



## SEVER DRAGOMIR



### MEET MATHEMATICIAN SEVER DRAGOMIR

Sever Dragomir is a world authority in the analysis of Hilbert Spaces and Mathematical Inequalities. *A Hilbert space* is an abstract vector *space* possessing the structure of an inner product that allows length and angle to be measured. For example, the thrumming of a guitar produces a pattern of wave signals that are quite regular but difficult to define. His most recent publications are the books *Kato's Type Inequalities for Bounded Linear Operators in Hilbert Spaces (Springer)* and *Riemann–Stieltjes Integral Inequalities for Complex Functions Defined on Unit Circle: with Applications to Unitary Operators in Hilbert Spaces (Taylor and Francis)*.

His work is highly cited; see for instance his Google Scholar profile <https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?hl=en&user=8tShUu0AAAAJ> with more than 24,000 citations. Thanks to Sever Dragomir and colleagues like him, the University ERA ranking in Applied Mathematics is of international standard.

A recent publication with his Dean is entitled 'Approximations and inequalities for the exponential beta function', published as Dragomir, S.S. & Khosrowshahi, F., *J Inequal Appl* (2019) 2019: 256. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13660-019-2208-2>. Sever Dragomir is Romanian in background, with experience teaching in Romania, South Africa and Australia. His teaching philosophy is distinctive, and very much in keeping with Victoria University's rationale:

**"..WITH EXPERIENCE TEACHING IN ROMANIA, SOUTH AFRICA & AUSTRALIA. HIS TEACHING PHILOSOPHY IS DISTINCTIVE..."**

*I believe everyone can learn.* There are *common goals* each student must achieve, but we can take different paths to reach these common goals. It is not the job of the teacher to force uniformity in learning. It is the *job of the teacher* to support *individuality*. Understanding and capitalizing on the *diversity* of each student, allowing them to use their *individual* strengths, is paramount to good teaching.'

# COVER STORY

*believe everyone wants to learn.* The secret is to find the right *motivation*. It must be kept in the teacher's mind each student is different, so their motivations are different. Students are eager and energetic. With a little *guidance* in the right direction and a small push, they will seek out and discover the answers they are seeking. They will experience, first hand, the effects of their decisions. There is no better way to learn this than through first-hand experience. Students, guided by the teacher, will make some serious decisions. They will then experience, first-hand, the effects of their decisions. This is all designed to prepare them for the real world.'

$$f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) \leq \int_0^1 f((1-t)x+ty) dt \leq \frac{f(x)+f(y)}{2}$$

A way from the classroom, Sever Dragomir's hobby is surf fishing. Perhaps he uses his understanding of Hilbert Spaces to work out where the fish are biting!

Like many European intellectuals, Sever Dragomir sees himself as standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before him. He has worked out his genealogy in the long line of great mathematicians from Europe. His intellectual bloodline is as follows, with each mathematician followed by his doctoral supervisor. In other words, Sever Dragomir was taught by Mircea Reghis, who was taught by Miron Nicolescu, etc, all the way back to the famous Bernoulli brothers and Gottfried Leibniz.

				
Sever Dragomir (1960-)	Mircea Reghis (1922-2010)	Miron Nicolescu (1903-1975)	Paul Montel (1876-1975)	Émile Borel (1871-1956)
				
Jean-Gaston Darboux (1842-1917)	Michel Chasles (1793-1880)	Siméon Denis Poisson (1781-1840)	Joseph-Louis Lagrange (1736-1813)	Leonhard Euler (1707-1783)
				
Johann Bernoulli (1667-1748)	Jacob Bernoulli (1655-1705)	Gottfried Leibniz (1646-1716)	Erhard Weigel (1625-1699)	Philipp Müller (1585-1659)

# SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES

## COULD ISILC BECOME A FLAGSHIP FOR PLACE-BASED PLANETARY HEALTH?

A local creek near her girlhood home in Adelaide is where Corinne Reid's passion for science began. Playing there with her sisters, she observed the tadpoles and began marking on a bark tree the number of days it took for a tadpole to become a frog. She discovered that there was a predictable pattern in the world, and her intellectual curiosity was aroused. Successful though they had been, none of her family had advanced up the educational ladder to a university degree, and she had no way of knowing what a university life might entail.

Corinne Reid's academic career then took her to Perth. Driving westward across the Nullarbor Plain took her into foreign territory. Working at Murdoch University and living in Fremantle, her knowledge of Australia and Indigenous communities deepened. 'I often think of Fremantle and Leighton Beach with its beautiful sunsets. It gave me a really new context for my research. It wasn't until I left Fremantle that I realised this.'

'My research in Western Australia started out being in neurodevelopment in children, what grows healthy and strong brains in those very early years when it is about giving people the best start in life. I worked in a team that we built up – we had up to 30 students to look at what goes well when children are young. And what gets in the way! We were working with children with very significant illness, who experienced trauma, or have had their life trajectory shifted a bit. What I learned in WA was that research happens not only in laboratories – it has to be in context, has to be a partnership with your community. It has to be in partnership with families and children.'

This research took Corinne Reid into communities across the Top End of Australia, and then to Malawi, working in the University of Edinburgh. Coming to Melbourne, she finds herself 'drawn here by a lot of threads from my past'. She relishes the prospect of continuing to work with community in place-based work, making sure our research is heavily anchored in people and places, and committed to interdisciplinary work "because it is unlikely that complex problems can be solved by individual researchers acting alone.

IMAGE:  
PROFESSOR  
CORINNE REID,  
DEPUTY VICE-  
CHANCELLOR  
(RESEARCH)  
[SOURCE:  
RESEARCHGATE.  
COM]



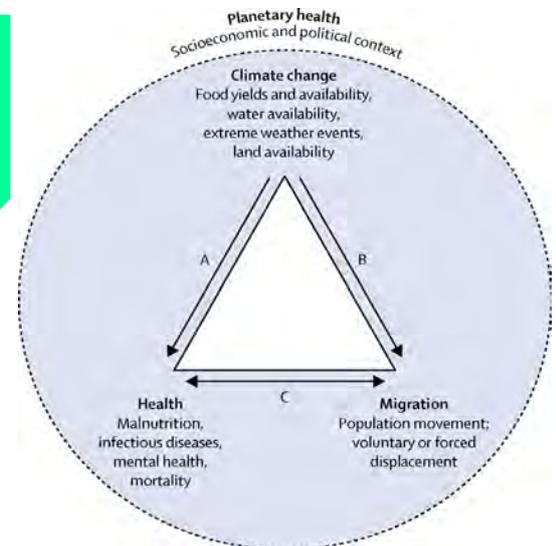
# SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES

Another part of Corinne Reid's practice as a clinical psychologist has been working with Olympian athletes performing under intense pressure, an area that makes her familiar with the work of the University's first research flagship, iHeS (Institute for Health and Sport). When posed with the question, in her recent job interview for the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), of what should be the University's second flagship, she made an interesting suggestion. Why not create an Institute for Planetary Health?

Planetary Health is a new global movement, concerned with 'the state of human civilisation and the health of natural systems on which it depends'. Thanks to the initiative of the editor-in-chief of Britain's foremost medical journal, *The Lancet*, funds were provided by the Rockefeller Foundation to investigate the concept of Planetary Health. A Planetary Health Alliance has now been formed, with the first professorship in the field being awarded to Anthony Capon, of the University of Sydney's School of Public Health.

Victoria University has a strong track record in many research areas that contribute to the international conversation around Planetary Health.

## INTERDISCIPLINARY FACTORS IN PLANETARY HEALTH [SOURCE: THE LANCET]



Victoria University is very committed to creating a sustainable environment and strong health in the western suburbs and Moondani Balluk scholars offer an Indigenous understanding of the interwoven relationship between people and country – these are examples of Place-based Planetary Health. ISILC researchers are already working in areas such as Sustainable Industries, Infrastructure, and Cultural Diversity. Other participants in a new Planetary Health flagship might include the Mitchell Institute, the Centre of Policy Studies, the proposed School for Transport Systems and Civic Construction, and the less well-developed School for Cultural Diversity.

As surely as tadpoles grow into frogs, if the creek is flush with water and nutrients, a group of researchers with a common ambition just might well prove a winning combination.

DEFINING PLANETARY HEALTH [SOURCE: CORNELL UNIVERSITY]

## Planetary Health

Safeguarding both human health and the natural systems that underpin it



# SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES

## PARTNERS IN MEASUREMENTS

John Orbell and Thomas Yeager were part of the organising team for the Fourth Collaborative research symposium of the National Measurement Institute (NMI) held at Footscray Park on 22 November. The day was well attended by more than 60 researchers, including representatives from various university, industry and government institutions, such as Victoria University, RMIT, Curtin University, University of Sunshine Coast, Monash University, Deakin University, University of Melbourne, James Cook University, NMI, ANSTO, CSIRO, ChemCenter, DXC, ILSCA, Agilent technologies, Evolve scientific, John Morris Group, Kinvara Scientific PL, Agriculture Victoria, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, NATA, Waters Australia, and PerkinElmer.



ABOVE: PARTICIPANTS IN THE FOURTH COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND PARTNERSHIPS SYMPOSIUM OF THE NMI [SOURCE: THOMAS YAEGER]

Among the speakers were Jamie Lindsell (Victoria University) who talked about fish speciation; Glenn Cardwell (Curtin) who discussed his research on Vitamin D; Stuart Meadley (DXC) spoke about engaging autism talent; Dr Debashish Mazumder (ANSTO) outlined nuclear techniques for combating food fraud; while Paul Saeki (ILSCA) discussed food safety issues in the wild harvest of Australian native foods.

The day's keynotes were given by Dr Bruce Warrington (NMI) and Professor Vasso Apostolopoulos. (Below)



BELOW: VASSO APOSTOLOPOULOS TALKED ABOUT 'FROM BASIC RESEARCH TO TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH - AND BACK AGAIN'

ABOVE: BRUCE WARRINGTON, CHIEF METEOROLOGIST, NMI, GIVES HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS

PROFESSOR JOHN ORBELL STARTS THE PROCEEDINGS

# SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES

## IV2020@AUSTRALIA

IV2020 is the 24<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Information Visualisation, to be held at Victoria University, 24–27 November 2020

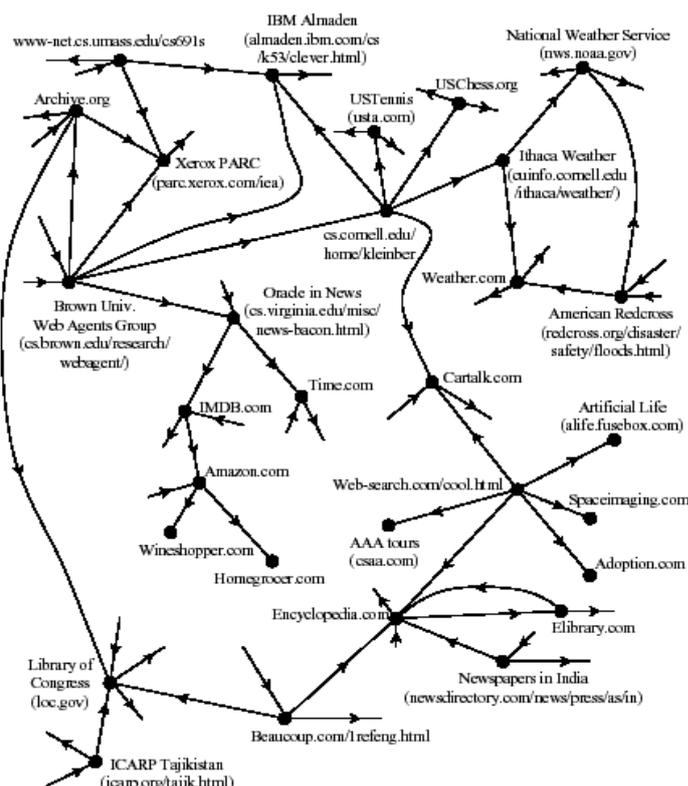
This a call for Papers, Poster, Videos and Participation. Here are the themes:

- Information Visualisation Theory & Practice
- Information Visualisation Evaluation
- Applications of Information Visualisation
- Visualisation and Storytelling
- Glyphs: Shapes, Icons, Text and Imagery in Visualisation
- Social Issues analysis and visualisation in Online Social Networks
- Visual Analytics and Data Science
- Social media analytics
- GeoVisual and Spatial-Temporal Analytics
- Learning Analytics
- Knowledge Visualisation and Visual Thinking
- Advances in Interactive and Visual Data Clustering
- Visualisation in Business Intelligence and Open Data
- Knowledge Domain Visualisation
- Open Source Intelligence and Web Mining & Web Visualization
- Co-operative Design Visualisation
- Human-Computer Interaction for Information Visualization
- Graph and Network Visualisation
- Digital Humanities Knowledge Visualization
- LA - Learning Analytics
- SSNN - Social Issues Analysis and Visualisation
- BiWA - Big data Visualization and Visual Analytics

- VDSML- Visualization in Data Science and Machine Learning
- BioMedical Visualisation
- Visualisation, Art, & Design
- Symposium of Digital Art and Gallery
- Augmented Reality Visualization and Art
- Computer Animation, Information Visualisation, and Digital Effects
- Computer Games and their applications (CGa)
- MuELear - Multimedia and E-learning
- DE - Digital Entertainment
- MuVis - Music Visualization
- Geometric Modelling and Imaging
- Visualisation in Built and Rural Environments
- Sustaining Built Heritage

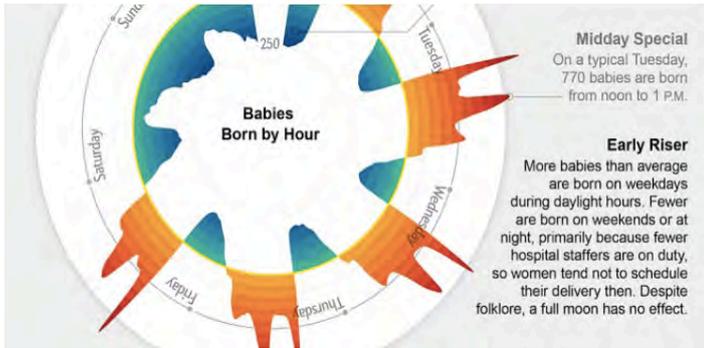
Submission of papers & tutorials for IV2020\_Melbourne should made via

<https://www.conftool.org/cgiiv-iv-australia-2019/>

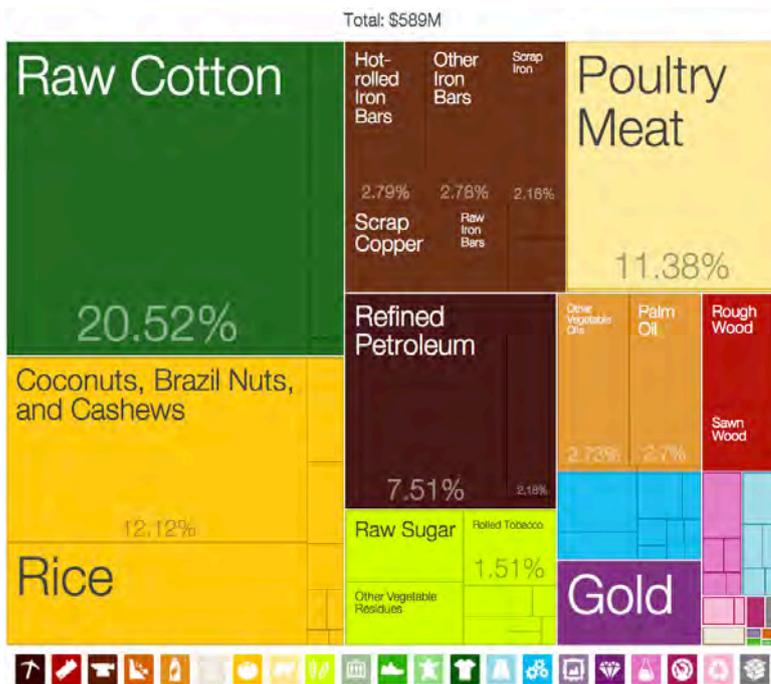


# SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES

## IV2020@AUSTRALIA CONT.



EXAMPLES OF INFORMATION VISUALISATION: A PARTIAL MAP OF THE WORLD WIDE WEB; BABIES BORN BY THE HOUR; TREE MAP OF EXPORTS FROM BENIN IN 2009 [SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA]



# SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES

## A YEAR IN THE SCHOOL FOR THE VISITOR ECONOMY

As many are aware, the School for the Visitor Economy (SVE) was established as a cross-university initiative with the goal to grow Victoria University's role as a provider of training, education and research in the visitor economy. With the visitor economy growing at rates of more than five per cent per annum, the brief for the School is to work with industry to increase the supply of skilled labour to address current and emerging skill shortages.

The School was formally launched by Vice-Chancellor Peter Dawkins in February 2019 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) and has since been working to achieve some core objectives. In short, these are to increase student enrolments in visitor economy related programs; to ensure programs are streamlined and integrated; to deepen industry connections and engagement; to grow the visitor economy research profile; and, to develop and implement executive programs in event management.

At the end of the School's first year of operation, much has been achieved. VU is now the only university that offers programs in tourism, hospitality and events management from Certificate II through to PhD. Enrolments across all courses are growing and a key initiative has been the introduction of a new Associate Degree in Hospitality and Hotel Management. This program is designed to allow students to commence their studies at VU Poly, to exit with either a Diploma, Advanced Diploma or a Bachelor of Business after the completion of the full three-year program.



LEFT:  
PETER  
DAWKINS,  
JOANNE  
PYKE, JOHN  
MADDEN  
AND  
JANINE  
DIXON  
(SOURCE:  
TIMOTHY  
WEBSTER)

The School is also working to build on VU's research standing in tourism which, in 2018, was ranked as high impact and 'world standard' against ERA rankings. Research efforts include a healthy PhD cohort of more than 30 students investigating visitor economy related problems and several new research collaborations are currently in progress. Of note was the recent launch of research undertaken for the SVE by the Centre for Policy Studies. 'Modelling the Visitor Economy', undertaken by Associate Professor Janine Dixon and Professor John Madden, applied a custom-designed economic impact model to take a snapshot of the visitor economy and simulate the effect of one per cent growth on jobs and other economic impacts. The project was launched to an industry audience on 15 November at the Grand Hyatt and the dissemination of the final report is imminent. But a major source of activity has been the conduct of events designed to build a community of scholarship with industry. There has been a series of events held across the year with perhaps the most memorable starting with a Master Class in events management at the Grand Prix. Hosted and led by SVE Industry Advisory Group member, Andrew Westacott, the industry audience were led through the history, politics and challenges of hosting such a major event. This was the first of a series that will continue in 2020 and beyond.

# SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES

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This has been a very brief overview of our work this year but the SVE working group has currently evaluating progress to date and has drafted a new five-year plan to build on the ground work set over 2019. To stay up to date with SVE activities, go to our [web page](#) and register to receive our newsletters and notice of events. We look forward to keeping you in the loop.

Dr Joanne Pyke, Director, School for the Visitor Economy



ABOVE: CHARLES DAVIDSON, DIRECTOR AND OWNER OF PENINSULA HOT SPRINGS, JOANNE PYKE, ANDREW WESTACOTT, CEO, AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX CORPORATION, PETER DAWKINS AT THE GRAND PRIX [SOURCE: TIMOTHY WEBSTER]

## MATCHING INDUSTRY WITH DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

Australian Postgraduate Research (APR) Intern is a not-for-profit enterprise that works to place PhD students studying at Australian universities into Australian businesses on short-term, three-to-five-month industry-research internships. The program is funded by the Australian Government.

At the Institute's End of Year Event, on 6 December, Peter Cook, the CEO of Novatti Group, explained how he and his firm were able to expand using the expertise of carefully selected doctoral researchers. Without this expertise, he joked, he might have ended up wearing the orange uniform associated with jailbirds! So much of what his business undertakes is high-risk incursions into other people's jurisdictions, such as telco developments in the PRC that he relies on the

detailed knowledge that the best doctoral brains can provide. In the same session we heard from Justin Mabbutt, better known as 'Mabbsy', a business development manager in Victoria for APR Intern. He explained how the internships often led to longer term employment for the students in the businesses where they were undertaking their research.

Associate Professor Shan Miah, who heads up the Institute's Program Leader in Business, would be pleased to facilitate connections with APR Intern for colleagues with prospective research students who might be eligible for an internship.



L-R: JUSTIN MABBUTT, SHAH MIAH, PETER COOK, STEPHEN GRAY [SOURCE: STEPHEN GRAY]

# INFRASTRUCTURE

## SUSTAINABLE APPROACH IN THE FUTURE HIGHWAY/GEOTECHNICAL DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION WORKS

When humans build cities, they are like armies of ants moving dirt and rocks from one location to another. Industrial activities in the modern world have led to an increase in the amounts of solid waste generated, and hence the urgent need for the development of effective waste management strategies. Nowadays, there are several recycling industries that turn the stockpiles of solid wastes into recycled materials, such as recycled crushed brick, waste excavation rock, recycled glass, recycled tyre and recycled plastic granules.

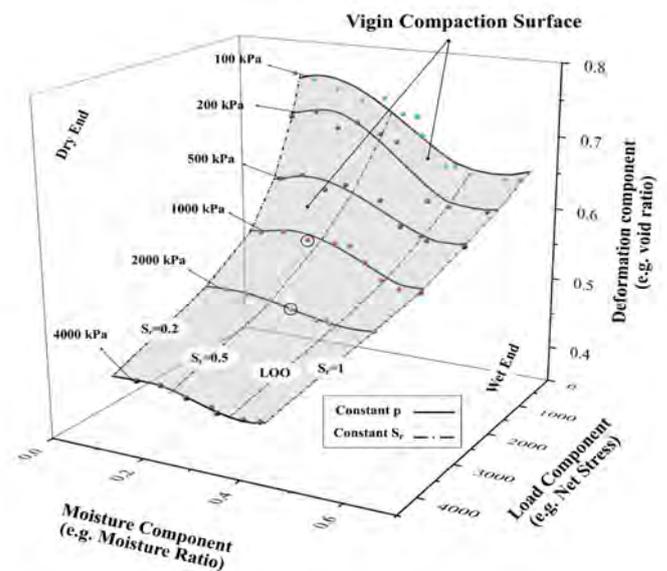


DR EHSAN  
YAGHOUBI  
[SOURCE: VICTORIA  
UNIVERSITY]

How reliable are these recycled materials when used in the construction of highways, sewer systems and other urban infrastructure?

Dr Ehsan Yaghoubi wants to test the properties of such recycled materials, in building Melbourne's twenty-first century urban fabric.

In particular, he is concerned about the performance and behaviour of these materials during and after rain and flooding events. To this end, he has developed a model that allows for the interpretation of these effects (pictured).



Constitutive surface developed for interpreting the volumetric behaviour of unsaturated granular recycled geomaterials [Source: Ehsan Yaghoubi]

Ehsan Yaghoubi's scholarly paper, 'Development of a Void Ratio-Moisture Ratio-Net Stress Framework for Prediction of the Volumetric Behaviour of Unsaturated Granular Materials' has been nominated for the Japanese Geotechnical Society Best Research Paper Award 2019.

# INFRASTRUCTURE

In another project, Ehsan aims to develop new blends of recycled materials as an alternative to the conventional trench backfill soils, to be used to in and around sewer and 'manhole' structures. He and Prof. Sam Fragomeni have been successful in securing a Sustainability Victoria grant from the Victorian State Government's Recycling Industry Strategic Plan Fund to carry out this project.

The proposed project will be undertaken through a collaboration between Victoria University and the University of Melbourne, together with City West Water and Ground Science as industry partners. The project aims to improve the industry and market confidence in using blends of recycled material in geotechnical applications by enhancing the current limited knowledge of the performance of such blends.



Sustainability  
Victoria



**VICTORIA  
UNIVERSITY**

MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE  
SCHOOL OF  
ENGINEERING



GroundScience



City West  
Water™

# INFRASTRUCTURE

## WEST OF MELBOURNE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

Chaired by Steve Bracks, with Professor Peter Dawkins as its Deputy Chair, the WoMEDA Board launched its new strategic plan for the economic re-development of Sunshine on 25 November 2019. This plan has been under development since 2016. When H V McKay brought his harvester combine factory from Ballarat to Braybrook Junction in 1906, his signature product was the Sunshine Harvester. Its name reflected McKay's strong Christian background, inspired by a visiting American preacher, Dr Thomas de Witt Talmage. Talmage is memorialised in a local street name, and the township's name was changed to Sunshine. The Sunshine Harvester complex grew into Australia's largest manufacturing enterprise.

This all ended with the national economic restructure of the 1980s. The crisis in manufacturing jobs, caused by the removal of tariffs, has led to a search for new employment opportunities.

Now Sunshine is poised to become one of the state government's centres for the creation of new local jobs. Some of these jobs will be relocated from elsewhere: for example, the white-collar professional work associated with the running of Victoria's criminal justice system could be moved from central Melbourne to the outer western suburbs.



ABOVE: BRIMBANK COUNCILLORS MEET WITH PETER DAWKINS AND STEVE BRACKS [SOURCE: BRIMBANK COUNCIL]

A medical complex will specialise in cancer and chronic conditions, as well as mental health issues. The university/polytechnic will develop programs that link to advanced manufacturing and construction. Drawing on the principles of Transit Oriented Development, as set out by GB Harrington, improved public transport is a feature of the plan, with a tram line up Ballarat Road and the removal of cars from Hampshire Road.

A new Town Square, designed by John Kelly, will be built alongside the Council offices. A branch of the National Gallery of Victoria will be built within this Town Square. The University's St Albans campus will be revitalised as a business park.

Affordable public housing will be built in Braybrook.

RIGHT:  
POSTER FOR  
THE  
SUNSHINE  
HARVESTER  
[SOURCE:  
NATIONAL  
MUSEUM  
AUSTRALIA]



# CULTURAL DIVERSITY

## TAX SPECIALIST: USE GST TO TAX UNHEALTHY FOODS & SUBSIDISE HEALTHY ONES



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR LIDIA XYNAS, DEPUTY DEAN, DIRECTOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING, COLLEGE OF LAW AND JUSTICE

The Australian government should hike the GST rate for fizzy drinks and processed foods, and direct the proceeds to subsidise fruit and vegetables, a new research paper from Victoria University recommends.

Associate Professor Lidia Xynas, author of ‘Obesity and Taxation – Is Australia Ready?’ said slightly boosting the GST on sweetened sugary beverages and highly processed foods from their current rates of 10 percent was a simple and effective way to address Australia’s growing obesity problem.

“Better health, better life – these are objectives that all Australians must strive for,” she said. “Obesity and overweight issues can be addressed positively using the GST as a vehicle for badly needed change.”

The soon-to-be-released Australian Health Tracker, from Victoria University’s Mitchell Institute, highlights that Australia’s national obesity rate has risen 27% over the past 10 years, with two-thirds of Australians now overweight or obese.

Dr Xynas said dozens of countries have announced new taxes on unhealthy foods in recent years, but some have had more success than others. For example, Japan’s ‘Metabo law,’ which penalises employers with overweight employees and local governments with fat residents, was only marginally successful because it resulted in stigmatising individuals. Denmark’s 2011 tax on unhealthy ‘inputs’ such as saturated fats was cut short in 2013 due in part, to unsustainable costs to small- and medium-sized manufacturers.

A unique Australian answer could lie in applying a higher GST to junk food – a form of ‘hard paternalism’ – with short-term ‘soft paternalism,’ approaches such as education in schools accompanied by subsidies for fruit and vegetables, and stricter regulations on junk food advertising, said Dr Xynas. [Australian Bureau of Statistics data](#) show that while half the country’s adults and about two-thirds of children eat recommended serves of fruit, only a tiny 7 per cent of adults and 5 per cent of children eat enough vegetables.

“Australia’s broad-based GST is a relatively uncomplicated consumption tax that we’re already used to, and administratively, it wouldn’t be difficult to set up, she said.”

Dr Xynas said she expected some industry and public backlash to the proposal, but the measures could accelerate the recent trend for fast-food manufacturers to create healthier options. She argued the government was justified in using taxes to encourage behaviour change if it improved public health and safety, pointing to precedents such as excise taxes on cigarettes and alcohol, which have led to curbed consumption. (*The National Tribune* 7 November 2019, based on a media release from Ann Marie Angebrandt) The original article was published in the *Journal of Law and Medicine*, Vol. 27, No. 1 (2019)

# CULTURAL DIVERSITY

**Abstract:** Obesity is a growing epidemic spreading across the developed world, including Australia. It negatively affects the health of individuals and puts pressure on a country's food and health systems, the environment and its economic status. In this article, three taxation approaches are considered as policy tools available to the Australian Government which could assist them in the fight against obesity: tax on the person, tax on inputs and taxes on the product. A critical analysis of each taxation approach is undertaken, existing international methodologies examined and, on this basis, suggestions are made to impose taxes on Highly Processed Foods and Sweetened Sugary Beverages. Particular focus is given to reform to the Australian Goods and Services Tax regime. It is argued that through this specific taxation approach, the fight against obesity in Australia can be positively addressed.

## THE RULE OF LAW IN THE PRC

The China Forum on International Legal Cooperation, held in Guangzhou, in mid-November. The event was hosted by the China Law Society, the peak professional body of lawyers in China, involving around 400 representatives from China, as well as delegates from about 40 other countries along the Belt and Road, and members of four international organisations.

Dean Michael Stuckey presented a paper entitled: 'China-Oceania cooperation and sharing under the Framework of the Rule of law.'

The communique released by the China Forum on International Legal Cooperation read as follows: The statement says that it is necessary to carry out multi-layer, multi-channel and across-the-board legal cooperation.



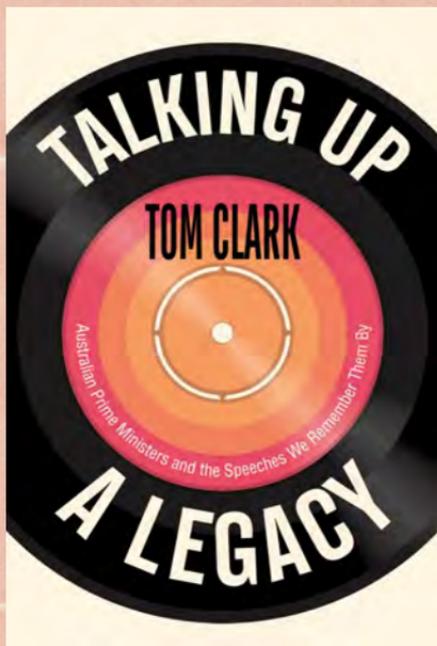
ABOVE: SOME OF THE DELEGATES AT THE 2019 CHINA FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL LEGAL COOPERATION [SOURCE: XINHUA/DENG

'It calls for support for participants of the Belt and Road Initiative in deepening their cooperation on cyber security, crackdowns on cross-border crimes, drug trafficking and the 'Three Forces' (namely, terrorism, separatism and extremism) joint law enforcement and security safeguards; in strengthening the building of law-based and honest governments and reinforcing the rule of law as the foundation for the building of the Belt and Road; in using the rule of law as a way of thinking to resolve disputes through dialogue and negotiation and continuing to enhance the consensus and mutual-trust in the rule of law; in strengthening communication and cooperation on such non-litigation dispute resolution approaches as mediation and arbitration; in advancing the 'soft connection' in terms of policies, rules and standards; in strictly executing multi- and bi-lateral economic and trade agreements and establishing a binding enforcement mechanism for execution of international agreements; in being committed to the building of a high-level international trade and investment rule system that is impartial, reasonable and transparent; in enhancing international cooperation on intellectual property protection; in standardising enterprises' investment and management; and in improving rule of law-based anti-corruption systems and mechanisms.'

MICHAEL STUCKEY  
SPEAKING AT THE  
CHINE FORUM [SOURCE:  
XINHUA/DENG HUA]



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**By Tom Clark**

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UWA PUBLISHING

# CULTURAL DIVERSITY

## AUSTRALIA'S LEBANESE HERITAGE

Two Batrouney brothers, Trevor and Andrew, launched their new book on *The Lebanese in Australia* on Sunday, 24 October, at the Northcote Town Hall. (Their brother Roger served on the Victoria University Foundation for many years.) The history was officially launched by Steve Bracks, whose Lebanese forebears feature in the book.



ABOVE: RAYMOND BETROS IN HIS 80S, FLANKED BY HIS GRANDSON, SON, AND GREAT-GRANDSON [ROBERT PASCOE]

Robert Pascoe, who wrote the Foreword to this book, reminisced at the launch about his wife's family, whose patriarch left the northern village of Hadchit in 1926 to come to Melbourne. Raymond Betros was a hawker, peddling across western Victoria before settling in Casterton. His family kept alive some of the traditional Lebanese sayings and wisdom, such as the following couplet:

El nass bel nass  
Wel gotta wel anfass

Literally, this means: 'They rush back and forth, but in the corner, there is a woman busily giving birth': in life we often ignore the more important things that are going on

Pascoe continued: Today's *Age* features a very positive review of Michael Bacash's restaurant in South Yarra, drawing our attention in particular to one of his signature dishes, "baby snapper fillet, sautéed and layered with silverbeet, sumac, tahini, currants and pine nuts", which "harks back to his Lebanese heritage".

When food critics and other journalists use a phrase like "Lebanese heritage", we think we all know that means, the reference. But of course, if you use that phrase in Sydney you are just as likely to be talking about the Muslim Lebanese of western Sydney, who are culturally and historically a long way away from Michael Bacash and Steve Bracks.

The challenge for the Batrouney brothers in researching and writing this book was to capture those differences in the many-sided experience of being "Lebanese", a category of people highly differentiated by region, social class, and religion.

And to make matters more complicated, of course, what we today call Lebanon was a minor province of the Ottoman Empire called Mount Lebanon when the migration to Australia began, and Australia was a collection of British colonies scattered across a vast continent with a frontier war still underway.

To write about the Lebanese in Australia thus demands an understanding of the changes in both nations in the making. It is not surprising that so few historians have attempted what the Batrouneys have attempted.

And yet this task must be undertaken, not just for the Lebanese, but for many other important minority groups in Australia.

When they wrote their first major history on the Lebanese in Australia, back in 1985 the Batrouneys, themselves of Christian Lebanese background, were describing a community that was mostly Christian. Today, thanks to the civil war, Australia's Lebanese include a significant Muslim element. It is to their credit that the Batrouneys can write about these Muslims with as much scholarly care and insight as their own more familiar compatriots.

# CULTURAL DIVERSITY

This is what a genuinely multicultural intelligentsia can achieve. It is important that our schools, technical colleges and universities continue to celebrate cultural diversity, not in a tokenistic way, but as part of a genuine dialogue between and among groups of Australians from distinctly different backgrounds.

Certainly, my university, Victoria University in Melbourne, strives to meet this objective. Our staff and students represent every imaginable social, religious and ethnic group in Australia. Every day in our classrooms and in our meetings my colleagues learn from each other new ways of thinking about the issues and challenges we face as a society in a turbulent era.

This book should inspire Australians from all backgrounds to listen to each other's stories, and perhaps to produce new books and other media that give voice to the multiplicity of narratives that is the great Australian conversation.'

Pascoe and History lecturer Dr Dunia El Badaoui helped the Batrouneys with editing and fact-checking.

Copies can be ordered from the Connor Court website [HERE](#)

## DECEMBER NEWS FROM THE HELLENIC MUSEUM

The Hellenic Museum, as part of its ongoing support of contemporary artists, has collaborated with illustrator Natalie Rompotis and lifestyle brand Salt&Pepper to create limited edition mugs reimagining a selection of the mythical muses of poetry, astronomy, dance and music.



MUSE MUGS

SUMMER CINEMA 2020



Join us once again in the leafy courtyard of the Hellenic Museum for some of the most iconic Greek cinema classics. Held in the courtyard of the Hellenic Museum, our Summer Cinema program offers a unique Melbourne summer experience in the spirit of the outdoor cinema, popular in Greece for over 100 years.

Taking place each Saturday evening in February, we will be screening: *Beware of Greeks Bearing Guns*, *A Touch of Spice*, *Mediterraneo*, *Kiss the Girls* and *Rembetiko*. All films will have English subtitles.

Gates open at 6.30pm. Enjoy food and drinks from Grounds of Arcadia, Greek-inspired popcorn, ice creams and more. Seating is provided and screenings begin at sunset.

# CULTURAL DIVERSITY



## SUMMER SCHOOL 2020

Discover ancient Greece like never before in this exciting collection of courses. Classes include: Greek Architecture and its Legacy; Athenian Democracy in Practice; Understanding Ancient Greek Society with Aristotle; Beginning to Philosophise with the ancient Greeks. Can't decide which class to choose? Then try them all!

6 - 10 January, 2020 from 9.30am - 4pm each day.

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM



These school holidays the Hellenic Museum invites little explorers to brandish their very own shield, fight like ancient warriors, craft mythical Greek vases, participate in the boisterous ancient Dromena tradition and join in epic Greek story telling.

There are so many adventures to be had at the Hellenic Museum, so come and join us. Bring your courage and creativity.

Saturday 11, 18 and 25 January at the Hellenic Museum.

# FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

## VICE-CHANCELLOR AWARDS 2019



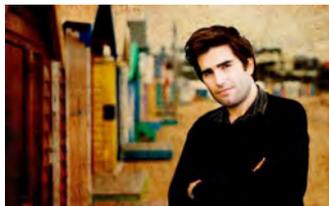
LEFT:  
PROFESSOR  
PETER NOONAN  
(SOURCE: THE  
AUSTRALIAN)

Professor Peter Noonan, an eminent researcher in tertiary education issues, has received a Vice-Chancellor's Career Achievement Award, a distinction given from time to time to honour individuals based at the University for more than seven years.

Noonan, originally from Perth, explains what led him to pursue his work in tertiary education policy and management:

'From a young age I was powerfully influenced by the experience of my father who left school when he was only 12 years old. Self-educated himself in the public libraries of Western Australia, rose to senior positions in hospital administration in Western Australia, but then when it came to doing the external studies course that was required for people in his position, or certainly to go any further, he walked. He didn't have the understanding of what it meant to do a tertiary course, to do a university course. He never completed it.'

RIGHT: DR MAURICE GUERRIERI, SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW, ISILC [SOURCE: VICTORIA UNIVERSITY]



This year's Excellence in Engagement award goes to Dr Maurice Guerrieri, for his design and installation of a full-scale structural fire tunnel test rig to meet the requirement of the Melbourne Metro Project.

(Previous Story: 'Fire in the Tunnel', July 2019)

A Citation for Engagement also went to the Applied Security Science Partnership Team (Institute of Sustainable Industries and Liveable Cities), comprising Dr Muhammad Iqbal, Dr Debra Smith, and Professor Ramon Spaaij (iHeS)

One of the two Excellence in Learning and Teaching citations went to the Project Asia Engaged Intercultural Teaching and Learning Team, within the College of Arts and Education, comprising Dr Mark Vicars, Dr Marcelle Cacciatolo, Dr Ligia Pelosi, Mel Vella, Dr Peter Thomas and Dr Greg Aronson.

The Excellence in Research and Research Training citation was won by Dr Thu-Huong Nguyen, Victoria University School of Business.

The author of a more than a dozen book chapters, scholarly articles and conference papers in the field of Vietnamese migration and tourism, Thu-Huong Nguyen's professional experience includes over 10 years of working in Germany, Vietnam and Australia, senior management roles within the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism (VNAT), and consulting with tourism airlines and the pharmaceutical industry.



LEFT: THU-HUONG NGUYEN, LECTURER IN MARKETING [SOURCE: VICTORIA UNIVERSITY]

Dr Elmira Jamei, College of Engineering and Science, has been cited for her work as an Early Career Researcher.

Before being appointed to Victoria University, Dr Elmira Jamei contributed to teaching and research in Architecture and Urbanism across Australia and Asia, where she also practised as an architect and urban designer in diverse design companies.

# FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

RIGHT:  
DR ELMIRA JAMEI,  
THE DEPUTY  
INFRASTRUCTURE/  
BUILT ENVIRONMENTS  
PROGRAM LEADER,  
ISILC (SOURCE:  
VICTORIA  
UNIVERSITY)



Dr Elmira Jamei has been the project leader and key researcher in several national and international collaborative projects within Australia, China, Singapore, and Malaysia. Her specific research interest lies in sustainable built environment, climate sensitive urban design and smart cities.

Finally, the Excellence in Learning and Teaching (Higher Education) Award went to Dr Fotios Sidiroglou (First Year College & ISILC)

## ACADEMIC PROMOTION TO LEVELS B & C

The latest round of promotions includes several colleagues. Congratulations to them all! The following were promoted to Academic Level B (Lecturer):

Dr Ancy Gamage, Business School  
Ms Maria De Sensi, Business School

The following were promoted to Academic Level C (Senior Lecturer/Senior Research Fellow):

Dr Greg Aronson, College of Arts & Education  
Dr Robert Bell, College of Arts & Education  
Dr Elmira Jamei, College of Engineering & Science  
Dr Fiona MacDonald, Institute for Sustainable Industries & Liveable Cities  
Dr Mario Peucker, Institute for Sustainable Industries & Liveable Cities  
Dr Xing Yang, Institute for Sustainable Industries & Liveable Cities  
Dr Chitra De Silva, Business School  
Dr Syed Haider, Business School

## DRIVING INVESTMENT FOR ADOLESCENT HEALTH

Dr Kim Sweeny from VISES is Associate Investigator with a team of researchers who have been awarded a 5-year NHMRC grant to create a new Centre of Research Excellence (CRE) on Population Health Research commencing in 2020. The title of the project is Driving Global Investment in Adolescent Health. The administering institution is the University of Melbourne (Paediatrics; Population & Global Health) with Lead Investigator Professor George Patton. Partner institutions are the Burnet Institute (Modelling & Biostatistics; Adolescent Health), the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute Limited (Aboriginal Research Program), The University of Queensland (School of Population Health), University of New South Wales (School of Public Health; NDARC). The team has been granted \$2,492,380.10 over the 5 years. Research will focus on adolescent health, health policy, risk factors, health surveillance and health systems.

The current generation of 10- to 24-year-olds is the largest ever. They face unprecedented shifts in their health, growth and development. However, policies and services have lagged far behind. Health investments have been minimal and adolescents have had relatively few gains in recent decades. A lack of research and technical capacity is a major reason for this failure. This CRE will provide the knowledge to scale up investment and establish Australia as a global research leader.

## CIVIL ENGINEERING JOURNAL

Upcoming Infrastructure Asset Management Themed Issue in 2020

Professor Sharma and Dr van Staden from the Institute of Sustainable Industries and Liveable Cities and Civil Engineering, College of Engineering and Science, have initiated a themed issue entitled Infrastructure Asset Management with the Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE).

# FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

## AND BRIEFLY

**D**r Teresa De Fazio has been appointed the manager of the Cultural Diversity program in Institute, filling a role that has been vacant. Her deputy will be Dr Oksana Razoumova.

Em Prof Phillip Deery has reviewed a new book on the twentieth-century dictators by Frank Dikotter, *How to be a Dictator (The Age, 2 November)*

**C**ongratulations to Associate Professor Shah Miah who has been appointed to the board of *Health Informatics Journal*, a vital publication in the newly emerging area of health informatics.

**R**uwangi Fernando has been selected as a finalist for the 2019 Victorian International Education Awards under the International Student of the Year (Research category).

**A**ssociate Professor Dianne Hall's *New History of the Irish in Australia* was a runner-up in the History category of the Queensland Literary Awards.

**P**rofessor Yanchun Zhang has been appointed to the UKRI-NHMRC Built Environment and Prevention Research Peer Review Working Committee.

## SUMMER READING IDEAS

**A**s we are approaching the holiday season, you might be looking for items to read over the break; below are some items related to our current Institute research agenda:

In terms of research, there is growing interest in 'planetary health' at VU; below are some links that you might like to read to get a better understanding of what planetary health is about:

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(17\)30044-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(17)30044-X/fulltext)

<https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/blog/planetary-health-global-also-local/>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/23748834.2018.1526659?journalCode=rcah20>

<https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/About-us/What-we-do>

Planetary Health

Alliance: <https://planetaryhealthalliance.org/academic-institutions>

Also, the following topics are also of growing interest to VU and the community generally, so there may be opportunities for research around these topics.

School for Transport Systems and Civic Construction (Infrastructure)

Rail – Department of Transport – Rolling Stock & Infrastructure; Inland Rail; Faster Train Authority  
Waste Management – Municipal waste; recycling; energy conversion

Water – Security; Green Infrastructure; Energy production

Renewable Energy – Hydrogen production / storage / economy; Batteries; Solar to Singapore

Fire – Increased fires in Northern Europe / Canada; Sydney/Brisbane;

Industry

More SMEs driving jobs – international trade; on-line transactions/marketing; cyber security; innovation

Community

Digital transformations

Disadvantage

Age discrimination

# FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

## REMINDERS:

**R**esearcher Profiles - <https://www.vu.edu.au/user> need to be established for all ISILC researchers.

**I**n the meanwhile, it is critically important that your VU researcher profiles are up-to-date. VU researcher profiles present staff on a professional and searchable platform for prospective funders, researchers, research students and the media to easily access information about your research and capabilities. It is also a primary source of information for me in thinking about needs and opportunities and for knowing who to invite to specialist forums. If your researcher profile is out of date or if you do not have a profile, please prioritise contacting a member of the profile team at [researcher.profiles@vu.edu.au](mailto:researcher.profiles@vu.edu.au). This team was formed to support researchers to set up their profiles but will only be available until December 15. Most of the data is collected automatically from University systems (e.g. publications, grants, supervision). The information that the profile team will need from you is:

**E**veryone should have established an ORCID account (<https://orcid.org/>) This is used by the ARC and also VU in harvesting your publications.

**A**RC Discovery season - Need to get process for submission from Office for Research (i.e. review process etc).

**N**eed to complete on-line training - particularly the OHS training courses. Please make an effort to do these over the break.

**T**hank you to Riccardo Natoli for filling in as Deputy Director - Research and Research Training while Dianne Hall was on long service leave. He probably had more responsibility than he originally thought as he covered for Randall Robinson while he took carers leave. Thank Riccardo for a great job.

**G**overnment released Foreign Interference Guidelines, available at: <https://www.education.gov.au/ufit>. I will be working with Teresa Tjia to understand how VU Research needs to work with these guidelines and will provide an in-depth briefing following this.

**M**oRA uses national benchmarks derived from the ERA data. Following the last ERA round the national benchmarks have been updated. As the national benchmarks for publications and income have generally increased, your MoRA score may have declined. This will be common for many across VU although the trends will vary with discipline.

**I**would like to thank ISILC research for another great year. Meet income target and have good initiatives and programs developed during the year. Good ERA results and Times Higher Education rankings. ISILC is establishing a strong collaborative research culture and it is a pleasure to work with ISILC researchers and staff.

WELCOME TO WHAT WE HOPE  
WILL BE A BETTER WORLD!  
SENIOR LECTURER ALISON  
BAKER AND HER PARTNER  
MATT FLETCHER ARE  
PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE  
ARRIVAL OF JULIETTE JEAN  
FLETCHER, BORN 9  
NOVEMBER  
AT 11:36PM.

