

INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SECURITY
AND SOCIAL CHANGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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ABOUT US

Our Aim

The Institute aims to better understand, support and share the practice of activists, practitioners, citizens and collective action processes in promoting human security and progressive social change.

We distil these insights to share amongst, support and challenge change agents to develop effective practice; to inform teaching and professional development to equip the next generation of activists and practitioners; and to help shape theory, policy, and organisational and governance systems.

Our work is collaborative: we broker collaborations between researchers, practitioners and other actors and to engage teams to conduct applied research, consultancy, professional development and training, and public policy debate.

Our Values and Interests

Our values and interests define the work we do.

We work to better understand and respond to **complexity**.

We recognise the **power and political dimensions** of social change.

We seek to promote **norms** of gender equality, participation and inclusive development.

We aim to strengthen the capacity of **citizens and civil society** to hold states and private sector actors to account and 'change the rules of the game'.

We are interested in the role of **collective action** (alliances, coalitions and social movements) and how it can be best supported, including exploring what **institutional forms and arrangements** can underpin collective action at multiple levels.

Our geographical focus is **Australia, the Pacific and Asia**.

Our Focus Areas

The Institute's research, consultancy, training and teaching activities focus on:

- Understanding, promoting and sharing innovative, effective, inclusive and participatory development practice.
- Analysing and testing how to value different forms of knowledge and evidence that enable and support effective development practice.
- Understanding and supporting the role of collective action and leadership in advancing social change, particularly in the Pacific, Indigenous Australia, and women's leadership.
- Exploring the organisational, institutional and policy arrangements that enable collective action and effective development practice.
- Facilitating the role of alliances, coalitions and social movements in promoting progressive social change.

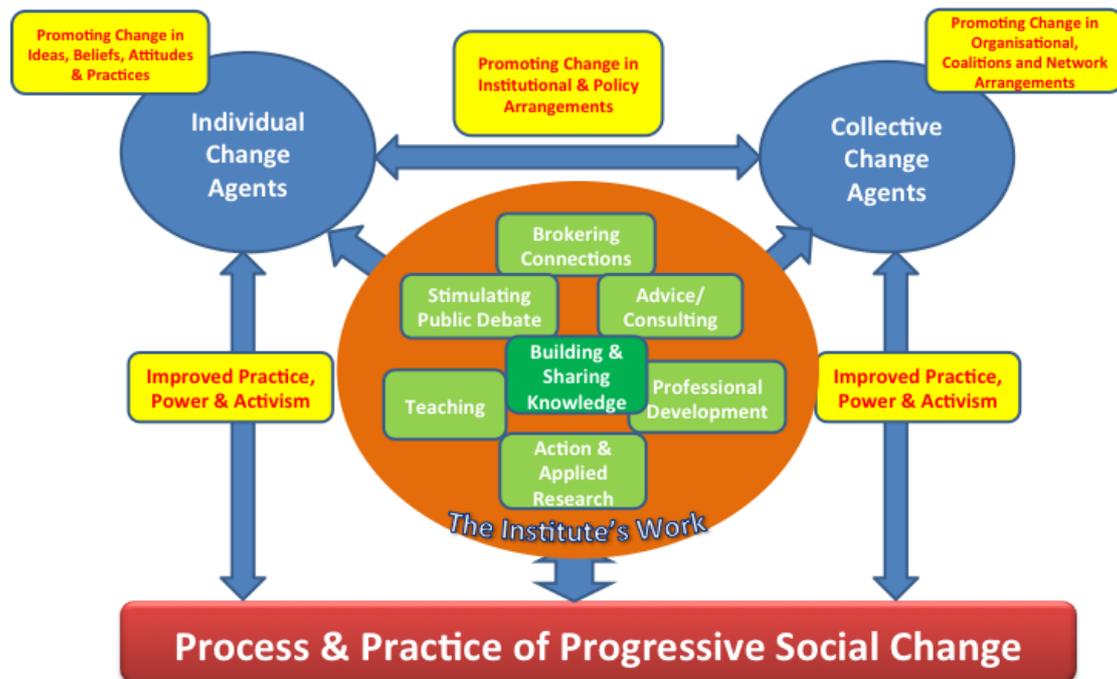
Our Framework

The increasing complexity of our world and perennial social problems demand responses founded on multi-disciplinary thinking, multiple perspectives, as well as local and transnational collective action.

Activists, practitioners and citizens on the 'front-line' provide us with important knowledge and wisdom about how complexity, uncertainty, and political reality are navigated, and how social change practice is played in different contexts.

The Institute sees itself as a vehicle for positive social change. We seek to play a role in exploring the complexity of these processes and supporting the work of social change agents, individuals and collectives. We recognise social change requires transforming structures of power and institutions (visible and invisible; formal and informal). Our framework shows the interplay between our work, and the change we aspire to promote with our collaborators.

Our Theory of Change



FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am excited to present my first report as Director of the Institute and Chair in International Development at La Trobe University.

Firstly, I wish to thank Emeritus Dennis Altman. Professor Altman established the Institute for Human Security in 2009, and served as its Director till December 2012. He has been instrumental in shaping La Trobe University's leadership on human security and remains a key supporter of our work.

Joining the Institute, I bring my ambitions to continue La Trobe University's "enthusiasm to make a difference", in particular, supporting and promoting positive social change.

There is a growing demand from governmental, non-governmental and private sector organisations for greater collaboration with universities and research institutes in order to better understand their practice and impact, undertake applied research on critical questions they need to address and provide professional development opportunities for their staff.

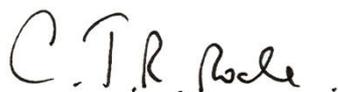
This has led to the development of La Trobe University's Institute for Human Security and Social Change, in essence a 'one stop shop' for La Trobe University's engagement with the international development sector, as well as a hub for the University's research and teaching in this area. In particular, the Institute is to become a key node to share innovations, pilot and evaluate experimental initiatives, and to demonstrate effectiveness of different approaches across the development sector in the region. This should also provide a mechanism for more effective linkages with other centers and institutes working on particular geographical areas, as well as different disciplines.

A variety of La Trobe University staff are currently engaged in applied research and consultancy related to international development and social change in our region and within Australia. Members of the Institute have undertaken a range of projects with the sector over the years. It is clear that there is the potential to build on this, particularly in the area of applied research and consulting. The projects profiled later in this report clearly demonstrate the potential of collaboration, and the establishment of fully-fledged research partnerships.

Of note, the Institute has secured internal funding from the University of \$100,000 per annum for four years for the Human Security and Social Change Disciplinary Research Program. There has been strong interest and support from academics across disciplines wishing to participate and formulate priorities for the program. The first funding grant round will be launched in 2014.

This research and teaching practice of the Institute provides a strong foundation and potential focus for La Trobe University to position itself in contemporary debates on the future of development and the post 2015 Millennium Development Goal agenda, providing a critical but applied approach.

I am confident that these foundation building steps this year ensure that the Institute will make a positive contribution to La Trobe University's goal of "excellence and innovation in relation to the big issues of our time".



Director
Associate Professor Chris Roche

OUR OPERATIONS

The Institute is a not-for-profit, collaborative and university-wide initiative, centred in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in La Trobe University.

We work as a broker of relationships between academics in the university and development and social change practitioners to undertake a range of assignments across applied research, professional consulting services, professional development and training, and public policy engagement. This approach links the academy with the practice to inform a research agenda and make teaching more relevant and meaningful for students aspiring to work in the sector. The approach serves the interests of potential clients and donors by bringing together multi-disciplinary teams combining practical and theoretical perspectives.

Through 2013 the proof of concept was demonstrated through the completion of consulting, research and training activities which were funded and supported by external clients and donors (see following section for summary of major projects). This demonstrated the financial and operational viability of the approach, and has subsequently guided the development of the Institute. In 2014 the operational and functional arrangements to facilitate this approach will be put into place.

Key features of the operational agenda of the Institute for 2013 and 2014 are:

Forming partnerships, relationships and networks

The Institute is starting to form long-term partnerships with external organisations that have indicated strong interest in ongoing engagement with the Institute. Notable partnerships in the making include the Pacific Leadership Program, the Central Lands Council, and the Australian Council for International Development. These partnerships seek to combine resources and share practice and ideas to improve development practice.

The Institute is also looking to build external networks with individual practitioners and managers. Practitioners and policy makers across Australia, the Pacific and internationally have been consulted in the renewing the Institute's strategy, priorities and research agenda. The Institute has and will continue the process of engaging these networks in peer review and feedback on the work of the Institute and the preparation of submissions and public policy messages.

Resourcing and financing

The Institute's funding base comprises of a mix of La Trobe University operational and research funding, external research and grant funding, and consulting income. Surplus funds from research grant and consulting income in 2013 is being used to invest in building the operational and staffing core in 2014. Significant new grants from the Australian government initiated and negotiated this year will come to fruition in 2014 to also support the core staffing and operational base for the Institute.

Advisory Board and Executive Committee

The governance of the Institute comprises of an Advisory Board and Executive Committee with nominated La Trobe University delegates and external independent members. In 2013, the Advisory Board did not meet while the Institute was reconstituted. The Advisory Board is being re-established to start meeting in 2014. An interim Advisory Board will include: Professor Nick Bisley, Professor Gary Dowsett, Professor Jane Farmer, and Dr Eve Merton as La Trobe University appointments; Mr Mark Clisby (formerly Director of Research Services at La Trobe University); Mr Jeremy Hobbs (formerly Executive Director for Oxfam International Secretariat); and the Institute Director, Associate Professor Chris Roche. In addition, an interim Executive Committee has been formed to provide oversight of the Disciplinary Research Program. This committee comprises of Dr Daniel Bray, Dr Gillian Fletcher, Dr Celia McMichael, Dr Michael O'Keefe, Dr Brooke Wilmsen, and Associate Professor Chris Roche.

Building up the team

In 2013, senior academic staff from the Faculty of Social Science and Politics (in particular Dr Michael O'Keefe) was made available for major research projects funded by donors on a cost-recovery basis, leading the way for replication of this model. In 2014, the Institute seeks to bring on board senior academic research fellows to take lead on funded research projects and to initiate new research opportunities. In the later half of 2014, the Institute will employ a Partnership and Program Managers with practice, research and management capability to bring together research and project teams that meet client and donor needs. A number of part time and casual research assistants, project coordinators and interns will continue to support the work of the Institute on an assignment-by-assignment basis.

The 'core team' will be fully funded from grant and contract income, with a broader group of La Trobe University staff whose time is 'paid out' on a cost recovery basis. Over time, the Institute hopes to work with a growing number of academic staff who are implementing various activities, supported by the small core team of research fellows and professional staff.

Administrative support and systems

The Institute is supported La Trobe University staff in the Research Services team in the office of the Faculty of Social Sciences who coordinate administrative, finance, contract, legal, media and IT support. The Institute is reviewing the need for dedicated administrative support within the Institute for this coordination function in 2014.

The online presence of the Institute is key to ensuring the Institute's visibility, to support policy outreach and communications, and to facilitate collaborative activities. The basic website material available through the La Trobe University site is being updated and a revamped website will be developed to meet the future needs of the Institute.



OUR CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIAL CHANGE

INSIGHTS

We profile four of our significant projects below. In doing so, we hope to illustrate our ethos and approach to research that ensures insights can contribute to current topical debates and be translated into social change.

Common across the projects is the importance of working with practitioners to understand their goals, their problems and issues, and their solutions. While particular to the context, the ways practitioners conceptualise their problem, the change they desire and the innovation and strategies they employ to advance their causes are important contributions to helping us and others understand and address problems at large.

Partnerships for Effective Development

Project: Partnership for Effective Development
Team Members: Chris Roche, Fiona Deppeler
Collaborators: Linda Kelly (Praxis Consulting), Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)
Funding: ACFID

The rapidly changing context within which Australian NGOs (ANGOs) are working has a number of implications for how they approach partnership. These include taking into account shifts in the geography and nature of poverty and inequality, the increasing number of players on the development scene, and the challenge of navigating the political realities of calls for greater accountability. Over the last 10 years of ANGO work, a far greater range of relationships has begun to emerge.

Process

Research was undertaken with ANGOs about the current and emerging practices through the following activities:

- telephone interviews with nine ANGOs and a number of their overseas partners, representing a mix of small and large agencies;
- analysis of material submitted by ANGOs related to partnership management
- two workshops with 22 ANGOs in Melbourne (30 July) and Sydney (1 August), and
- a literature review of international NGOs and academic material on partnership and associated areas was undertaken and utilised as a basis for analysis and testing of the practice based research findings.

A final report¹ and master class was delivered at ACFID Council.

Key findings

The research identified that many NGOs are finding the tools they currently have for managing and implementing partnerships – often based on bilateral relationships and funding – are no longer ‘fit for purpose’. In particular there appears to be a particular challenge around the development of individual and organisational skills to support managing effective partnerships and address asymmetries of power. ANGOs are not standing still. They are evolving towards an uncertain future in a variety of ways based on their own circumstances, the changing context and institutional pressures and demands.

The report recommends that the next step for ANGOs in this area is to collaborate in undertaking longitudinal research in order to understand their added value in the partnerships they have. We suggest that there are a number of innovations in monitoring and evaluation and tried and trusted processes of action research that might be particularly useful for ANGOs to explore which might assist in this endeavour.

¹ <http://www.acfid.asn.au/resources-publications/files/partnerships-for-effective-development>

Pacific Leadership Program

Project: Action-Research, and Monitoring & Evaluation support for the Pacific Leadership Program

Team Members: Chris Roche, Michael O'Keefe

Funding: Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The Pacific Leadership Program (PLP) is a regional program of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) that supports influential Pacific leaders to shape and lead developmental change. The PLP recognises the pivotal role that leadership plays at all levels in a nation's path to development, and the importance of collective efforts to bring about inclusive and durable change for the public good.

The program identifies influential individuals, organisations and coalitions in the Pacific and supports them in their exercise of 'developmental leadership' – that is, leadership involving collective action towards legitimate policies and effective institutions. The PLP also invests in sharing lessons and building knowledge of Pacific developmental leadership.

Since 2008, the PLP has supported developmental leadership efforts regionally, nationally and sub-nationally in Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

In 2013, Institute staff provided support to the PLP in developing its monitoring, evaluation and research, with trips to Fiji and Vanuatu. This has evolved into an umbrella agreement between La Trobe University and the program to provide on-going research, and monitoring and evaluation support.

This support has enabled the PLP to develop more robust and innovative systems for assessing and communicating their effectiveness. It has also raised some important issues for further consideration and research notably:

- How do external agencies support developmental leadership which goes with the cultural and political grain of Pacific societies, and avoids encouraging institutional and organisation forms that may represent 'best practice' elsewhere but are not a 'good fit' in the Pacific?
- What alternative organisational forms and configurations are appropriate in the Pacific which allow agencies to meet financial, governance and fiduciary responsibilities, and also support the exercise of developmental leadership by organisations and their coalitions on key national development issues?
- How is support provided by programs like the PLP do conducted in ways that do not undermine the informal networks and relationships that seem to drive much developmental change in the Pacific?
- What kinds of monitoring, evaluation, and research activities would provide effective feedback to all parties so that they can improve their practice? The non-linear processes that are supported by the PLP demand more innovative and creative mixed method approaches.

Answering these questions has critical value for both theory and practice in the field of international development, human security and social change.

Community Development and Governance in Indigenous Australia

Project: Evaluation of Central Land Council's Community Development and Governance Programs

Team Members: Chris Roche

Collaborators: James Ensor of the People and Planet Group, Petronella Vaarzon-Morel, Miles Holmes, and Jane Walker

Funding: Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)

This evaluation was conducted in the second half of 2013. The overall purpose of the evaluation was to assist the Central Land Council (CLC) to 'explore and improve its development work in order to maximise the benefits for Aboriginal people' with a particular focus on its community development and governance programs. The evaluation was focused on assessing the contribution of these programs to the achievement of positive social, cultural and economic outcomes, and to increasing the capacity of people and groups within the communities supported by the CLC.

The Institute was identified by the CLC as the most appropriate partner to undertake this independent evaluation due to its ability to bring together a multi-disciplinary team with the diverse skills and experiences required for this exercise, and its experience on community led evaluation and research, particularly in the area of community development and governance, including in Indigenous Australia.

Process

The evaluation used a mixed method approach with a particular emphasis on eliciting the views of Aboriginal people, as well as service providers working with these communities. This involved:

- 126 interviews conducted in three different communities: Imanpa, Willowra and Lajamanu;
- Participant observation of certain Community Development Unit (CDU) sub-projects, of the Governance Project activities and processes, and of a full CLC Council meeting;
- A Feedback session with Kurdiji group in Lajamanu, a workshop with CLC CDU staff and a session with the full CLC Council;
- Secondary data analysis of relevant data, project documents, reports, and relevant policy documents and academic literature; and
- Social Network Analysis of data collected in Lajamanu on the membership of the various committee and governance structures.

Presentation of findings was delivered to the La Trobe University Health Communities workshop on Indigenous research on 24 October, and to the CLC Council on 13 November. A final report and policy brief will be completed in April and June 2014 respectively.

Key findings

The CLC has made significant financial and human resource commitments in the establishment of its Community Development Unit (CDU) over the last eight years. This indicates a growing commitment from Aboriginal people to choose to spend their money in a collective manner.

The establishment of the Community Development Program and Governance Project occurred during a period of rapid policy change affecting the lives of Traditional Owners and residents of the communities in which the CDU and Governance project have operated over the last eight years. Many of these broader policy changes – such as those associated with the Northern Territory Intervention and the Northern Territory 'Growth Towns' model, have generated considerable challenges and complexity for these CLC programs.

Despite this, projects supported by CLC have clearly produced outcomes valued by Aboriginal people. These have included: the generation of employment opportunities, enhanced training and education outcomes, skills development, improved child care, youth

engagement, cultural strengthening and maintenance; and enhanced health and overall well-being for kidney patients.

The Community Development Program and Governance Project have also played a critical role in empowering Traditional Owners and community residents across central Australia within a context of broader disempowerment. The fact that the CDU is located within a statutory agency that is governed by Aboriginal people provides the unit with an important degree of legitimacy and authority, which it uses to good effect.

These CLC programs are providing multiple forums and processes through which a critical mass of Aboriginal people across central Australia are able to analyse, identify and address their self-determined needs and priorities. These programs occur in a context where a range of other forums serving similar purposes have been disbanded over the last decade.

The majority of interviewees take great pride in the fact that Aboriginal people are using their own money to address their own priority needs in a manner that maximises their control. There is clear evidence of good development practice by the CLC.

The report makes a number of recommendations to CLC including: improving subcontracting processes; promoting a better understanding of Aboriginal ways of working, community histories and local context and culture amongst non-Aboriginal staff working as service providers at a community level; making more of the information, data and experience it has amassed to influence the practice of others.

Behaviour Change and Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Project: Understanding behaviour change in WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) projects in Nepal

Team Members: Celia McMichael, Priscilla Robinson, George Liu

Collaborators: Australian Red Cross, Nepal Red Cross

Funding: La Trobe University (Building Health Communities Research Funding Area); Australian Red Cross (through Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Civil Society, Water Sanitation and Hygiene Fund)

This collaborative research project aims to better understand the motivators and challenges for sustained hygiene behavior change in Nepal. The project is supported through a partnership between our research team and the Australian Red Cross (A-RC) and Nepal Red Cross (N-RC). This one-year research project aims to:

- identify key lessons from previously conducted A-RC/N-RC WASH programs in Nepal (see box below)
- support the development of the baseline survey and project evaluation strategies for the new A-RC project
- complete a background review around motivators and challenges for WASH-related behavior change, with particular focus on Asia and Nepal, and
- conduct preliminary fieldwork around the social, cultural and environmental factors affecting WASH and sustained behaviour change in Bahjang district.
- This pilot research project will build evidence for effective and sustained behaviour change in WASH interventions (in Nepal), and provide the basis for subsequent longitudinal research. The project will be conducted in close collaboration with Nepal and A-RC staff.

Key project outcomes will include:

- a literature review
- short research report
- seminar for partners/key stakeholders
- a peer-reviewed paper, and
- the development of an established partnership upon which to base applications for longer-term research funding that can extend the project.

Australian Red Cross WASH program in Nepal

Australian Red Cross has secured DFAT-funding for a 4-year water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) project in Nepal, in Bajhang district in the Far West Region (as well as in Bangladesh and Lesotho). Bajhang district has a moderate-average access to water (76%) and very poor sanitation coverage (16%), with a very high level of diarrheal disease and death, particularly in children. The A-RC project aims to improve health, gender and social inclusion outcomes through:

- declaring 'open (air) defecation free' areas
- improved general sanitation and hygiene in households
- access to safe drinking water as well as adequate water for household use
- inclusion of people with disabilities and socially marginalised people in WASH decision-making,
- inclusion of women in training and participation, and
- universal access to toilets in schools.

A central concern is how to initiate and sustain hygiene behavior change over time.

Globally, most WASH programs use participatory methodologies and health messaging to promote hygiene behavior change. The A-RC uses the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) Behaviour Change Framework to guide its WASH work, which emphasises hand-cleaning with soap/ash, maintaining good water quality, food hygiene, use of latrines, and personal hygiene. However, there is an identified need for increased understanding of the ways in which local environmental, social and cultural contexts motivate or hinder sustained behavior change. For example, Nepal's high vulnerability to climate change – particularly drought – will require communities to adapt and make informed decisions on sanitation technology (e.g. increased acceptance of pit latrines rather than pour-flush toilets).

We are in the early stages of the project, currently working on the background literature review and development of the research methods (anthropological and epidemiological), with a view to conducting preliminary fieldwork later this year. In April, we presented a paper on Hygiene Behaviour Change at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Asia Pacific Zone WatSan Coordination Meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

Other Projects

The Institute also engaged in projects focusing on democracy and the role of women in shaping development:

- Providing research support and input to an impact assessment of the Centre for Democratic Institutions.
- Supporting the successful bid for funding for a small research project with Petrus Usmanij, Robert Nyamori and Ken McPhail in La Trobe University's Faculty of Business, Economics and Law looking at development democracy and accounting in Indonesia.
- Providing research and support to AusAID's Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development² program design phase. This ten-year (2012 - 2022) \$320 million initiative aims to help improve the political, economic and social opportunities of Pacific women. Specifically, aims to increase and provide:
 - women's participation in leadership and decision making roles
 - economic opportunities for women through improved access to financial services and markets, and
 - safety for women through better services for survivors of violence, access to justice and preventing violence.

² <http://aid.dfat.gov.au/countries/pacific/rp/Pages/initiative-pacific-women-shaping-pacific-development.aspx>

ENGAGING CHANGE AGENTS

We engage in public dialogue through sponsoring, organising and facilitating events. We profile events relating to two major topical issues for 2013, the politics of evidence, and the future of development. This is against the context of the Federal election where there was uncertainty, confusion, and anxiety about the Liberal Party's policy to cut aid and freeze spending, as well as the merger of AusAID with DFAT. In addition, the "value for money" and "aid effectiveness" continues to take prominence in Australian and international discourse about development and poverty reduction efforts.

Debating the Politics of Evidence

Big Push Forward

The Institute co-sponsored and co-organised the *Politics of Evidence Conference* conference with Institute of Development Studies in Brighton, United Kingdom, on 23 and 24 April 2013.



This conference provided an opportunity for one hundred participants (including those working on the ground, in head offices, in consultancies and research institutes) to share and "strategize for people working on transformative development, and who are trying to reconcile their understanding of messy, unpredictable and risky pathways of societal transformation with bureaucracy driven protocols". The participants saw "the wisdom in some aspects while actively questioning its less useful, sometimes damaging consequences."³ The conveners⁴ and Chris Roche published the final report, *The Politics of Evidence Conference Report*.⁵

"Participants shared strategies for reducing the perverse effects of evidence artefacts and for enhancing their use for more transformative effect. Recognising one's own power to make a difference, through either resistance or creative compliance, was considered a critical first step. Secondly, to understand the contexts that generate the promotion and use of evidence artefacts helps influence their effective use and critical reflection."

Irene Guijt¹

A follow up meeting was arranged in Melbourne. This was co-sponsored, co-organised and facilitated by the Institute with Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS) and Australian Council for International Development (ACFID).

Online materials such as blog posts⁶, case study⁷, background papers and live video streams were also made available on the *Big Push Forward* blog.⁸ Notably, Chris Roche participated in an online debate on evidence and results, co-authoring two blog posts⁹ with Rosalind Eyben, one of which remains in the top ten list of most read posts on Duncan Green's popular From Poverty to Power blog¹⁰.

³ Eyben et al, 2013, *The Politics of Evidence Conference Report - April 23-24, 2013*, September 2013, page iv, <http://bigpushforward.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/BPF-PoE-conference-report.pdf>.

⁴ Rosalind Eyben, Irene Guijt, Cathy Shutt and Brendan Whitty.

⁵ See n 3.

⁶ Three posts by Chris Roche: "Epistemology: the elephant in the room?", 25 February 2013; "Mixed Methods to the Rescue? Or Playing the Game to Change the Rules...", 4 April 2013; "Collapsing Hierarchy to Improve Dialogues on Results", 25 June 2014.

⁷ Chris Roche, 2013, "Organisational case study of an international NGO (INGO), unpublished memo prepared for The Politics of Evidence Conference.

⁸ Push Forward Blog, <http://bigpushforward.net>.

⁹ Posts: "The political implications of evidence-based approaches (aka start of this week's wonkwar on the results agenda)", undated; and "Evidence and results wonkwar final salvo (for now): Eyben and Roche respond to Whitty and Dercon + your chance to vote", 24 January 2013.

¹⁰ <http://oxfamblogs.org/fp2p/>

Designing Development Futures



The Institute was one of the co-sponsors of the ACFID Annual Conference 2013 *Development Futures: Alternative Pathways to End Poverty*¹¹, 21-22 November, in Sydney, with the ACFID University Network¹². Chris Roche was on the steering committee for the conference. Over 250 participants took part in discussion and debate on a collective response to the increasing need for innovation, foresight and new approaches to end poverty. Papers from the Conference will be published in the Development Bulletin.

Chris Roche and Andrew Hewett (ex CEO of Oxfam Australia) presented a paper at this conference titled '*The End of the Golden Age of NGOs?*'. This paper looked at some of the challenges and opportunities facing International NGOs (INGOs) and proffered some ways forward for INGOs to remain strategically relevant to effect transformational development.¹³

The Institute also co-sponsored a Melbourne based practitioners event, *What Future for the Melbourne-based International Development Practitioner?* on 3 December 2013 with WhyDev¹⁴. Chris Roche was a key speaker. The event engaged about 60 participants in a conversation about the future of their work and role as development practitioners in Melbourne. The event was positively received and whetted the appetite amongst practitioners for similar discussions in the future.¹⁵

In December, Chris Roche authored a submission to the Association of Commonwealth Universities international campaign to raise awareness of how higher education can and should respond to global challenges beyond 2015¹⁶. The submission "Effective partnerships between NGOs, civil society organisations and universities"¹⁷ became the most popular in term of readership of the site.¹⁸ The submission put forward a number of reasons why universities might want to establish partnerships with those in the development and not-for-profit sector, and articulated what those partnerships might look like in practice.

Other Events

Other notable public dialogue events that the Institute hosted include:

- A research workshop, *Responding to international polarisation over recognising sexual rights as human rights*, on 7 May 2013 at La Trobe University's Bundoora campus. A publication is forthcoming.
- A pre-election aid debate on 8 July in Melbourne. The debate was chaired by Professor Dennis Altman, with Kelvin Thompson, Kelly O'Dwyer, & Richard di Natali.¹⁹
- A presentation, *An Evening with Duncan Green to discuss the role of active citizenship in fighting poverty and inequality*, on 10 September 2013 at the State Library Victoria. This event was organised in collaboration with Oxfam Australia.²⁰ Chris Roche was agent provocateur for the evening.

¹¹ Conference details available at <http://www.development-futures.com/index.html>

¹² <http://www.acfid.asn.au/get-involved/acfid-university-network>

¹³ See "The end of the Golden Age of NGOs?", 22 November 2013, <http://devpolicy.org/the-end-of-the-golden-age-of-ngos-20131122/>; and "The end of the Golden Age of NGOs? Part 2", 25 November 2013, <http://devpolicy.org/the-end-of-the-golden-age-of-ngos-part-2-20131125/>.

¹⁴ <http://www.whydev.org/about-us/>

¹⁵ Rebecca Spratt and Katherine Gilbert, "The future for the Melbourne-based development practitioner", 27 November 2013, <http://www.whydev.org/the-future-for-the-melbourne-based-development-practitioner/>

¹⁶ <https://beyond2015.acu.ac.uk/about/>

¹⁷ <https://beyond2015.acu.ac.uk/submissions/view?id=47>

¹⁸ Infographic showing a snapshot of impact and result of the campaign at 6 months: <https://beyond2015.acu.ac.uk/files/6-months-infographic>

¹⁹ <http://www.vic.gov.au/event/2013/08/why-should-australia-give-foreign-aid.html>

²⁰ <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/oxfam-presents-an-evening-with-duncan-green-tickets-7841428925>

TEACHING

Master of International Development, La Trobe University, Bundoora campus

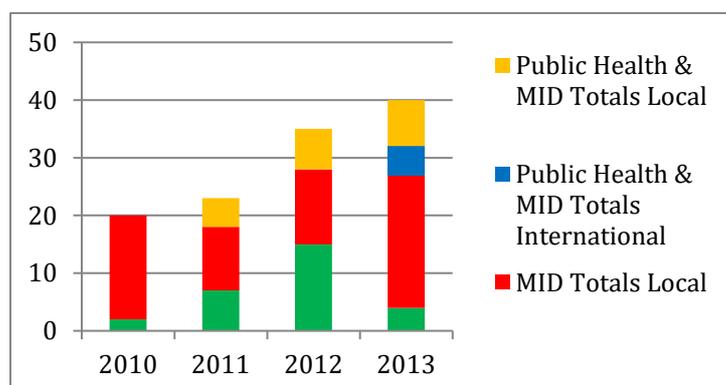
Chris Roche coordinated the Master of International Development in 2013.

The course is designed with the intent of provoking students to “critically reflective about development and by conversation, logic, analysis, practice and research, think through some of the key contemporary issues that our planet faces.”²¹ The course challenges the students to be thoughtful and reflexive practitioners, to ask the hard questions and to take risks in proposing alternative pathways, to resist inappropriate bureaucratisation and standardisation.

The course is thus in effect, in line with our social change framework, “a small way to be part of the movement for a more progressive and engaged development practice that values genuine participation, local knowledge, and learning.”²²

The Master of International Development has helped position La Trobe University as a place to come for a critical understanding of development that brings theory and practice together. Having practitioners for example from Oxfam International and the Humanitarian Advisory Group teaching some subjects has been a distinctive and popular innovation.

Overall enrolments continue to grow. The number of students in the Master of International Development subjects (including the Public Health and International Development double degree) has grown from 20 to 40 from 2010-2013. However, there was a decline in the number of international students in 2013. The move to an 18 month Masters may have an impact on future enrolments.



Graph A – Enrolment Trends

Master of Development Studies (How Change Happens module), Murdoch University, Perth

Chris Roche with Duncan Green, taught a three-day module “How Change Happens” to fourteen development studies students. The opportunity provided a creative spark about the nature of change:

The students were a brilliant international mix and teaching as a tag team was great fun; after day one we threw away our course outline and improvised from then on – I think we may have the basis for a really useful power and change course.

Duncan Green²³

²¹ <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/handbook/2014/postgraduate/humanities/courses/amidv.htm>

²² See n 21.

²³ <http://oxfamblogs.org/fp2p/a-few-impressions-of-an-intense-two-weeks-in-australia/>

MEET OUR PEOPLE

This year saw a transition of leadership at the Institute. We say thank you to Dennis Altman, who was the Director at the Institute since 2009. We welcomed Chris Roche in January as the Director. Fiona Deppeler also joined to provide research support. Samantha Newton and Alex Gyles completed internships working with Chris and Fiona. Trish King and Stella King provided much needed financial and administrative support to the Institute.

This year we profile a cross-section of people that worked with the Institute in 2013.

Director - Chris Roche

*Associate Professor and Chair in International Development
Convener of Masters of International Development*

Before coming to La Trobe University, I was Director of Development Effectiveness at Oxfam Australia having previously been the International Program Director, and Head of the Program Policy Team at Oxfam Great Britain for eight years. I also worked for 10 years for the Agency for Cooperation in Research and Development, managing the agency's West Africa and Sahel programs and setting up its research and policy program.



I have published widely on issues relating to development, including authoring the book *Impact Assessment for Development Agencies*, the recent report *Promoting Voice and Choice: Exploring Innovations in Australian NGO accountability*, and co-editing *Ethical Questions and International NGOs*.

Research Interests

I am particularly interested in understanding how social change happens, who is involved, and how the effectiveness of attempts to promote change is assessed. I am keen to develop new linkages between academia and development agencies and am keen to hear ideas and proposals about how best to make this happen.

Some of the particularly interesting engagements in 2013 included leading the evaluation of the Central Land Council's community development and governance work, and being part of the team looking at effective partnerships of Australian NGOs. At the University, I was a member of the initial Executive Committee of Transforming Human Societies Research Focus Area (RFA) in its establishment phase. This RFA seeks to contribute to understanding the history, drivers and impacts of human migration, cultural change and social transformation with the aim of achieving a sustainable and socially just future for humanity.²⁴

I was also a member of the Executive Writing Group of the Building Healthy Communities RFA. The aim is to effectively translate the research conducted into equitable improvements in health care delivery, community services, work and educational outcomes, to achieve better health and wellbeing in our communities and in the Asia Pacific.²⁵

Finish the thought:

Social change... is a way of thinking provides us with some very useful perspectives about how the world might become more equitable, more just and more sustainable.

²⁴ <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/research/strengths-and-impacts/research-focus-areas/transforming-human-societies>

²⁵ <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/research/strengths-and-impacts/research-focus-areas/building-healthy-communities>

Guest Staff Profile – Fiona Deppeler

Research Assistant

What are you working on that keeps you awake at night?

I am currently undertaking preliminary research for a Master's thesis in International Development at La Trobe University. My topic is women's internal empowerment and leadership in the Pacific region.

I find the concept of women's internal empowerment fascinating, both in theory and practice. Nevertheless, evaluating the change in women's lives through internal empowerment does present many challenges. I'm still determining how best to measure this change in a meaningful way, so I can accurately reflect the experience of poor and marginalised women in the Pacific.

Your research interests

Women's empowerment, downward accountability, and the evaluation of the success of social change measures over time.

Finish the thought:

Social change... is an extremely rewarding and worthwhile area in which to study and practice. Enhancing the lives of individual women through internal empowerment seems to me to be an important aspect of social change. I strongly believe that improving women's self-confidence, self-esteem, leadership and knowledge of their rights allows women to address social inequality in the household, community and at a broader level within society in a sustainable way. I feel lucky that my research and position at La Trobe University allows me to contribute to enhancing social change, albeit in a small way!



Guest Collaborator Profile - Danielle Campbell

Community Development Manager, Central Land Council

What are you working on that keeps you awake at night?

Trying to keep a rapidly growing program that involves numerous Aboriginal groups spread across an enormous region, millions of dollars, countless projects and project partners on track generally, whilst at the same time trying to ensure our development processes are effective, culturally appropriate and continually improving!

Your interest in working with the Institute?

Since we began our Community Development Program in 2005 we've been clear about the need to complement the organizational knowledge and capacity of the CLC by bringing in new ideas and knowledge from the outside. The recently completed evaluation of our program by the Institute has been extremely useful in helping us understand what we are achieving in the challenging Central Australian context and where we need to do things differently. I really hope we can keep working with the Institute to implement their recommendations and to ensure that we improve our development practice as a result of the evaluation.

Finish the thought:

Social change... is possible in Aboriginal communities in Central Australia provided Aboriginal people are supported to be the drivers of their own development.



Guest Member Profile – Celia McMichael

Lecturer, School of Social Sciences and Communications

What are you working on that keeps you awake at night?

More than fits into the “working day”. On a more reflective note, climate change is expected to contribute to and amplify human migration: it is a hotly contested issue. I think about how to conduct contemporary research into the lived experience and understanding of climate change-related migration, given that it is primarily forecast as a challenge for future generations.



Your research interests

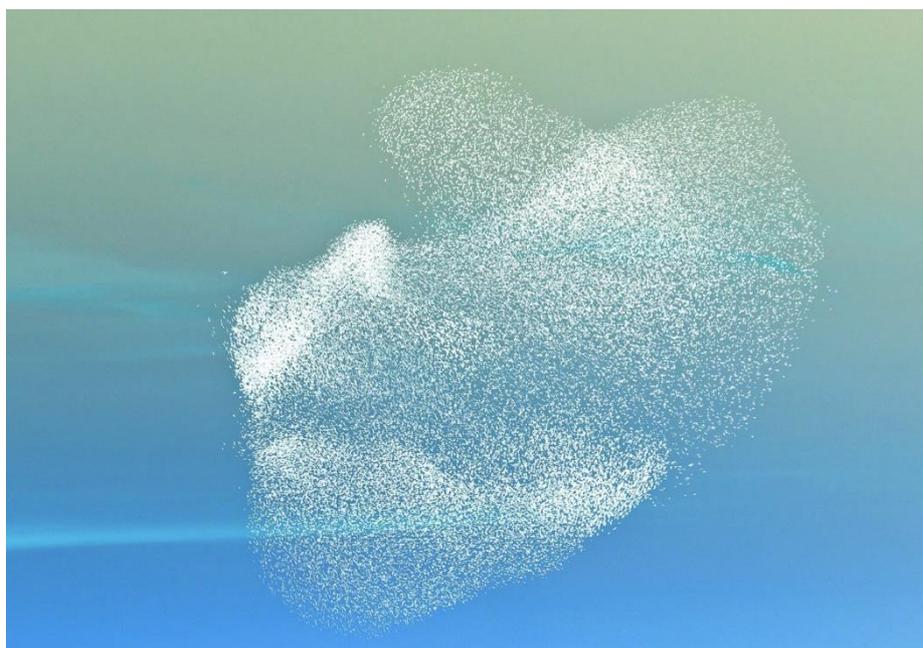
I have a background in social anthropology and public health. My research interests focus on migration and displacement (including refugee movements and climate change-related migration), and international health.

First, I am currently working on two longitudinal research projects with people from refugee backgrounds living in Australia: one engages with a cohort of refugee youth, the other refugee men in Queensland. Using mixed-methods, these projects examine experiences of refugee settlement and well-being over time. Intersecting with the field of ‘refugee studies’ and forced migration, I have also developed a research focus on climate change, migration and adaptation. I regard migration (across the spectrum of “forced” to “voluntary” mobility) as having critical significance to international development and global social relations and transformation.

Second, I have a research focus on health, specifically critical medical anthropology and health inequalities. I have recently begun a research project – in collaboration with the Australian Red Cross – on hygiene promotion and behavior change in Nepal.

Finish the thought:

Social change... is made by us and the making of us. Given the current urgency surrounding climate change and the increase in socio-economic inequality globally, social change is imperative – particularly among the world’s ‘rich’ - in order to ensure ‘development’ is an environmentally sustainable and socially equitable process.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Table A below summaries the revenue and expenditure for the Institute.

TABLE A: SUMMARY ACCOUNTS

Total Revenue		\$469,136
Research Revenue*	103,000	
Commercial Revenue*	106,000	
Support from Vice Chancellor's Office	60,000	
Strategic Research Initiative Funding	200,136	
Total Expenditure		\$383,977
Director & On Costs	185,514	
Employee Benefits & On Costs	19,000	
Infrastructure Related	6,000	
Professional Fees	104,463	
General Operating	10,000	
Staff Related	53,000	
Other Expenses	6,000	
Balance		\$85,159

* Breakdown of revenue between these two categories is currently being queried