

Monash Migration and Inclusion Centre

Annual Report 2020

January 2021

Note from our Director



In a year unlike any other, Monash Migration and Inclusion Centre re-directed all communication and engagement with key stakeholders, project partners, and the wider public online. Our online seminar and webinar events discussed and debated pressing issues relating to migration and social inclusion, recording strong levels of international and national engagement. We continued to foster academic and industry partnerships, provide learning and development opportunities, and secure funding to

respond to the challenges wrought by the pandemic. In this annual report, I am proud to share some of our achievements as we responded to the challenges of 2020.

Our Next Generation Network has grown considerably across the year, with approximately 200 post graduate students and early career researchers (ECRs) in our network, led by our Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr Charishma Ratnam. We held our first 'inclusion' hackathon in partnership with BehaviourWorks Australia and Wyndham City Council, providing an opportunity for our postgraduates and ECRs to work with industry partners in real world scenarios, to provide innovative solutions for organisations and the wider community. This was just one of many opportunities for mentorship, education, and engagement.

We are grateful for our continued partnerships within and outside academia. New projects have created opportunities to work with Monash colleagues from across the university. We have strengthened our academic relationships, notably through a Network of Excellence grant to examine migration to regional towns. We continue to foster opportunities for international collaboration through our membership in the IMISCOE network and an exchange fellowship program with Ryerson University in Canada.

Nationally, as well as our ongoing industry partnerships with Welcoming Cities, the Scanlon Foundation, and the International Education Association of Australia, our new partnership with Harmony Alliance led to the development of a national survey to understand issues that are important to women from migrant and refugee backgrounds, with a focus on safety and well-being. We look forward to sharing the results of the survey with you in early 2021.

As we begin 2021, we look back to all the learnings from 2020 and approach the new year with our shared goal of advancing migration and inclusion policy, practice and research.

Rebecca Wickes

Director

Monash Migration and Inclusion Centre

About us

The Monash Migration and Inclusion Centre (MMIC) is at the forefront of research, education, and public engagement concerning migration and social inclusion, and is committed to translating cutting-edge knowledge into practical solutions for policymakers, service providers, and communities. MMIC takes an evidence-based and interdisciplinary approach to understand and communicate how all forms of migration shape social, economic, cultural, and political inclusion in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

Our core areas of research include:

- [Community resilience and cohesion](#)
- Population movement, development, and the environment
- [Policing, borders and inclusion](#)
- [Identity and belonging](#)
- Monitoring slavery and exploitation
- [Language, citizenship, identity and belonging](#)

MMIC supports a network of over 30 academics from a range of disciplines and a dedicated Postdoctoral Research Fellow. We host the Next Generation Network with a membership of 192 postgraduate and early career researchers from a diversity of disciplines including sociology, law, health, criminology, geography, education, design, and politics. MMIC has built strong industry research partnerships with the Scanlon Foundation, Welcoming Cities, Wyndham City Council, Harmony Alliance, Department of Justice and Community Safety, Department of Premier and Cabinet, and the International Education Association of Australia.

2020 at a glance

ACHIEVEMENTS	STATISTICS
Academic network membership	Members: 34
Next Generation Network (NGN) membership	Total members: 192
	New members in 2020: 51
	Monash based members: 113
Income awarded in 2020	\$977,032
Income opportunities submitted and/or currently under review in 2020	\$4,817,993
Publication outputs	Publications: 53
Media	Mailing list subscribers: 1,000
	Twitter followers: 1,947
	Media engagements (radio, television, newspaper, Op-Eds): 38
Partners	Industry partners: 6
Funders in 2020	ARC, Wyndham City Council, Welcoming Cities, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victoria, Multicultural Coronavirus Taskforce

Celebrating partnerships

Monash partnerships

The MMIC academic network harnesses the migration and inclusion research strength and expertise from across Monash University, working in partnership with academics from the Faculties of Arts, Education, Law, and Business and Economics. MMIC researchers collaborate on multidisciplinary research to understand and respond to contemporary migration and inclusion challenges through a number of projects.

In 2020, the Centre initiated a new research partnership to understand how organisations working with diverse communities used technology to maintain and sustain engagement with their community groups during the first COVID-19 lockdown. This research included a rapid review of existing research on the use of technology to facilitate and support intercultural engagement, and interviewing stakeholders who work directly with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities in Victoria. This has led to a transdisciplinary research partnership with research centres across the university, incorporating ActionLab, BehaviourWorks Australia, and the Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation. Our co-designed approach puts bicultural workers and CALD young people at the centre of the project to build strategies for effective digital communication and engagement with community members. MMIC was recently awarded funding from the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Multicultural Coronavirus Response Taskforce to implement this research design targeting CALD young people.



Left

MMIC NGN members collaborate with BehaviourWorks Australia and Wyndham City Council to design inclusive employment innovations during our first Hackathon event in November 2020.

In partnership with BehaviourWorks Australia and Wyndham City Council, we held our first 'inclusion' hackathon. This hackathon provided an opportunity for our postgraduate students and ECRs to take their research expertise in different directions and to new sectors. Our NextGen team worked with industry partners in real world scenarios, to provide innovative solutions for organisations and the wider community.

To see a sample of the incredible ideas from the Monash team, please visit our [website](#).

Industry partnerships

MMIC has strong links with industry, with whom we collaborate to respond to pressing migration and inclusion challenges. Other national industry partnerships sustained through the year included:

- The development and implementation of the 'Migrant and refugee women in Australia' national online survey in collaboration with **Harmony Alliance**.
- Our evaluation of **Wyndham City Council's** Social and Economic Inclusion Program and a Hackathon event focusing on the development of inclusive employment innovations for the Council.
- Our ongoing relationship with the **Scanlon Foundation**, including engagement with the Foundation's CEO, Anthea Hancocks, as MMIC Advisory Board Chair and co-supervisor of a Monash Diversity and Inclusion GRIP student.
- The assessment of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural diversity and inclusion policy and practice against **Welcoming Cities'** Welcoming Standard. The standard is the benchmark for councils who wish to be accredited as a Welcoming City by an independent evaluation team at MMIC.
- MMIC Deputy Director Associate Professor Helen Forbes-Mewett continues to work in partnership with the **International Education Association of Australia** to address and respond to the safety, security, and well-being of international students.

Right

City of Greater Bendigo CEO Craig Niemann accepts recognition of the Council's efforts to support cultural diversity and inclusion from Welcoming Cities' Bel Schenk in November 2020. MMIC evaluated the Council's policy and practice against Welcoming Cities' Welcoming Standard in 2020.



International partnerships

MMIC continues to develop and collaborate with international university partners, providing opportunities for collaborative research and for postgraduate learning and exchange.

As the first international partner outside of Europe, MMIC's membership of the International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE) network offers MMIC researchers the opportunity for international research partnerships, postgraduate connections and initiatives, and publishing platforms for migration and inclusion research.

The world-leading Border Crossing Observatory, led by core MMIC researcher Associate Professor Leanne Weber and our Centre Manager Rebecca Powell, continues its vital work on border crossings and irregular migration in partnership with colleagues at Oxford University and Oslo University.



Left

Members of our Network of Excellence on Regional Liveable Diversity meet in March 2020. Led by MMIC and featuring leading international researchers, the Network seeks to develop effective policies and strategies to support inclusion in regional communities across Australia, Canada, and Europe.

Learning opportunities for postgraduates and early career researchers

The MMIC NGN comprises postgraduates and ECRs whose scholarship broadly aligns with migration and social inclusion. The NGN members' interests and projects align with MMIC's research portfolios and contribute to innovative, applied research and valuable community engagement. Through the NGN, members share ideas across diverse disciplines such as sociology, law, health, criminology, geography, design, and politics.

The [NGN](#) is a platform for members to engage with other early career researchers, established scholars, policymakers, and industry practitioners. The NGN hosts events each year providing an opportunity for members to present their work and learn from senior academics and practitioners through masterclasses, workshops, and symposiums.

In 2020, the MMIC NGN welcomed Dr Charishma Ratnam, the Centre's first Postdoctoral Research Fellow as NGN coordinator. Dr Ratnam has worked with NGN members to expand the network and offer opportunities for learning and development. The NGN hosted three professional developments events throughout the year and offered new opportunities for students to work with industry on contemporary migration and inclusion challenges, including our first Hackathon.

Right

Academic, writer, and commentator Dr Susan Carland shares experiences of communicating research beyond academia with members of the MMIC NGN during an online professional development event in September 2020.



Engaging academic and public audiences

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, MMIC continued to offer an online public webinar and seminar series in 2020, attracting large international audiences to engage with MMIC research. These events showcased our research strengths and expanded opportunities for discussion and collaboration. MMIC researchers also presented keynotes and conference presentations, including participation in the IMISCOE conference in June/July 2020 and events for the International Organization for Migration and IEAA. Our researchers regularly provide media commentary on issues associated with migration and inclusion in Australia and globally.

Below: MMIC events in 2020. From April, all events have been hosted online and have showcased MMIC research to an international audience.

EVENT TITLE	MONTH	HOST	ATTENDANCE
-------------	-------	------	------------

Webinars

Migration and mobility after the 2020 pandemic?	November	A/Prof Alan Gamlen	154
Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery in Australia: Where to next?	October	A/Prof Marie Segrave	91
Bringing Back Our International Students: The Future of International Education Across Australia and New Zealand	September	A/Prof Helen Forbes-Mewett	156
Risk, Race and the Challenge of Inclusive Policing	August	A/Prof Leanne Weber	164
Hate speech during COVID-19	July	Dr Matteo Bonotti	116
Racial and cultural exclusivism in Melbourne neighbourhoods	April	A/Prof Rebecca Wickes	125

EVENT TITLE	MONTH	HOST	ATTENDANCE
-------------	-------	------	------------

Seminar series

Sri Lankan refugee homes: The ethical navigations of filming and walking with refugees	June	Dr Charishma Ratnam	40
Youth in the city: Participatory mapping, data analysis and visualization, and digital storytelling	May	Dr Francesco Ricatti	50
'An excess of inclusion over belonging': Exploring the police role in the governance and politics of belonging	March	A/Prof Leanne Weber	18
Aware Migrants: the role of information campaigns in the management of migration	February	A/Prof Pierluigi Musarò (University of Bologna)	25

Next Generation Network Events

Industry pathways	November	Annabel Brown (Centre for Policy Development) and Trish Prentice (Scanlon Foundation)	19
Public engagement: tips, tools, and strategies for communicating research beyond academia	September	Dr Susan Carland and Prof Alex Piquero	34
Developing a research profile and narrative	May	A/Prof Rebecca Wickes and A/Prof Marie Segrave	33

Funding success in 2020

Despite funding limitations due to COVID-19, MMIC researchers have had significant funding success. This included an ARC Linkage to enhance the safety of migrant women and a Discovery project tracing the interactions between the immigration and criminal justice systems in two Australian states. All funding awarded to key MMIC researchers in 2020 is listed below. In addition, MMIC researchers have submitted several major funding applications that are under review.

FUNDER	PROJECT	CIS	AMOUNT
ARC Linkage	Accessing the family violence provision: enhancing migrant women's safety	A/Prof Marie Segrave, inTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence, WESNET – The Women's Services Network, and Harmony Alliance: Migrant and Refugee Women for Change	\$271,527
ARC Discovery	Crimmigration, crime and deportation: Tracing interactions between the immigration and criminal justice systems in two Australian states	A/Prof Leanne Weber	\$497,915
Department of Premier and Cabinet Victoria, Multicultural Coronavirus Taskforce	Co-designing and scaling effective COVID-19 communication strategies for young people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities in Victoria	A/Prof Rebecca Wickes, A/Prof Helen Forbes-Mewett, Dr Charishma Ratnam, Rebecca Powell (Project Manager), Prof Patrick Olivier (Faculty of IT), Dr Tom Bartindale (Faculty of IT), Prof Helen Skouteris (Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation) and Prof Liam Smith (BehaviourWorks Australia)	\$160,206

FUNDER	PROJECT	CIS	AMOUNT
Wyndham City Council	Social and Economic Inclusion Evaluation – additional interviews Fresh Start participants and employers (Variation Agreement)	A/Prof Rebecca Wickes, A/Prof Helen Forbes-Mewett, Prof Fang Lee Cook (BUSECO), Prof Lucas Walsh (Faculty of Education), Prof Jane Wilkinson (Faculty of Education) and Rebecca Powell	\$37,083
Welcoming Cities	Review of the City of Greater Bendigo Welcoming Standards Accreditation submission and assessment	A/Prof Rebecca Wickes and Rebecca Powell	\$4,301
Welcoming Cities	Welcoming Standards Accreditation Assessment - City of Greater Bendigo	A/Prof Rebecca Wickes, Rebecca Powell and Kieran Hegarty	\$10,000
Internal funding, Monash	Migrant Precariousness in the time of COVID-19	A/Prof Heli Askola (Faculty of Law), A/Prof Helen Forbes-Mewett and Dr Olha Shmihelska (MMIC)	\$5,000
TOTAL			\$977,032

Our people

Advisory board

Anthea Hancocks (Chair) – Chief Executive Officer, Scanlon Foundation

Anthea Hancocks has extensive experience in leadership, stakeholder management, business development, education, communications, relationship and services marketing and strategic planning. In 2014 she became the CEO for the Scanlon Foundation, that aims to increase levels of social cohesion.

Helen Sawczak – National CEO, The Australia China Business Council

Helen Sawczak has a long history of engaging with international legal firms, business entities and public organisations. She plays an integral role in the premier business

organisation in Australia dedicated to promoting and developing two-way trade and investment and economic cooperation with the People's Republic of China.

Commissioner Andrew Crisp – Emergency Management Commissioner, Victoria

Commissioner Crisp has almost forty years' experience in public safety, in regional and metropolitan areas in Australia and Internationally.

Professor Alex Piquero – Adjunct Professor, Monash University and University of Texas at Dallas

Professor Piquero brings a significant degree of criminological expertise to MMIC, having published over four hundred journal articles, in addition to his membership of a dozen editorial boards.

Professor Andrew Markus – Monash University

Professor Markus' research specialisation is in the field of racial and ethnic relations, ethnic communities, and immigration policy. He has authored or co-authored 19 books on the subject, and has extensive experience researching Australian public opinion.

MMIC Executive



(L-R)

Associate Professor Marie Segrave (Deputy Director), Rebecca Powell (Research and Centre Manager), Associate Professor Rebecca Wickes (Director) and Associate Professor Helen Forbes-Mewett (Deputy Director)

Portfolio Leads

Associate Professor Rebecca Wickes – Community resilience and cohesion, Rebecca's research focusses on demographic changes in urban communities and their influence on social cohesion and the concentration of social problems

Associate Professor Helen Forbes-Mewett – Identity and belonging, Helen's interdisciplinary work focuses on human security, migration, cultural diversity, international education and social cohesion.

Associate Professor Marie Segrave – Monitoring slavery and exploitation, Marie's current research is focused on temporary migration and labour exploitation in Australia, temporary migration and family violence and human trafficking and modern slavery

Associate Professor Dharma Arunachalam – Population movement, development, and the environment, Dharma's current research focuses on fertility and partnering, social cohesion, international migration, family and household structures, population research, ageing and health.

Associate Professor Alan Gamlen – Population movement, development, and the environment, Alan's research focuses on human migration and ethnicity, with special interests in the governance of international migration, diasporas, and transnationalism.

Dr Francesco Ricatti – Language, citizenship, identity and belonging, Francesco is interested in transcultural, decolonial and intersectional approaches to migration studies, and has also written about the cultural politics of emotions that shape Australian debates about asylum seekers.

Dr Charishma Ratnam, Charishma's current research is focused on regional migration and resettlement in Australia and she continues to work with Sri Lankan refugees to better understand their experiences of home-making during resettlement in Australia.

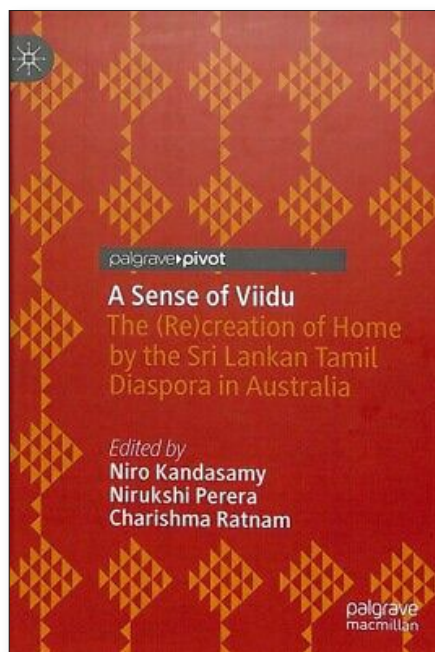
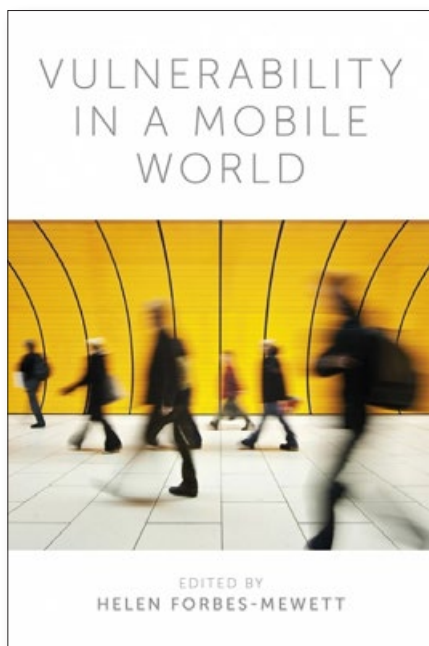
Academic affiliates

Professor Peter Anderson	Professor Gil-Soo Han	Associate Professor Dayna Simpson
Dr Kathryn Benier	Dr Bodean Hedwards	Professor Jane Southcott
Dr Jarrett Blaustein	Dr Jim Hlavac	Professor Jane Wilkinson
Dr Matteo Bonotti	Dr Sara Maher	Dr Louisa Willoughby
Dr Jeremy Breden	Professor Andrew Markus	Professor Rita Wilson
Dr Susan Carland	Dr Gabriel Garcia Ochoa	Dr Steve Zech
Professor Zane Diamond	Dr Maria O'Sullivan	Dr Hongzhi Zhang
Dr Maria Gingidis	Dr Wayne Palmer	
Dr Eleanor Gordon	Professor Alex Piquero	
Dr Samantha Gunawardana	Dr Kristen Reimer	

Communicating our research: key publications

Please see our website for a full list of publication MMIC Executive and Portfolio Leads in 2020.

- Books – 2
- Journal articles – 13
- Book chapters – 4
- Reports – 8
- Research briefs – 7



Far left

MMIC Deputy Director Associate Professor Helen Forbes-Mewett's book 'Vulnerability in a Mobile World' (Emerald Publishing, 2020), and

Left

MMIC Research Fellow Dr Charishma Ratnam's co-authored book 'A sense of Viidu: The (Re) creation of Home by the Sri Lankan Tamil Diaspora in Australia' (Palgrave Pivot).



Pat Whelan / Unsplash