A high-angle photograph of a train station platform. A long, silver train is stopped at the platform. The platform has a green roof and is bordered by a stone wall. In the background, there are trees and a building with a green roof. The image is overlaid with large red letters 'U' in the top left, 'O' in the center, and 'W' in the bottom right.

U

School of  
Geography and  
Sustainable  
Communities  
Research  
Report  
2016/17

O



UNIVERSITY  
OF WOLLONGONG  
AUSTRALIA

W



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“  
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and exploratory  
methods ...”



# Introduction

Geographical research has never been more important in a context of contemporary societal and environmental problems. The School of Geography and Sustainable Communities at the University of Wollongong (UOW) has an international reputation for undertaking world-class research. The Australian Centre of Cultural Environmental Research (AUSCCER), housed within the School, focuses on improving our understanding of transformations occurring within the environment, economies, cities and societies in general. The research conducted in the School aims to support public policy design and better decision making through a range of knowledge exchange and community engagement activities.

Geographical research at UOW is theoretically informed and empirically rigorous. We are known for our in-depth, ethnographic fieldwork that often involves the development of novel and exploratory methods for interpretations of what people say, do and experience. The research conducted in the School of Geography and Sustainable Communities, via AUSCCER, focusses on changes needed to offer alternative and innovative solutions to social and environmental problems, notably with a focus on social justice, climate change and sustainability. These changes involve building inter-disciplinary collaborative research teams that offer alternative approaches to governance and policy alongside changes in behaviour and technology. Our annual report offers a flavour of the research conducted in the School. You can find out more about our research through our School and AUSCCER web-pages (<http://socialsciences.nsw.edu.au/dgsc/index.html> and <http://socialsciences.nsw.edu.au/dgsc/index.html>) and individual research profiles at UOW Scholars (<https://scholars.uow.edu.au/>).

I hope you find the information in this research profile document interesting. Feel free to contact me or any of our staff if you want to conduct research with us or commission us to undertake research for you.

**Professor Gordon Waitt**  
Head of School,  
School of Geography and Sustainable Communities



# Our Research

## Our Values

The School of Geography and Sustainable Communities at UOW has 16 geographers who seek to understand and improve the ways people interact with both natural and constructed environments.

We are interested in both everyday environments and extraordinary situations such as bushfires and shark attacks on ocean users. Because we work very closely with our research students our group is larger, extending to nearly 40 geographers in total. We value basic research that extends our understanding of the world, but we also value research that, by design or through serendipity, affects the world and is impactful (hopefully for the better). We value academic freedom and seek, through our individual and collective research, to answer pressing questions about our society and environment.

“  
*We aim for integrity and professionalism in all we do, and seek to instil the same in our higher degree students.*”

For instance, how does capitalism use the biophysical world and can it really be ‘greened’?; how can households contribute to less environmentally destructive ways of living?; how might cities be transformed to produce more just and sustainable outcomes?; and how can we live better with non-human species that are both threatened and threatening? We value curiosity, innovation and risk-taking. We maintain that all research contains value judgements and that reflexivity is essential in all we do. We value collegiality, recognising that individual success relies on the mutual support we provide each other. We value field work highly, and seek to test, extend and create theory on the basis of a deep understanding of people, place and region. We aim to be authentic in our research and engagement with our various informants and partners. We value diversity of outlook, both in our research group and among those who we conduct research on and with. We value critical thinking and so avoid orthodoxies in favour of heterodoxy and debate. We recognise, and frequently work with, those whose voices often go unheard in social, economic and political life. We aim to enrich our own discipline, Geography, while also seeking to shape thinking in cognate disciplines. We aim for integrity and professionalism in all we do, and seek to instil the same in our higher degree students.

## Our Goals

As researchers and educators we seek to achieve a number of important goals. We want our research to advance debate and understanding in Geography and related disciplines across the globe. Quality scholarship is a key ambition. We also want our research to be a force for good in the world, especially in the Australian context in which many of us work. We aim to shed new light on issues and to highlight the views, knowledge and actions of those who may be relatively powerless to influence social

life or environmental policy. Where appropriate, we seek to propose and enact new measures to make the world a more socially just and environmentally responsible place. We disseminate our research in a variety of arenas and we value books, peer reviewed papers, reports, blogs and other communicative media in equal measure, recognising that all are necessary to reach a range of audiences. We work closely with our research students and set ambitious goals for them. We aim to infuse our undergraduate teaching with insights and examples from our own research, as well as that of colleagues around the world.

## Our Current and Future Research

Today, Geography at Wollongong has entered a new phase. Since late 2013 we have appointed new early career staff (Andrew Warren, Chris Brennan-Horley, Christine Eriksen, Thomas Birtchnell, Scott McKinnon, Nicole Cook and Anja Kanngieser), as well as two professors (Noel Castree and Pauline McGuirk). Augmenting our well-established expertise in cultural environmental research, cultural economy and Indigenous geographies are new clusters of researchers and activities, including significant strands in urban and economic geography, and disaster studies. Geography at Wollongong is now much larger, and more diverse, than a decade ago. Yet, there are some significant commonalities of research interest among our staff and research students, notably human engagements with the animate and inanimate world in both everyday and extraordinary situations, and in both urban and rural settings (including coastal areas).

## CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS OF OUR STAFF:

- Urban and regional restructuring in Australia
- Sustainable transitions to ‘post-carbon’ societies
- Political economies of environmental change
- Immigration and community cohesion
- Housing, quality of life and place
- Corporeal engagements with the non-human
- Managing ‘troublesome’ non-human species
- Natural hazard preparedness and response



# Researcher Profiles



**DR ANJA KANNGIESER**

**VICE-CHANCELLOR’S POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW,  
SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

Dr Anja Kanngieser is a political geographer and sound artist who looks at how grassroots communities in Europe and the Asia-Pacific Region respond to environmental, social and political adversity such as Climate Change.

Her current project brings together oral testimony, field recording and data sonification (use of sound to represent information) to draw attention to the ways frontline communities in the Pacific determine their own conditions of living, organising and moving in the face of global environmental change.

As an example of her use of data

sonification, Dr Kanngieser is working with citizen scientists, local organisations and activists in the three Pacific Island nations of Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Fiji (all in the front line of sea level rise) to translate community-sourced ocean data into sound, in order to communicate with wider audiences.

Her project is showcased in an Arts and Humanities Research Council Leadership grant led by Professor Harriet Hawkins (Royal Holloway, University of London) on the use of creative methods to address global environmental change.

Among her key collaborators are

Professor Hawkins and Dr Nic Beuret (University of Essex). Artistically, she collaborates with Polly Stanton (RMIT) and Dr Holly Ingleton (London College of Communication).

Dr Kanngieser’s work has been funded through the Economic and Social Research Council, and the British Academy/Leverhulme (UK) and the Australian Research Council. Her artistic practice has been funded by the Live Art Development Agency and Arts Administration (UK) and by Liquid Architecture and ABC Radio National. Her most recent radio work was Jury Nominated for the Prix Ars Electronica.



**DR LEAH GIBBS**

**SENIOR LECTURER,  
SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AND  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

Keeping both people and sharks safe as they share the ocean environment is a key focus of research for Dr Leah Gibbs.

How do we make decisions about nature and what are the social, cultural and environmental implications of those decisions? For instance, people and sharks.

Dr Gibbs’ work on people and nature examines this very question—specifically the meanings, values and relationships that people form and associate with nature.

She also works on interdisciplinary research on how we might bring together different traditions of thought and

practice to better understand and address problems.

Dr Gibbs is interested in how we might best negotiate shark hazards and ocean use, and find appropriate methods for keeping people safe and protecting sharks and other marine life. This work has contributed to public debate and a parliamentary inquiry.

Dr Gibbs is currently enjoying working on an interdisciplinary project focusing on managing shark species that are both potentially threatening to people and recognised as threatened species. She highlights a big challenge as finding appropriate, effective, and ethical methods for protecting people and sharks,

and responding to shark incidents.

Dr Gibbs is fascinated by learning about problems from different perspectives. She believes that by bringing diverse understandings into conversation it helps us to understand the complexity of social and environmental problems, and look for creative approaches for overcoming them.

Before coming to UOW, Dr Gibbs worked in the UK at the Universities of Glasgow and Sheffield. At UOW, Dr Gibbs is also the Head of Postgraduate Studies for the School of Geography and Sustainable Communities. Beyond UOW she is a Councillor for the peak national body for the discipline of Geography, the Institute of Australian Geographers.



**PROFESSOR PAULINE MCGUIRK**

**HEAD OF RESEARCH,  
SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AND  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

As an urban political geographer, Professor Pauline McGuirk is helping reveal how urban transformations—from urban regeneration, to energy transition, to developing smart cities—are crucial to creating more just and sustainable futures.

Her particular focus is the governance of cities. The research she undertakes traces the alliances, territories and practices involved in governing different aspects of the city, and the political outcomes associated with these aspects.

Professor McGuirk’s current work has three strands: (1) exploring the diverse actors and practices involved in realising urban regeneration to consider how we can promote more just, inclusionary forms of urban regeneration; (2) the critical role of cities — materially, socially and politically — in governing energy

transitions, and (3) new research on the emerging geographies of smart cities in Australia, considering how making cities ‘smart’ might transform them and their governance.

Professor McGuirk has had a longstanding academic collaboration with Professor Robyn Dowling (University of Sydney), and has recently been working with Professor Harriet Bulkeley (Durham University), Associate Professor Kathy Mee (University of Newcastle) and Associate Professor Kristian Ruming (Macquarie University).

The key funding source for her research has been the Australian Research Council. Professor McGuirk has had 10 ARC grants (7 Discovery and 3 Linkages). The Linkage partners have been government agencies – NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet and NSW Housing.

Professor McGuirk recently received funding through the UrbanGrowth NSW Universities Framework Agreement which was set up to support research aimed at enhancing urban policy and urban transformation projects. She is also part of a team at UOW, CSIRO, UNSW and the Co-operative Research Centre for Low Carbon Living which has received funding from the Office of Environment and Heritage for a Research Node on Energy Efficiency Decision-Making.

Professor McGuirk is an Editor of the leading journal, *Progress in Human Geography*. She was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences in 2016.



**DR ANDREW WARREN**

**LECTURER,  
SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AND  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

The acoustic guitar industry has traditionally been reliant on a small range of tropical rainforest timbers which are now increasingly scarce. So how does the industry adjust to this situation?

As an economic geographer, this is the sort of question at the heart of a project now being explored by Dr Andrew Warren.

He is particularly interested in understanding the drivers of, and responses to, industrial change. In regard to the acoustic guitar, Dr Warren said that the timbers required are now increasingly scarce and the global trade more strictly regulated.

He is collaborating on the project with Professor Chris Gibson and they have benefited from the research assistance of Nicole Michielin and the Faculty of Social Sciences’ former Executive Dean John Steele who is a passionate woodworker himself.

The researchers have developed a clearer understanding of how manufacturers successfully transition to more sustainable resource use, which in Dr Warren’s case involves a process stretching from the trees to final guitar consumers. The research has also highlighted the ‘material knowledge’ developed around timber by workers in the industry and how this ensures the resource is used productively.

Dr Warren said these skills and practices are crucial for a future where society must do more with less. The researchers have built links with colleagues in the Department of Geography at the University of Hawaii and University of British Columbia.

Dr Warren and Professor Gibson are currently in the process of writing a book based on the research, which should be finished in early 2018.

For field work and data analysis, Dr Warren has received a Faculty of Social Sciences Early Career Researcher Award and funding from the Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research (AUSCCER) which is a strategic research strength of UOW.



# Research With Impact



## DR CHRISTINE ERIKSEN

**SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW,  
SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AND  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

Removing critical obstacles to bushfire preparedness, response and recovery is being significantly aided by research undertaken by Dr Christine Eriksen.

Dr Eriksen sees clear evidence of how a gender divide in activities at time of death during a bushfire historically correlates with the plans of actions of men and women during bushfires.

By bringing natural hazards into dialogue with cultural geography, Dr Eriksen has become an internationally recognised leader in the field of disaster geographies.

Her research focuses on social dimensions of natural disasters at scales ranging from individual households and community networks to official management agencies. Essentially, she examines how people engage with social and environmental uncertainty in everyday life.

Dr Eriksen's collaborative work crosses interdisciplinary teams of human and physical geographers, ecologists, sociologists, engineers, Indigenous land stewards, disaster researchers and practitioners.

Her book, *Gender and Wildfire: Landscapes of Uncertainty* (2014), is a cutting edge exploration of how intersecting social characteristics affect coping capacity. She argues, for example, that the bushfire emergency in Australia is not just an environmental crisis but rather it has social, ethical and political causes hidden in embedded vulnerability, social norms and institutional structures.

Her research has triggered a range of media interest with a large focus on why gender matters in emergency management.

During 2015-2016, Dr Eriksen was an invited expert committee member on an initiative by the Association for Fire Ecology to examine gender discrimination and sexual harassment within the wildland fire profession internationally. A Position Paper with accompanying info-graphic was published in December 2016, resulting in an invited written testimony to a US Congressional Hearing on the topic.

invited to set up a similar project on donated farmland near Nowra.

Dr Klocker tackles confronting and sometimes controversial topics. Her earliest research explored racism directed towards refugees in Australia at the height of controversy surrounding asylum seekers.

She has also confronted the often distressing topic of the exploitation of female child workers in one of the world's poorest countries – Tanzania. To achieve this, Dr Klocker relocated overseas and volunteered with an international child rights Non-Government Organisation. She learnt to speak Swahili, developed an ambitious action research project to document the experiences of child workers and employed former child workers as co-researchers.

She is also Chief Investigator on a gender equity project – Visible Parenting in the Workplace – which is funded by UOW Global Challenges.

Having fled violent conflict in their homeland, and subsequently spending several years living in refugee camps in neighbouring African countries, many of the former refugees that Dr Klocker spoke to wanted to find opportunities to farm in Australia. Dr Klocker and other members of the research team organised a workshop alongside key local organisations, the Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council and Mildura Development Corporation.

A successful pilot and collaboration with Sunraysia Local Food Future has led to the Food Next Door project, which aims to provide similar support for other landless farmers from diverse backgrounds. Dr Klocker and her colleagues have been



## DR NATASCHA KLOCKER

**SENIOR LECTURER,  
SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AND  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

Dr Natascha Klocker leaves little doubt that she has earned her reputation as a committed action researcher.

Having led a successful Australian Research Council Discovery Project on cultural diversity for environmental sustainability, she is currently developing her latest action research agenda with partners in rural Mildura, a regional city on the banks of the Murray River.

Along with colleagues from the University of Melbourne (Professor Lesley Head and Dr Olivia Dun), she has gained access to unused farmland for refugees with skills and aspirations in food cultivation to address problems of unemployment, food security and marginalisation.



## PROFESSOR CHRIS GIBSON

**SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AND SUSTAINABLE  
COMMUNITIES AND INAUGURAL DIRECTOR OF  
THE UOW GLOBAL CHALLENGES PROGRAM**

From the Elvis Festival in Parkes to Trundle's ABBA Festival, Professor Chris Gibson's long-term research into the role these festivals play has had a major impact on regional areas of Australia, both socially and economically.

Those who have benefited from his research have included the tourism and special events sectors who have put in place more effective planning and programming.

Professor Gibson's findings revealed the true value of such cultural events and, at the same time, revealed the nationwide extent and significance of associated volunteer labour.

He led a Federal Government-funded project entitled, 'Reinventing Rural Places: The Extent and Significance of Rural and Regional Festivals in Australia'. The project's public report was distributed in hard copy to more than 1,000 festival directors, tourism authorities, arts organisations and relevant government agencies.

Professor Gibson and his colleagues revealed for the first time a detailed return on investment analysis and economic evaluation of regional and rural festivals. It has led, for example, to the NSW

Government supporting paid festival co-ordinators for community festivals throughout regional NSW. The initial findings triggered widespread media coverage.

The research also provided a template for assessing festivals' extent and significance internationally.

Parkes, which has recently celebrated its 25th anniversary Elvis Festival, benefited from Professor Gibson's longitudinal research and annual tailored reports. They helped improve individual events, leading to growth in visitor numbers, incomes and job creation. The Elvis Festival has grown from 4,000 attendees to more than 25,000.

Coinciding with the 25th anniversary, Professor Gibson and Professor John Connell from the University of Sydney captured the festival's origin story in their book, *Outback Elvis: The Story of a Festival, Its Fans and a Town Called Parkes* (published by NewSouth Publishing).

Professor Gibson said a large number of people who attended the festival in Parkes were not even Elvis fans but for them the festival has replaced the traditional role played by the agricultural show and the B&S ball in a country town.

He said the event was so large it brought in people from around the world into the 'party town'. Young people might not have the connection to Elvis but were there for the atmosphere.

Neighbouring communities have taken note of Parkes. Trundle, population 666, has for the past few years held an annual ABBA Festival, dedicated to the most famous pop band to come out of Sweden. Kandos, population 1,300, is attempting to bring the sounds of smooth reggae and steel drums to regional NSW with an annual Bob Marley Festival. And every September, Broken Hill features three days of disco drag and divas with a festival dedicated to the beloved Australian film, *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. September is also the month when Bowral holds its long-running Tulip Festival.

Professor Gibson has published more than 100 academic papers and 10 books on diverse topics – from the social and economic contributions of festivals to regional communities, to the history and geography of niche industries including music, surfboard-making and guitar manufacturing.

He was instrumental in establishing the Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research (AUSCCER) at UOW. From 2010-2013 he was an inaugural ARC Future Fellow, and in 2013 was an international expert contributor to the UN Creative Economy Report. He is currently Editor-in-Chief of the academic journal, *Australian Geographer*.



“  
Rainwater tanks have been identified as a potential household scale solution to the biophysical and social impacts of drought in many regions of Australia.”

# Research Students



## CARRIE WILKINSON

**PHD RESEARCH STUDENT,  
SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AND  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

In light of projected variations to weather patterns from climate change, Geography PhD student Carrie Wilkinson, has examined how a range of regional households may fare who depend on water from rainwater tanks.

Australia's climate has long been characterised by highly variable rainfall patterns, and an intensified cycle of drought and flood is seemingly imminent under projected climate change models.

Ms Wilkinson's research aims to learn from the everyday water relations of individuals, households, and communities who subsist on non-mains (non-reticulated) water sources in regional NSW.

Specifically, her research is concerned with the social-spatial-material relations that comprise households that rely on water from a rainwater tank for everyday domestic needs.

Rainwater tanks have been identified as a potential household scale solution to the biophysical and social impacts of drought in many regions of Australia. However, research on water tanks, which informs public policy and academic debate, focuses almost exclusively on households in urban areas where the water tank supplements an existing mains water connection and householders are actively told by authorities not to drink their tank water.

By taking seriously the vitality of water tanks and tank water, her project aims to contribute to a better understanding of the vulnerabilities, resilience and adaptive capacities of households that are self-sufficient with water in the context of a changing climate.

Ms Wilkinson's thesis is entitled 'Saving water for a rainy day: living with water tanks and tank water in a changing climate'. Her Principal Supervisor is Dr Leah Gibbs and Co-Supervisor is Professor Gordon Waitt.

Her research has been conducted with the support of the Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship.



## CHARLES GILLON

**PHD RESEARCH STUDENT,  
SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AND  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

Home ownership is one of the great Australian dreams – but is it really a reality?

Geography PhD research student Charles Gillon has explored how owner-occupation takes shape in everyday lives.

By examining the experiences of people moving in to a new housing development, Mr Gillon focuses on looking closely at the process of housing. It includes how people choose which homes to build, how they set up their homes, how they let in different types of nature and excluded others, and how people funded their homes.

His research shows that sometimes even ideal homeowners were living uncomfortably – being surprised by how their houses change over time, how they live with debt, and how they compromise on their dream.

The aim of his project is to explore lived experiences of the Australian property dream by looking at an ideal scenario – large, detached homes in a newly-built housing development on the coastline in Sydney.

Mr Gillon said that researching the lived experiences of housing, and practices of choosing and building houses, could help to question bigger problems around housing tenure (expectations of ownership, but rising unaffordability), and housing type (detached homes are still desired, but policy/planning moves towards apartment living) in Australia.

The title of Mr Gillon's thesis is 'Houses built on sand: Rethinking cultures of homemaking, nature and finance in a coastal master-planned estate'.

His research supervisors are Dr Leah Gibbs and Professor Chris Gibson.

Mr Gillon's research has been supported by an Australian Postgraduate Award.



# Awards & Professional Service

## Awards

**MICHAEL ADAMS**  
2017 Winner Calibre International Writing Prize  
[www.australianbookreview.com.au/prizes/calibre-prize](http://www.australianbookreview.com.au/prizes/calibre-prize)

**CHRIS BRENNAN-HORLEY**  
2015 University of Wollongong Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Interdisciplinary Research. Awarded for his role in: Research and Action to Pioneer Dementia-Friendly Communities and Organisations (\$50,000) with Dr Lyn Phillipson, Dr Ellen Skladzien (Alzheimer’s Australia), Professor Richard Fleming, Professor Sandra Jones, Associate Professor Peter Caputi, Professor Chris Cook and Professor Andrew Bonney, Associate Professor Helen Hasan and Dr Chris McGee, funded through UOW Global Challenges

**NICOLE COOK**  
2015 Excellence in Teaching Award, School of Geography, University of Melbourne

**ANJA KANNGIESER**  
2017 Nomination for the Digital Music and Sound Art Award, Prix Ars Electronica; 2013 Progress in Human Geography early career scholar best paper prize for her article ‘A sonic geography of voice’

**NATASCHA KLOCKER**  
2016 University of Wollongong ‘Woman of Impact’ Award for outstanding contributions to research at UOW as part of the Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) program ([www.uow.edu.au/research/woi](http://www.uow.edu.au/research/woi)); 2015 UOW Faculty of Social Sciences Early Career Researcher Prize

**PAULINE MCGUIRK**  
2016 Fellow of the Australian Academy of Social Science

**CHRISTINE ERIKSEN**  
2016 University of Wollongong ‘Woman of Impact’ Award for outstanding contributions to research at UOW as part of the Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) program ([www.uow.edu.au/research/woi](http://www.uow.edu.au/research/woi)); 2015 UOW Faculty of Social Sciences Early Career Researcher Prize

**GORDON WAITT**  
2016 Vice-Chancellor’s Interdisciplinary Research Excellence Award (Highly Commended), UOW. This award was for the ‘Energy+Illawarra Project’ that brought together the disciplinary expertise of engineers, social marketers and human geographers

2017 UOW Vice-Chancellor’s Researcher of the Year Award

**ANDREW WARREN**  
2015 Winner of the Australian Society for Sport History (ASSH) Book Award for his co-authored book, *Surfing Places, Surfboard Makers*

2015 Finalist Ka Palapala Po’okela Awards (Hawai’i Book of the Year, ‘Excellence in Nonfiction’ category); 2014 University of New England Vice-Chancellor’s Commendation for Teaching Excellence at Undergraduate level (for GEPL111, GEPL112, and GEPL345)

## Professional Service Contributions

**NOEL CASTREE**  
2010 - present. Managing Editor, *Progress in Human Geography* (Sage publications); 2017-20 Publications Committee member of the Association of American Geographers

**NICOLE COOK**  
July 2013-2016. Co-Convenor Urban Geography Study Group, Institute of Australian Geographers

**CHRISTINE ERIKSEN**  
2014–2016. Co-founder and Chair of the Hazards, Risks and Disasters Study Group, Institute of Australian Geographers; 2015–2016 Expert Committee Member for Association for Fire Ecology ‘Gender Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Wildland Fire Profession’ [[www.fireecology.org/page-1807009](http://www.fireecology.org/page-1807009)]

**CHRIS GIBSON**  
Editor-in-Chief, *Australian Geographer* (Taylor and Francis publications)

**LEAH GIBBS**  
2014-16 and 2016-18 Councillor of the Institute of Australian Geographers

**ANJA KANNGIESER**  
2016–2019 Editorial Board member, *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*

**NATASCHAL KLOCKER**  
Associate Editor, *Australian Geographer* (Taylor and Francis publications)

**PAULINE MCGUIRK**  
Editor, *Progress in Human Geography* (Sage publications); (2015–) Editorial board member of the peer review journals: *Geographical Research*; *Irish Geography*; *Geography Compass*; *Territory, Politics, Governance*; *Geographical Journal*

**SCOTT MCKINNON**  
Present Vice-President of Oral History New South Wales

**GORDON WAITT**  
2016 Co-Editor-in-Chief of the peer review journal Tourist Studies, Editorial Board member of Leisure Studies; 2016 Editorial Board member of Applied Mobilities; 2014

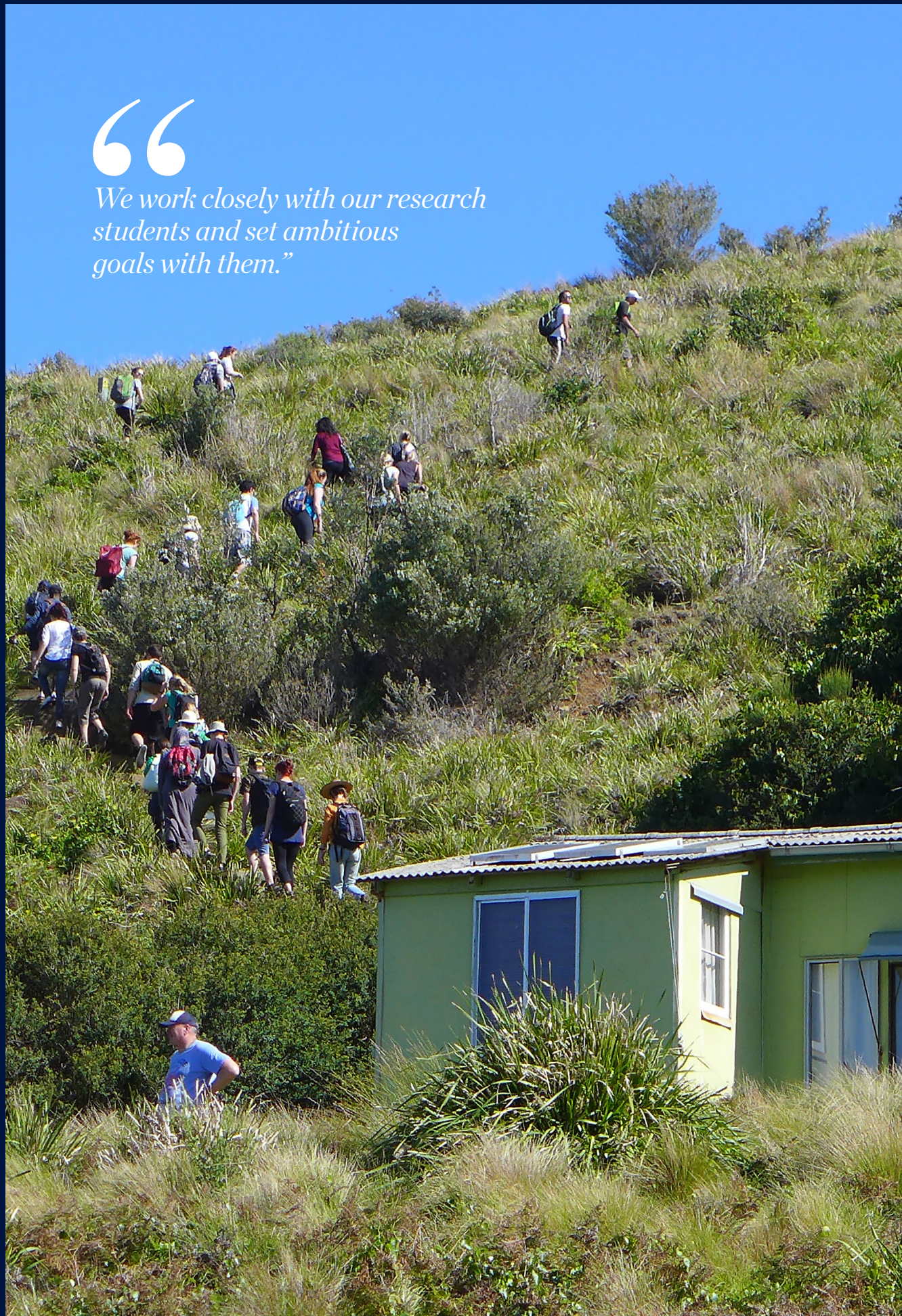
# Geography Staff

- ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MICHAEL ADAMS**
- DR THOMAS BIRTCHNELL**, Senior Lecturer
- DR CHRIS BRENNAN-HORLEY**, ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) Fellow
- PROFESSOR NOEL CASTREE**, Professor of Geography and Director of the Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research (AUSCCER)
- DR NICOLE COOK**, Lecturer
- DR CHRISTINE ERIKSEN**, Senior Research Fellow
- DR LEAH GIBBS**, Senior Lecturer
- PROFESSOR CHRIS GIBSON**, Professor of Human Geography and ARC Future Fellow
- ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR NICHOLAS GILL**
- DR ANJA KANNGIESER**, Vice-Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Fellow
- DR NATASCHA KLOCKER**, Senior Lecturer
- PROFESSOR PAULINE MCGUIRK**, Professor of Geography
- DR SCOTT MCKINNON**, Vice-Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Fellow
- PROFESSOR GORDON WAITT**, Head of School of Geography and Sustainable Communities
- DR ANDREW WARREN**, Lecturer



“

*We work closely with our research students and set ambitious goals with them.”*



# Geography Research Students

## CURRENT POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

**Lance Barrie** (PhD) ‘The embodied dimensions of endurance cycling and the formation of gendered cycling identities’. Supervisors Gordon Waitt and Chris Brennan-Horley.

**Rebecca Campbell** (PhD) ‘Food and kitchens as gendered household sustainability practice in Pacific Island migrant households’. Supervisors Gordon Waitt and Nicholas Gill.

**Chantel Carr** (PhD) ‘The Make Economy: contested geographies of design and production’. Supervisors Chris Gibson and Lesley Head.

**Susannah Clement** (PhD) ‘Walking together: child and parent pedestrian mobilities in Wollongong City centre’. Supervisors Gordon Waitt and Ian Buchanan.

**Freya Croft** (PhD) ‘Historical representations of oceans’. Supervisors Michael Adams and Jenny Atchison.

**Ryan Frazer** (PhD) ‘Thinking care through assemblage: the corporeal politics of volunteering with refugees’. Supervisors Gordon Waitt & Ian Buchanan.

**Charles Gillon** (PhD) ‘Houses built on sand: rethinking homemaking, materiality, and cultures of nature in a coastal master-planned estate’. Supervisors Leah Gibbs and Chris Gibson.

**Ananth Gopal** (PhD) ‘Growing cultures: cultivating culturally diverse ecological knowledge’. Supervisors Lesley Head and Natascha Klocker.

**Ren Hu** (PhD) ‘Australian agricultural restructuring and farmers’ responses: a case study of the Illawarra region, New South Wales’. Supervisors Nicholas Gill and Andrew Warren.

**Kiera Kent** (PhD) ‘Children’s play encounters: materiality and more-than-human theory’. Supervisors Leah Gibbs and Natascha Klocker.

**Sophie-May Kerr** (PhD) ‘Living with children in apartments: sharing, materials and space’. Supervisors Natascha Klocker and Chris Gibson.

**Shefali Juneja Lakhina** (PhD) ‘Resilient together: engaging the knowledge and capacities of refugees for a disaster resilient Illawarra’. Supervisors Christine Eriksen, Noel Castree and Nicholas Gill.

**Marc Llewellyn** (PhD) Project title to be determined. Supervisors Jenny Atchison and Nicholas Gill.

**M. Abdul Malak** (PhD) Project title to be determined. Supervisors Jenny Atchison and Noel Castree.

**Paul Marshall** (MEnvSc) ‘Examining the contribution of community nurseries’. Supervisors Lesley Head and Nicholas Gill.

**Shaun McKiernan** (PhD) ‘Management, agency and belonging: exploring invasive plant management in high amenity rural areas’. Supervisors Nicholas Gill and Jenny Atchison.

**Vivian Pham** (PhD) ‘Low-carbon retrofit for community housing and household resilience’. Supervisors Leah Gibbs, Gordon Waitt and Paul Cooper.

**Leigh Robinson** (PhD) ‘The highs and lows of the airport: volunteering in an intensely mobile space’. Supervisors Thomas Birtchnell and Peter Caputi.

**Inka Santala** (PhD) ‘Sharing Cities: new strategies for communal sharing’. Supervisors Pauline McGuirk and Chris Gibson.

**Nick Skilton** (PhD) ‘Privilege and marginalization in Australia’s national imaginary: constructions of mining and sex worker identities through technologies of power’. Supervisors Chris Gibson and Leah Gibbs.

**Elyse Stanes** (PhD) ‘Making space: young people’s routines of consumption and implications for the cultural economy of sustainability’. Supervisors Chris Gibson and Natascha Klocker.

**Razia Sultana** (PhD) ‘Urban Green Infrastructure in the Global South: adapting slums to climate change in Dhaka, Bangladesh’. Supervisors Thomas Birtchnell and Nicholas Gill.

**Alexander Tindale** (PhD) ‘Contesting the urban myth of ethnic segregation’. Supervisors Natascha Klocker, Chris Brennan-Horley and Chris Gibson.

**Stephanie Toole** (PhD) ‘Climate change adaptation in culturally-diverse Australian households’. Supervisors Natascha Klocker and Lesley Head.

**Justin Westgate** (PhD) ‘Responding to crisis: creative practices in volatile spaces’. Supervisor Chris Gibson and Anja Kanngieser.

**Carrie Wilkinson** (PhD) ‘Saving water for a rainy day: thinking through the materiality, agency and assemblage of water tanks and tank water in a changing climate’. Supervisors Leah Gibbs and Gordon Waitt.

**Adam Woods** (MPhil) ‘The applications and function of citizen science in growing community based knowledge’. Supervisors Nicholas Gill and Michael Adams.



# School of Geography and Sustainable Communities Awards 2016/17

## 2016

### INTERNAL FUNDING

**Project title: Experiencing Urban Environments through Pokémon Go**

Investigators: Thomas Birtchnell, Pauline McGuirk, Christopher Moore, and Pascal Perez.

Funding body: UOW Global Challenges Seed Funding

Year: 2016

Amount awarded: \$15,000

**Project title: Creative Earth Futures: “Making” other Environmental Futures Possible**

Investigators: Harriet Hawkins

Funding body: UOW Vice-Chancellor’s Visiting International Scholar Awards (VISA)

Year: 2016

Amount awarded: \$7,700

**Project title: Sounding Climate Change**

Investigators: Anja Kanngieser, Noel Castree, Leah Gibbs

Funding body: UOW Social Science Partnership Grant

Year: 2016

Amount awarded: \$5,362

**Project title: Triathlon and revitalisation of regional Australia**

Investigators: Gordon Waitt

Funding body: UOW SOC Near Miss Grant

Year: 2016

Amount awarded: \$12,000

**Project title: Greener Cities Healthier Lives: HIA**

Investigators: Thomas Astell-Burt , Xiaoqi Feng, Glenn Salkeld, Leonard Arnolda, Tony Okely, Alison Jones, David Steel, Simon Eckermann, Ping Yu, Dylan Cliff, Stewart Vella, and Christopher Brennan-Horley. External partner: Bin Jalaludin

Funding body: Global Challenges Project Funding

Year: 2016

Amount: \$30,000

**Project title: The long view: A scoping and capacity building project investigating the long-term range and efficacy of social and cultural responses to environmental disaster (2016)**

Investigators: A/Prof Anne Collett, Prof Lesley Cooper, Dr Christine Eriksen, and Dr Su Ballard

Funding body: Global Challenges Strategic Funding

Year: 2016

Amount: \$4,912

**Project title: Launching a blue economy**

Investigators: Michelle Voyer, Alistair McIlgorm, Robin Warner, Richard Kenchington, Pascal Perez, Mary Kaidonis, Shanaka Herath, Leah Gibbs, and Harriet Harden-Davies

Funding body: Global Challenges Strategic Funding

Year: 2016

Amount: \$5,000

**Project title: Finding the right flow: 3D printed fins for surfboards**

Investigators: Marc in het Panhuis, Andrew Warren, Buyung Kosasih, Julie Steele, Stephen Beirne, and Fletcher Thompson. External partner: Geoff Latimer

Funding body: Global Challenges Project Funding

Year: 2016

Amount: \$149,586

**Project title: Blue Carbon Futures: Mangrove Regeneration in Vietnam, Brazil and Australia**

Investigators: Rogers Kerrilee (CI), Jenny Atchison, Olivia Dunn, Mary Kaidonis, Robin Warner, Colin Woodroffe

Funding body: Global Challenges Project Funding

Year: 2016

Amount: \$\$73,786

### EXTERNAL FUNDING

**Project title: Blue Pathways - Sustaining India’s Coasts - Chingari Grant**

Investigators: Michael Adams

Funding body: Australia India Institute

Year: 2016

Amount awarded: \$4,000

**Project title: Robotics, Enhanced Humans and the Future of Work**

Investigators: Professor Anthony Elliott, Dr David Bissell, Dr Thomas Birtchnell, Professor John Urry

Funding body: Australian Research Council Discovery Project

Year: 2016

Amount: \$429,401

**Project title: Greener Cities Healthier Lives: Measuring the wider social benefits**

Investigators: Thomas Astell-Burt, Xiaoqi Feng, Dr Dylan Cliff, Tony Okely, Chris Brennan-Horley

Funding body: Horticulture Innovation Australia (HIA) Ltd

Year: 2016

Amount: \$881, 654

## 2017

### INTERNAL FUNDING

**Project title: Creating innovative research training environments for knowledge transformation**

Investigators: Honglin Chen, Kate Senior, Leah Gibbs, Wendy Nielsen and Peter Kelly

Funding body: UOW International Links Grants

Year: 2017

Amount awarded: \$19,970

**Project title: Project AIRSHIP: sharks, video imaging and the public perception of risk**

Investigators: Andy Davis, Kye Adams, Leah Gibbs, Wanqing Li, Allison Broad

Funding body: Global Challenges Seed Funding

Year: 2017

Amount: \$14,934

**Project title: Mapping the Islands: how art and science can save the Great Barrier Reef**

Investigators: Sarah Hamylton, Leah Gibbs, Lucas Ihlein, Kim Williams

Funding body: Global Challenges Seed Funding

Year: 2017

Amount: \$15,000

**Project title: The leadership a Gender: promoting future diversity**

Investigators: Lisa Thomas, Trish Mundy, Nina Reynolds, Ping Yu, Jenny Atchison, Leah Gibbs, Sharon Robinson, Lynn Sheridan

Funding body: Global Challenges Strategic Funding

Year: 2017

Amount: \$5,000

**Project title: Blue Carbon Futures – Improving Mangrove Carbon Sequestration in Australia and Brazil**

Investigators: Rogers Kerrilee (CI), Jenny Atchison, Colin Woodroffe, Robyn Warner, Mary Kaidonis, Quentin Hanich

Funding body: Global Challenges Project Funding

Year: 2017

Amount: \$50,000

### EXTERNAL FUNDING

**Project title: Resilient Together: engaging the knowledge and capacities of refugees for a disaster resilient Illawarra**

Investigators: Christine Eriksen

Funding body: NSW Office of Emergency Management

Year: 2017

Amount awarded: \$40,893

**Project title: Urban cultural policy and the changing dynamics of cultural production**

Investigators: Chris Gibson, Carl Grodach, Prof Justin O’Connor, Dr Xin Gu, Andrew Warren

Funding body: Australian Research Council Discovery Project

Year: 2017

Amount awarded: \$214,500

**Project title: Mapping the impact of social enterprise on regional city disadvantage**

Investigators: Jane Farmer, Josephine Barraket, Michael Roy, Dr Katharine McKinnon, Dr Sarah-Anne Munoz, Susan Kilpatrick, Christopher Brennan-Horley

Funding body: Australian Research Council Discovery Project

Year: 2017

Amount awarded: \$257,000

**Project title: When Disaster Strikes: under-insurance in an age of volatility**

Investigators: Kate Booth, Bruce Tranter, Christine Eriksen, Shaun French

Funding body: Australian Research Council Discovery Project

Year: 2017

Amount awarded: \$327,451

**Project title: Making Cities Smart: emergent geographies of smart urbanism**

Investigators: Robyn Dowling, Pauline McGuirk

Funding body: Australian Research Council Discovery Project

Year: 2017

Amount awarded: \$259,023



# Publications

## Selected Publications

### 1/ MICHAEL ADAMS

· Adams, M. (2015). One blood. *Seminar*, 673 19-23.

· Adams, M. (2017). Wild tradition: Hunting and nature in regional Sweden and Australia. In L. Head, K. Saltzman, G. Setten & M. Stenseke (Eds.), *Nature, Temporality and Environmental Management: Scandinavian and Australian perspectives on peoples and landscapes* (pp. 94-111). Abingdon, United Kingdom: Routledge.

### 2/ JENNIFER ATCHISON

· Atchison, J., Gibbs, L. & Taylor, E. (2017). Killing Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) as a Volunteer Practice: implications for community involvement in invasive species management and policy. *Australian Geographer*, 48 (3), 333-348.

· Adan, N., Atchison, J., Reis, M. S. & Peroni, N. (2016). Local Knowledge, Use and Management of Ethnovarieties of *Araucaria angustifolia* (Bert.) Ktze. in the Plateau of Santa Catarina, Brazil. *Economic Botany: devoted to applied botany and plant utilization*, 70 (4), 353-364.

### 3/ THOMAS BIRTCHNELL

· Birtchnell, T., Bohme, T. & Gorkin, R. (2016). 3D printing and the third mission: The university in the materialisation of intellectual capital. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, Online First 1-10.

· Birtchnell, T. & Urry, J. (2016). *A New Industrial Future? 3D Printing and the Reconfiguring of Production, Distribution, and Consumption*. Abingdon, United Kingdom: Routledge.

### 4/ CHRIS BRENNAN-HORLEY

· Cridland, E., Phillipson, L., Brennan-Horley, C. & Swaffer, K. (2016). Reflections and recommendations for conducting in-depth interviews with people with dementia. *Qualitative Health Research*, 26 (13), 1774-1786.

· Gibson, C. & Brennan-Horley, C. (2016). Putting the boot into creative cluster theory. In R. Shearmur, C. Carrincazeaux & D. Doloreux (Eds.), *Handbook on the Geographies of Innovation* (pp. 241-254). Cheltenham, United Kingdom: Edward Elgar Publishing.

### 5/ NOEL CASTREE

· Castree, N. (2017) ‘Global change science, social science and the humanities: towards a new dispensation’, *South Atlantic Quarterly* 116, 1: 55-67.

· Castree, N. (2017) ‘Unfree radicals: Geoscientists, the Anthropocene and Left politics’. *Antipode* 49, S1: 52-74.

### 6/ NICOLE COOK

· Cook, N. Davison, A. and Crabtree, L. (2016) Housing and Home Unbound: *Intersections in economics, politics and environment in Australia*. Routledge: Oxon

· Taylor, E. Cook, N. Hurley, J. (2016) ‘Do objections count? Estimating the influence of residents on housing development assessment in Melbourne’ *Urban Policy and Research* Published online 8 March 2016 DOI:10.1080/08111146.2015.1081845

### 7/ CHRISTINE ERIKSEN

· Eriksen, C. & Wilkinson, C. (2017). Examining perceptions of luck in post-bushfire sense-making in Australia. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 24 242-250.

· Eriksen, C. & Waitt, G. (2016). Men, masculinities and wildfire: embodied resistance and rupture. In E. Enarson & B. Pease (Eds.), *Men, Masculinities and Disaster* (pp. 69-80). Abingdon, United Kingdom: Routledge.

### 8/ LEAH GIBBS

· Gillon, C. and Gibbs, L. 2017 Selling surf and turf: throwntogetherness and real estate advertising on the suburbanising east Australian coastline. *Social and Cultural Geography* dx.doi.org/10.1080/14649365.2017.1328737

· Gibbs, L. 2017 ‘Sharks, nets and disputed territory in eastern Australia’ in Peters K. Steinberg P. and Stratford E. (Eds) *Territory Beyond Terra* Rowman & Littlefield International, London.

### 9/ CHRIS GIBSON

· Connell, J. and Gibson, C. (2017) *Outback Elvis: The story of a festival, its fans & a town called Parkes*. Sydney: NewSouth. ISBN: 978172235295

· Gibson, C. and Warren, A. (2017) Surfboard Making and Environmental Sustainability, in *Sustainable Surfing*, G. Bourne and J. Ponting (eds). Routledge: New York, pp. 87-104.

### 10/ NICHOLAS GILL

· Head, L., Gibson, C., Gill, N., Carr, C. & Waitt, G. (2016). A meta-ethnography to synthesise household cultural research for climate change response. *Local Environment: the international journal of justice and sustainability*, 21 (12), 1467-1481.

· Klepeis, P. & Gill, N. (2016). The paradox of engagement: Land stewardship and invasive weeds in amenity landscapes. In L. E. Taylor & P. T. Hurley (Eds.), *A Comparative Political Ecology of Exurbia: Planning, Environmental Management, and Landscape Change* (pp. 221-243). Switzerland: Springer.

### 11/ ANJA KANNGIESER

· Feigenbaum, A. & Kanngieser, A. (2015). For a politics of atmospheric governance. *Dialogues in Human Geography*, 5 (1), 80-84.

· Kanngieser, A. (2015). Geopolitics and the anthropocene: Five propositions for sound. *GeoHumanities*, 1 (1), 80-85.

### 12/ NATASCHA KLOCKER

· Dun, O. & Klocker, N. (2017). The Migration of Horticultural Knowledge: Pacific Island seasonal workers in rural Australia-a missed opportunity? *Australian Geographer*, 48 (1), 27-36.

· Klocker, N. & Ansell, N. (2016). Geographies of global issues: Change and threat in young people’s lives. In N. Ansell, N. Klocker & T. Skelton (Eds.), *Geographies of Global Issues: Change and Threat* (pp. 1-17). Singapore: Springer.

### 13/ PAULINE MCGUIRK

· McGuirk PM, Bulkeley H, Dowling R, (2016) Configuring carbon governance in the city: insights from Sydney, Australia, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 106, 145-166

· Baker, T. McGuirk, P.M. (2016) Assemblage thinking as methodology: Commitments and practices for critical policy research, *Territory, Politics, Governance*, DOI i0.1080/21622671.2016.1231631

### 14/ SCOTT MCKINNON

· McKinnon, S. (2017). With Moonlight’s Oscar win, Hollywood begins to right old wrongs. *The Conversation*, 2 March 1-3.

· McKinnon, S., Waitt, G. & Gorman-Murray, A. (2017). The Safe Schools Program and Young People’s Sexed and Gendered Geographies. *Australian Geographer*, 48 (2), 145-152.

### 15/ GORDON WAITT

· McKinnon, S., Waitt, G. & Gorman-Murray, A. (2017). The Safe Schools Program and Young People’s Sexed and Gendered Geographies. *Australian Geographer*, 48 (2), 145-152.

· Waitt, G., Harada, T. & Duffy, M. (2017). ‘Let’s Have Some Music’: Sound, Gender and Car Mobility. *Mobilities*, 12 (3), 324-342.

### 16/ ANDREW WARREN

· Gibson, C. and Warren, A. (2017) Unintentional path dependence: Australian guitar manufacturing, bunya pine and legacies of forestry decisions and resource stewardship. *Australian Geographer*, online early DOI: 10.1080/00049182.2017.1336967

· Warren, A. and Gibson, C. (2017) Soulful and Precarious: The Working Experiences of Surfboard Makers, in *The Critical Surf Studies Reader*, D.Z. Hough-Snee and A.S. Eastman (eds.). Duke University Press: Durham, pp. 342-364



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