Honours in Human Geography

Human Geography is a broad discipline that brings socially-oriented research to many research fields. Are you interested in: cities, Australian identities, urban and regional processes, issues associated with environment, or migration – globally and locally? Perhaps you are interested in Indigenous geographies, or the Asia-Pacific region? Does human-induced climate change concern you? Or are you interested in the current asylum-seeker debates? The list goes on….

Bring your thoughts to us and we will help your ideas become manageable research projects.

If you would like to discuss any potential honours projects in Human Geography, please contact Dr Wendy Shaw w.shaw@unsw.edu.au, or Dr Danielle Drozdzewski danielled@unsw.edu.au

Current research projects with a few $$ (you might like to join us!):

Australia’s cotton industry (contact Wendy: w.shaw@unsw.edu.au or Danielle danielled@unsw.edu.au): We are building a history of the Australian cotton industry, its current challenges and adaptations.

Coffee production in Papua New Guinea (contact Wendy: w.shaw@unsw.edu.au): One of daily rituals, our most desirable commodities, is under threat by an insect – oh, and the global economy…

The impacts of Cyclone Yasi on coastal and inland communities – what have we learned? (contact Wendy: w.shaw@unsw.edu.au or A/Prof Dale Dominey-Howes dale.dh@unsw.edu.au)

Turn over for some more ideas to get you thinking about research projects in human geography...

Also, see Dr Rob Brander’s page for details about social research on surviving rip currents!
More Topics for Honours in Human Geography

Below is a list of ideas, but they are not set in stone...If you want to discuss any of the topics listed below, or an idea of your own, please email danielled@unsw.edu.au

**Anzac Day: an invented tradition?** (Contact Danielle Drozdzewski: danielled@unsw.edu.au)

This project could look the ongoing relevance of Anzac Day to an increasingly multicultural Australian society and to narratives of Australian identity. Despite the passing of last WWI diggers, Anzac Day parade and service attendances are increasing in numbers. Lake and Reynolds (2010) have recently argued that Anzac Day represents a militarisation of Australian history – a potential honours project could explore this argument by surveying at Anzac and Remembrance Day services.

**Onshore/offshore who is listening?** (Contact Danielle Drozdzewski: danielled@unsw.edu.au)

In recent months, the asylum processing debate has taken many twists and turns, most significantly with the government’s plans for a Malaysian Solution rendered illegal by the High Court. This project would attempt to gauge public opinion of the current asylum debate by surveying the general public and completing a discourse analysis of the media on the recent asylum debate.

**What happens to ‘boat people’?** (Contact Danielle Drozdzewski: danielled@unsw.edu.au)

In the past year, we have heard a lot about the ‘flood’ of asylum seekers arriving in Australia by boat. Media rhetoric would have us believe that the vast majority of Australians support a tougher stance on asylum seekers. This project could seek to more critically examine public opinion on asylum seekers, or conduct an in-depth discourse analysis of media and government discussions on this issue.

**Urban to rural migration – Treechange migration** (Contact Danielle Drozdzewski: danielled@unsw.edu.au)

Choose a small-medium sized rural location (for example: Mudgee, Lithgow, Kangaroo Valley) and ask questions such as: who is moving there from urban areas, how it has changed the character of the town, do the locals and newcomers get along? Are the newcomers satisfied with the services available in their new town?

**Students in the City** (Contact Danielle Drozdzewski: danielled@unsw.edu.au and Dr E Liu: e.liu@unsw.edu.au)

There is currently substantial pressure on housing available for students to rent in the city, especially in close proximity to colleges in the inner city and Central. This student housing crisis and the ongoing rental squeeze in Sydney has meant that many apartments are overcrowded, with two bedroom apartments housing up to 6 (and more!) students. This project would investigate the outcomes of living in overcrowded student accommodation, particularly for international students.

**Migrant Communities** (Contact Danielle Drozdzewski: danielled@unsw.edu.au)

Choose a migrant community. You may want to choose a newly established community, such as North African migrants. You could, for example: examine the settlement services in place to aid and assist migration; interview these migrants to assess the difficulties with settling in Australia and make an assessment of how the pre-migration decisions might influence post-migration settlement. You could also look at issue of social inclusion and exclusion in more-established migrant groups.