

Building Critical Bridges:

**The Third Conference of the
Critical Suicide Studies Network (a.k.a. CritSui3)**

www.criticalsuicidology.net

12 – 13 December

Perth, Western Australia

Programme Booklet

The Critical Suicide Studies Network presents an approach to understanding, theorising and intervening in suicide from alternative perspectives. Such perspectives have sought to find renewed, more critical ways of thinking about suicide to address and respond to suicide where traditional approaches have failed.

Such a beginning could not be more timely. Many working within suicidology have become frustrated by the limitations of dominant pathologising and medicalised approaches to suicide research and prevention practices. Believing that suicide research is in need of an ongoing critical re-thinking of its subject matter and a broadening of its disciplinary basis, Critical Suicide Studies investigates the social, philosophic, psychological, literary and cultural practices of making sense of suicide, taking into account how suicide is shaped by history, politics, identity, culture, media and power. As an approach, it works with service providers, communities and publics to develop nuanced but useful accounts of suicide that can help build bridges across theory and practice and affected communities.

This conference, the first to be held in the southern hemisphere, builds on prior Critical Suicide Studies conferences in Prague, Czech Republic (2016) and Canterbury, UK (2017), turning the attention to networking, impact and engagement of critical approaches with service providers, advocates, policy-makers and everyday people affected by suicide.



WORLDWIDE UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

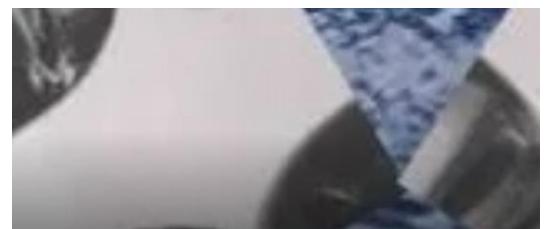


THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

A UWA School of Social Sciences
Community and Engagement Event



University of
South Australia



Critical Suicide Studies Network

Welcome

Welcome to all guests, participants, speakers and international visitors.

The conference committee wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, the Whadjuk people. We pay respect to elders past, present and future, and we recognise their continuing culture and custodianship and the contribution made to the life of this city and region.

About the CritSui3 Conference

This free event is co-funded and co-sponsored by The University of Western Australia, the WUN RDF Communicating Good Health and Wellbeing project, and the Critical Suicide Studies Network.

The conference (CritSui3) has been designed to break the bounds of traditional conference formats (longer paper presentations, 2-3 questions and limited discussion). Instead, most sessions are arranged as roundtables with 15 minute short presentations, and longer discussion time addressing an important theme. Most roundtables are comprised of a mix of academic researchers, practitioners, service providers and community members with the aim of building genuine, sustainable and ongoing multi-perspective conversations on this important topic. We encourage ever-increasing networking and collaboration among participants, and we are keen to ensure that what is developed across two days is sustained into the future.

Rob Cover and Katrina Jaworski (Conference Convenors)

Erminia Colucci, Annie Hayford-Joyner, Heidi Hjelmeland, Michael Kral, Ian Marsh, Jonny Morris and Jennifer White (Conference committee).

Location

All conference events will be located at The University of Western Australia (Crawley, Perth, WA) in the Engineering Building (see map on rear page). Sessions are held in Engineering Lecture Theatres 1 and 2, registration, morning tea and lunch can be collected from inside the main foyer.

We encourage visitors to make the most of UWA's beautiful campus and surrounds.

Other conference information

Internet and Wifi Access

Attendees from participating universities are encouraged to log devices into *Eduroam*.

Click the *eduroam* name

When prompted for a username, enter your university email address or login.

Enter your University password.

You may wish to consult your university's own *eduroam* instructions as they occasionally differ in form.

For those without eduroam, please use Unifi Guest. Login details will be available at the reception.

Self-preservation

We recognise that engaging in a conference on this topic can be confronting, troubling or may open complex issues and anxieties. This is fine and is experienced by many of us. If you need to talk to someone, particularly a counsellor, about these issues, please contact: **Lifeline 13 11 14**.

Book of abstracts

To preserve precious resources, the book of abstracts is available for download only at: <http://bit.ly/critsui3abs1>

Organiser Contacts on the day

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Schedule Day One—Wednesday 12 December

Registration and morning coffee

9am – 10am, Engineering Building Main Foyer

Welcome and Introductions

10am – 10.30am, Engineering Lecture Theatre 1

Roundtable A: *Lived Experience of Suicide I*

10.30am – 12.30pm, Engineering Lecture Theatre 1 (chair: Jonny Morris)

- **Baden Offord:** A critical human rights and decolonizing response to the lived experience of suicide
- **Laura Apol:** Writing for healing after a daughter's death: A researcher-poet-mother's journey
- **Katherine Houareau:** Words of wisdom: Re-engaging with life after a suicide attempt
- **Bronwen Edwards:** The urgency to implement widespread non-clinical alternative entry points??
- **Carsten Pedersen:** Turn back time, back to basics
- **Discussion:** 45 minutes

Lunch:

12.30pm – 1.30pm Engineering Building Main Foyer

Roundtable B: *Critical Methodologies I*

1.30pm – 3.00pm, Engineering Lecture Theatre 1 (chair: Katrina Jaworski)

- **Amy Chandler:** Stopped bodies, doing bodies: Critical phenomenology, suicide and self-harm
- **Scott Fitzpatrick:** Rethinking rural suicide: Intersectionality in research and policy
- **Jennifer White:** Interrogating everyday practices in suicide prevention: Towards less certain assemblages
- **Louise Mustard:** Art therapy approaches
- **Discussion:** 30 minutes

Short Break:

3.00pm – 3.30pm Tea, Coffee, Snacks in Engineering Building Main Foyer

Roundtable C: *Indigenous Knowledges*

3.30pm – 5.30pm, Engineering Lecture Theatre 1 (chairs: Jennifer White and Michael Kral)

- **Michael Kral:** Indigenous suicide prevention: From the community's point of view
- **Jeffrey Ansloos:** Suicide and Indigenous sovereignty: Towards a decolonial turn in critical suicidology
- **marcela polanco:** A message to critical suicidology from Abya Yala's (the Americas) decolonial perspective
- **Dameyon Bonson:** Indigenous culture and/as preventative measures to Indigenous suicide
- **Discussion:** 60 minutes

Optional Drinks:

6.00pm – 7.00pm Participants and guests may wish to take advantage of the evening and wander across to the University Club (see map, last page) for an early evening drink and chat.

Schedule Day Two—Thursday 13 December

Roundtable D: *Lived Experience of Suicide II*

9.45am – 11.15am, Engineering Lecture Theatre 1
(chair: Ian Marsh)

- **Marnie Sather and David Newman:** Narrative practice and bereavement
- **Rhiannon Evans:** Survival, signaling, and security: Foster carers' and residential carers' accounts of self-harming practices among children and young people in care
- **Mic Eales:** The role of self-care and its need to be front and centre of suicide prevention
- **Discussion:** 45 minutes

Roundtable E: *Critical Methodologies II*

9.45am – 11.15am, Engineering Lecture Theatre 2
(chair: Annie Hayford-Joyner)

- **Jonny Morris:** Doing a “rhizomatic disciplinary approach” to CritSui: Reflexively mapping the continued emergence of CritSui through an outsider-witness dialogic process
- **Katrina Jaworski:** Ethics of facing the other in suicide
- **Belinda Carpenter, Gordon Tait and Steph Jowett:** Coronial decision making and the concept of suicide
- **Bonnie Scarth:** “...I needed some sort of barrier between myself and my own brain”: the implications of locating social suffering and suicidality in the brain.
- **Discussion:** 30 minutes

Short Break:

11.15pm – 11.45am Tea, Coffee, Snacks in Engineering Building Main Foyer

Roundtable F: *Cultures, Societies and Epistemologies*

11.45am – 1.00pm, Engineering Lecture Theatre 1
(chair: Michael Kral)

- **Sam Han:** Suicide in the digital age: Durkheim in post-boom East Asia
- **Annie Hayford-Joyner and Toni Wright:** The need for black and women of colour feminist epistemologies in critical suicide studies
- **Jessica Stubbing:** Young people's explanations for youth suicide in New Zealand
- **Discussion:** 30 minutes

Roundtable G: *Media, History, Literature, Culture*

11.45am – 1.00pm, Engineering Lecture Theatre 2
(chair: Katrina Jaworski)

- **Cody Reynolds:** The edge of truth: Non-realist representations of suicidal trauma, and processes of knowing
- **Cassandra Milne:** ‘Bury your gays’ – An exploration of the problematic media representation of LGBT+
- **Rob Cover:** Popular culture and the persistence of suicide depiction in contemporary Australian film and television—Understanding representation; theorising Impact
- **Discussion:** 30 minutes

Lunch:

1.00pm – 2.00pm Engineering Building Main Foyer

continued overleaf...

Roundtable H: *Critical Suicide Approaches in Practice – marginal and alternative approaches*

2.00pm – 3.30pm, Engineering Lecture Theatre 1 (chair: Jennifer White)

- **Ian Marsh:** Critical suicide studies and suicide prevention: Interdisciplinary practices and ethical tensions
- **Julia Hagen, Heidi Hjelmeland and Birthe Loa Knizek:** A critical look at suicide prevention in mental health services
- **China Mills:** Strengthening borders and toughening up welfare: Suicides and the UK's hostile environment
- **Discussion:** 45 minutes

Short Break:

3.30pm – 4.00pm Tea, Coffee, Snacks in Engineering Building Main Foyer

Final Discussion: Building bridges we don't burn

4.00pm – 5.00pm Engineering Lecture Theatre 1 (chair: Jonny Morris)

- **All participants** are invited to engage in a broad discussion on how to continue to build engagement across sectors towards sustained collaborations, for the benefits of suicide prevention globally and towards new ways of thinking about suicide.

Optional Drinks:

5.00pm – 7.00pm Participants and guests may wish to take advantage of the evening and wander across to the University Club (see map, last page) for an early evening drink and chat.

About the Critical Suicide Studies Network

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the consumption of anti-depressants in the US has risen by 400 % since 1998. In the same period, the US suicide rate has remained essentially the same. Similar evidence is emerging across many western countries. The somewhat simplistic equation associating suicide with depression leads to policies and practices that fail to deliver what is hoped for.

Many within suicide research have become frustrated by the limitations of dominant pathologising and medicalized approaches to suicide research and prevention practices. Believing that suicidology is in need of a critical re-thinking of its subject matter and a broadening of its disciplinary basis, they look at cultural practices of making sense of suicide, taking into account how suicide is shaped by history, politics, gender, identity, culture, media and power.

The Critical Suicide Studies Network, which was founded in early 2016 by a group of international scholars, builds on a long period of critical, social, anthropological and marginal development of approaches to thinking about and addressing suicide from alternative perspectives. The network comprises researchers, practitioners, lecturers and interested parties who are developing theoretical and practical tools of engagement that go against the current “one size fits all” evidence-based trend in suicide prevention/intervention that, ironically, is losing ground under the weight of its own evidence. It aims to bring people together to develop new collective and community-driven approaches.

The network has held a number of events, including two international conferences (Prague, Czech Republic in 2016; Canterbury UK in 2017) and meetings in various locations.

For further information, lists of critical suicide researchers and publications, please visit the Critical Suicide Studies Network website at: <https://criticallsuicidology.net>.

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12 – 13 December Perth, Western Australia

Location Map
The University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, Western Australia

UWA Location
Perth City →
← Fremantle

Bus stops
950, 102 buses to Esplanade (Elizabeth Busport)
see: [TransPerth](#) for timetables and details

