

- [f Share](#)
- [Tweet](#)
- [in Share](#)

⊗  
Share

- [f](#)
- [in](#)

[View in browser](#)

[Share newsletter](#)



## President's Message

Dear Fellows and friends,

It's a pleasure to welcome you to the November edition of the Academy newsletter.

First, a warm welcome to the [22 newly elected Fellows](#) to the Academy. We very much look forward to hearing about their achievements at the New Fellows' Presentation in Sydney on 17 November — a highlight of the Academy's annual calendar.

This month sees the launch of the Academy's new bi-annual magazine *Socium*, which celebrates the outstanding contributions of Fellows and award recipients across the social sciences. Fellows will receive a printed copy by mail in coming weeks, with the option to continue receiving *Socium* in hard copy, or to opt for an electronic format only. **If your postal address has changed**, please

update your details via the [Fellows Portal](#) or contact us directly at [fellowship@socialsciences.org.au](mailto:fellowship@socialsciences.org.au). *Socium* will be [available to view and download](#) on the Academy's website from mid-November.

The [Academy's new Strategic Plan](#), developed in consultation with Fellows and stakeholders, is now available. The Plan sets out a clear and focused agenda for our work over the next five years, strengthening the Academy's collective impact and reach and championing of the social sciences at this critical time for research and higher education.

The Academy welcomes the involvement of Fellows in all of its activities. If you'd like to be involved, please consider one of the committee vacancies advertised in this newsletter, or contact the National Office to find out more.

Several congratulatory messages are in in order. The recent announcement by the ARC of successful recipients of Discovery Grants included over \$20m in funding awarded to 30 Fellows and their colleagues for social science research across a range of disciplines and topics. You can read about this important array of projects [here](#). Congratulations to successful Fellows and participants who have received funding for the [Academy's Workshop Program in 2026](#), and to our new [Paul Bourke Award recipients](#).

Two final reminders. First, please **[register for the Academy's Annual General Meeting](#)** which will take place **online on Wednesday 19 November, from 1:30–3:00 pm**. If you are unable to attend, please consider assigning your proxy to a colleague or a member of the Board. Second, nominations for the Academy's 2026 Fellowship round close on 26 November.

Thank you, as always, for your continued engagement and contributions to the Academy's mission. I look forward to connecting with many of you at our upcoming events.

**Kate Darian-Smith**  
**President**

---



[Update your contact details](#)



[Register for the Academy AGM](#)

---

## NEWS

### STATE EVENTS





L to R: Panellists Dr Nate Zettna, Dr Sophie Chao, Dr Rennell Rodrigues and Dr Sophie Webber, and event host Professor Marian Baird

## NSW

The NSW branch of the Academy of the Social Sciences held their last gathering for 2025 on Thursday 9 October with a panel of early- and mid-career social scientists discussing the opportunities and challenges they face. They and ASSA Fellows all advocated for social scientists to be directly involved in all facets of policy making.

The event was hosted by Professor Marian Baird and Professor Michele Ford, and the panellists included Dr Nate Zettna, Dr Sophie Chao, Dr Rennell Rodrigues and Dr Sophie Webber.

---

## QUEENSLAND

The Queensland branch of the Academy of the Social Sciences held their last gathering for 2025 on Wednesday 15 October with a presentation by Professor Mathew Hornsey from the University of Queensland about his ARC Laureate project.

Professor Hornsey's project maps community attitudes toward decarbonisation, works to understand psychological factors underpinning climate (in)action, tests communication strategies for catalysing action at scale, and delivers impact tools for end-users, informing Australia's transition from a fossil fuel dependent economy to a leader in rapid decarbonisation.





*Professor Matthew Hornsey (left) and Professor Neal Ashkanasay at the Qld Fellows' gathering*

---

## VICTORIA

On October 21, Fellows of the Victorian Branch enjoyed a special tour of *65,000 Years: A short history of Australian Art* at the Potter Gallery in Melbourne, led by curators Melbourne Laureate Professor Marcia Langton AO FASSA FTSE and Judith Ryan AM. The exhibition includes more than 400 works by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, and is open until 23 November.

Find out more about the exhibition [here](#).





Fellows from Victoria attending 65,000 Years: A short history of Australian Art at the Potter Gallery in Melbourne

## Congratulations



The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia has announced the election of 22 new Fellows.

Read more [here](#).

The Hon Robert French AC FASSA has been appointed as International Science Council as an ex Officio member of the UNESCO World Commission on Ethics in Science and Technology.

Professor Nicholas Evans is awarded the British Academy's 2025 Neil and Saras Smith Medal for his long and distinguished career working on endangered languages, both documenting hitherto undescribed languages and exploring the consequences of such data for general linguistic theory.

Read more [here](#).

## Workshop Program grant recipients announced

The Academy announced the recipients of the 2026 Workshops Program grants in October.

Over \$70,000 has been allocated to eight teams of researchers to host multidisciplinary workshops to develop innovative approaches, foster network connections and tackle critical issues in national research and policy.

Read more [here](#).



**Ms. Amy Usher**  
Yamaty Marjap Aboriginal Corporation

**Dr. Jo Thomson**  
Big Island Research

**Mr. Ken Haywood**  
Edith Cowan University

**Ms. Dirima Cuthbert**  
Dorich Cuthbert

**Prof. Philip Mendes**  
Monash University

**Prof. Melissa O'Donnell**  
University of South Australia

**Assoc. Prof. Tim Moore**  
Australian Catholic University

**Assoc. Prof. Jessica Rose-Smith**  
Australian Catholic University

**Dr. Steven Roche**  
Australian Catholic University

**2026 WORKSHOPS PROGRAM**  
From policy to implementation: leveraging marine social science to deliver Australia's Sustainable Ocean Plan

**Dr. Georgina Gurney**  
James Cook University

**Assoc. Prof. Emily Ogier**  
University of Tasmania

**Prof. Tiffany Morrison**  
University of Melbourne

**Dr. Carlo Sbrocchi**  
University of Technology Sydney

**2026 WORKSHOPS PROGRAM**  
Expert roundtable on biodiversity and climate change

**Ms. Kate Nairn**  
Future Earth Australia

**Prof. Steven Dovers**  
Australian National University

**Mr. Drew Clarke**

**2026 WORKSHOPS PROGRAM**  
What's ahead? a cross-disciplinary discussion mapping collective knowledge and highlighting research priorities

**Dr. Michala Kowalski**  
The University of New South Wales

**Dr. Nic Taylor**  
Curtin University

**Prof. Alison Ritter**  
The University of New South Wales

**Prof. Michael Farrell**  
The University of New South Wales

**2026 WORKSHOPS PROGRAM**  
Building a social science agenda for challenge-led research and innovation in Australia

**Prof. Rob Raven**  
Monash University

**Prof. Xuemel Bai**  
Australian National University

**Dr. Heinz Schandl**  
CSIRO

**Dr. Christoph Brodnik**  
Monash University

**2026 WORKSHOPS PROGRAM**  
The political economy of artistic freedom in Australia

**Prof. Desmond Manderson**  
Australian National University

**Prof. Sarah Joseph**  
Griffith University

**Dr. Karen Crawley**  
Griffith University

**Dr. Samid Suliman**  
Griffith University

**2026 WORKSHOPS PROGRAM**  
Toxic living: exposure and embodiment in the Anthropocene

**Prof. Jakklin Trey**  
The University of Sydney

**Assoc. Prof. Katherine Kenny**  
The University of Sydney

**Assoc. Prof. Nadine Ehlers**  
The University of Sydney

**Dr. Jisun Tson**  
The University of Sydney

**Mr. Mujahid Terwach**  
The University of Sydney

## 2025 Paul Bourke Award winners

The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia has announced the winners of the 2025 Paul Bourke Awards, recognising four of the nation's most exceptional early career researchers in the social sciences.

Read more [here](#).

**ACADEMY OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES IN AUSTRALIA**

**FOR SCHOLARSHIP**  
of the Social Sciences in Australia

**2025 PAUL BOURKE AWARD FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCH**

**Dr Archie Thomas**  
University of Technology Sydney

**Dr Erin O'Donnell**  
The University of Melbourne

**Dr Kathryn Baragwanath**  
The University of Melbourne

**Dr Tianze Sun**  
The University of Queensland

---

## ARC Discovery Grants

Thirty Academy Fellows have been successful in receiving ARC Discovery Project funding.

Read more [here](#).

---

## International

**ACADEMY OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES IN AUSTRALIA**

**Australia-China Joint Action Program**  
2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

**Dr Edward Sing Yue Chan**  
ANU  
with Dr Qin Shen

**Dr Kong Lingyu**  
The University of Adelaide  
with Dr Gao Chaoqun

**Le (Laura) Luo**  
Macquarie University  
with Zhang Xiaoxi

## Australia-China Joint Action Program

Recipients of the Australia-China Joint Action Program Grants for 2025 have been announced.

Read more [here](#).

---

## Policy

### Academy responds to Australian Government RD&I impact paper

As part of the Australian Government's 2025 Strategic Examination of Research and Development, six issue papers were released and feedback requested about the impact of research, development and innovation (RD&I). The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia submitted a response to Paper 1: National coordination for RD&I impact on 25 September 2025. In principle, the Academy supports the model for improved coordination of RD&I and a governance structure that seeks to overcome fragmentation, enhance the impact and efficiency of RD&I spending, and deliver on a broad range of economic and societal goals. However, the proposed approach reveals a tension between highly instructive processes and the culture of agility, innovation and risk-taking in RD&I initiatives needed to quickly and successfully grasp new

opportunities. Noting the complexity and risk involved in implementing system-level change, the Academy provides four recommendations for consideration.

Read more [here](#).

---

## Resilient Futures: Priorities for the 2026 Intergenerational Report

On the 24 October the Academy co-convened a policy roundtable with the Commonwealth Treasury: *Resilient Futures: Priorities for the 2026 Intergenerational Report*. Building on the edited collection *More than Fiscal* the discussion identified both technical and policy considerations for the upcoming report across themes such as population, productivity, health, income support and retirement incomes. The Academy roundtable program continues to provide valuable forums for evidence-based policy conversations and direct engagement with decision makers.

---



POLICY ROUNDTABLE

## RESILIENT FUTURES: PRIORITIES FOR THE 2026 INTERGENERATIONAL REPORT



## Opportunities

### University psychosocial safety survey

Readers are invited to take part in an independent workplace psychosocial safety survey of all university staff in Australia.

Led by Academy Fellow Professor Maureen Dollard, from the ARC Laureate funded Psychosocial Safety Climate Global Observatory at the University of South Australia.

Survey link: [Online Survey Software](#) | [Qualtrics Survey Solutions](#)  
More information: [Grant - Grants Data Portal](#)

The survey closes on 4 December.

### Vacancies for the 2026 Australian Medical Research Advisory Board

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is now accepting applications from highly qualified candidates for appointment to the Australian Medical Research Advisory Board (AMRAB), with opportunities available for both Member and Deputy Chair positions.

Find out more or apply [here](#).

### Academy Committee Vacancies

Fellows interested in supporting the work of the Academy are invited to nominate for a number of committee positions currently available.

Vacancies include:

TWO Panel C members to join the Grants and Awards Committee

Fellows interested in joining the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Working Group

Please respond with your EOI by email to [fellowship@socialsciences.org.au](mailto:fellowship@socialsciences.org.au) by 21 November

---

---

## Events

**Academic  
Freedom**

The right to enquire?

Free Symposium  
25 November 2025  
Melbourne

## The right to enquire? A Symposium on academic freedom

When: Tuesday 25 November

Where: University of Melbourne

The Australian Academy of the Humanities is partnering with The Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences to host a symposium exploring what it means to define, contest and safeguard academic freedom in the 21st century.

Speakers include Academy Fellows Frank Bongiorno, Michelle Arrow and Adrienne Stone.

Register [here](#).

---

## SHAPE Futures 2025 Annual Convention

The SHAPE Futures 2025 Convention will provide SHAPE EMCRs with the opportunity to discuss, as a community, the realities of building a sustainable research career while sharing practical strategies and hearing honest accounts from those who have “been there”.

Included among this year's speakers is Academy Fellow Professor Lisa Given FASSA, Director of the Social Change Enabling Impact Platform, RMIT University.

Find out more [here](#).

---

## FEATURED FELLOW Professor Erte Xiao



**Discipline:** Economics

**Affiliation:** Monash University

**What initially drew you to your field of study?**

I've always been curious about how people make decisions—often in ways that differ from traditional economic predictions. Behavioural economics allows me to combine insights from psychology and economics to better understand human motivation and decision-making. It's a field that connects rigorous analysis with real-world behaviour, which I find fascinating.

**What continues to motivate your work?**

I'm motivated by the belief that insights from behavioural science can not only improve efficiency but also help build fairer systems, which are often more challenging to achieve and require a deep understanding of human nature. Seeing my research inform policy design and organisational practices, and sometimes change how people think, keeps me inspired.

**What are you most proud of?**

I was very fortunate to work with Vernon Smith, the 2002 Nobel Laureate in Economics, during my PhD. His curiosity and openness to ideas beyond traditional boundaries inspired me to read broadly, stay humble, and learn from other disciplines.

**How would you describe your work at a dinner party?**

I study how people make decisions. My recent research looks at how social norms and the way choices are presented can shape those decisions. By incorporating behavioural insights into the design of institutions, we can help markets and workplaces function more effectively and fairly.

**Where is your 'happy place'?**

My happy place is at home with my kids, reading together, discussing their school projects, and hearing their curious questions about how the world works, many of which I often can't answer well.

---

---

## **New Release Reads**

### **Military History Supremo**

A newly published volume honouring the remarkable career of Professor Emeritus David Horner AM FASSA — one of Australia's most distinguished military historians and the nation's fifth official historian of war and military operations.

Launch events will take place in Canberra on 7 November and include a symposium and an evening launch event.

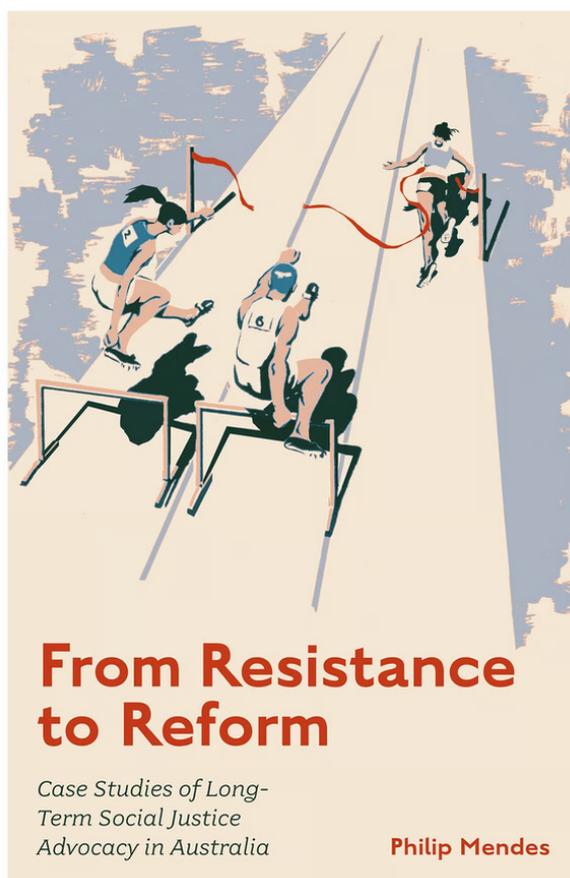
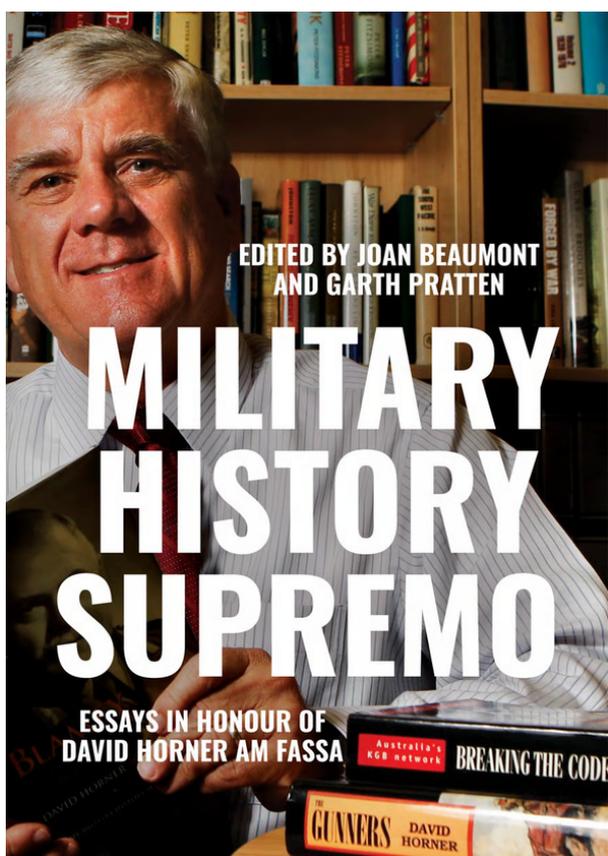
Find the book [here](#).

### **From Resistance to Reform: Case Studies of Long-Term Social Justice Advocacy in Australia**

This new text from Philip Mendes presents a comprehensive historical and political analysis of four policy areas where reform was achieved after many years of neglect.

Using a rich corpus of primary and secondary data, this is the first ever time that these four cases – covering discrete policy debates around young people transitioning from out-of-home care, medically supervised injecting facilities, social security payments for the unemployed, and compulsory income management – have been compared within an organized framework.

Find out more here.





### Events schedule

View and register for upcoming events.



### Policy and publications

Read recent submissions and other publications.



### Education resources

Check out our *Seriously Social* classroom resources.

---

The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional owners of the land on which our national office is located, the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples, and to their elders past and present.

---

## Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia

ABN: 59 957 839 703

3/95 Northbourne Ave, Turner ACT 2612

Postal: GPO Box 1956, Canberra ACT 2601

Tel: (02) 6249 1788

[socialsciences.org.au](http://socialsciences.org.au)



Sent to: [cheryl.robinson@socialsciences.org.au](mailto:cheryl.robinson@socialsciences.org.au)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, 3/95 Northbourne Ave , Turner ACT 2612, Australia