Macquarie’s human society research is of an international calibre. In the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2012 evaluation our research in the disciplines of studies in human society, anthropology, sociology, and political science received a rating of ‘performance at world standard’.

Macquarie has a long record of important contributions in social theory, research methodology and applied social science. Our research addresses key elements of social science theory and important issues of policy and practice, with disciplinary strengths in anthropology, political science, political economy and sociology. Researchers within these core disciplines also enjoy strong interdisciplinary collaboration with researchers in urban studies, environmental studies, cultural studies, philosophy, social policy and historical studies.

These partnerships make significant contributions to national disciplinary research, and interdisciplinary areas such as social inclusion, international relations, multiculturalism, aging, health care, climate change, governance and development, volunteering, women’s studies, Indigenous studies and HIV/AIDS in South-East Asia.

Our researchers, which include Fellows of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and several Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Fellows, are critical, constructive and socially engaged, making key ideas and analyses accessible to a wide range of end-users including governments, industry, community and public sector groups and students.

As an HDR candidate you will benefit from the extensive expertise of our internationally respected researchers.
Highlights


- Valuable collaborations exist with NSW Health, Australian Red Cross, Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, Australian Human Rights Commission, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, Centre for Policy Development, and Community Relations Commission, and local government authorities, as well as with international institutions such as Stockholm Environment Institute, Asian Development Bank, Ibis Reproductive Health, and Bristol University.

Support

HDR candidates are provided with strong academic and administrative support. This includes:

- Commencement and Completion programs
- Discipline-specific research training units, including workshops in research communication, presentation skills, academic writing skills, thesis planning, and poster preparation
- Experienced supervisors and department-based higher degree research directors
- Financial support for eligible candidates for a range of research-related activity
- Regular progress reports and interviews, and/or work-in-progress presentations in which research candidates receive feedback on their work from a panel of academics in their field.

Research leaders

Macquarie is home to many internationally renowned researchers, including:

**Associate Professor Chris Lyttleton** is working at the front line of HIV education in Laos. His research is informing education programs targeted toward one of the country’s ethnic minorities, the Akha. Recent results are demonstrating considerable success; many of the Akha have become more aware of STIs and are seeking treatment and new cases appear to be dropping. Other research interests include cultural identity; male sexuality in Laos; and mobility and social change in border areas of Thailand, Laos and China.

**Professor Marion Maddox** is the leading authority on the intersection of religion and politics in Australia. As the 1999-2000 Australian Parliamentary Fellow she interviewed some 50 serving and retired federal members and senators about their views on faith and public life which resulted in *For God and Country: Religious dynamics in Australian federal politics*. Her landmark work, *God under Howard: The rise of the religious right in Australian politics*, was published in 2005. She is currently researching religion-state relations.