jones, Shaneen Fantin, Rhonda Phillips and [Daphne Habibis](#), examined how increasing housing conditionality was affecting Indigenous tenants. It found that negotiated and targeted conditionalities, with elements of coercion, are more effective in generating positive change than punitive models only. Tenants, government housing providers and Indigenous organisations are often seeking different outcomes from social housing, but the most effective strategies are those that create a recognition space across these sectors. For more: [www.ahuri.edu.au/research/final-reports/260](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/research/final-reports/260).

### New books by HACRU researchers



This book, by [Keith Jacobs](#) and [Prof. Rowland Atkinson](#), explores how and sociologists should confront pressing contemporary housing issues and related political questions such as the way the housing system perpetuates existing social divisions, the problem of migration and household displacement, and the ways gender, sexuality and work shape the experience of the home. In the wake of the Global Financial Crisis, we understand better than ever how homes are part of the architecture of our economics and — ultimately — of governmental strategies that favour certain social groups and exclude others. This book is the first comprehensive overview of a sociology of both housing and the home.

This book, by HACRU's [Assoc. Prof. Heather Lovell](#) and David Hawkey, Janette Webb, David McCrone, Margaret Tingey and Mark Winskel, has emerged from the UK's Heat and the City research program. The research examined the development of sustainable, low carbon heating in urban areas. It offers an original account of clean energy policy, politics and provision, grounded in empirical data from case studies of the governance of sustainable heat and energy saving in the UK and Europe. Its original conceptual framework draws upon socio-technical studies, economic and urban sociology, human geography, applied economics and policy studies to understand and explain the governance of energy and systemic change in energy provision.



## Upcoming events

### Institute for the Study of Social Change seminars

Prof. Jamie Peck from the University of British Columbia on '[Transatlantic city: conjunctural urbanism, contagious governance](#)', 4 pm, 30 January 2017, UTAS Sandy Bay campus (Harvard Lecture Theatre 1).

We also recently welcomed Prof. Jenny Pickerill of the University of Sheffield, speaking on '[Eco-homes for all: why the socio-cultural matters in encouraging eco-building](#)'.

### Australasian Housing Researchers' Conference

This year's [AHRC](#), in Melbourne, is on the theme of global inequalities and housing. Five HACRU researchers will be presenting the results of their recent research. [Daphne Habibis](#), [Bruce Tranter](#) and HACRU PhD candidate Gina Zappia are presenting in the housing and social diversity stream on the effect of housing reforms on remote Indigenous communities, young people living in Queensland, and "Second-rate citizens and scumbags": how women describe themselves as long-term renters' respectively. [Kathleen Flanagan](#) and [Keith Jacobs](#) (with RMIT's Julie Lawson) are presenting in the housing quality stream on the history of responses to substandard housing in the private rental market and the risks of relying on competition and choice as a rationale for housing reform respectively.

## List of publications for 2016

Atkinson, R & Jacobs, K 2016, *Housing, home and society*, Palgrave Macmillan, London.

Bolwell, D, Whiley, H & Eccleston R 2016, 'Tasmania: July to December 2015', *Australian Journal of Politics and History*, vol. 62, no. 2, pp. 319-326.

Bosman, C & Jacobs, K (in press), 'Master planned and active lifestyles developments: gerotopian dream or dystopian nightmare?' in P Maginn & K Anacker (eds), *From dreamscapes to nightmares? Suburban imaginaries, challenges and prospects in the 21st century*, Routledge, London.

Cullen-Knox, C, Eccleston, R, Haward, M, Lester, E & Vince, V 2016 (pre-print), 'Contemporary challenges in environmental governance: technology, governance and the social licence', *Environmental Policy and Governance*, doi: 10.1002/eet.1743.

Doherty, T & Eccleston, R 2016, *Thriving Communities Healthy Families: final evaluation report*, report to the Tasmanian Association of Neighbourhood Houses, Institute for the Study of Social Change, Hobart.

Eccleston, R & Hortle, R 2016, 'The Australian mining tax debate: political legacies and comparative perspectives', *Australian Journal of Political Science*, vol. 51, no. 1, pp. 102-109.

Eccleston, R & Stubbs, R 2016, 'Public sector participation and compliance across national and global transparency regimes', *International Journal of Public Administration*, vol. 39, no. 10, pp. 758-770.

Eccleston, R & Smith HM 2016, 'The G20, BEPS and the future of international tax governance' in P Dietsch & T Rixen (eds), *Global tax governance — what is wrong with it and how to fix it*, ECPR Press, Colchester, U.K., pp. 175-198.

Flanagan, K, Verdouw, J & Habibis, D 2016, *Intersections of stigma, social capital and community engagement in the suburbs: a social network analysis*, report to the Henry Halloran Trust, Housing & Community Research Unit, Hobart.

Franklin, A 2016, 'The more-than-human city', *The Sociological Review*, doi: 10.1111/1467-954X.12396.

Gabriel, M, Rooney, M & Watson, P 2016, "'The best house possible": the everyday practices and micro-politics of achieving comfort in a low-cost home' in N Cook, A Davison & L Crabtree (eds), *Housing and home unbound: intersections in economics, environment and politics in Australia*, Routledge, London.

Habibis, D, Hookway, N & Vreugdenhil, A 2016, 'Kindness in Australia: an empirical critique of moral decline sociology', *British Journal of Sociology*, vol. 67, no. 3, pp. 395-413.

Habibis, D, Phillips, R, Spinney, A, Phibbs, P & Churchill, B 2016, *Reviewing changes to housing management in remote Indigenous communities*, AHURI final report no. 271, Australian Housing & Urban Research Institute, Melbourne.

Habibis, D, Taylor, P, Walter, M & Elder, C 2016, 'Repositioning the racial gaze: Aboriginal perspectives on race, race relations and governance', *Social Inclusion*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 57-67.

Habibis, D, Walter, M & Taylor, P 2016, '[To move forward on reconciliation, Australia must recognise it has a race relations problem](#)', *The Conversation*, 20 September.

Hawkey, D, Webb, J, Lovell, H, McCrone, D, Tingey, M & Winskel, M 2016, *Sustainable urban energy policy: heat and the city*, Routledge, London.

Jacobs, K 2016, '[How policy success, not failure, has driven Australia's housing crisis](#)', *The Conversation*, 5 February.

Jacobs, K & Manzi, T 2016, "'The party's over": critical junctures, crises and the politics of housing policy', *Housing Studies*, vol. 32, no. 1, pp. 17-34.

Jacobs, K (in press), 'Better politics — narratives of indignation and the possibility of a pro-social form of politics' in R Atkinson, L McKenzie & S Winlow (eds), *Society better: thinking the pro-social*, Policy Press, Bristol.

Jacobs, K (in press), 'Neoliberalism and the housing affordability crisis' in N Sipe & K Vella (eds), *Australian handbook of urban and regional planning*, Routledge, London.

Jacobs, K 2016, 'Assessing housing affordability' in *2016 Australian Poverty Audit*, ASAP Oceania, Australia, pp. 32-34.

Jacobs, K 2016, 'Book review: Peter Scott's "The making of the modern British home: the suburban semi and family life between the wars"', *Housing Studies*, vol. 31, no. 2, pp. 237-238.

Jacobs, K 2016, 'The housing system is broken but solutions remain in short supply', *Parity*, vol. 29, no. 5, pp. 10-11.

Jacobs, K 2017, 'Book review: Nancy Kwak's "A world of homeowners: American power and the politics of housing aid"', *Housing Studies*, vol. 32, no. 1, pp. 116-118.

Jacobs, K, Hulse, K, Stone, W & Wiesel, I 2016, *Individualised housing assistance: findings and policy options*, AHURI final report no. 269, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, Melbourne.

Lovell, H & Watson, P 2016, *Tariff Trial Survey Design*, report to TasNetworks, Hobart.

Lovell, H & Watson, P 2016, *TasNetworks Tariff Trial Method Review — Phase One*, report to TasNetworks, Hobart.

Lovell, H 2016, 'Are policy failures mobile? An investigation of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Program in the state of Victoria, Australia', *Environment and Planning A*, vol. 49, no. 2, pp. 314-331.

Lovell, H 2016, 'The role of international policy transfer within the multiple streams approach: the case of smart electricity metering in Australia', *Public Administration*, vol. 93, no. 3, pp. 754-768.

Malpas, J & Jacobs, K 2016, 'Place, space and capital: the landscapes of Patrick Keiller', *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, vol. 34, no. 6, pp. 1132-1149.

Marsh, I, Crowley, K, Grube, D & Eccleston, R 2016 (pre-print), 'Delivering public services: locality, learning and reciprocity in place based practice', *Australian Journal of Public Administration*, doi: 10.1111/1467-8500.12230.

Moran, M, Memmott, P, Nash, D, Birdsall-Jones, C, Fantin, S, Phillips, P & Habibis, D 2016, *Indigenous lifeworlds, conditionality and housing outcomes*, AHURI final report no. 260, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, Melbourne.

Pawson, H, Martin, C, Flanagan K & Phillips, R 2016, *Recent housing transfer experience in Australia: implications for affordable housing industry development*, AHURI final report no. 273, Australian Housing & Urban Research Institute, Melbourne.

Rooney, M, Watson, P & Watson, S 2016, *Get bill smart: detailed study report*, Sustainable Living Tasmania & University of Tasmania, Hobart.

Tranter, B & Donoghue, J 2016 (pre-print), 'Housing tenure, body mass index and health in Australia', *International Journal of Housing Policy*, doi: 10.1080/14616718.2016.1241937.

Verdouw, J 2016 (pre-print), 'The subject who thinks economically? Comparative money subjectivities in neoliberal context', *Journal of Sociology*, doi: 10.1177/1440783316662717.

Verdouw, J 2016, 'Book review: Gonazalo Lizarralde's "The invisible houses: re-thinking and designing low-cost housing in developing countries"', *Housing Studies*, vol. 31, no. 6, pp. 752-753.

Ward, M & Jacobs, K 2016 (pre-print), "'Policies that fail — words that succeed": the politics of accessible housing in Australia', *Australian Journal of Public Administration*, pre-print, doi: 10.1111/1467-8500.12208.

Wierenga, A, Churchill, B, Peterson, C, Reynolds, A, Mulumba, A & Habibis, D 2016, *Your island home? Migrant pathways and migrant experiences of Tasmania*, final report, Housing & Community Research Institute, Hobart.

Housing & Community Research Unit  
Private Bag 22, School of Social Sciences, University of Tasmania  
HOBART TAS 7001  
Director: Assoc. Prof. [Daphne Habibis](#)  
Deputy Director: Dr [Kathleen Flanagan](#)  
[www.utas.edu.au/arts/Research-Centres/hacru](http://www.utas.edu.au/arts/Research-Centres/hacru)

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