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University

HDR MATTERS

OFFICE OF HDR TRAINING & PARTNERSHIPS | FEBRUARY ISSUE

Welcome Message

2020 has begun as a particularly challenging year, with events overseas and the bush fire emergency in Australia. At the time of writing, the unprecedented fires have claimed more than 20 human lives, and that of hundreds of millions of animals and other creatures in the destruction of the vegetation on the millions of hectares of land burnt. Given the scale of the economic, social and individual costs, there has never been a time where research, regardless of its discipline, is more needed to address urgent and important questions both for disaster-hit and wider communities. In this context more than ever please be proud to say that you are a HDR candidate, and explain how your research is addressing a novel and intriguing area and how it contributes to society.

This will be my last contribution to the newsletter as it is expected that a new PVC HDRTP will take up their appointment early in February. I wish them all the best and send my warmest wishes to all candidates for successful outcomes in both research and their careers post-Macquarie. My sincere thanks to supervisors, other academic colleagues and all who support the great work of our candidates.

If you are experiencing psychological distress in regard to the fires or other situations, Campus Wellbeing has a 24-hour help line 1800 CARE MQ (1800 2273 67).

Judi Homewood, PhD, Interim Pro Vice-Chancellor, Higher Degree Research Training and Partnerships, Honorary Associate Professor, Department of Psychology

Farewell and thank you

Sadly, we must now bid farewell to Judi Homewood as she returns to her retirement plans. Judi was enticed back to Macquarie by the DVCR to take on the role of Acting Director of HDR Training and Partnerships, when the Office of the Dean, HDR and the Higher Degree Research Office merged at the beginning of 2019. With the retirement of Prof Nick Mansfield in July, Judi stepped up to take on the role of Interim Pro Vice-Chancellor, HDR Training and Partnerships. Judi took on this extra responsibility with good humour and determination to achieve good outcomes for the office and to those we serve.

The OHDRTP has greatly benefited from the wealth of knowledge and experience Judi has gained over her career, including as the Associate Dean HDR Faculty of Human Sciences. We have been very lucky to have Judi's support, generosity and leadership and we will be sorry to see her go. Thank you, Judi from all of us in the OHDRTP. Happy travels!

HDR Workshops

All workshops can be found on the [MyRDC](#).

<i>Fri 14 February</i>	2020 PGRF Grant Writing Workshop (HDR Candidates)	<i>Wed 19 February</i>	Pro Vice-Chancellor's HDR Welcome (New HDR candidates)
	Register now →		Register now →
<i>Wed 19 February</i>	REDCap Foundations	<i>Thu 20 February</i>	R Plotting
	Register now →		Register now →

HDR Announcements



Pro Vice-Chancellor's HDR Welcome, Semester One 2020

Invitations to the Semester One PVC's HDR Welcome have been issued to all new PhD, Master of Research and Bachelor of Philosophy candidates via their student email. The event will be held on Wednesday, February 19.

Registrations are essential. If you are a new HDR candidate at MQ and have not received an invitation, please contact hdr.induction@mq.edu.au.

HDR Statistical Consultancy Service

Just a reminder that you can access advice from the HDR Statistical Consultancy Service! Associate Professor Peter Petocz from Macquarie's Department of Statistics is happy to have a look at your data and analyses and to discuss with you what the numbers seem to be saying.

The HDR Statistical Consulting Service is available on Mondays 10am - 1pm in Room 539, 12 Wally's Walk. [Please email Peter for a booking](#).

Scholarships

Scholarships for Higher Degree Research (HDR) at Macquarie University are available for specific projects or in the general scholarship main rounds.

Visit the websites below to see the scholarships that are currently available.

[Macquarie Scholarships](#)

[External Scholarships](#)

Bushfire & Wildlife Donations

Our PVC HDRTP's welcome message highlighted the unprecedented and devastating impact of the Australian bushfires.

Staff and students may consider donating to an established charity, to aid with bushfire recovery efforts and wildlife support. A list of established charities can be found below.

- [NSW Rural Fire Service](#)

- [The Salvation Army](#)
- [Vinnies](#)
- [Australian Red Cross](#)
- [WIRES](#)

HDR Matters Feedback - Thank you!

The HDR Matters newsletter team would like to thank those who provided their feedback late last year. Your feedback as readers is incredibly valued.

We have listened, and will be implementing some changes in the coming newsletters.

For those who are interested in providing feedback, [complete the survey here](#).

MRes Information Session

The Master of Research Information Session will be held March 12, in the MUSE Building.

More information will be provided in the March HDR Matters newsletter.

PGRF Round 2, 2020 Applications Open

Postgraduate Research Fund (PGRF) Round 2, 2020 applications are open, and will close on Friday February 28, 2020.

The PGRF allows currently enrolled PhD and MPhil candidates to apply for up to \$5,000 for an activity that adds value to their HDR experience, such as conference travel or lab, site or archive visits. Emails were distributed to student emails late January.

HDR Learning Skills will be offering a PGRF Grant Writing workshop on 14 February, 2020 from 10-12pm. This workshop will also be livestreamed

Machine Learning /Data Science Consulting Service

The Department of Computing has introduced a Machine Learning Consulting Service, inspired by the Statistical Consulting Service from the Department of Maths and Stats.

Associate Professor Mark Dras from Macquarie's Department of Computing is happy to talk to researchers at Macquarie, both HDR students and academic staff, about their research and how machine learning might be applied to it.

The Machine Learning Consulting Service is available on Thursdays 10am - 12pm in Room 208, 4 Research Park Drive (at the end of Wally's Walk, near

via the [HDR Learning Skills iLearn unit](#).

This workshop will also feature a FAQs session, so if you have any questions relating to the PGRF that you would like answered, please email them to hdrlearningskills@mq.edu.au by February 10.

Please register via for the workshop [here](#).

For more information on the PGRF and application process and forms please visit [this website](#).

the hospital). Please email Mark (mark.dras@mq.edu.au) to make a booking.

HDR Stories



ResourcefulHDR Podcast - Episode 13: Isaac Roberts

The latest guest on the ResourcefulHDR podcast is Isaac Roberts who is a Master of Research candidate in Indigenous Studies at Macquarie. Isaac is a proud Aboriginal man with ties along the east coast of Queensland and New South Wales. After losing his hearing to illness in 2013, he studied a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Ancient and Modern History at Macquarie in 2015. He is currently completing his Master of Research in the Department of Indigenous Studies. His research looks at the History and Archaeology of the Ngiyampaa people of Western

New South Wales, and the bridging of Indigenous and Western knowledges in the field of archaeology.

Isaac speaks about the challenges of completing his HSC following his illness and his subsequent hearing loss and the impact that has had on his choice of tertiary study. Isaac was originally going to follow a path in Music and changed his plans as a result of his acquired disability. With characteristic modesty and humour, Isaac gives credit to a number of people in his life - family, Teachers, academics and support staff for his success. Isaac speaks about his interest in Ancient History and Archaeology and how he ended up doing a Master of Research in Indigenous Studies. He provides valuable insights into Indigenous Archaeology and the challenges faced by a young Indigenous man in conducting research within Indigenous communities.

[Listen now](#) →



HDR Learning Skills: Confessions of a "procrastinative" planner

"If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail," or so the saying goes. And boy do I love to plan!

Hi, my name is Megan and I am a procrastinative planner. Bullet journals, to-do lists, calendar/time-blocking, etc – if it is a productivity/planning strategy, I have probably tried it.

Planning is an important aspect of achieving our goals, particularly big ones like completing a thesis. But for procrastinative planners like myself, we spend all our time planning. Which is problematic because it feels like doing, but it's not.

No matter how much planning we do, if we don't make like a sports company catchphrase and "just do it", then that thing we planned to do just won't get done. "The

foundation of all achievement is action” ([Darius Foroux](#)). There is no point in waiting for inspiration or finding the perfect moment (there never is one) – so once the tasks have been determined, i.e. you have a plan, you then need to execute said plan. And nothing else but fronting up and starting will get that plan done.

So, this year my intention is to take action: “do” more; “plan/procrastinate” (a little) less.

If you would like further advice on planning or taking action on your MRes or PhD thesis, feel free to contact the HDR Learning Advisors for a consult at HDRLearningSkills@mq.edu.au.

Dr Megan Brewer, HDR Learning Advisor (Science)



FameLab 2020: Applications Open

HDR Learning Skills is proud to be supporting FameLab 2020. FameLab is the world’s leading science communication competition, created by Cheltenham Festivals and co-produced with their International Partner, the British Council. It is a live science communication competition that aims to discover charismatic early career scientists who can inspire people to see the world from new perspectives. It is run annually in Australia and in over 25 countries across the world.

If you think you can explain a scientific concept to a general audience, in just three minutes, FameLab’s the competition for you! You could become the new face of science, represent your country at the FameLab International final in the UK, and open doors to global opportunities in science communication. You can also sign-up to attend one of our half day free science communication workshops held at the Powerhouse Museum ([register here](#)).

For more information and your chance to WIN \$1,000 cash prize plus an expenses-paid trip to the UK, enter now at www.fwam.com.au/famelab.

Applications close **24 February 2020**.

Dr Adèle Thomas, HDR Learning Advisor (Science)

(Image above) Fame Lab 2018 Australian winner, Vanessa Pirota, Macquarie University



2020 Industry Mentoring Network in STEM Program – Launching soon!

If you have been looking for an opportunity to engage with industry, expand your professional networks and develop your career skills, then the Industry Mentoring Network in STEM (IMNIS) could be the program for you!

The Office of HDR Training and Partnerships (OHD RTP) in collaboration with Macquarie University faculties are seeking expressions of interest from doctoral candidates, ideally starting their second year of study, that would like to participate in the 2020 IMNIS mentoring program.

IMNIS is an award-winning industry-led initiative of the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering. IMNIS connects motivated PhD students (mentees) in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) with outstanding high-level industry leaders (mentors) in a one-year industry mentoring program. More information about the program is available on the [IMNIS website](#) and on the [HDR Professional Development iLearn page](#).

How can I apply? All PhD Candidates will soon be emailed an individual expression of interest form link. The application deadline will be in early April approximately. If you need any further information in the meantime, please email ProfDevHDR@mq.edu.au.

Where can I find out more? Watch the IMNIS Information Session webinar!

Candidates and staff are invited to attend our online information session to learn more about the program. Meet past mentees and hear about their experiences of the program. Details of the webinar will be made available soon.

Catherine Ennis, HDR Industry Engagement & Placements Manager

(Image above) Shivani Sachdev, IMNIS mentee and FMHS PhD candidate and Dr Brad

Walsh, [Minomic International](#) CEO and IMNIS Mentor, discussing their IMNIS experience at the 2019 Reaping the Benefits of Research event.



HDR Mentors: Welcome to MQ!

In 2020, HDR Mentors will continue to bring our HDR community together, aiming to make the HDR research journey more engaging and memorable. Our enthusiastic and friendly mentors can't wait to share their experiences and provide peer-to-peer support. Together we can normalise the ups and downs of the research journey and build a stronger HDR community.

We strive to enrich your HDR experience with events and activities. We provide support across BPhil, MRes and PhD programs by offering Peer Writing Assistance, monthly meet up sessions, academic events relating to thesis submission, presentation and communications skills development, as well as social events and outreach activities.

We're kicking the year off with a "Welcome Lunch" for all HDR candidates at the end of February 2020. This is a chance for you to ask our mentors questions you might be having about starting your PhD and it is also an opportunity to meet fellow students, build networks and make new friends. Please keep an eye on your inbox for the invitation from HDR Mentors.

Want to connect with us or to know more? Email us at hdrmentors@mq.edu.au or visit our website [HDR Mentors Official Webpage](#). Connect with us

via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

HDR Mentors wishes you a new year filled with happiness and inspiration!

(Image above) HDR Mentors Welcome Lunch



One Day Workshops (REDCap, R Plotting)

The Data Science and eResearch team kicks off its 2020 training program with the following one-day workshops:

- **REDCap Foundations** on Wednesday, 19 February
- **R Plotting** on Thursday, 20 February

The R Plotting (visualisation) workshop, suitable for researchers and HDR students, requires working knowledge of R.

The REDCap workshop is suitable for beginner and intermediate users. REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture) is a secure web application for building and managing online surveys and databases, especially suitable where clinical data is involved.

Places for both workshops are strictly limited. If interested, please contact our team at swc@mq.edu.au

News



HDR Supervision Enhancement Program in 2020

1. Mandatory Orientation Training

All HDR Supervisors must have a valid, current credential for supervising HDR candidates. The [MQ HDR Supervision Policy](#) specifies that 'All University staff who are to be appointed [as an HDR Supervisor] must have completed mandatory orientation requirements in HDR Supervision' and that '**HDR Supervision currency must be updated every four years**'. (5.4 MANDATORY ORIENTATION TO HDR SUPERVISION).

If you completed your last mandatory HDR Supervision training in 2016, then you **MUST** update your credential in 2020. Not sure when you last did it? You can check your record by logging in to HR Online - Check your training history.

All staff doing mandatory training in 2020, including those staff who are updating their credential, should access [the iLearn site](#) and follow the instructions there.

2. The HDR Supervision Fellowship Program

We plan to commence the HDR Supervision Fellowship Program in mid-2020. Information will be posted in this newsletter, and on the [HDR Supervision Enhancement](#) website.

For further information, please contact HDR.Supervision@mq.edu.au

(Image above) Photo by Julius Drost on Unsplash

HDR Dynamic Duos



Tamika Worrell

***Aboriginal Academic Engagement
Coordinator - Postgraduate Students***

How did you come to know each other?

We were both studying at Macquarie University in our undergrad degrees and first met when we were attending a Walanga Muru beginning of semester social mixer event. We became friends through the Walanga Muru community, and then once I began my role as Aboriginal Academic Engagement Coordinator at Walanga Muru, Zac and I remained friends, but also maintained a productive professional relationship where I would assist with his studies and celebrate his many successes.

What do you appreciate most about Isaac?

I appreciate how Zac is always willing to contribute to our community. He is kind, caring and shares his knowledge with other Indigenous students.

He is consistently going above and beyond to see the success of his peers, who he tutors through the Walanga Muru tutoring program. He

Isaac Roberts

***MRes Year 2, Department of
Indigenous Studies, Faculty of Arts***

How did you come to know each other?

My first memory of Tamika is from a Walanga Muru beginning of semester mixer in 2016. I had seen her around Walanga Muru before, but this was the first time we properly talked. We were both undergrads at the time, and became friends through the Walanga Muru community as we progressed through our degrees. When Tamika began her role as Aboriginal Academic Engagement Coordinator we remained friends, but also developed a professional relationship.

What do you appreciate most about Tamika?

Tamika is one of many strong Aboriginal women who guide me in my life and studies. I've always appreciated Tamika's dedication to both our community and her studies. She is always willing to do anything in her power to assist in any way that she can. Her desire to see the students at Walanga Muru succeed in their

also happily volunteers to assist with the running and promotion of events at Walanga Muru. Most of all, he shows his generous spirit by always being a shoulder to lean on.

He illustrates the values of relationships, respect and reciprocity, which is something that guides me in both my work and my research.

From this relationship, what do you think you will take with you into your professional/research future?

Being one year ahead of Zac in my studies, I've been inspired by his personal determination, motivation and organisation in preparing to undertake his Master of Research thesis. This is something I will take into my future research journey into PhD.

As we are peers as Indigenous HDR students, and also having a professional relationship at Walanga Muru, we have been able to keep a strong friendship, whilst still being able to engage Zac and assist him with his academic journey. Zac has returned the favour in this regard, asking me every time he popped by the office whether I had my thesis results which I was eagerly awaiting. He offered sympathy, as well as reassurance it wouldn't be too much longer.

He illustrates everything a peer to peer relationship should be, which is something I will draw on in the future.

various degrees is clear, and she approaches her work with strength, passion, and love for culture and community, which I deeply respect.

Tamika has consistently made herself available to chat with me about my degree and life, whether positive or a challenge to work through, and has always made her office a space that is open and welcoming. Most of all, I appreciate the strength and determination with which she has approached her thesis in light of the setbacks that occurred.

From this relationship, what do you think you will take with you into your professional/research future?

Watching as Tamika completed the Master of Research thesis, I've been able to prepare to undertake my own. Having the opportunity to learn from someone who understands my position as an Aboriginal HDR student, and has walked the path before me, continues to be something I value and respect in my relationship with Tamika. I hope I can continue learning from her as she moves through her PhD and I move into the thesis portion of my own degree.

I've also been fortunate enough to see Tamika succeed in her studies, and as both a peer, a friend, and within our professional relationship. Seeing Tamika's success has been wonderful, having the opportunity to support her in the wait for her thesis results, and celebrate those results when she received them, has been a highlight of my year.

I have no doubt we will be celebrating just as much (if not more) when she completes the PhD as well. Her determination and strength this year is something I hope I can bring into my own research career in the future.

(Image above) February's HDR Dynamic Duo Tamika Worrell and Isaac Roberts

We are always keen to receive contributions to the HDR Dynamic Duos section of this newsletter. The people featured might be... HDR candidate & supervisor, HDR Mentor & HDR Mentee, HDR Candidate and Industry placement supervisor.

If this is of interest to you, please head to our [website](#) for further information on how to contribute.

Remember to listen to the [ResourcefulHDR podcast](#) and if you are interested in being a guest please email sally.purcell@mq.edu.au



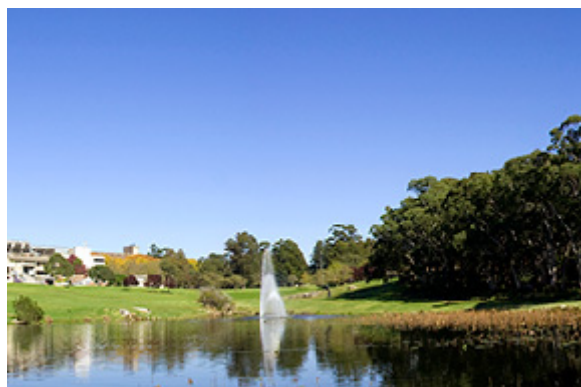
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