FASSGRAD 2014
Postgraduate Conference
17-18 November 2014
S Block, S1.03
### Programme

#### Day One, Monday 17th November

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<tr>
<td>8.30–9.00</td>
<td>Registration (pick up conference packs)</td>
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<td>9.00</td>
<td>Whakatau <strong>Nepia Mahuika</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9.10</td>
<td>Welcome and Introduction <strong>Associate Dean Postgraduate, Professor Cathy Coleborne</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9.15–10.15</td>
<td><strong>KEYNOTE ADDRESS:</strong> <strong>Associate Professor Priya Kurian</strong>, Political Science and Public Policy Programme, School of Social Sciences</td>
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**Negotiating the cultural politics of research: Academic travels across time, place and disciplines**

Associate Professor Priya Kurian teaches global environmental politics, media and politics, and environmental politics and public policy. She is Deputy Chair of the School of Social Sciences.

Priya’s research is interdisciplinary and involves work on environmental, social, and cultural sustainability through a focus on three overlapping areas of study: environmental politics and policy (with attention to issues of sustainable development and gender and the environment); critical policy studies (with a focus on science and technology politics); and development studies (including ‘women, culture, and development’).

She has written extensively on the World Bank’s policies and their impacts on Third World social, cultural and environmental contexts. She has also written on sustainable development, ecological modernisation, and the politics of immigration and genetic engineering in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Priya’s current research is in the area of sustainability, citizenship and the governance of new and emerging technologies. Most recently, she and Dr Debashish Munshi of the Waikato Management School were awarded a prestigious Marsden Grant by the Royal Society of New Zealand for a study on Sustainable Citizenship: Transforming Public Engagement on New and Emerging Technologies.

In addition to writing academic articles, Priya also runs a blog on science and society (with Debashish Munshi) for the journal *Public Understanding of Science*.

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<td>10.15-10.35</td>
<td><strong>Morning Tea</strong></td>
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<td>10.35-11.35</td>
<td><strong>SESSION 1: GOVERNANCE / DEVELOPMENT STUDIES</strong></td>
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- Promoting local government and development in Sri Lanka: The contribution of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the post-tsunami and post-war situations **Indi Akurugoda**
- Federalism and the Venn diagram: Resolving the definitional polemics of the Federal concept **John Kalu**
- An evaluation of public participation in the Maldives EIA process **Mohamed Hamdhaam Zuhair**

5 minute changeover
11.40-12.40  **SESSION 2: BIOLOGY AND LITERATURE / LITERARY VICTORIANS**

- Common Blood: Biological science in the characterisation of the vampire  
  Erin Doyle
- Darwinian evolution in H.G. Wells’ *War of the Worlds*  
  Emma Nelson
- William Morris’s *Icelandic Journals*: Translations of the self  
  Kathleen Ullal

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<td>12.40-1.30</td>
<td>Lunch and Poster Session (Lunch provided)   S Block Foyer</td>
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- Poster: Determinants of old people’s wellbeing in a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Maldives  
  Sheena Moosa

1.30-2.00  **SESSION 3: MOVING TOWARDS THE FINISH LINE**  
Careers Office

5 minute changeover

2.05-3.25  **SESSION 4: POETICS AND PERFORMANCES**

- Characterizing Rebecca: *Order and Disorder* and Lucy Hutchinson’s elaboration in negative space  
  Allan Drew
- Write the Body Bloody: Violence, gender and identity in the poetry of Sylvia Plath and Ai  
  Rachel Elliot
- Professor Bajčetić’s acting training method — the significance of Professor Bajčetić and his acting  
  training method  
  Mihailo Ladevac
- The banality of Gomorrah’s evil  
  Alessandro Macilenti

3.25-3.45  **Afternoon Tea**  
S Block Foyer, Level 1

3.45-4.45  **SESSION 5: EFL / WORLD LANGUAGES**

- Social interaction in a blended learning environment for the professional development of Indonesian  
  teachers  
  Mangasa Aritonang
- Number in Oceanic languages is more than singular or plural  
  Daryl Macdonald
- Selecting appropriate methodology to understand Vietnamese EFL teachers’ self-efficacy: Reflection  
  of a novice researcher  
  Nga Thi Tuyet Phan

END OF DAY ONE
### DAY TWO, TUESDAY 18th November

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<td>9.00–10.00</td>
<td>SESSION 6: MUSIC</td>
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<td>- A style analysis of <em>Nature’s Best</em></td>
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<td>- Creative practice in a world of agency</td>
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<td>Teresa Marie Connors</td>
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<td>- Intertextuality and style topics in the music of Portishead</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Wragg</td>
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<td>10.00–10.20</td>
<td>Morning Tea</td>
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<td>10.20–11.20</td>
<td>SESSION 7: DISCOURSE AND EMPOWERMENT</td>
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<td>- Men’s use of networks to manage communication tensions related to a potential diagnosis of prostate cancer</td>
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<td>Dot Brown</td>
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<td>- Accounting for human rights reporting: A study of New Zealand companies</td>
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<td>Artika Sharma</td>
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<td>- “More of the same please”: Discourses around land reform at the provincial level in South Africa</td>
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<td>Graeme Mackenzie</td>
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<td>11.25–12.25</td>
<td>SESSION 8: DEMOGRAPHY AND AGEING</td>
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<td>- Looking beyond conventional demographic categorizations: Unseen realities and implications for policy</td>
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<td>Kumudika Boyagoda</td>
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<td>- Determinants of older people’s wellbeing in a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Maldives</td>
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<td>Sheena Moosa</td>
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<td>- It’s personal and it’s professional: An exploration of the meanings mid-life women Baby-Boomers attribute to ‘working out’ with a Personal Trainer</td>
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<td>Wendy Sweet</td>
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<td>12.25-1.25</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
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| 1.25-2.25    | SESSION 9: MANAGING SUSTAINABILITY                     | - Cycling on the verge? Exploring the place of utility cycling in contemporary New Zealand transport policy  
Megan Smith  
- Kinship, equity and social inclusion in traditional ecological knowledge in Papua New Guinea  
Sangion Appiee Tiu  
- From sustainable shopping to sustainable living: A 'Big Picture' perspective  
Long Yang |
| 2.30-3.30    | SESSION 10: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS / ISLAM             | - Mapping political Islam: A comparative paradigm  
Simon Gray  
- Other than the West: Iranian Political Islamic thought from the1960s to the1980s with reference to the writing of Khomeini, Shariati, and Bazargan  
Seyed Lolaki  
- Is ‘Sharia’ (Islamic law) sacred?  
Mortaza Shams |
| 3.30-3.45    | Afternoon tea                                           |                                                                            |
| 3.45-4.45    | SESSION 11: TRAVELLING AND MIGRATION                    | - Travelling with 'the Spirit': International migration and indigenous Pentecostalism in Ghana and Australia  
Dorcas Dennis  
- The plight of the Romanian Roma: Investigating linguistic human rights in national legislation, institutional practices and local perceptions  
Maria-Ana Tarau  
- Challenges in the tour operating business: The case of Ethiopia  
Tibebe Sirak Asfaw |
|              | 5 minute changeover                                     |                                                                            |
4.50-5.50 SESSION 12: MYTH AND MEDIA

- Gender Portrayals in Six Representative Disney and Ghibli Animated Films, (1984 to 2013) Qi Fang
- Solving Hades' Identity Crisis: Antiquity and Modern Mass Culture Working Together Joel Gordon
- Dragonriding: What is it and how will it affect our children? Brendan Sheridan

* * * * Conference ends * * * *

6:00 Anti-Thesis, Drinks and Food, Momento Lakes
A note to all speakers and members of the audience:
1. Please ensure that you remain for the whole of the session, whether you are attending as a presenter or member of the audience.
2. Please ensure that your mobile phone is turned off.

Awards for Best Presentations

A prize of $500 will be awarded for the best presentation given on each day of the conference.

Ensure your presentation goes without a hitch by making yourself familiar with the venue before you present. You are welcome to practise your talk in rooms S.1.03 and S.1.05, when they are free:

S.1.03 will be free before 8.45 each day and during the breaks for lunch, morning and afternoon teas.

S.1.05 will be free for the duration of the conference.

You will be assessed on the content of your paper (evidence of research and understanding of the topic), the clarity of your arguments and critical analysis, and your presentation skills.

Previous Winners of the FASSGRAD Best Paper Awards

FASSGRAD 2013
- Jade Aikman Dodd, PhD candidate, Anthropology and Archaeology Department, University of Otago:
  Tuia te here tangata! Fastening the threads of marae communities

- Nick Braae, PhD candidate, Conservatorium of Music, University of Waikato:
  Every analysis tells a story: The case of New Zealand popular music

FASSGRAD 2012
- Emalani Case, PhD candidate, Pasifika/Pacific Studies, Victoria University of Wellington:
  Mai Ka Mole Mai: From the source: Towards an analysis of Hawaiian literature

- Gauri Nandedkar, PhD candidate, Political Science and Public Policy, University of Waikato:
  From gender empowerment to inequalities among adolescents: An emerging strategy for Goal 3 in the post-2015 MDG agenda

FASSGRAD 2011
- Nick Braae, BMus, University of Waikato Conservatorium of Music:
  New Zealand Music? Place and Identity in Songs by the Herbs and Don McGlashan

- Kristie Cameron, PhD candidate, School of Psychology, University of Waikato:
  Assessing Possums’ Food Preference and Demand

FASSGRAD 2014 Programme and Abstracts
CAREERS OFFICE PRESENTATION

In addition to presentations on their research from postgraduate scholars, the conference programme includes a presentation from the University of Waikato Careers Office staff.

MOVING TOWARDS THE FINISH LINE
Monday 17 November, 1.30pm – 2.00pm, S. 1.03

END-OF-CONFERENCE SOCIAL EVENT

ANTI-THESIS NIGHT
Tuesday 18 November, 6.00pm, Momento Lakes Café

We extend a warm welcome to FASSGRAD 2014 participants, chairs of sessions, FASS graduate and postgraduate students and staff.

Relax and unwind with food and drinks after the conference, now that your presenting duties are over. Come along to meet staff, mix and mingle, and (if you like) experiment with an open mic for a ridiculous ‘1 minute thesis’. Two drinks are on us, and gorgeous food platters will be served. A chance to enjoy some time with fellow students and staff.

Drinks tickets for Anti-thesis night will be given out on arrival.
Indi Akurugoda  
PhD candidate, Political Science and Public Policy, University of Waikato

**Promoting local government and development in Sri Lanka: The contribution of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the post-tsunami and post-war situations**

Sri Lanka has inherited a highly centralised approach to government administration. Since independence in 1948, the Sinhala nationalist parties and groups which have supported successive governments have generally rejected various proposals aimed at decentralising powers to provincial and local levels. Central government has consistently withdrawn from initiatives to empower local government and their local communities.

The tsunami of 2004 and the end of the war in 2009 saw large amounts of foreign funding flow into Sri Lanka to assist in the recovery, from both NGO and governmental sources. Central government and its leadership have controlled the whole aid management and distribution process, directing foreign funds to large scale construction projects at the local level without considering local needs. Despite restrictions imposed by central government, a number of NGOs have begun to play an important role in promoting local development through interacting with local government bodies and local communities.

Based on research in the southern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka, this paper examines how and why local communities have been neglected in development initiatives in Sri Lanka, and assesses the significance of the support from NGOs in increasing the capacity of local government and in promoting local development.

Mangasa Aritonang  
PhD candidate, Department of Arts and Language Education, University of Waikato

**Social interaction in a blended learning environment for the professional development of Indonesian teachers**

In this presentation, I will report the online social interaction design in a blended learning environment. I also report the effects of this design on the motivation and confidence of Indonesian teachers to use English as a medium of instruction. This report was derived from an English language course that was offered to a group of Indonesian teachers using a blended learning approach – a combination of face-to-face tutorials and online learning interaction. I adopted social media networking as the platform for the online interaction. The objectives of the course were to improve the English language proficiency of the teacher participants and to encourage them to use English as a medium of instruction. In this design, I considered the adult learning principles such as authentic content to engage participants in social interaction. I chose a case study design to unfold participants’ individual interactions and experiences in the blended learning environment. I collected data: self-report data from participants via interviews, surveys, and reflective journals and my own observation of their teaching and online interaction. Both data sources revealed that the motivation and confidence of participants as well as the amount of English use in the classroom increased by the end of the course.

Tibebe Sirak Asfaw  
Masters candidate, Management and Sustainability, University of Waikato

**Challenges in the tour operating business: The case of Ethiopia**

The Ethiopia’s tourism attractions, due to their diverse and unique nature, could or should provide a competitive advantage (Atomsa & Weiermair, 2008). However, the performance of the sector is one of the lowest in the world (Walle, 2010). Of course stock of attractions is one but not the only factor that determines competitiveness in tourism. How these resources are managed and to what extent they are complemented with man-made innovations matters too to gain competitive advantage (UNECA, 2011) and it is the responsibility of the tour operator to bring together the essential elements and thus create a tourism product (Briggs, 1997; Lumsdon, 1997).

Estimates made by the Tourism Concern Organization reported that 80% of the international travellers used the services of tour operators (Adriana, 2005). These demonstrate the significant potential for tour operators to influence and direct a large number of tourists to a destination. Tour operators have also been acknowledged for developing a product which overcomes most of the poor enabling environment in the tourism industry (Twining-Ward, 2010). This highlights the paramount importance of the tour operating business in a country like Ethiopia where infrastructures are underdeveloped.

The objective of this research is therefore to identify the challenges that Ethiopian tour operators are facing in marketing the country’s tourist attractions. The study used both primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected from 15 tour operators using online survey questionnaire. The secondary
data was collected from Ethiopia travel forum page on the TripAdvisor’s website. The collected data were analysed qualitatively. The overall findings of the survey revealed the inefficiency of the tour operators in marketing the country's tourist destinations.

Kumudika Boyagoda
Post-doctoral award recipient, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Waikato

Looking beyond conventional demographic categorizations: Unseen realities and implications for policy
Demographic research and analyses are structured according to objectively identified and long established categorizations. For example, households are categorized as ‘extended’, ‘nuclear’ or ‘single person’. Similarly, according to an analysis of marital status, a woman is either ‘never-married’, ‘married’, ‘widowed’ or ‘divorced/separated’. Yet, a truism of social reality is that any group can be further decomposed into sub-groups and beyond; and there is a plurality of ways by which they can be analysed. These variations will depict different circumstances and meanings to a group, which may go unnoticed when conventional ways of analysis are adopted. Based on my research on female-headed households in Sri Lanka, the aim of the present paper is to highlight sub-layers of certain established demographic categorizations and their implications, especially in relation to policy formulations. For example, nuclear households are commonly defined as those consisting of a single family of parents and children. My research identified different compositions of parents and children: a) households with a woman head who is a mother and her dependent children and; b) households with a woman head who is a daughter and her aged parents. In-depth interviews revealed that the consequences for both women were not similar. They confronted different dependency burdens; young and old respectively, despite both heading nuclear families. The paper stresses that diverse ways of researching and analysing are needed to capture unseen issues and deliver productive policies and programmes.

Nick Braae
PhD candidate, Conservatorium of Music, University of Waikato

A style analysis of Nature’s Best
A central question in New Zealand popular music discourse is: are local popular songs are stylistically distinct or spinoffs of overseas models? I have previously argued that it may be more profitable to investigate what overseas styles and trends New Zealand artists have cumulatively followed. This paper offers the findings from a stylistic analysis of the 100 songs from the three Nature’s Best albums (2001 and 2002). These songs offer a snapshot of the local recording industry from around 1970-2000. Songs are analysed in terms of individual musical traits (form, harmonic language, vocal style, instrumentation, etc.) in relation to international examples. This produces a stylistic map, as it were, for each song. Several ideas emerge from the analysis. The first is the absence of direct blues influence. Instead, and second, the prominent ‘Kiwi rock’ sound originates from the folk and ‘soft’ rock sounds of the 1970s. This appears congruous with the dominant New Zealand cultural trope that encourages emotional restraint and tacit acceptance of societal hierarchies (Bannister 2005). Third, there is a tendency for 1990s songwriters to fuse diverse style influences within their songs. This appears to reflect a maturity and increasing confidence within the popular music industry during this decade (Shuker 2008).

Dot Brown
PhD candidate, Management Communication, University of Waikato

Men’s use of networks to manage communication tensions related to a potential diagnosis of prostate cancer
This study used relational dialectics theory to explore the communication tensions experienced by men who were on a prostate biopsy waiting list and how they managed these tensions in their communication networks. The study included 40 semi-structured interviews with data analyzed using dialectical analysis. Men experienced four tensions; a) obligation to disclose/autonomy not to disclose; b) help others/be vulnerable; c) accept support/not accept support and d) desire for normality/need to tolerate uncertainty. These tensions were predominantly managed by vacillation. Specifically, the men used their communication network to select one pole with some people and the other pole with others to maintain balance between the poles of the dialectical tensions. Healthcare professionals can help men in this situation by having a conversation about disclosure and support prior to them being diagnosed, educating men to reframe or connect as a more effective form of tension management, and linking men who have small or ineffective networks to other resources such as social support networks to facilitate tension management.
Teresa Marie Connors  
PhD candidate, Conservatorium of Music, University of Waikato

Creative practice in a world of agency  
The motivation behind this paper stems from my practice as a composer and my research as a PhD candidate at the University of Waikato. The majority of artefacts that result from this research are audiovisual installations that explore new relationships from an ecological perspective. In this context, the term ecological refers to the philosophical school of thought that believes the world to be a network of interconnected and interdependent phenomena. The work initiated by Humberto Maturana and Francisco Varela’s Santiago Theory of Cognition has been a primary source in contextualizing my practice. In addition, Andrew Pickering’s notion of the dance of agency, Timothy Morton’s concept of the hyperobject, and Jane Bennett’s idea of vibrant matter further this discussion. This paper presents these theories in the context of a creative practice that aims to engage with ontological considerations of interconnectedness. It investigates the interrelationships between living and non-living systems as process and structure, and their artistic potential for an empathic discourse by extending our human identity to include the larger biosphere.

Dorcas Dennis  
PhD candidate, Religious Studies, Victoria University of Wellington

Travelling with 'the Spirit': International migration and indigenous Pentecostalism in Ghana and Australia  
There is a growing sense in Ghana that migrating to the West demands migrants’ spiritual empowerment through rituals. Correspondingly, indigenous Pentecostal traditions that dominate the Ghanaian religious field are constantly coming up with new ritual practices designed to meet these demands. Consequently, Ghana’s Pentecostal churches are gradually occupying a crucial niche in Ghana and the Ghanaian diaspora in the West as the specialists in the provision of spiritual answers to questions linked to international migrations.

As part of my ongoing PhD research, I present in this paper, the ways Ghanaian indigenous Pentecostals facilitate international migrations to the West. The paper discusses my findings from the fieldwork I conducted among members of the Church of Pentecost (CoP) and Power Chapel (PC) in Ghana and Australia. Using the field, I offer an account of the Ghanaian indigenous Pentecostal narratives and rituals that speak to needs of Ghanaians migrating to the West generally and Ghanaian migrants in Australia. The key argument of the presentation is that international travel and migration to the West have become so closely integrated into Ghanaian indigenous Pentecostal religious activities that we can say these churches are facilitators or enablers of these population flows.

Erin Doyle  
Masters candidate, Biological Sciences, University of Waikato

Common Blood: Biological science in the characterisation of the vampire  
The vampire, in literature, has evolved from the demonic creature of the nineteenth century to the natural predator of the twenty-first century. This shift has changed the way vampires are portrayed, with the vampire being cast in a sympathetic role, leading to the rise of the paranormal romance genre, in which vampire leads are more attractive and magical than the earlier vampires.

Common Blood is not a paranormal romance. It is a novel in progress which uses biological principles and reasoning, drawn from areas such as bio-geography and molecular genetics, to determine the capabilities and limitations of the vampire characters. Through the use of character experiences, the narrative address each of the common characteristics of vampires in fiction including the mechanism of asexual reproduction; the consequences of an all blood diet; the limitations on sexual reproduction and hybridisation; and the question of whether or not extreme beauty is a useful trait for an organism that hunts humans.

As a biologist and a writer, I will discuss the science behind my fiction, and how the resulting vampires fit into the existing literature.
Allan Drew
PhD candidate, English, Victoria University of Wellington

Characterizing Rebecca: Order and Disorder and Lucy Hutchinson’s elaboration in negative space
The first five cantos of Lucy Hutchinson’s Order and Disorder were published (anonymously) in 1679, twelve years after John Milton’s Paradise Lost; both poems retell the story of Genesis. The full twenty cantos of Hutchinson’s poem, however, remained only in manuscript until the first complete publication in 2001. I will examine Hutchinson’s methods of characterization for the biblical Rebecca, with particular focus on the employment of “negative narrative space” to perform the characterization and fulfil her poem’s goals. This essay examines the process of characterization and its effects, rather than providing a character study. Milton’s characterization methods in Paradise Lost will provide a background for the discussion.

In the bible, Rebecca’s motivations for marrying Isaac, quickly and sight-unseen, are obscure. Hutchinson employs this absence of source narrative—“negative narrative space”—to elaborate on motivation and perform the characterization of Rebecca. Hutchinson’s method concentrates on the power of the poetic voice rather than (somewhat in contrast to Milton) the utterances of the characters. Such characterization allows Hutchinson to fulfil her poem’s aims and erect Rebecca as a ‘literary monument’ to model contemporary feminine behaviour, thereby demonstrating the relevance of the biblical narrative to contemporary (17th century) concerns.

Rachel Elliot
Masters candidate, English, University of Waikato

Write the Body Bloody: Violence, gender and identity in the poetry of Sylvia Plath and Ai
Poems that hang themselves on the rope of acts, apparitions and assertions of violence, voiced by a fierce ‘I’, are primary modes in the work of both Sylvia Plath and Ai. Their violent ‘I’s burst the boundaries of acceptable poetic expression in moments of crisis, trauma and uncertainty, giving voice to the unspeakable. Yet critical analysis has made a habit of dividing these poets’ violent use of the first person, placing Plath firmly in the category of (naked) autobiographical confession and Ai in the tradition of (masked) dramatic monologue. This thesis highlights the links between the modes in which Plath and Ai inhabit the poetic ‘I’, exploring how they each use scenes of violence to perform and interrogate issues of gender and identity, expose the nexus of tenderness and cruelty and obscure the roles of villain and victim. It argues that neither the category of confessional poetry or dramatic monologue can cage these poets’ seizure of the ‘I’ or explain their emphasis on self as theatre and character as concert. It examines the ways in which selected poems from each writer’s work do violence to the gender and identity limits implicit in both labels.

Qi Fang
Masters candidate, Screen and Media Studies, University of Waikato

Gender Portrayals in Six Representative Disney and Ghibli Animated Films, (1984 to 2013)
The core hypothesis of this study argues that ‘Ghibli films present a more progressive view of gender roles than do Disney animated films’. ‘Progressive’, in this respect means portrayals of gender roles that reflect changing social norms and shifts in attitude in society, through offering alternative or more diverse ways of representing gender in fiction rather replicating a set of stereotypes.

In order to test this hypothesis, six representative feature-length theatrical animated films from Disney and Ghibli studios in recent three decades after the second-wave feminism were selected. The gender portrayals in these Disney-produced films and those in the Ghibli-produced ones are compared and contrasted. The conclusion of this content analysis demonstrates that overall, Ghibli films are comparatively more progressive and show more alternative representations of gender than Disney films. It also indicates how gender portrayals have shifted over time (from 1984 to 2013) and space (from America to Japan, from Western to Eastern culture contexts) and the possible reasons behind these differences and changes.
Simon Gray  
PhD candidate, International Relations and Security Studies, University of Waikato

Mapping political Islam: A comparative paradigm
As "political Islam" continues to rise and expand around the world, increasingly impacting both domestic and international political affairs and security, there is an immediate and on-going need to accurately understand and identify the primary manifestations and contemporary diversity of that political phenomenon. This presentation draws from the literature review and theoretical framework components of the researcher’s PhD analysis, and introduces a framework for a comparative paradigm through which to examine a particular actor in an effort to “map out” the diversity of contemporary political Islam. Thus an analytical tool is proposed through which insight can be gained into the contemporary diversity and highly debated question of whether political Islam is “inherently radical”, a “creative space”, or, a “mixture” of both.

Joel Gordon  
Masters candidate, Classics, Victoria University of Wellington

Solving Hades’ Identity Crisis: Antiquity and Modern Mass Culture Working Together
Hades, the ancient Greek Lord of the Underworld, has recently risen to stardom on the silver screen. A prominent trend within modern mass culture, illustrated within recent filmic examples Clash of the Titans (2010) and Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief (2010), has seen Hades’ modern persona limited almost exclusively to a “demonic” portrayal. However, this modern paradigm differs greatly from the Hades found in antiquity. With little direct evidence to support it, the association between the Hades of modern mass culture and that of antiquity could be challenged.

This paper offers an examination of Disney’s Hercules (1997), the definitive case study regarding Hades’ characterisation in modern film, as an illustration of how to positively overcome such discord between antiquity and modern mass culture. By applying recent understandings regarding the development of Greek myth within antiquity, it will be shown how the dissimilarity of Hades’ portrayals is merely superficial. While differences do exist, these serve to illustrate the perpetuation of ancient concerns regarding the treatment of mythic figures. This allows for the validity of modern mass culture to be acknowledged, while simultaneously emphasizing accuracy with regards to ancient evidence and allowing for positive interaction with both.

John Kalu  
PhD candidate, Political Science and Public Policy, University of Waikato

Federalism and the Venn diagram: Resolving the definitional polemics of the federal concept
From the adoption of the US Constitution in 1789, federalism has received a substantial attention which climaxed in the Post-War era. Unfortunately, despite the plethora of explorations on the subject from almost all disciplines, including Political Science, Economics, History, Sociology, Theology, and Law, federalism has seemingly failed to generate a generic comprehension. Instead, most scholars have equated it with ambiguity; using such phrases as “difficult subject”, “futile study”, “amorphous” and “contested concept” to qualify federalism. It seems that the more scholars do research on the subjects, the more they are exposed to looming confusions, instead of clarity about federalism.

This study finds a denominator between federalism and the ‘Venn diagram’, which is a relatively easy-to-understand topic in Mathematics. It therefore applies the schematics of the latter to demystify the former; unearthing a startling exposition that resolves the definitional polemics of the federal concept. The paper makes a significant contribution to the general understanding and distinction of federalism from other systems of government.
Mihailo Ladevac  
Masters candidate, Theatre Studies, University of Waikato

Professor Bajčetić’s acting training method — the significance of Professor Bajčetić and his acting training method

More than 300 actors have been educated by Professor Predrag Bajčetić, not just in Serbia but in other ex-Yugoslav republics and Norway as well. I am one of them. I believe that the method prepares an actor for the different types of theatre due to the fact that the method is very thoroughly constructed. I always wanted to present the method to the wider audience. Thus, I enrolled in my MA studies to research Professor’s acting training method. This paper summarizes the findings collected through the biographical research methodology. Using one of the biographical research methodologies, interview technique, as well as the analysis of the Professor’s previously given interviews and some of his published articles, along with the survey with the Professor’s former students helped me to collect utile data for my research. The information I have gathered has shed light on the Professor’s life circumstances, his acting training method and his mentorship. All the findings were of a huge assistance in understanding the influence of Professor Bajčetić and his method on his former students, as well as the significance of Professor Bajčetić himself.

Seyed Lolaki  
PhD candidate, Political Science and Public Policy, University of Waikato

Other than the West: Iranian Political Islamic thought from the 1960s to the 1980s with reference to the writing of Khomeini, Shariati, and Bazargan

My doctoral study investigates political Islam within the Iranian context. It examines the three main aspects of political Islam present in discourses that attempt to fuse Islam with political streams that are also motivated to some degree by nationalism and aspects of modernity and developmentalism. These discourses can be categorized into three main schools of thought: jurisprudential Islam grounded in the writings of Ayatollah Khomeini, leftist Islam based on Ali Shariati’s works, and liberal Islam exemplified in the thinking of Mehdi Bazargan.

Islamic political groups allied to these schools played a proportionately greater role in mobilizing the Iranian masses in the 1960s and 1970s than nationalist secularists or socialist secularists. The efforts of the Islamic political groups led to the 1979 Revolution. In the course of the post-revolutionary era, two out of these three schools have come to dominate Iran’s intellectual discursive arena: jurisprudential Islam and liberal Islam. In this paper I will analyze and examine the work of the three Iranian thinkers with respect to their ideology of ‘Otherness’ vis-a-vis western modernity.

Daryl Macdonald  
PhD candidate, General and Applied Linguistics, University of Waikato

Number in Oceanic languages is more than singular or plural

The grammatical expression of number in the world’s languages has frequently been assumed to be a simple opposition between singular and plural such as that found in the English pronominal system where ‘I’ encodes the singular (one), and ‘we’ expresses the concept of plural (more than one) (Corbett 2000:1). In this presentation I discuss findings from my doctoral research on Oceanic languages which clearly show that this assumption is incorrect. In contrast to the 2-way distinction of singular and plural in English, more than half of the languages in my study are reported as making 3-way, 4-way and even 5-way number distinctions in their pronominal paradigms. Moreover, in keeping with recent understandings of the number category (Dixon 2012; Storch and Dimmendaal 2014), the systems can be ‘typed’ according to an absolute/relative dichotomy. As a communicative function of pronouns is to index participant relationships and divide up “people space” (Mühlhäusler 2002:296), the findings here can be used to further investigate the way that number is conceptualised cross-culturally.
Alessandro Macilenti
PhD candidate, Languages and Cultures, Victoria University of Wellington

The banality of *Gomorrah’s evil*

My analysis focuses on *La terra dei fuochi*, the last chapter of Roberto Saviano’s *Gomorrah* (2006). It explores its narrative strategies under the frameworks of Wu Ming’s New Italian Epic and Serenella Iovino’s material ecocriticism.

The faith in the power of the word that moves *Gomorrah* is the knowledge that literature has to help us imagine ways out. Through creating alternative realities, literature may help us re-imagine what progress means. But how? *Gomorrah* is an Unidentified Narrative Object inhabiting the threshold between fiction, journalism, and activism. As such, it hybridises the three genres, utilising narrative mechanisms proper to fiction to enhance the emotional impact of its non-fictional content and to elicit an active response from the reader. *Gomorrah* highlights the role that certain aspects of Italian culture — notably, myopic ultra-individualism, an attitude which is accepted and even praised in legitimate business — play in maintaining the Camorra’s stranglehold on Naples and Italy.

Thus, I contend that *Gomorrah* does more than merely inform the public about the Camorra’s misdeeds. By revealing the banality of the Camorra’s evil and the links between the legal and the illegal, *Gomorrah* aims at challenging the reader’s perception of normality.

Graeme Mackenzie
PhD candidate, Political Science and Public Policy, University of Waikato

“More of the same please”: Discourses around land reform at the provincial level in South Africa

South Africa is one of the world’s most unequal societies (Hodgson, 2012). This is partly due to apartheid policies which confined 16 million black South Africans to 13 per cent of the country’s farmland (Hall, 2004, p. 1), while 60,000 white farmers controlled the rest (DAFF, 2012, p. 6). Post-apartheid government attempts to change this pattern of landownership have been unsuccessful — by 2009 only 6.9 per cent had been redistributed (Greenberg, 2010, p. 7), and no updated figures are available. To deepen understanding of the failure to redistribute land in the post-apartheid era, this paper examines the discourses among those who implement land reform policies. Three discourses are identified from analysis of 37 semi-structured interviews carried out in two provinces of South Africa with black and white farmers, bureaucrats, NGO workers, agri-corporations and consultants. One of these discourses leads to calls for the redistribution of more land, while two give rise to assertions that existing landownership patterns guarantee South Africa’s food security, and so can only be changed slowly. Little has been done to change apartheid-era landownership patterns partly because the dominance of the second two discourses encourages land reform implementers to believe that they must not be changed.

Sheena Moosa
PhD candidate, National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis, University of Waikato

Determinants of older people’s wellbeing in a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Maldives

**Background:** Population ageing is accelerating in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), with the population aged 65+ years expected to reach over 20% in some SIDS such as French Polynesia, Maldives and New Caledonia by 2050 (United Nations, 2011). However, significant gaps exist in theory and concepts of older people’s wellbeing that have relevance to SIDS.

**Methods:** A multidimensional model of wellbeing developed specific to the SIDS context was operationalised in a survey of 393 older people 65+ years in one SIDS, Maldives in 2012.

**Results:** The largest contributors to wellbeing of older people 65+ years in the SIDS context were health (35% variance) and social connectedness (30% variance). Furthermore, the role of family was significantly (p<.01) more important than that of friends for wellbeing of older people in this context. Other significant correlates (p<.01) include satisfaction with economic standard of living, access to goods and services, and conformity to desired social values and norms.

**Conclusion:** There are some determinants of wellbeing of older people 65+ years distinctive to the SIDS context. Social connectedness with the central role of family and social values and norms of the community are of special relevance to the wellbeing of older people in the context of SIDS.
Darwinian evolution in H.G. Wells’ *War of the Worlds*

My paper focuses on the prevalence of Darwinian evolution in H.G. Wells’ *War of the Worlds* (1897). This text embodies Victorian fears and anxieties surrounding the implications of evolution in the immediate wake of Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species* (1859). Wells was educated in depth about Darwin’s ideas — studying under biologist T.H. Huxley, who was also known as ‘Darwin’s Bulldog’ due to his staunch support of Darwin — and it is likely that he deliberately applies Darwin’s ideas in his fiction.

In *War of the Worlds*, the ‘more evolved’ Martians can be read as an example of how the Victorian public feared Darwin’s idea of evolution. Wells challenges these anxieties; the conquest of the aliens by human bacteria representing misunderstandings of Darwin’s ideas. The narrator in *War of the Worlds* is of the same mindset in that he pays homage to the role of natural selection, the novel highlighting the complex inheritance of Darwinian evolution.

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Selecting appropriate methodology to understand Vietnamese EFL teachers’ self-efficacy: Reflection of a novice researcher

My thesis aimed to understand factors that influence language teachers’ construction of self-efficacy in teaching EFL (English as a Foreign Language) in the Vietnamese context. In this paper, I provide a full description of how I decided to undertake qualitative case study research and select focus-group discussions, one-to-one interviews, non-participant observation, and journaling as my research instruments. The challenges I faced, how I overcame these challenges and the lessons I learnt will also be discussed in this paper. The paper emphasises my considerations of socio-cultural features of the Vietnamese context where the study was conducted which, in my view, was important to successful data collection. It is expected that practical experiences of conducting qualitative research in the Vietnamese context are helpful to other researchers in other contexts.

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Is ‘Sharia’ (Islamic law) sacred?

An increasing demand for implementation of ‘sharia’ has expanded beyond borders of Muslim countries and is knocking on the doors of secular systems in European and North American countries. This unusual development has raised concerns about emergence of a harmful division of loyalty between modern state law and Islamic religious law. While citizenship, as a status under which rights and duties of citizens are determined and recognized by law, is the cornerstone of modern statehood, belief in the existence of a sacred (divine) law and giving priority to it can weaken citizenship and challenge consolidation of societies.

For religious law to be able to question and ideally claim loyalty and replace the modern law it needs to be undisputable itself. Belief in divine roots for religious law is vital for making it unquestionable. Those activists who support not only implementation but also imposition of some problematic social rules of ‘sharia’ in response to any criticism regarding incompatibility of such rules with current conditions of human societies consider such criticisms invalid simply because they are against the God’s will. To investigate if ‘sharia’ is actually God’s will in this paper we are going to examine ‘sharia’s’ divine roots. Accordingly the question that this paper is going to answer is that: Is ‘sharia’ sacred and therefore unchangeable and obligatory for all believers? If yes, does it clash with modern state laws as base of citizenship? And in the case of a clash between ‘sharia’ and state law what is the responsibility of a believer as a citizen?
Artika Sharma  
Masters candidate, Accounting, University of Waikato

Accounting for human rights reporting: A study of New Zealand companies  
This paper examines nine New Zealand companies that are engaged in outsourcing. The study explores human rights disclosure that companies report on. The paper examines New Zealand companies such as Fonterra, Fisher and Paykel Appliances (Haier), Griffins, Telecom, Swanndri, Skellerup, Postie Plus, Air New Zealand and Kathmandu.

It is becoming a popular trend in New Zealand for firms to shift their operations overseas. More firms are engaging in global outsourcing. This is due to globalisation. Outsourcing is defined as a production process contracting out to outside firms instead of performing in house. There are many costs and benefits associated with outsourcing. The benefits include lower costs and having access to quality materials. Many firms engage in outsourcing mainly due to lower costs. Outsourcing can free up assets and reduce costs in the immediate financial period which makes it attractive for firms to outsource. This research extends Islam and Jain's (2013) study on workplace human rights reporting. Islam and Jain examined the retail sector in Australia. This study will examine companies from different sectors.

Human rights issues in developing countries are becoming a problem. The exploitation of workers in developing countries is unquestionably related to a global economic system. International human rights law is also not being enforced in developing countries. There is an international body called International Labour organisation (ILO) that promotes social justice and human rights. There are two different types of laws in New Zealand that protect and promote human rights. The framework for this study refers to the ILO seven principles. These seven principles consist of forced and compulsory labour, non-discrimination, freedom of association, elimination of child labour, elimination of physical and verbal abuse, fair wage and decent living and rights to safe and healthy conditions. Most companies did not provide enough disclosure on fair wage and decent living and non-discrimination. Kathmandu had the highest disclosure on human rights reporting compared to the other selected companies.

Brendan Sheridan  
Masters candidate, English, University of Waikato

Dragonriding: What is it and how will it affect our children?  
In the 1960s a movement began in fantasy literature. It began slowly, masquerading as feminist sci-fi fantasy, but now it has started to draw attention away from the ancient and noble art of dragonslaying. It threatens the patriarchal and testosterone filled battle between man and reptile, seeking to replace this conflict with co-operation and understanding. I speak of course, of dragonriding. Is this burgeoning genre the result of an increasingly prolific young adult book market, or has Sandra Unerman corrupted minds with her campaign to re-categorise dragons as animals rather than monstrous beasts? The dragonriding story has even developed its own narrative structure which I have uncovered as a result of my research for my Master's thesis. In addition to identifying this structure in texts as diverse as How to Train Your Dragon and A Song of Ice and Fire, I will discuss the origins and conventions found within this relatively new type of story. I will also explore its impact in a wider context and what it can mean for fantasy literature as a whole.

Megan Smith  
Masters candidate, Political Science and Public Policy, University of Waikato

Cycling on the verge? Exploring the place of utility cycling in contemporary New Zealand transport policy  
Efforts to increase cycling as a mode of transport (utility cycling) occur at all levels of government, as evidenced by a range of supportive strategies, research, and guidelines. Despite these efforts, utility cycling levels in New Zealand have remained persistently low. This paper explores the apparent disparity between policy intent and policy outcome, using a discourse analytical approach. It examines how cycling is positioned in contemporary New Zealand transport policy documents, and reveals whose priorities are shaping transport policy and how they prioritise utility cycling. The findings show transport is promoted almost exclusively by the government as an activity to facilitate economic growth and efficiency, despite its potential (and existing) impact on health and well-being, social justice, and environmental sustainability. The discursive practices of the government privilege private motor vehicle use, helping both to legitimate and maintain that privilege, while marginalising utility cycling as an effective mode of transport.
Wendy Sweet  
PhD candidate, Sport and Leisure, University of Waikato

**It's personal and it's professional: An exploration of the meanings mid-life women Baby-boomers attribute to ‘working out’ with a Personal Trainer**

The potential impact of mid-life Baby-boomers who are the next generation of ‘older persons’ cannot be underestimated as in an increasingly ageing world, older women will out-number men (World Health Organisation, 2011). One facet of an ageing population attracting considerable attention is health – the cost, policy, personal responsibility and strategies for preventing and intervening on ‘not-so-good’ health in the later years. A number of authors along with the WHO are encouraging researchers to explore ways individuals in this cohort can pursue physical activity as a means to mitigate some of the risk factors associated with ageing. This was echoed by Sir Peter Gluckman when suggesting one of New Zealand’s research priorities should be to better understand the dimensions of ageing well.

This study investigates how eighteen Baby-boomer women (aged 50–65 years) construct meanings about their own ageing and health. In particular, it explores their beliefs and experiences related to physical activity and specifically the benefits or otherwise of using a Personal Trainer as they attempt to adopt a more physically active lifestyle. In this presentation I will provide, (i) a context for the study and (ii) some findings from the initial analysis of the interviews with the women participants.

Maria-Aena Tarau  
PhD candidate, Language Policy and Planning – Linguistic Human Rights, University of Auckland

**The plight of the Romanian Roma: Investigating linguistic human rights in national legislation, institutional practices and local perceptions**

Minority communities around the world are becoming increasingly successful in reclaiming their identities and having their linguistic human rights recognised. In the shadow of these developments lies an ethnic group whose plight seems never-ending. Hounded from the West towards Central and Eastern Europe, lacking territorial reference, linguistic heterogeneity and cultural unity, the Roma continue to struggle for survival. Large numbers of European Roma now live on the territory of Romania, a country which seems to be failing in its attempts to integrate this minority into mainstream society. As a current member of the EU, Romania is being pressured to provide a solution to the so-called “Roma problem”. Therefore, there is an acute need to investigate the common perception that the language of the Roma, Romani, is a problem, and not a resource. Even more importantly, there is a need to identify Roma attitudes towards their own language, as well as to examine the role that Romani may play in unifying and strengthening their Romanian community. Lastly, the practices which effectively foster the development of Romani need to be highlighted and incorporated into future national policy making. Perhaps following the European model of granting linguistic human rights to minorities could be the path to unifying and integrating the Roma of Romania into mainstream society. This in turn may serve as a model of successful Roma integration to other European countries struggling with similar issues.

Sangion Appiee Tiu  
PhD candidate, Technology, Environment, Mathematics and Science Education Research Centre, University of Waikato

**Kinship, equity and social inclusion in traditional ecological knowledge in Papua New Guinea**

Concerns for intergenerational equity and social inclusion have increased since the publication of the 1987 Brundtland Commission Report (Our Common Future). The emphasis on meeting the needs of present and future generations through sustainable development has not thus far specifically acknowledged the needs of vulnerable, tribal and indigenous peoples whose livelihoods depend on accessing natural resources for sustenance. This study investigates the role of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) in addressing environmental and equity issues associated with use and management of natural resources for the benefit of these vulnerable and minority groups. Using a critical theory approach, this research explores the perceptions of TEK and sustainability of policy makers, educators, local communities and resource developers using interviews, storytelling and questionnaires. These data have been analysed alongside scholarly literature on TEK, sustainable natural resource management and sustainability education. The core values of respect, responsibility and reciprocity embraced by kinship groups were found to be fundamental in TEK practices and this encouraged equal access and distribution of resources, consultative participation and decision making in resource use and
management. These findings reiterate the significance of TEK principles of equity and social inclusion for sustainable development, and will be used to inform the development of a policy framework for sustainability education in Papua New Guinea.

Kathleen Ullal
PhD Candidate, English, University of Waikato

William Morris’s Icelandic Journals: Translations of the self
This presentation draws on the Icelandic Journals of the great Victorian William Morris to consider how acts of travelling, and writing about journeys, may lead to greater self-insight. Morris’s travel narratives are both purgative and cathartic. Discussion focuses on what I call Morris’s translations of himself. On first landing in Iceland in July 1871, Morris must have experienced a strange sense of déjà vu, strange because, despite never having set foot on Icelandic soil until that moment, Morris had been responsible for establishing in the Victorian imagination realistic images of that same Icelandic landscape. This was due largely to his poem ‘The Lovers of Gudrun’, one of the northern tales in Morris’s then widely-read The Earthly Paradise (1868-70). I address a number of questions: what effect does the landscape Morris literally confronts in Iceland have on him then and on his life on his return home? Can home represent an ‘other’ that he chooses not to face? How does the journey change his understanding not only of ‘home’ but also of other major parts of his life, including his later commitment to socialism? What, in fact, does ‘home’ mean for Morris, and how does that ‘home’ shape his experience, even force on him the need for the journey itself? How do the letters Morris sent home to his wife, Jane Morris, compare with what he writes in the Journals to Georgiana Burne-Jones, a close friend and confidante, and apparently the intended recipient of his travel writing?

Jeffrey Wragg
PhD candidate, Conservatorium of Music, University of Waikato

Intertextuality and style topics in the music of Portishead
Intertextuality is commonly understood as the presence of one text within another, and while the term originated in literary studies it has become increasingly invoked within the field of musicology, particularly regarding the practice of digital sampling. This paper begins by analyzing the intertextual utterances that shape the music of Portishead and considers not only the use of music quotation but also the reproduction of medium. Over the course of Portishead’s three studio albums, intertextuality gave way to style topics; newly composed, newly performed stylistic allusions. These stylistic allusions allow for greater flexibility in that they resist questions of authorship while still permitting a set of communicable signs and codes, and can thus be understood as a strategy for reconciling stylistic multiplicity with concerns for authorial agency. The use of style topics in Portishead’s later music reveals a creative process that, while not strictly intertextual, is informed by intertextuality, and understanding this relationship can serve to clarify well-established but ill-defined terms such as ‘influence’, ‘imitation’ and ‘borrowing’.

Long Yang
PhD candidate, Marketing, University of Waikato

From sustainable shopping to sustainable living: A ‘Big Picture’ perspective
The concept of sustainable development was brought in to the mainstream business and political thoughts since the Brundtland Report in 1987: ‘Our Common Future’. Nowadays, sustainability is indeed a ‘problematique’ that the Club of Rome refers to a challenge has the global and long-term impact. The business gradually realizes the importance of sustainability. For instance, fast fashion giants such as H&M, Zara and Forever 21 launch campaigns by labelling their designs as ‘green’, ‘eco’ or ‘ethical’, thus targeting ‘conscious consumers’. In other words, individuals’ eco-purchase power is perceived as a sufficient solution to promote sustainability. Despite scepticism towards the authenticity of these corporations’ sustainable efforts, many researchers conclude that consumerism and sustainability cannot go forward hand-in-hand. Consequently, sustainable shopping is inherently flawed. In this light, a holistic approach that aims to view the ‘big picture’ by making sense of a sustainable lifestyle could be insightful. However, the sustainable way of living seems to be a postmodern utopianism. Fortunately, history provides a living example to draw lessons. Tibetan people traditionally adapt sustainable lifestyles according to the Alpine Grassland Ecosystem, which in turn significantly ensure the survival and prosperity of their civilization. Hence, ancient Tibetan wisdom can provide a fresh
perspective for transcending micro-level sustainable shopping and evolving to macro-level sustainable living.
Mohamed Hamdhaam Zuhair  
Masters candidate, Department of Management, University of Waikato

An evaluation of public participation in the Maldives EIA process

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process that facilitates sustainable development by addressing negative impacts of development projects. Public participation is a key component of the EIA process. The scholarship suggests that a participatory process based on the ideals of deliberative democracy can facilitate sustainable development, the main objective of EIA. Deliberative democracy has been identified as a school of political theory that assumes that meaningful discursive public participation in decision making facilitates rational and equitable outcomes through policy decisions. This paper specifically looks at public participation in the EIA process of the Maldives, a small island developing state. A multi-method qualitative research design was adopted, with EIA regulations, EIA reports and interviews with key stakeholders being the main data sources. Four aspects that ensure a deliberative participatory process were investigated: fairness, competence, willingness and capacity. The results suggest that the participatory procedures were neither fair nor competent. Moreover, several socioeconomic barriers that affect the capacity and willingness of the actors to participate were identified, namely, political influence, a lack of human and financial capacity, gender gap, loss of community spirit and a lack of environmental and procedural awareness. The analysis demonstrates that the EIA process in the Maldives has fundamental limitations, thereby jeopardizing the possibilities for sustainable development.