ACADEMY OF
THE SOCIAL SCIENCES
IN AUSTRALIA

DIGITAL SOCIETY | SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVES FOR A BETTER FUTURE

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM   FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2023   CANBERRA

#DIGITALSOCIETY23

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WELCOME

Digital Society was identified as one of seven grand challenges in the Academy's 2021 State of the Social Sciences report. This foresaw the accelerating development, uptake and incorporation of digital, connected and autonomous technologies as an enormous opportunity for social scientists to guide discussions, policy and practice with relevance and impact. It also warned of the converse; that a failure to proactively engage with the digital transition would see the capabilities and relevance of social science steadily fade.

Thank you for attending our 2023 Symposium. We look forward to your involvement in the discussion.

Dr Chris Hatherly
CEO

Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia

2023 ANNUAL EVENTS PROGRAM

THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER

2.00—4.30PM   **NEW FELLOWS PRESENTATIONS**
Hyatt Hotel Canberra

4.30—5.30PM   **2023 CUNNINGHAM LECTURE**
'Risks and opportunities: Building social contexts for young children's digital interactions'
Distinguished Professor Susan Danby
Hyatt Hotel Canberra

6.45—10.30PM   **ANNUAL DINNER**
The Marion, Canberra

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FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER

9AM—4PM   **2023 SYMPOSIUM**

ARRIVAL | 8.30 – 9.00AM

WELCOME
9.00 – 9.30AM

Opening remarks

Professor Richard Holden (Academy President), Professor Sarah Pink

SESSION 1
9.30 – 10.40AM

**Will it be different this time?
Historical and critical perspectives we can't ignore**

Mr Peter Lewis (chair), Distinguished Professor Genevieve Bell (online), Professor Joy Damousi, Em. Professor Bob Holton, Professor Dirk Hovorka

MORNING TEA | 10.40 – 11.00AM

SESSION 2
11AM – 12.10PM

Bridging the digital divide: Inclusion and equity

Professor Andrew Burton-Jones (chair), Professor Jo Barraket, Professor Juliana Sutanto, Assoc. Professor Carmen Leong

LUNCH | 12.10 – 1.00PM

SESSION 3
1.00 – 2.10PM

Unveiling the unintended: Navigating human-technology interactions

Professor Sharon Parker (chair), Professor Nicole Gillespie, Professor Eva Kyndt, Professor Minna Ruckenstein

AFTERNOON TEA | 2.10 – 2.30PM

SESSION 4
2.30 – 3.40PM

Shaping our digital future: challenges for the social sciences

Professor Sarah Pink (chair), Professor Toby Walsh, Professor Lisa Given, Professor Heather Horst, Professor Yolande Strengers

CLOSE
3.40 – 4.00PM

Closing remarks

Professor Andrew Burton-Jones

SPEAKERS

Professor Jo Barraket AM
Director | Melbourne Social Equity Institute, University of Melbourne

Jo Barraket AM is Professor of Policy Studies and Director of the Melbourne Social Equity Institute. A political sociologist, Jo is Australia's premier researcher of social enterprise and a leading researcher of social innovation. Her work focuses on how social equity is improved through new ways of organising, resourcing and scaling social change, and the relationships between state and civil society organisations in policy processes. She also has a longstanding interest in the sociopolitical effects of digital technologies, and was a founding researcher of the Australian Digital Inclusion Index. Jo is passionate about co-productive research in support of a fairer world. She conducts research that generates high quality research publications, as well as outputs—such as interactive online tools, policy and practice guides—which support the uptake and use of research knowledge. She has led or co-led more than $12 million, including seven ARC grants, in funded research and authored more than 80 scholarly publications in her areas of expertise. Jo is a regular advisor to governments, philanthropy and industry and has been an expert advisor to the OECD on three initiatives related to improving inclusive employment through the social economy.

Distinguished Professor Genevieve Bell AO FTSE FAHA
Director | School of Cybernetics, Australian National University

Distinguished Professor Genevieve Bell AO FTSE FAHA is a renowned anthropologist, technologist, and futurist. Genevieve completed her PhD in cultural anthropology at Stanford University in 1998 and is best known for her work at the intersection of cultural practice and technology development. She is currently a Distinguished Professor, Director of the School of Cybernetics and Florence Violet McKenzie Chair at the Australian National University (ANU) and a Vice President and Senior Fellow in Intel Labs at Intel Corporation. In 2017, Genevieve returned to Australia and established the 3A Institute at ANU in collaboration with CSIRO's Data61, with the mission of building a new branch of engineering to take AI-enabled cyber-physical systems safely, sustainably and responsibly scale. In 2021, she became the inaugural Director of the new ANU School of Cybernetics, which builds on the foundational work of the 3A Institute and seeks to establish cybernetics as an important tool for navigating major societal transformations, through capability building, policy development and safe, sustainable and responsible approaches to new systems.

Professor Andrew Burton-Jones FASSA
Professor of Business Information Systems | UQ Business School

Andrew Burton-Jones is a Professor of Business Information Systems at UQ Business School, The University of Queensland. He conducts research on how large organisations can use information technology more effectively. Most of his work focuses on the digital transformation of healthcare and how the public sector can obtain greater value from IT investments for patients, clinicians, and the healthcare system. He is also collaborating with colleagues at UQ and other universities across Australia and internationally to develop educational programs to facilitate the digital transformation of healthcare. Within academia, he is heavily involved in his professional association (e.g., currently President-elect of the Association for Information Systems) and journal editorial roles (e.g., currently Editor-in-Chief of MIS Quarterly). He is a Fellow of the Association for Information Systems and Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

SPEAKERS

Professor Joy Damousi AM FASSA FAHA
Director, Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences | Australian Catholic University

Professor Damousi is an award-winning historian of political history, women's history, memory and aftermaths of war, history of emotions, sound and war, and the history of migration, refugee history and humanitarianism in the twentieth century. Her latest publication is The Humanities: Child War Refugees and Australian Humanitarianism in a Transnational World, 1919-1975 (Cambridge 2022). She is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, and Academy of Humanities and was President of the Australian Association 2018-2020. In 2022 she was the recipient of a Life-Time Achievement Award from the Australian Historical Association for distinguished contributions to historical scholarship. As recognition of her contributions to the academy and beyond it in 2022 she received a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant services to social sciences and humanities, to history and to tertiary education. From 2018-2020 she served as President of the Academy of the Humanities and in that role advocated for the central role of the insights of the humanities and social sciences in the AI revolution and how the history of AI can offer lessons for the future.

Professor Nicole Gillespie FASSA
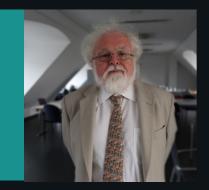Professor of Management | University of Queensland

Nicole Gillespie is Professor of Management and Chair in Organizational Trust at The University of Queensland where she co-leads the Trust Ethics and Governance Alliance. She is an International Research Fellow at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. Her research over the past 20 years has focused on developing and repairing trust in organizations, particularly in contexts where trust is challenged. Over the past five years, a focus has been examining trust and governance of emerging technologies, particularly AI. She serves as a member of the Responsible AI Think Tank for the National AI Centre. Her recent reports provide practical guidance on 'Achieving Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence' and global insights on 'Public Trust in AI'. In 2019, Nicole was made an Academic Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand School of Government for outstanding contribution to public management.

Professor Lisa Given FASSA
Director, Social Change Enabling Impact Platform & Professor of Information Sciences | RMIT University

Lisa M. Given, PhD, FASSA, is Director, Social Change Enabling Impact Platform, and Professor of Information Sciences at RMIT University (Melbourne). Her interdisciplinary research in human information behaviour brings a critical, social research lens to studies of technology use and user-focused design. Her studies embed social change, focusing on diverse settings and populations, and methodological innovations across disciplines. A former President of the Association for Information Science and Technology, Prof Given is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and has served on the Australian Research Council's (ARC's) College of Experts. She holds numerous grants funded by ARC, Canadian Institutes for Health Research, and Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, working with university and community partners across disciplines. She is Editor-in-Chief of the Annual Review of Information Science and Technology and lead author of Looking for Information: Examining Research on How People Engage with Information (2023). You can follow her on X/Twitter @lisagiven and read more about her work at lisagiven.com

SPEAKERS

Emeritus Professor Bob Holton FASSA
Emeritus Professor of Sociology | Trinity College, Dublin

Robert Holton is a sociologist and economic historian with extensive professional experience in Australia and Europe. He is author of a dozen books and many learned journal articles, many of them on aspects of globalization and cosmopolitanism. Robert's latest research is in the sociology of artificial intelligence. His recent published research includes analyses of artificial intelligence and social transformation, strangeness and inter-cultural encounters, cosmopolitanism and capitalism, and global inequality and global poverty. He is Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Trinity College, Dublin, Adjunct Research Professor at the Hawke EU Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence at the University of South Australia, and Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.

Professor Heather Horst
Director | Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University

Heather A. Horst is a sociocultural anthropologist who researches material culture and the mediation of social relations through digital media and technology. Her recent books focused upon these themes include The Moral Economy of Mobile Phones: Pacific Island Perspectives (Foster and Horst, eds. 2018), Hanging Around, Messing Around and Geeking Out: Kids Living and Learning with New Media, 10th Anniversary Edition (Ito, et al. 2019); Location Technologies in International Context (Wilken, Goggin and Horst, eds. 2019) and Digital Media Practices in Households (Hjorth, et al. 2020). Her current research focuses upon the growth and development Fijian fashion industry and the diverse uses and experiences of automation technologies outside of the global north as part of her work in the ARC Centre of Excellence on Automated Decision Making and Society. Heather is currently Professor and Director of the Institute of Culture and Society at Western Sydney University and an Honorary Professor at the Centre for Digital Anthropology at University College London.

Professor Dirk Hovorka
Professor | The University of Sydney

Dirk S. Hovorka is a Professor in the Business Information Systems discipline at the University of Sydney. He holds as MS in Geology and an MS in Interdisciplinary Telecommunications and received his PhD in Information Systems from the University of Colorado. His current research addresses how scientific and societal practices bring forth 'worlds' through theory, design, and conceptualisations of 'the future'. Recognising that the future is implacably resistant to full prediction and control, and that increasing rates of societal change render our knowledge about the past less indicative of future possibilities, his research focuses on speculative approaches to 'knowing' regarding technology, society, and biophysical environments. Crucial to both research and to preparing students for the futures they will inhabit, is the exercise of imagination to recognise and respond to unprecedented configurations of worlds not yet realised.

SPEAKERS

Professor Eva Kyndt
Professor | Swinburne University of Technology

Professor Eva Kyndt is internationally recognised as an expert in human resource development (HRD) with a specific focus on the intersection between learning and working. She received her PhD degree from KU Leuven (University of Leuven, Belgium). Eva specialises in the intersection between learning and working from a sustainable career perspective. She is a globally recognised leader in emerging workforce and learning needs within complex organisations, has advised a diverse range of organisations on their HRD policy, and has supported product development of various start-up organisations. Specific focus areas include workplace learning, social networks in organisations, well-being at work, and sustainable careers. She acted as the elected coordinator of the Special Interest Group Learning and Professional Development of the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (2017-2021). In Australia, she has partnered with the National Mental Health Commission, Readiness Pty Ltd, Emergency Services Foundation, Teacher Health Fund, Jobsbank and the Department of Education and Training (Apprenticeships Victoria).

Associate Professor Carmen Leong
Associate Professor | UNSW Sydney

Carmen Leong is an Associate Professor at the UNSW Business School, Sydney. She received her PhD degree from The National University of Singapore. She is enthusiastic about discovering how technologies can bring changes to the lives of organisations and individuals. She has conducted more than 40 case studies in Indonesia, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Germany to understand the use of digital technologies 1) in organising for social purposes such as entrepreneurship, rural poverty, disaster response, mass mobilisation and 2) in the process of transforming an organisation and pre-existing management practices. Before entering academia, she worked for four years in Singapore and Malaysia's private and public sectors.

Peter Lewis
Executive Director | Essential Media

Peter Lewis is executive director of the progressive strategic communications agency Essential Media, the founder of the collaborative engagement platform Civility and a fellow with the Australia Institute's Centre for Responsible Technology. For more than two decades he was worked with progressive organisations including unions, NGOs, not-for-profits and responsible businesses to affect progressive social change. He is a regular columnist with Guardian Australian and Fairfax newspapers as well as the author of five books including Webtopia and The Public Square Project.

SPEAKERS

Professor Sharon Parker FASSA
ARC Laureate Fellow, John Curtin Distinguished Professor | Curtin University

ARC Laureate Fellow Sharon K. Parker is a John Curtin Distinguished Professor at Curtin University, Director of the Centre for Transformative Work Design at Curtin University, a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and a Fellow of the Society for Industrial and Organisational Psychology. She is a recipient of the ARCs Kathleen Fitzpatrick Award, the Academy of Management OB Division Mentoring Award and, in November of 2019, Sharon was named among the world's most influential scientists in the Web of Science Group's 2019 list of 2019 Highly Cited Researchers, and the only female in Australia appearing on this list in the field of Economics and Business. She has published more than 200 internationally refereed articles on topics such as work design, proactive behaviour, mental health, and job performance, and has over 39,500 citations. She is a past Associate Editor for the Journal of Applied Psychology and Academy of Management Annals. Sharon has attracted competitive research funding worth over $40 million, and has worked with a wide range of public and private organisations. She is the founder of the SMART model, cofounder of the Thrive at Work Initiative, and has contributed to policy on work design in Australia and internationally.

Professor Sarah Pink FASSA
Professor | Monash University

Professor Sarah Pink is a design and futures anthropologist and documentary filmmaker. She is the founding Director of the Emerging Technologies Research Lab at Monash University, Australia and a CI and research leader in the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society. Sarah is also an Associate Director of Monash University Energy Institute and Visiting Professor at Halmstad University in Sweden and Loughborough University in the UK and a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. In 2023 she was the Simon Professorial Fellow at Manchester University, and was awarded honorary doctorates from Malmo University and Halmstad University. Her most recent publications include the books Emerging Technologies / Life at the Edge of the Future (2023) and Design Ethnography (2022) and the documentary films Smart Homes for Seniors (2021) and Digital Energy Futures (2022).

Professor Minna Ruckenstein
Professor | Consumer Society Research Centre, University of Helsinki
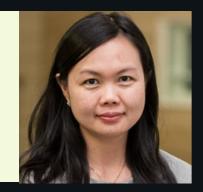
Minna Ruckenstein works as Professor at the Consumer Society Research Centre. She directs The Datafied Life Collaboratory that studies processes of digitalisation/datafication by highlighting emotional, social, political and economic aspects of current and emerging data practices. The disciplinary underpinnings of the work range from anthropology of technology, science and technology studies and communication to consumer economics. Currently funded research projects focus on re-humanising automated decision-making, algorithmic culture, and everyday engagements with algorithmic systems in Helsinki and in Shanghai and Hangzhou. Case studies in these projects deal with everyday and organisational aspects of datafication, in fields ranging from content moderation and advertising to digital health, insurance, and social work. Some of this work is reported in the co-edited book Everyday Automation: Experiencing and anticipating emerging technologies (open access).

Professor Yolande Strengers
Professor of Digital Technology and Society | Monash University

Yolande Strengers is Professor of Digital Technology and Society in the Emerging Technologies Research Lab at Monash University where she leads the Energy Futures program. She is also Associate Dean of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in the Faculty of Information Technology and an Associate Director (Consumers) of the Monash Energy Institute. Yolande's research investigates how digital technologies and AI are changing how we live and engage with each other. Her focus is on the energy, sustainability, health and gender equity outcomes of emerging technologies, such as smart grids, smart homes, energy systems, automation, digital voice assistants, robots and Telepresence. As an interdisciplinary scholar, her work spans the fields of digital sociology, human-computer interaction (HCI) design, and science and technology studies.

Professor Juliana Sutanto
Professor in Information Systems | Monash University

Juliana Sutanto graduated from National University of Singapore in 2008 with a Ph.D. in Information Systems and worked in Europe for nearly fifteen years at ETH Zurich (Switzerland) and Lancaster University (UK). Since January 2023, she is leading the Digital Transformation Group in the Department of Human-Centred Computing at Faculty of IT, Monash University. She is also the Indonesia Lead for the Faculty. She currently undertakes research in two main areas. The first area is disaster management system. She interacts closely with disaster response organisations in Indonesia. She examines the digital communication and coordination among disaster responders, and collaborates with researchers from operational research to design and develop a decision support system for disaster response. The second area is health information system. She is investigating electronic medical records and medical recordkeeping practices in hospitals with varying socio-economic cultural contexts. She also examines how healthcare transaction data informs policy making and revision.

Professor Toby Walsh FAA
Chief Scientist | AI Institute, UNSW Sydney

Toby Walsh is Chief Scientist of UNSW.AI, UNSW's new AI Institute. He is a strong advocate for limits to ensure AI is used to improve our lives, having spoken at the UN, and to heads of state, parliamentary bodies, company boards and many others on this topic. This advocacy has led to him being "banned indefinitely" from Russia. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, and was named on the international "Who's Who in AI" list of influencers. He has written four books on AI for a general audience, the most recent is "Faking It! Artificial Intelligence in A Human World".

SHAPE
FUTURES NETWORK

Launched in mid-2022, SHAPE Futures is an early- and mid-career network for the disciplines of the humanities, creative arts and social sciences. Our purpose is to ensure the humanities, arts and social sciences thrive and excel in Australia, by fostering an inclusive and diverse community that supports, empowers and promotes Australian early and mid-career researchers, within and beyond academia.

shapefutures.com.au

AUSTRALIA'S
SOCIAL FUTURE

The Academy's 50th Anniversary Symposium, 'The Social Future of Australia', was held online in 2021. A diverse range of speakers came together to reflect on the future of Australian society and the place of the social sciences within it. This book provides a historical record of the 50th Anniversary Symposium, and the Academy in its 50th year.

Read it here:
socialsciences.org.au/anniversary-symposium

50th Anniversary Symposium
THE SOCIAL FUTURE OF AUSTRALIA

22 - 23 NOVEMBER 2021

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