

DENATURALISING URBAN HEATWAVES

Gendered vulnerability
and our right to be cool

Margareta Windisch

AFAC19 Research symposium, Melbourne August 27

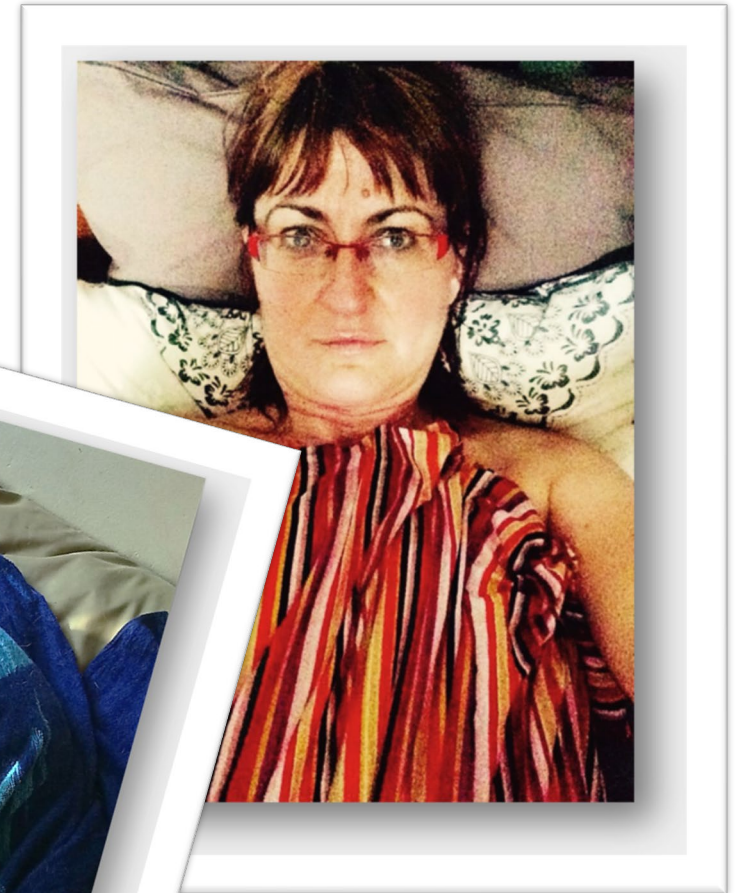


PHOTO: MARGARETA WINDISCH

HEATWAVE BODIES

'It is not the body-object described by biologists that actually exists, but the body as lived by the subject'

Simone de Beauvoir, 1953



HELL HATH NO FURY LIKE MOTHER EARTH SCORNED

To create knowledge that is both grounded in and relevant to daily life, so we can `.... live in meanings and bodies that have a chance for a future'

(Haraway 1991, p. 187)



PHOTO: FABRICE MONTERO, THE PROPHECY 2016

A NEW 'NORMAL' OR UNCHARTERED TERRITORY?

Melbourne heatwave: city expecting 44C as Victoria faces hottest day since Black Saturday

Victoria and Tasmania on alert for bushfires amid extreme weather forecast as generators fail at three coal-fired power stations

● **Australia extreme heatwave: Victoria and Tasmania face bushfire threat - live updates**



533

...since the 2009 Black Saturday

Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle

Climate change Wildlife Energy Pollution

'It's like hell here': Australia bakes as record temperatures nudge 50C

Fears rise for homeless and vulnerable people as communities brace for another week of relentless hot weather

- **25 January - Australia extreme heatwave: Victoria and Tasmania face bushfire threat - live updates**
- **Extreme heat Melbourne: city expecting 44C as Victoria faces hottest day since Black Saturday**



HEATWAVES: HIDDEN CATASTROPHES

'Dying in a heatwave is like being slowly cooked...It's pure torture'

Camilo Mora (The Guardian 2017)

Heatwaves have killed more people in Australia than all other climate disasters combined

(Coates et al. 2014)



RISKY CITIES & DEADLY INTERSECTIONS

65% of Australia's population live in capital cities where a threefold increase in heatwave days is projected

(ABS 2010, Herold et al. 2017)

Densely build suburbs with little green space, economic inequality, poor housing, weak social connections & higher proportions of older people living alone

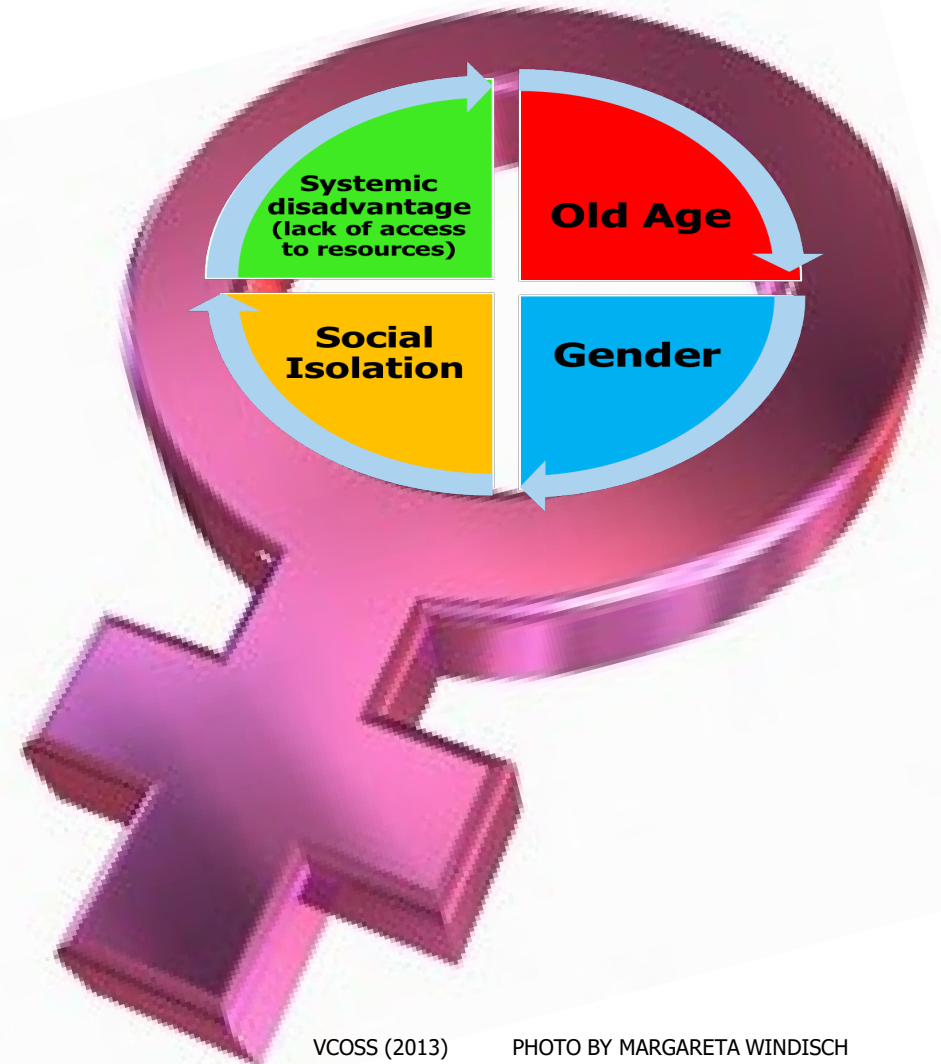
(Harlan et al. 2006, Klinenberg 1999, Loughnan et al. 2012, Poumadere et al. 2005, Vandentorren et al. 2006)



'THE QUADRUPLE WHAMMY'

'Heatwaves are silent and invisible killers of silenced and invisible people'

Eric Klinenberg 2002



VCOS (2013)

PHOTO BY MARGARETA WINDISCH

JUST US VS SOCIALLY JUST

Overrepresentation of women in global heatwave morbidity and mortality statistics

(Keller 2013, Poumadere et al. 2005, Staffoglia et al. 2006, Borrell et al. 2006, van Steen et al. 2019)

In Australia women aged 75+ are identified as being most at risk

(Tong et al. 2015)



PHOTO BY MARGARETA WINDISCH

HEATWAVE SURVIVAL & OUR RIGHT TO BE COOL

Individual 'resilience' vs
whole of government and
community responsibility

Older, poorer women
should not be made into
the shock absorbers of
the climate crisis

