ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL
Why justice globalism could better respond to global crises

DOPED OR DUPED?
Athletes aren’t the only ones to blame

EXPLORING USABILITY
Designing for diverse-use situations
How does the City Campus Master Plan tie in with UTS’s 25th anniversary?
As someone who lives and breathes (and sometimes dreams) the Master Plan, I really feel this re-invention of our campus is something we should all be proud of. It’s a once-in-a-generation opportunity. When UTS was first incorporated as a university in 1988, we inherited an assortment of disconnected buildings from the NSW Institute of Technology and other institutions. At the same time, we were charting out who we were as a university. Today, UTS is clear on where it stands in terms of teaching, learning and research and our efforts and excellence are recognised by government, industry and our peers. By the same token, we are creating a consolidated, world-class city campus that will enable us to lead the Australian higher education sector in learning and teaching methods as well as creating more, and improved, spaces that support our massive drive in research.

What is the future of the City Campus’s surrounding precinct?
One of the great changes taking place at the moment is the way our campus connects to the creative industries and cultural precincts around us. This is a result of careful planning on our behalf and working closely with our neighbours. Together we are creating the future of Sydney’s southern CBD. It’s hard to imagine just how different this part of the world will be once the Central Park retail and residential precinct comes online, and the new Goods Line is complete, connecting Central Station with a rebuilt Darling Harbour and the Powerhouse Museum (via UTS, of course).

With the advent of online learning, does the physical environment still matter?
Absolutely. In my former corporate life I would never have hired anybody who said they only had an online degree. I was looking for people who had developed what are sometimes called the ‘soft skills’ – the ability to work and problem solve with others in a team thanks to great interpersonal, communication and social skills. We want to create places that are technologically sophisticated but also enable collaboration, both in the classroom and the ever increasing number of great informal social spaces that have been popping up around the campus recently. It’s these sorts of on-campus interactions that generate the soft skills industry wants from graduates and our campus will enable. As I am sure you have heard before, ‘If there is one constant in life it is change’; we at UTS are embracing that change and look forward to the next exciting 25 years!

25 years ago I was ...
Settling into Australia, having arrived via my country of birth, Canada, and many others in between. I had sold my IT company in the Middle East and was managing the finances of a large IT firm while desperately looking for the instruction manual on how to be a dad to my first-born son (I now have three).

What’s your solution for stress?
My antidote for work-related stress is anything outdoors. There is nothing like escaping the office to wander off into the wilderness and camp, mountain bike through the bush or sail up the coast.

Photographer: Jesse Taylor
Features

Doped or duped?  
Sports management expert Daryl Adair argues why anti-doping policies and practices, not just athletes, should be held to account over recent drugs allegations

Exploring usability  
How UTS research is helping designers to design better products and solve social problems

One size does not fit all  
New research reveals justice globalism, not market-based governance, could better respond to the global financial, food and climate crises

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Next issue:
The next issue will be released on 3 June 2013.

Send your story ideas, opinions, events to u@uts.edu.au.
Deadline for submissions is 10 May 2013.
All U: articles are available to read online via newsroom.uts.edu.au.
“I wanted to get back to study and I wanted to be a good role model for my son and my family. This was my chance,” says 43-year-old Melinda Page.

For Page, 2013 marks the beginning of a new and exciting adventure. An adventure which she hopes will lead her into a forensic science degree. Page is one of 12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in UniStart.

Developed by Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning, UniStart is a new program designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people wishing to gain entry into a university degree.

The program, which began this semester, targets people who may or may not have completed Year 12 or studied recently.

“Each year Jumbunna has turned away students who would have been able to succeed in a degree program had they been given the opportunities to learn and develop their academic skills,” says Jumbunna’s Marketing and Outreach Coordinator, Melita Rowston.

“UniStart students take two subjects per semester from their intended degree while concurrently studying academic literature, study skills, and where necessary, mathematics subjects.”

Tailored to each individual’s specific needs, the program offers students an opportunity to ease into the studying lifestyle, and gives them the chance to experience the culture of the faculties they wish to explore, whether that’s communications, engineering or even forensic science, like Page.

“I would have never got through the application process if it wasn’t for Jumbunna. I had no idea how it all worked. The recruitment team were extremely helpful,” says Page.

“Since getting into UniStart, I find the tutoring really helps. My maths skills are not the best, but the tutoring support really gives me more confidence.”

The one-year, full-time program ensures students are individually supported by Indigenous student peers and Jumbunna staff. The centre, which has recently relocated to level 6 of the Tower, includes 24/7 computer lab access, kitchen facilities (with free printing and food provided), two multimedia classrooms, meeting pods and a room to seek support and guidance from Jumbunna’s Student Support Officers. There are also student study areas, located outside Jumbunna’s offices that are open to all UTS students.

Rowston says, “Our monitoring and tracking of student performance during the degree shows the opportunities that we offer students enables them to perform as well as, and in many cases better than, the general population at UTS.

“Were aiming for a mid-year intake of around eight to ten students, as we have a waiting list for those who missed the cut off and are eager to participate.”

To apply for UniStart, applicants must be over 17 years of age, identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and successfully participate in the Jumbunna testing and assessment program.

Though Page, who has previously worked as a community care nurse for NSW Health, says the change was difficult at first, she highly recommends the program to other Indigenous people.

“It was hard in the beginning; I was moving into public housing when the course was starting, so I found juggling that tough. My 17-year-old son has been really supportive and is actually thinking of the UniStart course himself.”

Alison Brown
Bachelor of Arts in Communication | Journalism
Photographer: Joanne Saad

Comment on this article at
UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2013/05/fresh-start
Almost half of all Australians will experience a diagnosable episode of mental illness in their lifetime. One in five will experience some form of mental illness each year.

At UTS, this translates to approximately 600 staff and over 7000 students experiencing a mental disorder in any 12-month period.

Young adults have the highest incidence of mental illnesses, with 75 per cent of all serious mental health and substance use disorders beginning before the age of 25. With the majority of our students in this demographic, it’s a very real issue for UTS.

“We have many students struggling with the first onset of mental health. It’s complex and it’s not something that can usually be diagnosed in a one-off assessment,” says psychologist and Student Services Unit (SSU) Counsellor Jessica Mander-Jones.

“We get academics ringing for advice from a counselor several times a week to talk about issues with a particular student. University is stressful and students have more vulnerability to emerging mental health issues than the rest of the population, and sometimes academics struggle with getting assistance.”

This is where Mander-Jones steps in. Along with Equity and Diversity Officer Arif Ongu and Manager of SSU’s Special Needs Liz Penny, twice a semester, Mander-Jones delivers UTS’s Mental Health Awareness Workshop for UTS staff.

“We’ve been conducting training for many years to help staff increase their awareness around mental health. It’s designed to increase understanding about the roles, rights of people and the responsibilities of an educational employer like UTS.”

“It’s not a favour to make accommodations for people with mental health issues,” says Ongu, “it’s a right of the individual and a responsibility of the institution to implement those adjustments.”

The three-hour workshop covers definitions of mental illness, how to recognise early signs and respond to people experiencing a mental health issue and refer them to appropriate services at UTS. As part of the program, a student living with a mental health condition presents their view about coping with and managing their mental illness.

“We look at the incidents and prevalence of mental health, some of the statistics in Australia, then we look at mental health generally and the impact it has on people. We contextualise the amount of disability that can be caused by a mental health issue,” says Ongu.

Along with the awareness workshops, Ongu runs a multi-award winning program, delivered across Australia and internationally, called Mental Health First Aid.

The interactive course is run over two full-days or four half-days. It provides an overview of common mental illness (anxiety, depression and substance use disorders), explores risk factors and warning signs, builds understanding of the impact mental health has on the individual and community, and looks at common treatments.

Ongu says, just as knowing to call 000 for a physical emergency is critical, so is understanding how to respond to someone experiencing a mental health crisis.

“You’re not learning how to become an expert and care for someone who is having a mental crisis, what you’re doing is trying to refer them to someone who has the skills and qualifications to help.”

Staff who take the course are certified as Mental Health First Aiders. “We’re able to say to staff, ‘We’ve got all these services here at the university so if you do have to deal with a crisis, this is who you contact, this is how you refer students or a colleague to counseling or others who can help’.”

The next Mental Health Awareness workshops for staff will be held at the City campus on Thursday 13 June and the Kuring-gai Campus on Wednesday 19 June. For more information, email arif.ongu@uts.edu.au.

Izanda Ford
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Joanne Said

Comment on this article at UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2013/05/understanding-mental-illness
The establishment of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in 1999 was part of a global effort to dissuade performance enhancing drug (PED) users and to catch transgressors. The International Olympic Committee (IOC), sensing that drugs in sport had become an image problem for the Olympic Games specifically, and sport in general, led its establishment.

This was more than simply a public relations exercise: a World Anti-Doping Code (WADC) was established in 2004, which has since been adopted by all national Olympic and Paralympic sport organisations (a requirement of their participation at the Games) and most professional sports leagues.

The WADC is underpinned by a philosophy that if two out of three attributes of sport practice (that performance is ‘unnaturally’ enhanced, a danger is posed to human health or is contrary to the ‘spirit of sport’) are contravened, then a substance or method is proscribed. PEDs are easily positioned in categories one and three, but also in two – it is often argued that doping endangers the human body. The WADC also looked beyond sport performance, arguing that illicit drugs, even if they have no PED attributes, are of interest to WADA and various international testing regimes.

Importantly, though, WADA tests for different substances in and out of competition. In 2009 it was unable to sanction US swimmer Michael Phelps, who had admitted to inhaling marijuana from a pipe, because drug tests outside of competition do not focus on cannabinoids, stimulants or narcotics. By contrast, if the world’s greatest swimmer had traces of cannabis in his body at the Beijing Olympics he would have been excoriated, under the WADC, as a doper.

WADA, with its commitment to zero tolerance, has no role in assisting athletes who, for example, develop an addiction to a drug of dependence outside of competition. It is only concerned if sportspeople have any trace of that problem on the day they perform. Harm reduction is not part of WADA’s punitive mindset, despite one of its pillars being to protect the health of athletes.

In Australia, leading professional sport organisations such as the Australian Football League (AFL) and the National Rugby League (NRL) have been at the forefront of policy development in respect of testing for illicit drugs both in and out of competition. This was done in consultation with players under a philosophy of athlete welfare and harm minimisation. It is something WADA might well consider.

In a great irony, the AFL and the NRL have been pilloried by both WADA and the media for being “soft” on illicit drugs. WADA’s position is extraordinary given its abrogation of responsibility in this area, while the media has called for athletes to be treated more harshly than the general public, should they have an issue with illicit drugs.

More recently, PEDs have taken centre stage in Australian sport. In February 2013 the Australian Crime Commission’s (ACC) report, *Organised Crime and Drugs in Sport*, presented disturbing allegations that PED use in sport was widespread, illicit drug taking was a major concern, and organised crime largely responsible for their spread; racketeers were also making efforts to fix matches. Since then, the ACC has conceded that the report was a “shot across the bow” to crime groups alleged to be consortig with athletes and clubs. Rather than making arrests, the ACC was hoping to warn off corrupt elements from infiltrating sport.

So the spotlight has turned very much to athletes, with the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) now beginning to interview players of ‘interest’ within the NRL and are planning to do the same in the AFL. Whereas the ACC does not appear confident about landing organised criminals (notwithstanding the title of its report), it...
seems more upbeat that the information it has passed to ASADA will land athletes in trouble.

This is something of an irony: criminals break the law; athletes break the rules. Yet the latter is most likely to feel the wrath of investigators.

The message to athletes about PEDs seems simple enough. Don’t take them; if you do, then we (the drug testers) will catch you.

One problem with this conclusion is that there are many drugs (or variations of drugs) for which there is no reliable test. WADA and ASADA have responded by freezing biological samples on the assumption that tests for ‘new’ substances will be found one day, and run retrospectively.

For sportspeople who want to optimise their athletic performance but stay ‘clean’, WADA’s policy of “strict liability” needs to be adhered to. This means that when tested, whatever is found in an athlete’s body is their responsibility. No ifs, buts or excuses.

WADA’s 2013 code, however, is a tad precarious. Even though some substances are not listed as prohibited, there is a catch-all phrase the agency can use to proscribe anything with the following effects: “any ... growth factor affecting muscle, tendon or ligament protein synthesis/degradation, vascularisation, energy utilization, regenerative capacity or fibre type switching and other substances with similar chemical structure or similar biological effect(s).”

Although aware of the strict liability clause, NRL and AFL players have put trust in their clubs’ sport science staff.

It is inconceivable for WADA to expect these athletes to independently test what sport scientists are providing by way of nutritional substances, energy supplements and the like. WADA offers advice but no solution to the quandary athletes face.

Instead of being merely punitive, both WADA and ASADA could actually help athletes by conceiving a system whereby all of the substances administered to a particular sportsperson are recorded at the club (point of delivery) and reported to ASADA (point of verification). Anything untoward in the bodies of athletes beyond that would clearly be the fault of the individual.

Both WADA and ASADA could also assist athletes by taking a proactive approach to the ingestion of dietary aids and energy supplements that are not proscribed by the WADC. They could liaise with local companies who produce dietary aids and energy supplements to ensure appropriate quality control. The outcome, in the case of Australia, could be ASADA-endorsed products that athletes would have confidence taking. And ASADA would earn revenue from the producers by virtue of providing oversight of manufacture and its tick of approval.

As a community, Australian athletes are neither angels nor villains in respect of doping. They willingly subject themselves to testing for illicit substances in and out of competition, something WADA has failed to address as a matter of policy.

Where Australian sportsmen and women require assistance is managing their high performance bodies with confidence, there needs to be leadership and governance reforms on the part of sport clubs and ASADA to help them be ‘clean’. Athletes ought to be seen as assets worth protecting, rather than liabilities needing sanction.

Daryl Adair
Associate Professor of Sport Management
UTS Business School
Photographer (D Adair): Tony Burrows
Photographer (weights): Joanne Saad

U: SAID IT QUESTION
“Criminals break the law; athletes break the rules”. Should athletes accused of drug use be held to account or are anti-doping agencies setting them up to fail?
“PERSONAL AND PAST EXPERIENCES OF PREVIOUS PROJECTS HELP CONSTRUCT A FRAME OF REFERENCE FOR USABILITY EVALUATION.”
Product designers have to think outside the box to design for dynamic and varied uses. One UTS researcher is helping to share this knowledge between design teams, while also considering how designing for different situations could reframe social problems.

It was an inability to answer her phone that inspired industrial designer, and Senior Research Fellow with the Designing Out Crime (DOC) research centre, Mieke van der Bijl-Brouwer to explore the usability of products in different situations.

“In the Netherlands it can get quite cold in winter. When I’m outside and someone’s calling my smart phone I can’t pick it up because I’m wearing gloves and can’t swipe the screen,” explains van der Bijl-Brouwer.

“Mobile phones end up in many situations, and these situations pose many requirements on the design. Was the designer aware this was going to happen to the product? And if so, did they think how they could solve the issue?”

This question was the starting point of van der Bijl-Brouwer’s 2012 PhD at the Netherlands’ University of Twente and her current work exploring usability – the change of situations, in time and space, for different versions of the same product.

“When you look into design theory around the usability of a product and the user experience, the theories say you must define in advance who the user is, what they’re going to use it for; and under what circumstances.

“In practice you can’t really do this as certain products are used in endless situations,” she explains. “My question was: how do designers deal with that?”

Through a retrospective study of three design projects, van der Bijl-Brouwer discovered that even though members of the design teams had their own ideas and knowledge from past experiences, or feedback from family and friends, they weren’t sharing them.

“You have these multidisciplinary teams in design – a visual designer, an expert in usability, a marketer, a technical engineer – all working on one product. Personal and past experiences of previous projects help construct a frame of reference for usability evaluation. However, this knowledge is often not communicated between design team members. I wondered whether I could do something to support making this knowledge explicit.”

Then an Assistant Professor at the University of Twente, van der Bijl-Brouwer collaborated with two Dutch colleagues – Assistant Professor Stella Boess from Delft University of Technology and Christelle Harkema, a PhD student at the Eindhoven University of Technology – to develop The Envisioning Use workshop as part of her PhD. Its step-by-step strategies allow a design team to develop a shared vision.

“There’s ‘remembering,’ where participants share stories about use, either personally experienced or observed through other people. Then ‘imagining,’ where you give the group pictures of possible users of a product in random environments and ask what that would mean for the design of the product.

“Experiencing’ is another important step; make the team members active and use role-play to define a scenario. For example, try to take pictures with an actual camera while pretending to snowboard and see what the results are.”

Van der Bijl-Brouwer has since applied the half-day Envisioning Use workshop techniques, and a free, downloadable booklet offered to designers as a user guide, to a number of Dutch companies in real product development cases. She also developed a set of guidelines that outline how designers can use already-established techniques to gain insight into a variety of use situations.

“Probing is one well-known method in design research. You give users a diary and a camera and ask them to take notes for a couple of weeks recording the ways in which they’re using the camera and any interesting situations.”

Van der Bijl-Brouwer says a designer can never fully get inside all design use situations. Instead, they must pick out the use situations that are most relevant and question if the situation is meaningful to the design.

“Look at a carrier bike, a popular mode of transport in the Netherlands. It’s basically a bike with a box at the front used to transport things – most commonly children. I asked student teams from the University of Twente to redesign this bike by means of the guidelines, then analysed how this played out.”

Instead of just looking at how they could protect the children from different weather conditions, the students looked into the emotional characteristics of children, the relationship between child and parent, and what this meant for the design of the product.

“For really young children, they considered how important it is for them to have visual contact with the parent. For slightly older children it’s more important for them to be able to see and explore the world. When you consider wet weather conditions, the first thought would be to put a closed hood on the carrier box.

“The students then came up with a hood that’s open at the back, facing the parent, allowing them to protect the child from the rain and the wind and still communicate with them.”

While van der Bijl-Brouwer calls it “exploring usability”, DOC Director Kees Dorst calls it “reframing”. And it’s what has brought van der Bijl-Brouwer to UTS.

“Kees has been studying designers for so many years. He found designers who are good at this reframing come up with much better designs, so he thought, if you can reframe a problem, you can come up with new solutions. But can we not also do that with things that are not product-related?

“If you look at problems of crime as a designer, would you come up with different solutions than if you looked at it as a non-designer? DOC have developed many projects around design thinking, crime and reframing solutions. We’re now looking at best approaches and methods and the broader applications of this, besides crime.”

Building on her experiences with DOC, van der Bijl-Brouwer has plans in the pipeline to translate these insights to design teams in traditionally non-design practices such as social innovation.

“In social innovation projects, many different stakeholders collaborate to solve a certain social problem. Though there may also be a similar lack of this ‘knowledge sharing’ as in multidisciplinary product development teams.

“My approaches to exploring usability may hopefully support this sharing of knowledge to collectively reframe social problems. One of the things I hope to research here at UTS is whether that connection can be made.”

Katia Santillippo
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Joanne Saad

Comment on this article at
UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2013/05/exploring-usability
ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL

“THE MEASURES THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN SO FAR, SIMPLY ENABLE THE PALLIATIVE MANAGEMENT OF CRISSES.”
With global finances, food and the climate under threat, the world is searching for answers. Despite critics claiming their policies are “naïve” and “superficial”, new research suggests the global justice movement may provide a workable alternative to corporate-led globalisation.

Market capitalism and neoliberalism are meant to generate prosperity and technological progress. Yet, after more than 30 years of putting ‘global markets’ in control, our food, climate and financial woes are worsening.

Quite simply, says Associate Professor in the Social and Political Change Group James Goodman, the current thinking isn’t working. “These three crises have the same root cause – the failure of market-based governance.”

“Market-based models are still promoted as the solution, but they fail to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to prevent the continuing slow-down in food production, and to counteract financial volatility.”

“This is because their chief purpose is not to address the causes of these crises, but to manage their consequences. Crises therefore persist and become normalised – we now are preoccupied with becoming ‘resilient’ to their consequences through climate adaptation, food aid and fiscal austerity.”

In 2009, in an effort to find a viable alternative, Goodman, the University of Hawai’i and RMIT’s Manfred Steger and the University of Groningen’s Erin Wilson began a three-year research project funded by an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant. Their work culminated earlier this year with Sage, London’s publication of their book Justice Globalism: Ideology, crises, policy.

“We came to a realisation,” says Goodman, “that we had a joint interest in looking at the question of whether the social movements were producing their own new kind of ideology in response to globalisation that would be an alternative to market globalism.”

Their project aimed to better understand the ideologies and practices of organisations that convene the World Social Forum – an informal global forum attended by activists who are part of the global justice movement (GJM).

“In the past, ideology has sometimes been assumed to always be about the powerful; and somehow those who are challenging the status quo don’t have their own ideologies.” But, that’s rarely the case, says Goodman. “So, in a sense, we’re trying to rehabilitate ideology as a concept.”

Part of that rehabilitation will include this month’s UTSpeaks: From Protest to Justice? The public lecture, led by Goodman and Steger, is based on the findings outlined in their book. Goodman says it’s “deliberately provocative; we’re trying to provoke debate that we think is necessary.”

That debate is centered on how the ideologies of the GJM – known as justice globalism – could provide a “conceptual map to move away from the crises affecting the world”.

As part of their research, Steger and Wilson undertook interviews with and conducted textual analysis of documents created by members of the GJM. The purpose, says Goodman, was to look for “shared values as the foundation for a coherent ideology”.

What they found were seven strong core values: sustainability, transformative change, participatory democracy, social justice, equality of access to resources and opportunities, universal rights and global solidarity.

The key question, says Goodman, was then trying to figure out “how these values are translated into concrete proposals on how to respond effectively to global crises.

“If you think about the three crises we talk about in the book, those remain open. The measures that have been taken so far, simply enable the palliative management of crises.”

While some critics have been quick to condemn the GJM for not pushing strong policies following the 2007 global financial crisis, Goodman says many of the ideas suggested by the movement have filtered through to government reforms.

“Ideas that were an anathema before the financial crisis became not just accepted, but became possible. So, for instance, the tax on speculative financial transactions, the Tobin Tax, was condemned for years and is now about to become European policy.”

Likewise, calls for reform through protests like Occupy Wall Street received widespread support in America and Europe.

Goodman believes, however, that the “slower burning” climate and food crises are where more effective and long-lasting responses are likely to be seen.

Indeed, he says the climate crisis could be the catalyst needed to get justice globalism policies onto international political agendas. “I see climate crisis as totalising, it actually subsumes these other political questions.”

The key, particularly in Australia, will be to encourage participatory democracy, and “help people to develop their political skills”.

“I think one of the big problems we have with social movements in Australia, in comparison to other countries, is the tendency for organisations, even if they have members, not to turn them into activists.”

“There’s a tendency of what some have termed ‘NGOism’ across the sector; where the movement organisations are composed of experts who engage in advocacy, and the members simply support those experts in doing it for them,” says Goodman.

“The professionalisation of social movement organisations leads to this sort of diminished participation and that’s a real problem in the Australian context. The problem is widespread, including across social welfare, development and environment organisations, where expert advocacy is dominant. Recognition of the need to move away from this ‘service’ model to an activist ‘organising’ model is perhaps most advanced amongst trade unions,” says Goodman.

“I think this question of political engagement has to be on the agenda somehow. At the moment it’s not.”

UTSpeaks: From Protest to Justice? will be held on Wednesday 29 May at 6pm in University Hall. For more information and to RSVP, email robert.button@uts.edu.au.

Fiona Livy
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Joanne Saad
Fist and people images: thinkstock

Comment on this article at UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2013/05/one-size-does-not-fit-all
An old Heineken advertisement with the slogan ‘Refreshes the parts that other beers cannot reach’ used to hold pride of place in Nick Hopwood’s office in the Faculty of Arts and Social Science.

The poster, Hopwood says, represented how he thinks about ethnography, a research methodology concerned with the observation of people and cultures. “Ethnography gets to the understanding of aspects of the world that nothing else can.”

Hopwood is a UTS Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Fellow. He brought his passion for ethnography to UTS from Oxford University three years ago. Far from staying locked in his office, Hopwood’s studies have taken him around Australia observing a range of people, places and organisations, including a nine-month stint at Karitane – a parenting support service run by the NSW Government.

But it’s how Hopwood’s ethnographic research is impacting UTS that is the most surprising aspect of his journey. Keen to meet other ethnographers on campus, he posted on staff notices what would turn out to be a fortuitous message. The rest, as they say, is history.

“I just wanted to get to know the university a bit better, so I sent out a message through UTS Staff Notices that said, ‘Is anybody interested in ethnography, however you wish to define it?’ And initially I got about 60 responses.”

To date, over 100 research students and staff members have made contact with Hopwood. What started out as a communal email exchange has turned into a multidisciplinary research community; one that is furthering both the field and the shared understanding of what it means to be an ethnographer.

The group, which meets regularly to talk through different aspects of ethnographic research, is comprised of staff and students from faculties as varied as Design, Architecture and Building, Engineering and Information Technology, and Arts and Social Sciences.

Initially coming together for what Hopwood calls a ‘revolving door’ gathering – a casual coffee catch up where people stay for as long or as little as they like – the group quickly developed to include more scholarly pursuits.

They now also meet for ‘fireside chats’ in which one group member presents their research in an informal setting to stimulate debate and discussion within the group. Topics of discussion to date have ranged from the way individual researchers produce and manage their field notes, to the ethnography of material things.

“Th...
The world is full of weird and wonderful jobs. Katie Slattery’s is a bit of both.

The Senior Sports Scientist (Physiology) at the NSW Institute of Sport (NSWIS) splits her time between the office, gym, velodrome and lab. “Every day is a little bit different – fitness testing for the athletes, monitoring training sessions, competition support.

“I even collect urine samples to assess the hydration level of the athletes. That’s one of the weirdest parts of my job.”

The most enjoyable, says the UTS graduate, is attending competitions, particularly “when athletes you have worked closely with succeed – either with a win or a personal best.

“The last competition I went to was the Cycling Australia National Track Championships in February.

“We look after the athlete’s recovery; so we set up cold water plunge pools and make sure their cool down protocol is correct, we make sure they’re eating and drinking enough and do a lot of video analysis of the actual races.”

The plunge pools, says Slattery, “are freezing”. “The cold water’s more for muscle damage recovery, whereas alternating between hot and cold helps to promote your blood flow and flushes out your system a bit better.”

Slattery first started at NSWIS in 2007. She applied for the position shortly after starting her PhD in sports science at UTS. She had already completed a Bachelor of Sport and Exercise Management in 2003 and a Bachelor of Human Movement (Honours) in 2004, both at UTS. “I applied for the position while I was half way through my PhD studies and I, surprisingly, got the job.

“I didn’t have a lot of practical experience, so I had to do a lot of on-the-job learning and put my PhD on hold for a couple of years until I figured out how to be a sports scientist.”

Between taking leaves of absences and switching from full- to part-time study, Slattery says, “It took me about seven years to finish. I wasn’t really sure if I would, and a lot of other people didn’t think that I was going to do it, but eventually I did.”

This month marks a return of sorts for Slattery. She is part of the team undertaking research thanks to a Big Ideas Grant. The UTS team includes Associate Professor Aaron Coutts (who was Slattery’s PhD supervisor), Senior Lecturer Rob Duffield, and NSWIS colleague and current UTS PhD student Erin McCleave.

“The Big Ideas Grant is designed to promote research into a new idea that will help the Australian athletes win gold in Rio in 2016. It will be a collaborative effort between UTS, NSWIS, the Australian Institute of Sport, Edith Cowan University, Aspetar (the Qatar Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Hospital) and the Aspire Sports Academy in Qatar.

“It’s a fantastic opportunity to work with a variety of investigators to enhance our understanding of how physical training in different environments can accelerate performance improvements.”

While Slattery is aiming for gold professionally, in her personal life she doesn’t take things quite so seriously. “I’ve been playing basketball for the last three or four years; it’s a very casual competition. Our team’s called the Basketcases, and we don’t take it too seriously – we celebrate even when we win the ‘loser’ grand final between 7th and 8th place. It’s a great way to catch up with friends and de-stress.”

Fiona Livy
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Joanne Saad

Comment on this article at
UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2013/05/endurance-training
Staff and students who enjoy the lush, leafy surroundings of the UTS Kuring-gai campus at Lindfield have two men to thank – horticulturalist Narciso Aparra and gardener Alan Mahon. Between the two of them, they have maintained the native bushland at the site for over 20 years, and their friendship has bloomed along the way.

Recently the campus went through some massive changes; with the selling of the car parks it will change forever. Areas we have been looking after have now become building sites, but that means we can now concentrate on what we have left. At the moment we are working on creating more parking places and generally establishing what is our land now.

I think the closing of this campus is a real shame but I will be open to whatever comes my way, jobwise. A City campus job would be a nice change and that is something I would like – to have a change after 12 years in one place.

**NARCISO APARRA**

Alan is a hardworking and reliable person; what I like most about his personality is that he is frank and courageous in telling off someone who commits a wrongdoing on campus grounds. We are both genuine friends, and work colleagues, who trust each other, having worked together for 12 years. We talk about our personal life experiences and our families but we also discuss much on issues and problems that relate to work.

I’m passionate and concerned about the environment; back in the Philippines, my job was on coconut research but I always wanted to do horticultural work. When I arrived in Australia, I was so impressed by how green and lush the bushland was. I started working at the UTS Kuring-gai campus in 1991. It is a beautiful place with a natural and pristine environment of high biodiversity, for example different genus and species of eucalyptus trees. My favourite is the Sydney blue gum, with its straight, smooth trunk. The biodiversity and natural habitat at the campus have been maintained and protected through our maintenance programs. These include planting species that are only indigenous to the area, regular eradication of weeds and exotic plants that grow in the bushlands, frequent rubbish collection and proper disposal of wastes, like used engine oils and chemicals.

Though there are only two of us, we manage to keep the grounds, bushlands, car parks and oval in top shape. We’re so proud of the project that was implemented around 12 years ago – the improvement of the existing bush track which cuts across the bushlands between the childcare centre and the main buildings. Timber steps were constructed for ease and safety in bushwalking and road base was laid on the pathway, enabling the bush enthusiasts to see the birds and other wildlife in the environment.

The staff, students and residents nearby have a close social relationship at the Kuring-gai campus. Wally Cook, a former Leisure, Sports and Tourism staff member, used to organise at least monthly barbecues for staff, including the gardeners, outside the North Shore Conference Centre. This activity gave us the opportunity to meet and socialise with each other. This still happens from time to time for staff in our branch and the security guards at Kuring-gai.

I feel very sad about the campus’ closure. To me, it possesses the qualities of a good learning and research institution that is surrounded by beautiful bushlands, but is also close to the urban areas of the City campus.

Miranda Middleton
Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism)/International Studies
Photographer (A Mahon and N Aparra): Fiona Livy
Grass image: thinkstock
"I left school at 15, failed my Junior Certificate, and was a chef for over 20 years," recounts PhD student Jim Hearn.

After two decades in the kitchen, Hearn admits he was "completely disillusioned" with the cooking lifestyle, which included long hours and an accompanying drug addiction.

Then, in 2006, at the age of 38 and determined to turn his life around, Hearn enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts at Southern Cross University.

By 2009 he had graduated with First Class Honours and in 2010 he enrolled at UTS to undertake a PhD at the Transforming Cultures Research Centre.

Hearn’s thesis, *Technologies of Transformation: transgression, addiction, hospitality*, is an auto-ethnographic inquiry and theoretical analysis into his lived experience of breaching social boundaries, heroin addiction and hospitality. Hearn’s PhD also includes the publication of his first book, the self-reflexive narrative *High Season: A memoir of heroin & hospitality*.

The author admits writing openly about his life experience was confronting at first. “Since I started studying seven-and-a-half years ago it’s taken everything I’ve got to turn the ship around.

“I thought the ‘taboo’ topics of my life had always needed to remain unspoken. Once I chose to transgress the logic of that and bring them into a published conversation, alongside celebrity gossip about what Paris Hilton had for lunch, it was a very liberating thing to do.”

Writing has always been a passion for Hearn. “I had ambitions to be a recognised writer when I was a chef.

“I was always a chef who wrote, or a writer who cooked, depending on who was paying the bills; 99 per cent of the time that was the hospitality industry.”

But, that part-time writing provided its fair share of interesting projects, including the chance to be one of the script editors on Andrew Dominik’s film *Chopper*.

Now though, Hearn’s course is firmly set on academia. The author and student also teaches creative writing and cultural studies at Southern Cross University in Lismore. His favourite subject is the life writing class, designed for creative writers in the non-fiction genre.

“Teaching has been a boon, in terms of being home seven nights a week,” explains Hearn. “Working as a head chef got to the point where I just didn’t see my family except for a few minutes each morning. Now I actually get to spend time with my wife and two kids.”

For his next writing project, Hearn is looking to broaden his cultural studies focus beyond power and power relationships to explore the place of cultural studies and subjectivity in a fragile ecosystem. “I'm interested in writing a novel next,” he says.

“There is a space in the humanities to have a discussion about the complex human inter-relationship with the so-called natural world that revolves around energy, particularly energy from the sun. Maybe it’s just me, but I sense things are getting hotter.”

Paul Clark
Master of Arts in Journalism
Photographer: Alice Hook

Comment on this article at
UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2013/05/calming-of-age
This is an absolutely thrilling read. The stories are poignant – sometimes sad, sometimes funny, but with well-crafted plots that make you almost rip the page in turning so fast. What is common throughout the collection of works is the ability to really ‘tell a story’. Many are mysterious and beautifully written, others are simple yet powerful in conveying their message. The highlight for me is ‘I Can Hear the Ice Singing’ by Sean Rabin – a beautiful story about a man whose legs become stuck in ice that stays frozen for many years. It is puzzling, perfectly written and embodies the enduring power of a story that draws us in, igniting our imagination. Although it’s hard to find fault with such a collection, it would have been better had I’m glad I did. In my opinion, Lindsay is one of my least favourites and the first, ‘Someone Called Rob’ by Martin which is set after the main events makes the settings come alive. If you finish this book unsatisfied, re-read the first chapter which is set after the main events of the story, and you may feel a better sense of closure.

Lucy Grummitt
Former Bachelor of Arts in Communication student

The Best Australian Stories is the country’s premier annual collection of short fiction. The 32 stories featured in the 2012 edition include contributions by Master of Arts in Creative Writing graduate Zoe Norton Lodge and Doctor of Creative Arts graduate James Bradley.

Losing February is Susanna Freymark’s debut novel. The story is told from the perspective of Bernie, a writer and recently divorced mother in her early 40s, who lives on a hilltop near Byron Bay. The book is divided into three parts – Love, Sex and Home. In part I (Love) Bernie reconnects with an old university friend, Jack, and a passionate affair begins. Alas, Jack is married with children and will not leave his wife. When he inevitably ends the relationship, a rejected Bernie turns to the dangerous world of internet chat rooms. Part II (Sex) graphically details several meaningless and often twisted sexual encounters that Bernie has with strangers. Although necessary for the storyline, aspects felt overpowering and bit too Fifty Shades of Grey for me. Losing February is definitely an emotional rollercoaster. Whilst most could relate to its broader themes of love, sex and longing, I never truly empathised with the main character. Perhaps women in their late 30s or older, or those who have dealt with similar experiences, would be better able to relate to this book. Nevertheless, it is well written and Freyymark’s use of sensory details really makes the settings come alive. If you finish this book unsatisfied, re-read the first chapter which is set after the main events of the story, and you may feel a better sense of closure.

Roslyn Coutinho
Bachelor of Design in Visual Communication

Susanna Freymark is a full-time journalist and UTS Master of Arts in Creative Writing graduate. Her short stories have been featured in numerous publications, including previous editions of the UTS Writer’s Anthology.

Jim Hearn’s memoir High Season is a revelation into the cut-throat and physically demanding nature of the hospitality industry. Hearn’s colloquial vernacular creates the impression that Jimmy is talking directly to the reader after a long gruelling shift over the six-burner, and after an even longer, and tougher, personal life that is inextricably woven into his extensive career. Alternate chapters switch between the present day kitchen of a five-star Byron Bay restaurant, and Jimmy’s drug-fuelled youth which saw him work in many metropolitan Sydney restaurants. He is desperately trying to hold together the fraying threads of his team while also reflecting on the various exorcisms he’s been involved with – friends he’s projectile vomited on, kitchens he’s been fired from, heroin trips to Nimbin and Brisbane, and near-misses which saw him almost put in jail. At first, the conversational language is off-putting and seemingly disjointed, but it soon becomes a crucial tool in demonstrating the fast-paced nature of the restaurant kitchen, interlocking with a culture of drug use, exhaustion, desperation and ultimately showing Jimmy’s unfailing charisma and logic. Hearn’s high-pressure descriptions of the restaurant kitchen juxtaposed with the oblivious Paris Hilton, who visits his restaurant, and the elite expectations of his impossible-to-please boss will leave you wondering what’s really going on behind the scenes, the next time you dine.

Michelle Treloar
Marketing and Communication Unit

Jim Hearn is a scriptwriter, chef, academic and current PhD student at UTS’s Transforming Cultures Research Centre.

U:BOOKWORMS
During May, the Co-op Bookshop on Broadway is offering Co-op members a 20 per cent discount on the three books reviewed in this issue. For more details, email uts@coop-bookshop.com.au.
A horse walks into a bar and the bartender says, “Why the long face?”

A classic, if a little dated. But Social Clubs and Programs Manager for the UTS Union Laura Earl promises the laughs come better than this at The Comedy Loft.

The Union-run event launched in March this year with Tom Ballard (better known as half of the triple j breakfast show Tom & Alex) as the headline act. Since then, it’s been picking up steam and drawing in those up for a laugh or a crack at stand-up comedy themselves.

“There were seven supporting acts on our launch night back in March and they were all hilarious,” says Earl. “It was advertised externally so we had a really good mix of students, staff and the public. There was a really great vibe with lots of laughs and a few ‘gasp’ moments.”

The event is held at The Loft on the second Tuesday of every month. “We were actually approached last year for The Sydney Fringe festival, so we know The Loft is regarded as a good venue for this kind of event; it’s a really intimate space.

“This year, with extra funding through the Student Services and Amenities Fee – a compulsory student fee that subsidises student events, services and activities – we thought comedy would be something we could give a go, especially since we know it’s something our students participate in already.”

Earl says all supporting acts are amateurs and at least two spaces are kept open for students keen to perform a five-minute set. “We’ve had students doing musical comedy, physical comedy, all sorts of different acts. I’m hoping to soon lock in Superwog – he’s a comedian who happens to be a UTS graduate and is quite well-known in the comedy community for his skits filmed on campus.”

Mikey Robins from Good News Week will MC the 14 May event, with a well-known but underground headliner also confirmed. “He doesn’t advertise his name, it’s all by word of mouth,” says Earl.

Robins himself promises the audience will see a naughtier side of him live than they see on their television screens at home. He recalls his first foray into comedy with his mates as a student at the University of Newcastle.

“One of the stranger bits we did was shove a broom handle through an old car door. Two guys would make car noises and carry it around from table to table while another mate and I leaned out the window making smartarse comments. I think we thought we were being experimental, when actually we were probably just bloody annoying.

“I remember splitting the money after one show we got paid for. I had the princely sum of $14, which I think I bought my first ever bottle of French champagne with. It was the 80s – champagne was much cheaper then.”

The next Comedy Loft will be held on Tuesday 14 May. Tickets available at the door. For more information, email thecomedyloft@hotmail.com.

Katia Sanfilippo
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Joanne Saad
**WHAT’S ON**

**MAY**

1. **GRADUATION CEREMONIES**
   Until 13 May
   City campus

**LIVING IN THE RUINS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**
An idiosyncratic retrospective of *Cabinet* magazine and 20th century artefacts
12 noon to 6pm Monday to Friday / UTS Gallery, building 6, level 4
Until 17 May
art.utes.edu.au

6. **MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID**
This 12-hour program (run over four half-days – 6, 13, 20 and 27 May) teaches you how to confidently and effectively support others experiencing mental health problems
9.30am to 12.30pm / HR training room 1, building 10, level 6, room 440
arif.onguf@utes.edu.au

12. **UTS 10 000 STEPS CHALLENGE**
The team that has taken the most steps over the 13-week challenge will have $500 donated to a charity of their choice
Until 11 August
dominique.grady@utes.edu.au

14. **THE COMEDY LOFT**
Stand-up comedy’s finest will be performing at The Loft on the second Tuesday of every month
7pm to 11pm / The Loft, Broadway
utscomedyloft.eventbrite.com.au

20. **UTS BOOK CLUB**
Literary lovers are invited to join the conversation on the third Monday of every month
5:30pm to 7:30pm / The Loft, Broadway
facebook.com/groups/utsbookclub or laura.earl@uts.edu.au

22. **LAW POSTGRADUATE INFORMATION SESSION**
Discover opportunities to enhance your professional qualifications, skills and knowledge through further legal education (online registration essential)
CM05B
postgraduate.utes.edu.au

23. **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS’ INFORMATION DAY**
Discuss your study options with faculty staff and apply to study on the day
10am to 1pm / Tower, level 4 foyer
uts.edu.au/international/infoday

27. **INDIGENOUS CULTURAL AWARENESS INFORMATION SESSION**
This session, facilitated by Dave Widders, covers how to engage and effectively communicate with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, share stories and offers a comparative look at the black and white history of Australia
HR training rooms, building 10, level 6
matthew.walsh@uts.edu.au

29. **UTSPEAKS: FROM PROTEST TO JUSTICE?**
This public lecture presents a compelling case that the global justice movement has fashioned a powerful new political ideology with global reach: ‘justice globalism’
6pm / University Hall, building 4, level 2, room 23
robert.button@uts.edu.au

Email your events for June 2013 to u@uts.edu.au by 10 May.

**ART & U**

Jeffrey Smart, *Children Playing on a Wall*, 1965, oil on board, UTS Art Collection

Expatriate artist Jeffrey Smart’s paintings have been described as ‘precisionist’ urban landscapes, depicting man-made environments characteristically bare of human activity save for a lone figure all but lost in an industrial desert. By contrast, this small gem from our own collection is unusually lively. The scene is a rock-strewn wasteland with an ominous dark grey sky above.

Rather than a lone individual, this canvas is populated by brightly clad children, who dance and strut along the wall. A string of tiny flags above their heads hint at a festival or carnival.

The ‘bald man’ who appears in many of Smart’s paintings is here too, in the form of a political poster. His benevolent gaze is slightly ambiguous as he addresses the viewer.

The explanation for this unexpected vitality may be that in 1965 Smart was starting a new chapter in his life. In the previous year he had travelled extensively, staying in Skyros, Greece with artists Brian Dunlop and Justin O’Brien, and with other friends at the holiday port of Soller in Majorca, Spain.

More importantly, this was the year he settled permanently in Italy, and set up house in Rome with his lover. This relationship, sadly, was not to last, but here in this canvas we might glimpse a small flicker of joy in an otherwise saturnine scene – the mixture of hope and fear that colours the beginning of any intimate relationship.

For more news and stories about the UTS Art Collection, visit our blog: utsartcollection.wordpress.com

Janet Ollevou
UTS Art Collection

Art & U profiles a piece of work from the UTS Art Collection every issue.
ANZAC Bridge as seen from Blackwattle Bay. This photo was taken last year by Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Science in Information Technology student, and UTS Housing resident, Yannick Gachter. The young photographer is also the President of the student-run photography club UTS Exposure. To find out more or get involved in Exposure’s photo shoots, workshops and reviews, visit utsexposure.com or utspoto@gmail.com.

Photographer: Yannick Gachter