Cover image: Data collection from Year 8 students at Clarkson Community High School.
Contents

Dean's Message ............................................................................................................................................ 1
Overview of 2019 ......................................................................................................................................... 2
Publications .................................................................................................................................................. 3
  Books ...................................................................................................................................................... 3
  Edited books .......................................................................................................................................... 3
  Book chapters ....................................................................................................................................... 3
  Journal articles ...................................................................................................................................... 5
  Peer reviewed conference proceedings ............................................................................................... 8
  Research reports .................................................................................................................................. 9
Celebrating the career of Emeritus Professor Helen Wildy ................................................................. 10
Conference Presentations ....................................................................................................................... 11
  Keynote addresses/Invited presentations ............................................................................................. 11
  National/international conference presentations ................................................................................... 12
Grants and Consultancies Won in 2019 ................................................................................................. 15
  Australian Competitive Grants ............................................................................................................... 15
  Other Public Sector Research Income ................................................................................................... 15
  Industry and Other Research Income .................................................................................................... 15
  Organisations that grants were submitted to ........................................................................................ 16
Celebrating the career of Emeritus Professor Lesley Vidovich ........................................................... 17
Editorial Boards ...................................................................................................................................... 18
  Editorial roles ........................................................................................................................................ 18
  Editorial boards that staff are on .............................................................................................................. 18
  Series Editorship .................................................................................................................................. 19
HDR Training ............................................................................................................................................ 20
  HDR completions ................................................................................................................................. 20
  Research training workshops .................................................................................................................. 21
  Fogarty Foundation Postgraduate Research Forum ............................................................................ 21
Staff with Fellowships ............................................................................................................................ 22
Impact & Engagement ............................................................................................................................... 23
International Visitors ................................................................................................................................. 25
International Collaborations ..................................................................................................................... 26
Staff and Research Expertise ..................................................................................................................... 27
Dean’s Message

Kaya wanjoo wanjoo

Welcome to the 2019 edition of our Research Report

Research is not just about what we investigate and discover; it is also about how we communicate these insights and understand this new knowledge. The Graduate School of Education is an intellectually vibrant community of researchers and research candidates whose research focusses on many of the key educational issues and challenges of our local and global communities. This report celebrates research, innovation and excellence and showcase the impacts of our work with teachers, practitioners, industry professionals, policy makers and students. We are acknowledged national and international leaders in our respective fields of research. The publications, activities and profiles that are highlighted in this Research Report are testimony to the breadth and depth of our expertise.

I hope you take the opportunity to follow the success of our research and researchers as we continue to advance knowledge and contribute to the communities that we serve.

Professor Tanya Fitzgerald
Dean and Head, Graduate School of Education
Overview of 2019

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Publications

Books


Edited books


Book chapters


Journal articles


Peer reviewed conference proceedings

Research reports


Celebrating the career of Emeritus Professor Helen Wildy

Helen attended a small one-teacher primary school in WA wheatbelt, then boarded at Perth College, before completing BA, BEd and MEd from UWA. Trained as a Mathematics teacher, she taught in private and government Secondary schools in Perth and Melbourne where she completed a Graduate Diploma in Educational Administration at Hawthorn Institute of Education. Returning to Perth she embarked on a PhD completing in 1998. Since then, her academic appointments have included establishing a research institute at Edith Cowan University, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership at Murdoch University, concluding with 10 years as Dean of UWA’s Faculty of Education and Head of the Graduate School of Education. During her short academic career, she published 93 refereed journal articles and 20 book chapters, gave 195 (including 110 international) conference presentations, attracted approximately $11m income including 4 ARC grants, and supervised 15 HDR completions.

Her enduring interest in the research and practice of school leaders is evidenced by projects such as Data Club, Performance Indicators in Primary Schools (PIPS), and International Study of Principal Preparation - conceptualising challenges of novice principals of small schools, a project which has generated her most widely referenced body of journal articles.

Helen’s academic contributions have been recognised by appointments to numerous school Boards and St Catherine’s College Board, Australian College of Education Medal (2016), Visiting Scholar to Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School (2018) and European Educational Research Association Honorary Membership of the Leadership Network (2019).

In 2019, Helen established Hear Hear for Bhutan, an Australian registered company to raise awareness and support to improve the hearing and literacy of young people in Bhutan. Since 2020 she has also followed her long-held desire to become a Volunteer Guide for the Western Australian Art Gallery.
Conference Presentations

Keynote addresses/Invited presentations


Houghton, S. (October 2019). Do I belong, do I not belong or is it just my distorted thinking? Resolving the cognitive distortions that lead to adolescent mental health problems. Australian Educators Conference, Perth, Australia.


**National/international conference presentations**

**Andrich, D.** (June, 2019). Exemplifying natural science measurement in the social sciences with Rasch measurement theory. International Measurement Confederation (IMEKO) Conference, St Petersburg, Russia.


**Freeborn, A. & Savage, G. C.** (December, 2019). Too many fingers in the same pie? Federal and state misalignments in Initial Teacher Education policy. Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE), Brisbane, Australia.

Lawrence, D., Hielscher, E., Scott, J. & Bartlett, J. (October, 2019). Mental health, educational outcomes and use of services in Australian adolescents. International Association for Youth Mental Health, Brisbane, Australia.


Merrotsy, P. (August, 2019). Searching for the invisible: high ability students who are well hidden in the classroom. Professional Teachers’ Association of the Northern Territory, Northern Territory Festival of Teaching, Darwin, Australia.


Oakley, G. (September, 2019). Expanding access to quality higher education through ICT-driven innovation: Challenges and emerging opportunities to achieve SDG4. Presentation at Regional consultation on ICT-driven innovation in higher education in Asia Pacific. UNESCO. Shenzhen, China.


Savage, G. C. & Di Gregorio, E. (April, 2019). Examining the OECD’s role as a global policy influencer of school funding debates. Comparative and International Education Society Conference (CIES), San Francisco, USA.

Savage, G. C. & Di Gregorio, E. (June, 2019). Knowledge curation and soft power persuasion: The OECD’s role as a global policy influencer of school funding debates. International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP), Montreal, Canada.


Grants and Consultancies Won in 2019

Australian Competitive Grants


Other Public Sector Research Income


Industry and Other Research Income

Pegrum, M., Ravi, L., Sjepcevich, J., Raphael, J. et al. (2019). Embedding Research Skills as part of Curriculum Design across Units and Course programs at UWA. University of Western Australia Community of Practice Grant. ($17,000)


Organisations that grants were submitted to

Australian Research Council
Lotterywest
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Higher Education Participation and Partnership Program
Beyond Blue
Channel 7 Telethon Trust
National Health and Medical Research Council
NSW Department of Education
Perpetual Impact Philanthropy
Lesley's field of research expertise is global trends in education policy. Her policy research has been international – in the United Kingdom, Europe, North America, South Africa, Chile, Singapore, Mainland China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Australia. She won an Early Career Research Award for her PhD, and by the end of 20 years of tenure at UWA she had produced 75 refereed publications (journal articles, book chapters and books) and 85 conference papers. She held several ARC Discovery Project Grants and was invited to join the ARC College of Experts. She has continued to work on ARC research after her retirement. Service within the research domain was also a feature of her tenure – at international, national and local levels. At UWA, she served on the university-wide Research Committee and was also on selection committees for university research awards and scholarships. Within the Graduate School of Education, she was a member of Research Committee for almost the entirety of her UWA tenure, and she also chaired that committee.

Lesley supervised 55 HDR students to successful completion, 30 of whom were Doctoral graduates. A significant number of these HDR graduates gained prizes for their research. Lesley won several supervision awards at UWA as well a national Excellence in Supervision Award (Australian Learning-Teaching Council), along with teaching awards. She continually aimed to maintain a close nexus between her research, teaching and service throughout her UWA tenure.
Editorial Boards

Editorial roles
Australasian Journal of Early Childhood, Deputy Editor, Christine Howitt

British Journal of Educational Psychology, Associate Editor, Steve Houghton

Critical Studies in Education, Editor, Glenn Savage

Education Research and Perspectives, Editor in Chief, Elaine Chapman

International Journal of Virtual and Personal Learning Environments, Associate Editor, Mark Pegrum

Professional Development in Education, Associate Editor, Simon Clarke

Research in Science Education, Assistant Editor, Christine Howitt

TalentEd, Editor, Peter Merrotsy

Editorial boards that staff are on
Applied Psychological Measurement

Australian Journal of Teacher Education

British Journal of Educational Studies

Education 3-13, International Journal of Primary and Early Years Education.

Educational Development Association Africa Journal

Educational Management Administration and Leadership

Educational Review

History of Education

History of Education Review

International Journal of Science and Mathematics Education

International Journal of Science Education

International Studies in Catholic Education

Interactive Technology and Smart Education
Irish Educational Studies

Journal of Applied Measurement

Journal of Curriculum and Pedagogy

Journal of Education Policy

Journal of Educational Administration

Journal of Educational Administration and History

Psychological Tests and Assessment Modelling

Research in Science Education

Research in Science and Technological Education

System

Teaching Science

Technology in Language Teaching and Learning

The Internet and Higher Education

**Series Editorship**

**Vaille Dawson**

- Contributions from Biology Education Research, Springer

**Tanya Fitzgerald**

- Leadership in Higher Education, Bloomsbury Academic Press

**Tom O’Donoghue**

- Emerald Series in Teacher Preparation in National and Global Contexts, Emerald
HDR Training

HDR completions

Doctor of Philosophy

Joan Burfitt. Improving the function of multiple-choice items in the assessment of the skills necessary for the development of proportional reasoning. Supervisors: Peter Merrotsy and David Andrich.

Kirsten Hancock. Does the reason make a difference? Assessing school absence codes and their associations with student achievement outcomes. Supervisors: Steve Zubrick, Catherine Taylor, David Lawrence and Hayley Christian.

Victoria Valdebenito Mac Farlane. University curriculum transformations in context: Global-local dynamics of policy processes at the university level in Chile. Supervisors: Tom O'Donoghue and Lesley Vidovich.


Doctor of Education


Sarah Evamy. Expectations, experiences and concerns of alternative pathway, low SES students at university: A three-year qualitative longitudinal study in Australian contexts. Supervisors: Lesley Vidovich and Tom O'Donoghue.


Velayutham Ramasamy. Rural parents’ expectations, aspirations and experiences of their children’s secondary educational opportunities in an agricultural region of Western Australia. Supervisors: Christine Howitt, Simon Clarke and Elaine Sharplin.

Master of Education (Thesis & Coursework)

**David Black.** Western Australian Non-Government Primary School Teachers and the Digital Technologies Curriculum: A Qualitative Study of an Assessment-Focussed Subject. Supervisors: Fiona Mayne and Tom O’Donoghue.

**Brendan Zani.** How teachers’ dispositions towards critical thinking shape the culture of thinking they build in their classroom. Supervisors: Vaille Dawson, Jennifer Shand and Loretta Dolan.

Research training workshops


**Andrich, D.** (2019). A comparison between scientific measurement and Rasch measurement. Institute for Neurological Science, Bologna, Italy

Fogarty Foundation Postgraduate Research Forum

The Fogarty Foundation Postgraduate Research Forum provides an opportunity for Western Australian postgraduate education students to present their research and explore their ideas in a supportive environment. It provides an excellent opportunity for the sharing of minds in education related research. In 2019 there were 23 postgraduate education presentations representing PhD, EdD and Masters’ students from four of the five WA universities.
Staff with Fellowships

David Andrich - Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia

Simon Clarke - Fellow of the Australian College of Educators

Simon Clarke - Fellow of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders

Vaille Dawson - Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology

Tom O'Donoghue - Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia

Tom O'Donoghue - Fellow of the Royal Historical Society
Impact & Engagement

David Andrich
• Member of the Expert Measurement Advisory Group, Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority.
• Member of the Board of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority of Western Australia.

Simon Clarke
• Invited member of Australian Council of Educational Leaders (ACEL) Academic Advisory Panel.

Vaille Dawson
• Member of Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE) Awards Committee to judge Ray Rebus Award for Doctoral Research.
• UWA Representative on State STEM Skills Strategy Implementation Group.
• Assessor for Australian Research Council Discovery Grant.
• Honorary Senior Research Associate, University College, London.

Christine Howitt
• Member of the organising committee for the national Australasian Journal of Early Childhood Research Symposium.

Steve Houghton
• Assessor for Australian Research Council Discovery, Linkage, Early Career and Fellowship Grants Schemes.
• Assessor for National Health and Medical Research Council.

Steve Humphry
• Standards Committee, School Curriculum and Standards Authority (Elected Member).
• Tertiary Institutions Service Centre, Scaling Committee.

David Lawrence
• Answering the Call findings informed the Senate Inquiry “The people behind 000: mental health of our first responders”, February 2019.
• Answering the Call findings cited in Victorian Government announcement of $2.5million pilot program to cover reasonable medical expenses for current and former emergency workers and volunteers who are awaiting the outcome of a compensation claim for work-related mental health injuries.
• Young Minds Matter findings cited in Productivity Commission Report into Mental Health in Australia in supporting their recommendation that all schools should have a senior member of staff who has been suitably trained in mental health and wellbeing, and that educational
institutions be required to have mental health and wellbeing strategies in place as part of their accreditation requirements.

- Interview (May) with ABC Radio Breakfast with Nadia Mitsopoulos and Russell Woolf on mental health and attendance and performance at school.
- Member of the National Mental Health Services Planning Framework Epidemiology Expert Group.

Grace Oakley
- Member of COLAB (Collaborate for Kids) Research Consultation Group.
- Invited to co-lead UNSECO Workshops in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Topics were Conducting an Institutional self-assessment for blended learning, Case study from Australia: A blended learning journey and How to Design and Develop Blended Learning Activities.

Glenn Savage
- ‘How has education policy changed under the Coalition government?’. The Conversation, 8 April.
International Visitors

Professor Curt Hagquist - The University of Karlstadt, Sweden.

Professor Nóirín Hayes - Trinity College, Dublin

Professor Jeremy Hobart - University of Plymouth, United Kingdom.

Professor Simon Hunter, Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland

Patricia Vermillon Peirce – Principal Evaluator, Standard of Proof, New Zealand.

Professor Martin Pusic - The University of New York, USA.
International Collaborations
Staff and Research Expertise

Professor David Andrich
Educational measurement and assessment, Item response theory, Psychometrics, Rasch measurement

Dr Elaine Chapman
Social psychology of education, Research methods

Professor Simon Clarke
Educational leadership, School improvement, Change in education, Teachers’ work, Industrial relations in education

Professor Vaille Dawson
Science education, STEM education, Thinking skills, Disadvantaged schools, Scientific literacy

Dr Loretta Dolan (Honorary Research Fellow)
History of Education, History of Childhood, History Education

Professor Tanya Fitzgerald
Higher education, Gender, Policy, Leadership, History

Professor Steve Houghton
Child and adolescent mental wellbeing and developmental psychopathology examining trajectories of childhood onset conduct disorder, adolescent antisocial behaviour, loneliness, adolescents electronic screen use, and depressive symptoms

Associate Professor Christine Howitt
Young children’s science learning, Science identity, Learning in informal contexts, Participatory research, Rights of the child, STEM education

Dr Steve Humphry
Educational Assessment, Educational Measurement, Quantitative Methods

Professor Simon Hunter (Honorary Research Fellow)
Children and young people’s experiences of bullying, Loneliness, Screen media use, Mental illness stigma

Associate Professor David Lawrence
Child and adolescent mental health and wellbeing, Youth suicide prevention, Mental health and wellbeing of emergency services personnel

Dr Ida Marais
Psychological and educational measurement, Psychometrics, Rasch measurement, Quantitative research methods in Psychology and Education, Data simulation

Dr Fiona Mayne
Early childhood education, Participatory research, Rights of the child

Professor Peter Merrootsy
Creativity, Mathematics education, Education of gifted and talented children, Academic acceleration, Creative problem solving, Hermeneutics

Dr Gerardine Neylon
Quality in early childhood education and care
Associate Professor Grace Oakley
Literacy and technology, Reading comprehension, Mobile technologies for learning schools and Higher Education, Literacy across the curriculum, Innovations in Higher Education

Professor Tom O'Donoghue
Comparative education/international education, History of education, Education in conflict, Teacher education, Curriculum theory, Parental involvement in education

Associate Professor Mark Pegrum
Digital learning, e-learning, Mobile learning, m-learning, Digital literacies, New technologies

Associate Professor Glenn Savage
Education reform, Federalism, Intergovernmental relations, Global policy mobilities

Dr Gemma Scarparolo
Differentiation, Inclusive practice, Gifted education, Student voice, Professional development

Dr Jennifer Shand
Literature education, Writing pedagogy, Young adult fiction and reading

Emeritus Professor Lesley Vidovich
Education policy and practice, Globalisation and internationalisation of education, Comparative education, Educational leadership, management and administration

Emeritus Professor Helen Wildy
School leadership, School improvement, Educational measurement, School reform, Educational standard, Educational leadership, Professional standards