

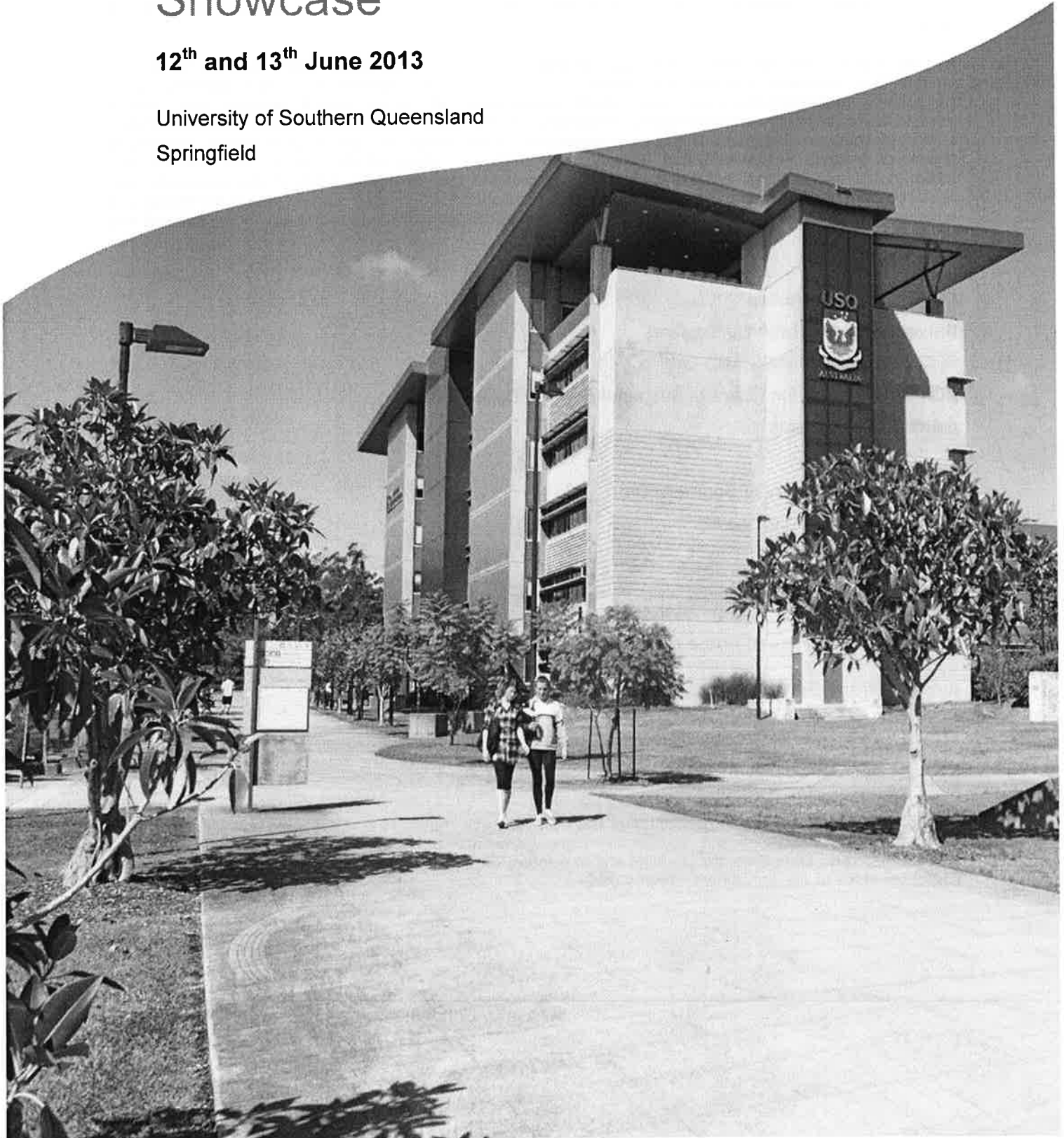
UNIVERSITY
OF SOUTHERN
QUEENSLAND



Research Colloquia and Showcase

12th and 13th June 2013

University of Southern Queensland
Springfield



THE CONFERENCE PREFACE

It is suggested that economic development research refers to the sustained, concerted actions of policymakers and communities to improve and enhance the standard of living, wellbeing and economic health of a specific area or community (McMillan & Chavis, 1986; Chavis, Hogge, McMillan, & Wandersman, 1986). The term community encompasses many regional stakeholders including business, non-profits and associations, people and groups. The essence is the community shares common values, beliefs and themes (Long & Perkins, 2003; Chipuer, & Pretty, 1999). Community development is often linked to community service work and community planning and development in local regions and focuses on the social well-being of local, regional and national communities. Community development research aims to identify a common agenda, outcome goals and plans to achieve a high standard of living and wellbeing.

At the intersection between community development and community building are a number of stakeholders including business and social enterprises that are considered in investigations. Such research is multidisciplinary and can include development of human capital, social capital, critical infrastructure, regional competitiveness, environmental and social sustainability, social inclusion, health, safety, literacy, and business. The many contributions to the showcase have focused on the overarching theme of building sustainable and resilient communities. Many of the authors are working with international and national collaborators in major projects that form the basis of the discussion and research papers presented. We thank the national collaborators for their support and acknowledge the enriched contributions evidenced by the colloquia to support and contribute to the advancing national and international work in the area of sustainable communities.

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THE CONFERENCE Preface by Associate Professor Margee Hume

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