



2014 Cohort



Dr Melanie Baak

Centre for Research Education, and Centre for Postcolonial and Globalisation Studies,
School of Education

Dr Melanie Baak is a sociologist with research interests in refugee and migration studies. Melanie utilises a multidisciplinary approach across sociology, education, anthropology and cultural studies to explore the impact of global social change on individual everyday lives, with a focus on diaspora, 'race', ethnicity, gender and belonging.



Dr Tom Barclay

Mawson Institute

Dr Tom Barclay is a researcher in chemistry and nanotechnology and is currently engaged in two industry partnerships. In one he is investigating the physical properties of a natural carbohydrate used as a vaccine adjuvant and exploring the effects of chemical modification. In the second Tom is creating a new coating to prevent fouling of filtration membranes used in the dairy industry.



Dr Monica Behrend

Multiliteracies and Global English Research Group, and Learning and Teaching Unit

Dr Monica Behrend is an educational researcher investigating academic writing practices for students in higher education for whom English is an additional language. Monica's current focus is on sociocultural aspects of research writing for International research scholars



Dr Dawit Bekele

Centre Environmental Risk Assessment and Remediation

Dr Dawit Bekele is a Hydrogeologist studying the fate and transport of environmental contaminants in the subsurface soil and groundwater and health risk assessments from such contaminated sites.



Dr Rowena Butland

Barbara Hardy Institute, School of Natural and Built Environments

Like all cultural geographers, Dr Rowena Butland is obsessed with understanding how people perceive and interact with the landscapes around them. Rowena's particular interest is in exploring the diverse and potentially conflicting ways that we value and understand these landscapes under the guise of cultural heritage.



Dr Gaye Deegan

School of Information Technology and Mathematical Sciences

Dr Gaye Deegan's research area is broadly the adoption and strategic use of information systems. In particular, alternative approaches that emphasise the human dimension of information systems such as the purposeful systems approach.



Dr Jianhua Du

Centre Environmental Risk Assessment and Remediation

Dr Jianhua Du is an environmental scientist who develops clean-up materials for remediation of air, water and soil pollutions.



Dr Sait Elmas

Ian Wark Research Institute

Dr Sait Elmas is a chemist by training who is currently doing research on solar hydrogen production. Hydrogen fuel production driven by solar light is a cheap, environmental friendly and sustainable energy source. Sait's long-term research activities will be focussing on organic photovoltaics and photo-/catalytic reduction of Carbon Dioxide into chemicals.



Dr Roey Elnathan

Mawson Institute

Dr Roey Elnathan is working in the field of nanobiotechnology, the overarching aim of his research is engineering vertically aligned SiNW arrays for the efficient transfer of biomolecules into targeted mammalian cells with minimal impact on cell viability and function.



Dr Katia Ferrar,

Sansom Institute for Health Research, School of Health Sciences

Dr Katia Ferrar is a physiotherapist and physical activity researcher. Katia investigates the benefit of physical activity to manage and prevent chronic conditions, and the role exercise-regulation has on adherence.



Dr Fran Harding

Mawson Institute

Dr Fran Harding's primary research interests lie in investigating cell-biomaterials interactions. Part of Fran's current work examines silicon based biomaterials for drug and gene delivery. A second research focus is the high throughput screening of cell behaviour, with a view to defining surfaces that capture and expand cells for therapeutic use.



Dr Pejman Hojati Talemi

Mawson Institute

Dr Pejman Hojati Talemi is a Chemist/Materials Engineer, working mainly on conducting polymers and nanomaterials. Pejman's research is looking into making new materials with tailor made properties that suits specific applications, such as organic electronics, fuel cells, batteries.



Dr Eric Hsu

Hawke Research Institute

Dr Eric Hsu is a sociologist whose research is mainly located in the sociology of sleep and sociology of time. Eric is currently undertaking a research project on the sleep lives of truck drivers in South Australia.



Dr Amanda Hutchinson

School of Psychology Social Work and Social Policy

Dr Amanda Hutchinson is a psychologist with an interest in health psychology and cancer. Amanda is currently conducting research on the relationship between 1) expectancies and treatment outcomes in cancer patients, 2) skin tone dissatisfaction and sun exposure and 3) mindfulness and health behaviour.



Dr Henry Kum

Centre for Research in Education, School of Education

Dr Henry Kum is a sociologist and Teacher Educator who investigates policy and professional practice in the schooling and education of marginalised communities: in particular, widening access and participation, equity and social justice, intercultural pedagogies, and the intersectionality of race and class especially with refugee and ethnic minority communities.



Dr Mikael Larsson

Ian Wark Research Institute

Dr Mikael Larsson is a materials scientist that works on developing new technologies for biomedical applications and prevention of marine biofouling. In his cross-disciplinary research Mikael combines nanotechnology, material science, cell/microbiology and engineering to achieve materials with new or improved functions.



Dr Sunny Lee

Centre for Tourism and Leisure Management, School of Management

Dr Sunny Lee is a Lecturer in Management with an interest in consumer behaviour and experience within tourism and event industry: in particular, social impact of event, event experiences and management, youth tourism, destination branding and regional development.



Dr Ming Liu

Barbara Hardy Institute

Dr Ming Liu is a mechanical engineer who is working on developing of high performance phase change thermal storage systems. It will help to reduce the cost of the storage system and thus reduce the levelized cost of energy for concentrated solar power plants.



Dr Yanju Liu

Centre Environmental Risk Assessment and Remediation

Dr Yanju Liu is an environmental science researcher who works on the usage of waste resources and remediation of wastewater and contaminated soils. Yanju's main work is about recycling and reuse of red mud (bauxite residue) which involves development, characterization and application of red mud based products. Also, research efforts on the fate and transportation of environmental pollutants (heavy metals, PAHs, etc) in soils will be made.



Dr Adam Loch

Centre for Regulation and Market Analysis, School of Commerce

Dr Adam Loch is a natural resource economist with interests in water markets, institutional transaction costs and reform, and experimental economics. Adam is particularly interested in how we can use these arrangements to help sort out increasingly scarce water resource realities, and how to reallocate limited supply across increasingly complex and competing demands. Mostly Adam's work is conducted in the Murray-Darling Basin, but he also has research links to Canada, Spain and the United States.



Dr Richard McGrath

School of Health Sciences

Dr Richard McGrath is a critical sociologist interested in exploring social justice issues concerning disadvantaged groups at a community level. The areas Richard has explored to date include public policy and public management, community recreation/sport/leisure programs and evaluation within disability and youth service provision. Richard has also conducted work exploring social capital and social exclusion.



Dr Steven McInnes

Mawson Institute

Dr Steven McInnes' research focuses on the use of porous silicon as a biomaterial. In particular the preparation of micro- and nano-particles with the ability to target specific cellular receptors and the ability to deliver payloads of therapeutic small molecular drugs or antibodies to the targeted site.



Dr Brian Mekdeci

Defence and Systems Institute, School of Engineering

Dr Brian Mekdeci is a researcher interested in the autonomy and survivability of systems; in particular, Brian is interested in how humans interact with autonomous and semi-autonomous systems, and how these systems can be used to prevent, mitigate and recover from natural and man-made disasters.



Dr Stuart Mills

Mawson Institute, Regenerative Medicine lab

Dr Stuart Mills carries out medical research investigating the inflammatory process of wound healing, in particular the effects of Toll-like receptors and their interaction with Flightless protein. Stuart is also involved in the CRC for Cell Therapy Manufacturing where he is looking to manufacture advanced dressings for the treatment of a wide range of wounds.

Dr Thavamani Palanisami

Centre Environmental Risk Assessment and Remediation

Dr Thavamani Palanisami is an Environmental Scientist. Thava's broad research interest is on emergent and mixed contaminants. In particular their fate and dynamics in the environment, risk assessment and remediation using innovative methods. Thava's specific focus is on contaminant bioavailability and environment and human health, contaminant-microbial interaction using molecular tools and risk based management of contaminated sites.

**Dr Silvia Pignata**

Centre for Sleep Research, and School of Engineering

Dr Silvia Pignata is an organisational psychologist and researcher in the School of Psychology, Social Work and Social Policy who investigates sleep in children and adolescents; and examines the impact of stress-reduction interventions on employee well-being and work attitudes. Silvia is also a Senior Lecturer in the School of Engineering where her research interests include: the psychosocial aspects of occupational health and safety; and the interaction of people and socio-technical systems within the work environment.

**Dr Shasha Rao**

Ian Wark Research Institute

Dr Shasha Rao is a postdoctoral research associate, who works in improving the oral delivery efficiency of poorly water-soluble compounds. In particular, her work focuses on the understanding of internal nanostructure of hybrid inorganic-lipid nanomaterials for controlling the action of gastro-intestinal enzymes to improve the solubilisation of poorly water-soluble drugs in the gastrointestinal tract and the oral bioavailability. Current application areas of the nanomaterials include treatment of bacterial infections, cardiovascular diseases, and chemotherapy.

**Dr Stephanie Reuter Lange**

Sansom Institute for Health Research, School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences

Dr Stephanie Reuter Lange is a pharmacologist with a primary research focus in the area of clinical pharmacokinetics. Stephanie's research covers a diverse range of medical disciplines; however, in general it aims to develop new drug entities and improve the use of existing drugs for the better management of patients in clinical practice. Ultimately, Stephanie's research philosophy is one of connection between the foundational sciences and professional practice, specifically the application of pharmacokinetic principles to inform the clinical use of medications.

**Dr Mary Salveron**

Australian Centre for Child Protection, Hawke Research Institute

Dr Mary Salveron is a research psychologist who investigates what works in transforming the lives of children who have experienced or who are at risk of experiencing abuse and neglect.



Dr Ryo Sekine

Centre Environmental Risk Assessment and Remediation

Dr Ryo Sekine is an environmental scientist with a background in chemistry and spectroscopy. Ryo is currently involved in research into the fate and the risks of engineered nano-materials in the environment, using a wide range of techniques including toxicity testing, spectroscopy and micro/nano-scope imaging.



Dr Hannah Soong

New Pedagogies for Justice Research Group, Centre for Postcolonial and Globalisation Studies, School of Education

Dr Hannah Soong is a sociologist in education whose writings explore the significance of differentiated processes of subjectivity in self and society at the intersections of contemporary social and individual subjectivities, as well as phenomenological theories and transnational identity negotiations; with a special interest in the fields of globalisation of higher education, migration studies and social imagination.



Dr Helen Stallman

School of Psychology Social Work and Social Policy

Dr Helen Stallman is a Clinical Psychologist who researches resilience and wellbeing; in particular the mental health of university students, parenting, and e-health interventions.



Dr Suresh Subashchandrabose

Centre Environmental Risk Assessment and Remediation

Dr Suresh Subashchandrabose is an environmental biotechnologist with great passion for mechanistic ecotoxicology, bioremediation of xenobiotics and waste to energy conversion using microalgae.



Dr Sze Yen Tan

Nutritional Physiology Research Centre, School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences

Dr Sze Yen Tan is a dietitian and his research focuses on obesity treatment. Specifically, Yen is interested in the effects of various dietary manipulations on human energy metabolism and ingestive behaviours.



Dr Steven Tay

Barbara Hardy Institute

Dr Steven Tay's area of research is on phase change thermal energy storage system for various applications. Steven is currently on a postdoctoral fellowship awarded by ARENA. Under this fellowship, he is working on dynamic phase change material (PCM) systems for high temperature thermal storage. Steven researches dynamic PCM systems for high temperature thermal storage challenges conventional research on PCM, which has previously focussed on using PCM in 'static' storage systems. The success of this project will lower electricity cost for the consumer and most importantly, reduce the carbon emission to the environment.



Dr Joanne Tingey-Holyoak

Centre for Accounting and Governance and Sustainability, School of Commerce

With an interdisciplinary PhD in water management and accounting for agri-business, Dr Joanne Tingey-Holyoak's research encompasses elements of management and accounting for complex physical and behavioural problems faced by business. Current competitively funded research projects include investigations into water accounting and auditing standards, water management accounting in agri-business, and the need for engineering accounting to solve problems of business and environmental sustainability.



Dr Margarita Tsiros

Nutritional Physiology Research Centre, School of Health Sciences

Dr Margarita Tsiros is a physiotherapist with a special interest in paediatrics and in particular paediatric obesity. Margarita's research examines how obesity influences aspects of physical function and well-being in children, while also examining lifestyle behaviours and novel management strategies to combat childhood obesity.



Dr Victoria Watts

School of Education

Dr Victoria Watts is a dance specialist with dual research interests. Victoria works with the languages of dance notation, both as research objects in their own rights and also to investigate historical and cultural constructions of embodiment. Simultaneously Victoria has been developing combined research, community outreach, and professional development projects for teachers in relation to the impact of dance on older learners' wellbeing.



Dr Andie Xu

Sansom Institute for Health Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery

Dr Andie Xu is a nursing researcher who investigates mental health and women's well-being around menopausal transition.



Dr Mingfeng Yu

Centre for Drug Discovery and Development, Sansom Institute for Health Research, School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences

Dr Mingfeng Yu is a synthetic medicinal chemist. His current research focuses on the discovery and development of novel protein kinase inhibitors for cancer therapy. Mingfeng is particularly interested in developing selective Mnk inhibitors and CDK6 inhibitors for targeted cancer therapy.