



CHANGE THE STORY, SHARE YOUR STORY: COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AMONG FINNISH YOUTH

“From being a victim of a certain narrative, he created his own story and re-appropriated his own identity.”

The five-year project ‘Developing a Broadcasting Model to Counter Violent Extremism’ identified the notion of edutainment as an important tool in developing successful CVE broadcasting media strategies by offering more inclusive positive alternative narratives. Edutainment or entertainment education can be defined as ‘a process for purposefully embedding educational and

social issues in the creation, production, processing and dissemination process of an entertainment program, in order to achieve desired individual, community, institutional, and societal changes among the intended media user population’ (Hua Wang and Singhal, 2009: 272-73). Edutainment is particularly appropriate in the field of early prevention and countering of violent extremism as it can be used as an effective vehicle to convey educational messages to at-risk individuals and communities throughout the use of entertainment and creativity.

The importance of narrative structure within entertainment education and its potential to affect behaviour and social change as experienced within the

COVER STORY

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...framework of the project has led us to consider the notion of storytelling in understanding the inherent nature of narratives, how it can assist in curbing problematic media narratives and violent extremist propaganda while at the same time building agency, social inclusion and resilience in strategic communication.

While many young people feel that their voices are not heard and have little power in countering problematic media narratives and violent extremist narratives that often portray them and their communities in a negative light, the use of storytelling as a method has proven effective in equipping young people with skills to alter these narratives by generating and disseminating their own alternative narratives, and build their resilience towards polarising and violent extremist narratives represented in mainstream media and social media. Too often, we fail to ask ourselves how media representations of young people issued of certain communities are impacting on them, how these misrepresentations are shaping their identity and ultimately how these young people see and understand their own place in society.

To this effect, the first series of workshops 'Change the Story, Share your Story' was

organised in Tampere, Finland, in November 2018 with the Finnish NGO Kolvi, within the framework of the CVE Broadcasting Model project, to gather experiences of young people in relation to the impact media terrorism reporting has on their personal and everyday lives. Storytelling was a core element to the workshop, which was used to help develop the participant youth's media literacy competences and critical thinking skills; to recognise polarising and extremist media narratives, and to develop and represent their own narratives. By sharing and creating their own stories, they changed the narrative and how they saw themselves within that narrative.



IMAGE (ABOVE): DR VIRGINIE ANDRE AND ONNI SARVELA INTRODUCE YOUNG FINNS TO THE 'VACUUM CYCLE' OF MEDIA TERRORISM REPORTING AND EXTREMIST PROPAGANDA
IMAGE SOURCE: [ABDI CISMAN]

COVER STORY

“ I THOUGHT I DIDN'T HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THINGS. I AM ONLY A REFUGEE, A MIGRANT..... BUT NOW, I UNDERSTAND I CAN CHANGE THINGS, CREATE MY OWN STORY AND CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY ”

'I thought I didn't have the power to change things. I am only a refugee, a migrant. That's how people see me. So I became that. But now, I understand I can change things, create my own story and contribute to society', said one youth at the end of the workshop.

From being a victim of a certain narrative, he created his own story and re-appropriated his own identity.

Storytelling is an effective tool, which helps to affect behavioural change, build self-esteem and agency, as well as build resilience to negative media narratives and violent extremist narratives. The workshop data will be used to formulate applied outcomes and guidelines in early prevention and countering violent extremism in relation to terrorist event reporting for front-line practitioners.

Dr Virginie Andre, Victoria University
Onni Sarvel, Radinet.



IMAGE (ABOVE): YOUNG FINNS ANALYSE AND DISCUSS MEDIA NARRATIVES OF THEIR LIVES. IMAGE SOURCE: [VIRGINIE ANDRE]

*Cover Image: Finnish youth writing their own stories. Image Source: [Virginie Andre]

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

AFTER ATTICA

To this day much of the language and culture of southern Italy, especially Calabria, reflects the colonisation of the Mediterranean by the thousand or so city-states that were the outgrowth of ancient Greece, at a time when Rome was merely a village on the Tiber. The prosperity of city-states such as Attica (ancient Athens) led to a massive over-population, and this demographic surge flooded the southern end of the Italian peninsula and Sicily. From March 14, the Hellenic Museum in William Street, our partners in the City West precinct, will be hosting a major exhibition celebrating this 'Magna Graecia'.



The cultural spread of the ancient Greeks in southern Italy and Sicily [Wikipedia]

WHEN IS SPEECH REALLY FREE?

College of Law and Justice academic Bill Swannie, writing in the *Monash Law Review*, has argued that: 'Rather than seeing unrestricted speech as a self-evident and unqualified good, it argues that free speech arguments themselves provide justification for regulation of certain types of speech. Clearly identifying the values and assumptions underlying free speech arguments has the potential to improve the quality of debate surrounding the important topic of the regulation of racial vilification. In turn, this may influence the development of legal policy and legal doctrine surrounding legal regulation of this and other forms of speech.'

This philosophical line of inquiry is very important for understanding the so-called 'racial vilification' laws that are intended to protect cultural diversity.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

PRAISE FOR DIANNE HALL'S NEW BOOK ON THE IRISH IN AUSTRALIA

'There is no nation outside Ireland more Irish than Australia, though the enormous contribution to this country by Irish people throughout its history has rarely been acknowledged fully nor has it been completely understood. One virtue of this excellent book – the first major history of the Irish in Australia for more than 30 years – is the authors' dedication to uncovering the pervasive and complex nature of the Irish presence in Australia.'

So begins one of the several fulsome reviews of Dianne Hall's new book, *A New History of the Irish in Australia*, published late last year by NewSouth, co-authored with Elizabeth Malcolm, and retailing for \$39.99. This review, by Simon CATERSON in the Fairfax media (11 January 2019) goes on to praise the book for its matter-of-factness:

"THERE IS NO NATION OUTSIDE IRELAND MORE IRISH THAN AUSTRALIA"

The promise of a "new" history of the Irish in Australia is carried through resoundingly in this book. While the name of Ned Kelly does get mentioned a few times, there is no dramatic recounting of his exploits and trial. Indeed, Kelly and other outlaws are

absorbed into a broader discussion of the participation of the Irish throughout the criminal justice system.

'In the matter-of-fact tone that is characteristic of their approach to Irish-Australian history, Malcolm and

Hall note that "the Kelly gang was pursued by numerous Irish policemen, three of whom Ned Kelly killed". By itself, that simple statement of fact demonstrates just how much more Irish the history of Australia is than many Australians realise.'



MALCOLM AND HALL'S BOOK EXAMINES THE PREVALENCE OF ANTI-IRISH CARTOONS IN COLONIAL AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS

CULTURAL DIVERSITY



EVALUATION OF THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUBS PROGRAM

Final Report
February 2019
Dr Fiona MacDonald

EVALUATION OF THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUBS PROGRAM FINAL REPORT

MacDonald, F. (2019). Evaluation of the School Breakfast Clubs Program, Final Report, February 2019,
https://www.dropbox.com/s/u2lowj3zqu9c74z/Evaluation_of_the_School_Breakfast_Clubs_Digital_Final.pdf?dl=0

The final report of this 3 year industry funded project provides valuable insights into the implementation and impact of the Victorian Government's, School Breakfast Club Program. Breakfast clubs have been established in 500 of Victoria's government primary schools, serving over 50,000 healthy, nutritious breakfasts to students every school week.

Breakfast clubs have enabled schools to create nurturing, caring environments where students can start the day better prepared for learning and families can connect with school communities. The evaluation provided evidence that breakfast clubs have had a positive impact on student learning,

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Improving concentration, engagement and focus for students in the classroom. Improved social skills and relationships between students and staff have had a positive effect on student's capacity to learn and their educational attainment.

THE FUTURE OF BURUNDI IS IN ITS ADOLESCENTS

The Victoria Institute of Strategic Economic Studies (VISES) has been asked by UNICEF Burundi to conduct a study titled 'Investment Framework Case Study: Estimating the Impacts and Opportunity Costs of Social Sector Investments for Adolescents (10–19 years) in Burundi', which measures the return on investment for a set of programs to increase the well-being of adolescents in Burundi.

Burundi is a very poor country in central Africa, which has experienced very high

fertility rates, leading to a rapid increase in the number of adolescents.

It has also suffered periods of considerable political instability and high levels of violence in which adolescent males have been active participants.

The challenge is to improve the health, education and employable skills of adolescents to both lift the productivity of those working in the informal (largely agriculture) sector and to provide an opportunity for jobs in the higher paying formal sector.

“THE CHALLENGE IS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYABLE SKILLS OF ADOLESCENTS”

Our task is to identify and evaluate the health, education and other programs to yield the most cost-effective economic returns. The work follows similar UNFPA projects for India and a global study of 75 low- and low-middle income countries (Sheehan, Rasmussen, Sweeny et al. 2017, [Building the foundations for sustainable development: A case for global investment in the capabilities of adolescents](#), *The Lancet*, vol. 390, pp. 1792–1806).

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The first project meeting took place from 28 January to 1 February 2019 in Bujumbura, Burundi, where research objectives and methodology were discussed with the Government partners, UN agencies and other stakeholders. Data and areas of interventions were agreed upon.

The key VISES researchers are Prof. Bruce Rasmussen, Dr Kim Sweeny, Prof. Peter Sheehan and Dr John Symons.

IMAGE (BELOW): MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF YOUTH, POSTS AND ICT, BURUNDI, FEBRUARY 2019.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ETIENNE NIYONGABO (EDUCATION OFFICER, UNICEF BURUNDI); NATHALIE MEYER (CHIEF, SOCIAL POLICY AND ADVOCACY, UNICEF BURUNDI); BIENVENUE IRAKOZE (PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF YOUTH, POSTS AND ICT, BURUNDI); JULIEN OUEDRAOGO (PROGRAMME SPECIALIST AYSRH, UNFPA BURUNDI); FARELLIA TAHINA (CHIEF COMMUNICATION AND PARTICIPATION, UNICEF BURUNDI); EVELYNE BUTOYI (MINISTER OF YOUTH, POSTS AND ICT, BURUNDI); BRUCE RASMUSSEN (VISES VU); KIM SWEENEY (VISES VU); GERVAIS BARAMPANZE (ASSISTANT REPRESENTATIVE, UNFPA BURUNDI)

SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES

SMARTENING FOOTSCRAY

Discussions are underway between Maribyrnong City Council and Victoria University to transform Footscray into a Smart City. Under this plan, an array of 'smart' technologies would be inserted into the urban corridor that runs north-south on either side of Nicholson Street to measure, monitor and integrate data relevant to living and working in this urban space.

This project, known as Footscray Smart City for Social Cohesion, or SC² for short, is the latest step in efforts by the Council and the University to revitalise Footscray as a University Town. The big data captured in this project sit inside a public Social Cohesion Platform that will inform city planning, will catalyse partnership and innovation, and will enhance citizen experience.

“FOOTSCRAY WILL BE LESS CONGESTED BY CAR TRAFFIC; ITS STREETS AND PARKLANDS WILL BE SAFER..”

The smart technologies to be used in this project include free wi-fi, public touchscreens, digital signage giving train, weather and traffic information, virtual-reality head cameras that show approved building projects that are yet to start, and smarter street lighting.



IMAGE: MAYOR CR MARTIN ZAKHAROV AND VICE-CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR PETER DAWKINS AT THE LAUNCH OF THE SMART CITY PROJECT [MARIBYRNONG CITY COUNCIL]

With the new Footscray Hospital on the Geelong Road intersection, the planned construction of 5000 new apartments, and the expansion of student numbers at the two Victoria University campuses that bookend this urban corridor, the Footscray Smart City will help create a cleaner, safer and more creative urban environment.

Footscray will be less congested by car traffic; its streets and parklands will be safer; environmental hazards and pollution will diminish; and there will be a rejuvenated sense of community.



ESG Colloquium

This colloquium program
will feature

- * Invited key note
speakers
- * Panel discussions

Topics: ESG

- Regulation
- Measuring
- Assurance
- Reporting

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Inquiries: Dr Chitra De Silva
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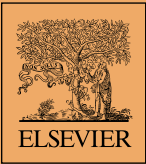
For presentations in Panel Discussions

Submission deadline 30 June 2019,

Authors will be notified if their paper has been accepted by

31 August 2019. •

Key Note speakers to be advised



Approaches to Water Sensitive Urban Design

Potential, Design, Ecological Health, Urban Greening,
Economics, Policies and Community Perceptions



Ashok Sharma, Ted Gardner, Don Begbie

INFRASTRUCTURE

ASHOK SHARMA EXPLAINS THE CONCEPT OF WATER SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN (WSUD):

Conventional stormwater systems in cities were designed to quickly drain the stormwater runoff from urban areas to minimise flooding. However, this hydrologically efficient system of gutters and big pipes was also very efficient in transferring contaminants and sediment to receiving creeks and waterways. This invariably caused a substantial reduction in their ecological health, and a destruction of their stream morphology by erosion and/or sediment smothering. Stormwater is essentially a diffuse pollution source and, as such, it is much more challenging to manage than point sources such as the discharge from sewage treatment plants and factories. Over the last few decades Australia has

invested many hundreds of millions of dollars into sewage treatment to reduce the contaminant loads into the bays and estuaries that surrounded most of its major cities. The attention of society is now turning to urban creeks and rivers that provide such important ecosystem services to their communities. Many of these waterways have been straightened and lined with concrete to make them more efficient conduits to transport the extra rainfall runoff from rapid urbanisation.

Urban society has also developed the aspiration to be more locally self-sufficient and to protect the remaining natural urban ecosystem, involving effluent reuse, stormwater capture and reuse, rainwater tanks, combined with more energy efficient technologies. Hence the concept of water sensitive urban design (WSUD) started to take off in Australia in the 1990s, with new ways of designing and building suburbs which do not rely on the direct drainage of runoff from impervious surfaces to waterways. Moreover, there was an emphasis on alternative urban water supplies, re-naturalisation of water courses and associated riparian areas, and installing vegetative technologies that not only looked attractive in the urban street, but also delivered a much-improved stormwater quality.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Given the connectedness of the global community, it's not surprising that this WSUD concept emerged in other countries of the world, although each had their own nomenclature and drivers. Hence the terms: best management practices (BMPs), green infrastructure (GI), integrated urban water management (IUWM), low impact development (LID), low impact urban design and development (LIUDD), source control (SC), stormwater control measures (SCMs), sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), Sponge City and experimental sewer systems (ESS). The specific drivers for this innovation also varied between countries, with North America initially focusing on water quality improvement, whilst much of Europe was driven by the need to reduce local flooding and overflows from their "combined sewers", which carry both stormwater and sewage. Australia focused on water quality protection, waterway ecosystem protection and littoral zone conservation, whilst other countries, such as China, are facing urban water shortages that somewhat perversely are accompanied by regular flooding, and impaired stormwater quality.

Even though these approaches are comparatively new, we find ourselves today with a wide range of WSUD technologies, design models, descriptive terms, driving objectives,

guidelines, regulations, effectiveness metrics and economic values as part of societies' journey to urban sustainability.

“WE FIND OURSELVES TODAY WITH A WIDE RANGE OF WSUD TECHNOLOGIES”

WSUD approaches are implemented in existing and new developments to address impacts from climate change, urbanisation and population growth. Incorporating WSUD as a mainstream practice in urban developments can play a significant role in the transition from the current water, wastewater and stormwater systems to a more sustainable paradigm including mitigating impacts from climate change and urbanisation. WSUD systems can deliver multiple benefits including water supply, stormwater quality improvements, flood control, landscape amenity, healthy living environment, and ecosystem health improvement of urban waterways.

INFRASTRUCTURE

A NEW GENERATION OF FIRE RESEARCHERS

One of the University's leading experts in fire research, Professor Vasily Novozhilov, helped prepare the next generation of scholars in this field with his invited lecture 'Fire Dynamics and Suppression' at the First Australian Combustion Summer School (ACSS). ACSS met in Sydney in December, with the aim of providing graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to an intensive educational experience with well-regarded leaders. The scope of invited lectures covered broad technical areas such as combustion theory, experiment, computation, fundamentals, and applications. Selected topics covered a range from chemical kinetics to fire suppression as well as many applications such as engines, turbines and micro-reactors.

The summer school also included social activities and laboratory visits giving participants opportunities for discussion and building their research networks.

The School was attended by 73 applicants from twelve countries, including Australia, Korea, China, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Taiwan, Czech Republic,

Egypt, India, Iran, and the UK. This excellent attendance reflects continuing importance of combustion research in Australia and throughout Asia-Pacific region.

The School brought together an outstanding team of esteemed experts from various institutions including Stanford University and Rolls Royce.

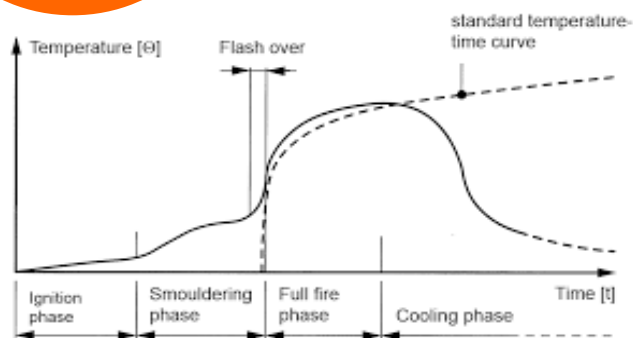
<http://www.anz-combustioninstitute.org/ACSS2018/speakers.php>

Lecture Notes from the School have been made available worldwide through the Combustion Institute website.



INFRASTRUCTURE

BELOW:
TEMPERATURE-
TIME CURVE FOR
ENCLOSURE
FIRE



Prof. Vasily Novozhilov is a Professor in the Centre for Environmental Safety and Risk Engineering (CESARE)/ISILC. His research expertise is in the areas of Fire Safety Science, Combustion, Heat Transfer, Computational Fluid Dynamics, and Applied Mathematics.

The 2018 Australian Combustion Summer School (ACSS) was a no-charge educational conference that was strongly supported by both the International and Australia and New Zealand Sections of Combustion Institute.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to 2019 a bigger and even better year for our Institute.

As we continue to build the framework that supports and gives coherence to our wide range of activities across many disciplines, I am often asked to explain what seemingly divergent concepts such as 'Cultural Diversity' and 'Sustainable Industries' might have in common.

My answer is straightforward enough, and bears repeating. When we think of Cultural Diversity, we naturally think about what differentiates one culture from another, and how Australia benefits from our acceptance of this diversity. We take very seriously the contributions and ideas about communal living, food, literary forms, religious beliefs and so on that are represented in separate cultures. But cultures, by definition, have another key characteristic – they have proven their resilience by surviving into the modern, globalised, highly interconnected era. To use a simple example, Mediterranean cultures have taught us how the olive industry can be nurtured and developed. The olive industry in Australia has benefitted from this ancient wisdom. There is, if you will, a kind of cultural capital built into Mediterranean olive production.

When we turn our attention to Sustainable Industries, we are actually dealing with a similar kind of wisdom, looking for

answers to perplexing issues such as how we use water in our cities, the subject of a

book that we feature in this issue of the Newsletter. Colleagues such as Ashok Sharma are part of a worldwide conversation about this challenge, and the solutions that he and his peers are developing will over time build as strong and long-term a body of cultural capital analogous to the Mediterranean olive producers.

Two administrative matters I want to bring to your attention. One is the importance of paperwork – yes it is boring but you need to have students enrolled etc to have this recognised for supervision time. The other is the need to allow a reasonable turn-around time for people in Research Services to process grants and contracts. These colleagues have a high workload and cannot check and sign off your grant proposals as was previously the case.

Cheers
Stephen

Prof Stephen Gray
Executive Director
Institute for Sustainable Industries &
Liveable Cities
VU Research

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

RESEARCHER PROFILES

A new web-based researcher profile system has been launched and all researchers are invited to build a professional profile to improve the public discoverability of your research expertise.

A User Guide for Researchers is accessible [here](#) – please review this before you log in to the system [here](#) to build your individualised profile.

Wondering what your profile will look like once published? View a recently created profile [here](#).

Should you require support as you work through the system, this may be secured via the Research Services Service Desk on ext. 4278 or (03) 9919 4278, or by emailing researcher.profiles@vu.edu.au.

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Researcher maintenance of individual author IDs is critical to publications data management, which not only impacts University applications such as MORA but enables more accurate tracking of institutional research performance. Research Services recommends you regularly update your VU Elements record. When doing so, you should first claim any relevant author IDs identified by the system. By claiming an author ID, all


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