

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



Institute for Culture
and Society

ICS RESEARCH SEMINAR

Research in Times of Uncertainty

Online Seminar

DATE

Wednesday, 18 August 2021

TIME

12:00pm – 1:15pm

VENUE

Online via Zoom

REGISTER

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/research-in-times-of-uncertainty-tickets-166473146663>

CHAIRS

Professor Ned Rossiter
Professor Heather Horst

PRESENTERS

Professor Megan Watkins &
Professor Greg Noble
HDR Candidate Linda Marsden
Dr Ben Hankel
Associate Professor Shanthi
Robertson

ABSTRACT

From the outset of the pandemic, academics convened a series of seminars and workshops that explored how researchers could 'pivot' to online research. These events focused on the techniques and ethics of transitioning in-person and on-site interviews, workshops and ethnographic research to online settings and platforms. They also highlighted the increasing access to archives and other digital and digitized data that researchers leverage and draw on for their research and writing, raising interesting questions around the nexus between history and contemporary conjunctures.

Over a year into the pandemic, we see a more complex landscape emerging. The opening and closures of research sites in relation to public health orders, perceptions of risk and ongoing border restrictions have created new challenges for the continuity of research methods and plans. Contingency has become a routine way of both life and knowledge production. Such conditions have also resulted in creative workarounds and opportunities for rethinking about how, when and where research can and should occur.

This seminar focuses on the experiences of five researchers who have conducted research over the past year with youth, parents, communities and various government sectors. Presenters will highlight the challenges of researching during a global pandemic and the different ways in which their research teams coped with the conditions of uncertainty. As much as our research practices have been stymied by the impact of Covid-19, the pandemic has also prompted new coordinates in our collective pursuits of knowledge and how we make sense of a world in the midst of dramatic transformation.