



New AHURI funding for HACRU

HACRU has once more been successful in the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute’s National Housing Research Program funding round, securing \$511,870 in total funding and currently has a major role in two new collaborative research projects examining social housing pathways and the implications of Specialist Disability Accommodation funding for National Disability Insurance Scheme clients.

As demand for the limited supply of social housing continues to grow, governments are increasingly interested in **what motivates, supports or inhibits social housing tenant mobility**. These issues will be the focus of an evidence-based policy inquiry involving four universities—the University of Tasmania, the University of New South Wales, Swinburne and the University of Adelaide—which includes three empirical projects each looking at the topic in a different way. One of the three will be led by HACRU’s Dr [Kathleen Flanagan](#) and will examine the ways in which tenants themselves experience ‘pathways’ into, within and out of the social housing system, and what is needed to make these pathways work better for them. This Tasmanian component of the project will also involve Dr [Julia Verdouw](#) and Assoc. Prof. [Anthea Vreugdenhil](#).

And as the NDIS is being implemented across Australia, the Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) program has been established to provide funding for the construction of housing for eligible NDIS participants. HACRU will be involved in an Investigative Panel examining **how SDA is understood by industry participants and how the investment can be channelled to ensure the best possible housing is delivered for clients**. The roll-out of the SDA may also hold lessons for other housing providers regarding how to leverage and direct private sector funds to maximise social outcomes. This project is being led by University of South Australia, and the HACRU researchers involved are Dr [Kathleen Flanagan](#), Dr [Julia Verdouw](#) and PhD candidate Gina Zappia.

‘Problem families’ and social difference



On 14-15 June this year, HACRU will be convening a research symposium on the topic of ‘Problematic populations: past, present, future’. Designed to foster inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral conversations and collaborations, and featuring a keynote presentation from Assoc. Prof. kylie valentine of UNSW’s Social Policy Research Centre, the symposium will **look critically at the notion of the ‘problem’ population as it manifests in housing, welfare and social policy**.

Previous initiatives like the Poor Law, ‘mental deficiency’ legislation, children’s homes and other forms of institutional ‘care’ and even the family planning movement all arose in part from a desire to regulate and control groups of people who posed a threat to social order or failed to comply with social norms or were sources of visible disorder and difference. Over time, who or what constitutes a ‘problem’ has changed, but the same concern to regulate and control

continues today with policies such as Australia's compulsory income management, removal of homeless people from public spaces, or the UK's Troubled Families Programme.

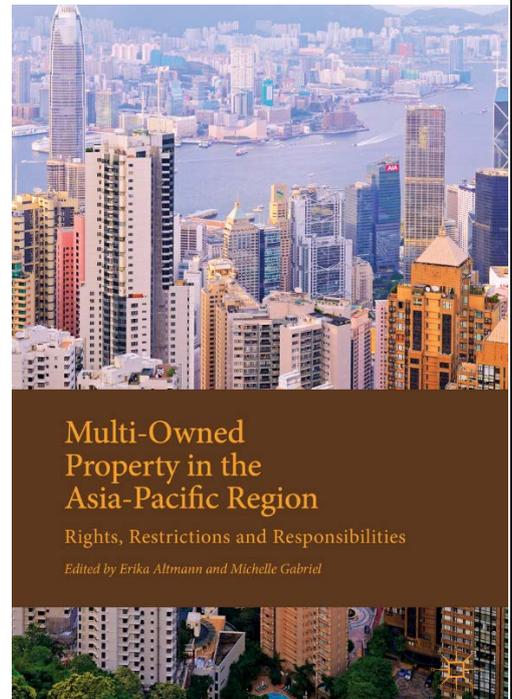
This is an area of acute social vulnerability and it contains the potential for serious social harm. How might we **think differently about social difference and how might we respond accordingly to evident social need** within our community?

Full written papers are not required, but presentations are welcome. If you would like to be involved, please send **abstracts of no more than 200 words** to kathleen.flanagan@utas.edu.au by **7 May 2018** (note, date extended) (or to find out more, email, or call 03 6226 6262).

Apartment living—rights, restrictions and responsibilities

Our experience of home is culturally and historically situated, but globalisation is triggering dramatic reconfigurations in global patterns of property investment, population growth and urban densification. Even in a smaller jurisdiction like Tasmania, we hear much about the importance of medium-density development and apartment living to a sustainable future.

A new book edited by HACRU affiliates Dr [Erika Altmann](#) and Dr [Michelle Gabriel](#) provides critical insights regarding the rights, restrictions and responsibilities inherent to multi-owned residential property across the Asia-Pacific region. *Multi-owned property in the Asia-Pacific region* examines life in compact and contractually-binding housing environments from a wide range of new and international perspectives, and asks important questions about how we can promote and preserve the liveability of our cities, including for lower income households, into the future.



Hobart's housing crisis



Over the last 18 months, Tasmania has undergone a dramatic shift in its housing market, with rents in Hobart climbing by 47% over the last year while the vacancy rate has collapsed to 0.3%, and pressures around affordability and availability being felt across the state. There has been particular media attention given to the plight of families camping in tents at the Hobart Showgrounds because they are unable to find housing, but the implications of the housing situation are widespread and affect some of the most vulnerable people in the community, including people with mental illness, families trying to escape domestic violence and people without stable and certain employment.

Along with the University of Tasmania's Institute for the Study of Social Change, HACRU researchers have been actively involved in the debate about what to do in response, both to the immediate crisis and to the longer-term structural problem.

— HACRU researcher Dr [Julia Verdouw](#), Deputy Director Dr [Kathleen Flanagan](#) and Director Prof. [Keith Jacobs](#), along with ISC Director Prof. Richard Eccleston, have contributed to two

significant ISC reports, the pre-election [Blueprint for housing affordability](#) and a [directions paper](#) prepared ahead of the crisis 'summit' called by the Government in response. Both of these documents have had a significant impact on the public debate.

- Dr [Kathleen Flanagan](#) and Prof. [Keith Jacobs](#) had an opinion piece published in the Hobart *Mercury* which pointed out a difficult home truth—that solutions to the housing crisis cannot come about if the prerequisite for any response is that everyone, including those who profit from housing scarcity, must be happy with the outcome.
- Dr [Kathleen Flanagan](#) spoke at a protest 'expo' organised by a local and grassroots action group. The expo was designed to give a voice to those affected by the housing crisis and to call attention to the diversity of the homeless experience and the nature of the difficulties faced by those locked out of both the purchase and rental markets. Kathleen's speech called attention to the ways that previous governments faced down more significant housing policy challenges, such as the post-war housing shortage, and argued that with political will, the current government could do so as well.
- Dr [Kathleen Flanagan](#) and Prof. [Richard Eccleston](#) have been invited to attend an upcoming roundtable being organised by the Hobart City Council to discuss the drivers of the problem in the Hobart region and the options available to Council that might help to address the issues.

HACRU PhD candidate profile: Dr Fiona Proudfoot

HACRU warmly congratulates Dr [Fiona Proudfoot](#), who was recently awarded her PhD. Fiona's thesis examined how service providers, such as tenancy and property managers, construct and understand cultural difference in relation to their own racial identities and how this affects their interaction with Indigenous tenants. For non-Indigenous service providers, subjective values, housing policy directives and organisational requirements are all brought together as they negotiate the perceived 'risk' which Indigenous cultural demands and responsibilities pose to tenancy management. This 'risk' is framed up within the demands and limitations of mainstream housing policy agendas that require Indigenous tenants to adopt lifestyle choices and behaviours that are more reflective of white society.

Fiona found that greater flexibility and accommodation of Indigenous cultural practices might ease some of the tensions and conflicts that often arise. But by problematising whiteness as a social category, her findings also disrupt the way we understand racial inequality, allowing us to see cultural difference in terms of axes of differentiation rather than the binary of 'different from'.

A PhD is a considerable achievement, but Fiona's research also makes an important contribution in a context where white mainstream housing policy objectives, organisational procedures and professional interactions continue to oppress and affect the daily lives and the housing outcomes of Indigenous Australians.

HACRU researchers part of Energy Project of the Year

In the last newsletter we introduced the CONSORT project which is trialling the use of battery aggregation and solar panels on Tasmania's Bruny Island. HACRU's Assoc. Prof. [Heather Lovell](#) and Dr [Pip Watson](#), along with Dr Andrew Harwood and PhD candidate Veryan Hann are examining how households involved in the project are responding to and interacting with new technology.

CONSORT was recently awarded the Energy Project of the Year Award, given out by the Electric Energy Society of Australia at the EECON conference in Brisbane. The award recognises a project within the energy sector that has delivered significant benefits to stakeholders and the wider community while being managed and executed with a high level of excellence, and the

involvement of the HACRU team is central to why CONSORT is so important. The involvement of social scientists on such a technical project is highly unusual, but the HACRU team are ensuring that householders' views and experiences are being fed back up the line to the designers of the technology involved. Technicians don't often get this kind of feedback about how people interact with technical systems, yet they need to understand the social dimension in order to design technology that works for real people and real places.

You can learn more about CONSORT in this newly released video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdJ11Plia40>.

Radical housing: thinking and acting

HACRU PhD candidate Laura Wynne is one of a global collective of researchers who have established a new kind of housing journal, designed to generate both thought and action around some of the key organising concepts in housing studies: housing, home, homelessness and eviction among others. The *Radical Housing Journal* will include both peer-reviewed original research and conversations and updates from practitioners, activists and other commentators. The upcoming first issue will examine the practices and theories of organising around the housing struggles that have emerged post-2008. Individual papers will be freely available on line.

The organising collective can be contacted at collective@radicalhousingjournal.org and further information about the journal can be found here: www.radicalhousingjournal.org/home.

Events

Coming up...

The Australasian Housing Researchers Conference and the Asia-Pacific Network of Housing Researchers Conference have combined forces this year, with a joint conference to be held 6-8 June at Griffith University on the Gold Coast. The theme is 'Smart and sustainable housing futures'. For more information, see the conference [website](#).

The HACRU research symposium on 'problematic populations' will be held at UTAS on 14-15 June—for more information, see [here](#).

On 16 May, the ISC is sponsoring a seminar with an urban flavour, with geographer and performance artist Dr Heather McLean presenting on [public space in an era of xenophobia and neo-capitalism](#).

So far this year...

HACRU Deputy Director Dr [Kathleen Flanagan](#) spoke at a public forum organised by the Institute for the Study of Social Change on the issue of Airbnb. '**Inside Airbnb: exploring the impact of the sharing economy from New York to Hobart**' featured data activist Murray Cox, who presented some of the first hard data on the rising number of Airbnb listings in Tasmania. The University of Sydney's Prof. Peter Phibbs was also on the forum panel, which was chaired by Prof. [Richard Eccleston](#). The forum aimed to open up debate on Airbnb in Tasmania with a particular focus on the consequences for the local rental market and is still available to watch on [livestream](#).

UTAS has also recently hosted US sociologist and demographer Prof. David Iaquinta on the [Tasmanian peri-urban](#) and Prof. Charles Crothers from Auckland University of Technology on the [liveable city](#).

HACRU Director Prof. [Keith Jacobs](#) was a keynote speaker at the UK's Housing Studies Association annual conference that took place in Sheffield, U.K. in mid-April. Keith's paper explored the class dimensions to the current housing crisis and the long term implications if housing inequalities are not addressed. Keith was also a keynote speaker at the annual Housing Theory Symposium back

in February; the symposium was this year held at the University of Wollongong that explored the role of financialisation in shaping contemporary housing markets.

Recent publications

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

Atkinson, R & Blandy, S 2018. Domestic fortress: fear and the new home front response. *Urban Studies* 55(2): 483-486.

Atkinson, R, Parker S & Burrows R 2017. Elite formation, power and space in contemporary London. *Theory, Culture and Society* 34(5-6): 179-200.

Betzold, A, Carew, AL, Lewis, GK & **Lovell, H** 2018. The emergence, articulation and negotiation of a new food industry initiative in rural Australia: boundary object, organisation or triple helix model? *Sociologia Ruralis*, online first, doi:10.1111/soru.12211.

Booth, K (in press). Profiteering from disaster: why planners need to be paying more attention to insurance. *Planning Practice and Research*.

Booth, K (in press). The places within. *Cultural Geographies*.

Booth, K 2017. Planners in hot demand in a changing world. *Mercury* 11 September: 15.

Booth, K & **Tranter, B** 2017. When disaster strikes: under-insurance in Australian households, *Urban Studies*, online first, doi:10.1177/0042098017736257.

Donoghue, J 2017. Trust, housing, and health in Australia. Paper presented to International Conference on Trust. 18-20 November, Tokyo.

Eccleston, R, Denny, L, **Flanagan, K**, **Jacobs, K** & Glaetzer, S 2018. *Tasmanian Housing Summit: directions paper*. Institute for the Study of Social Change, UTAS, Hobart.

Eccleston, R & Warren, N 2017. The failure of the federalism reform process and its financial implications for the Australian states. In M Bruerton, T Arklay, R Hollander & R Levy (eds) *A people's federation*. The Federation Press, Leichhardt, NSW: 147-163.

Eccleston, R, Warren, N, **Verdouw, J** & **Flanagan, K** 2017. *Pathways to state property tax reform: inquiry into pathways to housing tax reform*. AHURI final report no. 291. Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, Melbourne.

Eccleston, R, Warren, N, Verdouw, J, Flanagan, K & Eslake, S 2018. *A blueprint for improving housing outcomes in Tasmania*. Institute Insights no. 3. Institute for the Study of Social Change, UTAS, Hobart.

Fehlberg, B, **Natalier, K** and Smyth, B 2018. Children's experiences of 'home' after parental separation. *Child and Family Law Quarterly* 30(1): 3-21.

Flanagan, K (in press). Review of *Last project standing: civics and sympathy in post-welfare Chicago* by Catherine Fennell. *Housing Studies*.

Flanagan, K & **Jacobs, K** 2018. Using historical methods in housing studies. *SAGE Research Methods Cases Part 2*, SAGE, London, doi:10.4135/9781526449726.

Hardy, A & **Eccleston, R** 2017. Where do the tourists go? Tracking tourists itineraries in Tasmania. Paper presented to 13th Biennial Conference: Leisure for Social Change. 4-7 December, Hobart.

Hardy, A, Hyslop, S, **Booth, K**, Robards, B, Aryal, J, Gretzel, U & **Eccleston, R** 2017. Tracking tourists' travel with smartphone-based GPS technology: a methodological discussion. *Information Technology & Tourism* 17 (3): 255-274.

Jacobs, K & **Flanagan, K** 2018. Shun profit motive in housing fix. *Mercury* 23 March: 20.

Jacobs, K 2018. Review of *The right to buy: selling off public and social housing* by Alan Murie. *International Journal of Housing Policy* 18(2): 348-350.

Lovell, H 2018. The promise of smart grids. *Local Environment: the international journal of justice and sustainability*, online first, doi:10.1080/13549839.2017.1422117.

Norrie, H 2018. Transformative participation and collaborative practice-led design research. In M Sierra & K Wise (eds) *Transformative pedagogies and the environment: creative agency through contemporary art and design*, Common Ground Research Networks, Champaign, Illinois: 115-137.

Norrie, H, Grainger, P, Elliott, H, Woods, T, Long, N, Long, J 2017. Dynamics of bamboo design and build collaborations. In DK Brown, M Manfredini, P McPerson, A Pretty, U Rieger & M Southcombe (eds) *Crossing boundaries: reflections on applied collaborative architectural research*. LetteraVentidue, Siracusa, Italy: 116-127.

Owen, C & McCann, D 2017. Transforming *home*: parents' experiences of caring for children on the autism spectrum in Tasmania, Australia. *Housing Studies*, online first, doi:10.1080/02673037.2017.1390075.

Pease, B, **Vreugdenhil, A** & Stanford, S (eds) 2018. *Critical ethics of care in social work: transforming the politics and practices of caring*. Routledge, London.

Travers, M 2017. The idea of a Southern criminology. *International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice*, online first, doi:10.1080/01924036.2017.1394337.

Wynne, L 2018. Technologies of performance: using governmentality to understand social housing reform in NSW. Paper presented to Housing Theory Symposium. 5-6 February, Wollongong.

Wynne, L 2017. Social housing renewal: threats to tenant stability and security. *Parity* 30(7): 43-44.

Wynne, L 2017. Review of *In defense of housing* by Peter Marcuse and David Madden. *Australian Planner*, online first, doi:10.1080/07293682.2017.1400448.

Wynne, L, & Riedy, C 2018. Precinct-scale innovation and the sharing paradigm. In SJ Wilkinson & H Remøy, H (eds) *Building urban resilience through change of use*. John Wiley & Sons Ltd, Hoboken, New Jersey: 21-37.

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