

2009 Australian National Postgraduate Law Conference

hosted by the ANU College of Law

The 2009 Australian National Postgraduate Law Conference was hosted by the ANU College of Law on 11 and 12 June at the ANU College of Law.

According to the postgraduate student conference organisers, research is often motivated by a belief that contemporary knowledge and thinking on a subject is inadequate. Many researchers hope that their insights can contribute to addressing a recognised problem or identifying and rectifying those that were not even known to exist. Acknowledging these motivations, and the ANU College of Law's distinct ethos of law reform and social justice, the theme for this year's ANU College of Law postgraduate conference was, *Law and Change: Exploring the role of legal research in law reform and social justice*

The conference was opened by Professor Michael Coper, ANU College of Law Dean; Associate Professor Simon Rice OAM, Director, Law Reform and Social Justice and Dr Mark Nolan, Director, Higher Degree Research.

On day one of the conference, expert speakers provided insights into the role of legal research in law reform and social justice including:

- Professor Don Rothwell - *Maintaining a dialogue': lights, camera, mobile phones, the news cycle and the law*
- Dr Hitoshi Nasu - *How to get your PhD published*
- Professor Margaret Thornton - *Research in the new knowledge economy*, and
- Associate Professor Patricia Eastal - *Using research findings to achieve social justice and law reform: sexual assault and domestic violence myths*.

In sessions conducted on climate change, water law, counter-terrorism, commercial law, and sexual assault; postgraduate students presented motivations for their research, the problems they are hoping to address, and how their research will improve the law and society.

The Hon Michael Kirby, Distinguished Visiting Fellow, presented the opening address on *Staying honest but having values in research* on day two followed by Dr Kris Hanscombe, S.C. whose address was titled, *Scope and limitations of legal research in achieving legislative substantive or procedural change*.

The postgraduate students presented their topics in sessions on international law, refugees, children's rights, public law, customary and indigenous land law, and law, space and place.

For a detailed [conference program](#)

Photo: Delegates attending the Law and Change Conference at the ANU College of Law

