



SCHOOL OF LAW RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES
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From the Health Consumer to the Health Citizen

PROFESSOR JAMES ARVANITAKIS, DEAN, GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL

ABSTRACT

The concept of citizenship is approached in many different ways: from the law (Spiro 2011), education (Law 2004), political (Isin and Turner 2007) and more recently, the cultural dimensions of citizenship (Arvanitakis and Hodge 2012). From here emerges the concept that citizenship is a set of social practices (Turner 1993, p. 4). Even a minimal sketch of contemporary governance structures highlights how complex the environment is for those who aspire to some control over their lives. With respect to citizenship, each individual citizen's relationship with the state is subject to myriad formal and informal relations.

Let us contrast this with 'health care'. The health choices we make are fundamental in the quality of lives we live. In contrast to of the complex approach of understanding citizenship, however, research around our engagement with the health industry tends to be one dimensional: treating all of us as consumers. This approach draws on basic economic theory taught in first year: the more well informed consumers are, the better informed their choices. The aim of this project is to introduce our understanding of citizenship to choice and engagement about health care. By doing this, we aim to move beyond the health consumer to the 'health citizen'.

BIOGRAPHY

PROFESSOR JAMES ARVANITAKIS

Professor James Arvanitakis is the Dean of the Graduate Research School at Western Sydney University. He is also a lecturer in Humanities and a member of the University's Institute for Cultural and Society. James has worked in the finance world and in human rights organisations before becoming an education

His research areas include citizenship, resilience, piracy and the future of universities. James has authored over 100 articles and this year has released three books: *Sociologic* (a first year sociology textbook with Oxford University Press), *Citizen Scholar* and the future of universities (Palgrave), and *From Despair to Hope* (Penguin). James is a regular media commentator appearing on ABC TV and hosts the podcast 'Sociologic'.

COMMENTATOR:

INGRID MATTHEWS

Ingrid Matthews is a session lecturer at the School of Law and researcher at the Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University. Her work has been published in cultural studies journals (Hodge and Matthews 2010, 2011, 2012); edited volumes on citizenship (Arvanitakis and Matthews 2013, 2015) and Australia-Israel relations (Matthews and Arvanitakis 2015, Matthews 2015). Ingrid contributed to the third edition of WSU undergraduate text *Law in Perspective* (Head, Mann and Matthews, 2015). Her current research, in partnership with Linköping University, investigates Aboriginal sovereign rights, the CSG industry, and increasing criminalisation of peaceful protest. Ingrid is a NSW Bar Association Human Rights Law Prize winner (2007) and contributes to public debate at *The Conversation and Independent Australia*.

DATE

Wednesday 5 October 2016

TIME

11.30am - 12.30pm

VENUE

Moot Court, Building EO, Parramatta

LUNCH PROVIDED

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INQUIRIES

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