

Early Career Researcher Development Program



2015 Cohort



Dr Heather Anderson

School of Communication, International Studies & Languages, & Hawke Research Institute

Dr Heather Anderson is a journalist and media scholar who investigates the ways media can be used to promote social justice: in particular, through community radio and citizens' media projects.'



Dr Kerri Beckmann

School of Population Health, & Cancer Epidemiology & Population Health Unit, Sansom Institute

Dr Kerri Beckmann is a cancer epidemiologist with a particular interest in evaluating treatment effectiveness to improve clinical outcomes for people affected by cancer. Kerri's current research focusses on the comparative effectiveness of prostate cancer treatments, disparities in colorectal cancer outcomes (at the population level) and the impact of breast cancer screening in SA. Kerri is keen to further develop her analytical skills to address questions of clinical significance in cancer care.



Dr Angela Berndt

School of Health Sciences, & International Centre for Allied Health Evidence, Sansom Institute

Dr Angela Berndt is an occupational therapist who investigates the relationship between living with certain neurological conditions, the environment and capacity: in particular, dementia and driving, on-road assessment method and route design and use of technology in driving assessment.



Dr Stephen Berry

School of Engineering, & Barbara Hardy Institute

Utilising academic expertise across economics, applied energy science and policy studies Dr Stephen Berry's research investigates the relationship between building design, technology application and human behaviour with a goal of reducing the energy and carbon emission impact of the built environment.



Dr Marnie Best

School of Education, & CREd: Wellbeing Research Group, & CREd: Social Justice Research Group

Dr Marnie Best is a research-active teaching academic who investigates within and across the fields of alternative education, educational psychology, in particular, social cognitive theory; and Design and Technology education, specifically, design-based processes, placebased learning and inclusive design.



Dr Anna Cifuentus Rius

Mawson Institute

Dr Anna Cifuentus Rius is a chemist investigating new bio- and nanomaterials for cancer theranostics: in particular, new vectors that allow both the o deliver chemotherapeutic drugs in a more specific way and the combination with other cancer therapies.



Dr Jeremy Coggins

School of Natural & Built Environments, & Barbara Hardy Institute

Dr Jeremy Coggins is a construction law academic who investigates significant legal issues impacting upon the construction industry, in particular the long running problem of fair payment, insolvency, contractual issues as well as effective and efficient dispute resolution.



Dr Georgina Crichton

School of Health Sciences, & Alliance for Research in Exercise, Nutrition & Activity (ARENA)

Dr Georgina Crichton is a research fellow with interests in nutrition, cognitive function and cardiovascular health in adults, with an international focus. With collaborators in the USA and Luxembourg, Georgina investigate relations within and between these three areas.

Georgina's second developing research focus is on infant sleep and nutrition, and psychological well-being in mothers. Georgina is leading an RCT (to commence shortly) to examine the impact of a behavioural intervention delivered over multiple consultations on infant sleep and crying, infant growth, and psychological well-being in mothers.

Georgina will continue to work in both of these research areas throughout the duration of her Early Career Fellowship.



Dr Elsa Dent

Centre for Sleep Research, & School of Psychology, Social Work & Social Policy

Dr Elsa Dent is a clinical research scientist who investigates frailty in older people. Elsa has just started employment as a Project Manager at UniSA in the Patient Safety group. Elsa's role is to review national and international guidelines for medical conditions, then develop preliminary quality indicators of clinical pathway guidelines. Elsa's research group will then implement a "wiki" – a wiki being an online auditing tool, in which Wikipedia is the most well-known example.



Dr Alice Dodd

School of Communication, International Studies & Languages, & Sustainable Online Community Engagement Project

Dr Alice Dodd is a qualitative communication researcher with research interests in the role and function of third sector (not-for-profit, non-government and community) organisations in maintaining social, cultural and material capital and good health in societies. Within this, Alice is interested in developing ways of increasing active participation or civic – political, educational and social – engagement of people from a diverse range of backgrounds through information literacy and ICT skills. Alice is also interested in the role of universities and how community engagement might be practically achieved through services learning based projects.



Dr Michelle Fernando

School of Law

Dr Michelle Fernando researches how children's views are heard in family law processes in Australia and international law. Michelle examines how and whether children's right to be heard as recognised by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is upheld in cases involving care of children after parental separation or international child abduction. This includes analysis of children's experiences of family law processes.



Dr Andrew Gardner

School of Nursing & Midwifery, & Safety & Quality Research Group

Dr Andrew Gardner is a constructivist Grounded Theory Researcher who investigates how professional boundaries are established, contested and breached in therapeutic relationships with all health care providers. After completing his PhD which explored how boundaries are established and maintained – Andrew is now looking to expand on this area of research with the challenges of the millennial generation entering the professional workforce. Andrew is also interested in now flipping his research question to explore how professional boundaries are contested and when and why they fail resulting in breaches in professional conduct.



Dr Luke Greenacre

UniSA School of Business (Marketing), & Ehrenberg-Bass Institute for Marketing Science

Dr Luke Greenacre investigates consumer decision making, and how different information cues can alter decision outcomes. Luke is interested in both consumer product and consumer welfare contexts with much of his more recent work considering personal health and welfare decisions.



Dr Amy Holmes

School of Pharmacy & Medical Sciences, & Therapeutics Research Centre, Sansom Institute

Dr Amy Holmes is a dermatotoxicologist who develops novel topical and transdermal drug delivery systems. Amy also has an interest in characterising the potential permeation and cyto-toxicity of compounds such as pesticides, biocides and sunscreens after dermal exposure.



Dr Melanie MacGregor-Ramiasa Mawson Institute

Dr Melanie Ramiasa is a material scientist who explores the effects of surface chemistry on the interaction between (bio)materials and their environment. Melanie is particularly interested in novel biomaterials, and currently works on the development of platforms capable to guide cell growth and differentiation, and cell capture for diagnostic purposes.



Dr Shepard Masocha

School of Psychology, Social Work & Social Policy, & The Centre for Social Change

Dr Shepard Masocha is a social work academic who investigates practice with ethnic minorities, immigrants and asylum seekers and the intersecting discourses of race, racism, culture and social citizenship.



Dr Tim McGinley

School of Art, Architecture & Design, & Zero Waste Centre

Dr Tim McGinley has a background in architecture, computer science, engineering and interaction design. Tim is currently using developmental biology to interrogate contemporary architecture. This 'morphogenetic prototyping' process of 'reverse engineering' architecture using model systems from a developmental biology perspective attempts to identify the 'designGenes' of architecture that will enable 'new' architecture to be morphogenetically prototyped. This requires among other things the development of a new design interface and architectural design information systems.



Dr Amber Mosewich

School of Health Sciences

Dr Amber Mosewich's background is in sport, exercise, and health psychology and her research examines stress and coping processes, with a key focus on understanding the potential of self-compassion as a resource to cultivate healthy and successful cognitions, emotions, behaviours, and experiences, particularly for women and girls involved in sport, exercise, and other achievement domains.



Dr Julie Nichols

School of Art, Architecture & Design, & UniSA Architecture Museum, & International Centre for Muslim & non-Muslim Understanding

Dr Julie Nichols is an architectural historian, architect and urban designer who gains insight from research into the intellectual history of Enlightenment ideas and technologies, in the fields of cartography and urban design, proliferated for the production of Southeast Asian urban settlements. Study of these historical urban precedents of West and non-West cross-cultural collaborations offer insight for the design of contemporary urban space, in their negotiation of, and engagement with, sociocultural, religious and geo-political difference.



Dr Jorge Ochoa Paniagua,

School of Natural & Built Environments

Dr. Jorge Ochoa's research focuses on the development of systems for facilitating the implementation of sustainable development principles throughout the building life cycle. Jorge is particularly interested in addressing planning and scheduling challenges resulting from highly complex sustainable building projects.



Dr Valerie O'Keeffe

UniSA School of Business (Management), & Centre for Human Resource Management

Dr Valerie O'Keeffe is a social scientist who investigates workers' experience and performance of work, in particular worker (occupational) health and safety, human factors and performance and how this impacts on workers' patients, clients and customers. Valerie is most interested in healthcare settings and service-based work.



Dr Elissa Pearson

School of Psychology, Social Work & Social Policy, & The Centre for Social Change

Dr Elissa Pearson is a psychologist who specialises in the field of conservation and sustainability of human behaviour. In particular Elissa is interested in reducing negative human impacts on the environment and other species. Elissa's research is collaborative, applied, and real-world. Elissa's primary research interests are in the areas of environmental education programs that seek to inspire public conservation concern and action.



Dr Craig Phillips

School of Nursing & Midwifery, Education Research In Nursing & Midwifery Group, Mothers, Babies & Families Health Research Group

Dr Craig Phillips is a nurse academic who is currently investigating the transition experiences of newly qualified registered nurses in a variety of health care settings. Craig's previous research has explored contributing factors relating to graduate nurses being satisfied in their new job and the level of supported offered from their employer. Craig is currently involved in an intervention trial with two health services in South Australia that aims to explore factors that enhance satisfaction with transition experiences for new nurses.



Dr Rosie Roberts

David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education & Research, & Cultural Research Group

Dr Rosie Roberts is an interdisciplinary cultural studies researcher whose work focuses on the intersections of culture, mobility, equity and belonging within three contexts: 1) migration, 2) rurality and 3) the transition of disadvantaged groups to higher education. Rosie has a strong interest in the conditions that promote an inclusive society and the diverse experiences that people have in relation to *transition* whether professional, educational, social or cultural.



Dr Edoardo Rosso

School of Health Sciences, & Exercise for Health & Human Performance Research Group, & Healthy Kids Cluster

Dr Edoardo Rosso is a social scientist engaged in community participation in sport and sport coaching – in particular Edoardo works with disadvantaged groups and communities.



Dr Natasha Schranz

School of Health Sciences, & Alliance for Research in Exercise, Nutrition & Activity

Dr Natasha Schranz is a Sports Scientist who examines the physical activity and sedentary behaviour levels of young people: in particular their overall activity levels and the settings and sources of influences which impact upon these behaviours.



Dr Ben Sellar

School of Health Sciences, & International Centre for Allied Health Evidence

Dr Ben Sellar is a sociologist investigating the way public policy and regulations concerning the design of public space impact on the behaviours, relationships and heath of children and adults. Specifically Ben is interested in policy that governs the design, provision and usage of children's spaces such as playgrounds, parks and town centres.



Dr Maryam Shirmohammadi

Barbara Hardy Institute, School of Engineering

Dr Maryam Shirmohammadi is a mechanical engineer with interest in agricultural machinery and technologies. Maryam's work focuses on developing new more efficient practices using current and new equipment to reduce the waste on farm, during harvest, post-harvest and processing stages.



Dr Garth Stahl

School of Education

Dr Garth Stahl is a theorist of sociology of education. Garth's research interests lie on the nexus of neoliberalism and socio-cultural studies of education, identity, equity/inequality and social change. Currently, his research projects and publications encompass theoretical and empirical studies of learner identities, gender and youth, sociology of schooling in a neoliberal age, gendered subjectivities, equity and difference, and educational reform. Of particular interest are exploring neoliberal counternarratives and around 'value' and 'respectability' for working-class youth.



Dr Hanna Tervonen

School of Population Health, & Sansom Institute, & South Australian Health & Medical Research Institute

Dr Hanna Tervonen is a pharmacist with special interest and focus on public health and cancer epidemiology. Currently Hanna is examining the associations between socio-demographic disadvantage and cancer outcomes.



Dr Nicky Thomas

Ian Wark Research Institute (Collaborations with Mawson Institute, Basil Hetzel Institute, The Queen Elisabeth Hospital)

Dr Nicky Thomas is a pharmaceutical scientist focusing on the development, characterisation and interaction of novel drug delivery systems with bacterial biofilms are the major reason for an increasing number of antibiotic resistances as well as recurring, chronic diseases (e.g. wound infections, sinusitis, cystic fibrosis etc).



Dr Christopher Turner

Mawson Institute, Regenerative Medicine lab

Dr Chris Turner is a medical scientist working to improve the healing of wounds; contributing to the development of a novel therapeutic agent that promises to improve healing outcomes and reduce the scarring associated with cuts, diabetic ulcers, burns, blistering disorders and other skin conditions.



Dr Deborah van Gaans

School of Population Health, & Centre for Research Excellence in Prevention of Chronic Conditions

Dr Deborah van Gaans is a spatial social scientist whose research explores issues of access. Deborah is particularly interested in the geographic and socio-economic factors which impact equity in access to health services.



Dr Rob Whait UniSA School of Business (Commerce), & Centre for Accounting, Governance & Sustainability

Dr Rob Whait is a tax researcher who focuses on mainly compliance and administrative aspects of the tax system. This includes the reasons why taxpayers comply and how compliance may be improved. Some of this research is historical in nature. Rob is also interested in some related technical sides of income tax law such as tax avoidance and evasion.



Dr Louise Wiles

School of Psychology, Social Work & Social Policy, & School of Health Sciences, & Centre for Sleep Research, & Patient Safety Group, & International Centre for Allied Health Evidence

Dr Louise Wiles is a physiotherapist who investigates patient safety and quality in healthcare: in particular evidence-based practice, consumer-engagement, and professional standards for allied health medicine and nursing.



Dr Dorota Zarnowiecki

School of Population Health, & Population Health & Nutrition Group

Dr Dorota Zarnowiecki is a nutritionist investigating the behavioural determinants of food intake, with a focus on generating evidence to develop targeted intervention strategies and health promotion programs to improve health behaviours of disadvantaged individuals. Dorota's research focuses on improving the food intake of families and children to break intergenerational cycles of poor health and obesity.