



 **JOBS AUSTRALIA**  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE

**27-28** MELBOURNE  
AUGUST **2014**

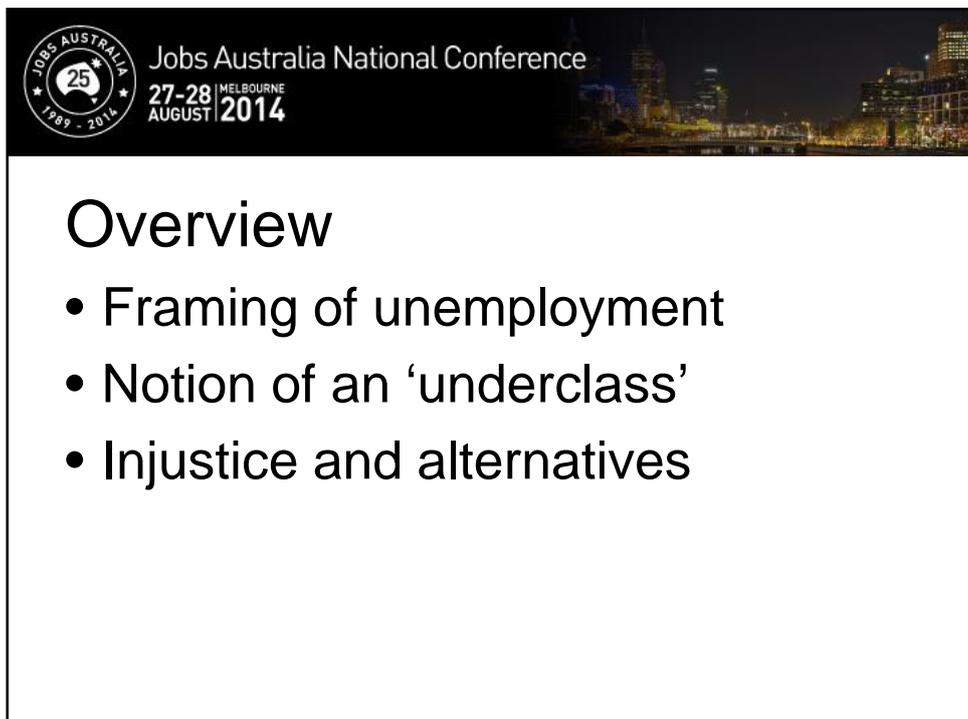
**Sonia Martin**

Lecturer & Program Director BSW / BSW Psych,  
School of Global Urban and Social Studies,  
RMIT University

**The Future of Welfare**

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**Overview**

- Framing of unemployment
- Notion of an 'underclass'
- Injustice and alternatives



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**'Prosperity is not a gift. It needs to be earned. The days of borrow and spend must come to an end.'**  
- Treasurer Joe Hockey

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*Capitalism is now accepted as the only viable form of social and economic organisation... In such a climate of belief, social problems are increasingly perceived as the problems of individuals and are explained as such... Individuals and social groupings who experience problems are usually those whose attitudes, abilities and behaviour indicate some form of failure to practice the virtue of capitalist philosophy. By demonstrating the locus of a problem to be in the characteristics of the people experiencing it, the capitalist system is both exonerated and legitimised (Jamrozik & Nocella 1998: 82-3).*



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An 'underclass'? Cautionary word about usage (as a descriptive construct)....

The Weekend Australian Magazine, 'Down & Out in Burnie' by Greg Bearup, 16-17 August 2014. Photo Chris Crerar



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*I felt quite penalised and harassed by the welfare system, and it was a very strong metaphor for me about the no-standing zone which it now appears is the welfare system. You can't actually stand in the welfare system longer than necessary, and you are penalised for standing in the no-standing zone. And my feeling is a valid use of the welfare system is actually to pull over for a short period of time... until such time as you feel safe to move back into the mainstream world*



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Final bit of passion...  
imagining an alternative  
future for welfare...