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University

HDR MATTERS

OFFICE OF HDR TRAINING & PARTNERSHIPS | MARCH ISSUE

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

I'd like to start by welcoming our newest cohort of HDR students who will be shortly beginning one of the most exciting, stimulating and challenging periods of their professional lives. It is almost 30 years since I began my research journey but I vividly remember the excitement of embarking on a path of discovery, with an unknown destination and no sense of the twists and turns along the way! It is with this sense of excitement, but perhaps with greater certainty, that I embark on my new role as your Pro Vice Chancellor for Higher Degree Research. I feel privileged to have the opportunity to lead one of Australia's largest and most innovative HDR programs and I am committed to prioritising the voices and needs of our students. I also want to ensure Macquarie maintains its position as Australia's most distinctive provider of HDR programs through continued innovation in pursuit of the next evolution of HDR training. I am committed to ensuring we remain the first choice for aspiring researchers looking to develop their academic and professional careers.

Prior to arriving in Australia in 2015, I served as Chair of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Future Research Leaders scheme and was a member of the commissioning panel for ESRC doctoral training centres across the UK. These roles involved developing sector leading research training programs to grow the next generation of research leaders. I am committed to providing exceptional learning

environments for students enhanced by internship and placements opportunities at home and overseas as well as ensuring that the student voice is represented in decision making and governance. So, I very much look forward to engaging with you over the coming months to learn more about your journey, your aspirations and your ideas. Welcome all!

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



Introducing our new Academic Director, Higher Degree Research

Hi all, I wanted to introduce myself to the HDR community. I'm Jen Cornish, the new Academic Director of the fantastic Higher Degree Research Training & Partnerships team. As you will know from reading HDR matters, our office has a lot of advice and skills to share to make your HDR journey a success – please take advantage of this wealth of knowledge to be the best researcher you can be, gain professional experience and links with industry! I graduated with my PhD in 1997 (!) and a lot of things have changed in the HDR space – make sure you investigate all the opportunities that are available to you in 2020 and think outside the box for where your degree may take you.

During your degree, remember that hard work is always rewarded, but do take time for yourself when you can – your mental and physical health is very important! Also, communicate well with your supervisor to achieve your goals – they are here to help you succeed. On this subject, I thought the following article might be of interest to both candidate and supervisor. It is written by Katie Langin from Science and discusses what makes a good PhD supervisor (USA: advisor)...[see what you think](#)

Professor Jennifer Cornish, Academic Director, Higher Degree Research

(image above) Professor Simon Handley, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Higher Degree Research Training and Partnerships with Professor Jennifer Cornish, Academic Director, Higher Degree Research

HDR Workshops

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

<i>Mon 02 March</i>	Tailoring applications to suit the job (HDR) Register here →	<i>Tue 03 March</i>	Endnote for PC Register here →
<i>Wed 04 March</i>	Mendeley: Reference Management with Mendeley Register here →	<i>Thu 05 March</i>	Endnote for Mac Register here →
<i>Fri 06 March</i>	Science Research Writing Basics Register here →	<i>Tue 10 March</i>	HDR Professional Skills: Preparation = Better job interviews Register here →
<i>Mon 16 March</i>	Scientific Writing for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 2: Data & Results Register here →	<i>Tue 17 March</i>	Thesis Formatting Workshop (for PC) Register here →
<i>Thu 19 March</i>	Roadmap to Commercialisation Register here →	<i>Mon 23 March</i>	NVivo for PC - Level One Register here →

HDR Announcements



EndNote and Mendeley Drop-ins in the Library

In Session 1 2020 the Library is again offering support with EndNote and Mendeley through scheduled drop-in times.

Drop-ins will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10 March (Week 3) and 30 April (Week 8).

[See the Drop-in timetable.](#)

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](#)

Attention PhD Candidates: Invitation to participate in a Writing Efficacy Study

The HDR Learning Skills team is interested to learn about how you judge your capabilities to organise and accomplish a piece of academic writing (your writing self-efficacy). It is hoped that by having a deeper understanding of this we will be able to improve the writing support that we offer you.

Apply for Sponsored Attendance at the Quality in Postgraduate Research Conference 2020

ResearchMaster is pleased to be offering a postgraduate student sponsorship for the Quality in Postgraduate Research (QPR) Conference in Adelaide, South Australia, from 21-23 of April 2020.

All currently enrolled Australian and New Zealand postgraduate students

To learn more about this, we need your help.

If you are willing to help, please read the study information sheet and complete the online survey, which can be found at [here](#).

A paper-version of the information sheet and survey is also available and can be obtained by contacting Dr Adèle Thomas (adele.thomas@mq.edu.au). The survey will only take a maximum of 10 minutes to complete.

interested in attending are invited to apply. The ResearchMaster sponsorship includes economy class airfare to Adelaide, local accommodation and full conference registration.

For further details and to download a copy of the flyer, please visit the [ResearchMaster website](#).

PVC HDR Welcome



Our new Pro Vice-Chancellor HDR Training & Partnerships, Professor Simon Handley and our new Academic Director HDR, Professor Jennifer Cornish, warmly welcomed new research candidates from PhD, Master of Research and Bachelor of Philosophy into our research community on Wednesday, 19 February. Simon spoke about the ups and downs of the research experience and encouraged the HDR candidates to notice the moments of delight amongst the challenges of the HDR journey.

The PVC's Welcome attracted over 110 research candidates. After a full morning of presentations about the HDR services and support available at Macquarie University, we all enjoyed a networking lunch where the HDR candidates were joined by over 30 HDR support staff, HDR Mentors and faculty representatives including

Associate Deans, HDR, Faculty Managers and Officers. There was a lot of energy and excitement in the room. We left feeling that we did our best to show our new HDR cohort how many services are available to help in supporting their research training experience.

Special thanks to our chair, Prof Jen Cornish, the HDR Mentors for supporting the registration process and a huge thanks to all the participants of this event. To our new HDRs, welcome once again. We hope you find delight in our HDR community.

Kim Tan & Rhianne Hoffman, HDR Support & Development, Office of HDR Training and Partnerships

HDR Stories



Walanga Muru HDR Student Spotlight

Patrick is a Gangalidda man from Gulf Country and is undertaking his PhD at Macquarie in Environmental Sciences. Although Patrick is based in Cairns he always pops up on campus one way or another, whether for a Forum of Indigenous Research Excellence (FIRE) event ran by the Dept. of Indigenous Studies, or NIRAKN (National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network) event on Campus with Walanga Muru.

Patrick is primarily supervised by Dr Emilie Ens. Patrick's research will investigate the biocultural evidence of pre-colonial dispersal of rainforest tree by Aboriginal people in Eastern Australia. His research project is part of a larger project which started in 2016 Dr Maurizio Rossetto, Dr Emilie Ens and Oliver Costello.

This larger project is a part of an ARC grant received in 2018. His project involves a large amount of community consultation from Cairns in the North to down the east

coast of Australia to the northern NSW communities. This involves working with approximately 19 traditional owner groups. In his spare time Patrick is with his two daughters, attending their sporting events. His youngest daughter Jessie-Rose is the QLD Karate Champion for her age group at the age of ten, and his eldest daughter Juilianna-Bree has represented the state for her soccer, coming third overall in the national titles and big things to come. This keeps Patrick a busy man between family life, study life and community life.

Tamika Worrell, Aboriginal Academic Engagement Coordinator – Postgraduate Students, Walanga Muru

(image above) Patrick, PhD candidate Environmental Sciences



ResourcefulHDR podcast: Shivani Sachdev

The ResourcefulHDR podcast guest for March is Shivani Sachdev. Shivani was awarded a Master of Research (Biomedical Science) in 2017 from Macquarie University and recently submitted her PhD thesis. Shivani's research project was entitled "Molecular Pharmacology of Cannabinoids: beyond THC" which she completed in the laboratory under the supervision of Professor Mark Connor, Associate Dean, HDR, Macquarie University.

Shivani loved juggling many different things alongside her PhD including taking on the role of Vice-President of MedSoc, Creative Producer of TEDx MQ, Participant in the Future STEM Leader program and IMNIS Mentee. Aside from her fascination with research and work in academia, Shivani likes to swim, cook, watch TV and is also planning on taking guitar classes.

Shivani's episode will be available in mid-March on the [ResourcefulHDR podcast](#). Follow Shivani on Twitter [@GrrrlInScience](#)

Sally Purcell, HDR Professional Skills Program

(image above) Sally & Shivani in the recording studio, Learning Innovation Hub



Crafting the future through studying the past

As students in the early stages of their career, it can sometimes be difficult to find opportunities that balance building your resume and engaging with the academic and wider communities. A new initiative, Studying the Past, in the Department of Ancient History, allows myself and colleagues (Jacinta Carruthers and Alexandra Kujanpaa) to do just that.

After identifying a gap in the engagement of the Department of Ancient History with schools, we pooled our knowledge and approached the Head of Department, who saw the benefit of linking our disciplinary knowledge as researchers with teachers and students in schools. This new program offers schools a suite of curriculum-based workshops on archaeology and ancient history. Last week we partnered with MQ's Widening Participation Unit on their LEAP Roadshow to the Riverina and provided a series of 'university taster' events at high schools, where students tried their hand at Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs and learnt about the burial practices of the Egyptians.

Follow on Twitter: @paststudying

Gillian Smith, PhD candidate, Ancient History

Ed. note: Listen to Gillian Smith's episode on the [ResourcefulHDR podcast](#).

(image above) The Macquarie University LEAP Roadshow with Gillian Smith, Jacinta Carruthers and Alexandra Kujanpaa from Studying the Past at Leeton High School



Experience matters: mindfulness and doctoral education

One of our own Macquarie University HDR Learning Advisors, Dr Michelle Jamieson has recently written a blog post on the *DoctoralWriting SIG* WordPress blog.

Michelle has a special interest in the role experience plays in doing research. As a mindfulness practitioner and medical sociologist, her work explores how mindfulness can help students to develop balanced work practices, healthy ways of relating to themselves and greater joy in the research process. Keep an eye out for Michelle's Mindfulness Researcher course. Join the [HDR LS ilearn unit](#) to receive notifications and also check [MyRDC](#). She is the author of the blog [The Mindful Researcher](#).

Here is the introduction to the blog piece ... Over the past few years, I've noticed that no matter what teaching setting I'm in, discussions of the technical aspects of thesis writing often quickly turn into conversations about experience. Whenever students are given space to reflect on their work or ask for help, they're keen to share their own (and hear about others') experiences of the research process. This can be in the most obvious sense of raising issues such as confidence, motivation, transitioning from work to study, difficulties in the supervision relationship or the discomfort of receiving critical feedback. And it can also take subtler forms. For instance, when I ask students about their work ('How can I help you with this piece of writing? What are your concerns about the draft?'), their responses draw heavily on the language of experience, as they describe feelings of resistance, frustration, flow, enthusiasm, weariness, boredom, steadiness, anxiety, etc.

[Continue reading...](#)

(image above) Jade Hutchinson, Master of Research graduate and new PhD candidate at one of Michelle's Mindfulness workshops - photo by Willo Drummond



HDR Learning Skills: Thoughts on literature review and methodology

Many HDR students would probably agree that writing effective literature reviews and research methodology might not come easily. Your supervisor might say your literature review is not critical enough. Chances are, you might be focused on reporting individual studies—who found what—but less on interconnecting studies to allow overall trends or patterns to emerge from literature advancement. Also, you might be on the way to building strong skills in identifying knowledge gaps or inconsistencies in literature that relate to your research project. My advice is; learn how established scholars do that when you read their papers.

A rigorous methodology requires more than familiarity with data collection methods. It's also important to justify whether the adopted methodology is appropriate for your research question. And how does the epistemological perspective or research philosophy you hold influence the choice of methodology? To sort out these questions, methodology books would have resources you need.

For further information or if you have any questions, please email me at frank.song@mq.edu.au

Dr Frank Song, HDR Academic Communication Specialist, Macquarie Business School

(image above) [Source](#)



Library Training Resources – EndNote and Mendeley Workshops

Did you know that the Library offers training for EndNote and Mendeley?

EndNote

EndNote assists you with:

- Collecting and organising references to resources, such as journal articles, books, images and datasets
- Adding citations to your documents
- Creating bibliographies that use standard citation styles, and
- Organising and storing your readings for easy access including pdf copies of documents.

The workshops cover the basics of using EndNote and examine how it can facilitate your work by storing your references, attaching PDFs, and allowing you to cite and create bibliographies with ease.

You need to bring your own device to the session. All participants must have EndNote installed on their PC before the session, and can do so by accessing the program and instructions here:

[EndNote for PC](#)

[EndNote for Mac](#)

If you have trouble installing the program, please contact the relevant [Research Librarian](#) for your Faculty prior to the session.

Mendeley

Mendeley is a program which enables managing and sharing research papers, discovering research, and collaboration. It combines Mendeley Desktop, a reference

management application, with Mendeley Web, an online social network for researchers.

Learn the basics of Mendeley Desktop and how it can facilitate your work by storing your references, attaching PDFs, and allowing you to cite and create bibliographies with ease.

All participants must have Mendeley Desktop installed on their laptop before the session, and can do so by accessing instructions [here](#):

[Mendeley](#)

Direct registration links for March offerings of these workshops can be found within the Workshops section of this newsletter.



Undertake One Year MRes Overseas with Potsdam University

Potsdam University is located in the Greater Berlin area. The University was newly created after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Potsdam is a strategic partner University of Macquarie University. The International Doctorate for Experimental Approaches to Language and Brain (IDEALAB) which is a consortium of five full partner universities (Macquarie, Potsdam, Groningen, Trento and Newcastle) provides candidates with strong International Research Training experience which is funded by the European Union's Erasmus Mundus Program.

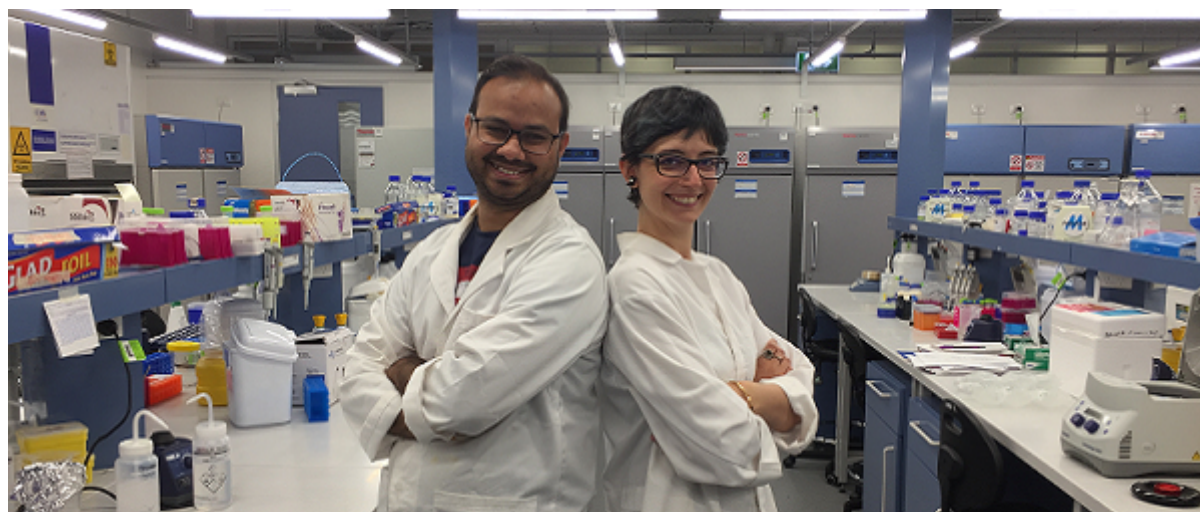
Leading and focus research areas include Cognitive Sciences, Geosciences, Functional Ecology and Evolution, Plant Genomics and Systems Biology, Public Policy and Management, Unsettled Cultures and Empirical Educational Studies.

Master of Research Exchange is encouraged particularly of the second year of the Master of Research program and in the disciplines of:

- English and American Studies
- Computing
- Cognition Science.

[Please find more information located here.](#) →

HDR Dynamic Duos



Irene Moroni

PhD candidate Molecular Science

How did you come to know each other?

Until a few days ago, we were PhD students in the same group and with the same supervisor. We had the chance to work together in the lab in past 3 years. Kalpesh just submitted his thesis, so his PhD is finished, while I still have one year to go.

What are your shared interests?

We both like science and having a laugh in between meetings and experiments! We both believe that a good coffee

Kalpeshkumar Giri

PhD candidate Molecular Science

How did you come to know each other?

We both started our journey in Macquarie University at the same time in 2016. Irene started with her MRes and I began my PhD 3 years ago.

What are your shared interests?

We both like to face challenges in science especially with our experiments and try to solve them. For both of us coffee works as engine fuel!

What do you each bring to the professional relationship?

break can improve our performance in the lab.

What do you each bring to the professional relationship?

Kalpesh really helped me look at problems from a different prospective and talking with him about issues I had with my experiments gave me new ideas on how to approach my research. He is a Pharmacologist by training, while I am an Engineer. So, I think I have more of a practical mind. I guess this is what I helped him do: looking at challenges from a more practical point of view.

What do you appreciate most about Kalpesh?

He takes things, less seriously than I do, this means he doesn't get upset easily. As I am the opposite, I really appreciate this about him. Another one of his good qualities is being a hard worker, I think that is an essential skill for a PhD student and he is great at it!

What have you gained through your collaboration?

I gained a good friend! And I also learnt a lot about the Indian culture. Coming from Italy I had never had the chance to meet and get to know people from India, so I like talking with Kalpesh about his country and learning differences and similarities. I also found out that I love Indian food!

What was a particular hurdle you worked through, together?

I think one of the biggest hurdles we worked through together was learning how to analyse our data when we first

Irene has very rational thinking which always help me solve lots of problem in different ways. I think I have helped her with my analytical skills many times during the years.

What do you appreciate most about Irene?

She is a very organised and independent person. She takes every task very seriously. I have always appreciated her passion and desire to achieve whatever she wants. She has always made herself available to talk with me about my research and life, whenever I needed.

What have you gained through your collaboration?

I have gained a very good friend with whom I can share my thoughts and feelings. I found out about lots of similarities and differences between Italy and India by talking with her. I have learnt how to work as a team to solve any kind of problem, no matter if big or small.

What was a particular hurdle you worked through, together?

There were so many problems we faced together during last three years. One of the biggest hurdle we faced and solved together was data analysis of experiment results, as we were both so new to the field of porous particles when we started.

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

started at Macquarie. We were both new to the field and to the instrument we were using. It was tough, but we learnt a lot.

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

I think I will always look for a good friend in any job I will accept. Working can be hard, especially if you are in a new environment, but having at least one good friend can make the journey much more enjoyable!

What have you learnt from each other that has helped you grow?

I learnt how to be more resilient and go through an experience like the PhD without giving up. I also learnt that complaining is ok from time to time but then you just have to get yourself back together and finish the work you have started! Kalpesh is a hard worker and that has always been very inspiring for me!

I have learnt how to apply a wide variety of thinking strategies to engage with situations and solve problems.

What have you learnt from each other that has helped you grow?

I especially learnt how to be organised and design experiments. Also, I have learnt how to approach any problems in a systematic way. Being one year ahead of Irene in my research journey, I've been inspired by her personal willpower, enthusiasm and organisation in preparing to undertake her Master of Research thesis. This is something which helped me during my research journey (PhD). I will take this learning to my future endeavours.

(image above) March - HDR Dynamic Duo Irene & Kalpesh in the lab

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



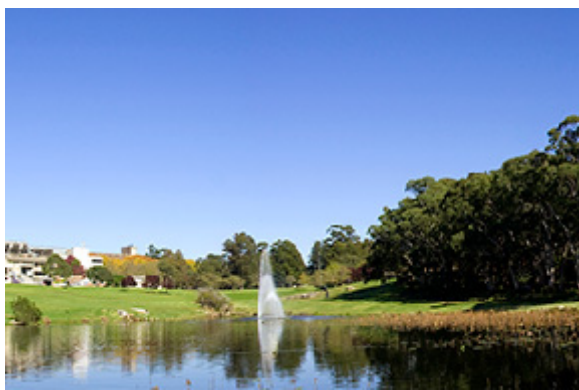
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