



MELBOURNE SUSTAINABLE
SOCIETY INSTITUTE

2016 | ANNUAL
REPORT





Credits

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Design: Clearlight Creative, 0418 348 038

Cover image: Courtesy of Learning Environments, University Services at the University of Melbourne.

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Bicycle lanes on Flinders Street Melbourne. Credit: Daryl Hannah, City of Melbourne.

Background

The Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute (MSSI) is an interdisciplinary research unit at the University of Melbourne and is part of the strategic suite of Melbourne Research Institutes [www.ri.unimelb.edu.au] led by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Jim McCluskey. The Institute is located administratively within the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning.

MSSI functions as a portal to sustainability-related research at the University and it serves as a platform on which to base research personnel and their projects. The Institute facilitates and supports interdisciplinary sustainability research within the University, but it also establishes and enhances linkages with Australian and international partners. The findings of this research activity are produced and disseminated as high impact publications. MSSI also supports research higher degree students and graduate training. Another core activity is to engage with the public. MSSI is committed to setting the research agenda and leading discussion and debate on key sustainability issues relevant to its city, the state of Victoria, Australia, and the world.

MSSI uses the findings of current biophysical, health or technical sciences and draws on the social sciences and humanities to help understand sustainability trends and challenges. People and values are of central importance in creating integrated sustainable solutions. MSSI therefore engages with community, industry, policy makers and research units to collaborate on solving particular problems while contributing to societal transformation. This work is drawn together into a set of programs that seek to make our economy and practices sustainable while not only maintaining our standard of living but enhancing our quality of life and regenerating natural systems.

MSSI maintains a strong commitment to working with researchers across the full spectrum of sustainability related research disciplines and issues. Particular focus is currently placed on these research clusters:

- Climate Transformations
- Future Cities
- Sustainability In The Anthropocene

Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute Organisational Chart 2016

Dean of Host Faculty

Prof Julie Willis, Dean (From November)
Prof Daryl Le Grew, Interim Dean (until October) Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

MSSI ADVISORY BOARD

17 experts and leaders in sustainability, plus Chair, Prof Kate Auty

ASSOCIATES OF MSSI

24 eminent sustainability researchers and leaders external to the University

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Prof James McCluskey

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Collaboration and Infrastructure) Prof Liz Sonenberg

MSSI CORE STAFF

MSSI Director Prof Brendan Gleeson

MSSI Deputy Director Prof John Wiseman

Executive Officer Craig Prebble

Executive Assistant Maria Lawlor (until June), Kate Chilley (from July)

Communications and Events Coordinator Claire Denby

Administrative Officer Simone Robinson

MSSI PROJECT STAFF

Prof Don Henry, Cathy Alexander, Dr Ben Parr, Dr Samuel Alexander, Dr Fjalar de Haan, A/Prof Janet Stanley, Dr Paul Read

MSSI HONORARY STAFF

Prof Jim Falk, Prof Tim Flannery, A/Prof Boris Frankel, Carl Obst

MSSI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

20 University of Melbourne researchers, plus Chair, Prof Brendan Gleeson and Executive Officer, Craig Prebble



MSSI Director Professor Brendan Gleeson (left) and the inaugural City of Melbourne Chair in Resilient Cities, Professor Lars Coenen.

Message from the Director

This year was one of exiting new programs of research and consolidation of MSSI projects, with a strengthening of engagements and collaborations. The epochal 'Paris Agreement' on climate change action in late 2015 inspired a renewed agenda at MSSI: what are the key outcomes and implications arising from COP21, and what should be the research and policy priorities? Working with the Australian Ambassador for the Environment, Patrick Suckling, MSSI brought together senior bureaucrats and decision-makers to explore just this topic. MSSI was honoured to host a visit by former President of Ireland and UN Special Envoy for Climate Change, Mrs Mary Robinson, who gave our Inaugural MSSI Oration on the global justice imperatives attendant on the Paris Agreement. Later in the year, Prof Michael Grubb of University College London gave a lecture on 'Low-carbon transitions and the role of policy instruments'.

Our Deputy Director, Prof John Wiseman, travelled to Nantes, France, to attend the 'Climate Chance' conference on the climate change transitions role of non-state actors, that is – provincial/state governments and cities. This is the articulating tissue binding MSSI's 'Climate Transformations' and 'Future Cities' clusters. And it will be explored in detail in the 2017 Ecocity World Summit MSSI is co-hosting. Fortuitously, the United Nations Habitat Summit, held every 20 years, took place in 2016 at Quito, Ecuador. Its objective was to determine 'The New Urban Agenda', in light of climate change, social equity, and other resilience challenges. MSSI and its partners at the University convened and funded Australia's largest delegation to Habitat III, creating research linkages and engaging with the NGO and governmental sectors alike.

Don Henry, MSSI's intrepid climate change and environment expert, took up the position of Melbourne Enterprise Professor of Environmentalism, a unique academic job title with a wide-ranging research and engagement remit. Another unique role created at the University, the City of Melbourne Chair in Resilient Cities, saw the recruitment of Prof Lars Coenen of Lund University. He will establish an adventurous interdisciplinary

program at MSSI, its host faculty, and the University, connecting this academic expertise with the work of our City's professionals and leaders. In 2016 sustainability expert Dr Paul Read also joined MSSI, and his colleague A/Prof Janet Stanley, to work on an ARC Linkage project, 'Building an Integrated System for Australian Bushfire Prevention'.

MSSI has long recognised the vital role that the humanities and arts plays in envisioning and representing sustainability, and in directing critique at our actions and values. Our 'Sustainability in the Anthropocene' cluster partnered with the Melbourne Law School to host a visit by Prof Sheila Jasanoff of the Harvard Kennedy School. She delivered lectures, seminars and masterclasses traversing science studies, political theory, and law in her analysis of our troubling epoch. MSSI and its partners also welcomed a visit by Prof Bruno Latour, the renowned French sociologist of science, who imparted his wisdom on the art, science and politics of our climate straitened times.

'Imagining the Future' is the first step to choosing it, and so I was happy to co-edit an edition of that title with our partners, the Griffith Review. The book featured prominent writers, commentators, and artists responding to the burden of imagination we face in thinking our way out of our society's current stasis and stagnation. As part of its urban imaginings, MSSI held a research symposium on the work of historian Professor Emeritus Graeme Davison and his new study, *City Dreamers*.

Finally, MSSI felt impelled to commission a project to research and advocated for 'New State Responses to Melbourne's Homelessness Crisis', making the case for increased 'last resort' housing. The Institute, expressed in all its programs and projects, recognises that sustainability – without concern also for social equity – is not worthy of the term.

Professor Brendan Gleeson



MSSI Team and Executive Committee

MSSI Team

Core Team

Prof Brendan Gleeson, Director

Prof John Wiseman, Deputy Director

Craig Prebble, Executive Officer

Claire Denby, Communications and Events Coordinator

Maria Lawlor, Executive Assistant (until June 2016)

Kate Chilley, Executive Assistant (June 2016 onwards)

Simone Robinson, Administrative Officer

Project Personnel

Cathy Alexander, Research Fellow – Translation and Development

Dr Samuel Alexander, Research Fellow – Sustainable Economy and Consumption

Dr Fjalar de Haan, Research Fellow – Sustainability Transitions (until May 2016)

Prof Don Henry, Melbourne Enterprise Professor of Environmentalism [Public Policy Fellow – Environmentalism from January – April 2016]

Dr Benjamin Parr, Research Fellow – Climate Change Policy

A/Prof Janet Stanley, Principal Fellow – Urban Social Resilience

Dr Paul Read, Research Fellow – Bushfire Prevention (August 2016 onwards)

Prof Jim Falk, Honorary Professorial Fellow

Prof Tim Flannery, Honorary Professorial Fellow

A/Prof Boris Frankel, Honorary Principal Fellow

Carl Obst, Honorary Fellow

Belinda Young, Project Officer, Ecocity World Summit 2017 (December 2016 onwards)

Linh Do, Project Officer, The Climate Reality Project Australia (December 2016 onwards)

Executive Committee

The MSSI Executive Committee provides advice to the Director and acts as conduit for communication across the University. The Committee in 2016 consisted of 22 academic staff members from eight of the University's 10 faculties.

Professor Brendan Gleeson, Director and Chair, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute; Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

Mr Jeremy Baskin, *Sustainability In The Anthropocene convenor*. PhD candidate, School of Social and Political Sciences; Faculty of Arts

Professor Mark Burry, *Future Cities convenor*. Professor of Urban Futures, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

Associate Professor Peter Christoff, *Sustainability In The Anthropocene and Climate Transformations convenor*. School of Geography; Faculty of Science

Mr Andrew Dingjan, Director, Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network (AURIN); Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

Professor Richard Eckard, *Climate Transformations convenor*. Director, Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre; Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences

Professor Robyn Eckersley, *Climate Transformations convenor*. School of Social and Political Sciences; Faculty of Arts

Professor Billie Giles-Corti, *Future Cities convenor*. Director, McCaughey VicHealth Community Wellbeing Unit, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health; Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences



Dr Dominique Hes

Dominique researches the knowledge gaps in sustainability practice and its application in the built environment. In 2015, she won the Deni Greene Award for outstanding courage in the work of sustainability. She is Director of the Thrive Research Hub at the University.

Prof Don Henry, Melbourne Enterprise Chair of Environmentalism, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute; Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

Dr Dominique Hes, Senior Lecturer in Sustainable Architecture, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

Professor David Karoly, *Climate Transformations convenor*. School of Earth Sciences; Faculty of Science

Dr Melanie Lowe, *Future Cities convenor*. Research Fellow, McCaughey VicHealth Community Wellbeing Unit; Melbourne School of Population and Global Health; Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Professor Yoshihisa Kashima, Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences; Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Associate Professor Malte Meinshausen, Director, Australia-German Climate and Energy College, School of Earth Sciences; Faculty of Science

Dr Ben Neville, Senior Lecturer, Department of Management and Marketing; Faculty of Business and Economics

Craig Prebble, (ex officio member) Executive Officer, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute

Professor Chris Ryan, *Future Cities convenor*.

Director, Victorian Eco-Innovation Lab; Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

Professor Anne Steinemann, *Future Cities convenor*.

Chair of Sustainable Cities, Department of Infrastructure Engineering, Melbourne School of Engineering

Professor Helen Sullivan, Director, Melbourne School of Government; School of Social and Political Sciences; Faculty of Arts

Associate Professor Kathryn Williams, Director, Office for Environmental Programs; Faculty of Science

Professor Stephan Winter, *Future Cities convenor*.

Department of Infrastructure Engineering; Melbourne School of Engineering

Professor John Wiseman, *Climate Transformations convenor*.

Deputy Director, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute; Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

Associate Professor Margaret Young, Director of Studies, Environmental Law, Melbourne Law School; Centre for Resources, Energy and Environmental Law

MSSI team (above left) from left: Janet Stanley, Belinda Young, Samuel Alexander, John Wiseman, Ben Parr, Stephanie Campbell, Don Henry, Craig Prebble, Alexei Trundle, Brendan Gleeson, Lars Coenen, Simone Robinson, Claire Denby, Linh Do and Kate Chillely.



Gerard Brown

Gerard is Group General Manager, Corporate Affairs, at ANZ. He helps identify and manage social, environmental, political and public policy issues for the bank. He also leads its corporate sustainability strategy, governance and reporting.

Advisory Board

MSSI enjoys the support of a diverse and vibrant Advisory Board of experts, leaders and champions of sustainability. The 2016 Board was comprised of seven representatives from industry and business, six senior leaders of the non-government/community sector; two distinguished figures from academia, two senior office-bearers from State/Territory government, a State Government departmental secretary, and a councillor from the City of Melbourne.

The Advisory Board provides assistance with strategic planning for the Institute and gives advice on areas in which MSSI can create linkages with external stakeholders in order to grow the research program and attract funding. The Board also reviews key MSSI strategic documents. The Board met three times in 2016. The Board also met with the representatives of the University's Sustainability Executive to provide advice and counsel on the 'Sustainability Charter', released in March 2016. This statement of principles will guide the University and it will be operationalised, with targets and timelines, by the 'Sustainability Plan (2016–2020)', released in January 2017.

Our inaugural Chair, Kate Auty, left the Board at the end of 2016 to focus on her new role of Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, the Australian Capital Territory. MSSI applauds Kate's great contribution to MSSI and wishes her all the best. In 2017, the Chair will be Cr. Arron Wood, now the Deputy Lord Mayor, The City of Melbourne.

Chair: Professor Kate Auty, Vice-Chancellor's Fellow, University of Melbourne ; Commissioner for Sustainability and Environment, the Australian Capital Territory

Anne Barker, Managing Director, City West Water

Rueben Berg, Director, Indigenous Architecture and Design Victoria; Managing Director, RJHB Consulting

Rosemary Bissett, Head of Sustainability Governance and Risk, National Australia Bank

Gerard Brown, Group General Manager, Corporate Affairs, Australian New Zealand Banking Group

Professor Peter Doherty AC, Laureate Professor, University of Melbourne

Graz van Egmond, Chief Executive Officer, Banksia Foundation

Adam Fennessy, Secretary, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Victoria

Professor Ruth Fincher AM, President of the Academic Board, University of Melbourne

Megan Flynn, Group Manager – Environment and Carbon Strategy Office, Qantas Airways Ltd

Katerina Gaita, Director, Climate for Change

Rob Gell AM, Principal, World Wind for Change Pty Ltd

Jeremy Hobbs, Hobbs Consulting, former Executive Director, Oxfam International

Victoria McKenzie-McHarg (from May 2016), Climate Campaign Manager, Australian Conservation Foundation

Kelly O'Shanassy (until May 2016), Chief Executive Officer, Australian Conservation Foundation

Annie Volkering, Director of Applied Science, Environment Protection Authority, Victoria

Mark Wakeham, Chief Executive Officer, Environment Victoria

Bob Welsh, Executive Director, Sustainability Advisers

Cr Arron Wood, Councillor, Chair – Environment Portfolio, Deputy Chair – Economic Development Portfolio, City of Melbourne



Dr Cathy Oke

Cathy is Knowledge Broker at the University's Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub. She holds the biodiversity portfolio at the Global Executive Committee of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives. She is also a Councillor at the City of Melbourne.

Associates

MSSI benefits from the interest and involvement of leading academics, senior bureaucrats, innovative business people, and heads of NGO/community organisations. The Associates are innovative thought leaders and change agents, striving for a sustainable society for all. They help promote MSSI externally and transfer knowledge back into the Institute. In 2016 there were 26 Associates, including three new appointments: Prof Emer Graeme Davison AO, Dr Cathy Oke, and Anna Rose.

Guy Abrahams, CEO and Co-Founder, CLIMARTE:
Arts for a Safe Climate

Fiona Armstrong, Convenor, Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA)

Prof Kate Auty, Vice Chancellor's Professorial Fellow,
The University of Melbourne

Jeremy Baskin, PhD Student, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne
Formerly: Australian Director of the University of Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership

Dr Kathryn Bowen, Senior Research Fellow, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health Research, Australian National University; Research Fellow, Earth System Governance Project; Advisory Committee Member, City of Melbourne

Dr Iain Butterworth, Manager, Public Health and Western Area, North and West Metropolitan Region, Department of Health

Dr Stephen Bygrave, Former CEO of climate change think tank Beyond Zero Emissions

Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison AO, School of Philosophical, Historical and International Studies, Faculty of Arts, Monash University

Ian Dunlop, Governance and Sustainability Advisor; Chairman, Safe Climate Australia; Member, Club of Rome; Director, Australia 21

Fergus Green, Researcher and climate policy consultant, London School of Economics and Political Science

Tanya Ha, Environmentalist, broadcaster, writer and science and sustainability engagement specialist

Dr Steven Henderson, Associate of MSSI; Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

Carolyn Ingvarson, Convenor, Lighter Footprints Climate Change Action Community Group

Dr Cathy Oke, Knowledge Broker, Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub, University of Melbourne; Councillor, City of Melbourne

Kelly O'Shanassy, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Conservation Foundation

Dr Brett Parris, Sustainability economist; Adjunct Research Fellow, Monash University

Rod Quantock OAM, Comedian, activist and climate change researcher

Dr Lauren Rickards, Critical human geography. Senior Lecturer, RMIT University

Professor Allan Rodger, Professor Emeritus, The University of Melbourne; Chairman of the Board of the Habitat Trust

Hon. Tom Roper, Climate change and environmental policy advisor

Anna Rose, Environmentalism and climate change campaigner

Simran Sethi, Sustainability journalist, strategist, educator

Meredith Sussex, Strategic Adviser, Office of Living Victoria; Non-Executive Director, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

Dr Helen Sykes AM, Founder, Future Leaders

Dr Chris Taylor, MSSI Associate

Professor Patrick Troy AO, Visiting Fellow, Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU; Adjunct Professor Urban Research Program, Griffith University; Visiting Professor City Futures Research Centre, UNSW



Former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson played an important role in the Paris climate conference process and visited MSSI to deliver the inaugural Oration in 2016.

Research Clusters

Climate Transformations

The Climate Transformations Research Cluster aims to facilitate research and policy linkages and projects leading to increased understanding of climate change mitigation and adaptation challenges and responses. In 2016, there was a particular focus on:

- climate and energy strategies in Australia and in other countries crucial to rapid implementation of Paris Agreement: particularly India, China, the EU and Brazil;
- subnational (city and regional) climate, energy and resilience strategies;
- economic decarbonisation strategies: particularly mobilizing climate finance; equitable transitions from fossil fuel industries to renewable energy; sustainable and low carbon land use.

The cluster works closely with a number of programs and units at the University, including: the Melbourne Energy Institute; the Australian-German Climate and Energy College; the EU Centre on Shared Complex Challenges; the Victorian Eco-Innovation Lab (VEIL); Visions and Pathways 2040 (Co-operative Research Centre for Low Carbon Living); and the Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre (PICCC); and the new ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate Extremes (CoE CE).

Convenors for 2016:

- A/Prof Peter Christoff, School of Geography, Faculty of Science
- Prof Richard Eckard, PICCC, Agriculture and Food Systems, Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences
- Prof Robyn Eckersley, School of Social and Political Sciences, Faculty of Arts
- Prof David Karoly, School of Earth Sciences, Faculty of Science; CoE CSS
- Prof John Wiseman, MSSI

2016 highlights

A key focus of 2016 was to analyse the outcomes of the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 and to propose actions and policies to advance its aims. The inaugural MSSI Oration, by Mrs Mary Robinson, set a high tone for this work by foregrounding climate justice. Acknowledging the need for energy transitions, MSSI joined an international research project on 'Coal Transitions'. 2016 also marked the beginning of MSSI's hosting of the Australian branch of international NGO The Climate Reality Project.

Future Cities

The Future Cities Research Cluster is a whole-of-university research group seeking to investigate and generate best-practice, policy-relevant evidence to understand and effectively respond to the challenges facing urban environments. To do this, cross-faculty research teams work closely with decision-makers to identify and seek solutions to the wide range of complex problems facing cities. This year, the cluster placed emphasis on:

- Theoretical, conceptual and policy debates about urban futures, especially at the metropolitan scale
- Urban sustainability, resilience and connectedness
- Planning, design and governance for sustainability, equity, and community wellbeing

The following research programs and units are connected to this cluster:

Cooperative Research Centre for Low Carbon Living; NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Healthy, Liveable Communities, including its 'Associations between accessibility, active travel, health and economic impacts' project; Victorian Eco Innovation Lab (VEIL), including its 'Future Cities Node' project; Clean Air and Urban Landscapes (CAUL) Hub; Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network (AURIN); the Carlton Connect Initiative; the Australian Prevention Partnership



Dr Melanie Lowe

Melanie is an early career researcher whose interests span urban planning and public health concerns. She worked on the Place, Health and Liveability Research Program at the University. She also co-founded the Australasian Early Career Urban Research Network.

Centre's 'Liveability' project; the Urban Design, Transport and Health Research Hub; the Thrive Research Hub; the Transforming Housing: Affordable Housing for All program; the Southern Cities Research Centre, and the Melbourne Research Cluster on Urban Connectedness.

Convenors for 2016:

- Dr Melanie Lowe, McCaughey VicHealth Centre for Community Wellbeing, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, Faculty of MDHS
- Prof Mark Burry, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning
- Prof Billie Giles-Corti, McCaughey VicHealth Centre for Community Wellbeing, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, Faculty of MDHS
- Prof Chris Ryan, Victorian Eco-Innovation Lab
- Prof Anne Steinemann, Melbourne School of Engineering
- Prof Stephan Winter, Melbourne School of Engineering

2016 highlights

The major project for the year was to convene and support a University delegation to the United Nations Habitat III Housing and Sustainable Urban Development event in Quito, Ecuador. With partners within and beyond the University, MSSI helped to frame the 'New Urban Agenda', the theme of this conference, held every 20 years. MSSI researchers also featured in a new series on Urban Design, Transport and Health for *The Lancet* journal.

Sustainability In The Anthropocene

'The Anthropocene' is the name of a proposed new geological epoch: the epoch of the present, distinguished by the pervasive impact of collective human activity. The Sustainability in the Anthropocene

Research Cluster (SITA) aims to facilitate research and dialogue on the character of the Anthropocene and its implications for sustainability. The focus for 2016 was on:

- conceptual and political debates about the Anthropocene – implications for sustainability visions, paradigms and initiatives;
- meaning and purpose in the Anthropocene – narratives, aesthetics and ethics;
- measuring and modelling the Anthropocene – tracking, communicating and debating sustainability and wellbeing trends and impacts.

The SITA cluster has a wide membership of senior academics, early career researchers, and graduate students from the Faculty of Arts (Social and Political Sciences; Culture and Communication), the Faculty of Science (Earth Sciences; Social and Environmental Change; Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation), and from other areas across the University.

Convenors for 2016:

- A/Prof Peter Christoff, School of Geography, Faculty of Science
- Jeremy Baskin, PhD student, School of Social and Political Sciences, Faculty of Arts

2016 highlights

MSSI and its partners presented a series of events associated with the visit of Prof Sheila Jasanoff, a Miegunyah Distinguished International Visiting Fellow. Prof Jasanoff is an expert in the particular challenges to policy and political action that the Anthropocene creates. As part of Environment Week, MSSI presented a seminar posing 'Is the Anthropocene a scientific concept?' SITA also maintained a reading group in which key texts from the perspectives of both the sciences and the humanities were studied.



Don Henry and Malte Meinshausen attended the UNFCCC Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany.

Key Research Projects

MSSI serves as a platform for devising and managing research projects, whether hosted on site or located within the University's faculties and schools. This scholarship and engagement work develops expertise and builds capacity in key areas of sustainability research. The projects also provide employment and experience for early career researchers. MSSI works to attract and recruit senior academics, and these bring projects to the University and also develop new programs for it.

International Climate Negotiations program: Implementing the Paris Agreement

This strategic program has strengthened public discussion and applied research translation on international climate negotiations issues and debates before, during and after the UNFCCC COP21 Conference in Paris in 2015. A key output is the ongoing research on the challenges faced by nations considered to be key to the success of this international agreement. These nations include India, the Philippines, China, Indonesia, South Africa, Canada, Brazil, Australia and USA. This work is used to create high-level engagement and research linkages with a targeted set of overseas universities, peak environmental NGOs and key international civil society bodies, such as the UNFCCC. The project team – Prof Don Henry and Dr Ben Parr – undertake domestic and international travel to foster and enrich linkages and interest. The research is presented in a series of MSSI Briefing Papers which are distributed to key stakeholders, influencers, and decision-makers in the international climate negotiations sphere. This includes the Hon. Al Gore and The Climate Reality Project and its trainings of climate leaders. In these ways, the project is encouraging greater ambition in the national and global goals of the Paris Agreement, and helping to build support for a strong 'ratchet mechanism' of greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets.

Paris Equity Check website (paris-equity-check.org)

In the wake of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change action, MSSI co-funded the development of this innovative interactive website. It enables scholars and the interested general public alike to examine the intended

Nationally Determined Contributions, to run comparative scenarios, and to form judgements about the relative fairness of each nation's pledge to tackle greenhouse gas emissions. The web facility is unique in integrating these features: multi-dimensional (5 categories of equity), comprehensive (all parties to the UNFCCC), long term (until 2100), cost-optimal (emissions add up to global mitigation scenarios), multi-gas (not just CO₂), consistent with the Paris Agreement, and based on peer-reviewed scientific work.

New Urban Levers to address the Homelessness Crisis program

Melbourne's homelessness problem is clearly worsening. There is increasing evidence of overload on the support sector. Although homelessness has a complex causality, a number of intensifying development trends are escalating the problem, including the redevelopment of sites that have long provided last resort housing for the vulnerable. This study was an initiative of MSSI in partnership with professionals in the housing sector and not-for-profit community sector. The principal partner for the project was SGS Economics and Planning Pty Ltd, bringing expertise in housing need assessment and business case development. The project documented the scale and geography of the growing homelessness problem in metropolitan Melbourne. It then outlined fiscal and policy mechanisms not deployed, or insufficiently deployed. Evidence from other jurisdictions and from the historical policy record suggest that there are new urban interventions that could be deployed to address the crisis, such as capital financing, repurposing of surplus government assets, planning policies for inclusionary housing, and improved state coordination of cross sectoral response.



Victoria McKenzie-McHarg

Victoria is the Chair of the Board of Climate Action Network Australia, the peak body for climate community groups. Former Campaign Manager at the Australian Conservation Foundation, she is committed to achieving a large-scale and rapid response to climate change.

Australian Coal Transitions: Economic and Social Perspectives

Strong global climate change mitigation will require a significant decline in coal use. Though Australia is still heavily reliant on coal, it has been shown that a low-carbon energy transition for our energy sector is feasible. But there will be significant economic and social ramifications, especially for regions with coal mining and coal-fired power production activities. The project aims to provide research findings and policy relevant insight on the social and economic challenges and opportunities of transition, particularly in the La Trobe Valley in Victoria, and on the strategies and mechanisms for effective and equitable structural adjustment. MSSl's Prof John Wiseman and the ANU's A/Prof Frank Jotzo made submissions to the 2016 'Senate Inquiry into the Retirement of Coal Fired Power Stations', outlining priorities for coal plan retirements and policy solutions to assist affected workers and communities. The project forms part of the Australian contribution to a multilateral research project, 'Climate policy and the coal sector: addressing social, economic, and policy concerns in holistic transition strategies', led by IDDRI (France) with Climate Strategies (UK). Other teams are from China, India, South Africa, Poland and Germany.

Sustainability Transitions program

Dr Fjalar de Haan, affiliated with the Dutch Research Institute For Transitions (DRIFT), continued his work developing theory and other tools for understanding sustainability transitions and societal transformations. In February 2016, the EU Centre for Shared Complex Challenges, MSSl and the Australia-based Sustainability Transitions Researchers Alliance (ASTRA) hosted the visit by a pioneer of the field of transition management, Prof Jan Rotmans. His presentation touched on the most recent advances in theoretical understanding of transitions as well as providing examples of transitions happening around the world. The event also showcased transitions

research and practice in Australia, including transformative plans for Melbourne's iconic Queen Victoria Markets. Dr de Haan and Prof Rotmans wrote a MSSl Research Paper in 2016, They make the change: the roles of actors in transitions, offering a theoretical framework defining sustainability transitions, and the agents involved in transformative change. With MSSl's Prof Brendan Gleeson and others, he has co-edited a book called Urban sustainability transitions: Australian cases – International perspectives, to be published in 2017. During 2016, Dr de Haan took up a role of Lecturer in Sustainability Transitions at the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning.

Social Sustainability program

Dr Janet Stanley, Principal Research Fellow – Urban Social Resilience, leads this program at the Institute. Her research explores the policy and planning links between land use, transport, environmental sustainability, social inclusion and wellbeing. The work seeks to better understand the role of land use and transport in fostering the wellbeing of people and communities who are at risk of being excluded from societal benefits and experience the greatest disadvantages in the context of continuing climate change. These issues are considered in urban and rural environments, with reference to developed and developing countries. A/Prof Stanley is a co-author of a book examining these topics, *How Great Cities Happen: Integrating People, Land Use and Transport*, which was released in 2017. The book argues for urban planning that can achieve productivity growth, increase social inclusion and wellbeing, and advance environmental sustainability. An important touchstone of planning should be, the authors argue, "how does this enhance the lives and wellbeing of children?" Key to meeting these objectives is an agenda to reform and strengthen governance frameworks, and to integrate top-down strategic decision-making with bottom-up community inclusion in deliberative practices.



Dr Paul Read delivers a seminar on bushfire prevention that was broadcast on SBS News.

Australian Bushfire Prevention program

The occurrence of bushfire is increasing with climate change. This increase in fire danger is associated with a reduced interval between fires, increased fire intensity, a decrease in fire extinguishments and faster fire spread. Between 45,000-60,000 bushfires occur in Australia each year, with around 80% believed to have a human-related cause. The increased risk of damaging fires heightens the importance of reducing deliberately lit fires and understanding arson behaviour. A/Prof Janet Stanley and her colleague Dr Paul Read are funded by an Australian Research Council Linkage Project called 'Building an integrated system for Australian bushfire prevention' (LP160100661). They are working with partners at Swinburne University, the Australian Institute of Criminology, the Victoria Police, business and local communities, and with the co-funders of the project, Crime Stoppers Victoria. The approach will lead to an integration of research data on biological, physical, social and economic systems. By means of predictive community profiling, the team is identifying vulnerable communities and individuals. It is also studying how to increase the willingness and capacity of people to report arson or arson risk. It is hoped this will result in feasible scalable models of data harmonization and community engagement which can be adapted and adopted around the country.

Sustainable Consumption beyond the Growth Economy

Dr Samuel Alexander leads this innovative research program exploring the problematic issues of our current growth-orientated economy, identifying the limits to growth (such as resource scarcity and climate change) and exploring various strategies for moving 'beyond growth'. Transitioning to sustainable patterns of consumption and production requires an interdisciplinary understanding of various social, economic, and ecological issues, as well as an understanding of the structural and systemic factors which can 'lock in' unsustainable forms of economy. This work faces squarely the questions 'What does sustainable consumption really mean in a world of seven billion people?', and 'What are the social justice (especially distributive) implications of living in an age of ecological overshoot?' Dr Alexander pursues these issues in a feature-length documentary he co-directed, *A Simpler Way: Crisis as Opportunity*, (Osmond and Alexander, 2016), in which he interviews influential sustainability thinkers such as Ted Trainer, Nicole Foss, Helena Norberg Hodge, Graham Turner, David Spratt, and David Holmgren. This documentary has been viewed over half a million times on YouTube. He also wrote a MSSI Issues Paper in 2016, *Policies for a Post-Growth Economy*. In this, he summarises the case for why there are limits to growth and outlines a range of bold policy interventions that would be required to produce a stable and flourishing post-growth economy. Further insight into Dr Alexander's work can be found in his two books of collected essays, *Prosperous Descent: Crisis as Opportunity in an Age of Limits* (2015) and *Sufficiency Economy: Enough, for Everyone, Forever* (2015).



PhD students and researchers from the Australian-German Climate and Energy College, with University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor Glyn Davis (centre).

Postgraduate Students and Early Career Researchers

MSSI is committed to fulfilling its role of instilling and promoting interdisciplinary research training in sustainability themes. To this end, the Institute supports research higher degree student initiatives by providing significant funding, thesis supervision, mentorship, casual employment opportunities, and other support.

Australian-German Climate and Energy College

The Australian-German Climate and Energy College is an international graduate college jointly instituted by the University of Melbourne and a partnership of German universities in the Berlin-Potsdam area. The College offers PhD candidates the opportunity to pursue research in climate change and energy transitions at a world-class level, as part of an interdisciplinary cohort, and to participate in a six month exchange program at a partner institution overseas. In 2016 there were a total of 28 students. The College Director, A/Prof Malte Meinshausen, sits on MSSI Executive Committee. MSSI is a key supporter of this innovative program and the Institute significantly provides for both its core funding and certain project costs. The Institute assists in recruiting high-achieving applicants, allocates postgraduate scholarships and funds top-ups. MSSI academics directly supervise a number of College students. A number of students have also collaborated closely with MSSI or have even been provided research assistance opportunities. For example, Stephen Pollard co-wrote a MSSI Briefing Paper on 'Cities and climate action after Paris' and Yann Robiou du Pont completed a website project, 'Paris Equity Check' as well as writing projects.

Office for Environmental Programs (OEP)

MSSI and the OEP are closely aligned. Prof Brendan Gleeson represents MSSI on OEP's Community and Industry Advisory Board. In turn, the Director of OEP, A/Prof Kathryn Williams sits on the MSSI Executive

Committee. Like MSSI, the OEP fulfils a cross-faculty mission by devising and administering the Graduate Environmental Program, including the highly-regarded Master of Environment. This flexible and innovative coursework syllabus covers a broad range of topics, from food security, to environmental economics, climate change policy and more. A number of MSSI academics formally supervise OEP students' dissertations. MSSI's Research Fellow, Dr Sam Alexander, also delivers an OEP elective subject called 'Consumerism and the Growth Economy'. On World Environment Day, 5 June 2016, the Chair of MSSI's Advisory Board, Prof Kate Auty, was guest speaker at the students and staff function organised by OEP.

Australasian Early Career Urban Research Network (AECURN)

AECURN is a network of PhD candidates and Early Career Researchers from across Australia and New Zealand who are undertaking research on cities. It provides a productive environment for its members and links them to the Australian Cities Research Network. Dr Melanie Lowe, convenor of MSSI's Future Cities Research Cluster and one of the co-founders of the network, continued the University's strong support of AECURN in a mentoring capacity.

In February MSSI hosted an AECURN Research Showcase, in partnership with RMIT University's Centre for Urban Research. Presentations by recent PhD graduates and ECRs provided insights into career pathways, research roles and skills, and the final stages of completing a PhD thesis.



Students collaborating during a climate change planning session at the Habitat III Summit in Quito, Ecuador.

Research Facilitation

A key MSSI role is to facilitate sustainability research, especially by fostering the development and enhancement of interdisciplinary teams. MSSI is a nimble enabler and internal partner within the University's community of scholars, assisting with preparing grant bids, forming delegations, and other activities. The Institute has particular carriage of research falling within its cluster areas of expertise, but it also lends its support and capacity to a wide set of other sustainability research and engagement endeavours.

Facilitation Grants: Funding and Sponsorship

Internal, University of Melbourne:

- 50% salary co-funding of Prof Don Henry, Public Policy Fellow – Environmentalism position (1 January – 30 April 2016): \$33,026
- Core funding of the Australian German Climate and Energy College: \$54,000; Top-up scholarship: \$18,000
- Paid registrations to attend the 'Ecocity World Summit 2017': \$5,741
- Co-funding of the UN Habitat III delegation: \$10,989
- Funding of early career researcher Dr Melanie Lowe, McCaughey VicHealth Community Wellbeing Unit, MDHS, to coordinate the 'Future Cities' cluster: \$10,000
- Funding to produce the 'Paris Equity Check' website [paris-equity-check.org], the Australian German Climate and Energy College: \$7,000
- Funding of Yann Robiou du Pont [ID: 105943], casual salary for 1.5° and 2° C Scenarios and Pathways project: \$5,747
- Co-funding of 'The Last Tim Tam' project, Faculty of Arts: \$5,000
- Co-funding of visit by Prof Bruno Latour, Performance Climates – Psi#22: \$3,000
- Travel grant to Prof David Karoly, to attend the 'Universities and Climate Change' Conference in Manchester, UK (1–2 September 2016): \$2,500
- Sponsorship of the 'One Health EcoHealth 2016 Congress' (3–7 December 2016), via Onemda VicHealth Group, UoM: \$2,000

- Co-funding of Prof Sheila Jasanoff events, Melbourne Law School: \$1,108
- Funding of the launch of The Lancet series, 'Urban design, transport, and health', CRE in Healthy, Liveable Communities: \$1,000
- Co-funding of Patrick Suckling 'Climate Action' Roundtable event costs: \$500
- Funding of the filming of the lecture by Prof Bruno Latour, on 5 July 2016: \$300
- Funding of photography at the Melbourne Writers Festival: \$300

External:

- Travel grant for Mrs Mary Robinson visit: \$18,004
- Travel grant for Prof Lars Coenen visit, August: \$7,412
- Co-funding of book, Art + Climate = Change (Melbourne University Press, 2016): \$5,500
- Funding of the filming of the event 'Refuge' (9–10 July 2016), Arts House, Arts Melbourne, City of Melbourne: \$5,000
- Sponsorship of the Annual 'Paul Mees Memorial Public Debate' at RMIT: \$4,730
- Sponsorship of 'Transitions Film Festival', [18 February – 3 March 2016]: \$2,000
- Travel grant for Prof Michael Grubb, for public lecture (7 December 2016): \$898
- Travel grant for Prof Patrick Troy, to attend 'City Dreamers Research Symposium': \$822
- Travel grant for Tabea Lissner, for seminar (3 August 2016): \$207



Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison AO

*Graeme is an urban and social historian interested in the uses and abuses of history for public policy. He has written influential books on urban sustainability, including *Car Wars* (2004) and recently *City Dreamers: The Urban Imagination in Australia* (2016).*

Bids and Grant Writing

MSSI is a strong ally for University teams and individuals making bids for research funding. The Institute has experience and skill in developing project proposals for national and international schemes, including the phases of planning, team-building, partnership-brokering, budgeting, and grant-writing.

In 2016, MSSI led or took a key partnership role in the facilitation of the following bids:

- **Urban Studies Foundation, University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK**

Proposal title: 'Urban Studies after the Age of the City', a series of international workshops in Melbourne, Maynooth, Singapore

MSSI Investigator: Prof Brendan Gleeson

Other Investigators: Dr Lauren Rickards, RMIT University; Prof Mark Boyle, National University of Ireland

- **Social Cohesion Research Grants Program, Research Institute on Social Cohesion, Victorian Government**

Proposal title: 'Prevention of extreme anti-social behaviour'

MSSI Investigator: A/Prof Janet Stanley, MSSI, UoM

- **Federal Dept. of Industry, Innovation and Science (DIISRTE), CRC for Low Carbon Living Program 2 project, Low Carbon Precincts**

Proposal title: 'Development and trial of a co-benefits calculator' [RP2028]

MSSI Investigator: Prof Mark Stevenson (Project Leader)

Other Investigators: Dr Jason Thompson, UoM; Prof Majid Sarvi, UoM; Prof Billie Giles-Corti, UoM; Prof Peter Newton, Swinburne Uni.; Prof Susan Thompson, UNSW

- **Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, Innovation and Exploration Grant**

Proposal title: 'Climate Changers: The citizen eco-innovators transforming our cities'

MSSI Investigator: Prof Brendan Gleeson

- **Victorian Dept. of Environment, Land, Water and Planning**

Proposal title: 'Climate-KIC Australia', a Business Case

MSSI Investigators: Prof Brendan Gleeson, Prof John Wiseman, Prof Don Henry

Led by: Marian Schoen, European Union Centre for Shared Complex Challenges, UoM

Founding organisations: Suncorp, Curtin University, Govt of South Australia, ACT Govt, South Pole Group, Uni. of Melbourne, Griffith University, Vict. DELWP, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

- **The Climate Reality Project International (chaired by the Hon. Al Gore)**

Proposal title: 'The Climate Reality Project – Australian branch'

MSSI Investigator: Prof Don Henry

- **ARC Discovery Grant Application**

Proposal title: 'Natural resources and ecosystem services in productivity measurement' [DPI 70103223]

MSSI Investigator: Carl Obst, Honorary Fellow

Other Investigators: Prof Kevin Fox, UNSW; Prof Rupert Grafton, ANU; Prof Walter Diewert, Uni of British Columbia

- **ARC Linkage Grant Application**

Proposal title: 'Investigating Urban Resilience in the Arts'

UoM SCC investigators: A/Prof Audrey Yue, School of Culture and Communication, Faculty of Arts; Dr Rimi Khan, ditto; Dr Eddie Paterson, ditto; Dr Daniella Trimboli, ditto.



Graz van Egmond

Graz is a member of the MSSl Advisory Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Banksia Foundation. Graz has taken the Banksia Foundation from a small community based environmental awards program to a growing social knowledge enterprise working towards a more sustainable Australia.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Key External Partners

MSSI works to advance the University's commitment to public value. By forming and deepening relationships with external partners, the Institute can enhance research according to this public-spirited ethos. MSSI has established partnerships with peak agencies, institutions, and organisations. For certain strategic partnerships, MSSI offers its expertise and capacity to serve as the coordinating unit on behalf of the University.

The following is a selection of some organisations currently working with MSSI.

- **Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA)**
MSSI Director, Prof Brendan Gleeson, facilitated a session of ACOLA's 'Delivering sustainable urban mobility' policy roundtable in December.
- **Australian Conservation Foundation**
The ACF remains a key partner of the Institute, with representation on the MSSI Advisory Board.
- **Association of Pacific Rim Universities**
MSSI Professorial Fellow, Jim Falk, coordinates APRU's 'Sustainability and Climate Change Program'.
- **Banksia Foundation**
MSSI is a partner of this environmental organisation which presents its annual Sustainability Awards, recognising leadership and innovation throughout Australia.
- **Beyond Zero Emissions**
MSSI supports the work of this organisation which produces plans for radical yet viable energy and emissions options.
- **Carbon Market Institute**
MSSI collaborates with this peak body for carbon market participants. The CMI delivered its 3rd annual 'Australian Emissions Reduction Summit' in 2016.
- **Centre for Policy Development**
This small but high-powered outfit develops long-term policies to promote shared prosperity and sustainable wellbeing, and MSSI continues to support its sustainability-related projects.

- **City of Melbourne**
MSSI has key links with the City on projects and initiatives, including with its Arts Melbourne division. In 2016, the City of Melbourne Chair in Resilient Cities was appointed, a position at MSSI around which will orbit a varied program of research and engagement.
- **CLIMARTE: Arts for a Safe Climate**
MSSI partnered with CLIMARTE: Arts for a Safe Climate for the book, Art + Climate = Change, and supports its ongoing work on exhibitions and events.
- **Climate And Health Alliance (CAHA)**
MSSI Associate Fiona Armstrong is the founder and convenor of this committed and influential organisation which specialises in the health impacts and consequences of large-scale environmental problems.
- **Climate Council**
Prof Tim Flannery, an MSSI Professorial Fellow, is the Chief Councillor.
- **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**
In 2016, MSSI continued close links with DFAT, collaborating on a high-level roundtable on 'Climate action and implementation of the Paris Agreement'.
- **Dutch Research Institute For Transitions (DRIFT)**
MSSI hosted visits by key research staff from this cutting-edge research institute based in the Netherlands.
- **Ecocity Builders**
MSSI has been working closely with this conference organisation which administers the biennial Ecocity World Summit series. The 2017 Summit is being hosted in Melbourne by MSSI and its partners.
- **Environment Protection Authority (Victoria)**
MSSI's Director sits on the Steering Committee of the 'Strategic Research and Development Partnership'.
- **Fenner School of the Environment, Australian National University**
MSSI works with key researchers from the Fenner School, including Prof Patrick Troy, a doyen of urban planning, and A/Prof Frank Jotzo, who directs the Centre for Climate Economics and Policy and who works with MSSI on the Australian Coal Transitions project.



MSSI hosted a roundtable on 'Implementing the Paris Agreement' with the Ambassador for the Environment Patrick Suckling, from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and climate change academics from the University of Melbourne.

Collaborations with external organisations

- **Green Alliance of Universities for a Sustainable Future**
Professor John Wiseman represented the University at the 2014 Conference at the University of Beijing. There have been ongoing discussions about future research collaborations.
- **Griffith Review**
MSSI's long-standing relationship with this cutting-edge publisher continued in 2016, with MSSI's Brendan Gleeson co-editing Griffith Review 52, 'Imagining the Future', with Julianne Schultz.
- **Sustainability Victoria**
MSSI's Deputy Director, Prof John Wiseman, is a member of the SV Reference Group for Sustainability Victoria Climate Change Social Research Report.
- **The Climate Reality Project, based in the USA**
MSSI's Prof Don Henry sits on the International Board of TCRP and MSSI hosts the Australian branch.
- **Transitions Film Festival**
Once again, MSSI sponsored this annual festival of world-changing documentaries on sustainability topics.
- **United Nations Habitat – Housing and Sustainable Urban Development**
MSSI and partners co-funded and administered a University delegation to attend the UN Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador.
- **United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network**
MSSI represents the University of Melbourne on the Australia/Pacific Network of this global United Nations sustainability alliance and provides ongoing input into a range of SDSN projects including the 'Sustainable Development Goals' and 'Deep Decarbonisation Pathways'.

Collaborators at the University

MSSI champions the great diversity of sustainability research at the University. This includes personnel and units working within MSSI's research clusters, but the interest and support extends to all sustainability work.

MSSI therefore maintains collaborations with institutes, centres and research units from across the departments, schools and faculties.

Here is a selection of internal collaborators who worked prominently with MSSI in 2016.

- ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate Extremes
- Australian-German Climate and Energy College
- Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology
- Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network (AURIN)
- Carlton Connect Initiative
- Centre for Resources, Energy and Environmental Law (CREEL)
- Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub (CAUL)
- European Union Centre on Shared Complex Challenges
- McCaughey VicHealth Community Wellbeing Unit
- Melbourne Energy Institute
- Melbourne Networked Society Institute
- Melbourne Neuroscience Institute
- Melbourne School of Government
- Melbourne Social Equity Institute
- NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Healthy, Liveable Communities
- Office for Environmental Programs
- Onemda VicHealth Group
- Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre
- Research Unit in Public Cultures
- School of Culture and Communication
- School of Geography
- Spatial @ Melbourne
- Sustainable Campus
- Victorian Eco-Innovation Lab and the Collaborative Research Centre for Low Carbon Living (Visions and Pathways 2040 project)



Visits and Travel

Visits to MSSI

The visits that MSSI organises, sponsors and hosts bring the world of sustainability research excellence to the University. These visitors are strategically chosen and invited so that they can collaborate with the research community and provide seminar presentations, roundtable discussions, masterclasses and mentoring for students, as well as free lectures for the general public.

Here are some highlights of the international visitors to MSSI in 2016:

- **Prof Jan Rotmans, Workshop: Sustainability Transitions: research and practice**

Prof Jan Rotmans visited MSSI from Erasmus University in Rotterdam. As a professor in sustainability transitions, he engaged with researchers and post-graduates students in a workshop focusing on integrated sustainability problems and applied transition research. This emerging field brings together policymakers, practitioners and academia. The UpClose podcast interview that was arranged as part of his visit has been downloaded more than 1,650 times.

- **Aromar Revi, MSSI Roundtable 'Creating safe, resilient and sustainable cities'**

11 May: MSSI welcomed Aromar Revi, Director of the Indian Institute for Human Settlement and Coordinating Lead Author for Urban Areas in the IPCC 5th Assessment Report, to lead a policy and research roundtable discussion. Aromar encouraged urban researchers to pay particular attention to i) the crucial role which cities are playing in responding to climate change and ii) the actions needed to drive rapid implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- **Prof Bruno Latour, Lecture**

MSSI was delighted to host a visit by Bruno Latour, Professor at Sciences Po, Paris where he is director of Sciences Po médialab and a Centennial Professor in the Department of Sociology at the London School of Economics. Latour is a world-leading sociologist of science and anthropologist of modernity.



Prof Bruno Latour

His lecture 'On sensitivity Arts, Science and Politics in the New Climatic Regime' attracted an audience of over 450 and the recording of his lecture has had over 1,200 views on YouTube.

Our other visitors, outlined elsewhere in this Annual Report, were:

- **Mrs Mary Robinson**, President, Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice; former UN Special Envoy on Climate Change; former President of Ireland
- **Prof Sheila Jasanoff**, Pforzheimer Professor of Science and Technology Studies at the Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University.
- **Melissa Permezel**, Urban Specialist, United Nations Habitat
- **Sir Nigel Thrift**, Executive Director of the Schwarzman Scholars, an international leadership program at Tsinghua University in Beijing.

Top: Roundtable on 'Creating safe, resilient and sustainable cities' with Aromar Revi, Director of the Indian Institute for Human Settlement. Pictured (from left) Prof Rebekah Brown Director of the Monash Sustainability Institute, Aromar Revi, Prof John Wiseman, Prof John Thwaites Chair of the Monash Sustainability Institute, and Prof Brendan Gleeson.



Prof Michael Grubb from University College London delivered a public lecture on planetary economics and delivering the energy transition.

- **Dr Michael W. Douglas**, Research Fellow at Cooperative Institute for Research in Mesoscale Meteorology, University of Oklahoma, USA
- **Prof Michael Grubb**, Professor of International Energy and Climate Change Policy, University College London

Travel by MSSI Personnel

Prof Brendan Gleeson

- Griffith Review launch at the National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT [9 June 2016], presented as part of the launch of his co-edited Griffith Review Issue 52, *Imagining the Future*.
- Brisbane Writers Festival, Brisbane, QLD [11 September 2016], joined a panel of authors at the Brisbane Writers Festival to discuss climate change, urbanisation and sustainability, based on *Imagining the Future*.
- Australian Research Council College of Experts, Canberra, ACT [23–26 August 2016], a member of the College in the Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences discipline, he attended grant application assessment meetings in Canberra.
- Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA), 'Delivering sustainable urban mobility' policy roundtable, Sydney, NSW [7 December 2016], facilitated Session 1, 'Development of compact, mixed-use polycentric cities: Land use planning for sustainable mobility'.

Prof John Wiseman

- L'Institut du développement durable et des relations internationales (IDDRI), 'Coal Transitions: Research and Dialogue on the Future of Coal', Paris, France, [18–20 September 2016] attended this conference, including the stakeholder workshop, representing the UoM and securing ongoing involvement in the International Coal Transitions project.

- 'Climate Chance Summit', Nantes, France [26–28 September 2016], represented the UoM and Victoria at this event for all non-state actors involved in the fight against climate change, presenting two papers and addressing the closing plenary. Significant involvement of Climate Chance in the 2017 Ecocity World Summit was also secured.

Prof Don Henry

Prof Henry engages with partners around the world as part of his role as Enterprise Professor of Environmentalism. He has forged and consolidated research and engagement linkages with peak environmental NGOs and key international civil society and governmental bodies, such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Climate Reality Project (TCRP) Meetings and Trainings

- 11–22 March, Manila, Philippines, TCRP Leadership Corps Training Session (1,000 participants from 30 countries)
- 3–18 June 2016, Beijing China, TCRP Leadership Corps Training Session; International Cooperation Conference on Green Economy and Climate Change, other meetings and negotiations (800 participants)
- 2–8 August 2016, Manila, Philippines, meetings with The Climate Reality Project Philippines branch; negotiations with Dean of Law and the President of the Ateneo de Manila University.
- 14–28 August 2016, Houston, USA, TCRP Leadership Corps Training Session (1,000 participants from 60 countries)
- 18–22 September 2016, meetings at Peking University, China, and with the Chinese Government
- 23 September – 1 October 2016, TCRP meetings in Los Angeles, USA



The Hon. Al Gore applauding MSSl's Prof Don Henry at The Climate Reality Project Leadership training in Beijing, China.

The Climate Reality Project International Board Meeting

- 6–19 April 2016, attended TCRP International Board Meeting in New York; guest at UNFCCC headquarters, Bonn; visited the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) South East Asia, in Bangkok

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Climate Change Conference

- 17–24 May 2016, Bonn, Germany, UNFCCC negotiations, representing UoM and TCRP, with UoM's A/Prof Malte Meinshausen

UNFCCC Conference of the Parties 22 United Nations Climate Change Conference, Marrakesh, Morocco

- 7–18 November 2016, Marrakech, Morocco, UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP22), representing the UoM and Australia



Dr Ben Parr and Prof Don Henry at the Green Economy and Climate Change Conference in Beijing, China.

Indigenous Australians Environmental Collaborations Project

- Visits to Cairns and sites on the Cape York Peninsula, Queensland: 9–10 October; 20–25 October; 28 October – 1 November, and 13–17 December.
- 16 December 2016, Shelburne Bay on Cape York Peninsula returned to the Wuthathi people with the declaration of the new Wuthathi (Shelburne Bay) National Park. Professor Don Henry, who has worked on this issue since the mid-1980s, attended the ceremonies on the invitation of the Traditional Owners.

Other

- 10 November 2016, Canberra, ACT, Australian Council of Trade Unions Conference: 'A Fairer, Cleaner Future: Uniting for a Just Transition, A plan for the electricity sector'

Dr Ben Parr

- 5th Oxford Young Scholars Conference, Oxford University, UK [19 May – 18 June 2016], invited to co-chair panel, 'Challenges in Environment'
- 2nd International Cooperation Conference on 'Green Economy and Climate Change', Beijing, China [13–14 June 2016], liaison and networking
- China Climate Leaders Training, Shenzhen, China [15–16 June 2016], participant
- 2nd International Young Scholars Forum, Sun Yat-Sen University, Zhuhai [17 June 2016], presented on key countries and climate change policy
- Oceanic Conference on International Studies (OCIS), Brisbane, QLD, [4–6 July 2016], panel presentation on international climate policy



MSSI supported a group of students and staff who attended the 'Habitat III' United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in Quito, Ecuador.

Cathy Alexander

- Endeavour Research Fellowship (funded by Australian Govt), University of British Columbia, Canada [18 April – 19 August 2016], research visit on the topic 'A comparative study of climate policy, comparing Australia with British Columbia'. Cathy reported the CPSA conference had a strong focus on climate policy, oil sands, pipelines and fracking. Cathy also managed to win the 3-minute thesis competition at the Canadian Political Science Association's annual conference. She reported that the conference had a strong focus on climate policy, oil sands, pipelines and fracking.

A/Prof Janet Stanley

- Bus and Coach Association South Australia Annual conference, Adelaide, SA [28 May 2016], invited speaker.
- NSW Department of Transport, Sydney, NSW [28 September 2016], discussions.
- Bus Industry Confederation National Annual Conference, 'Moving People', Perth, WA [6–9 November 2016], invited speaker.

Dr Fjalar de Haan

- Wuppertal, Germany, and Rotterdam, the Netherlands [13 June – 8 July 2016]

Dr de Haan was Scholar in Residence with the support of the University's European Union Centre for Shared Complex Challenges. His residences were at the Wuppertal Institute in Germany and at the Dutch Research Institute For Transitions (DRIFT).

- Sydney [7 March 2016], coordinated the Australia-based Sustainability Transitions Researchers Alliance (ASTRA) Conference.

- United Nations Habitat III, 'Towards a New Urban Agenda', Quito Ecuador [17–20 October 2016]

The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development has been held once every 20 years since its inception in Vancouver in 1976. In 2016, 'Habitat III' was held in Quito, Ecuador. The purpose was to develop a New Urban Agenda as a roadmap to guide sustainable urban development globally, with a focus on implementing the 'urban' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-11). With over 36,000 registered participants, Habitat III was the largest conference ever held by the UN.

MSSI and its partners at the University supported a group of 15 students, academic staff, and alumni, who were granted Special Accreditation status and allowed access to high-level panels, roundtables and plenaries. Along with Compass Housing, the University coordinated a group of over 60 delegates from other Australian institutions, government and NGOs, including Australia's Permanent Ambassador to the United Nations Her Excellency Gillian Bird. Three competitive travel grants sponsored by MSSI, its Host Faculty, and the Melbourne Social Equity Institute were awarded to two PhD students and an early career researcher.

Prof Carolyn Whitzman of the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning had the privilege of giving an Official Statement at the closing plenary session on behalf of the University, attended by global representatives from over 150 countries. Other University delegates led side events and training sessions, and participated in thematic roundtables and panels. A series of articles were also published on The Conversation by delegates reflecting on the conference.



Audience members at MSSI seminar on climate change and health.

Events

MSSI staged 35 in-house events in 2016, including: 1 research symposium; 22 seminars, workshops or roundtable meetings; 10 public lectures, forums or launches; and 2 film screenings. In addition, MSSI was a key partner in a number of events involving other University units or external parties.

Event highlights

Inaugural MSSI Oration 2016: Mrs Mary Robinson

MSSI was delighted to host a visit by the former president of Ireland, Mary Robinson who delivered our inaugural oration. Mary Robinson addressed the growing role of climate justice in climate talks and in bringing the Paris Agreement into force.



Prof Brendan Gleeson with 2016 MSSI Orator Mary Robinson.

As president of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice and the former UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Climate Change, Mary Robinson played an important role in the Paris climate conference process. Mary Robinson's engagements during her two-day visit also included a high-level roundtable on climate change attended by some of Melbourne's leading academics, business representatives and civil society actors.

Bruno Latour Visit

MSSI co-hosted a public lecture by Bruno Latour, Director of the Medialab, Science Po Paris and Centennial Professor, Department of Sociology at the London School of Economics. Professor Latour is a world-leading sociologist of science and anthropologist of modernity. He delivered his presentation 'On Sensitivity Arts, Science and Politics in the New Climatic Regime' to an engaged audience of 500. As part of his visit, MSSI also hosted a workshop with postgraduate students, giving them the opportunity to engage in discussion with Prof Latour on research and communication challenges associated with climate change trends.

Research Cluster Events

Climate Transformations Cluster

15–16 March: Visit by Mrs Mary Robinson (with the EU Centre for Shared Complex Challenges), Roundtable, 'Climate change policy and research priorities after Paris'; Oration, 'Climate Justice After Paris: key challenges, opportunities and priorities'; Breakfast with Business Leaders, 'Climate Justice Priorities after Paris' (with the Carbon Market Institute)

26 June – 10 July: Visit by Prof Bruno Latour (with the School of Culture and Communication), Graduate Seminar, 'Science, art, politics and climate change'; Film Screening, 'CLIMATE Make It Work' (dir. David Bornstein); Public Lecture, 'On Sensitivity: Arts, Science and Politics in the New Climatic Regime';



Climate Conversations seminar discussing the key outcomes from the 2015 Paris Climate Summit. (From left) Peter Christoff, Robyn Eckersley, Cathy Alexander and Don Henry.

25 July: Book Launch, Art+Climate=Change (Melbourne University Press), with partners CLIMARTE, the Ian Potter Museum of Art, and Carlton Connect Initiative

30 August: Roundtable, 'Climate action and implementation of the Paris Agreement', Patrick Suckling, Ambassador for the Environment, DFAT; Colin Walters, National Strategy Advisor, UoM; Kelly Farrow, Adviser, Policy and Government Relations, UoM; Carlene Wilson, Director Policy and Government Relations, UoM

18-20 September: 'Just Transitions' Research workshop (Paris, France), Prof John Wiseman

26-28 September: 'Climate Chance: Sommet mondial des acteurs du climat' (Nantes, France), Prof John Wiseman

7 December: Prof Michael Grubb, Uni College London, Public Lecture, 'Low-carbon transitions and the role of policy instruments'

8 December: Prof Michael Grubb, Roundtable, 'Delivering the Energy Transition in theory and practice: Planetary Economics and the three domains of sustainable development'

Climate Conversations Seminar Series

23 February: Robyn Eckersley, Don Henry, Cathy Alexander, John Wiseman and Malte Meinshausen, 'Paris and beyond: Key outcomes from the 2015 Paris Climate Summit – and implications for 2016 climate research and policy priorities'

19 April: David Karoly and Richard Eckard, 'The 2015/2016 El Niño and its impacts globally and in Australia'

17 May: Don Henry and Ben Parr, 'Climate change politics and policy of emerging economies (India, China, Brazil)'

28 June: Prof John Wiseman, Prof Robyn Eckersley, Tom Arup, Irwin Jackson, Victoria McKenzie-McHarg, 'The 2016 Climate Change Election?! Implications for future Australian climate change policy and strategy'

26 July: David Karoly, Jeremy Baskin and Anita Talberg, 'Geoengineering and Climate Change'

27 September: Janet Stanley, Paul Read and Alan March, 'Can we prevent bushfires? Issues and challenges'

25 October: David Karoly, 'Balanced Perspectives on the Climate Change Authority Report and the Hamilton-Karoly Minority Report'

29 November: Dr Michael W. Douglas, Research Fellow at Cooperative Institute for Research in Mesoscale Meteorology, University of Oklahoma, USA, 'Why science isn't the main issue in climate change'

Future Cities Cluster

26 February: 'Australasian Early Career Urban Research Network Panel'

11 May: Aromar Revi, Roundtable, 'Creating inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities: Priorities for developed and developing economies', John Wiseman, co-hosted by MSSl, Monash Uni and RMIT

29 July: Melissa Permezel, Seminar, 'Global frameworks for urban equity?'

22 September: 'Future Cities Research Cluster Interdisciplinary Networking Meeting'

22 September: Sir Nigel Thrift, Public Lecture, 'The Sentient City' (with the EU Centre for Shared Complex Challenges, and the Hawke Research Institute, Uni. of South Australia)

21 October: Research Symposium on book City Dreamers by Graeme Davison, 'Historically informed views of contemporary urban Australia, especially the suburban question'

29 November: Billie Giles-Corti, Mark Stevenson, et al., Public Lecture, 'The Lancet Series, 'Urban design, transport and health'



MSSI academics discuss their co-authored Griffith Review publication 'Imagining the Future' at the Melbourne Writers Festival. (From left) Brendan Gleeson, Cathy Alexander, Samuel Alexander and Robyn Eckersley.

Sustainability In The Anthropocene Cluster

During 2016: 'Sustainability In The Anthropocene Reading Group' (led by Jeremy Baskin and Peter Christoff)

9 May – 4 June: Prof Sheila Jasanoff Visit (with the Melbourne Law School and Faculty of Arts), Science Policy Roundtable, 'The problems of translating scientific understanding into policy and political action'; Public Lecture, 'Citizens of the Anthropocene: Community and Polity in a Changing Climate'; Open Lecture, 'Science, Technology and the Human Future: Introduction to Science and Technology Studies'; Roundtable, 'How does Science speak to Policy?'

18 August: Open Seminar, 'Epoch-alyse Now: Is the Anthropocene a scientific concept?'

General MSSI Events

25 February: Prof Jan Rotmans, Workshop, 'Sustainability Transitions: research and practice' (with the European Union Centre for Shared Complex Challenges)

11 May: Book Launch, Griffith Review: 'Imagining the Future', featuring Brendan Gleeson, Tim Flannery and Julianne Schultz

25 August: Banksia Foundation Forum, 'Sustainable Development Goals and Corporate Australia'

15–19 August: UoM Environment Week, Sam Alexander introduced his documentary film, *A Simpler Way – Crisis as Opportunity*.

3 September: Melbourne Writer's Festival 2016, Panel, 'Climate Change: Imagining the Future', featuring Brendan Gleeson, Robyn Eckersley and Samuel Alexander

11 September: Brisbane Writer's Festival 2016 – Panel, 'Imagining the Future', featuring Brendan Gleeson, Andy Merrifield and Ashley Hay



Prof Bruno Latour engages with cross-disciplinary researchers during his visit to the University of Melbourne.



Publications and Communications

MSSI has devoted significant resources and expertise to the production and dissemination of research information for a diverse public and professional audience. MSSI's contribution to public policy and debate on matters of national priority now spans both the traditional and new media landscapes. In this way, the University's sustainability research is translated into the communication modes most suited to achieving impact. Above all, MSSI is committed to communicating the sustainability imperative and keeping it foremost in people's minds.

Key publications

Books

- *Griffith Review* 52, 'Imagining the Future', edited by Julianne Schulz and Brendan Gleeson (2015), Text Publishing [317 pp.] [2 May 2016] [<https://griffithreview.com/editions/imagining-the-future/>]
- *Art + Climate = Change*, edited by Guy Abrahams, Bronwyn Johnson and Kelly Gellatly (2016), Melbourne University Press [152 pp.] [27 June 2016] [<https://www.mup.com.au/items/165662>]



MSSI Issues Papers

Each MSSI Issues Paper aims to encapsulate the insights of a thinker or practitioner on a particular issue of importance to society. Through this series, MSSI is committed to engaging with communities and fostering deeper debate and wider consultation on sustainability issues that matter.

- Issues Paper No. 6, 'Policies for a Post-Growth Economy', by Samuel Alexander (April 2016) [14 pp.]
- Issues Paper No. 7, 'Cities of the Future: What should be their form?', by Janet Stanley (October 2016) [19 pp.]

MSSI Research Papers

MSSI's Research Papers are a key communication initiative of the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, aimed at stimulating thought and discussion within the University of Melbourne and broader community and showcasing the scholarship of MSSI. The vision for the Series is cutting-edge, rigorous and engaging papers that not only introduce, represent or respond to existing research, but test out new ideas and help set the agenda around sustainability.

- Research Paper No. 5, 'They Make the Change: Roles of Actors in Transitions', by Fjalar J. De Haan (November 2016) [16 pp.]



MSSI Briefings Papers

MSSI's Briefing Papers are intended to translate research findings on a range of sustainability topics for a wide audience. The papers convey reliable and current knowledge in a clear, uncluttered fashion so that members of the public, civil society stakeholders, and students alike can all approach their content and gain insights from it. The series began with briefings written in the context of the COP21 climate negotiations.

- MSSI Briefing Paper No. 4, 'Philippines climate change agenda: High vulnerability! High ambition?' Dr Benjamin Parr; Antonio G. M. La Viña, Prof Don Henry (March 2016) [16 pp.]
- MSSI Briefing Paper No. 5, 'Cities and climate action after Paris: key opportunities and priorities' Professor Brendan Gleeson, Stephen Pollard and Professor John Wiseman (May 2016) [12 pp.]
- MSSI Briefing Paper No. 6, 'A new starting point: China's eco-civilisation and climate action post-Paris' Dr Benjamin Parr; Prof Don Henry (June 2016) [18 pp.]
- MSSI Briefing Paper No. 7, 'China's economic and energy transition: Trends and implications for climate change' Fergus Green (August 2016) [12 pp.]

MSSI Public Lecture Series Papers

- MSSI Oration No. 1, 'Climate Justice After Paris', by Mary Robinson (April 2016) [10 pp.]

Communications Highlights

In 2016, MSSI academics were regularly featured in the media. Our experts authored or were mentioned in 51 newspaper articles and news sites nationwide and internationally, including *SBS News*, *The Age*, *Huffington Post*, *The Guardian*, *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Australian*. MSSI featured in 19 radio interviews

(including news headlines) broadcast over more than 40 stations nationwide. A total of 7 TV appearances include ABC News 24, SBS News and Ten Eyewitness News.

In 2016 MSSI increased our audiences on all platforms. We communicate our news regularly in a fortnightly e-newsletter, and this year subscribers to this email increased by 20% to 4,026. The newsletter has an exceptionally high average open rate (40%) compared to an industry average of 5%. The boost in MSSI subscribers was contributed to by our increased activity on social media, particularly Twitter with @MSSIMelb increasing by 40% to more than 1,400 followers. The traffic to our website also increased by 10% with a majority (70%) of our users being new visitors to the site.

MSSI's Inaugural Oration by the former President of Ireland Mary Robinson captured the interest of the media. During her visit Mary Robinson was interviewed by ABC News Breakfast and ABC Radio National on the climate change related issues she raised during the Oration. She was also quoted in *The Mercury*, *The Conversation* and *The Guardian*. The recording of her Oration has been viewed on YouTube over 550 times.

Janet Stanley, Paul Read and Alan March presented a Climate Conversations seminar on bushfire prevention and attracted media attention. These researchers called for a major overhaul in the ways Australia tackles its growing bushfire risk. After outlining their latest research on links between socio-economic disadvantage and arson, they urged for greater focus on prevention in those urban fringe communities with the greatest risk. In addition to *SBS News*, Janet Stanley was interviewed on ABC News 24 Breakfast, 7 News and Paul Read on TEN Eyewitness News. Articles featuring their research also appeared in *The Australian*, the *Herald Sun* and *The Courier*.



Dr Paul Read

Paul is a Research Fellow with a focus on the confluence of disasters resilience and sustainable societies from a 'human needs' perspective. Paul supervises students on inter-generational equity, online psychology, crime, arson, bushfire prevention and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

MSSI people in the news: a snapshot

- Following her visit to Canada, Cathy Alexander outlined why Australia might just follow Canada's lead on climate policy, in *The Conversation*.
- Cathy Alexander was interviewed *BBC UK World Service*, discussing climate change and water issues.
- Paul Read was interviewed on *Sunrise* and *ABC News Breakfast* about the news that the incoming Trump Administration will scrap climate research at NASA. His comments were also quoted in the *Huffington Post* and *RenewEconomy*.
- MSSI supported a group of University scholars to attend the UN Habitat III Summit in Ecuador. They co-authored an article, describing the Summit and the New Urban Agenda which was published in the *Huffington Post*.
- Sam Alexander featured in *The Australian Weekend Magazine* special on eco-villages, where he talked about his research on voluntary simplicity.
- Prof John Wiseman wrote for *The Conversation* on why 'company directors who don't properly consider climate related risks could be liable for breaching their duty of due care and diligence.'
- Ben Parr and Don Henry authored an article published on how China is moving towards an ecological civilisation.
- An article by Ben Parr and Don Henry on how China's eco-civilisation could be key to delivering on the Paris Agreement, was published by the *Australian Institute of International Affairs* and also in *Chinadialogue* (translated into Chinese). The article is based on a MSSI Briefing Paper.
- Al Gore and Prof Don Henry's essay discussing how the Paris Agreement gives hope in solving the climate crisis, featured in *The Guardian*.
- Brendan Gleeson was interviewed by *The Age Domain* talking about which will be Melbourne's fastest growing suburbs in 2026.
- Prof Brendan Gleeson was interviewed on 3RRR radio about the new edition of the Griffith Review 'Imagining the Future'

 **88,444**
hits on the
MSSI website

 **4026**
subscribers
to MiSSIve

 **564,000+**
YouTube views of
'A Simpler Way' doco

 **117**
media
mentions

 **40%**
increase in
followers

 **980+**
publication
downloads



Financial Statement

Income

Core funding from Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)	\$992,000
Space Charge Supplement, DVC-R	\$30,000
DVC-R Supplementary Funding	\$50,000
Research @ Melbourne SURE Support Funding	\$100,000
Grants, Internal	\$30,076
Other Income, Internal	\$54,544
Income, External	\$8,784
Total Income	\$1,265,404

Expenditure

Core Staff Salaries	\$535,953
Research Project Salaries	\$412,374
Research Grants	\$42,737
Research Sponsorships	\$18,109
Staff Travel	\$30,170
Visiting Researchers	\$27,724
Research Higher Degree Student Initiatives	\$72,000
Miscellaneous Research-Enabling Expenditure	\$50,613
Host Faculty Space Charge	\$30,000
Total Expenditure	\$1,219,680
Unallocated balance (surplus) to be carried forward	\$45,724



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