

REGULATORY INSTITUTIONS NETWORK (RegNet)

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Print version

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CONGRATULATIONS

ARC Success

RegNet scholars have again achieved outstanding results in the recent Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage-Project Grants 2004 round, receiving 3 of the ANU's total 15 ARC Linkage-Project Grants. Project details are:

- J Braithwaite, P Dugdale, K Dwan, V Braithwaite and T Makkai for 'Regulatory Strategies for Improving Health Sector Performance' with industry partners Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care and ACT Health (ARC funding \$350,000 + industry contribution)
- H Charlesworth, A Byrnes for 'Australia's First Bill of Rights: Assessing the impact of the ACT's Human Rights Act' with industry partner Department of Justice and Community Safety (ARC funding \$156,000 + industry contribution)
- P Drahos and J Werner, 'National and Regional Patent Administration in Small to Medium-Sized States in the Global Economy' with industry partner IP Australia (ARC funding \$141,000 + industry contribution)

ARC Linkage-Project Grants support research and development projects that are undertaken to acquire new knowledge and that involve risk or innovation. Linkage-Projects supports collaborative research projects between higher education researchers and industry and identifies an allocation to projects of benefit to regional and rural communities. Proposals must contain an industry contribution. The interaction with actual or potential users of research outcomes is a critical element in Linkage-Projects. Further information about ARC Competitive Grant funding is available at http://www.arc.gov.au/grant_programs/default.htm

Carolina Roa, PhD Scholar, awarded two scholarships

Ms Carolina Roa, PhD Scholar, RegNet, has been awarded an Intellectual Property Research Institute of Australia (IPRIA) Australian Postgraduate Award Industrial and a travel scholarship from the National Institute of Social Sciences and Law (NISSL) at the ANU. This funding will assist Carolina with her thesis fieldwork in the Andean Region in 2003-2004.

Gambling appointments

Professor Jan McMillen has been appointed to the Board of Management, Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming and Gambling, University of Macau. She has also been invited to give the opening address at China's first International Gambling Conference, Beijing 6-10th December.

New Director for the Australian Institute of Criminology

Dr Toni Makkai has been appointed as Director at the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) for a period of five years. In 2001, Dr Makkai took up the position of Director of Research and has been Acting Director at the AIC since September 2003. Dr Makkai has a strong reputation in the criminology community and has shown a solid commitment to informing public policy development through social science research. She was awarded her Doctorate in 1989 from the University of Queensland, following which she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Research School of Social Sciences. The AIC is an Australian Government statutory authority, operated with a Board of Management and reporting to the Attorney-General and the Minister for Justice and Customs.

IN THE NEWS

US-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Pharmaceutical benefits scheme (PBS) and drug prices

In June, Dr Buddhima Lokuge, Visiting Fellow, RegNet and Medical School, ANU and Dr Thomas Faunce, Senior Lecturer, Medical School and Lecturer, Law Faculty, ANU, delivered a presentation to the Senate Select Committee on the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement http://regnet.anu.edu.au/publications/FTA_senatecttee.htm Their work also appeared in a *Sydney Morning Herald* editorial in July <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2004/07/18/1090089036540.html>

An article published in the *Australian Medical Journal* (9 July) co-authored by the ANU's Professor Peter Drahos, RegNet, Dr Thomas Faunce, Dr Buddhima Lokuge and Dr Ken J Harvey, La Trobe University

http://www.mja.com.au/public/rop/ausfta/har10408_fm.html sparked media coverage on ABC Radio AM Edition <http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2004/s1161640.htm> and SBS TV News <http://www9.sbs.com.au/theworldnews/region.php?id=89863®ion=7>

Extensive comment from Peter Drahos on the FTA and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme featured on ABC TV *Four Corners*

<http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/content/2004/s1165435.htm> and this in turn has led to intense media coverage (to be summarised in the next newsletter).

'Open-source' approach to medical research and drug development

Ms Janet Hope, PhD Scholar, RegNet, in the *Economist* (10 June) (subscribers only http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=S%27%2980%2EQO%2B%21%21%40%22T%0A) in the article 'An open-source shot in the arm':

The application of the open-source approach to drug development may prove to be more useful as an analogy than an application, note Janet Hope, a lawyer completing a doctorate on 'open-source biotechnology' at the Australian National University, in Canberra. One reason is that different intellectual property rights apply, and are protected differently. Software usually falls under copyright, which arises automatically and without cost to the author. Biomedical discoveries are generally protected by an entirely different legal regime, patents, which are costly to obtain.

This helps explain why the drug-discovery and development projects place their work in the public domain, rather than trying to enforce some form of reciprocal openness through an open-source licensing agreement, as software does.

Gambling issues

Throughout July, Professor Jan McMillan featured in interviews with Radio Singapore News Radio, ABC Radio National's programs *The National Interest* and *Australia Talks Back* and Win TV News.

Fees turn graduates into tax dodgers

Dr Valerie Braithwaite and Dr Eliza Ahmed on the front page of *The Times Higher Education Supplement* (4 June) (subscribers only http://www.thes.co.uk/search/story.aspx?story_id=2013474). The article profiles two new research papers: the first paper, published in *KYKLOS*, shows that among the groups more likely to cheat on income tax returns are graduates who are carrying a HECS debt along with non-custodial parents who are paying child support. In Australia, the Tax Office has taken responsibility for debt collection in both these areas and the paper questions the wisdom of doing so: By being a debt collection agency, the Australian Taxation Office may be undermining its legitimacy for tax collection. The second paper, to be published shortly in the *Journal of Economic Psychology*, elaborates on the process of de-legitimizing the taxation system.

CONFERENCES

RegNet Conference 2004: Governance and Meta Regulation

6-8 December 2004, Canberra

For further information contact Bronwyn.Stuart@anu.edu.au

Empirical Findings and Theory Developments in Restorative Justice: Where Are We Now?

23-25 February 2005, University House, Australian National University, Canberra

Keynote speakers will include Lawrence Sherman, Lode Walgrave, Heather Strang and John Braithwaite. The conference will focus on new empirical findings, though high quality theoretical presentations will also be welcome. Abstracts should be sent no later than 15 December to: Heather Strang heather.strang@anu.edu.au

Further information <http://regnet.anu.edu.au/events/RJconf/program.htm>

Crime in Australia: International Connections: The Australian Institute of Criminology

29-30 November 2004, Hilton on the Park, Melbourne

The aim of this two-day conference is to examine existing and emerging forms of criminality, their impact on Australia and the links to transnational crime, as well as policy and practitioner responses. Conference themes will include: illicit drugs, firearms, financial crime and money laundering, cybercrime, maritime crime, people trafficking, crimes against women and children, violent and property crime and environmental crime.

Further information

SEMINARS

A complete listing of RegNet Lunchtime Seminar Series is available at

<http://regnet.anu.edu.au/events/events.htm>

CENTRE PROFILE

Centre for Gambling Research

The Centre for Gambling Research (CGR) is an independent research centre and forms part of RegNet. It is the only independent Australian centre of multidisciplinary expertise in gambling research, staffed by leading academics who work collaboratively with experts at ANU and other universities. The Centre has a national and international reputation for quality research into all aspects of gambling, gambling policy and associated impacts.

The Centre was established in mid-2002 with joint funding from the ANU and the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission. Professor Peter Grabosky was appointed the first Director of the Centre. In April 2003 Professor Jan McMillen was appointed as Director. Jan previously held the position as Australia's first professor of gambling research at the University of Western Sydney, where she was Director of the former Australian Institute for Gambling Research (AIGR) 1997-2003.

The Centre's aims are to conduct a regular program of research and publications which will focus on:

- the social and economic effects of gambling;
- the prevention of problem gambling;
- the regulation of gambling;
- the nature of the gambling industry; and
- consumer education on gambling.

Further information about the Centre for Gambling Research is available at <http://gambling.anu.edu.au/index.html>

REGNET PEOPLE PROFILE

Miranda Forsyth, PhD Scholar, RegNet (part-time)

Based in her home town of Port Vila in Vanuatu, Miranda is researching her PhD thesis titled 'Kastom and Criminal Justice in Vanuatu: Towards a Peaceful Future'. Miranda is exploring ways in which the links between the currently informal structures that regulate law and order (*kastom*) and the formal criminal justice system in Vanuatu can be strengthened. In particular, Miranda's research looks at those autochthonous institutions that have developed since Independence in some of the islands to see if they can offer some ideas on a future way for building bridges between the two systems.

Describing this recent image, Miranda writes:

This photo shows me at one of the last places that I went to for my fieldwork in Vanuatu. It is a place called 'Happy Lands' on the island of Erromango (so called because it was the last place the missionaries could go on Erromango before they risked being attacked by the non-Christianised inhabitants who were still cannibals at that time). Happy Lands is one of the most remote places I have visited so far - getting there involved a long speed boat ride and then a significant hike - but it was incredibly rewarding. I was able to interview some chiefs and ni-Vanuatu fieldworkers who gave me some great insights into their system of dispute resolution and the problems they are currently facing in regard to peace and order on their island.

REGNET VISITOR PROFILE

Angus Corbett, RegNet Visiting Fellow, July-September 2004

Angus Corbett, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales, is one of the leading scholars in Australia taking the perspective of a regulatory approach to law. Angus was an important contributor to the RegNet ARC Meta-Regulation project. During his six-week stay with RegNet, Angus will be investigating the potential for developing better ways of integrating systems of compensation into regulatory frameworks.

REGNET PROJECT PROFILE

Foundation for Effective Markets and Governance (FEMAG)

Since 2001, RegNet has housed FEMAG and mounts joint bids for AusAid projects. FEMAG is comprised of members Hank Spier, John Wood, Robin Brown and Howard Hollow – all of whom hold distinguished records as public- and NGO-policy makers. Recent FEMAG activities include:

Fiji Commerce Commission – FEMAG is currently providing technical assistance and capacity building for Fiji's competition regulator. This will involve training in the practical implementation of the law, preparation of operating procedures, preparation of guidelines on a number of policy issues, development of a compliance strategy and priorities and ongoing support and policy advice. Recently a two-day training program was undertaken by Hank Spier. Participants included the Commission, senior business people, academics and senior members of the public service. A further intensive five-day training exercise has just been completed by Howard Hollow for the Commission and its staff. This was particularly directed to addressing issues that will arise in the administration of the law.

Consumer Council of Fiji – This project will involve training and capacity building for the consumer movement and civil society, development of a strategy to inform consumer of their rights and responsibilities under the law and preparation of research papers and educational material. The training component of the project will be completed by Howard Hollow and Robin Brown in August with the balance of the project to be completed by the end of the year.

OPPORTUNITIES

Special Joint Project Programmes: Australia

The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, the Australian Academy of the Humanities and the British Academy have launched a new scheme for the support of joint projects between British and Australian scholars. One award (of up to £8,000) for a project which covers both humanities and social sciences disciplines, or two awards (of up to £4,000 per project) will be available each year, to cover travel and maintenance expenses.

Closing date: 30 September for projects to commence from April of the following year. Further information: <http://www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/intl/AUSjp.html>

Cross-Faculty Professorship at UNSW

The University of New South Wales is creating up to five fully funded "cross-faculty" Professorships, made possible by a \$4 million donation to the University from NewSouth Global. The objective is to develop new areas of research excellence and attract dynamic new research talent to UNSW. Applications will be sought in the following collaborative research areas:

- Brain Sciences
- Criminology
- Economic and Organisational Implications of Demographic Change and Ageing
- Health and Human Rights
- Health and the Built Environment
- Integrity and Equity in the Tax and Welfare Systems
- Multi-disciplinary Design
- New Media Narrative and Theory
- Sustainable Habitats

Further information: <http://www.hr.unsw.edu.au/nsg.htm>

MIT Human Rights and Justice Fellowship

The MIT Program on Human Rights and Justice is pleased to announce Human Rights and Justice Fellowships, aimed at outstanding professionals, academics and activists working at the intersection of human rights and other topics, who wish to conduct in-depth research into specific topics of social and natural sciences and engineering as they relate to human rights and justice issues. Proposals for human rights research relating to the global economy and science and technology are especially welcome. The PHRJ offers a congenial and ideal environment for interdisciplinary research and reflection on human rights issues, especially those at the forefront of global public policy. The fellowships are open to applicants of any nationality. *Please note that there is a \$3,000 fee requirement for fellows.*

For more details on the fellowship or to apply, contact the PHRJ at phrj@mit.edu or call 617-258-7614.

For more information, please visit http://web.mit.edu/phrj/research_fellows.html

University of New South Wales

Vice Chancellor's and NewSouth Global Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

A number of Post-Doctoral Research Fellowships are offered to attract outstanding post-doctoral scholars to conduct full time research at the University in any of its disciplines. Applicants must hold a doctorate at the time of application and must not have been awarded their doctorates more than three years ago. Salary will be within the Level A (steps 6-8) range (\$55,763 - 59,637) for a period of three years. An annual allowance is also available for research materials and conference expenses. Deadline(s):

01/10/2004

E-mail: p.ohara@unsw.edu.au

<http://www.ro.unsw.edu.au/>

Collaborative Research Opportunities with Europe: Free Information Seminar

You are invited to a free seminar on the opportunities for international cooperation provided by the CORDIS website (Community Research and Development Information Service) www.cordis.lu which provides a unique overview of research and technological development in Europe and offers opportunities for Australian academic and industry researchers to develop their relationships with Europe.

Friday 20 August, 9.00AM-12.00PM

The National Europe Centre, The Australian National University Advance registration to attend is essential. Please register online at www.feast.org/register.php.