



MONASH
University

ARTS RESEARCH UPDATE

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INTRODUCTION

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	
ARC	Australian Research Council
DECRA	Discovery Early Career Research Award
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DP	Discovery Program Scheme
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion
HASS	Humanities, Arts and Social Science
LLCL	School of Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics
MCCH	Monash Climate Communication Hub
MFJ	School of Media, Film and Journalism
MNHS	Monash Medicine Nursing and Health Sciences
MISC	Monash Indigenous Studies Centre
MRFF	Medical Research Future Fund
NIDR	National Indigenous Disaster Resilience
SASS	School of Arts and Social Sciences
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SoSS	School of Social Sciences
SoPHIS	School of Philosophical, Historical and Indigenous Studies
SZCSOMP	Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance

PROJECT ICONS	
	First Nations involvement
	International partnerships
	Industry and/or community partnerships
	PhD student involvement

FOREWORD



Welcome to this edition of the Arts Research Update. In this edition, we spotlight the Faculty’s climate and disaster resilience research, showcasing partnerships with government, communities and industry. Our academics in this area are advancing social licence research, disaster-ready education systems, local government capability building, community-centred emergency communication, regional digital equity and locally led resilience models. Together, these projects demonstrate how Monash Arts researchers are shaping practical, community-driven solutions for a changing climate.

We also profile new staff, recent PhD and Master’s graduations, and showcase a truly impressive array of research happening across the Faculty. Some particular highlights include [work on disaster resilience through Indigenous-led partnerships](#) being undertaken by our National Indigenous Disaster Resilience (NIDR) program, and two new Centres of Excellence funded by the Australian Research Council. These initiatives bring more than 90 partners into long-term collaboration in the areas of climate resilience, prisoner reintegration, and learning from how early humans responded to environmental change. These programs tackle complex national challenges through deep, interdisciplinary research, driving innovation through partnership to shape future practice.

In research training, we profile two Arts PhD internship projects that exemplify the direct impact Arts research can have. Rachel Leigh Taylor’s project with the Victoria State Emergency Service and the Bureau of Meteorology shows how intercultural research can improve understandings of emergency warnings and alerts. Moira Finucane’s work as an artist-in-residence with the National Trust explores the evolving meaning of trust in heritage, conservation and community memory. These internships enable our PhD candidates to test ideas in applied settings, work directly with partners and generate insights that inform both scholarship and practice to strengthen community and potentially save lives.

Thank you to everyone who has made the first half of 2026 an outstanding success for research in Monash Arts. The breadth of work covered in this edition of the Arts Research Update is only a taste of the deep, rich, high-quality work being undertaken across the Faculty.

[Professor Katie Stevenson](#)
Dean of Arts

Monash University seeks to foster a society that recognises, respects and supports Indigenous peoples, cultures and knowledge. The University will contribute to the creation of this society by partnering with and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures and knowledge, as well as Indigenous peoples in Malaysia, Indonesia and other locations where Monash has a campus or major presence.

Research in Monash Arts seeks to foreground and amplify Indigenous cultures, histories, research methodologies, theories and practices. The [Monash Indigenous Studies Centre](#) performs a pivotal role in this amplification across the Faculty and University and has done so since 1964 when it was founded as the Centre for Research into Aboriginal Affairs. Building on this rich history, the Faculty aims to be an employer of choice for Indigenous research leaders and staff. The Faculty also conducts research of the highest standards in accordance with the [AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research](#).

STRENGTHENING DISASTER RESILIENCE THROUGH INDIGENOUS-LED PARTNERSHIPS

A Climate Era Demanding New Approaches

As climate change drives more frequent and severe fires, floods, cyclones and heatwaves, Australia is entering an era of climate-driven disasters that is placing unprecedented pressure on communities and the systems designed to protect them. These systems rarely reflect the realities, responsibilities or knowledge of First Nations communities. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, who are often on the frontline of these hazards, continue to experience disproportionate impacts before, during and after disasters. As climate impacts intensify, it is increasingly clear that Australia needs a better way, one that centres Indigenous knowledge, amplifies community authority and rebuilds disaster resilience through genuine partnerships.

National Indigenous Disaster Resilience

Monash University's [National Indigenous Disaster Resilience \(NIDR\)](#) program is leading this shift. NIDR, led by [Associate Professor Bhiamie Williamson](#), is a national research initiative that works directly with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities affected by fires, floods, cyclones and heatwaves. Its work spans community-led research, policy engagement, and on-the-ground partnerships with grassroots organisations, ranger groups and emergency management agencies. Whether documenting unique disaster experiences, supporting local recovery efforts, or identifying systemic barriers that limit community safety, NIDR's work begins with community priorities and is shaped by the people most affected.

Transformative Partnership Approach

NIDR builds long-term, trust-based relationships grounded in respect for cultural authority, data sovereignty and community leadership. Researchers collaborate with communities, co-designing research questions, sharing decision-making, and ensuring that Indigenous knowledge guides interpretation and outcomes. This approach brings together the strengths of community expertise and academic capability, creating a model of research that is relational, ethical and genuinely collaborative.

The NIDR Gathering: Partnership in Action

This partnership model was on full display at the [2026 NIDR Gathering](#), where more than 100 Indigenous leaders, community organisations, emergency responders, researchers and policymakers came together on Country to re-imagine a disaster system that works for all. The gathering created space for deep listening, cultural exchange and shared problem-solving, from cultural fire demonstrations to workshops on community-led recovery and policy reform. Importantly, the gathering created a rare national forum for sharing knowledge and evidence grounded in lived experience and cultural authority.

We extend our sincere thanks to partners in Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, First Nations Response, NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and Jagun Alliance for [contributing their valuable time and insights during the recent video production](#).

First Nations-Informed Research

NIDR's impact is grounded in a research approach that is led by First Nations knowledge, priorities and ways of working. As Professor Katie Stevenson, Dean of Monash Arts noted in her opening address, NIDR's *impact is also measured through the trust that it builds with communities, the knowledge which is shared across generations and the observable influence on policy, practice and decision making*. By co-designing research, interpreting findings collectively and upholding cultural and intellectual property, NIDR demonstrates the integrity and power of Indigenous-led research to shape national understanding and deliver meaningful outcomes.

A New Model for Australia's Resilience Future

Across the country, NIDR's partnerships are creating real change, strengthening cultural fire and land management practices, elevating grassroots organisations and supporting culturally safe recovery. In a time of escalating climate risk, NIDR's research and engagement demonstrate that the most effective solutions emerge when communities lead and universities walk alongside them. This approach is reshaping disaster resilience and modelling a new way of doing research in Australia: ethical, collaborative and grounded in knowledge that has sustained this continent for millennia.

“

NIDR represents an alternate way to do research, to collaborate effectively, to generate new knowledge not from communities, but genuinely with them, and in a way that respects their Indigenous, cultural and intellectual property and data sovereignty...

[Associate Professor Bhiamie Williamson](#)



Boorun Boys performing at GLaWAC's Wangun Amphitheatre to open the NIDR Gathering 2026
Photography by Gabrielle Connole



Scan the QR code to access the video on YouTube

CLIMATE CHANGE

The global climate crisis can only be addressed through coordinated structural changes, and the humanities, creative arts, and social sciences are key to sustainable, just, resilient and healthy futures. Monash Arts research aims to produce an evidence base that informs policy and fosters partnerships among communities, industry, and government. It aims to develop innovative strategies for climate change mitigation, adaptation, communication, and imagining futures that centre the environment. We create practical tools for the public and policymakers to debunk misinformation, with a clear focus on how media narratives shape public understanding and policy responses.

Our research supports whole-of-government action and fosters international collaboration among industry leaders, academic institutions, and community organisations dedicated to advancing climate solutions and sustainable futures. Through innovative research methods, we aim to reach the public, engage policymakers in climate change action, and work with communities directly affected by climate change disasters.

A hallmark of our work is our commitment to **co-design methodologies** that incorporate lived experiences into every stage of research and solution development. In doing so, we give voice to often marginalised or overlooked communities. Our researchers actively collaborate with communities throughout Australia and the Asia-Pacific region to identify climate-related challenges and co-create strategies that enhance community resilience. Through participatory, place-based, and community-led approaches, we capture local insights to build capacity for effective climate adaptation, advocating for affected communities and for just and sustainable futures.

As a comprehensive Faculty of Arts, our researchers come from disciplines including social sciences (such as human geography, politics, anthropology and sociology), the environmental humanities (history, philosophy, languages, cultural studies), media studies, and creative and performing arts (music, theatre, performance, creative writing). This **combination enables a distinctive perspective on climate change which includes a focus on the environment as an active agent**. Centring Indigenous knowledge and creative arts storytelling, we understand the environment to be an active, interconnected partner in climate action. This perspective deepens public awareness and guides policymakers to holistic understandings of interlinked problems. **Our researchers work globally** and are based in Australia, Malaysia, and Indonesia, collaborating with researchers in Engineering, Medicine, Science, IT, Law, Design, and Education.

We pay particular attention to **everyday experiences of climate change and social justice**, uncovering barriers and enablers in disaster response. Our research acknowledges that understanding systemic climate risks is critical for formulating policies and strategies that are resilient and adaptive. In doing so, we advocate for a shift from traditional, siloed risk assessments to holistic approaches that recognise the interdependencies of national and global systems. This focus allows us to reveal how people-centred political narratives and social practices drive change.

Our research can **support disaster preparedness and recovery strategies to account for social inequities**, an essential element for building resilience and fostering a fairer, more inclusive society. Monash Arts research on climate change can be mapped to these four themes:

- **Community resilience and climate change adaptation** informs policies for climate adaptation and community resilience by addressing cascading hazards affecting infrastructure, public health, and vulnerable populations across local and Asia-Pacific contexts.
- **Climate communication and information integrity: imagining climate futures** advances non-partisan, evidence-based climate communication by leveraging innovative media partnerships and creative digital platforms to counter misinformation, bridge regional literacy gaps, and foster participatory dialogue and policy reform for transformative climate futures.
- **Climate, Technology and Sustainable Transitions** explores how social dynamics, technological innovation, governance, and policy intersect to drive transformative climate mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable resource management across diverse contexts.
- **Voicing the environment as a catalyst for environmental and social awareness** positions the environment as an active, interconnected protagonist, drawing on Indigenous perspectives and immersive creative arts, to catalyse environmental stewardship, social awareness and transformative action.

Latest projects

UNDERSTANDING SOCIETAL ACCEPTANCE OF AUSTRALIA'S RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL

[Professor Libby Lester](#), [Dr Ami Seivwright](#), [Dr Lucy Richardson](#) (MCCCRH), [Professor Alexander Cruden](#) (School of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment, Faculty of Science), Emeritus Distinguished Professor Maggie Walter

Department of Industry, Science and Resources (Australia)



Australia is seeking long-term, responsible solutions for the low and intermediate-level radioactive waste generated through medicine, mining, research and industry. As these conversations progress, understanding the social licence dimensions of waste disposal has become essential.

The interdisciplinary team is examining international experience with radioactive waste facility siting, construction and operation, alongside national and global research on engagement with First Peoples when facilities are proposed on Country. It also analyses how social licence operates in mining, energy and related sectors, and reviewing survey and media data on public knowledge, concerns and attitudes toward nuclear technologies.

The project aims to design an approach that ensures the full range of community views, risks and expectations are recognised and understood.

THE CLIMATE RESILIENT EDUCATION PROJECT:
STRENGTHENING DISASTER RESILIENCE IN
EDUCATION COMMUNITIES

Victorian Department of Education, [Dr Svenja Keele](#), [Dr Elissa Waters](#), [Dr Colette Mortreux](#) (SoSS) and colleagues from the University of Melbourne, Victorian Department of Health and Teachers Health Foundation

Emergency Management Australia



As climate-related disasters intensify, education communities are increasingly exposed to long-term disruptions to learning, wellbeing and community cohesion. The cascading impacts of these events on schools, early childhood services, teaching staff and families remain insufficiently understood. Led by the Victorian Department of Education in partnership with Monash University, the University of Melbourne, the Victorian Department of Health and Teachers Health Foundation, the project examines how climate-related disasters affect learning and wellbeing across Victoria.

This study, funded through the Disaster Ready Fund, combines statewide analysis with community-based research to assess current climate education, identify resilience gaps, and co-design practical strategies with educators, students and families. It will result in policy-relevant evidence, new teaching and learning resources, and scalable engagement models to strengthen disaster preparedness and climate adaptation in education systems.

UPLIFTING THE DISASTER READINESS
CAPABILITIES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

[Dr Zoë D’Arcy](#), [Dr Gretel Evans](#), [Dr Jana-Axinja Paschen](#), Ms Elise Park (SoSS)

Emergency Management Australia



This national project, funded through the Disaster Ready Fund, is bringing together researchers and local governments to co-develop and pilot a practical, evidence-based disaster readiness capability assessment framework for councils across Australia.

Working with 13 local government organisations from every corner of the country, the interdisciplinary team is designing a scalable tool that will help councils make informed investment decisions, prioritise reforms, strengthen peer support networks and identify targeted training and resource needs.

By building a clearer picture of capability and readiness, the project aims to strengthen local government leadership at the heart of Australia’s disaster resilience system, ensuring communities are better prepared for the challenges ahead. While centred on Victorian stakeholders, the lessons and continued methodology development have national relevance.

INFORMATION SHARING AND COMMUNITY
SAFETY: LESSONS FROM THE MONTROSE
MARCH 2025 FIRE

[Dr Adriana Keating](#), [Dr Zoë D’Arcy](#), Ms Elise Park (SoSS)

Natural Hazards Research Australia (NHRA)



Commissioned by the Country Fire Authority (CFA) this research is helping to build a deeper understanding of how communities receive, interpret and act on bushfire information. Focusing on the March 2025 Montrose bushfire, the project examines how warnings and risk information were experienced before, during and after the event. It builds on the Fire to Flourish methodology for community-based disaster learning reviews.

Working closely with CFA, this post-event research explores how emergency management organisations and community members understood bushfire risk, how they navigated information during the response, and how they made sense of impacts afterwards.

By co-designing the project, researching and reflecting on the findings together, CFA and the research team are fostering shared learning and clearer pathways for improvement. The insights will inform changes to community engagement, warnings and communication practices, and will be shared widely with fire agencies, emergency services, local councils and community resilience groups.

FLAGS TO FIBRE: AUSTRALIA’S COMMUNICATION
POLICY IN PRACTICE AS EXPERIENCED BY A
REGIONAL COMMUNITY

[Professor Libby Lester](#), [Dr Lucy Richardson](#) (MCCCRH) and colleagues from the University of Tasmania

Australian Communications Consumer Action Network Grant



This project explores how a regional community experiences communications and digital services, and how those everyday realities diverge from the perspectives of the service providers responsible for delivering them. Using the Tasman Council region, south-east Tasmania, as a case study, this project, led by the University of Tasmania in collaboration with Monash Arts, is mapping a) community perceptions and experiences of poor and declining access and connectivity; b) impacts of actual and perceived telecommunications interruptions and limits; c) statements, actions and plans of service providers; and d) communications policy and politics as it relates to the area.

By mapping these contrasting narratives, priorities and expectations, the project reveals where gaps emerge between community needs and institutional responses. The findings will inform practical, evidence-based recommendations to strengthen communications policy and support more reliable, equitable digital access for regional Australia.

RESOURCING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN
THE NORTHERN RIVERS

[Professor Briony Rogers](#), Lindsey Goodman, [Dr Gretel Evans](#) (SoSS)

Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF)



How can communities accelerate climate resilience in ways that are practical, collaborative, locally grounded and built to last? The project puts that question into action in the Northern Rivers of New South Wales. Monash is working with the Northern Rivers Community Foundation, the Northern Rivers Community Resilience Alliance and NRMA Insurance to adapt and study a participatory grantmaking model first developed through Fire to Flourish.

The research is investigating what helps communities build resilience, how participatory grantmaking can support locally led action. It is also explores how community resilience alliances can maintain momentum over time, especially in regions facing repeated climate shocks.

The project will generate practical, evidence-informed insights for communities, funders and policymakers in the Northern Rivers and beyond, offering a model for how locally driven resilience efforts can be supported and sustained.



FIRST NATIONS INSIGHTS INTO ENHANCING AUSTRALIA’S NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Nell Reidy, Associate Professor Bhiamie Williamson, Zoe Schultz and Lucy Connole
(National Indigenous Disaster Research, NIDR)

National Emergency Management Agency



Australia’s emergency management system has been shaped by Western frameworks, leaving First Nations peoples underrepresented in policy, planning and service delivery and disproportionately affected before, during and after disasters. The NIDR program proposed development of a National Indigenous Disaster Resilience Framework (Framework) to improve outcomes for First Nations communities and organisations across Australia. Following the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee’s endorsement and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) identification of it as a national priority, the NIDR program provided expert, culturally grounded advice on the development of the Framework.

The program has delivered a comprehensive synthesis of stakeholder insights, culturally appropriate guidance for embedding First Nations perspectives in national policy, and technical advice to shape the process for the development of the Framework. The project produced resources to support NEMA’s coordination responsibilities, including principles for First Nations partnerships in emergency management, and analyses of the Colvin Review and Closing the Gap Priority Reform Three. NEMA’s capacity to steward the Framework nationally is strengthened whilst ensuring First Nations knowledge, leadership and lived experience are embedded in Australia’s future emergency management system.

IMPLEMENTING A NATIONAL APPROACH TO WORKING WITH AND SUPPORTING FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES

Nell Reidy, Associate Professor Bhiamie Williamson, Kaytlyn O’Neil, Zoe Schultz and Lucy Connole (NIDR)

National Emergency Management Agency



Australia is experiencing increasingly frequent and severe disasters, and First Nations communities continue to bear disproportionate impacts due to systemic inequities, lack of inclusion in emergency

management, and the ongoing effects of colonisation. Indigenous knowledge systems and community-led practices, such as cultural burning, caring for wetlands, and community-centred response models, offer powerful, proven approaches to strengthening disaster resilience. The NIDR program led a national project to support the implementation of the National Indigenous Disaster Resilience Framework, working in partnership with First Nations communities, governments and sector organisations. Extensive stakeholder engagement generated a stocktake and policy gap analysis, an Implementation Plan, and a Monitoring and Evaluation tool to guide culturally safe, consistent adoption of the Framework across jurisdictions. This work equips governments with the evidence, tools and guidance to embed Indigenous leadership and knowledge in disaster preparedness, response and recovery, strengthening resilience for communities nationwide.

DISASTER RESILIENCE IN URBAN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Alex Perlinski, Associate Professor Bhiamie Williamson and Lucy Connole (NIDR)

Greater Melbourne Foundation



Australia’s major cities are home to more than 40% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, yet most research, policy and investment in Indigenous disaster resilience has focused on rural and remote communities. This leaves a critical gap in understanding how Indigenous knowledge, leadership and Caring for Country practices can strengthen resilience in urban environments, places where climate impacts, population growth and environmental pressures intersect intensely. Monash is partnering with Traditional Owner groups across Greater Melbourne to co-develop research questions, methodologies and priorities that will shape a first-of-its-kind body of knowledge on Indigenous urban resilience.

The project lays the groundwork for a national, multi-city program examining deep time knowledge, disaster impacts on urban Indigenous communities, and contemporary approaches to Caring for Country in metropolitan settings. The project will inform policy recommendations and support Indigenous-led climate justice initiatives, ensuring that Indigenous populations are equipped for a climate-changed future and that urban landscapes benefit from the strength, innovation and expertise of Indigenous knowledge systems.

STRENGTHENING INDIGENOUS DISASTER RESILIENCE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Alex Perlinski, Associate Professor Bhiamie Williamson and Lucy Connole (NIDR)

Department of Communities (WA)



NIDR and Western Australia’s Department of Communities are working to deliver a Perth-based roundtable that strengthens Indigenous-led disaster resilience across the state. The project brings together Traditional Owners, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, emergency management personnel and government agencies to identify practical priorities for improving emergency recovery and resilience. It will generate clear, actionable outcomes, including coordinated, community-led resilience planning; insights that inform co-designed planning guides and practical resources tailored to WA’s cultural and geographic context; and strengthened relationships between agencies and Aboriginal communities to support culturally safe emergency management.

The roundtable supports cross-agency alignment across Aboriginal engagement, cultural outcomes and community disaster resilience strategies, reinforcing commitments under WA’s Cultural Safety Plan, contributing to a coordinated, culturally grounded approach to future emergency events.

NSW POLICY ROUNDTABLE ON ABORIGINAL DISASTER RESILIENCE

Alex Perlinski, Associate Professor Bhiamie Williamson and Lucy Connole (NIDR)

NSW Reconstruction Authority, Premier’s Department and Aboriginal Affairs



The NIDR program with the NSW Reconstruction Authority, Aboriginal Affairs NSW and the Premier’s Department convened the first NSW Policy Roundtable on Aboriginal Disaster Resilience. Bringing together disaster-impacted communities, Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, emergency services and government agencies, it prioritised Aboriginal leadership across disaster preparedness, response, recovery and resilience. The Roundtable elevated lived experience and cultural knowledge to identify actions to strengthen Aboriginal leadership within emergency management systems. Discussions highlighted gaps and opportunities to embed Aboriginal-led approaches and improve coordination across agencies. Outcomes were captured in a communique, which informs development of the NSW State Emergency Management Committee’s first Aboriginal Emergency Management Action Plan.

Publications

SELECT RESEARCH OUTPUTS

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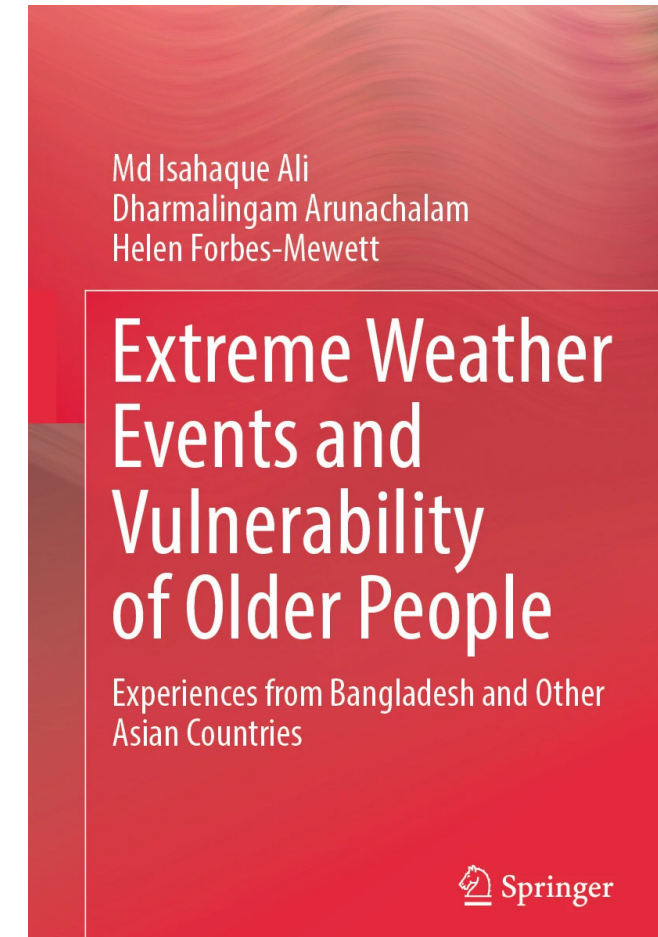
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SPOTLIGHT ON ARTS PUBLICATION

Extreme Weather Events and Vulnerability of Older People: Experiences from Bangladesh and Other Asian Countries



Md Isahaque Ali , [Dharmalingam Arunachalam](#), [Helen Forbes-Mewett](#) (2026)

As climate change intensifies the frequency and severity of extreme weather events across the globe, vulnerable populations face increasing risks to health, wellbeing and livelihoods. [Extreme Weather Events and Vulnerability of Older People](#) provides a timely and important examination of how climate-related disasters disproportionately affect older adults, particularly in low-income and disaster-prone regions.

Drawing on qualitative research conducted in coastal Bangladesh, the book explores lived experiences of older people confronting cyclones, flooding, food insecurity, displacement and social isolation. Through interviews and community-based analysis, the authors reveal how ageing intersects with poverty, gender, disability and weak social protection systems to heighten vulnerability during climate-related crises.

The book makes a significant contribution to current discussions on climate justice, disaster resilience and healthy ageing by highlighting the often-overlooked experiences of older populations in climate adaptation and policy planning. It demonstrates that older people are at greater physical risk during disasters, and face long-term challenges related to recovery, access to healthcare, mobility, housing and social support.

Beyond academia it is a valuable resource for researchers, policymakers, social work practitioners, disaster management professionals and those interested in the human dimensions of climate change. By centring the voices and experiences of older people, it provides critical insights into how societies can build more inclusive and equitable responses to a changing climate.

GEOPOLITICAL SECURITY

Australia's security environment is increasingly shaped by interconnected challenges intersecting defence, diplomacy and development. Strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific, the accelerating impacts of climate change, weakening global governance and the rise of disinformation demand integrated responses that combine military capability with diplomatic engagement and societal resilience.

Monash Arts academics seek to advance a whole-of-government approach to geopolitical security, generating evidence-based insights that strengthen strategic partnerships, build resilience and enhance decision-making across domains. This work provides insight into the political, cultural and social dimensions of security, seeking to ensure Australia's strategies remain effective, legitimate and sustainable. Working through an extensive network of partnerships, researchers co-design approaches with policymakers, communities and institutions to support translation into practical, context-sensitive solutions. With global relevance, the research informs both Australia's national security priorities and international debates on governance, resilience and strategic competition. We apply gender-sensitive approaches to stability and security building efforts in Asia-Pacific and globally and undertake specific transformative research to understand the problem of violence against women addressing the structural drivers that cause and compound it.

We explore Australia's relations with its regional neighbours, its role in regional and global stability, and the factors that shape post-conflict or disaster resolution and community reconciliation. **Our Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Stabilisation** research expertise contributes critical perspectives on inclusive peace processes and post-conflict/disaster stabilisation, with particular attention to community trust-building and the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the Asia-Pacific. This work generates evidence-based insights into alliance management, multilateral engagement and the informal diplomatic networks that underpin trust and interoperability with partners, while highlighting the importance of legitimacy, ethics and reconciliation in sustaining stability and preventing institutional erosion.

Complementing this, our **diplomacy and international relations** expertise explores how regional partnerships can expand defence, intelligence and cyber cooperation. We explore digital disruption felt within and across borders and create evidence-based, innovative approaches to counter coercive activities such as disinformation campaigns and dissemination of conspiracy. Our research explores the underlying ideological, religious and political factors and the role of community/media dialogue that might contribute to extremist attitudes and actions and forms of community violence. This work is complemented by research into civilian resistance, militias and the importance of civic education, offering nuanced understandings of how communities navigate and counter coercive power.

Monash Arts is advancing knowledge on **humanitarian, climate-linked and security challenges** in the Indo-Pacific. Research tracks the movement of people, goods and information to build Defence capability in disaster relief, humanitarian assistance and climate adaptation. This work examines how climate pressures drive conflict, migration and terrorism, while also addressing the destabilising effects of disinformation and information warfare to protect trust and resilience. Expertise in strategic competition and non-proliferation adds further depth, with analysis of nuclear proliferation risks, treaty compliance and export control regimes informing both regional preparedness and global security dialogues.

Monash Arts expertise in **Enhanced Decision-Making** brings together ethical foresight, cultural understanding and technological innovation to support decision-makers in navigating uncertainty. This interdisciplinary research strengthens operational and strategic choices in complex environments, ensuring responses are not only rapid and effective but also socially responsible and grounded in resilience.

Latest projects

SUPPORTING EUROPEAN YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AGAINST DISINFORMATION

Dr Matteo Dutto (MUERF), [Associate Professor Matteo Bonotti](#), [Associate Professor Zareh Ghazarian](#) (SoSS), [Associate Professor Ika Idris](#), [Dr Nazirul Hazim A. Khalim](#) (Monash Malaysia) and colleagues from the Istituto Cooperazione Economica Internazionale, Italy, Rutgers, Netherlands, Stiftung zur Förderung der Jugend in Baden-Württemberg (Jugendstiftung), Germany

The European Commission



Disinformation, the intentional spread of false or misleading content, has become a serious threat to democratic debate and institutional trust. The rise of fake news and AI-generated material online is making it harder to know what information can be trusted. Young people, as some of the most active users of digital media, are especially exposed to these risks. They also hold enormous potential to push back when equipped with strong critical-thinking and media-literacy skills.

The SEED project (Supporting European Youth Engagement against Disinformation) is harnessing that potential. Working in Italy, the Netherlands and Germany, SEED strengthens the capacity of young people, educators and local communities to recognise, prevent and respond to disinformation. Through locally grounded methods and citizen-focused engagement, the project empowers youth to become informed, resilient participants in Europe's information landscape.

UNIFYING THE MOTHERLAND: AN ETHNOGRAPHIC INVESTIGATION OF PRO-UNIFICATION THOUGHT AND ACTIVISM IN TAIWAN

[Associate Professor Kevin Carrico](#) (LLCL)

Wenner-Gren Foundation



This project employs ethnographic methods to study unificationists in Taiwan: citizens who believe Taiwan should become part of China. Although a minority position in contemporary Taiwan, unificationists continue to wield notable cultural and political influence, shaping debates about identity, sovereignty and the island's future. Over three years of immersive fieldwork with pro-unification activists, thinkers and everyday supporters, the project asks how unificationists imagine China, where these visions come from, and how they shape

daily life. It explores the emotional, historical and social worlds that make Chinese nationalism meaningful to them, and how these ideas circulate through families, communities and political networks.

By examining how Chinese nationalism is received, the project offers new insight into the local foundations of this ideology's appeal. It sheds light on a constituency that plays a subtle but significant role in Taiwan's political landscape and on the broader dynamics of identity and belonging in a rapidly changing region.

ROADMAP TO ABOLITION: ENDING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR DRUG OFFENCES IN MALAYSIA

[Dr Thaatchayini Kananatu](#), [Dr Chrishandra Sebastiampillai](#), [Dr Rizwanah Souket Ali](#) (SASS), [Sara Kowal](#) (Monash Law)

Open Society Foundation

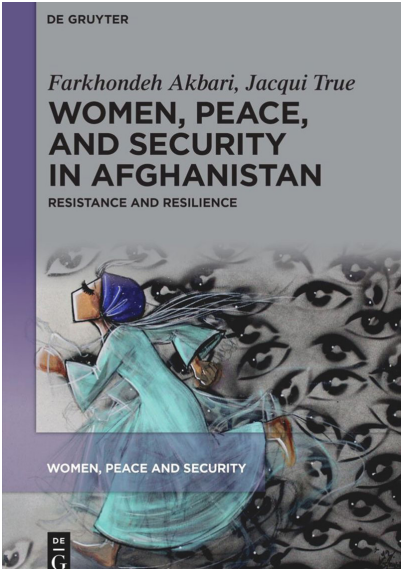


Malaysia took a landmark step in 2023 by abolishing mandatory capital punishment, but the death penalty persists. A full abolition demands more than legal reform; it requires dismantling the social and political forces sustaining it. Monash University in partnership with the Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN) and Eleos Justice, will produce an evidence-based roadmap toward full abolition. Focus group discussions with youth, civil society, business and professional communities, politicians, and religious organisations will identify the root causes of retentionist sentiment and the specific barriers to reform. Policy briefs for the Malaysian Parliament, strategic public communications campaigns, and documentary film making designed to shift public discourse will result. A roadmap will be designed for replication, shared with civil society actors, policymakers, and academics across retentionist states in the Indo-Pacific.

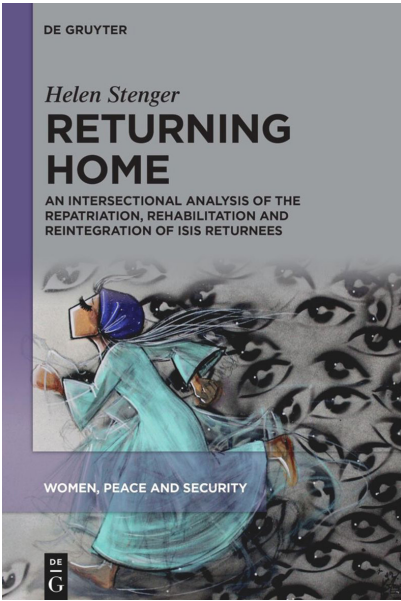
The 2023 reform proved change is possible and this project builds the path to finishing it.

Publications

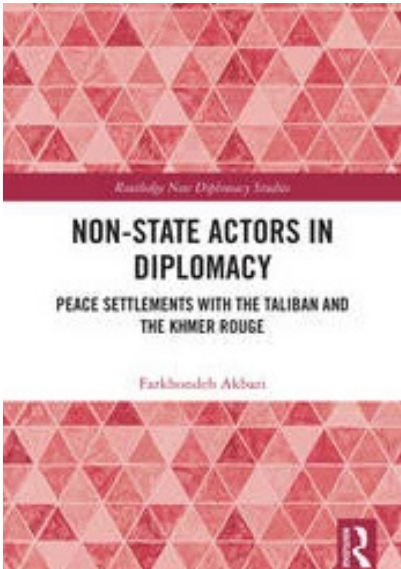
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[View all outputs published by Faculty of Arts](#)

THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Monash Arts research explores the mechanisms of building and sustaining stronger, more resilient communities. Co-designed with communities locally, nationally and internationally, our work provides the evidence base for practice and policy improvements that drive systemic and institutional change. Importantly, the Traditional Owner-led partnerships forged with Monash Arts academics are leading to new knowledge and insights into the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples history and cultural heritage.

We explore issues of **identity, belonging and intercultural competence** and how these factors help to develop an inclusive national identity. We examine how personal perceptions and cultural values shape connectedness, and how respect, openness and curiosity can overcome barriers to inclusion. By deepening understanding of cultural awareness and sensitivity, our researchers highlight the shared values that underpin resilient communities and provide pathways for more inclusive dialogue and decision-making.

Aimed at prevention of division and extremism, our research on **social exclusion, safety and cohesion** investigates the drivers of inequality, intolerance and marginalisation and explores how ideological, religious and media narratives can fuel division or extremism. Our work with interfaith and multi-faith networks demonstrates how dialogue can mitigate radicalisation and strengthen national security, while collaborations with government, law enforcement and media inform better policy and practice in areas such as counter-terrorism, community safety and violence prevention.

Arts research on **youth, education and democratic resilience** aims to contribute to civic participation and development of respectful communities. We recognise that intellectual resilience equips young people to think independently and responsibly, counter misinformation and foster democratic engagement. Our research supports schools and youth organisations to build critical thinking skills and constructive dialogue, empowering the next generation to respond constructively to destructive narratives and social pressures. In doing so, this work strengthens civics and citizenship education by fostering a sense of belonging and shared responsibility, while also building trust in democratic institutions. By equipping young people with the knowledge and confidence to participate meaningfully in civic life, our research helps ensure that Australia's future citizens are prepared to uphold inclusive values and sustain resilient, trustworthy institutions.

Finally, our research advances **social cohesion, wellbeing and equality of opportunity**, directly addressing national and state priorities for **equitable access to resources and participation**. We examine how education, healthcare, housing and employment shape resilience, connectedness and trust in institutions across diverse communities, from Indigenous peoples to newly arrived migrants. By working with policymakers and service providers, Monash Arts researchers define best practice and improve social infrastructure, ensuring services are responsive to diverse needs and contribute to long-term community wellbeing. This work also tackles systemic issues of inequality, disadvantage, intolerance, discrimination and violence, creating community-informed and ethically focused health and wellbeing interventions.

In particular, our research on the **prevention of gender and family violence and the advancement of gender equality** provides an evidence base for transformative policy change, supporting and protecting those experiencing violence while addressing the cultural and economic drivers that sustain it.

Latest projects

EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC WELL-BEING, CRIME AND ROAD SAFETY: AN ANALYSIS FROM THE SOCIAL DISORGANISATION PERSPECTIVE

Predictive Analytics Group, Melbourne and [Dr Zarina Vakhitova](#) (SoSS)

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts



The project examines why some communities experience higher rates of serious road crashes than others by looking beyond driver behaviour to the broader conditions that shape road safety. By combining crash, census, crime and geographic data to map where road trauma is clustered, the project investigates whether the key drivers are disadvantage, neighbourhood instability, crime, infrastructure gaps or differences in emergency and post-crash care. An early output is the Queensland crash dashboard.

Evidence generated will help governments target road safety efforts fairly and effectively, recognising that different communities need different solutions. It treats roads safety as both a transport and community issue. Using a social disorganisation lens, the project links road trauma to neighbourhood conditions such as disadvantage, residential mobility, social fragmentation, crime and institutional responsiveness, and examines how these pathways differ between urban and rural areas.

BRAVE CONVERSATIONS: STRENGTHENING UNIVERSITIES THROUGH CONSTRUCTIVE DISAGREEMENT

[Dr Daniel Heller](#) (SoPHIS) and [Dr Farid Zaid](#) (MNHS)

Australian Department of Home Affairs



At a time of growing polarisation, how can universities support respectful disagreement on difficult issues? *The Brave Conversations* project is a national initiative designed to help educators, student leaders and professional staff navigate difficult discussions with confidence and care.

Working across 11 universities, the project provides practical tools and training that support open, constructive dialogue on complex or sensitive issues. It draws on interdisciplinary research to understand what improves the quality of challenging conversations, and translates those insights into real-world resources to be used in classrooms, student groups and campus communities.

By strengthening the capacity for constructive disagreement, Brave Conversations aims to protect and enhance open inquiry, evidence-informed debate and inclusive learning environments. A broader ambition is to help institutions build more connected, resilient communities and to inform policy on how universities can foster healthy, respectful public discourse.



EVALUATION OF THE INTEGRATION OF LEGAL SUPPORT INTO THE ALEXIS FAMILY VIOLENCE RESPONSE MODEL

Dr Naomi Pfitzner, Dr Jess Woolley, Dr Megan McElhone, Dr Jasmine McGowan and Associate Professor Bridget Harris (SoSS)

Southside Justice Inc



This evaluation examines the process and impact of embedding legal support within the Alexis Family Violence Response Model (Alexis FVRM), a Victorian initiative designed to provide a holistic response to high-risk and recidivist family violence. The model emerged in response to systemic gaps in access to social services for both victim-survivors and perpetrators, recognising that a purely criminal justice approach was insufficient to reduce harm and prevent repeat offending. By fostering collaboration between lawyers, family violence practitioners and specialist family violence police units across two pilot sites, the Alexis FVRM seeks to provide an integrated, wrap-around response to family violence. Central is the recognition that access to timely, comprehensive legal assistance and representation is not supplementary but essential to both victim-survivors and persons using violence.

This evaluation examines how this approach is working, what impact it is having and how embedding legal support can strengthen coordinated family violence responses across Victoria.

ENHANCING POLICY CAPACITY OF EMERGING POLICY PRACTITIONERS

Associate Professor Zareh Ghazarian (SoSS)

Australia and New Zealand School of Government



Public servants shape the policies and programs that touch every part of community life. This Australian and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG) Resident Academic Fellowship program aims to explore how public servants build the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to do this work well. This project investigates how public servants learn, grow and adapt in their roles and identify practical ways to strengthen their professional development and day-to-day capability. By examining what supports people in the sector, the project will generate insights that can be applied across governments in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. The main goal is to assist public servants to design and deliver effective policy outcomes for the community.

FROM MACHINE TRANSLATION POST-EDITING TO CO-DESIGN: DEVELOPING A SCALABLE TRANSLATION QUALITY FRAMEWORK

Dr Leah Gerber, Professor Rita Wilson, Dr Margherita Angelucci (LLCL) and Alex Avella (Arts Research and Enterprise)

LanguageLoop



Human judgment sits at the heart of high-quality translation. Even with rapid advances in machine translation and AI-based tools, the dependable safeguard for accuracy, clarity and cultural safety is active involvement from translators and the communities who use the final materials.

This project will result in a practical, scalable model that strengthens both translation quality assurance and community engagement. It draws on existing research and real-world testing to understand what works in practice. The model sets out a tiered approach to translation workflows, from Machine Translation Post-Editing through to a fully co-designed process shaped by client needs and end-user experience. The goal is to create translations that are easy to use, culturally safe, and fit for purpose. The project uses design principles that are user-centred, holistic, and co-creative, ensuring each step of the workflow is clearly sequenced, transparent and evidence-based.

With strong emphasis on co-design, the project aims to build robust, repeatable processes that support culturally safe, high-quality translations. These processes will be aligned with recognised frameworks in service design and public participation, enabling translation agencies to rethink engagement with multilingual communities and delivery of services that meet community needs.

BHUTANESE DIASPORA STUDY

Professor Dharmalingam Arunachalam (SoSS)

World Bank



Australia is home to a growing Bhutanese community, yet little is known about how this group navigates education, work, mobility and family obligations after arrival. In partnership with the World Bank, Monash University will access administrative datasets and national surveys to build a clearer picture of Bhutanese migrants' experiences, from education pathways and labour-market integration to remittance patterns and the role of social networks in settlement.

The project will develop a longitudinal cohort framework that tracks migrant trajectories over time, capturing changes in employment,

earnings, mobility, and integration outcomes.

By following these patterns across years, the research will generate insights that can inform policy, community support and future migration planning. It will deepen the understanding of the community providing evidence that supports better outcomes for Bhutanese migrants in Australia.

SUPPORTING COUNCILS TO DEVELOP LOCAL ANTISEMITISM STRATEGIES

Dr Lauren Chalk and Noè Harsel (ACJC)

Glen Eira City Council



This project turns cutting-edge research from the Monash Initiative for Rapid Research into Antisemitism into practical action. Partnering with Glen Eira City Council, the team is translating evidence into impact to deliver tailored recommendations for strengthening Jewish safety, wellbeing and inclusion across the municipality.

The work shows how rapid, evidence-based research can help local councils better prevent and respond to antisemitism while building stronger, more cohesive communities. It demonstrates a model for turning research into policy that is timely, practical and grounded in the lived realities of local residents.

EVALUATING COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

Eastern Health Clinical School, Dr Ella Zomer (School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine), Dr Sylvia Ang (SoSS), Dr Delvin Varghese, (FIT), and colleagues from Diabetes Victoria, Network of Inner East Community Houses, Migrant Information Centre and Whitehorse Council

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation



This project, led by the Eastern Health Clinical School and in collaboration with Monash academics and other community partners, aims to understand the impact of community spaces on inclusion and belonging.

The focus is on Chinese and South Asian migrants, the two largest non-English migrant groups in Australia, plus Myanmar refugees.

These groups are often unreached by mainstream health and community initiatives and face systemic barriers to participation. The interdisciplinary team is using community-led approaches and methods to co-design metrics for inclusion and belonging with women from migrant and refugee backgrounds, service providers and policymakers. The outcome will be an evaluation toolkit to enable organisations to assess and improve how their spaces foster inclusion and belonging in diverse communities.

RESEARCH ON BEST PRACTICE ACCESSIBLE COMMUNICATION STANDARDS FOR ALL GOVERNMENT -INFORMATION PRODUCTS ACROSS AUSTRALIA

Associate Professor Louisa Willoughby (LLCL), Associate Professor Bhiamie Williamson (NIDR), Professor Kimbal Marriott, Professor Dinh Phung (FIT), Dr Natasha Layton (RAIL), Dr Em Bould (MNHS).

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (Australia)



Every day, millions of Australians rely on government information, from health updates to emergency warnings. For many people with disabilities, this information is still difficult to access. This national project asks an urgent question: How can Australia ensure that every person, in every community, can access government information easily and safely, including during emergencies?

Co-led by Associate Professor Louisa Willoughby and Professor Marriott, the project brings together experts in disability, accessible communication, Indigenous disaster resilience, AI and assistive technologies to develop world-leading accessibility standards. The team works with people with disability, including First Nations people with disability, to understand what works, what doesn't and what needs change.

The project will build a picture of how people access government information and where barriers exist. The findings will guide development of new national accessibility standards, including advice on the safe use of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, and specific guidance for time-critical emergency and natural disaster communication.

MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES' COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES

Dr Lucas Moreira dos Anjos Santos, Dr Leah Gerber, Rachel Taylor (LLCL)

City of Casey



How can councils communicate with multicultural communities in ways that are accessible, trusted and useful? This project is exploring that question in one of Victoria's most culturally diverse municipalities.

The research examines how residents currently receive Council information, what barriers they encounter, and which languages, formats and channels work best for them.

The study [builds on previous research](#) on why neighbourhood-level engagement is key to migrant inclusion and social cohesion, showing that communication is not just about translation, but about equity, trust and access. It reinforces the importance of neighbourhoods as key places where belonging is formed: the everyday settings where people encounter difference, where trust grows or breaks down, and where participation is supported or constrained. At a time of divisive national debates neighbourhoods remain a space where genuine connection across differences can still occur.

By understanding how different communities navigate information, the project will help shape more inclusive communication strategies and inform future Council policy and program design.

SCLEROCHRONOLOGY OF GUNAIKURNAI COASTAL MOLLUSCS: MODERN BASELINES AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEASONALITY

Professor Bruno David, Dr Ashleigh Rogers (SoPHIS)

GunaiKurnai Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation (GLAWAC)



This project is uncovering how GunaiKurnai Old Ancestors used the coast, estuaries and lakes across the seasons by analysing shell growth patterns using sclerochronology. Working in partnership with GLaWAC, Sea Country Rangers, the Monash PhD students are learning these methods as they help build a modern baseline for key mollusc species across coastal and Gippsland Lakes environments.

This research will generate the first independent archaeological evidence for seasonal use of GunaiKurnai Country, moving beyond colonial accounts and grounding interpretations in materials left by Old Ancestors.

The findings will support GLaWAC's cultural heritage, Sea Country and research priorities, offering new insights into seasonal calendars, coastal lifeways and long-term connections to place.

FUTUREPROOFING HIGHER EDUCATION: CROSS-NATIONAL COMPARISONS OF MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS IN UNIVERSITY RESTRUCTURING

Concordia University, Dr Ben Eltham (MFJ) and colleagues from Queens University, University of Alberta, University of Technology Sydney, Université de Montréal, St Jerome's University, McGill University, University of Regina, University of Sheffield, University of Auckland, the Canadian Association of University Teachers, Manchester University, and the University of Ottawa

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada



Universities are increasingly turning to management consultants as they navigate financial pressure, competition, and rapid change. These consultants often shape major decisions, restructures, job cuts, new governance models, with little public visibility into how they work or the sources of their advice.

The team of 14 international research partners, led by Concordia University, is launching the first comparative study of university consulting practices across Canada, the UK, Australia, and New Zealand. The project is mapping who the major firms are, how they gather and share information, and what their influence means for university governance.

The project will provide an evidence-base that will contribute to a higher-education system where decisions affecting teaching, research, and jobs are made with clearer oversight, stronger governance, and a better-informed public.

REFRAMING THE JAZZ CANON

Professor Robert Burke, Dr Paul Williamson, Dr Nicole Canham (SZCSOM)

Anonymous Donation



What happens when the music students study and perform is overwhelmingly composed by men? *Reframing the Jazz Canon* addresses this imbalance by commissioning, recording, publishing, and distributing 100 new jazz compositions by 25 Australian female-identifying composers for use in secondary and tertiary education. Working with educators, performers, schools, tertiary institutions, and industry partners, it will create practical teaching resources in a digital space that support improvisation, ensemble performance, creativity, and stylistic learning. Works will be professionally recorded and published to ensure long-term accessibility for educators and students.

The project will increase the visibility of Australian women composers, strengthen connections between education and industry, and contribute to a more inclusive and representative jazz culture. Its innovation lies in directly reshaping the repertoire students encounter in their learning paradigms, creating lasting educational and cultural change.



“

Students cannot aspire to what they do not regularly see, hear and perform.

Contributor of the *Reframing the Jazz Canon* project

EXCELLENT RESEARCH FOR TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES

Excellence and Impact: Monash Arts Powers Two New ARC Centres of Excellence

ARC Centres of Excellence (CoEs) are Australia's most competitive and prestigious research programs. Funded for seven years and bringing together national and international partners, CoEs are designed to tackle the biggest, most complex challenges, requiring interdisciplinary expertise, long-term investment and deep collaboration across universities, industry and communities.

Monash Arts has achieved significant engagement in the latest CoE round, contributing to two newly funded centres: the ARC Centre of Excellence for Prisoner Reintegration and the ARC Centre of Excellence for Transforming Human Origins Research. Although focused on very different questions, both centres speak directly to the Faculty's mission, strengths and capacity building. They investigate human resilience through two powerful lenses, the contemporary social systems that shape cycles of incarceration and the deep-time environmental changes that have influenced human evolution.

ARC Centre of Excellence for Prisoner Reintegration

Australia is facing a reincarceration crisis: around 70,000 people leave prison each year, and nearly half return within two years. [The ARC Centre of Excellence for Prisoner Reintegration \(CEPR\)](#) shifts the focus from why people reoffend to how they successfully rebuild their lives, with emphasis on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences.

Using a strengths-based, First Nations and industry-led approach, CEPR will map successful reintegration pathways, develop new measures of success, build social licence, and train future research leaders. With correctional spending nearing \$7 billion annually, the Centre is positioned to deliver major social and economic benefits.

Through partnerships with government, community and First Nations organisations, CEPR will translate its findings into practical tools, action plans and public engagement resources that drive real-world reform and long-term change.

The Centre brings together over 40 partners across Australian and international universities, justice departments, community organisations, First Nations legal and healing services, national NGOs and global justice reform agencies. The Monash node is led by [Associate Professor Anna Eriksson](#) in collaboration with Associate Professor Susan Baidawi, [Dr Matthew Maycock](#) and [Dr Chris Dollar](#).

ARC Centre of Excellence for Transforming Human Origins Research

[The ARC Centre of Excellence for Transforming Human Origins Research \(THOR\)](#) investigates how Homo sapiens became a highly adaptable, globally distributed species. Despite 300,000 years of human history, major gaps remain in understanding how early humans responded to environmental change, gaps shaped by the historical neglect of many regions and the exclusion of Indigenous and Global South knowledge systems.

THOR brings Indigenous, Global South and Western researchers together to co-design fieldwork in understudied regions across Africa, Asia and Australia. By examining how cooperation, culture and technology supported human survival across diverse ecosystems, the Centre will generate new scientific models that reshape public understanding of our shared past and inform contemporary policy on climate, sustainability and heritage.

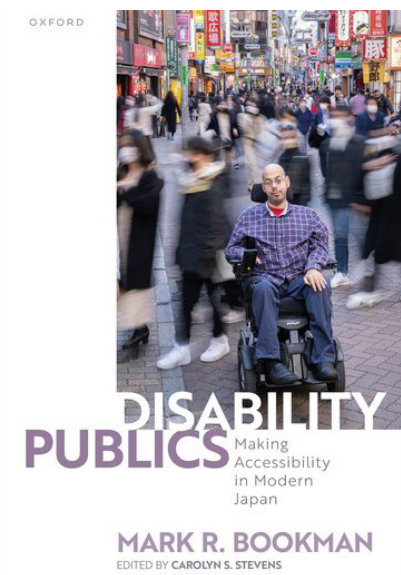
Ethical engagement and Indigenous leadership are central to the approach, ensuring research is grounded in community priorities and lived knowledge. THOR's findings will be translated through education, public engagement and policy partnerships, positioning Australia at the forefront of global human origins research.

The Centre brings together 52 partners across leading Australian universities, major international research institutes, global museums, Aboriginal land councils, national research agencies and industry collaborators, with the Monash engagement led by [Professor Bruno David](#) in collaboration with [Dr Ashleigh Rogers](#).

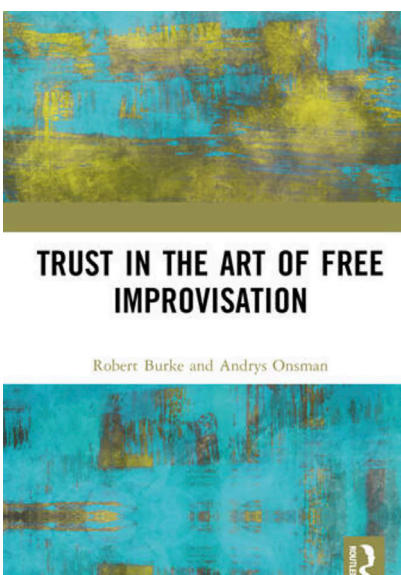


Publications

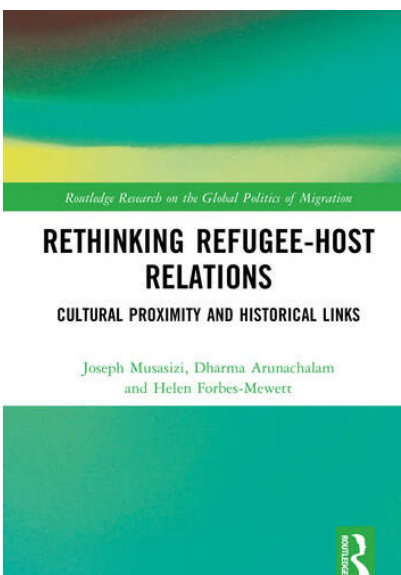
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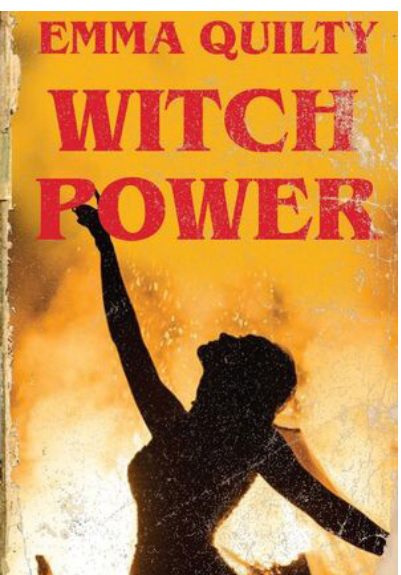
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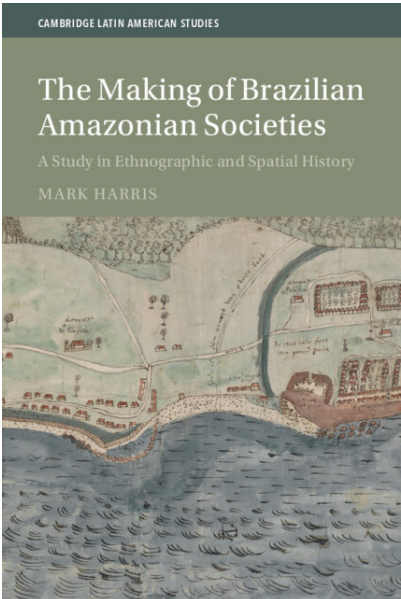
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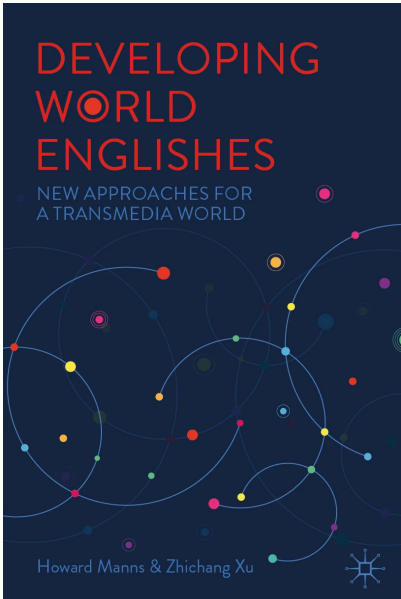
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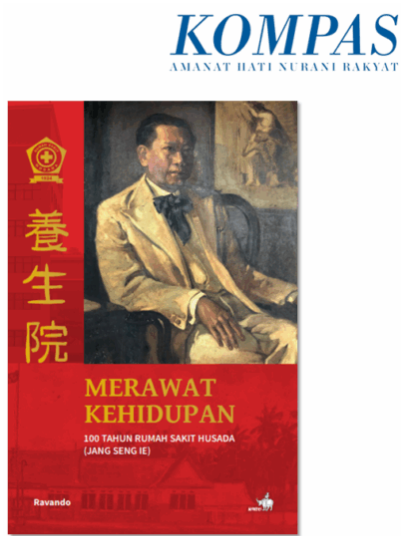
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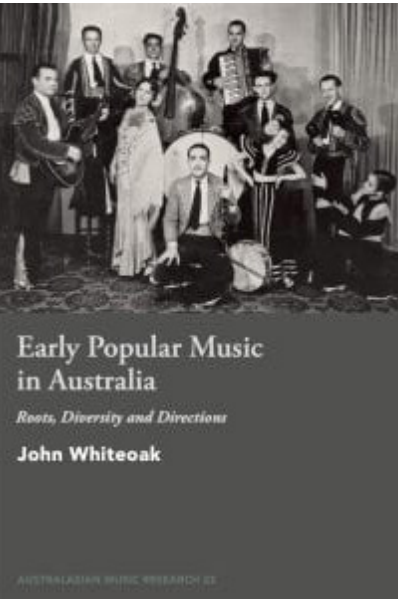
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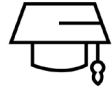
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NEWS FROM ARTS GRADUATE RESEARCH



CONGRATULATIONS TO DOCTORS OF PHILOSOPHY (NOV 2025-MAY 2026)

Dr Agata Adely

LLCL, Thesis: [Portraits of Sicilian-Australians: Exploring Identity through the Repertoire](#)

Supervisors: Dr Howard Manns, Dr Francesco Ricatti

Dr Juanjuan Ba

LLCL, Thesis: [From Awareness to Action: Exploring How Translators' Self-Awareness of Intercultural Competence Enhances Intercultural Mediation](#)

Supervisors: Dr Nadine Normand-Marconnet, Prof Rita Wilson

Dr Alice Capstick

LLCL, Thesis: [The Romantic Satanic Hero: The Miltonic Origins of the Antihero](#)

Supervisors: Dr Patrick Spedding, Dr Peter Groves

Dr Dylan Hughes

LLCL, Thesis: [Swearing, Slang and Social Media: Colloquial Language and Identity in Victorian High Schools](#)

Supervisors: Dr Howard Manns, Prof Kathryn Burridge

Dr Xiaoli Li

LLCL, Thesis: [Exploring the Long-Term Motivation of Post-Tertiary Multilingual Adult Learners of Chinese as an Additional Language](#)

Supervisors: Dr Hui Huang, Dr Ward Peeters

Dr Muhammad Adnan

MFJ, Thesis: [Mobile Media, Political Journalism and Press Freedom in Pakistan](#)

Supervisors: Prof Brett Hutchins, Dr Stephanie Brookes

Dr Shuyi Chen

MFJ, Thesis: [Digital Platforms and Health Governance in China](#)

Supervisors: Dr Luzhou Li, Assoc Prof Zala Volcic

Dr Ismail Fahmi

MFJ, Thesis: [Journalism Culture in Post New Order Indonesia and the Reemergence of the Pancasila Press: A Case Study of Basuki Tjahaja Purnama \(Ahok\) and Chineseness Representation in Kompas and Republika in 2005–2019](#)

Supervisors: Dr Andy Ruddock, Assoc Prof Sharyn Davies, Assoc Prof Johan Lidberg

Dr Xiyao Liu

MFJ, Thesis: [Understanding China's Social Credit System \(SCS\) through media representation, official discourse, institutional practice, and grassroots experience](#)

Supervisors: Dr Aneta Podkalicka, Prof Mark Andrejevic

Dr Amritha Mohan

MFJ, Thesis: [Playing with feelings: Investigating experiences of women in sport and physical cultures in Kerala, India](#)

Supervisors: Prof Brett Hutchins, Dr Mugdha Rai

Dr Ina Nur Ratriyana

MFJ, Thesis: [Penta Helix: The Politics of Collaboration in Indonesia's Creative Cities Project](#)

Supervisors: Prof Julian Millie, Assoc Prof Emma Baulch

Dr Jason Telles

MFJ, Thesis: [The Southeast Asian Games and the Mediation of Philippine Cultures and Identities](#)

Supervisors: Prof Brett Hutchins, Prof Olivia Khoo

Dr Aimee Traficante

MFJ, Thesis: [Demonic or Divine?: The Feminist Potential of Supernatural Representations of Women Onscreen](#)

Supervisors: Dr Claire Perkins, Prof Olivia Khoo

Dr Niamh White

MFJ, Thesis: [Young Queer Women and Sapphic People's Affective-Temporal Engagements with Queer History on Social Media](#)

Supervisors: Dr Whitney Monaghan, Dr Kate Fitch, Dr Akane Kanai (External)

Dr Kaflina Kamalul

SASS, Thesis: [Staying Connected: Unveiling Digital Literacy Through WhatsApp Everyday Practices Among Older Adults in Malaysia](#)

Supervisors: Assoc Prof Emma Baulch, Assoc Prof Dyah Pitaloka

Dr Arath Nirmala Prabhakar

SASS, Thesis: [Navigating Evolving Professional Identities: Female Keralite Ayurveda Therapists and their Negotiations of Migration Infrastructure to Malaysia](#)

Supervisors: Assoc Prof Yeoh Seng Guan, Dr Koh Sin Yee

Dr Jimmy Blackwell

SoPHIS, Thesis: [The Making of Roman Greece: The Legitimation of Roman Authority in the Greek Mainland, 200–31 BCE](#)

Supervisors: Dr Andrew Connor, Dr Jessie Birkett-Rees

Dr Alba Eliana Cuenca

SoPHIS, Thesis: [Beyond Possible Worlds: Non-standard Approaches to Epistemic Logic](#)

Supervisors: Dr Ellie Ripley, Adj Assoc Prof Lloyd Humberstone

Dr Thomas Darling

SoPHIS, Thesis: [Toward a naturalistic account of meaning in life](#)

Supervisors: Prof Jakob Hohwy, Dr Michelle Liu

Dr Eliana Horn

SoPHIS, Thesis: [Knowing Me, Knowing You: An Epistemological Account of Prosocial Behaviour-Promoting Virtual Reality and its Ethical Trade-offs](#)

Supervisors: Prof Robert Sparrow, Assoc Prof Stephanie Collins

Dr Nina Roxburgh

SoPHIS, Thesis: [More data equals better health? Ethical considerations for collecting and using data from patient-reported measures](#)

Supervisors: Prof Justin Oakley, Prof Malcolm Hopwood (External), Prof Christobel Saunders (External), Dr Anna Janssen (External)

Dr Chanelle Warton

SoPHIS, Thesis: [Shaping Autonomous Choice: The Role of Healthcare Professionals' Value Judgements in Decision-Making about Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing](#)

Supervisors: Assoc Prof Suzy Killmister, Prof Justin Oakley, Dr Danya Vears (External)

Dr Anggia Anggraini

SoSS, Thesis: [Gender Politics, Conflict and External Interventions in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea](#)

Supervisors: Dr Eleanor Gordon, Prof Jack Corbett, Prof Katrina Lee-Koo

Dr Anak Agung Istri Diah Tricesaria

SoSS, Thesis: [Between Precarity and Proximity: Refugee Women's Navigation of Gender, Border and Inclusion in Indonesia](#)

Supervisors: Dr Sara Niner, Dr Sylvia Ang, Prof Marie Segrave (External)

Dr Kyra Fabianke

SoSS, Thesis: [Sustainable Business Model Innovation in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises: An Appreciative Inquiry into the Transition from Business as Usual to Business for Good](#)

Supervisors: Assoc Prof Wendy Stubbs, Prof Megan Farrelly, Dr Benjamin Thompson

Dr Ciara Farrelly

SoSS, Thesis: [Acquired Brain Injuries in Perpetrators of Family Violence: Exploring Identification, Risk and Response](#)

Supervisors: Assoc Prof Anna Eriksson, Dr Jasmine McGowan

Dr Hilman Fathoni

SoSS, Thesis: [In-between possibilities: the everyday ethics of societal changes in Eastern Indonesia](#)

Supervisors: Prof Megan Farrelly, Prof Yolande Strengers, Prof Sarah Pink

Dr Clara Ribeiro Assumpcao

SoSS, Thesis: [Gender Mainstreaming in Counterterrorism Policy: A comparative analysis of norm diffusion, framing, and robustness across multilateral institutions](#)

Supervisors: Prof Asher Flynn, Prof Jacqui True

Dr Christina Schmid

SoSS, Thesis: [Insurgencies as Gendered Organisations in the Syrian Civil War](#)

Supervisors: Dr Alexandra Phelan, Assoc Prof Peter Lentini

Dr Laura Teerijoki

SoSS, Thesis: [Reproduction Rebellion: Reconfiguring Gametogenesis](#)

Supervisors: Dr Claire Tanner, Dr Whitney Monaghan

Dr Joshua Thorburn

SoSS, Thesis: [“Forever Alone, Together!” Exploring narratives of gender-based hate within online forum discussions of singleness and dating strategies](#)

Supervisors: Assoc Prof Brady Robards, Prof Asher Flynn, Dr Emily Van Der Nagel

Dr Katrina Zorzi

SoSS, Thesis: [The \(Social\) Science Tells Us: Environmental Movement Organisations and the Framing of Expertise](#)

Supervisors: Assoc Prof Peter Lentini, Dr Susan Carland, Dr Steven Zech

Dr Miranda Park

SZCSOMP, Thesis: [Troubling Gender in Australian Tertiary Jazz Institutions: Narratives of Power and Inequity](#)
Supervisors: Assoc Prof Robert Burke, Prof Catherine Hope, Dr Clare Hall

CONGRATULATIONS TO DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (CREATIVE WRITING) GRADUATE (NOV 2025-MAY 2026)

Dr Ann Maree Brewer

LLCL, Thesis: [Performing the Domestic: Identity, Power, and Thick Description in Contemporary Noir Fiction](#)
Supervisors: Assoc Prof Stewart King, Assoc Prof Christiane Weller

CONGRATULATIONS TO DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (MUSIC) GRADUATES (NOV 2025-MAY 2026)

Dr Jaslyn Robertson

SZCSOMP, Thesis: [Knots that Bind: A Queer Investigation of Censorship and Silence through Experimental Opera](#)
Supervisors: Prof Catherine Hope, Dr Louise Devenish, Dr Iran Sanadzadeh

Dr Eugene Ughetti

SZCSOMP, Thesis: [Worlding percussion as creative collaboration: The entanglement of materials, semiotics and practices with percussion](#)
Supervisors: Prof Margaret Barrett, Prof Stacy Holman Jones, Prof Andrea Creech (External)

CONGRATULATIONS TO DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (JOINT AWARD MONASH - WARWICK) GRADUATE (NOV 2025-MAY 2026)

Dr Wai Sum Tse

LLCL, Thesis: [“Day school teachers do not talk about this, right?”: Staging the “meta-teacher” in shadow education in Hong Kong](#)
Supervisors: Dr Howard Manns (Monash), Dr Jo Angouri (Warwick)

CONGRATULATIONS TO DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (JOINT AWARD INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY - MONASH) GRADUATE (NOV 2025-MAY 2026)

Dr Lekshmy Ullasan Kala

LLCL, Thesis: [Reading Place and Self Contrapuntally in Australian Fiction post-1980s: Unsettling the Settler-Colony](#)
Supervisors: Dr Mridula Chakraborty (Monash), Dr Paulomi Chakraborty (IITB)

CONGRATULATIONS TO MASTER OF ARTS GRADUATES (NOV 2025-MAY 2026)

Vanessa Costanzo

LLCL, Thesis: [‘A moving face from many angles’: Postmemory in the works of Lily Brett](#)
Supervisors: Prof Rebecca Margolis, Assoc Prof Christiane Weller

Robin Sheridan

LLCL, Thesis: [A Topological Account of Hysteria in Psychoanalysis](#)
Supervisors: Assoc Prof Christiane Weller, Assoc Prof Christopher Watkin

Nina Buchanan

SZCSOMP, Thesis: [A Carrier Bag Theory of Electronic Music: Relationality in Human-Machine Interaction](#)
Supervisors: Dr Louise Devenish, Prof Catherine Hope

CONGRATULATIONS TO MASTER OF ARTS (RESEARCH TRAINING) GRADUATES (NOV 2025-MAY 2026)

Vitor Arouca Xavier

LLCL, Thesis: [The extraordinary in the ordinary in Robert Walser’s Der Spaziergang](#)
Supervisors: Assoc Prof Axel Fliethmann, Assoc Prof Christiane Weller

Rebecca Neville

SoPHIS, Thesis: [Creating a Ceramic Typology Using Machine Learning: A Case Study from the Middle Bronze Age South Caucasus](#)
Supervisors: Dr Hilary Gopnik, Dr Jessie Birkett-Rees

GRADUATE RESEARCH PRIZES AND AWARDS

The 2025 Mollie Holman Medal was awarded to:

Dr Kyra Fabianke (Human Geography, SoSS)

Thesis title: Sustainable Business Model Innovation in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises: An Appreciative Inquiry into the Transition from Business as Usual to Business for Good

This thesis investigated how small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can adopt Sustainable Business Models (SBMs) to address environmental and social challenges. The thesis demonstrates that SMEs are not only crucial, but also capable and willing partners in the quest for sustainable development. Their journeys offer valuable insights into how businesses can evolve to meet the complex challenges of our time, shifting from business as usual to business as a force for good.

The 2025 Vice-Chancellor’s Commendation for Thesis Excellence was awarded to:

Dr Elizabeth Fisher (Philosophy, SoPHIS)

Thesis title: Towards an understanding of optimism bias: a computational approach

This thesis investigates how optimism bias, which improves health and well-being by promoting engagement in the world, can be an intervention for depression and anxiety using methods from computational psychiatry. I use the active inference framework to demonstrate how we can model and stimulate optimism bias in different task settings, providing the groundwork for further research in clinical settings. Using both empirical and interdisciplinary approaches, I show how optimism bias is a promising treatment target.

The 2025 Faculty of Arts Dean’s Commendation for Thesis Excellence was awarded to:

Dr Tessa Holzman (Philosophy, SoPHIS)

Thesis title: Writing one’s own story, until the very last page: An ethical examination of an Autonomy-only approach to voluntary assisted dying

Given the recent Dutch ‘Completed Life proposal’ to allow voluntary assisted dying (VAD) for people who are not suffering from a severe illness, this thesis explores how an autonomy-only approach to VAD would intersect with populations who have a complex or atypical relationship with autonomy as it is usually conceived of. My aim is to examine the ethical implications of abandoning a suffering requirement in VAD policy and focusing entirely on autonomy as the primary access criterion. For this, I consider various circumstances that may interfere with autonomy: Childhood, neurological damage, grief, poverty and incarceration.

FROM HERITAGE STORYTELLING TO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION: TWO ARTS PHD INTERNSHIPS MAKING REAL-WORLD IMPACT

At the Faculty of Arts, PhD research is increasingly defined by its connection to real-world challenges. Many candidates enter doctoral study after established careers in the arts, education, community sectors, public policy or industry, making Arts research distinctly practice-rich, community-engaged and policy relevant. Within this landscape, internships and industry engagement play a pivotal role. They bridge research and practice, enabling candidates to test ideas in applied settings, work directly with partners and generate insights that inform both scholarship and sector practice. Arts internships are positioned to create community-led impact, drawing on storytelling, cultural insight and deep engagement with people and place to support organisations.

The spotlight on industry-facing projects of two PhD candidates demonstrates the breadth and power of Arts research in action: Moira Finucane, whose practice led PhD explores art as a tool for hope and transformation, and Rachel Leigh Taylor, whose work strengthens communication between multilingual and multicultural communities and emergency management authorities.

Meet Rachel Leigh Taylor, PhD Candidate

Rachel Leigh Taylor returned to doctoral study after a career in education, community development and emergency management. Motivated by gaps she observed between research and on the ground realities, she began her PhD to formalise and extend her expertise.

Emergency Communication for Multicultural Communities

Rachel's PhD examines how emergency communication can be improved for multicultural communities, particularly during natural disasters. Effective communication in crises directly influences safety, preparedness and resilience. Working with emergency services, government agencies and community organisations, her work highlights the essential role of intercultural competence and community capacity development as pathways to more inclusive and effective emergency management systems

Industry collaboration: Strengthening emergency communications in regional Victoria

One example of Rachel's industry engagement work is evidenced by a 'Translating and Interpreting in Disasters' workshop, delivered in regional Victoria in 2025 demonstrating how intercultural research can directly support community resilience. As part of a broader project funded by the Greater Shepparton City Council, in partnership with VICSES and the Bureau of Meteorology, and supported by the Monash Intercultural Lab (MIL), Rachel brought together interpreters, multicultural community members and emergency services to improve understanding of emergency warnings and alerts. Participants practiced interpreting authentic flood warnings, explored how emergency terminology translates across languages and identified clearer ways to communicate the national Australian Warning System action statements.

The initiative strengthened local community knowledge of emergency terminology, built skills for community leaders in accessing and using digital government platforms such as the Vic Emergency app, and provided feedback to emergency management authorities on how to adapt their current communication practices to better meet diverse community needs. Findings from this industry collaboration will be shared through a forthcoming industry report to be published in the Australian Journal of Emergency Management.

I would encourage candidates to think about engagement as an opportunity to build meaningful, long term relationships. The real value lies in the connections you make and how those relationships support your research and future career.

Rachel Leigh Taylor,
PhD Candidate

Meet Moira Finucane, PhD Candidate

Moira Finucane brings artistic, scientific and community-based experience to her doctoral research. With a career spanning environmental science, human rights advocacy and internationally acclaimed performance, Moira has created work that illuminates wildness, justice, imagination and hope. As she writes, *I have journeyed through all kinds of spaces and communities... creating worlds so beautiful it hurts to leave them (Australian Theatre)*. Her return to study is driven by a desire to deepen this practice and explore how art can act as a transformative force in the face of global and cultural crises.

Art vs Extinction: A Practice-Led Research Quest

Moira's PhD, *The Art vs Extinction Methodology: Weaponising Hope & Looking for Miracles in the Age of the Anthropocene*, explores how live art can mobilise communities and spark imaginative transformative responses to biocultural extinctions. Moira examines how artistic practice can spark connection, imagination and collective strength during a period of significant environmental and social change: *I believe and hope that art has a powerful role to play in defying extinction and creating a future we can all share*. Working alongside communities, Elders, scientists and cultural leaders, Moira investigates how performance can open new ways of seeing, feeling and acting, illuminating the transformative role art can play in shaping shared futures.

Make the PhD work for you... Take its twists and turns not as obstacles but as the scenic route. Be bold. Be excited. Don't box yourself in. Research is a journey into the unknown. Take it.

Moira Finucane,
PhD Candidate

PhD Internship: Artist-in-Residence with the National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

As part of her internship, Moira is artist-in-residence across two significant heritage sites, Tasma Terrace and Labassa Mansion, on Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong/Boon Wurrung Country. The placement aligns with her long-standing engagement with natural and cultural heritage, shaped through fellowships that have spanned National Gallery of Victoria, Museums Victoria, Staté Museum of Florida and Antarctica. Moira is exploring the evolving meaning of trust in heritage, conservation, community and memory.

She works with staff, community, volunteers, artists, living entities and collections to illuminate overlooked treasures, from Victorian wallpapers to the *tiny but mighty* Antarctic krill. Her internship will culminate in a new performance work responding to the layered histories, silences and futures held within these heritage sites.

Image: Moira Finucane shot on location in Neko Harbour Antarctica, 2019
Photography by Scott Portelli

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: PRIZES AND EXTERNAL RECOGNITIONS

We are proud to highlight a selection of recent external accolades and prizes that enhance Monash Arts' reputation and underscore our commitment to pioneering research. These national and international recognitions celebrate the impactful contributions of our work and its transformative influence on communities, driving innovation and discovery beyond boundaries.

- [Lucy Pennington](#) - Named the 2026 Euan Crone Asian Awareness Scholar by the Australian Institute of International Affairs. Recognised for her work as a Naarm-based international affairs practitioner and researcher, currently undertaking a PhD on frontline foreign policy at Monash University. Her professional contributions span program design, implementation and evaluation for DFAT, MFAT (NZ) and UNHCR, advancing evidence-informed engagement with Asia.
- [Associate Professor Stewart King](#) - Awarded the 2026 George N. Dove Award by the American Popular Culture Association (PCA) for his extensive contributions to the study of mystery and crime fiction. The PCA highlighted his pioneering work conceptualising crime fiction as world literature, a focus central to the ARC Discovery Project he leads.
- [Dr Iori Hamada](#) - Recipient of a [2025 Gourmand Award](#) for one of the Best Food-themed Books in the World, recognising her contribution to global food writing and cultural scholarship.
- [Matt Mitchell](#) - Winner of the 2025 Antenna Award for Best Local News, Journalism or Current Affairs, presented by the Melbourne Community Television Consortium, acknowledging excellence in community-centred reporting.
- [Associate Professor Xin Gu](#) - Finalist in the Research & Engagement category of the [2025 Melbourne Asia Game Changer Awards \(Asia Society Australia\)](#), recognising her leadership in cultural economy research and Australia-Asia engagement.
- [Dr Stephanie Wescott](#) and [Professor Steven Roberts](#) - Awarded the [2025 Sociology in Action Award](#) by The Australian Sociological Association for their outstanding contribution to applied sociological practice and research translation.
- [Dr Ash Humphrey](#) - Appointed the [2025 INDEX Institute Scholar in Residence](#). His project, [A Day in the Life of War: Narratives of Everyday Life in Wartime Ukraine](#), explores the lived experiences, coping practices and wellbeing of non-combatant Ukrainians during the ongoing conflict.
- Zachary Daus - Recipient of the 2026 ESPMH Young Scholar Award for his paper "Death, Existentialism and the Personalised Patient Preference Predictor," recognised for its innovative contribution to medical ethics and existential philosophy.

SHAPING AUSTRALIA AWARD WINNER

CONGRATULATIONS TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR LOUISA WILLOUGHBY

Associate Professor Louisa Willoughby has been awarded the Community Champion Award at the Shaping Australia Awards, recognising her [leadership in elevating Auslan and Deafblind communication across Australia](#).

This achievement is [shared with the many community partners and individuals](#) who have collaborated with Louisa over the years. Meaningful change is always built through relationships, trust and collective effort.

The awards ceremony, held at Parliament House in Canberra and attended by political leaders and university representatives, provided an important platform to elevate the profile of disability research, Deafblindness and Auslan on the national stage.



From left, Monash University Prof Katie Stevenson, A/Prof Louisa Willoughby and Prof Sharon Pickering. Image: Shaping Australia Awards/Monash University.

MONASH ARTS GAME-CHANGERS: ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Meet Dr Amy Gibbs

Navigating Technology with Optimism: From Early Online Worlds to Digital Leadership

Long before digital transformation, Dr Amy Gibbs was immersed in the online spaces that would shape her future career. A self-described early internet dweller, she was drawn not to the machinery of technology but to how people were using it - the communities forming, the norms emerging, and the trust being built in online spaces many dismissed as 'fake'.

Her connection to Monash began earlier. Growing up with an emeritus professor for a father and a senior research fellow for a mother, Amy absorbed an academic curiosity that would shape her path. After completing a Bachelor of Arts, she returned to Monash University to pursue a PhD in Communications, driven by a fascination with how people interact, learn and connect in digital environments.

Now, as Senior Manager in Digital Advisory at Scyne Advisory, a public sector focused consultancy, Amy helps organisations understand their technology landscape, avoid transformation pitfalls and harness emerging tools in grounded, responsible and genuinely useful ways.

A Career Built on Curiosity and Critical Thinking

Amy's academic background spans Ancient Egypt, history, archaeology, computer science, and the sociology of online communities and virtual worlds. It's an unconventional mix that provides a distinctive way of seeing how people behave in digital environments - and how those behaviours shape the online universe.

Her PhD at Monash was a turning point. She learned to think more laterally and logically, how to research with rigour, and how to approach complex problems with depth - skills she still relies on. However, the community aspect of her research has been just as influential. One of Amy's areas of interest is the potential of the metaverse - the term for an immersive, persistent spatial internet - both digitally enhanced 'real world' spaces (such as augmented reality) and fully virtual spaces where people meet, work, learn or socialise.

The focus isn't on the gadgets or hyped platforms, but on the human behaviours that drive these spaces: how people gather, build community and create meaning online.

"During and after COVID, when people could not physically meet, the metaverse suddenly entered public conversation. And even though it's now sitting in that familiar 'trough of despair' where people declare it over, I don't think that's likely. From the communities I studied, I believe the underlying mechanics are sound - and the technology has now advanced to a point where there's no real reason those ideas shouldn't work and continue to grow. While it may not end up being called the metaverse, the immersive digital-physical world will continue to further integrate into our expanded reality."

Seeing What Others Missed

Amy's PhD examined how trust, connection and shared norms form in online communities - research conducted before social media and smartphones reshaped society. At the time, many doubted that online relationships were "real." Amy explains:

"People didn't believe online communities were real or that the people engaging in them were genuine or human, that there was a real person somewhere in the world forming real connections. But people will always be people. The way they communicate, the connections they form, the strength of their ties - that's what makes this technology useful and successful."

This grounding in sociology, psychology and anthropology continues to shape her work. It gives her a long-view perspective on digital society.

"People say AI is just a trend (for good or for ill), and the hype will cool eventually but it's not going anywhere. AI sits at the intersection of how people use technology and why they use it. I don't think we pay nearly enough attention to that. Dismissing these developments as fads or tech-giant money-making plays is short-sighted, technology lasts because people find something in its use desirable."

Helping Organisations Navigate Uncertainty

Amy works with organisations trying to understand what emerging technologies like AI and virtual worlds mean for their people, processes and the future. Much of her work involves translating across groups - the early adopters excited to experiment, executives focused on strategy, and boards concerned with risk and responsibility. It's a space where misunderstandings are common, where listening closely, asking the right questions and helping each group see what the others are trying to say is essential.

Her academic background provides a sharp instinct for these conversations.

"It's given me a kind of sixth sense so I can quickly get to the heart of people's concerns and explain, in plain language, what a technology does, how it works and whether it's worth their attention - why they should or shouldn't be interested."

A Call for Rigour in the Age of AI

As AI is embedded in work and society, Amy sees a growing need for the kind of critical thinking that research training provides.

"One of the concerning areas is the use of AI by people who don't have the rigorous research background that academia, particularly in Arts and Humanities, provides. Not knowing how to interpret text, trace sources or question outputs can be dangerous or inefficient." Amy believes stronger collaboration between researchers and technologists is essential.

Looking Ahead: Caution and Curiosity in Equal Measure

For Amy, the future of emerging technologies isn't defined by the tools themselves, but by what they make possible - new forms of connection, capability, time-saving and access that are only just beginning to unfold.

"Once a technology can reliably do what people expect of it and do it sustainably, the social need takes over. That's why these technologies don't disappear. The labels might change, but it's how people use them that ultimately determines whether they endure.

They aren't going away, and how people and companies use them is what guarantees their success. We need optimism paired with responsibility."

It's that balance of curiosity matched with care, that she hopes to help organisations and society more broadly navigate with clarity and confidence.



NEW APPOINTEES



DR CHARLES CRABTREE

[Dr Charles Crabtree](#) is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Social Sciences. He is researching at the intersection of intergroup relations, political behavior, and computational social science, with a focus on how social boundaries, defined by race, ethnicity, class, disability, and nationality, translate into unequal treatment across societies. Crabtree directs the Fundamental Needs Lab, which concentrates on class-based discrimination and material deprivation. His research provides an evidence base for policy and service provision changes related to anti-discrimination law, equitable access to public services, and the design of interventions to reduce prejudice. It has been cited in US State Department reports, and organisations including the American Civil Liberties Union, and covered by National Public Radio's All Things Considered, CBS News, The Economist, and The Atlantic. Crabtree specialises in experimental and computational methods, correspondence experiments, conjoint surveys, computational text analysis, machine learning, and large language models, that allow discrimination and bias to be measured at scale. Recently, he has been investigating whether AI itself can serve as an intervention, testing whether AI-driven personalised persuasion can reduce prejudice. These methods are portable and have been applied across cases relevant to political science, public administration, and sociology, with potential for health and education research. Crabtree has conducted fieldwork and research across the United States, the Asia-Pacific, and former Soviet Union. He holds non-residential fellowships at the Kennan Institute and the Institute for the Study of States of Exception.



DR AARON JACKSON

[Dr Aaron J. Jackson](#) is a lecturer in Anthropology in the School of Sciences and is a cultural anthropologist whose research focuses on care, embodiment, and moral experience, with particular expertise in intellectual and cognitive disability and caregiving practices. He works at the intersection of the anthropology of care, critical disability studies, and cultural phenomenology, and engages questions that cut across health, social policy, ethics, and the human sciences. His ethnographic monograph *Worlds of Care* (University of California Press, 2021), examines the moral and emotional lives of fathers raising children with cognitive disabilities in the United States. He explores the role of embodiment in caregiving, the relationship between care and masculinity, and how iterative practices of care shape the moral lives and ethical orientations of caregivers.

He is currently researching care in supported accommodation in Australia, focusing on how relationships between residents, staff, and families are formed and sustained in practice. He contributed to the evaluation of My Rights Matter, an initiative of the NSW Council for Intellectual Disability promoting supported decision-making, and to research on service quality in disability support. Aaron's methodological approach is grounded in cultural phenomenological ethnography, drawing on in-depth interviews, life history methods and narrative analysis, with applications across social work, aged care, and palliative care.



DR CHRIS O'NEILL

[Christopher O'Neill](#) is a Lecturer in Media in the School of Media, Film and Journalism. He draws upon critical media theory and science and technology studies to investigate the way the human body is measured and mediated through technology. He is concerned with the social and political implications of facial recognition technology, biometric sensing, and emerging forms of automation. Christopher's first monograph, [Cultural Techniques of Biosensing: A History of the Body in Error](#), to be published with Stanford University Press in 2026 is a history of 'biosensing' technologies like heart rate monitors and movement sensors. It tracks the way that biosensors in the medical clinic, the workplace, and the (smart) home have made errors in their measurement of the body, and how the way that these errors get 'corrected' has produced new ways of imagining and surveilling the body. Christopher's second monograph, [Facial Recognition in Everyday Life](#), (forthcoming 2027) examines the growth of facial recognition technology, and the civic and political implications of the normalisation of biometric surveillance. He is a Chief Investigator on the ARC DP A Cultural History of Workplace Fatigue, which aims to promote better practices of fatigue management for the future of work. Christopher was awarded a 2025–2026 Fulbright Program Postdoctoral Scholar Award to undertake research at the University of Southern California Annenberg where he studied the relation between automation, technological error, and human oversight. He has held a Visiting Fellowship at the Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing (UC Berkeley), and was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Alfred Deakin Institute.



DR EUGENIA FLYNN

[Dr Eugenia Flynn](#) is Senior Lecturer in LLCL. She researches within the disciplines of critical Indigenous studies, creative writing and literary studies while maintaining an interdisciplinary focus in the fields of critical race and whiteness studies, feminist theory and fine arts and curatorial practice. Eugenia's research examines epistemic violence and seeks to recentre Australian Indigenous knowledges and knowledge systems, both inside and outside the academy. Recent academic publications include 'Language, Text and Colony: Rethinking Aboriginal Poetry of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries' in *The Cambridge History of Australian Poetry* (2026), 'The Past is the Present is the Future: Resisting Colonial Violence, Always' in *Australian Feminist Law Journal* (2026), and 'A (Sovereign) Body of Work: Australian Indigenous Literary Culture and the Literary Fiction Novel' in *The Cambridge History of the Australian Novel* (2023). Eugenia is also a creative practitioner, working across creative writing, textual practice within gallery contexts, theatre, music, visual art and screen culture. She has served on the Boards of arts and community organisations such as ILBIJERRI Theatre Company, Collingwood Yards (Contemporary Arts Precincts), Peril Magazine, Blak Dot Gallery, First Nations Australia Writers Network and the Ebony Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Institute. Eugenia is the Founder, Editor and Publisher of *Sovereign Texts: Journal of First Peoples Literature*, the first scholarly and literary journal dedicated to First Peoples sovereignty in writing and publishing.



DR MITZI BOLTON

[Dr Mitzi Bolton](#) is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Social Sciences at Monash University, where she also serves as Course Director of the Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics. A public administration scholar and former public servant, Mitzi brings a rare combination of academic rigour and real-world expertise. Her extensive public sector career spanning technical, policy, regulation and reform projects has shaped a research agenda focused on one central question: how can public sector decision-making be enhanced to drive meaningful sustainability transitions, and improved public value?

At the heart of her work is a deep commitment to systems thinking, an approach that connects her diverse research interests and allows her to explore complex, interconnected challenges. This includes critically examining the potential and pitfalls of advanced data science and artificial intelligence as tools for government, as well as the policy frameworks needed to advance the circular economy. Mitzi is passionate about bridging the gap between scholarship and practice, ensuring her research creates tangible impact for the public servants and communities it serves.



PROFESSOR DAN GOLDING

[Professor Dan Golding](#) is a broadcaster, composer, and media researcher. His research is located across screen studies, game studies, and soundtrack studies to understand creativity, media history, and technology. He is the composer for one of Australia's most impactful videogames, *Untitled Goose Game*, for which his music remains the only game soundtrack to be nominated for an ARIA Award. His collaboration on a live performance of the work with Orchestra Victoria and the Australian Centre for the Moving Image was featured as a case study in *Revive: The National Cultural Policy*. He has composed for the Frog Detective series, Mars First Logistics, and the ABC News Daily podcast. Dan hosts the weekly 'Screen Sounds' soundtrack program for ABC Classic, and the Art of the Score series of concerts. He has published on dynamic music and game design, and soundtrack history. As an inaugural Distinguished Scholar of the Digital Games Research Association of Australia, he contributed to scholarship and public understanding of creativity and the global and local games sectors. He is currently investigating the origins of community platforms like Discord and Slack in the games sector and the shaping force they play in the platformisation of creative and communicative labour. Dan wrote the first scholarly monograph on the Star Wars franchise following its purchase by the Disney corporation works on virtual reality, and digital faces and deepfakes in Hollywood productions. Theoretical and popular analyses of nostalgia and serial storytelling as complex cultural phenomena are key to this strand of Dan's research.



DR MEGHAN HOPPER

[Dr Meghan Hopper](#) is a lecturer in communications, teaching primarily in the fields of public relations and strategic communication. Meghan's research typically explores topics relating to journalism, strategic communication and politics, with a focus on Australian political campaigns and movements, applying a feminist lens.

Her teaching draws on both her academic expertise and her professional background as a strategy, policy, communications and campaigns professional in the government and not-for-profit sectors.

Meghan's most recent publication was a chapter on gendered mediation in mainstream print media coverage of former Australian Prime Minister, Bob Hawke's election campaigns, appearing in the book *Gold Standard? Remembering the Hawke Government* edited by Frank Bongiorno, Carolyn Holbrook and Joshua Black (NewSouth, 2026). Current research projects explore media coverage of Commonwealth Commissions and Inquiries into family violence and family law, and fempower-washing in corporate communication.



PROFESSOR NEIL SELWYN

[Professor Neil Selwyn](#)'s research focuses on digital media and technology. He is best known for his work around the critical studies of education and technology, and researching digital inequalities, children and media, media literacy, and digitally-related policy-making.

He was involved in initial developments of the sub-field of 'digital sociology' and his 2017 [What is digital sociology?](#) book continues to be used in digital sociology courses globally. He worked for the past eight years on environmental and social sustainable forms of digital technology – culminating in a 2025 book: [Digital degrowth: radically rethinking our digital futures](#).

Neil joins the Arts with the intention of continuing this work, and beginning a new strand of thinking about what it means to be without technology (picking up on the emerging 'digital backlash' emerging in much of the global north). He has an ARC Discovery project on Australia's youth social media ban, looking to develop work on public interest technology and the challenge of what it might mean to develop 'better tech'.

Neil has worked regularly with UNESCO, as well as a OECD, Council of Europe, Fundación BBVA, Australian Office of the Chief Scientist). Neil worked at the Cardiff School of Social Sciences, Bristol University and UCL, and is an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Oxford.



DR SHINNOSUKE TAKAHASHI

[Shinnosuke Takahashi](#) is a Lecturer in Japanese Studies at LLCL. His research includes social, cultural, intellectual and political history of modern Japan (since 1868), Japan-Asia relations, Japan in Asia and the Pacific, historical memory, historical cultures and transnational and transregional history. One of his most recent major publications, *The Translocal Island of Okinawa: Anti-Base Activism and Grassroots Regionalism* (School of Oriental and African Studies Bloomsbury), retells the development of a seven-decade-long history of protest movement over the US bases in Okinawa.

The book challenges the conventional discourse regarding the island with a view on Okinawa not as a periphery but as a crucial centre for civic activism in Asia and the Pacific. Forthcoming publications include *The Handbook of Global Migration and Japan* (Routledge), which is the first volume in English-language academia. With 18 eminent and emerging scholars from Europe, North America, Asia and Australia, the book critically engages in great detail with contemporary Japan (post-1945) and its history, policy, politics and society of contemporary Japan in terms of connections and flows of migrations.

Takahashi has been a frequent contributor to Asia Media Centre, The Dominion Post and Keishi Kaji.



DR MARTIN KOSZOLKO

[Dr Martin K. Koszolkó](#) is a Senior Lecturer in Creative Music Technologies, an award-winning music composer, producer and researcher and a recognised expert in the field of remote music collaboration. He explores aspects of music production, including remote collaboration, mobile music making and interactivity in electronic music performance. His work draws on environmental sound practices, using field recordings and sounds of nature as compositional agents to explore listening, place-based knowledge and human-environment relationships. These areas of expertise bridge the gap between creative arts, digital communication and ecological studies. By investigating how digital tools facilitate creative connections across geographical boundaries, his work addresses the evolving needs of the global music industry and the societal shift towards decentralised digital work. In 2021, he founded the international Collaborative Music Contest, the first platform in the world dedicated to promoting collaborative music making through online tools. Martin's approach is rooted in his professional work as a composer and producer. This practice-led methodology was central to his doctoral project, which involved collaborations with over 40 musicians located globally. He explores crowdsourcing and communication strategies suitable for successful creative online project development, leveraging specialised collaborative platforms to produce and perform music over the internet. He has contributed to over 60 releases on international record labels and maintains high levels of industry engagement developing cloud-based software and as the vice-president of Clan Analogue Recordings.



DR SAM GILLIES

[Dr Sam Gillies](#) is a composer, improviser, and sound artist with an interest in the function of noise as a musical and communicative code in music and art. His work treads the line between the musically beautiful and ugly, embracing live performance, multimedia and installation art forms to create alternating sound and visual worlds of extreme fragility and overwhelming density. He is a musicologist with an interest in outsider electronic music cultures and practices, who explores the application of creative coding to better understand large audio archives.

His music has been performed at national and international events and festivals including: the Electric Spring Festival; Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival; Sound/Image Festival; Dark Music Days Festival; VIPA Festival; Stoke Newington Contemporary Music Festival; Scale Variable series and Club Zho).

Sam is a Co-Investigator on the AHRC-funded project 'Ernest Berk: An Expressionist Outsider' and recently concluded his time as Principal Investigator on the Arts Humanities Research Council (UK) Curiosity project 'Tape Archive Analysis Toolkit: Determining the best approach, scale, and feasibility for new toolsets in analysing large tape archives' which explored the development of new software to navigate large databases of electronic music. He has published on the subjects of early British electronic music history, and contemporary practices in audiovisual art with mobile frames of perspective.



DR LAUREN STEWART

[Dr Lauren Stewart](#) is a lecturer within the Popular Music stream where she teaches songwriting, voice, music performance and academic presentation skills. Lauren's initial research investigated the learning and development of early-career songwriters in Australia. The study examined how songwriters develop their practice, the skills and knowledge required for songwriting, and the factors that enable or constrain their development. The findings offer valuable insight into how songwriting can be learned and taught within tertiary education settings, informing her pedagogical approach. Lauren is currently collaborating on a project, exploring the application of an educational songwriting camp model within tertiary settings.

Lauren is an active vocalist with over a decade of professional performance experience across pop, rock, soul, jazz, and musical theatre. She has served as a musician and lead vocalist with the Australian Army Band Corps (Melbourne), performing across a range of ensembles. Career highlights include international music tours and performances of the National Anthem at the AFL ANZAC Day match at the MCG (2026, 2025) and the NRL ANZAC Day game at Marvel Stadium (2024).

As a lecturer, Lauren is passionate about supporting students in developing their creativity, confidence, and distinctive artistic voice, not only as songwriters, but also as vocalists, performers, musicians, and creative practitioners.



PROFESSOR BRIONY ROGERS

[Briony Rogers](#) is a Professor of Systems Change, whose research focuses on how communities, institutions and systems can be transformed to respond more effectively to complex societal and environmental challenges. Her areas of expertise span sustainability transitions, climate adaptation and resilience, community development, governance innovation, organisational capability development, urban water governance and water sensitive cities. She seeks to generate scholarly and societal impact by advancing theory and methods for understanding and enabling transformative change, while creating practical tools, models and evidence for action. Recent focus has been on community-led disaster resilience through the Fire to Flourish program, producing insights into the roles of community leadership, governance, collective capability and systems change in disaster-affected places. This research provides an evidence base for rethinking how governments, funders and institutions invest in resilience, preparedness and long-term community capability. Briony is known for innovative transdisciplinary and action-research approaches that bring together academic, practitioner, First Nations and community knowledge. Her work focuses on crossing institutional and knowledge boundaries to produce research that is both rigorous and practically useful. She played a major role in the CRC for Water Sensitive Cities, developing frameworks and tools that shaped policy and practice in more than 50 locations in Australia and internationally.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SHIRIN MALEKPOUR

[Shirin Malekpour](#) is an Associate Professor in sustainability governance. She is dedicated to improving long-term policy making and governance for sustainable development. Her research has centred on governance through goals, exploring the potential of goal-based frameworks (such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals) to drive policy and institutional change in different contexts. Shirin has led complex transdisciplinary programs on localising the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), collaborative governance, futures thinking and scenario planning.

Shirin is a scientific advisor to the UN on sustainable development and was appointed by the UN Secretary-General as one of the 15 members of the Independent Group of Scientists, tasked with writing the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report. On the editorial board of the Journal of City Climate Policy and Economy, she also co-leads a working group on sub-national SDG implementation in the Earth System Governance Project.

Shirin has an interdisciplinary background with a PhD in Sociology (Monash University) and degree in Civil Engineering. She worked in large water and wastewater infrastructure projects across Africa and the Middle East. In 2018, Shirin was recognised as one of the top 25 young scientists in the world in the field of sustainable development and received the international Green Talents award.



DR PARIS HADFIELD

[Dr Paris Hadfield](#) is a human geographer and Research Fellow in the School of Social Sciences whose work focuses on just transitions to sustainability in the built environment. She is experienced in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research on climate change, including industry collaborations and other policy and practice engagement. Shaping an emerging research agenda on the role of finance in transitions to climate resilient housing, her research maps how orthodox finance structures sustainable urban infrastructure development, as the basis for understanding financial system transformation. The research demonstrates how local government can adapt incumbent financial logics to enable access to rooftop solar and energy efficiency retrofits for low-income homeowners.

Paris is also interested in sustainability research practice in response to global challenges, including how inter- and transdisciplinary living lab research is governed and implemented in universities and peri-urban development settings. She has contributed to the Citarum Action Research Program (CARP) which addresses river pollution and economic development in Indonesia, supported by KONEKSI Knowledge Partnership, and the film *Living River: A Pathway to Revitalise the Citarum River* which documents perspectives on challenges and opportunities for place-based experimentation. Paris co-organised the International Sustainability Transitions (IST) Conference and the Sustainability Transitions Research Network (STRN) Melbourne PhD School which has grown the STRN community beyond its roots in Europe.



JESSE FLEAY

Noongar/Nukunu Aboriginal Australian academic and author [Jesse Fleay](#) works at the intersection of constitutional transformation, Indigenous justice, democratic theory, and environmental governance. His research spans political theory, public law, international relations, and Indigenous knowledge systems, with focus on how institutions of governance can be re-imagined beyond the limits of post-imperial and post-Enlightenment constitutional designs. His work engages questions of sovereignty, non-domination, and relational authority, contributing to emerging debates on plural constitutionalism and the future of democratic life in settler colonial and postcolonial contexts. Through his work with the United Nations Global Environment Outlook 7 process, he contributed to the co-authorship of the Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge Dialogues (2025), including the Statement of Indigenous Peoples 2025, advancing the integration of Indigenous knowledge systems into global environmental policy. Jesse's work is grounded in Indigenous standpoint theory and decolonial political philosophy.

He integrates Indigenous epistemologies with comparative constitutional analysis, enabling collaboration across disciplines including law, political science, environmental studies, and development policy. Jesse maintains international and community engagement through collaborations with Indigenous leaders, policy practitioners, and global institutions. He has contributed to Global Citizen NOW Melbourne.

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