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South Australia

Sansom Institute  
for Health Research

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to better health.

## Sansom Institute Visiting Researcher Seminar

**Date:** Wednesday 9th February 2011

**Time:** 4:00pm – 5:00pm

**Place:** PM-06, Playford Building  
City East Campus  
University of South Australia  
Frome Road, Adelaide

**RSVP:** 8th February 2011  
[sansominstitute@unisa.edu.au](mailto:sansominstitute@unisa.edu.au)

The Sansom Institute for Health Research is pleased to invite you to a Visiting Researcher Seminar.

### **Dr Samantha Thomas**

Senior Research Fellow, Health Sociologist  
Monash University

### ***"I don't eat hamburgers and chips every day" Are anti-obesity campaigns missing the mark?***

Dr Samantha Thomas is an award winning Sociologist. In 2009 she was chosen by the Weekend Australian newspaper as one of the top ten emerging health leaders in Australia. In 2010, she received a prestigious Australian Davos Connection Future Leader Award. Dr Thomas graduated with a PhD in Community Health from the University of Auckland, and worked at the World Health Organisation; Institute of Psychiatry, London; and King's College London before joining Monash University. She is a Director on the Board of Family Planning Victoria, and a member of the Monash University Human Ethics Committee. Dr Thomas' research focuses on the complex interplay between health behaviours, socio-cultural factors, and interventions which aim to stimulate behaviour change. She is most well known for her research in the area of obesity, but also conducts research in the areas of gambling, sustainability, media reporting of health, social media, and risk taking behaviours in athletes. She has received research funding from organisations such as the NHMRC, ARC, Department of Justice, Nuffield Foundation and ESRC.

Samantha's work in the area of obesity started with an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant in 2008, which aimed to investigate the obesity epidemic from the perspective of 'fat' individuals in Australia. The findings from this study received national and international media attention, and has significantly shaped academic and policy thinking about how best to respond to 'obesity' without stigmatising those who are already 'obese'.

Her most recent ARC Discovery Grant (with Prof Tim Olds from University of South Australia), entitled 'Weighing The Impact' aims to investigate how Australian families are interacting with the range of competing, and at times conflicting, messages that they are given about weight, overweight, and the 'solutions' for obesity. Samantha is a regular commentator in the media. She has appeared on Catalyst, Sunday Night, the 7.30 Report, the Morning Show, 3AW, Today Tonight, and A Current Affair.