About the Centre for Alcohol Policy Research

The Centre for Alcohol Policy Research (CAPR) is the only Australian research centre with a primary focus on research related to alcohol policy. There are four main areas of research in the Centre’s work: research on alcohol policy formation, impact and implementation; on economic, contextual and cultural influences on alcohol purchases, consumption and problems; on harms to others from drinking, and how they may be minimised; and on trends over time in drinking, in policies, and in alcohol’s cultural position.

The CAPR research program thus aims to improve the understanding of alcohol-related harms and evidence-based strategies to address them. Besides conducting and publishing research, CAPR also serves as a resource concerning the evidence base on alcohol policies for the public health community, social and government agencies, the media, and larger society. As described in more detail below, CAPR pursues this objective in a number of ways:

- by publication of its original research findings and scholarly reviews and commentaries;
- by pursuing and producing reports on agreed-on alcohol policy-relevant research topics for the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) and other funders;
- by disseminating its research, in the context of the relevant knowledge base, through presentations at community, governmental and professional meetings, and through participation in public seminars and events;
- by responding to requests concerning evidence from governmental, public health and other bodies, and from the media;
- by advising public health-oriented alcohol policy agencies and coalitions on the relevant research on emergent alcohol policy issues;
- by contributing to the development of the workforce of scholars competent in policy-relevant alcohol research in Australia and internationally through such means as postgraduate training, postdoctoral placements, internships and scholarly visits and exchanges;
- by working with the World Health Organization and other public health agencies, and other research groups in Australia and internationally, to develop the international base of knowledge concerning drinking patterns, alcohol-related harms, and effective alcohol policies.

The Centre’s auspices and funding

The Centre for Alcohol Policy Research (CAPR) is now a collaboration between La Trobe University, at which it is established as a research centre,
and the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE), an independent charitable organisation working to stop the harm caused by alcohol, which provides the core funding for the centre.

Between its inception on 28 March 2006 and 30 June 2015, CAPR was located as a research program within Turning Point, a multifunction alcohol, other drug and gambling centre (now part of Eastern Health). During this period, CAPR’s director, Robin Room, was a professor at the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne, with his position primarily funded by the Department of Health and Human Services at the State of Victoria.

Following a solicitation by FARE to Melbourne universities concerning CAPR’s future location, CAPR moved to La Trobe University, located at La Trobe’s building at 215 Franklin St., Melbourne. Room was appointed a professor at La Trobe from July 1. For an interim two-month period, CAPR staff remained physically located at Turning Point, under various employment arrangements, some extending beyond the interim period. The FARE-La Trobe agreement under which CAPR now operates was signed on 21 August, and subsequent to that all CAPR staff were successfully transferred to employment by La Trobe. Federal and other fellowships and grants held at the University of Melbourne and other institutions were also successfully transferred in the following months. By the end of June, 2016, the transfer process was mostly completed.

The core funding of CAPR is FARE’s primary research activity. CAPR is responsive to the objectives specified in the contract between FARE and La Trobe, which covers the period from its signature to 30 June, 2018. These objectives are to:

- Undertake research into alcohol consumption, harms and their social, cultural, economic and environmental context, and policy and program responses;
- Lead and coordinate a research agenda for world class population health and alcohol policy research;
- Contribute evidence from research to the development of harm-reducing alcohol policy in Australia and internationally;
- Work collaboratively with FARE to promote and translate research;
- Contribute to education and training of the next generation of highly skilled alcohol policy academic leaders; and,
- Subject to agreement, work towards developing and coordinating a national alcohol policy research network to promote alcohol policy research.
As in the past, CAPR’s core funding has been supplemented with funding for specific projects and activities from a number of sources. In the year ending 30 June, these included grants and contracts from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), the Australian Research Council (ARC), the Collier Foundation, the Sax Institute, Healthway, the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth), and the World Health Organization, as well as subcontracts to grants held at other institutions, including a subcontract to a grant from the US National Institutes of Health. During the year ended June 2016, Centre staff have held fellowships from the NHMRC, the Australian Rechabite Foundation and an Australian Postgraduate Award. La Trobe University and National Drug Research Institute (NDRI) at Curtin University each provide some support funding for particular fellowships, and earlier in the year ended June 2016 this was true also for National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) at the University of New South Wales and the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne.

CAPR staff are actively engaged in proposal-writing for additional research funding, in order to support a research program involving a wide range of research training and expertise. Considerations in deciding to make applications for funding include the intellectual and policy significance of the proposed study, the relation of the proposed work to CAPR’s objectives and lines of research and to particular staff interests and capabilities, and the likelihood of the application being funded. Appendix D shows the grants and contracts which were active or applied for at any time during the year starting 1 July, 2015, for which members of the CAPR staff were among the Chief Investigators or on the staff, with an indication of their current status as of June 30, 2016.

An initial highlight of the year was FARE’s commitment to a new three-year period of funding of CAPR’s core grant, 2015-2018. To this was added an initial $50,000 in support for CAPR’s work from the Collier Foundation.

CAPR’s work synthesising the literature on alcohol policy impacts was recognised and further advanced by two competitive government contracts, one from the Sax Institute on behalf of the NSW government, and one from the Western Australia Mental Health Commission on behalf of the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs.

A new ARC grant to Pennay and colleagues to study factors shaping the recent changes in drinking among Australian youth complements the existing ARC grant to Livingston and colleagues to study trends in drinking and alcohol-related harms. La Trobe provided support for a collaborative visit by Livingston
to Sweden to coordinate comparative analyses of factors affecting the widespread downturns in youth drinking.

The new grant from the US National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (part of the National Institutes of Health) provides a solid base of support for four years for cross-national analyses of patterns and factors in alcohol’s harm to others in the general population in a range of countries. CAPR staff will play crucial roles in these analyses, which will allow a further development and widening of the work already undertaken by CAPR with support from NHMRC and the World Health Organization.

In previous work for VicHealth on cultural factors in drinking and on entry-points for cultural change, reports from CAPR focused particularly on subcultures and contexts of drinking as more promising arenas for change than the culture as a whole. VicHealth has built on this approach, developing and launching an Alcohol Cultures Framework in July, 2016 as a basis for further public health initiatives. It has also provided funding to CAPR for project advice on public health action on subcultures of heavy drinking, and for further work mapping subcultures and social scenes of heavy drinking among Victorians. VicHealth and CAPR have both been clear that this line of approach is seen as complementing, not substituting for, public health policies on limiting alcohol-related harms.

Each of these streams of external support make substantial contributions to furthering CAPR’s basic commitment to and work on developing knowledge and understanding relevant to alcohol policy.

The Centre’s staff

As of June 2016, CAPR had ten staff members on its payroll, on a full-time or part-time basis. During the year, Oliver Stanesby joined the staff, replacing Georgia Rankin, who left to pursue professional training, and Elizabeth Manton rejoined CAPR’s staff. Sarah MacLean, now employed and paid as a Senior Lecturer in Social Work at La Trobe, also rejoined CAPR’s staff roster. Sarah Callinan returned from maternity leave in September, working part-time, and returned to full time work at the beginning of 2016. Amy Pennay went on maternity leave in April and will return to CAPR in December 2016.

A profile of each current staff member can be found in Appendix C. The staff has a good mix of research expertise, including backgrounds in both quantitative and qualitative research, and degrees in diverse subjects, including criminology, statistics, psychology, epidemiology, public health, sociology, economics, literature and dentistry. Eight of the staff (including MacLean) have PhDs, Claire Wilkinson is close to finishing one, and Janette
Mugavin has started on one during this year. Orratai Waleewong, a PhD student from Thailand at the University of Melbourne, is also attached to CAPR, and collaborates with CAPR staff on international alcohol’s harm to others analyses.

While all members of the staff are now located at and employed by La Trobe, several also have other affiliations. Laslett also holds a postdoctoral fellowship through Curtin University, and Wilkinson is a predoctoral candidate at the University of Melbourne. Several CAPR staff also have adjunct or honorary appointments, at Monash University (Pennay, Jiang, Laslett), the Karolinska Institute (Livingston), Stockholm University (Room), and the University of Melbourne (Room and Laslett).
Outcomes with respect to the six Objectives in the core centre grant agreement

1. To undertake research into alcohol consumption, harms and their social, cultural, economic and environmental context, and policy and program responses.

In the year from July 2015 to June 2016 CAPR undertook and published policy-relevant research in four main streams of work relevant to the centre’s research mandate. Altogether, 46 articles or book chapters were published in final form, 16 were published on the web in “early view”, prior to publication in final form, and 3 were accepted for publication as of 30 June, 2016. One report was published, and seven more were submitted to funding agencies but as yet are not published.

A detailed summary of CAPR’s research outputs across the four streams of work is provided as Appendix A, here we briefly summarise four key programs of work. Reference numbers are to the list of publications in Appendix B.

a) The International Alcohol Control Study

This year saw the results of much of the groundwork conducted by CAPR on the Australian arm of the IAC project, with four papers published (4, 6, 13, 44). These included a ground-breaking analysis of the differential price elasticities of alcohol across different sub-groups of the population, which found that heavy drinkers were more responsive to price than lighter drinkers (13), and the first published estimates of the distribution of drinking across different locations in Australia (4). The project team continued to advance the work of the IAC, meeting in Stockholm with the researchers conducting parallel studies in other countries to plan comparative analyses, and submitting an Australian Research Council Discovery Project proposal to fund the analysis of these international comparisons.

b) Drinking culture, subcultures and drinking practices

CAPR has been at the forefront of a return to considerations of the cultural dimension in alcohol policy and research in 2015/16. Prior to July 2015, CAPR staff had reviewed for the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) the literatures on alcohol and culture, pointing to cultural entities at below the whole-society level – variously described as subcultures, social worlds and social scenes -- as important carriers of heavy-drinking norms and practices, and as potential avenues for public
health interventions (see 54). Work by Room and colleagues (33) identified that much of the likely impact of ‘drinking cultures’ was expressed in pressures to drink more or less from people around the drinker. During the year, CAPR staff collaborated with VicHealth to develop a comprehensive framework, launched in July 2016, defining alcohol cultures and providing a lens for designing and implementing programs to change them. This work has fed directly into a VicHealth-funded project, commenced in May 2016, to identify key sub-cultures or scenes amenable to intervention (see Appendix D for details).

c) Understanding and exploring trends in alcohol consumption and related harms

CAPR has developed a substantial program of work examining changes in alcohol consumption and harm in Australia. This work is funded by two ARC grants, one led by Livingston (focusing on overall trends) and one by Pennay (focusing on explaining the declines in youth drinking). The success of Pennay’s ARC grant application in late 2015 represents a major achievement for CAPR, allowing for the first comprehensive study examining why youth drinking in Australia (and elsewhere) continues to decline. Livingston published two important descriptive papers exploring overarching trends in consumption, with a particular emphasis on the contributions of different cohorts (47, 56), and CAPR staff collaborated on a paper exploring whether changes in advertising expenditure in Australia may have contributed to declining youth drinking (37). International comparative analyses are a crucial way to assess the likely explanations for declining youth drinking, and Livingston spent two months of 2016 in Stockholm, developing collaborations with researchers at the Karolinska Institute to conduct these analyses.

d) Alcohol’s harm to others

CAPR continues to play a world-leading role in the developing field of studies looking broadly across the range of alcohol’s harm to others, with CAPR staff advising the World Health Organization in a stream of work on this as a leading element in its Global Strategy on alcohol, and with Laslett coordinating the International Group for Comparative Studies of Alcohol’s Harm to Others (IGSAHO), which meets informally around international alcohol research conferences. In early 2016, the GENAHTO Consortium (formerly GENACIS), of which CAPR is a part, received a four-year grant from the US National Institutes of Health for cross-national analysis of the mounting number of national survey
studies of alcohol’s harm to others. Under a substantial subcontract from this grant, CAPR will augment its archive of comparable international studies, and continue its work on cross-national analyses initiated under an expiring NHMRC grant. Two publications from this work appeared (40, 45) in the year ending June 2016, with a number of papers and a WHO book expected to appear in the following year.

CAPR’s research also included substantial work across other focus areas: reviews of the research into the effectiveness of alcohol policy, alcohol and energy drink use and much more. Appendices A and B provide a fuller picture of the Centre’s research output for 2015/16.

(2) To lead and coordinate a research agenda for world class population health and alcohol policy research.

Researchers contribute to setting research agendas in the first place by productive research work. As described above, with their strong record of research productivity CAPR staff have pushed forward various research agendas related to alcohol policy. In the discussions and conclusions of the 74 articles, commentaries, editorials, chapters and reports published or produced in the year ending June 2016, CAPR staff pointed the way to further research work.

CAPR staff also contribute to setting research agendas by papers and other presentations at scholarly conferences and meetings. In the year ending June 2016, CAPR staff gave 56 papers and presentations, 29 in Australia and 27 overseas (see listing in Appendix B).

CAPR staff also serve in other functions in the research production and publication process which help to set research agendas. During the year CAPR staff were involved in putting together, shepherding into publication, and commenting on in an editorial five special issues or sections of journals on health and alcohol policy research topics. Editorial and reviewing functions for scholarly journals also help to set research directions; several CAPR staff serve on editorial boards of scholarly journals, and middle-level and senior staff regularly serve as reviewers of scholarly papers or proposals.

Writing grant proposals and responding to contract tenders is also a process which contributes to setting research agendas, both in terms of collaborative relationships formed around the proposal or tender and in terms of choices of topics and approaches in the proposals. CAPR has had a productive year in terms of successful proposals and tenders (see Appendix D).
CAPR staff also play leading roles internationally in advancing population health and alcohol policy research. As noted above, Laslett and Room play leading roles in WHO’s substantial international research effort on Alcohol’s harm to others, and Callinan directs the international data archive of the GENAHTO consortium. Participation by Callinan, Livingston and others at CAPR in the International Alcohol Control study has pushed forward the cross-national comparative aspects of this study. With colleagues in Sweden and elsewhere, Livingston has pushed forward age-period-cohort analyses decomposing how changes in drinking occur in different segments of the population, and is now pursuing comparative studies of factors in the multinational decline in youth drinking. CAPR is an increasingly popular destination for overseas alcohol scholars, to spend study visit time working on collaborations with CAPR staff.

(3) To contribute evidence from research to the development of harm-reducing alcohol policy in Australia and internationally.

CAPR staff play a role of providing research-based input and advice in a number of arenas oriented to the development of harm-reducing alcohol policy. Livingston is a member of the Victorian Liquor Control Advisory Council, and of the NHMRC committee to review the Guidelines on Low-Risk Drinking. He served as an expert witness in the court case on licensing decisions in the City of Casey. Room is a member of the WHO Expert Advisory Group in the field, and regularly advises informally on alcohol and drug policies internationally. CAPR is a member of the Alcohol Policy Coalition of Victoria, providing this with public health-based advocacy coalition with research-based advice.

At a more general level, research by CAPR staff is playing an important role in the development of harm-reducing alcohol policy. Livingston’s studies of the correlates of changing density of off-premise alcohol outlets on various indicators of alcohol-related harm has played a substantial role in the increased policy attention to regulation of off-sales licences. The work by Jiang, Callinan and others on differential price elasticity in different segments of the population, and on the association of greater financial difficulties with heavy drinking in the family, have provided important evidence for public health arguments that minimum price or higher tax policies not only diminish rates of alcohol-related harm, but also decrease health inequities in the population. Studies by Laslett and others on alcohol’s harm to others have been
instrumental in showing that harms from a family member’s drinking are broadly spread in the population, extending far beyond the more marginalized cases which show up in Child Protection or family welfare services. CAPR’s work is increasingly serving as a model for studies elsewhere – for instance, its work on alcohol’s harm to others – which contribute to harm-reducing policy formation internationally.

(4) To work collaboratively with FARE to promote and translate research.

CAPR staff prepared or contributed to eight research-based pieces directed at a non-research audience in the course of the year ended June, 2016 (see “non-peer-review publications” in Appendix B). These included, for instance pieces in The Conversation on primary locations for drinking in Australia (67), on the concentration of consumption and its importance to the alcohol industry (71), and on the difficult legal issues in the relation of alcohol and violence (72), and a question-and-answer on alcohol and violence in La Trobe’s ‘knowledge blogs’ (68).

Under the FARE/La Trobe agreement, CAPR staff provide five reports on a Funded Project each year, on topics agreed on between FARE and CAPR. FARE undertakes the promoting and translation of this research into the public arena, normally in the form of a report published by FARE (see, for example, 76 in Appendix B), and through such means as commentaries on its web blog, Drink Tank (http://drinktank.org.au/). Usually, CAPR also publishes a scholarly paper drawing on the work for the Funded Project (e.g., 12 for the project reported in 76). Livingston prepared a report, published by FARE in July 2015, on Understanding Trends in Australian Alcohol Consumption which analysed data from five National Drug Strategy Household Surveys conducted since 2001.

(5) To contribute to education and training of the next generation of highly skilled alcohol policy academic leaders.

Both in formal and informal ways, CAPR serves as a centre of education and training in research skills and thinking for alcohol policy-relevant research and academic work. As is common in research centres, the ordinary processes of collegial comments and suggestions on proposals, study procedures and research papers substantially contribute to the education and training of more junior staff. CAPR staff are regularly involved in guest lectures and presentations to graduate student classes at La Trobe and other academic
institutions. Several CAPR staff also serve on executive or coordinating committees of scholarly societies, helping to organize scholarly meetings which are major sites for education and training of the next generation of scholars.

CAPR staff regularly supervise and advise graduate students at La Trobe and elsewhere. Room and Callinan co-supervise Janette Mugavin’s dissertation at La Trobe on the cultural politics and determinants of low-risk drinking; Room and MacLean co-supervise Claire Wilkinson’s dissertation at Melbourne on Victorian local governments and the management of alcohol policy; Room and Laslett co-supervise Orratai Waleewong’s dissertation at Melbourne on alcohol’s harm to others in Thailand and internationally; and Room is a co-supervisor of Vandenberg’s dissertation at Monash on the economics of alcohol purchasing and consumption, of Bowden’s dissertation at the University of Adelaide on population attitudes to a adherence to low-risk drinking guidelines, and of Paula O’Brien’s dissertation at Melbourne on legal issues in controlling alcohol advertising. Livingston co-supervised the PhD of Katherine Cantwell, whose work examined trends and patterns of ambulance attendances in Melbourne.

Since moving to La Trobe University, CAPR staff have taken advantage of the supervision possibilities afforded to them there, with CAPR staff supervising four Masters students on alcohol related projects. Furthermore two interns, having approached us about gaining experience in alcohol policy research, are working on separate pieces of alcohol-related work.

(6) Subject to agreement, to work towards developing and coordinating a national alcohol policy research network to promote alcohol policy research.

CAPR is a key node in an informal national alcohol policy research network, reflecting collaboration and cooperation with numerous scholars across Australia. These include, for instance, Chikritzhs and others at NDRI, Ritter and others at NDARC, Kypri at the University of Newcastle, Miller, Rowland and Toumbourou at Deakin University, White, Jayasekara and others at the Cancer Council Victoria, Bowden and others at the University of Adelaide, Quilter and colleagues at University of Wollongong, Berends at Australian Catholic University, Hall and Ferris at University of Queensland, Savic and others at Turning Point, Dietze at Burnet Institute, O’Brien at Monash University, and Conigrave at University of Sydney. With such scholars, CAPR staff have joined in grant proposals and tender bids, and pursued joint projects. One or another CAPR staff member was a coauthor with each of the named scholars in the course of the last year.
CAPR and FARE are cooperating on a Research Forum to be held in Canberra on August 4-5, 2016 which will further the development and coordination of a national alcohol policy research network.

CAPR staff also play a key role in international alcohol research networks – Wilkinson and Laslett are on the coordinating committee of the main international social and epidemiological alcohol research association, the Kettil Bruun Society, of which Room is the honorary president. The Centre’s international collaborations are wide-ranging, including work with leading researchers including Rehm, Graham and Stockwell (Canada), Greenfield, Kerr, Schmidt and Babor (US), Casswell (NZ), Rekve and Poznyak (WHO), Thamarangsi (Thailand and WHO), Rossov (Norway), Ramstedt and Cisneros Örnberg (Sweden), Hellman and Mäkelä (Finland), Bloomfield and Asmussen Frank (Denmark), Moskalewicz (Poland), Allamani and Beccaria (Italy), Anderson (Spain), Hope (Ireland), and Meier and Holmes (UK).

Outcomes with respect to the Project Activities in Attachment B of the core centre grant agreement

These provisions of the agreement cover “research”, “policy development and translation”, and “other”. CAPR and La Trobe have complied with the specified requirements under each of these headings that were applicable for the year ended June 30. Notably, La Trobe has funded a postgraduate research fellowship starting in that year, held by Janette Mugavin. The La Trobe administration has also worked with FARE to initiate “an international recruitment process for a suitably qualified and experienced researcher to succeed the initial Director”. In July 2016, this process got under way.

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Appendix A – CAPR’s research publications in the year ended June, 2016

Each of the streams of work is briefly discussed here, and under each stream contents and conclusions of specific research publications have been briefly described. The reference numbers are references to the full listing of the Centre’s publications for the year, which can be found in Appendix B.

(1) Research on alcohol policy formation, impact and implementation:

What are the effects, intended and otherwise, of specific policies? Such effects are most clearly measurable in terms of what changes as policy changes, whether the change occurs at a given moment or more gradually as the policy is implemented over time. Methods used include “natural experiment” before/after studies and time series analyses. Also relevant here are studies which allow modelling of what the effects of policies would be, for instance, in the context of tax or minimum price policies, studies of price responsiveness in different subpopulations. In what manner and how effectively the policies are implemented is crucial to their impact, requiring studies of the routine actions of public agencies such as liquor licensing, local government planners, the police, and the courts. Other research in this stream focuses on the formation of policy, in analyses drawing on policy reports and other documents, media and public discourse, interviews with policy actors, and data on attitudes to alcohol policies in population surveys.

- Continuing his work on the effects of density of alcohol outlets on alcohol consumption and problems, Livingston coauthored a longitudinal analysis of Victorian schoolchildren aged 10-16, followed up a year later (34), which found that a higher density of outlets in the child’s neighbourhood was significantly associated with starting drinking at an earlier age. Modelling on the basis of the longitudinal data found that a 10% increase in outlet density was associated with a 17% increase in the odds of drinking. Livingston and Room were coauthors on a study examining the association of density of different alcohol outlet types with adolescent alcohol use and risky drinking in four Australian states (1). The study found significant associations of the density of off-premise and club licences in the adolescent’s neighbourhood with risky drinking, particularly in urban communities.

- Three papers developed CAPR’s work on the differential effects of alcohol tax measures and prices on different segments of drinkers and of the population. Editing an international series of six papers on the general theme of alcohol price policies as an instrument of health
equity, Callinan et al. (5) introduced the thematic series by noting that, while policies which raise prices, such as a minimum unit price or an alcohol tax increase, may be regressive in economic terms, they are progressive in terms of public health, increasing health equity by differentially improving the health of poorer drinkers. One paper in the series, authored by Jiang and other CAPR staff (13) and using data from CAPR’s Australian arm of the International Alcohol Control study, extended existing Australian studies of price elasticity of demand for alcohol by separating estimates for on-premise from off-premise purchases. Per unit of alcohol, off-premise are much cheaper than on-premise purchases, and the study found that price elasticities were much stronger for off-premise than for on-premise purchases of each type of alcoholic beverages, particularly among lower-income drinkers. In an ARIMA time series impulse-response analysis of the relation of price and affordability to consumption levels of alcoholic beverages between 1974 and 2012, Jiang and Livingston (11) quantified the negative association of consumption with price and the positive association with affordability, finding that in this period in Australia a 10% increase in the alcohol price was associated with a 2% decrease in the population’s alcohol consumption level in the following year, and an overall decrease of 6% by 8 years later. In contrast, when alcohol affordability increased by 10%, the per-capita alcohol consumption increased by a cumulative 3% over the following 6 years.

- Wilkinson and CAPR colleagues analysed developments in the freeze on new late-night liquor sales licences in four inner-city Melbourne municipalities for a report to FARE (82). Nine months after exemptions to the freeze had been introduced in July 2015, there had been rather little activity concerning new permanent late-night licences, and little change also in neighbouring municipalities during the whole period of the freeze, suggesting that the demand for late-night licences in inner-urban Melbourne may be saturated. In other work addressing policies affecting late-night drinking, Livingston joined in a group of researchers developing SimDrink, an agent-based model which uses survey and other data on young drinkers’ “big night out” in Melbourne to conduct policy experiments, modeling the probable effects of policy changes affecting late-night drinking on indicators of aggression and other alcohol-related harms. A paper with a detailed description of SimDrink (36) found some congruence between its predictions and empirical data, although with limited opportunities to make these tests. Another
paper applied the model to two policy changes: extending public transport service to late-night hours (now implemented on weekend nights in Melbourne), and implementing 1am venue lockouts, so that pubs and clubs can continue service after 1am, but no new customers are allowed to enter (35). The modeling found that extension of public transport service had more effect on outer-urban than inner-urban residents, tending to reduce aggression in private places but slightly increase it in public places, while a lockout tended to reduce aggression in private places for outer-urban residents but in public places for inner-urban residents. The authors concluded that the modeling suggested that extending public transport services would have more effect in reducing consumption-related harms than venue lockouts.

- Room has been a co-investigator in a study by legal researchers of the place and meaning of intoxication in Australian criminal laws (80) – a study which has included reviewing the literature on alcohol’s relation to violence, analysis of the more than 500 references to intoxication in Australian criminal laws, and legal analysis of decisions involving intoxication in Australian appellate courts in the last five years. A law review article discusses the multiple roles of evidence of intoxication in Australian criminal law and procedure, and the varied definitions of and criteria for intoxication in the laws (57). A second article (26) analyses specific 2014 Queensland legislation to raise concerns about the variations and ambiguities in how alcohol and drugs are implicated in laws governing police powers, criminal responsibility and punishment.

- CAPR staff also produced or coauthored general reviews and commentaries on the effectiveness of alcohol policy options, and on the policy impact research literature. Livingston and colleagues performed a systematic review for the NSW government of the community impact of liquor licenses (79), reviewing the recent empirical literature particularly on effects of changes in closing times and of policies on tax or price levels. Room coauthored a review for a World Bank publication (65) of evidence relevant to low- and middle-income countries of the effectiveness of different alcohol policies in reducing alcohol problems. He also coauthored a Lancet commentary giving examples from international experience where choices on alcohol or drug policy had had dramatic effects, for good or ill, on rates of harm (50), and a commentary arguing that the evidence is that the protective effects of alcohol are essentially irrelevant for low-risk drinking guidelines (28). Room also coauthored a paper describing the study protocol for an
ongoing mixed-methods evaluation of the effects of New Zealand’s new alcohol laws (16). Livingston coauthored a systematic review of comparative policy analyses between jurisdictions in the alcohol and drug fields in recent years, pointing to the diversity of methods employed in such studies, and the problematic focus in many studies on the policy-as-written, without enough attention to the actual implementation of the policy (29).

(2) Economic, contextual and cultural influences on alcohol purchases, consumption and problems.

To be effective, policymaking must be informed about and responsive to the empirical patterns of behaviour and problems in the population and its subgroups. CAPR approaches this task from several directions: in terms of the economics of drinking, as a consumer commodity; in terms of the social and physical contexts of drinking and their influence on drinking practices and the occurrence of harm; in terms of patterning by social differentiations – the social epidemiology of drinking patterns and problems; and in terms of cultural influences – expectations and norms about drinking less or more, often operating at the level of particular subcultures and social worlds.

- In a report published by FARE (76), Jiang and colleagues analysed Australian Household Expenditure Survey data, finding that Australian households spent more per week on alcohol than on education and about the same as on fuel and power. Reflecting that off-premise alcohol is considerably cheaper than on-premise, less affluent families bought a lower proportion of their on-premise. Families which spent a greater proportion of their total expenditure on alcohol were more likely to experience financial difficulties than other households. In a journal article (12), Jiang and colleagues further analysed the dataset in terms of the interplay of financial difficulties and expenditures on alcohol, finding a much stronger relation at the level of four or more types of financial difficulties, even after controlling for such factors as income, household composition and other expenditures. Using CAPR’s Australian arm of the International Alcohol Control (IAC) study, Callinan and colleagues examined who purchases low-cost alcohol in Australia (6) – and thus will be more affected by a policy which set a minimum price on alcohol. Hazardous and harmful drinkers clearly purchased more low-cost alcohol than moderate drinkers. This relationship was much stronger than the relation between low income and purchasing low-cost alcohol. Jiang
and colleagues examined patterns of off-premise purchasing in the same data-set in greater detail (44). Liquor barns (large box-stores selling only alcoholic beverages) accounted for over half of reported off-sales purchases, and sold alcohol at a cheaper price on average than other types of premise, though not than purchases by phone, internet or mail.

- Again using the Australian arm of the IAC, Callinan and colleagues examined patterns of drinking in different drinking contexts (4). Overall, respondents drank more than five times as much alcohol at their own home as at pubs, bars and nightclubs, with the percentage consumed at home rising with age. The average number of drinks per occasion at home was not significantly less than the average number for an occasion at a pub, though substantially greater than the average number at a restaurant. There was some variation in the patterning by sex and age, with 16-24-year-old males drinking significantly more at others’ homes than at their own, and 25-34-year-old males drinking more at special events than at their own home. The authors note the implication of the findings that efforts to reduce alcohol-related chronic illness need to address drinking in the home.

- In continuing work characterising patterns and subcultures of heavy drinking, Room and colleagues compared risky drinkers in social worlds of heavy drinking with other drinkers in terms of pressures on them to drink more and to drink less (33). Such drinkers were more likely than other drinkers to have been pressured to drink more, not only by friends, but also by people at work and family members. On the other hand, they were also more likely to be pressured to drink less, not only by family members but also by friends. Public health efforts to change drinking subcultures, it is concluded, should seek to reinforce these suggestions to drink less from those around the drinker. MacLean’s paper (15) on the roles of drinking together among young people in the night-time economy argues that the interactions should be seen not only in terms of friends’ influences on each others’ drinking, but also in terms of the drinking together helping to form and maintain the connection. She adds that this perspective points to difficulties for campaigns which aim to dissuade intoxication, so that controls on alcohol availability may be more effective in reducing harms in the night-time economy.

- A paper by Callinan and MacLean (41) drew on survey data as well as qualitative interviews to explore the drink choices of young drinkers who regularly drink 11 or more drinks on an occasion, finding that they were more likely than other young drinkers to drink beer, premixed drinks,
and spirits, particularly choosing spirits when they want to get intoxicated, perceiving off-premise spirits to be the biggest “bang for the buck”. A qualitative paper by Riazi and MacLean (51) investigated round-buying of drinks among young adults in Melbourne, finding that it was considered by many as an important demonstration of their connection with friends, but that they believed that it resulted in an increase in their alcohol consumption. Pennay co-authored an analysis of influences on problematic drinking among lesbian, bisexual and queer women, based on qualitative interviews with a subsample of respondents to an online survey (17). Informants reported using drinking for coping with stressors such as victimisation and abuse, and for connection with others in their sexual identity, both when “coming out” and in continuing participation in scenes connected to their identity. A report to FARE by Stanesby and colleagues (81) examined what respondents to an online survey thought the concept of “responsible drinking” meant, by exploring the relation of drinking practices and attitudes to whether the respondents considered themselves to be responsible drinkers. For Australians, occasional or even regular risky drinking is clearly not a disqualification from considering oneself a responsible drinker.

- A conceptual review by Savic and four CAPR staff explored the idea of a “drinking culture” as it has been used both about societies as a whole and about subcultures and social worlds within a society (54), pointing to the potential importance of the subsocietal levels of subcultures, social worlds and settings for public health efforts to change drinking cultures.

- Pennay and colleagues (25) analysed web blog posts from “Hello Sunday Morning”, an autonomous mutual-help program encouraging drinkers to commit to a period of non-drinking and blog with others in the program about it. While some participants found non-drinking a disruption of their sense of themselves, a larger group found a positive shift in their sense of self in the activities which replaced the drinking, and a third group focused on a more political oppositional stance to the dominance of alcohol in Australian society.

- Room provided the main sociological input to a multidisciplinary review and reconceptualisation of the determinants of harm from addictive behaviour – drinking, drug use and gambling (59-61, 63-64). Social and policy factors predominated among the determinants of transition to risky substance use and gambling, and played important roles also in
transitions from risky behaviour to harmful use and behaviour, and from harmful to low-risk or abstinent behaviour. The book considers multifactorial models for the transitions it considers, but notes that the division of labour in modern science impedes progress in building such cross-disciplinary syntheses.

(3) **Harms to others from drinking.**

CAPR has pioneered in detailed and inclusive studies of alcohol’s harm to others – studies which provide a salient evidentiary basis for policies to limit alcohol consumption and its harms. This work formed the basis for a major stream of work in the World Health Organization’s Global Strategy on alcohol. CAPR staff are leading a series of cross-national analyses including the WHO and Australian datasets, currently submitted for publication or in preparation. CAPR is now a major collaborating institution in the international Gender, Alcohol and Harm to Others (GENAHTO) project, funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health, and CAPR staff are analysing the alcohol’s harm to others data from comparable general-population alcohol surveys in 20 countries in WHO’s European region the RARHA project).

- Callinan, along with three other CAPR staff, led the preparation of this article, a study protocol describing the methods of the studies, including the Australian and WHO studies, which form the initial basis of CAPR’s data archive of detailed and comparable population surveys on alcohol’s harm to others (40). Working with the Australian longitudinal survey data, Laslett and colleagues (46) analysed harms from an intimate partner’s drinking, including emotional harms, serious arguments, physical harm and inadequate role performance. The study found that 10.6% reported such harm during both 2008 and 2011, and 3.0% reported harm in both years. Women were twice as likely as men to have been harmed by an intimate partner, and much more likely to report having been harmed “a lot”.

(4) **Trends over time in drinking, in policies, and in alcohol’s cultural position**

*Trends over time* are an integral interest in other strands of CAPR’s research – they are a crucial dimension in measuring policy impacts and influences on consumption and problems, for instance. In this strand, the trends become the object of study, in investigations of influences on amounts and patterns of drinking, on rates of associated harms, on
alcohol policies or the cultural positioning of alcohol, and of correlations or divergence in trends. Political decision-making on alcohol policy is often more attuned to trends than to absolute values.

- In a report for FARE (78), Livingston analysed trends in packaged liquor outlets in Victoria, finding that on a per-capita basis the number of such stores had increased by 18% between 2001 and 2016. The increase in number of outlets had been primarily between 2001 and 2006; after that, the number of “big box” format stores had increased dramatically, with 63% of them owned by one chain, but the number of independent liquor stores had decreased.

- An age-period-cohort analysis led by Livingston (47), analyzing data from the National Drug Strategy Household Surveys (NDSHSs), has established unambiguously that the recent downturn in Australian per-capita alcohol consumption has primarily reflected a downturn in drinking at all and in volume of drinking initially among teenagers -- and now among those in their early 20s -- when compared to earlier birth cohorts when they were at the same age. The analysis is backed up by a validation paper by Livingston and Dietze (56) showing strong correlations between the trends in the NDSHSs and in per-capita alcohol consumption trends based primarily on production and import/export statistics. The trend in consumption has provoked CAPR staff and others to pursue ongoing investigation of potential explanations. An early landmark in this work is a paper, with two CAPR staff as coauthors, which documents the substantial decline in “above-the-line” expenditures on alcohol advertising after 2007 (37). The study also finds that media channels for alcohol advertising have changed over time, but cautions that expenditures on new media such as Facebook are not included in its data.

- Laslett and Jiang (77) analysed patterns of drinking (and not drinking) among parents, examining trends in parental drinking patterns since the millennium. Using the National Drug Strategy Household Surveys (NDSHS) undertaken between 2001 and 2013, Laslett and Jiang reported that there have been small but significant increases in abstention and decreases in risky drinking among parents between 2001 and 2013. These changes were more marked in male, younger and more disadvantaged parents and not seen in older mothers. In 2013 parents were less likely to be abstainers than non-parents and mothers were
more likely to be abstainers than fathers. Attitudes to alcohol policy seem to be changing in similar ways among parents and non-parents.

- An editorial by Pennay and Room (58) notes that the downturn in alcohol consumption has been widespread among high-income countries, in introducing a journal issue on “drinking cultures and change”, with diverse studies of changes from Finland, Denmark, Italy and Australia. But at a more global level the trends in alcohol consumption have been upward. As part of the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013, a paper with Room among many coauthors reassessed risk factors for disease and disability in 1990, 2000 and 2013, for the first time providing comparable data on risk factor trends (9). The study found that, while the median percentage change in age-standardised Disability Adjusted Life-Years lost because of all risks combined had dropped by 3.8% globally between 1990 and 2013, the median percentage change due to alcohol consumption as a risk factor had increased by 13.6%. The paper notes that “alcohol remains a major risk” but that “there is no international public health treaty on alcohol.... There is a need for a more coherent and effective global response, including detailed policy guidelines based on the substantial evidence available on effective intervention measures”.
Appendix B.


Refereed journal articles: final publication


Refereed journal articles: “Early-view” as of June 30, 2016


Refereed journal articles: Accepted for publication as of June 30, 2016


Book chapters – published


Book chapters – in press as of 30 June, 2016

Non-peer-review publications


Reports


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**Conference, workshop and course presentations**

**Callinan, S.** (2016) Alcohol and Society 4: Findings from the International Alcohol Control Study. Presentation in the Department of Public Health Seminar Series, HS1 Room 115, Bundoora, La Trobe University, 27 April 2016.


**Jiang, H.** (2016) Alcohol consumption and non-communicable diseases. Presentation at the WHO Collaborating Centre for Psychosocial Factors, Substance Abuse and Health, Central South University, Changsha, China, 29 June, 2016.


Laslett, A.-M. (2015) Presentation to the Ombudsman’s Advisory Panel, “Take the grog away, and then we will have mum and dad back”: Effects of others’ drinking on children – a spectrum of harm and solutions? Western Australian Health Department, Perth, 8th December 2015.


Livingston, M. (2016) Young people are drinking less, it’s time to find out why. Presentation at Swedish Council for Information on Alcohol and Other Drugs, Stockholm, 26 April 2016.


Appendix C

Profiles of current staff of the Centre for Alcohol Policy Research

Robin Room

Background

Professor Robin Room was a researcher at the Alcohol Research Group, a US national alcohol research centre in Berkeley, California from 1963 to 1991, and became the Scientific Director from 1977 to 1991. From then until 1998 he was Vice-President for Research at the Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario, Canada, and in 1999 became professor and founding director of the Centre for Social Research on Alcohol and Drugs at Stockholm University. In March 2006, Robin became the founding director of the Centre for Alcohol Policy Research (CAPR), then at Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, and a professor at the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health of the University of Melbourne and the Director of the Centre for Alcohol Policy Research (CAPR) at Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre. In July 2015, he became a professor at La Trobe University, as CAPR moved there. Professor Room received the 2012 Prime Minister’s Award for Excellence and Outstanding Contribution to Drug and Alcohol Endeavours.

Interests

- The formation, implementation and effects of alcohol policies
- Social, cultural & epidemiological studies of alcohol, drugs and gambling behaviour and problems
- Studies of social and institutional responses to alcohol and drug problems

Anne-Marie Laslett

Background

Dr Anne-Marie Laslett has worked in the area of alcohol and drug epidemiology for 20 years at Turning Point and the Centre for Alcohol and Policy Research (CAPR). In 2014 she was awarded a prestigious NHMRC Early Career Fellowship and appointed as a senior research fellow at the National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University (0.8 FTE) to study alcohol-related harms to children using national surveys and administrative datasets. She currently directs the Range and Magnitude of Alcohol’s Harm to Others (AHTO) project at CAPR (0.2 FTE) and is a co-investigator and technical advisor to the World Health Organization/Thai Health international collaborative research project on Alcohol’s Harm to Others. This project is progressing well in Thailand, Laos PDR, Vietnam, Nigeria, Chile, India and Sri Lanka, with data from all countries archived at CAPR. In 2015/16 Anne-Marie focussed on national and international analyses of harms to children linked to per capita alcohol consumption and as identified in the international AHTO project, along with study of parental drinking patterns and alcohol-related harms to intimate partners.

Interests

- Alcohol’s harms to others
- Alcohol-related harms to children
- Alcohol-related family violence
- Population alcohol and drug use and alcohol and drug-related harm
- Oral health
- Multicultural health
• Influence of setting, socioeconomic and other risk factors on drug related use and harm
• Policy & program responses to harm

**Michael Livingston**

**Background**

Dr Michael Livingston joined the Centre for Alcohol Policy Research (CAPR) in 2006 and since then he has predominantly been involved in research examining the relationship between physical availability of alcohol (particularly the density of alcohol outlets) and alcohol-related harms, using a range of spatial and longitudinal statistical techniques. This work made up the bulk of Michael's PhD, awarded in July 2012, which was funded by a scholarship provided by the Sidney Myer Fund and the Australian Rechabite Foundation. Michael's recent work has focussed on trends in alcohol consumption and related harm and on their drivers, with a particular emphasis on the recent declines in youth drinking.

Dr Livingston has published widely in the field and regularly presents his work to academic, government and community audiences. He has a national media profile on alcohol issues, appearing on television (e.g. The 7:30 Report, Nine News), radio (e.g. Radio National, 774, 3AW) and in the print media (e.g. The Age, The Herald Sun, The Australian etc). His dissertation work was awarded a Commendation in the Victoria Premier’s Award for Health and Medical Research.

**Interests**

- Trends in alcohol consumption and harm
- Liquor licensing
- Individual and environmental determinants of alcohol-related harm
- Quantitative methodologies

**Sarah MacLean**

**Background**

Dr. Sarah MacLean’s doctoral work focused on inhalant use. She co-authored two reviews of interventions into petrol sniffing in Indigenous communities, including *Volatile Substance Misuse: a Review of Interventions*, published in 2008 as part of the National Drug Strategy Monograph series. Her PhD, completed in 2007, was a study of social meanings of inhalant use in Melbourne, Australia. She then moved to Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre and worked on a range of alcohol and other drug research projects, in 2011 co-editing a special edition of *Substance Use & Misuse*, looking at inhalant use internationally.

In 2009 Dr MacLean was awarded an ARC linkage postdoctoral fellowship, through the School of Population and Global Health (SP&GH), University of Melbourne, to explore qualitative and quantitative measures of alcohol consumption and associated harms among young people within an urban and a peri-urban (outer- government area) in Victoria. This project involves partnerships with Yarra and Hume City Councils, the Victorian Department of Health, VicHealth, the National Drug Research Institute and the Municipal Association of Victoria. She is now Senior Research Fellow in Social Health Determinants at Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit at the SP&GH, but remains a part-time employee with CAPR.
Interests
- Young people’s substance use
- Inhalants and alcohol
- Health services research
- Drug & alcohol policy development
- Qualitative research methods

Amy Pennay
Background
Dr Amy Pennay is a Research Fellow at the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne, and Centre for Alcohol Policy Research, Turning Point. Dr Pennay has a background in Criminology and was awarded her PhD in 2012. Her PhD examined the social, cultural and economic contexts of alcohol and stimulant use, with a focus on risk environments. In 2013 she was awarded a four year early career fellowship from the NHMRC to explore risky drinking in the night-time economy.

Dr Pennay has worked in alcohol and drug research for more than ten years. She has a keen interest in research methodology, with her PhD utilising an ethnographic, naturalistic study design. Her work at CAPR has included a study of the diffusion and effects of “liquor bans” – prohibitions on drinking on the street or in parks – in Victoria and more widely, an examination of the interplay between hazardous drinking and mental health among same-sex attracted women, and the patterns of consumption and social contexts of alcohol and stimulant use among young patrons of the night-time economy.

Interests
- Drinking cultures
- Social, cultural and economic contexts of alcohol and drug use
- Public perceptions and understandings of drug use; stigma
- Alcohol and drug policy
- Research methodology

Janette Mugavin
Background
Janette Mugavin is a Research Officer at CAPR, La Trobe University. She recently commenced a PhD with the School of Psychology and Public Heath, La Trobe and her thesis will examine the drinking practices of adult Australians who drink, but do so at low levels. A key focus of the study will be to better understand the role of alcohol in the life of low risk drinkers and the strategies and approaches they use to manage their consumption levels.

Janette is a mixed methods researcher with a background in social science, and postgraduate qualifications in statistical analysis. She has worked in the alcohol and other drug (AOD) research field for 10 years, and has completed a range of projects involving AOD service responses, treatment pathways and program evaluations. As part of CAPR, Janette has worked primarily on a suite of projects focused on estimating and understanding alcohol’s harm to others.
**Sarah Callinan**

**Background**

Dr Sarah Callinan is study director of the Australian arm of the International Alcohol Control Study, funded by the Australian Preventive Health Agency. Much of her work is focused on internationally comparative survey research, both through her work on the IAC study as well as her work on the GENAHTO study. She also uses her expertise on survey research in a range of other projects including the development of a survey research tool to measure alcohol consumption in Aboriginal communities. She completed her PhD in Educational Psychology, a psychometric investigation into Learning Disabilities, in 2011. Since beginning at Turning Point on completion of her PhD, Sarah has been working on quantitative studies on drinking before and during pregnancy, on the correlates of alcoholic beverage choice, and on attitudes to drinking, as well as working on the study of Alcohol’s Harm to Others.

**Interests**

- Survey methodology
- Australian attitudes towards alcohol
- Alcohol related harm to both the drinker and others
- Pregnancy and drinking

**Elizabeth Manton**

**Background**

Dr Elizabeth Manton completed her PhD in Public Health (in the field of medical anthropology) in 2011, using ethnographic and discourse analysis methodologies. She was the holder of an NHMRC Public Health scholarship. Her Bachelor of Arts was obtained in history and sociology. Elizabeth has worked in alcohol policy research since 2011. She is a qualitative researcher who has undertaken research projects on alcohol’s harms to others and public drinkers, as well as diverse projects aimed at understanding the social, cultural and historical contexts of alcohol policy in Australia. She was the lead editor of, as well as a contributing author to, the 24-chapter book, *Stemming the tide of alcohol: liquor licensing and the public interest*, published in 2014.

**Interests**

- Alcohol policy discourse analysis
- Liquor licensing
- Baby boomers and alcohol (qualitative approaches)

**Heng (Jason) Jiang**

**Background**

Dr Jiang has been worked at the Centre for Alcohol Policy Research, School of Psychology and Public Health, La Trobe University since 2012. He obtained his Ph.D in Economics from Deakin University in 2013. He is mainly involved in research estimating Alcohol’s Harm to Others, International Alcohol Control Study, and Alcohol Consumption, Consequence and Control Study.
He conducts quantitative, econometric and cost-effectiveness analyses in relation to the harmful use of alcohol and other drugs, with particular interest in impacts of policy interventions on consumer’s alcohol consumption and purchasing behaviour and alcohol related social and health issues; links between trend of alcohol consumption, non-communicable diseases and injuries.

**Interests**

- Alcohol related harms by other’s drinking.
- Policy impacts on alcohol control, consumption and consequences.
- Cost-effectiveness and cost benefit analysis
- Econometric analysis of alcohol and health policies

### Claire Wilkinson

**Background**

Ms Claire Wilkinson joined the team at the Centre for Alcohol Policy Research in 2007. Since then she has completed her Honours degree (psychology) examining the relationship between Personality Disorders and Alcohol Use Disorders. She is currently completing her PhD (population health) at the University of Melbourne on local policies for issuing licences. She completed a Graduate Diploma in Addiction Research in 2013 (Dresden International University, Germany) which included a three month research visit to the Centre for Addiction, Governance and Control at the University of Helsinki, Finland.

Claire’s interests include Liquor Laws (current and historical approaches), enforcement of liquor laws and the role of municipal governments and the state regulatory agency in alcohol policy. Claire uses both qualitative and quantitative methodologies.

**Interests**

- History of the regulatory regime governing alcohol use and licensing premises.
- Enforcement systems and practice.
- Regulatory and licensing systems in low and middle income countries.

### Oliver Stanesby

**Background**

Oliver Stanesby joined the Centre for Alcohol Policy Research in early 2016. Oliver graduated with a Bachelor of Health Science and went on to complete a Masters of Science (Epidemiology) at the University of Melbourne. Oliver is primarily involved with the World Health Organization/ThaiHealth Collaborative Study of Alcohol’s Harm to Others, where he is compiling and analysing the data.

Oliver is a quantitative researcher who has worked with a variety of data including the National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) database, genetic simulation data, and cancer incidence and mortality data.

**Interests**

- Alcohol’s harm to others
- Attitudes towards alcohol
- Quantitative research methods
Orratai Waleewong

Background

Orratai Waleewong is a PhD student at Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, the University of Melbourne under the supervision of Prof Robin Room and Dr. Anne-Marie Laslett (started the 1st year since December 2014) of CAPR. Her thesis area is Alcohol’s Harm to Others particularly in the context of low and middle income countries.

In Thailand, Orratai is a researcher at the Health Promotion Research Center (HPR), International Health Policy Program (IHPP), Ministry of Public Health. She graduated as a pharmacist in 2003, and got her Master of Science in Pharmacy Administration from Mahidol University in 2008. She has been working in alcohol policy arena since 2009 and involved in Thailand-Global Health on Non-communicable Diseases Group since 2012. She is now taking part as the global coordinator of the WHO/ThaiHealth international research project on Alcohol Harm to Others running in 7 countries.

Interests

- Alcohol policy
- Health Promotion Policy
- Social determinants of health