

## About the authors

**Claire Aitchison** is a senior lecturer in the Student Learning Unit at the University of Western Sydney. Her work involves supporting doctoral students, early career researchers and academics writing theses and other publications. She has researched and published on the pedagogies of doctoral writing including an edited book (with Alison Lee and Barbara Kamler) titled *Publishing pedagogies for the doctorate and beyond* (2010). Claire also continues to pursue her interest in gendered experiences of education and the interface between education, mothering and family life.

**Megan Blaxland** is a Research Associate at the Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales. Her research focuses on families' negotiation of social policy environments, especially those of income support, child care and family policy. Megan's research has included Australian mothers' experiences of welfare-to-work requirements, the circumstances of grandparents who are bringing up their grandchildren, as well as Australian and international early childhood education and care policies. Megan's research is driven by a desire to understand the relationship between policy as it is designed and policy as it is experienced by those it targets.

**Colleen Chesterman** is an adjunct professor at the University of Technology, Sydney. She is the former Executive Director of the ATN Women's Executive Development Program (ATN WEXDEV), a dynamic and strategic career development program designed for senior women on the academic and general staffs of universities.

She has taught in schools and universities, and worked in publishing and research. For three years, she was Deputy Director of the NSW Women's Co-ordination Unit and for four years Director of the NSW Council of Social Service, the major representative body in social policy and community development. She has also run for ten years her own consultancy firm, specialising in policy development in areas such as women's and youth affairs, strategic planning and management for arts and community services organisations and social and cultural planning.

**Leanne Cutchner** is a senior lecturer in the Discipline of Work and Organisational Studies at the University of Sydney. Her research explores the interconnections between work and consumption and reproduction processes. This has led her to explore how issues of gender, race and age impact on worker and consumer identity. Leanne has published in a range of journals including *Gender, Work and Organization*, *Journal of Consumer Culture* and *Journal of Organisational Change Management*. Her book *Constructing the customer* (VDM Verlag) was published in 2008.

**Susan Goodwin** is a senior lecturer in policy studies in the Faculty of Education and Social Work at the University of Sydney. Her research interests include the study of gender, contemporary cultural sociology and social policy. She is co-author of the books *Social policy for social change* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2009) and *The sociological bent: inside metro culture* (Thomson, 2005) and is currently working on a new book 'Gender capital at work: the intersections of class, gender and occupations' (Palgrave Macmillan UK, forthcoming) with Kate Huppatz. Sue is interested in how best to understand gender inequality in contemporary Australian society and her work has addressed gendered practices in policy processes, social policy, the 'community', occupations and in metropolitan culture, including motherhood culture.

**Kate Huppertz** is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Sydney. Her research interests include Bourdieusian theory and the sociology of gender, class and work. She is currently working on a new book 'Gender capital at work: the intersections of class, gender and occupations' (Palgrave Macmillan UK, forthcoming) with Sue Goodwin. Kate is interested in exploring the role of culture in the production of inequality. Her work has examined contemporary gendered and classed identities and practices, and the intersectionality of gender and class, including the relationship between motherhood and class.

**Denise Lynch** is a lecturer in the Social Work and Policy Studies Program in the Faculty of Education and Social Work at Sydney University. She teaches in the areas of child protection and child wellbeing and researches child abuse, child neglect and refugee children. She was a Senior Manager in NSW Community Services before working at Sydney University and has maintained an interest in professional social work practice.

**Talila Milroy** is an Aboriginal woman from the Pilbara region of Western Australia. She belongs to the Yindjibarndi tribe on her mother's side and Palku tribe from her father's side. Talila is currently enrolled in a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Sydney and plans to study medicine. She is very interested in Aboriginal social justice and hopes that her studies will let her contribute to this area.

**Jane Moore** is a PhD student at the University of Sydney working on the topic 'Reconciliation through music: a study of reconciliation in two schools'. The research involves song writing and t-shirt painting with year five and six students at a predominantly Aboriginal school in Katherine in the Northern Territory and a non-Aboriginal class in West Somerset in Tasmania. The investigation emphasises that involvement

in the creative arts can benefit children and assist them in their understanding of reconciliation. Jane has worked as an artist, musician, teacher and researcher in a variety of different settings.

**Helen Proctor** is a lecturer in education in the Faculty of Education and Social Work at the University of Sydney. Her research interests include the study of the complicated relations between families and schools from the 19th to the 21st centuries. A key theme in Helen's current research is the changing nature of parents' involvement in the educational arena. She is especially interested in mapping the historical changes in what it means to be a 'good' educational parent. Helen is a co-author of *School choice: how parents negotiate the new school market in Australia* (Allen & Unwin, 2009) and is currently writing a new history of Australian schooling with Craig Campbell to be published by Allen & Unwin in 2012.

**Margot Rawsthorne** is a senior lecturer in community development in the Faculty of Education & Social Work at the University of Sydney. She has a number of recent publications concerning the experiences of lesbian parents in urban and regional New South Wales, including 'Just like other parents? Supporting lesbian parented families', *Australian Journal of Social Work* and 'Who cleans the sink? Work/family arrangements in lesbian parented families', *Community, Work and Family*. She is currently writing on the impact of social policy changes on lesbian-parented families, comparing data from in-depth interviews undertaken in 2005 and 2009. Margot has a broad research interest in social change and social disadvantage/exclusion. She is particularly interested in experiences of social disadvantage/exclusion shaped by gender, sexuality and location.

**Lynette Riley** is a Wiradjuri and Kamilaroi woman from Dubbo and Moree. She is a senior lecturer and academic coordinator at the Koori Centre, University of Sydney. Lynette has over 30 years experience working as an administrator and a teacher in Aboriginal education and was one of the founding members of the NSW DET Aboriginal Education Unit. As an Aboriginal academic, Lynette has been actively involved in researching new solutions and effecting change in programs for Aboriginal children and their communities, and in addressing the interwoven interactions with non-Aboriginal people, communities and organisations. She believes that reconciliation is an imperative, if we are to create understanding and move forward in this nation.

**Anne Ross-Smith** is professor of management learning and Director of Graduate Studies in the Faculty of Business and Economics at Macquarie University. She is former Head of the School of Management in the Faculty of Business at the University of Technology, Sydney. Anne holds a PhD in management from Macquarie University. Her major research areas are gender and organisation theory as well as women in management, corporate governance and organisational leadership. She is an associate editor of *Gender Work and Organization*.

**Louisa Smith** is a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Education and Social Work at the University of Sydney. Her research interests include gender, sexuality, labour processes, and gender and work. She has contributed chapters to *Talking up: young women's take on feminism* (edited by Flutter & Else-Mitchell, 1998) and 'Queer masculinities: a critical reader in education' (edited by Rodriguez & Landreau, forthcoming). Louisa is intrigued by the resilience of the gender order and inspired by stories in her research which rupture and resist it. She attempts to articulate these moments of crisis, with the hope of mapping out some possibilities for change.