

Emotions, Moods and Motivations Symposium

28-29 JUNE 2007

UNIVERSITY CLUB CASE STUDY ROOM

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**Convenor: Professor Kay Milton, Queen's University Belfast & Institute of
Advanced Studies Professor -at- Large**

In recent years, the study of emotions has become a central focus for disciplines dedicated to understanding the human condition, and in a rapidly changing world there is a more urgent need than ever to understand what motivates people to act as they do. This symposium will bring together scholars from a range of disciplines, including anthropology, human biology, psychology, literary studies and music, to discuss the relationship between emotion and motivation.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Institute of Advanced Studies

PROGRAM

THURSDAY 28 JUNE

- 9.00-9.30 Arrive and tea/coffee
- 9.30-9.45 Welcome and Introduction
Kay Milton (IAS Professor-at-Large, UWA)
- 9.45-10.30 *The procreative urge: a putative emotion of consequence*
Neville Bruce
(School of Anatomy and Human Biology, UWA)
- 10.30-11.15 *Emotional eating, stress and mood intolerance*
Sue Byrne
(School of Psychology, UWA)
- 11.15-11.45 Morning Tea
- 11.45-12.30 *Against an understanding of boredom as motivating force*
Yasmine Musharbash
(Anthropology and Sociology, UWA)
- 12.30-1.30 Lunch
- 1.30-2.15 *Migration Journeys, Attachments, Motives and Emotions: Why take emotions seriously in studies of migration?*
Zlatko Skrbis
(School of Social Science, University of Queensland)
- 2.15-3.00 *Attitudes toward asylum seeker policy in Australia: The role of emotions and intergroup perceptions*
Lisa Hartley and Anne Pedersen
(School of Psychology, Murdoch University)
- 3.00-3.30 Afternoon Tea
- 3.30-4.15 *Caring about students: Pedagogy and professionalism in an Anxious Academy*
Mary Taylor Huber
(The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching)
- 4.15-5.00 *'That guilty feeling': emotions and transnational caregiving*
Loretta Baldassar
(Anthropology and Sociology, UWA)

FRIDAY 29 JUNE

- 9.00-9.30 Arrive and tea/coffee
- 9.30-10.15 *Exploring the 'Emotional Landscape' of an Australian Environmental Problem*
Patty Please
(PhD candidate, School of Agriculture, Charles Sturt University, NSW)
- 10.15-11.00 *The language of (wild) flowers: sentiment and sensation in the appreciation of Australian flora*
Jane Mulcock
(Anthropology and Sociology, UWA);
Lesley Head
(School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Wollongong);
David Trigger
(Anthropology and Sociology, UWA)
- 11.00-11.30 Morning Tea
- 11.30-12.15 *'Faith, Hope, and Love': Emotion in Contemporary Christian Fiction*
Joanna Fedson
(PhD candidate, School of Humanities and School of Social and Cultural Studies, UWA)
- 12.15-1.00 *Passion and Persuasion of Pop Music Performance: Robbie's the One*
Jane Davidson and Jonathan McIntosh
(School of Music, UWA)
- 1.00-1.15 Concluding comments.

ABSTRACTS

Neville Bruce

School of Anatomy and Human Biology, The University of Western Australia

The procreative urge: a putative emotion of consequence

Do humans have a procreative urge distinct from, but complementary to, a sexual urge? Is the procreative urge an emotion and does it have the power to affect human futures? Every couple desiring children expresses a procreative urge but is this urge innate, culturally conditioned or both? Collectively the power of this urge could influence regional and global fertility rates; issues of critical significance to environmental stability and human well-being. Despite this, the procreative urge has received remarkably little rigorous scientific and social attention. Here we consider the various evidences for a procreative urge and possibilities for its more rigorous study.

Demography provides mixed evidence; on the one hand the world remains threatened by the population explosion, on the other, fertility rates have fallen well below replacement levels in many affluent countries. The Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) industry is seemingly compelling evidence of a powerful procreative urge and ART psychometrics are beginning to provide insight into the innate and cultural aspects of the procreative urge. Neuro-endocrinologists are seeking hormonal changes, neural centres and mechanisms associated with feelings of love and procreation. Social scientists and ethnographers have gathered much data of potential relevance to the procreative urge. But if we are going to understand the procreative urge and its power to motivate people, it must be from a multidisciplinary perspective. Given its potential impact on regional and world fertility, not to mention its immediate influence on personal and social wellbeing, we contend that the procreative urge should be elevated to a legitimate and well-studied phenomenon.

Sue Byrne

School of Psychology, University of Western Australia

Emotional eating, stress and mood intolerance

Just as some people attempt to regulate their internal mood states through the use of drugs, alcohol, or self-harm, many individuals report using food to regulate their mood. This practice is usually termed 'emotional eating' or 'stress-related eating' or, more commonly, 'comfort eating'.

Emotional eating does not appear to be related to hunger or to caloric deprivation. Rather, eating is used as a means of emotional blocking by reducing or providing distraction from the negative mood state. Emotional eating is then maintained through the negative reinforcement provided by a temporary reduction in negative affect following eating. The use of eating as a means of affect regulation has been well established in studies of binge eating in individuals with eating disorders, such as bulimia nervosa or binge eating disorder, as well as in studies among depressed individuals. The process of overeating following stress seems to be enhanced amongst those with a history of dieting.

It has been suggested that individuals who find it difficult to tolerate negative mood states may be especially vulnerable to emotional eating. 'Mood intolerant' individuals usually feel the need to escape a negative mood state immediately (by eating for example) rather than submitting to it and finding alternative ways to manage it.

This paper will examine the concept of emotional eating and its links with stress, the experience of negative mood states and mood intolerance. Strategies for managing the problem of emotional eating within a cognitive-behavioural framework will also be discussed.

Yasmine Musharbash

Anthropology and Sociology, University of Western Australia

Against an understanding of boredom as motivating force

This paper is based on ethnographic research with Warlpiri people from the remote central Australian settlement of Yuendumu, and draws on anthropological understandings of emotions and philosophical considerations of boredom to elaborate on the perceived and actual links between boredom

and motivation. Common sense understandings of boredom as well as those found (implicitly or explicitly) in some policy directions, invest boredom with a motivating force, as evinced, for example, by so-called 'diversionary' youth or substance misuse programmes. This paper contends that underlying this line of reasoning is a perception of boredom as emotion. If, instead of conceptualising boredom as an emotion (said to be triggering responses such as aggression, substance misuse, domestic violence, and so forth), we understand boredom as a mood (or, in Heidegger's sense, as attunement), it can be shown that the perceived link between boredom and motivation is fallacious. This paper illustrates the difference between boredom and emotions by drawing on Svendsen's (2005) distinction of situational and existential boredom, and following this, critiques 'diversionary' programmes as focussing on the wrong 'target'.

Zlatko Skrbis

School of Social Science, University of Queensland

Migration Journeys, Attachments, Motives and Emotions: Why take emotions seriously in studies of migration?

In this paper I explore the relationship between the migration experience and emotions by taking an approach that converges, and draws upon, sociological and anthropological perspectives. As the title suggests, I will be linking emotions with three aspects of migration experience.

The first relates to the conceptualization of migration as a form of journey beyond movement between two places. In this, I draw on work that conceptualises migration as a process that extends beyond both settlement (Baldassar 2001) and the first generation migration experience (Skrbis 1999), to see it as a continuous journey throughout the lifecourse. For analytical purposes, I will be developing a multi-stage model of this journey, incorporating the key events on the migration trajectory, and evaluating the place of emotions within it. These include push-pull factors and motivation, the maintenance of contact between migratory locations and, finally, the transmission of migration narratives across generations. The second element emphasises the role of diverse emotional attachments in the migration experience. As the literature on migration clearly shows, memories, objects and places can equally serve as potent sources of emotional attachment, as well as resources that provide legitimacy for migration decisions. The final element emphasises one of the specific concerns of this symposium: the extent to which human motivation (in this case motivation to migrate) correlates with emotions. It will be argued that emotions should not be seen as determining factors in decisions to migrate, and that we need to avoid the temptation to overplay the role of emotion in the migration experience. Yet, of course, motivation and emotion can not be uncoupled without considerable cost to our ability to understand the migration experience.

Lisa Hartley

Anne Pedersen

School of Psychology, Murdoch University

Attitudes toward Australian asylum seekers: The role of self versus other-focus

Whether in-group members focus on their own group (self-focus) or the out-group (other-focus) when evaluating intergroup relations has been argued to play an important role in shaping whether group members are motivated to support or oppose social justice strategies for out-groups. Leach, Snider and Iyer (2002) propose that there are four dimensions in which in-group members can evaluate intergroup relations: self versus other-focus, perceived legitimacy, perceived stability, and perceived control. In addition, an individual's perception regarding these four dimensions is proposed to arouse specific emotions, which affects an individual's willingness to help a disadvantaged out-group. In the present study, we examined this theory in relation to the community's opinions about asylum seeker policy by way of a random community survey of the Perth metropolitan area (N = 160). Regarding self-focus, regression analyses indicated that perceiving the Australian community, inclusive of asylum seekers, as stable predicted a lenient policy orientation, as did perceiving the Government's policy as illegitimate. Converse to expectations, self-focused feelings of guilt did not predict a particular policy orientation. Regarding other-focus, perceiving asylum seekers as legitimate, their situation in detention as unstable, and feeling empathic predicted a lenient policy orientation. Results suggest that emotions are inextricably linked to attributions regarding asylum seekers.

Mary Taylor Huber

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

Caring about students: Pedagogy and professionalism in an Anxious Academy

Many academics are ambivalent about calls for greater professionalism in university teaching, especially in this age of audit and accountability. On the one hand, most faculty care about their students, and understand that it is becoming harder to teach well, as more diverse student populations, new media, and new educational priorities challenge conventional pedagogical postures and styles. On the other hand, many are wary of educational scholarship, worried that heightened expectations for teaching won't be matched by resources or rewards for developing the work, and afraid that increasing scrutiny of teaching and learning could lead to loss of the professional autonomy that has long contributed to the attraction of academic life.

This paper examines two movements that have emerged in the United States (although not only there) that address the problem of 'care' in teaching in different ways, point to different resolutions, and appeal to faculty members on different grounds. The first, a call for a 'scholarship' of teaching, directs the professor's attention outward, towards inquiry into their students' learning, while the second looks inward toward 'exploring the inner landscape of a teacher's life'. These invitations to reform and renewal encode a classic head/heart distinction, but both oppose the view that teaching is simply about technique.

Drawing from ethnography on, and engagement with, changing cultures of teaching in higher education, I suggest that these discourses connect to differing notions of what pedagogical professionalism might mean in practice, what might be gained and what lost from treating everyday teaching as serious intellectual work, and how such work is regarded in different disciplinary and national contexts. I argue that these tensions around care in teaching inscribe in higher education larger debates about what is happening to the professions today, their capacity for care, and indeed what social philosopher William Sullivan refers to as 'the value of the professional organization of work' itself.

Loretta Baldassar

Anthropology and Sociology, UWA

'That guilty feeling': emotions and transnational caregiving

This paper explores the experience of 'guilt' as a motivating emotion informing reciprocal obligations to care in transnational kinship relations. I am interested in critiquing the economic rationalist model that dominates migration studies to argue that economic relations can be seen to be embedded in kinship relations (and not the other way round as Polanyi argued for modern societies). The central question examined in the paper is what motivates transnational care: kinship obligations of reciprocity (is obligation an emotion?), or the experience of guilt, which motivate people to fulfil obligations? I compare the practices and discourses around these issues using data from at least three case studies (drawn from Italian, Dutch, Irish, New Zealand, Singapore and refugee samples). Such comparisons show how notions / emotions of guilt are differentially constructed in each socio-cultural setting as are the understandings of obligation to care.

Patty Please

PhD candidate, School of Agriculture, Charles Sturt University, NSW

Exploring the 'Emotional Landscape' of an Australian Environmental Problem

The public discourse about the Australian environmental problem of dryland salinity has been dominated over the past few decades by a 'rational' scientific perspective. More recently an effort has been made to include the 'human and social' dimension, but this has still not extended to a recognition or incorporation of an affective/feeling/emotional discourse in any explicit way.

Drawing from my theoretical and experiential backgrounds as an environmental scientist and as a psychotherapist, I set out to explore the expression of 'self' of those who work in the science, management and remediation of dryland salinity. A key aspect of self is the affective/feeling/emotional dimension and so this area of experience – which is so often neglected – was given particular emphasis in this research.

The aim of exploring the 'emotional landscape' was to gain a better understanding of the boundaries of self of those who work in these areas and to reconceptualise their relationships from a 'self' framework where the emotional dimension

is made explicit and given significance. A qualitative methodology was used, engaging 25 participants from science, management, extension, farming and an indigenous perspective, in a series of 3 open-framework/semi-structured interviews over a period of 18 months. The idea behind the methodology was to allow time for a relationship to develop with the aim of 'deepening the conversation'. It was in the second engagement with each participant that an emphasis on the emotional dimension was introduced by placing a list of the ten basic affects, from the work by Silvan Tomkins on Affect Theory, on the table and inviting participants to speak from an emotional perspective on the issue of dryland salinity and the environment.

This presentation will cover some background theory, research methodology/methods and early analysis of the interview data to do with the affective/feeling/emotional dimension of this project.

Jane Mulcock

Anthropology and Sociology, University of Western Australia

Lesley Head

School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Wollongong

David Trigger

Anthropology and Sociology, University of Western Australia

The language of (wild) flowers: sentiment and sensation in the appreciation of Australian flora

Research suggests that the majority of Australian gardens incorporate a mixture of native and exotic species, or are made up entirely of non-native species. Conservationists, environmental scientists and native plant enthusiasts argue that this cultural preference for exotic species is environmentally unsustainable, encouraging people to plant local indigenous flora in their gardens and in public areas as an ecologically beneficial alternative. Drawing on textual analyses and qualitative data collected in four Australian cities, we explore the ways in which preferences for native or non-native species compete. Both reflect strong commitments to particular types of biophysical environment and both frequently trigger passionate responses in those with opposing views. However, each set of arguments fails to engage directly with the particular emotional drivers that appear to motivate the other (i.e. a primarily moral position on natives vs a position based on the sensory pleasures of exotics). We explore this impasse by considering the relationships between sensory experience, emotional response and personal motivation in order to better understand why the morally based arguments of native plant enthusiasts often fail to convince gardeners who prefer non-native species to change their preferences, or at least their gardening behaviours.

Joanna Fedson

PhD candidate, School of Humanities and School of Social and Cultural Studies, University of Western Australia

'Faith, Hope, and Love': Emotion in Contemporary Christian Fiction

This paper examines the rhetoric of emotion and its relationship to motivation in Evangelical Christian fiction of the contemporary American variety. The ways in which emotion and motivation are integral to Christian fiction is implicit in its other popular name of Inspirational fiction. As inspiring or intentionally motivating texts, Christian fiction novels either seek to convert readers or, more subtly, help a Christian reader maintain his or her faith. Analysis of these narratives suggest that Christian authors and readers understand emotions to be built upon two major factors: an individual's or character's experience and knowledge.

How Christian authors employ emotion as powerful rhetoric for justifying particular views and guiding the cultural narratives of Christian subculture will also be highlighted in examining some of the key texts popular today. Themes of love, fear, and anger will be addressed as well as a survey of the 'emotional states' of characters leading to their conversion or re-commitment to faith. With the Christian Right a visible and powerful public force in the United States, this study will enrich scholarly understanding of not only Christian fiction but also Christian culture in the United States. Thus, examining the role of emotion in Christian fiction as a subtle yet crucial factor for both readers and authors of Christian fiction will provide a productive avenue into the debate into the cultural work of Christian fiction.

Jane Davidson

Jonathan McIntosh

School of Music, University of Western Australia

Passion and Persuasion of Pop Music Performance: Robbie's the One

Emotional expression is a key component of any musical performance, often regarded as the shaping of the work according to musical conventions coupled with individualistic qualities of the performer. In pop music, the performer undertakes multiple tasks in the performance situation, these include: maintaining his or her own status and role as a 'pop star' with his or her own stage persona (e.g., flamboyant, sinister, cool etc); presenting the musical material and the narrative of a song; interacting with co-performers to co-ordinate the performance task; and communicating with and sometimes interacting with the audience both through their star persona and in the character of the song's narrative. It has been argued that these many layers make pop performance particularly complex. Robbie Williams has become one of the most popular solo male singers of the last ten years. He co-writes some of his own material, as well as covering popular classics such as songs performed by Frank Sinatra and has collaborated with soloists and movie celebrities including Kylie Minogue and Nicole Kidman. We have chosen to consider his performance of the chart topper 'She's the one', to investigate how he motivates emotional responses from his audiences through the generation, regulation and adaptation of his star persona, his interpretation of the narrative of the song and the performance context where he draws in the audience to enable them to participate in the complex experience.

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Loretta Baldassar is Associate Professor in the discipline of Anthropology and Sociology, University of Western Australia. Her teaching and research interests are primarily in migration studies and most recently in transnational family relations. Her publications include *Visits Home: Migration Experiences between Italy and Australia* (Melbourne University Press, 2001); *From Paesani to Global Italians: Veneto migrants in Australia* (with Ros Pesman, University of Western Australia Press, 2005); and *Families Caring Across Borders: Migration, Aging and Transnational Caregiving* (with Cora Baldock and Raelene Wilding, Palgrave Macmillan, 2007).

Neville Bruce is Associate Professor in the School of Anatomy and Human Biology at The University of Western Australia, where he has taught and researched for 30 years. He studied Veterinary Science at Sydney University, completed a PhD at Melbourne University, and a post-doctoral fellowship at Oxford University. He has published 83 international peer reviewed papers, edited five volumes of conference papers and supervised 47 PhD, Masters, Graduate Diploma and Honours research candidates, in areas including cell and molecular biology, psycho-endocrinology of stress, and human reproduction. His professional and personal experience has led to his commitment to Integrated Human Studies, which brings together the sciences, social sciences and humanities to focus on the nature and future of humankind, and in which he has recently initiated a programme at UWA.

Sue Byrne is a Clinical Psychologist and an NHMRC Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia, School of Psychology and the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research. She has an M.Psych/PhD (Clinical) from UWA and a D.Phil from the University of Oxford. She returned to Perth in 2002 after five years of postdoctoral research and clinical training at the University of Oxford, Department of Psychiatry. In Oxford, she joined a leading international research team in the field of eating and weight disorders headed by Professor Christopher Fairburn. Her work there involved helping to develop and test new psychological treatments for eating disorders and obesity. Since her return to UWA, Dr Byrne has continued with both research and clinical work in the field of eating and weight disorders with both children and adults.

Jane Davidson is the Callaway-Tunley Chair of Music at the University of Western Australia, and the Chair of Music Performance Studies at the University of Sheffield, UK. With over 100 academic publications and a background in vocal performance, dance and stage production, Jane focuses her research on musical performance and its meaning as well as expression, therapy and the determinants of artistic abilities. Her edited volume *The Music Practitioner* (Ashgate, 2004) explores the uses of research for the practising musician. Current research projects include: the expressive body movements of duettists; the adaptive value of music; the development of 'talent'; the function of music in mental health settings; the music performances of the Temple Street musicians in Hong Kong; the process of music theatre directing, and the staging of Baroque works.

Joanna Fedson is a PhD candidate in History (School of Humanities) and English (School of Social and Cultural Studies) at the University of Western Australia. Her thesis investigates the ways in which popular evangelical Christian fiction, as exemplified by two popular subgenres, Christian romance and apocalyptic thrillers, reflects and creates dominant cultural narratives and views on gender, race, culture, and history. The study posits that analysing the similarities and differences inherent in these two subgenres extends our understanding of American evangelical thought and popular culture. She is interested in the complex ways religion and popular culture interact and negotiate with each other.

Lisa Hartley is a PhD candidate in psychology at Murdoch University. She attended Macquarie University and Murdoch University as an undergraduate, earning a BA in psychology with first class honours in 2005. Her interest focuses on community and social psychology, and she is broadly interested in the relationship between individual, group, and community functioning in Australia. Her PhD research examines the relationship between intergroup contact and prejudice in Australia and she hopes her findings will help communities deal with issues of diversity. After completing her BA, she was contracted to evaluate the effectiveness of anti-racism strategies by Victoria Health, Melbourne (*An Evaluation of Intergroup Contact Anti-Racism Interventions*), and has one paper (co-authored with A. Pedersen) presently under review based on her Honours thesis.

Lesley Head is a Professor in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Wollongong and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities. Her research interests include human-environment interactions, cultural landscapes and Aboriginal land use past and present. She is director of the ARC-funded 'Backyard Project', which examines the cultural understanding and use of Australia's most hybrid ecosystem: the suburban backyard. She is the author of *Cultural Landscapes and Environmental Change* (Arnold, 2000), *Second Nature: The history and implications of Australia as Aboriginal landscape* (Syracuse University Press, 2000) and of a new book on the Backyard Project.

Mary Taylor Huber is a senior scholar at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Stanford (CA), where she has been involved in research since 1985. She has directed projects on cultures of teaching in higher education and integrative learning in undergraduate education, and works closely with the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. She co-authored the report, *Scholarship Assessed: Evaluation of the Professoriate* (1997) and *The Advancement of Learning: Building the Teaching Commons* (2005), and has co-edited and authored two other recent volumes (2002 and 2004) on the scholarship of teaching and learning. Her earlier work includes the authored book, *The Bishops' Progress: A Historical Ethnography of Catholic Missionary Experience on the Sepik Frontier* (1988), based on her anthropological fieldwork in Papua New Guinea.

Jonathan McIntosh is Associate Lecturer in Ethnomusicology in the School of Music, UWA. He holds undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in ethnomusicology, music and social anthropology from the Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK. Specialising in the performing arts of Bali, Indonesia, his doctoral thesis focused upon children's practice and performance of dance, music and song.

Jane Mulcock is a postdoctoral research fellow in Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Western Australia. She has a long-standing research interest in people's perceptions of and interactions with the non-human world, particularly plants and animals. She is currently working on an ARC-funded project entitled 'Nature, Culture and Belonging in Urban Landscapes' with David Trigger. In 2005, she co-convened the inaugural conference of the interdisciplinary Animals and Society Study Group, which has produced a range of publications. She is co-author of *The Salinity Crisis: Landscapes, Communities and Politics* (UWA Press, 2001) and co-editor of *Anthropologists in the Field: cases in participant observation* (Columbia University Press, 2004).

Yasmine Musharbash is a Postdoctoral Fellow in Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Western Australia. Her research is on Indigenous Australia (especially Central Australia and Torres Strait), and her key interests include anthropology of the everyday; anthropology of emotions; personhood, sociality and kinship; residentiality, spatiality and temporality; post/colonialism, tradition and innovation; gender and generational relations; anthropology of place. Her publications on these themes include an article in *The Australian Journal of Anthropology* (2004, 15(1)) and a forthcoming article in *American Anthropologist* entitled 'Boredom, Time, and Modernity' (2007, 109(2)), as well as a book chapter, discussion papers and conference proceedings.

Anne Pedersen is an applied social psychologist at Murdoch University; this area integrates both individual and societal influences on peoples' attitudes and behaviours. She attempts to apply these findings at a practical level (e.g., anti-racism strategies) which she hopes will benefit all members of the Australian community. Her research interests involve prejudice and its repercussions, in particular with respect to asylum seekers and Indigenous Australians. Her key publications include 'Anger and guilt about in-group advantage explain the willingness for political action' (co-authored with C. W. Leach and A. Iver), *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* 32, and 'The role of false beliefs in the community's and the federal government's attitudes toward Australian asylum seekers' (co-authored with S. Watt and S. Hansen), *Australian Journal of Social Issues* 41(1), both in 2006.

Patty Please is a final year PhD candidate at Charles Sturt University, NSW, and is attempting to develop and integrate her understandings of psychodynamic processes and environmental science within her research project. She draws on two decades' experience as a geologist, primarily a hydrogeologist, working for the Australian Federal Government based in Canberra, and on earlier experience doing petroleum exploration geology in the UK. In 1998 she trained and established a practice as a psychotherapist. Her clinical training was led by a group of Sydney-based psychiatrists/psychologists who work with a particular model, known as the Conversational Model, that focuses on the micro-analysis of conversation and the expression of self. Part of her current research is exploring the application of this model to a field-based social science research project.

Zlatko Skrbis is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Social Science at the University of Queensland. His main area of research interest is the intersecting areas of ethnicity, globalisation, nationalism and diaspora politics. He is the author of *Long-distance Nationalism* (1999) and *Constructing Singapore* (with Michael Barr, in print). His recent articles include publications in *Nations and Nationalism*, *Theory, Culture and Society*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, and *Ethnic and Racial Studies* (forthcoming September 2007). He is currently working on a longitudinal project on life pathways, involving 7000 young people in Queensland. He is also completing a manuscript for Palgrave, entitled *Sociology of Cosmopolitanism* (with G. Kendall and I. Woodward).

David Trigger is Professor of Anthropology and Sociology at The University of Western Australia. His research interests encompass the different meanings attributed to land and nature across diverse sectors of society and in different countries. His current work includes projects focused on a comparison of pro-development, environmentalist and Aboriginal perspectives on land and nature, and, with Jane Mulcock, a study of 'nature, culture and belonging' in an urban city environment. He is the author of *Whitefella Comin': Aboriginal responses to colonialism in northern Australia* (Cambridge University Press, 1992) and co-editor of *Disputed Territories: Land, Culture and Identity in Settler Societies* (Hong Kong University Press, 2003).

