



Research Vacation Scholarships 2014

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Project title: *Age-friendly Environments*

The University of South Australia is working in partnership with the City of Unley and the City of Salisbury to develop new Age-friendly Strategies for both cities, based on the World Health Organisation's Global Age-friendly Cities initiative. This initiative has been adopted by communities in both the developed and the developing world as an innovative approach to addressing the challenges and opportunities of an ageing population. Using a collaborative research approach, the Age-friendly Cities program actively seeks to engage older people, their carer givers and service providers in identifying the features of the community that support, or hinder, age-friendliness across eight key domains:

- outdoor spaces and buildings
- transportation
- housing
- social participation
- respect and social inclusion
- civic participation and employment
- communication and information
- community support and health services

Grounded in research and practice, and with the potential for wide application, this pilot program aims to apply lessons from the successful adoption of the WHO framework in other countries to issues facing communities in South Australia.

The project is in its early stages, with an initial literature review completed and consultations shortly commencing in the City of Unley. Further research assistance will be required to scope additional elements of the age-friendly environments initiative and to inform future development of the Universities Ageing Research Theme. This project would provide an ideal opportunity for a student to gain first-hand experience of working in an emerging research field while making a valued contribution to an important area of the University's work.

In particular, it is proposed that a research student would undertake a literature review of intergenerational programs that have been adopted in countries around the world. Such programs are a key feature of the development of an age-friendly community and have been successful in engaging people across all age groups in collaborative efforts. Intergenerational strategies have been credited with increasing age-friendly characteristics such as social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and community support (Brown & Henkin 2014). The objective of the literature review will be to inform the development of intergenerational initiatives in South Australia that will progress the age-friendly agenda.

If you are interested in this project please contact:

Prof Wendy Lacey

E: wendy.lacey@unisa.edu.au

T: 8302 7127



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Project title: *'One day's headline news is the next day's firelighter'? Jury Preconception and Prejudice in History, Today and The Future*

Scott Baker J remarked in *ex parte B* (17 February 1994, unreported) that - "In most cases, one day's headline news is the next day's firelighter. Most members of the public do not remember in any detail what they have seen on television, heard on the radio or read in the newspaper except for a very short period of time."

This observation as recently as 1994 highlights the traditional judicial confidence in the ability of juries in criminal trials to disregard even the most prejudicial pre-trial publicity and to act only on the evidence presented at trial. Indeed, it is a 'constitutional fact' or judicial article of faith that juries act on judicial directions and will have regard only to the evidence presented at trial and can and will disregard anything that may have heard or seen or read outside court. This constitutional fact (and even the notion of trial by jury) has come under increasing scrutiny and challenge over recent years with the perceived futility of conventional remedies such as suppression orders and the dramatic advances since 1994 in information technology. The issue has gained further prominence with continued advances in the prevalence and accessibility of digital information and crucially the advent of social media. Is it valid to still talk of one day's headline news as the next day's firelighter? However, it is often suggested that fears of jury preconception and prejudice are new issues when in fact the ability of a jury to act only on the evidence presented at trial and to disregard prejudicial pre-trial coverage or knowledge was also an acute concern in the criminal trials in the 19th century. There is a lack of understanding and knowledge of this historical background and how the modern concerns in the digital age of jury preconception and prejudice are in fact a continuation and extension of a longstanding issue.

This project will research the criminal trials and concerns of the 19th century using the online archives that are now freely available. It will consider the concerns that were expressed in the 19th century and identify one or more suitable examples of such a trial as a focus and examine the nature and extent of the pre-trial coverage and how the court dealt with the fears of jury prejudice and preconception and sought to ensure a fair trial. It will consider how effective such efforts were. The project will then place the historical trial and these issues in a modern context by comparing it with a modern recent criminal trial and the methods used in a modern context to counter jury preconception and prejudice and to ensure a fair trial.

The project will identify any common themes or remedies and suggest drawing on both historical and modern experience and research, what, if any, effective solutions can be identified and put forward to ensure a fair trial in the 21st century and to counter jury preconception and prejudice.

If you are interested in this project please contact:

Dr David Plater

E: david.plater@unisa.edu.au

T: 8302 7382

Areas of interest: Legal history, criminal law and procedure