

Western Australia

Murdoch University

DP0984678 Dr P Bain

Approved Project Title **Collective futures: The effects of beliefs about future states of society on the support for and enactment of social change**

2009 : \$ 99,000

2010 : \$ 80,000

2011 : \$ 89,000

Primary RFCD 3801 PSYCHOLOGY

APD Dr P Bain

Administering Organisation Murdoch University

Project Summary

This research addresses a novel and potentially critical factor in support for social change, beliefs about society in the future, that helps build Australia's capacity to effectively address important social issues that depend on widespread support and action, such as climate change. The research provides a basis for a more informed public debate about these issues, and enhances the effectiveness of policy-makers and information campaigns. Scientifically, it enhances Australia's reputation as a leader in social change research.

DP0987055 Dr K Best; Dr AG Turk; A/Prof M Bakardjieva; Prof P Moss

Approved Project Title **Isolation, illness and the Internet: Exploring the possibility of a second life for sufferers of ME**

2009 : \$ 116,000

2010 : \$ 40,000

2011 : \$ 80,000

Primary RFCD 4001 JOURNALISM, COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA

Administering Organisation Murdoch University

Project Summary

Chronic illnesses affect not only the suffering parties but also the general population by draining the workforce and increasing the burden on our social support systems. This study addresses our national priority of Promoting and Maintaining Good Health by analysing the support structures that are available for those who face isolation resulting from chronic illnesses. It will strengthen this fabric by creating and piloting a virtual forum which will have direct, meaningful effects beyond the reaches of the study. The transnational nature of the research will enhance Australia's international profile in the area, forging links and improving information sharing regarding the use of the Internet to manage chronic illnesses.

DP0986763 Ms JL Borland

Approved Project Title **Sites of Learning, Spaces of State: Reconstructed Primary Schools and Small Parks in Tokyo, 1923-1945**

2009 : \$ 92,138

2010 : \$ 92,138

2011 : \$ 92,138

Primary RFCD 4301 HISTORICAL STUDIES

APD Ms JL Borland

Administering Organisation Murdoch University

Project Summary

Australia places a high priority on its relationship with Japan as it is a country that remains of fundamental importance for political and economic reasons. Indeed, one of the reasons why we enjoy such a strong relationship today is due to our growing familiarity with each other's language, culture and society. Japan is likely to remain Australia's largest export market for some time hence it is important that we also maintain our engagement in scholarship of Japan's history, culture and society. This project will deepen our understanding of Japanese state and society in a critical period of the twentieth century, and in doing so contribute to Australia's long-term goal of strengthening this important bilateral relationship.

Summary of Discovery Projects Proposals for Funding to Commence in 2009

DP0987871 Prof RP Oliver

Approved Project Title **LATERAL GENE TRANSFER, GENOME EVOLUTION AND THE EMERGENCE OF NEW DISEASES CAUSED BY FUNGAL PATHOGENS IN THE PLEOSPORALES**

2009 : \$ 90,000

2010 : \$ 80,000

2011 : \$ 72,000

Primary RFCD 2702 GENETICS

Administering Organisation Murdoch University

Project Summary

Normal evolution involves the transfer of genes within species. The modest variation between progeny powers natural selection. Lateral gene transfer is the movement of genetic material between species. It allows for large evolutionary steps. Although common in bacteria, it has rarely been described convincingly in higher organisms such as fungi, plants or animals. We have evidence that one group of fungal pathogens is particularly adept at acquiring new genes that enable them to cause new diseases. We will determine the mechanism and frequency of gene transfer in this group. The work had fundamental significance in evolutionary biology, in the emergence of new diseases and in the use of genetically-modified organisms.

DP0984596 Prof G Rodan; A/Prof CS Hughes

Approved Project Title **The Politics of Accountability Reform in Southeast Asia**

2009 : \$ 67,000

2010 : \$ 62,000

2011 : \$ 24,000

Primary RFCD 3601 POLITICAL SCIENCE

Administering Organisation Murdoch University

Project Summary

Australian foreign policymakers and businesses operating in Southeast Asia derive security and commercial advantages from understanding the direction and drivers of politics in the region. New accountability reforms are integral to this politics and, consequently, Australian aid money is being directed towards support for such institutions. However, depending on their nature and support bases, accountability reforms can enhance or suppress citizens' and investors' powers in relation to public and private authorities. Analysing accountability institutions in this way can thus help refine aid strategies and foreign policy meant to increase scrutiny of how authorities in political and economic governance exercise power.

DP0986139 Dr PS Solomon; Prof RP Oliver; Dr RJ Lipscombe

Approved Project Title **Investigating a new paradigm for plant-pathogen interactions; Identification of host-selective toxin proteins in the wheat pathogen *Stagonospora nodorum***

2009 : \$ 70,000

2010 : \$ 80,000

2011 : \$ 80,000

Primary RFCD 2704 BOTANY

Administering Organisation Murdoch University

Project Summary

Stagonospora nodorum is a fungus that causes leaf and glume blotch disease on wheat. This disease alone causes \$55 million dollars in yield losses per annum. Traditional breeding methods have yielded crops that are only mildly resistant leaving control of the disease to be worryingly reliant on fungicides. This project aims to identify and characterise proteins that the fungus secretes to cause disease on wheat. By identifying these proteins, it is anticipated that strategies, both traditional and modern, could be employed to enable better control of the disease. This in turn would help provide a long term and secure supply of wheat and wheat based products to the community.

Summary of Discovery Projects Proposals for Funding to Commence in 2009

DP0986867 Prof SE Volet
Approved Project Title **Productive co-regulation of learning at university: A situative approach**
2009 : \$ 70,000
2010 : \$ 45,000
2011 : \$ 45,000
Primary RFCD 3301 EDUCATION STUDIES
Administering Organisation Murdoch University

Project Summary

Fostering graduates' capacity to learn productively from and with professional peers is of educational and economic significance for professional education and for the workplace. The research will establish how learning from clinical cases in interactions with a group of peers at university can be enhanced, with direct benefits for conceptual understanding and professional practice. Social benefits are also expected from broadening individual approaches to study to include preparation for the social nature of work.

DP0986901 Prof SE Volet; Dr F Fozdar
Approved Project Title **Fostering the development of intercultural confidence as an integral part of university education**
2009 : \$ 60,000
2010 : \$ 40,000
2011 : \$ 40,000
Primary RFCD 3301 EDUCATION STUDIES
Administering Organisation Murdoch University

Project Summary

A better understanding of the opportunities created by social and cultural diversity in the context of internationalisation of higher education can lead to substantial educational and social benefits. The research will provide a conceptual basis for the development of innovative teaching practices, which capitalise on diversity to enhance all students', international and domestic, preparation for professional practice. It directly addresses the national research priority of enhancing Australia's capacity to interpret and engage with its regional and global environment, through greater reciprocal understanding of the interface of diverse cultures and societies.