



Impactful social research in a fast-changing world

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at
the University of Technology Sydney



Professor Noel Castree

Associate Dean (Research)



Introduction

Located in an internationally leading university of technology, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) conducts fundamental, applied and professionally-relevant research designed to make our technology-infused world a better place. We're organised into two multi-disciplinary schools: Communication and International Studies & Education.

In these pages we want to introduce you to the research conducted by our staff and research students. We want to whet your appetite to know more. Whether you're a potential research collaborator or a prospective postgraduate student we want to hear from you. Our strength is our diversity of expertise and connectivity. Numbering nearly 250, our current staff and research students comprise a wealth of talents and are highly networked within and beyond UTS.

We're a very productive and welcoming research community. We care deeply about the work we do as analysts and practitioners working in a public university. We want to be a positive change agent in Australia and beyond. In the following pages you'll find links to key contacts, such as our research centre directors and the staff who oversee our postgraduate students.

If you're a potential research partner or a prospective degree student, feel free to directly contact individual academic staff whose expertise interests you. Staff webpages can be accessed through the research centres and groups listed below uts.edu.au/about/faculty-arts-and-social-sciences/research

Our Faculty has a track record of achievement in basic and user-focussed research. Much of our work examines the use, and social implications, of science and technology. We have many staff and students who are award winners and who use their talents to shape thought and practice for the wider benefit of society. I do hope you find this brochure to be informative.

Please consider working with us if you're a fellow researcher, a business, government agency or third sector organisation, or if you're considering joining us as a research student. FASS offers a collegial and vibrant environment and we invite you to become part of our community or to partner with us.



At the frontiers of knowledge

Most universities invest heavily in research and UTS is no different. The Faculty is comprised of 110 academic staff and 140 postgraduate (research) students studying for masters and doctoral degrees.

Research is at the heart of all we do. We seek to advance understanding and to shape practice in the world beyond UTS. The Faculty's staff are experts in SHAPES (social science, humanities and arts for people, economy and society). Our staff include many creative practitioners (for instance composers, filmmakers, animators and novelists) and people focussed on key professions (such as journalism). We're organised into twelve multi-disciplinary research units: namely, four research centres and eight research groups. The centres are our peak research units, with the research groups being less formal collectives of researchers.

FASS RESEARCH CENTRES





Associate Professor Heather Ford

leads a team that examines the implications of everyday AI for what we know about the world. Focusing on virtual assistants and smart speakers, her research investigates how these machines answer our questions about the world and reimagine how they might be designed to improve their outcomes in relation to epistemic justice. 'Epistemic injustice' occurs when otherwise valid forms of knowledge are excluded from the public, commercial or political domains.

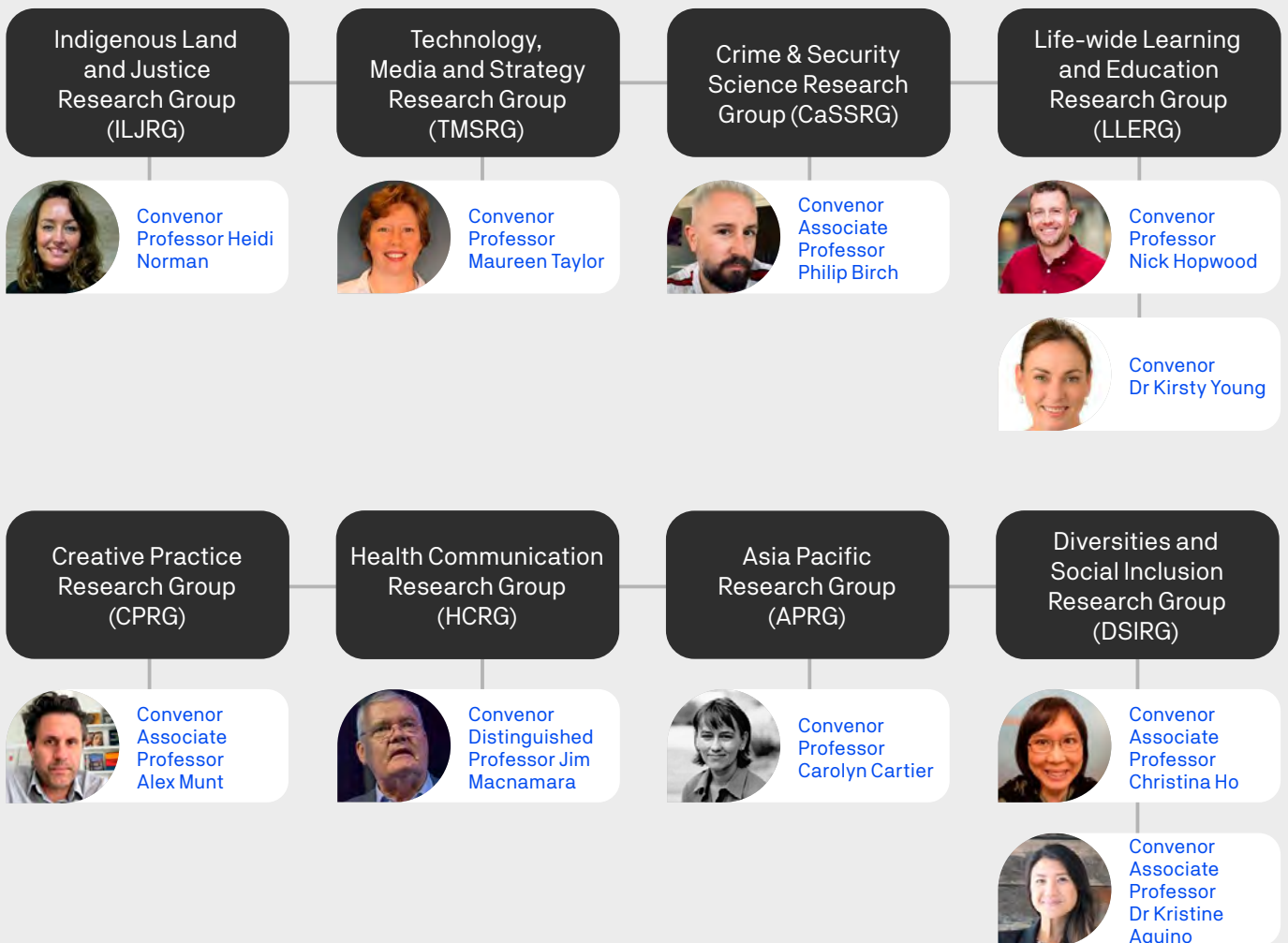


Associate Professor Christina Ho's

research examines how ethnicity, SES and other factors affect parenting choices in relation to child education. It also examines how families'

approaches to education are shaped by education policy, school practices and the rise of private tutoring. One of her findings is that Asian migrant parents' strong emphasis on education reflects both their aspirations and anxieties as new migrants in Australia, having arrived as highly educated professionals themselves. Moving to a new country comes with high hopes for their children, while their acute awareness of their minority status creates uncertainty about their children's future. Educational success is the means by which they address both their aspirations and anxiety. Awareness of this social context enables greater mutual understanding in our culturally diverse school communities and cities. It counters negative perceptions of so-called 'tiger parents'.

FASS RESEARCH GROUPS





Research for societal benefit



Many of our staff and research students address real world problems facing communities, government agencies, businesses and other organisations. We're adept at building partnerships where we work with others to devise evidence-based solutions. Among our current external partners are the World Health Organisation (based in Geneva), the Paul Ramsay Foundation (Sydney), the United Workers Union (Australia), the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (Australia). Through our expertise we enable our external partners to realise some of their key goals.

Here are some examples:



Communicating effectively with CALD communities

Of the 8.1 million people living in NSW, more than 2.3 million were born overseas and more than 2.6 million speak a language other than English at home (2021 Census). NSW cultural diversity and expanding population bring many economic, social and cultural benefits, but also create challenges in developing strategies to reduce risk for those who are most impacted by – and often least involved in – emergency



and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Working with Qualified Firefighter Melinda McDonald of Fire and Rescue NSW, Doctors **Kate Delmo** and **Natalie Krikowa** are drawing on their expertise as Strategic Communication and Digital and Social Media specialists to best address the needs of a diverse community and deliver communication effectively across a variety of platforms. This research includes in depth consultation with CALD community groups and firefighters in NSW and strategies will be recommended based on these outcomes. This project is funded by the NSW Reconstruction Authority Disaster Risk Reduction Fund.



Civic engagement in Green Square, Sydney

Climate breakdown is a global challenge, but even small-scale solutions can deliver meaningful changes to the neighbourhoods we live in. Inspiring residents to engage

with city ecologies can connect them with their local environment and neighbours, draw connections between grassroots environmental action and climate change, and make cities more liveable and lovable.

Associate Professor Ilaria Vanni collaborates with Associate Professor Alexandra Crosby (DAB), illustrator Ella Cutler, D'harawal Eora Knowledge Keeper and Sydney Registered Traditional Owner Shannon Foster and community partner 107 Projects in the Green Square precinct, one of Australia's largest urban renewal projects. The team's projects map grassroots ecological action taking place within the precinct; document Indigenous knowledges of local ecologies; reimagine the environmental past and present of Green Square wetlands and water stories. Ilaria and colleagues' research has sought to repair connections with environment and place damaged by over 200 years of physical development led by European settlers.



Improving classroom teaching

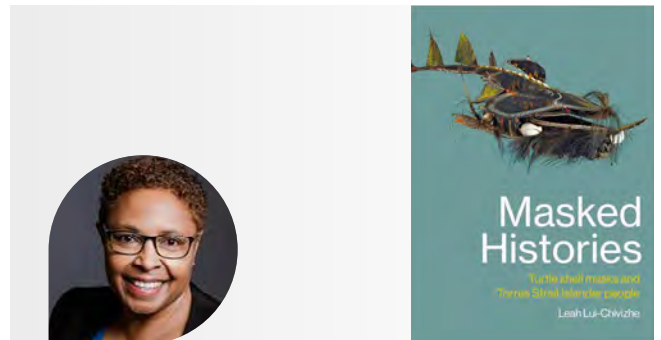
The pedagogical framework for digital learning known as High Possibility Classrooms (HPC) was developed by **Associate Professor Jane Hunter** from Australian research in the classrooms of teachers in K-12 schools. It's focused on building teacher capabilities across all disciplines. HPC has five main foci with 22 underpinning strands of student learning and teaching strategies. Academic partnerships with hundreds of teachers involving thousands of students in the ACT, NSW and Victoria has produced a body of work accessible in two books, a series of blog posts on the HPC website and case studies in peer-reviewed papers and book chapters.

Research with, by and for Indigenous Australians



The Centre for the Advancement of Indigenous Knowledges (CAIK) is a group of Indigenous and ally scholars whose work to promote community-led research and critical Indigenous scholarship nurtures research engagements of national significance and international reach.

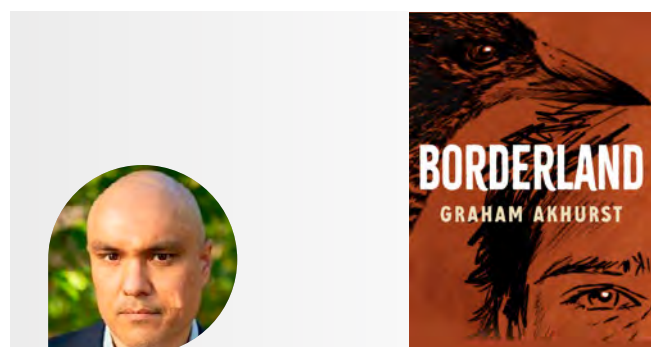
Centre Director **Professor Heidi Norman** was recently awarded an Australian Research Council to study Aboriginal affairs governance in New South Wales from 1980 to the present, while **Dr Archie Thomas** commenced a Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in 2023. Archie's work will examine the emergence of a school-to-prison pipeline in Australian schools, with a focus on understanding how the relationship between systemic racism, school exclusion and the carceral system can be understood and addressed. In the education space, **Dr Katrina Thorpe's** research impacts on the development of culturally responsive schooling for Indigenous students through Aboriginal community-led, Country-centred teaching.



Dr. Leah Lui-Chivizhe

Masked Histories: Turtle Shell Masks and Torres Strait Islander People, was shortlisted in the 'highly commended' category for Indigenous Writing in the 2023 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards.

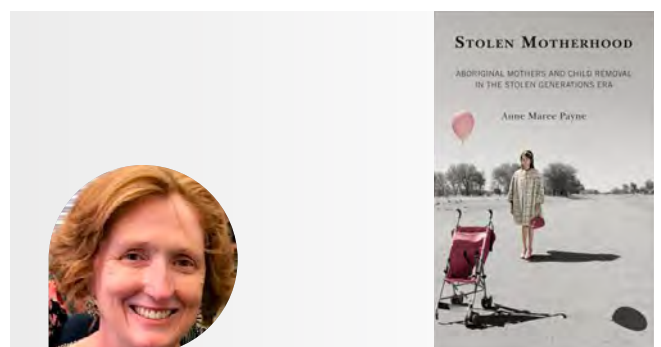
Recent books from CAIK include:



Graham Akhurst


Exploring Urban Indigenous identity through young adult fiction.

Kokomini writer and academic, Graham Akhurst will publish *Borderland*, his first novel with UWA Publishing in 2023. Set in Brisbane and the fictional rural town of Gambari in western Queensland the main protagonist, Jono, begins to understand his place in the world. The novel explores themes of cultural connection, land rights, fracking and its ecological impacts.



Dr. Anne-Maree Payne

Stolen Motherhood: Aboriginal Mothers and Child Removal in the Stolen Generations Era, was the first book to identify the absence of mothers' voices in the 1995-97 Bringing them Home Inquiry.



Shaping creative and professional practice beyond UTS

A number of our staff operate in the borderland between academic research and the professions, including the creative arts. They thereby bring academic training and rigour to both understanding, and advancing practice in, those professions. Our staff have expertise in creative writing, screen development and production, animation production, music composition and sound design, journalism, criminology and school teaching.

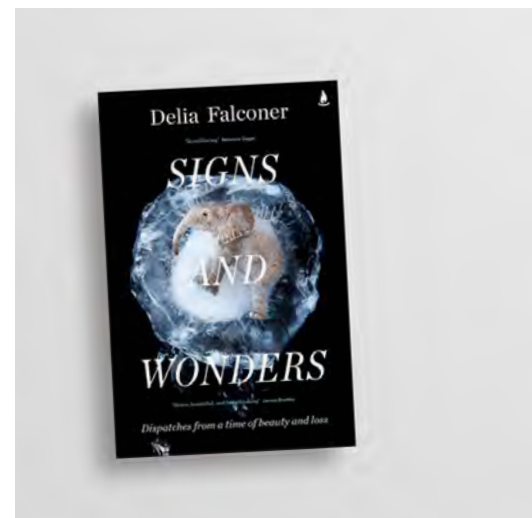


The meanings of anthropogenic climate change



Award winning author **Delia Falconer** (FASS Creative Writing) provides practice-led research and innovative teaching through creative writing at UTS. Her essay collection *Signs and Wonders: dispatches from a time of beauty and loss*, based on her 2018 Walkley-award

winning essay, won the Nib Literary Award 2022. In this pioneering creative research work Delia explores how global warming is changing not only our climate but also our culture. Using creative non-fiction as her research method, she shows that our emotions, our art, our relationships with the generations around us – all the delicate networks that make us who we are – are being unsettled. This presents opportunity for introspection and cultural development. As the *Australian Review of Books* said, “Delia Falconer’s mesmerising *Signs and Wonders* helps us to process the disorienting complexity of living in this time of great beauty and loss.”



Policing Hate Crime more effectively



Criminologist **Associate Professor Philip Birch** recently completed a study of New South Wales (NSW) Police officers with regard to their policing of hate crime. The results inform policing in several ways, including improved reporting practices, better accounting for perpetrator and victim characteristics and the improved support for victims and the wider community when police address hate crime.

In the public eye

Aside from our work with specific collaborators and our links to several professions, we seek to shape wider public understanding of key issues – such as how best to manage Australia’s marine resources or how best to view the country’s past. UTS is, after all, a public institution that exists to deliver the widest social benefit. Our staff are often visible in the media and write for diverse audiences.

Recent examples include:



Associate Professor Anna Clark

Anna’s book *Making Australian History* (2022) was longlisted for a Walkley Book Award and a Nib Literary Award. Her landmark contribution poses deep questions about whose history gets told in attempts to shape collective understanding of who were are in the present.





Dr. Olga Oleinikova

Olga is an expert about Ukraine. In 2022 she regularly provided expert advice and commentary for national and international media on the war in her home country. She appeared on ABC news, on *The Drum*, in many news radio broadcasts and in *The Conversation (Australia)*, among others. She's estimated to have reached an audience of over 9 million in 2022.



Professor Wanning Sun

Wanning has written extensively on Australia-China relations, and the federal election (including this recent piece on the ABC: [abc.net.au/religion/wanning-sun-bad-china-makes-good-news-stories-but-who-suffers/14101618](https://www.abc.net.au/religion/wanning-sun-bad-china-makes-good-news-stories-but-who-suffers/14101618))

Her writing helps to dispel lingering myths, stereotypes and simplistic depictions of China's political agenda and how Australia should relate to its most powerful regional neighbour.



Postgraduate researchers



Our staff supervise students from a wide range of backgrounds, including mature students with extensive experience in specific sectors and professions (such as teaching and the media). Many student research projects have an applied or practice-focussed dimension. We often work with other faculties at UTS to offer cross-faculty supervisions. Students are supported by two, sometimes three, supervisors. Many win accolades for their work.



Recent examples include:



Monica Galassi

Monica's research project is called *Aboriginal Archives in Italy. A space for reciprocal collaboration.*

Italy is one of several countries holding information about Aboriginal culture and history assembled in a previous period. This raises key questions about cultural rights, cultural heritage and who ought to control what. The research aims to facilitate digital access to these records, promote reciprocal and collaborative research, whilst starting conversations on what a future space of exchange between Italy and Australia could look like.



Akiko Hiratsuka

Family Language Practice: A Translingual Perspective.

Akiko researches how families are affected by multilingualism across parents and children. In an age of large-scale migration, family dynamics are strongly influenced by the cultural and linguistic variety that accompanies geographical movement between countries.



Anne Casey

The second wave impact in Australia of the Great Irish Famine.

An award winning creative practitioner, Anne's research examines intergenerational impacts in Australia of the 19th century Irish famine. Her thesis utilises poetry and creative non-fiction to tell the human story behind the official history.



Fievel Tong

A critical discourse analysis of the under-representation of people with trisomy 21 (Down syndrome) in Australian post-secondary education contexts.

Inclusive post-secondary education for people with trisomy 21 (Down syndrome) in Australia is a relatively new area of development. Many people with Down syndrome express interest in, and potential for, further education. Fievel's research foregrounds the voices and lived experiences of people with trisomy 21 in the area of post-secondary education, with the hope of contributing towards the growth of such learning opportunities for this significant population.

International research connections



While much of our research is focussed on Australia, a lot of it also focuses overseas. We have many established links with researchers elsewhere in the world or with overseas agencies and organisations.



Among many examples, are the following:



The World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Evaluation of Communication, led by **Distinguished Professor Jim Macnamara**. In addition

to advice and support provided to the WHO as a Collaborating Centre, the FASS research team continues to provide contract research for measurement, evaluation, and learning (MEL) in relation to WHO communication globally, reporting to the WHO headquarters in Geneva.



In her research into urban growth and planning, **Professor Carolyn Cartier** has collaborated with researchers at the Chinese

University of Hong Kong, East China Normal University, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Peking University, Sun Yat-sen University, the University of Hong Kong, and Xi'an Jiaotong University.



An ongoing research partnership between UTS and the University of the Philippines – Marine Science Institute, funded by the Australian Centre for

International Agricultural Research and led by **Associate Professor Michael Fabinyi**. One current collaborative project develops strategies to increase the social and economic benefits of sea cucumber mariculture in the region.

FASS vital research statistics



108

FTE continuing
academic staff members



147

HDR students



\$15.5 million

In 2022 FASS researchers applied
for \$15.5 million dollars in research
funding, and were awarded
\$3,251,446 in the same year



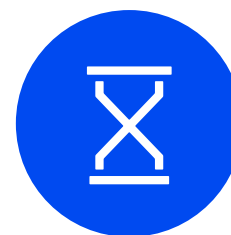
18

books were authored or edited by
FASS researchers in 2021



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Almost two thirds of FASS'
PhDs in 2022 were awarded
with no, or minor, thesis
corrections.



9 in 10

Nearly 9 in 10 higher degree
research students completed
their degree on time

FASS FRO team



Professor Noel Castree

Associate Dean (Research)



**Senior Lecturer
Timothy Laurie**

School of Communication,
HDR Coordinator



Claire Moore

Research Manager



**Associate Professor
Ilaria Vanni- Accarigi**

School of International Studies
and Education, HDR Coordinator



Peter Lopez

Research Administration
Coordinator



Professor Carolyn Cartier

School of International Studies
and Education, Research
Coordinator



Lenka Pondelickova

HDR Administration Coordinator



**Senior Lecturer
Liz Giuffre**

School of Communication,
Research Coordinator



**Associate Professor
Bhuva Narayan**

FASS Academic Coordinator

UTS acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the Boorooberongal people of the Dharug Nation, the Bidiagal people and the Gamaygal people, upon whose ancestral lands our university stands. We would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present, acknowledging them as the traditional custodians of knowledge for these lands.

For more information
uts.edu.au/fass-research
research@uts.edu.au