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Associate Professor
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Research Interests and Prior Work: From rats to rat race to big cats.

- Interdisciplinary background influences my research.
- Collaboration of ideas & disciplines
- Accounting in its organisational, social & political contexts.
The fun: Social and environmental accounting

- Public housing: social policy & AIS & organisational change
- Professionalisation of public housing

- Mining: rehabilitation of mine sites, accounting & tax.
  - eg. Rehabilitation of mining sites: Do tax and accounting systems legitimize the privileged or serve the community interests? (with Natalie Stoianoff – Fac Law)
The Project to be discussed: Current wip (since 1999!!)

- Working paper 2000:
  - The role of accounting in the professionalisation of housing services. Or
  - The dilution of accounting expertise. Or
  - Generic accounting vs professional accounting

- Poster:
  - PROFESSIONALISATION OF SOCIAL HOUSING: REDEFINING EXPERT KNOWLEDGE
• The National Community Housing Forum (NCHF) (1999) considered what professionalisation of social housing might mean and require.

• These discussions and the formation of the Australian Housing Institute (AHI) herald a new phase in social housing.

• This new institution offers a unique opportunity to re-define the notion of professionalism as it is drawing together a number of disciplines.

• The AHI is emerging with an aim to be inclusive and recognise a range of experiences, including those of volunteers, into its membership and knowledge base.

• This inclusiveness will be contrasted to perceptions of professions which aim to be exclusive so as to delineated a distinct expertise assigned with being elite.
• In re-defining expert knowledge is the social housing profession poised to emerge with community solidarity and hence an empowered base for influence, or will it be seen as diluting its knowledge base with a danger of being rendered irrelevant?
Data:

- Telephone interviews of members from the Chartered Institute of Housing, UK.
- Observer of accreditation of courses for NSW Dept Housing
  - Participation as an observer in the working party to determine the contents of degrees specifically tailored for social housing providers and as an observer for the accreditation of a provider of certificate qualifications occurred over several days during 1998 and 1999.
- Telephone meetings for the steering committee to establish AHI.
- Interviewed:
  - Chairpersons of AHI in Adelaide and plans to develop AHI.
  - CEO of NSW Department of Housing (NSWDH)
  - The director of Human Services of NSWDH on several occasions allowed me access to their processes of professionalisation.

- Presentation of poster at National Housing conference Adelaide 2003.
- Inaugural annual report of AHI.
Methodology:

• Participant - Observer
Theory:

- Weber
- Giddens
- ??
Potential for Academic Collaboration: 1+1=3

- Management and/or OC journals
Potential for Industry Collaboration: Any big cats out there?

- NSW Department of Housing:
- ARC:
- AHI
Personal Areas of Success: I can & like to

- identify & develop synergies
- see potential of project
- offer alternate accounting journals which engage in interdisciplinary theories
- offer chocolate
Discussion Points for the Audience: So what do you think?

- Intersections of disciplines
- Intersections of theories
  - It’s where the torture is
  - It’s where the fun is!