EHL: OUR RESEARCH
Influencing childhood obesity prevention and control

Encouraging the development of active, self-directed learners

Supporting school students’ wellbeing
HUMANITIES & CREATIVE ARTS

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EDUCATION
HUMANITIES
& LAW
We are preparing the next generation of professionals in these areas by offering a rich, diverse, and up-to-date understanding of society – including its beliefs, institutions, and cultural artefacts – so that our graduates and researchers may better contribute to its future.

The Faculty comprises three schools: the School of Education, the School of Humanities & Creative Arts, and the Law School. Through these schools, we conduct research and offer courses in a diverse range of areas, our key strengths being an interdisciplinary approach and connection to industry.

These strengths enable us to keep in touch with the very latest developments in thought and practice, while contributing meaningfully to the communities that Flinders University serves both in Australia and internationally.
TO PREPARE FUTURE GENERATIONS FOR THE CHALLENGES OF A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD, EDUCATION NEEDS TO BE DYNAMIC.

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY’S SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AIMS TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF THIS EDUCATIONAL CHANGE. THROUGH TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, THE SCHOOL IS HELPING TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF EDUCATIONAL POLICY AND PRACTICE.

THIS IS DRIVEN BY A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH THAT CONNECTS DIVERSE DISCIPLINES TO GENERATE INNOVATIVE EDUCATION SOLUTIONS AND INITIATIVES.
At a time when childhood obesity is receiving significant media attention, Dr Ridley’s work in developing and updating a *Compendium of Energy Expenditures* has the potential to contribute significantly to the research into, and evaluation of, interventions and policies designed to boost children’s physical activity, prevent obesity, and control weight-related health issues.

The *Compendium*, which formed part of Dr Ridley’s Doctoral thesis, measures children’s energy expenditure for everyday activities, such as playing sport, walking, running, cycling, and free play.

Together with a number of international collaborators, Dr Ridley has received funding from the National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR), which brings together four of America’s leading research funders, to systematically update this valuable resource.

Once it is complete, researchers and practitioners will have easy access to a highly user-friendly format.

In addition to continuing her related research on children’s physical activity and sedentary behaviour patterns, Dr Ridley has presented at a number of national and international conferences on this collaborative project.
ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF ACTIVE, SELF-DIRECTED LEARNERS
A research collaboration with the Australian Science and Mathematics School (ASMS) will see students in a number of disadvantaged schools across South Australia benefit from educational practices developed at the ASMS.

With funding from the Ian Potter Foundation, Flinders’ Strategic Professor of Education Stella Vosniadou and Lecturer Dr Penny Van Deur lead the research project to document, evaluate, and disseminate educational practices developed at the ASMS to advance South Australian teachers’ and students’ knowledge about learning.

The innovative one-year program helps students in low socio-economic schools across South Australia develop their capacity to learn autonomously by increasing their confidence and sense of self-worth, and by cultivating their interest and willingness to engage in learning.

The students are paired with teachers in a Personalised Learning Program (PLP) that helps them reach a better understanding of themselves as learners, and teaches them strategies to improve their learning through reflection and self-evaluation.

Participating teachers receive training to help them develop an understanding of the impact of learning-related beliefs on student engagement and achievement, to examine their own teaching practices, and to acquire strategies to support students to become self-directed learners. The intention is to establish a Professional Learning Community in the schools in order to ensure lessons learnt can be implemented in a broader context.

The Flinders and ASMS project team hopes results from the pilot program can be rolled out across the state.
Established in 2010, Flinders’ Student Wellbeing and Prevention of Violence (SWAPv) research centre has become one of Australia’s leading centres in this area, providing a platform to raise awareness about, and develop strategies to combat, bullying and to promote student wellbeing in schools.

The Centre’s activity is focused on developing local, national, and international partnerships and projects. In India, a new project with Punjabi University focuses on student wellbeing and school violence prevention, while another cross-disciplinary project (with the Department of Screen and Media) involves the creation of videos and other online resources aimed at reducing school bullying.

In Europe, SWAPv has established strong links and ongoing projects in Malta involving connections with the University of Malta, the country’s President Her Excellency Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, and her Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society. The Centre has also established a visiting researcher program with Spain’s University of Seville to examine social-emotional learning and cyberbullying.

Locally, members of SWAPv have finalised a project for the Department of Education & Child Development that focuses on emerging risks relating to sexting and cyberbullying.

The inaugural SWAPv inter-disciplinary conference, to be held in July 2016, will bring together much of the national and international work being undertaken by the Centre.
HUMANITIES & CREATIVE ARTS

ARTS
ARCHAEOLOGY
AUSTRALIAN STUDIES
CREATIVE WRITING
DANCE
DIGITAL MEDIA
DRAMA
ENGLISH
FASHION
INTERNATIONAL TOURISM
LANGUAGE
LITERATURE
PHILOSOPHY
SCREEN & MEDIA
THEOLOGY
VISUAL ARTS
THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND CREATIVE ARTS AT FLINDERS ENCOMPASSES AND UNITES DIVERSE DISCIPLINE AREAS INCLUDING ARCHAEOLOGY, AUSTRALIAN STUDIES, CREATIVE ARTS, ENGLISH, LANGUAGES, PHILOSOPHY, THEOLOGY, AND TOURISM. THROUGH ITS UNIQUE CROSS-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH, THE SCHOOL IS INTEGRAL TO THE UNIVERSITY’S BROADER TEACHING AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

HUMAN THOUGHT AND CULTURE HAVE BEEN THE FOCUS OF SCHOLARLY ENQUIRY FOR AS LONG AS THERE HAVE BEEN UNIVERSITIES.
EXPLORING ARCHAEOLOGY UNDER WATER, ON THE LAND, AND IN SPACE
The Maritime Archaeology Program has a new leadership role as Chair of the UNESCO UNITWIN Network for Underwater Archaeology for the next three years. The prestigious role shifted from Selçuk University (Turkey) to Flinders at the beginning of September 2015. Dr Wendy van Duivenvoorde and Dr Jonathan Benjamin will serve jointly, placing Flinders very prominently in the extensive network of institutions from around the world. “This position presents remarkable exchange opportunities, bringing the world’s leading researchers to our shorelines, and creating global mobility for our researchers in return,” said Dr van Duivenvoorde. The UNESCO UNITWIN network will host the inaugural Australian meeting and workshop in Adelaide in November 2016.

Funding from the Australian Research Council will see two exciting research projects unveil history in Australia and Cambodia. Associate Professor Heather Burke and her research team will investigate the activities, lives, and legacies of the Queensland Native Mounted Police (1865-1900), while Dr Martin Polkinghorne will commence an agreement with the Royal Government of Cambodia to conduct the first archaeological excavations of the early modern Cambodian capitals.

Dr Alice Gorman’s work in space archaeology continues to attract media and scholarly attention. Dr Gorman delivered the Flinders Investigators Lecture in October 2015, speaking about this emerging field. “The physical traces of human activities beyond planet Earth are a record as rich and fascinating as the sites where we have found the earliest human stone tools in Africa,” said Dr Gorman. “We can investigate spacecraft and planetary landing sites in exactly the same way, to reveal new perspectives on human evolution.” Dr Gorman is a faculty member of the International Space University’s Adelaide Program, and the first woman to be elected to the National Executive Council of the Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA).
TAKING AUS STAGE TO THE WORLD
IF THERE’S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE HISTORY OF PERFORMING ARTS IN AUSTRALIA – WHETHER FOR RESEARCH, A MEANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE, OR PURE FANDOM – AUSSTAGE IS YOUR STARTING POINT.

Led by Flinders since 2000, AusStage is the event database of Australian live performance and has this year extended its reach further than ever before with the establishment of a trial project with the Association of Performing Arts Collections (APAC) in the UK.

AusStage Project Manager Ms Jenny Fewster said that recently AusStage had focused on strengthening its engagement with libraries and archives in Australia and the UK.

“In Australia we have trained volunteers at the National Library of Australia, the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives, the Sydney Opera House Archives, and the Australian Theatre for Young People Archive, amongst others,” said Ms Fewster. “These volunteers are actively adding event and resource information to AusStage from their holdings.”

Ms Fewster said the Austage team had also been working with the National Library of Australia to contribute AusStage data to the online library database aggregator Trove.

“AusStage is currently the second largest contributor, after Libraries Australia, to the journals, articles, and data sets zone, and these collaborations will continue to expand,” she said.

Flinders’ Strategic Professor of Creative Arts, Julian Meyrick said the trial project with APAC had been seeded using information held in the AusStage database about 340 UK performance venues, with live data feeds between the two collections ongoing.

“AusStage is the leading relational performing arts database in the world and we are entering an exciting new phase,” said Professor Meyrick.

“As the technology is bedded-down, its diverse research applications open up – it’s so much more than a digital cupboard drawer, it’s an interpretive tool of great power and depth.”
It is a common misconception that Humanities scholars spend their days reading alone behind a wall of paperwork in their dusty offices, but Flinders is leading the way in shattering this myth.

The Flinders Institute for Research in the Humanities is the founding host of the Australasian Consortium of Humanities Research Centres (ACHRC), a peak body and network for groups engaged in Humanities-based research across Australia and New Zealand. Its aim is to connect Humanities researchers and centres, both within the Australasian region and internationally, and to promote relationships with cultural institutions and other representative bodies in the wider community.

Associate Professor and Director of the ACHRC Robert Phiddian said the inaugural meeting held in Adelaide in 2011 marked the launch of an invaluable network.

“We have, over about five years, developed an effective peak body for Humanities research – we clearly fill a need in the region,” he said. “The events we hold present the best and most focused career development opportunity available for people interested in fostering collaborative research in the Humanities.”

The ACHRC now has 32 member organisations working together to strengthen the public profile of research in the Humanities: it has developed programs for regional universities and early career researchers, and established collaborative research links with collecting institutions.

The ACHRC is formally affiliated with the international Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI). The 2015 annual meeting was held in November, with the theme Humanities without Borders: Humanities Research across Disciplines, Cultures and Regions. It took place in Auckland, New Zealand, cementing the network’s reach beyond Australian shores. In the future, the ACHRC expects to expand to East and South-East Asia.

The next major project for the ACHRC will be to coordinate and host a major event focusing on the ‘public humanities’ in Adelaide in late 2016.
THE LAW IS MORE THAN JUST A SYSTEM OF RULES THAT GOVERN US; IT IS THE PRACTICAL AND ETHICAL APPLICATION OF JUSTICE AND THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS TO IMPROVE THE WORLD.
FLINDERS LAW SCHOOL IS PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT, WHILE ITS RESEARCHERS ARE INFLUENCING LEGAL POLICY AND REFORM. THE SCHOOL’S RESEARCH EXPERTISE EXTENDS ACROSS ALL AREAS OF THE LAW, WITH PARTICULAR STRENGTHS IN CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE.
BREAKING THE PRISON CYCLE IN FAMILIES
UNDERSTANDING THE CUMULATIVE IMPACTS OF IMPRISONMENT ON FAMILIES OVER TIME IS AT THE HEART OF IMPORTANT RESEARCH BEING CONDUCTED BY FLINDERS LAW SCHOOL’S PROFESSOR MARK HALSEY.

Professor Halsey’s Australian Research Council-funded research into understanding the dimensions and consequences of intergenerational incarceration will examine the life stories of successive generations of prisoners within the same family.

He said there had been very little work in this area to date.

“International research shows that if one or both of your parents have been imprisoned, this significantly increases the likelihood of a prison term for you,” said Professor Halsey.

“Understanding the causes and dynamics of intergenerational incarceration is of real social and community importance, and there are many questions that remain unanswered.”

For example:

- How does intergenerational incarceration play out with regard to Indigenous as opposed to non-Indigenous families?

- What is the relationship between the impacts of intergenerational incarceration and entrenched cycles of poverty, unemployment, and educational detainment?

- Why do some family members manage to break free from the determinant dimensions of intergenerational imprisonment while others remain captured by its effects?

As part of his research, Professor Halsey developed a survey, which revealed Indigenous participants reported current familial incarceration at more than twice the rate of non-Indigenous participants. Perhaps most significantly, one quarter of all respondents reported three or more generations of incarceration – grandfather, father, son or aunt, nephew, son for example.

More than half of these three generation-plus respondents reported the family history of incarceration had had a major effect on and/or had totally determined their life-course.

A modified version of the survey was circulated within a large UK prison in mid-2015, and will also be distributed to inmates in San Quentin State Prison in California in early 2016.

Professor Halsey’s ongoing research will provide a firmer base from which to better understand the cumulative impacts of incarceration on particular families over time, leading to more effective intervention and prevention efforts.
SHINING A LIGHT ON MAGNA CARTA
REACHING ITS 800TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2015, MAGNA CARTA IS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS AND CELEBRATED DOCUMENTS IN THE WORLD. ITS IDEAS OF FREEDOM AND THE RULE OF LAW HAVE PROFOUNDLY INFLUENCED THE WORLD’S DEMOCRACIES.

One of the world’s leading experts on the document is the Flinders Law School’s Professor David Clark.

Professor Clark’s interest in Magna Carta is in the ways in which it has been used in Australia, both in legal and political discourse and in popular culture to support, attack, and stand for key ideas. These ideas include the right of self-government, a general right to liberty or freedom, and the importance of due legal process.

“Many of the uses of Magna Carta in political debate are wrong in a strict historical sense, since they attribute to the document of 1215 ideas that only came into existence in subsequent centuries,” said Professor Clark. “Nevertheless, these errors have oddly helped to keep the memory of Magna Carta alive and in some senses have been the secret to the Charter’s survival.”

In late 2015 Professor Clark’s article about Magna Carta won the South Australian Law Society’s Bulletin of the Year award, proving the Charter still resonates with the current generation of lawyers and confirming not only Professor Clark’s reputation as a leading authority on Magna Carta, but also his skill in explaining its significance in a straightforward way.

In Professor Clark’s Magna Carta piece, he deconstructed the document’s history and related myths, and showed how it had persisted throughout history to become part of the world’s intellectual inheritance. He also looked at how Magna Carta was used in present day legal and political arguments, and why it still matters to society at large.

Additional work by Professor Clark on Magna Carta includes an invited paper for a book by the American Bar Association and a paper in a collection published by Cambridge University Press. He also has papers that have appeared in the Australian Law Journal, the Canterbury Law Review, and at the invitation of the Australian Senate presented at a special seminar on Magna Carta.
HELPING KIDS GET THE BEST OUT OF THE MEDIA
The majority of parents wouldn’t allow a stranger unsupervised access to their kids, yet most Australian children are exposed to the influence of strangers every day through relatively unregulated mass media.

This is the issue Professor Elizabeth Handsley of the Flinders Law School is addressing through her research, which includes an analysis of film and video game classification, broadcasting regulations, and advertising self-regulation to identify the many ways in which they fall short in protecting children.

“The Australian classification system is not based on research evidence about the kinds of material most likely to influence children’s thoughts, attitudes, and behaviour,” said Professor Handsley. “Rather, it is focused on concepts like swearing and nudity; there is not enough attention paid to modern social concerns like racial vilification and the objectification of women.”

To frame her effort to resolve these issues Professor Handsley uses consumer law, which recognises the power imbalance between consumers and industry, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which requires that children’s interests be treated as a primary concern.

“The most effective, and thus most profitable, forms of advertising are arguably the ones from which children need the most protection, precisely because they are so effective,” said Professor Handsley. “Industry self-regulation often leaves these untouched.”

Her research and advocacy in this area contribute to national policy development. For example, when the government indicated it had accepted industry arguments that the introduction of an R18+ classification for video games would better protect children, the Australian Council on Children and Media, of which Professor Handsley is President, successfully argued that simply adding the new rating would not be enough: the guidelines for the MA15+ rating would also need to be revised.

Professor Handsley’s current research collaborations include projects with colleagues from Melbourne University Law School relating to Article 17 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Access to information; mass media), and the comparison between media regulation and consumer protection law.