

Research News

Dean of Research

Dear all,

Hope you all are well.

1) Celebrating Achievements: Congratulations to Emeritus Professor Marika Tiggemann who is a CI on a grant from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and Associate Professor Lisa Beatty for being the recipient of a DVC-R Mid-Career Research Investment grant.

2) Research Domains Events: A calendar of events is planned for the rest of this year. Please go to page 12 for further details.

3) HMRB Inauguration: It was a wonderful event attended by the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, together with the Hon Peter Malinauskas MP, Premier of SA, and other dignitaries. Massive profile raise for our university and congratulations to one and all involved in this.

4) Men's Health Awareness Ball 2024: I was invited to the inaugural Men's Health Awareness Ball – Melbourne. The funding partner for the event was Healthy Male, a national charity that provides easy access to the latest scientific and medical research on male health. Picture is with the CEO of Healthy Male, Simon von Saldern, and Vik Bhandari. There are lots of synergies between the research happening in our college and university with the Men's Health Awareness event, we are exploring this detail.

5) International Men's Day: The Hon Sarah Game MLC is a strong advocate for research at Flinders University and has been championing for several initiatives, including lobbying for men's mental health research (\$100,000) and childhood dementia research (\$250,000) alongside Breakthrough Foundation and Little Heroes. In November, she will bring international men's day to life. I have been asked to be part of the advisory committee and speaking panel. We look forward to work with Sarah towards these important initiatives and thank her for her advocacy.

Best wishes

Raj





Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Emeritus Professor Marika Tiggemann, together with lead CI, J. Mills, and J. Fardouly, has been awarded **\$165,000** from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Insight Grant for the project *Mitigating the negative effects of social media use on women's body image*.

DVC-R Mid-career Research Investment Fund

Associate Professor Lisa Beatty was successful in obtaining **\$49,954** from the DVC-R Mid-Career Research Investment Fund to support her 2025 bid for NHMRC Investigator Grant in the area of *Revolutionising digital mental health in cancer: Can we achieve more with less?*

Gerontological Society of America: Richard Kalish Innovative Publication Award

Professor Tim Windsor, together with lead author Dr Oliver Huxhold, and second author, Professor Katherine L. Fiori, were selected to receive the 2024 Richard Kalish Innovative Publication Award for the article *Rethinking social relationships in adulthood: The differential investment of resources model*. The Richard Kalish Innovative Publication Award recognises insightful and innovative publications on aging and life course development in the behavioral and social sciences. The award will be presented at the Behavioural and Social Sciences Presidential Symposia & Networking Program in November 2024.

Australian Workplace Health & Safety Awards 2024

Dr Annabelle Neall is a finalist in the Australian Workplace Health & Safety Awards – Best Health & Wellbeing Program 2024. The winners will be announced in August.

Research Capacity Building and Impact

Celebrating Submissions

The Celebration of Submissions event held on 30th May was a great success. Approximately twenty academics attended across balanced and research-only roles. During this event we were able to:

- Celebrate submissions and the hard work
- Provide an update of what the RC&I portfolio is doing
- Enjoyed an excellent talk from Professor Ian Goodwin-Smith (Centre for Social Impact in CBGL)
- Introduced our newest members to our College who took to the floor to present their research interests and what they were working on.

Following this, we went to the Tavern to enjoy a social celebration including food and drinks.

Ian shared the importance of putting oneself out there and facing the failures that at some point will bring success. He talked about the importance of reputation, action and engagement, and crucially that the work on submissions brings growth. It was a highly informative and enjoyable talk. New links were established with Ian with introductions made and talks from our highly active social psychology researchers about potential overlap. In addition to this a conversation was had about their work with rural populations in the context of some health screening work that is happening. Overall this was a success from a celebration and commiseration perspective, as well as enhancing inter-College collaborative opportunities. Staff enjoyed the celebration of their submissions, the update on our work and the talk.



Refereed Journal Articles

Dawson, R., Nixon, R.D.V., Cleave, A. L., Sivanathan, D., & O’Kearney, R. (2024). Efficacy of two brief trauma-focussed writing interventions in comparison to positive experiences writing: A randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 358, 449-457. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2024.05.014>

Galovski, T.E., Nixon, R.D.V., & Kehle-Forbes, S.M. (2024). Invited Article - Walking the fine line between fidelity and flexibility: A conceptual review of personalized approaches to manualized treatments for PTSD. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*. doi: 10.1002/jts.23073

Lorna Hallahan (27 May 2024). Invited presentation: *Comparing citizen advocacy with paid advocacy*. Australian and New Zealand Citizen Advocacy Study Group, Adelaide, SA

Lorna Hallahan (30 May 2024). Invited presentation: *Prizing the person: Thinking about social work in Noviat*. Novita State Conference, Adelaide, SA.

Iasiello, M., Ali, K., van Agteren, J., Kolovos, E., Kyrios, M., Kashdan, T. B., & Fassnacht, D. B. (2024). What’s the difference between measures of wellbeing, quality of life, resilience, and coping? An umbrella review and concept map of 155 measures of positive mental health. *International Journal of Wellbeing*, 14(2). <https://doi.org/10.5502/ijw.v14i2.3621>

Johnson, C., Taylor, A., Dray, J., and Dunning, D. (2024). You can lead an adolescent to mindfulness, but you can’t make them mindful. *Mindfulness*. Accepted for publication 31.5.24.

Jones, M., Brodie, T., Bishop, J., York, K., Edney, L & McLaren, H. (2024). Stakeholder experiences collaborating with My Place: A service supporting pregnant and young parents in the child welfare system in metropolitan Adelaide. *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673843.2024.2367116>

Patmisari, E., Huang, Y., Orr, M., Govindasamy, S., Heilscher, E. & McLaren, H. (2024). Supported employment interventions with people who have severe mental illness: Systematic mixed-method umbrella review. *PLoS ONE*, 19(6): e0304527. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0304527>

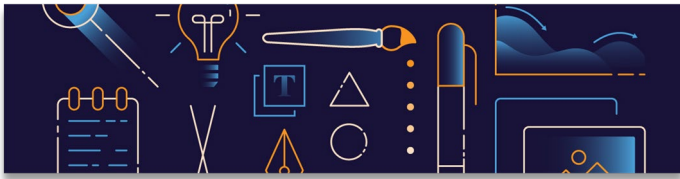
Shin, M., Downes, C., Hopwood, J., Byers, M., & Kemps, E. (2024). Media multitasking, negative mood, and avoidance coping. *Behaviour & Information Technology*. DOI: 10.1080/0144929X.2024.2353276.

Skelton, S., & Riggs, D.W. (Online First 2024). Exploring the more-than-human in trans people’s lives: Connections, sociality, being and animal companionship. *International Journal of Transgender Health*.



& Professional Services

- Lisa Beatty has been selected as a Cancer Australia Expert Cancer Control (ECC) Panellist for the provision of specialist services in Supportive Care in Cancer Control.
- June 6th. Shane Pill. Meeting with Dave Reynolds: State Coaching Manager SANFL.
- June 11. Shane Pill, Joss Rankin, Christian Grocke. South Australian HPE critical friends dialogue with Department for Education. Education Development Centre, Hindmarsh.



Presentations

Associate Professor Lisa Beatty was an invited speaker and panellist at the Caring Futures Institute seminar, together with Prof Bogda Koczwara, Prof Catherine Paterson, DVC-R Prof Ray Chan, and patient advocate Monique Bareham, on “The Future of Cancer Survivorship at Flinders” Tuesday 28th May 2024.

Dr Steve Corrie teamed with Azra Coombe from CHASS to provide a 3-hour workshop titled ‘Embedding Indigenous Histories and Cultures’ at the Science and Maths School on Friday May 31. This forms the second a three-part professional development series.

Granfield, P., Kemps, E., & Prichard, I. (2024, June). *Evaluating the impact of the Embrace Kids Classroom Program on Australian children’s and adolescent’s body image*. 10th Appearance Matters Conference, Bristol, UK.

Granfield, P., Kemps, E., & Prichard, I. (2024, June). *Evaluating the impact of the Embrace Kids film on Australian children’s body image*. 10th Appearance Matters Conference, Bristol, UK.

Jones, M., McLaren, H., Brodie, T., Bishop, J., York, K., Edney, L., Regan, J. & Travers, K. (2024). Embracing risk: Supporting pregnant and young care leavers in the child welfare system. Families Thriving? Asking big questions: Influencing change. Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS), 11-14 June 2024, Melbourne.

Lohmeyer, B., & Brock-Fable A. (2024, May) *Co-design with young people*, YP+Me (Youth Work Conference), Tabor, Adelaide.

Lohmeyer, B., Downing, T., Bennie, J. & Seal, M., (2024, May) *Youth research and evidence-based practice*, YP+Me (Youth Work Conference), Tabor, Adelaide.

McLaren, H. (2024). Harnessing women's cultural wealth: A narrative storytelling methodology. The 10th World Conference on Women’s Studies (WCWS 2024) on 30th – 31st May 2024, Colombo Sri Lanka.

Neall, A. (2024, June 7). Presentation titled *The perceived visibility and effectiveness of workplace bullying and harassment management strategies*. 16th Conference of the European Academy of Occupational Health Psychology, Granada, Spain.

Neall, A. (2024, June 13). Invited talk titled *Creating healthy workplaces: a three-part process to organisational success*. CTA seminar series – Malmö University, Malmö, Sweden.

Maddie Rhodes (PhD Candidate, Psychology) and Associate Professor Ivanka Prichard co-presented *Perinatal disordered eating and body image* at Helen Mayo House (Women’s and Children’s Hospital) on Wednesday 22nd May. It was delivered to healthcare clinicians who were completing Certificate IV in Perinatal Mental Health.

Amanda Tarrant (PhD Candidate, Social Work) presented alongside colleagues Dr Marg Rogers and Dr Amy Johnson *Missing voices within the DFV in military families literature* at the Australian Institute of Family Studies 24 Conference: *Families thriving? Asking big questions, influencing change*. The presentation focused on the results of a systematic scoping review of the domestic and family violence in military families literature, which included an examination of the dominant research paradigms within the literature and analysis of how these privilege particular power structures, knowledges and discourses, and marginalise or silence others. 15 June 2024.

Wu, P., Kemps, E., & Prichard, I. (2024, June). *A systematic review of the relationship between eating-related content on social media, body image and eating behaviours*. 10th Appearance Matters Conference, Bristol, UK.



**Flinders
University**

Institute for Mental Health &
wellbeing

Breakthrough's Biggest Men's Meals and Mental Health Dinner

Some Institute members had the immense privilege of attending the Breakthrough Biggest Men's Meals and Mental Health Dinner.

This event was all about shining a light on men's mental health and suicide prevention and Flinders were a Platinum sponsor of the evening.

The night was full of interviews and activities including a very moving interview with Police Commissioner Grant Stevens. Magic Mike (not a stripper!) and comedian Mark Ryan performed, and Jess Adamson and Mark Soderstrom were MCs. Flinders DVC(R), Professor Ray Chan gave a presentation on the excellent research being undertaken at the Institute and across Flinders in mental health and wellbeing. Below you can see our very own Professor Reg Nixon and Associate Professor Ivanka Pritchard on Adelaide Oval participating in the 'Step to the Line' activity.



On the night it was announced that funds raised would be sponsoring a Fellowship in Men's Mental Health and Suicide Prevention at FIMHWell! This sponsorship included a \$100K donation announced by the Hon Sarah Game MLC and Chris Picton MP.

If you are on LinkedIn, also watch out for the car conversations with Breakthrough CEO, John Mannion and some of our researchers about men's mental health!



Dr Tianchong Wang (Alex)

Lecturer in STEM in Innovative Education Futures

Dr Tianchong Wang (Alex) has joined Flinders University as a Lecturer in STEM in Innovative Education Futures. He earned an EdD from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, an MSc (Information Technology in Education) from the University of Hong Kong, a BA Hons (Teaching English as a Second Language) from Hong Kong Baptist University, and holds several ICT professional qualifications and is a member of IEEE.

Tianchong's academic journey has been a quest to explore promising and inclusive technology-enhanced practices that improve learning experiences; identify effective technology-enabled solutions that promote positive change in learning environments; search for sustainable technology-driven approaches that can empower teachers and learners in under-privileged communities; and inform policies that can close gaps in educational access and quality.

His research interests focus on artificial intelligence (AI) in education. This focus has taken him from Hong Kong to Australia. Prior to joining Flinders, Tianchong was a Lecturer at Swinburne University of Technology, where he made a significant contribution by drafting student-facing AI guidelines. Tianchong served as a post-doctoral fellow at the Education University of Hong Kong, where he explored how best to infuse AI content into the Special Administrative Region's K-12 STEM education curriculum and identified missing links in current teacher education programmes. He also developed and taught Hong Kong's first-of-its-kind master-level course *Artificial Intelligence in Education* (MITE7353) as a PT Lecturer at the University of Hong Kong in 2020.

Tianchong is an advocate of the UN's Education 2030 Agenda and has been engaged with international and national-level stakeholders. He has contributed to large-scale research and development projects to promote education quality, equity, and inclusion, especially those involving new technologies. In 2016, Tianchong co-developed UNESCO's framework and self-assessment tool for quality blended learning adoption with over 3,000 copies of the publication sent to all 46 UNESCO member states in Asia-Pacific as a policy advocacy tool. Notably, the framework and self-assessment tool were successfully applied in Cambodia's higher education system in 2017, where he worked closely with the Directorate General for Higher Education via a jointly funded IDRC (Canada) and HEAD Foundation (Singapore) project that introduced blended learning as a possible solution to urban-rural disparities in STEM education quality. These projects were featured in *IAU Horizons*, the official magazine of the UNESCO-affiliated International Association of Universities.

In 2022, he served as a consultant for UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education. In this role, he drafted UNESCO's synthesis report '*Transforming Teaching and Learning through New Digital Technologies*' and reported his findings in UNESCO and UNICEF's 2nd Asia Pacific Regional Education Minister's Conference. In 2023, Tianchong served as a Consultant and the Chief Rapporteur for UNESCO's '*Empowering Minds: A Round Table on Generative AI and Education in Asia-Pacific*', authoring its report, outcome document and policy brief. Tianchong is often appointed as a resource person by aid agencies to conduct teacher capacity-building activities in the Global South. In 2022, as a content expert of the UNESCO International Centre for Higher Education Innovation, he led workshops for the centre's IIOE Pilot Project Digital Educator Micro-credential in Malaysia.

Empowering girls in STEM is another cause close to Tianchong's heart. He is thrilled to be the co-PI of the 2023 Google Award for Inclusion Research, promoting female inclusion in generative AI in K-12 schools in Australia.

Tianchong is dedicated to sharing his knowledge with a broader audience. His media commentaries on AI in education and AI in research have been featured on international higher education platforms such as University World News and national media outlets such as ABC and Media Centre for Education Research, Australia, allowing him to elevate public understanding of this fascinating field.

Beyond his professional life, Tianchong cherishes the love and support of his beloved wife. As a dog person, he finds joy in the companionship of furry friends. When he's not working, Tianchong can often be found indulging in his love for listening to rock music in analogue formats or playing his harmonica, passions that allow him to relax and recharge.

Tianchong is excited to embark on this new chapter at Flinders University and looks forward to making meaningful contributions to the university and the field of education while maintaining a healthy work-life balance.



11 June 2024. ABC Central Victoria. *High school student fears dream of university is out of reach as housing, cost-of-living pressures rise.* Professor John Halsey said that opportunities for regional students has diminished over the years and it is now more common for students to be struggling with cost-of-living and housing stress.

11 June 2024. Cosmos; EducationHQ. *Autism detection attracts global interest.* Article features Professor Robyn Young's research on the use of an early screening tool (Autism Detection in Early Childhood (ADEC)) which has attracted interest in China, Japan, Mexico, USA, Indonesia and South America. Professor Young said: "ADEC is an easy-to-use-tool. It requires limited additional training, providing a cost-effective way to identify children who may have a high likelihood of developing autism."

8 June 2024. Murray Pioneer. *New scholarship program helping Riverland veterans.* Article featuring Professor Ben Wadham who said that "higher education is a great pathway to draw upon their unique skills and experience. One of the challenges in engaging in higher education after service is supporting yourself or your family. Scholarships can help secure a passage through university and into civilian employment."

6 June 2024. ABC Online. *Teenagers skipping school and sleep to play video games as researchers warn of addictive designs.* Article features comments by Associate Professor Dan King who said that one strategy game companies used to engage players was a variable-ratio rewards schedule – the same that drives gambling. When assessing players for addiction, the level of control gamers have over their gaming habit mattered more than the time it took up.

5-6 June 2024. ABC Online; Triple J. Interview with Associate Professor Dan King about the need to take a long break from gaming as a lot of games can't reach a natural end. Even one weekend can reframe the thinking about games. Responsibility also falls on game designers to redesign games to eliminate gambling mechanics.

2 June 2024. ABC Radio National. Interview includes comments by Professor Damien Riggs about gender euphoria. Answers were sought on the question 'what is gender euphoria', 'why is it so powerful for trans and non-binary people', and 'why researchers are keen to flip to script and talk about trans joy'.

26 – 28 May 2024. ScienceDaily. SwiftTelecast. Counsel & Heal. Sense of belonging and food choices. How social groups shape your food choices. Featuring research by Eva Kemps in collaboration with Juliana Gleaves, Marika Tiggemann and Ivanka Prichard (CNHS) on how feeling a sense of belonging to a social group can nudge people to make healthier food choices.

23, 25, 27 May 2024. ABC Radio. 3AW Melbourne. Interviews with Eva Kemps about research conducted together with Juliana Gleaves, Marika Tiggemann and Ivanka Prichard (CNHS) on how feeling a sense of belonging to a social group can nudge people to make healthier food choices.

23 May 2024. ABC- Behind the News. *Volunteer primary school students developing social skills while tackling loneliness among the elderly.* Featuring comments by Dr Ben Lohmeyer who said the connections people made early in life had a "profound impact on the rest of their life. Adults who show they care and listen to young people can play an important role in providing a sense of safety, security and identity."

17 May 2024. The North West Star, NZ. *Trans teen attempts self-mastectomy while waiting for surgery.* Article features comments by Professor Damien Riggs that Australia also has serious limitations when it came to gender affirmation surgery. "While both countries have social healthcare, only some of the cost is covered, most of it isn't."

Flinders University Library News



More impact for your Research Reports

Many Flinders researchers work on commissioned reports and contact the Library for advice on how to get the most impact for their report, to ensure its discoverability and reuse.

Below are some of the considerations for reports at the finalised draft stage or earlier. The Library can provide advice on all these matters:

- **Identifier**
 - Is it a large-scale report similar to a book? Should it have an ISBN?
 - Should it have a DOI (Digital Object Identifier)? Or both?
 - How do Identifiers support discoverability?
- **Copyright**
 - Will it be publicly available?
 - What sort of copyright licence will it have?
- **Where will it live?**
 - Who has the right to communicate it – Flinders or the client?
 - If we are publishing it, we can mint a DOI and host it in Flinders Academic Commons or ROADS **AND** validate it as a research output in ResearchNow.
 - Can it be publicised on the client's website, or research institute webpage? Can it be in multiple places?
- **ERA Eligibility**
 - Where each repository is indexed for greater discoverability
 - What sort of reporting metrics can we collect from each repository?

More impact for your Research Materials

In 2023, the Library worked with the Centre for Social Impact (CSI) and developed solutions for high level impact of their major commissioned reports.

CSI also produce research materials that are used extensively and are high quality evidence informed intellectual contributions. They also have shareable value. How can these contribute to ERA and academic workload?

CSI requested a solution that would link a report to [research materials](#), deposit them into the most appropriate repository that would give a permanent stable home. In addition, they needed to be able to share them, collect reporting metrics and give permission for the client to also host the commissioned report on their website.

All kinds of questions came from this request which formed the basis of our advice. This was a great opportunity to work collaboratively with CSI and look at how the library can develop solutions that best support the aims of the research institute. The library was able to deliver an information session to the CSI team to explain the workflow and the decisions that were made about each piece of research, to provide the research institute with clear guidelines for future reports and research material.

Please contact the Library Research Engagement team [via ServiceOne](#) if you would like assistance with solutions to ensure maximum impact and discoverability for your research reports.

Tickets on sale now – 2024 Pink Yellow Blue Disco!



Join Flinders Foundation for a dazzling night of dining, dancing and disco fever at the 2024 Pink Yellow Blue Disco in support of cancer research and care right here at Flinders. For the past 35 years this annual event has been critical in supporting advances in cancer research and patient care.

This year Flinders Foundation is aiming even higher and has set its sights on making a bigger impact than ever before! This is our chance to come together, and dig deep, to fund the next breakthrough and improve care for patients and their families affected by a range of cancers.

Book your tickets [here](#).

Date: Saturday, 12 October 2024

Time: 6pm until late

Venue: Adelaide Convention Centre

Dress: Semi-Formal (with a splash of disco!)

Tickets: \$230 per person (\$2,300 for table of 10) and includes dinner, hip disco tunes, funky entertainment and premium beverage package.

For further information contact Flinders Foundation on (08) 8204 5216 or email events@flindersfoundation.org.au

Instead of pouring a glass, why not pour your support into the Flinders Infusion Suite – this Dry July!

This year, Flinders Foundation’s goal is to raise enough funds to equip the Flinders Infusion Suite with a handheld ultrasound device specifically designed to assist with difficult venous access.

By joining us you won’t just be helping provide equipment, you’ll be offering peace of mind, comfort, and dignity to people undergoing chemotherapy.

Help us ease needle worries for cancer patients – [sign up for Dry July!](#)



Imagine the rush of adrenaline as you conquer your fears and abseil an impressive 70 meters from the top of this Adelaide landmark.

Whether you're an adrenaline junkie or a first-time abseiler, this is your chance to make a difference while experiencing the ultimate thrill!

Last year, Flinders Foundation witnessed the awe-inspiring bravery of 60 individuals who took the plunge, raising over \$80,000 for this important cause. Among them were researchers, real estate agents, builders, and even patients themselves – all united by a shared passion for making a positive impact.

[Step up and conquer your fears – be part of something bigger!](#)

Higher Degree by Research News



HDR Events

Demystifying the Publishing Process: This seminar will be presented by Research Librarians and held on **Wednesday 7th August 2024, 2.30-3.30pm, in EDUC Room 2.09**. The presentation will cover what it means to 'write for a journal' by showing examples of peer-reviewed journals, their criteria, what is required from authors, what is involved in submitting, and the payment portals by way of an overview of what you can expect. The event will include a 20 minute presentation by Research Librarians Shannon and Josephine and then there is time for Q&A.

HDR Conference 2024: The 2024 HDR Conference will be held on **Monday 28th October 2024** at the Alere Convention Centre at Bedford Park campus. Please save this date in your calendar. The Call for Abstracts will soon be out.

HDR FLO page

The [HDR Student FLO](#) page contains extensive information for HDRs. You can find details about support services such as Flinders Library, Inspire, and Service One, Funding & Forms (including the College's HDR Awards application forms and guidelines), a section on Milestones and much more.

HDR Student Committee

The HDR Student Committee for 2024 has monthly meetings and comprises of the HDR Coordinators (Dan and Ben) and four HDR students: Emily Haines (Psychology) who is the College's HDR Student Representative, Yeling Shen (Education), Michael Montejo (Psychology) and Sam Arthurson (Social Work).

If you have any questions, concerns or ideas about and for the HDR journey, please feel free to email:

Education: yeling.shen@flinders.edu.au

Psychology: emily.haines@flinders.edu.au;

mont0179@flinders.edu.au

Social Work: arth0092@flinders.edu.au

HDR Coordinators

Associate Professor Dan King: dan.king@flinders.edu.au (Lead)

Dr Ben Lohmeyer: ben.lohmeyer@flinders.edu.au (Deputy Lead)

HDR Completions

Congratulations to **Enola Kay**, supervised by Professor Eva Kempf, Professor Marika Tiggemann and Associate Professor Ivanka Prichard (CNHS), who completed with the thesis, *A nudge in the right direction: The efficacy of visual nudges for encouraging healthier dietary behaviours*.

Congratulations to **Jack Manners**, supervised by Professor Eva Kempf and Professor Peter Catcheside (CMPH), who completed with the thesis *Advancing fatigue prediction with data-driven insights from consumer sleep trackers*. Jack received a letter of congratulations from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Training and Capabilities) and the Dean of Graduate Research Chair, University Higher Degrees by Research Committee in recognition of his outstanding PhD thesis examination results. Jack's PhD research was in part supported by funding from the Maritime Division of the Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG) through the Research Network for Undersea Decision Superiority (2020-2023; \$562,945), awarded to a multi-disciplinary team of Chief Investigators including his PhD supervisors.



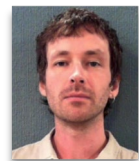
Emily



Yeling



Michael



Sam



Dan



Ben

HDR Spotlight on Michael Montejo

We would like to introduce Michael Montejo, a PhD student in Psychology.



Fun fact about me:

I am a pet lover with dogs, chooks, and birds. I wish I had the superpower to fly because I love traveling and dream of exploring every part of the world. Recently, I have started learning watercolour painting.

What's the overview of your thesis?

There is currently no cure for dementia. Early interventions are, therefore, critical to slowing disease progression and helping individuals maintain their independence and quality of life. However, significant delays exist in diagnosing dementia which could often taking years from the onset of symptoms. My project aims to enable earlier and more effective diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease (AD), the most common type of dementia, by focusing on spatial navigation assessments. These assessments have shown to be sensitive to early AD pathology. These tests could offer an accessible and non-intrusive method for early diagnosis. They could also address current barriers such as the lack of more user-friendly tests and the slow adoption of new technologies. By validating these tools, we aim to make early AD diagnosis more accurate and widely available especially in clinical settings.

What has led you to a PhD?

I spent ten years as a schoolteacher here in Adelaide and overseas. Recently, I decided to change my career path and work for the South Australian Government in the disability and aged care sectors. In these roles, I met and supported people diagnosed with dementia which sparked my interest in the field. This led me to study for a Diploma in Dementia Care and a degree in Psychology. I was fortunate to have known an amazing supervisor at Flinders University, Dr Stephanie Wong, whose admirable work in this area inspired me further. My fascination with conducting research began during my Psychology Honours and drove me to continue in this field. Lastly, I want to contribute to knowledge and the community by improving the early diagnosis of dementia, which I believe will enhance the quality of life for those affected. It is my hope that a cure will soon be discovered.

What are you looking forward to throughout your HDR study?

I am excited to deeply explore my research project. Additionally, I look forward to enhancing my communication skills through presenting at conferences, especially as English is my second language. I aim to build my collaboration skills and expand my professional network by connecting with HDR students and experts in dementia research from around the world. The opportunity for an industry placement through Flinders University is also something I eagerly hope for, as it will provide valuable practical experience. Additionally, I aim to improve my research and writing abilities, participate in academic and professional committees, and contribute to the community through meaningful research. This journey promises significant personal growth, professional development, and the chance to make a real difference in dementia care.

Researcher PD & Training

Date	Topic	Date	Topic
Jun 26	Research Finance: Principles, Systems and Dashboards	Jun 26	NHMRC Investigator Grants: Guidelines and Sapphire
Jul 2	Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Information Session	Jul 10	Research Integrity Information Session
Jul 3	Journals and Read & Publish Agreements: Waive goodbye to article processing charges - Library	Jul 19	Library Induction for new HDR students and Researchers - Library
Jul 24	MRFF Post-Award Reporting Requirements	Jul 25	How to Successfully Bid for Tenders
Jul 30	ARC Linkage Projects: Strategies to write and submit a successful application	Aug 2	ARC Discovery Projects EOI Information Session
Aug 6	Understanding and using your Research Metrics	Aug 6	ARC DECRA & Future Fellowships: Bid strategy and grantscraft
Aug 7	Pitch Perfect ResearchNow Profiles - Library	Aug 13	Partnering with Consumers in Research
Aug 14	Research Data Collection and Management Using REDCap	Aug 15	Finding Funding Opportunities: Navigating 'Research Professional'
Aug 16	ARC DP EOI Pitching Session CEPSW	Aug 21	Speed Dating for Researchers
Aug 22	Writing a ROPE for your ARC Grant Applications	Aug 28	Keeping up to date: Tracking current Research - Library



Asia Pacific Autism Conference

Autism Association of Western Australia is hosting the Asia Pacific Autism Conference 2025. Please save the date and keep updated by visiting the website. 13-15 November 2025, Crown, Perth.

Research Domains: Schedule of Events

CB&I = Capacity Building & Impact; IP = Indigenous Partnerships; HC&T = HDR Coordination & Training; I&E = Industry & Enterprise

Date	Organiser	Event	Details
July	CB&I	Impact Workshop	Tba
4 July	CB&I	Writing Retreat	Tba
Week beginning 22 July	IP	Professional Development	Tba
August	CB&I	Management and running of research projects	Tba
September	CB&I	Media MECRA Workshop	Tba
Week beginning 21 October	IP	Professional Development	Tba
28 October, 9-5pm	HC&T	HDR Conference 2024 @ Alere Function Centre	Abstracts due 29 th July
26 November	CB&I	Writing Retreat	Tba
2-5 December	I&E	Visiting Scholars: Dr Claudio Farias, University of Porto	Tbc