

Research Directions

Office of Research Services

Cultural Complexity



Professor Ien Ang founding director of the Centre for Cultural Research has been successful in obtaining a prestigious Professorial Fellowship from the Australian Research Council. As part of her five year Fellowship Professor Ang will work on developing our knowledge of the complex cultural challenges facing 21st century Australia and how these challenges can be addressed through engaged cultural research which the CCR leads internationally.

'It's commonplace to think of Australia as a culturally diverse place and we know that this diversity is more than a neat "mosaic" of peoples with different foods, beliefs and lifestyles' said Professor Ang. 'Many Australians live "hybrid" lives influenced by a multitude of cultures in a range of ways, creating culturally complex communities. That "cultural complexity" affects social and professional practices and so it is important to understand the practical impact of that cultural complexity on public policy, institutions and the broader community'.

A series of interviews will be carried out with key stakeholders in a broad range of public sector organisations in Australia. While media and arts organisations engage with cultural diversity everyday as part of their community consultation processes (e.g. exhibition design, language policy, audience development strategies and so on) increasingly, cultural diversity issues are important in 'non-cultural' areas such as health and aged care, education and urban planning. By gauging cross-sectoral similarities and differences with respect to cultural diversity issues, the research aims to develop a more integrative approach to 'diversity management' in the public sector. This will have policy and organisational implications for a range of government service providers and those who make use of their services.

Professor Ang says, 'the research aims to lead better practice and provide innovative solutions for public institutions as they respond to the increasing complexity of their roles and the cultural environments they now have to operate in'.

Project Title: *Cultural Research for the Twenty-first Century: Building Cultural Intelligence for a Complex World*

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Web Site

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