

FoBJBS	Donnah Anderson	 <p>Dr Donnah Anderson (School of Psychology, CSU) is a Chief Investigator on a priority project funded by the NSW Department of Education’s Strategic Research Fund. The project, titled ‘<i>School is For Everyone: Improving Participation and Wellbeing for Every Student</i>’, is led by the Centre for Children and Young People at Southern Cross University, in partnership with the NSW Advocate for Children and Young People and Charles Sturt University. The project concludes at the end of June 2024.</p> <p>The mixed methods project focuses on building evidence for appropriately supporting students of all abilities and backgrounds, especially those most at risk of disengaging, to remain at school and complete secondary education. In doing so it directly addresses the NSW Department of Education policy priorities for wellbeing, pedagogical innovation and inclusiveness. The team is collaborating closely with the NSW Department of Education to strengthen intended research impact.</p> <p>The key findings are informing a suite of professional development for school staff in NSW public schools.</p> <p>To read project outputs to date see: https://www.scu.edu.au/centre-for-children-and-young-people/our-research/sife/</p>
	Daren Jay	<p>In May 2024, Daren Jay, Investigative Interviewing Discipline Lead at the Australian Graduate School of Policing and Security (AGSPS), delivered a presentation on Police Investigative Interviewing training at the Brandenburg State Police University in Oranienburg, near Berlin, Germany. The presentation showcased how technology is being utilised to create investigative interviewing eLearning content, which is used at CSU to standardise training delivery and provide a consistent learning experience for students. The presentation included an overview of investigative interviewing training programs in use in an Australian and UK police force, highlighting the contrasts between them and underscoring the need for both foundational and specialist investigative interviewing training to be incorporated into force policy and supported by executive leaders.</p>
	Kristy Campion	<p>From October 2022 to April 2024, Dr Kristy Campion was approached by NSW Police Force to act as an expert witness in the first legal test of new legislation which bans the display of Nazi symbols in public. Earlier in 2022, a number of soccer fans were witnessed at the Australian Soccer Cup final displaying Nazi salutes and symbols. The prosecution of these individuals would become the first legal test of 93ZA Offence of displaying Nazi symbols amendment to the Criminal Code in NSW. To assist the court in this matter, Dr Campion provided expert reports in 2023 and oral testimony with cross-examination in court in April 2024. The Magistrate ultimately found that three individuals were guilty of displaying Nazi</p>

		<p>symbols in public, thereby becoming the first legal precedent and creating case law in the State of NSW. The significance of this was evident in the media coverage which accompanied the event, with numerous media stories, and a single media story being republished 157 times.</p>
	<p>Clifford Lewis</p>	<p>Implications of a national agricultural data exchange revealed in new research</p> <p>With greater digitisation within the agriculture sector, there is now more data than ever before. This data has the potential to transform how the agricultural sector operates by informing specific practices that can be implemented on farms to enhance efficiencies and productivity. The impact of such data can be enhanced if farmers are willing and able to share their data.</p> <p>Recent research by Dr Michael Bewong and his team has revealed the benefits and implications of a concerted data sharing approach around the agricultural technology industry.</p> <p>The research, titled 'Potential implications and benefits for the agricultural technology sector from the introduction of the Australian Agricultural Data Exchange,' took place from September 2022 to June 2023.</p> <p>The study found that stakeholders were concerned with transparency, governance and handling of data, but there was also a definite interest in how industry wide data could be leveraged to enhance efficiency and support smart agricultural practices. The success of such a system however would rely on a broad range of agricultural industries and complex supply chains participating, ensuring the data is inclusive, accessible and representative of the whole sector, not just those with a monopoly on certain markets.</p> <p>The cross disciplinary team included Dr Michael Bewong, Project Lead and Investigator, Dr Ryan Ho Leung Ip, Project Co-Lead and Investigator, Associate Professor Clifford Lewis, Investigator, Professor Branka Krivokapic-Skoko, Investigator, Professor Md Zahidul Islam, Investigator, Professor Yeslam Al-Saggaf, Investigator, Mr Jonathan Medway, Investigator, Dr Basharat Ali, Research Fellow and Dr Ella Dixon, Research Officer.</p>
	<p>2024 Summer Research and Creative Works Forum</p>	<p>The Australian Graduate School of Policing and Security (AGSPS), Centre for Law and Justice (CLJ) and the School of Policing Studies (SOPS) in the Faculty of Business, Justice, and Behavioural Sciences of CSU, has successfully organised a three-day research forum on 5-7 February 2024, online. This is the fourth event of its kind and aimed to showcase individuals and teams of researchers, foster collaboration and explore future research possibilities.</p> <p>The initial Forum held back in 2022 grew out of the results from the <i>Your Voice</i> survey; where staff members indicated that there was not enough opportunity to present, discuss, collaborate, or celebrate research achievements within our</p>



Schools. Noting that some of our colleagues are early career researchers or have been produced non-peer reviewed works – ‘creative works’ – were added to the agenda.

The Forum was opened by esteemed colleagues, day one started with an excellent and informative speech by Associate Dean (Research) Professor Zahid Islam. Professor Islam, discussed amongst many things the importance of an on-line presence for researchers and their work. This presence not only highlighted what the staff members was focussed on but what they had achieved and what the future may look like as well.

The opening of day two was by Associate Professor Nick O’Brien, Head of AGSPS whose Acknowledgement of Country detailed that Canberra, where we are based, holds profound significance for the Indigenous peoples of the region, particularly the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples. The word “Canberra” is derived from the Ngunnawal language, believed to mean “meeting place” or “gathering place.” For thousands of years, the area that is now Canberra served as a meeting point for various Indigenous groups, a site for cultural exchange, trade, and ceremonial gatherings. Professor O’Brien pointed out that this Forum was a meeting place for staff and a place to share our stories, passion and to look to each other for guidance, feedback, and collaboration.

One the final day, Dr Julian Parker-McLeod opened our Forum. Dr Parker-McLeod has arrived in Australia, from his homeland in the UK, in January 2024 to become the new Head of School of the Policing Studies. Dr Parker-McLeod presentation was firstly about himself, his history, experience and wishes for SOPS. There were 17 presenters over the three days, with added time for questions and comments.

With the participation of approximately 30 staff, attending the online Forum, over the three days. The Forum provided a dynamic platform that offered numerous benefits for researchers of all levels, fostering a vibrant intellectual community between individuals, as well as Schools, offering all involved the opportunity for knowledge exchange and interdisciplinary collaboration. Researchers, ranging from early-career scholars to seasoned academics, showcased their work, shared insights, and engaged in discussions that transcended disciplinary boundaries. The forum created a rich environment that stimulated intellectual curiosity.

Another significant benefit of a Research and Creative Works Forum was the mentorship and networking opportunities it provided. For early-career researchers, the forum served as a platform to connect with established scholars, seek guidance, and establish collaborative relationships. Conversely, seasoned researchers could offer mentorship, share their experiences, and contribute to the professional development of emerging scholars. Networking within such a forum could

lead to collaborative research projects, joint publications, and a supportive community that transcends disciplines, Schools, and geographical boundaries.

On day one Lisa Limbrick and Sharon Geltch, from the Office of Research Services and Graduate Studies, presented information on how their office can assist all researchers and how the process works. Then the following presentations occurred:

- Dr. Emma Colvin – Bail, Police, and trauma informed practice
- Dr. Amanda Davies – AI-Driven innovation in law enforcement: The synergistic potential of body cameras and drones as a complementary policing tool for tactical and operational enhancement.
- Prof Mark Nolan – Analysis of Pseudolaw Arguments and Complaints in the Queensland Magistrates Court: A Plan (included work by Dr. Kristy Campion and Dr. Pieta Richards)
- Dr. Astrid Vachette – ‘Climate victimology in the Pacific islands’
- Dr. Levi West – Terrorism and Strategic Effect – A Conceptual Framework.

Day two of the forum highlighted specific projects by the following academics:

- Dr. Milind Tiwari – Metacrimes: An Emerging Crime Opportunity.
- Dr. Charles Vandeppeer – Challenges and benefits of researching in a teaching-only role, reflections as a practitioner-academic, and research gaps and opportunities in a defence intelligence context.
- Dr. Jamie Ferrill – 100 Hours in Kabul.
- ASPRO Amber McKinley – Fatal confrontations: identifying risk factors in Australian victim-precipitated homicides in police operations.
- Dr. Ruth Delaforce – “Policing the Pandemic: An Organised Crime Perspective”.
- ASPRO Valerie Ingham – resilient villages.

The final day, Day three, comprised of the following staff and their research:

- Dr. Kiri Ingram – The Role of Civil Society and Strategic Communications in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in the Southern Philippines.”
- Dr. Fiona Wade – On the job: evaluating training of early career constables
- Dr. Antony Stephenson – From king hit to coward’s punch: Changing the language of assault.
- Dr. Geberew Mekonnen and Dr. Doug Allan – At-risk youth in Australia: A narrative literature review.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tyson Whitton – the impact of NDIS referral on prisoner recidivism: findings from a SA corrections pilot program <p>The workshop concluded with thanks by A/Prof. Amber McKinley for everyone’s input, and congratulations to all those involved. Participants’ agreed that there should be a ‘winter’ version of this forum where staff can present their projects at a different stage, showcase new research, identify new collaborations as well as any new staff being invited to introduce themselves and can learn from others and show where their research passions lie. This workshop represents a significant milestone in the faculty’s research journey, fostering collaboration and innovation to address complex challenges.</p>
	<p>2024 CSU Strategic Workshop on Cyber Security Related Research Activities</p>	<p>The Cyber Security Research Group, operating under the Data Science & Engineering Research Unit (DSERU) in the Faculty of Business, Justice and Behavioural Sciences of CSU, has successfully organised a two-day strategic workshop on February 7-8, 2024, at the International Hotel in Wagga Wagga. This event aimed to foster connections among key stakeholders in the cybersecurity field, establishing a cross-disciplinary platform for the exchange of innovative research ideas, discussions on state-of-the-art advancements, and the exploration of activities that will drive CSU’s research in cybersecurity.</p> <p>With the participation of approximately 22 esteemed cybersecurity researchers, the workshop provided a dynamic platform for sharing insights and experiences from a spectrum of cybersecurity projects and research activities. This collaborative endeavour aimed to boost CSU’s research activities in the cyber security domain, leveraging the collective expertise of the CSU researchers. The knowledge and connections cultivated during these sessions are expected to enrich ongoing endeavours and create opportunities for future funding in various cybersecurity domains.</p> <p>The inaugural session commenced with welcoming remarks by A/Prof. Rafiqul Islam (Leader Cybersecurity research group) and speeches from distinguished CSU faculty members, including Prof. Lihong Zheng (Director DSERU), Prof. Anna Shillaber (Head of School, SoCME), and Prof. Ganna Pogrebna (Executive Director AICF Institute). The session featured insightful presentations from representatives of the AICF Institute, Dr. Fendi Santoso (Senior Research Fellow, AICF Institute), shedding light on AICF’s research directions and potential collaborative opportunities. Subsequent sessions focused on presentations by Cybersecurity PhD/Postdoc researchers, showcasing ongoing cybersecurity endeavours and fostering interactive discussions.</p> <p>Day two of the workshop explored specific projects by CSU academics, presenting their latest research insights and potential collaboration opportunities. Notable presentations were delivered by Dr. Michael Bewong, A/Prof. Nicholas Pawsey, Dr Felicity Small, Dr Arash Mahboubi, Dr Quazi Mamun, Dr Muhammad Khan, Prof. Chris Blanchard and their respective teams.</p>



The workshop also featured a presentation by Associate Dean (Research) Professor Zahid Islam on highlighting the success of Cybersecurity CSU research projects and activities, the strength of our research team at CSU, and possible opportunities for collaboration within CSU and external stakeholders. He also advised us to explore the possibility of accessing the Capital Expenditure budget of CSU and other funding sources to establish a cyber security and data science lab that will host state-of-the-art facilities and will be used for teaching, research, consultancy and so on.

The keynote presentation on CSU's future vision and collaboration, delivered by Professor Michael Friend, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), highlighted the university's current strengths and outlined future collaborative strategies. This presentation follows a pivotal brainstorming session moderated by Prof. Michael Friend. Participants engaged in discussions on CSU's future cybersecurity vision and collaboration strategies. The session explored key areas such as issues and challenges, assets/resources, focus areas, funding bodies, and next steps, aligning research endeavours with the university's strategic goals. The session concluded with the formation of a working committee tasked with guiding future directions for cybersecurity research at CSU.

The workshop concluded with reflections by A/Prof. Rafiqul Islam highlights participants' inspiration and motivation to collaborate and innovate, driving impactful discoveries in the field of cybersecurity. This workshop represents a significant milestone in CSU's cybersecurity research journey, fostering collaboration and innovation to address complex challenges in the digital landscape.

Arash Mahboubi

We are thrilled to announce that the project led by Dr Arash Mahboubi project entry (REDWIRE) has been selected as a finalist for the 2024 [iAwards](#)! Dr Arash Mahboubi's groundbreaking ransomware innovative research, conducted by the Charles Sturt University (CSU), Cyber Security Cooperative Research Centre (CSCRC), DATA61, the New South Wales Government, and the Government of Western Australia, has earned a spot as a finalist for the prestigious iAward.

Ransomware continues to be a significant challenge in the digital landscape, evolving rapidly and growing more sophisticated. Our research led by Dr Arash Mahboubi tackles these challenges head-on, providing a robust and adaptive solution that greatly reduces the risk of these malicious attacks. This accomplishment reflects Dr Arash Mahboubi's dedication, expertise, and the incredible power of collaboration.

		<p>Being recognized as a finalist for the iAward is a major milestone, highlighting the impact and importance of the work. It underscores our commitment to protecting digital assets and ensuring a secure future for all.</p> <p>We are excited about the opportunities this recognition brings and look forward to continuing our journey toward innovation and excellence in cybersecurity.</p>
	Gene Hodgins	<p>Dr Gene Hodgins, clinical psychologist, Associate Professor of Psychology, was interviewed on ABC Radio National’s podcast “No control, no agency. The housing crisis is warping people’s view of the future.” The subject of the podcast was how housing insecurity can alter our sense of agency and how we perceive the world around us.</p> <p>The Podcast aired on Sunday 19 May 2024 you can listen to the recoding by following the link No control, no agency. The housing crisis is warping people’s view of the future – ABC listen</p>
	Manoranjan Paul	<p>Research.com, a leading academic platform for researchers, has just released the 2024 Edition of its Ranking of Best Scientists in the field of Computer Science.</p> <p>We are pleased to learn that Professor Manoranjan Paul has ranked #348 in Australia and #11777 in the world within his field of research.</p> <p>The ranking is based on D-index (Discipline H-index) metric, which only includes papers and citation values for an examined discipline. The ranking includes only leading scientists with D-index of at least 30 for academic publications made in the area of Computer Science.</p> <p>The full ranking for Australia is available here: research.com/scientists-rankings/computer-science/au The full world ranking is available here: research.com/scientists-rankings/computer-science</p> <p>Below is an article summarizing the statistics and trends of the ranking: https://research.com/careers/world-online-ranking-of-best-computer-scientists-2024-report</p>

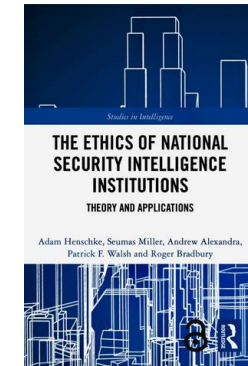
The Ethics of National Security Intelligence Institutions

Charles Sturt's Professors Seumas Miller and Parick Walsh have collaborated with Adam Henschke, Andrew Alexandra and Roger Bradbury to publish a new book on ethics and national security. The book is titled *The Ethics of National Security Intelligence Institutions* and published by Taylor Francis.

"This book explores the ethics of national security intelligence institutions operating in contemporary liberal democracies.

Intelligence collection by agencies such as the CIA, MI6, and Mossad involves practices that are apparently inconsistent with the principles of ordinary morality – practices such as lying, spying, manipulation, and covert action. However, in the defence of national security, such practices may not only be morally permissible, but may also under some circumstances be morally obligatory. One approach to the ethics of national security intelligence activity has been to draw from the just war tradition (so-called 'just intelligence theory'). This book identifies significant limitations of this approach and offers a new, institutionally based, teleological normative framework. In doing so, it revises some familiar principles designed for application to kinetic wars, such as necessity and proportionality, and invokes some additional ones, such as reciprocity and trust. It goes on to explore the applications of this framework and a revised set of principles for national security intelligence institutions and practices in contemporary and emerging political and technological settings.

This book will be of much interest to students of intelligence studies, ethics, security studies and International Relations."
[\(Abstract from Publisher\)](#)



Dirty Money: Financial Crime in Canada

Last September, Dr Jamie Ferrill (AGSPS) and Professor Christian Leuprecht (Queen's University, Royal Military College of Canada, and CSU adjunct Research Professor) launched their volume titled "[Dirty Money: Financial Crime in Canada](#)" at the [40th Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime](#). Since then, the book has been receiving significant media attention and attracting engagement from public safety officials around the globe. To name a few, Jamie recently appeared on [Corus Radio](#) with Ben O'Hara Byrne (1:08-1:25) and again (with Prof Leuprecht) on [Global News Canada](#) to talk about the book. The book was also featured on [Global News Canada](#) and [The Globe and Mail](#) in print and in several more radio and television interviews.



	<p>Through extensive research and analysis, “Dirty Money: Financial Crime in Canada” offers valuable insights into the complex landscape of financial crime within Canada and beyond its borders. Jamie and Christian are so grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the discussion on combating financial crime and looks forward to the impact of their work on academic, professional, and policy circles.</p>
	<p>\$4.3 million to fund research into schizophrenia-focused therapy</p> <p>A Charles Sturt University-led research project has secured \$4.3 million in funding to investigate a specific therapy pathway for people with schizophrenia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles Sturt’s Rural Health Research Institute has secured a \$4.3 million federal government grant to fund mental health research • The project will research how to implement and benefit from cognitive remediation therapy for schizophrenia • Research will be carried out over five years from April 2024 <p>A Charles Sturt University-led research project has secured \$4.3 million in funding to investigate a specific therapy pathway for people with schizophrenia.</p> <p>The Rural Health Research Institute (RHRI) received the translational research grant through the Australian Government’s Medical Research Future Fund, which will help implement cognitive remediation therapy (CRT) in clinical mental health settings.</p> <p>Associate Professor Julaine Allan in the Charles Sturt Rural Health Research Institute is leading the research team and said the project was not about curing schizophrenia, but rather helping people manage it as part of their day-to-day lives.</p> <p><i>“CRT has been shown to significantly improve cognitive and socio-occupational functioning in people living with schizophrenia and schizoaffective conditions,” Professor Allan said.</i></p> <p>“Although CRT is currently recommended in Australian treatment guidelines, access to the therapy is limited.</p> <p>“This project will rapidly translate an evidence-based therapy into different clinical mental health settings with a team of clinician researchers, people with lived experience of mental illness and researchers.”</p> <p>CRT is designed to improve neurocognitive abilities, such as attention, memory, cognitive flexibility and planning, and executive functioning which leads to improved daily functioning.</p>

The research will be carried out from April 2024 over five years, delivered across diverse mental health settings in Orange, Dubbo, South Eastern Sydney, Wollongong, Nowra, Shellharbour and Logan to determine its efficacy, social, functional and economic impact and identify suitable translation strategies.

“At the conclusion of the project, we will be able to deliver recommendations about how to implement CRT, which people will benefit the most, why and how, and also detail information around cost, logistics, access and more,” Professor Allan said.

From the BJBS faculty, Dr Nicole Sugden from the School of Psychology will be an investigator in this research, focusing on project design, analyses, and cognitive research areas of the project. Also involved in the project is Dr Matt Thomas, Principal Practice Lead at Marathon Health. Dr Thomas noted that this research will highlight the success of CRT on a wider scale.

“While cognitive remediation therapy has been trialled and initiated in some mental health facilities and services across NSW, it has not been implemented and made more widely available,” he said.

“Our research is an exciting and important step towards supporting the translation and implementation of cognitive remediation therapy for people with schizophrenia and other psychotic spectrum disorders.”

Professor Allan said implementing a successful CRT pathway for people with schizophrenia would make a world of difference, not just for the individual, but their family, friends and communities.

“Three-quarters of people diagnosed with schizophrenia and related conditions experience impaired cognitive functioning which can negatively affect people’s social, educational and vocational participation,” she said.

“This can result in poor quality of life across many domains including relationships, finances and employment.

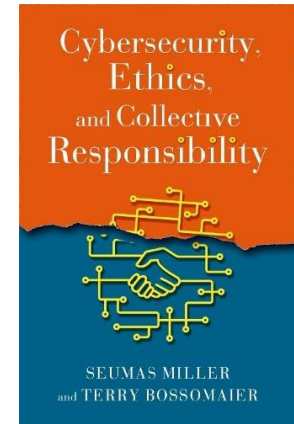
“The effects of CRT are meaningful, durable and result in improvements in everyday functional outcomes.”

The research team includes representatives from Marathon Health, NSW Ministry of Health’s Mental Health Branch, QLD Health, Tertiary Referral Service for Psychosis – South-Eastern Sydney LHD community mental health services, Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD, Western NSW LHD, Charles Sturt University, Griffith University and Kings College London.

Cybersecurity Ethics and Collective Responsibility

Professor of Philosophy Seumas Miller has just co-authored his latest book titled Cybersecurity Ethics and Collective Responsibility published by Oxford University Press. The book will be released in April this year.

“The advent of the internet, exponential growth in computing power, and rapid developments in artificial intelligence have raised numerous cybersecurity-related ethical questions in various domains. The dual use character of cybertechnology-that it can be used to provide great benefits to humankind but can also do great harm-means that business (data security, data ownership and privacy), public communication (disinformation and computational propaganda), health (privacy, ransomware attacks), law enforcement (data security, predictive policing) and interstate conflict (cyberwar, autonomous weapons) are of vital interest to cybersecurity ethics.



This work analyses the key ethical concepts in the field, such as privacy, freedom of communication, security, and the right to self-defence, and develops sets of ethical guidelines for the regulation of cyberspace in these various domains. From a liberal democratic perspective, Seumas Miller and Terry Bossomaier seek to protect individual rights while ensuring the collective good of cybersecurity. They also pay close attention to institutionally embedded collective moral responsibilities that function as ‘webs of prevention’ against cyberattacks. These webs, they argue, need new regulation and the redesign of institutional roles, as well as technical countermeasures to cyberattacks, such as passwords, encryption, firewalls, and ‘patching.’ At times, webs of prevention also involve offensive and defensive measures. In their expert analysis and guidance, Miller and Bossomaier reinforce just how much is at stake in the field of cybersecurity ethics” (from the Publisher).

FOBJBS Research Related Seminar Recordings

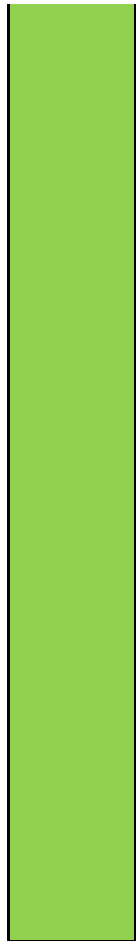
Associate Dean Research Professor Zahid Islam has facilitated a number of FOBJBS Seminars on various research related topics. The recorded sessions are available for CSU staff to access via the below link.

- [Research seminar recordings](#)



The list of seminars organised so far are as follows:



Date	Seminar Topic	Presenter
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5-3-24	Interview with Sub-Dean (Grad Studies) – HDR Process	Ramudu Bhanugopan
3-4-24-	Discussion with Prof Sue Green on First Nation Research Process	Sue Green
4-4-24	Panel Discussion Enhancing Citation Impact	Jane Quinn, Mark Morrison, Manoranjan Paul, Suzanne McLaren, Patrick Walsh, Russell Roberts, Lihong Zheng.
16-4-24	Power of Social Media	Fleur Horsley
23-4-24	Philanthropic Funding Opportunities	Sarah Ansell
23-4-24	RPR Workflow	Sharon Geltch and Kylie Oakman
30-4-24	Meet the ADR	Zahid Islam
8-5-24	Panel Discussion on Ethics Application Process	Oliver Burmeister, Elizabeth Harangozo and Yeslam Al-Saggaf
15-5-24	Collaboration with RHRI	Distinguished Professor Jing Sun

	<p>New ANZSOC Committee member</p>	<p>Dr Douglas Allan, Associate Head of School of Policing and Security Studies, has been elected committee member for the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology. Douglas will be representing the Australian Capital Territory. According to its statement of purpose, the Association “acknowledges the consequences and harms that continue to be inflicted by the criminal justice systems of Australia and Aotearoa-New Zealand on Indigenous peoples in the region and seeks through its activities to address these harms and to work to prevent them from continuing in the future”.</p> <p>The purposes for which the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology Inc. is established are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + to promote study, understanding, and co-operation in the field of Criminology; +to bring together persons actively engaged, or who have been actively engaged, in teaching and/or practices in the field of Criminology; +to encourage and support the inclusion of the Indigenous peoples of Australia and Aotearoa-New Zealand in the activities and work of the Association and to support their scholarship, practice and development in the field of criminology; +to foster training and research in Criminology in institutions of learning, and in law enforcement, judicial, and correctional agencies; +to encourage communication within the field of Criminology through publications and conferences; +to promote and foster understanding of Criminology by parliaments, governments, and the public. 	
	<p>CORE submission to the ARC review of National Competitive Grants Program</p>	<p>In 2024, the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the Australian Government Department of Education initiated a policy review of research schemes within the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP). This review aimed to assess several aspects, including the purpose and impact of ARC research grants, the structure and design of the NCGP, alignment with other government research funding programs, support for a diverse research sector, Indigenous Australian research and researchers, and alignment with national research priorities.</p> <p>A small working group of CORE (Computing Research and Education Association of Australasia) members, comprising 11 academics, was established to discuss the Policy review discussion paper and questions and then to formulate a draft response on behalf of the Computer Science research community in Australia. We are delighted to learn that Associate Professor Ashad Kabir in the Charles Sturt School of Computing, Mathematics and Engineering was part of that working group. The group discussed the policy review discussion paper and its accompanying questions, and then formulated a</p>	

draft response on behalf of CORE. CORE membership was asked for further input into the draft, and then a [final submission](#) approved by the CORE executive. A Prof Kabir contributed to the policy review discussions and drafting of the submission with a specific focus on emphasizing the perspectives of regional universities within the current NCGP. One of the key suggestions highlighted in the [submission](#) is:

“NCGP grant programs should ensure equitable access for universities and teams with limited internal funding, small research environments, and regional locales, while also supporting collaborations with regional universities in assessment criteria to address disparities in funding between urban and regional institutions”

This recommendation reflects a commitment to fostering equity and inclusivity within the research funding landscape, particularly for institutions and researchers operating in less affluent or geographically isolated areas, like CSU. It underscores the importance of acknowledging and addressing the unique challenges faced by regional universities in accessing research funding and resources. This emphasis on inclusivity not only aligns with broader efforts to promote diversity within the research sector but also underscores the vital role that regional universities play in advancing knowledge and innovation. Future policy informed by such recommendations stands to foster a more inclusive and robust research ecosystem, where talent and expertise from all corners of the country can contribute meaningfully.

**CARIFORUM
Project Launches
a Postgraduate
Scholarship
Programme with
the Centre for
Customs and
Excise Studies,
Charles Sturt**



The CARIFORUM Capacity Building in Competition, Public Procurement, and Customs and Trade Facilitation Project is excited to announce its partnership with the Centre for Customs and Excise Studies (CCES) at Charles Sturt University. Through the partnership, 8 CARIFORUM nationals will pursue the Graduate Certificate Programme in Customs Administration with the University. The scholarships encompass all application and tuition fees, in addition to providing essential course materials. The recipients come from diverse backgrounds and represent the Customs and Excise Departments across CARIFORUM States, including Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica and Jamaica. CARIFORUM is the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States.

The Project is funded by the European Union under the 11th EDF “Support to CARIFORUM Member States in furthering the implementation of their Economic Partnership Agreement. Ms. Alexis Downes-Amsterdam, Director-General, CARIFORUM lauded the partnership as another initiative aimed at strengthening the capacity of the CARIFORUM States to effectively implement the Economic Partnership Agreement between CARIFORUM and the EU.

		<p>The students commenced the Programme at the CCES in March 2024 with an anticipated completion date of January 2025. Upon completion, these scholars will assume a crucial role in shaping the customs regimes in CARIFORUM and in elevating regional proficiency to effectively apply contemporary policies and practices on cross-border trade management.</p>
	<p>DisARTster: Rural Australian Young People’s experiences of climate disaster: Collaborating on creative action</p>	<div> </div> <p>Dr Rachael Fox and A/Prof Andrew McGrath of the School of Psychology received a grant of \$51,679 as part of the Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative Large Grants program funded by the NSW government. For this project, we built on our pilot study in Batlow but extended it to the far south coast, which was badly impacted by bushfires in the Black Summer fires of 2019/20. Over a period of 12 months, 16 workshops were held in Bega and Cobargo, involving 33 young people. A range of art was produced that spoke to experiences of bushfire in particular, but also wider environmental themes.</p> <div> </div> <p>The young people used a variety of mediums including clay, paint, and video in these workshops and an exhibition of these works will be held in Bega between 22 March and 10 April. It is hoped that an exhibition of all work produced across Batlow, Bega, and Cobargo will be held on the Wagga campus later this year.</p>
	<p>Crime Insiders Detectives</p>	<p>School of Policing Studies’ Associate Head of School Nigel Donohue was invited to take part in a podcast series titled Crime Insiders – Detectives. The podcast is hosted on LiSTNR and is part of a true crime series. Nigel recounts his role as a South Yorkshire Detective Inspector. Specifically, commenting on his work during the infamous The Sheffield Scythe Murders. Nigel also reflects on his 31-year career in law enforcement and the differences between policing in the United Kingdom and Australia. Click on the link below to listen.</p> <p>Crime Insiders: DETECTIVES: The Sheffield Scythe Murders on Apple Podcasts</p>
	<p>Research into Psychosocial Safety Climate</p>	<p>Claire Sherwill Advisor – Health & Wellbeing Division of Safety, Security and Wellbeing</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles Sturt University has been invited to participate in a world first research project that has been co-designed by the Employee Assistance Professional Association of Australasia (EAPAA) and experts from the University of South Australia (UniSA) at the Psychosocial Safety Climate Global Observatory (PSC GO).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This research project is attempting to bridge the gap between traditional EAP practices and the growing need for a more comprehensive approach to proactive and holistic employee wellbeing support to enhance staff wellbeing and productivity. • This is survey two, out of a series of three data collection points. Survey one returned such low engagement from Charles Sturt staff our data was deemed invalid. • We are asking all staff to consider investing 5-10 minutes of your time for the opportunity to share your views and offer feedback about Charles Sturt in order to facilitate positive changes within our workplace to enhance the psychological health and productivity of all staff as well as contribute to internationally recognized research that informs strategies for workplaces to better safeguard the psychological health. • The Charles Sturt unique link can be access here; https://unisasurveys.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bp7CvFsKGFbvtjw and is open until 18th August. <p>Further information can be found on the staff wellbeing intranet page or by emailing the wellbeing team at wellbeing@csu.edu.au</p>
<p>CLOWD apps simplify weather data for farmers</p>	<p>A Charles Sturt University postdoctoral researcher has developed apps to put historical and recent climate data and analysis at the touch of a button for farmers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles Sturt University and industry research partners SunRice and Food Agility CRC deliver online tool to assist farmers to make better crop and pasture management decisions • Researchers developed the new CLOWD apps to provide easily accessible historical data, cumulative rainfall data and ‘growing degree-days’ • CLOWD is free to use and requires no sign-up <p>A Charles Sturt University postdoctoral researcher has developed apps to put historical and recent climate data and analysis at the touch of a button for farmers.</p> <p>The Combined Location Online Weather Data (CLOWD) apps for both computer and mobile phone enable farmers and growers to analyse recent and historic weather for any location in Australia at the touch of a map.</p> <p>Researcher Dr Darren Yates graduated in 2021 and is a postdoctoral scientist in the Charles Sturt School of Computing, Mathematics and Engineering and in the Charles Sturt Gulbali Institute of Agriculture, Water and Environment. He is based in Bathurst NSW.</p>

It is part of a [Food Agility CRC collaborative research project](#) with Charles Sturt University, SunRice and AgriFutures Australia.

The data used by the apps is from publicly available sites such as the Queensland 'long paddock' historical climate data.

"Our goal for CLOWD is to provide farmers and growers with targeted weather analysis in a form they can use wherever they are," Dr Yates said.

"What we have done is make the data more accessible, and we're working with industry partner SunRice to test it with farmers.

"There's a wealth of historical weather data available but it's difficult for farmers to access for their locations, as you often need to know the precise latitude and longitude for your farm.

"We developed a web-based app whereby a farmer can click on a map to bring up historical and recent data, but it also has data such as cumulative rainfall and growing degree days which are extra features that farmers can use to help make better crop and pasture management decisions."

Dr Yates explained that after he and colleagues completed another project task ahead of schedule the project lead [Professor in Food Science Chris Blanchard](#) in the Charles Sturt [School of Dentistry and Medical Sciences](#) encouraged them to look at other potential areas where they could help rice growers.

He said the idea for CLOWD came from a discussion with Charles Sturt PhD student in the project Mr Allister Clarke who developed the machine-learning model that predicts rice/whole grain yield using rice phenology (growth stage) data and weather data.

The researchers examined the Queensland Department of Environment and Science service called SILO (Scientific Information for Land Owners), a weather database for Australia dating back to 1889 which records temperature, rainfall, humidity and a range of other daily observations from weather stations around the country. While some SILO weather data is interpolated (meaning it is derived mathematically from results of surrounding locations), interpolated data can still hold value for the farming community.

“One parameter that SILO doesn’t provide is ‘growing degree-days’ (GDD), which is like a heat-odometer for plants – it’s a temperature-based mathematical calculation and that was the start of what became CLOWD,” Dr Yates said.

“But we also realised there was potential for CLOWD beyond rice, as GDD is calculated differently for different crops; rice is the default crop setting for CLOWD, but the user can custom-select from a range of crops, including barley, peanuts, wheat, cotton, fruits and more.

“From there, one idea led to another; we started with creating analysis and comparison of the current season’s weather observations against other seasons or a rolling five-year average.

“However, because a number of the measurements can be cumulative (such as rainfall and GDD), we added the ability to ‘zero’ or start that analysis from any calendar date – the growing season rarely starts on the first of January.”

Dr Yates said because not everyone is good with charts, they included the option to turn the charts into plain-English text using a software concept called ‘natural language generation’.

“That led to another feature that combines the analysis charts and text into a summary PDF report users can create on-demand on their device,” he said.

“Then, as some crops, such as rice, can be adversely affected by cooler temperatures, we added an auto-alert system that warns the user the next time they use the app.

“Charles Sturt University colleagues [Professor Zahidul Islam](#) and [Dr Sabih Rehman](#) provided invaluable feedback on the technical data side, SunRice and Mr Russell Ford provided excellent feedback on our design and encouraged us to create a version for smartphones, which we did.”

CLOWD is free to use and requires no sign-up.

Food Agility CRC chief scientist, Professor David Lamb, said it is an example of the substantial uplift that can be given to already-existing databases and products, to deliver even more effective services to growers.

		<p>“It isn’t about re-inventing the wheel,” Professor Lamb said. “The team listened to producers and SunRice and focussed on filling the gaps, in this case ‘growing degree days’.”</p> <p>Listen to interviews</p> <p>ABC Goulburn Murray 29-May-2023 – Sandra Moon/Breakfast – time-start:2hrs12mins – https://www.abc.net.au/goulburnmurray/programs/breakfast/breakfast/102384426</p> <p>ABC Riverina 29-May-2023 – Sally Bryant/Breakfast – time-start: 48mins – https://www.abc.net.au/riverina/programs/breakfast/riverina-breakfast/102384394</p>
	<p>Professor Oliver Burmeister Presiding Officer of the Human Research Ethics Committee</p>	<p>Professor Oliver Burmeister, Presiding Officer of the Human Research Ethics Committee, speaks on the role and structure of the HREC along with his other research roles both within and external from Charles Sturt University.</p> <p>Listen to Professor Oliver Burmeister Chair of the University Research Ethics Committee</p>
	<p>ON-TRAC: Improving the Mental Health of Older Australians Navigating the Transition to Residential Aged Care</p>	<p>Congratulations to Professor Suzanne McLaren who is part of a team from the Ageing Well in Rural and Regional Australia Research Group for their successful funding application to the Ian Potter Foundation. In total (with co-contributions) the project is worth \$1.67 million over the next 5 years (the foundation funded \$600k). Research partners are the National Ageing Research Institute, Federation University, Uniting Age Well, St Agnes Parish.</p> <p>Overarching aim is to improve mental health and wellbeing among older adults transitioning into permanent residential aged care (RAC) through reduction of depression and anxiety. Specific objectives include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Co-design an evidence-informed psychological intervention tailored to improve mental health and optimise wellbeing in older Australians transitioning into permanent RAC. 2. Pilot trial and evaluate the intervention with a cohort of older adults transitioning to RAC. 3. Work with key stakeholders to implement the intervention in partnership with aged care providers in NSW, Victoria, and Tasmania. The intervention will be co-designed, co-produced, trialled, evaluated, and implemented in collaboration with older Australians, informal carers, industry care providers Uniting AgeWell and St Agnes Care and Lifestyle (inclusive

		<p>of managerial and direct care staff), and researchers from Charles Sturt University, Federation University, and the National Ageing Research Institute. The intervention will specifically target older Australians who have not yet transitioned into a RAC facility.</p>
	<p>The Healthy Communities Foundation Australia National Rural and Remote Suicide Prevention Program</p>	<p>Congratulations to Faculty staff, Professor Suzanne McLaren, Associate Professor Larissa Bambery, Dr Taneile Kitchingman, and Associate Professor Cliff Lewis who are part of a team led by Associate Professor Samantha Jakimowicz (Faculty of Science and Health) awarded \$50,000 to conduct Phase 1 of an evaluation of The Healthy Communities Foundation Australia National Rural and Remote Suicide Prevention Program.</p> <p>Phase 1 will evaluate retrospective data to determine the implementation and impact of the program delivered during 2022-2023 to the four target population groups (First Nations Peoples, farmers, young people, and LGBTIQ+ people) in rural and remote areas of Australia. This phase will involve stakeholder workshops, interviews, and focus groups. A scoping review of the literature on the introduction, implementation, and evaluation of suicide prevention programs in rural or remote areas targeting the four groups will also be conducted.</p>
	<p>Indigenous Peoples and Constitutional Reform in Australia: Beyond Mere Recognition</p>	<div> </div> <p>Dr Bede Harris, Senior Lecturer in Law at the School of Business, has just published his latest book titled Indigenous Peoples and Constitutional Reform in Australia: Beyond Mere Recognition.</p> <p>Published by Springer Nature, this book examines Australia's constitution should be reformed so as to enable the country to fulfil its obligations under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) which it ratified in 2009. The book surveys the history of the constitutional status of Australia's Indigenous peoples from the time of colonisation through to the current debate on what is referred to as 'Indigenous constitutional recognition,' but argues that that term, with its connotation that mere acknowledgement of the existence of Indigenous peoples suffices to meet their legitimate expectations, misrepresents the nature of the project the country needs to engage in.</p> <p>The book argues that Australia should instead embark upon a reform programme directed towards substantive, and not merely symbolic, constitutional change. It argues that only by the inclusion in the constitution of enforceable constitutional rights can the power imbalance between Indigenous Australians and the rest of society be addressed. Taking a comparative approach and drawing upon the experience of other jurisdictions, the book proposes a comprehensive constitutional reform programme, and includes the text of constitutional amendments designed to</p>

		<p>achieve the realisation of the rights of Australia’s Indigenous peoples. It ends with a call to improve the standard of civics education so as to overcome voter apprehension towards constitutional change.</p> <p>Bede Harris was born in Zimbabwe. After graduating with a BA(Mod) from Trinity College, University of Dublin, he studied law in South Africa and graduated with an LLB (cum laude) from Rhodes University. He began his academic career at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg. He subsequently taught at the University of Waikato in New Zealand, where he obtained his DPhil. He taught at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, the University of Waikato, James Cook University, and the University of Canberra. Dr. Harris specializes in constitutional law, particularly constitutional reform. In 2001 he was awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholarship and attended the American Studies Institute at Lafayette College in the United States, during the course of which he visited native American territories and observed tribal government. He is currently a Senior Lecturer in Law at Charles Sturt University. He is the author of eight books and over 50 book chapters and articles on constitutional law, human rights, Indigenous legal issues and corporations law.</p>
	<p>Podcast with Adjunct Professor Eddie Oczkowski leading wine economics researcher</p>	<p>Listen to Adjunct Professor Eddie Oczkowski discuss his research and publications that have made him one of the world’s most cited and published authors in the field of wine economics. A recent scoping study found that he was the most published academic in the area of wine pricing internationally and one of the most cited as well. He is ranked among some very high-quality international academics and institutions. Listen to Eddie Oczkowski Podcast</p>
	<p>Criminology Grant Award</p>	<p>Researchers from the Centre for Law and Justice have been successful in the latest Criminology Grant Scheme funded by the Australian Institute of Criminology. Associate Professor Emma Colvin and law lecturer and Indigenous academic Jen Hartley have been awarded \$72k with colleagues from the University of Tasmania to examine challenges for legal defence for Indigenous clients seeking bail. The project aims to examine how ancillary and support programs, particularly Indigenous led organisations, can provide support to address bail risks and how legal defence teams may work more closely with these organisations for strengths based outcomes for Indigenous clients.</p>