

Summary of Discovery Projects Proposals for Funding to Commence in 2009

Victoria

La Trobe University

DP0986741 Dr S Auer; Dr RG Horvath

Approved Project Title **The Spectre of Velvet Revolution: Dissidents, International Civil Society and post-Communist Authoritarianism**

2009 : \$ 56,000

2010 : \$ 45,000

2011 : \$ 39,290

Primary RFCD 4301 HISTORICAL STUDIES

Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

The study of 'Velvet Revolution,' both as a theory and as historical events, has immense implications for Australian policymakers. As an approach to regime change that does not entail foreign military intervention, 'Velvet Revolution' offers a path for democratic transition that minimises nationalist resentment and post-revolutionary violence. As a radical challenge to undemocratic regimes, it also constitutes a potent alternative to militant Islamism. By illuminating the role of dissidents and international civil society as protagonists and purveyors of 'Velvet Revolution,' this project will help to clarify the conditions that have facilitated the successful spread of democratic revolution.

DP0987088 A/Prof C Bigby; Dr MF Knox; Prof J Mansell; Dr J Beadle-Brown

Approved Project Title **Realising an 'ordinary life' for people with intellectual disabilities: Developing a theoretical framework for group home outcomes.**

2009 : \$ 100,000

2010 : \$ 110,000

2011 : \$ 110,000

2012 : \$ 60,000

Primary RFCD 3212 PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES

Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

Explaining why group homes produce variable outcomes for people with intellectual disabilities will make it more likely they live healthy, productive and fulfilling lives. Such outcomes are central to policies of inclusion and fundamental to human rights. The Australian community will be enriched by the inclusion of all people with disabilities and become a more just society. The research will support the translation of social policy into practice and adoption of good management practices. It will enable more effective use of the \$2 billion spent on disability accommodation, and will bolster the arguments for community rather than institutional living, demonstrating investment in community services is a sound use of public money

DP0987175 Prof A Borowski; A/Prof RJ Sheehan; Prof PJ Camilleri; Asst Prof M McArthur; Dr EO Fernandez; Dr JJ Bolitho; A/Prof D West; Ms J Packham; Dr C Tilbury; Prof P Mazerolle; A/Prof PH Delfabbro; Dr A Day; Dr MH Travers; Prof RD White; A/Prof MW Clare; Dr JP Clare

Approved Project Title **Challenges, Possibilities and Future Directions: A National Assessment of Australia's Children's Courts**

2009 : \$ 320,000

2010 : \$ 260,000

Primary RFCD 3903 JUSTICE AND LEGAL STUDIES

Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

Children's Courts occupy a unique position in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems in responding to often marginalized delinquent youth and vulnerable children and families. Philosophical and structural shifts in Australia and overseas suggest community and legal system responses are often ineffective and contribute to longer-term problems, creating social challenges for governments and communities alike. This national study will examine how key stakeholders, including, significantly, judicial officers, view the Children's Court's contemporary responses and challenges, their preferred alternatives responses and the viability of suggested reforms, thus offering a unique contribution to informing legal and social policy change.

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DP0985837 A/Prof SG Crewther; Prof DP Crewther

Approved Project Title **The advantage of being magnocellular: the role of the dorsal visual stream in object identification.**

2009 : \$ 120,000

2010 : \$ 90,000

2011 : \$ 90,000

Primary RFCD 3207 NEUROSCIENCES

Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

The primary benefit of this project is to basic science and tertiary teaching globally. Visual processing and how it activates attention and operates to guide actions and cognitive behaviour is fundamental to our understanding of life and brain evolution. In particular this new knowledge will further understanding of many cognitive symptoms associated with neurodevelopmental disorders and in the future should lead to design of better educational technologies for such children. Similarly understanding of temporal sequencing of vision has commercial implications for design of bionic eyes and robotic vision processing.

DP0987335 Prof PR Fisher; Dr A Mehta; Prof J Williams; Dr L Eichinger

Approved Project Title **Cytopathological roles of AMPK in mitochondrial dysfunction**

2009 : \$ 90,000

2010 : \$ 40,000

2011 : \$ 40,000

Primary RFCD 2701 BIOCHEMISTRY AND CELL BIOLOGY

Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

This research project will benefit the Australian community by deepening our understanding of mitochondrial and neurodegenerative diseases. These diseases are incurable and treatment options are limited. The knowledge gained in this project should assist in the development of new or improved treatments. The project will also contribute to the training of young scientists in biomedical research and will enhance Australia's international scientific reputation because it involves a significant and novel biomedical discovery.

DP0985451 Dr Z He

Approved Project Title **Efficient databases for flash memory**

2009 : \$ 70,000

2010 : \$ 55,000

2011 : \$ 65,000

Primary RFCD 2801 INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

This project will bring significant benefits to Australia. It will place Australia at the fore-front of the emerging field of flash memory databases. The lack of prior research in this field, coupled with the significant performance benefits of flash memory, means this project will make significant breakthroughs in this frontier technology. The algorithms developed will be directly incorporated into a state-of-the-art open source database and disseminated throughout the international community, thereby boosting Australia's international research reputation. The database developed will significantly increase the speed of large database servers as well as bring significant energy savings to databases running on small portable devices.

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DP0984431 Dr TJ Minchin

Approved Project Title **Made in the USA?: The Decline of the American Manufacturing Economy, 1950-2008**

2009 : \$ 63,949

2010 : \$ 40,000

2011 : \$ 57,944

Primary RFCD 4301 HISTORICAL STUDIES

Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

In a global economy, the decline of manufacturing industries has not just occurred in the U.S. but has also affected other high-wage labor markets, including Australia. As well as throwing light on this process in Australia, this project will show that deindustrialization is a transnational process and that many multinational firms have declined simultaneously in both countries. In a world where factory closings constantly make headlines, the project also has considerable contemporary relevance in both countries.

DP0987125 Prof SH Thomas

Approved Project Title **Anglophone Caribbean (auto)biography, plantation slavery, and the traffic of colonial reform and modernisation 1807-1834**

2009 : \$ 58,000

2010 : \$ 14,000

2011 : \$ 45,000

Primary RFCD 4202 LITERATURE STUDIES

Administering Organisation La Trobe University

Project Summary

The project, the preliminary work for which has already received major international recognition, will significantly enhance the international profile of Australian scholarship in postcolonial studies, nineteenth-century studies, and the history of feminism. It will consolidate Australia's considerable reputation for fine scholarship on the cultural history of slavery and its abolition, and at a time of reinvigorated debate in the field. Within the discipline of English the project will challenge scholars to think more creatively and enterprisingly about the nature and scope of extant archival sources and the necessity of close historical research in interpreting them.