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The Mission and Objectives of the Institute

The Stretton Institute was established in 2020 to conduct research on public policy issues in a multi-disciplinary and multi-method manner and to contribute to policy agendas locally and beyond. It facilitates stronger links between government, industry and the University of Adelaide by bringing together policy researchers and experts to address key policy issues.

The Stretton Institute is named in honour of one of Australia’s leading public intellectual and social-democratic thinkers, Hugh Stretton AC.

Director’s Summary

COVID-19 hit shortly after the establishment and many of the initial plans for the Institute were not realisable in 2020. An extensive round of national and international consultations was abandoned. One abandoned event was the Hugh Stretton Oration scheduled for April 2020 and to be delivered by one of Australia’s most significant public policy scholars/practitioners Professor Glyn Davis. This was postponed until 2021.

However, in response to the pandemic, the Institute pivoted to hosting events online. Webinars were held between April and June on COVID-19 and food security, COVID-19 and schooling, good governance and water sharing in the Murray-Darling Basin. The webinars garnered over 1000 registrants and recordings have been viewed over 2000 times.

The following strategic objectives were established:

- To become the preferred external agency government, non-profit organisations and industry in South Australia turn to for trusted, evidence-based policy analysis and advice.
- To be the translation interface between rigorous research and practical, real-world policy advice and recommendations.
- To collaborate and build capacity for better policy through co-design process with our key stakeholders.
- To contribute and support the Faculty of Arts’ research strategy and outputs policy-related areas.

The first year was focussed on building recognition for the Institute and engaging with stakeholders. The Institute did not pursue a separate research agenda.
2020 Initiatives

In 2020 five programs were established:

**Agrifood Policy**, led by Professor Rachel Ankeny

The Agrifood Policy program seeks to explore pressing issues associated with the framing, formulation, implementation, and evaluation of policies in relation to food and agriculture across all sectors and parts of the value chain. Particular foci include policies relating to trust in food, labelling, emerging technologies and novel products, food access and security, and health and nutrition both in Australia and other advanced economies, and also in the context of developing nations.

**Building a City for the Future**, led by Professor Emma Baker

A key goal of governments is to provide their citizens with cities that are healthy, liveable and economically successful. The Ideas for Australian Cities Program bring together thinkers, researchers and policymakers to understand what makes a city great. It will ask:

- What kind of city do we want to be beyond 2030?
- What are the priorities of action and change?; and
- How can we monitor success?

**Climate Change and Energy Transition**, led by Professor Ashok Khurana

The Climate Change and Energy Transition program is founded on the premise that the critical requirement for achieving the world's climate change mitigation and adaptation aspirations is equity between disparate groups and societies through collaboration and mutual understanding between stakeholders. Energy transition from today's energy mix to the ultimate goal of a worldwide low carbon economy cannot happen abruptly and all participants have a role to play. We have to create a win-win pathway to a low carbon economy to have any chance of success. Our program facilitates research into alternative energy transition scenarios and the impact of these scenarios of
disparate societies such as rural Australia with significant mining activity to emerging urban societies in Southeast Asia and rural underdeveloped societies in South Asia. What would it take for these groups to welcome transition pathways that suit them best?

**Democracy, Security, Trust and Integrity, led by Professor Lisa Hill**

What are the conditions under which liberal democratic states can remain strong, stable and reliable settings for human flourishing? How can democratic states like Australia ensure that the people remain sovereign and that governments properly represent their interests? How do we ensure that our governments behave within reasonable limits, accountably and with integrity? How well are Australia’s integrity institutions performing? What factors affect the perceived and actual legitimacy of Australian governments? What factors affect the perceived legitimacy of election outcomes and ensure the peaceful transfer of power?

What are the underlying dynamics of political disaffection and rising extremism? What can be done to enhance public trust in Australian state institutions? How does technological change impact upon these issues? These are just some of the questions that members of our Democracy, Security, Trust and Integrity (DSTI) program focus upon.

Members of the DSTI Program within the Stretton Institute have research interests in:

- Forces that undermine democracy, both endogenous and exogenous.
- Factors affecting the legitimacy of elected governments and election outcomes.
- Democratic resilience and democratic self-defence, especially in relation to political extremism and ultra-nationalism.
- Domestic and foreign interference with democratic processes, especially around elections and public opinion.
- Factors affecting public confidence in political, legal and social institutions
- Means by which to monitor and enhance the integrity and effectiveness of public institutions using a variety of approaches and policy instruments from political science, computer science, criminology, sociology and public law.
- Measures to protect personal rights by monitoring institutional and executive over-reach, lack of integrity, cyber-crime and abuse of human rights, particularly those of minority groups.
- Cyber-security issues affecting Australia's political, economic and social interests.
- Challenges to Australia’s defence and security across both the physical and information domains.
- Citizenship, belonging and our relationship to ‘outsiders’.

All of the above is pursued with an Australian and regional focus.
Economic Productivity through Population, led by Professor Chris Leishman.

Population has long been at the heart of Australia’s economic policy and destiny. This was firmly the case in the ‘populate or perish’ post WW2 policy era, and remains a national priority area during today’s rapidly changing policy thinking on temporary and skilled migration. Research in the Economic Productivity through Population program emphasises connections between population and migration and economic outcomes. This includes impacts on employment, economic growth, labour market earnings and household incomes, housing opportunities and costs, and inequalities. This program has additional foci on national, state and regional economic outcomes, and on economic stimulus policies that have potential to significantly add to Australia’s economic recovery post COVID-19.

The main products for the year were webinars, masterclasses and written policy briefs.

One seminar, six webinars and four masterclasses were held in 2020.

### Seminar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter(s):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 7 February</td>
<td>Policy Analysis and Policy Advice: Perspectives from Canada</td>
<td>Prof. Michael Howlett (SFU)</td>
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<td>11:00am–12:00pm</td>
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### Webinars

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter(s):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 6 April;</td>
<td>Good Governance: An Integrity Approach</td>
<td>Dr Nicolas Kirby (Oxford)</td>
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<td>4:00 – 5:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 30 April;</td>
<td>Can we prevent COVID-19 from becoming a Global Food Security</td>
<td>Prof Rachel Ankeny, Prof Martin Cole, Prof Wendy Umberger, Dr Jo Zhou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00-5:00pm</td>
<td>Facilitated by Professor Rachel Ankeny, Program Director, Agrifood Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26 May;</td>
<td>Water Sharing in the Murray-Darling Basin: A Discussion with Mick Keelty</td>
<td>Mick Keelty AO. PSM (Interim Inspector-General of the Murray-Darling Basin)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00–5:00pm</td>
<td>Includes panel discussants: Prof Mike Young &amp; A/Prof. Doug Bardsley (UniAdel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 28 May;</td>
<td>Covid-19 and its Impact on Schooling, Teaching and Student Wellbeing</td>
<td>UAdel: Prof Faye McCallum, A/Prof Mathew White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 – 5:00pm</td>
<td>Facilitated by Professor Faye McCallum, Head of School of Social Sciences</td>
<td>UMelb: Prof Lindsay Oades, Prof Lea Waters</td>
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**Beyond Politics: Past, Current and Potential Futures for GM Regulation and Oversight in Australia**

Facilitated by Professor Wendy Umberger, Executive Director, Centre for Global Food and Resources

Tuesday 21 July; 2:00-3:30pm

**Mapping and Strengthening Australia’s Integrity Systems**

Tuesday 27 October; 4:00-5:00pm

### Masterclasses

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter(s):</th>
</tr>
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| June 4
10:00am–1:00pm   | Data for Policy                                   | David Kalisch                        |
| 2 September; 9:00am-12:00pm | Commonwealth-State Relations in Australia          | Lisa Paul AO PSM                    |
| 3 Sept; 2:00-5:00pm | Commonwealth-State Relations in Australia (re-run) | Lisa Paul AO PSM                    |
| 21 Oct 9-12       | Commonwealth-State Relations in Australia (re-run) | Lisa Paul AO PSM                    |

### Institute Advisory Board

The Advisory Board met on 30 September 2020. Its 2020 membership comprised:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr David Tune, AO PSM, Chair</td>
<td>Ex Head, Commonwealth Dept of Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Richard Hillis</td>
<td>Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Performance)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Ruth Ambler</td>
<td>Executive Director, Cabinet Office Government of South Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Peter Sandeman</td>
<td>CEO Anglicare SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/Prof. Melissa Nursey-Bray</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts Nominee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Mark Western</td>
<td>Director, Institute for Social Science Research, The University of Queensland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Mal Hyde AO</td>
<td>Former Police Commissioner SA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. John Phillimore</td>
<td>Executive Director, John Curtin Institute of Public Policy (JCIPP), Curtin University</td>
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### Membership

Institute members include academic staff, affiliates, adjuncts and Higher Degree by Research students. In 2020, the Institute had 150 members from across 15 Schools at the University of Adelaide, Research Institutes, other universities, Government and Industry.
Awards and Prizes

Examples of key awards for our members in 2020 include:

Professor Adam Graycar, Director of the Stretton Institute, was the co-winner of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Centre 2020 International Anti-Corruption Award for Excellence in Academic Research and Education. Winners are selected based on their contributions to the global fight against corruption as defined under the UN Convention against Corruption.

Professor Amanda Nettlebeck was elected to the Academy of the Social Sciences on the basis of a sustained and internationally-distinguished contribution to the field. Her work is focused on the history and memory of colonial violence, Indigenous/settler relations, and the legal governance of Indigenous peoples.

Professor Rachel Ankeny (Program Director) was made a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for her contributions to the understanding of the foundational roles that organisms play in biological research, via her scholarship and for her leadership in history and philosophy of science.

Key Impact Stories

Renting in the Time of COVID-19: Understanding the Impacts
This report examined the circumstances for Australian renters during the initial phase of the COVID-19 lock-downs in July and August 2020. The report identified challenges in the rental sector and gave insights into how the rental market is performing, the uptake of existing support measures and the demand for future assistance.

Handbook on Corruption, Ethics and Integrity in Public Administration
Elgar Handbooks in Public Administration and Management, Edited by Adam Graycar, published December 2020
This timely Handbook unpacks the underlying common factors that give rise to corrupting environments. Investigating opportunities to deliver ethical public policy, it explores global trends in public administration and its vulnerability to corruption today, as well as proposing strategies for building integrity and diminishing corruption in public sectors around the globe. The publication has generated interest from several international organisations and masterclasses related to the topic were delivered the following year.
The following lists provide examples of some of the publications, presentations, engagements and other activities produced or undertaken by Institute Program Directors and members.

1. **Academic Publications**


Peter Whellum, Amanda Nettelbeck (Corresponding Author) and Alex Reilly, ‘Cultural accommodations and the policing of Aboriginal communities: a case study of the APY Lands’, Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology, 53. 1 (2020), 65-83.

Sam Furphy and Amanda Nettelbeck, eds. Aboriginal Protection and its Intermediaries in Britain’s Antipodean Colonies (Abingdon: Routledge, 2020).

Amanda Nettelbeck, ‘Protective Governance and Legal Order on the Colonial Frontier’ in Aboriginal Protection and its Intermediaries in Britain’s Antipodean Colonies (Abingdon: Routledge, 2020), 77-94.


Carol Johnson and Blair Williams. “Gender and Political Leadership in a Time of COVID.” Politics & Gender (Open Access, 2020).


Joanne Wallis, ‘Is it time for Australia to adopt a “Free and Open” Middle-Power Foreign Policy?’, Asia Policy, Vol. 15, No. 4 (2020), pp. 7-20.
2. Engagement presentations


Rachel Ankeny "Should We Trust Science?", presentation for National Science Week online event, University of Melbourne, 19 August 2020.


Adam Graycar, Integrity and compliance, Governance Institute of Australia, Adelaide, 5 November 2020.


Adam Graycar, Fisheries integrity: old issues and new problems, University of Tasmania, Hobart (Zoom), 28 September 2020.

Adam Graycar, Conundrums of corruption Crawford School, ANU, Canberra (Zoom), 19 September 2020.
Engagement publications


Matthew Kearnes, Brian Robert Cook, Declan Kuch, Joan Leach, Niamh Stephenson, Rachel A. Ankeny, and Sujatha Raman (2020) “We should listen to coronavirus experts, but local wisdom counts too,” The Conversation 1 April 2020.


Adam Graycar “Corruption in procurement” The Mandarin 29 May 2020, Opinion: the rights of public servants to own businesses, and the risk of corruption in procurement | The Mandarin


Adam Graycar Co-author with 5 colleagues from South Africa. Three reports (not publicly available) to the South Africa National Prosecuting Authority:
- South Africa’s national anti-corruption and public sector integrity framework: lessons for the National Prosecuting Authority’s proposed new Office for Complaints and Ethics
- International Good Practices and Lessons for the National Prosecuting Authority: Ethics and Integrity Promotion
- Developing a culture of accountability, compliance and good governance in the National Prosecuting Authority.


Manning, N. Invited stakeholder submission (with Dr Kathy Edwards, RMIT) for the Civics and Citizenship Education in Victorian Schools project. Results to be reported to Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA).


4. Other (including Research Grants)

R. Bentley, E. Baker, T. Blakely, S. Eades, P. Howden-Chapman, N. Howard, A. Beer, A. Brown, A. van den Hengel, D. Jacobs (L. Daniel Al), NHMRC CRE in Healthy Housing 2020-2025 (total grant valued at $2,500,000).

R. Bentley, E. Baker, L. Daniel, Evidence for action on cold, damp and mould in Australian homes. NHMRC Ideas Grant 2021-2024 ($955,649).

E. Baker, Moore, L. Daniel, Large-scale housing retrofit: opportunities and solutions for social housing, AHURI Research Project Grant ($92,285).


Nathan Manning is working on a project with Dr Djordje Stefanovic which is exploring the role of university education in undermining support for right-wing populism. They have a paper under review with a scholarly journal and a second paper in preparation. Nathan also continues to conduct research on political emotions and currently has a manuscript under review which attempts to empirically demonstrate the emotional foundations of dutiful forms of citizenship.


Joanne Wallis, ‘A networked security architecture in the Pacific: Implications for Australia’ (with Anna Powles, Massey University, Alan Tidwell, Georgetown University, James Batley, Australian National University, and Hidekazu Sakai, Kansai Gaidai University), Defence Strategic Policy grant, 2020-2022.