PhD Applications Open

Institute for Social Justice
Australian Catholic University
Sydney, Australia

The new Institute for Social Justice at the Australian Catholic University in Sydney welcomes applications from prospective PhD candidates in diverse areas of social and political thought.

Supported by innovative and world-renowned scholars engaged in local, regional and international networks of research and praxis, the Institute for Social Justice seeks to become the premier research institute of its kind in the world.

www.acu.edu.au/researchifsj
The Institute for Social Justice

Reflecting ACU’s commitment to social justice and the common good, the new Institute for Social Justice is developing innovative interdisciplinary research programs that experimentally combine original scholarship and normative reflection with action research. Research areas currently include:

Rethinking Social Ideals
- Rethinking Rights and Justice
- Diverse Struggles for Freedom
- Human - Nonhuman Relationships in the Anthropocene
- Economic Justice, Care and Well-being
- Nonwestern and Southern Social and Political Thought

Addressing Social Issues
- Secularism and Religious Diversity
- Indigeneity and Indigenous Governance
- Gender, Race and Class: Intersecting Oppressions
- Migration, Borders, and Citizenship
- Democratic Processes of Public Reflection, Action, and Solidarity

PhD Research

Our students participate in doctoral seminars and workshops analyzing theoretical and practical approaches to a wide range of social justice issues.

Students develop a deeper understanding of the great debates in political and social thought, and the complexities of socially engaged research, and develop original investigations within a strong intellectual community sustained by through close contact with academic staff and other students. Our students come from diverse disciplines (philosophy, political science, sociology, anthropology, geography, political economy, indigenous studies, gender studies, literary studies, film, art history) and many also have activist experience. Some projects are purely theoretical, and some combine theory with diverse forms of empirical and action research. All students are engaged in practically oriented and theoretically sophisticated research projects that aim at the creation of a more just, participatory and sustainable world. Our current students have come to ISJ from all over the world, including Austria, Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Netherlands, New Zealand, Turkey, UK, Ukraine.

All doctoral students participate in seminars, workshops, and supervisory relationships with outstanding academic staff working in research areas including:

- Contemporary critical theories: postcolonial, feminist, queer theories, critical race theories, critical legal theories, Frankfurt School critical theory, genealogical critique, critical literary and aesthetic theories
- Human-nonhuman relations in the anthropocene
- Indigeneity and decolonization
- Secularism and religious diversity
- Rethinking rights in and beyond the law
- Care and global justice
- Social movements and solidarities
- Migration, borders, and citizenship
- Asian and other non-western approaches to justice
- Islam and social justice
- Postcolonial perspectives on sovereignty
- Reconciling freedom
- Transitional justice and reconciliation
- Democratic theory and practice
- Politics of affect and emotions
- International relations and complexity thinking
- Subjectivity, ethics, and politics
- Social identities
- Psychoanalysis and culture
- Violence and non-violence
- Critical perspectives on humanitarianism and development
- Economies as sites of politics
- Action research
- Critical methodologies
About The Program Staff

Nikolas Kompridis, Director
Political philosophy, Critical Theory, normativity, receptivity, theories of freedom and agency, rethinking human/non-human relationships in the anthropocene, secularism, romanticism, pragmatism, philosophy of art, literature, film and music

Naser Ghobadzadeh
Political theology, Islamic social justice, Middle East, Iran, Islamic state, political Islam, secularism and religion-state relations, comparative politics, democratisation theories

Kiran Grewal
Postcolonial and subaltern studies, socio-legal studies, critical legal theory, human rights, critical development studies, international justice, new theories of resistance, intersectionality

Emilian Kavalski
European politics, International Theory, Asian affairs, the encounter of International Relations with life in the Anthropocene, nascent Asian normative orders, Complexity Thinking

Allison Weir
Social and political philosophy, feminist theory, gender/sexuality/race/class studies, critical theory, theories of freedom, social identities, agency and solidarity, religion and secularism, care as a global issue, indigenous, Africana and Asian philosophies

Magdalena Zolkos
Historical justice, memory, reconciliation; the aesthetics and ethics of memorialization; cultural and psychoanalytic theory of trauma; affect and emotions; violence and non-violence; subjectivity / inner life in politics of oppression and liberation; literature and film in political theory

Professorial Fellows

Linda Martin Alcoff
Professor of Philosophy, Hunter College, CUNY Graduate Center
19th and 20th Century Continental Philosophy, Foucault, Epistemology, Feminist Epistemology, Feminist Theory, Critical Race Theory, Post-Colonial Theory

Rajeev Bhargava
Professor and Director, Institute of Indian Thought, Center for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi

Secularisms, Political Theory, Indian Politics and Political Thought, Democracy and Diversity, Methodological Individualism

Akeel Bilgrami
Professor of Philosophy, Columbia University
Political philosophy, moral psychology, philosophy of mind and language Secularism, Muslim identity, Gandhi, Marx, human and non-human relations

Joseph Carens
Professor of Political Science, University of Toronto
Justice, Equality, and Freedom; Migration, Citizenship and Borders; Ethnic and Cultural Diversity

Jennifer Nedelsky
Professor of Law and Political Science, University of Toronto
Feminist Theory, Legal Theory, American Constitutional History and Interpretation, Comparative Constitutionalism, Relational Autonomy

Admission

Applications from International and Domestic candidates are now being accepted for admission for 2015. The term begins in March 2015.

Please write to Professor Nikolas Kompridis Nikolas.Kompridis@acu.edu.au or Professor Allison Weir Allison.Weir@acu.edu.au to express your interest in applying for PhD candidacy in the Institute.

Your expression of interest should include a short research proposal (up to 5 pages) including an explanation of how your research fits within the Institute for Social Justice.

Application and scholarship forms can be found on the ACU website: www.acu.edu.au/research/future_research_students/application_process

Domestic students can apply for an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) Scholarship

International students can apply for an International Postgraduate Research Scholarship.

Indigenous students can apply for an ACU Indigenous Postgraduate Research Scholarship.

www.acu.edu.au/research/future_research_students/scholarships

The deadline for scholarship applications is October 17 2014.