

CHASE – Centre for Health through Action on Social Exclusion

Taking Stock, October 2014



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CHASE

CHASE brings together a group of some 30 academic staff, located mainly in the School of Health and Social Development, across both Burwood and Waterfront campuses. We also have a large number of honours and PhD students under our supervision.

The group is multidisciplinary and multiprofessional, including public health, health promotion, health sciences, social work, occupational science and therapy, sociology, anthropology, disability studies, and psychology.

The CHASE vision is working collaboratively with communities, organisations and governments to promote social inclusion and to enhance the health and wellbeing of all, particularly those populations, communities and individuals who experience social exclusion.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHASE symposia:

Wednesday 10 December 2014, 10am – 12.30pm
see page 7 for details

Tuesday 10 February 2015, 10am to 4pm
see page 8 for details

Venue: Melbourne City Centre
Level 3, 550 Burke Street, Melbourne

To register your interest in attending either of these, please email melissa.graham@deakin.edu.au, saying which you are interested in

CHASE RESEARCH

CHASE's purpose is to undertake research and development of the highest quality, including the development of theory, in partnership with communities and organisations; and, to provide evidence-based policy and practice advice to government and industry. Twice a year we produce a report that gives a brief summary of some of CHASE's current activity and our forward directions.

In this issue we provide updates on some of our projects, focusing in particular on the work of some of our honours and masters students.

PROJECT UPDATES

Women's Reproductive Decision-Making Project (WRDM)

Control over one's reproductive life can be considered a means of empowering women and supporting the improvement of their physical and psychological health and wellbeing. However, a tension exists between meeting women's reproductive rights, the highly regulated and politicised context in which reproductive decisions are made and carried out, and the ability of women (and their partners) to make decisions about their reproductive health such as deciding if, when and how many children they have.

In 2014 a team of CHASE members, led by Dr Melissa Graham, located in the School of Health and Social Development received funding to undertake a project exploring *Reproductive choices and consequences: The influence of policy in the lives of women*. This project forms part of a broader program of research being undertaken by Dr Melissa Graham, Associate Professor Julia Shelley, Dr Hayley McKenzie, Dr Fiona Andrews and Ms Greer Lamaro which aims to explore and detail women's reproductive choices, and the consequences of these choices, in contemporary Australian society.

The current research consists of two inter-related projects. The first project aims to explore the lived experiences of how Victorian women encounter policy in regards to their reproductive choices and the consequences of these choices. The second project aims to explore social supports Victorian women draw on in regards to their reproductive decision-making process.

Recruitment for both these inter-related projects commenced in July. To date, a total of 18 women have expressed interest in participating in one or both of the projects; 11 women have been interviewed; and another seven interviews have been scheduled. We are hoping to recruit a total of 55 women across the two projects. It is anticipated data collection will be completed in October 2014.

For further information about these projects, please contact the Women's Reproductive Decision-Making Project Team via email WRDM@deakin.edu.au, phone 0475 510 654 or visit the Facebook site www.facebook.com/WRDMproject.

The nature and extent of social exclusion of Australian childless women in their reproductive years: an exploratory mixed-methods study

Honours student: Beth Turnbull

Supervisors: Dr Melissa Graham and Professor Ann Taket

An increasing percentage of Australian women between the ages of 25 and 44 years have no biological children. Breaking one of the last female taboos, childless women in their reproductive years are at risk of social exclusion, a firmly established social determinant of health. However, there is limited and inconclusive research on the nature and extent of exclusion from, and exclusionary experiences within, the different domains of life of different types of childless women. This exploratory study aimed to describe and explore the social exclusion of Australian childless women aged 25 to 44 years, and asked: (1) what are the nature and extent of social exclusion of childless women; and (2) do the nature and extent of social exclusion vary for different types of childless women?

Childless women are defined as women who self-identify as never having assumed the role or identity of a biological or social mother, for example, of adopted, step or fostered-children. Women experience being childless on a continuum upon which they can shift between being involuntarily childless women who wish to have biological children but are unable to achieve a viable pregnancy; circumstantially childless women who are unable to have children due to circumstances such as financial insecurity, having no partner, or health issues other than those preventing a viable pregnancy; voluntarily childless women who freely choose not to have children; undecided women who are unsure about becoming childless; and future childless women who intend to become biologically or socially childless. This study

was designed to explore the differences and similarities between these different groups of childless women. Social exclusion is defined in this research as multidimensional processes driven by unequal power relationships interacting between the societal, community, relationship and individual levels; and manifesting in a continuum of connection and exclusion, which is characterised by constraints upon the extent and quality of resources and opportunities for participation in the social, civic, service and economic domains of life. Societal-level processes that drive exclusion include dominant ideologies and discourses, which create social boundaries that include 'insiders' who conform to dominant social norms, and stigmatise and exclude deviant 'outsiders' at the community, relationship and individual levels.

A convenience sample of 776 childless female Australian residents aged 25 to 44 years was recruited to complete a self-administered online questionnaire. Quantitative data were collected on types of childlessness; indicators of exclusion in the domains of life; perceived stereotyping, stigmatisation and exclusion due to being childless. Qualitative data were collected on women's experiences in the different domains of life.

The results suggested social exclusion of Australian childless women is driven by societal-level pronatalism. While exclusion occurred in all domains of life (as indeed did experiences of connection), the extent of exclusion varied within and between the domains, and for different types of childless women. Childless women experienced more exclusion, and perceived more exclusion due to being childless, in the social and civic domains than in the service and economic domains. Overall, circumstantially and involuntarily childless women, followed by voluntarily childless women, perceived more exclusion due to being childless than undecided and future childed women.

Beth has now submitted her honours thesis and we are currently preparing a paper on the overall results, as well as planning more detailed analyses of the four different domains.

A good place to raise a family

This project is led by CHASE members Dr Fiona Andrews and Associate Professor Julia Shelley. The project aims to identify factors that affect residential location choices, and the quality of experiences of parents raising children in inner versus outer suburbs of Melbourne. The research is being undertaken in collaboration with two project partners, the City of Wyndham and the City of Maribyrnong.

Since the last newsletter, some of our work has been published in the journal *Health & Place*; one of the top journals in our field of research. Our paper was entitled 'Parents' experiences of raising pre-school aged children in an outer-Melbourne growth corridor'. Two further papers are in preparation.

We have also had two of our students present work from their theses at the 13th Australian Institute for Family Studies conference. Steph Camm, a Master of Public Health student, presented her work entitled; 'Settings for delivering early childhood education and their influence on child and parent outcomes - A review of the international and national evidence'. This research followed a request from one of project partners to help inform their exploration of new ways of delivering early childhood education. Katherine Ware, a Master of Health Promotion student, presented her work entitled; 'Grandparents who provide childcare: Maintaining health and life balance'. Again this project came from observations from one of our local government partnerships where high numbers of grandparents were providing childcare, Both presentations have been submitted for publication and Katherine's has been accepted, subject to minor changes, for publication in the *Victorian Journal of Home Economics*. Katherine's and Steph's posters from the conference are currently displayed in our new building and will hopefully inspire other Masters students to present their thesis work at conferences.

Our honours student Serenity McEwin is progressing well with an evaluation of the Central West Play project to support Maribyrnong's families experiencing vulnerability. This project involves a partnership with the City of Maribyrnong, MacKillop Family Services and Central West Shopping Centre.

'You the Man': a theatre-based program for promotion of bystander engagement and violence prevention

As we increase our efforts in primary prevention of violence against women and children, exploring a range of different programs for use is very important. You the Man' (YTM) is a theatre-based education program for bystander engagement and violence prevention. It is a brief intervention, consisting of a 30-35 minute play about dating violence and sexual assault performed by a single male actor, plus a moderated post-performance panel discussion. The script of the play remains unchanged from performance to performance, but the format of the post-performance discussion is tailored to the local setting, circumstances, and other violence

prevention activities happening locally. Panel members for this discussion are drawn from local support agencies, and the discussion serves to introduce people to the local resources that are available. A comprehensive resource pack is provided to assist the local organiser(s) set up the program for their particular setting, backed up with telephone support where necessary.

The play is very carefully constructed to provide accurate and important information, highlight community services, and have high artistic merit while holding simplified production requirements. The single actor plays six contrasting male characters, none of which are perpetrators, and the play shows the impact of violence and models different forms of supportive bystander response, especially by the family and friends who are closest to people involved in dating violence/domestic abuse. The play uses humour and headlines to honour the complexity and seriousness of the issues involved. It is designed for delivery to mixed or single gender participants.

YTM was originally developed in the United States, and has been in use there since 2002. An Australian version of the program was developed over the period May-November 2013. The core team involved in the work was drawn from the Faculties of Health and Arts and Education at Deakin University, with active participation in the development process by a diverse group of people working in the violence prevention field from across Victoria. The development phase ended with four 'preview' deliveries in November 2013.

Since March 2014 we have been piloting the program through delivering it in a range of different settings (secondary schools, tertiary education institutions, sporting clubs, workplaces and communities). During piloting, the short term impact on awareness and knowledge, attitudes and intended behaviour is being measured; data collection will be completed by end October 2014. Initial analysis of the data collected from the previews and pilots demonstrates that the program is extremely successful in engaging participants in the topic and in their potential positive roles as bystanders.

The pilot program of work with YTM so far has demonstrated that the program provides an excellent tool for engaging people in this important issue. It is also a tool that is different to many others, starting with a theatrical event rather than a lecture or presentation, YTM enables engagement and discourse that is free from some of the stigma and barriers that often discourage engagement on this delicate issue. It is also empowering, providing audience members with a new perspective on the ways they can act in response to the issue. Across the pilot season the program has been delivered to over 1700 people in 28 different local events (9 in secondary

schools, 5 in sports clubs, 6 in universities, 4 in workplaces and 4 in community setting); 14 of these events were in metropolitan Melbourne and 14 in regional or rural locations.



Analysis of results from the first half of the pilot season demonstrate the program's ability to affect participants' appreciation of the seriousness of different types of behaviour in a relationship and their views about their readiness to take appropriate action as a bystander. In addition, an open question in the post survey only asked: "What were a couple of things you learned from the play that seemed really important to remember?" Analysis of the first 140 responses to this question demonstrated that 85% of respondents advanced one or more items that demonstrated knowledge of dating abuse/domestic abuse/sexual assault, possible sources of support for those involved and/or knowledge of ways to offer support to someone experiencing violence and abuse.

Results from analysis of data collected across the entire pilot season will be presented at a CHASE symposium in February 2015.

If you would like to be put on the mailing list for detailed updates on this exciting program of work, please email Professor Ann Taket at ann.taket@deakin.edu.au.

Staff perceptions of barriers and enablers to becoming involved in workplace based initiatives to prevent men's violence against women

Master of Public Health student: Tanya Kilgower

Supervisor: Professor Ann Taket

Violence against women is the leading cause of death, disability and illness in women aged 15-44 in Victoria. It affects workplaces in numerous ways, impacting on staff productivity and presenting a huge cost to workplaces. Most women who are victims of violence are in paid employment,

as are most men who perpetrate violence. VicHealth has recognised workplaces as a key setting for violence prevention work. Paving the Way is a workplace project being implemented in two local councils in Gippsland. The study was undertaken to explore staff perceptions of barriers and enablers to becoming involved in workplace based initiatives to prevent men's violence against women and their children. It also aimed to explore the effects of the word 'men's' before 'violence' in the project title, documentation and promotion.

All employees of the two councils implementing Paving the Way, were invited to participate via email or were given a hard copy invitation pack by a key senior workplace contact. If they wanted to participate employees filled in the consent form and returned it to the supervisor. Male only and female only focus groups were organised in each site with facilitators of the same gender. Individual interviews were used in a couple of cases where the dates of the focus groups were inconvenient. All interviews and focus groups were transcribed and de-identified before being analysed.

Three women's focus groups, two men's focus groups and two individual interviews took place. There was a total of 24 participants, 15 women and 9 men. Participants were from a range of levels within the councils including 9 workers, 8 Coordinators, and 6 Managers or above.

A wide range of barriers and enablers were identified at four different levels (individual, organisational, community, and societal). The use of the term 'men's violence' in the project title, documentation and promotion had enabling effects for some and acted as a barrier to others. The full study results, currently being written up, will have important implications for future practice in the Paving the Way project as well as for violence prevention projects more generally. This study provides an important rural input into violence prevention research.

RECENTLY COMPLETED PHDS

Kerry William Kim Benton: *Emotionality in same-sex attracted men's sexual scripting - Four expatriate men in Burma tell their stories*

Supervisor: Dr Maria Pallotti-Chiarolli

Sexual scripting is understood to refer to the plot that guides a person's sexual expression. Script theory distinguishes three dimensions of a sexual script: cultural scenarios, which provide general socio-cultural regulations and guidelines for

roles in all aspects of sexual behaviour, including the influence of constructs of masculinity and gender; the intrapsychic - the motivational elements that produce arousal; and the interpersonal - the script as the organisation of mutually shared conventions (Gagnon & Simon, 1973). Sexual script theory therefore provides a dramaturgical metaphor to frame sexual expression and behaviour, and to provide meaning and referential elements, which can be analysed and reworked according to new situations and experiences.

The word "emotionality" generally refers to an individual's predominant intensity of emotional reactivity. However, "emotional" is also often used to refer to a general matrix of experience within which behaviour is embedded. This matrix is set in the context of emotional syndromes, constituted from existential beliefs and social rules. Emotional appraisal and expression are also set in a cultural context and as such emotional scripts guide and govern emotional responses.

The thesis illustrates the integral relationship of emotionality to men's sexuality and sexual scripts. The research is grounded in qualitative methods of enquiry, in particular auto-ethnography. Four case studies of men, one of which was the author's own as both participant and researcher, were collected through interactive interviews and then analysed using grounded theory to both describe and interpret the interaction of emotionality with sexual scripting. There are important components of bodily and emotional interactions in these scripts, but these are not merely cultural signals. Rather, these components are learnt, honed, adapted and reinforced by the intrinsic rewards, pleasures, and satisfactions that result from the performance of specific scripts, and the abandoning of other scripts that are no longer relevant or salient. This is accomplished through a reflexive process of engagement with oneself and others within an emotional and sexual environment to produce competent sexual scripts that lead to sexual and emotional satisfaction. Further research is necessary to investigate the interaction and the intersection of sexual scripts and emotional scripts to understand how emotional scripts influence the enactment of sexual scripts, and how interactions of sexuality, identity, desire, gender and emotions are present and influential in the construction and performance of sexual scripts.

Stephen Fisher: *Involving Men to End Violence against Women - A Critical Approach*

Supervisor: Professor Bob Pease

This PhD by portfolio consists of a Handbook for training men from Pacific countries to be advocates for women's

rights and the elimination of violence against women, and an exegesis that theorises the principles underpinning the Handbook and other approaches to engaging men as advocates in gender justice. It is the result of ten years working with the Fiji Women's Crisis Service to develop best practice principles within a pro-feminist framework that is culturally relevant to the Pacific context. The Handbook contains training methods for working as an advocate; gender power, men's violence against women, culture and women's rights. The exegesis uses a critical theory framework to examine the principles and rationale, both explicit and implicit, in the Handbook together with a range of other comparable training curricula and guides.

As the Handbook was written and published prior to any systematic evaluation of the underpinning theoretical terrain and similar curricula, the aim of the exegesis is twofold. First, to employ a content analysis of the Handbook along with several other contemporary training programs to explore the meaning and representation of four key concepts relevant to the area under study: masculinity, power, violence and engaging men. Second, to evaluate these understandings in the light of critical theories of gender and pedagogy. The final part of the exegesis explores the idea of a critical pedagogy for training men that is critical of developmental paradigms and instead introduces an alternative pro-feminist pedagogy that is focused on collective action.

CHASE NEWS

Staff promotions 2014

Our congratulations to Dr Claire Henderson-Wilson on her promotion to Senior Lecturer.

Forthcoming book: *The Embodied Performance of Gender*

Jack Migdalek who was awarded his PhD in 2012 has a book coming out based on his thesis, to be published by Routledge, in their series on Research in Gender and Society.

The book interrogates gender inequitable machinations of education and performance arts disciplines by which educators and arts practitioners train, teach, choreograph, and direct those with whom they work, and theorises ways of broadening personal and social notions of possible, aesthetic, and acceptable embodiment for all persons, regardless of biological sex or sexual orientation. The

author's own struggles as a performance artist, educator, and person in the everyday, as well as the findings of empirical fieldwork with educators, performance arts practitioners, and high school students, are employed to illustrate and advocate the need for self reflexive scrutiny of existing and hidden inequities regarding the embodiment of gender within one's own habitual perspectives, taste, and practices.

Further information is now on Routledge's website.

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9781138809833>

Qualitative methods reading group

Sand. Clay. Sticks. What memories do they raise? What feelings do they evoke? What ideas do they bring about? Well, on Wednesday 5th August, members of the CHASE Qualitative Methods Reading Group found out by rolling up their sleeves and getting their hands dirty to engage in play with tactile materials. It was all for a good reason – to analyse an article on the use of multi-sensory materials in research with young people. Materials guiding the discussion were, of course, sand, clay and twigs. (See Photograph 1: Multi-sensory materials).

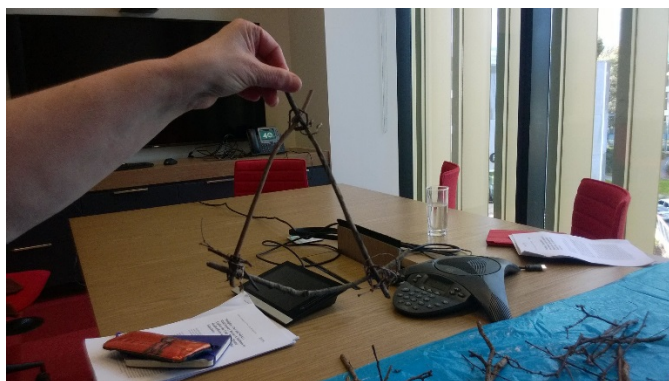


Photograph 1: Multi-sensory materials:

In a study commissioned by the Forestry Commission in the UK, which planned to improve and develop neglected rural and urban woodlands for recreational use, Bingley and Milligan (2007) explored the relationship between the multi-sensory experience of childhood play and the long-term effects of different play spaces on mental health and wellbeing. The study focussed on young people - (4) men and (12) women aged – aged 16-21 years from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds in the rural regions of the Cumbria and North Lancashire Districts. In a spirit of innovation, their research involved a three-phase study: an initial focus group, practical workshops and individual interviews. In part, the aspect of the research of concern to CHASE Reading Group Members was the practical workshops. They featured a day of woodland activities and artwork sessions, which the researchers argued was

appropriate for research with young people as it helped them to overcome self-consciousness and enabled them to explore and articulate memories, feeling and ideas.

At first, by imagining the woodland region, CHASE Members took an opportunity to engage in “free play” with the abovementioned materials: sand, clay and twigs. Not only debating the likeability - and limitations - of using some of the materials, the multi-sensory factors were explored. Suffice to say, all members would probably agree that the materials did elicit a variety of memories, feelings, and ideas, which were - at times - unexpected and surprising. In such a short hour, CHASE Reading Group Members retraced some of their personal childhoods; memories of snow, walking in the forest, childhood play swings, culture experiences and much more. Members agreed that multi-sensory materials could have potential use in research with numerous groups of research participants. Interestingly, it took very little encouragement to get any CHASE Members to engage with the materials. In fact, it was rather exciting to be given “permission” to play - and all present in the room were adults. Here are some of the outcomes of the hour:



In sum, while it is not possible to analyse the entire outcomes of Bingley and Milligan’s practical workshops, as used in their research, CHASE Reading Group members did unearth some surprising discoveries about the capacities of a variety

of sensory materials that supported their multi-method approach to research. Members agreed there is scope to further explore the use of practical methods in research in further participatory workshops at the university, which is the departure point for this article.

Stay tuned for more.

Reference

Bingley, A & Milligan, C (2007) ‘Sandplay, Clay and Sticks’: Multi-Sensory Research Methods to Explore the Long-Term Mental Health Effects of Childhood Play Experience’, *Children’s Geographies*, 5, 283-296.

Note: Photographs have been used with the permission of CHASE Qualitative Methods Reading Group members.

CHASE Symposium - 10 December 2014: The Politics of Recognition and Social Justice: Transforming Subjectivities and New Forms of Resistance

This symposium will examine new forms of resistance to social injustices in contemporary Western societies. How do people make sense of their subjectivity as they are constructed and reconstructed within relations of power? What kind of subjectivities are needed to struggle against forms of dominance?

Drawing upon a recently published co-edited book, the presenters will explore case studies challenging dominance and subordination grounded in class, race, culture, nationality, sexuality, disability, age and other forms of social division. It is a premise of this symposium that new and/or reconstructed forms of subjectivity are required to challenge social relations of subordination and domination. Thus, the transformation of subjectivity, as well as the restructuring of power relations, is necessary to achieve social justice.

Organised and chaired by CHASE members Professor Bob Pease and Dr Maria Pallotti-Chiarolli who are also the book’s editors.

The symposium will run from 10am to 12.30pm, followed by a light lunch. Please register if you’d like to attend by emailing melissa.graham@deakin.edu.au

Venue: Melbourne City Centre

Level 3, 550 Burke Street, Melbourne

CHASE Symposium: 10 February 2015

The provisional programme for this all day symposium is based around two different programs of work carried out within CHASE.

The morning will focus on *You the Man* (see page 3), presenting findings about the short term impact of the program, and offering the opportunity to discuss the future use and development of the program. The afternoon will

focus on the work carried out to identify the needs and priorities of children with disabilities in Vanuatu and PNG, described in our March 2014 report.

Please register if you'd like to receive the full programme as soon as it is available by emailing melissa.graham@deakin.edu.au.

Venue: Melbourne City Centre
Level 3, 550 Burke Street, Melbourne

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