A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

The year 2020 was a memorable year globally and threatened to derail the teaching and research outputs of the School. However, with the advent of the pandemic, the School responded swiftly. We provided expert commentary and analysis on policy and regulatory responses to the pandemic; shifted to online learning with minimal disruption to students and continued our high-quality teaching across our postgraduate and custom education program offerings; and moved to offering our engagement events virtually, which meant that more people across the country and globally had access to our seminars and events.

In 2020 the School focused on four key research and engagement themes: Regulation and Design; Social and Sustainable Procurement; Renewing Democracy; and Governing During Crises. For example, the Regulation and Design program was established in 2019 to consider how regulation may evolve in the 21st century. The events of 2020 tested regulators and governments in a myriad of ways. In 2020, our Disruptive Ideas seminar series and policy papers explored some of these challenges for regulation and governance, building on some of the themes established in our Troubling Policy seminar series of 2018-2019.

In June 2020 the School launched the Governing During Crises ‘hub’, recognising the need for timely analysis of key governance in the face of crisis, including the pandemic, bushfire crisis, and climate change, among others. The centrepiece is the Policy Brief Series, which distils cutting-edge research at the School, the University, and our extensive networks into policy analysis and clear recommendations. The hub also features the COVID-DEM database, which charts the pandemic’s impact on democracy worldwide.

As we transition to a non-pandemic world, our focus in 2021 will be to further develop our existing activities at the School to realise their full potential. The Biennial Report 2019-2020 highlights the significant amount of work produced by the School in 2019 and 2020 through our research, teaching and engagement programs. The School continues to be on the forefront of debate on political leadership and what makes good government, and we evolved and created new research projects in response to the current and future needs of governments.

We continue to foster national debate on Australian politics through our involvement with the McKinnon Prize in Political Leadership, Pathways to Politics Program for Women and men, and the John Button Prize and John Button Oration.

The events of last year have demonstrated that the need for good government and political leadership has never been more important. The School continues to be on the forefront of research, teaching and learning and engagement on this very issue.

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Under our Renewing Democracy stream, the School was highly active, including: re-launching our Election Watch platform, providing independent expert analysis of elections in Australia, the Asia-Pacific, and globally; making three submissions to the Senate Inquiry into Nationhood, National Identity, which were extensively cited in the Senate’s final report; and organising the global event ‘Democracy 2020’, which featured over 50 speakers analysing the health and future of democracy in 30 states worldwide.

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The Melbourne School of Government is an interdisciplinary School at the University of Melbourne.

By harnessing the diverse resources and expertise from disciplines across the University, the School strives to inspire and equip governments, businesses, social partners, future leaders and individuals to meet the challenges of contemporary governance.

Through innovative research and graduate and executive teaching, we seek shared and sustainable solutions to these challenges. Our approach combines economics, political science, international relations, sociology, development studies, philosophy, law, and computing and information systems to achieve tangible outcomes in governance research and education.

The School’s activities centre around our thematic areas including governance and regulation, politics and democracy and a small number of key policy domains.

EDUCATION AND FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS

Throughout 2019 and 2020, the School continued to deliver first-class education and flagship programs that bring the exceptional knowledge and expertise from across the University and our widespread network to improve governance and public policy.

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MPA)

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) is a flagship degree and supports delivery of our Graduate Certificate and Specialist Certificate in Public Administration. An inter-disciplinary and globally focused program, the MPA is targeted at leaders from the community, corporate and public sectors who operate in increasingly complex governing environments with challenges cutting across disciplinary, organisational, sectoral, jurisdictional and geographical boundaries. The program draws on the expertise across the University of Melbourne and beyond to develop the skills and competencies of these professionals.

A combination of academics and practitioners provide an effective blend of theory, practical skills, reflection, and focus on peer-to-peer learning to equip participants for public leadership roles. Lecturers on the MPA include a range of leading academics from across the University of Melbourne including Melbourne Law School, the Faculty of Arts, and Faculty of Business and Economics, as well as external experts and practitioners. Leading international scholars who have taught the program include Professor Jon Pierre and Professor R.A. Rhodes. Cohorts have generally been a 50/50 mix of domestic and international professionals from Australia and a range of countries across the Asia-Pacific region (e.g. Indonesia, India, Pakistan, South Korea) and beyond (e.g. United Kingdom).

In 2019 and 2020 the MPA was internally reviewed and reformed to enhance administration and develop the curriculum to include more international content and case-studies. It also increased support for students on the Executive Internship subject and improved communication with students through the establishment of a student representative system.

In addition, the School successfully implemented its extensive response to the COVID-19 pandemic by adapting the MPA and managing the transition to online delivery. Student surveys indicate high standards of satisfaction matching those from 2019. School of Government staff also assisted our host faculty, Melbourne Law School, in developing best practice and policy for online delivery.
PATHWAYS TO POLITICS PROGRAM FOR WOMEN

The Pathways to Politics Program for Women is a collaborative initiative run by the School, the University of Melbourne Chancellery and the Women’s Leadership Institute with the generous support of the Trawalla Foundation. The Program was developed by the University of Melbourne in consultation with the Women and Public Policy Program at the Harvard Kennedy School with reference to their long running From Harvard Square to the Oval Office practicum, to redress the underrepresentation of women in Australian politics.

Pathways to Politics is designed to address the continued underrepresentation of women in Australian politics. In 2019 and 2020, the program continued to focus on providing women from across the political spectrum with the training, support and networks they need to succeed in the electoral process at local, state and federal levels. The program has been running since 2015 with considerable increase in participation and interest, featuring guest presenters from across the political spectrum, including politicians from all levels of government (both sitting and retired), public speaking professionals, campaign strategists, advisors, public policy experts and leading figures in Australian political and public life.

The completion of the 2019 program saw 24 Fellows graduating with this group being the fourth cohort of Fellows since the program began in 2016. The program also celebrated alumna Dr Katie Allen successfully running for office in the federal seat of Higgins.

17 Pathways to Politics alumni and current participants ran in the 2020 Victorian council elections, 6 of whom were successful.

In 2020, entry to the fifth iteration of the Program was expanded to graduates of all Victorian Universities and attracted over 100 applicants, an increase of 40% from 2019.

WORLD’S FIRST POSTGRADUATE QUALIFICATION FOR MINISTERIAL ADVISERS

In 2019 a world-first postgraduate qualification for practising ministerial advisers: the Specialist Certificate in Public Administration (Advanced) was established and delivered. The content for the course was developed in partnership with the Office of the Premier of Victoria and included practitioner-faculty with extensive experience advising premiers and prime ministers.

The first cohort of advisers completed the Specialist Certificate in early 2020, with a second cohort commencing their studies in November 2020.

The Specialist Certificate encompasses content including the development of public policy, public sector governance, crisis management, media and messaging.

OTHER CUSTOM PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The School was also involved in the delivery of various other custom designed programs to build the capability of professionals in government.

Performance Management Capacity Building Program, the Prime Minister’s Office of the UAE

In 2019, the Performance Management Capacity Building Program was delivered to senior officials in the Prime Minister’s Office of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Program was created in partnership with the Melbourne School for Continuing and Professional Education (MSPACE) and the Centre for Workplace Leadership. It was spread across five modules and included frameworks to align performance management with strategic outcomes, leveraging big data and AI for performance management, building evaluation cultures, improving service delivery and a five-day study tour. The modules were delivered by a range of faculties from across the University.

BREADTH SUBJECTS

Four breadth subjects were offered by the School to undergraduate students at the University in 2019 and 2020:

» Tackling Wicked Policy Problems - Jayani Nadarajalingam
» Consultants and Government - Dr Martin Bortz
» Science, Technology and Public Policy - Jeremy Baskin
» Climate Change: Why People Disagree - Jeremy Baskin

Public Policy Graduate Program, Victorian Public Sector Commission

The first iteration of the Graduate Public Policy Training Program for the Victorian Public Service Commission was delivered in 2020 by the School. It was led by Public Policy Fellow, Maria Katsonis, for graduates from across the Victorian Public Sector, and included topics such as the foundations of policy, the art of policy analysis, delivering public values and putting policy skills in practice through case-based teaching.
The School’s research examines the implications of economic, legal, social, political and cultural trends for the content and conduct of public policy and its implementation. We are proud to offer a research program that aims to improve the design, development and impact of democratic systems, public policy and governance, both nationally and internationally.

In 2019 we consolidated our education, research and engagement activities across three core themes: Renewing Democracy, Troubling Policy, and Regulation and Governance. 2020’s research program followed four overarching themes: Regulation and Design, Social and Sustainable Procurement, Renewing Democracy and Governing During Crisis. Our Troubling Policy theme continues to provide an additional transversal topic transcending the four specific areas of focus.

### RESEARCH IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Refer to Appendix A for a detailed list of research outputs

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Type</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Seminars and public events</td>
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### REGULATION AND DESIGN

It is an opportune time for innovative thinking and action on regulatory design to support practitioners in responding to challenges ranging from data-driven technologies to climate change and globalisation. The Regulation and Design program explores innovation in the methods, tools and enforcement of regulation, focusing on both how regulators approach the use of data science and technology, as well as their regulation of emerging technology platforms. It also considers the appropriateness of different regulatory tools, such as prescriptive versus outcome-based regulation, in new and changing contexts.

#### Smart Cities

Australian cities are rapidly becoming ‘smart’ through the adoption of information technologies built into the infrastructure, service delivery and feedback cycles of local government. This research explores the current status of Victorian local governments’ ‘smart city’ plans, strategies and visions and how well integrated these are with their sustainability, equity and justice planning. It also evaluates the approaches to smart city governance in Victoria and the challenges to Local Government Areas (LGAs) developing smart city strategies, and how these relate to the LGAs’ work on sustainability, equity and justice. The outcome of this project will be a co-drafted Victoria wide framework to support LGAs in developing smart city strategies that are inclusive and sustainable, whilst also promoting interoperability across LGAs.

Researchers: Prof. John Howe and Timothy Kariotis

#### Fair Day’s Work

Proposed in 2020 as part of an application to the data.org international Inclusive Growth and Recovery Challenge, the Paul Ramsay Foundation funded the Fair Day’s Work project as the only Australian awardee of the challenge. The project explores the use of data science approaches to address the issue of youth wage underpayment, or ‘wage theft’, in Australia. It has three components including the development of a Fair Day’s Work Portal, Wage Theft Database and the Wage Theft Prediction Tool. The project launches in early 2021 and will run for two years.

Researchers: Prof. John Howe and Timothy Kariotis

#### Formal and Informal Regulation of Labour Disputes in Southeast Asia

In a joint research grant with Monash University and the Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Projects scheme, this project aims to investigate the complex regulation of labour disputes in Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam. Effective rules and institutions for the resolution of collective labour disputes are integral features of a sound industrial relations system. Yet in many developing countries, formal channels for the resolution of such disputes are largely ineffective. This heightens the risk of industrial disruption and encourages reliance on informal modes of regulation. The project will provide an empirical analysis of existing models of labour regulation, inform policy development and the activities of agencies involved in labour dispute resolution in the region.

Researchers: Prof. John Howe (with external colleagues at Monash University: Prof. Carolyn Sutherland (CI), Prof. Richard Mitchell, Dr Petra Mahy, Ms Ingrid Landau)

#### Regulation and Design Issues Paper Series

We launched our Regulation and Design Issues Paper series in late 2020 with two papers:

- **Thought Provokers – A Right to Work from Home** – examining the new employer/employee right in the landscape of working from home through the pandemic (Dr Jillian Murray, Holly Ransom and Prof. John Howe).

- **Civic Data Trusts – An Opportunity for Participatory Data Governance** – As City, State and Federal Governments are increasingly adopting data-centric and algorithmic technologies, this paper explores some of the approaches to participation and participatory governance that could be applied in the design of civic data trusts for use in smart city data governance (Timothy Kariotis)
RENEWING DEMOCRACY

What is the future of democracy in our hyper-connected world? This research theme examines how public and private actors can respond to populism, illiberalism and authoritarianism as they increasingly impact on democracy in Australia, the Asia-Pacific, and across the globe. It explores how issues such as political trust, civil liberties, meaningful representation, and alternative forms for governance impact on public engagement as it faces worldwide challenges and increasing disenchantment. The theme provides a platform for a range of academic research and applied research activities, including publications, events for academics and policymakers, the Election Watch platform, government submissions and research translation.

Global Roundtable: ‘Democracy 2020’

In November 2020 the School co-hosted a Global Roundtable of the International Association of Constitutional Law (IACL), ‘Democracy 2020: Assessing Constitutional Decay, Breakdown and Renewal’. It featured 50 speakers from five continents for an inclusive global ‘stock-taking’ exercise to map the health and trajectory of democracies worldwide. Innovating in response to the constraints imposed by Covid-19, we crafted a multimedia approach consisting of nine 2.5-hour webinars, a ‘pop-up’ blog, video interviews with selected speakers and a 250-page conference e-book published in December 2020.

Election Watch

In 2019 and 2020 Election Watch continued to provide non-partisan, fact-based, expert analysis of key elections in Australia, the Indo-Pacific region and around the world. It draws on the University’s expertise to address a significant gap in trusted media analysis of elections. The School contributed to the development of the Vote Compass Australia survey in the leadup to the 2019 Federal election. There was strong public participation in Vote Compass, with over 1.5 million respondents.

In 2020, Election Watch was re-launched with refreshed branding and a new Editor, Max Walden. Max also works as a journalist for ABC News and has reported for other media outlets, including Al Jazeera, Voice of America and the South China Morning Post.

Forum on the Future of Electoral Democracy in India and Australia

On 20 August 2019 Election Watch hosted a bilateral forum in New Delhi, ‘The Future of Electoral Democracy in India and Australia’, supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). This event brought together election officials and leading scholars from both nations for a practical knowledge exchange on ways to hold more effective elections. The event was opened by the Australian High Commissioner to India, The Hon. Harinder Sidhu, and was widely covered in Indian and Australian media outlets with an audience of some 10 million people.

Senate Inquiry into Nationhood, National Identity

In 2019 and 2020 the School made three submissions to the Senate Inquiry into Nationhood, National Identity. Deputy Director Tom Daly and Principal Fellow Nicholas Reece were also invited experts at the Senate’s first hearing on 7 February 2020. The submissions focused on reforms to facilitate consensus-building in parliament, training for ministers and ministerial staff, regulation of political donations and lobbyists, and enhancement of citizen participation in policymaking (e.g. through citizens’ assemblies). The third submission, in response to the Senate’s COVID-19 discussion paper, placed Australia’s pandemic response in international context and identified deficiencies such as the sidelining of parliaments across Australia.

Managing Expectations to Create High Performance Government

Professor Janine O’Flynn was awarded best article published in the Review of Public Personnel Administration in 2019, for the article ‘Managing Expectations to Create High Performance Government’. She co-authored this article with Professor Deborah Blackman, Dr Damian West, and Dr Fiona Buick and Professor Michael O’Donnell from the University of New South Wales. This is a research output from a multi-year collaborative project between the Australian Public Service Commission and the authors.

DEM-DEC Database

The Democratic Decay & Renewal (DEM-DEC) Database was used by thousands in over 130 states worldwide, achieving over 80,000 page views. It ran throughout 2019 and 2020, with key activities including issuing a monthly Global Research Update and a video engagement campaign for International Day of Democracy celebrating democracy defenders organised in collaboration with the UN-affiliated organisation Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA).
GOVERNING DURING CRISSES

Bushfires, pandemics, climate change – how can we achieve good governance during crisis? This research theme, launched in 2020, provides a platform to develop our work on governance in response to the broad range of crises of activities under this theme, including a policy brief series, database, and media engagement, are showcased in the School’s online hub.

Policy Brief Series

Launched in June 2020, the Policy Brief series distils academic research into policy analysis and clear recommendations, drawing on the cutting-edge research taking place at the School of Government and the University of Melbourne, as well as the School’s extensive networks across Australia, the Asia-Pacific, and worldwide. It has provided thought leadership on a range of issues, with authors including leading and emerging scholars, and practitioners and policymakers.

» A New Federalism? The Role and Future of the National Cabinet – 1 July 2020. Author: Cheryl Saunders.
» Author: Tom Daly.

COVID-DEM Database

Launched in April 2020, COVID-DEM is a free online database that provides access to policy analysis, academic research and news items to aid democracy analysts, policymakers and the public in understanding how the pandemic is reshaping our democracies. It operates on a hybrid model blending crowdsourcing and curation, allowing users worldwide to submit content, which is reviewed before inclusion.

The project focuses on the pandemic’s immediate, medium and long-term impacts on democracy. It runs across a variety of themes, including democratic freedoms and rights and emergency powers, that are especially paginate throughout the pandemic. The information has been made available publicly on the website through videos, podcasts, webinars, databases, research and a ‘super blog’ that draws from over 50 blogs globally.

In July 2020 a Memorandum of Understanding was agreed with the intergovernmental organisation International IDEA to fund research assistance, and to make COVID-DEM part of IDEA’s Global Monitor of COVID-19’s Impact on Democracy and Human Rights.

SOCIAL AND SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

Social and sustainable procurement is where organisations use their purchasing power to generate social and environmental benefits, particularly around the creation of jobs, often targeted at those disadvantaged in the labour market, social enterprise, indigenous-owned businesses, the stimulation of local industries and the encouragement of environmental sustainability.

In 2020, the School launched a new research and education theme in response to the growing use of social, indigenous and sustainable procurement policies and initiatives at all levels of government in Australia – Maximising the Potential of Social Procurement. The School is creating partnerships with government agencies, NGOs and industry to improve the uptake and impact of social and sustainable procurement initiatives. This program will assist government departments and agencies through program evaluation, research on measuring the value and impact of social and sustainable procurement programs, providing recommendations for improvement of existing programs or program expansion and development of education and training programs.

Social and Sustainable Procurement Roundtable

A Social and Sustainable Procurement roundtable was convened in September 2020 and was attended by over 20 representatives from the government, private sector, social and sustainable procurement sector and academia. The roundtable resulted in the identification of potential research projects and education offerings, which will be supported by an Expert Reference Group.

MicroCerts

Subsequently, the School has embarked on the development of a series of four Melbourne MicroCerts in social and sustainable procurement. These short courses are tailored to the capability development needs of professionals looking to upskill in the emerging field of social and sustainable procurement.
Sustainable Food Systems

PhD Candidate and Research Associate Sophie Lamond completed a four-month fieldwork trip to the US and Canada as a Visiting Student Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management. Sophie travelled throughout the United States visiting university campuses and interviewing key campus stakeholders to better understand how sustainable food policy is formulated in institutional environments. Her research work is producing a best practice framework for Sustainable Food Systems procurement policy design and implementation.

TROUBLING POLICY

We expect good government to be guided by clear and coherent policies on the most important issues of the day. The reality is, there are considerable internal and external forces that impact on the execution of good public policy, adding to the complexity of some policy areas. This theme, which operates as an overarching theme, transcending the four themes above, focuses both on controversial, intractable policy challenges and asks difficult questions about the policymaking process itself.

Contributing to the Independent Review of the Australian Public Service

In 2019 Professor Janine O’Flynn and co-author Garry Sturgess were invited to submit a research paper to the Independent Review of the Australian Public Service (APS). The paper 2030 and Beyond, Getting the Work of Government Done explores the importance of commissioning and contracting in achieving outcomes for the Australian public. The authors argue for a more considered, principles-based approach to designing and stewarding systems as the APS engages with third party providers.

Many of the suggestions were taken up by the Panel and included in their final report, published March 2019.

Authors: Professor Janine O’Flynn (Co-Author)

The Experience of Australian Diplomats of Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

Funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the purpose of the report was to review Australian experience of peace processes and suggest possible approaches for strengthening them. The research used the experience of over 120 current and retired Australian diplomats, defence personnel, police, academic and international non-governmental organisation (INGO) staff who have worked in often complex, threatening and entrenched conflict situations. Their experiences and comments were transcribed, organised and distilled into the conclusions and recommendations of the report. Many recommendations were recognised and supported by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Marise Payne.

Author: Professor John Langmore

Citizenship in Hybrid Societies and its Relevance for Australian Law

This project was part of Statelessness Hallmark Research Initiative (SHRI) Seed Funding awarded through the Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness. It combines legal analysis with philosophical theorising to investigate the complexities of citizenship in hybrid societies and its relevance for Australian law. Hybrid societies are ones in which the modern state is not the main political actor; instead, it is only one political actor among others and, as a result, does not provide the only (or main) institutional framework within which people live their lives.

Researcher: Jayani Nadarajalingam (Co-Author)

Policy Narratives and Policy Change: The Case of Pill Testing

What is the relationship between policy narratives and policy change? Drawing on case material from debates related to ‘pill testing’ or ‘drug checking’ in New Zealand and New South Wales, this project queried the causative relationships between narratives and change while exploring the avenue of harm minimisation that aims to provide recreational drug users with information about the substances they intend to consume.

Researcher: Dr Martin Bortz

Community Self-Governance at The Borderland

Exploring new modes of community self-governance, this project focused on a Scandinavian music and arts festival known as ‘The Borderland’ and ways in which communities self-organise in response to pressing social challenges, the effects of such organisation, and the role of the state therein.

Researcher: Dr Martin Bortz

Doctoral Academy on Demystifying Government

In July 2019, the School held its inaugural Doctoral Academy, with the theme ‘Demystifying Government’. The Academy was designed to provide PhD researchers with a deeper insight into the workings of government. Over three days, through a mixture of masterclasses, lectures and structured discussion, the 54 participants explored ‘how government works’ by asking questions such as: what are the processes, systems, and structures through which political decisions are made? What is the best way to influence public policy? What are the ‘hot button’ issues in public management? And what skills are needed to affect change? Two masterclasses focused on designing a better health service system, and energy efficiency in the built environment.

Speakers included: Peter Collins (Director, Centre for Ethical Leadership), Verity Harris (Executive Director, Integrity and Advisory at the Victorian Public Sector Commission), Julian Hebdon (Victoria’s first Chief Data Officer), Professor John Allford (Professorial Fellow at the School of Government), Ken Knight (knowledge translation and research impact specialist) Eleanor Williams (Director, Centre for Evaluation and Research Evidence, Victorian Department of Health) and Petra Stock (Program Manager, ClimateWorks Australia).
Engagement is a central part of our mission to improve governance and public policy outcomes. Through our prizes and public events, we bring the University’s knowledge expertise to government and public purpose sector to address the most important challenges of our time. When our stakeholders were locked down and dealing with the crisis of COVID-19, the School quickly adapted and found ways to connect and engage with them at a time when knowledge, expertise and reflection on the practice of government has been critical.

PRIZES

McKinnon Prize in Political Leadership

The McKinnon Prize for Political Leadership is an annual award recognising two outstanding politicians who have demonstrated exceptional political leadership. The award is supported and delivered through a collaborative partnership between the Susan McKinnon Foundation (SMF) and the School.

The purpose of the McKinnon is to recognise, reward and inspire visionary, collaborative, courageous and effective political leadership in Australia. By celebrating examples of great political leadership of our time the prize aims to foster a higher standard of political leadership as a vital means to improve societal wellbeing.

The McKinnon Prize Selection Committee met in February 2019 to consider a shortlist of nominees for the 2018 Prize, and chose the following winners:

- 2018 McKinnon Political Leader of the Year – Senator Penny Wong
- 2018 McKinnon Emerging Political Leader of the Year – Senator Jordan Steele John

The 2018 McKinnon Prize Oration was held in March 2019 at the University of Melbourne and acquired significant media coverage with over 10,000 views on Facebook.

In February 2020, the McKinnon Prize Selection Committee decided on the winners of the McKinnon Prize for 2019:

- 2019 McKinnon Political Leader of the Year – Ms Gladys Berejiklian, BA, DIntS, MCom MP
- 2019 McKinnon Emerging Political Leader of the Year – Sally Capp

The 2019 McKinnon Prize Oration was held virtually in September 2020, hosted by Australian Financial Review (AFR), through their media platform, AFR Live. The webinar was moderated by the AFR Political Editor, Phillip Coorey.

In 2020, Amanda Vanstone AO and the Hon Simon Crean were appointed as McKinnon Prize Ambassadors to help raise awareness of the McKinnon Prize for 2020.
John Button Oration and John Button Prize
The School organises the annual John Button Oration in partnership with the Melbourne Writers Festival.

The 2019 Oration was delivered by Deborah Lipstadt, Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University, on the topic of ‘In the Face of Hatred’.

The 2020 John Button Oration was held online and delivered by former Australian Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull AC.

The John Button Prize is designed to recognise and draw attention to the best writing on political and public policy among young Victorians. With the support of the John Button Fund, the annual John Button School Prize aims to develop a keen interest and knowledge in Australian government, politics and public policies.

Australia’s future. The goal of this initiative is to raise civic literacy amongst young Australians by motivating students to develop a keen interest and knowledge in Australian government, politics and public policies.

The 2019 winner was Minseo Kim, a Year 10 student at Camberwell Girls Grammar School for her essay, ‘Why Australia needs to engage in justice reinvestment to reduce Indigenous incarceration rates and help close the gap’.

The 2020 winner was Amelia Lemanis, a Year 10 student at Mac.Robertson Girls’ High School, for her essay, ‘Towards equity for Indigenous Australians: A critique of contemporary economic policy’.

The winners are announced publicly at the annual John Button Oration.

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT
The School regularly engages with the media to provide analysis and commentary on issues related to governance.

The interdisciplinary team and network provide expert analysis in local, national and international media, including interviews, op-eds, livestreamed panels, and other public events.

Highlights of our extensive media engagement across 2019 and 2020 include:

Pandemic Responses
In 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic plunged Australia into crisis, with massive implications for governance and public policy, our faculty were profiled through a range of media engagements, lending their expertise to important public debates.

Professor John Howe and Dr Tom Daly presented at Melbourne Law School’s Germs and Justice series which was live streamed on ABC Radio National. John joined Melbourne Law School Professor Miranda Stewart to discuss COVID-19’s impact on jobs and the workplace. In a separate panel session, Tom spoke about the pandemic’s impact on democracy worldwide. This was also broadcast on ABC Radio National’s Big Ideas podcast.

In 2020, Tom Daly was a panellist at the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission Panel Equity Talks: First Principles. Tom spoke at the event about the number of issues the COVID-19 pandemic raises about democratic accountability and participation.

Fair Work and Wage Theft
Drawing on his expertise in fair work and wage theft, Professor John Howe was profiled in numerous media outlets throughout 2019 and 2020. John was quoted in the Sydney Morning Herald in 2019 and 2020 respectively on the criminalisation of wage theft and risks for business, as well as the Australian Financial Review on union concession on wage theft.

John also published an opinion piece for The Mandarin entitled Working Hard to Make Work Fairer, with colleagues Associate Professor Tess Hardy and Professor Sean Cooney from the Melbourne Law School. John’s research was also profiled in the Australian Institute of Company Directors’ magazine and HRM Online, the news site for the Australian HR Institute.

Public Leadership
Gender and the representation of women in public and political roles is a major focus of the School’s teaching and research.

Jayani Nadarajalingam spoke to SBS Radio about the challenges we face around the equal representation of women in politics. Jayani also spoke to SBS Radio about the role of gender quotas in politics.

The Hon. Jenny Macklin, Vice-Chancellor’s Fellow at the School, featured in several forums about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). She spoke to the Crawford School of Public Policy Podcast about fixing the NDIS, as well as the ABC’s Big Ideas Podcast on the creation of the NDIS.

Dr Martin Bortz was profiled in a number of forums about the role of consultants in government and public policy. He was quoted in a Sydney Morning Herald article about increased government spending on the big four consultancies.

Martin also wrote a piece for The Mandarin about the role of consultants and the drift from advising government to engaging in government, and for the Canberra Times on how the standards of ministerial conduct should be enforced by an independent body.

Global Democracy
Renewing democracy was an important research focus for the School in 2019 and 2020, as such the faculty and their research were profiled in several media engagements across this period.

Dr Tom Daly presented to a range of panels and events to speak on Brexit and the US elections respectively. Highlights include Brexit, Europe, and Democracy in 2019 which was livestreamed on the University of Melbourne’s Pursuit platform. Tom also published the op-ed, As the US elections near, global democracy is at stake via Pursuit in September 2020, and was a panellist in the lead up to the US election for the Faculty of Arts Webinar Series: Trump/Biden 2020: unpacking an election like no other.

In 2019 Dr Tom Daly and Jayani Nadarajalingam were interviewed as part of ABC Radio National program ‘The People vs Democracy’ to speak about how citizens negotiate their place in a democratic society, and what happens if those living in long-established democracies become disillusioned. Dr Martin Bortz also published an article in The Mandarin challenging the often-held consensus that consultants working on public policy presents a threat to democratic accountability.
HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR EVENTS

PROGRAM

The Fraser Oration by Lord Patten

On 6 November 2019 the School invited Rt Hon Lord Chris Patten CH, PC to deliver the Fraser Oration on Political Leadership to a crowd of over 500 attendees. Lord Patten has had a long and distinguished career in public and political life. He was the last Governor of Hong Kong overseeing the handover to China in 1997, served as one of the United Kingdom’s representatives on the European Commission, and was elected as Chancellor of the University of Oxford in 2003.

In his oration, Lord Patten stressed the need for values-based diplomacy in dealing with China. He emphasised that democratic countries need to lead the process of re-establishing global order through co-operation with patient and relentless pedagogy, brave leadership turning public opinion around on the need for collaboration, and honesty in dealing with complexity.

Talking About Economic Inequality Public Lecture Series

In the lead up to the 2019 Australian federal election, the School convened a public lecture series Talking about Economic Inequality, curated by Senior Research Fellow, Dr Jeremy Baskin. These lectures brought together experts from government, industry, and the academy, for a series of public conversations about economic inequality; one of the most pressing issues facing the Australian electorate in the lead up to the 2019 election. Topics included inequality in the Australian political discourse, taxation and welfare, the impact of economic neo-liberalism and technology, inequality, and the future of work.

Speakers in this Series

» Wayne Swan, National President of the Labor Party
» Glyn Davis, AC, CEO of the Ramsey Foundation
» Professor Miranda Stewart, Melbourne Law School, Director of the Tax Group
» Professor Roger Wilkins, Deputy Director of the Melbourne Institute
» Dr Troy Henderson, The University of Sydney
» Dr Richard Denniss, Chief Economist at The Australia Institute
» Professor Sundhya Pahuja, Professor of Law and Director of Melbourne Law School’s Institute for International Law and the Humanities (ILAIH)
» Dr Tim Dunlop, Melbourne-based writer. His latest book is The Future of Everything: Big Audacious Ideas for a Better World
» Tim Lyons, Research Fellow at progressive think tank PerCapita. Works on organising and labour market regulation.

Disruptive Ideas Seminar Series

Delivered across 2020, the School’s Disruptive Ideas seminar series explored challenges to current regulation and governance approaches. It brought together scholars and practitioners to explore diverse topics, including media regulation, policymaking in crisis, diversity in public engagement and the policy process, regulating technology, finance, and digital transformation of government.

Speakers in this Series

» Tim Kariotis, Research Fellow, Melbourne School of Government
» Lisa Paul, AO, PSM, former senior Australian public servant and policymaker
» Ben Hubbard, Senior Fellow, Melbourne School of Government and Partner at Crewell Advisory Pty Ltd
» James Wong, digital lawyer, Clyde & Co.
» Dr Penny Gleeson, Lecturer, Deakin Law School
» Maria Katsonis, Senior Fellow, Melbourne School of Government
» Dr Ruth DeSouza, Vice-Chancellor’s Fellow, RMIT University
» Dr Nicholas B. de Weydenthal, Research Fellow, Melbourne School of Government
» Professor Jeannie Paterson, Melbourne Law School
» A/Professor Andrew Godwin, Melbourne Law School
» Professor Nadia Massoud, Melbourne Business School
» Dr Fabio Mattioli, School of Social and Political Sciences
» Zali Steggall, OAM, MP, Federal Member for Warringah

Troubling Policy Seminar Series

In 2019, we completed our troubling policy series with two seminars entitled Can Australia Strengthen National Interests by Greater Foreign Policy Independence? Presented by Professor John Langmore and Dr Allan Patience; and the seminar Should Australia Allow Parents to Edit Their Baby’s Genes? Presented by Dr Jane Brophy.
SEMINARS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

In addition to the regular seminar series, the school hosted a wide variety of conferences, roundtables, book launches and other events across 2019 and 2020 for those interested in public policy and government.

The Complacent Country: Alternative visions for Australia’s future, presented by the Hon Kevin Rudd AC

As part of a collection of events in reference to his essay of the same name, the Hon Kevin Rudd AC spoke at this School hosted event about the unprecedented challenges on our collective horizon requiring a shift in thinking from the factional to the civic. He also addressed the future of Australia, and whether we as a nation are prepared to craft a long-term future for our country, and what this vision for the future might look like.

Webinar: In Conversation with Ben LaBolt

Ben LaBolt is partner at Bully Pulpit Interactive and former national press secretary for President Obama’s re-election campaign. His seminar was a commentary on the current state of politics in the US considering the 2019 election and communications strategies, particularly the use of digital media in campaigns.

Webinar: Is a virtual Parliament desirable and workable?

This webinar was a joint initiative of the Electoral Regulation Research Network (ERRN), Melbourne School of Government and the Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law at the University of New South Wales. It featured Senate President Scott Ryan, who took up questions on Parliament function during a pandemic and what are its strengths and limitations, drawing upon his experience organising a virtual sitting of the Senate, with comments from Professor Anne Twomey.

Webinar: Remote Democracy?: A comparative perspective on voting in pandemics and beyond

On the eve of the US election, this seminar, co-hosted with Electoral Regulation Research Network (ERRN) Western Australia chapter, explored the impact of the pandemic on voting methods and electoral administration across a range of democracies. With a particular focus on the rise of remote voter participation, it analysed how mechanisms such as mail-in and on-line voting are changing the electoral landscape and what legacy these may have for trust in the electoral process post-COVID-19.

Webinar: Elections under COVID-19 in Australia: an update on recent experiences and lessons for the future

This webinar explored the responses to the COVID-19 challenge adopted at recent electoral processes in Australia and sought to identify the longer-term implications of work practices which Australian election administrators have been forced by the pandemic to adopt. It featured speakers from different Australian Electoral Commissions and was a joint initiative of the Electoral Regulation Research Network (ERRN), Melbourne School of Government and the Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law at the University of New South Wales.

Doctoral Academy Events

In mid-2019 the School launched an initiative providing high performing PhD students with additional support, professional development, and networking opportunities.

Dr Martin Bortz co-hosted two successful events with Melbourne Law School as part of its Digital Citizens Conference. Those events included:

» Roundtable on human centric design in policy making with Dr Andrea Siodmok, Deputy Director, Policy Lab and Open Innovation teams, Cabinet Office, UK.

» Roundtable on using human centred design to improve access to justice with Ms Margaret Hagan, Director, Legal Design.

The final Doctoral Academy event was a panel discussion on the Uluru Statement and Indigenous Self-determination. The panel included Treaty Advancement Commissioner Jill Gallagher AO, Professor Sarah Maddison, Co-Director of the Indigenous Settler Relations Collaboration and Dr Shireen Morris from Macquarie University.
BOOK LAUNCHES

Geoengineering, the Anthropocene and the End of Nature - Jeremy Baskin

Hosted by the School, this event celebrated the launch of a new book by Jeremy Baskin, a Senior Research Fellow at the School. His book was published by Palgrave and launched by School of Social and Political Science Professor Robyn Eckersley.

Geoengineering, the Anthropocene and the End of Nature takes a critical look at solar geoengineering as an acceptable means for addressing climate change. It explores the assumptions and imaginaries which animate ‘engineering the climate’ and discusses why this climate solution is so controversial.

Innovation + Equality: How to Create a Future that is More Star Trek than Terminator – Hon Andrew Leigh MP and Joshua Gans

Professor Joshua Gans and Hon Dr Andrew Leigh make the case that pursuing innovation does not mean giving up on equality – precisely the opposite. They outline ways that society can become both more entrepreneurial and more egalitarian.

The book was launched at the Melbourne Law School by the author Hon Dr Andrew Leigh, Federal MP, former economics professor and prolific author. It was published by MIT Press.

PRESENTATIONS

Across 2019 and 2020, members of the School participated in over 40 presentations, speeches, and panel discussions to Australian and international audiences at world-class events. Highlights of these included:

Dr Tom Daly, Deputy Director, From Global Democratic Decay to Democratic Renewal? at Parliament of Victoria

This presentation was delivered at the Parliament of Victoria in November 2019 by Deputy Director Dr Tom Daly, under the ‘Renewing Democracy’ research theme. Dr Daly addressed how we should respond to the rising threats to liberal democratic traditions around the world, and what the implications are of rising populism, illiberalism, and disillusionment for the ways in which we approach domestic and international governance. He also examined the capability of constitutional institutions to withstand this onslaught of populism, and the possibility of renewing democracy more broadly and critically through a focus on the increasing attention to alternative forms of engagement in politics and policy, and new forms of individual and community organisation.

Jenny Macklin, Frank Larkins Oration, From Country Kid to Cabinet Minister, via International House

The Oration shed light on The Hon Jenny Macklin’s personal and professional experiences and insights from her esteemed career. Jenny is the longest serving woman in Parliament and was the first woman to be elected as the Deputy Leader in a major political party. She served as the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Minister for Disability Reform in the Labor Governments from 2007-2013. She is now a Vice Chancellor’s Fellow at the School.

Jenny Macklin, Sambell Oration 2019: Towards a just future – reimagining social and economic policy for our insecure times

Ms Macklin, offered a frank perspective on social and economic policy trends in Australia, leveraging her extensive political career and her experience as the School’s Vice Chancellor’s Fellow. She addressed what the challenges are ahead to enable economic security for all and how to rebuild declining trust in institutions in an era of remarkable – yet stubbornly uneven – prosperity.

Jayani Nadarajalingam, delegate at 2020 Australian India Youth Dialogue (AIYD), New Delhi & Chennai, India

Jayani was a delegate at the AIYD in Delhi and Chennai under the theme 2035: Creating our Sustainable Future and facilitated a seminar on Sustainable Future.

Jenny Macklin, Sambell Oration 2019: Towards a just future – reimagining social and economic policy for our insecure times

Ms Macklin, offered a frank perspective on social and economic policy trends in Australia, leveraging her extensive political career and her experience as the School’s Vice Chancellor’s Fellow. She addressed what the challenges are ahead to enable economic security for all and how to rebuild declining trust in institutions in an era of remarkable – yet stubbornly uneven – prosperity.
The School enjoys the support of a diverse Advisory Board with knowledge, experience and wisdom from government, the public sector, not-for-profit and private sectors. The Advisory Board provides insight and guidance to the School’s strategic planning and supports our engagement, teaching and research activities to ensure our network is diverse and has maximum impact. We would like to thank the members of Advisory Board for their strategic advice and commitment to the School.

Our Board members include:

» The Hon John Brumby AO – former Premier of Victoria (Chair)
» Dr Pradeep Philip – Partner at Deloitte Access Economics and former Secretary of the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services
» Mr Ben Hubbard – former Chief of Staff to Australia’s Prime Minister (2011-2013), Chief of Staff to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (2007-2009).
» Dr Anna Cronin – Commissioner for Better Regulation and Red Tape Commissioner at Better Regulation Victoria, former Chief of Staff to two Victorian Premiers
» Dr Helen Szoke – former Chief Executive, Oxfam Australia
» Dr Ian Watt AC – former Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet between 2011 and 2014

ADVISORY BOARD

» Mr Miles Kupa – former Australian Ambassador to Thailand and the Philippines, previously High Commissioner in Malaysia and Singapore and Deputy Head of Mission in Jakarta.
» Mr John Lord – Co-founder and Chairman of Neota Logic Inc.
» Professor Craig Jeffrey – Director of the Australia India Institute, Professor of Human Geography at the University of Melbourne.

Our thanks also to Board members who stood down in 2019 and 2020, Jennifer Westacott AO, Chief Executive of the Business Council of Australia, and former Senator for Victoria, Judith Troeth AM, for their contribution to the Board.

The School would like to acknowledge our academic and professional staff and our fellows for their contribution to the school throughout 2019 and 2020.

ACADEMIC STAFF

» Professor John Howe, Director
» Associate Professor Tom Daly, Deputy Director
» Professor John Alford, Honorary Professorial Fellow
» Nicholas Barthel de Weydenthal, Research Fellow in Regulation and Design
» Dr Jeremy Baskin, Senior Research Fellow and Senior Lecturer
» Dr Martin Bortz, Lecturer in Public Management
» Jane Brophy, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
» Professor Erika Feller AO, Professorial Fellow
» Hannah Irving, Research Fellow in Social and Sustainable Procurement
» Timothy Karotis, Research Fellow in Regulation and Design
» Melissa Kennedy, Research Assistant
» Sophie Lamond, Research Fellow in Social and Sustainable Procurement
» Professor John Langmore AM, Professorial Fellow
» Brant Liu, Research Fellow
» Jenny Macklin, Vice Chancellor’s Fellow
» Tania Miletic, Research Fellow
» Jayani Nadarajalingam, Lecturer in Political Programs
» Professor Janine O’Flynn, Professor of Public Management
» Professor Lisa Paul AO, Professorial Fellow

OUR TEAM

Professor John Alford

In his long career as Foundation Professor at the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG) from 2003, Professor Alford has been a key figure in building the School’s high teaching quality, its focus on practically relevant research and its collaborative relationships with partner government and universities. His leadership of teaching development was important because of the extensive collection of teaching cases he oversaw – now numbering around 200. In recognition of this contribution, ANZSOG has named its case library after him, as the John L Alford Case Library.

John retired from his role as Professor of Public Sector Management at ANZSOG and at the Melbourne Business School (MBS), University of Melbourne in 2017. His contribution to research has also been just as noteworthy with over 55 refereed publications in a wide range of international journals focusing on strategic management in the public sector, wicked problems, public value and public managers’ political astuteness.

John is now an Honorary Professorial Fellow at the School. The Melbourne Business School bestowed on him the award of Distinguished Academic Fellow in recognition of his outstanding performance and significant and sustained contribution.
TEACHING FELLOWS & ASSOCIATES

In 2019 and 2020, a range of teaching fellows and associates lectured on the Master of Public Administration (MPA):

» Public Policy Fellow Maria Katsonis, who taught The World of Public Administration and Persuasion for Policymakers in 2019 and 2020.
» Senior Fellow Dr Sue Olney, who taught Administrative Challenges in Practice in 2019 and 2020.
» Senior Fellow Alice Cashen, who taught The Rule of Law in 2019 and 2020.
» Professor Rod Rhodes, University of Southampton, who taught The Nature of Governing in 2019.
» Dr Dan Halliday, School of Historical and Philosophical Sciences, who taught Working Ethically in 2019 and 2020.
» Belinda Allen, Faculty of Business and Economics, who taught Managing Effectively in 2019.
» Professor Graham Sewell, Faculty of Business and Economics, who taught Managing Effectively in 2020.
» Professor Jeff Borland, Faculty of Business and Economics, who taught Using Evidence in 2019 and 2020.
» Associate Professor Stephen Kinsella, University of Limerick, who taught Managing Public Finances (2019 and 2020) and Understanding Big Data for Public Policy (2020).

VISITING FELLOWS

In 2019, the School welcomed the following visiting fellows:

» Professors Stanley Feldman and Leonie Huddy from Stony Brook University in New York, January 2019.
» Professor Rod Rhodes and Associate Professor Stephen Kinsella – listed above.
» International Visiting Fellow Andreas Kyriacou, Professor of Economics at the University of Girona, who was with us in July 2019.

HONORARY FELLOWS

» Field Rickards, Professorial Fellow
» John Alford, Professorial Fellow
» Peta Credlin, Professorial Fellow
» Nicholas Reece, Principal Fellow
» Hamish Park, Senior Fellow
» John Pesutto, Senior Fellow
» Holly Ransom, Senior Fellow
» Donald Speagle, Senior Fellow

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

» Chris Cheng, Program and Engagement Manager
» Jennifer Sutton, Business Development Manager
» Christopher Jones-Pidgely, Strategy and Projects Officer
» Roza Brezac, Executive Officer
» Cathy Harper, Editor, Election Watch
» Tim Jones, McKinnon Prize Project Officer
» Astari Kusumawardani, Research Centre Administrator
» Penny Wedesweiler, Coordinator, Pathways to Politics Program for Women
» Max Walden, Election Watch

HONORARY FELLOW

Maria Katsonis

Maria Katsonis is a Public Policy Fellow teaching policy design at a post graduate level. She has 20 years’ experience in the Victorian Public Service as a senior executive in public policy and public management. Previously, Maria has held the roles of Director, Governance, and Director, Equality in the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) and served as Special Adviser to the Secretary of DPC for five years. She was previously the Executive Director of Public Policy and Organisation Reviews at the Victorian Public Service Commission where she led governance and service delivery reviews at the request of the Premier and Ministers.

Maria has a Master of Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University where she was named a Lucius Littauer Fellow for academic achievement and commitment to public service. A Fellow of Leadership Victoria, Maria was named an Australian Financial Review Westpac Woman of Influence in 2016 for her leadership in diversity and inclusion. She is also an associate editor of the Australian Journal of Public Administration.

Ben Hubbard

Ben Hubbard is a Distinguished Visiting Fellow and has contributed significantly to the public service as the Chief of Staff to Prime Minister Julia Gillard. Prior to this role, Mr Hubbard was Chief Executive Officer of the Victoria Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority, coordinating the recovery of communities affected by the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires. Mr Hubbard has experience advising both the private sector and the Victorian government on public policy and affairs. He is also a current member of the School’s Advisory Board.
APPENDIX A - RESEARCH IMPACT

Members of the School were part of research which appeared in a wide range of books, book chapters and journals, both Australian and international.

MONOGRAPHS

EDITED BOOKS

BOOK CHAPTERS

JOURNAL ARTICLES – REFEREED
JOURNAL ARTICLES - UNREFEREED

Baskin, J. ‘Fourth Industrial Revolution: The revolution from above – a comparison of SA and Denmark’. Daily Maverick, 28 October 2019. co-authored with Kasper Schiølin


Baskin, J. ‘Whatever it takes’ should now include a universal basic income’, The Conversation, 27 March 2020.


OTHER WORKS


