



Upcoming events

Australasian Aid Conference for 2020 is calling for papers and panels:

Details: The aim of the 2020 Australasian Aid Conference is to bring together researchers from across Australia, the Pacific, Asia and beyond who are working on aid and international development policy to share insights, promote collaboration, and help develop the research community.

When: The conference will be held 17-19 February 2020

Where: The Australian National University.

More information on the conference go to:

<https://devpolicy.crawford.anu.edu.au/annual-australasian-aid-conference/2020/call-for-papers>

Additional information: The DSAA are considering proposing two roundtables at the conference that engage policy makers and practitioners in questions of concern to teachers and scholars of Development Studies, such as:

- What types of skills, knowledges and sensibilities do today's graduates need to work in the development sector?
- What are today's pressing theoretical questions to advance development practice and policy?

If you are interested in being involved in a roundtable, please email Tanya by August 31 at: t.jakimow@unsw.edu.au

CRCS Newsletter *August 2019*

Welcome back! In this newsletter we would like to update you on what's been happening at CRCS and notify you of upcoming events. We will also be including a topical fact sheet looking at Indigenous-led development in the Kimberly region and a member profile on Charles Roche.

Centre News and Activities:

The CRCS was a bronze sponsor of the recent Research for Development Impact (RDI) Network conference at La Trobe University.

This event, entitled Leadership for Inclusive Development, enabled us the opportunity to promote the work of the Centre to over 400 international and Australian delegates.

What is leadership for inclusive development?

- Watch a [9-minute video](#) from Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat on women's leadership
- Watch a [1-minute video](#) from the conference competition winner, International Deprivation Measure, on leadership for inclusive development

The conference keynote speakers included:

- Hon Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa
- Srilatha Batliwala, Senior Advisor, Knowledge Building and Feminist Leadership with Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action
- Nyadol Nyuon, lawyer, community advocate, writer and former refugee
- Dan Honig, Assistant Professor of International Development at John Hopkins University

Dr Rochelle Spencer was recently voted onto the Executive Committee of the inaugural Development Studies Association of Australia (DSAA).

Rochelle played a key role in the establishment of the DSAA. The DSAA represents the community of scholars and practitioners engaged in research, teaching, and training in, and in relation to, Development Studies. The DSAA will promote critical reflection, researching, teaching and impact of

RADICAL: Reading and discussion group

When: Last Friday of every month from 11am – 1pm

Where: Social Sciences Building 440 3.023, Murdoch University South Street campus.

More Details: Go to the activities section of <http://www.murdoch.edu.au/Research-capabilities/CRCS/What-we-do/>

Cross-university doctoral student symposium on mining:

Description: Hosting a Mine or Mining the Host? Social, Cultural and Environmental Dimensions of Resource Extraction

When: Friday, 18 October 2019
9.30 am – 4.30 pm

Where: Murdoch University- Post Graduate Suite 1.031 Building 460, Level 1

More Details: For more information please contact CRCS <http://www.murdoch.edu.au/Research-capabilities/CRCS/Contact-us/>

National volunteering conference:

When: 18th to the 20th of March 2020

Where: Perth

More details: Go to <https://www.volunteeringwa.org.au/news/announcement-national-volunteering-conference-2020>

Development Studies in Australia, and facilitate collaborations, outreach and engagement within and beyond the academy. If you'd like more information on the DSAA or you're considering joining as a member, please visit: <https://www.developmentstudies.asn.au>

In addition, Rochelle worked with a team of Development Studies scholars across Australia to prepare the DSAA's submission to the ANZSRC review for the creation of a Development Studies 4-digit FoR code under 16-Studies in Human Society, with relevant 6-digit sub-codes. Development Studies features strongly at Murdoch University with 11 undergraduate and postgraduate offerings across community development, sustainable development, international aid & development. As such, Rochelle drafted the supporting statement for a Development Studies FoR code for Murdoch University's submission to the ANZSRC.

Dr Martin Brueckner was a presenter and panel judge for Everyday Leader at Lynwood Senior High School's Social Impact 'Shark Tank'.

Social Impact 'Shark Tank' is a program designed to explore purpose and help students develop a greater understanding of the world around them.

The aim of this project is to inspire the students to think 'bigger picture' by exploring the global challenges we face as a society and putting their thoughts and efforts towards a potential solution. Students begin the project by gaining a deeper understanding of their internal worlds focusing on topics such as values, character strengths, talents and passions before looking outwards at the wider world. For further information go to: <http://everydayleader.com/>

Dr Megan Paull was an invited speaker at the Melville Cockburn Chamber of Commerce "Your Business Our Future Forum and Expo" held at the Melville Council Chambers to speak on why corporate social responsibility is not just for big business on the 5th of June 2019.

The annual event included a panel of speakers from consultants to local government representatives and was attended by members of the chamber, many of whom are small business owners. Involvement in such events is a great opportunity to raise awareness of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development, and to discuss activities such as corporate and employee volunteering with business owners and managers. Jean Wootton was available at the Expo to answer queries about Murdoch.

Dr Martin Brueckner was a keynote speaker at the Mandurah Future Vehicles Expo and spoke about rethinking mobility in the 21st Century.

The expo demonstrated the latest in future transport technologies and hosted a number of guest speakers on a range of topics including electric and driverless vehicles, trackless trams, fuel cell vehicles and the hydrogen economy.

Dr Megan Paull and Dr Sally Paulin presented findings from The Jacaranda Project to an audience of volunteer managers from the aged care sector at Volunteering WA on the 12th of June 2019.

The presentation was a precursor to the provision of the final report on the pilot project looking at volunteering in aged care settings. Partner organisations Southcare, Juniper, Amana Living and Volunteering WA,

New Economy Network Australia - Annual Conference:

Description: This conference will discuss going beyond paradigms when looking at unique and urgent challenges facing humanity. Some of the key themes include; brilliant cities, positive futures, converging technologies, and full-spectrum wellbeing.

When: 4th to the 7th of October 2019

Where: UWA Business School
35 Stirling Highway
Perth, WA 6009

More details: Go to
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/beyond-paradigms-the-rena-new-economy-network-australia-2019-conference-tickets-66540978859>

Other news:

The Centre was recently bequeathed artwork from artist Gwen Velge, entitled *Clouds of Jupiter*.

It depicts the Alcoa residual drying area (mud lakes) of the company's Kwinana alumina refinery. The entire exhibition can be found at: <https://www.gwenvelge.com/>

International student visitor:

Since June, Nilay Tulukcu has been a research associate with the center for one year after having been awarded a scholarship from the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey. Her PhD is focused on the interaction between forest law and mining contracts in Turkey and Australia.

along with reference group members and other interested parties provided valuable feedback on the potential future directions of this research project.

Dr Martin Brueckner was an invited presenter at the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council Workshop in Broome 9-10 May, at the invitation of Council Chair Dr Anne Poelina.

With the support of the Pew Charitable Trusts, Martin presented on 'social license to operate' to council members. The Martuwarra Council was formed in 2018 by Traditional Owners in Western Australia's Kimberley region to help manage the Fitzroy River.

"The Council seek to safeguard the future of the Fitzroy are consistent with those of many other Aboriginal groups, who have long been dissatisfied with mainstream approaches to managing Australia's major river catchments. The new Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council wants to ensure that lessons are learned from experiences in the Murray-Darling Basin, where the environment has been severely degraded and Aboriginal nations were previously excluded from land and water management. A 12-member delegation from the new council met with WA departmental heads in Perth this week, to advocate for support for the new management structure and the peoples who share custodianship of the river, known as Mardoowarra or Martuwarra in the Nyikina language. The Council also called for a moratorium on all future water allocations until a catchment-wide management plan is in place" (Source: The Conversation. 2018. "New river council will give traditional owners in the Kimberley a unified voice").

CRCS members are part of a group of academics supporting the work of the Council by way of research and advocacy. Work is currently underway to formalise the relationship between the CRCS and the Council.

Dr Martin Brueckner was an invited speaker at the Nextgen Challenge to speak on sustainability in business at a student event held at Murdoch University on the 10th of June 2019.

Nextgen is a week-long challenge during which students explored key concepts and ideas around starting their own business to solve a current problem in their community. The ideas were developed using contemporary business planning tools, with students presenting business plans, financial forecasts, pitch decks, marketing collateral and more to prove the viability of their business. More info at: <http://illuminateeducation.com.au/nextgen/>

Dr Megan Paull was in invited co-facilitator of the annual "TEN STARS" employability workshop at the STARS conference in Melbourne on July 10th 2019.

The TEN STARS workshop is a gathering of "The Employability Network", a group of scholars who come together to discuss graduate employability at the annual STARS conference. Megan presented on the role of expectations in Work Integrated Learning arrangements, referring to a recent project on work placements for engineering students led by Associate Professor Natalie Lloyd at UTS and to the OLT funded research for the Volunteering to Learn project <https://www.murdoch.edu.au/projects/volunteeringtolearn/>. Megan also presented on the NCSEHE study on Access to WIL in Engineering in the main STARS conference.

Still Developing Northern Australia ... on local terms?

On the importance of unorthodox, Indigenous-led development in the Kimberley region

The Kimberley region is vast and fragile and can be seen as one of the country's last frontiers with its environment still largely intact and Indigenous culture, customs and laws still strong. However, some see this area as widely underdeveloped with repeated attempts by governments to open the region up to extractive industries such as mining, agriculture and tourism. The latest attempt has been by the McGowan state government who has been pushing for energy companies to "go west for gas".

While this orthodox form of development is still believed to allow regional communities to thrive, it is worth asking, however, whether it may cause more harm than good by repeating past mistakes and ignoring local aspirations and existing economies.

Reasons to consider alternative/unorthodox forms of development:

- Australia is highly vulnerable when it comes to environmental change and is already beginning to experience some ill-effects in the form of drought, flooding, storms and mass fish kills; these effects are expected to worsen if trends continue. In contrast, the pockets of land that either show no or only little signs of degradation, both nationally and internationally, are managed by First Nation peoples, who can offer viable alternatives to mainstream practices of land management.
- Western science has long ignored Indigenous knowledge. Yet, the value of 50,000 years of Aboriginal experience with environmental change is now being recognised within the fields of climate change and climate change adaptation. This is important as Aboriginal insights would allow for effective land management due to their experiences and connection to country, with the sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services being enshrined in Aboriginal mythology, laws and customs. This is in stark contrast with Western cultures who tend to have adopted counterproductive forms of development.
- Indigenous people are some of the world's oldest traders and businesspeople and can therefore teach us a lot about commerce and economics. Culturally, acceptable forms of wealth creation involve the equal coming together of family, community and profit making. This can be contrasted with the 'profit first' mentality of many Western businesses and orthodox developers.

It is no wonder that the traditional owners within the Kimberley, such as the members of The Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council are concerned about development interests in their resource-rich region. Council members seek to ensure culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable forms of development along the Fitzroy catchment. They have recently rejected plans to by the Western Australian state government to allocate water rights to pastoralists in the region. This does not mean the Council is anti-development, they just insist that development proceeds with caution and delivers economic benefits without the usual socio-cultural and ecological trade-offs. There are many lessons to be learnt from past failures such as the Ord River Irrigation Scheme and the Murray-Darling plan. These examples highlight the need to actively listen to Indigenous communities about the development of Australia's North and be responsive to their knowledge about land and sea management.

(Source: Abridged and modified version of recent submission by Martin Brueckner to The Conversation)



CRCS Member Profile

CRCS Staff: Charles Roche

What is the focus of your PhD and what has been your motivation for doing it?

The story behind Charles' PhD is a long one. He was inspired, but some may say driven, to learn new ways of knowing about, and responding to, the impacts of the extractive industries on local peoples. His motivation grew from over fifteen years of engagement in mining development issues, which included the Tuart Forest at Busselton in the 1990s and the McArthur River mine in the Northern Territory. Both of these engagements were through and with local environment groups, but they also included an awareness of the social justice issues relating to industrial mining and the challenges facing Indigenous people. These experiences and lessons lead Charles to join the Mineral Policy Institute in 2009, a civil society organisation that works on mineral justice issues around the world but has a long and ongoing focus on mining in Papua New Guinea (PNG). During this time, Charles became frustrated as he witnessed, heard and read about repeated injustices and the terrible multi-generational impacts of industrial mining. At the same time, he also knew that traditional approaches to overcoming development injustices rarely delivered the magnitude of change required and that the same drivers of the same injustices kept repeating, with little regard for those impacted.



So, Charles decided to come to Murdoch University to learn more about industrial mining and extractive industries, with a special focus on communities that live nearby or downstream from mining projects. Charles attempted to set aside what he thought he knew and start from the beginning by reading a range of perspectives including: the commons; development; corporate social responsibility; ethics and de/colonisation just to name a few. Charles was thankful to have very understanding supervisors who encouraged this wide-ranging exploration. PNG was also very interesting to Charles as it is the site of many mining operations and anthropological studies making it a hotspot for learning about the globalised extractive industry. Rather than having a particular question or focus, Charles' PhD follows a participant action-research (PAR) methodology, with a focus on what is and might happen, rather than a study of past events. The lenses that are being applied might be useful to the Wafi and Watut communities who stand to be impacted by the proposed Wafi-Golpu mine. Above all, Charles knew that the research needed to be useful; informing, and be able to give a voice to, affected communities.

As the end of his PhD is in sight, Charles has become more confident in saying what his PhD is all about. To date, Charles has published two papers in the *Journal of Extractive Industries and Society*. The first, *Human flourishing and extractive-led development; "The mine will give me whatever I like"* uses a non-western infused application of eudaimonia, translated as human flourishing (*gutpla sindaun* in PNG) which questions whether industrial mining adds or diminishes local well-being. The second, *Extractive Dispossession; "I am not happy our land will go, we will have no better life"* describes eleven factors of Extractive Dispossession that impact local peoples, it too is based on international examples and community contributions. The third and fourth articles are in preparation, one focusing on the superficiality of project impact assessment, the other is a statement of values about local life, connected by a river that embraces and defines the village of Venembeli; both use art drawn onsite and by community co-researchers.

Charles wanted to acknowledge his team and say that while a PhD is primarily the work of one, it doesn't mean you have to do it alone. Howard Sindana and Nawasio Walim have been his long time (prior to his PhD) PNG co-conspirators, field researchers, friends and co-authors. More recently they were joined by Eugene John, an artist and teacher who has helped broaden their engagement and use art as a medium for engagement and research. In Perth, Charles' supervisors and co-authors are Martin Brueckner and Rochelle Spencer, who together provide a beautiful mix of skills and provide insights and guidance.

What have you been doing outside your PhD over the last 18 months?

For Charles, there have been a few distractions to his research, with the most significant being his life and family which has caused a few delays. However, his first major research distraction was a report on mining legacies in Australia for the Mineral Policy Institute, titled *Ground Truths; Taking responsibility for Australia's mining legacies* (2016), which built upon previous published work. The second distraction or better labelled, opportunity saw Charles become the lead author for a UNEP rapid assessment report entitled *Mine Tailings Storage: safety is no accident* (2017). This also prompted related presentations at; the *Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development* (2017) in Geneva, Switzerland; and as session chair for the *Taking Action to Reduce Pollution in the Extractive Sector* at the UN Environment Assembly (2017) in Nairobi, Kenya; and the *UNEP Mine Waste Initiative* (2018), Vancouver, Canada. Most recently, Charles was invited to Korea to present at the *Mine Tailings Symposium* (2019), which allowed him to draw upon parts of both publications as well as using the ideas on mining and society that he had developed during his PhD candidature.

What impact do you think you are having?

Charles found this question particularly hard to answer in a few words and may have even inspired a potential fifth paper that reflexively examines the outcomes and methodology of his research. However, he did try and attempt to answer it. Firstly, he suggested that his distractions have been valuable as they have exposed him to, and highlighted Murdoch University in, an international forum. Along the way, Charles' writing and collaboration skills have improved which have aided the development and publication of journal articles.

The main focus for Charles has been PNG. On a positive note, the PAR approach has enabled his team to share information with communities as they learnt from them. Charles has heard individual stories where his team's research has changed the way people see mining, with more people willing to challenge the omnipresent monolith that dominates current and future life. The team has also grown through interactions with PNG members, who Charles suggested will be a positive force for change for years to come. Charles has invited the company to participate in the research and hopes that positive opportunities can be developed for how mining-related problems can be seen and solved.

On a less positive note, with 40 years spent waiting for mining development in PNG, multiple generations are unable to comprehend a future that does not revolve around industrial mining. This means they often do not see the valuable components of life that contribute to their individually defined human flourishing, nor does the mining company see them as the focus on what is important to them. At the same time, the processes of assessment and approval practically exclude the community, especially women, from access to information and a role in decision-making that will affect individual and community well-being for generations to come. As Charles wrote from Venembeli (PNG) during a rainy wet and quiet research day, he is saddened about the inability of the extractive industry to learn from each other or from published research. For it is this inability to learn or improve that is at the heart of the poor outcomes we witness elsewhere and are already preceding the development of the Wafi-Golpu mine.

To conclude, Charles said that he was able to reflect using these questions and found them useful for collecting his thoughts about his own research. As Charles wrote, *Mi lookim yu sumpla taim* (I'll see you later).