Prospective Anthropology and Sociology honours students

SELECTING A THESIS TOPIC

Anthropology and Sociology provides students with choices in how they select and develop their Honours topics. Students may choose to develop their own thesis topic based on their own interests. Alternatively, students may find the following list of Staff areas of interest and expertise useful in formulating a thesis topic. Please note, the topics listed here are suggestions only.

One other option students have is to work with a Staff member on a specific topic or question provided for the student by the Staff member. These will typically tie into Staff members’ research projects and will change from year to year as Staff research projects continue or finish.

A list of Staff areas of interest and potential honours topics is available from the Honours Coordinator. Students should discuss their topics of interest with the Honours Coordinator. In addition, students may contact staff directly to discuss potential topics.

Please note, we cannot guarantee supervision by any particular staff member due to limited staff numbers and high teaching loads. However, wherever possible, student topics are matched with staff areas of interest and expertise.

Please check staff pages on the UWA website for further information about staff research and teaching areas of interest and expertise. Students are encouraged to read staff publications to develop a clearer sense of their work.

Students are required to do their own literature reviews and to work out the theoretical and methodological approach they wish to take in their thesis.

Anthropology and Sociology
Honours Coordinator
Professor Loretta Baldassar
Loretta.Baldassar@uwa.edu.au
List of Staff areas of expertise and research interests:

Greg Acciaioli
- Asia, especially (but not exclusively) archipelagic Southeast Asia
- Environmental anthropology
- Contestations over protected areas
- Transborder conservation issues
- Statelessness
- History of social theory
- Theories of social capital and their application
- Theories of social organization/social structure
- Modernisation and development
- Semiotics
- Folkloristics
- Indigeneity, especially in relation to environmental issues and state policies
- Ethnographic film
- Linguistic anthropology

Loretta Baldassar
- Migration and Transnationalism
- Australian Migration and Multiculturalism
- Student mobilities, ‘Internationalisation at home’ and study abroad
- Family mobilities (e.g. FIFO families; multi-local families; Living Together Apart Couples etc.)
- Transnational families and social uses of communication technologies
- Migration, mobilities and youth (e.g. second generation migration studies)
- Skilled migration and mobilities (e.g. ‘new waves’ of temporary visa holders)
- Migration, mobilities and ageing
- Italy-Australia migration, transnationalism and diaspora
- Italian immigration, especially Chinese in Italy

Victoria Burbank
- Neuroanthropology,
- Psychological anthropology
- Cognitive anthropology
- Evolutionary theory
Richard Davis
- Indigenous Australia
- Melanesia
- Gender
- Media
- Writing
- Performance
- Critical theory
- Post structuralism

Martin Forsey
- Australian society and culture
- The social significance of educational systems
  - Schooling systems – their aims and outcomes, opportunities and limitations
  - The significance of school choice for social and geographic mobility
  - The internationalisation of higher education – the effects and impacts of study abroad, effective pedagogical models
  - Rural youth and educational opportunities
  - Regional development and decentralisation in Australia – the role of education in enhancing or diminishing the desire to settle beyond capital cities.
- International collaborative research
  - Parental choice of schooling in Germany - online discussions about schooling among skilled migrants in Berlin.
  - Skill acquisition and decision making in elite sports using novel ethnographic methods - the media representation of rugby referees in France and Australia.

Farida Fozdar
- Refugees
- Asylum Seekers
- Cosmopolitanism
- Religion in Australia
- Social exclusion/inclusion
- Racism
- Australian responses to nationalism, transnational and postnationalism.
- Responses to national flags and related ideas.
- Analysis of curriculum documents related to constructions of nationalism;
- Analysis of Australian migration and other websites targeting overseas readers;
- Analysis of media coverage of asylum seekers, or refugees, or other migrant groups
- How do youth resist Australia’s drinking culture?
Katie Glaskin
- Indigenous Australia
- Indigeneity
- Japan
- Dreams, sleep, perception
- Creativity, innovation, art
- Law, native title, land and marine tenure, property, intellectual property,
- Applied anthropology
- Personhood, emotions,
- humanoid robots

Nicholas Harney
- Social anthropology of economic life,
- Ethnic and migration studies,
- Global processes,
- Urban studies,
- Ethnography/fieldwork,
- Nationalism,
- Race/gender

James Leach
- Melanesia:
  - Kinship, place and landscape
  - Art and artefact production
  - Knowledge, creativity and the person.
  - Traditional Ecological Knowledge systems
  - Collaborative ethnography
- Europe/US/Australia:
  - Free Software, ethics and metaphysics of digital technologies
  - Contemporary dance and relational creativity
  - Intellectual and Cultural Property
  - Collaboration, Art and Science, the Knowledge Economy.

Debra McDougall
- Asia-Pacific and Australia with particular emphasis on Pacific Islands
- Religion, development, language, gender, indigeneity
- Education, class formation, and social mobility, especially in the Pacific
- Language change in Solomon Islands
- Resource capitalism and conflict in Asia and the Pacific
- The intersection of religion and development in Australia and the region
- Post-mission Christianity in Asia, Australia, and the Pacific
- Short-term Christian missions from the secularizing "global North" to the profoundly religious "global South"
- Engagements between religious institutions in Perth and developing countries
- Charismatic churches or any other quickly growing religious institutions in regional WA
- Religion and ethnicity among international and domestic students at UWA