

[View](#) this email in your browser**MACQUARIE**  
University

Office of HDR Training and Partnerships

October 2020

## **A message from our Pro Vice-Chancellor, Higher Degree Research Training & Partnerships**

I recently had the pleasure of judging the University Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition and I'd like to pass on my congratulations to all of the candidates who took part in the Faculty and University events over recent months. This has been, for obvious reasons, a very unique 3MT competition and every participant rose to the challenge of delivering exceptional presentations despite the difficult circumstances.

It is not easy to summarise a PhD program for a general audience in three minutes and to do this virtually adds an additional dimension of difficulty and technical challenge. This did not, in any way, impact on the quality of submissions to this year's 3MT final. In my previous role I spent 4 years judging the faculty 3MT submissions in the Faculty of Human Sciences which were consistently excellent, but judging the University competition has brought my appreciation of 3MT to a whole new level! It was an extraordinary demonstration of the quality of research carried out by our HDR candidates. From K-Pop to cancer, memory to microbial resistance – the 3MT final was a genuine showcase of the diversity, quality and impact of HDR research at Macquarie.

The panel really struggled with the task of picking a winner and it would have been so much easier if we were able to put all participants forward to the national competition. Everyone who contributed this year should take enormous pride in their accomplishment. You are fabulous ambassadors for the University who will make

transformational contributions in research and in life. A special congratulations, of course, to our winner, Geraldine Sullivan from the Department of Molecular Sciences, who will represent Macquarie University at the 2020 Asia Pacific 3MT competition. Good luck Geraldine – whatever the outcome, you will do us proud!

Stay safe and stay well.

*Professor Simon Handley, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Higher Degree Research Training and Partnerships*

**[COVID-19 FAQs for HDR](#) (Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection: latest information – Information for Students – Changes to Session 1 – HDR Students**

## HDR Workshops

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

|                       |   |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| October               | <b>Peer Writing Assistance (PWA) - Zoom</b><br><br><a href="#">Register here</a> →  | <i>Tue 06 October</i> | <b>Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 4: Discussion Section &amp; Responding to Reviewers' Comments</b><br><br><a href="#">Register here</a> → |
| <i>Wed 07 October</i> | <b>MQBS HDR academic writing workshops: Making rigorous description and justification of methods</b><br><br><a href="#">Register here</a> → | <i>Fri 09 October</i> | <b>NVivo for Mac v12 (Zoom)</b><br><br><a href="#">Register now</a> →   |
| <i>Tue 13 October</i> | <b>Looking beyond the company website: developing your business research skills</b>   | <i>Thu 15 October</i> | <b>MQBS HDR academic writing workshops: Developing your research protocol</b><br><br><a href="#">Register now</a> →   |

[Register here](#) →

*Thu 15  
October*

**Thesis Formatting  
Workshop (For PC)  
(Zoom)**

[Register here](#) →

*Thu 22  
October*

**Webinar - MQ  
Professional Staff with  
a PhD: Dr. Emma  
Gleadhill**

[Register here](#) →

## HDR Announcements



### OHDRTP Implementing a Consultation Service for Current Students and Candidates

With an aim of providing a student first service for our candidates, the Office of Higher Degree Research, Training and Partnerships (OHDRTP) will be implementing a booking system for face to face consultations. The consultation service will allow for current and prospective students to book a meeting with a staff member either virtually or face-to-face to discuss any questions they may have regarding their candidature.

### Have your say! Higher Degree Research Students Annual Survey (MUSEQ-R)

Past research student feedback has resulted in greater transparency in research student funding allocations; more targeted support for research candidates and greater clarity in the roles and expectations of supervisors, among other things.

Feedback on your research experiences this year is important to us. So, have your say! The survey should take no more than 15 minutes.

The survey has been sent to all HDR candidates. Please check your mailbox to participate in it.

The OHDRTP endeavour to have this service available by early October and the consultations will be bookable via our '[Contact Us](#)' page.

## **Week-long Festival of the Master of Research**

Potential Master of Research candidates and supervisors are invited to participate in the Master of Research webinars to be held in the week commencing 12 October 2020. The webinar will provide potential candidates with the opportunity to hear from Faculty representatives on the content and opportunities afforded through undertaking the Master of Research.

Candidates are advised to attend the webinar of the Faculty they intend to complete the Master of Research.

The sessions scheduled are as follows:

- Monday 12 October 1 - 2pm  
Faculty of Arts
- Tuesday 13 October 1 -2pm  
Macquarie Business School
- Wednesday 14 October 1 -2 pm  
Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences
- Thursday 15 October 1 -2pm  
Faculty of Science and Engineering

Candidates can register [here](#).

## **Innovative new international health IT PhD Program launched between Australia and Germany**

The Australian Institute of Health Innovation (AIHI), Macquarie University, and Neu-Ulm University of Applied Sciences, Germany, have signed an agreement on an international PhD program, commencing 2020.

The program includes an 18-month placement of outstanding PhD candidates with the respective other research institution and undertaking highly innovative research on the use of information and communication technology in healthcare.

"We look forward to welcoming students into this new International PhD program. This is an exciting step in the long and successful relationship we have built with Neu-Ulm University (HNU) based on combining evidence-based research and industry-relevant experience," said Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite, Founding Director of AIHI.

"Information and communication technology is seen as vital to the safe delivery of healthcare worldwide and this program will take advantage of rigorous research practices as well as real-world experience with service providers, including those in aged care," said

Professor Andrew Georgiou, a supervisor from AIHL.

For further information please contact [chrissey.clay@mq.edu.au](mailto:chrissey.clay@mq.edu.au).

## HDR Mentors: Meet & Mingle

Are you a HDR student? Feeling lonely during this isolation? Sick of formal Zoom meetings? Want to meet other HDR students? If this is you then come join HDR Mentors for monthly informal Meet and Mingle sessions via Zoom! Feel free to relax and connect with fellow HDR students all in the comfort of your own home. You are also welcome to have lunch!

### Details

Day: First Thursday of every month

Time: 12 noon - 1pm

Zoom link:

<https://macquarie.zoom.us/j/96425933250>

## Deep Work Morning Sessions

Even at the best of times, keeping our attention on where it's most productive can be challenging. Right now, with all that is going on around us, establishing a deliberate and effective work routine may be the first thing to disappear. But showing up and making time each day to do deep work can help us stay grounded in the present and focused on embracing the ordinary. Especially when so little feels normal or predictable, maintaining a daily routine can be precious, and enlivening.

Since the beginning of April, a group of us have been gathering every morning, from 9am to 10am, Monday to Friday, to establish a focused work routine. There's something so simple yet powerful about coming together to work on our individual projects. I thank everyone who has joined me and invite anyone else who is seeking momentum in their writing practice to join us.

For more detail visit the [myRDC](#).

To join the daily writing sessions via zoom:

<https://macquarie.zoom.us/j/171886921>

Further questions:

[florence.chiew@mq.edu.au](mailto:florence.chiew@mq.edu.au)



## HDR Stories



### **MQ 2020 3MT Finals – Congratulations to Geri Sullivan, all entrants and staff involved**

We did it! When the decision was made to participate in the Virtual 3MT competition this year, with a completely different format and mountains of unknowns, I knew the research community would be in for a ride. For everyone that supported this meaningful event, it was an added stress on top of struggles to cope with new ways of working due to COVID-19, but we all felt that 3MT had to be as successful as in previous years, if not better.

Geri Sullivan did an amazing job to emerge as our 2020 3MT winner! As for the other finalists – from Biomedical Sciences to International studies, from Engineering to Philosophy and more – their hard work to showcase the research done at Macquarie University put the research community in awe and engendered feelings of pride and excitement for the future.

Leading this project, I would like to appreciate the best team that I could work with to produce a warm, vibrant, and unforgettable event. 2020 3MT saw the development of a seamless voting process for the People's Choice award, a real-time thrilling winner announcement event, a priceless masterclass by Anton Enus and much more!

I would like to also thank the PVC-HDRTP Prof Simon Handley, the Faculties, Departments, every HDR candidate that participated in Department and Faculty heats, Marketing, the HDR Support and Development team, and the Judges for making the MQ 2020 Virtual 3MT competition possible.

*Kim Tan, HDR Experience and Engagement on behalf of the MQ 3MT 2020 Organising Committee (Kim Tan, Dr Juliet Lum and Rhianne Hoffman)*

*(Image 2) Geri Sullivan, 2020 MQ 3MT winner*



## The competitive edge: using business databases and becoming a savvy business researcher

Business research skills can be very beneficial, regardless of whether you are pursuing a career in academia or in another sector.

As a researcher, you may need to identify potential collaborators in industry, or identify companies and their key people to survey or interview for your research. As a job seeker in a competitive job market, you will need to learn as much as you can about the company so that you are well-prepared for a job interview. You might also want to conduct research to ensure that the company aligns with your values.

Searching the internet, company website or reading the annual report will help you learn more about a company, but as a researcher at Macquarie University, you have access to commercial databases (outlined in this [library guide](#)) which will allow you to do more in-depth research about the company, the industries it operates in and its key people.

For those interested in learning more about these resources and developing your business research skills, you can register for the following session:

***Looking beyond the company website: developing your business research skills*** - October 13th at 2:30pm. Register for this session on [MyRDC](#).

*Lisa Fittock, Research Librarian*

(Image 3) (cropped) Photo by [Lukas Blazek](#) on [Unsplash](#)



## 6th Latin American Doctoral Thesis Contest (CLTD) 2020 - Dr Jandson Santos Ribeiro Santos

Computing's PhD graduate, Dr Jandson Santos Ribeiro Santos was recently awarded the second prize at the 6th Latin American Doctoral Thesis Contest (CLTD) 2020. The objective of the CLTD contest is to reward and disseminate the work of students who have recently completed their PhD thesis in Computation or Computer Science in Latin America.

Jandson is a cotutelle student from the University of São Paulo (USP, Brazil). He was hosted by the Department of Computing for two years. His award-winning thesis titled *Belief Change without Compactness* was jointly supervised by Associate Professor Renata Wassermann (USP) and Associate Professor Abhaya Nayak (MQ). In April 2020, Jandson received the prestigious Macquarie University's Vice-Chancellor's Commendation for Academic Excellence. Because of the impact of his work in the field, even before he submitted his thesis, Jandson was offered a post-doctoral position at the University of Koblenz (Germany) where he currently works.

*"Jandson is the kind of HDR student that any academic would love to supervise – he is talented, hardworking, perseverant and unassuming. It is thanks to MQ's Cotutelle Program that students like Jandson have the opportunity to receive research training through Macquarie and strengthen its international research collaboration efforts."*  
Abhaya Nayak, PhD Supervisor

*Jo Aboud, Department of Computing*

*(Image 4) Dr Jandson Santos Ribeiro Santos photo*





## From Worthy to WOW!

On 2 September, our 3MT finalists plus three lucky candidates sat an exclusive Media Communication Masterclass with SBS World News presenter [Anton Enus](#). Drawing from decades of experience as a journalist and news anchor, Anton advised each candidate on how to lift their talks from “worthy but dull” to “Wow! Tell me more!”

Anton’s insider tips ranged from getting your research noticed, owning your content when speaking with journalists, capturing attention on screen (a bright shirt helps!), and conveying excitement to a faceless camera.

Praise from attendees:

*Anton's style was direct without any sugar coating... He provided an alternative to what we could have said instead of just saying, “This sentence doesn't work well!” - Sayantani, Molecular Sciences*

*Anton showed me how to get the audience to “take my hand” in a presentation by maintaining my energy levels and presenting information in an accessible way. The masterclass got me excited about doing presentations in the future. - Emily, MMCCS*

*An eye-opening experience on how to present in public, with simple, practical advice. – Hugo, Philosophy*

*No smoke and mirrors with Anton! His advice on speaking from the heart and bringing genuine energy to a presentation was a refreshing take on what is usually a nerve-racking endeavour. – Hamid, Applied Finance*

For opportunities like Anton’s masterclass, why not enter [3MT](#) next year!

*Dr Juliet Lum, HDR Learning Skills*

*(Image 5) Participants at the Media Communication Masterclass with Anton Enus. Photo credit: Sepideh Sami (PhD candidate, MHPiR)*



## **ResourcefulHDR podcast: Malene Ahern, Improvement Facilitator, Aged Care, AHSRI**

My guest on the [ResourcefulHDR podcast](#) this month is Malene Ahern. The October episode of the ResourcefulHDR podcast will be available in the third week of October. Please subscribe to the podcast on your preferred platform so that you can be notified when new episodes are available.

Malene has recently been awarded her PhD at Macquarie University in the development and testing of an individualised primary care program for acute low back pain.

Malene is a physiotherapist with 20 years of experience in clinical practice working with clients in neurological, orthopaedic and geriatric rehabilitation. She graduated from the University of Sydney (Bachelor of Applied Science, Physiotherapy Honours) and has also completed a Graduate Diploma in Information Technology at the University of Technology, Sydney. She has worked in Australia and UK in clinical roles in hospitals, community, aged care and private practice. She has previously worked as a national clinical education consultant in the assistive technology industry to improve access to adequate supports for clients with a range of chronic and complex health conditions. Her research interests include research translation, implementation of evidence-based practice into complex healthcare systems and improving person centred care.

Malene recently started working as the Improvement Facilitator, Aged Care in the Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration (PCOC) team within the Australian Health Services Research Institute.

*Sally Purcell, HDR Professional Skills Program*

*(Image 6) Malene Ahern*



## **HDR Learning Skills: Critiquing Studies by Identifying and Examining Assumptions**

Assumptions influence a research author's epistemological theories and decisions in research topics, questions, approaches, and specific methods (e.g. data collection). However, some assumptions may sound inappropriate; therefore, identifying and examining assumptions allows HDR students an alternative perspective to achieve a critical review of literature.

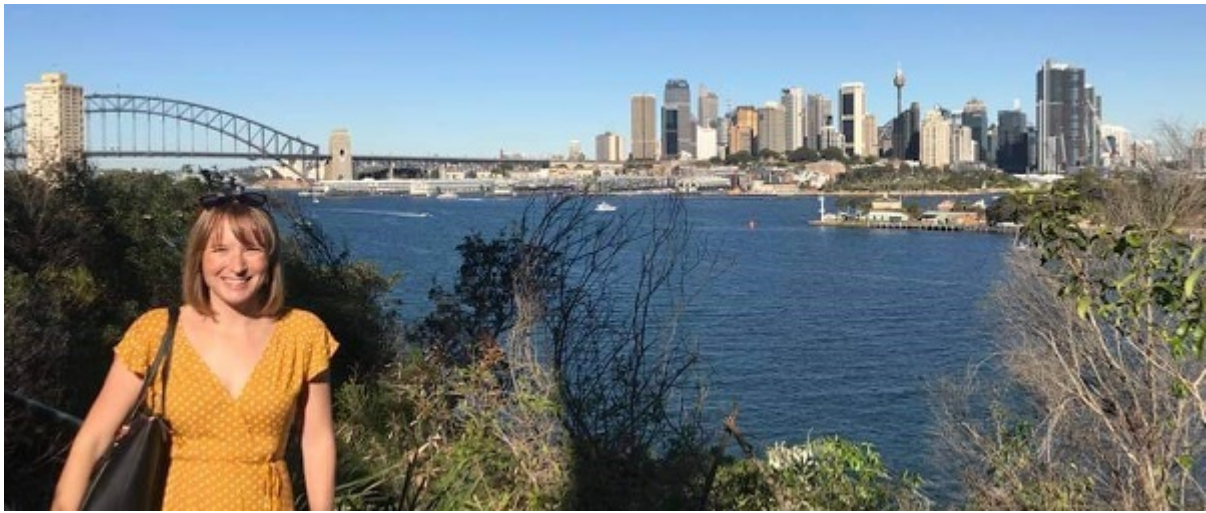
For example, a study looks at how local firms' fraud scandals influence local households' stock market participation, assuming that the latter is likely more aware of the exposure of local firms' frauds due to local news report or personal interaction. A possible critique can be formulated as: "Compared with local firms, it seems local households more likely invest in the stocks of global firms for more financial return such as Apple, Tesla, or McDonald's. Digital and social media allows easy access to news (good or bad) about these global firms, which means people may pay little attention to corporate frauds that happen locally."

For more discussion please email Dr Frank Song at [frank.song@mq.edu.au](mailto:frank.song@mq.edu.au). Frank works as the HDR Academic Communication Specialist for Macquarie Business School.

*Frank Song, HDR Academic Communication Specialist for Macquarie Business School*

*(Image 7) [Image source](#)*





## Webinars: Professional Staff with a PhD at MQ Dr. Emma Gleadhill

In this webinar series we are focussing on Professional staff members of Macquarie with a PhD. We want to provide real examples of PhD graduates working in Professional roles at Macquarie and showcase the range of Professional roles being done by people with a PhD, as well as the people who do them.

We are hoping these webinars will engage PhD candidates and raise their awareness of the possible career opportunities within the higher education sector, following the completion of their PhD.

In our next webinar we are delighted to have Dr Emma Gleadhill, Faculty Research Officer, Faculty of Arts

**Webinar - Professional Staff with a PhD: Dr. Emma Gleadhill, Faculty Research Officer, Faculty of Arts** Thursday 22 October 2020 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Register for the webinar with this [link](#)

[Dr Emma Gleadhill](#) is a Research Officer in the Faculty of Arts and an Historian. In her professional role Emma works with a team of five to support research within the Faculty and, more broadly, strengthen the Faculty's research profile and productivity. Emma provides administrative support to the ADR, Faculty Research Manager, Faculty Research Coordinator and the academic staff. Additionally, Emma coordinates and administers research related activities and support schemes, promotes funding opportunities, provides strategic feedback on grant proposals, and gathers, consolidates and analyses data on the Faculty's research. Prior to this role, she worked in the Post Award and Contracts teams in the central Research Services. Emma says that she draws a great deal of enjoyment from seeing exceptional research as it develops in the Faculty and in supporting academics to do their exciting and important work.

As an Historian, Emma's research interests are in gender, material culture and travel. She uses a methodology which is informed by material culture, literary and design theory, and tourism studies. Emma is currently working on her first academic monograph "Taking Travel Home: the souvenir material culture of British women tourists, 1770-1830", which will be published by Manchester University Press in their "Gender in History" series in early 2022.

You can see all our previous webinar recordings our [HDR Professional Development iLearn page](#). You will also find some videos and the [ResourcefulHDR](#) podcast as well as useful links relating to career and employment information.

If you are a Professional staff member with a PhD working at Macquarie University and would be interested in becoming involved, please visit this [link](#).

*Catherine Ennis and Sally Purcell, HDR Professional Development*

*(Image 8) Dr. Emma Gleadhill, Faculty Research Officer, Faculty of Arts*



## Univative2020: Never stop learning and discovering!

It is often better to learn in a group. What if you're not working as part of a group? Initiatives like Univative offer the opportunity to learn from the skills and strengths of others.

As PhD students, we need remarkable time management, team leadership, project development, problem-solving, quick decision making, flexibility, adaptability, networking, and group working skills. These skills can differentiate PhD holders in a work environment.

How to get these skills? Don't isolate yourself in the lab! You need breaks from your research project to widen your horizons. Univative built upon my skills and experience



and gave me the opportunity to meet 'innovators' from nine (9) Australian Universities as well as employers from different industries.

As nominated leader of our 2020 Univariate team I valued all of the team members' efforts and flexibility during our one-month of hard work and short deadlines. The others in the team were amazing in their fields and I learned a lot from them. In our first meeting, we were nervous about the allocated project which was outside our experience. By defining each of our skills and identifying tasks we successfully developed the project - we were very excited to win the competition prize. Hoorayyyyyy!

To prepare yourself for the real world, meet new people and do new things every day!  
**DON'T LIMIT YOURSELF!**

Check out the [Univariate website](#)

*Elham Shirani Faradonbeh, PhD Candidate, Faculty of Science*

*(Image 9) Elham Shirani Faradonbeh*



## Opening up research internship opportunities with APR.Intern and Inventia Life Sciences

We are delighted to present this case study on successful research internships featuring a PhD candidate from Department of Molecular Sciences, David Handler. The case study highlights the benefits and outcomes of an internship collaboration with Macquarie, APR.Intern (Australian Postgraduate Research Intern) and Inventia Life Science. During his internship, David was supported and guided by his principal supervisor Professor Paul Haynes. David has also continued to work at Inventia Life Science since finishing his internship, a testament to this great opportunity for all stakeholders. You can read the full case study on our [webpage](#).

*Catherine Ennis, HDR Industry Engagement & Placements Manager*

*(Image 10) David Handler, APR.Intern, Inventia Life Sciences*

## Scholarships



### 2021 Domestic Scholarship Round Open

The 2021 Domestic Research Training Program Scholarship (RTP) and Domestic Macquarie University Research Excellence Scholarship (MQRES) round is now open. These scholarships are highly competitive and are awarded to only the highest-ranked candidates.

The selection processes for candidates commencing in 2021 will predominantly be based on candidate ratings but will also include considerations of the Research Environment. This may include an evaluation of the alignment of the candidate's project with Macquarie University's research strategy and research priorities, the quality of the supervisory team and the international standing of the research area. Supervisors are encouraged to engage assistant supervisors bringing complementary expertise.

Please note that all applicants must provide evidence of communication with the relevant Department/Centre/Faculty prior to application.

Relevant information on the 2021 domestic round for Faculties and applicants can be found on the [MQ website](#).

Any questions please email [hdrschol@mq.edu.au](mailto:hdrschol@mq.edu.au).

### Scholarships for the German Exchange Service

## Deadlines as follows

### 20 October:

[Research Grants – One-Year Grants for Doctoral Candidates](#)

[Study Scholarships - Master Studies for All Academic Disciplines](#)

[Cotutelle / Research Grants - Bi-nationally Supervised Doctoral Degrees](#)

### 30 October:

[Study Scholarships - Postgraduate Studies in the Field of the Performing Arts](#)

### 16 November:

[Research Grants – Short-Term Grants](#)

### 30 November:

[Study Scholarships - Postgraduate Studies in the Fields of Fine Art, Design, Visual Communication and Film](#)

## HDR Dynamic Duos



**Gorkem Sezgin, PhD candidate,**  
*Centre for Health Systems and Safety Research, Australian Institute of Health Innovation*

How did you come to know each other?



**Professor Andrew Georgiou**  
*Centre for Health Systems and Safety Research, Australian Institute of Health Innovation*

How did you come to know each other?

I started working as a Research Assistant for Andrew a few years back. The work Andrew was doing fitted perfectly with my aspirations at that time, and I guess I was the right candidate for it. I have since entangled myself deeper into this area of research, becoming a PhD student, and am glad for having done so.

### **What do you each bring to the professional relationship?**

Andrew brings a lot: collaborators, research questions, datasets, his support. I bring my expertise in data analytics and biostatistics, and I like to think, my ability to formulate solutions to address the research questions.

### **What do you appreciate most about Andrew?**

Andrew is exceptionally skilled in drawing in passionate researchers, some of whom become our collaborators. Thanks to Andrew, I am surrounded by researchers who are exceptional in their field and also very supportive beyond my deserving.

Gorkem joined the team as a Research Assistant. He had a very impressive track record of research in Melbourne and was immediately able to put his skills to good use analysing data and employing sophisticated statistical skills to investigate large scale linked acute care and general practice databases. Gorkem's PhD grew out of this initial work.

### **What do you each bring to the professional relationship?**

Gorkem is an exceptionally talented statistician, data analyst and researcher, who has made a major contribution to the diagnostic informatics team's research. He is hard working and extremely conscientious and has managed to expand his areas of expertise across numerous areas including gerontology, paediatrics and general practice.

### **What do you appreciate most about Gorkem?**

Gorkem is an incredibly productive researcher. He has an ability to provide unique insights into his chosen areas of research which is both creative and innovative. His PhD topic is ground-breaking and has attracted support and collaboration from leading international academics and researchers. I believe his work will set an important international benchmark for diagnostic research into the future.

*(Image 12) Gorkem Sezgin and Andrew Georgiou*

*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](mailto:sally.purcell@mq.edu.au)



### Cotutelle and International Opportunities



### Higher Degree Research Scholarships



### HDR Support & Development



### My Research Program

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