# Centre for Human Rights Education Post Graduate Colloquium

6 AUGUST 2016: Curtin University Building 211.223



#### **WELCOME**

...to the Centre for Human Rights Education's annual post-grad colloquium. We will hear from CHRE post-graduate students whose presentations will focus on elements of their PhD research.

This is a valuable opportunity for you as students to present your work to your peers, and to discuss topics of interest in a collegial environment. Presentations at university research colloquia are important opportunities to develop scholarship and critical friendships. There will also be a panel presentation by CHRE researchers on 'Reflections on Research', and time provided for

## **Programme:**

9:00am Breakfast bites\* (CAS Foyer)

then move to Room 211.223 for presentations

9:30am Welcome and introductions - Professor Baden Offord

9:35am Speaker 1 - Katie Carter

9:55am Speaker 2 - Sharin Shajahan Naomi

10:15am Speaker 3 - Sagib Sharif

10:35am Morning Tea\*

11:05am Speaker 4 - Joni Lariat

11:25am Speaker 5 - Rosemary Sayer 11:45am Speaker 6 - Misty Farquhar

**12:05pm Discussion and Panel -** Caroline Fleay, Elfie Shiosaki,

Yirga Gelaw Woldeyes

12:30pm Programme close



Photo credits: Main image sourced from: http://www.sievxmemorial.com/ Image of CAS by Adrian Lambert

<sup>\*</sup> Vegetarian options available.

# CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION POST GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM 2016

#### **Presentation abstracts:**

#### **Katie Carter**

Engaged Yoga: The Convergence Between Yoga & Human Rights

This session provides a brief insight into the findings of this phenomenological inquiry through case studies demonstrating the themes that created engaged yoga. Central to engaged yoga is the demarcation of the inner process of the activist and their outer engagement demonstrated through their activism. The interconnectedness between self and other is explored through the analogy of a personal journey. The potential for engaged yoga emerges including reflexive, embodied activism as well as a potential treatment for traumatic injury. However there are many complexities within engaged yoga. This positions engaged yoga as a grassroots demonstration of human rights in action.

#### **Sharin Shajahan Naomi**

Creative-critical conversation between Tibetan Buddhism and Feminism

The existing scholarly conversation between feminism and Tibetan Buddhism has an emphasis on the theoretical pursuit and Western women's perspective and context. In this existing conversation, non-Western women like myself who are not citizens of the Western country, not white and especially from the Global South have remained almost silent in expressing voice and narrative. My thesis reveals this voice, representations, and experience through creative-critical autoethnography. Dwelling on the questions of subjectivity with a performative politics and bricolage approach, I invoke an alternative way of producing knowledge which decolonizes Western epistemology, and transgresses text-centrism, disciplinary boundary, and fixed and categorized meaning. The organic interaction between Tibetan Buddhism and feminism develops in a multivalent in-between space which values open-ended thoughts, heterogeneity, particularity and possibilities of non-colonizing knowledge for a deeper conversation.

#### **Sagib Sharif**

Using erroneous ways of relocation to developed countries in quest of a prosperous life: A study of deported Pakistani labour victims

My presentation will provide background and brief information about cross-border human smuggling from Pakistan, conditions faced by the labour migrants and situation of victims during and after deportation. There will be a short discussion on key research areas, rationale, methodology, assumptions and options.

#### **Joni Lariat**

"Playing polite": Everyday performances of compliance and resistance in Aceh

In the 11 years since the 2004 earthquake and tsunami, Aceh's social and political landscape has undergone rapid change. Perhaps the most lasting and influential shift has come in the form of Sharia (Islamic Law). As the enforcement of Sharia principles is becoming increasingly institutionalised, and therefore more visible upon the streets of Aceh's capital, counter discourses are simultaneously emerging from those most keenly affected by heightened surveillance and the monitoring of private and public life. One focus of my research is how discourses demonstrating an increasingly prescriptive moral approach to female sexuality is interrupted by everyday performances of identity within this rapidly shifting social landscape.

#### **Rosemary Sayer**

The missing narrative identity of refugees and asylum seekers in Australia

More than 65 million people have been forcibly displaced worldwide; the highest number since the end of WWII. Much of the public discourse about refugees and asylum seekers in Australia is dehumanising, negative and politicised. Governments and media have often created untrue narratives by grouping all asylum seekers and refugees together

exploiting people's anxieties about security, jobs, borders and terrorism. This has often led to the construction of a misleading collective identity. My research explores the importance of the individual narrative to change this. I am particularly interested in the role of the non-refugee narrator who collaborates with refugees to help re-establish individual identity in an Australian context.

#### **Misty Farquhar**

Living outside the binary in Australia: fence-sitter or bridge-builder?

Acceptance of same-gender (lesbian and gay) relationships in Australia has increased significantly in recent times, but people who do not fit into a socially normative binary definition of sexuality or gender (bisexual and genderqueer) have not reached the same level of recognition. As such, they are more vulnerable to systemic and individual victimisation than those whose sexuality or gender falls within the binary. My research will explore the experiences of these individuals and the lack of acceptance for this population within the Australian LGBTI community and mainstream society.

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