

Theses

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The changing face of Australia: From secular to post-secular identity

Saskia Ebejer

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APPENDIX 1 Ethics Approval



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8 November 2011

Dr Angus Brook
School of Philosophy and Theology
The University of Notre Dame Australia
Sydney Campus

Ref. #: 011082S

Dear Angus,

I am writing to you in regards to your Low Risk Application for Ethics Clearance for your proposed research project, to be undertaken as a student research project at The University of Notre Dame Australia. The title of the project is: *"The changing face of religion in Australia: from secular to post-secular identity."*

Your proposal has been reviewed by the University's Human Research Ethics Committee, and based on the information provided has been assessed as meeting all the requirements as mentioned in the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research* (2007). I am therefore pleased to advise that ethical clearance has been granted for this proposed study.

Please note the following conditions of approval which apply to your research project:

- Ethics approval for this project is valid for 3 years. Under the *National Statement* you are required to report on the project's progress on an annual basis and the first annual report is therefore due in **November 2012**. Once your project is completed you are required to complete the Annual Report as a Final Report on your project. You are also required to notify the HREC Executive Officer in writing if this project is abandoned. The Annual Report form can be found at: <http://www.nd.edu.au/research/hrec/apply.shtml>.
- As a researcher you are required to immediately report to the HREC Executive Officer anything which might warrant review of ethical approval of the project, including unforeseen events that might affect continued ethical acceptability and any complaints made by participants regarding the conduct of the project.
- If the design of the study, the choice of instrument, or its manner of administration is altered in any significant way as the study progresses, you are required to submit an amendment in regards to the changes for ethical consideration to the HREC. The Amendment Form can be found at: <http://www.nd.edu.au/research/hrec/apply.shtml>.

On behalf of the Human Research Ethics Committee, I wish you well with what promises to be a most interesting and valuable study.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Natalie Giles'.

Dr Natalie Giles
Executive Officer, Human Research Ethic Committee
Research Office

cc. Professor Hayden Ramsay, Dean, School of Philosophy and Theology, Sydney

APPENDIX 2 Participant Information Sheet



Research Title: The changing face of Australia: from Secular to post-secular identity.

You are invited to participate in the above research project, which is being conducted by Dr Angus Brook (supervisor), Dr Susanna Rizzo (co-supervisor) and Saskia Ebejer (PhD student) at the School of Philosophy and Theology, University of Notre Dame, Sydney. This project will form part of my Doctoral thesis, and has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee.

The aim of this study is to investigate what the post-secular phenomenon in contemporary Australia. Due to your work in this field you will be asked to give a more detailed picture of your current perspectives. If you agree to participate, you would be asked to contribute by participating in an interview process. With your permission, the interview will be recorded so that we can ensure that we make an accurate record of what you say. When the tape has been transcribed, you will be provided with a copy of the transcript, so that you can verify that the information is correct and/or request deletions. We estimate that the time commitment required of you in total would not exceed 1.5 – 2 hours.

You do have the option to remain anonymous or be identified. However you should note that as the number of people we seek to interview is very small it is possible that someone may still be able to identify you. Once the thesis arising from this research has been completed, a brief summary of the findings will be available to you on application. It is also possible that the results will be presented at academic conferences. The data will be kept securely in the School of Philosophy and Theology for five years from the date of publication, before being destroyed.

Please be advised that your participation in this study is completely voluntary. Should you wish to withdraw at any stage, or to withdraw any unprocessed data you have supplied, you are free to do so without prejudice. If you would like to participate, please indicate that you have read and understood this information by signing the accompanying consent form and returning it via postal address or my email.

Should you require any further information, or have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Angus Brook 02 82044182 or myself- Saskia Ebejer 02 44713839.

APPENDIX 3 Consent Form



CONSENT FORM

From secular to post-secular identity – religion in contemporary Australia

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

I, (*participant's name*) _____ hereby agree to being a participant in the above research project.

- I have read and understood the Information Sheet about this project and any questions have been answered to my satisfaction.
- I understand that I may withdraw from participating in the project at any time without prejudice.
- I understand I can agree to be identified or remain anonymous.
- Whilst the research involves small sample sizes if I choose to remain anonymous I understand that a code will be ascribed to my participation to ensure that the risk of identification is minimised.
- I understand that I will be interviewed by the researcher and that the interview will be audiotaped.
- I understand that the protocol adopted by the University Of Notre Dame Australia Human Research Ethics Committee for the protection of privacy will be adhered to and relevant sections of the *Privacy Act* are available at <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/>
- I agree that any research data gathered for the study may be published provided my name or other identifying information is not disclosed unless agreed to.

PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE:		DATE:	
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RESEARCHER'S FULL NAME:	SASKIA EBEJER		
RESEARCHER'S SIGNATURE:		DATE:	

If participants have any complaint regarding the manner in which a research project is conducted, it should be directed to the Executive Officer of the Human Research Ethics Committee, Research Office, The University of Notre Dame Australia, PO Box 1225 Fremantle WA 6959, phone (08) 9433 0943.

Consent form template July 08

