



From the Executive Director's Desk

Everyone agrees that education is the key to social mobility, and the best way to break the destructive cycle of social disadvantage. Unfortunately, educational programs designed to compensate for disadvantage have met with limited success. School children from deprived backgrounds still perform worse than their wealthier peers.

Implementing policies and programs without rigorous research has limited their effectiveness. Clearly, evidence about what works and what doesn't is vital to closing the educational gap. But this is only the first step. Educational interventions must also be cleverly implemented to make a difference.

An example of what is possible is Let's Count, a numeracy program developed by the Smith Family in partnership with university researchers. Aimed at three- to five-year-olds from disadvantaged backgrounds, Let's Count was trialed on 8,500 children and their parents.

The program's 3-year evaluation shows that early exposure to mathematics leads to a significant improvement in maths skills. Children who participated in the program scored higher on counting, measurement and spatial awareness than children who did not participate.

Clever implementation was shown to be vital to success. For example, parents were trained to work on mathematics with their children. Parental involvement turned out to be an essential element in the program's success. Training gave parents the confidence to practice mathematics with their kids. Schools provided them with support and assistance. By combining all these elements (schools, parents, external support), Let's Count led to outstanding results.

Eliminating social disadvantage by allowing every Australian to reach his or her educational potential is the fairest and most effective way to encourage social mobility. No wonder the Smith Family has focussed its efforts on education. Last year, the Smith Family supported more than 112,000 students and their families. Their goal is to break the cycle of disadvantage and ensure a better life for the next generation of Australians.

To learn how the Smith Family works with government, universities, schools, trusts and others to apply research to practical programs, mark your diaries for the 2015 CHASS National Forum (15-16 October, Melbourne). The CEO of the Smith Family, Dr. Lisa O'Brien will be speaking. Prepare to be inspired.

Emeritus Professor Steven Schwartz AM, FASSA



Nominations close 1 June: 2015 CHASS Australia Prizes

Nominations are open for a limited time only. We encourage applicants to apply early to avoid disappointment. Self-nominations are welcome. There is no nomination fee for any of the four categories - Book (non-fiction), Distinctive Work, Future Leader, and Student. For specific terms and conditions related to each category, [please click here](#). We are happy to provide assistance regarding your application, please feel free to contact us via email/phone.

[Apply now](#)

Digital Humanities 2015: Global Digital Humanities

[Early bird registrations close 30 April](#)

Digital Humanities is the annual international conference of the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organisations (ADHO) and will next be held in Sydney, Australia, 29 June - 3 July.

This will be the first time that the annual Digital Humanities conference is being held outside of Europe and North America in its 26-year history. The theme of Global Digital Humanities acknowledges the field's expansion worldwide across disciplines, cultures and languages.

[DH2015](#) is being hosted by the University of Western Sydney's Digital Humanities Research Group, a leader in collaborative digital humanities in the Asia-Pacific region. The conference is being held in partnership with the State Library of New South Wales and in collaboration with GovHack 2015 and the third International Linked Open Data in Libraries, Archives, and Museums Summit (LODLAM). Other supporters include CHASS, the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and the Australasian Association for Digital Humanities.

PROFESSOR BRENDA YEOH
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
PROFESSOR PETER SPEARRITT, FASSA
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
DR MICHELE LOBO
DEAKIN UNIVERSITY
EMERITUS PROFESSOR STEVEN SCHWARTZ AM
CHASS

THE FUTURE OF CITIES IN THE GLOBAL AGE
VIEWS FROM AUSTRALIA AND SINGAPORE
2PM JULY 9TH 2015
FREE PUBLIC EVENT

RESERVE YOUR FREE TICKET AT:
<http://2015futurecities.eventbrite.com>

The Future of Cities in the Global Age: Views from Australia and Singapore

This roundtable discussion is being organised by CHASS in association with the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA), Deakin University, and the Hawke Research Institute, University of South Australia.

This is a free public event and all are welcome to attend. Limited seats are available, please

book early to avoid disappointment.

Location: Western Beach Room (AD/Sally Walker Building, Level 6, Room 104), Deakin University's Waterfront Campus, 1 Gheringhap Street, Geelong.

Speakers: Professor Brenda Yeoh (National University of Singapore), Dr Michele Lobo (Deakin University), Professor Peter Spearritt FASSA (The University of Queensland).

The discussion will be chaired by CHASS Executive Director Emeritus Professor Steven Schwartz AM, FASSA.

[Register now](#)

Sector and Member Events

Performance: [The Dream Dance Company's Genesis](#) 1-3 May, NIDA, Sydney

DIAlogue AM Breakfast Series: [Digital Self / Who are you designing online?](#) 6 May, Melbourne

[AEF-PAI Engaging with Asia Breakfast Seminar with Tim Harcourt, The Airport Economist](#) 8 May, Adelaide

Submission of papers closes 11 May: [RSA Australasian Conference 2015 Rethinking the Region and Regionalism in Australasia: Challenges and Opportunities for the 21st Century](#) 31 August-2 September, Melbourne

Free public event: [The Swinburne Leadership Dialogue - Citizen Juries](#) 12 May, Melbourne

Registrations open: [Safeguarding Australia 2015 – Global Violent Extremism: Another Long War](#) 13-14 May, Canberra

Free public lecture: 2015 Ray Mathew Lecture - [Private Passions and Public Exposures by Andrea Goldsmith](#) 14 May, The National Library of Australia, Canberra

Submissions close 15 May: [DANscienCE 2015](#) 21-23 August, Brisbane

Free public lecture: [Child Refugees and Australian Internationalism: Past, Present, Future](#) 21 May, St Lucia Campus, The University of Queensland

Registrations open: [2015 Museums Australia National Conference](#) 21-24 May, Sydney

Registrations close 22 May (or earlier): **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** Australia Council for the Arts, 1-2 June, Cairns

Call for sessions closes 29 May: [AAA 2015 Conference - On the Edge: The Archaeology of Adaptation and Transition](#) 2-4 December 2015, Fremantle

Applications close 2 June: [Peggy Glanville-Hicks Residency 2016](#) Australia Council for the Arts

Registrations open: [EduTECH 2015](#) 2-3 June, Brisbane

Registrations open: [Musical Theatre Educators' Alliance AustralAsian Overtures Australia Conference 2015](#) 20-23 June, WAAPA, Perth

2015 NTEU **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

Note: While we take due care to list correct information about events listed here, all listings are subject to change and we advise that you reconfirm details before making bookings. Please like our Facebook page for more updates on available grants and sector events.

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