

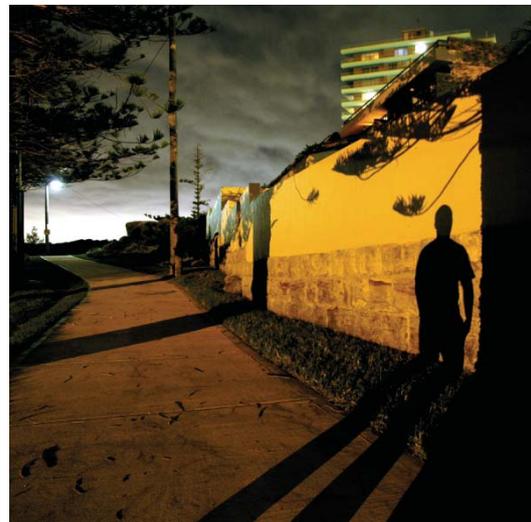
RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Going out on the town

Professor Deborah Stevenson from the School of Social Sciences and Professor David Rowe from the Centre for Cultural Research are collaborating with Professor Stephen Tomsen (who will be joining UWS from the University of Newcastle in mid-2008) to explore the way people use and interact with urban spaces after dark through a three-year ARC Discovery Project.

'The stimulation of a night time economy can deliver great cultural, social and economic benefits to Australian cities, or result in social disruption and disputation, assaults, and serious injuries that drain criminal justice and health resources', says Professor Stevenson. 'The promotion and regulation of the city at night is amongst the most important issues facing communities, private enterprise and governments around the globe. Building on the findings of two pilot studies, our project is the first comprehensive examination of the experience and governance of night-time cultures and spaces in metropolitan Australia. It will address competing uses of urban space and the levels of planning and regulation required to foster after-dark leisure and minimize alienation amongst different interest groups. The project will look at issues of diversity, inclusiveness and public safety, contributing to international interdisciplinary debates concerning cultural planning and crime prevention'.

Using a range of documentary evidence, surveys of user groups, businesses and government officials and direct observation of after-dark activities, the multidisciplinary research team will analyse how night-time culture in inner Sydney has changed over the last 15 years. They will also explore what effects these changes may have had on social and cultural



diversity in the '24-hour city', and seek to discover the most successful strategies for ensuring safety and equity and for minimising conflict between different social, cultural and commercial interests.

This innovative project will contribute to the development of urban policies attuned to urban conditions in Australia. It will promote the long-term cultural, social and economic sustainability of diverse urban after-dark leisure spaces, and the wellbeing of both leisure participants and neighbouring areas and communities.

Project Title: The City after Dark: The governance and lived experience of urban night-time culture
Funding has been set at: \$223,284
Contact Details: d.stevenson@uws.edu.au,
<http://www.uws.edu.au/school/socsci>
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