

2024



WA MIGRATION AND MOBILITIES UPDATE





Welcome to the WA Migration & Mobilities Update

Mobility Justice: Youth, ageing, place and environment

Mobility justice is a critical ethical issue of our time. Equitable access to visas and services is central to participation in society, to economic and educational opportunities, and to building social connection and a sense of belonging. And yet the right to move or to remain at home, and to live a full life in a safe place, is unevenly distributed among both the global and the Australian population.

The Update is this year being hosted at Edith Cowan University for the first time. Our thanks go to the many organisations that have supported this event, both through membership in the Steering Committee and the time and expertise our excellent line up of speakers contribute to the Update.

As always, our program brings together government, policymakers, not-for-profits, communities, and academics to explore these issues, asking:

- How can mobility justice frame initiatives to support people affected by climate change and natural disasters, helping communities recover from extreme weather events and build sustainable futures?
- What challenges do young people face when migrating and building a fulfilling life in Australia? How can migration policy be developed to advance mobility justice for young people?
- Do mobility justice issues change across the life course? What are the particular challenges faced by the youngest and oldest migrants? And how can the vulnerabilities of migrants best be supported?



We are grateful for the support of:

- Professor Arshad Omari, Interim Vice Chancellor
- Dr Nan Roma, Elder in Residence
- School of Arts and Humanities
- TRACS Migration Research Network
- Centre for People, Place and Planet
- Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab

Conference Hosts:

Professor Loretta Baldassar, Assoc Professor Justine Dandy, Dr Jamal Barnes, Dr Catriona Stevens, Yvonne Huang and Abraham Kenin on behalf of the Migration Update Convenors and Steering Committee.

Thank you for joining us for what we trust will be an exciting day of panels and discussions.

We respectfully acknowledge the past and present traditional custodians of this land on which we are meeting, the Whadjuk Nyoongar Elders and people. ECU is committed to reconciliation and recognises the traditional custodians of the land upon which its campuses stand and their connections to this land.

Program

9:00-9:30am Welcome Session

- Prof Loretta Baldassar, Director of Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab, ECU
- Dr Nan Roma, Elder in Residence, ECU
- Prof Arshad Omari, Interim Vice Chancellor, ECU
- Hon Matthew Swinbourne MLC, Member for the East Metropolitan Region, representing Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA, Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests
- Dr Rita Afsar, Senior Research and Evaluation Officer, Office of Multicultural Interests

9:30- 11:30am Panel 1: Youth and Mobility Justice

Chair: Dr Jamal Barnes, ECU

- **Keynote:** Dr Sylvia Ang, Lecturer in Sociology, Monash University
- Paul Denman, Assistant Secretary Immigration Planning and Policy, Department of Home Affairs
- Dr Jan Gothard, Health and Disability Specialist, Estrin Saul
- Ally Paolino, Regional Director Strategic Engagement, Department of Home Affairs
- Sarah Rizwan, Guild President, ECU

11:30-12:00pm Morning Tea

12:00 - 1:30pm Panel 2: Ageing and Mobility Justice

Chair: Dr Catriona Stevens, ECU

- Prof Loretta Baldassar, Director of Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab, ECU
- Bianca Marson Whait, Coordinator of Elder Rights WA and Kristen Soon, Project Consultant of Umbrella Multicultural Care
- Nicholas Snare, Principal Solicitor for Older People's Rights Service at Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre
- Dr Hien Nguyen, Research Fellow, ECU
- Kedy Kristal, Executive Officer, GRAI and Dr Lukasz Krzyzowski, Vice Chancellor's Research Fellow, ECU Rainbow Migrants Observatory

1:30-2:30pm Lunch

2:30-4:30pm Panel 3: Place, Environment and Mobility Justice

Chair: A/Prof Justine Dandy, ECU

- **Keynote:** Prof Carol Farbotko, ARC Future Fellow, Griffith Centre for Social Cultural Research, Griffith University
- **Panel Discussion:**
 - Prof Carol Farbotko, ARC Future Fellow, Griffith University
 - Kirstie Davis, Director of Community and Place, City of Wanneroo
 - Trevor Ryan, Aboriginal Cultural Advisor, ECU Centre for People, Place and Planet
 - Dr Zoe Leviston, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Institute for Climate, Energy and Disaster Solutions, ANU

4:30pm Closing Remarks

- Prof Loretta Baldassar, Edith Cowan University
- Dr Pyone Myat Thu, Murdoch University
- Dr Lisa van Toor, Murdoch University

4:30- 6:00pm Non Alcoholic Sundowner

**WA Migration
& Mobilities
Update**

**Wednesday 25th
September 2024**





Steering Committee

Professor Loretta Baldassar, Edith Cowan University (Co-convener); Ms Maria Bunn, Western Australia Multicultural Association Inc.; Mr William Chi, Australia China Friendship Society; Dr Donella Caspersz, University of Western Australia (Co-convener); Associate Professor Justine Dandy, Edith Cowan University; Dr Tim Dymond, Unions WA; Professor Farida Fozdar, Curtin University (Co-convener); Dr Jan Gothard, Estrin Saul; Dr Mary Anne Kenny, Murdoch University; Dr Daniel Kiely, Curtin University; Dr Catherine Martin, McCusker Centre for Citizenship; Dr Rita Asfar, Office of Multicultural Interests; Ms Susie Moir, WA Local Government Association; Mr Ephraim Osaghae, Multicultural Professional Bridge; Mr Ather Pervaiz, Multicultural Communities Council of WA; Dr Sarah Prout Quicke, University of Western Australia; Mr Suresh Rajan, Ethnic Disability Advocacy Center; Dr Catriona Stevens, Edith Cowan University; Ms Anita Tuzlukovic, Multicultural Futures; Ms Jacqui Ure, Migration Institute of Australia.

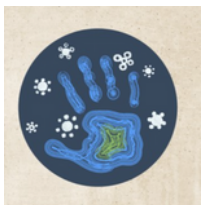
About the Host Organisations

ECU TRACS Migration Research Network



The ECU TRACS Migration Research Network (MRN) is a research entity based in the School of Arts and Humanities at Edith Cowan University. It is an inclusive and expansive university-wide network that brings together scholars of migration (broadly defined) through weekly masterclasses and seminars, regular meetings and activities. ECU TRACS MRN members conduct research relating to migration, diversity, multiculturalism, and related fields from a range of disciplines.

ECU Centre for People, Place and Planet



The Centre for People, Place & Planet is a Strategic Research Centre at Edith Cowan University. It was established in January 2021 and is hosted by the School of Education. It draws on members from multiple discipline areas across the university. The vision of the Centre is to reconnect people, ecosystems, and place-based knowledges for universal well-being. Our mission is to conduct transdisciplinary research using participatory methodologies in the context of global environmental change.

ECU Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab



The ECU SAGE Futures Lab delivers a 'social care' approach to ageing across the life-course. Our research emphasises the role and value of the relationships in an individual's social support networks, including the use of technologies to mediate local, virtual and distant supports. Our work contributes social science perspectives and methodologies to the creative and caring professions with a focus on cultural and linguistic diversity and the role of social support networks to wellbeing across the life-course.

Conference conveners

Professor Loretta Baldassar
l.baldassar@ecu.edu.au

Professor Farida Fozdar
farida.fozdar@curtin.edu.au

Dr Donella Caspersz
donella.caspersz@uwa.edu.au



Speaker Bios

Dr Sylvia Ang

Dr Sylvia Ang is Lecturer in Sociology at Monash University. Her research lies at the intersection of migration studies, ethnic relations, and social inequalities. Her most recent work is interested in how middle-class Asian migrants negotiate privilege and precarity in host countries. She has published in the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Mobilities, and Ethnic and Racial Studies, among others. She is author of *Contesting Chineseness: Nationality, Class, Gender, and New Chinese migrants* (Amsterdam University Press).

Paul Denham

Paul Denham is currently the Assistant Secretary in the Immigration Planning and Policy Branch. Paul has responsibility for planning Australia's permanent migration program and policy initiatives supporting the Government's Migration Strategy including the regional migration review and international education policy.

He joined the Department of Immigration and Citizenship in 2003 and has served in New Delhi as Senior Migration Officer and Jakarta as Principal Migration Officer and a range of positions in Headquarters including Senior Director, Immigration Program Management Branch and a/g Assistant Secretary, Skilled Visas Branch.

Dr Jan Gothard

Dr Jan Gothard, of Estrin Saul Migration Specialists in Perth, is a registered migration agent specialising in the field of health and disability. She is also co-founder of the peak migration and disability advocacy group Welcoming Disability. Before taking up migration law, Jan taught history at Murdoch University, where she remains an adjunct associate professor. She has researched and published extensively in migration and disability. Jan currently works pro bono for the WA AIDS Council, Down Syndrome Australia and Circle Green, a refugee advocacy group, on health or disability-related migration matters. In 2001 she was awarded a Centenary Medal for services to literature and society.

Ally Paulino

Ally has worked for the Australian Public Service for over 20 years in both Canberra and Perth and brings a range of experience from corporate roles in HR and Security to more recent roles with a stakeholder engagement focus. Ally is the senior leader responsible for leading WA's delivery of departmental priorities and supporting Department staff working across key functions including immigration and citizenship program delivery, multi-location policy and program management, stakeholder engagement across all departmental functions, and corporate and enabling services.

Ally brings a high-level departmental view of the state, embedding the Department's purpose, standards, and values through their relationships with staff in WA. She provides a holistic view of issues impacting the region, makes links between different lines of effort and supports delivery through the region's senior leaders, ensuring local action is cohesive, collaborative, and strategically aligned. Ally values curiosity overall and loves being able to engage with stakeholders to discuss the social cohesion threats and risks that impact communities.

Sarah Rizwan

Sarah Rizwan is the President of the ECU Student Guild and an international student from India. She recently completed her Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering at Edith Cowan University and is now

pursuing a postgraduate degree in Project Management. During her time at the Guild, Sarah has engaged with numerous international students, gaining valuable insights into their unique challenges and concerns. With a diverse background in engineering, leadership, and student advocacy, she is excited to contribute to the panel, offering her perspective and experiences to the discussion.

Professor Loretta Baldassar

Professor Loretta Baldassar is Vice Chancellor's Professorial Research Fellow, Director of the Social Ageing Future Lab and co-convenor of the TRACS Migration Research Network at Edith Cowan University (ECU). Loretta was recently named Australian Research Field Leader in Migration Studies and in Ethnic and Cultural Studies by The Australian. Her work is widely acknowledged as foundational to the field of Transnational Family Studies. Her SAGE Futures research team at ECU is leading innovation in social care across the life-course, contributing social science perspectives and arts-based methodologies to the creative and caring professions.

Bianca Marson Whait

Bianca Marson Whait is the Coordinator of Elder Rights WA, a specialist team of lawyers and social workers based in the Civil Law Division of Legal Aid WA. This state-wide service offers older people legal advice and assistance to safeguard their rights, and holistic support for other concerns which may surround their legal issue. Bianca brings extensive experience in the education and community development sectors to her role. She is passionate about connecting people with the information and assistance they need to feel supported and meaningfully engage in their community at all stages of life.

Kristen Soon

Kristen Soon is currently the Project Consultant for the CALD Pilot Elder Rights Project with Umbrella and Legal Aid, bringing over nine years of experience in community development and multicultural engagement. Her role focuses on enhancing elder rights awareness within culturally and linguistically diverse communities. She is also the founder and director of the R.E.E.D Collective, a purpose-driven initiative that runs community outreach projects and empowerment programs for CALD communities, including workshops for women impacted by domestic violence. Her background includes extensive experience at Curtin University, where she supported post-graduate international students, demonstrating cultural sensitivity and building strategic relationships. Kristen has also contributed significantly to humanitarian and migration-focused organizations, specializing in program management, stakeholder collaboration, and volunteer coordination. Through her leadership in community-focused initiatives, Kristen's dedication to fostering inclusion and resilience is demonstrated through her impactful collaborations with local councils and multicultural groups, establishing her as a key contributor to diverse communities.

Nicholas Snare

Nik was admitted to practice law in the ACT in 2008 before moving to Perth to work in the community legal sector. Since 2010 Nik has worked in various community legal roles at the Mental Health Law Centre and Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia, primarily in criminal law including as a duty lawyer at metropolitan, regional and remote Courts. Nik started at the Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre in 2015 as a generalist lawyer working in family, civil and criminal law including as a respondent duty lawyer with NSCLC's Restraining Orders and Respondents (ROAR) program. Nik is now the principal solicitor overseeing NSCLC's legal practice in generalist law, tenancy, Older People's Rights Service (OPRS) and our Women's Resource and Engagement Network (WREN). Nik is a nationally accredited mediator.

Dr Hien Nguyen

Hien is a postdoctoral research fellow at the ECU Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab, School of Arts and Humanities, Edith Cowan University. She has 17 years of experience working as a social researcher and development practitioner in Vietnam and Australia. Her scholarship includes migration, ageing, diversity, gender, and development. Her current research questions focus on transnational grandparent migration and social care solutions, with a particular focus on social frailty prevention and reduction among culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities to promote their health outcomes and wellbeing.

Kedi Kristal

Kedy Kristal (she/her) worked in domestic and family violence from 1983 to 2016 and is currently the Executive Officer for GLBTI Rights in Ageing (GRAI), a non-profit ensuring older LGBTI people are safe and respected. A lesbian activist since 1982 in WA and rural NSW, Kedy co-edited *The Laughing Medusa*, a bi-monthly lesbian magazine. Her contributions earned her recognition as the 2006 WA Citizen of the Year and the 2007 Western Australian 100 Local Champions. In 2011, she was inducted into the International Women's Day Hall of Fame. Kedy is also a Director on the board of Tender Funerals WA, a committee member of the Women's Hall of Fame, and serves on various LGBTIQ+ advisory groups.

Lukasz Krzyzowski

Dr Lukasz Krzyzowski is a Vice Chancellor's Research Fellow at Edith Cowan University, working in the ECU Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab. An applied sociologist, his work focuses on the intersections of migration, sexual orientation, and gender diversity. His research addresses complex social challenges faced by marginalised communities, with particular emphasis on LGBTIQ+ individuals, older adults, and culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) populations.


Dr Krzyzowski is the founder and lead researcher of The Rainbow Migrants project, which explores the social connectivity and support systems for CaLD LGBTIQ+ individuals (rainbow migrants), including refugees, people seeking asylum, and international students, across their life course. He also serves on the board of GLBTI Rights in Ageing (GRAI) and is a member of the reference group for Western Australia's first whole-of-government LGBTQIA+ strategy, aimed at fostering inclusivity for the LGBTQIA+ community.

Professor Carol Farbotko

Carol Farbotko is a cultural geographer at Griffith Centre for Cultural and Social Research, Griffith University, Queensland. Her research interests include mobility, justice, and climate change. For the last twenty years, she has conducted research in the Pacific Islands, focusing on Indigenous solutions to climate change and mobility challenges. Carol has previously worked for CSIRO.

Dr Zoe Leviston

Zoe's work applies social psychological theory to investigate how individuals, groups, and culture shape people's responses to climate change and other environmental issues. She is especially interested in how group processes and social norms influence people's attitudes and behaviours, and the role of collective action in 'mainstreaming' meaningful climate action. Before commencing with the Australian National University in 2020, Zoe was a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at Edith Cowan University (2017-2020), and a research scientist at the CSIRO (2004-2017). She has a PhD in Psychology from Curtin University (2013).



Trevor Ryan

Trevor is a Noongar/Yamatji man belonging to the Wadjuk/Yuat, Wajarri and Badimaya areas, and Aboriginal Cultural Advisor for the Centre of People, Place and Planet at Edith Cowan University. He has over thirty-five years of experience within the performing arts, including performing in many theatre plays, filming, voice overs, T.V., and teaching drama to children, teenagers, and adults. Trevor is a NIDA Graduate (National Institute of Dramatic Arts) Bachelor of Arts in “Acting” and has a Master of Arts (Research), thesis entitled “Restoring and Developing Dance for Noongar Country”.

Kirstie Davis

Kirstie has more than 20 years’ experience in social policy and strategic planning and is currently the Director Community and Place at the City of Wanneroo. She has a strong background in community engagement and place management, with extensive experience planning and overseeing community facilities. Kirstie has been active in implementing social policies aimed at fostering inclusive, vibrant and connected communities of which cultural and community development has led to the creation of dynamic public spaces and programs that reflect the diversity and needs of the local population. Committed to community safety and emergency management, Kirstie has developed and executed strategies that ensure the well-being and resilience of residents in times of crisis and in recovery phases. She is passionate about effectively bringing together stakeholders to create safer environments. Through a deep understanding of the intersection between social policy and community needs, Kirstie continues to drive initiatives that enhance quality of life, build social cohesion, and promote sustainable development.

Dr Jamal Barnes

Dr Jamal Barnes is a lecturer in Criminology in the School of Arts and Humanities at Edith Cowan University. Jamal specialises in the areas of human rights, torture, refugee movements, and international relations. In 2017, Jamal published the book, *A Genealogy of the Torture Taboo* (published by Routledge), which traces a history of the torture prohibition from the eighteenth century to the present day. Before arriving at ECU, Jamal taught at Murdoch University, the University of Notre Dame, and the University of Western Australia.

Dr Catriona Stevens

Dr Catriona Stevens is a Vice Chancellor’s Research Fellow in the ECU Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab. She is an early career sociologist and anthropologist with expertise in migration, ageing, care workforce, transnational caregiving, and the abuse of older people (elder abuse). Cat co-convenes the Migration, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism thematic group of The Australian Sociological Association and is a Board Member of Research Committee 31, Sociology of Migration of the International Sociological Association.

Associate Professor Justine Dandy

Assoc Prof. Justine is a cultural psychologist whose work is primarily in acculturation, intercultural relations and ethnic-cultural identities. She has conducted research projects in collaboration with local community organisations such as Edmund Rice WA, Ishar Multicultural Centre for Women’s Health, Multicultural Futures and Sudbury House, as well as local government. Since 2019 she has developed an interest in the drivers of international and internal migration, including place attachment and environmental change.

