

DISASTER

CLIMATE &

ADVERSITY

2023 Annual Report

**Melbourne School of Population & Global Health
The University of Melbourne**





We live and work on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin nation, and we pay respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge that for First Nations communities, the impacts of disaster, climate and adversity occur in contexts of historical and ongoing trauma stemming from colonisation, racism and dispossession.

We also recognise the formidable strengths of First Nations peoples and cultures, including the rich knowledges and practices of healing and caring for Country which are so powerful in reducing risk and supporting recovery. We strive to participate in genuine and respectful collaborations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people for a more just, healthy and sustainable future together.

This artwork was created by Frances Belle Parker to reflect processes of healing after disasters. In the artist's words:

"The healing process is vastly different for everyone. It is a pivotal part of our own recovery. This artwork features five figures depicting a sense of community connectedness. They come together to help each other heal. The central figure is a symbol of calm, knowledge and healing. The remaining figures represent children as well as adults coming together to collaborate and learn from the Indigenous knowledge of healing. The ray of light represents the hope we experience following a disaster. The flowing pattern below the figures captures a sense of momentum as well as the movement within the journey of healing."

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From the Director

Our research focus continues to evolve to address emerging public health priorities. In November 2023, after a process of restructuring and rebranding, we launched as the Disaster, Climate and Adversity Unit. Our vision is to help create pathways towards optimum health and wellbeing for those at risk from or impacted by disaster, climate and adversity.

The new Unit was a natural evolution from the Child and Community Wellbeing Unit. What hasn't changed is our commitment to providing high quality evidence-based research and evaluation, characterised by our strong practice-research partnerships across many sectors and organisations. Our focus on child health and wellbeing continues to be a feature within each of our streams of research, alongside our research addressing adult experiences.

The three streams of work within the new Unit are:

- **Disaster Resilience and Recovery** (Beyond Disasters)
– led by Professor Lisa Gibbs
- **Climate Change and Health** (Climate CATCH Lab)
– led by Professor Kathryn Bowen
- **Adversity, Trauma and Resilience** (Listening Lab)
– led by Professor Eva Alisic.

This 2023 Annual Report provides examples of recent key achievements within each of these streams.

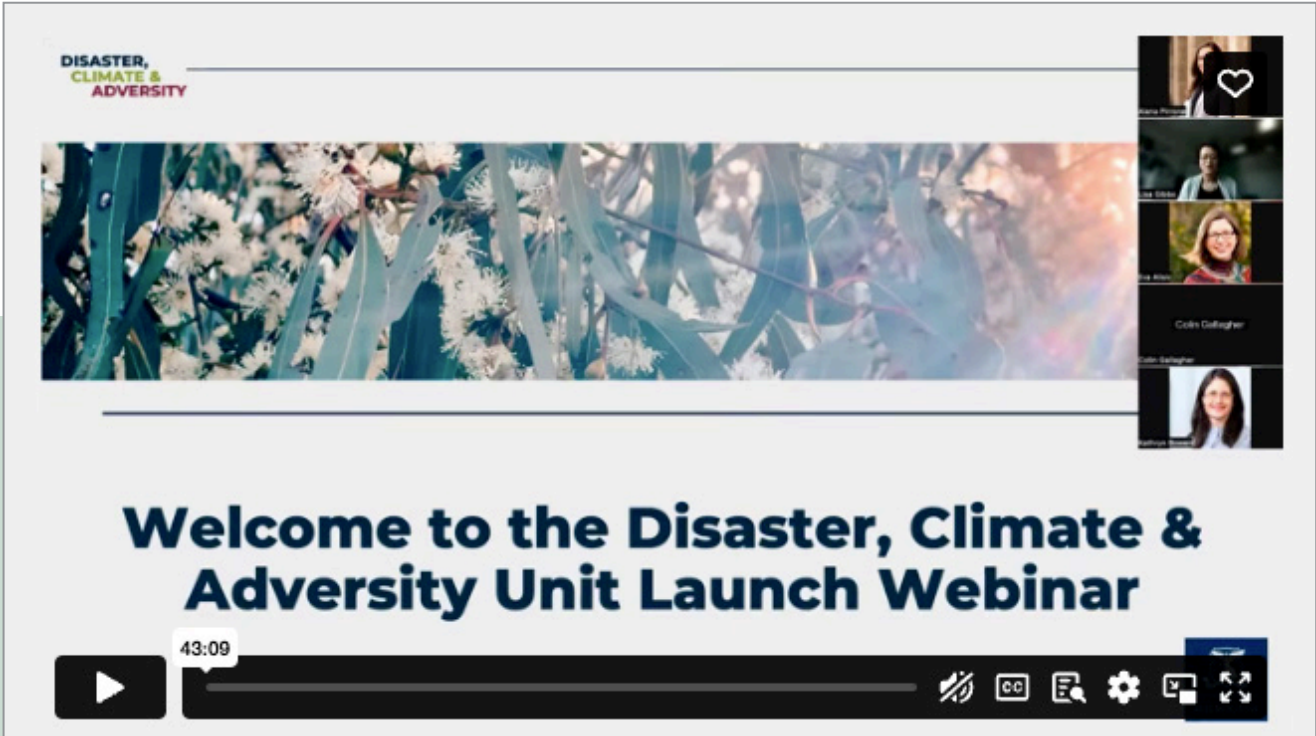
We look forward to continuing our work with valued partners. We also commend the ongoing work on migration and social cohesion led by Associate Professor Karen Block and her team who are now based within the Nossal Institute of Global Health in Melbourne School of Population and Global Health. We are missing them from our team, but the move reflects the close alignment of their research program with the work of the Nossal Institute.

Professor Lisa Gibbs

DIRECTOR, DISASTERS,
CLIMATE AND ADVERSITY UNIT

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Our vision is to help create pathways towards optimum health and wellbeing for those at risk from or impacted by disaster, climate and adversity.



Disaster, Climate and Adversity Unit Launch Webinar

Watch the recording of the launch of the Disaster, Climate and Adversity Unit on 14th November, introduced by Professor Nancy Baxter, Head of Melbourne School of Population and Global Health.





About the program

Our vision is to help create pathways towards optimum health and wellbeing for those at risk from or impacted by disaster, climate and adversity.

We work with policy makers, service providers, practitioners, communities and people with lived experience to build new evidence and convert that into practical resources and tools that increase capacity to implement health promoting systems, services and strategies.

We achieve this through our three intersecting streams of research:

- Disaster Resilience and Recovery – see Beyond Disasters
- Climate Change and Health – see Climate CATCH Lab
- Adversity, Trauma and Resilience – see Listening Lab

Regroup

Community-led approaches to disaster recovery is an accepted principle across Australia, but there is much disagreement and uncertainty about how to carry out community led action, and how government might support it.

About the project



This project seeks to develop greater understanding of how community-led recovery is understood, as well as advanced resources and tools for Community Recovery Committees (CRCs) and other community leaders. While there is existing research that establishes why CRCs are important, there is only limited information that exists to guide CRCs in their formation, planning and how they engage with other stakeholders. This has produced gaps in understanding for how CRCs function as well as how they relate to formal mechanisms of decision-making in local and state government.

This research project focuses on disaster affected communities and also surveys of disaster recovery workers. The research team uses mixed methods and collected data by online Q-methodology survey, online questionnaire, qualitative focus group discussions and an online social network mapping activity.

Key findings from this study include:



- **There is no silver bullet for effective models of Community Recovery Committees**, as the context of communities before and after disasters vary too widely. Rather than continuing to ask 'what is a good model for a Community Recovery Committee?' we suggest asking 'what do we need to better understand about the context of disaster affected communities for Community Recovery Committees to have the best chance of success?'
- **There was very little consistency across the issues that the CRCs identified as important.** This highlights how crucial it is for communities to have access to flexible support that incorporates their particular context.
- **Government action and inaction in disaster affected communities influences how Community Recovery Committees define themselves.** The way that governments and other organisations support disaster affected communities will impact how Community Recovery Committees perceive their role, scope and obligations.
- **Community Recovery Committees had a wide range of views regarding representativeness.** Some Community Recovery Committees saw their main function as being a voice for their community, while others didn't see themselves as fulfilling this role.
- **Participants found resources for committee self-assessment and social network mapping helpful.** Tools can support community-led recovery and should be refined to be accessible to communities.

Knowledge Translation and Impact

Regroup is actively developing two tools: the Self-assessment tool (SAT) for Community Recovery Committees and SNAP, a social network mapping tool for disaster affected communities. Both tools are aimed at providing tailored support and guidance to local leaders or community recovery.

The below questions are about what you would like your Community Recovery Committee to look like.

Please select a position on the scale that reflects your views.

FORMATION AND SCOPE	
One well defined location	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ District level, multiple locations
Single issue focus	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Whole of recovery focus
Pre-existing group	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Completely new group
Self-appointed group	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Formal election process
No clear objectives for the group	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Clear, deliberate goals and parameters of the group
Do not manage projects	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Manage all projects
Group formed / adapted very soon after the disaster event	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Group formed / adapted some time after the disaster event
No financial responsibility	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Complex financial responsibility
No legal status of group	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Clear legal status of group
Our group does not represent the communities views and priorities to any external bodies (e.g. government and NGOs) on all issues relating to resilience and recovery	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Our group represents the communities views and priorities to external bodies (e.g. government and NGOs) on all issues relating to resilience and recovery

COMMUNITY RECOVERY COMMITTEE SELF ASSESSMENT TOOL: STEP 1 - IDENTIFY THE PREFERRED MODEL

Disaster affected communities can use this tool to identify how particular elements of CRCs could be structured to best suit their community.

FORMATION AND SCOPE	
One well defined location	Slider: One well defined location to District level, multiple locations
Single issue focus	Slider: Single issue focus to Whole of recovery focus
Pre-existing group	Slider: Pre-existing group to Completely new group
Self-appointed group	Slider: Self-appointed group to Formal election process
No clear objectives for the group	Slider: No clear objectives for the group to Clear, deliberate goals and parameters of the group
Do not manage projects	Slider: Do not manage projects to Manage all projects
Group formed / adapted very soon after the disaster event	Slider: Group formed / adapted very soon after the disaster event to Group formed / adapted some time after the disaster event
No financial responsibility	Slider: No financial responsibility to Complex financial responsibility
No legal status of group	Slider: No legal status of group to Clear legal status of group

Strategic Partners

Emergency Recovery Victoria, Emergency Management Victoria, Country Fire Authority, Northern District Community Health, HowWeSurvive

Funding Partners

Natural Hazards Research Australia, Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre, Emergency Recovery Victoria, Emergency Management Victoria, Wildfire Futures Hallmark Initiative

Key Publications

Brady, K., Gallagher, H. C., Morrice, H., Gibbs, L., (2023). [Community-led recovery: Evidence, dimensions and supports - ReGroup Phase 2 report](#). Victoria, Australia: Natural Hazards Research Australia.

Gibbs, L., Gallagher, H. C., Brady, K., Leppold, C., Ireton, G., Haywood, A., Clarke, Y., Davies S, Norton, F., Brandenburg V. (2021). [Community-led Recovery: Evidence, dimensions, and supports for Community Recovery Committees](#). Victoria, Australia: Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC.

Advancing climate, health and equity outcomes through local action in the Indo-Pacific

Australia Awards Fellowship program

The Advancing climate, health and equity outcomes through local action in the Indo-Pacific program enabled 15 emerging leaders from 11 Indo-Pacific countries to complete an immersive six-week climate and health capacity development, networking and leadership program at the University of Melbourne between Nov-Dec 2023.

The program, co-hosted by the Climate CATCH Lab (DCA Unit/MSPGH, MDHS & MMS), Melbourne Climate Futures, and the Pacific Climate Change Centre, supported knowledge exchange, enhanced capabilities through expert training and mentoring, and the development of country-specific policy/practice climate solutions for implementation post-program.



About the project

Critical to climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health systems is an informed health workforce and an understanding across government ministries and departments about the potential health impacts and co-benefits of climate-influencing policies. This Australia Awards Fellowship program sought to address these needs by delivering comprehensive specialist training on climate and health to emerging leaders in the Indo-Pacific region, including current research and evidence; leadership and advocacy needs; policy and program development; financing strategies; healthcare decarbonization, mitigation and adaptation; as well as communication and knowledge translation. Equity and social inclusion were crosscutting themes, and Fellows participated in weekly cultural activities to experience Australia's First Nations history, perspectives and unique natural environments.

About the project continued

The six-week program featured over 70 internal and external expert presenters, mentors and facilitators. Beyond completing formal training, Fellows developed a climate and health policy/practice output relevant to their local context with support of a University mentor, which was presented to other Fellows and regional development stakeholders in the final week. In addition to strengthening public speaking and presentation skills, this enabled bidirectional knowledge exchange between the cohort and a practical, contextually relevant solution for Fellows to implement in their home country. A follow-up hybrid workshop hosted by PCCC in early 2024 will further support implementation of policy/practice outputs and strengthen the relationships and a regional community of practice.

Knowledge Translation and Impact

Participating Fellows were a distinctively interdisciplinary and intersectoral cohort, representing research institutes and Ministries of health, climate change, energy, emergency management, finance, and infrastructure. This enabled multisectoral knowledge exchange and translation of different strategies for climate-resilient decision-making. Fellows' unique and collective expertise was profiled at several knowledge translation events during the program, including:

- Panel presentation featuring two Fellows at the 2023 Healthy Environments and Lives Conference.
- WHO Pavilion side event and panel presentation at the COP28 Global Climate Conference in Dubai, UAE.

Strategic Partners

The program was co-designed and delivered in partnership with the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)). Additional follow-up activities will be hosted by PCCC in Samoa in 2024.

Funding Partners

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Commonwealth of Australia, Australia Awards Fellowships (R18)



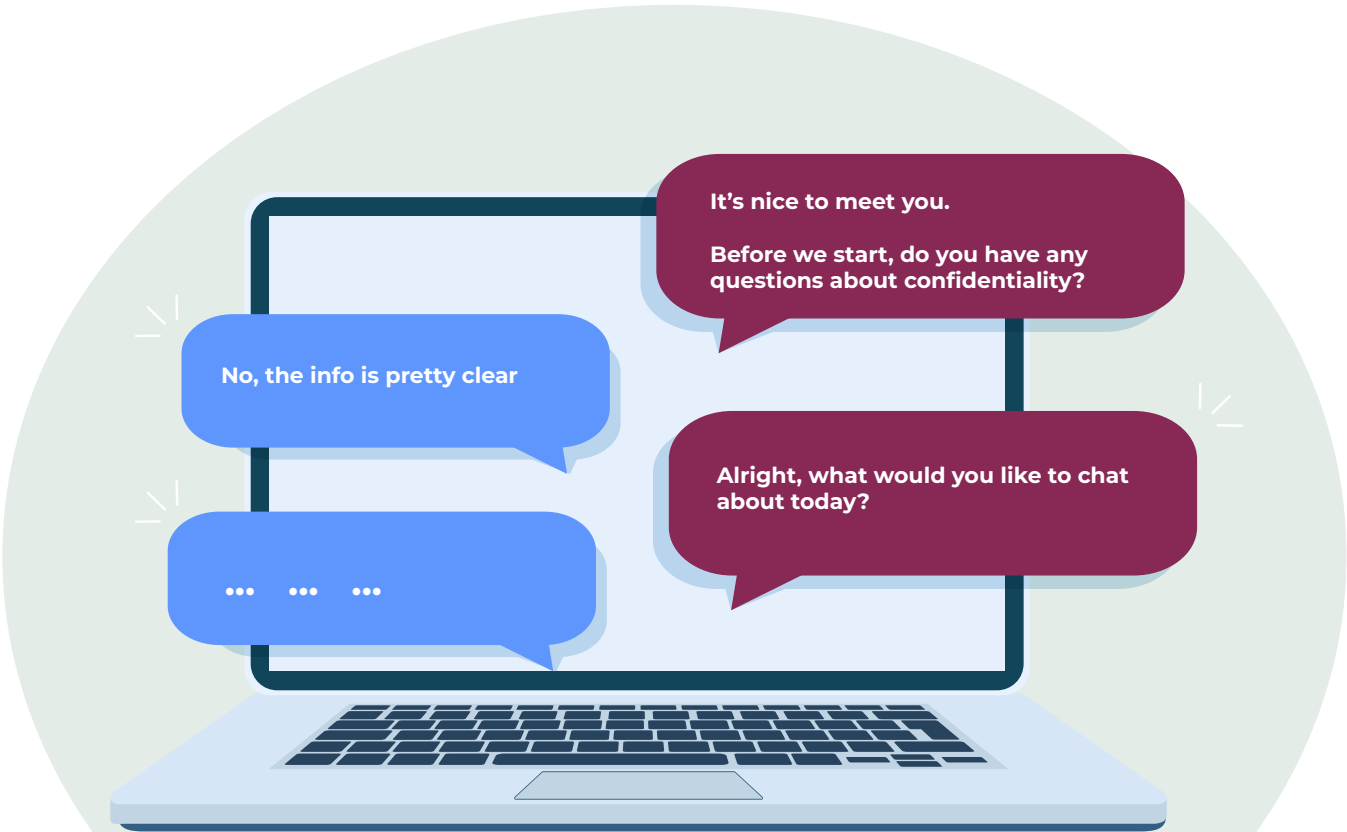
Digital Disclosures Project

Technological developments have broadened opportunities for mental health services to provide a range of services online. This project arose out of a need to understand digital mental health practitioners' perspectives on supporting young people who are disclosing violence at home.

About the project

Mental health practitioners have an important role supporting young people who may be experiencing or are at risk of violence. However, in the course of this work clinicians are required to respond to potentially uncertain and complex situations. This study used a qualitative approach to explore practitioners' perspectives and experiences on responding to disclosures of violence in the course of their work at an online mental health service.

Nineteen mental health practitioners who were currently working, or had recently worked, within the Digital Mental Health Programs of headspace took part in the study. Semi-structured individual and focus group interviews were conducted, transcribed, and analysed using reflexive thematic analysis.



About the project continued

This study highlighted how clinicians seek to reconcile a young person-centred approach with their own professional duty of care to report on certain concerns of violence. In doing so, clinicians reflected on how they navigate structural challenges and the potential for perceived anonymity in the digital space, along with how they work to develop common ground with young people and communicate transparently about difficult topics.

Practitioners also conveyed their search for culturally sensitive approaches to responding to disclosures.

These findings highlight the importance of appropriate consultation, supervision, and support for clinicians working with young people at risk of violence. The findings also reinforce the importance of communicating openly with young people, and developing a shared understanding around experiences of violence and concerns about safety from the outset of a therapeutic engagement.

These findings highlight the importance of appropriate consultation, supervision, and support for clinicians working with young people at risk of violence.

Knowledge Translation and Impact

The findings and recommendations from this study have been presented to staff at the Digital Mental Health Programs of headspace and developed into a comprehensive report and brief one-page flyers for dissemination through clinical teams. The findings also informed the development of a series of case studies and reflective questions which invite practitioners to reflect on their own practice, and guide ongoing development.

Strategic partners for translation of research into policy and practice

Headspace Digital Mental Health Programs

Key Publications

Molyneaux, R., Mirembe, E. & Alisic, E. (2023) Digital Disclosures Project Report. University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia.

Molyneaux, R., Mirembe, E., Leicester, S., Schley, C., & Alisic, E. (2024). Digital disclosures: Exploring the role of online mental health services in supporting young people who disclose violence or maltreatment. Child Protection and Practice, 1, 100016.

2023 Team



Professor Lisa Gibbs is the Director of the Disaster, Climate and Adversity Unit and leads the Disaster Resilience & Recovery stream of the Unit – i.e. the Beyond Disasters program. Professor Kathryn Bowen leads the Climate Change and Health stream – i.e. the Climate CATCH Lab, and Professor Eva Alisic leads the Adversity, Trauma and Resilience stream – i.e. the Listening Lab.

Some members of the Unit, including Associate Professor Karen Block who was part of the leadership team, shifted their Migration and Social Cohesion program of research to the Nossal Institute mid 2023 as part of an internal restructure (as indicated by asterix in the staff listing on the next page).

The Disaster, Climate and Adversity Unit is supported by Professor Jane Pirkis, Director of the Centre for Mental Health and Community Wellbeing, which is situated within the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health under the leadership of Professor Nancy Baxter. The Unit also receive excellent ongoing professional support by the Centre and School finance and administration teams.

STAFF

Prof Eva Alisic	Kathryn Joy	Dr Rebecca Patrick
A/Prof Karen Block*	Kristine Jover	Alana Pirrone
Prof Kathryn Bowen	Dr Claire Leppold	Phoebe Quinn
Dr Kate Brady	Dr Katitza Marinkovic	Ashwini Sakthiakumaran
Dr Lauren Carpenter*	Molly McKew	Gemma Tarpey-Brown*
Oliver Eastwood	Elise Moo	Dr Belle Workman
Dr Colin Gallagher	Hannah Morrice	Dana Young*
Prof Lisa Gibbs	Robyn Molyneaux	

HONORARY

Dr Rebecca Armstrong National Disability Insurance Agency	Professor Colin MacDougall Flinders University	Elena Swift Griffith University
Dr Kate Brady UNSW	Jane Nursey Phoenix Australia	Dr Mira Vasileva
Andrew Coghlan Australian Red Cross	Dr Kerryn O'Rourke, Charles Darwin University	David Younger Clinical & Consultant Psychologist
Dr John Frederick	Dr Sandra Passardi	
Dr Ashrafalsadat Hosseini Foundation House	John Richardson Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience	

*Moved to the Nossal Institute.

Professor Elizabeth Waters' Memorial Travel Scholarship

This Scholarship was established by friends and family of Professor Elizabeth Waters in recognition of her remarkable contribution to public health internationally and to child public health in particular. Liz travelled widely and due to her warmth, intellect and vision she was able to capitalise on those travel opportunities to build international networks and to achieve the highest standards in evidence, engagement and outcomes. This Scholarship is intended to continue her legacy. All staff, Higher Degree candidates, partners and collaborators are eligible to apply, provided the proposed international travel activity will promote research relating to child health and wellbeing and aligns with the work of the Child and Community Wellbeing Unit (renamed Disaster, Climate and Adversity Unit from 1 October 2023) in Melbourne School of Population and Global Health..

2023 Recipient: Dr Ash Hosseini



Dr Hosseini will attend the 25th International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS) in September 2024 and will build a comprehensive network with international researchers. This will give an opportunity for knowledge exchange and collaboration by connecting with other researchers who exchange dialogue about improving cancer care on an international level and developing strategies to address psychosocial issues to all aspects of cancer care. As a lived experience and honorary researcher this scholarship will contribute to her current work on empowering young people and adolescents affected by cancer.

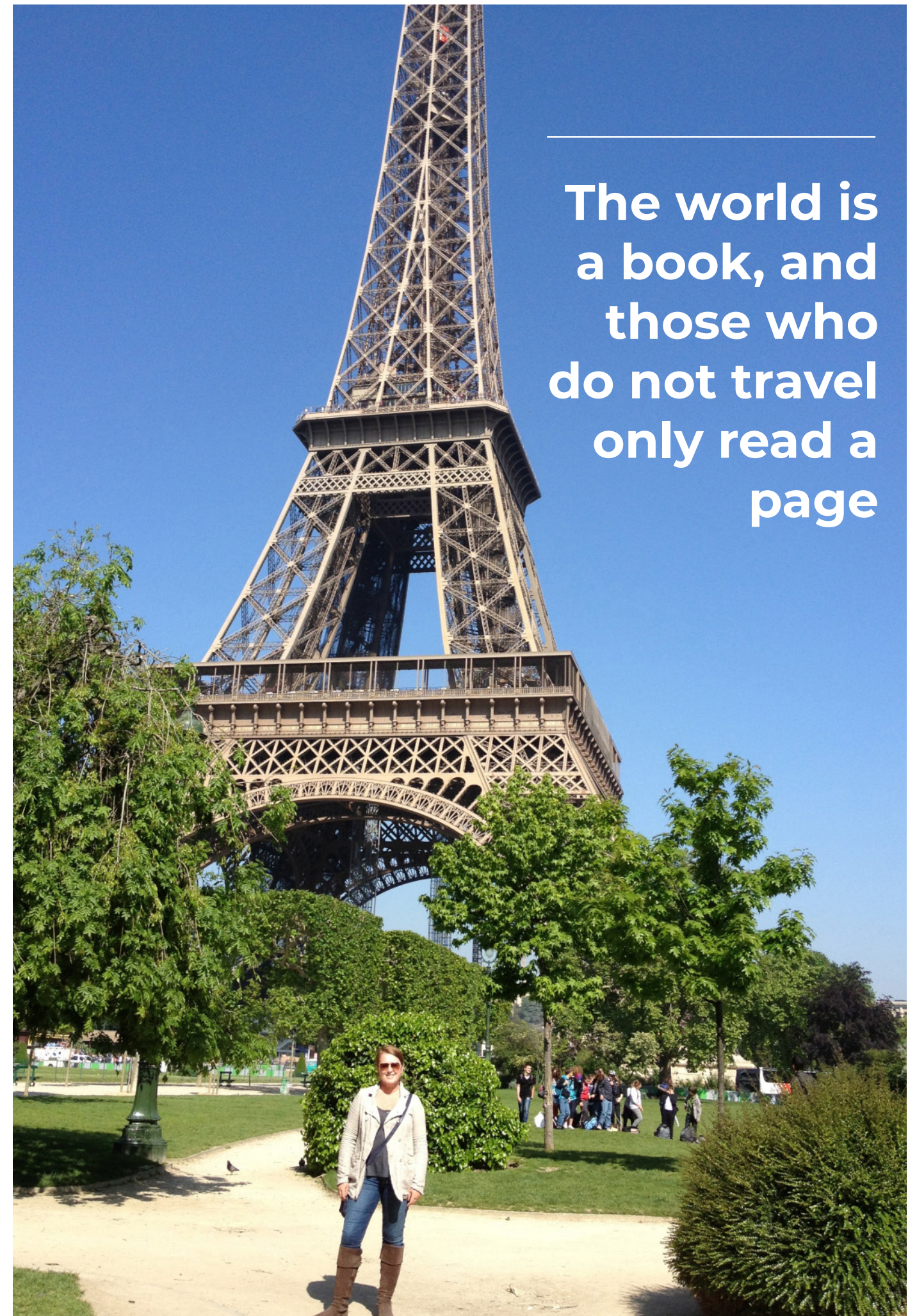
2023 Travel Report



Maria Belén Sotomayor

The scholarship allowed Belén to learn and share enriching experiences relating to the project *Participatory and intergenerational process for the design, construction and evaluation of the First Local Policy for Children and Adolescents of the commune of Melipilla, Metropolitan Region of Chile*. This project aimed to promote children and young people's rights, including the right to participate, by co-designing with them the First Local Policy for Children and Young People in Melipilla, Chile. During the trip to the University of Melbourne she had the opportunity to meet with the members of the Child and Community Wellbeing Unit who were part of the Think Big study, and other local and visiting international university research teams that are focused on child- and adolescent-led local policy-making processes.

Full reports are available on our website - <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/7adr>



2023 Internal Awards

Research Excellence: **Dr Hugh Colin Gallagher**



For excellence in innovative research supporting communities affected by disaster

Coralie Mathews in Memoriam Award: **Kathryn Joy**



For strong community engagement and accessible knowledge translation

Team Award: **Climate Catch Lab**



For excellence in development and delivery of an international capacity building program. Awarded to Advancing climate, health and equity outcomes through local participation in the Indo-Pacific Fellowship Program.

Team members: Kathryn Bowen, Belle Workman, Rebecca Patrick, Elise Moo, Kristine Jover

Higher degrees

PhD Students

CHRISTOPHER BOYER

Heatwave early warning systems – challenges for implementation in Sub-Saharan Africa (2021-2025).
Supervisors: Prof Kris Ebi, Prof Kathryn Bowen, Prof Jeremy Hess
National Institutes of Health (US). Enrolled through the University of Washington, US.

MEG CHIN

When a child dies from a life-threatening condition: Hearing the voices of bereaved siblings (2017-2025).
Supervisors: Prof Louise Harms, Prof Lisa Gibbs.

SALSAWI DEBELA

Exploring the Wellbeing of Humanitarian migrants in regional Australia (2023-2025).
Supervisors: Principal Supervisor: A/Prof Karen Block
Co-supervisors: A/Prof Celia McMichael; Dr Ankur Singh; Dr Lauren Carpenter
Australian Research Council (ARC).

JONATHAN JANUAR

Missing data mechanisms in covert networks (2021-2025).
Supervisors: Dr Johan Koskinen, Dr Colin Gallagher, Prof Yoshi Kashima.

ANNA KENNEDY-BORISSOW

Creativity, recovery, and resilience: How the arts contribute to psychosocial recovery and resilience in disaster-affected communities (2022-2025).
Supervisors: Dr Caitlin Vincent, Dr Guy Morrow, Dr Claire Leppold and Dr Kate Brady.

SHEENAGH MCSHANE

Understanding the role of housing in mental health outcomes for refugees over time (2021-2024).
Supervisors: Prof Rebecca Bentley, A/Prof Karen Block, Prof Emma Baker.

DOMINICA MEADE

Gender, volunteering and disasters (2023-2026).
Supervisors: Dr Brendan Churchill, Professor Jo Barraket, Dr Claire Leppold.

NABREESA MURPHY

Young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights in the Pacific in times of climate change-related disasters (2021-2024)
Supervisors: A/Prof Meghan Bohren, A/Prof Peter Azzopardi, Prof Kathryn Bowen.

SHANTI NARAYANASAMY

Identifying critical knowledge gaps in our understanding of structural barriers to health in Victoria through community perspectives during the COVID-19 pandemic to change future practice (2023-2026).
Supervisors: Professor Margaret Hellard, Professor Lisa Gibbs, Dr Alisa Pedrana, Dr Katherine Gibney

ADELLE MANSOUR

Creating climate-resilient and healthy housing: what is the role of citizen science? (2023-2026)
Supervisors: Prof Rebecca Bentley, Prof Kathryn Bowen, Dr Samantha Rowbotham.

PHOEBE QUINN

Crowdsourcing consensus for climate and disaster resilience: An exploration of the use of civic technology for agenda-setting at scale (2022-2025).
Supervisors: Prof Lisa Gibbs, Prof Kathryn Bowen, Prof Nicole Curato.

SOPHIE ROBINSON

Governance to enable Climate Resilient Development of Healthcare systems (2021-2024).
Supervisors: Kathryn Bowen; Michele Barnes; Glenn Hoetker.

CLAIRE SULLIVAN

Legal responses to violence: Experiences of migrant and refugee women (2018-2023).
Supervisors: A/Prof Karen Block, Prof Cathy Vaughan.
Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship (with additional research support funds from the Melbourne Social Equity Institute).

ALEX TANFIELD

The impact on and changing nature of social capital in response to multiple disasters (2023-2026)
Supervisors: Professor Jacki Schirmer, Professor Lisa Gibbs
Enrolled through University of Canberra.
Supported by Department of Education Research Training Program stipend and a scholarship from Natural Hazards Research Australia.

MARTHA VAZQUEZ CORONA

Giving mums a fair go: culturally responsive maternity care (2021-2024).
Supervisors: A/Prof Meghan Bohren, A/Prof Karen Block.
Human Rights Scholarship.

SHELBY WILLIAMSON

The natural environment and peoples' mental health (2021-2025).
Supervisors: Prof Kathryn Bowen, Prof Lisa Gibbs.
Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship.

SINTAYEHU ABEBE WOLDIE

Sexual violence against female victims in Ethiopia: health services' response to the mental health effects (2022-2025).
Supervisors: A/Prof Cathy Vaughan, Dr Gregory Armstrong, Dr Karen Block, A/Prof Kristin Diemer.

DANA YOUNG

Sports participation and social capital development for migrant women and adolescent girls (2018-2025).
Supervisors: A/Prof Karen Block, Prof Lisa Gibbs.
National Health and Medical Research Council Postgraduate Scholarship.

SUBMITTED

FARNAZ SHAHIMI

Childhood Resilience and Sense of Identity among Afghans with a Refugee background: A Social Ecological Perspective (2019-2024).
Supervisors: A/Prof Karen Block, Prof Eva Alisic.
Melbourne Research Scholarship.

COMPLETED

HALA NASR

Women-only safe spaces as a response to gender-based violence: Experiences, limitations and possibilities for refugee women. (2018-2023).
Supervisors: Prof Cathy Vaughan, A/Prof Karen Block.
Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship.

PATRICIA NAYNA-SCHWERTDLE

Migration, human health and climate change – investigating the nexus (2017-2023).
Supervisors: Prof Ina Danquah, Prof Kathryn Bowen, Prof Rainer Sauerborn
Enrolled through University of Heidelberg, Germany.

Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (DPsych)

RACHEL WILSON

Posttraumatic growth in the context of parental homicide (2021-2023).
Supervisors: Dr Gundi Kiemle, Robert Balfour, A/Prof Eva Alisic
Enrolled through the University of Liverpool (UK).

Master of Public Health

LIN AUNG

Inequality in Smoking Trends Among People with Diverse Cultural Backgrounds in Australia.
Supervisors: Ankur Singh, Humaira Maheen, Karen Block

SIQI CHEN

Secondary analysis of social capital indicators in general social surveys.
Supervisors: Dr Colin Callagher, Robyn Molyneaux

JESS KIRWAN

“Hidden victims” - Family violence affecting children from culturally and racially marginalised migrant backgrounds: Perceptions and experiences of mothers.
Supervisors: Karen Block and Cathy Vaughan.

Higher degrees

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (CONTINUED)

HERYANTO MARDI

Air pollution in megacities: A case study of Indonesia (WHO project, see further details below).

Supervisors: Dr Belle Workman, Prof Kathryn Bowen.

SARAH MEDCALF

What strengths and resources do young people between the ages of 12 - 25 years living in Victoria draw upon when navigating the climate crisis?

Supervisors: Phoebe Quinn, Dr Katitza Marinkovic Chavez.

HEIDY NATALIA NIVAAN

Climate Change and Human Health: Review of how health is represented in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

Supervisors: Dr Rebecca Patrick, Prof Kathryn Bowen.

CHRISTINA PELOSI-THORPE

Sustainable healthcare at Western Health - evaluation case study.

Supervisors: Dr Rebecca Patrick, Forbes McGain.

SARAH PHILLIPS

Literature Review - Leadership and Governance in Sustainable Healthcare.

Supervisors: Dr Rebecca Patrick, Eugenie Kayak.

ELISA QUIJANO

How can young people's experience of climate change events inform Victorian health policy?

Supervisors: Dr Katitza Marinkovic Chavez, Dr Anabelle Workman, Phoebe Quinn.

SOPHIA SAMUEL

Fossil fuel companies - commercial determinants of health and wellbeing.

Supervisors: Prof Kathryn Bowen, Jenn Lacey-Nicholls.

CHARLOTTE WIRTZ

Loss and damage - relevance to human health and wellbeing

Supervisors: Prof Kathryn Bowen, Janine Felson.

MPH COMPLETIONS

ALEXANDRA HOWARD

Potential barriers and opportunities for Australia-wide implementation of the National Disaster Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework.

Supervisors: Dr Claire Leppold, A/Prof Helen Jordan, Dr Kate Brady.

RAMZI SAAD

How do national policies in Pacific Small Island Developing States address the association between communicable diseases and climate change? A Case study analysis of Solomon Islands and Fiji.

Supervisors: Dr Belle Workman, Alexei Trundle.

Master of Science (Epidemiology)

BLESSING SIMANGO

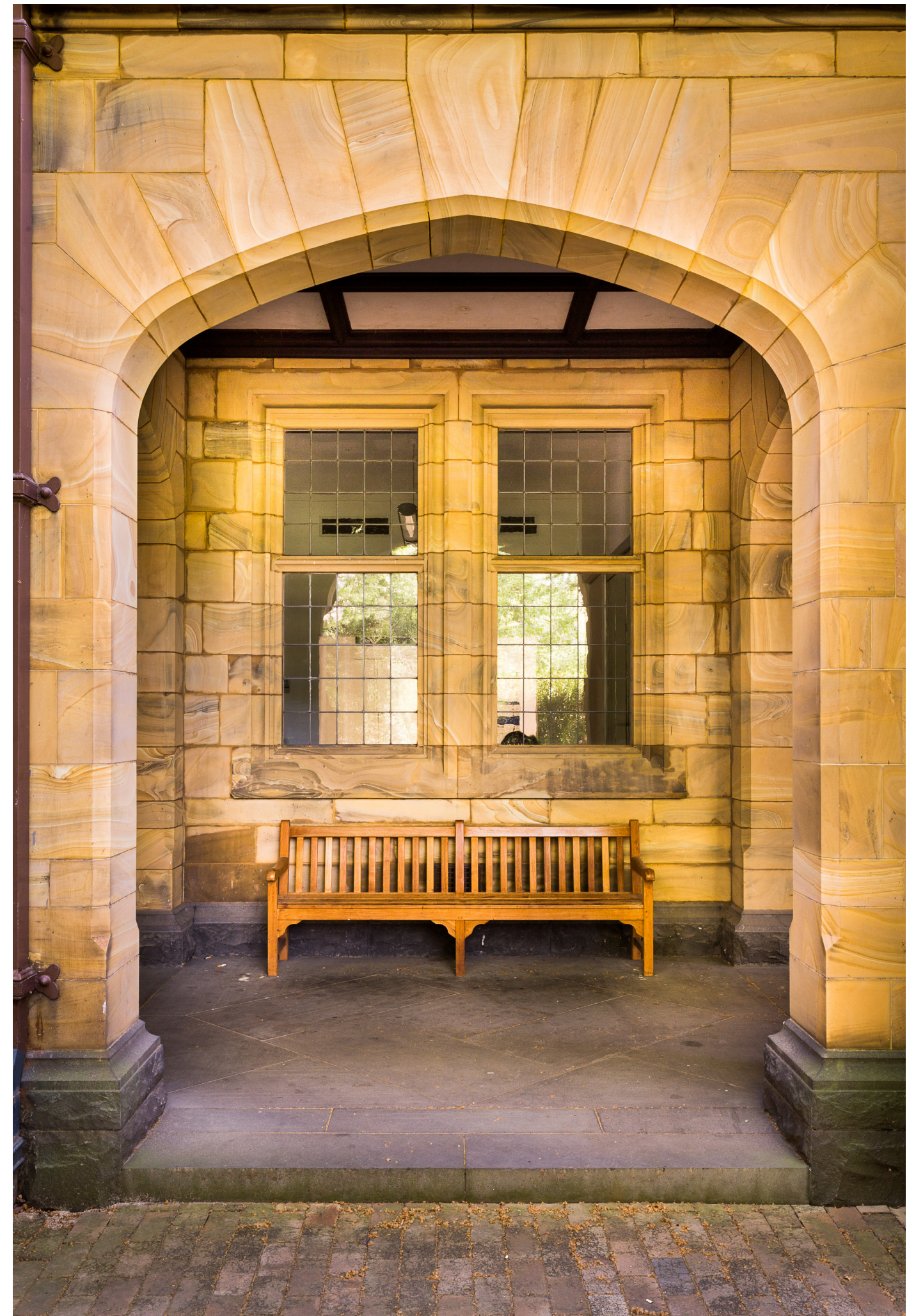
Exploring racial literacy in Victorian community sports clubs

Supervisors: Dana Young, Dr Lauren Carpenter, A/Prof Karen Block

PENGJIE ZHANG

Explore psychosocial interventions designed to address anxiety and depression in young adults with parental cancer.

Supervisors: Dr Ash Hosseini



Publications

Journal publications

1. Abeyasinghe S, Leppold C (2023). Ethical research practice in health and disasters. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*; 92:103728.
2. Armstrong F, Wyns A, Colagiuri P, Anderson R, Hunter A, Arabena K, Patrick R . . . Borda A (2023). Healthy, Regenerative and Just: guiding the development of a national strategy on climate, health and well-being for Australia. *The Journal of Climate Change and Health*, 100205. doi:10.1016/j.joclim.2023.100205
3. Block K, Fernandez B, McGee T, Al-Barazi Z & Brennan D (2023). Immobilisation of migrant domestic worker women and their children born in Lebanon. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 1-18.
4. Bowen K, Ebi KL, Woodward A, McIver L, Tukuitonga C & Nayna Schwerdtle P (2023). Human health and climate change in the Pacific: a review of current knowledge, *Climate and Development*, doi: 10.1080/17565529.2023.2185479
5. Brady K, Gibbs L, Harms L (2023). Recovery workers who have also been personally affected by disasters: Exploring the perspective of people who have dual experiences of disaster recovery. *Australasian Journal of Disaster and Trauma Studies*. 27(1): 15-26.
6. Brady K, Gibbs L, Harms L (2023). Who is worst off after a disaster? *Australian Journal of Emergency Management*, 38(1), 21. <https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/ajem-january-2023-who-is-worst-off-after-a-disaster/>
7. Douglass C, Win TM, Goutzamanis S, Lim M, Block K, Onsando G, Hellard M, Higgs P, Livingstone C, Horyniak D (2023). Stigma associated with alcohol and other drug use among people from migrant and ethnic minority groups: Results from a systematic review of qualitative studies. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*. 25(6):1402-1425. doi: 10.1007/s10903-023-01468-3
8. Eastwood O, Conroy R, Joy K, Marinkovic Chavez K, Devaney J, Frederick J, Kurdi Z, Alisic E (2023, November 1). "That Weird Kid Without Parents": A Qualitative Analysis of Identity Following Bereavement due to Parental Intimate Partner Homicide in Australia. *PsyArXiv*. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/9ew2m>
9. Ebi KL & Bowen K (2023). Green and blue spaces: crucial for healthy, sustainable urban futures. *The Lancet*. [https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(23\)00096-X](https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(23)00096-X)
10. Eichholtzer AC, Driscoll DA, Patrick R, Galletta L & Lawson J (2023). The co-benefits of biodiversity citizen science for well-being and nature relatedness. *Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being*, 22 pages. doi:10.1111/aphw.12502
11. Fernandez B, McGee T, Albarazi Z, Brennan D, Block K (2023). At risk of statelessness: Children born in Lebanon to migrant domestic workers. *International Migration Review* <https://doi.org/10.1177/01979183231186794>.
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Books and Book Chapters

1. Leppold C, Reifels L. The mental health impacts of multiple disaster exposures. In: Williams R, Kemp V, Porter K, Healing T, Duruy J (Eds). Pandemics, major incidents and mental health: The psychosocial and mental health aspects of health emergencies. Cambridge University Press. Expected December 2023.

Resources

1. Marinkovic Chavez K, Armstrong N, Hosseini A, Chin M, Ferreira L & Oostermeijer S (2023). Nothing About Them, Without Them (NATWIT): an online resource on rights-based and participatory research with children and young people on issues that affect their health and wellbeing. <https://go.unimelb.edu.au/4ces>

Other publications

1. Bowen, Workman, Wyns, Patrick, Robinson (2023). COP28: health is finally on the agenda – but there's more to do as we face continued climate extremes, The Conversation.
2. Mark Stevenson, Dr Rebecca Patrick, Avita Streatfield and Clare Walter, Decarbonising Transport for our Health, 15th November 2023. Pursuit by The University of Melbourne <https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/decarbonising-transport-for-our-health>

Reports

1. Alisic, E., Barrett, A., Conroy, R., Devaney, J., Eastwood, O., Frederick, J., Houghton, C., Humphreys, C., Joy, K., Kurdi, Z., Marinkovic Chávez, K., Morrice, H., Sakthiakumaran, A., & Vasileva, M. (2023) Children and young people bereaved by domestic homicide: A focus on Australia. University of Melbourne and University of Edinburgh. <https://doi.org/10.26188/24630690>
2. Block K, Young D, Carpenter L, Wells M (2023). STARS: Standing Together Against Racism in Sport – Co-designing, implementing and evaluating an intervention to tackle racism and Islamophobia in junior sport. Final Report to the Australian Department of Health.
3. Brady K, Gallagher C, Morrice H, Gibbs L (2023). Community-led Recovery: Evidence, dimensions and supports Phase 2 ReGroup Final Report, VIC.
4. Gallagher HC, Brady K, Molyneaux R, O'Donnell ML, Glenister K, Harms L, Leppold C, Gibbs L (2023). Community Recovery study: Recovery from the 2019-2020 bushfires. Report for Emergency Recovery Victoria. University of Melbourne.
5. Howard A, Bowd C, Quinn P, Brady K, Pedder D, Durham C, Watson L, Gibbs L. Victorian Five-Year Mental Health and Wellbeing Disaster Recovery & Resilience Framework. Commissioned by Victorian Department of Health. July 2023.
6. Jordan H, Young D, Marinkovic Chavez K, Tse J, Aston R. Evaluation of the VicHealth Local Government Partnership Initiative: 2022 Survey Findings. 2023.
7. Leppold C, Quinn P, Gibbs L, Foliente G, MacDougall C. Final Year and Exit of the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Program: A Case Study Evaluation Report for the Australian Red Cross. University of Melbourne. October, 2023.
8. Quinn P. Final report on the University of Melbourne Polis conversation on staff air travel emissions. 2023.

Grants

1. Block K, Carpenter L. Positive Start Research Evaluation. The Y Victoria. 2023. \$24,000.

2. Bowen K, Patrick R. Scoping review on ageing, environment and climate change (WHO Western-Pacific Regional Office). \$40,000.

3. Bowen K, Moo E. Case studies on climate resilient and low carbon health systems in the Western-Pacific (WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for the Environment and Western-Pacific Regional Office). \$37,107.

4. Bowen K & Workman B; Advancing climate, health and equity outcomes through local action in the Indo-Pacific - funded by DFAT (\$530,000) – this is an Australian Awards Fellowship and will bring across 15 colleagues from the Pacific and SE Asia to UniMelb for 6 weeks later this year, then to Samoa with our co-leads the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC).

5. Bowen K & Workman B; Co-designing healthier climate policies – funded by VicHealth (\$230,000) for two years. We will be trialling our decision-support tool to accelerate climate action in sectors including and beyond health. Collaboration with PIs including Belle, Vanora Mulvenna (Climate and health lead at Dept. Health) and Fran McDonald (Local government climate action alliance)

6. Carpenter L, McMichael C, Ankur Singh A, Debela S, Block K. Climate anxiety and disaster experience among humanitarian migrants in regional Australia. Climate Catch Lab. 2023-2025. \$40,000

7. Charlson F, Henderson-Wilson C, Patrick R. Using Systems mOdelling fOr menTal Health (SOOTHE) to identify more efficient and effective support measures for communities impacted by climate change-driven extreme weather events, HEAL (NHMRC).

8. Gibbs L, Howard A, Abrahams J, Harada N, Otani J, Cavaliere P, Reifels L, Marinkovic Chavez K, Sozzi An, Nursey J, Watson P, Molyneaux R, Leppold C. \$182,000. WHO Call for research proposals / Mitigating Mental Health Impacts of Disasters: Evidence to support more effective Disaster Risk Reduction Tools for better mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Bid Ref: 2023/HQ/WKC/0010.

9. Gibbs L, Otani J, Cavaliere P, Li J, Arai R, Marinkovic Chavez K, Gallagher H C, Harms L, Nursey J, Leppold C, Wiseman J. Osaka - Melbourne Joint Research Workshop. 2023 Melbourne-Osaka Joint Research Workshops Fund. \$20,000 (AUD).

10. Hitchcock C, Lyon D, Healy G, Goode, Alisic E, Koye D. Left Write Hook: A survivor-led program to empower adult survivors of child sexual abuse (MRFF, \$599,820).

11. Howard A, Gibbs L, Brady K, Bowd C. Victorian Five-Year Mental Health and Wellbeing Disaster Recovery Framework. \$250,000. Department of Health 2023.

12. Leppold, C. Information Gathering and Scenario Development for (A) Infectious Diseases and (B) Disasters in a Changing Climate. 2023 Climate and Health Seed Funding. The University of Melbourne, 2023. \$30,000.

13. Marinkovic Chavez K, Workman B, Wiseman J, Gibbs L, Walker I, Quinn P, Campbell S, Borda A. The Futures Collective: Creating Just and Healthy Climate Resilient Communities. 2023 Climate and Health Seed Funding. The University of Melbourne, 2023. \$30,000.

14. Marinkovic Chavez K, Workman, B, Wiseman, J, Gibbs L, Walker, I, Quinn P, Campbell, S, Borda, A. The Futures Collective: Creating just and healthy climate resilient communities. MSPGH Climate & Health Seed Funding. \$20,000. 2023-2024.

15. Molyneaux R, The Impact of Climate Related Disasters on Sleep and Associations with Mental Health. 2023 Climate and Health Seed Funding. The University of Melbourne, 2023. \$30,000.

16. Patrick R. AI in disasters, climate and health. \$15,000.

17. Patrick R. Digital Health consultancy. \$55,000.

18. Patrick R, Bowen K, Morrice H, Governance and Leadership for Digital Health, Centre for Digital Health Transformation, The University of Melbourne.

19. Patrick, R., Gibbs, L., Marinkovic Chavez, K., Quinn, P. Disaster, climate, mental health and wellbeing: researching with and on AI. Melbourne School of Population and Global Health's Artificial Intelligence Grants, Stage 1. \$15,000. 2023.

20. Quinn P. Climate Superpowers in the Classroom. 2023 Climate and Health Seed Funding. The University of Melbourne, 2023. \$30,000.

21. Sutherland G, Gilmore J, Vaughan C, Block K, Disney G. Alisic E. The Access Project: Accommodation for children and young people seeking Safety. Family Safety Victoria. 2023-2024. \$150,000

22. Toffoletti K. Ravi A. Farquharson K. Block K. Effective anti-racism approaches for women and girls in community sport. Change Our Game Research Grants Program. Victorian Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions. 2023-2024. \$25,000

23. Vaughan C, Murdolo A, Block K, Kyei-Onanjiri M. The Wisdom Project: What counts as success for multicultural community services as part of a coordinated response to family violence? Family Safety Victoria. 2023-2024. \$150,000

24. Ziersch A, Lawn S, Correa-Velez I, Due C, Mwanri L, Block K, Oudih E, Hynie M, Ullah S. Understanding social determinants of mental health for young people from refugee backgrounds to improve mental health. MRFF Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission. 2024-2025. \$832,000



Financial Summary

Estimated final **income** and breakdown at 31 Dec 2023

Category	Amount (\$)	% of total	
University	\$2,193,094	39.2	
Non-government	\$1,225,302	16.9	
Competitive research	\$942,246	13.0	
Government	\$868,908	12.02	
Courses and consultancies	\$1,079,181	15	
Philanthropic	\$272,672	3.8	
Total	\$3,615,187	100	

Estimated final **expenditure** and breakdown at 31 Dec 2022

Category	Amount (\$)	% of total	
Salary & stipends	1,930,044	67.64	
Non-salary	697,441	24.44	
Outgoings for shared grants	226,013	7.92	
Total	2,853,498	100	

Additional funding raised by the **Climate CATCH Lab** over 2023/24

\$1.12M

Multi-year funding for new climate and health research initiatives across 10 projects

\$12.5M

Interdisciplinary funding through collaborative research partnerships



Disaster, Climate and Adversity Unit

Centre for Mental Health & Community Wellbeing, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, The University of Melbourne

Website

<https://mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/centres-institutes/centre-for-mental-health/research-group/disaster-climate-and-adversity>

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It is only possible to conduct meaningful research if we have funding partners who share our vision to make a difference. If you would like to support our next steps please contact Professor Lisa Gibbs at +613 8344 0920 or lgibbs@unimelb.edu.au.