Prospective Honours Projects with Danielle Drozdzewski

I prefer that students choose their own topics for their Honours thesis, because (hopefully) you will then have a direct and relatable interest in what you will be researching. We will help narrow your ideas down into manageable projects.

Below is a list of ideas, to stimulate your thoughts

If you want to discuss any of the topics listed below, or an idea of your own, please email me at 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.