

Social Innovation

A number of research strengths within the University contribute to an exciting fusion of possibility in the areas of social innovation and creative industries. These include capabilities in areas as diverse as social policy and planning, demographics, spatial information, electronic music and other forms of digital media, architecture and planning, indigenous languages, anthropology and entrepreneurship.

Demographic shifts, migration, the impacts of ageing and the position of the more disadvantaged in our societies, social inclusion and exclusion are all key themes for many developed countries, not least Australia.

The Australian Institute for Social Research (AISR) is at the forefront of trying to identify, analyse and suggest mechanisms for responding to these issues. Its research provides an evidence base for policy development and planning objectives to be achieved. The Institute brings together the combined research strengths of the National Centre for Social Applications of Geographic Information Systems (GISCA), the Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU), the Don Dunstan Foundation and the Centre

for Labour Research. Each of these centres helps reinforce the University of Adelaide's leading role in research and teaching in this very important area.

Other areas also undertake extensive work in the digital media and creative industries field, including the School of Computer Science and the School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design. The latter has strengths in the consideration of the interaction of design and culture, as well as a focus on sustainability and building performance, creating culturally sensitive and environmentally sustainable building and landscape designs that enhance productivity and lifestyle.

The Centre for Asian and Middle Eastern Architecture (CAMEA) has particular interests in Arab and Islamic culture and architecture as well as colonial and contemporary issues in the Architecture and Planning Histories of the Indian sub-continent and Southeast Asia.

Areas of Expertise

- Politics and policy
- Philosophy and ethics
- Role of government
- Social innovation
- Law
- Population and migration studies
- Gender studies
- Historical studies
- Anthropology
- Creative arts and media
- Architecture
- Asian studies
- Indigenous matters

New Strategic Focus

Evolving Research Capability

There is a growing recognition of the importance of social innovation in the public and private sector. Locally this recognition has included the role of Geoff Mulgan as one of the State Government's Thinkers in Residence and the announcement of the State Government's establishment of the Australian Centre for Social Innovation. Socio-economic considerations, demographics and the challenges of an ageing workforce and population are all of key import and the University will continue to build its capabilities in these areas to support such efforts.

The Role of Religion and Law in a Contemporary Society

The Research Unit for the Study of Society, Law and Religion (RUSSLR) was launched in 2008 to examine topical questions concerning the role of religion and law in our increasingly complex contemporary society.

Services & Facilities

Australian Institute for Social Research (AISR)

The AISR is a leader in spatial information, demographic, economic, labour market and social health research and analysis and community planning for international and national federal, state and local government authorities and the private sector. With around 35 staff and PhD students from a range of disciplinary backgrounds, the AISR is one of Australia's largest social science research organisations.

The National Centre for Social Applications of Geotechnical Information Systems (GISCA)

GISCA provides a wide range of consultancy services including population projections, demographic analysis, climate change, spatial analysis, modelling and web technologies. GISCA is headed by Professor Graeme Hugo who has an international reputation in the population geography and demography field.

Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU)

PHIDU provides an important online Social Health Atlas locally and nationally, and monitors inequality in health outcomes and the state of indigenous Australians. It is a collaborating unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in relation to its work for the Department of Health and Ageing.

Centre for Labour Research

The Centre provides strategic planning and consultative services to a wide range of industry, government, unions and community organisations in the areas of public policy and labour market analysis, industry and workplace surveys, government budget analysis and social and economic impact assessments.

Don Dunstan Foundation

The Don Dunstan Foundation was established in 1999 with a view to perpetuating the memory of Don Dunstan and reflecting his life's work through fostering research, education and discussion on a broad range of issues, including social development, literature, the arts and food and wine. The Foundation enjoys the support of the State Government, the University of Adelaide and Flinders University.

South Australian Policy Online

Established in 2004, South Australian Policy Online is an interactive website linking researchers and public policy makers in South Australia with information on publications, resources, events and news. SAPO is a collaborative initiative of the University of Adelaide, University of South Australia, Flinders University, the Don Dunstan Foundation and the South Australian Government.

LocuSAR Team (Locus of Social Analysis & Research)

Under the leadership of Deane Fergie, this team is heavily engaged in native title and cultural heritage work, seeking to set the standard for such work in South Australia. Their research and site surveys in areas such as the Cooper Basin have contributed to deeper understanding of indigenous Australia and provide the underpinnings for analysis and appropriate resolution of claims.

Centre for Australian Indigenous Research and Studies

Social inclusion and creative industries merge in the Centre for Australian Indigenous Research and Studies, which is located within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and comprises two key Indigenous units, Wilto Yerlo and the Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music

(CASM). The University is in the heart of traditional Kurna country and aims to honour its traditions. CASM is involved in many community activities through its public performances, tours and educational workshops, and is committed to the advancement of Indigenous Australian musicians and the promotion of Indigenous Australian music in all its diversity as a living and vibrant tradition. Wilto Yerlo is responsible for administering the Special Entry Access Scheme for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to all programs offered at the University of Adelaide as well as the delivery of foundation programs. Other researchers at the University work on many issues relevant to indigenous culture, from anthropology to language.

Electronic Music Unit

This group is the music technology and electronic music facility for the Elder Conservatorium. The Unit aims to provide a communal, collaborative and conceptual hub for research in music technology, including electro-acoustic and computer music. This Unit has facilities for sound recordings and sound installations and works in a variety of fields including: sound design in the areas of film; games; mobile devices and associated media; new musical instruments, interfaces and gestural control; and associated cultural and interdisciplinary issues.

