

National Drug Research Institute Student Information Evening 2010



Research Overview and Opportunities

Professor Simon Lenton
NDRI Deputy Director

Overview

- History
- Part of Faculty of Health Sciences and Tier 1
- WHO Collaborating Centre
- Relevance of NDRI to national strategy and beyond
- Key result areas:
 - Conduct high quality research that will contribute to primary prevention of harmful drug use and reduction of drug related harm
 - Disseminate research findings to policy makers, practitioners, public health professionals, other researchers, community interest groups and the public; and contribute to the building of national capacity for research in the prevention of drug related harm
- Links to a range of stakeholders (e.g. Health; Police; Drug consumers; Community)

Activities, outputs and outcomes

- Wide range of opportunities for HDR supervision and for casual work/research careers
- Varied professional background
 - Psychology
 - Public Health
 - Epidemiology
 - Anthropology
 - Medicine
 - Sociology



Engage in range of research and related activities

- Alcohol policy
- Indigenous Australians
- Offender health
- Primary prevention and early intervention
- Social contexts of drug use
- People who continue to use alcohol and other drugs
- Tobacco
- New technologies

Alcohol Policy Research

Examples of current projects

- National Alcohol Indicators Project (NAIP)
- Alcohol outlet density and related harm
- An investigation of the nature, extent and effects of point-of-sale promotions for alcohol beverages
- Australian Alcohol Aetiologic Fractions for Emergency Department Presentations (AAAFED)
- Evaluation of public health and safety impact of Extended Trading Permits for Perth hotels and nightclubs
- Impact of changes to outlet density of public health and safety
- The estimate of the direct and indirect economic costs of alcohol incurred by Local Government
- The range and magnitude of alcohol's harm to others
- Alcohol and other drug use at school leaver celebrations in Western Australia

Alcohol policy research team



Tanya Chikritzhs



Richard Pascal



Wendy Loxley



Paul Catalano



Michaela Evans



Tina Lam
(PhD Scholar)

Prevention, Early Intervention and Inequality

Research Strands

- Impact of early intervention (maternal health, child health and early learning and care) on health and well being (including substance use) among marginalised populations; e.g. evaluations of early learning initiatives in East Kimberley & central Australia
- Child-focused, family-centred, youth-led models of community development; e.g. *Jaru Pirrjirdi* project
- Social inequalities and their impact on health and substance use outcomes e.g. ARC Catalyst
- Mixed-method, participatory approaches to research and evaluation, e.g. NH&MRC Indigenous research training
- Alcohol and pregnancy longitudinal cohort and data linkage studies; e.g. Effect of dose, pattern, and timing of prenatal alcohol exposure and fetal effects; and Effect of a maternal alcohol-related diagnosis on children

Prevention, Early Intervention & Inequality Team



Prof Sherry Siggers



Dr Lynn Roarty



Dr Kate Frances



Dr Colleen O'Leary

- Collaborative research also with Professor Dennis Gray, A/Professor Ted Wilkes, Ms Annalee Stearne, Dr Mandy Wilson & Mr Michael Doyle (Indigenous Australian Research Team)

Community and School Interventions

Examples of Research Strands

- Alcohol Use and Pregnancy
 - Formative intervention research
 - Systematic literature review of interventions to reduce alcohol use during preconception, pregnancy and breastfeeding
 - Surveys with pregnant women who drink – demographics, situation and circumstances – directions for potential intervention
 - Impact of low level alcohol use during pregnancy
- Kalgoorlie Alcohol Action Project
- School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (SHAHRP) - ongoing national and international dissemination
- School Drug Education

Community and School Interventions Team



Dr Nyanda McBride



Dr Rina Cercarelli

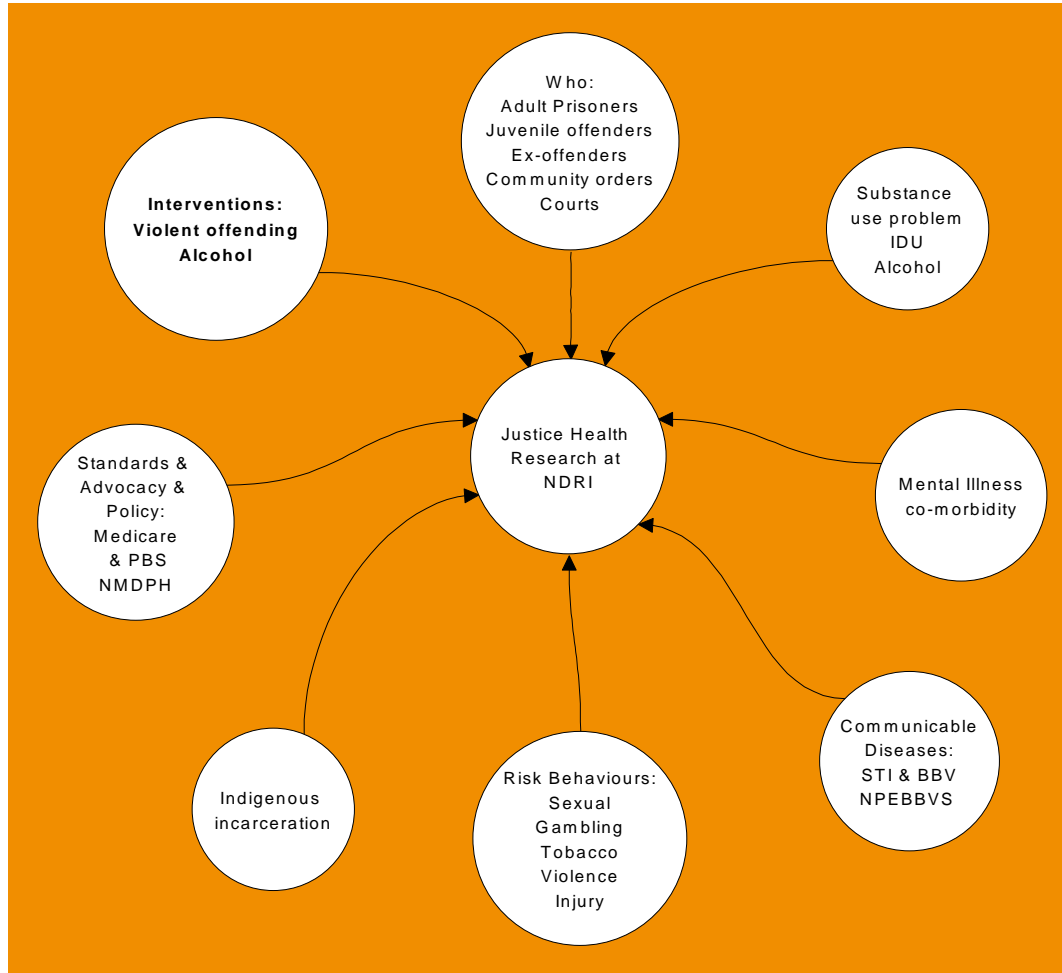


Andreia Schineanu (KAAP)

- Susan Carruthers, Sherry Saggars and Colleen O'Leary also involved in FASD research

Offender Health

Offender Health Research



Offender Health Team



Prof Tony Butler



Dr Susan Carruthers
IDU/ Hepatitis C



Dr Eva Malacova
TBI & offending



Jocelyn Jones
PhD Scholar
(Juvenile offending)



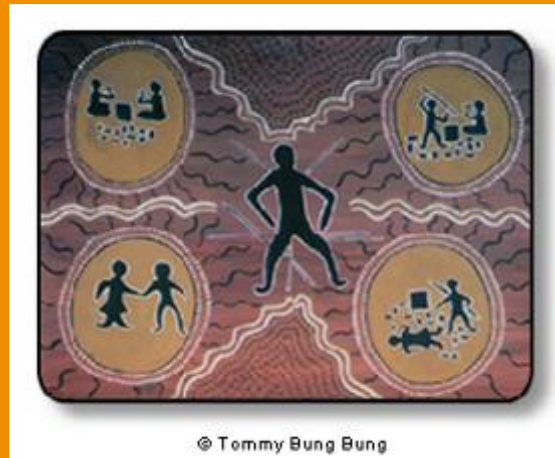
James Fetherston
PhD Scholar
(Hepatitis C)



Michael Doyle
MPH Scholar



Clare Stevens
Research
Associate



Indigenous Australians

Examples of Current Projects

- Identifying Areas of Greatest Need in Indigenous Substance Misuse Intervention
- Enhancing the management of alcohol-related problems among Indigenous Australians
- Evaluation of Central Australian Aboriginal Congress' *Safe and Sober Support Service*
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cannabis Interventions
- Randomised controlled trial of an intensive smoking cessation intervention in Kimberley Aboriginal PHC settings
- Longitudinal study of the impact of alcohol restrictions in Central Australia
- Support of Tangentyere Council Research Hub

Indigenous Australians Research Team



Prof Dennis Gray



A/Prof Ted Wilkes



Dr Julia Butt



Dr Mandy Wilson



Anna Stearne



Ed Garrison

Illicit Drug Use Research

Drugs and Policy

Legislative and Regulatory Approaches

- Legislative options for cannabis
- Research on strategies to respond to drink and drug driving
- Research and advocacy for peer access to naloxone (Narcan)

Illicit Drug monitoring

- IDRS - Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDUs)
- ERDS – Ecstasy and Related Drugs (‘party drugs’)

Other projects and interests

- Drug users and the on-line environment
- Knowledge Transfer – Bridging the research to policy gap



Drugs and policy team



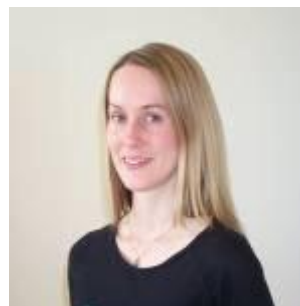
Prof Simon Lenton



Candice Rainsford



Jessica George



Monica Barratt
(PhD Scholar)

Ethnographic Research

Examples of Current Projects

- Understanding and reducing alcohol-related harm among young adults in urban settings: Opportunities for intervention
- Analysing addiction concepts for improved public health outcomes: A Victorian Pilot Study
- Understanding the barriers to improved access, engagement and retention of methamphetamine users in health services
- Under construction: The social and cultural politics of hepatitis C in Australia
- An examination of injection drug use sites in Vancouver: The influence of social and physical context on drug-related harms and public health interventions
- The harms associated with concurrent alcohol and party drug use amongst young people: Risk environments and the implications for prevention
- The ethnography of party drug use and related harms in the Melbourne club/rave scene
- The ethnography of recreational party drug use and related harms in Perth
- Improving understanding of psychostimulant-related harms in Australia: An integrated ethno-epidemiological approach

Ethnographic research team



David Moore



Robyn Dwyer



Suzanne Fraser



Nicola Thomson
(PhD Scholar)



Rachael Green
(PhD Scholar)



Amy Pennay
(PhD Scholar)



Christine Siokou
(PhD Scholar)

PhD project:
Doing drugs in an internet
society

Monica Barratt

PhD Scholar

m.barratt@curtin.edu.au

Reflecting on my time at NDRI

- Started 2002 as research assistant; completed Honours thesis with NDRI co-supervision; since held positions as research officer and fellow in Melbourne
- Excellent mentorship and work experience
- Peer-reviewed publications
- Opportunities to work on national level projects
- Networking opportunities with researchers and AOD professionals locally and across the country
- National and international conference presentations
- Great friendships and collegial relationships
- Excellent administrative and infrastructural support

Future career aspirations:

- To submit thesis end 2010 or start 2011
- Submit academic papers arising from thesis
- Application for competitive funding to continue work from thesis
- Post doctoral fellowship / development of program of research

Doing drugs in an internet society

Monica Barratt, supervised by Simon Lenton & Matthew Allen

Aim: To explore and document the relationship between drug use & related harms and the use of online forums where drugs are discussed

- Description of settings & participants
- Seeking & sharing information
- Assessing accuracy & credibility
- Constructing norms/discourses
- Constructing/negotiating identities
- Accessing real world social scenes

Outcome: To inform how drug use is understood in an era of widespread internet use



Benefits and Challenges

- Completing my thesis in Melbourne while receiving supervision from Perth
- Choosing an exploratory research topic about which little was known (in 2006 in any case!)
- Stretching my quantitative psychology training by doing a mixed-methods project involving online research methods



Honours project: Public attitudes to drug dependence

Tanzi Collinge
Bachelor of Psychology
Curtin University

Public attitudes to drug dependence

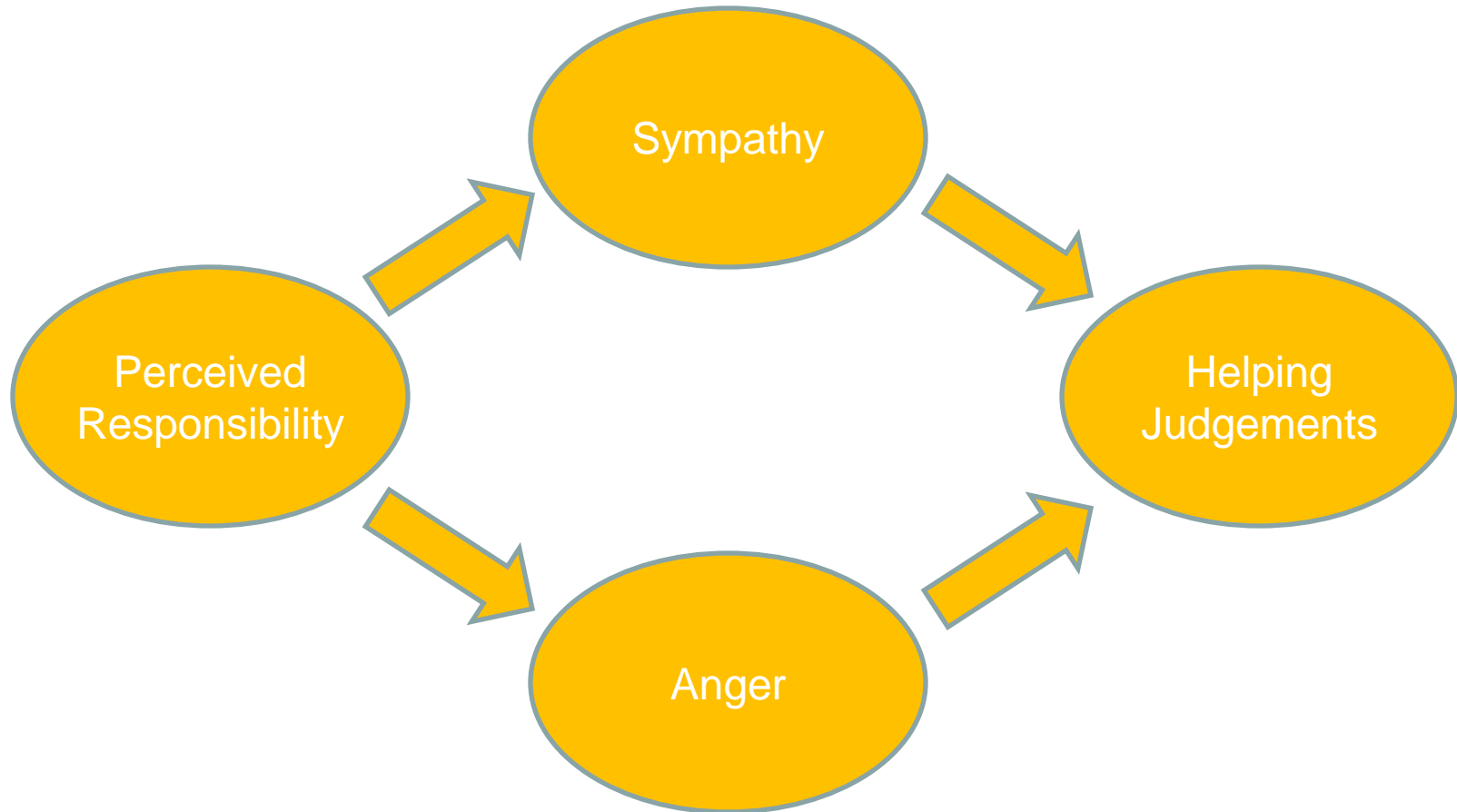
Research questions

- Parental status of drug user
- Legal status of drug
- Predicting attitudes towards helping

My study

- Online questionnaire
- Quantitative + qualitative component
- MRA for comparisons, and SEM for model testing

My results



My experience studying with NDRI

- Real-world research project
- Co-supervision from an expert in the field
- Research grant
- Networking opportunities with researchers and AOD professionals
- The potential for publication and national conference presentation

Career aspirations

- Registration as a psychologist
- Working with children in the AOD field

Research Bursaries:

TWO RESEARCH BURSARIES in 2011

CLOSING DATE: 31 January 2011

VALUE - up to \$2500

For any bona fide research expenses

e.g. recruitment, data coding, conference registration & travel

Expectation – refereed journal submission

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- 1. Good undergraduate grades**
- 2. Capacity to undertake a successful project.**
- 3. Enrolment in honours or masters program at a WA university**
- 4. A supervisor in enrolling department who is willing to supervise a drug-related project with a co-supervisor from NDRI**
- 5. Availability of a potential co-supervisor at NDRI**

Desirable

- 1. Previous study / experience in the alcohol and other drugs area.**

Scholarship opportunities, and other Postgraduate info

Susan Carruthers

For further information on
scholarships, bursaries and research:

CD

Please take an information CD with you

NDRI

ndri.curtin.edu.au/students

Curtin

curtin.edu.au/research/futurestudents/

To stay informed:
ndri.curtin.edu.au
or sign up to our email list