NEW PERSPECTIVES ON THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION: MEDIA AND CULTURAL TRANSFORMATIONS

Wednesday, 8 August 2018, 8:45am - 4:30pm

Law Building Board Room (LB1-08)
University of South Australia – City West Campus
North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia

The contemporary world is marked by numerous social transformations. The digital revolution, shifts in media technologies, and the rise of new political cultures and conflicts, all attest to the need for new social perspectives and innovative social theories. This workshop seeks to answer such a call. Its goal is to bring together social researchers from Japan and Australia to exchange ideas and approaches about how we can better understand technological, mediated, and embodied transformations in the contemporary era.

The Workshop is co-organized by the University of Tokyo’s Department of Sociology, the Hawke EU Centre and the School of Creative Industries at the University of South Australia. The Workshop co-conveners are Professor Kenji Sato (Tokyo), Associate Professor Takeshi Deguchi (Tokyo), Professor Anthony Elliott (UniSA), and Dr Eric L. Hsu (UniSA).

Funding for this workshop has been generously provided by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science’s (JSPS) Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research program.

The New Perspectives on the Digital Revolution Workshop is a multiplier activity under the University of South Australia’s Jean Monnet Project on “Digital Technologies, Transformations and Skills: Robotics and EU Perceptions” (D3REU). The workshop further develops and disseminates research undertaken by university staff, which is funded by the D3REU Project under the European Commission’s Erasmus+ Programme.
I am delighted to welcome all participants to this exciting interdisciplinary workshop, “New Perspectives on the Digital Revolution: Media and Cultural Transformations”. The digital revolution is the central global transformation of our times, and our lives in these times. From social media to advanced robotics, and from AI to chatbots, the digital revolution is changing how people live, work and engage with each other in these early decades of the 21st-century. The social sciences and humanities need urgently to engage with the digital revolution, and to rethink many of the core units of analysis for social critique in the face of this fast changing global landscape.

This is the challenge which this workshop addresses, with participants drawn from both Australia and Japan. I am delighted that the University of Tokyo’s Department of Sociology has joined with the Hawke EU Centre and the School of Creative Industries at UniSA to host this event. There is a developed and deepening partnership between our respective academic institutions, and it is my hope that this workshop further stimulates intellectual engagement and staff-student exchanges in the future.

The political, policy and practical impacts of the digital revolution are immense, and I look forward to lively discussion and engagement at the workshop with this central topic in the social sciences today.

Professor Anthony Elliott
Executive Director: Hawke EU Centre
University of South Australia

Takeshi Deguchi, PhD is an Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, The University of Tokyo. He specializes in intellectual history of sociology and theoretical sociology. In particular, he follows the theoretical heritage of the Critical Theory of the Frankfurt School. Working from this foundation, he applies critical social theory to communication, recognition, and the social self and analyzes pathological forms of those social phenomena. Furthermore, he is revisiting and reappraising the heritage of Japanese critical sociology, in terms of “galapagosized sociology” and is using it to propound an analysis of the uniqueness and generality of Japanese socio-culture after modernization and globalization. His most recent work in English is ‘Erich Fromm and Critical Theory in Post-War Japanese Social Theory’ in Funk & McLaughlin (Eds.), Towards a Human Science: The Relevance of Erich Fromm for Today (Psychosozial-Verlag 2015).

Professor Anthony Elliott is Dean of External Engagement at the University of South Australia, where he is Research Professor of Sociology and Executive Director of the Hawke EU Centre. He is Super-Global Professor of Sociology (Visiting) at Keio University, Japan, a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, and a member of the Australian Council of Learned Academies Expert Working Group on Artificial Intelligence. He is the author and editor of some 40 books - translated in over a dozen languages - in social theory and modern sociology, including most recently Reinvention and Identity Troubles, published by Routledge. His new book, The Culture of AI: Everyday Life and the Digital Revolution, will be published by Routledge in 2019.

Dr Eric L. Hsu is a Lecturer in Sociology at the School of Creative Industries at the University of South Australia, where he also serves as Research Director of the Hawke EU Centre’s research platform on ‘Industry 4.0, Robotics, and Artificial Intelligence’. Dr Hsu holds expertise in the sociology of sleep, the sociology of time, the social analysis of automation and robotics, and the social theory of disasters and globalization. In addition to co-editing The Consequences of Global Disasters (Routledge, 2016) with Anthony Elliott, he is editor most recently of Sleep: Critical Concepts in Sociology (Routledge, 2017). An article of his appearing in the flagship journal of the British Sociological Association has been shortlisted for the SAGE Prize for Innovation and Excellence. More information about his work can be found on his website: www.ericlhsu.com.
8.45 – 9.00  REGISTRATION

9.00 – 9.10  FORMAL WELCOME
Professor Anthony Elliott, University of South Australia

9.10 – 11.15  SESSION 1 – UNDERSTANDING THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

1. ‘Healing Power and Artificial Intelligence: How can an animal-type robot have a mind?’
Associate Professor Takeshi Deguchi, University of Tokyo

2. ‘The social implications of digital robotic technologies for elderly persons in Japan’
Dr Eric L. Hsu & Professor Anthony Elliott, University of South Australia

3. ‘Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART)’ and its Effects on Masculinity’
Associate Professor Keisuke Saito, Okayama University

4. ‘Digital technologies and the narrowing of Australian media discourses: Case studies of reporting Port Arthur and the Lindt café siege’
Catherine Son, University of South Australia

5. ‘AI, the Problem of Autonomy and the Reconfiguration of Human-Machine Relationships’
Dr Ross Boyd and Professor Robert Holton, University of South Australia

11.15 – 11.45  MORNING TEA

11.45 – 13.25  SESSION 2 – DIGITAL AND MEDIA TRANSFORMATIONS

6. ‘How Our Perception of Others is Changing: Focusing on Communication via Mobile Phones’
Professor Kenji Satō, University of Tokyo

7. ‘Toward a Sociology of Condominiums’
Associate Professor Yasushi Sukenari, University of Tokyo

8. ‘Cultural Aspects of Postmodern Military in the case of Japan Self Defense Forces’
Associate Professor Gen Nogami, University of Tsukuba

9. ‘Reclaiming the unseen in digital texts’
Dr Jeanne-Marie Viljoen, University of South Australia

13.25 – 14.25  LUNCH
PROGRAM

14.25 – 16:05 SESSION 3 – NEW CULTURAL POLITICS

10. ‘100 days of butchering: (Re)presenting the Rwandan Genocide 20 years on’
Dr Katrina Jaworski, University of South Australia

11. Gendered Body on Stage: The Takarazuka Revue Company and Japanese Subculture’
Professor Naomi Miyamoto, Ritsumeikan University

12. ‘Sustainability of Festivals and Rural Community: Focusing on the Role of Amenity Migrants in Depopulated and Overaged Village’
Associate Professor Shunsuke Takeda, University of Shiga Prefecture

13. ‘Transformations in political speech: Donald Trump and the era of post truth’
Dr Louis Everuss, University of South Australia

16:05 – 16:30 AFTERNOON TEA

19:00 – 21:00 WORKSHOP DINNER (optional)

1. From Takeshi Deguchi (University of Tokyo) – ‘Healing Power and Artificial Intelligence: How can an animal-type robot have a mind?’

Abstract: The present study examines the role of artificial intelligence (AI) and the relationship between the human mind and AI. I will focus exclusively on an animal-type robot produced by a Japanese company. People who have looked after the robot for long attribute mind and emotions to it and treat it like a real animal. When the robot breaks down, they hold a funeral for it. They named the donation of the body Kentai. Kentai refers to body donation and is normally applied for human in the Japanese language. The company which developed the robot has already stopped supplying its parts, but retired engineers continue to provide a repair service. My presentation is divided into three parts. First, I will explain the social background where AI technologies are introduced in an ageing society. Second, I will describe how people treat the robot in comparison to companion animals. Third, I will clarify the psychological mechanisms which enable people to attribute a mind to the robot. In an ageing society, robotics and AI technology are attracting significant attention as tools to supplement workforce shortages. In contrast, human and animal-type robots will play a different role i.e. a metal care-work. In conclusion, I will discuss the robot’s potential and limitations in healing from a sociological and psychological interactionist perspective.

2. Dr Eric L. Hsu (UniSA), Professor Anthony Elliott (UniSA) – The social implications of digital robotic technologies for elderly persons in Japan

Abstract: Technological advances are increasingly thought to play an integral role in addressing the challenges of an ageing population. This has become markedly so in Japan, where public discussions of ageing tend to involve optimistic accounts of robotic technologies in terms of what they can do to improve the lifestyles of the elderly. The aim of this paper is to present preliminary findings of a sociological study which investigates how elderly people are culturally perceived by robot-developers in Japan who are seeking to create technologies for this demographic group. Why it is important to understand how elderly people are represented as users in the technological-development process is because it has the potential to affect how elderly people are socially positioned, valued, and cared for. The preliminary findings presented in this paper indicate that Japanese robot-developers appear to share many assumptions about what elderly people are capable of and what constitutes the most optimal way of ageing. Many robot developers view the advent of new technologies as being vital and central to efforts to enhance the lives of elderly people. However, it is also important to recognize the existence of competing cultural narratives, which express a more critical view of what robotics should be used for in the realm of elder care. Even though these narratives might be less prominent in the discourses of robot-developers, they are still significant because they help to construct a more nuanced account of how elderly people are represented as users of emerging robotic technologies.

3. Associate Professor Keisuke Saito (Okayama University) – ‘Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART)’ and its Effects on Masculinity

Abstract: This present study aims to clarify the effects of Assisted Reproductive Technology to masculinity in Japan's society. Pregnancy often tends to be discussed as a problem for women; however, this study will define the problems that arise when men face pregnancy. With the increasing number of late marriage and pregnancies of women in Japan, it has been acknowledged that there are also some cases of infertility with men.

The development of ART and the prominent discussion of male infertility have raised the question of whether their sperm quantities and quality are sufficient to produce children. The
development of ART, made significance to the role of men in pregnancy. In other words, the situation of 'visualization of male reproductive ability' has been identified, and this situation is an opportunity to recognize that men are also one of the reproductive subjects. As the society accepts the ART treatment, it is time to examine what are the negative and positive experiences of these men.

The data analyzed in this study was obtained by a semi-structured interview with three Urologists and seven male respondents, mainly conducted in Tokyo, in 2017. This study revealed the views and opinion of the specialists and respondents through the interview survey. Furthermore, this study also clarified how both parties were trying to deal with this infertility situation.

4. Catherine Son (UniSA) – Digital technologies and the narrowing of Australian media discourses: Case studies of reporting Port Arthur and the Lindt café siege

Abstract: Early hopes for the internet were that the technology would facilitate a new democratic public sphere, and provide new opportunities to participate in public discourse for those whose voices and perspectives were traditionally underrepresented by the mainstream media. However, the subsequent digital revolution of smart phones, social media and other associated digital technologies has transformed Australian media reporting practices in recent decades. Contrary to early optimism that digital technologies would diversify the perspectives available on the media agenda and in the public sphere, this study shows that changing media practices as a result of these technologies have created a narrowing of media framing and the types of issues represented on the Australian media agenda. Drawing on a content and discourse analyses of Australian print news reports of two nationally significant events, the 1996 Port Arthur mass shooting and 2014 Lindt café siege, this study explores how digital technology has transformed Australian media reporting practices. In doing so, it highlights how the Australian print media’s agenda for debate surrounding events such as these has contracted with the introduction of digital technologies into the media environment. Consequently, this study explores the implications for national public discourse of this shrinking mainstream media agenda, and argues that as a result, the scope for debate of nationally significant issues in Australia through the mainstream media is narrower than ever before.

5. Dr Ross Boyd (UniSA) and Professor Robert Holton (UniSA) – AI, the Problem of Autonomy and the Reconfiguration of Human-Machine Relationships

Abstract: The concept of autonomy is central to most of the more significant claims made about AI and its implications for society in contemporary scholarly and popular debates. Yet it is increasingly the case that scientists and engineers working in AI and robotics research are questioning those understandings of autonomy that have long served as organising visions in this field. Working out from a critical reading of David Mindell’s *Our Robots, Ourselves* this paper offers an alternative, social theoretically informed understanding of autonomy, and sketches out a provisional social research agenda building upon this.

6. Professor Kenji Satō (University of Tokyo) – How Our Perception of Others is Changing: Focusing on Communication via Mobile Phones

Abstract: This presentation focuses on the changing perception of others through mobile phone devices. Three points are discussed. The first point concerns the corporeality and socio-reality of the voice. What sort of social space have humans created through the acquisition of spoken “words”? I would like to rethink the “atmosphere” created by words by addressing the basic corporeality of speaking. The second issue pertains to the relationship between telephone devices and social space. Even before the advent of mobile phones, daily life had been drastically altered by the spread of telephone technology. The telephone had detached the aural imagination from the visual imagination, which affects how we experience the space in which others exist. The third issue
concerns the question of how mobile phones continue to change our consciousness of other people. Most obvious in this regard is how the spread of mobile technology has expanded our ability to contact our friends and family at any time and from any place. On the other hand, our ability to communicate with unknown people has weakened. We are losing our understanding of other people’s position as an outsider or bystander, as well as our power to create the shared spaces necessary for communication through words. This is also related to the issue of the public sphere.

7. Professor Yasushi Sukenari (University of Tokyo) – Toward a Sociology of Condominiums

Abstract: Condominium apartments—unit ownership of mid- to high-rise residential buildings—are a common type of urban housing for middle-income households in Japan. Government records estimate that the total number of condominium units exceeds 6 million, accommodating 15 million people, or over 10% of the population. In metropolitan areas, around 20%–30% of inhabitants are condominium residents. The legal system regulating condominium housing, gradually established since the 1960s, has come to a turning point as it confronts the aging of the population, the deterioration of existing buildings and the pressure for urban redevelopment. The prevailing rules for condominium management imply a model of efficient collaboration between unit owners, in short, a “self-government model.” In the past few years, some policymakers have strived to introduce a new mode of management: a “market-oriented model.” However, these efforts to update the system of condominium governance met with a setback due to difficulty in developing a consensus on the matter. This reflected discrepancies in the basic assumptions underlying these two models. The former relies on the assumption that unit owners, as “citizens,” work towards conserving common property. On the other hand, the latter relies on the assumption that unit owners, as “consumers,” follow a standard of individual rationality. The debate on condominium management in contemporary Japan might be related to fundamental questions about the built environment. This presentation proposes a framework of sociological analysis of the built environment as a “communication medium” with reference to some theoretical literature and empirical research.

8. Associate Professor Gen Nogami (University of Tsukuba) – Cultural Aspects of Postmodern Military in the case of Japan Self Defense Forces

Abstract: This presentation investigates military ‘postmodernism’, focusing on Japan Self Defense Force (JSDF), particularly its strategy of public relations for recruitment. It is well known ‘Postmodern Military’ framework (Moskos, 2000) enables sociological comparative studies of armed forces confronting the age of ‘New War’ and new tasks such as disaster relief and humanitarian assistance. However, those studies seem to exclude JSDF, with fifth largest budget in the world. I focus on JSDF and provide a cultural approach to the postmodern military framework. Of course, the framework had already been examined from cultural aspects such as Hajjar (2014). He pointed out its tremendous complexity, fragmentation and flexibility armed forces face today. However, those examinations need to become more ‘cultural’ one, in other words, more interpretative one, at the days when armed forces use the popular culture aggressively. For that, self-representation and cognitive manipulation in recruitment is an indispensable theme for comparative research today when mass drafting had passed. We can see JSDF’s recruitment activities sometimes impairs their basic value such as toughness and masculinity (Frühstück, 2000). Furthermore, JSDF often adopts ‘cute’ icons recently to gather young applicants. Research on recruitment activities of JSDF adds a concrete example in the framework because of its unique cultural origin. After the defeat of WWII and demilitarized, JSDF was born as ‘National Police Reserve’ at first. Thereafter, much consideration has been paid to not pose a threat to Japan and Asian citizens, by using unique nomenclature like their naming of ‘Self Defense’. Many contradictions here also resulted in JSDF’s high degree of freedom in using semantics on contemporary popular culture.
9. Dr Jeanne-Marie Viljoen (UniSA) – Reclaiming the unseen in digital texts

**Abstract:** Following a trend within critical media and film studies in the last decade this paper is concerned with how in representing so much of our world visually through the digital, we may lose out on sharing the ‘unseen’ parts of our reality. Often these unseen aspects relate to affect and embodied facets of our existence and what we are able to show of them that is visible, is only the tip of the iceberg. An emphasis on the visual alone, may even end up concealing crucial aspects of our reality. Moreover, it is the pursuit of ever more realistic, clear images to mediate our digital relationships and communications that we open ourselves to the pervasive influence of an imperialist vision. This is the kind of vision associated with hegemonic power relations - where a subject looks at an object that is exposed and gazed upon in order to be mastered. This paper contends that recouping these ‘invisible’ aspects of our reality and accommodating the ineffable aspects of our existence in our gaze, may help to construct a more equal vision of reality. I contend that these ‘invisible’ aspects may partially be reclaimed through using particular kinds of digital imagery (for example haptic imagery) that evoke our other senses through the visual. This has implications not only for accuracy and communication but also for epistemology and ethics. This paper also explores how theorising this may have practical consequences for film making, news journalism (especially the visual depiction of the violence of war), advertising and the creation of digital (including mobile) learning tools.

10. Dr Katrina Jaworski (UniSA) – 100 days of butchering: (Re)presenting the Rwandan Genocide 20 years on

**Abstract:** Theorising African genocide is undergoing a methodological crisis. This is for three reasons. First, contexts of genocide in Africa continue to be poorly understood. Second, analyses of African genocide, as important as some have been, rely on Jewish Holocaust studies model. Third, there is a lack of analytical attention to how epistemological frames might frame theorising African genocide. If this is the case, what impact these reasons might have on the cultural politics of representing genocides such as Rwanda? I respond to this question by examining media representations of the 20th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide. Specifically, I analyse newsprint representations of the Rwandan genocide in 2014 across selected newspapers from the US, UK and Australia. I argue that such representations produced orientalised effects, further framed by racialised representations of the Rwandan body. I will then draw on my argument to challenge the tendency to frame the Rwandan genocide through the Jewish Holocaust model. Using Giorgio Agamben’s conceptualisation of the camp, I also draw on my argument to deconstruct the orientalised representations of the 20th anniversary of the 1994 genocide. I conclude by considering the value of understanding genocides such as Rwanda through the postcolonial lens.

11. Professor Naomi Miyamoto (Ritsumeikan University) - Gendered Body on Stage: The Takarazuka Revue Company and Japanese Subculture

**Abstract:** The Takarazuka Company, one of the main musical theatre companies of Japan, has offered female-only performances since its establishment in 1914. The company currently presents its own original musicals and revues, as well as foreign musicals. Contrary to Kabuki, the female performers of Takarazuka play both male and female roles; therefore, the Company has drawn researchers’ attention, especially regarding gender. In this workshop, I aim to clarify how gender differences are created on stage. Male roles in Takarazuka performances do not simply imitate real men, but rather create a new type of gender representation that includes elements of androgyny by means of “excessive” make-up and acting. Its style is based on a peculiar beauty norm. It a true form of exaggeration, representing an alternative gender image from a fantasy world. On the Takarazuka stage, notions of gender are essentially different from those of real society. This intriguing type of
fantasy world can also be found in other areas of Japanese subculture, such as manga and animation, which are a form of two-dimensional media. Notably, Takarazuka performances realise such two-dimensional characters through performers’ bodies. This style of expression does not only transcend gender boundaries, but also other human boundaries.

12. Associate Professor Shunsuke Takeda (University of Shiga Prefecture) - Sustainability of Festivals and Rural Community: Focusing on the Role of Amenity Migrants in Depopulated and Overaged Village

Abstract: This research investigates how inhabitants have continued the local festival in Japan’s rural area. To continue it from generation to generation in overaged and depopulated local community sustainably, residents need supports from out-migrants, and amenity migrants. The research focuses on conflicts between residents and amenity migrants and analyses how they successfully corporate each other. Moreover, this research aims to show the possibility of local festivals with empowering the community as a mediation role.

The research case is the festival called Kanmai in Iwaishima Island, Yamaguchi Prefecture. In this island, most of the inhabitants have been opposed to the construction of nuclear power plants on the other side of the island since 1982. After 3.11 disaster, a lot of people in Japan give their attention to the island and some emigrated to there. The study conducted the interview for participants and participation observation in the festival. This presentation focuses on the transition of immigrants and residents’ attitudes. As a result of it, immigrants became familiar with the culture and lifestyle of the island through preparation of the festival.

13. Dr Louis Everuss (UniSA) – Transformations in political speech: Donald Trump and the era of post truth

Abstract: The presidency of Donald Trump in America marks a significant shift in mainstream political communication. Trump and his team have legitimatised types of language that once existed on the periphery of American politics by promoting explosive rhetoric and an entertainment style of speech involving rapid and direct communications with the public. The spontaneous nature of these modern communications has facilitated a political discourse focussed on the present and which appears disconnected from established facts. Additionally, Trump’s statements are often-contradictory, and Trump and his team demonstrate a lack of contrition when these inconsistencies are identified by media commentators. These features of Trump’s language have led social scientists to claim that he is indicative of the contemporary post truth political and media environment.

This paper draws on the theories of Roland Barthes to identify significant features of Trump’s post truth speech that have been overlooked in the extant research. While there has been early analysis of both Trump’s inconsistent post truth statements, as well as his grand narratives about making ‘America great again’, little work has connected these two levels of speech. Using Barthes’ layered conception of language, I argue that these two systems of representation are intimately connected. Trump’s speech is inconsistent and non-factual because it is not intended to function on the ordinary level of language. It is instead intended to act as mere signifiers for cultural stories about Trump’s business prowess, his ability to protect America from outsiders and to restore pride to its citizens. Importantly, I suggest that this relationship between the different levels of Trump’s language is what underpins his claim to modern political ‘truth’ in the sense of speaking ‘common sense’ and ‘telling it like it is.’
Dr Ross Boyd is a Senior Research Associate in the External Relations and Strategic Projects portfolio at the University of South Australia. He is a member of a team based at UniSA that is working on an ARC funded project exploring AI, Robotics and the future of work, an ARC funded project studying Industry 4.0 and work and life transformations, a Toyota Foundation funded project researching socially assistive robotics in aged care, and an EU funded project on Digital technologies, Transformations and Skills. His research interests span the fields of social and cultural theory, economic sociology and the sociology of education. He is currently collaborating with Professor Robert Holton on the development of an economic sociological approach to the challenges of intelligent and social machines.

Takeshi Deguchi, PhD is an Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, The University of Tokyo. He specializes in intellectual history of sociology and theoretical sociology. In particular, he follows the theoretical heritage of the Critical Theory of the Frankfurt School. Working from this foundation, he applies critical social theory to communication, recognition, and the social self and analyzes pathological forms of those social phenomena. Furthermore, he is revisiting and reappraising the heritage of Japanese critical sociology, in terms of “galapagosized sociology” and is using it to propound an analysis of the uniqueness and generality of Japanese socio-culture after modernization and globalization. His most recent work in English is ‘Erich Fromm and Critical Theory in Post-War Japanese Social Theory’ in R. Funk and N. McLaughlin (Eds.), Towards a Human Science: The Relevance of Erich Fromm for Today (Psychosozial-Verlag 2015).

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Dr Louis Everuss is Centre Coordinator of the Hawke EU Centre for Mobilities, Migrations and Cultural Transformations. He is a sessional lecturer and seminar leader in sociology at the School of Creative Industries at the University of South Australia. He has conducted research on migration, globalization and climate change and his work has recently been published in the Journal of Sociology and the Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology, as well as featured in Nature Climate Change.

Professor Bob Holton’s background lies in sociology, social theory and social history. He was Professor of Sociology at Flinders University from 1995 to 2000, and Professor of Sociology at Trinity College, Dublin from 2001-9. He was also Director of the Policy Institute at Trinity from 2002-6. He continued as Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Trinity College, while welcoming the opportunity to join the Hawke EU Centre at the University of South Australia as Adjunct Professor of Sociology. His research on globalization, its history, dynamics, and policy challenges continues. Professor Holton has just published a major study of Global Inequalities. Recent publications include a second revised edition of the Routledge International Handbook of Globalization Studies which he is co-editing with Bryan Turner, and a revised retrospective essay on the Cultural Consequences of Globalization, looking back on trends over the last 15 years since his first thoughts on this subject were published.

**Dr Eric L. Hsu** is a Lecturer in Sociology at the School of Creative Industries at the University of South Australia, where he also serves as Research Director of the Hawke EU Centre’s research platform on ‘Industry 4.0, Robotics, and Artificial Intelligence’. Dr Hsu holds expertise in the sociology of sleep, the sociology of time, the social analysis of automation and robotics, and the social theory of disasters and globalization. In addition to co-editing *The Consequences of Global Disasters* (Routledge, 2016) with Anthony Elliott, he is editor most recently of *Sleep: Critical Concepts in Sociology* (Routledge, 2017). An article of his appearing in the flagship journal of the British Sociological Association was shortlisted for the 2018 SAGE Prize for Innovation and Excellence. More information about his work can be found on his website: [www.eric lhsu.com](http://www.ericlhsu.com).

**Dr Katrina Jaworski** is a Senior Lecturer in Cultural Studies, and Program Director: Higher Degrees by Research at the School of Creative Industries, University of South Australia. To date, her research focuses on the agency of suicide, with a focus on gender, sexuality, ethics and poetry. She also works on Rwandan genocide, the philosophy of dying bodies, trauma and the cultural politics of thinking. Alongside numerous articles, to date she has authored the following books: *The Gender of Suicide: Knowledge Production, Theory and Suicidology* (Routledge); co-edited *Women Supervising and Writing Doctoral Dissertations: Walking on the Grass* (Lexington); and *Rethinking Madness: Interdisciplinary and Multicultural Reflections* (Brill).

**Michael Lai** is currently a full-time PhD candidate in the Department of Applied Social Sciences (APSS) at Hong Kong Polytechnic University and a visiting PhD student at the University of South Australia. Before commencing his PhD, he worked for political parties, non-governmental organizations and think tanks in both practical and policy research capacities. His research interests include social policy and social development, social enterprise in Asia, sharing economy and social impact assessment.

**Naomi Miyamoto** is Professor at the Faculty of Letters, Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto. Her research interests are in the field of sociology of music and performing arts. Her publications in English are “Concerts and the Public Sphere in Civil Society: Through Rethinking Habermas’s Concept of Representative Publicness,” in *International Review of the Aesthetics and Sociology of Music* (2013), and “The Takarazuka Revue: Its Star System and Fans’ Support,” in *Made in Japan. Studies in Popular Music* (Routledge, 2014).

**Gen Nogami** is Associate Professor of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in University of Tsukuba and teaching Historical Sociology and Media Studies at the Doctoral Program in International Public Policy, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and at the Undergraduate Program in College of Social Sciences since 2006. His research focus on Citizens’ and Intellectuals’ War Experience, Memories of War represented in Popular Culture, and Civil-Military Relationships in Postwar Japan. His paper (in English) ‘Reconsidering ‘imagination of the premonition’ as the terror of Atomic Bomb: the conditions of reporting and remembering in the works of Tamiki Hara’ will be getting appeared in Journal of Literature and Trauma Studies. He was a Visiting Scholar at Towson University in Maryland, USA (2015-16). Professor Nogami received his BA from Hitotsubashi University (1994), MA in Sociology and PhD in Socio-Informatics from the University of Tokyo (1996, 2002).

**Keisuke Saito**, PhD is an Associate Professor, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Okayama University. He is conducting research into the fields of gender studies, sociological
methodologies, and sociology of knowledge. He is currently the 5th Hawke/Kantoh Visiting Fellow at the University of South Australia.


Catherine Son is a PhD candidate with the School of Creative Industries at the University of South Australia. Her research focusses on the influence of digital technology on Australian media reporting practices, and the implications of these changes for debate of nationally significant issues in Australia. Furthermore, her work explores the effects of growing pressure on traditional media providers in Australia to compete in a global digital media environment, and the effects of journalism’s profitability crisis on Australian print media framing and agenda setting practices.

Yasushi Sukenari is Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, The University of Tokyo. He specializes in housing and urban sociology, with an interest in the social aspects of architecture, urban planning and housing policy. His research focuses on comprehending the origins of the modern Japanese housing system and material culture from a theoretical perspective. “Jutaku” no rekishi shakai gaku, The Historical Sociology of Dwelling Space (2008) represents the first step to this purpose. He also translated Housing and Social Theory (1992) by Jim Kemeny and published the Japanese version in 2014. Among his English publications is “Housing Estates as Experimental Fields of Social Research”, Development & Society, 2016, 45(1): 69-87.

Shunsuke Takeda, PhD is an Associate Professor, Department of Regional Studies, School of Human Cultures, The University of Shiga Prefecture. He specializes in sociology of local community and media studies. In particular, he focusses on local intangible heritage (for example, local folk festivals, traditional folk songs, and performing arts) and local media. He applies commons theory to local festivals and analyzes social relationships and networks in local cities. Furthermore, he researches sustainability of overaged and depopulated local community in Japan by focusing on relation between inhabitants and amenity migrants. He will make presentation at XIX World Congress of Sociology. The title of his presentation is “Succession and Reconstruction of Festivals/Folk Performing Arts in Overaged and Depopulated Communities: Focusing on the Role of Mediator between Inhabitants, out-Migrants, Incomers, and Volunteers”.

Dr Jeanne-Marie Viljoen is a lecturer in cultural and media studies and English at UniSA in the School of Creative Industries. She also teaches visual research methods. She is an early career researcher with an active research profile in critical visual and digital cultures and post-colonial literary trauma theory. She is interested in what happens to our experience when what is not seen gets marginalized in our representations, in a world where we often assume that seeing is knowing. Much of her research into the visual and the digital is around finding ways to include the invisible parts of our experience into our predominantly visual culture. She is currently writing a book on the representation of violence in graphic narratives and animated documentaries of war.
PARTICIPANT LIST

1. Dr Ross Boyd (University of South Australia)
2. Associate Professor Takeshi Deguchi (University of Tokyo)
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