

## ***COVID-19 and the Disruption to Community Development***

A discussion and virtual drinks via ZOOM - Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 4-6pm

You can link to the seminar here: <https://usc-au.zoom.us/j/93564187882?pwd=WVdUK2E3MjZYK29SZ2ttUm1UNHdMdz09>

**Password: 108415**

**Please download the Zoom program to your computer before linking, see below.**

**PLEASE SIGN IN 5 MINUTES EARLY AS WE WILL START AT 4PM**

Much of community development (CD) theory and practice has, at its heart, the somewhat romantic image of people sitting in a circle together, in place. Whether it be around a fire, around a kitchen table, or around a boardroom, what we have always honoured is the vital importance of being present to one another. Through finely honed skills of observation, communication and connection we help people move from private issues to public analysis and collective action. But what does it mean for the field of CD as both time and place are fractured in pandemic times?

In the blink of an eye, so many of us have almost seamlessly adapted to online digital platforms that invite diverse ways of collaborating. There are undoubtedly benefits to this, with unique efficiencies, new connections, and untold possibilities for the local and the global to connect. But there are questions to be asked about the quality of those connections, and the price we pay for new kinds of interaction.

Acting as our 'provocateur', Lynda Shevellar will challenge us to reflect on the ways in which COVID-19 is disrupting CD theory and practice, the ways new technologies are both empowering and limiting us, and the consequences of these changes for how we think about CD. She asks, how, in these socially distanced times, as we gaze into our screens alone, we might still come together.

**Bio:** Lynda Shevellar has a particular interest in mental health and disability in community, how we can support people to belong, and the ethics of this often-challenging work for all involved. Lynda has worked in government and the community sector and is now employed as a senior lecturer and researcher at The University of Queensland. Lynda has postgraduate qualifications in psychology, education, and community development, and is currently attempting to study narrative practice...online.

If you have not already done so, you will need to register for a free Zoom account and download the Zoom software. You can register at: <https://zoom.us/>

