TRANSFORMING GENDER
How gender-based persecution is changing refugee law

SUN, SAND AND SILICONE
Cosmetic surgery: vanity or a rite of passage?

ENGAGING TRANSITION
Helping first-year students stick with their studies
What were some of the highlights for UTS in 2012?
It’s hard to believe we are almost at the end of another year; we will soon be counting the shopping days until Christmas! 2012 has been a year of extraordinary achievement for UTS. For the second year in a row, UTS has been ranked by the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), formerly the Shanghai Jiao Tong university rankings, in the world’s 500 top universities. This year, for the first time, we entered the Times Higher Education World University Rankings to be among the top 400 universities internationally. We have also been ranked in two separate ‘young’ university rankings, The Times and QS, as among one of the best young universities in the world; and we were awarded five stars (the highest rating available) in the QS Stars system – a new rating system that gives universities an opportunity to highlight strengths that may be overlooked in other assessments. These are tremendous achievements, particularly for a university so young, and I hope you are all proud of the part you have played in our success.

Do you have any predictions for 2013?
The combination of the uncertain political environment, and the international economy, makes it very hard to predict. Most likely we will see no major policy changes but also no funding increases. We are keeping a very close watching brief on the explosive growth in online learning, including the rise of MOOCs (massive open online courses). We are continuing our in-depth analyses of opportunities to take advantage of free, open content to complement the important face-to-face learning opportunities we know our students value, and which utilise our wonderful, and popular, new collaborative learning spaces.

When I was younger I wanted to be ... An Olympic gold medallist in swimming! Unfortunately, growing up in a small village in the middle of nowhere, without a swimming pool, was not very conducive to that.

What’s the greatest sporting moment you’ve ever witnessed? I was at the Olympic stadium in 2000 to watch Cathy Freeman win the 400 metres. It was incredible!

One of the things I’d like to tick off my bucket list is ... Since I am going to live to 400, I haven’t constructed it yet.

What’s the best piece of advice anyone ever gave you? Trust your intuition, even if you can’t explain it. It’s almost always correct.

What is the most important characteristic in a Vice-Chancellor? Brevity!
Photographer: Jesse Taylor

ROSS MILBOURNE
Vice-Chancellor and President

ARE COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINES ‘LEGITIMATE’ FORMS OF HEALTH CARE OR DO YOU ONLY SUPPORT CONVENTIONAL MEDICAL TREATMENTS?
In my experience, GPs are more likely to provide a chemical cover-up for a problem than attempt to solve it. I have heard all sorts of horror stories about chemicals being used to treat side effects of other chemicals which only mask a problem anyway. If you can’t find the root of the problem yourself, you need to find someone whose expertise covers that area. I believe that you are what you eat and do. Food and exercise deficiencies are the first line of response to health problems, in my experience.
Rosemary Sharples

I have had extensive experience through two major health incidents over a 10 year period where the polarisation between alternative and mainstream practice couldn’t have been more diverse; both involving radical invasive surgical options! Overall, the impact of this situation on my life has been an incredible loss of income, but perhaps a great saving to the mainstream medical system. I continue to take an extensive biodrug, however, overall, food management and healthy lifestyle choices are the main mode employed. I hope this is useful in some way for the research that is well needed. I hope to hear more as the research progresses.
Pat

YOUR THOUGHTS
Share your opinion on any U: magazine article online at newsroom.uts.edu.au.
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NEXT ISSUE:
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Send your story ideas, opinions, events to u@uts.edu.au. Deadline for submissions is 1 February 2013.

All U: articles are available to read online via newsroom.uts.edu.au.

discover, engage, empower, deliver, sustain
What’s in a name? A mouthful, if you’re the UTS Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health (NMH). But the tongue twister has now been retired as the faculty becomes the UTS Faculty of Health.

The change signifies new and exciting directions for the faculty, which has greatly expanded its teaching and research offerings and network of industry partnerships over the last few years.

“We’ve experienced significant growth in health research infrastructure, capacity and productivity and health course offerings in the faculty, and we want this to be reflected in how we present ourselves both within UTS and publicly,” says Dean of the faculty John Daly.

“Much of our research is undertaken by multi-disciplinary teams. In addition, the faculty now has Chairs in Public Health – Jon Adams, and Epidemiology – David Sibbritt. In addition to our outstanding health services management, nursing and midwifery courses, we now have human movement, sports and exercise science and sports management in the faculty.”

Health has also strengthened research links with partners like St Vincent’s Hospital and Mater Health Services. And, through The Health-Science Alliance, they’ve also established a collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine at the University of New South Wales – a partnership that’s set to enhance interprofessional education opportunities and collaboration in teaching and learning, research and practice development.

“The new name better reflects who we are and where the faculty aspires to go in the future,” says Daly.

Nursing and midwifery, the two disciplines included in the faculty’s original name, will continue to be vital areas of teaching and research. Both disciplines have recently delivered exciting results for UTS. Nursing, which includes midwifery, rated above world standard (receiving a score of four) in the 2010 Excellence in Research for Australia initiative.

Daly says, “Nurses and midwives are some of the most outstanding researchers in the faculty.”

For example, in nursing, Senior Research Fellow Sally Inglis won an OMRC-CVRN Life Sciences Research Fellowship from the Heart Foundation and was invited to sit on the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Postdoctoral Reference Group.

Director of the Centre for Cardiovascular and Chronic Care Patricia Davidson was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame, and Lynn Chenoweth, Ian Forbes, Jane Stein-Parbury and Marion Haas (together with researchers from the University of Sydney, University of New South Wales and University of Wollongong) won the 2012 International Psychosocial Research award granted by Alzheimer’s Disease International and the Fondation Médéric Alzheimer.

Midwifery has also had a series of successes in top tier competitive grants and other awards. Last year, Caroline Homer, who sits on the NHMRC Research Committee, won a Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Research Excellence in the category of Research Development and an NHMRC and an Australian Research Council Discovery grant in the latest round of funding.

“Naturally, nursing and midwifery are two acknowledged major strengths of both UTS and the faculty itself,” says Daly. “And they’ll continue to be key elements of our future teaching and research strategies.

“However, the new name will also be useful for us in terms of positioning our teaching and research within the broader health offerings we’re now able to make.”

Claire Thompson
Research and Innovation Office
Photographer: Anna Zhu

Comment on this article at newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2012/11/healthy-growth
The current UTS website takes a more ‘silod’ approach to the way information is managed and presented. At the moment, content owners work separately to maintain the content and structure of around 200 websites.

But now, Alexander says, “by giving the platforms an audience focus, you flip that all around. We’re asking people who don’t ordinarily work together, or produce content that’s user focused, to think about it from the audience perspective.”

The structure of the new public website, due to be launched next month, will also see the use of more imagery, interactivity and video elements for improved public engagement.

Clear use of signposts, including the headers and footers, will allow different audiences to easily find their way around the site.

The same strategies used to support content owners for the public website are also being adapted to foster a community of users for Staff Connect – UTS’s soon-to-be-released staff intranet. Features include a personalised home page, a universal search function, local and global news streams, topic hubs, a people and unit finder, and ‘How do I...?’ instructional pages to make everyday processes and communication easier and faster.

“We broke down the idea of ‘what is staff?’ to identify and create profiles for all the distinct user groups. We surveyed 30 or so staffers quite specifically about their usage of online platforms, conducted a survey of all staff on their collaboration and communication patterns, and involved a cross-section of employees in the more detailed requirements gathering phase.”

Piloting of the intranet’s beta environment, as well as a pilot content migration, will continue until the end of this year. A second beta release is expected to follow in early 2013, with the university-wide release of the intranet soon after that.

“There are a lot of possibilities for what the staff intranet could be. This starting set of features is just a basis that will move and evolve; it won’t stop there. It’s very much informed by how staff use it and how they seek and develop to use it in future.”

Katia Sanfilippo
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Joanne Saad
Comment on this article at newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2012/11/mapping-it-out
OPINION
INSTITUTE FOR INTERACTIVE MEDIA AND LEARNING
TRANSFORMING CULTURES

Cosmetic surgery: a vain attempt to prevent ageing or a rite of passage for 21st century women? Ethnographer and cultural studies researcher Meredith Jones is part of an international team examining cosmetic surgery tourism. Their surprising results are prompting a re-think of the industry and the risks involved in undertaking a nip and tuck overseas.

Most of us remember a time when cosmetic surgery was a weird, dangerous indulgence reserved for Hollywood stars and the severely vanity-inflicted. But in the last 20 years it has become something many people think of as part of good grooming; another option in the suite of self-improvement procedures that include hair dye, teeth capping, dieting and gym work.

Cosmetic surgery is apparent on faces and bodies everywhere. It is now, for many, simply not a big deal. There are complex reasons for its popularity, and they show no signs of waning. Firstly, ageing baby-boomers, the richest generation that has ever lived, have money to spare and are unwilling to age in the ways their parents did.

Secondly, throughout the 20th century, the ways we viewed our bodies changed: the body morphed from being something ‘God-given’ into something we own and have the right to modify. A few years ago, reality television programs such as Extreme Makeover and The Swan made cosmetic surgery seem easy, necessary and glamorous.

There is an increasing focus on the importance of personal appearance, and our exteriors have come to signify our values and our senses of control: our bodies now help us to demonstrate we are ‘good citizens’ who are always undergoing self-improvement.

Last, but not least, cosmetic surgeons have been shamelessly dedicated to the promotion of this new and lucrative industry. Like other consumer items connected with ‘living well’, cosmetic surgery is now highly desirable, and if prices are restrictive in Australia, then some people are prepared to travel in order to get it.

I am part of a multi-site, multi-disciplinary international team examining cosmetic surgery tourism. The Sun, Sea, Sand, Silicone project is funded by the UK’s Economic and Social Research Council. Colleagues at Leeds and Leicester universities are looking at Britons who go to Poland, Spain and Tunisia, as well as Chinese people traveling to South Korea for surgery. Researchers at UTS and Sydney University are looking at Australians who travel to Thailand and Malaysia.

Statistics are scarce for cosmetic surgery in general and for cosmetic surgery tourism in particular. However, my own (extremely conservative) estimate shows 15 000 Australian residents seek cosmetic surgery overseas annually, amounting to spending of at least AUD$300 million.

Thailand is the most popular destination for Australian cosmetic surgery tourists (Malaysia comes in second), offering cosmetic surgery services at half or even a third of what they cost at home.

When I first visited Thailand to interview Australians who were there for cosmetic surgery, I expected unhygienic conditions, poorly qualified surgeons and desperate customers. I could not have been more misguided. Most of the hospitals that foreigners visit in Thailand cater especially for internationals and are highly accredited and world class. Many of the people I’ve interviewed over the last few years have spoken about how much cleaner, well equipped, and better staffed they think Bangkok hospitals are than Australian ones.

Understandably, Australian cosmetic surgeons are not happy with the rise of cosmetic surgery tourism. Their businesses are being threatened and they stand to lose customers and money. They like to contribute to scare campaigns about cosmetic surgery abroad, often saying they are constantly fixing up botched jobs done by foreign surgeons.

What they fail to mention, however, is they are also constantly fixing up botched jobs done by each other. Again, statistics are not recorded, but I strongly suspect the possibility of cosmetic surgery ‘gone wrong’ is just as likely whether you have it in Sydney or in Bangkok.

However, people do not just travel for surgery. Cosmetic surgery tourism is often a luxury package that includes sightseeing, shopping, and spa-type pampering.

A new breed of entrepreneurs, who call themselves cosmetic surgery tourism agents or consultants, have helped to create this seemingly incongruous combination of holiday and surgery.

Most agents are middle-aged women without tertiary qualifications but with a huge amount of experiential expertise – that is, they have been cosmetic surgery tourists themselves. These small businesswomen usually operate from home, often via the internet and online social networking, organising everything from flights to hospital bookings to wildlife park visits. Most never meet clients face to face.
Clients’ profiles are hugely diverse, but there has been an increase in the last couple of years in one particular demographic group: women in their early 20s. They usually are travelling together, either with friends or in a group made up by an agent, and most of them have breast augmentations.

One of the fascinating things about this group is that it's very highly socially networked, making huge use of Facebook, texting and YouTube. These young women are a new breed of cosmetic surgery recipients, who, unlike many older recipients, make no apology for their decisions to have cosmetic surgery.

They do a lot of research and are far from secretive, often posting post-surgery images of themselves online, writing about their experiences and even uploading videos that document their experiences. They form a very strong and knowledgeable community that knows what it wants and sees cosmetic surgeons as skilled technicians.

As a cultural studies researcher and ethnographer I think these groups are doing far more than changing their bodies at cheap prices. They are performing ritual bonding of a type that has been observed by anthropologists across many cultures and in many time periods. That is, they travel away from home, in a group, often with an older and more experienced guide, in order to undergo physical and emotional change.

They do this at an age of transition, when they are moving from being children to being adults, and the surgery they choose – breast augmentation – is a physical marker of this. In other words, cosmetic surgery tourism for these young women is an initiation or a rite of passage: a demonstration of maturity and independence.

While personally I can think of far better ways to show that one has become a woman, such as being well educated and financially independent, what these people get out of cosmetic surgery tourism is important and deserves the sort of understanding that can only come about through deep research. The results of our research will be fully disseminated at two conferences to be held in Sydney and Leeds in June 2013 and a full report will be released at the same time.

Meredith Jones
Senior Lecturer
Institute for Interactive Media and Learning
Core Member, Transforming Cultures Research Centre
Photographer: Joanne Saad
Comment on this article at newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2012/11/sun-sand-and-silicone
“IT’S NOT ABOUT THE TEACHERS GOING TO THE BOARD AND WRITING, IT’S ABOUT THE STUDENTS ENGAGING WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH WHAT THEY’RE LEARNING.”

Kathy Egea

Alison Beavis and Tony Baker
“Should I stay or should I go now?” It’s a phrase familiar not just to 1970s punk rock fans, but to first-year university students struggling to make the transition to tertiary education. That may be about to change. A university-wide strategy, launched last year, is encouraging staff to develop sustainable student engagement initiatives, and already, more students are choosing to stick with their studies.

“For some kids, uni is a very scary place,” says Professor of Chemistry and Head of the School of Chemistry and Forensic Science Tony Baker.

“They’re used to an environment where they’re typically in a class of 20 to 30 students with one teacher. But there are actually very few experiences like that at uni.”

Baker is just one of many UTS academic and support staff working to make students’ transition to university easier. And not just for those coming straight from high school.

“All students are faced with challenges in their first semester at university,” says Senior Lecturer and First Year Experience Coordinator Kathy Egea. “They may be mature age students who haven’t studied for years, students from low socio-economic (LSES) backgrounds who are the first in their family to attend university, students in pathway programs or recent high school leavers who were recommended to UTS by their school principals.”

Since August 2011, Egea has been coordinating UTS’s First Year Experience (FYE) Project. The university-wide strategy supports a learning community approach to share practice that improves the first year experience inside and outside the curriculum. Run through the Institute for Interactive Media and Learning, it’s funded by the Equity and Diversity Unit’s Widening Participation Strategy.

A key part of the project’s strategy encourages subject coordinators to apply for up to $4000 of funding for sustainable programs that promote student retention and success.

“The concept is to embed a transition pedagogy, or way of teaching, into the first-year academic courses,” says Egea.

This year, 15 grants were awarded (there were 14 in 2011). They include second-year students supporting first-year students in architecture workshops, ‘culture shock’ videos to prepare midwifery students for the realities of working on a ward, and two projects run by Baker and Senior Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Programs in the Faculty of Science Alison Beavis.

The first was aimed at bridging the gap between high school mathematics and university chemistry. The second was an overhaul of the Chemistry 1 subject.

According to Beavis, “It was really clear some of the mathematical concepts were impeding students’ understanding. We did a little fact finding and discovered a significant proportion of students are coming to us either with no maths or not really prepared for the maths they’re going to encounter.”

With the help of PhD student Jason Lee, they created a booklet covering all the critical concepts students need to navigate Chemistry 1, as well as self-test quizzes and online, multimedia resources.

The second project “was really about getting a different teaching and learning experience in the laboratory,” explains Baker.

The changes included writing new pracs to better align lectures and labs, a formal half-day induction for the school’s 30-odd lab demonstrators (all of whom are honours or PhD students) and an overhaul of the labs themselves to include ‘tutorials’ with sample problems and a 20-minute quiz on that week’s lesson.

“Research shows it’s very important for students to have early, low stakes assessment and we’ve tried to do that,” says Baker.

The aim, adds Beavis, is to “build confidence, so the students know where they sit. If they’re struggling, it’s good to know upfront to be able to source the right support. We’re trying to prevent that ‘Will I stay or will I go?’ moment students may have in their first year of study.”

With approximately 800 students undertaking Chemistry 1 in Autumn semester, the project was huge. “About half of the academic staff of the school actually contributed to the revamp,” says Baker. “It was a good bonding exercise, and I don’t mean that in the chemical sense!”

Honours student Suzy Streetfield conducted focus groups before and after the changes were implemented to gauge staff and student sentiment. As a demonstrator with two years’ experience, Streetfield applauds the changes.

“The induction was really useful because we got to hear what the staff expected of us. Before, everything you learned depended on which supervisor you were partnered with – each class consists of a demonstrator and a supervisor who has taught the subject before. So, there was little consistency. New demonstrators learned what to do either from their supervisor or from their own memories of demonstrators who taught them during their undergraduate studies.”

Streatfield says the changes have led to a big improvement in student engagement too. “Last year, students aimed to get out of the classroom as early as possible.

“With the new system, the focus of the labs is totally different. Completing the prac quickly no longer means students can leave early, so they spend more time both on the prac work and the new tutorial section afterwards. And because the main assessable item is a quiz, held under exam conditions, they know they need to pay attention in the lab to get the marks.”

Baker says the subject has seen a “substantial improvement in the pass rates” and “the more active teaching and learning engagement has meant not only a better experience for the students, it’s actually a better experience for the teachers too.”

He adds, the Autumn Student Feedback Surveys showed “at least 10 demonstrators who got an overall rating of 4.5 on a five point scale. That’s exceptional.”

Egea, who has herself taught primary, secondary and tertiary students, acknowledges for many, changing the way they teach “is a pretty big shift. It’s about intentionally fostering a sense of belonging and supporting students to learn. It’s not about the teachers going to the board and writing, it’s about the students engaging with each other and with what they’re learning.”

From next year, additional funding will help with this shift. Each faculty will receive funds to employ a Transition Coordinator, one day a week, to oversee their own FYE projects.

Egea hopes the expanding focus on the first-year experience will also see more first-year academics join her “community of practice” – a quarterly, cross-faculty meeting of academic and support staff who share experiences and a advice.

“I’m trying to encourage casual tutors to come as well. We can’t pay them, but they can come, have some food, listen to what’s happening and share their experiences.

“There are a lot of activities and they’re all varied, and that’s the beauty of it. Every faculty, or even subject, has its own way of working and its own needs, and if we try to put something on top, it may not work. With the First Year Experience community we’re getting staff to tell us how they can create meaningful and lasting change.”

Fiona Lvy
Marketing and Communication Unit
Comment on this article at newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2012/11/engaging-transition
Historically, what constitutes a valid refugee claim has been interpreted through male experiences. International cases of gender-based persecution are slowly transforming the framework of refugee law, bringing to light new ways of thinking about refugee status, gender and identity.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees’ (UNHCR) Guidelines on International Protection: Gender-related Persecution uses the term ‘gender-related persecution’ to encompass the range of different claims in which gender is a relevant consideration in the determination of refugee status. “It’s also one that requires a revised understanding of how gendered identities are constructed and contested within refugee law,” says Faculty of Law Professor Jenni Millbank. “Women make up half the world’s refugees and, like men, can suffer persecution on any number of grounds, but gender-based claims make up a much smaller number. Nonetheless, the gender-based cases are influencing the way other cases are being decided by changing and expanding the refugee categories, and the way we think about things like state responsibility.”

It’s this interpretation and broadening of existing refugee law legislation that forms the basis of Millbank’s three-year research project: Gender Related Harms in Forced Migration. The comparative international study, funded under the Australian Research Council Discovery Project scheme is, looking at how refugee law has been transformed by gender, its relationship with human rights norms and the conceptual evolution of gendered identity.

“Gender-based or gender-related persecution covers sexual orientation, gender identity, HIV status as well as those that are more obviously about gender roles and norms,” says Millbank. She has been building on her research for over a decade with the help of more than 10 international collaborators including law experts, not-for-profit organisations and refugee support groups. “When we think about gender-related persecution, we tend to think about women being persecuted usually because of domestic violence or female genital mutilation. Part of our project is actually saying it includes persecution of sexual minorities: gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender individuals. Also, it covers both men and women who are non-conforming in ways that profoundly challenge prevailing social norms through feminist activism, rejection of dress codes or other key areas of gendered behaviour, like marriage.”

Millbank’s interest in this area came after she noticed a number of refugee claims were about forced marriage. “My colleague Katherine Fallah was working as an assistant on an earlier project and she noticed a number of gay men were saying they faced forced marriage. We decided it would be worth examining a set of cases to see how forced marriage claims play out for heterosexual women compared to gay men making those claims.”

Millbank and her collaborators are using key refugee receiving nations – the Netherlands, Germany, USA, the United Kingdom and Canada – as the basis for their case gathering on gender-related persecution. One of Millbank’s main collaborators is the University of British Columbia’s Professor Catherine Dauvergne, a specialist in refugee law. “We’re aiming to do a full-scale global accounting of gender and refugee law; it’s very exciting but also ambitious,” says Dauvergne. “We now have a network of scholars and activists around the world supporting our research in different ways, and that network just keeps growing.”

There are currently five refugee categories in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees: race, religion, nationality, political opinion and particular social group (PSG). Millbank says whereas women previously made up a small portion of PSG, the violations against them are transforming the classic model of what a refugee can be. “Women are being beaten or raped by their husbands or being forced into marriage by their family members. These experiences of violence in the private sphere are seen as unfortunate things that happen to women, rather than being a matter of international law and concern.

“If you look at the early 90s, you have case after case of decision makers saying, ‘Well that’s not a refugee claim, that’s just a terrible thing that happened to a woman’. Now, through the process of re-envisaging the PSG, persecution and the nexus to the state, women experiencing domestic violence in a country like Bangladesh, for instance, are accepted as refugees because the state isn’t helping them.”
Different gender groups within PSG are continuing to shift and transform decision making, turning this group into the most dynamic and evolving aspect of the convention. Millbank says many of the gender guidelines in different countries specifically refer to women rather than men and don’t take into account things like sexuality or transgender status.

“The concept of gender identity is a complex one in particular for many decision makers to understand. It’s not as simple as people being born one sex and having an operation to ‘change’ to the other. Some claimants say ‘I am transsexual’, others might say, ‘I am gay and deep down I know I am a girl’, or, ‘I have taken female hormones for years but have given up the life of a transgender’. Their gender expressions are varied across a hugely diverse continuum of non-conformity.

“My colleague Laurie Berg and I recently examined a set of all the available transgender cases in English around the world. We found if they were seen as just men or women, there were major errors in the reasoning. For example, if a decision maker looked at the claim of a male-to-female transsexual and analysed their risk of harm as if they were a man, they’d get it really wrong. If that person now lives as a woman and goes in to military service or a men’s prison, she’ll be in terrible danger.

“Equally, to treat her as a woman and assess her ability to seek state protection by looking at information about domestic violence policies aimed at women, more broadly, also fails to appreciate she’s very differently situated to other women.”

Transgender cases make up a very small proportion of the global movement of forced migration, but, Millbank says, “they reveal all kinds of forms of persecution and forms of protection that are about conformity to a particular social expectation.”

For the law researcher, a change in legislation isn’t so much the issue; Millbank acknowledges the convention has stood the test of time for 60 years and will continue to do so. She hopes her research will help decision makers better understand and interpret the convention’s categories and definitions.

“What’s difficult about this project is accepting that we’re looking at the tip of an iceberg. We know there are a lot of people whose cases are never going to be properly heard, but we can at least address the ones we can see and start there.”

Katia Sanfilippo
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer (J Millbank): Anna Zhu
Photographer ([ridel]): Joanne Saad
Comment on this article at newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2012/11/transforming-gender
Teaching university students can sometimes be difficult. Tutoring West Papuans on video production, however, can be even harder.

Casual Academic in the faculties of Arts and Social Sciences and Design, Architecture and Building Alexandra Crosby has encountered both. She started teaching in 2011 while undertaking her PhD at UTS.

"My PhD is in International Studies but from an Indonesian studies and cultural studies standpoint," explains Crosby. "I’m interested in social change and activism, particularly creative forms of activism and understanding how global and local forces work to shape those."

The writer, researcher, designer, ethnographer and project manager also works with EngageMedia on their Papuan Voices project. The project aims to promote creative activism in Indonesia’s contested West Papuan region by helping local storytellers film their stories and publish them on EngageMedia’s website. This year, for her work, Crosby received the Creative Media Social Justice award at the UTS Human Rights Awards.

"Because it’s a tightly controlled military zone, there’s not a lot of stories that get out into the wider world, and those that do are usually about the violent conflict," says Crosby. "So we’ve been trying to help people in West Papua tell their stories through video and then distribute it online."

In order to "learn the skills necessary to broadcast to a global audience", the storytellers each attended one of the project’s video production workshops. Crosby was the Project Manager of a regional training event called Camp Sambel, in Indonesia in 2010 and then Malaysia in 2012. It wasn’t her first foray into the field – in 2004 Crosby spent a year living on the outskirts of Jakarta producing digital storytelling and live performance with the group Teater Buruh Indonesia.

"The Papuan Voices participants were all experienced storytellers in other ways but they hadn’t necessarily used video to tell their stories," says Crosby. "Part of our workshop process is about figuring out how stories can be told in a visual format."

Over the last three years, Papuan Voices has created and published over 80 videos. The response has been massive – for some films, viewers have written subtitles in different languages, and others have been publicly screened.

Crosby says the project’s success comes from a hunger, outside Indonesia, for West Papuan news. "People are desperate for news from West Papua, there’s very little investigative journalism and so it’s one of these times where citizen journalism is the only voice there is."

Though she graduates with her PhD next year, Crosby says she’ll continue working with UTS and EngageMedia – planning for a Papuan Voices 2 project is already underway.

"Using the videos to encourage discussion is a slow and tricky process, but one that I’ll do more and more of. I hope my professional work will inspire students in my classes to discover how they can use emerging media technologies to make positive change."

To see and hear Papuan Voices, visit papuanvoices.net.

Fintan McDonnell
Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism)
Photographer: Joanne Saad
Comment on this article at newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2012/11/raising-voices
Knight says he discovered his passion for coffee while working as a barista during his studies. “I found there is not just the barista and the cafe, there is the whole process behind it – from where the crop is grown, how it’s roasted, right down to what you do in the cafe. That really interested me.”

Though Knight attended an average of 13 to 14 hours of uni classes each week, most were during the evening, giving him the time to work in coffee shops and coffee bean roasting factories to gain experience in the industry.

“It’s called AeroPress,” says the young barista. “It’s fuller in flavour. With the espresso you get from the coffee machine, you drink it and you want to get going. Coffee made from AeroPress, it’s for you to relax in the afternoon.

“It’s one of my favourite kinds of coffee,” adds Knight. “And it’s one of the things that makes this shop different from others.”

The shop Knight is referring to is Knight’s Coffee & Tea Co, located at the end of the Devonshire Street Tunnel between Central Station and UTS’s building 6.

Knight, who graduated with a Bachelor of Business in mid-2011, spent much of his time on campus, searching out “good coffee”.

A lack of choice led him to open Knight’s Coffee & Tea last July. Though it’s located near the city, the wooden benches and the macarons in the display cabinet give the coffee house an atmosphere normally found in a Newtown cafe.

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“For most, coffee is something to wake you up in the morning. For Jake Knight, it’s also something to relax with in the afternoon.

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“While I was working at Toby’s Estate, for example, I was a supervisor for them at one of their cafes, and that taught me a lot about managing staff and the financial side of things.

“I learned how to run a coffee shop while working and speaking to people,” he says.

He credits his business degree, however, with teaching him the theory needed to run a business.

“My favourite subject during my whole time at university was Accounting for Small Business 1, which was taught by John Petty,” says Knight. “The subject wasn’t so much about accounting, it was more...
Steve Lewis is a National Political Correspondent for News Limited. His daughter, Rosie, is a Video Journalist at The Australian. Both UTS communication graduates, they talk about family, the press and Steve’s affinity for combining music and political satire.

**STEVE LEWIS**

I left high school shortly after my fifteenth birthday – I got bored, and wasn’t really applying myself to learn, and my school, Chatswood High, probably got fed up with me. I applied for a job as an apprentice butcher and to my surprise, and my mother’s shock, I was given a job at a butcher’s shop in East Lindfield. I lasted nearly four years in the trade, but I always wanted to try and make a career in the music business – I was a drummer. For some stupid reason I resigned and spent the next five or six years playing music.

Alas, once I reached my mid-20s, I realised I was never going to ‘make it’ as a muso and I looked around for something more stimulating, something that would lead to a more secure career. I enrolled in communications at UTS in 1986, as a mature age student, and graduated in 1992. My first few weeks were surreal – I couldn’t make head nor tail of the first readings we were given. One particular essay, about semiotics, nearly did my head in!

Once I settled down though, and made a few friends, I began to have a ball at uni. In my second year, I started to take a keen interest in student politics. I helped form the National Union of Students, served as President of the UTS Union in 1989, and in late 1987, I put my name forward for President of the Students’ Association (SA). We ran a strong ticket and a good campaign and my opponent really didn’t try that hard to garner votes. In the end, I was elected President of the SA.

Rosie and I share a very close relationship, as you would expect. She grew up around Parliament House in Canberra and many of our friends were journalists. Rosie is her own person and is carving out a quite different career to mine based on her own talents. As a journalist, you have to be prepared to cop plenty of blowback and be prepared to take some hard knocks. I’ve tried to drill this into Rosie – it’s a tough business and not everyone will be delighted with your stories.

The most satisfying stories are those that require a ton of hard work – I’ve broken a few about the ex-Speaker of the House Peter Slipper. Some of these required a lot of research, writing and connecting with sources before publication. It’s an extraordinary privilege to be able to document events that will be seared into the nation’s historical archives over time. I’ve also recently published my first novel, The Marmalade Files, which I co-wrote with Chris Uhlmann from the ABC.

I haven’t given up music altogether though – I’m part of a group called the House Howlers and we’ve been singing and taking the piss out of politicians since 1996. Our very first ‘public’ gig was in front of John Howard at the press gallery dinner in Canberra. The group is mainly comprised of press gallery journalists and numbers about 15, although that varies from time to time. We’ve satirised everyone from Tim Fischer (he loved us) to Barnaby Joyce and Kevin Rudd. A few years ago, we sang a song about Peter Costello and his ongoing leadership frustrations – it was to the tune of Queen’s ‘Bohemian Rhapsody’ and was a monster to learn, but it was the best song we’ve ever performed: “Is this his last term?, Or just my fantasy?, Ten budgets down, No escape from the Treasury ...”
LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

ROSIE LEWIS

I’m very close to my dad and I’m a big fan of the House Howlers – dad actually has a good voice and deep down wishes he was the world’s next Bruce Springsteen. We share a similar sense of humour and, to be honest, I could almost get away with murder without him noticing. Dad has more energy than anyone else I know. Even though he’s had some lousy media attention over the years I’m proud of what he’s doing. He’s very driven and absolutely loves and believes in what he does, which, in many ways is infectious.

Despite what many people think, journalists are mostly very interesting people. From a young age I always enjoyed sitting around the dinner table with mum and dad’s friends, listening to and talking about every topic under the sun. I guess I am following in dad’s footsteps but it’s a very different path to the one he’s taken – working as a video journalist in Sydney means I can be my own person.

My brothers and I spent most of our childhood playing hide-and-seek in the news rooms of Parliament House. I was born in Sydney but moved to Canberra when I was three when Dad took a job at the The Australian Financial Review’s Canberra bureau. I have a twin brother Charlie – he’s a carpenter – a younger brother Harry – he’s an aspiring musician – and a 13-year-old poodle, Satchmo – mum’s fourth child.

By the end of Year 12 I was desperate to move to a bigger city. Dad took me to the UTS open day and I remember being impressed with the subjects on offer – at that stage I thought I wanted to be an art or music writer. Ultimately though it was my own decision to go to UTS – the Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism) sounded like a great course and was in a good location. I went straight from high school to uni, but I knew that’s what I wanted to do – I figured the quicker I left uni, the quicker I’d be able to travel the world and earn some money.

When I graduated from uni last year, I said I’d take whatever job came my way and this was the first, and only, job I was offered. A video journalist does everything from researching to interviewing, filming, scripting, editing and producing. We’re not just producing our own work either, often we’re cutting together vision from photographers or journalists across the world. Many people, journalists included, don’t understand how much time can go into a two-minute video – it’s usually at least double the amount of time that goes into a print story.

I honestly have no idea where my career is heading – I’m not sure anyone really knows where journalism is heading – but I’m definitely going to stick around to find out. I’ve always thought I’d like to host a TV show like Andrew Denton’s Enough Rope. If I’m given the time to research and interview incredible people from around the world, celebrities and ordinary citizens alike, I’ll be happy. Even though the university gets a bad rap for its aesthetics, UTS definitely prepared me for the ‘real world’. I’ll always be grateful for its lecturers, tutors and subjects.

Fiona Livy
Marketing and Communication Unit

Comment on this article at newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2012/11/like-father-like-daughter

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Rosie and Steve Lewis
Twelve months filled with late nights and long, lazy days; it’s the kind of gap year most school leavers dream of. Not Nick Harrington. When he finished high school in 2007, Harrington set out to make a difference.

After first travelling through Europe, the future UTS law and international studies student decided to spend three months in Uganda, East Africa. He spent the time volunteering at the Erinah Manjeri Primary School in the Buikwe district of Central Uganda.

“Within the first two days we realised the school was bankrupt,” says Harrington. “We didn’t really know what we were going to do.”

Together with close friend James Paterson, he spent eight weeks building a chicken farm to provide a sustainable source of revenue for the school. The pair financed the project with their own money and support from family and friends in Australia.

Four years later, 22-year-old Harrington is returning to Uganda for the third time. What started out as a rewarding experience has turned into his passion.

With his best friend from high school, University of Sydney economics/law student Andy Thomas, Harrington established the Manjeri School Project. Today a team of five students from UTS, the University of Sydney and University of New South Wales, manage and support the charity’s mission to provide a high quality education to the poor and rural children of the Buikwe region.

In recognition of his work, Harrington was awarded the Elizabeth Hastings Memorial Award for Student Community Contribution at the 2012 UTS Human Rights Awards.

Harrington says, “Uganda has a pretty shocking record when it comes to education and they really do rely heavily on non-government organisations to provide a substantial amount of education. We’re contributing to the primary education shortfalls in Uganda.”

To put it into perspective, the cost of running the school each year is $15,000. That sum includes salaries for 10 teaching staff, equipment, textbooks and exercise books. “On top of that,” says Harrington, “every child gets a meal at school. They receive a basic maize or rice meal and for about 55 to 60 per cent of them that is their main meal for the day.”

While Harrington admits $15,000 is still expensive for running a school in rural Uganda, it’s not much compared to Sydney, where the same amount could fund one year’s tuition for one Year 5 private school student. For the same amount, the Manjeri School Project is providing 120 children with a primary education. Harrington says, “It goes to show the reality of the situation.”

Recently Harrington uncovered more realities of African life after he spent three months volunteering as an intern to Botswana’s first female High Court Judge Unity Dow at Dow and Associates. Harrington says he “jumped at the idea” to work under Dow as it gave him the opportunity to see the practical application of law in human rights cases. Having worked on transgender and intersex human rights cases, Harrington said the experience was “eye-opening”.

For now though, the Manjeri School Project team are focusing their efforts on maximising teacher retention rates in the hopes of increasing the number of children at the school and working towards the independence and sustainability of the school.

With a 10 per cent orphan rate, the charity relies on assistance from the Australian public to continue providing the children with primary education. For most, it’s all they will receive in their lifetime.

“Education is the most empowering thing for these people,” says Harrington. “I love the kids. I find them to be the happiest, most beautiful children.”

To find out more about the Manjeri School Project, visit manjerischoolproject.org
The publication of *Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine: An international reader* comes at a time when many complementary and alternative medicines (CAM) and therapies are coming under scrutiny and this text attempts to bring some clarity and reasoned debate to task. The book has been divided into three main topic areas – ‘Utilisation: populations and individuals’, ‘Practice, provision and the professional interface’, and ‘Knowledge production, research design and perspectives’. Each of these sections leads the reader through several chapters rounding out a specific field of CAM in a comprehensive manner. While several collaborators reside in Sydney, the text is international in context and referenced throughout with additional ‘further reading’ text boxes to assist supplementary in-depth reading for each chapter. Of interest to me were the chapters on the potential for integrative medicine, and the role of CAM in a comprehensive manner. While several collaborators reside in Sydney, the text is international in context and referenced throughout with additional ‘further reading’ text boxes to assist supplementary in-depth reading for each chapter. Of interest to me were the chapters on the potential for integrative medicine, and the role of CAM in a comprehensive manner. While several collaborators reside in Sydney, the text is international in context and referenced throughout with additional ‘further reading’ text boxes to assist supplementary in-depth reading for each chapter.

Susan Murphy believes, unlike earlier civilisations that used ancient stories to underpin a sense of what was real, the industrialising world has no bedrock, only a rapacious need for growth and to bend the earth to its needs and ambitions. Her solution for tackling the environmental crisis we have created is to turn to the Zen tradition of the koan, a ‘public case’ that seeks to break the frame of ordinary thought and trigger a healing of our minds. Only then, Murphy says, can we respond to break free from the paralysis that binds us to the thinking that created the problem in the first place. With no experience of Zen teachings or *The Universe Story* of eco-theologian Thomas Berry, I found this book frustrating at first. There are no scientific facts or figures, no berating of politicians or big business, yet Murphy calmly and beautifully builds the case for all of us to “look deep inside our own humanity and our natures to rediscover the medicine to heal our collective madness”. Far from feeling despair, Murphy believes we are on an adventure and that having an “awake” mind will set us on the path of seeing beyond winning and defeat; to having the imagination and courage to change the story. As she says, “it comes back to each of us” and you can’t argue with that.

*Minding the Earth, Mending the World* by Susan Murphy. Publisher: Picador

**MINDING THE EARTH, MENDING THE WORLD**

By: Susan Murphy

Publisher: Picador

**TRADITIONAL, COMPLEMENTARY AND INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE**

Edited by: Jon Adams, Gavyn J Andrews, Joanne Barnes, Alex Broom and Parker Magin

Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan

**CLINICAL HANDBOOK OF ASSESSING AND TREATING CONDUCT PROBLEMS IN YOUTH**

Edited by: Rachael C Murrihy, Antony D Kidman, Thomas H Ollendick

Publisher: Springer

**U:BOOKWORMS**

During November, the Co-op Bookshop on Broadway is offering Co-op members a 20 per cent discount on all books reviewed this month. For more details, email uts@coop-bookshop.com.au
The heated debate over homebirths has been reignited following an inquest into the death of three babies delivered at home in South Australia.

Opinions have been divided with advocates arguing women have the right to choose how and where they deliver their babies. Opponents meanwhile, highlight the risks associated with the practise.

The debate is at the heart of this month’s UTSpeaks lecture – Home or Hospital? – presented by Director of the Centre for Midwifery, Child and Family Health Caroline Homer. Homer says she supports homebirths for “the right women”.

“I believe women have a right to choose a homebirth if they don’t have factors that are going to put themselves or their babies at risk, and if they have the right provider who is linked to a supportive and functional health system.”

The practising midwife and midwifery researcher says both homebirths and hospital births have benefits and risks. “It’s about how you interpret the risks – what’s risky for you is going to be different to what is risky for someone else. The challenge is to make sure women have options that are safe and feel safe from their perspective.”

Part of the problem, she says, is the difficulty for women considering homebirth to receive unbiased advice. “Women should get non-judgemental, evidence-based information and be able to make informed decisions. But everyone comes with their own baggage, and we all give people advice based on our perspectives of the world.”

It’s particularly concerning, says Homer, that women can often more easily access a caesarean section without any medical reason, but have difficulty electing for a homebirth even if they are completely low risk.

“Both of those are equally problematic. Women need equal support and help in working out whether a caesarean section or a homebirth is the best option. At the moment we often don’t provide the homebirth option at all.”

It’s a decision that must also take into account past experiences. The reasons many women opt for homebirths include previous poor treatment in the health system, because they want access to water births, which are discouraged by some hospitals, and a desire to have their own midwife present at the birth.

“Women want continuity of care,” says Homer. “We all like continuity in our life and we like certainty about who will be there at this precious time. We like to be recognised and remembered, and women in labour are no different.”

According to Homer, the first step forward is for all consumer and professional groups, including midwifery and obstetric groups, to reach a consensus about homebirths. Many are misinformed by inflammatory media and fear stories.

“We need to put some of our personal views aside and think about how the future could be, because the current discussions and debates are often not very helpful and tend to polarise the issues too much.

“We mustn’t judge women who make decisions we don’t agree with. So whether it is the elective caesarean section or the homebirth, there has to be a better way of making sure women have access to all the options.”

UTSpeaks: Home or Hospital? will be held on 13 November at 6pm in University Hall. For more information, or to RSVP, email robert.button@uts.edu.au.

Brendan Wong
Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism)/ International Studies
Photographer: Joanne Saad
Comment on this article at newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2012/11/delivering-choice
**MECHANICS OF VISUAL PERCEPTION**
Part of the Sydney Architecture Festival, this exhibition explores the relationship between the eye and the mind
10am to 5pm / DAB Lab, building 6, level 4
Until 23 November
dab.uts.edu.au/dablab

**SWEDISH FOR ARGUMENT**
An exhibition that uses IKEA as a departure point to examine ideas of production, ownership, ubiquity and need
12 noon to 6pm Monday to Friday / UTS Gallery, building 6, level 4
Until 23 November
utsgallery.uts.edu.au

**SCIENCE IN FOCUS: THE END OF GROWTH?**
Dick Smith and environmental scientist Paul Ehrlich discuss how growth in population, resource consumption and pollution may threaten global ecological systems
7am for 7.30am start / Great Hall, Tower, level 5
RSVP essential
lisa.aloisio@uts.edu.au

**POSTGRADUATE INFORMATION SESSIONS**
Find out which course suits your needs, aspirations and qualifications or experience
City campus
Until 29 November
postgraduate.uts.edu.au

**CLOSING OF ACADEMIC YEAR BELL RINGING**
4pm to 5pm / Haymarket campus
michelle.maarhuis@uts.edu.au

**CENTRALLY CONDUCTED EXAMINATIONS COMMENCE**
Until 30 November

**UTSPERKS: HOME OR HOSPITAL?**
In this public lecture, Caroline Homer discusses the pros and cons of birthing options
6pm to 8pm / University Hall, building 4, level 2, room 23
robert.button@uts.edu.au

**UTS SCIENCE IN FOCUS: THE FUTURE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AT THE NANOSCALE**
Milos Toth and Mike Ford outline the state-of-the-art nanotechnology designed to improve the engineering of matter at molecular length scales
6pm to 7.45pm / Building 2, level 4, room 13
RSVP essential
lisa.aloisio@uts.edu.au

**COMPLEXITY THEORY: WHAT CAN IT CONTRIBUTE TO PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT?**
This class, presented by Jan Dewing, draws on complexity theory and shows how it’s relevant to practice development in nursing and health care
5pm to 6.30pm / Building 10, level 6, room 224
Registration essential
health@uts.edu.au

**DESIGNING OUT CRIME: NEW APPROACHES TO CRIME REDUCTION**
Presented by Douglas Tomkin and Rodger Watson
10am to 5pm / DAB Lab, building 6, level 4
Until 21 December
dab.uts.edu.au/dablab

Email your events for March 2013 to u@uts.edu.au by 1 February 2013.
Step out and step into the future. Discover how the next generation of architects envisage our cities at Index 2012.

As last year’s behind-the-scenes snapshots show, this free end-of-year architecture exhibition is more than just a showcase of student work. It will also include music until midnight, performances on the Ultimo Pedestrian Network and open bars.

Index 2012 will be held on Tuesday 27 November, from 6pm to midnight in building 6, levels 2 to 5.

Photographer: Oliver Begg