



## Quarterly Newsletter

# THE CENTRE FOR LEADERSHIP AND LEARNING IN RISK

### Newsletter April 2019

#### CLLR Programs for Semester Two

This Newsletter contains much information about your options to study in the Social Psychology of Risk (SPoR). The Centre for Leadership and Learning in Risk (CLLR) has set the following dates for studies for Semester Two.

#### Perth Double Workshop 22,23 and 25,26 July

Due Diligence– 22, 23 July  
<https://cllr.com.au/product/due-diligence-workshop-unit-13/>

Social Amplification of Risk – 25,26 July  
<https://cllr.com.au/product/social-amplification-risk-unit-8/>

You can register for these workshops here:  
<https://cllr.com.au/register-to-study/>

Individual Workshops \$1350 each, Dual Workshop Discount \$2400

For more information contact:  
[rob@spor.com.au](mailto:rob@spor.com.au)

**The Social Psychology of Risk Presents**

## Perth Workshops

### Due Diligence & Social Amplification of Risk

Due Diligence 22/23 July & Social Amplification of Risk 25,26 July

**Workshop One:** Dr Long and Greg Smith present their highly acclaimed Two Day Due Diligence Workshop on 22 and 23 July. You can read about the program and register here: <https://cllr.com.au/product/due-diligence-workshop-unit-13/>

**Workshop Two:** Dr Long presents The Social Amplification of Risk Workshop on 25,26 July. You can read about the program and register here: <https://cllr.com.au/product/social-amplification-risk-unit-8/>

Single Workshop - \$1350  
Double Workshop - \$2400

Participants receive a complimentary copy of Dr Long's and Greg Smith's book: *Risky Conversations, The Law, Social Psychology and Risk*.

The workshops are sponsored by The Centre for Leadership and Learning in Risk [www.cllr.com.au](http://www.cllr.com.au)

**DETAILS**  
Location: Flying Angel Club  
76 Queen Victoria St Fremantle  
Time: 8am to 4pm Daily  
Catering Included.  
More Information: [rob@spor.com.au](mailto:rob@spor.com.au)  
mb 0424547115

## Canberra - Two Week Intensive Workshops - 6-16 August 2019



**Four consecutive Modules, come for one or your combination choice.**

Module 6 Holistic Ergonomics - 6,7 August  
<https://cllr.com.au/product/holistic-ergonomics-unit-6/>

Module 7 Learning, Community and Risk - 8,9 August  
[https://cllr.com.au/product/learning-](https://cllr.com.au/product/learning-community-and-the-social-psychology-of-risk-unit-7/)

[community-and-the-social-psychology-of-risk-unit-7/](https://cllr.com.au/product/learning-community-and-the-social-psychology-of-risk-unit-7/)

Module 8 The Social Amplification of Risk - 12,13 August  
<https://cllr.com.au/product/social-amplification-risk-unit-8/>

14 August Whole Day Semiotic Walk

Module 12 iThink - 15,16 August  
<https://cllr.com.au/product/ithink-critical-thinking-dialectic-and-risk-unit-12/>

Cost of each module is \$1350.00 or discounts available for those choosing more than one module:  
Contact [robertlong2@icloud.com](mailto:robertlong2@icloud.com) for your discount

All modules to be held at:  
CLLR Seminar Room  
10 Jens Place  
Kambah  
ACT

Some participants will be attending from Europe, Canada and USA.  
Australian participants can attend any session they wish.  
If attending more than one module please contact for your discount:[rob@spor.com.au](mailto:rob@spor.com.au)

## Culture Workshop

11,12 September 2019  
CLLR Seminar Room  
10 Jens Place  
Kambah  
ACT  
<https://cllr.com.au/product/culture-leadership-program-unit-15/>

### Workshop Payment

You can register and pay for your workshop here: <https://cllr.com.au/register-to-study/>

## Online Studies

International Students can enrol online at any time  
<https://cllr.com.au/online-courses-overseas-students/>

Modules are undertaken by watching videos, interacting with an appointed coach and skype

sessions.

## Read a Recommendation about the Online Learning Program

I could literally write a book to completely express what the depth and quantity of learning that I have received from this course. I have worked on this a lot today and keep adding and subtracting, adding and subtracting.

Below is my best summation. It comes to 13 lines on my Word document so you may have to cut some lines. If you were looking for a different focus on what I sent you, just let me know. I tried to touch on WHAT I learned, how it looks with the online model and how it has been a benefit to me.



This course work has helped me build a more mature attitude toward risk and understand that there are a multitude of factors that influence human behavior. Many of these factors exist in the unconscious and are hidden to those that have not been trained what to look for, what questions to ask and (most importantly) to listen for.

As I have progressed in the course work, I understand why risk makes sense, how I can help others become more risk intelligent and how to best tackle issues that arise as part of being alive and human.

Between reading the books, watching the videos and consistent feedback and interaction with my mentor Hayden Collins, Rob Long and several others at CLLR I have the utmost in support and encouragement in this learning adventure.

Clearly the Safety industry today is mired in a reductionist, mechanistic, systems only type of world view. A large part of what is missing is a real understanding of why people make choices and behave the way they do. For someone like me who works in Safety, CLLR filled that void by offering new and innovative ways to tackle risk, conduct incident investigations and create a culture that puts people and learning first.

Don McCormack  
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866-865-3404 Fax  
10644 West Little York Road, Suite 200  
Houston, TX 77041  
[don.mccormack@jci.com](mailto:don.mccormack@jci.com)

[See more recommendations here:](#)

<https://vimeo.com/186359451>

## Dr Long Joins Federation University

Dr Long is pleased to announce he is joining Federation University and will be working initially in the Masters in Applied Science (OHS) at VIOSH. (<https://study.federation.edu.au/#/course/DEH9>)

Whilst Dr Long continues to run programs through the Centre for Leadership and Learning in Risk (<https://cllr.com.au/>), his work with the University now brings all the diversity of the Social Psychology of Risk (SPoR) to VIOSH and the University.

If you are interested in doing a Masters or PhD and learning in the Social Psychology of Risk, here is your opportunity to study something really different about the nature of tackling risk.

You can apply here: <https://study.federation.edu.au/#/study-area/Occupational+health+and+safety>

Or, call/contact the program coordinator Liz Seward ([e.seaward@federation.edu.au](mailto:e.seaward@federation.edu.au)) at or Dr Long directly ([rob@spor.com.au](mailto:rob@spor.com.au))

It is also envisaged for the future that Dr Long will be teaching individual units within VIOSH in the Social Psychology of Risk at Certificate and Diploma level in 2020.

Dr Long is the founder of the Social Psychology of Risk having published seven books in the discipline. There is no other authentic delivery of this discipline Nationally or Internationally or indeed study that includes the unique Body of Knowledge Dr Long has developed in SPoR.

More detailed announcements will follow from Federation University about plans and developments in this space.

**For those interested here is the structure of the MAppSc (OHS):**

1. EDMED7037 Ways of Researching\* 30CP– conducted online by the FedUni Education department over either semester one or two. Once a student has been accepted into the master's stream, the student then needs to enrol in the researching course. \*NB Students have the option to be enrolled in HEALT6001 and be credited for EDMED7037 which may align with their topic.

HEALT6001 Research Methods for Health 30CP

i. A critical appraisal of literatureii. A detailed research thesis proposal.

1. SCOHS7701 The Critical Researcher 30CP – conducted in consultation with the VIOSH HE Program Coordinator & University Supervisors over either semester one or two. This course is primarily concerned with preparing a literature review and defining a research proposal. The three assessed requirements (assessed by VIOSH) for this course are:

Description of topic – 15%, Diagrammatic representation of literature – 15%, Literature review of publishable standard – 70%

1. SCOHS7703 Presentations 20CP– conducted in consultation with the VIOSH HE Program Coordinator & University Supervisors over either semester one or two. This course will use your research to prepare a presentation or poster for a seminar or conference. Assessments (assessed by VIOSH) are as follows:

Plan for seminar/conference presentation – 10%, Plan for journal article – 15%, Prepare full draft of paper or poster – 25%, Present paper or poster at seminar/conference – 25%, Prepare paper or poster for journal article – 25%

1. SCHOHS7704 Thesis 40CP– conducted in consultation with the VIOSH HE Program Coordinator & University Supervisors over either semester one or two. This course will comprise conducting your research to prepare a 20,000 word thesis. This will be assessed by VIOSH and examined externally. Assessments are as follows:

Prepare an ethics application – 20%, Submit draft of thesis – 30%, Submit final thesis – 50%

Individual Modules in the Masters at Grad Certificate, Grad Diploma and Masters will be available in 2020.

## **The Brain a Mediating Organ**

One of the weaknesses of reductionist

thinking that permeates the risk and safety industry is the lopsided focus on cognition/brain as the focus for risk taking and decision making. The focus on cognitivism privileges a definition of the mind as the brain rather than an holistic and embodied understanding of the human person.

Over recent years we have seen a growing focus on cognitive neuroscience as the new solution for risk and safety. Unfortunately, few people question the assumptions of cognitive neuroscience. Cognitive neuroscience assumes that the brain is a decision making organ that acts like a computer directing the body into action. There is no evidence to support such a view. As Claxton (*Intelligence in the Flesh*) states:

‘Brain is servant not master of the body. It’s a chat room, not a directorate. Seeing, thinking, deciding and acting are not strung out, like different departments in a factory; they are all inextricably intertwined’

Much of our somatic intelligence operate unconsciously. We simply do not have to think about it. Our feelings and emotions are no enemies of the body but rather their strength. There is no ‘inner’ and ‘outer’ sense of human being, mind or personhood.

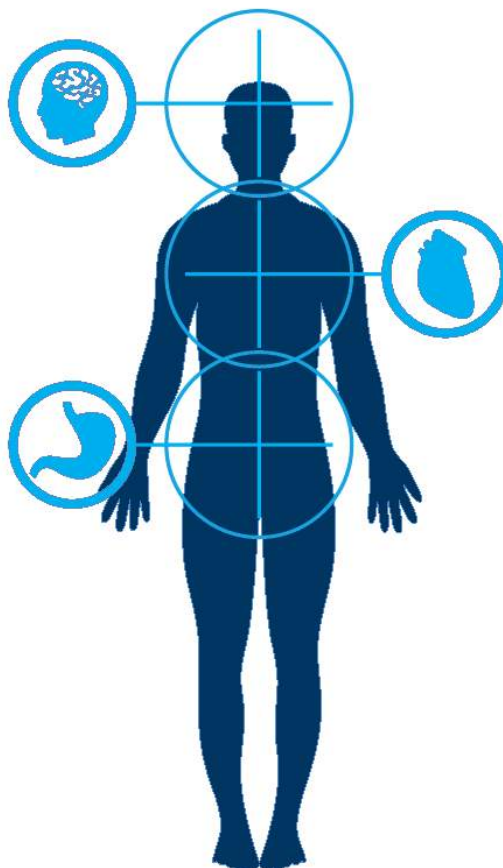
Rather than being bogged down in the language of ‘stimulus’ and ‘response’, a hang over of behaviourism, we should be thinking in the language of resonance. Our body is the theatre of the emotions and we engage with others in feedback loops through ‘somatic markers’. In other words, much of what we do is triggered by other bodies as we resonant with them. None of this requires brain direction.

Perception and action are connected in circular feedback loops. This is why humans are so affected by the emotions of others. Our sensorimotor activity is coupled to other people and the environment. It is a delusion to think humans can act independently of social and environmental factors. Thoughts, feelings and actions only receive meaning in relation to others and the environment. The psyche is not in the brain but rather in the enactment of life between persons. This is what Buber called ‘i-thou’. Similarly, consciousness is not found in the head but in the human-person-in-situ.

The implications of human embodiment and understanding decision making is significant. Similarly, decision making is not just a bout the brain but much more about the whole mind (person) in situ. Understanding human judgment and decision making is therefore not just a cognitive process but holistic social enactment.

The implications of this understanding has huge implications for how we seek to tackle mental health, investigations and learning. It requires a complete rethink of how the risk and safety industry considers the nature of change, personhood, well being and education.

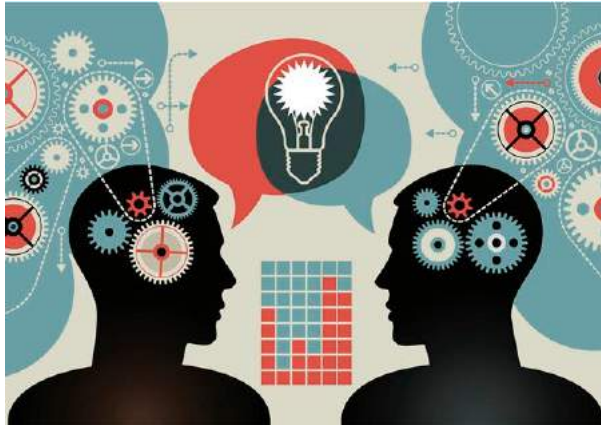
For further reading:





[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/233611983\\_The\\_Brain\\_--\\_A\\_Mediating\\_Organ](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/233611983_The_Brain_--_A_Mediating_Organ)  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/262972727\\_Embodied\\_affectivity\\_On\\_moving\\_and\\_being\\_moved](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/262972727_Embodied_affectivity_On_moving_and_being_moved)

## Making AI More Human???



This is the title of a recent article in the *Scientific American Mind* (Making AI More Human *Scientific American Mind* September 2019). The article raises some interesting contradictions about how we understand ourselves, personhood and the human mind.

We see countless speculations about what the future might be fortunately, humans have no crystal balls and most predictions are going to be wrong. Probably the last place I would go to look for some sense of prophetic insight would be the safety industry. The

skills required to think critically, creatively, take risks with insight and think in risk in general are simply not encouraged in the sector. This is why all the conferences on safety are just all about the same old hashed stuff: more regulation, more paperwork, more legislation, more standards and more codes of practice.

A recent paper by EY plays straight into the playbook of speculations and naïve projections regarding AI. Of course, the whole focus is on objects, the worship of technique and technology.

[https://cdn.instantmagazine.com/upload/12417/ey\\_report\\_v14\\_v04c\\_interactive.b827644c74ad.pdf](https://cdn.instantmagazine.com/upload/12417/ey_report_v14_v04c_interactive.b827644c74ad.pdf)

I wonder how scientists are going to program fallibility into computer algorithms? I wonder how these unconscious unpredictable random mistakes will be programmed? I wonder how uncontrollable emotions and feelings will also be programmed? I wonder if the computer will know it is conscious? I wonder how the scientists will program dreaming into the machine? These are questions that challenge the nonsense language of 'machine learning' and many assumptions of the AI industry that completely ignore the evidence of socio-phenomenology. For further reading:

Claxton, G., (2016) *Intelligence in the Flesh*. Yale University Press. New Haven.

Damasio, A., (1999) *The Feeling of What Happens*. Harvest Books. New York.

Fuchs, T., (2018) *Ecology of the Brain*. Oxford Uni Press. London.

Noe, A., (2009) *Out of Our Heads*. Hill and Wang. New York.

Thompson, E., (2007) *Mind in Life*. Harvard Uni Press. New York.

Varela, F., et.al. (1993) *The Embodied Mind*. MIT Press. London.

## Conspiratorial Thinking

Conspiracy thinking seeks to believe that there are hidden, systematic and intelligent mechanisms and people who collude for a common outcome. Conspiracy thinking seeks to find common elements in random phenomena through



Fundamental Attribution Error. We have witnessed this recently through the Christchurch shooting and numerous gun events in the USA. Indeed, the President of the USA is a conspiracy theorist himself. (Moyer, *Why We believe Conspiracy Theories*, Scientific American, March 2019).



There are several reasons for the prevalence of conspiracy thinking. The principle reason is a lack of discernment, wisdom and critical thinking. Conspiratorial thinking is most common in poorly educated groups that cannot sift or critique evidence. Indeed, evidence seems to get in the way of conspiracy theory. Conspiracy theory is a form of fundamentalist belief and requires extensive amounts of faith to maintain such belief.

Conspiracy theory denies the reality of random coincidence. It believes absolute power is able to hide in plain view and that only a few can see the truth, usually the initiated in the in-group. Even though conspiracy theory has been about for centuries it is now assisted by the ignorance of social media. It seems anyone with some wild idea can get a huge following on social media if they are able to rouse up fear, anxiety and in-groupness.

Conspiracy theory attracts people who feel alienated, powerless and out-of-group. Coming into a group that knows the hidden secret provides power and superiority and the search for black and white answers. The conspiracy theory provides a sense of rightness and certainty to an in-group in the face of uncertainty. The conspiracy theorist is infused with reductionist thinking seeking to find the simple black and white answer to complex and wicked problems. Conspiratorial thinking was first documented by Festinger. The same attraction and motivations to belong to fundamentalist cults apply to the attraction to conspiracy theory.

The best response to conspiracy theory is education particularly in: critical thinking, cultural theory, analytical thinking, social politics, ethics and historiography. All these skills are profoundly absent from the compulsory miseducation of the risk and safety sector. Unfortunately, the same conspiratorial thinking is quite common in popular models of incident investigations on the market. In a complex world of complex and wicked problems the industry continues to maintain the mythology of root cause.

## Freebies and Giveaways

Real Risk, Human Discerning and Risk (book 3 in the series on risk) is now free as a download:

<https://www.humandimensions.com/product/real-risk/>

Just login, submit your details and the book is yours. Your details will be included in the newsletter database.

Fallibility and Risk, Living With Uncertainty (book 7 in the series on risk) remains as a free download:

<https://www.humandimensions.com/product/fallibility-risk-living-uncertainty/>

Real Risk Talking Book

<https://spor.com.au/podcasts/risky-conversations-talking-book/>

Risky Conversations Videos

<https://vimeo.com/album/3938199>

Human Dimensions Videos

<https://vimeo.com/humandimensions>

CLLR Videos

<https://vimeo.com/cllr>

Conversations with Jeff Lyth

<https://spor.com.au/podcasts/conversation-about-a-new-approach-to-safety-with-jeff-lyth/>

## Risk and the Anti-Vaxxer Crisis



A recent spray from a famous Australian boxer Anthony Mundine has brought to light yet again the danger and risks of listening to voices of ignorance.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/dont-vaccinate-your-kids-period-anthony-mundine-takes-surprise-anti-vax-stance>

Unfortunately, we are now experiencing a resurgence of unnecessary harm through the anti-vaxxer crisis is infused with fundamentalist and conspiratorial fervor. Recently there has been a measles outbreak in North Queensland (<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/health-authorities-warn-of-a-measles-outbreak-in-queenslands-north/news-story/31cbe8e761024a00b6393d036b528e9d>). This is being fueled by astounding ignorance and populist social media mythology. A recent woman and wife of an NRL footballer hit the headlines by publicizing that she would not vaccinate her kids (<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6792813/NRL-stars-wife-runs-200-anti-vaxxer-workshop-claims-parents-bullied-vaccinations.html>). Similarly, others like Pauline Hanson and One Nation also foster confusion and ignorance by peddling mythology (<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/hanson-refuses-to-back-down-from-vaccination-comments-as-furore-rises>). None of the anti-vaxxer noise has any connection to evidence, science or critical thinking.

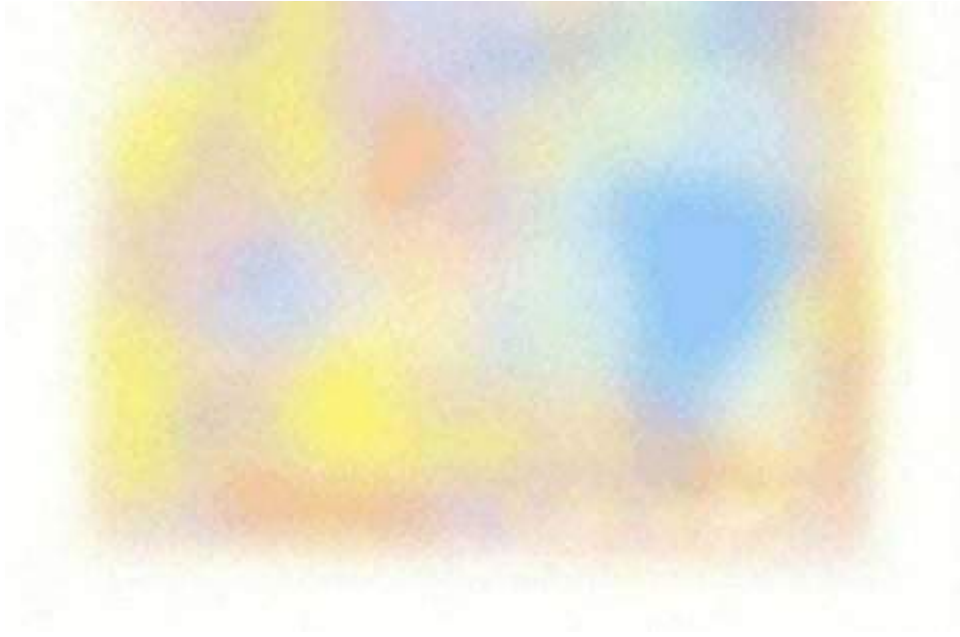
However, as with all fundamentalist ideology, expecting to change minds with rational argument doesn't work (<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-20/anti-vaxxer-wont-convince-them-by-berating-them-on-facebook/10826298>). Mixed in with all this fundamentalist rhetoric is a fear of hormesis that is, that children need to be harmed (injected with the disease) so that their body can generate anti-bodies to combat the disease. So much for zero harm ideology.

The key to change is conversation, listening and keeping channels open. In the meantime, diseases that were once thought to be eradicated are coming back with a vengeance.

## What Can You See?







What is unusual about this image? The first five correct answers will receive a copy of *Risky Conversations, The Law Social Psychology and Risk*. email your entri to [rob@spor.com.au](mailto:rob@spor.com.au)

[You may have to look at it for a while before anything happens.](#) Don't forget to include your postal address with your entry. Usually all prizes are gone in less than 30 minutes from the post of the newsletter.

## Cool Links

Rob's Blog

<https://safetyrisk.net/author/rob-long/>

Websites

<https://www.humandimensions.com/>

<https://spor.com.au/>

<https://cllr.com.au/>

<https://www.brainbashers.com/>

<http://www.openculture.com/free-philosophy-ebooks>

<http://www.couragerenewal.org/blog/>

<https://mysafetythoughts.com/>

## Email

If you have any questions aor quiries emerging out of this newsletter please contact:

[rob@humandimensions.com](mailto:rob@humandimensions.com)

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