



Socium

SHOWCASING EXCELLENCE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH AND LEADERSHIP

EDITION 1 | NOVEMBER 2025

INAUGURAL
RECHNITZ MEMORIAL
AWARD WINNER

Marcia Langton

FEATURED
Fellows

Adrian Barnett
and Sarah Pink

Award Recipients
Early-career
researcher spotlight
Academy updates
And more

Professor Tiffany Morrison

Using social science to solve
environmental crises



Cover photo: Tiffany Morrison
Photo credit: Victor Huertas

Socium magazine

Socium is a Latin word meaning partner, ally, or companion. It signifies a relationship of shared purpose and collaboration – a fitting title for the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia’s new bi-annual publication.

Socium will showcase the work of the Academy, and the more than 750 leading social science researchers and professionals that make up our Fellowship.

The breadth of the social sciences means that our elected Fellows are experts in diverse fields including economics, history, education and law, through to psychology, linguistics, anthropology and statistics.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of Australia. We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ continuing connection to land, waters, and culture. We pay respect to the Elders of the Ngunnawal Nation both past and present, on whose ancestral lands our National Office stands and recognise any other peoples and families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.



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The 2025 Great Student Debate participants at the National Library of Australia

WELCOME TO SOCIUM

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Socium; a new, biannual publication from the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. Socium provides an update on the Academy's achievements and activities, and celebrates the achievements and contributions of our distinguished Fellows and award recipients.

There is much to celebrate.

The Academy's 750+ Fellows have continued to lead world-class research programs on diverse and important social issues including health inequity, tax reform, climate resilience and adaptation, urban planning and the ethical (and problematic) use of AI across the economy.

In this issue we feature several: Professor Tiffany Morrison whose research career combining political science, human geography and geology, with her insights changing the approach to governance of environmental systems and natural disasters around the world. Tiffany's contributions to the field saw her elected as a Fellow of the Academy in 2022.

We also feature two of our longer-serving Fellows, historian Professor Graeme Davison and economist Professor Alan Woodland; both celebrating their 'Academy jubilee' of 40 years as Fellows.

We have a Q&A with statistician Professor Adrian Barnett (if he's not up late watching Northampton Town FC, he might instead be writing on the importance of 'slow science' to improve the entire research enterprise) and design anthropologist Professor Sarah Pink who combines multimedia with traditional research methods to imagine and find paths towards social, environmental and economic wellbeing in the future.

We also celebrate and profile our award winners: our 2025 early-career Paul Bourke recipients Dr Tianze Sun, Dr Erin O'Donnell, Dr Kathryn Baragwanath and Dr Archie Thomas; our outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Rechnitz grant recipients David Windsor, Dr Pakeri Ruska, Dr Michelle Bishop and Dr Zac Roberts; and the inaugural recipient of the Academy's Rechnitz Award for research and leadership in Indigenous society, language and culture, the inimitable Melbourne Laureate Professor Marcia Langton AO.

Alongside the achievements of our Fellows and early-career researchers, the Academy is undergoing a period of growth and change. A new strategic plan developed in response to consultation with and feedback from our Fellows and other stakeholders comes into effect in 2026. This is detailed over the page. We also provide an overview of program highlights in our policy, communications, education and international portfolios.

There is much going on, and despite challenges for the sector, there is much to be positive about for Australian social sciences. We trust that you enjoy this inaugural issue of Socium and look forward to engaging with all our readers through events and programs soon.

Kate Darian-Smith, *President* and Chris Hatherly, *CEO*



A new direction for The Academy



The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia was established in 1971 by members of its precursor, the Social Science Research Council of Australia.

Over the ensuing decades, the Academy has elected over 1,100 leading researchers and public intellectuals as Fellows, distributed hundreds of grants and awards to outstanding scholars, hosted countless workshops and meetings, produced insightful reports and publications, engaged with policy makers on a broad range of nationally-important issues, and forged valuable links with Academies and research organisations in Australia, the region and around the world.

While the Academy's core objectives of recognising excellence and advancing Australian social sciences remain constant, over time its activities and operations have evolved in response to the context of changes within the research and higher education sector, as well as national and international pressures, challenges and opportunities.

In early 2025, the Academy's new President Kate Darian-Smith met with over 100 Fellows across Australia to better understand their priorities so that these could be incorporated into a refreshed Strategic Plan. Many more Fellows, and wider stakeholders, including government, industry and discipline and professional associations were also invited to provide their thoughts and ideas through an on-line survey.

The consultation indicated widespread appreciation for the Academy's championing of the social sciences, and a good understanding of some of its longer-standing programs, including workshops, early-career Paul Bourke Awards and policy roundtables.

At the same time, there was a more limited knowledge of the Academy's Seriously Social school education program, its portfolio of international grants and its Reconciliation activities.

Feedback emphasised that the Academy could engage more actively with policy makers and the media to promote the value of the social sciences to Australia's current and future productivity, innovation and prosperity; pointed to the need for greater support for early-and mid-career social scientists; and suggested more opportunities for Fellows to be connected to the Academy and with their colleagues through events and activities.

In response, the Academy's Board has developed a streamlined, 5-year strategic plan to commence in 2026. This plan is organised into three broad areas: Advise, Support and Engage. The plan will see an increased emphasis on the contribution of Fellows to policy advice and to all Academy programs and activities. It will expand targeted grants and mentoring for early-and-mid career researchers, as well as celebrating the work and achievements of its Fellows as it advocates for and promotes the importance of social sciences education and research to the Australian community.

The Academy Board and staff look forward to working with all of our Fellows and with like-minded individuals and organisations to enact this Strategic Plan and to elevate social science for the benefit of Australia.



Who We Are

The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia is an elected Fellowship of experts that leads national conversations, promotes and supports excellence in the social sciences, connects policy makers and the public with relevant findings and expertise, acts on reconciliation and empowers the next generation of research leaders.

Our Mission

To elevate social science for the benefit of Australia.

| | What we'll do | How we'll do it |
|---------|---|---|
| ADVISE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROVIDE advice to decision makers on research and public policy issues. • COORDINATE sector input and action on social science and disciplinary priorities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONVENE experts in areas of national priority. • SUPPORT roundtables, briefings, workshops, symposia and submissions. • LEAD landmark initiatives and reports with and on behalf of the sector. |
| SUPPORT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RECOGNISE and CELEBRATE excellence through Fellowship and awards. • ENABLE the next generation of social science leaders. • INSPIRE students to engage with social science insights and methods. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOSTER research and collaboration through grants and awards, networks and mentoring for Indigenous scholars, EMCRs and international collaboration. • SUSTAIN and EXPAND the Seriously Social program with high-quality school social science programs and curriculum resources. |
| ENGAGE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COLLABORATE with likeminded organisations and networks. • SHARE the social sciences with the broader community. • CREATE opportunities for Academy Fellows to connect, share and apply their expertise. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GROW reach and impact of Social Sciences Week. • DELIVER high quality social science events. • SHOWCASE our Fellows. • DEVELOP and PARTICIPATE in national and international networks. |

Our Commitments:

Excellence | Equity | Integrity | Reconciliation | Sustainability



FEATURE

There's no such thing as a natural disaster.

That's the view of many social scientists, frustrated by fragmented responses to the increasing environmental challenges impacting the health and wellbeing of communities across Australia.

Decades of traditional scientific research has monitored environmental disaster impacts and response strategies with minimal consideration of social, cultural or economic factors.

When disasters such as the South Australian toxic microalgae bloom or mass coral loss in the Great Barrier Reef are framed as 'natural' – myths of inevitability and human helplessness are perpetuated.

Academy Fellow Professor Tiffany Morrison has dedicated her career to ensuring the social sciences play a central role in environmental decision-making.

Tiffany's passion for nature began in the unspoilt bushland on the edge of 1980s Brisbane. The gully behind her childhood home teemed with freshwater crayfish before eventually being filled in with concrete as the city grew.

With dreams of adventure, Tiffany chose Griffith University for her undergraduate degree because it offered an interdisciplinary environmental studies degree that included everything from environmental politics and philosophy to sociology, stats and maths.

Even as a teenager she was seeking to learn and work at the boundary of different disciplines because, 'that was where all the exciting, interesting, creative work was happening... I wanted to see things that other people weren't seeing from within the siloes of separate disciplines.'



A green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas) swims over corals bleached by anthropogenic global heating on the Great Barrier Reef. Credit: The Ocean Agency/XL Catlin Seaview Survey

Right from the start, Tiffany was driven by a desire to break down boundaries, especially those that were preventing coordination and action in environmental protection.

While Tiffany could see that complex environmental issues should have “social sciences front and centre, diagnosing the problem and devising the solution,” she knew that a change in approach was necessary to make that happen.

‘Early in my career I was publishing by myself or in small groups and communicating mostly with other social scientists,’ Tiffany said.

‘I realised that the papers getting published in the big science journals had lots of authors, strong international collaboration and were influencing policymakers.’

Tiffany’s most recent paper, published as part of an international collaboration and titled *Governing novel climate interventions in rapidly changing oceans*, was published in *Science* in July and is evidence of her evolution as a researcher, communicator and changemaker.

Responding to the recent surge in environmental innovation funding and projects, the research team reviewed the evidence on known and perceived risks of new ocean-based climate interventions.

Tiffany and her team reviewed a variety of interventions being designed and tested, especially in high profile endangered environments such as the Great Barrier Reef. Their paper considered coordination, governance and risk-assessment as critical factors for long-term funding, public support and successful implementation.

‘With so much activity focused on climate solutions, our paper calls for decision making that “goes slow, to go fast”. Time and thought needs to go into choosing the most effective options – with evidence-based decision-making supported by both the physical and social sciences,’ Tiffany explains.

Now an ARC Laureate Fellow and member of the Reef 2050 Plan Independent Expert Panel, Tiffany is working to make sure the social sciences always have a seat at the environmental decision-making table.

So, what is Tiffany’s view on natural disasters?

‘Disasters may be shaped by natural dynamics, but their causes and impacts are ultimately structured by human systems – by who has power, who has access to resources, and whose voices are heard in planning and response. Ignoring these social dimensions leads to solutions that are incomplete at best, and unjust at worst. We must embed social science expertise at every stage of environmental policy, planning, response, and recovery – not as an afterthought, but as a core component of effective and equitable action.’



Governing Changing Oceans Workshop held in Bergen, Norway in 2023. Credit: <https://governingchange.org/>

Professor Tiffany Morrison is based at the University of Melbourne School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences within the Faculty of Science. She was awarded a 2025 ARC Australian Laureate Fellowship to improve global marine futures. Tiffany previously worked at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at James Cook University as tenured Social Science Research Leader and co-leader of the People and Ecosystems Program from 2015-2022.

FEATURED

Fellows



Professor Adrian Barnett FASSA
Statistician at Queensland
University of Technology

What initially drew you to your field of study?

Some bad luck. I wanted to study English, but only got a D in my A-level. My best A-level was a B in mathematics/statistics, so I decided to study statistics at university. I loved my statistics degree from the first to the last day, so I am forever grateful for being terrible at English.

What are you most proud of?

One of my findings was read out by Prime Minister Abbott in Parliament, that was a definite highlight. Strangely, some of the other moments I'm most proud of are when our work has been attacked because somebody powerful didn't like our findings. I've been called names, threatened with legal action, and not paid for a government consultancy. However, these experiences just made me more determined to stick to the science and make sure that the evidence informed any decisions ... eventually.

How would you describe your work at a dinner party?

Very briefly, as people normally quickly change the subject once I say 'I'm a statistician'.

Tell us about a recent moment of motivation or inspiration?

My part-time PhD student (Lee Jones) has been re-analysing the results from 100 published papers. This has been a huge task and she is close to finishing. The results are fascinating and are coming at a great time to influence journal policies.

What continues to motivate your work?

Science is cool. It's a bloody brilliant way to work stuff out. I'm still extremely excited to see new results, especially those that took years in the making. And as Isaac Asimov said, 'The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds the most discoveries, is not "Eureka!" but "That's funny" ...'

What should your field of study be doing more of right now?

Everyone in every field needs to slow down. Slow science is better science. Check your work, publish your data and code, check your model assumptions, preprint your papers and get lots of feedback.

What question or issue, in your field, keeps you awake at night?

I'm really genuinely worried about the state of science and evidence, and the lack of worry in other people makes me even more worried. Journals are struggling to cope with the enormous deluge in AI generated papers. Australian institutes are obsessed with numbers and the unspeakably daft international league tables, and they are all sacrificing quality for quantity, whilst loudly stating that they are doing the opposite.

Where is your 'happy' place?

My moods are often controlled by how well Northampton Town FC did on the weekend. After moving to Australia, my happy place is watching a delayed stream of the Cobblers on a Sunday morning.

What is your desert island book?

Any of the really long historical novels by Gore Vidal or Hilary Mantel.

What role do the social sciences play in your work?

A lot of my ongoing work is with economists, we're studying big questions like what's the best system for funding research and how should we adjust for career disruption. I love the mix of data and important problems.



Laureate Professor Sarah Pink FASSA
Design Anthropologist
at Monash University

What initially drew you to your field of study?

Anthropology and documentary filmmaking offered me the exciting combination of meeting and learning from people across the world and developing a creative practice. My PhD, about women and bullfighting in Spain, was a fantastic introduction to public engagement, and inspired a career in which I've brought together rigorous academic scholarship with engagement and interdisciplinary collaboration across Australia, the United Kingdom, Europe, South East Asia and Latin America.

What are you most proud of?

I founded the Emerging Technologies Lab – a social science and design research unit – in 2018. Over the last seven years we've grown from six to well over 30 members and collaborated globally with research partners from academia and across diverse sectors; I'm exceptionally proud of all members of our vibrant diverse international community for their participation in and sustenance of our research environment and for the futures-focused research agenda we're growing.

How would you describe your work at a dinner party?

I've been known to say something like: 'I'm an anthropologist and filmmaker, but I don't study bones! My work is about futures and I'm researching how we will live in 2030 and 2050'. Sometimes I also mention my PhD was about bullfighting. People are usually curious.

What is your desert island book, song or movie?

I'd find it too hard to choose so I think I'd take my laptop, camera and solar panels for energy, so I can write my own book and make a documentary about multispecies desert island life once I get there.

Tell us about a recent moment of motivation or inspiration?

I was recently invited to speak on a panel about 'technology brokers'. Social scientists usually take the detached 'technology critic' stance, rather than actively shaping technology futures, while scientists and engineers participate as technology 'advocates', 'evangelists' and 'ambassadors'. The broker concept inspired me to reflect on my recent work on Quantum technologies and work, to propose future Quantum society brokers; shouldn't social scientists work with colleagues from technology driven disciplines to collectively broker an ethical, inclusive, safe and sustainable Quantum-ready society?

What continues to motivate your work?

I am motivated every day by the possibility that new knowledge can help shape sustainable, inclusive and safe futures: by new hunches, which might arise from a moment in live research, the technology news, or reading an academic publication; by applying a revised futures-anthropological lens to understand the emerging and future relations between people, other species, environment and technology; and by my agenda for a new engaged futures social science scholarship.

What question or issue, in your field, keeps you awake at night?

For me the vital issue is how to constitute and gain institutional support for a new social science capable of mobilising in our current times, collaborating across disciplines and sectors and ready for our possible futures; and radically repositioned as a vibrant engaged futures focused scholarship.



What role do the social sciences play in your work?

The social sciences help me in everything I do; an anthropological sensibility supports me in understanding people and situations, in collaboration outside academia and in understanding and taking an ethical stance. I believe that my training in anthropology also helps me to collaborate with other disciplines, to seek to understand the logics guiding the work of researchers from very different fields and consider how diverse knowledge systems can connect.

FEATURE STORY

Shaping Australia's policy and future: Academy appoints 22 distinguished social science leaders as new Fellows

The Academy announced the election of 22 new Fellows in November. These scholars have made outstanding contributions across a diverse range of fields, including public health, law, economics, sociology and environmental sustainability.

Each year, the Academy honours individuals who have demonstrated excellence in social science research and a commitment to growing knowledge that shapes policy, improves social outcomes and advances democracy.

The Academy's rigorous election process ensures that only those who have demonstrated exceptional scholarship and impact are invited to join as Fellows. They are leaders in research, educators and public intellectuals who are shaping policy, enhancing public understanding and contributing to meaningful change.



Professor Anika Gauja
Political Science



Professor John Williams AM
Law

A video profiling the newly elected Fellows and featuring interviews with Professor John Williams AM and Professor Anika Gauja is available here:



Panel A: People, Place, Communication & Culture



Professor Helen Ross
Human Geography



Professor Alex Broom
Sociology



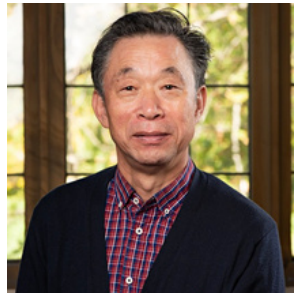
Professor Loretta Baldassar
Sociology



Professor Christine Bigby AO
Social Work



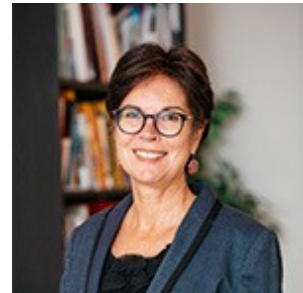
Professor Josephine Barraket AM
Policy and Administration



Professor Mark Wang
Human Geography



Professor Hal Pawson
Policy and Administration



Professor Farida Fozdar
Sociology



Professor Helen Keane
Sociology



Professor Jan Breckenridge
Social Work



Professor Anika Gauja
Political Science

Panel B: Business and Economics



Dr Steven Kennedy PSM
Economics and Public Administration



Professor Adeline Delavande
Economics



Professor Michelle Brown
Commerce and Management



Professor Guay Lim
Economics

Panel C: History, Philosophy and Law



Professor John Williams AM
Law

Panel D: Education, Psychology and Public Health



Professor Michelle Ryan
Psychology



Professor Stephen Houghton
Education



Professor Benjamin Newell
Psychology



Professor Angela Nickerson
Psychology

Honorary Fellow



Mr Antony Green AM



Professor Yuming Guo
Health Sciences

Outstanding Early Career Scholars Honoured in 2025 Paul Bourke Awards

The Paul Bourke Awards for Early Career Research are named in honour of the Academy's past president Paul Francis Bourke (1938-1999) who was a product of the History school at the University of Melbourne and went on to become one of the first Australian historians to obtain American style doctoral training.

Four Paul Bourke Award recipients are selected each year by members of the Academy's Panel Committees. The awards are presented to social science researchers within five years of receiving their doctorate (with allowances for career interruptions).

PAUL BOURKE AWARDS WINNERS

Dr Tianze Sun



Dr Tianze Sun is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Queensland's National Centre for Youth Substance Use Research in the School of Psychology. Tianze's research has directly shaped public policy, practice and public understanding of youth substance use in Australia. She has authored ten government submissions on drug related issues (including the Australian National Tobacco Strategy and the Vaping Reform Bill, with two as lead author), and provided expert testimony at the 2024 Senate hearing on vaping. Tianze's research was cited in the WHO's 9th Tobacco Regulation Report and at COP10, which is the world's highest decision-making body for tobacco policy.

Dr Erin O'Donnell



Dr Erin O'Donnell is a Senior Lecturer and ARC Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne Law School. Erin's research is shaping national conversations about rivers, with a focus on water law, legal rights of rivers, and Indigenous water justice. As the lead author of Cultural Water for Cultural Economies, Erin partnered with Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN) and twenty other Indigenous organisations to identify law and policy pathways to address the inherent water rights of Traditional Owners and First Nations in Victoria. This innovative collaborative project delivered Victoria's first return of water rights to Traditional Owners in 2020 and prompted an unprecedented state government policy response to improve Traditional Owner access to and care for water.

Dr Kathryn Baragwanath



Dr Kathryn Baragwanath is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Melbourne's economics department who has advanced the study of environmental governance by bridging economics and political science through innovative use of satellite data and causal inference. Her landmark 2020 PNAS paper on collective property rights in the Amazon, with over 235 citations, reshaped understanding of Indigenous tenure and deforestation, while her 2023 PNAS article showed such rights also drive forest regeneration. Kathryn's research is shaping environmental policy debates globally by providing rigorous, policy-relevant evidence on forest governance. She was awarded an internationally competitive Harvard Academy Scholar fellowship in 2023-24.

Dr Archie Thomas



Dr Archie Thomas is a Chancellor's Senior Research Fellow at the University of Technology Sydney in Social and Political Sciences. Archie is working on collaborative research that explores how communities change schools and media institutions for social justice. His achievements include co-authoring the influential book *Does the media fail Aboriginal political aspirations?* during his PhD and co-securing a 2025 ARC Discovery Grant to undertake the first major Australian study of lived experience of diverse workers in news media. His research informs Indigenous policy, is embedded in school curricula and is widely shared in media and academic settings.

JUBILEE *Fellows*



**Professor Alan Woodland
Elected to the Academy in 1985**

While the Jubilee Award is partly one for my longevity, for which I am personally extremely thankful, it is also gratifying to be included among the many Jubilee Fellows who have made exceptional contributions to scholarship in the social sciences.

I became a Fellow of the Academy several years following my appointment as Professor of Econometrics at the University of Sydney. Previously, I was particularly fortunate to have twelve very formative years at the University of British Columbia, where I received invaluable mentorship from Professors Terry Wales and Erwin Diewert (now also an Academy Fellow), who became my coauthors. My PhD supervisor at the University of New England, Professor Takashi Takayama, mentored me with an appreciation for rigorous economic theory and application, and a strong work ethic.

One of my research projects looked at labour supply decisions of married couples. A paper I wrote on the econometric estimation of the allocation of each partner's time between leisure, paid work and housework was met with much mirth by our wives.

The Jubilee Award, relating as it does to longevity, seems particularly pertinent to my most recent research program on population ageing. This research has focused on using dynamic general equilibrium models to analyse the welfare and inequality effects of changes to Australia's age pension, income taxation and superannuation policies.

Serendipitously, I renewed my earlier acquaintance with Jubilee Fellow and psychologist, Norm Feather. I joined a social tennis group in Sydney and was surprised to see someone who I thought was Norm. Not so — he was Norm's identical twin brother! Norm would join us for tennis en route to the annual Academy meetings. Playing against the twins in doubles was a case of seeing double! Perhaps this is not the usual way to interact with Fellows.

Professor Alan Woodland



**Professor Graeme Davison AO
Elected to the Academy in 1985**

I am grateful to be made a Jubilee Fellow of the Academy – recognition, perhaps, of longevity more than merit. I am a survivor of a 1985 cohort that included the economists Geoffrey Brennan and Helen Hughes, the educationalist Peter Fensham and the historian Rhys Isaac. I knew all of them and I'm sorry that they did not also live to enjoy this honour.

When I graduated in the early 1960s, many historians looked for inspiration towards the social sciences. In Oxford I read Philosophy, Politics and Economics before returning to ANU's Research School of Social Sciences where I wrote a PhD thesis on the history of nineteenth century Melbourne. As an urban historian I have long shared ideas and projects with other social scientists. I believe history should be theoretically informed and responsive to contemporary policy debates, a viewpoint that has made the fellowship of the Academy of Social Sciences congenial.

I was elected three years after moving from Melbourne University to Monash where I joined the economic historian John McCarty in co-editing a volume of the Australian Bicentennial History Project. I am pleased that the volume we produced remains accessible though the Academy website. In 1998 Ruth Fincher and I surveyed the state of urban studies as part of a review of the social sciences carried out by the Academy on behalf of the ARC. In 2007 I wrote about the impact of digitisation on public archives and record keeping in the Academy's bulletin Dialogue. I later participated in an Academy symposium on the water crisis in Australia's cities and in 2014 joined an expert working group from the four academies in an investigation of 'Sustainable Urban Transport'.

This rather sporadic record of engagements with ASSA is partly explained by competing engagements with the other Academy, which I joined in 1987. I have sometimes wondered if we should not follow our British, American and Canadian colleagues and form a broader academy of humanities and social sciences. As the fellowship ages and the external threats to the universities become more menacing might such a larger body better represent our interests?

Professor Graeme Davison AO



Furthering First Nations' knowledge in the social sciences



(L to R) Dr Carina Garland MP, David Windsor, Dr Pakeri Ruska, Dr Michelle Bishop, Dr Zac Roberts and Professor Kate Darian-Smith

Four outstanding early-career First Nations' researchers received funding support through the Academy's Wilhelm, Martha, and Otto Rechnitz Memorial Fund.

The Fund was established in 2022 to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers in the social sciences. Grants of up to \$20,000 enable innovative and meaningful research projects and help to establish the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholars.

'The Academy is committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive academic environment, and the Rechnitz Fund grants play a key role in advancing that goal,' said Academy President Professor Kate Darian-Smith.

'These grants are designed to support emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers, equipping them with the resources they need to pursue their important work and make meaningful contributions in their fields.'

GRANT RECIPIENTS:



David Windsor

David Windsor is a Kaurareg descendant from Kirriri Island in Zendath Kes (Torres Strait Islands).

David is an Emergency Management professional with over 20 years in the field, including over a decade of volunteer service in bush fire management.

David's research will explore the intricate relationship between the Indigenous governance of First Nations Australians and fire management practices in Western Australia.



Dr Pakeri Ruska

Dr Pakeri Ruska is a Goenpul woman of the Quandamooka people from Terrangerri | Minjerribah | North Stradbroke Island.

Pakeri is a Research Fellow with the ARC Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Futures, at the University of Queensland and holds a Bachelor of Law and a Bachelor of Arts (majoring in Journalism).

Pakeri brings her lived experience, professional experience and academic qualifications to this project exploring the persistence of Indigenous sovereignty through the actions of Quandamooka (Goenpul, Ngugi and Noonuccal) people.



Dr Michelle Bishop

Dr Michelle Bishop is a Gamilaroi woman who grew up on Dharawal Country.

Michelle has a Master of Education (Educational Psychology) and completed a PhD at Macquarie University in 2024 focused on Envisioning Indigenous Education Sovereignty. A former primary school teacher, Michelle is currently a Scientia Research Fellow and Senior Lecturer in Indigenous Education at UNSW.

Michelle is interested in education systems and Indigenous sovereignty as a way of ensuring Indigenous futurities. Michelle's work seeks to address a critical issue that keeps many Indigenous communities awake at night - how to overcome the harm of mainstream schooling?



Dr Zac Roberts

Dr Zac Roberts is a Walbunja Yuin man from the New South Wales south coast.

Zac currently works as Lecturer in the Centre of Critical Indigenous Studies at Macquarie University.

As an historian, Zac is interested in how Indigenous peoples, histories, and identities have been erased, mediated, or moderated by settler archives and (re)tellings of Australian history.

Zac's project will investigate the overlooked presence of Aboriginal people in Australian cowboy culture and how their participation has been rendered invisible within national memory and settler archives.

WORKSHOPS

2026 Workshops Program grants.

More than \$70,000 of funding from the Academy will support eight teams of researchers to host multidisciplinary workshops that develop innovative approaches, foster network connections and tackle critical issues in national research and policy.

The workshops will bring experts together to address a range of pressing topics, including:



Building a social science agenda for challenge-led research and innovation in Australia

Pictured clockwise L to R:

Professor Rob Raven, Monash University;
Professor Xuemei Bei, ANU;
Dr Heinz Schandl, CSIRO;
Dr Christoph Brodnik, Monash University



The political economy of artistic freedom in Australia

Pictured clockwise L to R:

Professor Desmond Manderson, ANU;
Professor Sarah Joseph, Griffith University;
Dr Karen Crawley, Griffith University;
Dr Samid Suliman, Griffith University



Illicit alcohol: a cross-disciplinary discussion mapping collective knowledge and highlighting research priorities

Pictured clockwise L to R:

Dr Michala Kowalski, UNSW;
Dr Nic Taylor, Curtin University;
Professor Alison Ritter, UNSW;
Professor Michael Farrell, UNSW



From policy to implementation: leveraging marine social science to deliver Australia's Sustainable OceanPlan

Pictured clockwise L to R:

Dr Georgina Gurney, James Cook University;
Associate Professor Emily Ogier, University of Tasmania;
Professor Tiffany Morrison, The University of Melbourne;
Dr Carla Sbrocchi, UTS

WORKSHOP PROGRAM GRANTS



Reframing practice: site recording, methodologies, and ethics in Western Australian Aboriginal heritage

Pictured clockwise L to R:

Ms Amy Usher, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation;
Dr Jo Thomson, Big Island Research;
Mr Ken Haywood, Edith Cowan University;
Ms Dirima Cuthbert, Dortch Cuthbert



Expert roundtable on biodiversity and climate change

Pictured clockwise L to R:

Ms Kate Nairn, Future Earth Australia;
Professor Steven Dovers, Australian National University;
Mr Drew Clarke, Australian Energy Market Operator



Toxic living: exposure and embodiment in the Anthropocene

Pictured clockwise L to R:

Professor Jakelin Troy, Associate Professor Katherine Kenny,
Associate Professor Nadine Ehlers, Mr Mujahid Towali,
Dr Gianni Tien; The University of Sydney



An examination of the impact of extended out-of-home care on the pathways and outcomes for young care leavers

Pictured clockwise L to R:

Professor Philip Mendes, Monash University; Professor Melissa O'Donnell,
University of South Australia; Associate Professor Tim Moore, ACU;
Dr Steven Roche, ACU; Associate Professor Jessica Russ-Smith, ACU

The Academy extends warm congratulations to all grant recipients and looks forward to outcomes that address some of Australia's most urgent challenges.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Social Sciences Week

Thousands of attendees took part in more than 70 events across Australia between 8 and 14 September, as part of Social Sciences Week 2025.

Some of the highlights throughout the week included a breakfast launch at Parliament House, the Great Debate at the National Library of Australia and eight new events supported by the Academy's inaugural Spark Grants program.

Social Sciences Week 2025 was sponsored by RMIT, University of Melbourne, Sydney University and Western Sydney University.

The Cairns Institute at James Cook University received a Spark Grant to host an event celebrating Papua New Guinea's 50th Anniversary of Independence

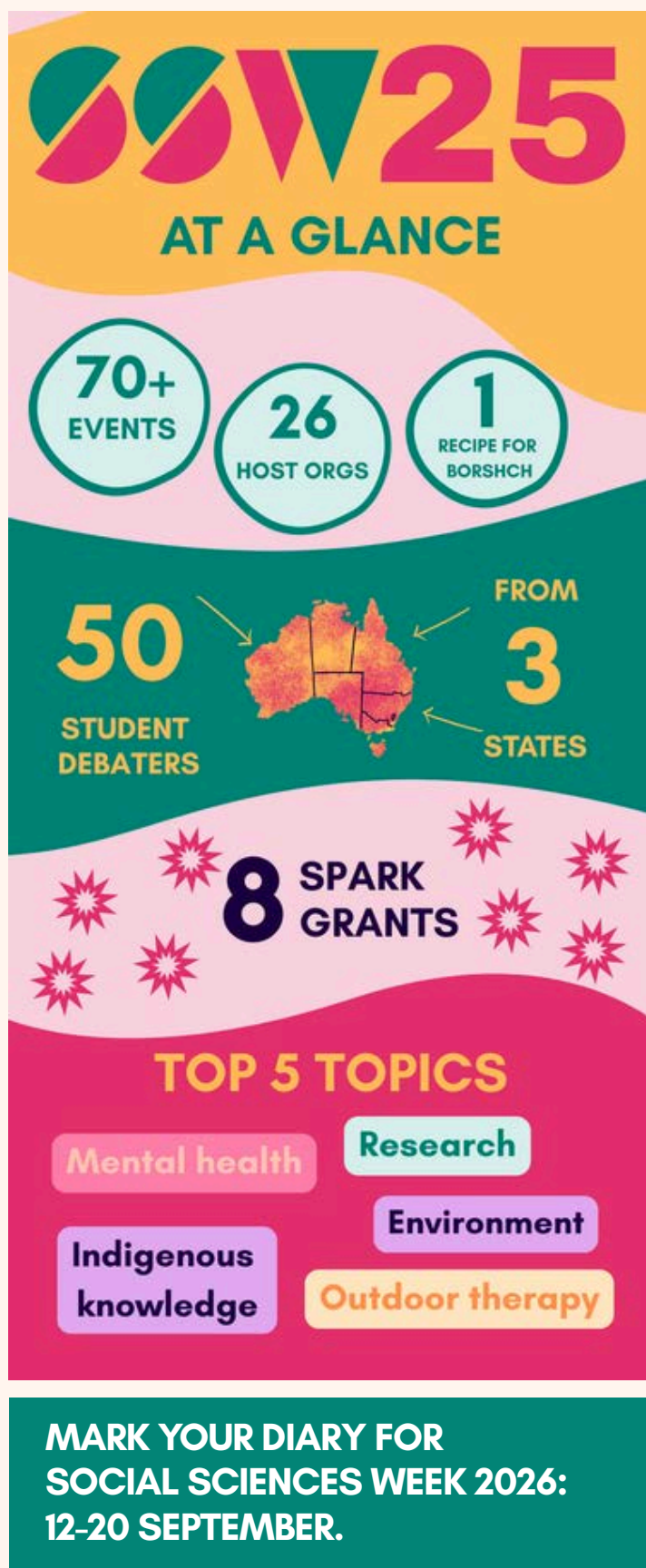


L to R: Tia Towle, Imong Brooksbank, Dr Lokes Brooksbank and Walter Brooksbank (front) at Spark Grant funded event

Launch attendees at Parliament House



L to R: Joann Cattlin, Prof Lisa Given, Prof Jago Dodson, Prof Xavier Mulet, Prof Katherine Johnson & Prof Wendy Steele (RMIT)



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Seriously Social school debating takes to the national stage

**seriously
social**



During Social Sciences Week 2025, the Academy's Seriously Social school education program expanded its popular Great Debate series with a new national Great Student Debate program, supported by the National Library of Australia and the University of Canberra. In addition, a Western Sydney high school participated in two days of debating led by Seriously Social, with sponsorship and support from the State Library of NSW and the Western Sydney University. The criteria for participation in the Great Student Debate? Students who have never participated in a debate competition before.

With ongoing guidance from Scientia Professor Richard Holden FASSA and Professor Linda Botterill FASSA – who contributed through coaching, peer review of the debate kit, and judging, the program included school workshops and the development of soon to be released educational videos.

The initiative culminated in the Great Student Debate, setting the stage for further growth of this flagship event for promoting respectful civil discourse on contemporary social sciences issues, informed by current research.

Bungy jumping on election night



There wasn't a spare seat to be found at ANU's Kambri Hall on Friday 13 June, with more than 500 Antony Green fans braving the Canberra cold to hear the ABC Chief Election Analyst reflect on his 36-year career, 'Bungy jumping on election night'.

Antony shared the highs, lows, laughs and embarrassments from his time analysing and presenting data at more than 90 elections.

In her vote of thanks, Professor Andrea Carson described Australia's most famous psephologist (someone who studies elections and voting) as a 'pioneer of data journalism' who achieved 'something academics aspire to achieve – to translate complexity to general audiences.'

This event was proudly co-hosted by the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and the ANU School of Politics and International Relations as part of a Federal Election Workshop attended by more than 30 political science academics and commentators.

Antony was elected as an Honorary Fellow of the Academy in November 2025.



Seriously Social: Promoting and supporting social science learning in Australian schools

Over the past year, the Academy has been piloting a new initiative, Seriously Social that aims to bring awareness and understanding of the social sciences directly into Australian classrooms.

More than 30 Academy Fellows have already contributed to the program, ensuring that every resource is informed by rigorous research and reviewed by leading experts. This work continues the Academy's mission to inform, influence and educate government and society through the knowledge and expertise of our Fellows.

Launched as a pilot in May 2024, Seriously Social provides free, high-quality, fact-checked, curriculum-aligned teaching and learning modules for both primary and secondary schools. They are designed to support students' understanding of the social sciences through engaging, real-world contexts, supported with learning experiences and assessment guidance that is generated through collaboration with teachers, students, curriculum authorities, curriculum providers and Fellows with expertise and understanding of school pedagogy.

The program has already achieved significant recognition and impact. In October 2024, Seriously Social was awarded the Australian Geography Teachers' Association national not-for-profit generated resource award. Since launch, resources have been viewed more than 50,000 times by teachers and students, with more than 4,000 followers across social media channels. The Department of Veterans' Affairs has provided funding to expand history learning resources for Years 9 and 10, marking the first successful external grant for the program in January 2025. More than 14 Fellows have been involved in the creation of these two war history learning modules that are set to feature more than 11,000 words of reading articles, four educational videos, an interactive war history timeline, teacher guidance, research frameworks and assessment guidance. These learning modules are due for release by 25 April, in conjunction with Anzac Day.

To date, the Academy has self-funded the Seriously Social pilot and continues to seek further partnerships and grants to support expansion. With its strong foundations, expert base, and growing reach, Seriously Social is well placed to become a lasting contribution to Australian education, showcasing the essential role of the social sciences in understanding and shaping the world we live in.

Visit seriouslysocial.org.au to learn more.

AT A GLANCE



6 LEARNING AREAS



HASS Integrated



Civics & Citizenship



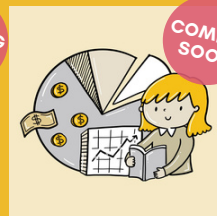
Debating



Geography



History



Business & Economics

9 LEARNING MODULES



9 LINKED VIDEOS



2024



AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
NOT-FOR-PROFIT GENERATED
RESOURCE CATEGORY

seriously social

1



**NATIONAL DEBATE
COMPETITION**

SUBSCRIBE TO STAY UP TO DATE AT [Seriouslysocial.org.au](https://seriouslysocial.org.au)



@SERIOUSLYSOCIAL

INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Empowering Indigenous women in Laos and Thailand –AASSREC in action

“Connected, relevant and impactful social science contributing to economic prosperity, social wellbeing, sustainability and health outcomes in the Indo-Pacific”



The Association of Asian Social Science Research Council's Boosting Social Sciences and their Contribution to Better Lives in the Indo-Pacific program is supported by a grant from the Canadian government's International Development Research Centre. It includes two grant programs, a mentoring programme, a policy paper series, events collaborations with UNESCO, and a partnership with the Global Development Network leading facilitation of 'Doing Research Assessments.' From 2024-2025, the "Boosting" program has provided funding to 16 teams of social science researchers from Low and Middle-income countries in the Asia Pacific. The program will be delivered by AASSREC until 2026.

In the mountainous heart of the Mekong region, a transformative research project is exploring knowledge sharing and Indigenous women's leadership in Hmong communities.

Principal Investigator Assistant Professor Dr Sudarat Tuntivivat from Srinakharinwirot University, Bangkok led the team's initial phase of research in Luang Prabang, Laos and Nan, Thailand, observing community interactions and interviewing 20 members of the Hmong community, including female social entrepreneurs and local leaders.

Sudarat and team found that Hmong knowledge is traditionally passed between generations through daily practices, storytelling, and learning by doing, often within family settings. They also observed the strong impact of patriarchal culture on women in Hmong communities.

'Many Hmong women have limited agency, they have restricted access to education, and they often get married and have children at a young age,' Sudarat said.



'We saw the way these factors led to limited skill development and fewer employment opportunities.' Despite these challenges, many Hmong women recognise the cultural and economic value of traditional knowledge in areas such as hemp and mulberry weaving, batik, cooking, traditional medicine, silversmithing and engraving. At the same time, modern lifestyle changes are accelerating the erosion of this knowledge.

In April 2025, the research team organised a workshop in Luang Prabang for 53 Hmong women from rural villages. Most of the participants were mothers of young children who work from home, making simple and cheap Hmong embroidery to sell at street stalls in the Luang Prabang night market. Four Hmong female social entrepreneurs led the women through sessions on empowerment, growth mindset, business planning, and branding with Hmong identity.



Sudarat said that Hmong Batik, an ancient method of fabric dying using beeswax and indigo ink, was identified as a potentially lucrative business opportunity for the workshop attendees. However, it was extremely difficult to find Hmong women entrepreneurs with a deep understanding of traditional Hmong batik patterns and motifs. While many Hmong women entrepreneurs no longer recognized traditional motifs, the research team identified one Hmong woman entrepreneur with this rare knowledge and invited her to teach and share her expertise.

'Hmong Batik techniques are prized for their cultural value, environmental sustainability and sales potential,' she said.

Sudarat and team are very happy to see their project making a difference to the lives of the female participants with another workshop planned to teach Hmong Batik technical and production skills. 'This project demonstrates the ways research can support community development in an inclusive way. We are proud of the small contribution we have made to preserving Hmong culture and empowering the women we were so privileged to spend time with.'



INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Dr Alexis Bergantz and the power of small grants

Dr Alexis Bergantz is Senior Lecturer in Global and Language Studies at RMIT University in Melbourne, specialising in Franco-Australian history and Australia's connections with the French Pacific.

Photo credit: NLA / Lindi Heap

Dr Alexis Bergantz is honoured to be the newest member of the Australia-France Indo-Pacific Studies Program (AFIPS) Standing Assessment Committee, as a former AFIPS grant recipient looking for ways to give back.

Alexis received a grant under the Australia-France program in 2021 for his project *Across the Coral Sea: Australia and New Caledonia*, investigating the transcolonial history between Australia and New Caledonia from the mid-nineteenth century to 1940, when Australia opened a diplomatic service in Noumea.

Now a senior lecturer at RMIT University, Alexis teaches in both the French and International Studies programs, splitting his time between language and history. 'I usually do one semester of French, one semester of history,' he explains, reflecting the dual nature of a career built at the intersection of cultural, political, and historical inquiry.

Having grown up in Alsace in the northeast of France, Alexis' career began in earnest at the Australian National University, where he completed a PhD in History in 2016.

'I was one of those weird, nerdy kids who always wanted to be an academic,' he admits. A brief stint at UTS followed, before he landed a permanent role at RMIT in 2017 - 'eight years ago now, scarily enough.'

Alexis turned his doctoral research into a critically acclaimed book, *French Connection: Australia's Cosmopolitan Ambitions* (2021), examining Australia's often contradictory relationship with French culture. His work reveals how institutions like the Alliance Française were wielded as tools of social mobility, sometimes by people who couldn't speak any French.

Described by reviewers as 'cleverly devised, scrupulously researched and skilfully written' and 'essential reading for those interested in

"Frenchness" and "Australianness" - it won the Australian History Prize at the 2022 NSW Premier's History Awards.

Alexis says the AFIPS grant in 2021 played a critical role in opening new research pathways. While Covid border closures delayed a research trip to France, he eventually got there in 2023. 'That trip to France in 2023 changed the scope of my work completely,' Alexis explains. 'There can be a lot of pressure to focus on very big grants, but the smaller ones can be crucial to developing ideas and building a case for bigger projects - that was certainly the case for me.'

Along the way, Alexis stumbled onto a side project on Anne Robson, a French-English interpreter at the South Pacific Commission who later married Governor-General John Kerr and became Lady Anne Kerr. Alexis' research led to two academic articles and an Australian Dictionary of Biography entry - another testament to the value of 'those little pockets of money' that allow researchers to wander.

Now serving on the AFIPS committee, Alexis is giving back to the ecosystem that nurtured his own scholarship. 'It feels like the next step in my career,' he says. 'Mentoring and supporting the next generation.'

Alexis is currently undertaking a residential Fellowship at the National Library of Australia, supported by the Stokes Family, to advance his research on Australia-France collaboration and competition in the Pacific. This project is the first study of the creation and development of the South Pacific Commission (SPC), Australia's first significant foray into regional institution building in the post-war period. His project *Whose Pacific? Australia and the South Pacific Commission 1940s-1990s* traces the SPC's history and evolution into the Pacific Community - a key actor in regional development.

RECHNITZ MEMORIAL AWARD

Marcia Langton

Few names in Australian academia and Indigenous advocacy carry as much weight as Melbourne Laureate Professor Marcia Langton AO FASSA FTSE.

A descendant of the Yiman and Bidjara nations, Marcia has spent more than four decades championing the rights, voices, and knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Marcia is highly respected in the Indigenous and wider community for her scholarship, wisdom, and fairness. She is an anthropologist and geographer by training with a passion for human rights and social equity.

Professor Langton's academic journey began at the Australian National University, where she double majored in anthropology. She later earned her PhD in Environmental Science from Macquarie University in 2005, researching Aboriginal land and property relations in Cape York.

Currently the Foundation Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies and an Associate Provost at the University of Melbourne, Marcia's work spans a wide array of pressing issues – from Indigenous alcohol management and domestic violence to environmental stewardship, native title law, and mining industry reform.

Throughout her career, Marcia has combined scholarship with activism, helping shape public policy and national dialogue. Her groundbreaking 2012 Boyer Lectures, later published as *The Quiet Revolution*, explored Indigenous participation in the resource economy, challenging long-held assumptions about land, wealth and sovereignty.

Marcia was a member of the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians in 2019, appointed by then Prime Minister Julia Gillard, laying the groundwork for the Indigenous Voice to Parliament. She co-chaired the Senior Advisory Group with Professor Tom Calma AO FAA FASSA FAHA for the Voice Co-design Project from 2019 to 2021.

A prolific author and editor, Marcia has written more than 100 academic papers and 15 books including *Welcome to Country* and *65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art*. Her advocacy extends beyond the page – influencing legislation, education systems, and intergenerational Indigenous empowerment.



Appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2020, and previously a Member (AM) in 1993, Marcia was made a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia in 2003 – the first Indigenous scholar to join the Academy. The University of Melbourne awarded her the title of Melbourne Laureate Professor in 2025.

Professor Marcia Langton AO FASSA FTSE is a true force of nature. She is a highly influential teacher, mentor, scholar, research leader, consultant, advocate and spokesperson on behalf of Indigenous society, culture, advancement, and reconciliation.

Congratulations Professor Marcia Langton for being awarded the inaugural Rechnitz Memorial Award in November 2025.

The Award recognises excellence in research leadership and advancement of knowledge of Indigenous society, culture and language.

'I am honoured to nominate Marcia for the Inaugural Martha, Otto and Wilhelm Rechnitz Memorial Award. She is a most deserving candidate.

Martha and Otto Rechnitz's lives in Germany were tragically cut short by the Holocaust. Wilhelm Rechnitz's life was affected by his unjust treatment as an "enemy alien" deported and interned in Australia in 1940.

The Rechnitz family were victims of fascism, racism, and antisemitism. I believe they would have understood and appreciated Marcia Langton's tireless work throughout her long and distinguished career to stand tall and fight racism.' Award nomination submission

POLICY WRAP UP

The Academy's policy program is designed to facilitate robust discussion and advice from leading experts to inform key policy making processes across a broad range of issues. Key features include bringing together experts and policy-makers for trusted discussions on critical social policy issues, along with collaboration with sector stakeholders to advocate for the systems and processes that support social science education and research excellence. It is also foundational for advancing and promoting the conduct, awareness, translation, and uptake of social science research in ways that improve the lives of people, now and into the future.

The Academy brings Fellows together with senior public servants and practitioners for roundtable discussions and other events. It also participates in government reviews and inquiries, leads rigorous reports and research projects on a broad range of research and social policy issues, and works with sector stakeholders to develop and advance shared agendas.

Connecting policy and practice with social science research and expertise

The Academy convenes policy roundtables and other events which provide a unique forum for policymakers and practitioners to canvass leading social science research and expertise on live policy issues. In 2025, the Academy led five nationally important events.

The Advancing Policy and Program Evaluation in Australian Government roundtable was convened in partnership with the Australian Centre for Evaluation. The roundtable brought together senior public servants, evaluation practitioners and international and Australian researchers. These roundtables explored how evaluation supports better policy and program design and implementation, and the capabilities and relationships needed to conduct and use evaluations in a way that is ethical, robust and fit-for-purpose.

The Unlocking Value: Better Use of Integrated Government Data for Evidence-based Policy roundtable brought together more than 50 researchers, data custodians, policymakers, and funders to explore how integrated government data supports more effective, efficient policy development and the investments and relationships needed to enhance the national data system. Opening remarks were made by the Australian Statistician Dr David Gruen FASSA and the Hon. Dr Andrew Leigh MP, FASSA, Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities, Treasury and Employment.

The Driving Productivity Growth flash forum was hosted in partnership with the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research and CEDA. The forum was moderated by ABC finance journalist Alan Kohler AM and featured presentations from ten experts and industry representatives on immediate priorities for boosting Australia's productivity. The forum came ahead of the Australian Government's agenda setting Economic Reform Roundtable.

The Trump Tariffs and Global Markets flash forum was hosted in partnership with the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economics. The flash forum, again moderated by Alan Kohler AM, brought together expert presenters to explore how the legislative shifts overseen by President Trump are ushering in a new area of trade uncertainty and the short- and long-term impacts for domestic and international markets.

The Resilient Futures: Priorities for the 2026 Intergenerational Report was hosted in partnership with the Treasury. The roundtable brought together departmental officials and research experts ahead of the Australian Government's 2026 Intergenerational Report. These reports present a 40-year outlook for Australia's economy and budget and examine how the long-term sustainability of current policies intersect with demographic, technological and other structural and societal trends. The roundtable canvassed expertise in population and migration, productivity and workforce participation, health and aged care, and income support and intergenerational inequality.

Developing rigorous inputs and solutions to nationally important issues

The challenges facing Australia now and into the future are complex and straddle human, natural, technological and physical systems. The Academy's involvement in government reviews and inquiries ensures that policymakers engage with social science research and expertise and provide an opportunity to underscore the importance of cross-disciplinary perspectives to address the complex, cross-cutting challenges Australia faces.

Over the course of the year, the Academy and its Fellows contributed ten submissions to government inquiries and reviews, and participated in targeted stakeholder consultations across a range of research and innovation, education and training, and social policy reform processes. This included major submissions to the Department of Industry, Science and Innovation Strategic Examination of Research and Development and the Australian Research Council Policy Review of the National Competitive Grants Program. These reform processes will lay the foundation for a long-term strategy to support Australia's research workforce and deliver a research and development system that safeguards economic prosperity and societal wellbeing. It is imperative that the social sciences are embraced and integrated—both in terms of the system design and the new ideas, services, technologies and tools it generates.

Major projects tackling the national challenges

The Academy provides expert advice and leads major projects that showcases how innovative social science research can preempt and respond to national challenges. The Academy continues to focus on key initiatives, including the State of the Social Sciences update, the Decadal Plan for Australian Education Research, and the topic of misinformation and disinformation.

In 2021, the Academy launched its signature publication, State of the Social Sciences 2021, which examined the current state and capability of Australian social science in research, teaching and the broader economy. From the Universities Accord and the creation of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission to the spread of misinformation and disinformation and the proliferation of artificial intelligence. Much has changed since the original report was published. The Academy has initiated a major update of the report to gain a detailed understanding of Australia's social science teaching and research capacity and threats herein, the complex challenges facing the nation now and into the future, and the role for social science in pre-empting and responding to these challenges. The report, to be launched in the first half of 2026, will drive policy and advocacy efforts to ensure Australia has the institutional and policy settings, funding, and infrastructure needed for social science education and research that is impactful and valued.

By 2036, our 5-year-olds will be 16, nearing the end of their schooling journey and preparing to enter the world of work and higher education. To give all children, adults and generations to come the best possible chance for success, the Academy and its partners are developing a Decadal Plan for Australian Education Research 2025–36. The Decadal Plan will build consensus around the needs of the education sector—spanning early childhood education and care, schools, higher education and vocational education and training—and identify the priorities and opportunities for educational research to help shape policy, funding and practice over the next 10-years. A detailed understanding of the practical needs of the education research sector is crucial to a successful Decadal Plan, and the Academy will oversee extensive sector consultation. The Decadal Plan has an indicative launch date in December 2026.

Fellows and Academy staff continue to be actively involved in important research commissioned by government partners. The Academy convened an Expert Working Group composed of Fellows and sector representatives to deliver a report for the Office of the Chief Scientist on the role of cultural and community institutions in building resilience to misinformation and disinformation. The evidence-based report, delivered in February 2025, contributes to work across government exploring how policies and programs will foster resilient, cohesive communities and informed National Science and Technology Council advice to the Minister. Safe Work Australia has partnered with the Academy to map the current landscape of work health and safety research and identify critical evidence gaps and opportunities for national research in Australia. The major project is being supported by an Expert Working Group and will be completed in early-2026.



Dr Chris Hatherly
CEO



Dr Claire Rioult
International Director



Cindy Bin Tahal
Education Director



Dr Honae Cuffe
Policy and Projects Manager



Vanessa Barratt
Communications Director



Zoe Perry
Manager, Fellowship,
Governance and Awards



Anna Devenport
International Programs
Officer



Chez Robinson
Communications and
Education Officer



Ellen Scott
Events Coordinator



Andrea Verdich
Policy Director



Anna Clements
Communications Manager
(on leave until 2026)



Professor Kate Darian-Smith
President



Professor Richard Holden
Immediate Past President



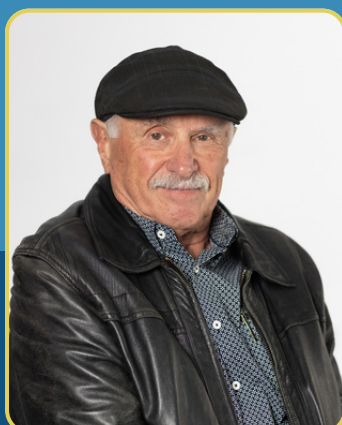
Professor Stephen Taylor
Treasurer



Professor Adam Possamai
International Secretary



Professor Mark Western
Chair, Policy Committee



Professor Neal Ashkanasy
OAM
Chair, Grants & Awards Committee



Professor Barry McGaw AO
Chair, Education Committee



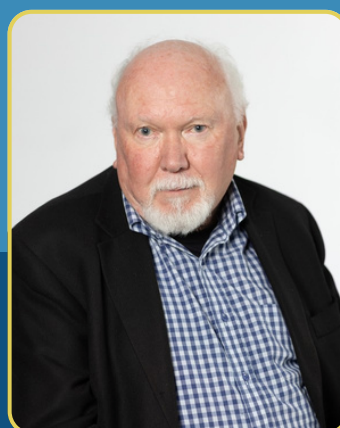
Professor Felicity Meakins
Chair, Panel A



Professor Beth Webster
Chair, Panel B



Professor Nicholas Brown
Chair, Panel C



Professor Don Byrne
Chair, Panel D

A background graphic consisting of a network of interconnected nodes and lines, resembling a social network or a molecular structure. The nodes are represented by circles of varying sizes, and the lines are thin, light blue lines connecting the nodes. The overall pattern is dense and organic, filling the upper half of the page.

Socium



Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia Ltd

3/95 Northbourne Ave Turner ACT 2612
GPO Box 1956, Canberra, ACT 2601

(02) 6249 1788
info@socialsciences.org.au
socialsciences.org.au