

# YOUR RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES IN THE HUMANITIES, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES STUDY A PHD AT FLINDERS



**Fine tune your research and expand your career opportunities, in any area you're interested in with a PhD at Flinders.**

Study what you're interested in, or explore some of the amazing opportunities already available.

You could explore PhD projects as diverse as gender equality, new media and technology, contemporary screen culture, motion capture, global culture, colonial history and more.

Contact the supervisor attached to the project to begin your PhD journey, or contact [HASSenquiries@flinders.edu.au](mailto:HASSenquiries@flinders.edu.au) if you have any questions.

# INEQUALITY

## PROJECT 1: CONFRONTING SEXISM: BUILDING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH PERFORMANCE-BASED PEDAGOGY

Achieving gender equality remains a difficult, ongoing and necessary process for contemporary societies. Eliminating the tenacious sexism and sexual harassment that underpins gender inequalities is challenging. One essential avenue for changing gender norms is to educate young people and children in schools. But how are those lessons best achieved?

The PhD candidate will address this significant problem by working closely with young women in South Australian high schools to investigate how performance and dramaturgical techniques might enhance lessons around sex and sexism. The candidate will assist students to conceptualise, write and direct a performance piece with the aim of exploring student strategies of resistance and transformation within a broader analysis of the possibilities of performance-based pedagogy.

Come to Flinders and join Dr Monique Mulholland and Dr Sarah Peters. Dr Mulholland has extensive experience in social research with community partners and a vibrant research program that explores young people's experiences of gender, sex and sexuality norms. Dr Peters has expertise in community engagement through the development of practice-based research and verbatim plays that enable communities to share their stories with broader audiences. The candidate will benefit from the broad range of research and community expertise in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

**Areas of Interest:** Sociology; History; Women's and Gender Studies; Creative and Performing Arts; Education; Cultural Studies

### **Supervisory Team:**

Dr Monique Mulholland  
**Monique.Mulholland@flinders.edu.au**  
(Primary supervisor)  
Dr Sarah Peters

## PROJECT 2: A TRANSNATIONAL HISTORY OF ABORTION: AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES, 1980S-2010S

Abortion is routine yet still controversial in contemporary Australia. Although the Australian public is overwhelmingly pro-choice, public and political debates over abortion decriminalisation remain charged, and barriers to access exist in most states. How can abortion be both routine and controversial in modern Australia?

We invite prospective PhD candidates interested in investigating the politics, history and provision of abortion in Australia in a transnational context. This project is directed specifically towards how American abortion discourses and rhetoric flowed into, and were adapted for, Australia. The project is open to prospective candidates from a range of disciplinary areas who have an interest in histories of bodies and medicine, sexual and reproductive health care, transnationalism, social movements, feminism, or gender and politics.

Come to Flinders and join Dr Prudence Flowers and Associate Professor Barbara Baird. Dr Flowers is a leading historian of women's health in Australia and the United States, and Associate Professor Barbara Baird is a leading academic in cultural politics and histories of sexuality and reproduction, abortion and feminism in Australia. The candidate will join a large and dynamic group of scholars in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences working in the areas of Women's and Gender Studies and History.

**Areas of interest:** Sociology; History; Women's and Gender Studies; Cultural Studies; Political Science; Public Health; Policy Studies; Media Studies; Law and Socio-legal Studies

### **Supervisory Team:**

Dr Prudence Flowers  
**Prudence.Flowers@flinders.edu.au**  
(Primary supervisor)  
Associate Professor Barbara Baird

## PROJECT 3: FINANCIAL ABUSE IN AUSTRALIA SINCE 1975

Financial abuse, also known as economic abuse, is a troubling and frequent part of domestic and family violence in Australia. The recognition of financial abuse as one of many dimensions in domestic and family violence has increased in scholarship since the 1990s. However, its history as a concept and a lived experience remains under-explored.

We invite prospective PhD candidates interested in exploring the history of financial abuse. Drawing on and contributing to the expanding history of domestic violence in Australia, this project will trace the explicit development of the term and excavate the connotations and assumptions embedded within its many definitions and responses. In doing so, candidates might explore how the emergence of understandings of financial abuse relate to the history of ideas about families, intimate relationships, gendered autonomy and financial dependence. Potential methodologies include oral histories and testimony analysis or deep policy histories and analyses.

Come to Flinders and join Associate Professor Catherine Kevin, a leading Australian historian tackling significant and pressing questions surrounding the history of domestic violence. Kevin is part of a large and dynamic group of scholars in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences working in the areas of Women's and Gender Studies and History.

Areas of interest: Sociology; History; Women's and Gender Studies; Cultural Studies; Social Work; Policy Studies; Law and Socio-legal Studies

### **Supervisory Team:**

Associate Professor Catherine Kevin  
**Catherine.Kevin@flinders.edu.au**  
(Primary supervisor)  
Associate Professor Kristin Natalier



# POSTHUMANITIES

## PROJECT 1: MORE-THAN-HUMAN KNOWLEDGE AND ABORIGINAL WALKING TRAILS

Aboriginal Walking Trails are cultural technologies for intergenerational knowledge transfer. They allow learning while walking. When History, Literary Studies, or Philosophy become field studies (like Anthropology and Archaeology) and go on Country, writing can take new shapes, informed by the new field of the Posthumanities.

The PhD candidate will investigate the intersections of Indigenous and colonial place-making with the new decolonising methodology of experiential knowledge that moves through different Countries. The Living Kurna Cultural Centre at Warriparinga, close to Flinders, is a good place to start such an inquiry, extending into coastal trails following the Kurna's Tjilbruke Dreaming. Trails also follow trade routes that underpin collaborative networks in South Australia crossing the Countries of the Kurna, the Ngarrindjeri, the Peramangk, the Ngadjuri and Adnyamathanha among many others. With due permission, place names might be restored, tracks rediscovered and layers of history described.

Come to Flinders and work with leading scholars of Indigenous Australia. The PhD candidate will join Professor Stephen Muecke, an eminent ethnographer and pioneer of posthuman methodologies; Professor Penny Edmonds, an internationally recognised historian of Australia and the Pacific World, and settler colonialism; Dr Natalie Harkin, an award-winning Indigenous poet and historian; and Dr Chris Wilson, an emerging leader in Australian Archaeology and the first Indigenous Australian to be awarded a PhD in Archaeology.

Areas of Interest: Indigenous Studies; Posthumanities; Environmental Humanities; Spatial History; Cultural Studies; Postcolonial Studies; Archaeology; Creative Writing; Philosophy

### Supervisory Team:

Professor Stephen Muecke  
**stephen.muecke@flinders.edu.au**  
(Primary supervisor)

Professor Penny Edmonds

Dr Chris Wilson

Dr Natalie Harkin

## PROJECT 2: STREAMING SERVICES, NEW MEDIA AND POST-CINEMA

Streaming video services such as YouTube, Netflix and Amazon Prime have introduced dramatic change to the screen media industries. Sharing platforms provide new possibilities for user-creators to bypass the conventional 'gatekeepers' of distribution. Industrial power is consolidated around a shrinking number of horizontally-integrated conglomerates, and vertically-integrated subscription video on-demand services. Legislation struggles to keep pace.

We invite prospective PhD candidates to investigate what this means for media production, distribution and exhibition in the twenty-first century. Areas of investigation may include digital aesthetics, algorithms and viewer behaviour, and the reconstitution of transnational media industries in the wake of technological change.

Come to Flinders and join Dr Nicholas Godfrey, Dr Tully Barnett and Associate Professor Julia Erhart, leading researchers in the fields of screen, media and digital studies, with expertise in American, Australian and Asian cinema, film aesthetics, and the history of film distribution. They are part of Assemblage Centre for Creative Arts at Flinders, and the large, internationally recognised Creative and Performing Arts research and teaching programs in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, with deep ties to industry.

### Supervisory Team:

Dr Nicholas Godfrey  
**nicholas.godfrey@flinders.edu.au**  
(Primary supervisor)

Dr Tully Barnett

Associate Professor Julia Erhart



## PROJECT 3: SOUTHERN COASTS: HISTORIES MARINE COMMUNITIES AND CULTURES ACROSS THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

Saltwater runs through the memories and cultures of communities across the globe. The ocean and its animal communities have been central to human development across history, yet today the ocean is under grave threat from over-fishing, pollution and climate change, among other issues. Behind these contemporary changes and challenges are deep histories that connect people and oceans.

The PhD candidate will investigate connections and comparisons between marine communities across the Southern Hemisphere. The project will concentrate on historical research but will also actively engage with the Environmental Humanities and Posthumanities to assess change and continuity of human-ocean relations from the late eighteenth century to the present. Oceans and coasts are vibrant areas of historical research, yet marine cultures in Australia, southern Africa, South America, the Pacific Islands, and Antarctica remain understudied compared with the North Atlantic.

Come to Flinders and join Dr Alessandro Antonello and Professor Penny Edmonds, leading historians of marine and maritime cultures in Australia, Antarctica and globally across the modern era. The College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at Flinders University is home to a dynamic group of scholars working on marine and maritime themes, including our world-leading maritime archaeology program.

### Supervisory Team:

Dr Alessandro Antonello  
**alessandro.antonello@flinders.edu.au**  
Primary supervisor  
Professor Penny Edmonds

## PROJECT 1: PERFORMANCE, CULTURE AND AUSTRALIA IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

How has the modern Australian nation been made through creative and performing arts? How has performance connected Australia to the world, especially to Asia and the Pacific? This project seeks to develop a richer and more inclusive understanding of creative and performing arts practices in Australia. It is particularly interested in how artistic practices emerge in cross-cultural contexts across the Asia-Pacific region. Come to Flinders and work closely with Professor Maryrose Casey, a pioneering and world-leading scholar of nineteenth – and twentieth-century Indigenous Australian performance in cross-cultural contexts. The PhD candidate will also work with the significant AusStage database of live performance, the largest of its kind in the world, hosted by Flinders ([www.ausstage.edu.au](http://www.ausstage.edu.au)). The project intends to take advantage of this rich database, including its geo-mapping functions, to allow for sophisticated understandings of regional cultural flows and the cross-cultural dimensions of artistic practices in the Asia-Pacific region. We invite applications from prospective candidates from a wide range of disciplines who are interested in diverse methodological approaches, spanning practice-led investigations and use of VR (virtual reality) technologies, Cultural Studies and History.

### Supervisory Team:

Professor Maryrose Casey  
[maryrose.casey@flinders.edu.au](mailto:maryrose.casey@flinders.edu.au)  
(Primary supervisor)

Associate Professor William Peterson  
Associate Professor Julia Erhart  
Dr Priyambudi Sulistiyanto



## PROJECT 2: WOMEN AND AUSTRALIAN CONTEMPORARY SCREEN CULTURE SINCE 2000

Women's participation in the Australian screen industry remains stubbornly lower than men's participation. *Screen Australia* figures show that women directed only 17 per cent of Australian feature dramas shot between 2011 and 2018 and were only 6 per cent of accredited cinematographers. Barriers to women's employment and flourishing in the sector are entrenched and often compounded by embedded sexism and gendered attitudes about women's capacity.

We invite prospective PhD candidates interested in investigating the place of women across the contemporary Australian screen production industry. This project will analyse the workplace experiences of women through a range of possible methodologies and analytic approaches, which may include interviews and oral histories; transnational comparison between national film industries; or a close study of women in film production. This project will link into a larger research program at Flinders on the history of women's screen practice.

Come to Flinders and join Associate Professor Julia Erhart and Dr Nicholas Godfrey, leading scholars in Film Studies with longstanding expertise in the study of the film industry. Professor Erhart and Dr Godfrey are leading members of Assemblage Centre for Creative Arts at Flinders, and the large, internationally recognised Creative and Performing Arts research and teaching programs in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, with deep ties to industry.

### Supervisory Team:

Associate Professor Julia Erhart  
[julia.erhart@flinders.edu.au](mailto:julia.erhart@flinders.edu.au)  
(Primary supervisor)  
Dr Nicholas Godfrey

## PROJECT 3: CULTURAL PERFORMANCE IN AUSTRALIAN-ASIAN COMMUNITIES

Australia is home to a diverse range of Asian migrant communities. In Australia, these communities continue to practise and maintain their cultures, often through vibrant performance traditions and community-based performing arts groups. Dance, dance-drama, and folk theatre and ceremony all have deep cultural, historical and ritual connections to migrants' home countries and play a significant role in migrants' lives. These performances are also crucial for maintaining meaning and community across generations.

We invite prospective PhD candidates interested in how Asian migrant communities in Australia use cultural performance to express and form their personal and group identities. This project is open to various disciplinary and methodological approaches. For example, candidates who are themselves migrants or who have experience in these performance cultures may wish to undertake practice-led creative research. This project will also take advantage of Flinders University's advanced motion capture technology in its VR/MoCap Lab to work with migrant communities to document and preserve their performance practices.

Come to Flinders and join an exceptional team of researchers: Associate Professor William Peterson, an internationally recognised authority on community-based performance in Asia; Professor Maryrose Casey, a pioneering and world-leading scholar of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Indigenous Australian performance; and Dr Priyambudi Sulistiyanto a dynamic scholar of Indonesia politics. They are leading members of Assemblage Centre for Creative Arts at Flinders.

### Supervisory Team:

Associate Professor William Peterson  
[william.peterson@flinders.edu.au](mailto:william.peterson@flinders.edu.au)  
(Primary supervisor)  
Professor Maryrose Casey  
Dr Priyambudi Sulistiyanto

## PROJECT 4: MOTION CAPTURE, EMBODIMENT AND DIGITAL CAPTURE IN PERFORMANCE

The arts of dance and performance have long experimented with the relationship between the human and digital worlds. The human body is central to this project both through its integration with digital components in live performance and replication in the creation of digital avatars for film or games. The ways in which the trained body – particularly the dancer and the actor – remain necessary in digital production suggests that the human need to feel connected through the embodied presence of other humans will continue to play a key role in emerging forms of digital performance.

PhD students at Flinders are currently investigating motion capture acting, both in terms of actor training and its ethical dimensions, as well as how motion capture technology may be used to recreate historical modes of movement and expression. We welcome applications from prospective PhD candidates with practice-led projects that extend and investigate the body in digital and virtual environments, and that can take advantage of Flinders University's advanced motion capture technology in its VR/MoCap Lab.

Come to Flinders and join Associate Professor William Peterson, an internationally recognised authority on affect and emotion in mass performance and installation spaces, and Professor Garry Stewart, Artistic Director of Assemblage Centre for Creative Arts at Flinders and Artistic Director of the internationally renowned Australian Dance Theatre.

### Supervisory Team:

Associate Professor William Peterson  
[william.peterson@flinders.edu.au](mailto:william.peterson@flinders.edu.au)  
Primary supervisor

Professor Garry Stewart

## PROJECT 5: THEORISING POPULAR GENRES IN FICTION

*Things need not have happened to be true. Tales and dreams are the shadow-truths that will endure when mere facts are dust and ashes, and forgot. – Neil Gaiman*

The most significant works of popular genre fiction capture the zeitgeist of a cultural moment. Written for the page, screen or stage, these stories imagine and re-imagine contemporary concerns, examine cultural values, and engage in complex and dynamic conversations between artist, audience, industry and history. Popular genres are commercial by nature, consumed en masse, and capable of shifting cultural needles. They entertain even as they challenge the status quo. As such they can be significant social barometers and agents of change.

We invite prospective PhD candidates interested in using popular genres of writing – particularly historical fiction, science fiction, fantasy, romance, weird fiction and horror – as lenses through which to examine and analyse issues of public and/or personal interest. Proposed projects might blend fiction and non-fiction; present new stories in familiar frames (novels, short stories, stage plays, screenplays); connect and/or challenge traditional modes of writing; or creatively combine forms in exciting experimental pieces. All creative projects will be compelling in their storytelling, reflect contemporary concerns and be grounded in thorough exegetical research.

Come to Flinders and join four award-winning genre specialists: Dr Lisa Bennett, Dr Amy Matthews, Dr Alex Vickery-Howe and Dr Sean Williams. With more than sixty books published in international markets between them, over 180 short stories, three acclaimed stage plays, and many high-ranking journal articles, these writers are at the forefront of this critical and creative field. All are leading members of Assemblage Centre for Creative Arts at Flinders. They look forward to welcoming new voices into a dynamic community of creative artists and research practitioners at Flinders.



**Areas of Interest:** Popular Fiction; Popular Genres; Creative Writing; Creative Arts; Fiction Writing; Writing for Performance; Writing for the Screen; Romance Fiction; Horror Fiction; Science Fiction; Speculative Fiction; Historical Fiction; Fantasy Fiction; Cultural Studies; Literary Studies; Screen Studies; Activism and Art; Exegetical Writing

### Supervisory Team:

Dr Lisa Bennett  
[lisa.bennett@flinders.edu.au](mailto:lisa.bennett@flinders.edu.au)  
(Primary supervisor)

Dr Amy Matthews

Dr Alex Vickery-Howe

Dr Sean Williams





# ETHICAL FUTURES

## PROJECT 1: GLOBAL CULTURES OF CLIMATE CHANGE: CULTURAL FRAMEWORKS OF RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION

Climate change is, and will continue to be, one of the most difficult challenges that societies and cultures globally will face into the future. While the earth sciences seek to diagnose the physical problems, there are significant ethical and political dimensions to adapting to and mitigating climate change. How to adapt, who should adapt and when to adapt are all political questions situated in specific cultural frameworks.

This project aims to push further into the ethical and cultural dimensions of climate change. We invite prospective PhD candidates in Anthropology, Cultural Studies or related humanities disciplines who are interested in understanding how global Indigenous cultures are identifying, constructing and seeking to address environmental strain and collapse. By understanding the cultural frameworks within which diverse people respond and adapt to climate change, this project will help to identify and strengthen resilience for future challenges.

Come to Flinders and join Professor Amanda Kearney, Associate Professor Liam Brady and Associate Professor Beverley Clarke, internationally recognised scholars working across Australian Anthropology, Archaeology and Geography. The candidate will benefit from their world-leading expertise in collaborative research with Indigenous communities and ethnographic and archaeological fieldwork, and join a larger community of scholars in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at Flinders who work on fundamental questions of climate and environmental knowledge and cultures.

### Supervisory Team:

Professor Amanda Kearney  
**Amanda.Kearney@flinders.edu.au**  
(Primary supervisor)

Associate Professor Liam Brady

Associate Professor Beverley Clarke

## PROJECT 2: HEALING NATIONS

How can nations with fraught histories move into productive and ethical futures and better relations that enrich the lives of all citizens? This project will delve into such matters as human rights, racism, transitional justice and peace-building, all of which present as prevailing concerns in Australia and beyond, and which intricately shape social, political and cultural life.

The PhD candidate will address this overarching research question by analysing the relationship between national pasts and presents as they are lived and addressed in everyday lives. Through anthropological, ethnographic and other humanities methodologies, this project will address themes possibly including intercultural dialogue, education and anti-racism, reconciliation, peace-building, and human responsibilities.

Come to Flinders and join Professor Amanda Kearney, a distinguished Australian anthropologist with deep experience in collaborative research with Indigenous communities and ethnographic fieldwork. The candidate will benefit from her world-leading expertise and the larger community of scholars in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences who work to understand contemporary problems to shape ethical futures.

### Supervisory Team:

TBD

### For general queries:

Professor Amanda Kearney

**Amanda.Kearney@flinders.edu.au**

Dr Sean Williams

## PROJECT 3: OBJECTS OF EMPIRE AND HOME: NEW HISTORIES OF COLONIAL AUSTRALIA

In the nineteenth century, Australian colonists were building not only their local communities but the British Empire at large. People, ideas, commodities and objects flowed through all parts of the empire, and many objects, grand and small, came to live in Australian homes. These objects are rich embodiments of the local and global stories of Australian colonists.

The PhD candidate will investigate the material culture of Australia's nineteenth-century stately homes to illuminate local and global histories. Using object biographies and interdisciplinary methodologies, this project aims to tell new local and regional stories that will help to generate new understandings of empire, colonisation, slavery, blackbirding and domestic work. Through its public history focus, this project aims also to speak to decolonisation and the building of cosmopolitan futures.

Come to Flinders and join Associate Professor Jane Haggis, a wide-ranging scholar of the histories and cultures of imperialism, colonialism and race. The PhD candidate will benefit from her expertise and the community of scholars in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences working in these areas.

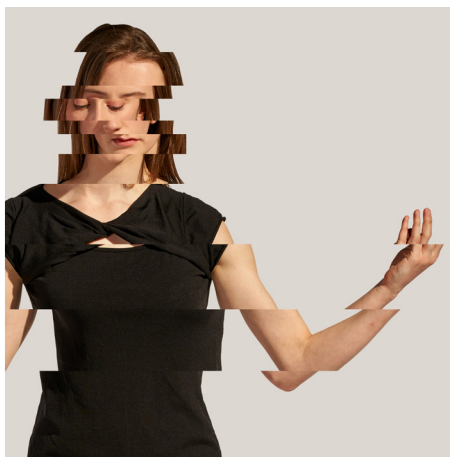
**Areas of Interest:** Colonial Studies; History; Archaeology; Creative Writing; Digital Humanities; Indigenous Studies; Material Cultures; Public History

### Supervisory Team:

Associate Professor Jane Haggis

**jane.haggis@flinders.edu.au**

Professor Penny Edmonds





## PROJECT 4: THE FUTURE OF INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE IN A SOCIAL JUSTICE FRAMEWORK

The recent destruction of a 46,000-year-old archaeological site in Western Australia's Pilbara region by a major mining company triggered outcry and protest by Aboriginal Traditional Owners, archaeologists and cultural heritage managers, among many others. This event has continued to highlight the precarious state of Indigenous cultural heritage places in the face of economic development.

The PhD candidate will undertake a project engaging with cultural heritage using a social justice framework to evaluate the nature of heritage legislation and so-called protection, and its applicability to Indigenous cultural heritage in a variety of geographical settings. The project will seek to identify new understandings of the cultural heritage–social justice relationship and aim to develop new ways of promoting cultural heritage as social justice.

Come to Flinders and join Associate Professor Liam Brady and Professor Claire Smith, internationally renowned archaeologists working with Indigenous history and communities across the globe. Flinders is home to a dynamic community of scholars working on material culture and



cultural heritage in Australia and around the world. Contribute to vital contemporary discussions and research by undertaking a PhD in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

Areas of interest: Cultural Heritage; Archaeology; Intangible Cultural Heritage; Indigenous Heritage; Social Justice; Law

### **Supervisory Team:**

Associate Professor Liam Brady

**Liam.Brady@flinders.edu.au**

Professor Claire Smith

**Claire.Smith@flinders.edu.au**

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#### **General enquiries**

Our friendly staff are available to answer your general questions about studying at Flinders:

**1300 354 633 (local call cost)**

**[flinders.edu.au/ask](https://flinders.edu.au/ask)**

**[askflinders@flinders.edu.au](mailto:askflinders@flinders.edu.au)**

**FLINDERS.EDU.AU**