

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



ARC Centre of
Excellence for
**Automated
Decision-Making
and Society**



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

**ADM+S AT A
GLANCE IN 2023**

Australian Universities	Centre Members
9	268
Partner Organisations	Collaborating Organisations
21	189
Publications	Submissions to Major Inquiries
193	16
Government, Industry and Community Briefings	Media Appearances
51	268
Additional Income Secured	
4.7m	



Cover image: ADM+S PhD Student Marwah Alaafi at the 2023 ADM+S Summer School

Information Retrieval on Country

by Dr. Treahna Hamm (Firebrace), Yorta Yort

Commissioned for ADM+S in July 2023. The artwork was used for an alumni event celebrating 25+ years of collaboration between RMIT and the University of Melbourne in the research field of Information Retrieval, organised by Al Damiano Spina (RMIT) and Lida Rashidi (University of Melbourne).

Artist statement

As an artist, my work explores the profound connection between living and sharing on Aboriginal land, intertwining it with the retrieval of valuable information. Through my art, I aim to honour and celebrate the wisdom of Elders, who hold a wealth of cultural knowledge, and the sacredness of the land itself. Drawing from the rich heritage and stories of Indigenous communities, I seek to create a visual narrative that highlights the significance of this symbiotic relationship between people and place. My art becomes a vessel through which the past, present, and future are interwoven, fostering a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness between humans, the land, and the wealth of data embedded in this ancestral bond.

Incorporating a search engine into my artistic process, I embark on a unique journey of creativity that melds traditional storytelling and modern technology. Through data retrieval and analysis, I collect relevant information about the history, culture, and significance of the Aboriginal land.

This data-driven approach allows me to extract meaningful patterns and insights, which serve as the foundation for my artistic expressions.

The search engine acts as a guiding force, influencing the composition, colours, and elements within my artwork. By blending the wisdom of Elders' narratives with the data-driven revelations, I strive to create a harmonious fusion of the past and present. The algorithmic input serves as a channel through which I can pay homage to the deep-rooted traditions while interpreting them in a contemporary context.

As I navigate the artistic process, the search engine acts as both collaborator and curator, helping me select the most relevant information and translating it into visual representations. It enriches my artwork by infusing it with layers of significance, inviting viewers to engage with the cultural heritage of Aboriginal land in a novel and thought-provoking manner.

Ultimately, my art with a search algorithm seeks to bridge the gap between heritage and innovation, fostering a profound appreciation for the timeless connection between Elders, land, and the wealth of knowledge embedded within their intertwined stories.

The blue islands in the artwork are the algorithms floating above the land. The Elders/Ancestors are the symbolic faces which I hope you can see.

- Dr Treahna Hamm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.



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ABOUT

Mission, Vision and Values
Strategic Objectives
Partnerships

Chair's Message
Directors' Report
Governance

THE CENTRE

OUR MISSION

Connecting academic research, industry, government and the community sector to develop responsible, ethical and inclusive automated decision-making systems, for the benefit of all Australians.

OUR VISION

Creating knowledge and strategies for responsible, ethical and inclusive automated decision-making.

OUR VALUES

Our efforts are guided by our values: automated decision making that is responsible, ethical and inclusive. For our purposes:

- + **Responsible** decision-making is informed and alive to its social consequences;
- + **Ethical** decision-making is governed by clearly defined rules and principles; and
- + **Inclusive** decision-making engages the public and delivers broad social benefits.

We use these signature attributes to guide our work as a Centre community, and demonstrate that responsible, ethical and inclusive automated systems are both possible and necessary.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

RESEARCH

To generate an integrated, cross-sectoral and transdisciplinary understanding of and resources for automated decision-making.

Priorities:

- + To undertake world-leading research of public and social benefit
- + To develop and refine robust and innovative research techniques and methods
- + To expand and enhance our research infrastructure, facilities and collections

IMPACT

To formulate world-leading policy and practice in responsible, ethical and inclusive ADM, for governments, industry and the non-profit sectors.

Priorities:

- + To inform policy debate and measure our impact through the use of our research in policy papers, submissions to major inquiries, and membership of policy and industry advisory committees
- + To demonstrate practical implementation or adoption of our research with our industry partners
- + To ensure our work is accessible to, and informed by, those who will benefit from it
- + To facilitate visits, placements and the exchange of knowledge with our partner organisations

ENGAGEMENT

To enhance public understanding and inform public debate on ADM.

Priorities:

- + To deliver public awareness and outreach activities that increase public participation in the development of automated systems
- + To reach our key audiences in new and innovative ways through digital communications strategies
- + To connect academic research, industry, government and the community sector
- + To grow the network of institutions and partners connected with the Centre and attract additional revenue through new partnerships

EDUCATION

To educate and train researchers skilled in responding to the cross-disciplinary challenges of next-generation automation.

Priorities:

- + To offer an HDR and postdoctoral training experience that combines disciplinary depth and rigour with ground-breaking cross-disciplinary skills
- + To deliver a research training program that includes professional development, industry collaboration and participation in an active national and international network
- + To prepare the next generation of researchers to make world-leading contributions in an increasingly engaged and transdisciplinary research environment.



PARTNERSHIPS

NODE INSTITUTIONS



PARTNERSHIP ORGANISATIONS



KEY COLLABORATING ORGANISATIONS



ALL PARTNERS, COLLABORATORS, AND LINKS:

A full list of official, collaborating, project and event partner organisations can be found on page 118

Asia	Europe	North America
12	28	30
Australia	Oceania	South America
93	1	1

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The dramatic emergence of ChatGPT in 2023 demonstrates very clearly the pace of technological change across the digital economy, and its continuing capacity to surprise. In fields as diverse as news and media, health and public services, digital automation is now deeply embedded in everyday life. At the same time, the potential costs and benefits of the new technologies are increasingly prominent in public debate. Governments globally are now acting to ensure that AI and automated decision-making systems more generally are developed and deployed in safe and responsible ways.

The ADM+S Centre takes a cross-disciplinary, collaborative approach to understanding how automated digital systems work, and how governments, businesses and communities can best respond to them. The Centre combines technological, social and regulatory perspectives to give us a deeper understanding of where and how automation is occurring, from the newsrooms of major media organisations to remote First Nations communities. The Centre's work with organisations and policymakers enables us to look more deeply into the risks entailed in new technologies, and offers timely insights into how digital services can be improved by closer engagement with the people who use them and whose lives may be changed by them.

This 2023 Annual Report well describes the work of the Centre in mapping the expanding reach of automated systems, and in gauging their impacts across Australia. It shows how, as the Centre's research has advanced, it is working increasingly closely with partners across industry and the public and not for profit sectors. At the same time, the Centre's collaborations with an array of international research organisations have also deepened. A substantial and growing community of partners, researchers, and international collaborators came together in the Centre's 2023 annual symposium at the University of Sydney Law School. The symposium's focus on the news and media sector was especially topical, given the concerns raised by new AIs about the authenticity of computer-generated work.

The International Advisory Board continues to be closely involved in the Centre. The Board participates in Centre events, symposiums, and research training, and advises the Centre as it looks to increasingly integrate its research, translation and training activities. It has also



offered a source of feedback and ideas as the Centre develops new research projects which will respond to the rapid developments of recent years.

In 2023 we welcomed Malavika Jayaram to the Centre's International Advisory Board. Malavika is the Executive Director of the Digital Asia Hub, an independent, non-profit internet and society research think tank based out of Hong Kong with a regional focus. She is also a Faculty Associate at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University, where she was formerly a Fellow-in-Residence. After a successful career as a practising technology lawyer, Malavika's activism around biometric identifiers, data privacy, and inequality in India and the majority world led her towards civil society and academia. Her work expands the stories we tell about technology, and brings Asian and non-Western perspectives into dialogue with dominant paradigms.

I would like to thank all my fellow International Advisory Board members, Penny Harrison, Melissa Gregg, Peter Waters, and Robert Rowthorn, for their commitment and valued contributions to the Centre's strategic planning and governance. I would like to particularly thank Stuart Cunningham,

Above: Affiliate Lyndal Sleep, Justine Humphry, Tanya Notley, and AI Jenny Kennedy speaking at the 2023 ADM+S Symposium

who stepped down from the Board this year in the light of his other commitments. Stuart brought deep research, public policy and university experience to the Board, and made a significant contribution to the Centre's success.

The below video highlights some of the key events, outputs, collaborations and milestones in 2023 at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society:

youtube.com/watch?v=0BB3izK5tc0



Deena Shiff
Chair, International Advisory Board

DIRECTORS' REPORT

This Annual Report describes the achievements of the ADM+S Centre in 2023 in advancing responsible, ethical and inclusive automated systems. In its third year, the Centre has gained momentum in groundbreaking research, in advising governments, business and community organisations, in connecting researchers and practitioners around compelling shared problems, in public outreach, and in developing new training programs and resources. In 2023, as the report shows, many of the Centre's major research and training programs are producing important outcomes, in research terms, for our industry partners, and for the wider public.

A few examples highlight the Centre's innovations. We know that automated digital systems now play an integral part in the delivery of government, business and community services. But we know little about exactly where and how they are deployed. In 2023 ADM+S partnered with the NSW Ombudsman to document the use of automated systems across the NSW public sector, at both state and local government levels. The resulting special report produced for the NSW Ombudsman identified over 270 ADM systems in use in NSW and presents an invaluable research and policy resource for the state, putting NSW at the forefront of research and policy work into automation in government.

Another area where observability has long been a significant problem for researchers and policymakers is in our everyday interactions with digital platforms, whether we are looking for news, information or social connections. The Australian Ad Observatory project has shed new light on the ads that Australians see online, including ads for illegal gambling sites, scams and misleading green marketing. Without the Observatory, these ads would be invisible to regulators, industry, and consumer advocates. Project has led to collaborations with organisations such as CHOICE and the Consumer Policy Research Centre. The project's findings and approaches are also shaping longer-term planning for the broader array of tools, methods and data collections likely to be required for future research.

As digital automation accelerates, it is increasingly important that all Australians can access and use essential online services, from education to health, social services and news and information. Working in partnership with First Nations organisations and Telstra, in 2023 our Mapping

the Digital Gap project delivered the first detailed analysis of the scale and nature of this challenge for First Nations people nationally. The team's work provides baseline data and tracks progress toward Target 17 of the national Closing the Gap agreement. It also identifies the key barriers and enablers for addressing digital inequality in remote communities. The inclusion of First Nations data in our 2023 Australian Digital Inclusion Index provides a critical new resource for policy makers, industry and First Nations organisations to spotlight areas for attention and change. With Telstra's support, the Mapping the Digital Gap project is now being extended for an additional four years and will commence research in new sites from 2025-2028.

At the same time, the Centre has continued to explore innovative arts-based and multi-sensory research methods, providing students with a unique opportunity to delve into how members of diverse communities influence existing, emerging, and prospective forms of automated decision-making. Our 'More-than-Human Wellbeing' exhibition at UNSW showcased participatory, experimental, creative, and arts-based research methods for community engagement and research translation, through artworks, zines, and exhibitions.

While 2023 was a year of consolidation and convergence for many of our projects, it was also a year of dramatic developments in our field. It was the year of the chatbot — the year the world began to come to grips with the remarkable potential of what we have come to call Generative AI. Large language models have brought AI directly to users' devices. We interact with them using ordinary language. They are useful for an exceptionally broad range of uses. They enable us to do new things, while they continue to embody and express many of the positive and negative features of the Web. It's not surprising that they have captured and held public and industry attention.

From schools to media companies and research labs, the new generative models have sparked anxiety and excitement. Generative AI is already making an enormous impact in News and Media, the field which provided a timely focus for the Centre's 2023 national symposium. But the ground is now shifting rapidly: in the technology sector, fresh questions are being asked about the future of foundational services such as Web Search. In government and industry, generative tools have given new urgency to debates over

how we should regulate and manage the impacts of these technologies on democratic systems, employment, and the environment. In the world of research, generative AI is opening up possibilities for innovation across many fields, as well as presenting more complex challenges for those who seek to observe and understand what the new systems are doing.

ADM+S researchers continue to be guided by our shared commitment to responsible, ethical and inclusive automated systems, and in many ways the dramatic emergence and take-up of generative tools such as ChatGPT has underlined the importance of our approach. We focus on expanding the evidence base for informed public debate and better decision-making, in relation to generative systems and the wider array of automated decision-making systems. Rather than looking at technology in isolation, we examine its applications, benefits and harms in the context of particular social and economic domains. We describe the diverse ways people understand and make use of automation and the different impacts automation may have on people. We believe this approach enables us to pursue research that can make a positive difference to economic, social and cultural outcomes.

2023 takes us closer to the mid-point in ADM+S's seven year program. While the Centre's work of consolidation and convergence continues, the year has also offered an important opportunity to take stock and plan the second half of our Centre's activity, in the light of the accelerating changes we have seen since the Centre was first devised in 2018 and 2019.



Julian Thomas
Centre Director



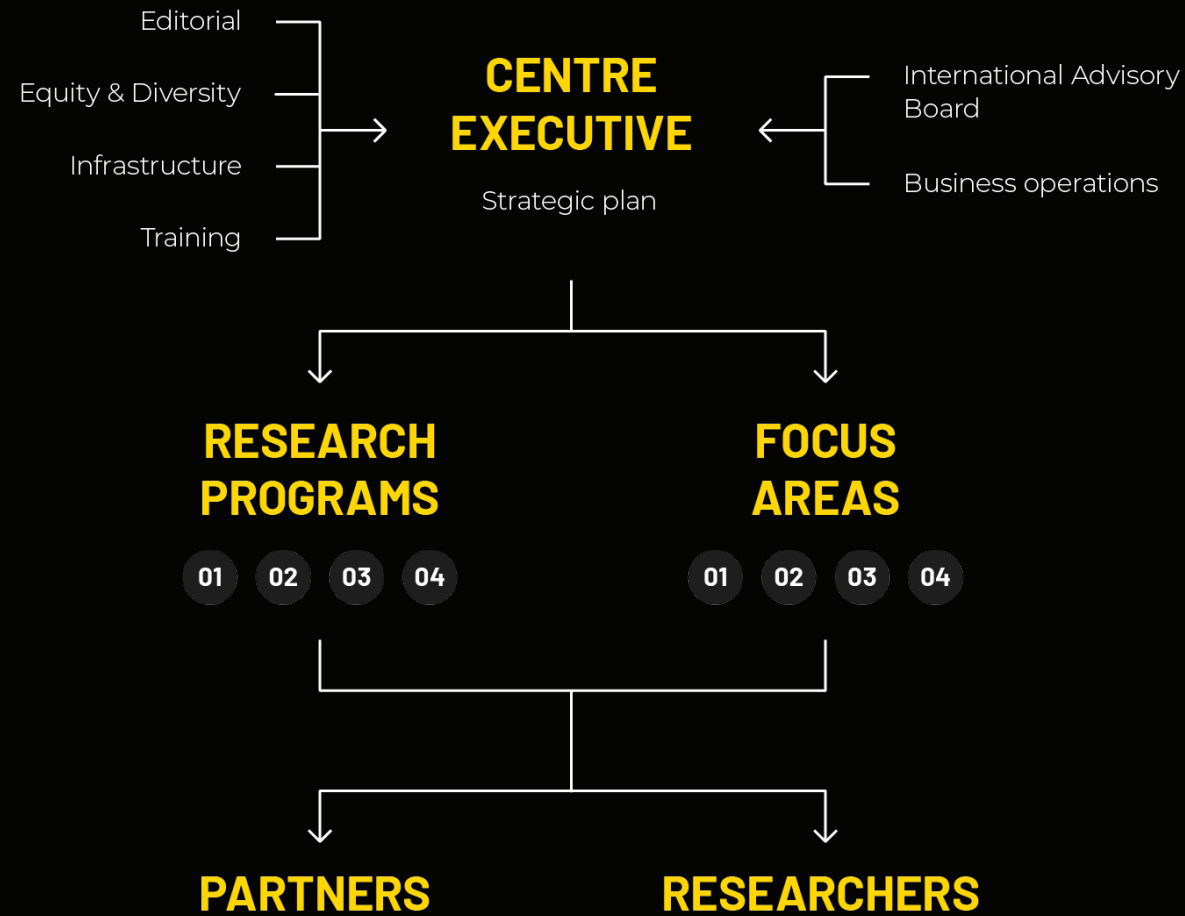
Jean Burgess
Associate Director

GOVERNANCE

Spanning nine universities and 21 partner organisations, our structure is designed to support and enable a high level of collaboration and engagement across programs, focus areas and institutions.

Our structure and strategy are also designed to be flexible and adaptable in response to the challenges and opportunities arising from the rapid expansion of automated decision-making across the lifecycle of the Centre.

Our governance structure comprises an Executive Committee, an International Advisory Board, and committees dedicated to Equity and Diversity, Editorial, Research Training and Capability Development, and Research Infrastructure.



INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

The ADM+S International Advisory Board provides strategic advice and industry perspective on the Centre's research program, partnerships, and Focus Areas.



Deena Shiff
Chair



Melissa Gregg
Senior Industry Fellow
RMIT University



Penny Harrison
Director of Volunteering,
Australian Red Cross



Malavika Jayaram
Executive Director
Digital Asia Hub



Robert Rowthorn
Emeritus Professor
University of Cambridge



Peter Waters
Consultant
Gilbert + Tobin



Julian Thomas
Centre Director



Jean Burgess
Associate Director



Nick Walsh
Chief Operating Officer &
Board Secretariat

COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee oversees the strategy and operations of the Centre, including research projects, staffing, membership, budgets, outreach, and training programs.

- + Julian Thomas (Co-Chair)
- + Jean Burgess (Co-Chair)
- + Mark Andrejevic
- + Dan Angus
- + Paul Henman
- + Heather Horst
- + Deborah Lupton
- + Anthony McCosker
- + Christine Parker
- + Flora Salim
- + Edward Small
- + Aaron Snoswell
- + Nick Walsh
- + Kimberlee Weatherall

EQUITY AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

The Equity and Diversity Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of the Centre's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy and provides advice to the Executive Committee on equity and diversity matters.

- + Julian Thomas (Chair)
- + Jeffrey Chan
- + Anjalee de Silva
- + Jacinthe Flore
- + Leah Hawkins
- + Rakesh Kumar
- + Anthony McCosker
- + Thao Phan
- + Sally Storey
- + Yolande Strengers
- + Georgia van Toorn
- + Nick Walsh

RESEARCH TRAINING AND CAPABILITY COMMITTEE

The Research Training and Capability Development Committee oversees and manages mentoring, training and capability development programs, skills and career development for Centre staff and students.

- + Mark Andrejevic (Co-Chair)
- + Heather Horst (Co-Chair)
- + Mark Sanderson (Co-Chair)
- + Mohammad Faisal
- + Jake Goldenfein
- + Jenny Kennedy
- + Caitlin Learmonth
- + Silvia Montana Nino
- + Arjun Srinivas
- + Sally Storey
- + Kimberlee Weatherall
- + Joanna Williams

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

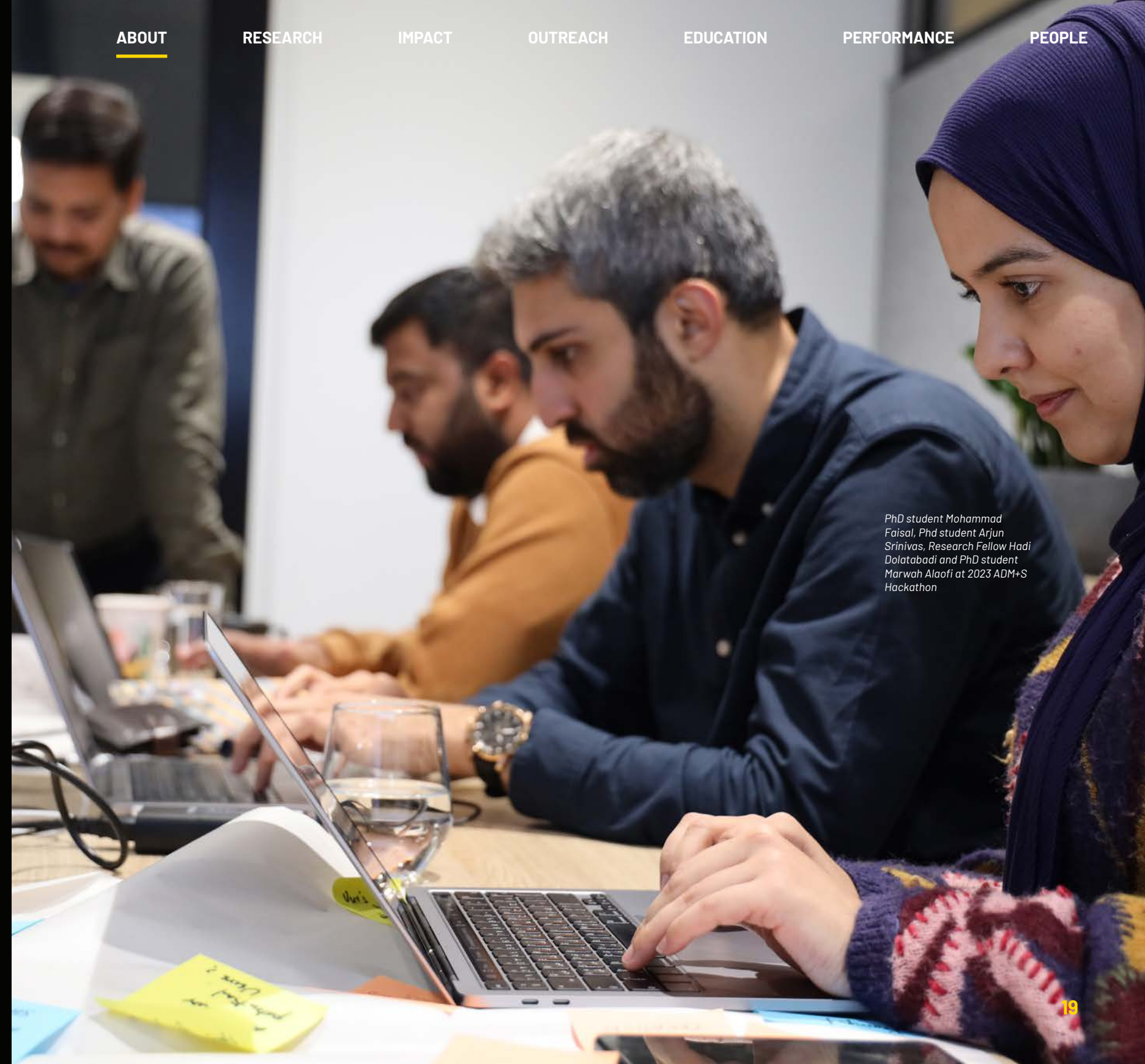
The Editorial Committee oversees the Centre's publications including the ADM+S Working Paper Series and Medium.com site, and ensures they align with the Centre's mission and objectives.

- + Jake Goldenfein (Chair)
- + José-Miguel Bello y Villarino
- + Leah Hawkins
- + Ramon Laboto
- + Amanda Lawrence
- + Dang Nguyen
- + Kathy Nickels
- + Aaron Snoswell

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

The Research Infrastructure Committee oversees and advises on the Centre's shared research facilities and resources.

- + Daniel Angus (Chair)
- + Jean Burgess
- + Taal Hampson
- + Anthony McCosker
- + Amanda Lawrence
- + Nick Walsh
- + Hao Xue



PhD student Mohammad Faisal, PhD student Arjun Srinivas, Research Fellow Hadi Dolatabadi and PhD student Marwah Alaofi at 2023 ADM+S Hackathon

ADM + S

ARC Centre
Excellence for
Automated
Decision-Making
and Society

Research Translation and Impact
Strategy

Research Impact Pathway

Structure and Objectives of the ADM+S
Research Program

RESEARCH

Research Projects

Research Project Case Studies

Research Infrastructure

RESEARCH TRANSLATION AND IMPACT STRATEGY

Our Centre's pathway to impact and research translation focuses on involving stakeholders at all stages of our research. We aim to ensure our inputs and activities result in broad range of outcomes and benefits for Australia and the world.

We aim to demonstrate value in the Centre's research through collaborative research and development, multiply this value through the wider uptake and adoption across the Centre's research and industry networks, and amplify engagement through public communication, education and policy dialogue.

We focus on enabling the movement of ideas and capabilities between the Centre, its partners, stakeholders, networks, and wider audiences, and plan these interactions in terms of the flows of:

People

- through educating, training and supporting talented researchers, developers, practitioners and policy makers to create new approaches to ADM. Our training programs build capability across university and industry sectors; our Alumni network works as a multiplier for engagement and impact, expanding the range of organisations involved in our programs and utilising the Centre's research; and our international research networks form the basis for an extensive program of student and staff exchange, placements and visits.

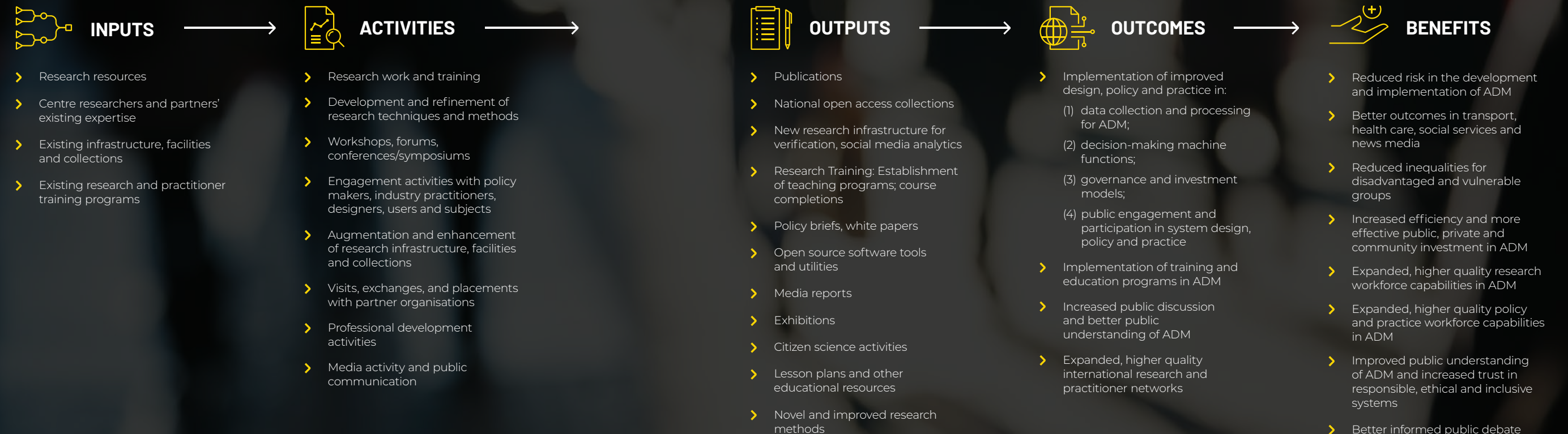
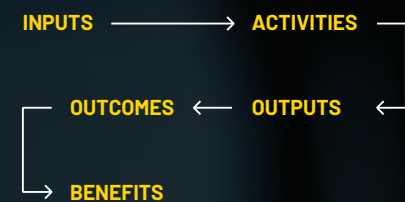
Knowledge

- through capability-building, policy development and co-design involving key partners and the combined technical and social expertise of the entire Centre; by creating a rich evidence base developed with and for use by consumers, policy makers and industry practitioners to demonstrate the social distribution and effects of ADM; and by developing, sharing and testing models for responsible, ethical and inclusive implementations of ADM in data practice and policy, machine design and evaluation, sustainable governance, and public engagement and trust.

Technologies, tools and methods

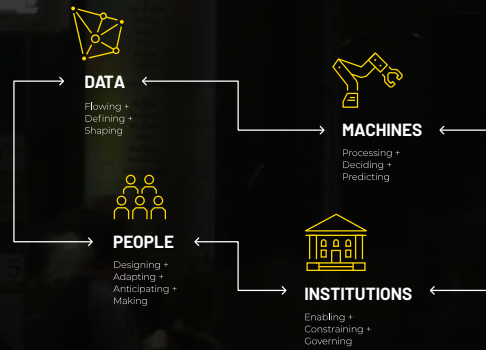
- in addition to regular publications, white papers and research reports, the Centre is developing a range of centrally available and accessible outputs designed to assist in research, evaluation and design of automated-decision making systems. These include browser plugins and software, datasets and resources for educators, designers, developers, policy-makers and practitioners. They will be designed to be readily adopted and deployed by our partners and end-users, and will include comprehensively documented tools, guidelines, datasets, videos, models and educational resources.

RESEARCH IMPACT PATHWAY



STRUCTURE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ADM+S RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Centre's four Research Programs — **Data, Machines, Institutions, and People** — examine the various social and technical elements that combine and interact to constitute automated decision-making systems.



Within each of the four programs, discrete projects are organised into workstreams designed to address particularly acute conceptual, pragmatic and methodological challenges. Together, they enable us to build the first comprehensive account of the social development, distribution, dynamics, performance and effects of ADM.

DISCIPLINES

- Digital communications +
- Data science +
- Critical data studies +
- Computer science +
- Law +
- Regulatory theory +
- Economics +
- Ethics +
- Sociology +
- Design +
- Anthropology

PARTNERS

RESEARCH PROGRAMS

- DATA
- MACHINES
- INSTITUTIONS
- PEOPLE

FOCUS AREAS

NEWS AND MEDIA				
MOBILITIES				
HEALTH				
SOCIAL SERVICES				

Reduced risks and better outcomes through fit-for-purpose design, governance and public investment.

NEW MODELS FOR

- Data practice and policy +
- Ethical design for ADM machines +
- Sustainable governance +
- Public engagement, co-design and trust

The Centre's four cross-centre Focus Areas – **News and Media, Mobilities, Health, and Social Services** – help us to apply, extend and engage industry stakeholders with the work of the Research Programs in critical areas of opportunity and risk. Our Focus Areas have been chosen because:

- + they are well-documented areas where decision-making technologies are widely used;
- + they align closely to national research priorities and agendas; and
- + they are domains where governments and communities have long coordinated, regulated and pooled resources to manage and mitigate major social risks – to public health and welfare, mobility, and democracy.

The introduction of new, untested decision-making technologies in these domains creates new possibilities for success and failure in large-scale institutional systems that have been specifically designed to reduce individual and social hazards.

The Focus Areas provide material for many of the empirical investigations in the four research programs, and they ensure our research is directed towards **engagement, translation and outcomes** in exemplary and essential sectors. Their hallmark is **close collaboration with our partner organisations and stakeholders**.

OUR VISION

Responsible, ethical and inclusive automated decision-making.

RESEARCH PROGRAMS

DATA

The Data Program investigates how data are imagined, constructed, collected, ordered, stored, circulated, and deployed in automated decision-making systems. Across the Program's three workstreams, our projects engage with concerns around data-driven surveillance and social sorting, develop new methods for enabling public oversight of platforms, and co-design practical strategies to improve information curation and access, as well as responsible and socially beneficial forms of data sharing.

MACHINES

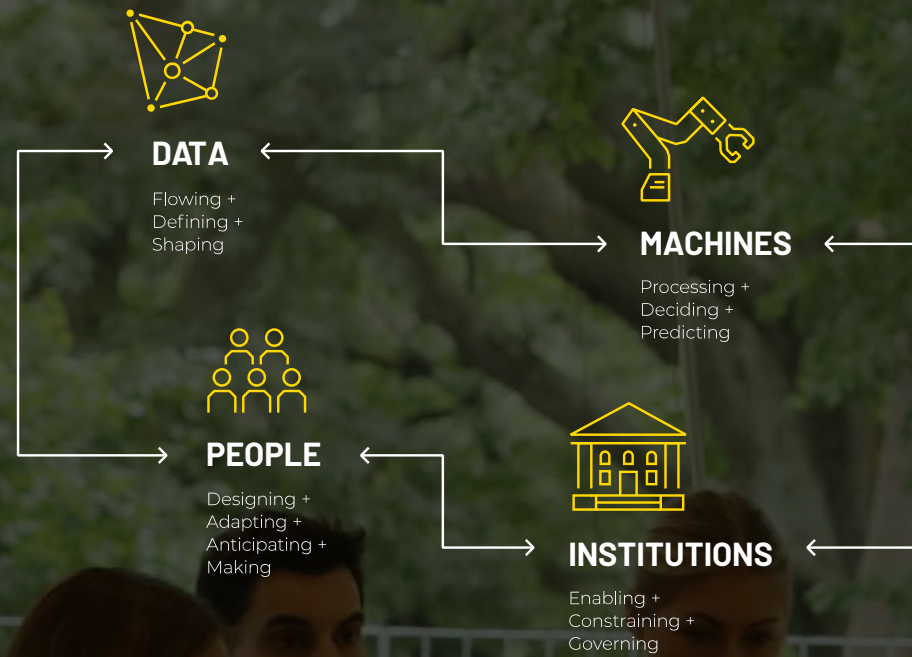
The Machines Program, in general, seeks to advance understanding and application of ethical/responsible/inclusive ADM in a range of sectors, and emphasises the normative lessons on how values such as explanation, fairness, and accountability should work in the design of automated systems. It works to identify what societal, humanistic, and political values could and should be embodied in automated decision-making.

INSTITUTIONS

The Institutions program investigates how institutions relate to promoting responsible, ethical, and inclusive ADM. 'Institutions' include law and regulation, norms and ethical standards, political institutions and governance mechanisms, courts and dispute resolution systems (public and private), market design and market mechanisms, private ordering (eg contracts, terms of use, incorporated and unincorporated associations), technologies, technical protocols (eg blockchains), and technical standards.

PEOPLE

The People research program builds on our world leading expertise in anthropology, sociology and media and communication studies to account for how people are implicated at all stages of ADM. It examines how people make, operate, and re-invent automated decision-making tools and processes; the relationship between human and automated decisions; how social inequalities, inequities and power relationships shape the design and uses of ADM; and the changes needed so that responsible and ethical automated futures can be best achieved.



FOCUS AREAS

NEWS AND MEDIA

The News and Media Focus Area investigates and improves the uses and impacts of automated decision-making in news work, social media platforms, and the digital media and communication environment more broadly. Modern digital news and media businesses both deploy and engage with automated decision-making systems. Search engines, personalised newsfeeds, content moderation systems and programmatic advertising are examples of ADM systems that play integral roles across these sectors.

MOBILITIES

The Mobilities Focus Area investigates the uses and implications of automated decision-making in the fields of transport, energy, and migration. ADM has already begun to transform how we live and move, and is likely to have greater impacts on the movement of humans, animals and resources in the near future. We address sectors including public transport, mobility and navigation services, active transport, retail and public spaces, mobile media and applications, migration services, and energy systems. We identify the new risks and benefits that mobilities automation creates, and the possibilities for ethical, responsible and inclusive automation for mobility systems and their diverse users.

SOCIAL SERVICES

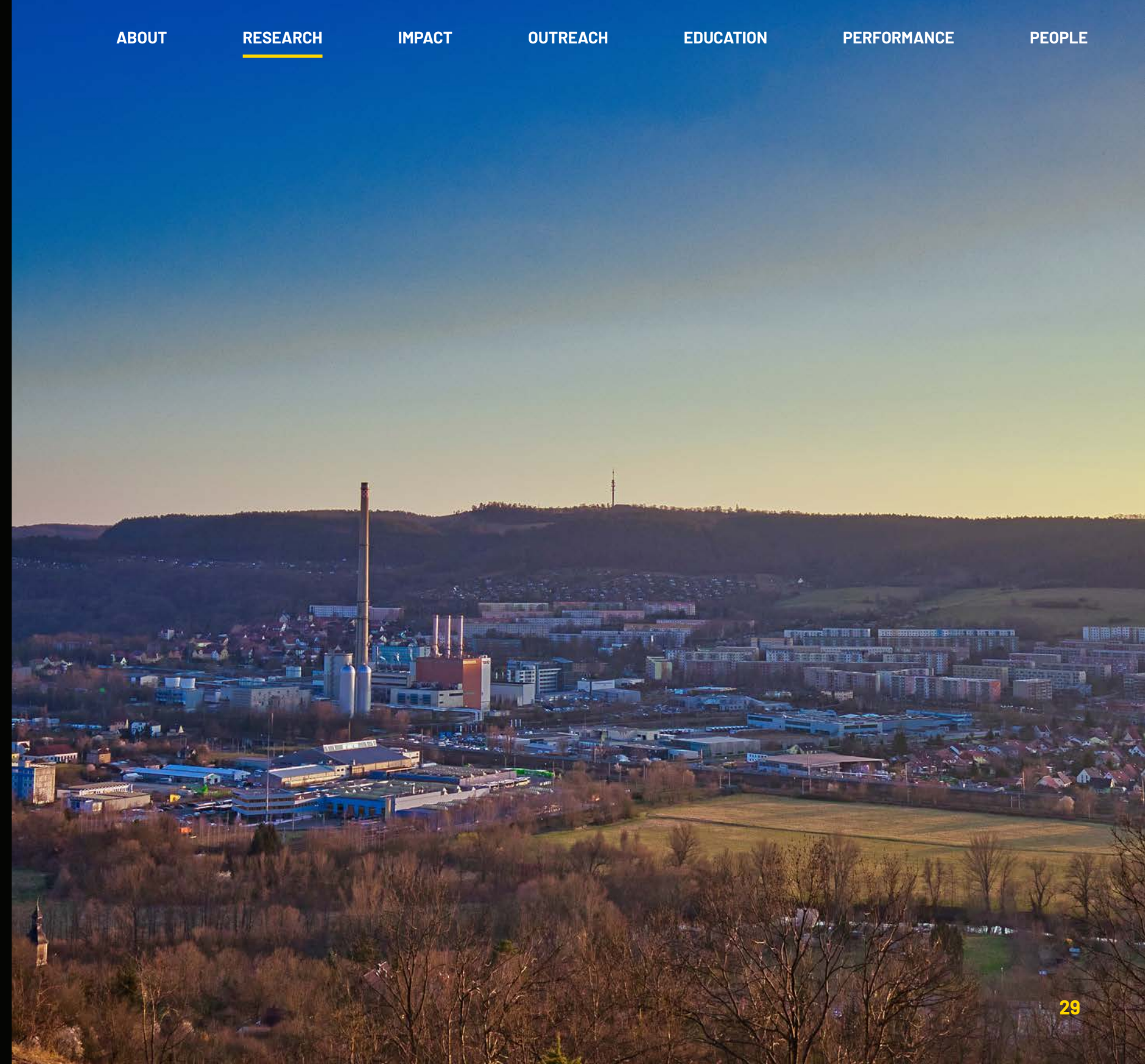
ADM is widely used in the design and delivery of many social services by governments, private and not-for-profit organisations. Influential advocates argue for further automation to promote efficiencies, reduce human errors and bias, and enhance personalised service delivery, choice and resourcing. At the same time social services, which often involve the most marginalised and disadvantaged populations, is often used to trial new digital technology potentially involving greater harm, reenforcing surveillance and control. The Social Services Focus Area aims to ensure that ADM in social services is designed in a way that is fair, effective, accountable and inclusive.

HEALTH

Australia has a burgeoning digital health sector in which ADM is beginning to be implemented in attempts to offer greater access to healthcare, enhanced treatment protocols, better disease diagnosis, monitoring and prediction models, and more personally tailored care. However, many consumer and industry organisations have identified potential risks posed by ADM to trust, access and transparency in healthcare and public health. ADM introduced into the health sector could exacerbate health inequalities and increase the marginalising of people with disabilities and those with stigmatised conditions. The Health Focus Area examines the introduction of ADM into healthcare and public health in Australia and elsewhere to promote ethical and inclusive applications with broad social benefits.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

- + A Taxonomy Of Decision-Making Machines
- + Adaptive, Multi-Factor Balanced, Regulatory Compliant Routing ADM Systems
- + AI Rewired: How Communities Are Using AI To Support Social And Environmental Justice
- + An AI Governance Framework For Garbage Truck-Mounted Machine Vision Systems
- + Assessing Prospective Harms (Vs Benefits) Associated With ADM
- + Australian Digital Inclusion Index
- + Automated Content Regulation (Sexuality Education And Health Information)
- + Automated Decision-Making Empirical Mapping Project
- + Automated Informality: Generative Frictions In ADM Systems
- + Automating Safety: Developing Better Data Models To Help Foster Prosocial Platforms
- + Automation And Public Space
- + Big Data, Sexual Surveillance And Alternative Governance
- + Civic ADM
- + Collateral Data: Automated Decision-Making And The Future Of Credit In India
- + Considerate And Accurate Multi-Party Recommender Systems For Constrained Resources
- + Data Capacity And Collaboration For ADM In The Community Sector
- + Data Ethics, Rights And Markets
- + Data For Social Good: Non-Profit Sector Data Projects
- + Data Mapping And ADM To Advance Humanitarian Actionand Preparedness
- + Decentering ADM: A Review Of Automated Decision-Making In The Global South
- + Democratic Practices Of Governance Given ADM
- + Designing Automated Tools To Support Welfare Rights Advocacy
- + Diverse Experiences Of ADM: Design, Curation And Use
- + Ecological Implications Of Data Centres
- + Enabling Digital Transformation And Considering Digital Futures Within The Cultural Sector: Evaluating ACMI's CEO Digital Mentoring Project
- + Everyday Data Cultures
- + Future Automated Mobilities: Imaginaries And Possibilities For A World In Crisis
- + Governing ADM Use
- + Humans, Machines, And Decision Responsibility
- + Is Pricing Discriminatory: Testing Automated Decision-Making Systems In Online Insurance Markets
- + Mapping ADM Across Sectors
- + Mapping ADM Machines In Australia And The Asia-Pacific
- + Mapping Automated Decision-Making Tools In Administrative Decision-Making In NSW
- + Mapping The Digital Gap
- + Platform Governance Of And By Bots
- + Political Economy Of Sex Tech
- + Public Interest Litigation For AI Accountability
- + Quantifying And Measuring Bias And Engagement
- + Responsible Health Consumer Data Analysis For ADM
- + Risk, Rule-Setters And Rule-Takers: Regulatory Approaches To Risk In AI-Supported And AI-Automated Decision-Making For General Welfare
- + The Australian Ad Observatory
- + The Australian Search Experience
- + The Automated Newsroom In Australia And Beyond: Problems And Challenges In The Use Of Automated Decision-Making Systems In Journalistic Practice
- + The Coronavirus Impact
- + The Toxicity Scalpel: Prototyping And Evaluating Methods To Remove Harmful Generative Capability From Foundation Models
- + Transparent Machines: From Unpacking Bias To Actionable Explainability
- + Trauma-Informed AI: Developing And Testing A Practical AI Audit Framework For Use In Social Services
- + Trust In ADM: Rethinking The Anticipatory Modes Of Technological Determinism



> RESEARCH PROJECTS

Mapping automated decision-making tools in administrative decision-making in NSW

RESEARCH TEAM

Kimberlee Weatherall, Chief Investigator
 Paul Henman, Chief Investigator
 José-Miguel Bello y Villarino, Research Fellow
 Lyndal Sleep, Associate Investigator
 Jenny van der Arend, Senior Research Assistant
 Jeffrey Chan, Associate Investigator
 Terry Carney, Associate Investigator
 Scarlet Wilcock, Associate Researcher
 Rita Matulionyte, Associate Researcher
 Julian Thomas, Advisory Board Member
 Sergio Pinzon, Senior Research Manager
 Melanie Trezise, PhD Student
 David Hua, Jacky Zeng, Isbella Greenhalgh (research assistants)

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

NSW Ombudsman

This dynamic research collaboration between ADM+S and the New South Wales Ombudsman aimed to comprehensively map and analyse the utilisation of automated systems within the state and local government sectors of New South Wales (NSW). The initiative stemmed from the NSW Ombudsman's pioneering report on technology's role in government decision-making, *The New Machinery of Government*, published in 2022. That report highlighted the importance of ensuring that the automation of government decisions be consistent with administrative law, and good administrative practice, and set out guidelines for the deployment of technology in this way. The report also noted, however, that the people of NSW had little visibility over how, and where ADM was being used by state and local government bodies.

This groundbreaking project set out to fill that knowledge gap, embarking on a meticulous mapping the use of automated systems in administrative decision-making processes within NSW state departments and agencies and local

governments. It was the first attempt to undertake such a systematic mapping in any jurisdiction across Australia. Globally, this initiative stands as one of the very few comprehensive attempts to create a systematic mapping of automation in the public sector, underlining the project's unwavering commitment to advancing knowledge and understanding in the realm of automated systems in governmental processes.

The project used three methods to map ADM use across government entities: (1) Direct surveys to public servants asking departments, agencies and local councils to report, categorise and briefly describe their ADM systems; (2) A systematised search and human review of publicly available material published by each department, agency, and local council (web pages, annual reports and procurement data) to learn how government departments, agencies and local councils are currently reporting and describing their use of ADM systems to the public; and (3) A small set of case studies, based on interviews with public servants, exploring the process of ADM adoption more deeply. The project was possible due to a multidisciplinary team drawing on law, social sciences and technical disciplines, from the University of Sydney, the University of Queensland, RMIT, Monash and Macquarie

University, supported also by staff from the NSW Ombudsman's Office. This was an ambitious project: seeking to examine ADM use across 200+ state government organisations and over 120 local councils across NSW.

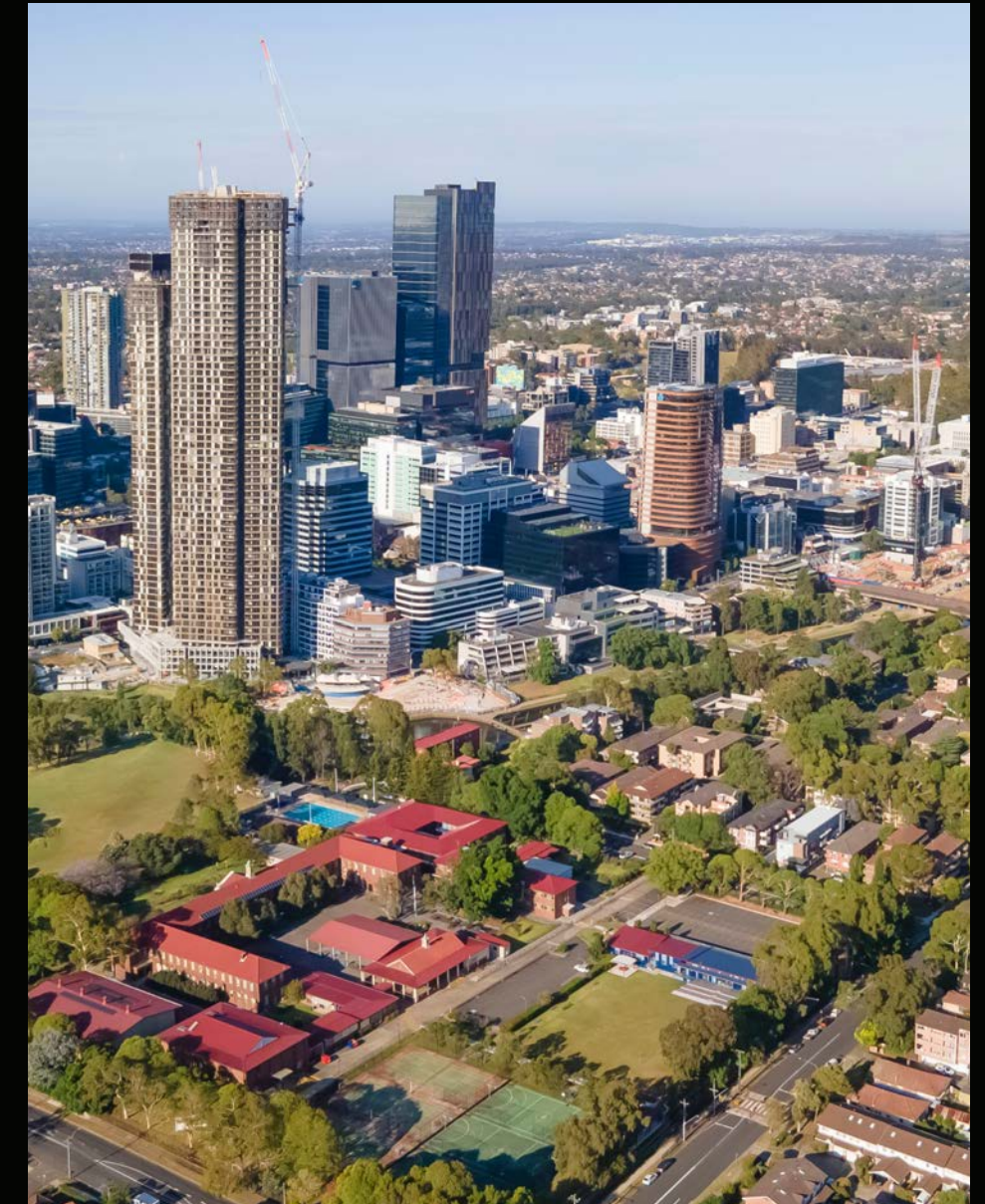
The research makes a number of important contributions to the research, and to policy and public debate. First and foremost it provides much-needed transparency regarding current government uses of automation: specifically within NSW although with likely similarities to governments elsewhere. Second, it offers analysis and findings of general significance: regarding automation at the local government level; the widespread use of computer vision; and government pilots using generative AI. Third, in detailing not one, but three different methods for analysing ADM use it gives other researchers a menu of options for future work and valuable insights into the strengths and weaknesses of different methods. Finally, it holds lessons for governments. For government bodies seeking to implement ADM systems, the case studies hold important lessons. For policymakers seeking to meet demands for greater transparency, there are lessons in how to define, describe, and capture systems in use.

Achievements

The research team submitted an interim report in October 2023, receiving valuable feedback from the NSW Ombudsman and an Advisory Group formed leading Australian and international researchers, practitioners and senior civil servants. A comprehensive final research report, together with an Executive Report were submitted in March 2024.

On 8 March 2024, the NSW Ombudsman tabled a special report with the NSW Parliament, incorporating the ADM+S Research Report and Executive Report, together with the NSW Ombudsman's own short report building on the ADM+S research. The NSW Ombudsman's special report also included a compendium listing and describing over 270 ADM systems in use in NSW. This compendium built on, updated and expanded data generated through the ADM+S research, and presents an invaluable research and policy resource for NSW. The release of this report puts NSW at the forefront of research and policy work into automation in government, in Australia and globally.

The research was immediately well-received by both the academic and policy communities. Prof. Weatherall, ADM+S Chief Investigator and Dr. Bello y Villarino, Research Fellow appeared in NSW Parliament in a committee hearing on AI; the NSW Ombudsman also appeared before the same committee and presented outcomes from the research. Immediate reactions from leading figures in policy and research circles describe the research as 'vital', 'extraordinary', 'an important contribution', and 'stellar work'. Follow up activities, including a workshop within NSW and several activities with international partners are planned in the coming months.



RESEARCH PROJECTS

Australian Digital Inclusion Index (ADII)

RESEARCH TEAM

- Julian Thomas, Centre Director and Lead Investigator
- Anthony McCosker, Chief Investigator
- Sharon Parkinson, Associate Investigator
- Lauren Ganley, Partner Investigator, Telstra
- Kieran Hegarty, Research Fellow
- Indigo Holcombe-James, Research Fellow
- Jenny Kennedy, Associate Investigator
- Daniel Featherstone, Research Fellow
- Lyndon Ormond-Parker, Senior Research Fellow
- Lucy Valenta, Research Coordinator

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

- Telstra
- Victorian Department of Government Services
- Queensland Department of Housing and Community Renewal
- Smart Places, Cities and Active Transport, Transport for NSW and The Parks
- Dassier
- SRC
- CanvasU

Digital inclusion is about ensuring that all Australians can access and use digital technologies effectively. We are experiencing an accelerating digital transformation in many aspects of economic and social life. Our premise is that everyone should have the opportunity to benefit from digital services: to manage their health, access education, find work, participate in cultural activities, organise their finances, follow news and media, and connect with family, friends and the wider world.

First developed in 2015, the Australian Digital Inclusion Index (ADII or "Index") is a partnership between the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society at RMIT University and Swinburne University of Technology, and Telstra. The ADII uses survey



data to provide a comprehensive picture of Australia's online participation by measuring three key dimensions of digital inclusion: Access, Affordability and Digital Ability. We explore how these dimensions vary across the country, across different social groups, and over time, to inform initiatives to increase digital inclusion in Australia.

ADII 2023

Between June and December 2022, the ADII conducted its most recent Australian Internet Usage Survey (AIUS), with a total of 5,132 respondents. This sample included 495 First Nations people living in remote and very remote areas of Australia who were surveyed as part of the Mapping the Digital Gap project. Based on analysis of this data, in July 2023 we released the 2023 Australian Digital Inclusion Index report (digitalinclusionindex.org.au/download-reports) and dashboards (digitalinclusionindex.org.au/dashboard/Ttotal.aspx), in a joint event with Telstra, launched by Vicki Brady, CEO of Telstra.

The report found digital inclusion in Australia is continuing to improve. However, certain vulnerable

groups (those with lower levels of education, income, employment, those who are older and those who live outside capital cities), continue to face barriers, with over 2 million Aussies still experiencing high levels of digital exclusion.

The 2023 ADII report was the first to provide a comprehensive study on the digital divide in First Nations communities. Findings reveal remote First Nations communities are among Australia's most digitally excluded, with access a persistent barrier.

ADII 2023 Key Findings

- National score is 73.2.** This is up from 67.5 (2020) and 71.1 (2021).
- National gap between First Nations people and other Australians is 7.5.** The gap increases with remoteness, with the gap is 21.6 in remote areas and 23.5 in very remote areas.
- Digital inclusion declines with remoteness:** Major cities 74.6; Inner regional 71.3; Outer regional 66.3; Remote 70.0; Very remote 62.6.



- 9.4% are 'highly excluded' (score below 45),** down from 10.6% in 2021.
- National Access score is 72.0:** Up from 70.0 in 2021 and groups that record lower access scores include people in remote/very remote areas, 75+ years, and those on lowest incomes.
- National Affordability score is 95.0:** Up from 93.1 in 2021. Groups most likely to experience affordability stress include people with disability, living in public housing, 75+ years, unemployed and those on lowest income.
- National Digital Ability score is 64.9:** Up slightly from 64.4 in 2021. Groups experiencing stagnating or declining Digital Ability scores include people on low incomes (43.5, down 2.2) and 75+ years (23.3, down 3.9).
- 10.5% are mobile only users:** Up from 9.6% in 2021. Mobile only use is associated with lower levels of digital inclusion, education and employment. Groups most likely to be mobile only include very remote areas (32.6%), First Nations (21.3%) and those on low incomes (20.7%).
- Digital inclusion linked to age:** 65+ years record lower scores than national average; 65-74 years were 12.1 points below and 75+ years were 24.6 points below national average
- Digital inclusion increases with education, employment, and income:** Those with a bachelor's degree or higher (79.9), vs who didn't complete secondary school (56.3); higher income households (83.5) vs lower income households (54.7). Digital inequalities and social inequalities are entwined and mutually reinforcing.

Spin-off projects

Utilising the ADII data and methodology, the team has worked on a number of ADII-affiliated projects. In addition to the Mapping the Digital Gap project (see overleaf), collaborations included:

Queensland Government

Our collaboration with the Queensland Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (CHDE) involved collection of an additional 1,500

survey responses from across Queensland, bringing the total ADII sample for Queensland to 2,196. This boosted collection enabled greater understanding of the state of digital inclusion in Queensland. Research focused particularly on CHDE's interest in digital inclusion for regional and remote Queenslanders, and specific cohorts such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with disability and seniors, as well as use of government services. The report and dataset form an evidence base for informed policy initiative to narrow digital inclusion gaps in Queensland.

Victorian Government

The ADII research team has a multi-year research partnership with the Victorian Department of Government Services (DGS) to explore digital inclusion challenges and opportunities in Victoria. To date, we have delivered two reports (2022 and 2023) on the state of digital inclusion in Victoria, and a report on Public WiFi (2022). In 2023, we completed Phase 1 of our major Victorian project, which will be continued in 2024 and 2025. This project is developing and implementing an approach to measuring uplift and impact from Victorian government investments into improving connectivity in regional and rural Victoria.

Western Sydney

Funded by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, and in collaboration with Western Parkland City Digital Equity and Inclusion Insights Program (a collaboration of the eight local government areas that comprise Western Parkland City, and Smart Places, Cities and Active Transport, Transport for NSW), this project applied the ADII methodology to investigate how Western Parkland City can identify local strategic interventions to enhance digital inclusion with a particular focus on communities most vulnerable to exclusion, and on closing the gap with Greater Sydney.

What's next

2024 will see the next round of national data collection, in preparation for the 2025 ADII report and dashboard update, and continuation of our work on the Connecting Victoria project with DGS. We are in discussions with state and federal governments around a number of potential new side-projects.



RESEARCH PROJECTS

Mapping the Digital Gap

RESEARCH TEAM

Daniel Featherstone, Research Fellow and Lead Investigator
 Julian Thomas, Centre Director
 Lauren Ganley, Partner Investigator, Telstra
 Lyndon Ormond-Parker, Senior Research Fellow
 Sharon Parkinson, Associate Investigator
 Jenny Kennedy, Research Fellow
 Lucy Valenta, Research Coordinator
 Kieran Hegarty, Research Fellow
 Leah Hawkins, Research Communications Officer

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

Telstra
 Djarindjin Community Council
 Julalikari Aboriginal Corporation
 Kalumburu Aboriginal Corporation
 Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation
 PAW Media
 Regional Enterprise Development Institute Ltd (REDI.E)
 Thamarrurr Development Corporation
 Torres Strait Islanders Media Association
 Warakurna Community Council
 Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
 Yalu Aboriginal Corporation

Mapping the Digital Gap is a supplementary project of the Australian Digital Inclusion Index (ADII), established through the ADM+S Centre in partnership with Telstra in 2021. It seeks to address a lack of quantitative and qualitative data on digital inclusion in remote First Nations communities in Australia. Working with local research partners and local co-researchers in up to 12 remote and outer regional communities over four years (2021-2024), the project will:

- + Generate a detailed account of the distribution of digital inclusion across First Nations communities;
- + Track changes in digital inclusion for these communities over time, enabling comparison with national results from the Australian Digital Inclusion Index;
- + Inform the development and evaluation of appropriate local strategies for improving digital inclusion capabilities and services; and
- + Provide evidence to inform policy and program resourcing by government and industry.

These objectives are critically important for informed decision-making and agency. People living in Australia's 1,545 remote First Nations communities and homelands are likely to be among the most digitally excluded Australians. At the same time, areas such as health, education and social services are increasingly automated, with Australian governments working towards online delivery of most services by 2025.



Aerial shot of MtDG research site Yuelamu

This equity gap has been recognised through new Closing the Gap Target 17: 'By 2026, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have equal levels of digital inclusion', enabling informed decision-making regarding their own lives. While digital inclusion and reliable communications services are critical to achieving other closing the gap targets, there is a lack of national data to measure Target 17. The Mapping the Digital Gap research provides remote area data and place-based strategies to help close the gap.

Mapping the Digital Gap utilises a communicative ecologies approach to data collection that considers all ways that remote First Nations communities access and share information; from internet access and digital services to basic telephony, TV and radio and face-to-face communication. The research team partners with local organisations and employs co-researchers in each community to ensure Indigenous leadership is involved in all steps of the process, and local engagement in the project.

A mix of research methods are employed - surveys, interviews and ethnographic observation - to



understand communications usage by residents and service agencies, and to measure changes in digital inclusion levels over time. All results are provided back to each community in outcomes report, including suggestions of appropriate community-driven strategies for improving digital inclusion capabilities and service delivery.

For the full project methodology please refer to the Mapping the Digital Gap background paper at apo.org.au/node/319809

Key Findings

In 2023, for the first time, the project delivered a measure of the scale and nature of the digital gap for First Nations people nationally by remoteness categories – major cities, outer regional, remote and very remote – and across various demographic indicators. This provides a baseline to track progress toward Target 17 and identify key barriers and enablers to meet this target. The inclusion of First Nations data in the 2023 ADII provides a tool for policy makers, industry and First Nations organisations to identify key focus areas for policy and program delivery.

The first Mapping the Digital Gap Outcomes Report, published in August 2023, provides an overview of the first year findings from 2022 research visits, including over 500 surveys and 140 interviews in 10 communities. It covers key survey results and indicators of the digital gap; context and findings for each of the ten research sites; and analysis of results across the three ADII dimensions of digital inclusion – Access, Affordability and Digital Ability – as well as the crucial role of service delivery and news and media access in these communities. Case studies, photos and quotes from interviews highlight the on-the-ground experience for residents and service providers across the research sites. Key findings from the report were:

- + The digital gap between First Nations people and other Australians of 7.5 nationally widens significantly with remoteness to **24.4 for remote First Nations people and 25.4 for very remote.**
- + The **Access gap** is most acute in remote communities due to limited communications infrastructure, low household access, and often patchy, congested mobile services.
- + With most remote residents on low incomes,

84% of respondents used or shared a mobile device, and 94% of these used pre-paid services.

- + The high cost of pre-paid data and low household uptake of fixed broadband leads to significant affordability issues.
- + **75% are mobile-only users** (i.e. don't access the internet on computers or other devices), compared with **10.5% mobile only users nationally**. Mobile-only use is associated with lower levels of digital inclusion.
- + Limited opportunities to connect, majority mobile-only usage, language barriers and limited support contribute to significant gaps in Digital Ability in terms of online services, mobile apps, internet use and online safety.
- + Older age, living with disability, language barriers, low educational attainment and income have particularly significant impacts on Digital Ability.
- + As government and other services increasingly move online, **Digital Ability has become a critical life skill, with targeted funding for community-led efforts needed to address the ability gap in remote Australia.**

The Mapping the Digital Gap 2023 Outcomes Report can be accessed at apo.org.au/node/324397. The data collected through the Mapping the Digital Gap project is also available for comparison with national results collected for the Australian Digital Inclusion Index on digitalinclusionindex.org.au/dashboard/firstnations.aspx



Co-researcher Floyd King doing a survey with elder John Duggie in Tennant Creek



Co-researcher Mel Langdon using the mobile hotspot in Yuelamu, which enables access to the mobile signal from Yuendumu 43km away

2023 research and what's next

In order to deepen our collective understanding of the range of barriers experienced in remote First Nations communities and the impact these have on residents and service delivery agencies, the team is conducting three research visits to each site from 2022-2024. They are also monitoring the effectiveness of specific technological solutions and place-based strategies to address digital inclusion barriers.

In 2023, the research team conducted their second round of research visiting the ten communities from 2022, with the addition of Warakurna in WA. They will be completing their third and final round of research across current sites in 2024, with the third wrap-up outcomes report due in 2025.

The results and data from each community are also published as a series of ten Community Reports, with Update Reports featuring 2023 data and findings being published across 2023-2024. You can locate the reports and read about the research findings in more detail on the Mapping the Digital Gap webpage: admscentre.org.au/mapping-the-digital-gap.

Mapping the Digital Gap has been renewed for an additional four years and will commence research in new sites from 2025-2028, continuing to contribute data and track progress against target 17 to inform government and industry on targeted policy and program investment in First Nations digital inclusion.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Australian Ad Observatory

RESEARCH TEAM

- Mark Andrejevic, Chief Investigator
- Daniel Angus, Chief Investigator
- Jean Burgess, Chief Investigator
- Christine Parker, Chief Investigator
- Kim Weatherall, Chief Investigator
- Chris Leckie, Chief Investigator
- Nicholas Carah, Associate Investigator
- Kelly Lewis, Research Fellow
- Christopher O'Neil, Research Fellow
- Lauren Hayden, PhD Student
- Abdul Obeid, Data Engineer
- César Albarrán-Torres, Affiliate
- Julian Bagnara, Affiliate
- Bronwyn Carlson, Affiliate
- Loup Cellard, Affiliate
- Robbie Fordyce, Affiliate
- Tanita Northcott, Affiliate
- Megan Richardson, Affiliate
- Verity Trott, Affiliate

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

- Australian Broadcasting Corporation
- Algorithm Watch
- CHOICE
- Consumer Policy Research Centre
- Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE)
- RMIT ABC Fact Check
- New York University

The Ad Observatory project has delved into the concealed world of targeted advertising by enlisting the support of volunteers to contribute their Facebook ads. This research serves as a crucial contribution to comprehending platform-based advertising, enabling independent exploration into the societal role played by



algorithmically targeted advertising. The project not only develops but also applies tools designed to observe 'dark ads' on Facebook, aiming to establish models that enhance accountability and transparency in individually targeted social media advertising. While the current tool focuses on Facebook via desktop and laptop computers, the Observatory team is actively working on diverse approaches for other platforms and is creating a mobile app for ad collection that will be deployed in the next phase of our research.

So far, over 1900 volunteers have participated in the Facebook component of the project, utilizing the Observatory's browser extension to share sponsored content from their news feeds. This engagement has resulted in more than 700,000 ad observations, encompassing over 300,000 unique ads. These ads have served as the foundation for research projects exploring areas such as greenwashing and the advertising of harmful products and services, including alcohol, gambling, ultra-processed foods, and financial services.

This research project highlights several distinctive facets:

- The Observatory represents an advancement in the design of a citizen science tool for ad accountability, refining a tool used by the Ad Observatory project at NYU in collaboration with principal figures at the NYU Ad Observatory.
- The project aims to provide insights into the outcomes of automated decision-making systems, attempting to decode elements of the automated ad targeting system and focusing on ad targeting outcomes to address the 'black-box' nature of the Facebook advertising algorithm.



- Media attention, stakeholder interactions, and events with partners have contributed to a clearer understanding of automated ad targeting systems. Investigators have also disseminated information through public-facing articles to explain the key issues associated with automated ad targeting on personal devices and social media platforms.
- Education initiatives have been developed to bring awareness to secondary schools in Brisbane, with future plans to create curriculum materials based on research findings. The Observatory has facilitated connections with industry through collaborations with CHOICE, the Consumer Policy Research Centre, and the ABC.

Impact and progress: Phase 1 (2020-2023)

The Australian Ad Observatory project has garnered significant media attention, resulting in impactful stories by partner organisation ABC, shedding light on illegal gambling ads, scam ads and misleading green marketing. This visibility has led to collaborations with influential organizations such as CHOICE and the Consumer Policy Research Centre, and fruitful discussions with many others such as the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and the MacKinnon Foundation. The project's findings and approaches have been showcased at international conferences, fostering ongoing partnerships both nationally and internationally.

The project has produced a diverse range of outputs and resources, with the main findings of each case study being published in policy-oriented and scholarly outlets. For instance, the release of a 1-year snapshot report in March 2023 focused on findings from alcohol advertising on social media platforms. This report, produced in collaboration with Linkage Project LP190101051 'Young Australians and the Promotion of Alcohol on Social Media', unveiled insights into the current placement of online advertising by alcohol companies on Meta platforms in Australia, capturing 39,820 distinct adverts from 351 prominent producers, retailers, and venues. The study revealed significant details, such as the dominance of large holding companies and multinational alcohol producers in the advertisement landscape, as well as the prevalence of call-to-action buttons, particularly the 'Shop Now' button, in alcohol retail



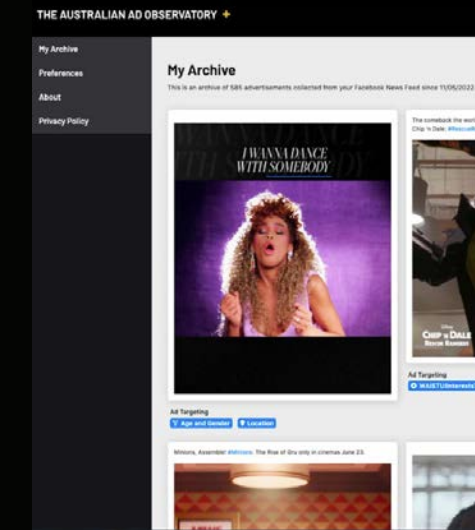
adverts. The problematic nature of these dark ads converting into ecommerce webpages or shop fronts was emphasised, impacting purchase decisions for an addictive substance like alcohol.

Other publications include a commentary on the hazards of the limited accountability for gambling ads online (published in the journal Addiction Research & Theory), a piece on the methods developed by the project team in Computational Communication Research, as well as two articles on the prevalence of scam ads on Facebook currently under review and another in the Journal of Advertising special issue on computational advertising research methods. The Centre has published a "Technical and Data Report" that provides detailed background on the development and implementation of the ad collection tool and the Ad Observatory dashboard, and a report on greenwashing in partnership with the CPRC. Findings from the project have been presented at several international conferences, and will be featured in a panel at the annual convention of the International Communication Association in June, 2024.

The project has also made substantial contributions to educational initiatives, providing materials and resources for the QUT Future You Summit event targeting year 11 and 12 students in September 2023. These materials have the potential to be packaged and shared on teacher resource platforms, promoting broader educational impact. The team has also formed a valuable partnership with CSIRO, exploring opportunities for high-school outreach activities associated with the educational package.

Additionally, the project secured funding to conduct the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA) Workshop on public interest litigation for harmful online food, alcohol, and gambling advertising. This workshop, co-hosted by ADM+S with the University of Melbourne Centre for AI and Digital Ethics and Melbourne Law School Health Ethics and Law Network in September 2023, focused on research translation for public interest litigation. The outcomes of the workshop, including a report and other outputs, contribute to the project's broader impact in addressing harmful online advertising practices. The project team has held meetings and workshops to discuss findings and collaborate with key stakeholders, including the Alliance for Gambling Reform, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission,

Consumer Policy Research Centre (CPRC), Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE), CHOICE, VicHealth, and others. For instance, the scam ads team helps the scam team at CHOICE with regulatory practice development, and the gambling team is reaching out to the Alliance for Gambling Reform to use the findings from this study to address harm from gambling advertising in Australia.



Personal dashboard of collected ads (as seen from a participant's perspective)

Next steps

As automated advertising evolves, our second phase Ad Observatory project will expand our data collection to include the full range of platforms accessed by mobile devices. It will also develop a tool to automatically identify defined advertising categories, including political advertising in the run-up to the next Federal election and ads for harmful products and services. Because of the enhanced capability for customised forms of influence and persuasion, the project will examine the integration of generative AI into ad creation and targeting. The ability to capture all advertising users receive on mobile devices will greatly

expand the ability to provide visibility into the use of automation for the sorting and delivery of ads online.

In the second phase of the project we will also do targeted recruiting to provide visibility into the targeting of harmful products to particular groups (such as younger Australians, elderly Australians, Indigenous Australians, and so on). In the run-up to the federal election, we will also recruit participants from swinging electoral districts to provide visibility into the targeting and customisation of political messaging.

Our objectives for this phase are:

- Develop research infrastructure and methods to observe dark, ephemeral, and synthetic advertising, using a prototype mobile app to collect digital ads across platforms.
- Conduct participatory research with diverse groups of Australians to explore their experiences of advertising and understand its cultural impact, combining citizen science with data collection.
- Develop tools for automatically identifying defined categories of advertising (such as political ads and ads for harmful products and services)
- Provide visibility into the targeting of political advertising during the next Federal election in Australia by recruiting undecided voters in marginal and swinging electorates.
- Conceptualise and develop models for simulating automated advertising at individual and cultural levels, creating tools for users to compare ad sequences and question the automated processes behind them.
- Undertake research with industry stakeholders, including advertisers and agencies, to enrich our understanding of digital advertising and identify common ground for more observable, explainable, and accountable forms.
- Examine implications of automated advertising, including the use of generative AI, for current and contemplated platform governance policies, legal tools, and regulatory frameworks.

> RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Automated Newsroom in Australia and beyond

RESEARCH TEAM

Silvia Montana-Nino, Research Fellow
Jean Burgess, Chief Investigator
James Meese, Chief Investigator
Heather Horst, Chief Investigator

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC)
Victor Garcia Perdomo, Universidad de la Sabana, Colombia
Michelle Riedlinger, Queensland University of Technology
University of Amsterdam

Automated decision-making systems are now implemented in global newsrooms, exerting substantial influence on journalistic output, workforce dynamics, and audience engagement with news content. This research aims to provide insights into the technological infrastructures and practices associated with the implementation of automated decision-making systems in news and media industries in Australia. By collaborating with diverse news workers, including journalists, social media editors, developers, programmers, computer scientists, graphic designers, and social media marketing staff, the investigation focuses on four key areas of the journalistic workflow:

1. Systems for generating automated news reporting;
2. The use of news metrics from outlets and social media platforms in editorial tasking and content personalisation/recommendation;
3. Data visualisation in journalistic storytelling and the application of algorithmic methods, designs, and audits in investigative journalism; and
4. ADM practices addressing misinformation and disinformation actors and environments.

The research project offers a comprehensive overview of current journalistic designs and values

following the integration of automated tools and AI in Australian commercial and public service newsrooms. It examines editorial automation configurations, particularly during the pandemic and preceding the development of generative AI in data-fied societies. It is interesting to explore how journalists, editors, and developers align journalistic ideals with the creation and industrialisation of automation processes, data-centric tools, and types of AI across various editorial stages.

In the first stage of the project, 17 journalists from leading national and regional outlets were interviewed, providing insights into the impact of the pandemic on data journalism practices and data management processes. While the crisis prompted familiarity with data journalism, it did not accelerate more complex automated processes. The study also highlights increased usage of AI commercial tools and advancements in news recommender systems and voice assistants.

The second stage replicates the Australian study in Latin American newsrooms, titled "Envisioning automated journalism in Latin America." Interviews

with practitioners in the region are ongoing, supported by an ethics extension. Additionally, the project has resulted in a collaboration with ADM+S-affiliated researchers and a Latin American University, exploring automated fact-checking strategies in countering misinformation and disinformation. This investigation focuses on social media algorithmic tactics employed by Meta-affiliated fact-checkers in the Southern Hemisphere to address COVID-19 vaccine-related content.

Impact and progress

The Automated Newsroom project made significant strides by bringing together industry participants and partners, including ABC News journalists and strategy staff, at the 2023 ADMS Symposium. Engaging sessions facilitated discussions and collaborations with stakeholders, contributing to the growth of stakeholder relations. Notably, project lead Silvia Ximena Montana-Nino participated in a session titled "What AI-generated news could mean for human-produced journalism?" at the South by Southwest (SXSW) event in Sydney, October 2023, alongside ABC News



Product Strategy Manager Craig McCosker and other broadcasting service members.

Research Foundational Integrity Meta Grant: A key outcome of the project was a collaboration with ADM+S-affiliated investigators and a Latin American University. Together, they successfully submitted a project to the Research Foundational Integrity Meta Grant, securing funding and executing the study in 2023. This initiative focused on automated fact-checking to counteract misinformation and disinformation, exploring social media algorithmic tactics employed by Meta-affiliated fact-checkers in the Southern Hemisphere. The study provided insights into their uses and algorithmic practices, particularly with a focus on countering COVID-19 vaccine-related content.

Training and Education Programs in ADM

Silvia Ximena Montana-Nino delivered a guest lecture to postgraduate students in the QUT Masters Degree in Digital Communication, discussing the implications of automation for journalists and the specificities of data-centric practices in Australian newsrooms.

Global Collaborations and Outreach

Collaborations extended globally, with the project partnering with Universidad de la Sabana in Columbia as well as the University of Amsterdam to investigate Digital Innovations in the News Landscape in Latin America. Involvement with the Global Journalism Innovation Lab, interactions with researchers from Latin America, and upcoming publications showcase the project's impact on a broader scale.

Improved Public Understanding of ADM

Through various presentations, academic forums, and outreach activities, the project has contributed to enhancing public understanding of ADM. Presentations in conferences, lectures, and postgraduate advice sessions, as well as engagement with the general public, have played a vital role in building trust in responsible, ethical, and inclusive systems. The project's discussions in public debates address pressing issues, including the need to train journalists on emerging technologies and the implications of deepening personalisation in the current industry landscape. These discussions contribute to shaping the discourse on impactful forms of public distribution in a fragmented public sphere.

Research Outputs

Members of the research team and the affiliated investigators working with the project have collaborated in the production of the ADM+S reports and submitted an article to News Media & Society (Q1 journal) for the special issue about Covid 19 and automation. The article has been approved and is ready for publication in early 2024. Likewise, one chapter about the platformisation of health and science news, co-authored with Affiliate Investigator Dr Michelle Riedlinger, is in the press and ready for publication.

Next steps

To finalise the study on the Latin American region, a project agreement has been established between Queensland University of Technology and the University of La Sabana. The ethics protocols for this study align with those of the Australian study. The completion of conducting interviews for the Latin American study and this overarching project is anticipated by June 2024. As the postdoctoral researcher in the project has started a continuing job at the University of Melbourne and changed her status to affiliate investigator, the ethics protocols for this project are validating at the new University node.

Additionally, future collaborations are planned, with the team set to engage with the Civic ADM project involving Melbourne nodes and led by CIs James Meese and Mark Andrejevic, along with Jean Burgess at Queensland University of Technology. Another key step is that two research members are part of the supervisory team of PhD candidate Ned Watts' project about Generative AI and fact checking. This research PhD is drawing on previous work with the Meta grant award and the Global Journalism Innovation Lab on independent fact checking.

Two conference papers submitted to the International Communication Association (ICA) that will take place in Gold Coast (Queensland) next June have been approved for presentation. During the first semester, the researchers will be dedicated to producing these research outputs and planning future publications.



RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Australian Search Experience

RESEARCH TEAM

Axel Bruns, Chief Investigator
 Jean Burgess, Chief Investigator
 Nicolas Suzor, Chief Investigator
 Mark Andrejevic, Chief Investigator
 Kimberlee Weatherall, Chief Investigator
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PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

AlgorithmWatch
 University of Twente

There is a lot of speculation about the impact that search engines have on the information we encounter. Many people assume that search engine personalisation influences individuals' search results, and thereby shapes what they know of the world. This shaping could then significantly influence personal choices, from spending habits and political affiliations to critical attitudes on pressing issues like the safety of COVID-19 vaccines.

This research takes a bold stance, delving deep into the extent of search result personalisation by leading search engines and their algorithms. Meticulously compiling and analysing search recommendations across prominent search engines, it explores the evidence that these search engines have indeed established personal interest profiles for individual diverse users. The study spans a wide range of topics, both generic and specific, and encompasses a significant timeframe.

Employing a citizen science approach, the project



is fuelled by data donations from the general public through a unique desktop browser plugin. Over 350 million search results, donated by more than 1,000 citizen science participants, have been collected. ADM+S researchers have undertaken a rigorous analysis, aiming to determine the impact of search result personalisation for critical news and information across key platforms like Google and YouTube.

Case Study: Google News

Part of the project focusses on Google News results, aiming to unravel the interplay between recommender systems and search personalisation in the realm of news distribution. Our findings show very limited evidence of personalisation: news source recommendations are primarily influenced by the search topic, not by the assumed identity or interests of the user. But our study also shows that this one-size-fits-all approach to news provision does not always produce optimal recommendations. To explore this further, the team is currently analysing the diversity of news sources recommended to Australian users, with

a specific focus on the prominence of local and national news in Google News results. Through this work, we examine whether search results reflect a broad range of informative perspectives, or whether specific news outlets are featured disproportionately much in search results.

Case Study: Comparing Search Results Across Google Platforms/Services

This ambitious part of the project extends its examination to search results across various platforms and services, including Google News, Google Search, Google Videos, and YouTube. Here, we examine how different search engines operationalise 'authoritativeness' on socio-cultural issues over time. The project critically examines the sources ranked at the top on each platform, and reflects on issues of media diversity and the balance between stability and responsiveness in the presentation of search recommendations. This holistic approach aims to provide comprehensive insights into the multifaceted dimensions of recommendations across leading components of the search engine ecosystem.

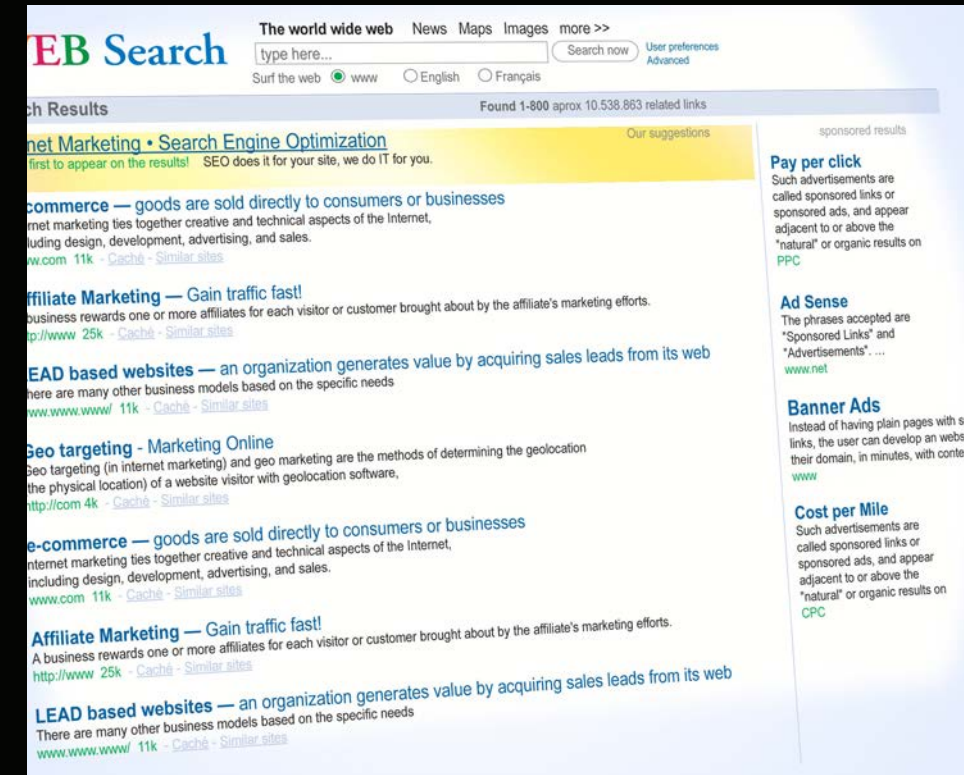
Impact and progress

Centrally building on and extending the earlier browser plugin code developed by ADM+S partner institution AlgorithmWatch, the project is enhanced through collaboration with other partner teams. Our findings of a lack of results personalisation match those of other teams around the world using this and other data gathering approaches, and our team has supported the implementation of a further Search Experience project in the Netherlands. Led by Shenja van der Graaf at the University of Twente. This project utilises our research approach and plugin code.

Additionally, our confirmation of an absence of personalisation in search results has contributed to the advancement of public debate and the elevation of trust in the recommender systems of major search engines. By demonstrating that concerns about search personalisation and their presumed creation of 'filter bubbles' lack substance, we are able to shift public debate to more important matters – including the institutional factors that affect which sources search engines choose to recommend, and the impact that variations in users' own search queries have on the quality of the search results that are returned to them.



UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.



Next steps

The evidence that there is minimal search result personalisation on mainstream search platforms has been established through this project and analogous findings from related projects elsewhere, variously utilising approaches such as citizen data donations, paid human contributors, or trained artificial profiles. The Australian Search Experience project, will continue to support similar projects globally, like its counterpart in the Netherlands, by providing its open-source plugin code and expertise.

While our research to date has shown that identical searches entered by different individuals yield virtually identical results, we have yet to assess the breadth of search results produced

by slight variations in search queries. Building on the infrastructure and outcomes developed by the previous project, the Australian Search Experience (ASE) 2.0 will develop and deploy novel methodologies to capture and understand the diversity of queries produced by people; systematically examine the consequences of such query diversity for the range and quality of results obtained from current mainstream search engines; and further extend this analysis to emergent search technologies including voice- and AI-assisted search. By utilising generative artificial intelligence technologies to help in producing a large range of alternative search queries for the same topic, we are able to substantially scale up our investigation, and to comprehensively map the diversity of results returned for such queries.

> **RESEARCH PROJECTS**

An AI governance framework for garbage truck-mounted machine vision systems



RESEARCH TEAM

Anthony McCosker, Chief Investigator
 Yong-Bin Kang, Research Fellow
 Milovan Savic, Research Fellow
 Thomas Graham, PhD Student
 Megan Richardson, Affiliate

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

Brimbank City Council
 Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC)

This unique project confronts the ethical and social dilemmas entwined with the utilisation of AI systems in local government municipalities. While AI's potential for transformative decision-making is vast, it concurrently presents critical concerns surrounding privacy, transparency, and ethical implications. In response to these challenges, the study presents a meticulously crafted AI governance framework tailored explicitly for local government municipalities. This framework, anchored in human rights and organisational values, meticulously balances societal risks and benefits. It establishes guidelines and practices to harmonise AI technologies with organisational objectives, championing responsible AI development and deployment.

Along with Brimbank City Council in Australia, this project champions a collaborative design approach, resulting in the development of an adaptable AI governance framework. Informed by ethical and responsible AI research, this framework delineates key AI management pillars, processes, and an action plan, propelling responsible and ethical AI practices forward. Its adaptability to diverse municipal needs ensures a delicate equilibrium between general responsible AI principles and specific local government contexts.

This project yields multifaceted contributions:

- + Delves into the human, social, and ethical implications of AI usage in local government;
- + Puts forth an innovative AI governance



- + framework that seamlessly integrates responsible AI principles, management pillars, and an action plan, marking a monumental stride in AI governance; and
- + Emphasises a participatory approach, streamlining the development and translation of the AI governance framework, transforming it into a practical resource for policymakers, city planners, and pertinent stakeholders.

By embracing this framework, local governments position themselves as ethical AI pioneers, fostering public trust and transparency. This necessitates context-specific translational efforts, paving the way for the practical implementation of high-level ethical principles. The proposed framework, coupled with an action plan, facilitates the responsible deployment of AI across sectors, benefiting both the organisation and the communities they serve. This project showcases multiple benefits:

- + Risk mitigation in ADM development: Co-designed AI governance strategies with

a local government guide to support the responsible use of AI for local government municipalities.

- + Enhanced workforce capabilities in ADM: Through co-design workshops and knowledge exchange, the project equips government staff with the skills and expertise needed for responsible AI governance, leading to the informed development and implementation of policies, guidelines, and practices related to ADM.
- + Elevated public understanding and trust in ADM: Contributed to improving public understanding of ADM and fostering increased trust in responsible, ethical, and inclusive AI systems. The development of practical and context-specific guidelines empowers local governments to integrate robust ethical considerations into their ADM initiatives, fostering public trust and confidence in AI systems.

Impact and progress

The team secured a noteworthy cash contribution of \$31,997 from our esteemed industry partner, Brimbank city council, providing vital support for ongoing research initiatives:

Award-winning innovation: Yong-Bin and the team garnered recognition through an award for their groundbreaking systems build work. The innovative solution, a pioneering endeavor in Australia, addresses the proactive maintenance challenge of roadside assets in local government areas (LGAs). This solution involves outfitting waste collection trucks with internet of things (IoT) sensors and 5G connectivity, enabling the capture of high-resolution video data for roadside assets, including signs, bus stop shelters, and public spaces.

International collaboration: The project played a pivotal role in shaping and securing a DFAT Australia-India cyber and critical technology partnership grant. Building on the established approach to AI governance, the focus extended to AI applications in the energy sector, emphasising ethics, governance, and Net Zero goals. This achievement reflects the project's global impact and contribution to fostering international collaborations.

Next steps

Expansion to other local governments: The meticulously designed AI governance framework stands as a potential blueprint for other local governments seeking effective governance models. This opens avenues for collaboration and knowledge exchange, fostering collective efforts among municipalities to formulate and adopt responsible AI governance practices.

Future research collaborations: The project, centered around co-design workshops and engagement with government personnel, yielded valuable insights. Subsequent projects could explore research collaborations with academic institutions or research organisations. This collaborative approach aims to delve deeper into emerging challenges in AI governance and develop comprehensive solutions.

Implementation and framework refinement: The action plan integrated into the AI governance framework offers a pragmatic pathway for implementation within the collaborating local



government. Future initiatives may revolve around close collaboration with the government, overseeing the framework's implementation, gauging its efficacy, and making necessary refinements based on feedback and evolving requirements.



> RESEARCH PROJECTS

Trauma-informed AI

RESEARCH TEAM

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Lyndal Sleep, Affiliate
Suvaradip Maitra, Affiliate

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

University of Notre Dame USA – IBM Tech Ethics Lab
Suzanna Fay, Associate Professor at UQ

The potential of AI and automated processes to elevate human wellbeing is substantial, promising to revolutionise service provision through full automation or collaborative efforts with human service providers. However, rapid automation also poses the risk of generating widespread harm swiftly if not meticulously considered. To address this challenge, current discussions revolve around the principles of ethical AI and accountable algorithms. Early efforts are underway to translate these principles into practical frameworks and processes, ensuring their effective implementation. A predominant focus has emerged on AI risk assessment frameworks as a key approach to detect and evaluate potential harms. Additionally, a growing collection of AI audit frameworks is gaining prominence, complemented by the emergence of regulatory settings at governmental and organisational levels, alongside the engagement of dedicated professionals in the field.

Drawing inspiration from trauma-informed practices in social services, this research project delineated fundamental principles and devised a practical assessment framework. This framework reimagines the entire process of AI/ADM design, development, and deployment as a reflective and constructive exercise. The goal of the project was to develop an innovative Trauma Informed Algorithmic Assessment Toolkit that can support evaluators assessing the extent to which an algorithmic enabled service may generate trauma or re-traumatise users. The value of the Toolkit is not simply to assess digital technologies after they are built and in operation, but also to inform designs of digital technologies and algorithmic

enabled social services from their inception. The outcome of this study was a tangible result—a practical, co-designed, and pilot-tested tool, known as the Trauma-Informed Algorithmic Assessment Toolkit.

The objectives of this study were to:

- + Develop and road test a Trauma-informed Algorithmic Assessment Toolkit with professionals working with services users who have experienced trauma (particularly in domestic violence, or child abuse/neglect)
- + Produce a practical Toolkit that can be used by social service professionals, developers, and external auditors to assist in developing, devising, deploying and evaluating AI/ADM systems in social services in accordance with trauma informed principles
- + Advance an awareness of the need for trauma informed AI/ADM design, particularly in social services
- + Foster the creation and use of trauma-informed AI/ADM

CI Paul Henman



Impact and progress

This project combined original research by co-designing the aims and execution with social service organisations in Australia, delivering a practical Trauma-Informed Algorithmic Assessment Toolkit, published in early 2024. This Toolkit encourages reflection and assists social service organisations at any stage of design, development, deployment or evaluation of AI or automation in service delivery. Comprising evaluations across five sections of service delivery in which AI/ADM is used, the Toolkit enables social service organisations to:

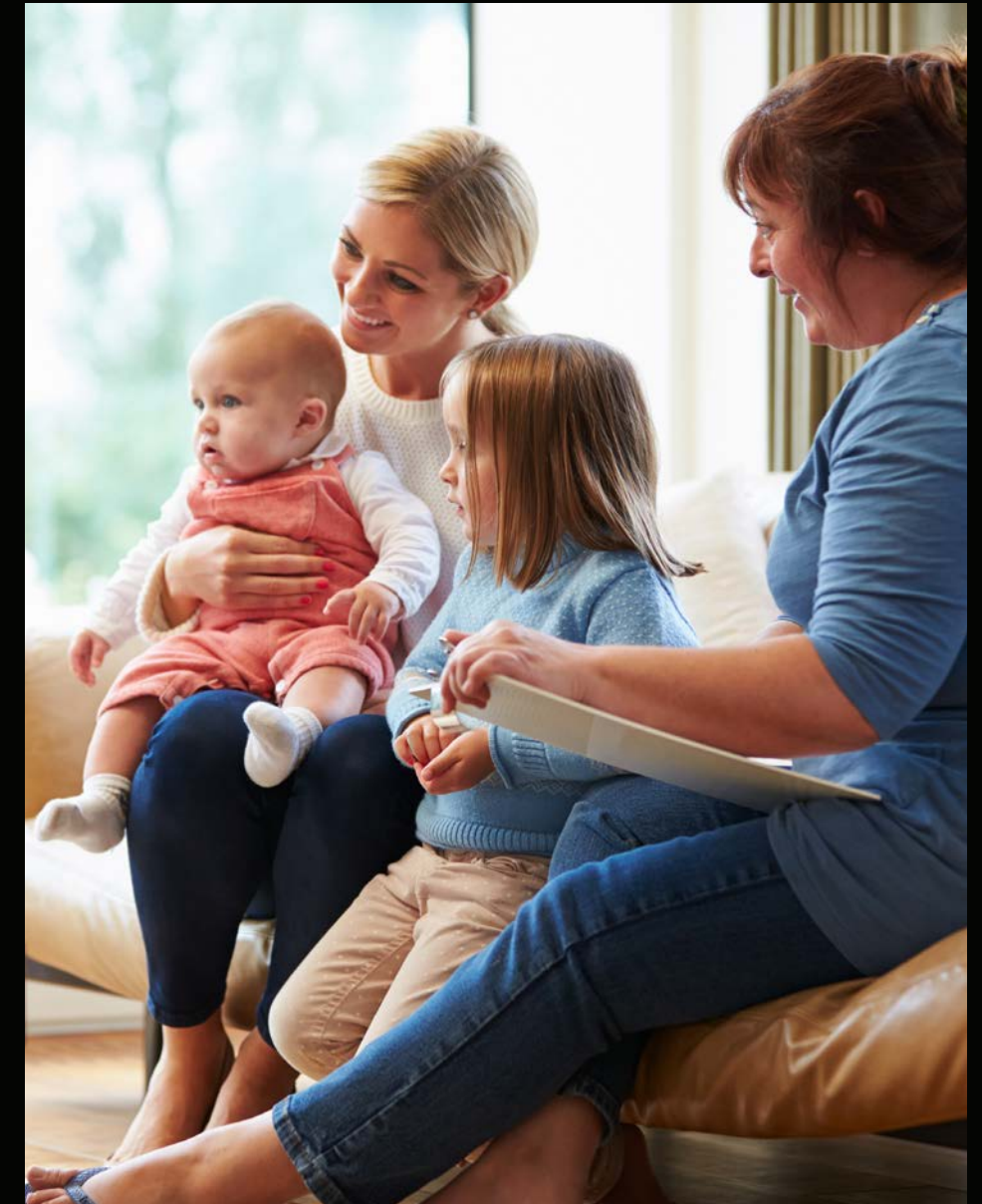
- + identify the motivations of algorithms' use in service delivery;
- + answer 10 core questions that focus on the most crucial components in delivering a trauma-informed algorithmic-enabled service;
- + through further guided questions, reflectively assess: organisational service processes procedures and plans; the algorithmic system; service user engagement and involvement; and human-algorithm interaction;
- + evaluate types of algorithmic systems that are increasingly found in service delivery; and
- + prioritise areas for review and ongoing improvement.

Next steps

The original project was funded and completed in 2023. Following recommendations from study participants through the co-design process to deploy and evolve the Toolkit, the next steps include:

- + partnering with social service organisations to trial the Toolkit in real world evaluations of potential and actual use of algorithmic enable social services;
- + create a dynamic, online version of the Toolkit to support greater useability; and
- + develop training materials and educative resources about trauma-informed principles and AI/ADM in social services to enhance human and IT professional skills.

This work will be conducted under the Critical Capabilities for Inclusive AI signature project.



> RESEARCH PROJECTS

Quantifying and Measuring Bias and Engagement

RESEARCH TEAM

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Anthony McCosker, Chief Investigator

Flora Salim, Chief Investigator

Mark Sanderson, Chief Investigator

Jenny Kennedy, Associate Investigator

Falk Scholer, Associate Investigator

Danula Hettiachchi, Associate Investigator

Nuha Abu Onq, PhD Student

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Sachin Pathiyar Cherumanal, PhD Student

Kaixin Ji, PhD Student

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

RMIT ABC Fact Check

The design, evaluation, and optimisation of automated decision-making systems, encompassing search engines, intelligent assistants, and Large Language Model (LLM)-based conversational agents hinges on defining frameworks that model user interactions. These models often simplify user representations, using metrics like the relevance of delivered items to operationalise system development. A critical challenge lies in augmenting these frameworks to encompass new dimensions such as fairness, alongside traditional quality definitions.

The research aims to address this knowledge gap by focusing on information access systems that involve automated decision-making components. By partnering with experts in fact-checking, the project team used misinformation management as the main scenario of the study, given that bias and engagement play an important role in three main elements of the automated decision-making processes: the user, the system, and the information that is presented and consumed. The methodologies considered to address this research problem include lab user studies (e.g., observational studies), the use of crowdsourcing

platforms (e.g., Amazon Mechanical Turk), and participatory research. The data collection processes include: co-design workshops; logging human-system interactions; collecting sensor data using wearable devices; and questionnaires.

This project has presented evidence of these benefits for the greater community:

1. Reduced risk in the development and implementation of ADM, and improved public understanding of ADM and increased trust in responsible, ethical and inclusive systems. These benefits are evidenced by the recommendations for optimizing presentation strategies for verified content, as well as the showcase on how to measure and reduce hallucinations in LLM-based customised chatbots with Walert.
2. Better outcomes in transport, health care, social services, and news & media by better understanding of how to effectively present fact-checked content debunking relevant topics in these areas. The findings from a hands-on workshop with practitioners and crowdsourcing experiments are also beneficial to fact-checking and other media organisations.

3. Reduced inequalities for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups by using sensor data and psychometrics tests to quantify biases that occur when users interact with ADMs; better systems can be developed to cater for disadvantaged user groups, for instance, by identifying when confirmation biases can occur and what user attributes can exacerbate such biases, it can be ensured that systems can deliver news/content more effectively and equitably.
4. Expanded, higher quality research workforce capabilities in ADM by providing a collaborative, and multi-disciplinary research environment for PhD candidates and other researchers working on complementary topics such as cognitive bias, fairness-aware ranking, interactive information access and online conformity. Students were actively involved in the dissemination of the research through presentations at international conferences and showcases in ADM+S events.



AI Damiano Spina speaking at the 2023 ADM+S Symposium

Impact and progress

A hands-on workshop engaged practitioners to gain deeper insights into the functionality of data structures in the back end of information access systems - specifically, search engines and intelligent assistants. The workshop was designed by incorporating multiple engaging tools such as Lego blocks to represent various content characteristics on screens and audio channels. Personas, derived from the Digital Inclusion Index results, including those from protected groups (e.g., Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, single mothers, elderly), were integrated into the workshop design. The project employs a combination of qualitative and quantitative

methods, fostering a research environment where students derive benefits from sharing research updates within an interdisciplinary team. Participants from the RMIT ABC Fact Check team expressed highly favourable feedback regarding the collaborative workshop. The activities facilitated the co-designing of various presentation strategies, which were empirically tested for effectiveness through crowdsourcing experiments. The resultant findings presented at the 32nd ACM International Conference for Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM 2023) hold significant potential to shape the design of more effective presentation strategies for verified content produced by fact checkers.

These findings were also showcased at ADM+S 2023 News and Media Symposium. The interdisciplinary panel titled "Can I Get a Fact-Check? News, Misinformation and Fact-Checking"1



(composed by researchers and practitioners in fact-checking and pre-bunking) discussed how AI-powered information access tools are increasingly assisting fact-checkers in Asia-Pacific and the Global South to pre- and debunk misinformation.

The project involved user studies to characterise with physiological signals how people consume information via both text and audio modalities. Our contributions so far include novel methodologies to experiment with multiple physiological signals in information retrieval user studies. We are currently running experiments using wearable devices to characterise cognitive biases when users interact with search engines and LLM-based conversational systems such as ChatGPT.

In addition to fact-checking, we examined several other use cases where users interact with information and quantifying bias is important. These include fairness-aware ranking, human and contextual factors influencing how people search, online conformity in the social media, and quantifying hallucinations in LLM-based customised chatbots.

Our work has been distinguished by a number of awards, including: Best Paper Award at UbiComp/ISWC'23, Best Presentation Award at NTCIR-17, Industry Impact Award and People's Choice Awards at the 25+ Years RMIT/UniMelb IR alumni event. Moreover, the lead investigator's exceptional contributions led to an invitation to join the International Panel on the Information Environment (IPIE), recently announced at the Nobel Prize Summit 2023. As a direct outcome of this research project, training and education programs in ADM were implemented. Prof. Anthony McCosker shared insights as an invited speaker at RMIT's Case Studies in Data Science course (2021 and 2022), addressing data science master students and shedding light on the application of data science in the realm of not-for-profit organisations.

The exploration of topic within this project is through multiple lenses and the bridging of gaps between disciplines are facilitated by our collaborative and interdisciplinary approach, which combines computer science with media and communication expertise. ADM+S research spotlights have resulted in an increased public discussion and improved public understanding of ADM.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Considerate and Accurate Multi-party Recommender Systems for Constrained Resources

RESEARCH TEAM

Mark Sanderson, Chief Investigator
 Christopher Leckie, Chief Investigator
 Flora Salim, Chief Investigator
 Maarten de Rijke, Partner Investigator
 Jeffrey Chan, Associate Investigator
 Danula Hettiachchi, Research Fellow
 Hiruni Kegalle, PhD Student
 Yueqing Xuan, PhD Student
 Yufan Kang, PhD Student

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

University of Amsterdam
 LIME E-Scooters

Considerate and Accurate REcommender System (CARES) aims to develop an innovative recommender system, enabling the equitable allocation of limited resources. This project pioneers a hybrid socio-technical approach; the efficacy of CARES is rigorously assessed through the lenses of social science and behavioral economics. The transformative impact of CARES extends beyond technological advancements, seeking to revolutionise the sharing economy. By providing novel systems and multidisciplinary methodologies, CARES is poised to enhance both user and non-user experiences, optimise business efficiency, and bolster corporate social responsibility.

The researchers are investigating multi-party fairness, which refers to the fairness in two-sided (or multi-sided) markets in autonomous decision-making recommender systems. By exploring fairness through different case scenarios, the team envisions a paradigm shift that aligns technology with ethical considerations, fostering a more equitable and sustainable landscape within the sharing economy.



Above: PhD student Yueqing Xuan sets up a participant for e-scooter field study with AI Danula Hettiachchi on a scooter in background. Right: Banner in park advertising e-scooter study

Impact and progress

E-scooter study to understand the impact on involuntary stakeholders

A novel methodology incorporating semi-structured interviews and a field study with multi-modal data collection was tested in the research works led by Hiruni Kegalle. Semi-structured interviews with 23 participants, including e-scooter riders, service providers, pedestrians, cyclists, and governmental bodies were conducted. The second component included a field study that involved recruiting 15 e-scooter riders. Riders followed a pre-determined path while speed, eye-tracking and video data were collected using research equipment. The user study was partially supported by LIME, one of the e-scooter providers operating in the City of Melbourne.



Spotify study to measure users' fairness perceptions

The data collection of the Spotify user study was completed in 2023. This work, led by Danula Hettiachchi, addresses the lack of understanding regarding user perceptions of fair recommendations, particularly in contexts where two parties are involved, such as customers and producers in online marketplaces. The music artist recommendation use case was studied, and the impact of generating fair recommendations and informing users about the process on their perceptions was tested. 60 participants were locally recruited to complete a short online study that involved rating music artist recommendations

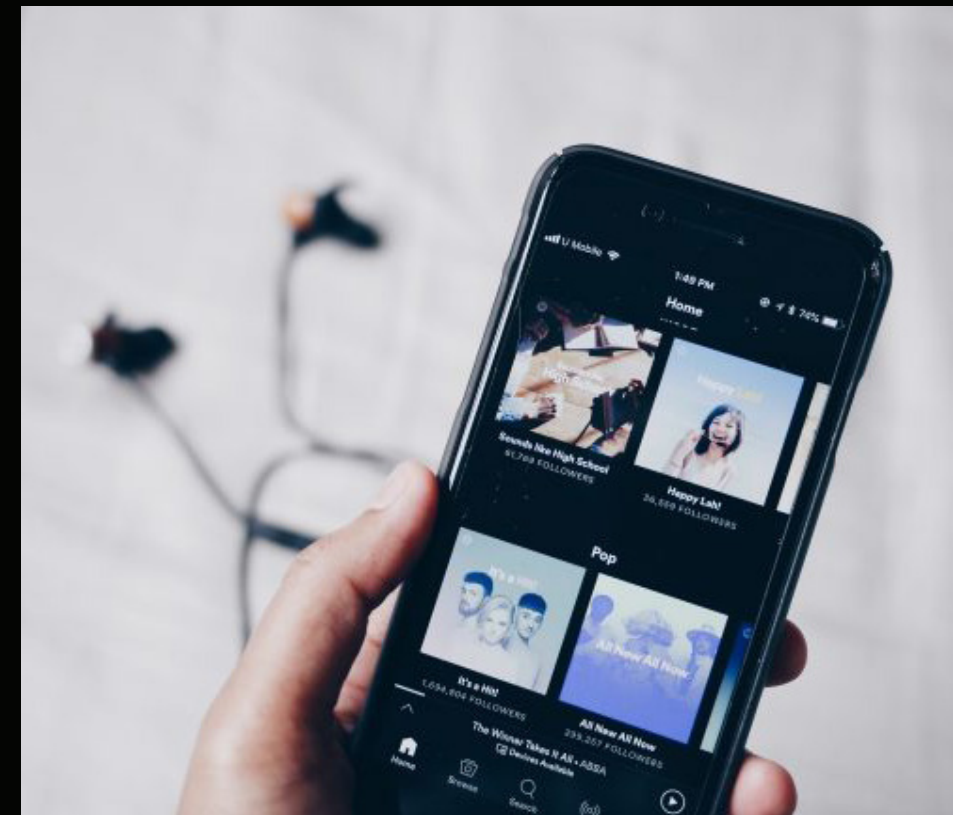
and answering a series of questionnaires. For conducting the study, an online experimental platform was developed where study users sign in using their Spotify credentials and complete a specific experimental condition. The platform can gather relevant Spotify recommendations for the user, re-rank them according to our experimental conditions and obtain real-time user feedback.

Both studies are underway. Further analysis and multiple conference and journal research publications are planned for 2024. At the 24th IEEE International Conference on Mobile Data Management (MDM), the team paper on the impact of shared spaces of e-scooters won the runner-up award for Best Student Paper.

Next steps

CAREs 2.0 will study how generative models and large language models simulate users, as an initial approach to doing user studies and understanding user behaviours. There has been some preliminary work in this space, but it will be particularly useful to test different hypotheses about users and to integrate IoTs. Building on the current CARES project, a new ADM+S Phase 2 project on "Human-Generative Behavioural Evaluations and Studies" is proposed. The project focuses on evaluation and human studies and uses generative AI as a potential technology to do so. It also focuses on a specific application domain, multi-party recommender systems and ranking systems, as the project aims to study the pipeline of necessary research for this to be made practical. It includes exploring challenges around new hybrid human evaluation and user studies, how to evaluate their validity and how to explain and educate practitioners about why certain evaluations or behaviours arise.

The project team's interest is in using generative AI to better understand flows of culture and cultural products (e.g. music), including what cultural products people are exposed to and in what order and why, so that evaluation on whether and how recommender and ranking systems might incorporate factors and values that range from commercial to social/civic, such as ensuring that female artists and artists of colour are equitably reflected in recommendations.



> **RESEARCH PROJECTS**

Diverse Experiences of ADM: Design, Curation and Use

RESEARCH TEAM

Heather Horst, Chief Investigator
 Deborah Lupton, Chief Investigator
 Sarah Pink, Chief Investigator
 Jackie Leach Scully, Chief Investigator
 Georgia van Toorn, Associate Investigator
 Ash Watson, Senior Research Fellow
 Vaughan Wozniak-O'Connor, Research Fellow
 Cecily Klim, PhD Student
 Megan Rose, PhD Student
 Jacinthe Flore, Affiliate

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

Consumer Health Forum of Australia
 Health Consumers NSW

The 'Diverse Experiences of ADM' project constitutes a collection of studies examining the social, cultural, and ethical dimensions of how ADM and other emerging technologies are understood and experienced by people. To comprehend and develop equitable futures, this project delves into how members of diverse communities influence existing, emerging, and prospective practices of ADM. The studies encompass various aspects with varied audiences; for instance, exploring new technologies, and identifying necessary services to enhance their care and well-being of disabled people's lived experiences with ADM. Additionally, the project scrutinises health technology startups, delving into developers' visions of future technologies, and investigates the portrayal of health and medical technologies in Australian industry websites and news reports.

A significant emphasis on employing participatory, experimental, creative, and arts-based research methods for community engagement and research translation, including the use of artworks, zines, and exhibitions, constitutes innovative methodologies for impact. Some areas of the project focus on gender, sexual health, and digital contraception technologies. Other focus areas are digital mental health, supports for autistic people,

and self-tracking practices applied to humans and non-human animals. The project adopts a more-than-human orientation, recognising the entanglements of humans not only with digital devices, software, and data but also with other animals, living things, and the physical elements of the ecosystems in which these technologies are envisioned, developed, promoted, used, or resisted.

Impact and progress

There have been significant project updates this year, with multiple research publications as part of the outputs. The spotlight for this year has been the 'More-than-Human Wellbeing' exhibition (July 2023) as a culmination of recent research projects, employing innovative multimodal arts-based and multisensory methods. Both digital and non-digital approaches are used to communicate key concepts and findings, providing a unique perspective on health and wellbeing within the context of more-than-human and more-than-digital ecologies. The exhibition was curated by Deborah Lupton, with artworks provided by Vaughan Wozniak-O'Connor, Megan Rose and Ash Watson.



Above: Page from Dr Ash Watson's zine *Talking / Flowers*.
 Below: Publication outputs from exhibition



Above (left and right): Participants interact with exhibits at the *More Than Human Wellbeing* exhibition

The exhibition contributed towards the following impacts:

Reconfiguring digital health as digital planetary health

The exhibition artworks, wall panels, documentary film and exhibition reader worked towards attuning humans to how their bodies and health are digitised and datafied through technological use, including historical and ecological perspectives.

Community collaborations, outreach and impact
 Community partner Health Consumers NSW



contributed to the research documented by the short film shown in the exhibition. The UNSW Library's curatorial partnership and support resulted in a professional quality exhibition. Open-access resources and education programs developed as part of the exhibition and shared on the exhibition website contributed to public understanding and informed debate. Post-exhibition feedback from visitors offers insights into the impact of their engagement.

Training and education initiatives

Successful implementation of training and education programs related to the exhibition spans school curricula and direct involvement in UNSW students' programs at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The exhibition's accessibility

in the UNSW Library provided students with a unique opportunity for firsthand viewing during their library visits.

Building international research networks

Exchange visits with UK universities were undertaken by Vaughan Wozniak-O'Connor and Ash Watson, while Megan Rose met with collaborators and researchers in Japan, promoting the research methods and translation activities developed in making this exhibition. International visitors to the UNSW Node during 2023, from Mexico, Brazil, the UK, Canada, Sweden, Finland, Norway and Germany provided the opportunity for further collaborations and methods workshops related to the exhibition.



> **RESEARCH PROJECTS**

Automation and Public Space

RESEARCH TEAM

- Michael Richardson, Lead Investigator
- Mark Andrejevic, Chief Investigator
- Jake Goldenfein, Chief Investigator
- Anthony McCosker, Chief Investigator
- Rowan Wilken, Associate Investigator
- Christopher O’Neil, Research Fellow
- Jathan Sadowski, Associate Investigator
- Kelly Lewis, Research Fellow
- Thao Phan, Research Fellow
- Zoe Horn, PhD Student
- Lauren Kelly, PhD Student
- Andrew Brooks, Affiliate
- Danielle Hynes, Affiliate

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

- Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC)
- Platform Economies Research Network (PERN)

The increased influence of automated decision-making technologies, from delivery drones to digital twins and crowd surveillance, is shaping public and shared spaces. This project delves into the impact of ADM systems on public and shared spaces, specifically through sensors generating actionable digital simulations, artefacts, and interfaces. Employing a mixed methods approach, the research scrutinises the current and potential effects of ADM on the structure, usage, and overall experience of public spaces.

As technological advancements rapidly unfold, the use of autonomous drones for delivery, reliant on sensor-driven navigation systems, stands out. The data and models produced by these systems are anticipated to influence and modulate public space in response. In urban and environmental governance, ‘digital twins’ are increasingly monitoring environments in real-time, simulating the impact of potential changes, and even implementing those changes directly.



These technologies are not only deployed, but also invented, designed, and tested in Australia, often in proximity to defense and defense industries. They form a critical point of convergence between public space, technology, defense, and industry, holding national significance. Understanding how tools of automated spatiality reconfigure environments and the role of policy and industry in their innovation and adoption will yield insights crucial for national contexts, with implications for international jurisdictions undergoing similar transformations.

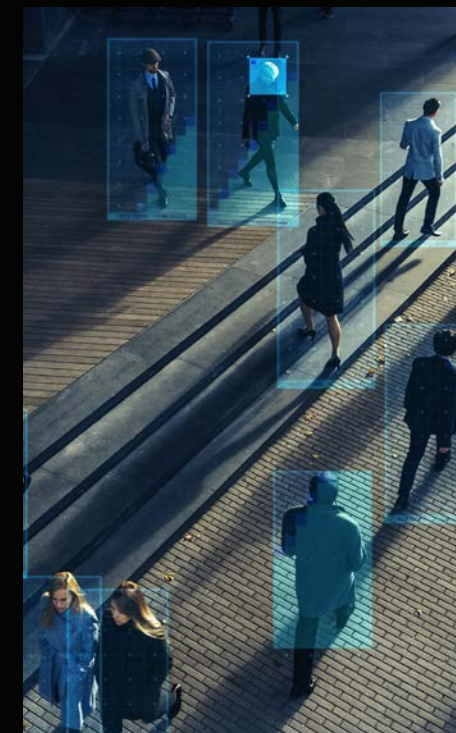
The project is focused on elevating public discussion and fostering better understanding of automated decision-making, particularly in the realm of drone delivery and related aerial technologies. This is being achieved through a combination of digital content, media engagement, and potential collaboration with CHOICE.

It also aims to expand and enhance international research and practitioner networks, with a focus on developing networks of researchers in the theme of automated space.

Impact and progress

The first main project milestone thus far has been the Automated Space workshop held at ADM+S RMIT in April 2023, fostering significant collaboration within the ADM+S community. This collaborative momentum continued with engaged researchers from various programs, including data; people; and institutions, representing focus areas such as news & media, transport & mobilities, health, and social services.

This featured 22 draft papers, involving a total of 33 researchers, which involved non-ADM+S researchers from Deakin University, Monash University, Melbourne University, Princeton University (The United States of America), and Western University (Canada). This workshop will lay the groundwork for a forthcoming journal special issue, currently in discussions with Environment & Planning F. Envisaged to encompass 8-12 papers, primarily contributed by ADMS researchers with robust representation from Early Career Researchers (ECRs) and Higher Degree by Research (HDR) scholars. Despite being primarily in draft form due to the focus on formative activities aimed at generating connections within ADMS, the project has yielded preliminary publications, notably an article on pandemic drones. This article draws on the early project work conducted by the lead investigator, with a specific focus on the pandemic.



Above: AI Michael Richardson speaking at the 2023 ADM+S Symposium

Next steps

This project has been instrumental in shaping the Testbed Australia initiative spearheaded by Research Fellow Thao Phan. The exploration of drone delivery within this endeavor has facilitated valuable connections with the NSW Surf Life Saving’s drone program. Anticipated outcomes and research findings from this project are slated to take center stage at the Platform Economies Research Network event at The New School in 2024, offering significant potential to cultivate extensive collaborations on themes such as political economy, public space, and ADM technologies, including digital twins.

As the project unfolds throughout 2024 and 2025, a paramount objective will be to proactively mitigate risks in the development and implementation of ADM, with a dedicated focus on benefiting disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. While the breadth of involvement in different areas poses challenges for direct, ongoing collaboration, the project activities maintain momentum and cohesion around overarching research themes. To amplify this impact, an outward-facing symposium in 2024 and diverse publications are planned.

In 2023, projected researchers Thao Phan and Andrew Brooks submitted DECRA applications related to work developed in this project.

We also secured publication of a special issue centering project research and bringing it into conversation with international scholarship via the Environment and Planning F. academic journal.



RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

Throughout 2023 the ADM+S Research Infrastructure Committee continued to lead the development and support of critical research infrastructure across the Centre and the wider research and civil society sector, underpinned by the implementation of our research infrastructure strategy.

AARNet's decommissioning of CloudStor presented challenges for the whole research and education sector, as this was a widely utilised secure data storage and collaboration platform. The infrastructure committee supported this transition through provision of a mixed-model of alternative platforms to allow our cross-institutional teams to continue to collaborate via appropriate digital platforms, and maintain access to and security of important research data.

Our researchers continued to push boundaries in the development of innovative research methods, including pilot work on a range of generative artificial intelligence test beds. These infrastructures will be increasingly important in the second phase of the centre for assisting in data analysis, but also in enabling study of the inner-workings of these models themselves.

The Centre was involved in the development of the Academy of Social Sciences Decadal Plan for Science Research Infrastructure which is due to be launched in April 2024. This work ensures the continued support of and expansion of our ambitious research agenda, providing legacy infrastructure outcomes beyond the life of the Centre.

Similarly, we continued development of the Australian Social Data Observatory, a bold plan for a next generation social research infrastructure. In productive partnership with the Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC) our original ASDO plans have now been merged into a comprehensive multi-institutional proposal for an Australian Internet Observatory.

Our infrastructure developments continue to have wide-ranging impact and uptake, with key software packages that underpin the Ad Observatory being adopted by colleagues at Universität Duisburg-Essen in collaboration with EU organisation 'Who Targets Me' to study digital advertising in the Netherlands and Germany. Our pioneering work on the Australian Search Experience project has also been entirely duplicated for a significant

comparative European Search Experience project headed by the University of Twente. Closer to home, we have also provided infrastructure advice to several Australian government departments on establishing modes of observability to assist in the tracking of illegal and harmful advertising, and online scams.



Jean Burgess
Associate Director
Research Infrastructure
Co-Chair



Dan Angus
Chief Investigator
Research Infrastructure
Co-Chair

ADM+S RESEARCHERS SET TO BUILD AN AUSTRALIAN INTERNET OBSERVATORY

In 2023 the Australian Government announced the largest ever investment in Humanities, Arts and Social Science (HASS) research infrastructure in Australia via the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS). The \$25 million funding to the Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC) will support the development of enduring national digital research infrastructure for the HASS and Indigenous Research Data Commons (RDC) across existing and new focus areas over the next four years (2024-2028).

In an exciting development, the HASS and Indigenous RDC program now includes support for a new 'Mediated Data' focus area 'facilitating access to large collections of dynamic digital data and providing the analysis tools and skills for insights into Australian society and culture'. This

was a direct response to the ground-breaking work of the Ad Observatory and the Search Experience research programs and ADM+S research highlighting the need for new tools to ensure platform observability. As a result, ADM+S researchers have been invited to put forward a program of work for this new focus area.

To address the digital transformation challenge and the need for greater observability of digital platforms, Australian researchers and policymakers need new tools and research infrastructure that can support new approaches such as data donations and platform simulation at a national scale. To this end researchers at ADM+S have put forward a proposal for an Australian Internet Observatory, ground-breaking national research infrastructure that will provide access to diverse types of digital trace data - text, image, audio, video etc - and new ways of observing and studying online interactions between people, platforms and algorithms. This will support innovative approaches to the collection and analysis of digital social data and internet platforms and provide access to large-scale social, economic and cultural data and the analytical tools and governance required to support cutting-edge research on a range of social, economic, health and environmental issues

The ADM+S NRI working group has begun developing detailed plans for the Australian Internet Observatory as the key program within the Mediated Data Focus area of the HASS and Indigenous RDC, with this exciting project set to begin in July 2024.



WHO INFLUENCES PUBLIC POLICY TOPICS ON WIKIPEDIA?

As one of the most popular websites in the world with wide ranging coverage of key issues in multiple languages, Wikipedia provides a unique global environment for understanding the role and influence of diverse publishing genres and sources. This kind of research has been conducted on formal publishing genres (see Singh et al. 2021) but no one has yet looked in detail at research reports and policy papers produced by organisations as a source for Wikipedia. One of the cornerstones of Wikipedia is its reliance on citations from reliable sources, however little is known about the influence of organizations as sources on Wikipedia and other Wikimedia platforms. To address this ADM+S Research Fellow, Dr Amanda Lawrence, received a 1 year research grant from the Wikimedia Foundation (WMF) (2023-2024) to investigate the role of organisations such as think tanks, research centres and government agencies as sources for public policy topics on Wikipedia, working with data scientist, Angel Felipe Magnossao de Paula.

A key part of Wikimedia's defence system against mis and disinformation is its content and citation policies however Wikipedia's reliable sources policies are still grounded in traditional notions of the research publishing economy as primarily commercial and scholarly publishers and traditional news media. At the same time, Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects have had to continually monitor and defend the site from mis and disinformation, vandalism, pranks, bias, omissions, inaccuracies and other dangers inherent in such an open project. This leaves the community and Wikipedia editors facing considerable issues in terms of verifying and using organisation publications, an issue replicated across the wider scholarly communication system.

The focus of analysis is on around 1000 public policy related articles and their citations on English and Spanish Wikipedia. To define the public policy domain, which crosses both science and social sciences, the project team created a knowledge graph based on 10 key pages including climate policy, health policy, education policy, international relations policy, economic policy etc. and followed their page links. This data set was then filtered for concepts and the citations extracted using the Wikipedia API and analysed using linked data from Wikidata and other databases such as CrossRef,



ISNI, OpenAlex, Dimensions etc. to determine the nature of sources including identifiers, organisations, publishers, locations, date, format and other information. Once finalised the citations from the policy pages will be compared to the full citation data for English or Spanish Wikipedias and some case studies developed for particular topics and organisations.



Research Fellow Dr Amanda Lawrence

IMPACT

Impact Highlights

Submissions

Forums and Briefings

Policy Citations

Specialist industry and partner
organisation training and short courses

Membership of policy and industry
advisory committees

Membership of national and
international committees

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

FEB

Rapid Response Report

In February, ADM+S was commissioned by the Australian Government's National Science and Technology Council at the request of the Minister for Industry and Science, the Hon Ed Husic MP, to produce a Rapid Response Report detailing the predicted opportunities and risks of Artificial Intelligence over the next 5-10 years, based on the collective expertise of ADM+S researchers and collaborating authors. The rapid research report addressed the questions:

- + What are the opportunities and risks of applying large language models (LLMs) and multimodal foundation models (MFMs) learning technologies over the next 2, 5 and 10 years?
- + What are some examples of strategies that have been put in place internationally by other advanced economies since the launch of models like ChatGPT to address the potential opportunities and impacts of AI?

The Minister thanked ADM+S, noting:

"I am writing to express my personal appreciation for your recent rapid report on generative AI... commissioned on my behalf. This report informed my discussion with the Prime Minister and the National Science and Technology Council on 29 March 2023."

Minister for Industry and Science, the Hon Ed Husic



MAY

European Centre for Algorithmic Transparency

In May, ADM+S was the first non-European Centre to be invited to the European Centre for Algorithmic Transparency, to workshop regulation of general-purpose AI and foundation models, AI in public service, the EU AI Act, and more.

"It speaks to the impressive network that ADM+S has developed that we are the first non-EU centre to have a workshop with the ECAT. It was a unique opportunity to translate the research of our institutions programme into technical aspects of policy-making beyond Australia."

- Dr Jose-Miguel Bello y Villarino



MAY

ADM+S as an RMIT University Case Study

In May, the ADM+S Centre was also selected as a case study by RMIT University to develop and test the systematic capture and curation of engagement and impact information.

The pilot program's aim was to understand how ADM+S researchers and managers currently track and assess engagement and impact. Consultations with ADM+S members enabled the university to gain insight into the real needs of researchers from a range of disciplines, which will now guide the development of a set of draft tools and processes for the University. The tools and insights will support the Centre's future reporting needs and be potentially scaled up for use across the University.



JULY



Australian Digital Inclusion Index

We continued to partner with Telstra to deliver the 2023 Australian Digital Inclusion Index, which for the first time included statistics on Indigenous digital inclusion by remoteness, thanks to data provided by Mapping the Digital Gap.



JULY



ARC Fellowships

Our researchers have been recognised for their outstanding contributions to the field, with two successful ARC Future Fellowships, an ARC Laureate fellowship, and \$2.6 million in ARC Discovery Grants for 6 projects involving ADM+S researchers.

ARC Laureate Fellow:
Prof Sarah Pink, Monash University

ARC Future Fellows:
Prof Yolande Strengers, Monash University
Dr James Meese, RMIT University

JAN

First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group

We were honoured to have two ADM+S members elected to the Government's First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group, and an additional three members elected to support the Federal Initiative in an expert panel.



"The creation of the First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group recognises that more needs to be done to ensure all Australians can take advantage of the benefits of the digital world. The Group will provide practical advice to Government on how to address significant barriers to digital inclusion for First Nations Australians, particularly in remote areas."

- Minister for Communications, the Hon Michelle Rowland MP.

FEB

NSW Ombudsman

ADM+S continued to work closely with State Governments in 2023. In February, the NSW Ombudsman partnered with ADM+S to analyse the use of automated systems in NSW government sectors. The resulting special report produced by the NSW Ombudsman identified over 270 ADM+S systems in use in NSW and presents an invaluable research and policy resource for the state, putting NSW at the forefront of research and policy work into automation in government, in Australia and globally.

"We expect this project to set an example for other State and Commonwealth jurisdictions to improve transparency and oversight of automated decision-making."

- Dr José-Miguel Bello y Villarino.



JUNE

ADM+S as a Federal Case Study

In June, the Commonwealth Department of Education commissioned a study to understand the broader benefits of university research that aims to solve 'wicked problems' - problems facing society that are ill-defined, interlinked, contestable, uncertain and highly complex.

The ADM+S Centre was selected as a case study of multi-disciplinary and integrated research in a policy area of a high degree of complexity. The purpose of the case study was to understand how the research impact on wicked problems (such as setting and upholding ethical guidelines for the development and use of AI) can be better understood. In particular, the project sought to understand how the broader impacts of research can be measured/analysed in the future.

Following consultations with ADM+S, a final report was produced for the Department and will be used to inform the Australian Universities Accord Panel Process.



DEC

ADM+S Publications named in APO's 2023 Top Ten

The Analysis and Policy Observatory (APO) is an open access platform that makes public policy research and resources accessible and useable for evidence-informed decision-making.

In December, seven publications from the ADM+S Centre were named in the APO's Top Ten most clicked publications in 2023 across five subject areas including Communications, Culture, First Nations, Health and Technology.



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023, our research was acknowledged by government Ministers, the Meta Oversight Board, the eSafety Commissioner and various regulatory bodies commending our research into providing safe, ethical and responsible automated decision-making systems.

A selection of ADM+S Centre submissions, policy citations, briefings and forums, and advisory roles are included overleaf.

“Thank you for your time and participation at the roundtable I hosted... to discuss the challenges and opportunities posed by generative AI. I valued the diverse and collaborative contributions from all participants and found the discussion highly informative. It is clear that we share a collective interest in maximising the opportunities and benefits of AI technology while minimising potential online risks and harms.”

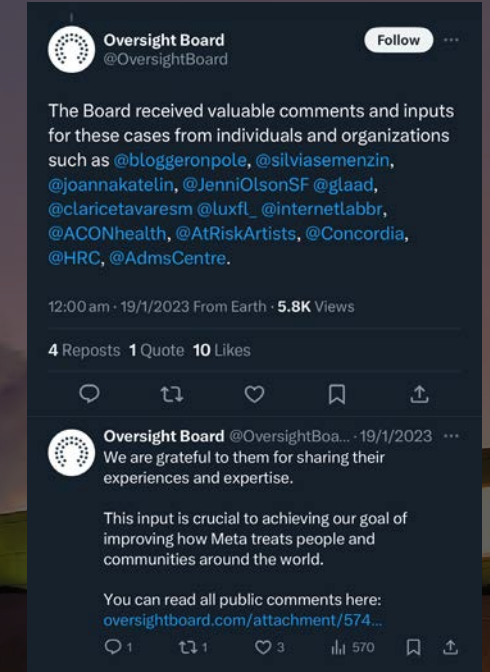
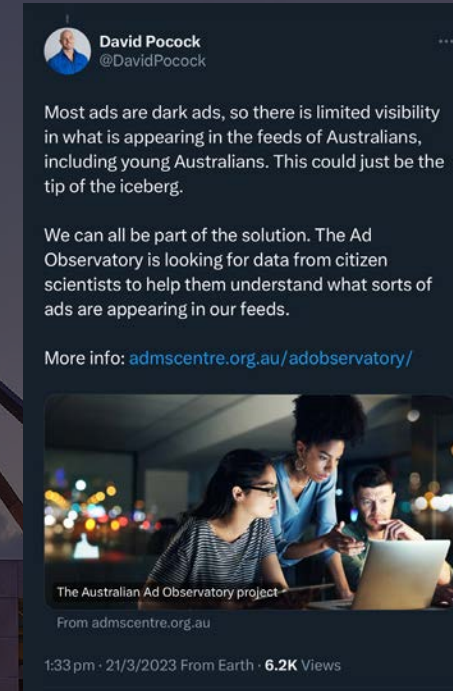
- Minister for Communications, the Hon Michelle Rowland MP

“... laws will need to be updated. The Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society, which includes nine Australian Universities and more than 80 researchers, identified at least 10 existing legal frameworks that need updating to address AI's challenges. These included administrative law, copyright law, privacy, political, advertising and campaign laws, and rules for financial advisors, medicine and lawyers.”

- Minister for Industry and Science, the Hon Ed Husic

“Great work by the ADM+S Centre Ad Observatory in uncovering these from BitStarz casino, appearing in the Facebook feeds of Australians. Disturbing to read that the regulator – the Australian Communications and Media Authority – may be powerless to act, despite ads from online casinos being illegal in Australia.”

- David Pocock, Independent Senator for the ACT



INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT LINKS

SUBMISSIONS

- Communications Legislation Amendment (Combating Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023**
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts
Suzor, N., Nelson, L.
- Communications Legislation Amendment (Combating Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023**
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts
Bruns, A., Matamoros-Fernandez, A., Bartolo, L., Watt, N., Jude, N., Angus, D., et al.
- Department of Social Services Not-for-Profit Sector Development Blueprint**
Blueprint Expert Reference Group
Morsillo, R.
- Guiding Principles for Organizations Developing Advanced AI**
European Commission and G7 Nations
Snoswell, A., Hyland-Wood, B.
- House Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training**
Australian Parliament
Bello y Vilarino, J.M., et al
- In whose interest: Why businesses need to keep consumers safe and treat their data with care**
Consumer Policy Research Centre
Patterson, J.
- Jobs and Skills Australia Foundation Skills Study Discussion Paper**
Australian Government
Thomas, J., McCosker, A., Parkinson, S., Featherstone, D., Ormond-Parker, L., Kennedy, J., Hegarty, K.
- Melbourne Climate Futures, Senate Greenwashing Inquiry**
Australian Parliament
Dibley, A., O'Neill, L., Markey-Towler, R., Neville, B., Parker, C., Peel, J.
- NDIS Review**
National Disability Insurance Scheme
Leach Scully, J., van Toorn, G.
- Post in Polish targeting trans people (2023-0230FB-UA)**
The Meta Oversight Board
Stardust, Z.
- Privacy Act Review Report**
Australian Government Attorney-General's Department
Weatherall, K., Bednarz, Z., Przhedetsky, L.
- Royal Commission into the Robodebt Scheme**
Australian Government
Matulionyte, R., Sleep, L., Soldatic, K., Thomas, J., Weatherall, K., Wilcock, S., et al.
- Safe and responsible AI in Australia discussion paper**
Department of Industry, Science and Resource
Weatherall, K., Burgess, J., Thomas, J., Henman, P., McCosker, A., Parker, C., et al.
- Smart home devices and the media streaming ecosystem: emerging competition and consumer issues**
ACCC Digital Platform Services Inquiry
Lobato, R., Scarlata, A., Schivinski, B.
- Smart TVs and local content prominence Prominence Framework for Connected TV Devices proposals paper.**
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts
Lobato, R., Scarlata, A., Schivinski, B.
- Senate Select Committee on Foreign Interference through Social Media**
Australian Parliament
Sun, Wa., Yu, H.

FORUMS AND BRIEFINGS

- Alannah & Madeline Foundation**
Kieran Hegarty (RMIT)
Advised Alannah & Madeline Foundation on the use of Australian Digital Inclusion Index data.
9 August
- All Tech is Human (NFP)**
Nicholas Suzor (QUT)
Private Policy briefing on incoming regulation in Europe and need for transparency between governments and companies.
6 December
- Australian Broadcasting Corporation**
Ramon Lobato and Alexa Scarlata (RMIT)
Briefed the Entertainment and iview UX teams on 'Smart TVs and local content prominence'.
6 March, 28 March
- Australian Broadcasting Corporation**
Ramon Lobato and Alexa Scarlata (RMIT)
Briefed the ABC ("All Hands meeting") on 'Smart TVs and local content prominence'.
28 March
- Australia's Chief Scientist**
Jean Burgess (QUT) and Julian Thomas (RMIT)
Closed briefing of Federal government departments and public servants in response to Rapid Response Information Report.
27 April
- Australian Skills Organisation**
Anthony McCosker (Swinburne)
Briefing on Digital Skills Assessment to advise on approaches to digital literacy skills assessment.
13 April
- Bureau of Meteorology**
Kieran Hegarty (RMIT)
Advised the Bureau of Meteorology on the Digital Inclusion Index (access and use of digital technology among farmers to support BoM's delivery of online weather information to this cohort.)
11 October
- CHOICE**
Alexa Scarlata (RMIT)
Briefed the CHOICE team about the results of her and Associate Professor Ramon Lobato's recent smart TV research: "Smart TV testing, data privacy & more". Following, several new metrics were added into CHOICE's TV testing database, with the aim of revising their "smart TV score".
19 April
- Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department**
Kylie Pappalardo (QUT)
Consultation with Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department on proposed copyright reform.
12 September
- Connecting Victoria, Department of Government Services**
Julian Thomas, Jenny Kennedy (RMIT) and Sharon Parkinson (Swinburne)
ADM+S and Connecting Victoria Brainstorming Session.
22 February
- Data Catalyst Network**
Anthony McCosker (Swinburne)
The Data Catalyst Network comprises a community of practice, working groups focused on key social issues. Anthony McCosker is an ongoing invited participant, collaborator and presenter.
Monthly 2023
- Department of Education**
Jean Burgess (QUT)
Briefing on Rapid Response Information Report with Deputy Secretary, Higher Education, Research and International, Australian Government Department of Education.
31 March
- Department of Industry, Science and Resources**
Jean Burgess (QUT)
Invitation-only industry roundtable on opportunities and challenges of Generative AI, in response to the Rapid Response Information Report.
26 April

CI Kim Weatherall presenting at the 2023 ADM+S Symposium



- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development**
Ramon Lobato and Alexa Scarlata (RMIT)
Briefed the department (Communications and the Arts (Broadcast and Technology Policy /Media Reform Branch, Online Safety, Media and Platforms Division) on their research, 'Smart TVs and local content prominence'.
8 March
- Digital Platform Regulators Network**
Kim Weatherall (University of Sydney)
Invited closed door presentation/briefing by Professor Weatherall to the Digital Platforms Regulators Forum on LLMs. Participants from ACCC, ACMA, OAIC and eSafety Commissioner.
2 June
- eSafety Commissioner**
Kim Weatherall (University of Sydney)
Participated in an eSafety Commissioner consultation alongside UK Researchers from the Turing Institute and other organisations.
25 May

17. **eSafety Commission**
Jean Burgess, Nicholas Suzor, Lucinda Nelson, Henry Fraser, Aaron Snoswell (QUT), Emmanuelle Walkowiak, Jeffrey Chan, Mark Sanderson (RMIT), Jake Goldenfein and Chris Leckie (University of Melbourne)
Private consultation with the team at eSafety, who were seeking industry insight to develop a public online safety statement regarding Generative AI.
2 June
18. **eSafety Commission**
Zahra Stardust and Lucinda Nelson and Nicholas Suzor (QUT)
Consultation with eSafety on draft Industry Standards for designated internet services and relevant electronic services.
8 December
19. **Genevieve Bell, Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University**
Julian Thomas (RMIT)
Briefing and discussion on Generative AI Rapid Report.
14 March
20. **Government of British Columbia, Canada**
Lucy Valenta and Kieran Hegarty (RMIT)
Briefing on digital inclusion referencing data from the Australian Digital Inclusion Index. Infoxchange and Paul Ramsay Foundation Data Catalyst Network
Anthony McCosker (Swinburne)
Invited presentation 'Developing Data Capability: Frameworks and Maturity Models'.
15 August
21. **International Monetary Fund (IMF) on AI and Automation**
Emmanuelle Walkowiak (RMIT) and Paul Henman (UQ)
Invited to discuss how AI and automated decision making can potentially influence the way in which the economy operates in Australia and globally.
31 October
22. **Internet Governance Forum**
Nicholas Suzor (QUT)
Invited by Google to present on 'AI, web crawlers and controls for web content creators'.
9 October
23. **Isolated Children's Parents' Association**
Jenny Kennedy and Kieran Hegarty (RMIT)
Invited to present on the digital divides between remote, regional, and urban Queensland.
15 November
24. **Jobs and Skills Australia Foundation**
Sharon Parkinson (Swinburne), Lucy Valenta and Kieran Hegarty (RMIT)
Advised Jobs and Skills Australia on the measurement of digital skills and the use of the Australian Digital Inclusion Index ahead of the development of the JSA's national Foundation Skills Study.
9 August
25. **Libraries Tasmania**
Anthony McCosker
Briefing on Libraries Tasmania and Tasmanian State Government investment in digital inclusion initiatives; knowledge sharing regarding research on low-income households and digital inclusion in Tasmania.
14 March
26. **Malaysian Ministry of Economy**
Kieran Hegarty (RMIT)
Advised the Malaysian Ministry of Economy on the establishment of the Australian Digital Inclusion Index to support the development of digital inclusion measurement and alleviation efforts in Malaysia.
3 October 2023
27. **Meta**
Jean Burgess, Louisa Bartolo, Ariadna Matamoros-Fernandez, Zahra Stardust and Patrik Wikstrom (QUT)
Consultation with Meta on Content Moderation and Curation.
29 March
28. **Minister for Communications, the Hon Michelle Rowland**
Jean Burgess, Nicholas Suzor (QUT), Mark Sanderson (RMIT) and Kim Weatherall (University of Sydney)
Invitation-only roundtable featuring industry, community, and research organisations.
6 June



Associate Director Jean Burgess presenting at the 2023 ADM+S Symposium

29. **Minister of Communications, the Hon Michelle Rowlands**
Kim Weatherall (University of Sydney), Mark Sanderson (RMIT) and Nicholas Suzor (QUT)
Expert, invitation-only roundtable with the Minister of Communications.
10 July
30. **Ministerial Roundtable on Safe and Responsible AI**
Nic Suzor, QUT
Generative AI Roundtable with Minister Rowland after the release of the Safe and Responsible AI in Australia paper
6 June
31. **Ministerial Roundtable on Safe and Responsible AI**
Jean Burgess, QUT
Discussion on Rapid Response Report for Safe and Responsible Generative AI, attended by Lawyers, medtech companies, Ministers and academics
19 July
32. **Ministerial Roundtable on Safe and Responsible AI**
Julian Thomas, RMIT University
Jean Burgess, QUT
Ministerial Roundtable on Safe and Responsible AI with Hon Ed Husic, Genevieve Bell, representatives from Google, Microsoft and Commbank
25 July
33. **Ministerial Roundtable on Safe and Responsible AI**
Jean Burgess, QUT
Meeting with Dept of Education presenting the Rapid Report on Safe and Responsible Generative AI
August
34. **National Digital Health Capability Action Plan (CAP)**
Kath Albury (Swinburne)
Participated in an online expert information and feedback session facilitated by the Australasian Institute for Digital Health, regarding the forthcoming draft National Digital Health Capability Action Plan.
28 February
35. **New South Wales Department of Regions**
Anthony McCosker, Sharon Parkinson (Swinburne) and Lucy Valenta (RMIT)
Presentation of 2023 ADII findings by Anthony McCosker for Department of Regions, NSW Government.
31 July
36. **New South Wales Ombudsman Project Advisory Group: Mapping Automated Decision-Making Systems used in Administrative Decision-Making Services**
Julian Thomas (RMIT)
Project Advisory Group: Mapping Automated Decision-Making Systems.
4 April
37. **New South Wales Settlement Partnership**
Anthony McCosker (Swinburne)
Presentation and advice briefing on building data capability and using AI and ADM among the member services for migrant and refugee settlement in New South Wales.
2 February
38. **PWC Australia**
Kieran Hegarty (RMIT)
Advised Elliot Shaw, Senior Associate, PwC Australia on the use of Australian Digital Inclusion Index data.
3 October
39. **Queensland State Library**
Anthony McCosker (Swinburne)
Presentation on the Australian Digital Inclusion Index to QLD State Library and Government as part of a QLD Libraries digital inclusion forum.
17 March
40. **Reddit**
Nicholas Suzor, Ariadna Matamoros-Fernandez and Lucinda Nelson (QUT)
Private meeting with Serena Wong, the head of public policy for Australia and New Zealand at Reddit.
1 June
41. **SBS, ABC and Free TV**
Ramon Lobato and Alexa Scarlata (RMIT)
Briefed the SBS, ABC and Free TV policy teams on 'Smart TVs and local content prominence'.
20 March
42. **Services Australia**
Julian Thomas (RMIT)
Invited presentation, 'Explainability: new research in accountable, ethical and inclusive systems'.
10 April
43. **Services Australia**
Julian Thomas (RMIT)
Automation Working Group Meeting
11 April
44. **Smart NSW/Masterclass**
Anthony McCosker (Swinburne)
Invited to present 'Bridging the digital divide', to 450+ participants.
27 July
45. **Telecommunication Industry Ombudsman**
Julian Thomas (RMIT)
Meeting on behalf of Australian Communications Consumer Action Network, acting Chairperson.
20 February
46. **Telstra**
Julian Thomas and Jenny Kennedy (RMIT)
Telstra CEO Consumer Roundtable, with numerous Consumer Advocacy organisations.
27 April
47. **UNESCO**
Zahra Stardust (QUT), Joanna Williams and Kath Albury (Swinburne).
Briefing with UNESCO on sex education and content moderation.
31 July
48. **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**
Zahra Stardust (QUT)
Expert consultation on Legal Accountability for Universal Access for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Asia and the Pacific.
7 December
49. **Victorian University of the Third Age**
Anthony McCosker (Swinburne)
Meeting with representatives of Victorian U3A head office to discuss smart technologies (home assistant systems etc) and ageing with technology.
24 April

POLICY CITATIONS

Australian Digital Inclusion Index (2023)
Thomas J, McCosker A, Parkinson S, Hegarty K, Featherstone D, Kennedy J, Holcombe-James I, Ormond-Parker L, and Ganley L (2023), cited in:

1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 Outcomes Framework: First annual report (2023) <https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/44d129c-7c42-47df-b0d6-e1291cfd7e4e/aihw-ads-3.pdf?v=20240111163238&inline=true>
2. ACCC's Regional Mobile Infrastructure Inquiry report: https://www.accc.gov.au/system/files/ACCC%20Regional%20Mobile%20Infrastructure%20Inquiry%20%20preliminary%20findings%20E2%80%93%2018%20April%202023_1.pdf
3. ACMA's Financial hardship in the telco sector impact analysis: https://oia.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/posts/2024/02/Impact%20Analysis_0.pdf
4. AIHW's report on "Indigenous-specific health checks during the COVID-19 pandemic": <https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/ad0f095a-cca6-47d0-80e0-e7cf5c0962a0/indigenous-specific-health-checks-during-the-covid-19-pandemic.pdf?v=20230515081621&inline=true>
5. Australian Energy Regulator's Customer engagement toolkit: <https://www.aer.gov.au/system/files/2024-03/Customer%20engagement%20toolkit%20-%20Draft%20for%20consultation%20-%20March%202024.pdf>
6. Australian Government's Data & Digital Government Strategy: <https://www.dataanddigital.gov.au/strategy/current-state>
7. Australian Institute of Family Studies' report on geographic isolation: <https://aifs.gov.au/research/research-snapshots/geographical-isolation-factors-dynamics-and-effects-isolation-older>



Centre Director Julian Thomas presenting at 'The Web Search Revolution' event

8. Bass Coast's Emergency Management Plan 2023–2026: <https://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/assets/general-downloads/Emergency-Management/Bass-Coast-Municipal-Emergency-Management-Plan-2023-Website-Version.pdf>
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AI Ellie Rennie, CI Jake Goldenfein, AI Kath Albury, and Research Fellow Jacinthe Flore at the 2023 Summer School



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PhD student Joanna Williams presenting at the 2023 ADM+S Symposium

SPECIALIST INDUSTRY AND PARTNER ORGANISATION TRAINING AND SHORT COURSES

The Centre's greatest resource is our extraordinary reservoir of specialist knowledge, and our short courses and workshops aim to translate this knowledge to develop industry capacity and expertise in ADM. In 2023, ADM+S researchers delivered training to participants from industry, government and the not-for-profit sector on a wide range of emerging ADM issues, such as machine learning, data, autonomous systems, blockchain, and generative AI:

1. **Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia**
Topic: Strategic Public Interest Litigation for Transparency and Accountability of Harmful Digital Marketing: A Researcher-Regulator-Community Dialogue for regulators, activists, and scholars
CI Christine Parker, CI Kim Weatherall, Affiliate Jeannie Paterson, and Associate Professor Paula O'Brien (UoM)
September 2023
2. **Australian Competition and Consumer Commission**
Topic: Greenwashing: Environmental and sustainability consumer issues (workshop at the National Consumer Congress)
CI Christine Parker
June 2023
3. **Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade**
Australia-India Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership
Topic: Responsible AI for Net Zero Workshop (to train Indian energy utility providers, regulators, local governments and businesses on incorporating ethical principles into AI governance)
CI Anthony McCosker
December 2023

4. **Australian Public Service Academy**
Topic: AI accountability in public service agencies
CI Julian Thomas
January 2023
5. **Australian Centre for Contemporary Art**
Topic: Data relations, capture and synthesis including machine vision for artists & practitioners
AI Joel Stern, CI Chris O'Neill, Dr Thao Phan, AI Michael Richardson, HDR candidate Laura McClean
February 2023
6. **Defence Artificial Intelligence Research Network (DAIRNet)**
Topic: Training session on generative AI and Large Language Models for generalisable and robust situational awareness, presented to Commanders of the Australian Navy, Army and Airforce
CI Flora Salim
November 2023
7. **Department of the Premier and Cabinet, South Australia**
Topic: Automation in decisions for government policy
CIs Paul Henman, Kim Weatherall, Jean Burgess, & Jake Goldenfein
November 2023
8. **Infoxchange**
Topic: Developing data capability in the not-for-profit sector for Connecting Up
CI Anthony McCosker
May 2023
9. **Queensland Council of Social Service**
Topic: Professional development seminar on 'ChatGPT and AI: Implications of automated decisions'
CI Paul Henman
May 2023
10. **New York University Library**
Topic: 'We are AI': training on the basics of AI and social and ethical dimensions of the use of AI in modern life, delivered to NYU librarians and non-academic staff (and then delivered online to 20 librarians at New York University Abu Dhabi)
PI Julia Stoyanovich & NYU researchers
June 2023

11. **News and media professionals, New York City**
Topic: 'The Algorithmic Transparency Workshop', delivered to News & Media professionals (online).
PI Julia Stoyanovich & NYU researchers
June 2023
12. **NYU Tandon Future Labs**
Topic: 'The Algorithmic Transparency Workshop', delivered to CEOs and CTOs of startup companies.
PI Julia Stoyanovich & NYU researchers
December 2023
13. **NSW Government: Active Transport Community of Practice**
Topic: Training on leveraging Machine Learning for robust analysis of travel demands in cities, presented to over 200 staff working in Transport NSW and local city councils and shires.
CI Flora Salim
June 2023
14. **Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority**
Topic: Training on Generative AI, Large Language Models, and Prompt Engineering for QCAA's executive team and key leaders and managers in curriculum development. In terms of impact, there was about 30 attendees, representing every secondary school and secondary school student in Queensland.
March 2023



CI Christine Parker presenting at the 2023 ADM+S Symposium

MEMBERSHIP OF POLICY AND INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- Advisory Committee for Indigenous Repatriation**
Office for the Arts, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, Australian Government
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- Alannah and Madeline Foundation**
Media Literacy Advisory Group Member
Anthony McCosker (Swinburne)
- Australasian Society of HIV Medicine**
National Sexual Health Advisory Group Board Member
Kath Albury (Swinburne)
- Australian and New Zealand Leaders, Elections and Democracy Project**
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- Australian Communications Consumer Action Network**
Chair and member of Grants Sub-Committee
Julian Thomas (RMIT)
- Australian Communications Consumer Action Network**
Indigenous Steering Group Member
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- Australian Computer Society**
AI Ethics Advisory Committee Co-Chair and Data-Sharing Taskforce Member
Kim Weatherall (University of Sydney)
- Australian Government's Low Earth Orbit Satellite Working Group**
Working Group Member
Lyndon Ormond-Parker (RMIT)
- ARC College of Experts**
Member
Nicholas Carah (QUT)
Flora Salim (University of New South Wales)
Kim Weatherall (University of Sydney)
- Australian Defence AI Research Network (DAIRNET) Technical Advisory Panel**
Member
Flora Salim (UNSW)
- Detecting, Preventing and Responding to Image-Based Abuse: The Role of Digital Platforms and Services (Prof Nicola Henry's Future Fellowship Project)**
Advisory Committee Member
Zahra Stardust (QUT)
- eSafety Academic Advisory Group on Recommender Systems**
Academic Advisory Group Member
Jean Burgess, Axel Bruns, Louisa Bartolo and Ariadna Matamoros-Fernandez (QUT)
- Finance & Society, University College London**
Advisory Board Member
Janet Roitman (RMIT)

Senior Research Fellow Lyndon Ormond-Parker presenting at the 2023 ADM+S Symposium



- First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group**
Advisory Group Members
Lyndon Ormond-Parker (RMIT) and Bronwyn Carlson (Macquarie University)
- First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group**
Expert Panel Members
Ellie Rennie, Daniel Featherstone (RMIT) and Lauren Ganley (Telstra)
- Humanitech, Australian Red Cross**
Advisory Board Member
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- Indigenous Advisory Panel to the International Council on Monuments and Sites - ICOMOS General Assembly 2023**
Panel Member
Lyndon Ormond-Parker (RMIT)

- National Film and Sound Archive Indigenous Connections Committee**
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Lyndon Ormond-Parker (RMIT)
- Leadership for Responsible AI: A Constructive Agenda for NSW James Martin Institute for Public Policy**
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Kim Weatherall (University of Sydney)
- Meta Asia-Pacific Expert Circle: Misinformation and Content Ranking**
Expert Advisory Group Member
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- ANU National Centre for Indigenous Genomics**
Board Member
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- National Indigenous Australians Agency Indigenous Digital Inclusion Plan**
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- Platform Cooperativism Consortium, New York**
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- Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority**
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- RMIT Artificial Intelligence Governance Working Group**
AI Governance Working Group Member
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- RMIT Digital Ethnography Research Centre**
Advisory Board Member
Jean Burgess (QUT)
- RMIT x ACMI x AMAGA Linkage**
Advisory Group Member
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- World Association for Sexual Health's Sexual Justice Initiative**
Steering Committee Member
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- Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR)**
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PhD student Lucinda Nelson at the 2023 Summer School

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AI Ellie Rennie and CI Flora Salim presenting 'Internet Futures' at the 2023 ADM+S Symposium



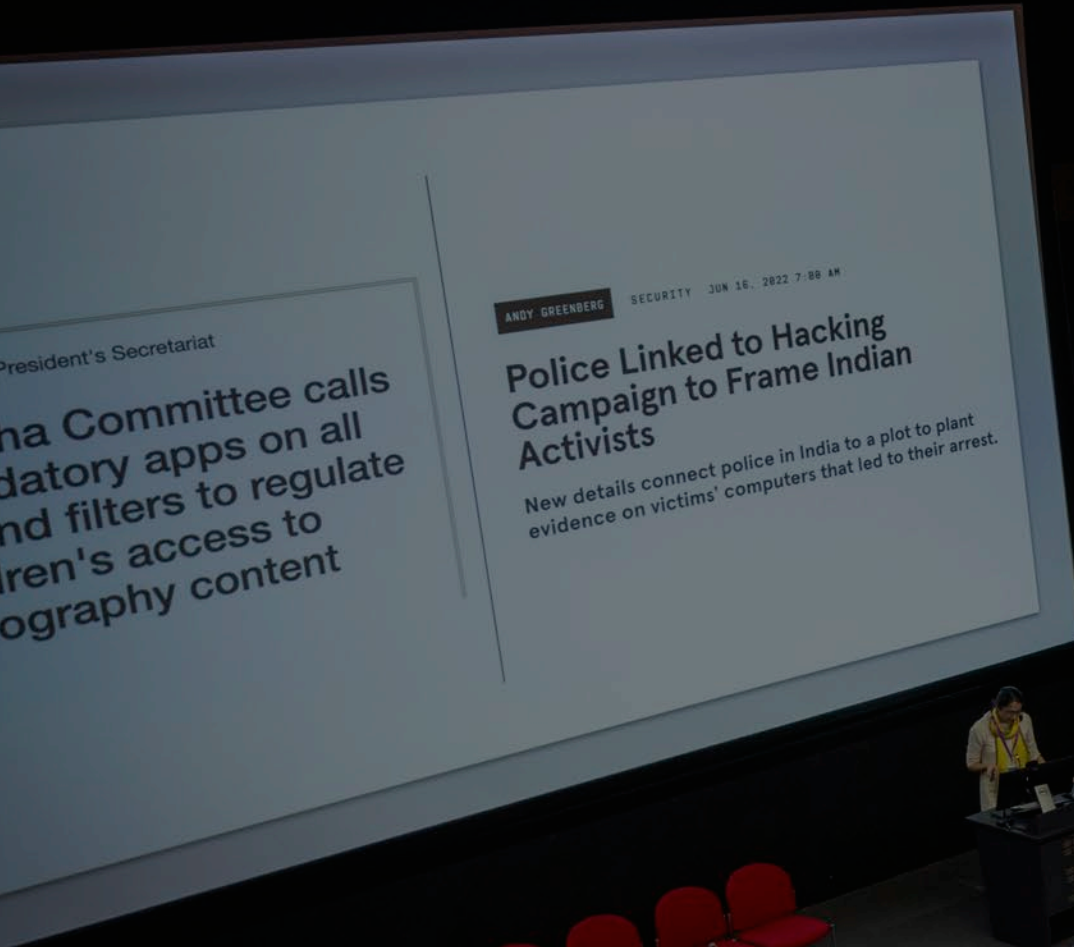
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OUTREACH

- [News and Media Focus Area](#)
- [Events](#)
- [All Events in 2023](#)
- [Citizen Science Projects](#)
- [Schools Programs](#)

- [Learning Resources](#)
- [Communications and Engagement](#)
- [ADM+S in the Media](#)
- [All Partners, Collaborators, and Links](#)

NEWS AND MEDIA FOCUS AREA

The Centre's four cross-centre Focus Areas allow our researchers to explore how automated decision-making works across four key domains – News and Media, Mobilities, Health, and Social Services.

2023 was the highlight year for the Centre's work in the News and Media Focus Area. ADM+S has been undertaking research and engaging with partners and the public to understand the ongoing processes of automation in our media, news and information environments.

Researchers have developed novel research frameworks, software infrastructure and tools, and worked with citizen scientists to investigate recommender systems, advertising, search and content moderation and curation.

Key research projects in this area include the Australian Search Experience and the Australian Ad Observatory, along with project such as the Toxicity Scalpel, where researchers have been working on evaluating and prototyping methods to remove harmful capabilities from generative AI's foundation models. The Centre shared its work to date in this area at the 2023 ADM+S Symposium: Automated News and Media and in a major focus area report, AI and Automated Decision-Making in News and Media: key technologies and emerging challenges.

Our collaborations with industry and communities in News and Media have advanced knowledge across the field. Through an industry internship investigating how a public service media organization such as ABC navigates the recommender systems of YouTube, we provided insights to optimise ABC's news distribution strategy.

In partnership with the Consumer Policy Research Centre, the ADM+S developed the report Seeing Green: Prevalence of Environmental Claims on Social Media. More than 20,000 impressions and 8,000 Facebook ads from the Australian Ad Observatory were analysed for this report.

2023 ADM+S SYMPOSIUM: AUTOMATED NEWS & MEDIA

The ADM+S Symposium: Automated News & Media was hosted online and in-person at the University of Sydney, Camperdown 13-14 July 2023. The event brought together researchers, industry, advocacy groups and policymakers to showcase the findings of the ADM+S Centre's work together to date, and to address the most pressing emerging challenges associated with automated systems in the digital media, information, and entertainment environment.

See full event feature on page 80.



Associate Director Jean Burgess presenting at the 2023 ADM+S Symposium

2023 ADM+S SYMPOSIUM AUTOMATED NEWS & MEDIA

Findings and future agendas for research on AI and automation in news, media and entertainment

13-14 July 2023
In-person and online
University of Sydney Law School

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Registration closes 23 June 2023



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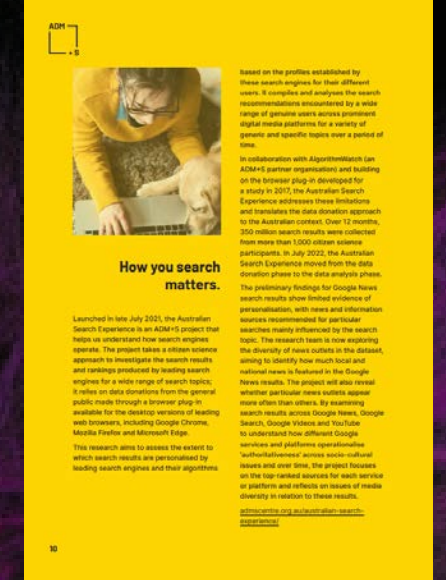
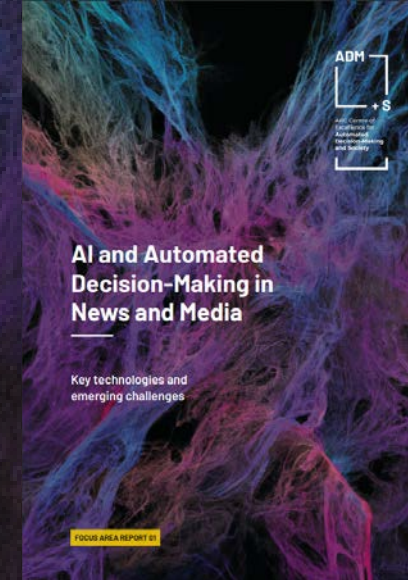
2023 ADM+S Symposium promotional banner

NEWS AND MEDIA FOCUS AREA REPORT

AI and Automated Decision-Making in News and Media: Key Technologies and Emerging Challenges

The report AI and Automated Decision-Making in News and Media: key technologies and emerging challenges is a cross-centre output with contributions and insights from 22 experts that articulates the most compelling issues with respect to ADM in News and Media. It describes the latest phase of media automation, driven by recent advances in artificial intelligence. It draws on peer-reviewed research to map emerging challenges associated with the use of generative AI and automated decision-making across the news and media environment, from lack of competition in web search engines; limited transparency of recommender systems; ongoing challenges of moderation and curation of online content; to automated ad blacklisting and its unintended consequences.

admscentre.org.au/news-and-media-report



EVENTS

In 2023, the Centre delivered an extensive program of workshops and public events with partners and industry groups, directed towards the consolidation, summation and translation of the Centre's research program, and the incubation of new research and development agendas.

Hybrid, live-streamed and recorded events enabled members and audiences to engage with the Centre's research from around the world, with the ADM+S YouTube channel providing event recordings for the benefit of audiences in different time zones, ensuring broader reach and impact.



Weibke Loosen presenting 2023 ADM+S Symposium Keynote: 'Introducing Communicative AI'

- Symposia
- Summer schools and hackathons
- Seminars, lectures, forums, panels
- Networking events
- Workshops
- Exhibitions, book or report launches
- External presentations



ADM+S YouTube Channel



Delegates at the International Conference on Automated Decision-Making and Chinese Societies

ADM+S SYMPOSIUM

AUTOMATED NEWS & MEDIA

AI and automation are already deeply embedded in the news and media industries. Newsrooms are using bots and other forms of automation to collect newsworthy data and generate content. Digital platforms use automated systems to shape how we find and access information and entertainment, to filter, fact-check and moderate content, and to serve advertising to their users. As these sectors start to seriously grapple with the next wave of automation, both the dominance of the big platforms and the future of media organisations look far less certain, thanks to the rapid developments in Generative AI, a series of economic shocks, ever-growing regulatory challenges, and a renewed interest in alternative and decentralised models of social life online. This is a moment of transformation and possibility, and one that invites reflection and action.



Dr Dot West (First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group Chair, Director of Goolarri Media Enterprises) presenting 'Mapping Digital Inequality & Media Use in Remote First Nations Communities'

Hosted at the University of Sydney and online across 13-14 July, the 2023 ADM+S Symposium: Automated News & Media brought together researchers, industry, advocacy groups and policymakers to showcase the findings of our work together to date, and to address the most pressing emerging challenges associated with automated systems in the digital media, information, and entertainment environment.



PhD student Louisa Bartolo, Rita Jabri Markwell (Australian Muslim Advocacy Network), PhD student Lucinda Nelson, Research Fellow Aaron Snoswell, PhD student Joanna Williams, presenting 'Opportunities and Challenges of Automation for Content Moderation'



'Opportunities and Challenges of Automation for Content Moderation' session

The symposium showcased 74 speakers across 2 keynotes, 4 plenary sessions, 12 parallel sessions, and a range of satellite events. Organisers were mindful in curating each session to include speakers from diverse backgrounds, industry, and academics at a range of career stages.

The program featured speakers from ADM+S Nodes and Partner Organisations including the ABC, Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN), RMIT Fact Check, Telstra, Hans Bredow Institute, University of Sydney, Monash University, Digital Media Research Centre at QUT, RMIT University, and Western Sydney University, as well as ADM+S Collaborators CHOICE, and Gradient Institute.

In addition to our partners, the event also featured speakers from Amazon Web Services, Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI), Australian Muslim Advocacy Network (AMAN), The Conversation, Customedia, Guardian Australia, First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group, Human Technology Institute, Interactive Advertising Bureau (IAB), NVIDIA, The Sydney Morning Herald, Tattle, VML&R, Central Queensland University, University of Canberra, and Stanford University.

PUBLIC PANEL: INTERNET FUTURES

The 'Internet Futures' panel was held at the University of Sydney's Law Foyer. This sold out event brought Centre experts together with representatives from ABC and ACCAN to address rapid developments in internet infrastructures and AI technologies, and discuss questions around the dynamic possibilities and uncertain pathways these developments present for internet governance, social media platforms, media industries, and digital inclusion.



'Internet Futures' panel discussion



AI Ellie Rennie speaking at 'Internet Futures' panel discussion

POSTER COMPETITION

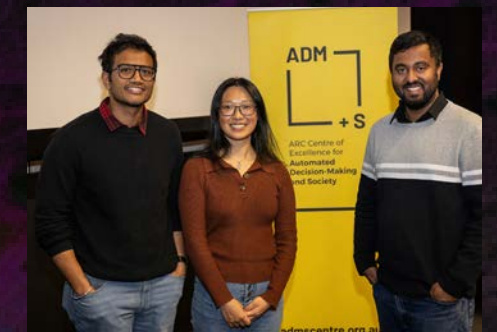
Following the success of last year's poster presentation competition, ADM+S students were once again invited to design posters explaining their research to symposium attendees. The posters were displayed at the University of Sydney across three days and judged by a panel of academic and industry experts.

A prize of \$1,500 cash was awarded to Arjun Srinivas for his poster 'YouTube's News Conundrum'. Arjun also took out the \$500 popular vote prize.

Honourable mentions were also awarded to both Avantik Tamta and Yueqing Xuan for their outstanding work.



PhD student Hiruni Kegalle presenting poster



Poster competition winner Arjun Srinivas (right) with honorable mentions Avantik Tamta and Yueqing Xuan (left)

ENGAGEMENT

The Symposium was highly praised by attendees during the event and in post-event surveys. 95% of attendees agreed or strongly agreed that the event was well structured. 95% also agreed or strongly agreed that the event broadened their knowledge of research and practices in automation and AI in news and media.

The Centre's next annual symposium, 'Automated Mobilities' will focus on our Mobilities Focus Area and will be held in Sydney in October 2024.



Session at 2023 ADM+S Symposium



Delegates attending 2023 ADM+S Symposium session

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Automated Decision-Making and Chinese Societies

“自动化决策和华人社会”
国际学术会议

China's rise as a digital superpower has been part of the story about the country's second coming as the "Central Kingdom" and of Xi Jinping's "Chinese Dream". Beijing's digital strategy is multi-dimensional. It is technological—automated decision-making (ADM) technologies and systems, comprising an array of intelligent and emerging technologies from artificial intelligence, machine learning, to blockchain, are used to innovate social governance, service provision, transport/mobility, and knowledge production across many sectors. It is also beyond the technological to encompass a wide range of areas in social, institutional, cultural, legal and ethical domains. The imperative for COVID-19 pandemic control provides the perfect pretext for the expansive use of ADM by the bio-surveillance Party-state.

EVENTS



Malavika Jayaram (Digital Asia Hub) delivering keynote 'Disappearing from Happiness Street, and other tales of magic and wonder'

In February 2023, ADM+S, in collaboration with the Catch Network, delivered the International Conference on Automated Decision-Making and Chinese Societies, bringing together global researchers and students doing cutting-edge research on digital China.



Above: CI Haiqing Yu delivering conference introduction. Below: Jack Qui (Nanyang Technological University) leading Q&A section of panel discussion



CI Haiqing Yu with Centre Director Julian Thomas

Across three days, this hugely successful hybrid event featured collaborators from Aalborg, Leiden, Lund, Monash, Nanyang Technological and Peking Universities, as well as the Universities of Copenhagen and North Carolina, RMIT, and the Digital Asia Hub. Together, they encouraged attendees to look beyond "China" as a singular, unified entity, and asked 'what roles Chinese societies can play in ensuring fair, inclusive, responsible, and ethical ADM systems?'



CI Mark Andrejevic delivering keynote 'Seeing Like a Border Securing - Circulation During COVID and Beyond'



Guest speaker Jack Qiu conversing with delegates

THE WEB SEARCH REVOLUTION

THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF SEARCH: GOOGLE, CHATGPT, BING, AND BEYOND →

Search is no longer novel. It is a longstanding and ubiquitous automated decision-making system, and 2023 marked two important anniversaries: 25 years since the Google company was founded (4 September 1998) and 30 years since the release of the first web search engine, JumpStation (12 December 1993). These twin anniversaries marked a significant point from which to reflect on the impact that search has had across society. The rise in prominence of ChatGPT and other generative AI systems this year also offered an opportunity to examine the future of information access.



CI Mark Sanderson

The Web Search Revolution: the past, present and future of web search - Google, ChatGPT, Bing, and Beyond! was hosted online and in-person at RMIT University on 17 August 2023. The sold-out event brought together over 160 researchers, industry, and search enthusiasts to examine:

- + What has been the impact of this near ubiquitous technology?
- + Are there lessons to be learned from the success and pitfalls of the introduction of search for future large-scale platforms?
- + What will the impact of generative AI have on the future of information access?



AI Ramon Lobato, CI Dan Angus, PhD student Louisa Bartolo, Alistair Moffat (University of Melbourne), CI Kimberlee Weatherall, presenting panel 'The impact of search on society'

The full day of panels and discussions was followed by a lively evening debate on the implications of Generative AI and its societal impact ("Generative AI Should Be Stopped!"). The event brought together experts from the Supreme Court of Victoria, the Australian Information Industry Association, .au Domain, Microsoft, Canva, the University of Washington, University of Melbourne, University of Sydney, University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, and RMIT University.



Chirag Shah (University of Washington) presenting keynote 'The future of search: Information seeking, large language models and search'



Chirag Shah, Dr Jana Schmitz (.au Domain), CI Jason Potts presenting Affirmative side on the 'Evening Debate: Generative AI Should Be Stopped'



Susan Dumais (Technical Fellow, Microsoft Director of the Microsoft Research Labs in Cambridge MA) presenting keynote 'The history of search and its impact'

Electronics <> Ecologies

#1 REPAIR #2 WASTE #3 ENERGY #4 MANUFACTURING

The need for practical, accurate knowledge of software's physical dependencies on hardware has never been so urgent. As scholars and activists struggle to keep pace with the hype attached to new technologies by evangelists, the ongoing data spectacle threatens to distract from the ecological impacts of widespread, energy intensive electronics. Supply chains of finite resources feed engineers' visions of the future, and face increasing strain and conflict as a silicon arms race transpires across borders. The geopolitics of the AI revolution requires urgent attention from the social and human sciences, given the substantial number of livelihoods dependent on technology manufacturing, distribution and consumption in every part of the globe.

Electronics Ecologies was a series of in-person workshops, expert discussions and accompanying livestreams that brought environmental questions to the forefront of AI scholarship. Researchers, activists, technologists, journalists, artists and policy professionals mapped the supply chain and life cycle of electronics from a range of disciplinary perspectives to produce new networks, insights, standards and priorities to inform the problem and potential of sustainable electronics.

Curated by ADM+S Senior Industry Fellow, Dr Melissa Gregg, Electronics Ecologies was presented in partnership with Griffith University, the University of Technology Sydney, Nanyang Technological University & the Asian Communication Research Centre.



Melissa Gregg presenting session 'Reflections on Repair Scholarship' with virtual speakers Steve Jackson (Cornell University) and Josh Lepawsky (Memorial University)



EVENTS

The Australian Academy of the Humanities: 54th Annual Symposium

Recent advances in artificial intelligence have generated new interests, methods, problems, and capabilities across an array of humanities and creative arts disciplines. These have complicated conventional narratives of technological transformation, enabling a deeper understanding of the possibilities and hazards of automation, and the complexities of human-machine relations.

Over 16-17 November, ADM+S co-presented the 54th Annual Symposium in collaboration with the Australian Academy of the Humanities, exploring some of the most exciting work underway on these issues across the humanities with related institutions and industry fields in Australia and elsewhere.



Audience at 54th Academy of the Humanities Symposium

This year's symposium was convened by ADM+S Centre Directors Prof Jean Burgess and Prof Julian Thomas and featured a range of ADM+S researchers. The event culminated in the prestigious Hancock Lecture. Named in honour of W.K Hancock, the first President of the Academy, the Hancock Lecture invites outstanding scholars at the earlier stages of their careers to talk about their work to a public audience. This year's sold out lecture was delivered by the Centre's own Dr Thao Phan.

Photography by Matto Lucas



Above: Scientia Professor Jill Bennett FAHA (UNSW Sydney) presenting 'Viv Introduction'. Below: Research Fellow Thao Phan presenting 'Hancock Lecture - Artificial figures: gender-in-the-making in algorithmic culture'

ALL EVENTS IN 2023

EVENTS

Event	Date	Type	Host / Participate
International Conference on Automated Decision-Making and Chinese Societies	1-3 Feb	Symposium	Host
Humanitech Lab Showcase	2 Feb	Talk / Lecture	Partner Presentation
Explainable automated decision-making Workshop - Aaron Snoswell	6 Feb	Workshop	Host
Roundtable - Checking Social Media's Dis/Misinfo problem (Digital Asia Hub)	9 Feb	Talk / Lecture	Partner Presentation
ADM+S Summer School	13-15 Feb	Summer School	Host
Seminar on "Fostering Industry Research through Industry Labs". Presented by Distinguished Professor Maarten de Rijke, Artificial Intelligence and Information Retrieval (University of Amsterdam).	16 Feb	Seminars / webinars	Participate
Data Relations Summer School	16-20 Feb	Summer School	Co-host
On the Reading Group as Counter-Institution - Workshop with participants in the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) 'Data Relations' Summer School on the 'reading group' as an educational practice - featuring Thao Phan, Christopher O'Neill, Michael Richardson, and Zach Blas	17 Feb	Workshop	Host
Artificial Artificial Intelligence: In conversation with Lucas LaRochelle, creator of Queering the Map (queeringthemap.com) and QT.bot	13 Mar		Host
Book talk: 'Wizards of the Web' by Professor Jakob Svensson	17 Mar	Talk / Lecture	Co-host w/ ETRL

Final workshop to present findings and report for the project 'An AI Governance Framework for garbage truck-mounted machine vision systems'	17 Mar	Workshop	Host
Hacks/Hackers presentation: ChatGPT - Is it hype or the next step in AI?	22 Mar	Talk / Lecture	Partner Presentation
The How, What, and Why of Effective Human-AI Decision Making or How I Discovered this Sisyphean Task - Dr Ujwal Gadiraju	24 Mar	Talk / Lecture	Host
"There's No Data Like More Data:" Automatic speech recognition and algorithmic culture	6 Apr	Talk / Lecture	Co-host w/ The New School
Digital and Algorithmic Constructions of Identities: A Conversation	18 Apr	Talk / Lecture	
Angieszka Leszczynski on "Urban platform materialities: aesthetics, glitches, amenities"	26 Apr	Talk / Lecture	Host
Economies of Virtue Book Launch Event	26 Apr	Launch	Host
HDR/ECR Workshop w/ Michael Richardson - Automated Spaces	27 Apr	Workshop	Host
Seth Lazar Keynote	8 May	Talk / Lecture	Host
Civic Automated Decision-Making Seminar and Workshop with Seth Lazar	8 May	Workshop	Host
Beyond ChatGPT: a multidisciplinary workshop on Generative AI and foundation models	10 May	Workshop	Host
Queer social sorting: Control and resistance in China's LGBTQ+ activism	16 May	Talk / Lecture	Host
Hacking the future of (humanitarian) service delivery @ Humanitech Summit	17 May	Talk / Lecture	Partner Host

Sexy Messy: A Digital Sexual Cultures Symposium	17 May	Symposium	Host
Humanitech Summit - Humanity First Workshop	18 May	Workshop	Partner Host
The More-than-Human Wellbeing Exhibition	22 May-8 Aug	Exhibition	Host
Critically Evaluating Standards, Certification and Assurance for 'Trustworthy' Data-driven Technologies	23 May	Workshop	Co-Host w/ Uni Birmingham
Amazon Effects & Logistical Labour: New markets, new technologies, new workplaces?	23 June	Workshop	
Artificial Artificial Intelligence: In conversation with Allan McCay, a legal scholar of neurotechnology and author of 'Vulcan' (2023)	27 June	Talk / Lecture	Host
Hacks/Hackers presentation: Where Misogyny Hides	28 June	Talk / Lecture	Partner Presentation
Disability Justice workshop	29 June	Workshop	Host
ADM+S Centre RMIT node Morning Tea	5 July	Networking	Host
Digitising Disadvantage: Challenging Automated Government Decision Making in Comparative Context	10 July	Talk / Lecture	Host
More Than Human Wellbeing @ UNSW	10 July	Exhibition	Participate
PhD Winter Workshop in Critical Technology Studies	10 July	Workshop	Host
After Robodebt: Lessons and Next Steps for Fair, Ethical and Accountable ADM in Government (2023 ADM+S Symposium: Automated News & Media Satellite Event)	11 July	Talk / Lecture	Host
Understanding Wikimedia as a Digital Media Platform: research seminar/workshop (2023 ADM+S Symposium: Automated News & Media Satellite Event)	11 July	Talk / Lecture	Host

ADM on Migration Roundtable Discussion (ADM+S and RedCross) (2023 ADM+S Symposium: Automated News & Media Satellite Event)	12 July	Talk / Lecture	Host
2023 ADM+S Symposium: Automated News & Media Public Panel - Internet Futures	13 July	Talk / Lecture	Host
2023 ADM+S Symposium: Automated News & Media	13 July	Symposium	Host
Australian Digital Inclusion Index 2022-23 launch - Online	18 July	Launch	Host
Digital and data capabilities: new models for sexual health policy and practice	18 July	Launch	Host
ChatRegs23: AI policy workshop	19 July	Workshop	Co-host w/ FoS USyd
Digital Inclusion Roundtable	20 July	Talk / Lecture	Host
Sun-ha Hong Public Lecture 'Predictions without Futures'	14 Aug	Talk / Lecture	Host
Uncertainty, Unreason, Prediction: A Workshop on Algorithms with Sun-ha Hong (SFU) @ RMIT	14 Aug	Workshop	Host
ADM+S Hackathon	15 Aug	Hackathon	Host
Uncertainty, Unreason, Prediction: A Workshop on Algorithms with Sun-ha Hong (Simon Fraser University) @ UNSW	15 Aug	Workshop	Host
ADM+S Hackathon Presentation: Sub-Zero Bias: A Comparative Thematic Analysis Experiment of Robodebt Discourse Using Humans and LLMs	16 Aug	Talk / Lecture	Host
Generative AI Should Be Stopped! The Web Search Revolution Public Debate.	17 Aug	Talk / Lecture	Host
The Web Search Revolution: The Past, Present, and Future of Search - Google, ChatGPT, Bing, and Beyond!	17 Aug	Symposium	Host

Uncertainty, Unreason, Prediction: A Workshop on Algorithms with Sun-ha Hong (Simon Fraser University) @ UQ	17 Aug	Workshop	Host
Publishing at AI Venues with Dr Hadi Dolatabadi	22 Aug	Workshop	Host
Electronics < > Ecologies #1 - Repair	30 Aug	Symposium	Host
ADM+S Accessibility Training: Document Accessibility Essentials workshop with Dr Scott Hollier (The Centre for Accessibility Australia)	4 Sep	Workshop	Host
Artificial companions: Fantasies, Imaginaries and Play - ONLINE	13 Sep	Symposium	Host
Hello AI: An Introductory Workshop on Creative and Critical AI for HASS Researchers	14 Sep	Workshop	Host
Strategic Public Interest Litigation for Transparency and Accountability of Harmful Digital Marketing: A Researcher-Regulator-Community Dialogue Workshop	25 Sep	Workshop	Host
Copyright and Generative AI: Challenges, and Nuances	27 Sep	Talk / Lecture	Co-Host w/ USyd Law School
Hacks/Hackers presentation: Fact Checking Used To Be Easy	27 Sep	Talk / Lecture	Partner Presentation
2023 Mapping the Digital Gap Annual Outcomes Report Launch	27 Sep	Talk / Lecture	Co Host w/ Telstra
Make Unfair Illegal	10 Oct	Talk / Lecture	Partner Presentation
AoIR2023 - The Association of Internet Researchers conference	18 Oct	Symposium	Participate
Cultural Robotics: Social Robots and their Emergent Cultural Ecologies	19 Oct	Talk / Lecture	Co-host
Surveillance and Capture: An Exploration of Computational Perception with Alexander R. Galloway (NYU)	20 Oct	Talk / Lecture	Co-host with The New School

Generative Visual AI in Newsrooms: Perceptions, Policies, Challenges and Opportunities	25 Oct	Talk / Lecture	Partner Presentation
ADA x Health Inventing future pets	27 Oct	Workshop	Partner Node Event
Electronics < > Ecologies #2 - Waste	30 Oct	Symposium	Host
Autowork: The Future of Work. Workshop,	31 Oct	Workshop	Co-organiser
Documentaries as Research Praxis: Locating Opportunities for Using Documentaries to Capture, Translate, and Communicate Research to Users. Researching, Communicating and Learning about Automated Decision-Making & Society through Documentary Filmmaking	1 Nov	Workshop	Host
ADA x Health Health information ecologies	3 Nov	Workshop	Host
Digital and data literacies for sexual health webinar series: Exploring histories of sexual technologies with Dr. Bo Ruberg	11 Nov	Talk / Lecture	Participate
Engaging with Public Inquiries as Researchers - RMIT Blockchain	15 Nov	Workshop	Partner Host
2023 Australian Academy of the Humanities Hancock Lecture	16 Nov	Talk / Lecture	Co-host with AAH
54th Annual Academy Symposium	16 Nov	Symposium	Co-Host
What is Children's Content in the Streaming Era? Issues, Tensions, Controversies	20 Nov	Symposium	Participate
Hacks/Hackers presentation: Islands in the Streaming: Local and Niche Content Discovery in a Global TV Distribution Market	22 Nov	Talk / Lecture	Partner Presentation
Electronics < > Ecologies #3 - Energy	22 Nov	Symposium	Host

Electronics < > Ecologies: ENERGY workshop	22 Nov	Workshop	Host
Living with algorithms – a master class with Minna Ruckenstein	27 Nov	Workshop	Host
Keywords in Cultural Studies: Masterclass with Ted Striphas	28 Nov	Workshop	Participate
Friction and promise in data labor	30 Nov	Talk / Lecture	Host
Study-In on AI + Race + Art	2 Dec	Talk / Lecture	Host
OzCHI Workshop. Health Information Ecologies: An Arts-based and Multisensory Approach	3 Dec	Workshop	Host/ Participate
Electronics < > Ecologies #4 - Manufacturing	4 Dec	Symposium	Host
Future Automated Mobilities (online workshop - FatE Symposium, Monash)	5 Dec	Workshop	Co-host
Futures at the Edge symposium: FIRE and Data public panel	11 Dec	Talk / Lecture	Host
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate (closed workshop - FaTE Symposium Monash)	12 Dec	Workshop	Co-host
Future Automated Mobilities (online workshop - FatE Symposium, Monash)	12 Dec	Workshop	Co-host
YouTube's News Conundrum - Where does the ABC feature among the platform's designation of 'authoritative voices'?	13 Dec	Talk / Lecture	Partner Presentation
Hacks/Hackers presentation: Where does the ABC feature among the platform's designation of 'authoritative voices'?	13 Dec	Talk / Lecture	Partner Host
ADMS Future Automated Mobilities (launch as part of the FatE Symposium, Monash) - Launch of two reports & documentary film	13 Dec	Talk / Lecture	Host

Future Automated Mobilities (in-person workshop - FatE Symposium, Monash)	13 Dec	Workshop	Co-host
Digital Intimacies 9	14-15 Dec	Talk / Lecture	Co-host
Futures at the Edge symposium: Work Futures	15 Dec	Talk / Lecture	Co-host



Yu Shan(QUT) presenting 'Paper: Automated Decision-Making Society in China: Or all watched over by machines of loving Grace?' at the International Conference on Automated Decision-Making and Chinese Societies

CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECTS

THE AUSTRALIAN AD OBSERVATORY

Millions of Australians are exposed to online advertising every day as they use social media and browse the internet. Advertisers on these platforms target audiences using a mix of data and profile information gathered from our activities online, but there is little publicly available knowledge about who is being targeted by which advertisers.

The Australian Ad Observatory project is working to understand the hidden world of advertising by asking volunteers to donate their Facebook ads.

Since the project started in 2021, more than 2,000 volunteers have donated their ads to the Australian Ad Observatory.

This participation has yielded more than 700,000 ad observations of more than 300,000 unique ads. These ads have served as the basis for research projects on greenwashing and on the advertising of harmful products and services including: alcohol, gambling, ultra-processed foods, and financial services.

Online Casinos (ABC)

In late 2023, research published in the Journal of Addiction Research & Theory uncovered gambling advertising to Australians by BitStarz, revealing a hidden economy of gambling ads that often fall under the radar of regulators. This finding was particularly relevant in the context of a June 2023 report on online gambling harm released by the Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs of the House of Representatives.

“Greenwashing” Advertising (CPRC)

Through the project the Consumer Research Policy Centre has uncovered online advertisements that use vague and misleading environmental and sustainability claims in their messaging to consumers. The Ad Observatory team analysed more than 20,000 impressions and 8,000 Facebook ads. They found terms such as ‘clean’ and ‘sustainable’ were frequently used with no explanation of what lay behind them. So were emojis such as the Earth, the recycling icon, green ticks and green hearts.

From this data, the CPRC and ADM+S produced Seeing Green: Prevalence of Environmental Claims on Social Media. A report that explores “greenwashing” advertising on social media and urges that the Federal Government legislate to give power to define and regulate green claims to the ACCC (the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission) and ASIC (Australian Securities and Investment Commission).

Alcohol Advertising (FARE)

The project has been working with the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) to provide further analysis on the content of alcohol advertisements on social media. They have discovered dozens of breaches of the advertising code on the Facebook pages of popular alcohol brands including content that contained images of under-25-year-olds drinking, celebrated binge drinking and implied that alcohol is connected to social success.

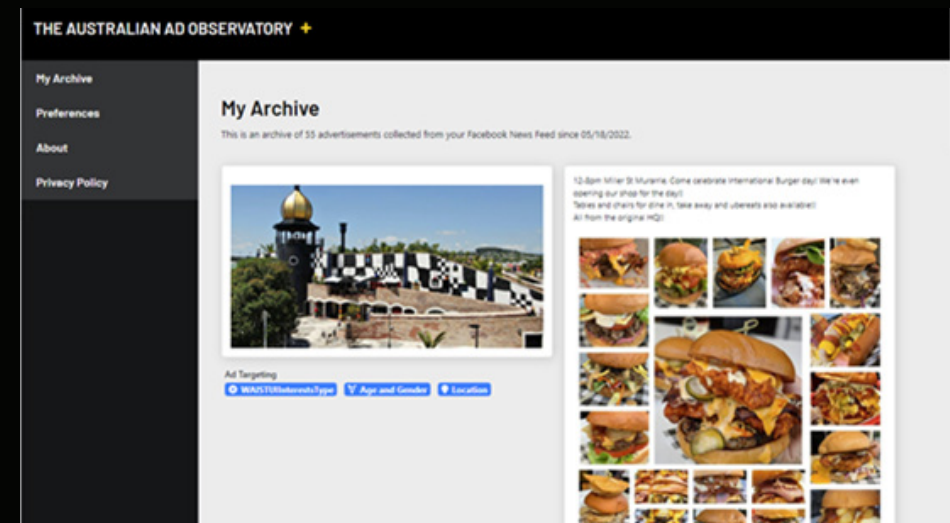
In June 2023, crossbench MPs for the Federal Government referred to findings from FARE to make a call to use independent evidence on targeted advertising to inform debate about pervasive marketing of harmful products as a matter of public importance.

In 2024, the second iteration of the Australian Ad Observatory will utilise mobile screen capture methods to collect and analyse ads across a range of platforms.

Additionally, researchers aim to include qualitative approaches working with volunteers to learn about how they use the tool and what insights they have gained from their participation – as well as their own understanding of the ad targeting process and their response to it.

With the release of the mobile screen capture tool in 2024, the Australian Ad Observatory will be looking for more people to sign up to the project. A large pool of diverse participants of different ages, backgrounds and from different parts of Australia will help us better understand how particular groups in society are being targeted with particular kinds of ads.

To find out more and join the project visit admscentre.org.au/adobservatory



Personal dashboard of collected ads (as seen from a participant's perspective)

CONSIDERATE AND ACCURATE MULTI-PARTY RECOMMENDER SYSTEMS FOR CONSTRAINED RESOURCES

ADM+S researchers are seeking to transform the sharing economy by delivering systems and methods that improve user and non-user experiences, business efficiency, and corporate social responsibility.

Online user study on multi-party fair recommendations

ADM+S work addresses the lack of understanding regarding user perceptions of fair recommendations, particularly in contexts where two parties are involved, such as customers and producers in online marketplaces.

Researchers studied the music artist recommendation use case and tested

whether generating fair recommendations and informing users about how we generate such recommendations impact their perceptions. In 2023 60 participants were recruited to complete a short online study that involved rating music artist recommendations and answering a series of questionnaires.

To undertake the study, researchers developed an online experimental platform where study users sign in using their Spotify credentials and complete a specific experimental condition. The platform gathered relevant Spotify recommendations for the user, re-ranked them according to the experimental conditions and obtained real-time user feedback.

Multi-party fairness in e-scooter services

ADM+S researchers are exploring how recommender systems can not only balance the needs of users and platforms but also how they can consider the interests of involuntary stakeholders (third parties). For example, Airbnb properties can influence nearby residents and hotels, and Google Maps can cause traffic bottlenecks due to recommended routes.

PhD student Yueqing Xuan and AI Danula Hettiachchi preparing e-scooter study



Participants in e-scooter study

Taking e-scooter sharing services as a use case, researchers conducted semi-structured interviews with stakeholder groups including e-scooter riders, pedestrians, cyclists, employees at e-scooter service provider companies and employees from 4 local councils. The goal was to understand their perspectives and objectives towards e-scooter sharing services.

This project worked with Lime e-scooter company as well as City of Melbourne, City of Yarra, City of Port Phillip and City of Ballarat local councils.

Researchers also conducted a field study with experienced e-scooter riders asking them to ride e-scooters on a pre-determined path wearing cameras and sensors. The goal of this observational study was to understand how e-scooter riders interact with other road users in the real environment. Lime company assisted us by providing e-scooters for this study.

In 2024, this project is planning to conduct a large-scale visual survey to understand the perspectives of riders and other stakeholders particularly on parking and route preferences of e-scooters.

SCHOOLS PROGRAMS

AD OBSERVATORY WORKSHOP

Researchers from the Australian Ad Observatory project partnered with QUT's High School Engagement team to deliver a 2.5 hour workshop to year 11 and 12 students at an event hosted at QUT on 26 September 2023.

The workshop titled 'The Meta Behind Online Advertising' aimed to help students:

- + Develop an understanding of the shift in advertising mediums and the challenges that targeted advertising online presents to individuals and society.
- + Learn how social media platforms use metadata to target individuals with online advertising and other content.
- + Identify and evaluate visual and text cues used in online advertising media to communicate different meanings.
- + Develop an understanding of computational social research methods and case study research.
- + Observe patterns in a large Facebook advertising dataset.

Using a public version of the Australian Ad Observatory dashboard, the workshop was designed and delivered by Prof Daniel Angus. The workshop links to the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority's Media Arts in Practice and Information and Communication Technology. The education initiatives developed by Cl Angus have brought the issues raised by the Ad Observatory to secondary schools in Brisbane. One future goal of the project is to develop curriculum materials based on findings of the different research strands within the project including greenwashing, alcohol advertising, gambling advertising and scam advertising.

In 2024, the workshop will be further developed and delivered across schools in Queensland, NSW and Victoria.



Photos: Grade 11 and 12 students participate in QUT workshop 'The Meta Behind Online Advertising'

PARTNERED MEDIA STUDIO

In a partnered media studio with the Centre, media students from RMIT University have used video methods to explore and illustrate how automated decision-making (ADM) intersects with the everyday.

Students' projects range from impacts of generative AI on the art sector, the manufacture of driverless cars, Spotify algorithms, period tracking apps and more.

During the semester, students engaged with researchers from ADM+S to learn more about the uses of automated decision-making in society across the areas of health, news and media, mobilities and social services.

Natalie Campbell, Research Communications Officer at ADM+S said it was fantastic to see the student's interpretations of the research topics, and technical media skills improving through the studio.

"Listening to the students discuss their projects, it was evident they felt inspired chatting to ADM+S researchers about these topics."

"The final outputs are a great example of research translation, using creative media making skills to communicate complex ideas and findings."

RMIT media students showcase their films at an exhibition on 19 October



YOUNG ICT EXPLORERS

In 2023, Prof Daniel Angus provided weekly sessions with students from Grades 5 and 6 at the East Brisbane State School. The sessions focused on designing prototype technologies for social good and involved a series of activities that engaged with current underlying technological and societal issues.

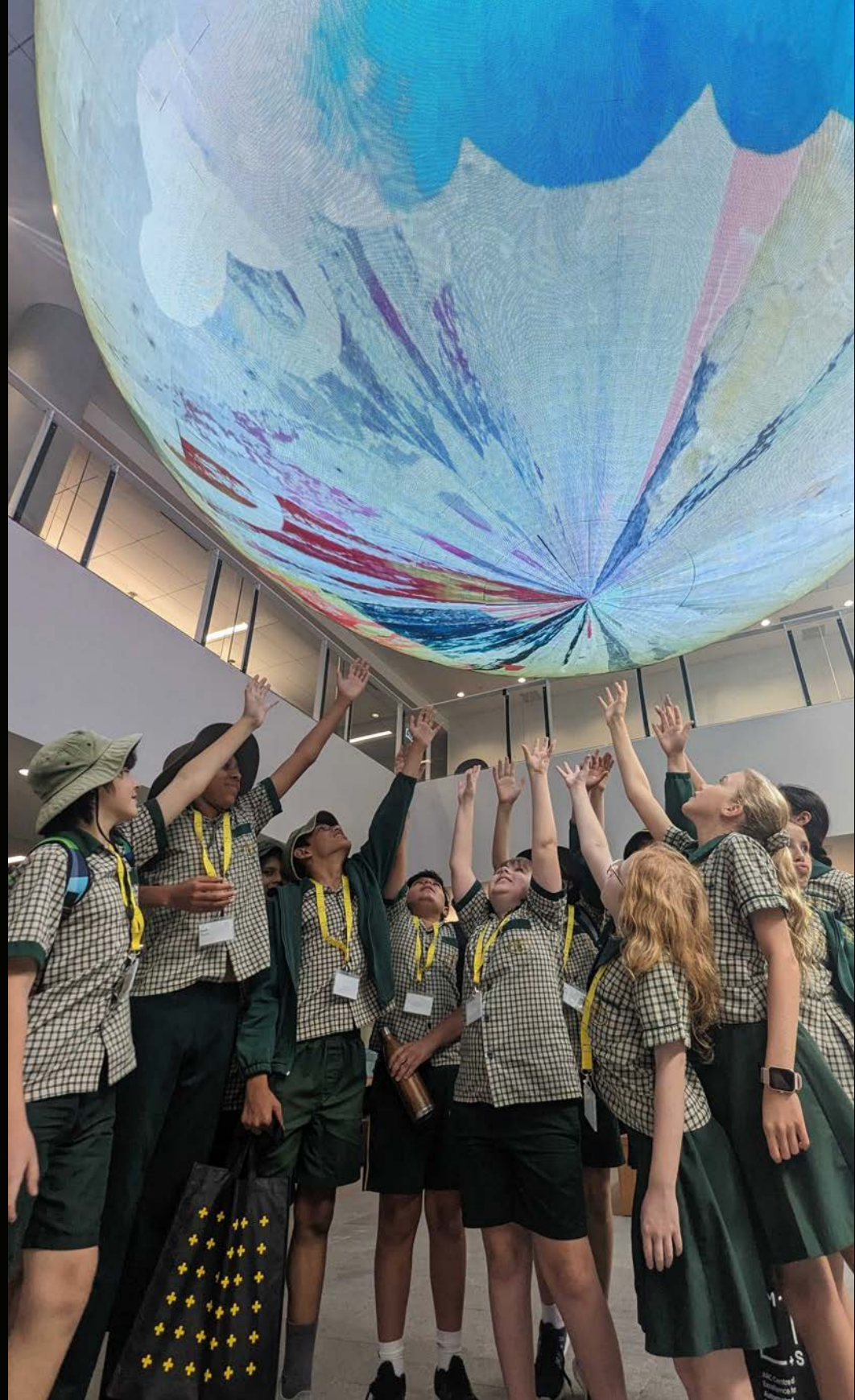
On 4 October 2023, ADM+S hosted fifteen East Brisbane State School Grade 6 students to present their projects for the 2023 Young ICT Explorers (YICTE) national competition.

The annual competition encourages primary and high school students from years three to 12 to use their imagination and passion to create an invention that could change the world using the power of technology.

“The QUT excursion was amazing. I enjoyed meeting the researchers. They taught us the unique things they each did. I learned that all the students and researchers work together with different roles, like programming,” said grade six student Sebastian Barlow.

“The part I enjoyed the most, was when we had an opportunity to talk to the professionals and understand their current jobs, that can inspire children to start thinking about their future,” said student Artemy Plekhanov.

Photos: East Brisbane State School students participate in QUT excursion



SUPERBOTS INDUSTRY IMMERSION PROGRAM INSPIRES GIRLS IN STEM

ADM+S Associate Investigator Prof Yolande Strengers co-designed a course in collaboration with Monash Tech School, the Faculty of Information Technology (IT) and Women in Voice ANZ Chapter which empowers Year 7 to 9 girls to explore real-world pathways and future-focused options in the IT industry.

The Superbots Industry Immersion Program invites girls in years 7 to 9 to design, build and visualise their own interactive voicebot with guidance from Monash University experts and mentors from Women in Voice Network and TalkViaOne.

The two-day program aims to address the diversity crisis in computing disciplines by capturing the hearts and minds of girls before they have made important subject selections.

“It’s in that crucial year 7 to 9 cohort where young girls were either turning away from or turning towards STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths),” said Prof Strengers in a recent interview with ABC News.

With mentors and activities showing students the breadth of skills needed in STEM jobs, the program encourages participants to keep their options open to new and evolving study and career opportunities.

ADM+S RESEARCHER SHARES INSIGHTS ON GENERATIVE AI AT 2023 STEM FEST

Ned Watt, PhD student at the ADM+S QUT node, shared his research insights on generative AI technologies at the recent 2023 STEM Fest award ceremony.

STEM Fest, an annual event that brings together year 7-9 students from schools in the Northern suburbs of Brisbane, encourages participants to tackle real-world challenges using science and technology.

Ned’s keynote titled In the Age of Powerful Technologies we need Powerful and Compassionate Minds, reintroduced GenAI tools such as Microsoft’s Dall-E and OpenAI’s ChatGPT and summarised some of the accompanying social implications and controversies surrounding them.

The presentation targeted a broad audience, including students, teachers, and parents/guardians, with the aim of informing critical dinner-table and classroom discussions about the increasing role of GenAI in our lives.

AI Yolande Strengers delivering Girls in STEM program



“Based on my experience studying GenAI technologies in the context of my research into fact checking, I focused on the creativity fostered by these technologies as well as some of their limitations; namely model bias and AI-assisted manipulation,” explained Ned.

In addition, Ned provided strategies for users to mitigate harms caused through the widespread uptake and application of GenAI.

Students and parents seated and standing in high school hall listening to presentation

Students, teachers, parents and guardians attending the 2023 STEM Fest awards ceremony.

“Being able to synthesise and communicate insights from my research in a way that is accessible to my local community has been an enriching process and I would encourage all researchers and practitioners to consider how their unique (and sometimes seemingly obscure) insights could be used outside their work and seek to engage with the broader public in ways they may not expect or be remotely prepared for.

Ned commended the exceptional work showcased at the STEM Fest award ceremony.

“My already high expectations of the quality of work and insight at STEM Fest were obliterated by the intuition, attention to detail, and high standard of work produced by the young competitors.”

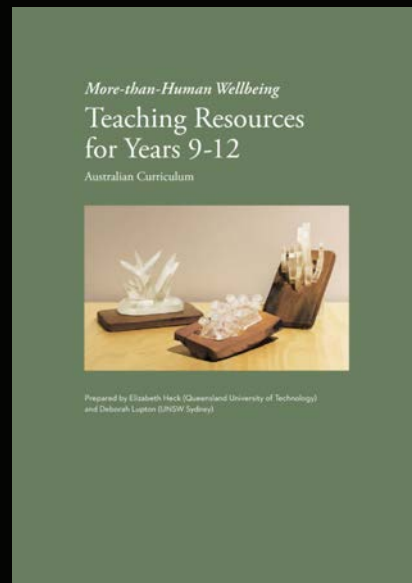
LEARNING RESOURCES

Developed in tandem with the More-than-Human Wellbeing exhibition (shown at the UNSW Library from 22 May to 18 August 2023), these resources draw on research funded by ADM+S and UNSW.

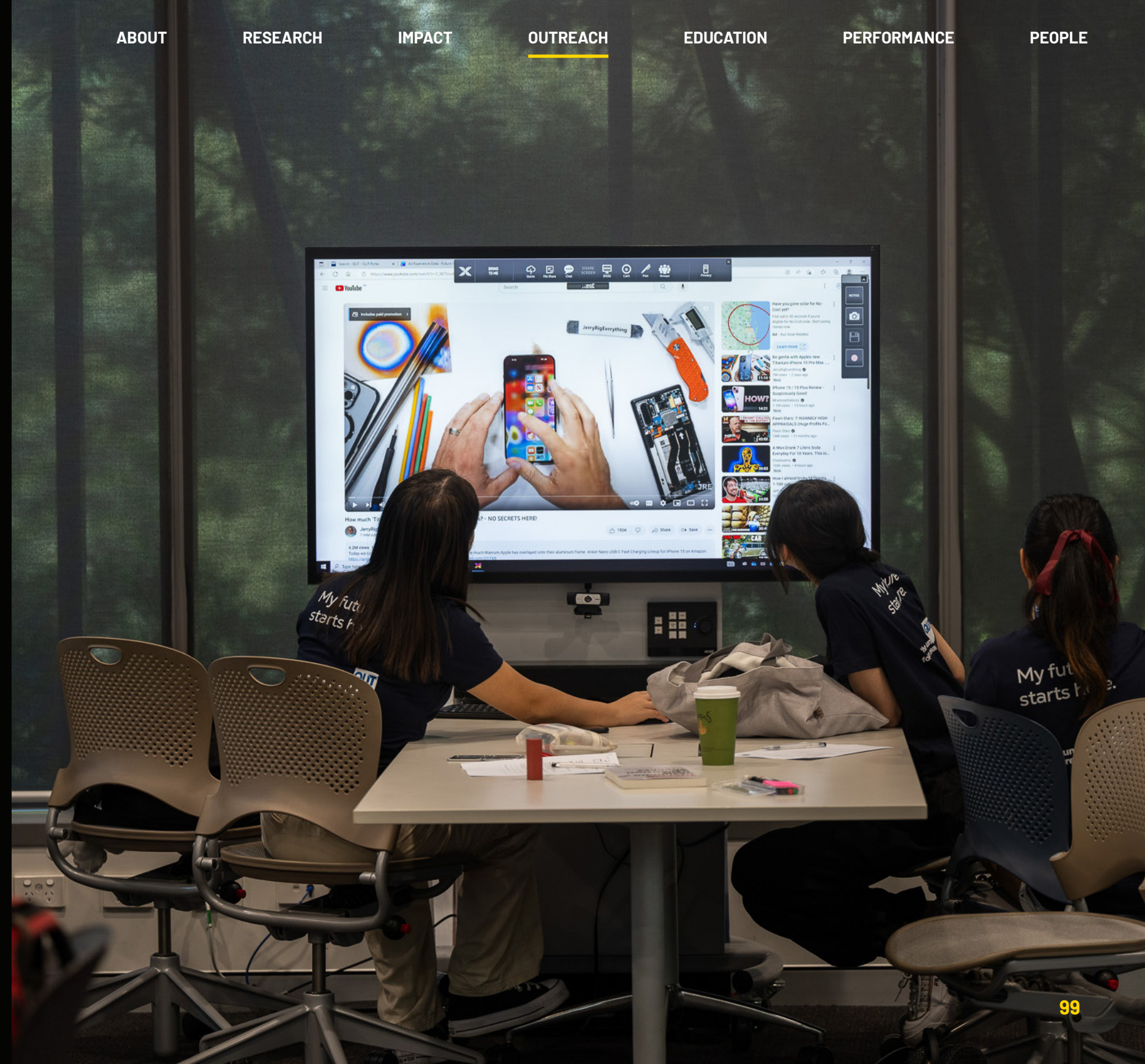
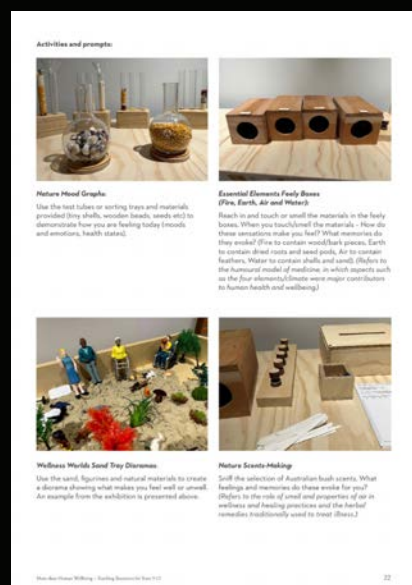
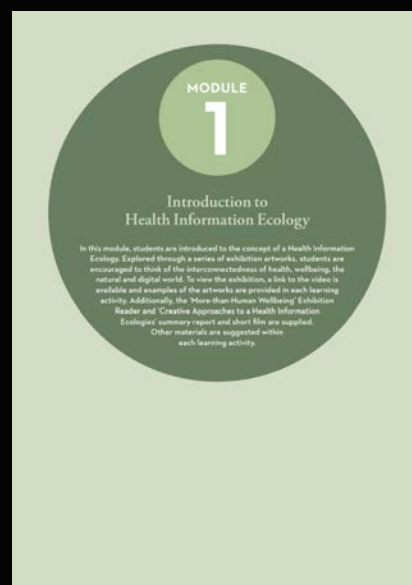
The More-than-Human Wellbeing Learning Activities and Resources were developed by Elizabeth Heck (QUT) and CI Deborah Lupton (UNSW Sydney). They provide senior secondary school students with an understanding of digital technologies, data and their application in the context of health information in an era of emerging technologies.

Based on the exhibition curated by CI Lupton and complementing the showcased artworks and installations, these modules and materials can be used across different subjects in the senior secondary school curriculum. Ideal for formative student activities and discussion, they align with a broad range of subject areas including Biological Science, Digital Solutions and ICT, Philosophy and Reason, Environmental Science, Sociology, Visual Arts and Film, Television and New Media.

The More-than-Human Wellbeing Learning Activities and Resources are supported by additional material produced around the exhibition including a short video tour of the exhibition, and an ADM+S Centre podcast with members of the exhibition team.



Contents
More-than-Human Wellbeing - Learning Activities and Resources Overview
MODULE 1 Introduction to Health Information Ecology
MODULE 2 Digital Data and Healthcare
MODULE 3 Health Digital Data and Ethics
MODULE 4 Digital Health Innovations and other applications



COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

ADM+S WEBSITE

Throughout the year we continued to develop the ADM+S Centre website, admscentre.org.au, to ensure that our research activities, outputs and resources are visible and accessible to our diverse audiences. Updates include:

- + A dedicated page for education resources developed by ADM+S researchers
- + A user-friendly webpage for searching ADM+S publications using a variety of filters
- + Research outputs accessible on related ADM+S project pages
- + Spotlight videos featuring researchers explaining their work added to researcher profiles
- + A new page that hosts embedded documentaries produced and created by ADM+S researchers.

In 2023, we had 22,684 unique website visits and 46,000+ users.

MEDIA RELEASES

The Centre published 125 media releases in 2023 including:

- + Remote First Nations communities are among the most digitally excluded people in Australia: Report
- + ADM+S researchers join Albanese Government's First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group
- + 2023 was the year of generative AI. What can we expect in 2024?
- + Emerging technologies and challenges of AI and Automated Decision-Making in News and Media
- + Research investigates "greenwashing" advertising on social media
- + Research informs leading AI risk management framework
- + ADM+S acknowledged for contribution to Commonwealth Governments' discussion paper on Safe and Responsible AI
- + Research supports call for improved safety of dating apps

- + Human-AI Cooperation to Tackle Misinformation and Polarization
- + Hackathon develops methods to mitigate bias in large language models
- + Hackathon
- + Prof Jean Burgess to join College of Experts for new Digital Good Network
- + The Australian Search Experience to analyse over 350 million search results
- + ADM+S Launches Working Paper Series
- + Prof Flora Salim appointed to ARC College of Experts

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Centre has experienced steady growth across all social media platforms including Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

Platform	Audience	% Increase compared to 2021
X / Twitter	2988 followers	+16.2%
LinkedIn	2044 followers	+43.8%
Instagram	372 followers	+27.4%
Facebook	629 followers	+16.5%
YouTube	345 subscribers	+49.6%

NEWSLETTERS

The Centre's monthly newsletter, ADM+S News, showcases latest news from the Centre to over 1,200 subscribers and features recent media appearances, publications, events and opportunities.

PODCAST SERIES

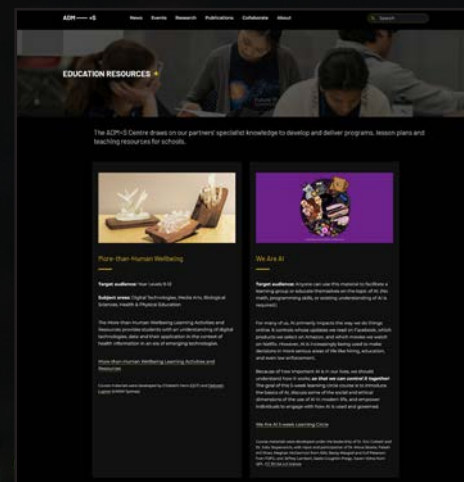
The Centre's podcast series, Automated Societies, features insights from researchers and industry experts on the impacts of automated decision-making on our society. In 2023 our podcast episodes received over 2700+ plays.

The podcast has produced over 40 episodes and is available on our website at admscentre.org.au/podcast-series, as well as on Spotify, Anchor, and via RSS feed.

EDITORIAL

In 2023, the ADM+S Editorial Committee:

- + Reviewed, edited and published 20 pieces including reports, submissions, and case studies across the Analysis & Policy Observatory (APO) platform and Medium website.
- + Implemented a pilot of a 360 peer review process to refine already published papers from the ADM+S Working Paper Series towards publication in a journal/chapter.
- + Developed a dedicated user-friendly and searchable repository page for ADM+S publications on the ADM+S website.



Learning resources page on ADM+S website

AUTOMATED SOCIETIES PODCAST



Web3 and Chinese Digital Diaspora: Industry and Community Perspectives
24 Feb 2023

This recording is from the International Conference on Automated Decision-Making and Chinese Societies at RMIT University on 1-3 February 2022.

China's rise as a digital superpower involves an array of intelligent and emerging technologies not bound by any geographic boundaries. This international conference encourages people to look beyond "China" as a singular, unified entity, an expansive interpretation of "Chinese societies" in their evolving forms, who are sometimes centrifugal or centripetal in relation to the People's Republic of China.



ChatGPT - Is it hype or the next big thing?
6 Apr 2023

Dr Aaron Snoswell presented ChatGPT: Hype or the Next Big Thing? At the Hacks/Hackers Brisbane event held 22 March 2023. In this presentation, Aaron talks about the hype, the limitations, and the potential of large language models like ChatGPT. Are we stuck in another iteration of the 'hype cycle', or are these systems actually a step closer to a useful and general artificial intelligence?



Queer Social Sorting: Control and resistance in China's LGBTQ+ activism
24 May 2023

In this presentation, Dr Ausma Bernot discusses how the state-sponsored control of queer activism in China is now increasingly linked to two elements: China's call to return to traditional gender roles and social sorting of queer activism. This talk was delivered at RMIT University and online, on 15 May 2023.



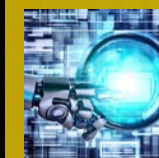
Making an Exhibition for Research Translation and Engagement
27 July 2023

In this episode, Prof Deborah Lupton and Dr Vaughan Wozniak-O'Connor from the University of New South Wales discuss the process of their interdisciplinary collaboration in putting together the 'More-Than-Human Wellbeing' exhibition, as a research translation and community engagement initiative. They discuss the process and thinking behind making the exhibition, barriers they encountered, and tips for other researchers wishing to engage broader audiences through arts-based methods.



Internet Futures
8 Aug 2023

This special event panel took place at the 2023 ADMS+S Automated News and Media Symposium, 13-14 July 2023 at the University of Sydney. Panelists address rapid developments in internet infrastructures and AI technologies, and discuss questions around the dynamic possibilities and uncertain pathways these developments present for internet governance, social media platforms, media industries, and digital inclusion.



The Impact of Search on Society
24 Aug 2023

This panel was held at the 2023 ADM+S Web Search Revolution Symposium on 17 August at RMIT University, and online.

With billions of queries serviced every day, web search has profoundly reshaped the way we relate to information. But search has itself been reshaped by law, regulation, markets, user interactions, and other social forces. This panel asks: how can we understand the evolution of search from a social perspective? And how can future search systems be designed to avoid mistakes made in the past?



ADM+S IN THE MEDIA

HIGHLIGHTS

ADM+S IN THE MEDIA

FEB



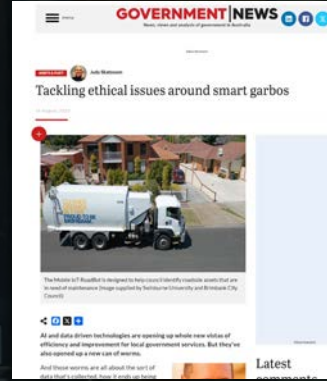
AI Timothy Graham's research highlighted in the Guardian Australia for 'Twitter data appears to support claims new algorithm inflated reach of Elon Musk's tweets, Australian researcher says' 16 February 2023

MAY



Affiliate Alexa Scarlata and AI Ramon Lobato partner with CHOICE on article 'How much personal data is your smart TV collecting – and what can you do about it?' 4 May 2023

AUG



CI Anthony McCosker's research into smart garbage trucks highlighted in Government News with 'Tackling ethical issues around smart garbos' 16 August 2023

SEP



Mapping the Digital Gap 2023 Outcomes Report promoted in RMIT media release 'Remote First Nations communities are among the most digitally excluded people in Australia: report' 27 September 2023

430 media pickups
Reached over 42 million people
Advertising value equivalent of over \$1.5 million.

DEC



CI Christine Parker interviewed on ABC News for 'New research reveals the greenwashing tricks advertisers use to sell you "sustainable" products' 1 December 2023

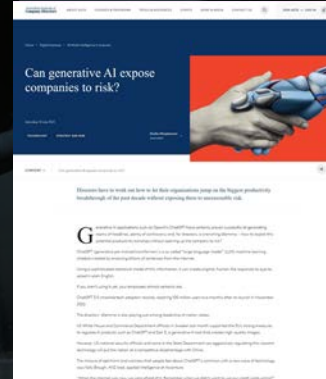
MARCH



Prof. Daniel Angus
Centre for Automated Decision-Making and Society

CI Dan Angus and CI Christine Parker interviewed on ABC News for 'Online casinos based offshore are illegally targeting Australians on Facebook. Who is responsible?' 21 March 2023

MAY



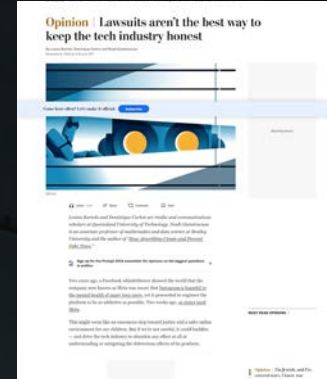
ADM+S Board Members Deena Shiff (chair), Peter Waters and Dr Melissa Gregg comment on 'Can generative AI expose companies to risk?' for Australian Institute of Company Directors 1 July 2023

OCT



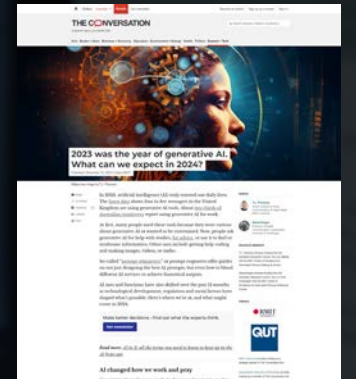
Senior Research Fellows Daniel Featherstone and Lyndon Ormond-Parker on 'Digital inclusion' and closing the gap: how First Nations leadership is key to getting remote communities online for the Conversation 23 October 2023

NOV



PhD students Louisa Bartolo, Dominique Carlon provide analysis on why 'Lawsuits aren't the best way to keep the tech industry honest' for the Washington Post Nov 8 2023

DEC



CI Dan Angus and Affiliate T.J. Thompson wrap up 2023 with '2023 was the year of generative AI. What can we expect in 2024?', published by the Conversation 19 Dec 2023

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CI Daniel Angus interviewed for Channel 7 at the 2023 ADM+S Summer School

ALL PARTNERS, COLLABORATORS, AND LINKS

Asia	
National University of Singapore	Event Partner
Senshū University	Event Partner
Waseda University	Event Partner
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Event Partner
Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Event Partner
Digital Asia Hub	Partner Organisation
Lingnan University	Event Partner
Peking University Law School	Event Partner
Tattle	Event Partner
Sophia University	Event Partner
Nanyang Technological University	Event Partner
Asian Communication Research Centre	Event Partner
Australia	
RMIT University	Administering Organisation
CHOICE	Collaborating Organisation
Emerging Technologies Research Lab	Collaborating Organisation
Gradient Institute	Collaborating Organisation
Humanising Machine Intelligence ANU	Collaborating Organisation
Monash University	Eligible Organisation
Swinburne University	Eligible Organisation
The University of Melbourne	Eligible Organisation
University of Queensland	Eligible Organisation
University of New South Wales	Eligible Organisation
Western Sydney University	Eligible Organisation
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University of Sydney	Eligible Organisation
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Australian National University	Event Partner
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University of Technology Sydney	Event Partner
The Vitalities Lab UNSW	Event Partner
Social Policy Research Centre	Event Partner
Health Consumers New South Wales	Event Partner
Critical Technology Studies	Event Partner
Amazon Web Services	Event Partner
Transgender Victoria	Event Partner
Australian Information Industry Association	Event Partner
.au domain	Event Partner
Griffith University	Event Partner
Australian Academy of the Humanities	Event Partner
Deakin University	Event Partner
Macquarie University	Event Partner
Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)	Event Partner
Economic Justice Australia	Event Partner
Centre for Media Transition	Event Partner
University of South Australia	Event Partner
Red Cross Red Crescent Global Migration Lab	Event Partner
Refugee Advice & Casework Service (RACS)	Event Partner
South Australian Council of Social Service	Event Partner
The Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM)	Event Partner
Moorup	Event Partner

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)	Event Partner
Guardian Australia	Event Partner
VMLY&R	Event Partner
Interactive Advertising Bureau	Event Partner
RMIT ABC Fact Check	Event Partner
RMIT FactLab	Event Partner
The Conversation	Event Partner
Australian Muslim Advocacy Network	Event Partner
University of Canberra	Event Partner
Central Queensland University	Event Partner
Human Technology Institute	Event Partner
Customedia	Event Partner
Goolarri Media Enterprises	Event Partner
Hacks/Hackers Brisbane	Industry Link
ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child	Industry Link
Wikimedia Australia	Industry Link
Canva	Industry Link
First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group	Industry Link
Australian Red Cross	Partner Organisation
Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC)	Partner Organisation
Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN)	Partner Organisation
Bendigo Hospital	Partner Organisation
Consumers Health Forum Australia (CHF)	Partner Organisation
Consumer Policy Research Centre (CPRC)	Partner Organisation
Google Australia	Partner Organisation
Telstra	Partner Organisation
Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC)	Partner Organisation
Julalikari Aboriginal Corporation	Project Partner
Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation	Project Partner

Yalu Marnggithinyaraw Indigenous Corporation	Project Partner
Thamarrurr Development Corporation	Project Partner
PAW Media	Project Partner
Wujul Wujul Aboriginal Shire Council	Project Partner
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	Project Partner
Kalumburu Aboriginal Corporation	Project Partner
Djarindjin Community Council	Project Partner
NPY Women's Council	Project Partner
Warakurna Community Council	Project Partner
Brimbank City Council	Project Partner
Bendigo Bank	Project Partner
Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victorian Government	Project Partner
Entertainment Assist	Project Partner
Goodcycles	Project Partner
Infoxchange	Project Partner
Reachout	Project Partner
Yooralla	Project Partner
Beyond Blue	Project Partner
Sane Australia	Project Partner
Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE)	Project Partner
NSW Ombudsman	Project Partner
Red Cross Australia	Collaborating Organisation
Europe	
CatCh Network	Event Partner
Aalborg University	Event Partner
Volvo Cars	Collaborating Organisation
University of Heidelberg	Event Partner
Aarhus University	Event Partner

Leiden University	Event Partner
Lund University	Event Partner
University of Copenhagen	Event Partner
Vrije Universiteit Brussel	Event Partner
Institute of Network Cultures	Event Partner
Oslo Metropolitan University	Event Partner
Vienna University of Economics and Business	Event Partner
University of Trento	Event Partner
Nova University	Event Partner
University of Helsinki	Event Partner
Halmstad University	Partner Organisation
Hans-Bredow Institut	Partner Organisation
University of Amsterdam	Partner Organisation
University of Birmingham	Partner Organisation
Algorithm Watch	Partner Organisation
Consumer Society Research Centre	Event Partner
Malmö University	Event Partner
Royal Statistical Society	Event Partner
Goldsmiths University of London	Event Partner
UNESCO	Project Partner
Institute of Development Studies	Project Partner
University of Twente	Project Partner
Université de Technologie de Compiègne	Project Partner
Oceania	
University of the South Pacific, Fiji	Project Partner
North America	
Platform Economics Research Network (PERN)	Collaborating Organisation
Western University in Canada	Event Partner
Simon Fraser University	Event Partner

Microsoft Research New England	Event Partner
University of Washington	Event Partner
Tufts University	Event Partner
University of Toronto	Event Partner
University of Texas	Event Partner
UCLA Design Media Arts	Event Partner
Srai and McGill University	Event Partner
University of North Carolina	Event Partner
Memorial University of Newfoundland	Event Partner
Public Interest Research Group	Event Partner
University of Virginia	Event Partner
Bloomberg	Event Partner
eResearch Services	Event Partner
More Than Sustainability	Event Partner
University of Michigan	Event Partner
University of Pennsylvania	Event Partner
Pennsylvania State University	Event Partner
Trent University	Event Partner
Wilfred Laurier University	Event Partner
Intel Labs	Event Partner
NVIDIA Corporation	Event Partner
Stanford University	Event Partner
Brooklyn Law School	Partner Organisation
Cornell Tech	Partner Organisation
New York University	Partner Organisation
Data and Society Research Institute	Partner Organisation
University of Notre Dame	Project Partner
Lime E-Bikes	Project Partner
South America	
Universidad de La Sabana	Project Partner

Delegates at the International Conference on Automated Decision-Making and Chinese Societies



EDUCATION

Research Training Program

2023 Summer School

CoE School for ECRs

Training Masterclasses and Workshops

ADM+S Hackathon: Bias in Large Language Models

Student-Led Conferences and Symposia

National and International Placements

Internal Funding

Documentary Initiative

Careers Outcomes

Student and ECR Spotlights

RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM

RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM

The ADM+S Research Training Program is designed with continuous, active industry engagement and international knowledge exchange in mind, helping to deliver on the Centre's outcomes, impacts and linkages, as well as to prepare the next generation of researchers to make world-leading contributions in an increasingly engaged and transdisciplinary research environment.

The early years of the running of the Centre were impacted by pandemic restrictions which restricted the range of possible research training activities. In 2022 and 2023, the Centre was able to run a much broader range of activities, including in-person conferences, events and remote placements. We ran these in hybrid form as much as possible, but the ability to travel and meet in person expanded the possibilities for mentorship and collaboration.

Some highlights of the training program in 2023 included our first fully in-person Summer School, and an interdisciplinary Hackathon that explored the opportunities and challenges presented by generative AI.

Student-centered and student-run activities including conferences and symposiums proliferated this year alongside training in original research methodologies including documentary filmmaking.

Placements at remote locations around the world encouraged collaboration and further expanded research networks. These networks also benefited from the growing number of Centre alumni who have secured positions at prestigious institutions.

The Centre has established itself as a nationally and internationally known site for building research capacity in automated decision making, thanks in part to the participation of HDR students and Early Career Researchers in international placements, conferences and workshops. The activities outlined in this report reflect the diverse range of interests in and approaches to the study of the societal significance of automated decision-making systems.



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Secretariat



Xiyao Liu (centre) and Alexa Scarlata (left) at the 2023 Summer School

> **2023 SUMMER SCHOOL**

The Research Training Program successfully delivered its first in-person Summer School in February 2023. 55 students and 35 researchers from all 9 nodes participated in an intensive week of panels, workshops and clinics that covered a wide range of exciting research across the Centre's disciplines and topic areas.

As a critical part of the 2023 program, the Summer School gave us a great start to the year, helping to shape our research agendas and placing the work of our students and emerging researchers at the centre of attention. The School showed again how much we can learn and benefit from the Centre's extraordinary research community, and helped us all sharpen questions, refine methods, frame arguments, and make connections.

We thank all our speakers, mentors and student participants for making this event possible, and especially the ADM+S Operations team for their hard work behind the scenes delivering this event so effortlessly.

PhD student Laura McLean, visiting scholar Judith Heinisch, and PhD student Kelsie Nabben in a workshop session



Mentoring

The mentoring program was designed to give HDR candidates at all stages an opportunity to receive feedback and guidance from a CI, AI or Research Fellow from the CoE on a piece of writing appropriate to their stage and discipline. Students had the opportunity to provide any of the following pieces of writing for feedback:

- + a conference paper and/or presentation draft
- + a journal article draft
- + a thesis chapter draft
- + a confirmation of candidature document draft (literature review, methodology, etc.)
- + students could also opt to have discussions on career pathways and planning

Students and mentors were carefully matched and introduced in advance of the summer school, enabling our CIs and AIs time to review and prepare feedback in the lead up to the in-person mentoring sessions at the event.



PhD student Hiruni Kegalle in mentoring session with CI Mark Sanderson



Joanna Williams presenting on behalf of the Research Training Committee

Sessions and Workshops

+ **Workshop: Explainable automated decision-making.**
Leads: CI Julian Thomas, Research Fellow Aaron Snoswell, CI Jake Goldenfein

+ **Workshop: Responsible recommender systems**
Leads: CI Jean Burgess, CI Mark Sanderson, AI James Meese, AI Patrik Wikstrom

+ **Workshop: Inclusive Research for ADM**
Leads: CI Heather Horst, CI Paul Henman, Research Fellow Daniel Featherstone, Research Fellow Ash Watson, Research Fellow Vaughan Wozniak-O'Connor

+ **Case Clinics, collaborative group work and problem solving**
Leads: Libby Young (PhD, University of Sydney)

+ **Session: Industry Advocacy and Contemporary Challenges**
Chair: AI Nicholas Carah
Panellists: Kate Bower (CHOICE), Luke Hutchins (FARE), Samuel Kininmonth (ACAN), Gareth Downing (ACAN), Emma Saleeba (VicHealth)

+ **Session: Career Pathways - Industry (cross sectors)**
Chair: CI Flora Salim
Panellists: Dr Kobi Leins (NAB), Dr Melissa Gregg (Prev. Intel), Kendra Vant (Xero), PJ Holtum (Services Australia), Ariel Bogle (ABC)

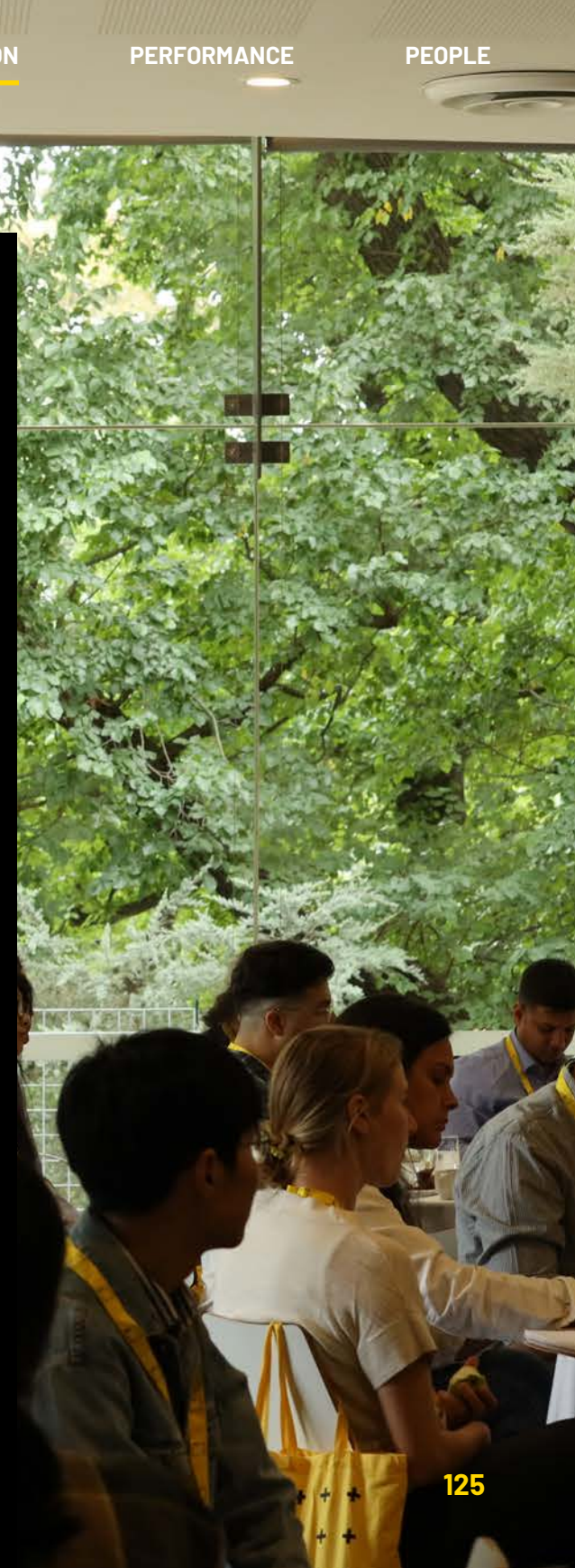
+ **Session: PhD to Research Fellow / ECR**
Chair: CI Mark Andrejevic
Panellists: Research Fellow Jacinthe Flore, AI Kath Albury, CI Jake Goldenfein, AI Ellie Rennie



Research Training Manager Sally Storey and PhD student Ahswin Negappa on the Fitzroy street art walking tour

Social activities

Our social activities created an environment to enable students and researchers to connect and build relationships in a non-academic setting and have fun! The social activities were also designed to give our out-of-town students the opportunity to explore Melbourne beyond the university setting, and sample local culture and cuisine. These included a welcome dinner the night before the Summer School at D.O.C Pizzeria in Carlton, a street art walking tour of Fitzroy with local street artists as our guides from Blender Studios in West Melbourne, a guided tour of the Data Relations Exhibition at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art in Southbank, and the famous ADM+S Trivia night with CI Dan Angus.



> **COE SCHOOL FOR ECRS**

The ARC Centre of Excellence School for Early Career Researchers saw emerging scholars from three ARC Centres of Excellence come together as a collaborative community.

Across the two-day symposium, Early Career Researchers from the following ARC Centres of Excellence engaged in presentations, workshops, panels and social activities:

- + ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child
- + ARC Centre of Excellence for Children and Families Over the Life Course
- + ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society

Hearing from CoE leaders about their aims, approaches, strengths and challenges, participants made connections where their research overlapped.

Kieran Hegarty, Research Fellow from the RMIT University node at ADM+S said, "By bringing together leading researchers from across three CoEs, multiple institutions, and diverse disciplines, the ECR School gave us an opportunity to explore and experience how abstract concepts like 'interdisciplinary', 'multidisciplinary', and 'transdisciplinary' work in practice."

Prof Marcus Foth, Founder and Director of the Urban Informatics Lab at QUT, facilitated a workshop 'What's the difference between multi-trans- inter- disciplinary work? And why does it matter?'

Kevan Jones, Learning Advisor from the University of Queensland, ran a 'Pitching your research' session, focusing on the art of pitching research and refining the skills of communication research concisely.

The 'Developing Successful Collaborations' panel brought together ADM+S research collaborators Dr Kate Bower (Fellow, UTS Human Technology Lab, CHOICE Advocacy) and Dr Peter Bailey (Machine Learning Lead for Search & Recommendations, Canva) with Dr Kate Liley (National Manager, Goodstart Early Learning), where panellists discussed opportunities and challenges in brokering relationships with collaborators from diverse research backgrounds.

Participants collaborated across all three CoEs to brainstorm and map key issues that each CoE addresses to identify research synergies.

Researchers worked in teams to generate and present a speculative proposal that addressed one of the grand challenges.

"What was evident in developing this project and hearing from the other groups was the similarity we shared—not in terms of discipline or institution—but in terms of a commitment to using our research to engage with diverse communities and understand and respond to social inequities and other complex problems," explained Kieran.

Ashwin Nagappa, researcher from the Digital Media Research Centre at QUT and alumnus of the ADM+S Centre said that participating in the ARC

received, shaping not just my academic pursuits but also my personal and professional growth," said Ashwin.



CoE School for Early Career Researchers proved invaluable in navigating the peaks and valleys of an academic career.

"This experience not only equipped me with valuable insights but also fostered a sense of camaraderie among emerging scholars.

"I am grateful for the support and guidance

Group shot of CoE ECRs in front of the Customs House in Brisbane

TRAINING MASTERCLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

In 2023 the Research Training Program delivered a diverse series of research training masterclasses and workshops targeted to both STEM and SHAPE students and researchers with a focus on career pathways, research skills, ADM focused workshops and hands-on introductory bootcamps. These included presentation and personal branding skills, inclusive and participatory research, writing & editing, Publishing & journals, Impact narrative master class with Prof Swee Mak, publishing at Top AI conferences, Digital Feminist Methods with Agnieszka Leszczynski, Master class with Sun Ha Hong, and Master class Minna Ruckenstein.

Bespoke one on one coaching sessions on presenting and research branding were offered to 10 ADM+S PhDs and ECRs with Dr Anna Harrison across the year to enhance researcher presentation technique and capabilities as well as elevate research communication across audiences.

A number of reading groups were delivered across the Centre including the Centre's Humans, Machines, Decision Responsibility project (bi-monthly) and a Trust in ADM reading group (monthly). The HDR and ECR reading group run by Prof Mark Andrejevic saw the inclusion of researchers and authors including Nadya Purtova and Gijs van Maanen, for their paper 'Data as an economic good, data as a commons, and data governance,' and paper 'The Participatory Turn in AI Design: Theoretical Foundations and the Current State of Practice' (Fernando Delgado, Stephen Yang, Michael Madaio, Qian Yang).

HDR Training Day at the ADM+S Symposium on Automated News and Media Symposium

ADM+S Centre students were welcomed to join us in advance of the ADM+S Symposium on Automated News and Media for a tailored HDR training day. This day combined small group mentoring sessions, bespoke personal branding and presentation skills training and hands-on collaborative workshop on inclusive research practice.

Small group; mentoring and discussion with visiting senior researchers and ADM+S researchers

Students were invited to participate in small group mentoring and discussion with senior visiting researchers to the ADM+S symposium and ADM+S AIs and RFs. This gave students the opportunity to

PhD student Yueqing Xuan, Research Fellow Danula Hettiachi, PhD student Marwah Alaofi, AI Damiano Spina, PhD students Kaixin Ji, Hmdh Alknjr, Nuha Abu Onq, and Sachin Pathiyan Cherumanal at the HDR Training Day



discuss research challenges, seek guidance and advice, and ask questions in a knowledge-sharing and safe environment.

Student Posters & Presentations at the Automated News & Media Symposium

For the 2023 ADM+S Symposium, we invited ADM+S PhD students to create and submit posters contributing insights into AI and automation resulting from their current ADM+S research thesis. The students were encouraged to also align to the Centre's broader aims of 'creating knowledge and strategies for responsible, ethical and inclusive automated decision-making.'

Through their posters, 10 ADM+S students had the opportunity to share their findings with other Centre members and representatives from our partner organisations, industry leaders, policymakers and public attendees. The posters were exhibited on the HDR Training Day and all days of the symposium at Sydney University.

Personal branding and presentation skills training

This group workshop focused on practical tips to elevate personal branding and presentation skills. A series of hands-on exercises participants with tangible and useful items to implement post-workshop to improve conference paper acceptance rates and accelerate networking and collaboration skills.

ADM+S workshop on inclusive, collaborative and participatory research design and practice

The purpose of this workshop was to facilitate and lead activities across the Centre that promote inclusive, collaborative and participatory research design and practice. Students were encouraged to consider how representation, participation and inclusivity is reflected in our external work and research, and how we can improve our practice as researchers and as a Centre.

ARC Centres of Excellence Mentoring Program

In 2023, we announced our new mentoring program, developed in conjunction with 11 other Australian Research Council Centres of Excellence on platform Mentorloop. The program is a unique opportunity for our ADM+S community to start a mentoring relationship with other researchers and industry professionals. Researchers and Professional staff are able to connect to people from within and outside of ADM+S, and learn from mentors who can offer insight, advice, and opportunities to help them progress in their career.

ADM+S HACKATHON: BIAS IN LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS

The ADM+S 2023 Hackathon: Bias in Large Language Models was held at the ADM+S offices at RMIT University Melbourne, Tuesday 15 – Wednesday 16 August 2023. The hackathon was an accompanying event to the Web Search Revolution event on Thursday 16 August 2023.

The hackathon brought together 34 PhD students and researchers from 8 nodes as participants and mentors, and 5 industry and institute representatives as judges.

The hackathon was delivered by the ADM+S Research Training Program consisting of a small working group of professional staff, students, and researchers.

THE CHALLENGE

The most powerful generative language models today are concentrated in the hands of a few large firms with access to the necessary data and processing power. From internet search to virtual companionship, these companies have the potential to shape our information environment, which means that the values embedded in their models are of urgent social and political consequence.

The goal of this hackathon was to explore and map the values baked into some of the most popular generative language models, including Open AI's ChatGPT, Google's Bard, and Microsoft's Bing Chat.

Teams were devised in advanced to ensure there was a good mix of HASS and STEM students and researchers on each team, genders of mentors leading teams, and cross node representation.

Judges:

- + Dr Peter Bailey: ML Engineering Lead, Search & Recommendations, Canva
- + Nick Craswell: Principal Architect, Microsoft Search, Assistant and Intelligence (MSAI)
- + Dr Johanne Trippas: Vice-Chancellor's Research Fellow, RMIT University
- + Sarvnaz Karimi: Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO
- + Prof Chirag Shah: Information and Compute Science, University of Washington

Judging panel at the Oxford Scholar, Melbourne: MC (CI) Dan Angus, Nick Craswell (Microsf), Sarvnaz Karimi (CSIRO), Peter Bailey (Canva), Johanne Trippas (RMIT), Chirag Shah (University of Washington)



METHODOLOGIES

Teams were given examples of methodologies and outputs for their hackathon project as organisers didn't want to limit the types of investigation teams undertake. Teams were prompted - anything that considers the issue of bias in generative language models would be useful and in-scope. Some ideas provided included:

- + Conduct a detailed literature review to see what emerging evidence already exists mapping a particular type of bias in generative language models.
- + Use an existing benchmark, survey, or questionnaire to evaluate and compare several generative language models for a particular type of bias.
- + Apply a critical lens to an existing evaluation benchmark or survey.
- + Develop an experiment to test the bias of a particular model on a specific topic or issue.

Teams were free to choose their own area of bias to investigate throughout the hackathon, however the organising team curated some suggested topics, along with some helpful resources that might be useful to get teams started. Example topics included gender bias, political bias, Indigenous, colonial, & racial biases, disability discrimination.

THE PRIZES

On Day 2 of the hackathon, each team had 5 minutes to present their hackathon project idea to the judging panel.

Teams were judged according to four criteria; Presentation; Interestingness; Rigour; and Scope and potential for follow-up. Each criterion was weighted equally.

The winning and runner-up team received \$10,000 and \$6,000 respectively to take their project research to the next iteration – research support funds can be used to develop ideas and research related to the Hackathon. The winning team used support funds for travel to collaborate with fellow teammates, document findings and create a white paper report. The winning team also received the opportunity to visit and attend a workshop at the Canva offices in Sydney.



PhD student Ned Watts, Rhea, Affiliate Lida Ghahremanlou, PhD student Hiruni Kegalle

WINNING TEAM

Team members: Al Liam Magee (mentor), Dr Lida Ghahremanlou (mentor), Awais Hameed Khan (RF) and ADM+S PhD students Ned Watt, Hiruni Kegalle, Rhea D'Silva, Daniel Whelan-Shamy

Title: Sub-Zero Bias. A Comparative Thematic Analysis Experiment of Robodebt Discourse Using Humans and LLMs

"Our project explored the relationship between human and machine bias while exploring the utility of large language models (LLMs) such as GPT-4 and Llama 2 for Qualitative Data Analysis (QDA).

The project underscored the challenges of identifying and addressing bias in LLMs, which often arise from probabilistic reasoning. This reasoning is based on a vast volume of human-generated content used as training data.

Steering away from a "detect and mitigate" approach to AI bias, the team introduced an AI co-pilot strategy for QDA which tackled both human and machine-side bias. This method aspires not only to lessen the cognitive strain on qualitative researchers but also to encourage them to reflect on their own biases, and the possible influence these have on research findings and outputs.

Leveraging Braun and Clarke's (2006) thematic analysis approach, the team faced off human and machine coders using a dataset centred around the politically contentious Robodebt issue. The findings were revealing: while some themes saw a convergence in human and machine perspectives, others exhibited substantial divergence. For instance, humans were more likely to detect the theme of "denial of personal responsibility" compared to machines.

Despite these insights, the scope of the hackathon posed several limitations, emphasising the need for a more detailed exploration. This experiment, though preliminary, highlights nuances between human intuition and machine analysis, advocating for a harmonised, complementary approach for the future of QDA."

MICROSOFT AND CANVA SITE VISIT

"Our team's visit to NSW gave us the opportunity to come together from Brisbane and Melbourne to revisit our Hackathon project, develop new directions for our work and spend some time together as a team in sunny Sydney. We started off by visiting Microsoft's Sydney office, where our mentor Lida's Microsoft colleagues are based, to attempt to simulate the Melbourne hackathon's environment (and productivity). Our aim was to use our insights from the hackathon to expand our project's scope from large language models (LLMs) to multimodal AI systems. In the end we constructed a method that using image-to-text-to-image to scrutinise the multimodal reasoning of multiple commercial and open-source GenAI systems while providing insights to human researchers about our own conceptions and assumptions when we try to observe and mitigate bias. Overall, this experiment gave us plenty to discuss at Canva the next day.

Our visit to Canva began with coffee, introductions, and our hackathon presentation. We also had the chance to share our new ideas with them and benefit from their feedback and insight. A number of interesting presentations from the Canva's Trust, Safety, and Responsible AI team followed, including debiasing text to image, the researcher's toolkit and AI media. Questions and comments we had for the team led to invigorating discussions.



Winning team at the Oxford Scholar in Melbourne: left to right - PhD student Daniel Whelan-Shamy, Al Liam McGee, PhD Student Ned Watts, Research Fellow Awais Hameed Khan, PhD student Rhea D'Silva, PhD student Hiruni Kegalle

Winning team at the Canva office in Sydney: left to right - Canva Engineering Lead Peter Bailey, Al Damiano Spina, Net Watt, Research Fellow Awais Hameed Khan, PhD student Rhea D'Silva, Hiruni Kegalle, Affiliate Lida Ghahremanlou



These conversations continued over lunch at Canva Cafe, giving us time to get to know each other and our work better. In the final sessions of the day, we were presented with Canva swag which included a year's subscription to Canva Pro (much appreciated!). We ended the day with some red-teaming where we tried (and somewhat succeeded) getting the better of technology - an insightful exercise for everyone in the room. Thank you to Peter Bailey and the team at Canva for their openness, generosity, and a wonderful experience all around!

On our last day we ran a pilot experiment with Damiano that explored model degradation using image-to-text-to-image with some interesting results (forthcoming). To conclude, onward and upward for team Sub-Zero. Another big thank you to Damiano and our amazing mentors Lida and Liam!"

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS

In 2023, the Research Training Program saw an increase in student-led conferences and symposiums being delivered throughout the year. Students took the helm in developing symposium and conference frameworks, depth and breadth of content, incredible keynotes and presenters as well as curating a community of like-minded research individuals for knowledge exchange and future collaborations. A few examples of our 2023 student led conferences and symposiums are outlined on these pages.

THE PHD WINTER WORKSHOP IN CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY STUDIES

The PhD Winter Workshop in Critical Technology Studies was held at the University of Sydney's New Law building, 10 – 11 July 2023. The workshop was a satellite event of the 2023 Symposium. The workshop brought together 40 PhD students from 11 universities and more than 25 schools/institutes across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

The workshop was co-convened by Glen Berman, Ned Cooper, Zoë Horn (ADM+S PhD), and Libby Young (ADM+S PhD), and was made possible thanks to the generous financial and in-kind support of the University of Sydney Law School and Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University nodes of the ADM+S Centre, and the School of Cybernetics at the Australian National University (ANU).

The 2023 workshop was the second event organised by PhD students from the Critical Technology Studies Network. The first workshop event was held at ANU in the winter of 2022. The 2023 event built on the outcomes and aims of the first event, to:

- + Collaborate with PhDs and build solidarity to develop foundations for future research collaborations;
- + Develop our doctoral work and support one another in the production of our research and thesis writing;
- + Map topic, method, theory, material and affective connections, to grasp the work of critical technology studies in Australia, Aotearoa and the Pacific at this moment; and
- + Build a network of interdisciplinary PhDs working on critical technology studies across Australia, Aotearoa and the Pacific.

Participants represented a wide range of academic backgrounds and disciplines, including students from schools of Sociology, Government & International Relations, Computing, Engineering, Cybernetics, Law, Media & Communications, Public Policy, Environment, Art, Design & Architecture, and Population Health. The majority of participants were from the social sciences, particularly Science and Technology Studies, Critical Data Studies, Public Policy, and Sociology. A theme across participants was the importance of interdisciplinary work, and a majority of participants situated their studies across multiple fields.

Informal participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Participants appreciated having a peer-led, well-facilitated space to network with other PhD students, to reflect on their PhD journey and upcoming transitions into life-after-PhD, and to learn from the various disciplinary, theoretical, and methodological approaches of each PhD student to studying emerging technologies.

"This was the best postgrad workshop I've ever attended (in four years of HDR and 3 years of a masters). It was immaculately organised while offering attendees enough independence and space to contribute, it drew excellent and relevant talent among participants, and it struck a great balance between research and the other "stuff" that collaborations require. Thank you!" - 2023 workshop participant.

SEXY MESSY: A DIGITAL SEXUAL CULTURES SYMPOSIUM



Sexy Messy was an online symposium about digital sexual cultures that was aimed at Higher Degree Researchers (HDR) and Early Career Researchers (ECR) delivered online on 17 May 2023. This symposium was developed to be the beginning of an ongoing network for collaboration, connection, and care amongst HDR and ECR's who research digital sexual cultures. The symposium was developed and co-convened by ADM+S PhD students Joanna Williams, Caitlin Learmonth, Lesley Luo, ADM+S Affiliate Samantha Mannix and Swinburne PhD Taylor Hardwick.

The symposium was based on the premise that just like the physical act of sex itself, participating in, understanding, and navigating digital sexual cultures can be messy. Norms within these sites can be confusing, comforting, and educational. Here, identities, desires, and the search for information and intimacy intersect with platform governance, surveillance, and commercial interests. Participation in digital cultures can afford users the safety to explore different ways of being, feeling, and connecting (Tiidenberg and van Nagel 2020). However, the affordances of these spaces often enable racism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, and violence (Albury et al, 2021; Carlson, 2020). Similarly, while everyday data cultures and algorithms can open us up to new possibilities, they also shape and restrict how our gender and sexual identities and desires appear in digital spaces (Burgess et al, 2022; Farrell, 2021).

The aim of the symposium was to explore how digital sexual cultures can be sites of hope, complexity, and contestation. The symposium invited research that sat with, rather than shut down, this messiness and imagines a messy (but hopeful) future for digital sexual cultures. Attending to the 'messy' does not deny the severity of violence that occurs within digital sexual cultures, nor does it mean ignoring the 'bad' in search of the 'good'. Rather, it asks us to consider the complex affective and embodied experiences that resist neat categorisation and push beyond normative and disciplinary boundaries. What insights do the ambivalences and ambiguities of digital sexual cultures offer into shifting gender and sexuality norms and practices? How can we imagine and do research that better opens up the productive possibilities and tensions for knowing, doing and feeling in digital sexual cultures? How do we hold space for considerations of risk and violence, whilst also attending to the diversity of experiences, identities, and desires?

ARTIFICIAL COMPANIONS: FANTASIES, IMAGINARIES AND PLAY

Artificial Companions: Fantasies, Imaginaries and Play was an online symposium that considered the ways artificial companions are deeply embedded in our cultural imaginaries and practical realities, and how the way we create, design and foster companionships through and with the machine is an innately human process. The symposium was aimed at researchers and designers, featuring prominent scholars and artists from Japan, Europe and Australia, and was delivered online on 13 September 2023. The symposium was developed and co-convened by ADM+S PhD students Dr Megan Rose and Dominique Carlon.

Artificial companions are deeply embedded in our cultural imaginaries and practical realities. The way we create, design and foster companionships through and with the machine is an innately human process. Robots, bots and artificial intelligence form an active part of our collective and personal self, often representing a form of automated play and companionship. In this symposium we explore the role of design, sociality, culture and belonging in the creation of AI companions. We move beyond

the lens of language and harms to consider the relational aspects of AI and how meaning-making and connections are formed within communities. AI companions can be a reflection of the past, the present or a form of future fantasy, and together we invite you to consider their diverse potential in our more than human landscape.

In this symposium we considered:

- + What role does imagination and play have in facilitating connections between AI and human?
- + How does cultural and media literacies inform the design and relationships formed with AI?
- + What fantasies of the future does AI companionship represent?
- + What are the experiences and social lives of AI from a more than human perspective?
- + How can we centre accounts of technologies developed in different countries that is respectful and doesn't play into orientalist discourses?
- + How does intersectionality inform the relationships formed with the more than human?
- + How can vulnerable populations and their specific needs be centered in the development and evaluation of this technology?
- + What cultural attitudes towards gender and the animal are reflected in AI companions?



> NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PLACEMENTS

By the end of 2023, ADM+S has established meaningful and productive engagements with five partner institutions and industry organisations (The Simons Institute, Cornell Tech, NYU, University of Amsterdam, and CHOICE advocacy) to support international and domestic placements and fellowships for Centre students and ECRs. Annual participation in the Oxford Internet Institute (OII) Summer School is also available to select ADM+S HDRs.

Going forward we aim to continue these engagements, streamlining processes between ADM+S and our partners, and building an alumni network of those who have completed research visits and placements, to become spokespeople for these opportunities and to continue to bolster our relationships with our host institutions or organisations. We aim to extend research visit and placement opportunities to other ADM+S partner organisations in the coming years to enable our student and ECR cohort the opportunity to gain further experience in industry and on 'live' projects.

ADM+S students and early career researchers supported for research visits in 2023:

- + Dr Danula Hettiachchi (RF, RMIT) and Dr Awais Hameed Khan (RF, UQ) to undertake research visit to the Centre for Data Science and Centre for Responsible AI at New York University
- + Edward Small (PhD, RMIT) to undertake a research visit to University of Bristol
- + Yueqing Xuan (PhD, RMIT) to undertake a research visit to University of Amsterdam
- + Dr Ash Watson (RF, UNSW) to undertake a visiting research fellowship at the ESRC Centre for Sociodigital Futures at the University of Bristol
- + Georgia van Toorn (RF, UNSW) to undertake a visiting research fellowship at the Data Justice Lab at Cardiff University

Five ADM+S Research Fellows and PhD Students were also selected through a competitive application process to participate in the 2024 Visiting Researcher Program at the University of Amsterdam. Peibo Li, Dr. Hao Xue, and Dr. Shohreh Deldari will collaborate with researchers at the Hybrid Intelligence Centre (HIC), while Sarah Culper and Miguel Gomez-Hernandez will work with the Gravitation Program Public Values in the Algorithmic Society (AlgoSoc).

YUEQING XUAN

An international visit to the University of Amsterdam has led to new opportunities for Yueqing Xuan beyond her PhD research.

In September Yueqing Xuan, a PhD student from ADM+S, had a research visit at the University of Amsterdam, working with Partner Investigator Prof Maarten De Rijke in the Information Retrieval (IR) Lab.

During the program, Yueqing was able to develop connections with top researchers and PhD students in the IR field, opening doors for future collaborations that extend beyond her PhD research.

Yueqing now plans to develop a research proposal for a joint paper that she will collaborate on with colleagues Maria Heuss and Yuanna Liu from the University of Amsterdam, following discussions of similar interests in IR topics.

Yueqing's thesis 'Fairness-Aware and Privacy-Preserving Recommender System', aims to propose a novel fairness-aware and privacy-preserving machine learning and attack/defence models.

Yueqing explained, "Maria provided me with some insights into the fairness issues she observed in her preliminary experiments, and we found out we could explore the existence of similar phenomena in recommender systems."

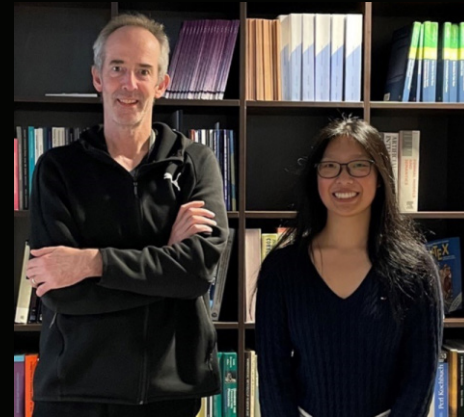
Similarly, Yuanna's research also inspired me to investigate the potential impacts of over-simplification in experimental setups to bias in recommender systems."

Impressed by the emphasis on industry collaboration within the IR Lab, Yueqing observed students being actively involved in research projects with industry partners.

"Some are co-supervised by industry people which allows their research to address real-world problems and challenges," she said.

During the visit, Yueqing participated in various IR Lab activities, talks, reading groups and lunches, which facilitated collaboration and discussions.

Yueqing Xuan (right) and Prof Maarten de Rijke at the University of Amsterdam



PI Maarten de Rijke and PhD student Yueqing Xuan at University of Amsterdam

A highlight was being given the opportunity to participate in a 'Soos talk', where members presented their work, publications, or ongoing projects, allowing students to improve their presentation skills and receive feedback.

"The open discussion not only had a profound impact on my academic research projects but also served as a constant source of motivation to strive for excellence in my research by refining my own research practices."

The University of Amsterdam is a Partner Organisation of the ADM+S, fostering collaboration for ADM+S members in an international network.

This research visit was supported by ADM+S and the University of Amsterdam.



EDWARD SMALL

ADM+S PhD student Edward Small from RMIT University completed a four-month research program with Machine Learning and Computer Vision (MaVi) at the University of Bristol.

As a visiting researcher at the University of Bristol, Edward worked on Explainable AI in Healthcare and Climate Science with the Transparent AI Team (TraIT), working across two main projects.

One project, working under Professor Santos-Rodriguez alongside Dr. Jeffrey Clark and Christopher McWilliams, looked at using

counterfactual explanations to query and reason with AI models that assist in decision-making for intensive care units.

In another project, working with Dr. Jeffrey Clark, Nawid Keshtmand, Michelle Wan, Dr. Elena Fillola Mayoral, Dr. Enrico Werner and Dr. Christopher Bourdeaux, the group investigated a new method that uses counterfactuals as anchor points to assess how a patient is progressing in ICU or how a country/region compares to climate targets.

Edward says, "the work being done at Bristol in AI is deep, broad, and incredibly well supported. If a topic exists in AI, someone at Bristol is working on it."

Reflecting on his stay, Edward says a key insight from the experience was the effectiveness of

problem orientated meetings, opposed to time-boxed ones. This approach meant that the team would discuss a specific aspect of a paper/problem until they felt it was sufficiently solved.

"Sometimes this took 10 minutes, sometimes this took 2 hours, and these discussions were open for anyone to join. These were incredibly helpful in facilitating corkscrew thinking, as well as gaining insight from researchers who we may not usually look to for information," he said.

"The team I worked with were simply fantastic to be with. Intelligent, supportive, creative, and fun. There wasn't a single day where I didn't want to work. The university also had very frequent talks from leading researchers, and the discussions following these talks were always very stimulating."

During his time with the Transparent AI Team (TraIT), Edward co-authored two papers, TraCE: Trajectory Counterfactual Explanation Scores, and Counterfactual Explanations via Locally-Guided Sequential Algorithmic Recourse. They also produced two workshop papers; the summary of one can be featured on Montreal AI ethics Institute.

"The work we completed during my time at Bristol has really inspired a new direction for us to look when it comes to XAI tools, especially in high-impact areas like healthcare."

Upon returning to Australia, Edward's work with the team at Bristol will continue. As well as gaining interest in new areas of AI, and inspiring new ideas for his own research, Edward says the biggest takeaway from his time at Bristol is the connections made.

"Raul, Jeff and I are meeting once a week to facilitate continued collaboration, with plans to conduct clinical trials with our support tools. We are also exploring new domains to apply our methodologies to, as well as looking to work directly with more ICU clinicians to ensure any work we do for ICU support tools is well aligned with those who will be using it."

Edward researches fairness, explainability and transparency in automated decision-making, with supervisors Prof Flora Salim, Dr Jeffrey Chan and Dr Kacper Sokol.

His research examines the robustness and stability of current fairness strategies and looks to resolve the mathematical conflict between group fairness



PhD Student Edward Small at the University of Bristol Wills Memorial Building

> **INTERNAL FUNDING**

Having delivered internal HDR and ECR funding rounds in 2021-2023, we have revised and tailored our funding guidelines and accepted activities/projects to better meet the needs of our student and ECR cohort. Through this process we have found that an open-call application process, whereby students and ECRs apply as needed ensures support is being met for time-critical activities. The integration of our ADM+S Impact Pathway Strategy, has been crucial in signalling to applicants our expectations of tying activities and projects to demonstratable outputs and outcomes. The scope of the funding activities is listed below as a guide.

HDR Funding – supporting research fieldwork, student conference presentations, targeted training opportunities, research visits to partner organisations or institutions, editing and transcription services.

ECR funding – supporting new project ideas (individual or teams), research visits to partner organisations or institutions, professional development training opportunities.

In 2023 six PhD students and four early career researchers received funding support through our internal funding program, these include:

HDR funded researchers:

- + Berwyn Kwek - travel support for fieldwork conducting observational research and interviews in Singapore.
- + Trang Le - travel support for conference presentation and participation at the Australian and New Zealand Communication Association conference (ANZCA) Wellington, New Zealand.
- + Miguel Loo Paredes - support for delivery of a workshop including music industry representatives and music creatives as part of his fieldwork research.
- + Yonchanok (Pro) Khaokaew - travel support for conference presentation and participation at UBIComp, Mexico.
- + Vincent Le - travel support for conference presentation and participation at Congress of Humanities Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) and the Australasian Society of Continental Philosophy conference (ASCP) in Sydney.

- + Dr Megan Rose - travel support for a research visit to University of Tokyo, Japan in 2024.

ECR funded researchers:

- + Dr Amanda Lawrence – support for research project 'Interaction methods for Wikipedia and public policy issues using Domain-specific Knowledge Graphs and Large Language Models.'
- + Dr Fan Yang – support for research project 'The Outsourced AI in the Global South: The data labelling industry, labour, and legislation.'
- + Dr Joel Stern – support for research project 'Machine Listening: Digital Platform Development.'
- + Dr Dang Nguyen – support for research project 'Automated informality: generative frictions in ADM systems.'

HDR FUNDING SPOTLIGHT: AUTOMATED MUSIC WORK FUTURES WORKSHOP

Can we imagine more equitable futures, possibilities and alternatives for working in the music industry? How could technology be shaped by our own desires, motivations, fears and dreams in this sector? With this in mind, Miguel Loo Paredes, PhD Candidate at Monash University's ETLab facilitated the Automated Music Work Futures, a two-hour session on November 30, 2023 at Music Market in the Collingwood Yards culture precinct. This space serves as the hub for many different cultural organisations, companies, creative entrepreneurs and professionals, which I strategically selected to bring most of my PhD research participants together into the same place.

The PhD project is a multi-sited ethnographic study that explores how music technology practitioners anticipate and imagine what might come next in terms of the generation, production, distribution, and valuation of their labour. Through collaboration with participants, it aims to inform possibilities for a more equitable music industry and sustainable

livelihoods for workers in this sector.

The event gathered a wide range of professionals across sectors in the music and technology industry, including people working in companies, not for profit organisations, research and development and independent musicians:

- + Aarti Desai - Manager, Education and Training - The Push
- + Ababil Winarizal + Sam Beros+ Pranati Narayan - The Clever References
- + Stephen Krol - Computer Scientist, PhD researcher and musician
- + Ciaran Frame - Music composer, performing artist and PhD researcher working on the Airsticks project
- + Rex Foster - Sales & Marketing at Melbourne Instruments
- + Connor Hansen - Embedded Software Engineer at Melbourne Instruments
- + Gregory Olley - Lead Composer at Aimi
- + AJ LI - VMDO Program Manager
- + Mike Trubetskov - Founder EOL Studios
- + Vince Gilles - Associate Head of Learning and Teaching at Australian Institute of Music (AIM)
- + Camilla Sullivan - Music producer and songwriter
- + Benet Hitchcock - Music producer

Over two hours, the participants engaged with different prompts designed by the facilitator, to playfully respond and speculate about the future possibilities for music work. These activities were thought to stimulate creative and imaginative thinking about current issues in the sector. The activity also provided an opportunity for participants to network with other people and consider potential projects together. More importantly, it provided valuable insights for the researcher and a unique experience for learning and continuing to build a career pathway across the research and music sector.

The workshop was supported by the ADM+S Centre and the HDR Funding Scheme for students 2023.

ECR FUNDING SPOTLIGHT: ADM+S ARTISTS RESIDENCY AT UNSOUND FESTIVAL, POLAND

On 1-8 October 2023, ADM+S members Dr Joel Stern, Assoc Prof James Parker and collaborator Dr Sean Dockray, presented a series of artworks, workshops and performances as part of their Machine Listening residency at the prestigious Unsound Festival in Kraków, Poland.

Machine Listening was established in 2020, just before the pandemic. The project agenda set out to use collaborative study and resistance to develop strategies for changing how we interact with machine listening. As lockdown ensued and the world moved online, so did the project.

"There were positive elements to this, as we curated Zoom performance programs, commissioned online artworks and lectures, built a Machine Listening Curriculum on our website, conducted interviews, and connected with artists and researchers around the world."

Unsound, a highly influential music and arts festival based in Kraków, Poland, supported the project from its inception, co-presenting several online Machine Listening programs between 2020 and 2022, in partnership with Australian organisation Liquid Architecture.

In early 2023, the Machine Listening team received an invitation to present their works at Unsound, where audiences could experience their artworks and installations in-person, in shared space and time.

"Operating out of an apartment in the historical Kazimierz district in the old city, we spent the week of the festival installing, presenting, discussing, and performing works for enthusiastic and critically engaged audiences and peers from Poland and around the world."

The teams first presentation was a sound installation, *After Words*, originally commissioned by the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art in 2022. The work comprises several semi-fictional tales exploring how we speak-to and perform-for listening machines, and what is happening to language as a result.

PI Joel Stern presenting at Unsound Festival, Poland with Dr Sean Dockray



Joel Stern, Sean Dockray, and James Parker presenting 'Machine Listening Songbook'

> DOCUMENTARY INITIATIVE

In 2023, ADM+S researchers, students and professional staff developed the beginnings of a documentary filmmaking initiative, aimed at initiating a learning exchange that encourages ADM+S researchers to:

- + Use film as a way to communicate research, to tell the research story
- + Develop and fortify methodological approaches to ethnographic filmmaking
- + Platform research collaborators, partners, participants, & subjects to tell their own stories through film
- + Learn new skill sets, especially technical aspects like storyboards, camera, sound, editing etc
- + Incorporate more ADM+S made documentaries into ADM+S events as a key way of engaging partners and stakeholders

Proposed outcomes:

- + Regular Screenings and Workshops series (quarterly)
- + Ethnographic Filmmaking Intensives (Pilot in June 2024 with Filmmaking for Fieldwork)
- + Mentoring program for ethnographic filmmakers
- + Building a relationship with RMIT Undergrad Work integrated learning program
- + 2025 Mini-film festival

The group organised their first workshop 'Researching, Communication and Learning about Automated Decision-Making & Society through Documentary Filmmaking,' (October 2023), whereby researchers and staff presented (ideas, questions, or short works) in response to one of the themes;

- + Documentary filmmaking practice as a research method
- + Documentary filmmaking as research practice
- + Documentary filmmaking as storytelling
- + Documentary filmmaking for teaching and learning

In 2024, the ADM+S documentary initiative will be collaborating with Filmmaking for Fieldwork (University of Manchester, UK) to enable ethnographic filmmaking training and opportunities to the wider ADM+S research community through their established online summer school.



Monash University Node Admin Nonie May (left) and CI Sarah Pink (right) at ADM+S office in Melbourne



PhD student Anand Bardola at the 2023 ADM+S Hackathon

> **CAREERS
OUTCOMES**

ADM+S is a launching pad for careers in industry and academia, offering an HDR and postdoctoral experience that combines disciplinary depth and rigour with ground-breaking cross-disciplinary investigation and access to world leading research teams, partner organisations and collaborators.

Integration of students and research fellows into Centre research projects, the research training program, industry and research placements, and mentorship have been key drivers of success for career-readiness and employment outcomes amongst our cohorts resulting in appointments in leading academic and cultural institutions, industry, and advocacy and civil society organisations.

The Centre will continue to work closely with its partners organisations and host institutions to maximise the opportunities for secure future employment for its students and staff

Our student and research fellow employers include:

- + Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI);
- + Australian Communications Consumers Action Network (ACCAN);
- + Australian National University;
- + Aarhus University (Denmark);
- + Cenitex;
- + Central Queensland University;
- + Coles;
- + Commons Social Change Library;
- + Curtin University;
- + Dataactivist (France), Deakin University, European University Institute (Italy);
- + Flint Global (United Kingdom);
- + Macquarie University;
- + Monash University;
- + Oracle;
- + Queensland University of Technology;
- + RMIT University;
- + Seek;
- + Tsinghua University (China);
- + Universitas Gadjah Mada (Indonesia);
- + University of Barcelona;
- + University of Melbourne; and the
- + University of New South Wales



Affiliate Indigo Holcombe James (ACMI), formerly ADM+S Research Fellow presenting at 54th Academy of the Humanities Symposium. Photo by Matto Lucas.

PHD OUTCOMES

Kelsie Nabben

As a recipient of the ADM+S PhD scholarship, my doctoral research focused on building more resilient digital infrastructure within society. My thesis, titled 'Decentralised Technologies: 'Self-Infrastructuring' Resilience,' offers an ethnographic exploration of emerging technology communities, such as those involved in blockchain and other peer-to-peer systems. It examines the motivations behind their infrastructure development and analyzes the factors influencing their success or failure. This work was conducted under the guidance of Professor Ellie Rennie, an Associate Investigator at ADM+S.

My affiliation with ADM+S was instrumental in providing access to crucial resources. This support included grant stipends for data collection, as well as opportunities to attend three HDR conferences in Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane (following COVID lockdowns). These events were not only academically enriching but also included personalised mentoring sessions and paper feedback workshops, which were invaluable for my development as an academic. A highlight was the 'What's Governing Web3?' conference, led by Professor Rennie, where I had the opportunity to present my research findings to a renowned international audience who were directly relevant to my field.

Following the completion of my PhD, I embarked on a postdoctoral fellowship at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. I am proud to report that my thesis was accepted without revisions, and I have since been awarded my Doctorate. The experience and connections gained at ADM+S have been foundational in my current, multidisciplinary role. I've established lasting professional relationships across the Centre and its affiliates, leading to co-authorships, mentorships, and continued access to professional opportunities. I am also grateful for the ongoing collaborations and engagements with ADM+S through workshops and events, which continue to enrich my academic journey.

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

Jacinthe Flore

I was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at ADM+S from 2021 to 2022, based at RMIT University. I started this position as a secondment from my role as Vice-Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellow at RMIT. The position at ADM+S offered the opportunity to deepen my research, which at the time was focused on digital mental health. During my time at ADM+S, I was fortunate to be involved in several projects and initiatives. This is despite the Covid-related restrictions for some of the time! One of my most enriching roles was being on the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Committee, where I helped design the EDI strategy for the Centre and the second iteration of the EDI survey. I also worked on the excellent Digital CBD project with several ADM+S researchers and affiliates. I developed many important skills during my time at ADM+S. I had access to unique mentoring and sharpened my skills for working in teams effectively and undertaking service roles as an early-career researcher.

I returned to my role of Vice-Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellow in late 2022 and secured a continuing position by the end of that year. I am now a Lecturer in History and Philosophy of Science (Science & Technology Studies) in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies at the University of Melbourne. In this role, I can bring together my deep interest in the history of medicine and more contemporary concerns around technology and health/mental health. I greatly value my connection to ADM+S as an Affiliate. It has been useful when talking to my students about the dynamics of the tech industry and academic research, and when discussing my research in academic settings.



Kelsie Nabben speaking at the ADM+S 'What's Governing Web3?' event in 2022



Jacinthe Flore speaking at the 2023 Summer School

> **STUDENT AND ECR SPOTLIGHTS**

Early Career Researchers

What is your research about?

My research with the Centre is looking at building ethical and transparent machines, and looking at the intersections of how those systems can be deployed through social services and humanitarian causes.

One of the projects that I'm working on right now is in partnership with Economic Justice Australia, and it's looking at welfare rights claimants and how we might support them through different types of tools that help better support lawyers in building cases and making sense of the information that's provided to them through services Australia.

What is something key to your research practice?

One of the things I've found is that it's really important to think about the ways in which we structure the conversations and the tools that we have in enabling different end users to be able to voice their concerns and their interests. I think that's why the methods and the materials that we use in that dialogue is really important.

How does being part of ADM+S support your research?

I've had the opportunity to be part of academia for about seven years now and I think over the course of time I've been able to work with lots of different research centres and been in lots of different positions with different stakeholders. And I think that ADM+S is a very unique experience for me because it provides this platform that enables you as a researcher to engage with lots of different top leaders within your space across different universities.

I really enjoy bouncing ideas off of different people as well as learning about the way in which different people are working because I think that exposure helps broaden my own thinking.

And I think the amount of opportunities available through the centre have been really fantastic. Such as the mentoring, networking, and being able to develop your project in a way that you can find partner stakeholders, whether that's industry, whether that's other researchers from different institutes.

I haven't come across anything quite like this before.



AWAIS HAMEED KHAN

University of Queensland

What is your research about?

I'm a feminist techno-science scholar who specialises in the study of gender and race in algorithmic culture, and my research can be divided into three main areas.

The first is my work on transport and mobilities. I'm currently leading a project that examines the role of test beds and test sites for AI in Australia. I've been doing interviews with locals and other stakeholders in industry and government, to try and find out the impacts of AI testing on local communities and the environment.

The second area of my work focuses on the changing nature of race and racialization in algorithmic culture. A lot of people are just not even aware that racial classification is happening to them, because these things are happening in the context of black box algorithms that are intentionally secret. All the mechanisms we have to fight against racial discrimination don't work online, because it's very invisible. It's not something tangible that a lot of people can point to or physically see. And it also means they're not able to mobilise and make a collective response.

And the final theme of my work takes a self-reflexive look at research methods and practice itself. Recently I published an edited collection with colleagues here at the ADM+S Centre. It asked things like who funds research into AI ethics? What are the risks of an industry-led approach to socially responsible AI, and how do these issues impact on the production of knowledge and the independence of researchers working in this area.

How does being part of ADM+S support your research?

As an early career researcher, being a part of the ADM+S has been life-changing! I've had opportunities to travel internationally for visiting fellowships, designed and led my own projects, collaborated with interdisciplinary teams, and received advice and mentorship from some of the top researchers in the country. The resources and support provided by the Centre have been world-class and have been indispensable for my personal and professional growth.

What is your research about?

My work is on law, accountability, and data science, but what I'm really focussed on is, what does responsible AI mean? What does it mean to be responsible for an output of an AI system? What does it mean to be responsible for a harm caused by AI?

What is your methodological approach to these questions?

I am a lawyer. So that's where I start. I start with what the existing laws are and I've been particularly interested in the law of negligence, which is a pretty old law and it's a law that's developed really along with automation, starting with mechanical automation and trains, and finding ways to hold people responsible for trains derailing and so on. I'm trying to see whether we can extend that again to this new type of automation.

The other aspect is bringing in insights from computer science and systems engineering to help me think about the kinds of responsible approaches to safety and risk management.

But from what I see, a lot of the focus is on technical measures to make AI systems and ADM systems safe. What it can and can't do how to reduce errors, how to make it robust.

How does being part of ADM+S support your research?

ADM+S supports my research in so many ways. It's great to be a part of a community at the QUT node. Everyone is so helpful and kind and give me so much time and feedback on my work more broadly.

And then the centre as a whole gives me access to people from a whole range of disciplines. When I've got a question I don't know the answer to, I can sit down with a data scientist and a machine learning expert and actually just knock that out. Or I can talk to someone who's specialized in AI harms and thinks about harm in this really rich and nuanced way and, the list goes on.

Invariably there's someone I can talk to who knows a whole lot more about it than me.



DR HENRY FRASER

Queensland University of Technology

> HDR Students

STUDENT AND ECOSPOTLIGHTS

What is your research about?

My research traces the digitisation and datafication of contraceptive technologies and pregnancy prevention. And what that means is mapping different iterations of technologies, whether real or speculative, or unrealised. And that could be tracking apps, or different hormonal profiling technologies, and some kind of weird, wacky and wonderful things like digital condoms.

I think it's important to research automated decision-making systems, in response to health-tech because these systems are infiltrating increasingly intimate parts of our lives. And thinking about the institutions that now own that data and have power over that data is really important.

What do you hope to achieve with your research?

I want to trace or understand the mismatch between what developers and innovators and industry are doing, and how that aligns or maybe misaligns with what users of contraception want. We don't know what the future of these technologies looks like and so we can't underestimate the threat that they pose. And I guess, I hope to show that we should have a more nuanced approach to technologies like this.

How does being part of ADM+S support your research?

Being a part of ADMS has really supported my research. More so on a personal level, it's just been an amazing way to meet other PhD's and I feel like I've learned so much from talking to people who have also been through the PhD process.

But on a professional level, it's been an amazing network of experts to draw on, and research to get involved with.

I think there's such an emphasis on interdisciplinary research at the moment, and my background is interdisciplinary.

I think the ADM+S really allows you to really delve deep into your own research, but at the same time, be able to take a step back and put that into the wider context with all these other researchers who are doing different things that add context or greater understanding.



CECILY KLIM
UNSW Sydney

What is your research about?

The right to freedom of thought has four components. The first is that I should not be forced to reveal my thoughts. The second component is I should not be punished for my thoughts. The third component is that I should not be forced to change my thoughts. And the fourth component is the State's obligation to provide me a positive atmosphere for thought cultivation.

My research focuses on trying to delineate the idea of what thoughts mean when we study freedom of thought, so as to guide the future of technology, and in order to also keep our semblance of autonomy together for the sake of critical thinking and for the sake of the future of democracy.

How does being part of ADM+S support your research?

I am a scholarship recipient of ADM+S. Australia is a new land and I've moved across seas and oceans and come into a new space in order to try and figure out a few answers to very important questions. And I feel that ADM+S has been very supportive in that space.

Firstly, it has allowed me the opportunity to take up such studies at this good university, and secondly, it has provided me a family in foreign land. From meeting up regularly to having friends to chat up to and have lunch with every day, it takes away from the home sickness which normally one faces when he has to move away from his family.

I'm part of the Melbourne node of ADM+S and we in the Melbourne node are like a closely knit family and any sort of issues which I've had has been promptly taken care of by the ADM+S family.

What is your research about?

My PhD research is about quantifying and measuring confirmation bias, in information retrieval. When people interact with the search system, their emotions are not very salient or obvious for humans to identify. So physiological signals give us an opportunity to detect those activities.

What is your methodology?

We're going to conduct at least three user studies. In the first one we are focusing on whether we can use physiological signals to quantify the engagement in the general information processing activities. For the second step, we're going to ask the participant to go through each of the search stages. We want to see if the physiological data is effective or is strong enough to differentiate those different stages.

For the last step, we need to trigger the confirmation bias of the participant by showing them a topic and asking the participant about their opinions. The first article is neutral, the second one will be an article that has the same opinion as the participant, and the third article will have a different opinion to the participant.

How does being part of the Centre support your research?

I really like the office here. There's usually a group of students who work here and then we can have a chat, we have lunches together, and then we also have meetings and discussions together about our work.

And also, because the Centre has people from multiple disciplines in this space and at events the Centre organises, I get to meet and chat to people and researchers from different backgrounds so it's a very good opportunity for networking.



KAIXIN JI
RMIT University



AVANTI K TAMTA
University of Melbourne

PERFORMANCE

Books

Book Chapters

Reports and Working Papers

Datasets

Awards, Prizes, and Recognition

Selected Grants

Journal Articles

Conference Proceedings

Refereed Conference Papers

Conference Keynotes

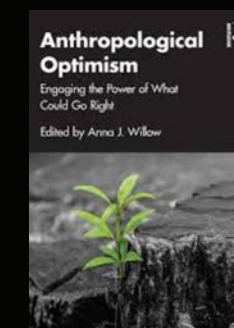
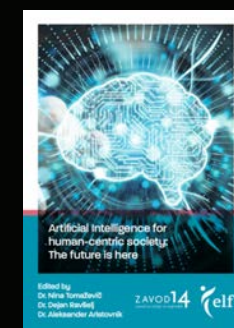
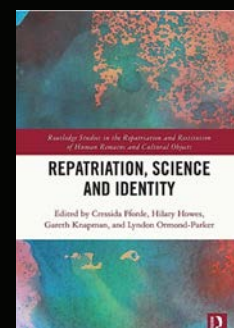
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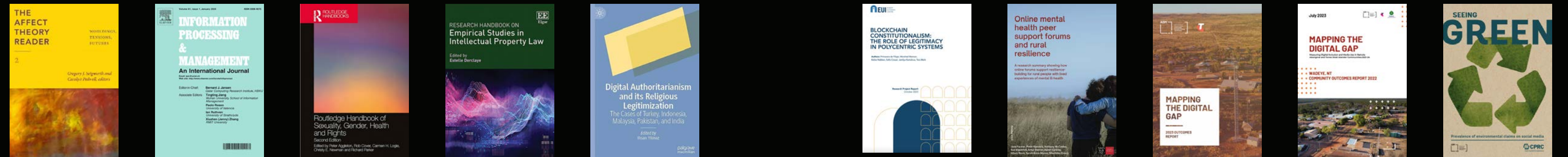
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DATASETS

ADM+S datasets are managed by the Centre's Data Engineer, Abdul Obeid, and are openly accessible via the Centre's GitHub account.

- Obeid, A., Angus, D., Bruns, A. (2023). Aggregated Datasets Of Data Donation In Raw And Processed Formats - Australian Ad Observatory Research Project. ARC Centre Of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making & Society.
- Obeid, A., Angus, D., Bruns, A., Lewis, K. (2023). Australian Bureau Of Statistics 2021 Census Data-Pack Demographic Breakdown Dataset. ARC Centre Of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making & Society.
- Obeid, A., Angus, D., Parker, C., Bagnara, J., Cellard, L. (2023). "Greenwashing" Advertisements Dataset - Australian Ad Observatory Dataset. ARC Centre Of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making & Society.
- Obeid, A., Angus, D., Parker, C., Northcott, T. (2023). "Unhealthy Foods" Advertisements Dataset - Australian Ad Observatory Dataset. ARC Centre Of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making & Society.
- Obeid, A., Angus, D., Parker, C., Briggs, C., Albarrán-Torres, C., Andrejević, M., Fordyce, R., O'Neill, C. (2023). "Scam Ads" Advertisements Dataset - Australian Ad Observatory Dataset. ARC Centre Of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making & Society.
- Obeid, A., Angus, D., Lewis, K., Sondergaard, V. (2023). "Finance-related" Advertisements Dataset - Australian Ad Observatory Dataset. ARC Centre Of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making & Society.
- Obeid, A., Angus, D., Burgess, J., Carah, N., Andrejević, M. (2023). Meta Facebook WAIST (Why Am I Seeing This) Taxonomy Dataset - Australian Ad Observatory Dataset. ARC Centre Of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making & Society.
- Obeid, A., Angus, D., Stardust, Z., McKee, A. (2023). UTKFace-DeX-LIME Image Analysis Dataset - Big Data, Sexual Surveillance and Alternative Governance Project. ARC Centre Of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making & Society.
- Sokol, K. (2023). Machine Learning Explainability: Exploring Automated Decision-Making Through Transparent Modelling and Peeking Inside Black Boxes. USI - Università della Svizzera italiana (Lugano, Switzerland).



ADM+S Data Engineer Abdul Karem Obeid speaking at the 2023 ADM+S Symposium

AWARDS, PRIZES, AND RECOGNITION

- ADM+S Centre. Six ADM+S publications named in APO's 'Top Ten Publications for 2023'. *Analysis and Policy Observatory (APO)*.
- Bello y Vilarino, J.M. *The Rita and John Cornforth Medal for Research Excellence, University of Sydney*.
- Burgess, J. *Elected Fellow, International Communication Association*.
- Cherumanal, S. *Best Oral Presentation, 17th Conference on Evaluation of Information Access Technologies (NTCIR-17)*.
- Hegarty, K. *RMIT Prize for Research Engagement and Impact (Higher Degree by Research)*. *RMIT University*.
- Ji, K., Kegalle, H., Alaofi, M., Salim, F., Khaokaew, Y. *Student Challenge award for 'zzzGPT: An Interactive GPT Approach to Enhance Sleep Quality', 2023 Pervasive and Ubiquitous Computing (UbiComp) International Symposium on Wearable Computing (ISWC)*.
- Jiminez, A. *Ramon y Canal Grant, Spanish Ministry of Science*.
- Kang, Y.B. "Next Generation AI-powered Road Condition Monitoring Solution", winner of Government & Public Sector Solution. *iAwards 2023 (Victoria Winner)*.
- Kang, Y.B. "Vidversity AI Question and Assessment Generator", winner of Technology Platform Solution category. *The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) 2023 National iAwards*.
- Kennedy, J., Holcombe-James, I., Featherstone, D., Ormond-Parker, L., Hawkins, L., Valenta, L. *Vice Chancellors Award for Research Engagement and Impact (team category)*, *RMIT University*.
- Lupton, D. *Appointed Honorary Doctorate at the University of Skövde*.
- Mannix, S. *ASHM Early Career Award for Best Oral Presentation, 2023 Australasian Sexual and Reproductive Health conference*.
- Meese, J. *RMIT 2023 Dean's Awards for General Excellence, RMIT University*.
- Meese, J., Strengers, Y. *2023 Australian Research Council Future Fellows*.
- Meese, J., Thomson, T.J. *Appointed Editorial Board members, Communication Research and Practice*.
- Nabben, K. *Vice Chancellors Prize for Research Engagement and Impact (Higher Degree by Research category)*, *RMIT University*.
- Nguyen, D. *Appointment to International Panel on the Information Environment (IPIE)*.
- Pink, S. *2023 Australian Laureate Fellow*.
- Pink, S. *Gold Winner for 'Smart Homes for Seniors', Australian Good Design Awards*.
- Pink, S. *Gold Winner for 'City Sensing Data Futures', Australian Good Design Awards*.
- Pink, S., Lanzeni, D., Fors, V., Strengers, Y. *Good Design Award for 'Design Ethnography', Australian Good Design Awards*.
- Spina, D., Ji, K., Scholer, F., Hettiachchi, D., Salim, F. *Best Poster for 'Towards Detecting Tonic Information Processing Activities with Physiological Data', 2023 Pervasive and Ubiquitous Computing (UbiComp) International Symposium on Wearable Computing (ISWC)*.
- Campbell, N., Hawkins, L., McDonnell, E., Storey, S., Valenta, L., Walsh, N., Warren, M. *2023 Research Service Award, RMIT University*.
- Thomson, T.J. *Distinguished Researcher Award 2023, International Visual Literacy Association*.
- Thomson, T.J. *Outstanding Journal Article Award, National Communication Association*.
- Thomson, T.J. *Crawford Medal, Australian Academy of the Humanities*.

AI James Meese speaking at the 2023 ADM+S Symposium



James Meese

SELECTED GRANTS

- Bello y Vilarino, J.M., Gulson, K., Thompson, G., McKenzie, M., Sellar, S., Kitto, K., Knight, S. (2023). Australian Research Council Discovery Grant. 31 October.
- Chan, J., Zhou, X., Sellis, T. (2023). Australian Research Council Discovery Grant. 31 October.
- Graham, T., Harrington, S., Hess, K., Karim Schapals, A. (2023). Australian Research Council Discovery Grant. 31 October.
- Hettiachchi, D. (2023). DAAD Alnet Fellow - Human Centred AI. 1 November.
- Jiménez, A. (2023). Ramón y Cajal grant, Spanish Ministry of Science. 9 November.
- Lawrence, A. (2023). Wikimedia Foundation Research Grant - Tracking public policy sources. 1 July.
- Lupton, D. (2023). The intimate technology shaping millions of lives: Exploring the possibilities of menstruation and perimenopause tracking apps for people with diverse embodied experiences, Marsden fund awards. 2 January.
- Montana-Nino, S. (2023). Grant for Countering misinformation in the Southern Hemisphere: A comparative study, Research Facebook Grants. 11 January.
- McCosker, A., Kang, Y.B. (2023). DFAT AICCTP grant 'Responsible AI for Net Zero - An Australian and India Collaborative Approach towards Practice, Government and Ethics in Energy Futures'. 1 August.
- Parker, C., Paterson, J. (2023). Grant for 'Solutions for regulation and monitoring of declared and undeclared alcohol marketing in Instagram influencer posts', VicHealth Alcohol Policy and Practice Commissioned Research. 1 January.
- Pink, S. (2023) Australian Research Council Laureate Fellowship. 3 July
- Roberts, A., van Golde, C. (2023). Australian Research Council Discovery Grant. 31 October.
- Salim, F. (2023). Understanding Bias in AI Models for the Prediction of Infectious Disease Spread, CSIRO and NSF. 1 January.
- Salim, F. (2023). Continual Learning with Multimodal Data, US Army Research Office (ARO) Lab. 1 January.
- Salim, F. (2023). Explainable Reinforcement Learning, US Airforce Research Lab. 1 January.
- Salim, F. (2023). Mobility Question Answering (Q&A) for Natural-Language-based Spatio-Temporal Forecasting, Cisco Research USA. 1 January.
- Salim, F. (2023). NSW Clean Technology Research Development & Commercialisation Infrastructure Grant, CSIRO, NSW Gov. 1 January.
- Salim, F. (2023). Rail Passenger Ride Comfort Modelling using In-vehicle IoT Sensor Data: A Feasibility Assessment, TfNSW, Cisco. 1 January.
- Shoswell, A. (2023). Reward Reports for Reinforcement Learning, Mozilla Technology Fund. 1 May.
- Sparrow, R. (2023). Monash Data Futures Institute Phd Scholarship for project on the ethics of the use of machine learning in the treatment of epilepsy (Internal competitive funding.) 1 January.
- Srinivas, A. (2023). Grant for 'Mining Hate', EU MediaFutures. 20 February.
- Stardust, Z. (2023). Google Grant on GenAI and Image Based Abuse. 11 November.
- Watson, A., Alizadeh, A., Homan, S., Bartindale, T., Long, P. (2023). Australian Research Council Discovery Grant. 31 October.
- Wikstrom, P., Burgess, J., Matamoros-Fernandes, A. (2023). Australian Research Council Discovery Grant. 31 October.



CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- Alaofi, M., Scholer, F., Sanderson, M., Thomas, P., Gallagher, L. (2023). Can Generative LLMs Create Query Variants for Test Collections? An Exploratory Study. SIGIR '23: Proceedings of the 46th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development. DOI: 10.1145/3539618.3591960
- Bhattacharjee, A., Hasan, T., Uddin Ahmad, W., Li, Y.F., Kang, Y.B., Shahriyar, R. (2023). CrossSum: Beyond English-Centric Cross-Lingual Summarization for 1,500+ Language Pairs. In Proceedings of the 61st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics. DOI: 10.18653/v1/2023.acl-long.143
- Cherumanal, S.P., Ji, K., Hettiachchi, D., Trippas, J.R., Scholer, F., Spina, D. (2023). RMIT_IR at the NTCIR-17 FairWeb-1 Task. In Proceedings of NTCIR-17. DOI: 10.20736/0002001315
- Dement, L., Horn, Z., McLean, L., Young, L. (2023). Critical Technology Studies: A Chorus - A Field in Formation and Practice', panel presentation. *Cultural Studies Association of Australasia (CSAA) Conference 2023, University of South Australia.*
- Dolatabadi, H., Erfani, S., Leckie, C. (2023). The Devil's Advocate: Shattering the Illusion of Unexploitable Data using Diffusion Models. Proceedings of the IEEE Conference on Secure and Trustworthy Machine Learning (SatML).
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- Henman, P. (2023). Design Principles and Tensions for Collaborative Digital Governance in an Artificial Intelligence Age. Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Administrative Science (ICAS 2022). Atlantis Press. DOI: 10.2991/978-2-38476-104-3_39
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- Hettiachchi, D., Sokol, K., Small, E., Xuan, Y. (2023). Helpful, Misleading or Confusing: How Humans Perceive Fundamental Building Blocks of Artificial Intelligence Explanations. Human-Centered Explainable AI (HCXAI) Workshop at CHI 2023. DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.2303.00934
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- Roitman, J. (2023). Keynote Essay: Platform economies: Beyond the North-South divide. *Finance and Society 2023*, p. 1-13.
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- Small, E., Wan, M., Clark, J., Fillola, Mayoral, E., Santos-Rodriguez, R. (2023). Monitoring Sustainable Global Development Along Shared Socioeconomic Pathways. NeurIPS 2023 Workshop: Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning. DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.2312.04416
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- Wilken, R. (2023). Telecommunications Policy in a 5G Era. International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR). *Lyon, France.*
- Wilken, R., Meese, J., Middleton, C., Boyle, E. (2023). Consumer Experience of 5G in Australia', paper presented at the Australian & New Zealand Communication Association (ANZCA) conference. *Wellington, New Zealand.*
- Xue, H., Prabowo, A., Chen, K., Sethuvenkatraman, S., Salim, F. (2023). Navigating Out-of-Distribution Electricity Load Forecasting during COVID-19: Benchmarking energy load forecasting models without and with continual learning. Proceedings of the 10th ACM International Conference on Systems for Energy-Efficient Buildings, Cities, and Transportation. Istanbul, Turkey. DOI: 10.1145/3600100.3623726
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ABOUT

RESEARCH

IMPACT

OUTREACH

EDUCATION

PERFORMANCE

PEOPLE



Daniel Featherstone

**REFEREED
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- Gilbert, T.K., Lambert, N., Dean, S., Zick, T., Snoswell, A., Mehta, S. (2023). Reward Reports for Reinforcement Learning. AIES '23: Proceedings of the 2023 AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society. DOI: 10.1145/3600211.3604698
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- McLean, L. (2023). Listening Back: Hauntology as an analytical device for the study of post and settler-colonial sound art practices, Cultural Studies Association of Australia Conference. University of South Australia.
- Salim, F., Anderson, C., Heinisch, J.S., Deldari, S., Ohly, S., David, K., Pejović, V. (2023). Toward Social Role-Based Interruptibility Management. IEEE Pervasive Computing. DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.2106.04265
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- Whelan-Shamy, D., Carlon, D. (2023). The Imperial Haiku Commission Approves This Message: An Examination of Automated Play and Culture As (Re)Designed by Bots. Association of Internet Researchers. Philadelphia, USA.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS
AND PAPERS**

- Albury, K. (2023). Challenge assumptions, forge connections, and reimagine intimacy. Sex, Health and Society Conference. 25 September, UNSW, Sydney.
- Albury, K. (2023). Sexuality, sensuality and learning: the porous politics of sex education. Webinar. 29 March, online.
- Albury, K. (2023). Sexual Communication and Sexual Consent: new challenges and directions. 12 September, LaTrobe University.
- Albury, K., Williams, J. (2023). How does collaboration support sexual health organisations to successfully navigate Meta's content moderation policies? Digital Health Week. 7 February, Online.
- Albury, K., Williams, J., Learmonth, C., Mannix, S. (2023). Australasian Sexual and Reproductive Health Conference. 18 – 20 September, Sydney.
- Andrejevic, M. (2023). This Session Was Written by AI. Creative Directions festival 5 October, Monash University.
- Andrejevic, M. (2023). Mass Customized Culture and the Recession of the Social. Automation Cultures conference. 19 November, University of Western Australia.
- Andrejevic, M. (2023). Automated Facial Recognition and Mass Individualized Governance. Annual Convention of the Association of Internet Researchers. 19 October, Philadelphia, USA.
- Angus, D., Srinivas, A., Meese, J., Obeid, A. (2023). It's Not Just the
- Algorithm: How We Search. ADM+S 2023 Automated News and Media Symposium. 13-14 July, University of Sydney, Sydney.
- Bednarz, Z. (2023). Algorithmic Opacity in Consumer Markets: Comparing Regulatory Challenges in Financial Services and Residential Tenancy Sectors. 38th Annual British and Irish Law Education and Technology Association Conference. 13-14 April, online.
- Burgess, J. (2023). Blue Sky Big Ideas Workshop. International Communication Association conference. 27 May, online.

- Burgess, J. (2023). AI in the Communication Discipline. International Communication Association conference. 27 May, online.
- Burgess, J. (2023). Next Challenges and Opportunities. International Communication Association conference. 27 May, online.
- Burgess, J., Holcombe-James, I. (2023). A Changing World: future cities, civic and technological infrastructure, creative practices. Future of Arts, Culture & Technology Symposium. 15 February, ACMI, Melbourne.
- Burgess, J., Rennie, E., Salim, F. (2023). Internet Futures. ADM+S 2023 Automated News and Media Symposium. 13-14 July, University of Sydney, Sydney.
- Carah, N., Burgess, J., Hayden, L., Parker, C., Albarran-Torres, C. (2023). The Australian Ad Observatory: The Future of Advertising. ADM+S 2023 Automated News and Media Symposium. 13-14 July, University of Sydney, Sydney.
- Carney, T. (2023). A Frank and Fearless Public Service: Reflections on the Royal Commission on Robodebt. Reforming AAT Merits Review workshop. 23 August, Deakin Law School.
- Cellard, L. (2023). The Ecological Implications of Data Centres in Marseille. Sciences-Po Medialab. 28 August, Paris, France.
- Cellard, L. (2023). A sea of possibilities — submarine cables, fragile ecologies and corporate accountability in the Mediterranean Sea. Nordic STS Conference. 9 June, online.
- Dai, D. (2023). Unveiling the Coordination Networks of COVID-Related Posts on Weibo. International Conference on Computational Social Science 2023. 17 July, University of Copenhagen.
- Fraser, H. (2023). Acceptable risk and 'responsible AI' – Value-laden choices. Monash ADM+S Civic ADM Workshop. 8 May. Monash University, Melbourne.

- Fraser, H. (2023). Closing remarks. ADM+S Birmingham workshop on standards and assurance for data-driven systems, 23 May 2023. University of Birmingham, United Kingdom.
- Fraser, H. (2023). AI harms and proof. European Commission Joint Research Centre. 18 May 2023.
- Hegarty, K. (2023). Recording the digital present, shaping digital futures: how people relate to their ageing digital traces. XX ISA World Congress of Sociology. 27 June, Melbourne Convention Centre.
- Hegarty, K. (2023). The changing boundaries of comprehensive collecting at the National Library of Australia in an age of digital and social media. 13th Australian Media Traditions Conference. 21 September, University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba.
- Hegarty, K. (2023). Inventing the archived web: Lessons from a prehistory of Australia's web archiving program. Born Digital Cultural Heritage Now 2023 Conference. 30 November, ACMI, Melbourne.
- Hegarty, K. (2023). Living in the web's ruins: exploring affective experiences and encounters in web archives. Digital Intimacies 9 Conference. 15 December, QUT, Brisbane.
- Henman, P., Carney, T., Mullins, R. (2023). Law Matters: Administrative Justice After Robodebt Law School. 10 August, University of Queensland.
- Holcombe-James, I., Stern, J. (2023). Automation and the Arts. ADM+S 2023 Automated News and Media Symposium. 13-14 July, University of Sydney, Sydney.
- Horst, H. (2023). Decentering Automated Decision-Making: A Manifesto. International Conference: Anthropology of/in the Future, part of the 19th IUAES-WAU World Anthropology Pre-Congress 2023. 2 August, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Delhi, India.

32. Horst, H., Nguyen, D., Yu, H. (2023). Automated Media Across the Asia Pacific. ADM+S 2023 Automated News and Media Symposium. 13-14 July, University of Sydney, Sydney.
33. Horst, H., Pink, S., Strengers, Y. (2023). Shaping our digital future: challenges for the social sciences. Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, Annual Symposium. 24 November, Canberra.
34. Horst, H., Sargent, A. (2023). Decentering Digital Media: Theorizing with and from the Global South. Association for Cultural Studies Institute. 10-14 August, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan.
35. Jiminez, A. (2023). The Impact of the Internet of Things on European Citizenship. An interdisciplinary perspective. 2 June, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville.
36. Jiminez, A. (2023). Digital Technologies in the Anthropocene: Data Justice Meets Environmental Justice. 20 June, Cardiff University, Cardiff.
37. Jiminez, A. (2023). Ecocide criminalisation and green extractivism: A contradiction? The Inhuman in the Human: Laws for the Anthropocene. 20 July, La Trobe University, Melbourne.
38. Jiminez, A. (2023). Green capitalism in Extremadura: The case of lithium mining. Law & Extractivism in the Anthropocene. 24 July, La Trobe University, Melbourne.
39. Jiminez, A. (2023). The Islamophobic consensus. XX ISA World Congress of Sociology. June 25 - July 1, Melbourne.
40. Kennedy, J., Sleep, L. (2023). Automation and Accessibility. ADM+S 2023 Automated News and Media Symposium. 13-14 July, University of Sydney, Sydney.
41. Khan, A.H. (2023). Media for Resilience: Fire Futures. School of Communication and Arts Seminar Series at The University of Queensland. 24 March.
42. Khan, A.H. (2023). Democratizing Technology: Using Participatory Approaches to Design Responsible AI & Automated Decision-Making Systems. Centre for Responsible AI. 1 November, New York University, New York.
43. Khan, A.H. (2023). Sharing responsibility for risk: codesigning media for bushfire resilience. 2023 International Association for Media and Communication Research Conference, IAMCR 2023. 12 July, Lyon, France.
44. Lee, J. (2023). Visual methods: Third International Symposium on Visual and Multimodal Methods. Co-Creating Media at the International Symposium on Visual and Multimodal Methods. 15 November, Universidad de La Laguna in Tenerife, Spain.
45. Lobato, R. (2023). Software Obsolescence in Smart TVs' Presentation. Electronics <> Ecologies #1 REPAIR. 30 August, Griffith University, Brisbane.
46. Lobato, R., Bartolo, L., Pappalardo, K. (2023). Automated Content Curation in Video Services. ADM+S 2023 Automated News and Media Symposium. 13-14 July, University of Sydney, Sydney.
47. Dolatabadi, H.M. (2023). Invited research talk. Australian Institute for Machine Learning (AIML). 30 October, the University of Adelaide.
48. Magee, L. (2023). Automated Research Practices: AI and/as the Qualitative Researcher. (un)Stable Diffusions Symposium. 23 May, Montreal.
49. Magee, L. (2023). Reimagining Visual Archives in the Age of Generative AI: Exploring Heritage Sites through the Machinic Gaze. Discovering Collections, Discovering Communities 2023. 11-13 July, Durham UK.
50. Matamoros-Fernandez, A. (2023). Humour as an online safety issue. ZeMKI Research Colloquium. 10 May, University of Bremen, Germany.
51. Matamoros-Fernandez, A. (2023). Critically evaluating standards, certification and assurance for 'trustworthy' data-driven technologies. 23 May, University of Birmingham.
52. Matamoros-Fernandez, A. (2023). Comedy Controversies: Humour and Free Speech stream. Socio-Legal Studies Association conference 2023. 6 June, online.
53. Matamoros-Fernandez, A., Nelson, L., Snoswell, A., Williams, J. (2023). Opportunities and Challenges of Automation for Content Moderation. ADM+S 2023 Automated News and Media Symposium. 13-14 July, University of Sydney, Sydney.
54. McCosker, A. (2023). Developing Data Capability: Unlocking the Power of your Data. Connecting Up Conference 2023. 12 May, Melbourne Convention Centre.
55. Meese, J. (2023). News Personalisation. ADM+S 2023 Automated News and Media Symposium. 13-14 July, University of Sydney, Sydney.
56. Monatana-Nino, S., Spina, D. (2023). Hey Google, What's the News? ADM+S 2023 Automated News and Media Symposium. 13-14 July, University of Sydney, Sydney.
57. Nelson, L. (2023). Research presentation. Civic ADM Workshop. 8 May, online.
58. Nelson, L. (2023). Research presentation. Digital Intimacies 9. QUT, Brisbane.
59. Nelson, L. (2023). Research presentation. Platform Governance Research Network conference. 4 April, online.
60. Nickels, K., Lawrence, A. (2023). Data Donation and Citizen Science approaches for studying digital platforms. Australian Citizen Science Conference. 21 November, University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland.
61. Ormond-Parker, L., Featherstone, D., Ganley, L. (2023). Mapping Digital Inequality & Media Use in Remote First Nations Communities. ADM+S 2023 Automated News and Media Symposium. 13-14 July, University of Sydney, Sydney.
62. O'Neil, C. (2023). Hommage to Hommage à Jean Hyppolite. Australasian Society for Continental Philosophy. 27 November, online.
63. O'Neil, C. (2023). Figuring the Human in Data-Driven Discourse. 9 November, University of California - San Diego.
64. Pappalardo, K. (2023). Research Methods panel. Deus Ex Machina – Law-Technology-Humanities. 11-14 December, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane.
65. Parker, C. (2023). Nudge versus Sludge: A Critical Evaluation of the Discourse of Greenwashing for Transformative Change. Macquarie Environmental Law Conference. 1-2 November, online.
66. Phan, T., Lee, J., Kelly, L. (2023). Talking About Automation. ADM+S 2023 Automated News and Media Symposium. 13-14 July, University of Sydney, Sydney.
67. Richardson, M., Graham, T. (2023). Eyewitness Now: New Ways of Seeing the News. ADM+S 2023 Automated News and Media Symposium. 13-14 July, University of Sydney, Sydney.
68. Salim, F. (2023). Generative AI and Large Language Models for Generalisable and Robust Situational Awareness. DAIRNET symposium. 27 November, Brisbane.
69. Salim, F., Xue, H. (2023). Modeling the Complex World with Generative AI and LLMs. ADM+S 2023 Automated News and Media Symposium. 13-14 July, University of Sydney, Sydney.
70. Sleep, L. (2023). This is NOT human services: Counter-mapping automated decision making in social services in Australia. Digital Welfare to Work workshop. 15-16 February, University of Melbourne.
71. Snoswell, A. (2023). Generative AI risks and opportunities in education and research. QUT Academic Board. 1 November, QUT, Brisbane.
72. Spina, D. (2023). Be a Voice for Generations. RMIT National Reconciliation Week. 30 May, RMIT University.
73. Spina, D., Hettiachchi, D., Riedlinger, M. (2023). Can I Get a Fact-Check? News, Misinformation, and Fact-Checking. ADM+S 2023 Automated News and Media Symposium. 13-14 July, University of Sydney, Sydney.
74. Srinivas, A. (2023). Newsworthiness of Climate Emergencies: Which 'news values' drive the republishing of The Conversation's flood and wildfire coverage? Australian and New Zealand Communications Association Conference 2023. 21 November, Wellington, New Zealand.
75. Stardust, Z. (2023). Queer Matters in Criminology, Law and Surveillance. Sex Tech Hackathon. 20 July, La Trobe University.
76. Stardust, Z. (2023). Speaker, Berkman Klein Centre for Internet and Society 25 year Reunion. 4 September, Harvard Law School, USA.
77. Stardust, Z. (2023). Google/RMIT Workshop on Image-Based Abuse. 20 September, Paris.
78. Stardust, Z. (2023). Membership consultation on Sexual Justice Declaration. World Association for Sexual Health Conference. 30 October, Antalya, Turkey.
79. Stardust, Z. (2023). Consent.World Association for Sexual Health Conference. 30 October, Antalya, Turkey.
80. Stardust, Z. (2023). Manifesto for Sex Positive Social Media. World Association for Sexual Health Conference. 30 October, Antalya, Turkey.
81. Stardust, Z. (2023). Public Interest Sex Tech Hackathon. World Association for Sexual Health Conference. 30 October, Antalya, Turkey.
82. Suzor, N. (2023). Under the hood: Approaches to algorithmic transparency. Internet Governance Forum 2023. 8 October, Tokyo.
83. Suzor, N. (2023). Evolving Trends in Mis- & Dis-Information. Internet Governance Forum 2023. 8 October, Tokyo.
84. Suzor, N., Nelson, L. (2023). Research presentation. Association of Internet Researchers 2023. 20 October, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.
85. Suzor, N., Nelson, L. (2023). Moderating misogyny: Bridging the gap between feminist theory and the policies and practices of social media platforms. PlatGovNet 2023: Imagining Sustainable, Trustworthy, and Democratic Platform Governance. 4 April, online.
86. Thomas, J. (2023). Convenor and speaker, Australian Academy of the Humanities Symposium. 16 November, RMIT University, Melbourne.
87. Thomas, J. (2023). ACCAN 2023 Communications Consumer Congress. 12 September, The Aerial UTS Function Centre in Sydney.
88. Thomas, J. (2023). Speaker, Digital Ethnography Research Centre launch for "Society 5.0 Ethics". 9 September, RMIT University, Melbourne.
89. Thomas, J. (2023). AI accountability panellist. Australian Councils of Learned Academies (ACOLA). 23 January, online.
90. Thomas, J. (2023). Speaker, Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC) Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) Symposium. 2 February, online.
91. Thomas, J. (2023). Checking Social Media's Dis/Misinfo problem. Future Asia Digital Hub. 9 February, online.
92. Thomas, J. (2023). Research presentation. MediaSmarts (Canada). 3 February, online.
93. Watson, A. (2023). Who or what is Australasian STS? What constitutes a contribution to Australasian STS? AusSTS 2023 Inaugural Conference. 17 July, UNSW Sydney.
94. Weatherall, K. (2023). Responsible and Ethical AI. Asia-Pacific Women in AI Summit 2023: AI for Good. 14 June, Sydney.

CONFERENCE KEYNOTES

95. Weatherall, K. (2023). Bridge to Tomorrow. International Actuarial Association and the Actuaries Institute Australia, 2023 International Congress of Actuaries. 29 May, online.
96. Weatherall, K. (2023). What do the LLMs mean for developing models of AI regulation? Large Language Models (LLMs) & Generative AI technologies. 28 April, Sydney.
97. Weatherall, K., Goldenfein, J. (2023). Look at Me: Facial Recognition in Australia. ADM+S 2023 Automated News and Media Symposium. 13-14 July, University of Sydney, Sydney.
98. Weatherall, K., Kenyon, A. (2023). Automation: A New Regulatory Agenda? ADM+S 2023 Automated News and Media Symposium. 13-14 July, University of Sydney, Sydney.
99. Weatherall, K., Meese, J. (2023). Opening remarks. ADM+S 2023 Automated News and Media Symposium. 13-14 July, University of Sydney, Sydney.
100. Whelan-Shamy, D. (2023). We're not in 1984 anymore: Human rights amongst a digital changing reality. Rights Con 2023. 6 June, Costa Rica.
101. Yu, H. (2023). Living in the era of codes: a cultural genealogy of QR codes in China. Conference on Big Data and Digital Surveillance in China during the COVID-19 Pandemic. 20 November, Monash University.
102. Yu, H. (2023). From Digital Divide to Digital Opportunity. The International Digital Equality Alliance annual conference, College of Media and International Culture at Zhejiang university. 7 November, Wuzhen, China.
103. Yu, H. (2023). China's Digital Presence in Southeast Asia: Platforms as the nexus. Chinese Internet Research Conference, 12-14 July, Chiang Mai.
104. Yu, H. (2023). Platformization of entrepreneurial labour via Chinese digital networks: Introduction. Global media and China webinar, 28 April, online.
105. Yu, H. (2023). Chinese digital transaction platforms in Southeast Asia. Digital Transaction Platforms in Asia Workshops. April 19-20th, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.
106. Yu, H. (2023). WeChat Ethnography: From Hype to Reality Check. International workshop on "WeChat Ethnography: New practices and Limits of an Emerging Research Methods". 9-10 February, online.
107. Yu, H., Nguyen, D. (2023). Vietnam's technological landscape post-pandemic & Southeast Asia region presentation. Digital Humanities: Global South Perspectives Post Pandemic. 4 August, online.

1. Andrejevic, M. (2023). Granular Biopolitics and the Recession of the Social. Annual Conference of the German Association for Communication (DGPUK). 24 May, Bremen.
2. Andrejevic, M. (2023). Seeing Like A Border: Securing Circulation During COVID and Beyond. International Conference on Automated Decision-Making and Chinese Societies. 3 February, RMIT University.
3. Andrejevic, M. (2023). Seeing Like a Border: Automated Vision and Digital Enclosure. Institute for Theatre, Media, and Culture, and Society. 15 May, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz.
4. Burgess, J. (2023). Building the Conditions for Responsible Human-Centric AI Systems. International Communication Association pre-conference. 24 May, Toronto, Canada.
5. Carney, T. (2023). Learning From Robodebt: An algorithmic justice thought experiment? Centre for Law and Social Justice, Algorithmic Justice Symposium. 14 July, Newcastle University.
6. Horst, H. (2023). Keynote speaker. Humanising AI Futures: Reimagining data and AI for a future worth wanting. 28 July, University of Technology Sydney.
7. Lee, J. (2023). Co-Creating Media. International Symposium on Visual and Multimodal Methods. 16 November, Universidad de La Laguna in Tenerife, Spain.
8. Loosen, W. (2023). Introducing Communicative AI. ADM+S 2023 Automated News and Media Symposium. 13-14 July, University of Sydney, Sydney.
9. Nguyen, D. (2023). Rethinking happiness in a digital age: Chatbots and more-than-human companionship. 18 August, FPT University, Vietnam.
10. Watt, N. (2023). In the Age of Powerful Technologies we need Powerful and Compassionate Minds. STEMfest. 20 October, Leura Public School, Brisbane.
11. Phan, T. (2023). Keynote: In conversation with Prof Celia Roberts. 2023 AusSTS conference. 17 July, Sydney.
12. Phan, T. (2023). Listening to misrecognition. Australian Centre for Contemporary Art Data Relations Summer School. 20 February, Melbourne.
13. Phan, T. (2023). Artificial figures: gender-in-the-making in algorithmic culture. Australian Academy of Humanities Annual Symposium. 16 November, RMIT University.
14. Salim, F. (2023). Generative AI and Large Language Models for Future Mobility Analytics. ITS Global Summit. 28 August, Melbourne.
15. Salim, F. (2023). Generative AI for rapid and scalable behaviour modelling in cities. The 28th Asia-Pacific Conference on Communications (APCC). 19 November, Sydney.
16. Stardust, Z. (2023). Sex Tech in Ruins. Digital Intimacies conference. 14 December, QUT, Brisbane.
17. Thomas, J. (2023). Society in the Loop: Observability and Accountability. Centre for International Research on Education Systems (CIRES) PhD School. 31 October, University of Queensland.
18. Watson, A. (2023). Storytelling and Sociology. The Australian Sociological Association 2023 colloquium. 29 November, University of Sydney.



PEOPLE

Our People
All Members and Visitors

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

OUR PEOPLE

Chief Investigators

20

Partner Investigators

11

Associate Investigators

39

Professional Staff

19

Visitors and Visiting Fellows

33

Research Staff

26

Students

85

Affiliates

68

Total members

268

Alumni

25

ALL MEMBERS AND VISITORS

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Assoc Prof Liam Magee	Western Sydney University

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Prof Robert Sparrow	Monash University
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Dr Joel Stern	RMIT University
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Dr Hao Xue	The University of New South Wales
Dr Monika Zalnieriute	The University of New South Wales
Research Fellows	
Dr Shohreh Deldari	The University of New South Wales
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Jeni Lee	Monash University
Dr Kelly Lewis	Monash University
Dang Nguyen	RMIT University
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Dr Thao Phan	Monash University

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Dr Ash Watson	The University of New South Wales
Vaughan Wozniak-O'Connor	The University of New South Wales
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Dr Christopher O'Neill	Monash University
Dr Aaron Snowsall	Queensland University of Technology
Dr Zahra Stardust	Queensland University of Technology
Dr Fan Yang	The University of Melbourne
Dr Amanda Lawrence	RMIT University
Research Support	
Elizabeth Alpert	Queensland University of Technology
Dr Abdul Obeid	Queensland University of Technology
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Ciaran Ryan	Swinburne University of Technology
Dante Aloni	Monash University
Angela Blakston	RMIT University
Maria-Gemma Brown	The University of Queensland
Brooke Ann Coco	RMIT University
Sarah Cupler	The University of Melbourne
Mohammad Faisal	The University of Queensland
Emma Finlay	The University of Melbourne

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Kaixin Ji	RMIT University
Yufan Kang	RMIT University
Hiruni Kegalle	RMIT University
Lauren Kelly	RMIT University
Cecily Klim	The University of New South Wales
Rakesh Kumar	Western Sydney University
Peibo Li	The University of New South Wales
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Edward Small	RMIT University
Avantik Tamta	The University of Melbourne
Yueqing Xuan	RMIT University
Nuha Abu Onq	RMIT University
Futoon Abushaqra	RMIT University
Chathurika Akurugoda	The University of Melbourne
Marwah Alaofi	RMIT University
Hmdh Alknjr	RMIT University
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Anand Badola	Queensland University of Technology
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Dominique Carlon	Queensland University of Technology
Will Cesta	The University of Sydney
Kunal Chand	Queensland University of Technology
Sachin Cherumanal	RMIT University
Joel Cooper	Queensland University of Technology
Dan Dai	Queensland University of Technology
Sean Di Lizio	Queensland University of Technology
Ha Do	The University of Melbourne
Nick Dowse	Queensland University of Technology
Rhea Erica DSilva	Monash University

Nadia Egalita	RMIT University
Paria Eskandarpour	Monash University
Phoebe Galbally	The University of Melbourne
Miguel Gomez-Hernandez	Monash University
Thomas Graham	Swinburne University of Technology
Lauren Hayden	The University of Queensland
Zoe Horn	Western Sydney University
Nadia Jude	Queensland University of Technology
Megan Kelleher	RMIT University
Pro (Yonchanok) Khaokaew	The University of New South Wales
Samuel Kininmonth	RMIT University
Oliver Knight	RMIT University
Berwyn Kwek	Monash University
Trang Le	Monash University
Caitlin Learmonth	Swinburne University of Technology
Wynston Lee	RMIT University
Jiyeon Lee	Monash University
Dennis Alexander Leeftink	Queensland University of Technology
Xiyao Liu	Monash University
Stephanie Livingstone	RMIT University
Miguel Loor Paredes	Monash University
Lesley Luo	Swinburne University of Technology
Paul McKie	RMIT University
Robert Morsillo	RMIT University
Lucinda Nelson	Queensland University of Technology
Paulina Noches Pareja	Monash University
Vishnu (Vishnuprasad) Padinjaredath Suresh	Queensland University of Technology
Theresa Pham	The University of New South Wales
Kaspar Raats	Monash University
Dr Megan Rose	The University of New South Wales

Tariq Segal	Queensland University of Technology
Sadia Sharman	Queensland University of Technology
Anna Shihak	Monash University
Elisa Shioji	The University of Melbourne
Rhyle Simcock	Queensland University of Technology
Jiaru Tang	Queensland University of Technology
Ekaterina Tokareva	RMIT University
Thanh Tran	RMIT University
Edward (Ned) Watt	Queensland University of Technology
Daniel Whelan-Shamy	Queensland University of Technology
Margaret Wilson	The University of Melbourne
Yunus Yigit	The University of Queensland
Libby Young	The University of Sydney
Canaan Yung	The University of Melbourne
Guangnan Zhu	Queensland University of Technology
Dr Kirsty Abbott (Unger)	Queensland University of Technology
Dr Louisa Bartolo	Queensland University of Technology
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Alumni	
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Dr Ebony Gaylor	Swinburne University of Technology
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Dr Vincent Le	Monash University
Dr Robert Lundberg	Monash University
Dr Chenglong Ma	RMIT University
Dr Iris Maher	Monash University
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Kanika Mehra	RMIT University
Dr Elisa Mena	RMIT University

Dr Kelsie Nabben	RMIT University
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Dr Melanie Trezise	The University of Sydney
Dr Pratiwi Utami	Monash University
Dr Brydon Wang	Queensland University of Technology
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Dr Jessica Balanzategui	RMIT University
Dr David Beesley	RMIT University
Dr Daniel Binns	RMIT University
Assoc Prof Jason Bosland	The University of Melbourne
Joe Brailsford	The University of Melbourne
Dr Andrew Brooks	The University of New South Wales
Prof Bronwyn Carlson	Macquarie University
Dr Loup Cellard	The University of Melbourne
Dr Marianne Clark	The University of New South Wales
Dr Damian Clifford	Australian National University
Dr Simon Coghlan	The University of Melbourne
Dr Tegan Cohen	Queensland University of Technology
Dr Ehsan Dehghan	Queensland University of Technology
Dr Jacinthe Flore	The University of Melbourne
Dr Robbie Fordyce	Monash University
Dr Lida Ghahremanlou	Microsoft
Dr Edgar Gómez-Cruz	University of Texas
Prof Fiona Haines	The University of Melbourne

Prof Anna Hickey-Moody	RMIT University
Dr Indigo Holcombe-James	RMIT University
Dr Bernadette Hyland-Wood	Queensland University of Technology
Danielle Hynes	The University of New South Wales
Dr Aditya (Adi) Joshi	The University of New South Wales
Jigyra Khabar	Monash University
Prof Seth Lazar	Australian National University
Dr Kobi Leins	King's College
Angel Felipe Magnossao de Paula	RMIT University
Suvradip Maitra	The University of Queensland
Dr Samantha Mannix	Swinburne University of Technology
Prof Annette Markham	Utrecht University
Dr Fabio Mattioli	The University of Melbourne
Dr Rita Matulionyte	Macquarie University
Dr Silvia Montaña-Niño	The University of Melbourne
Dr Luke Munn	The University of Queensland
Dr Giselle Newton	The University of Queensland
Prof Brett Nielson	Western Sydney University
Tanita Northcott	The University of Melbourne
Prof Daniel Palmer	RMIT University
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Prof Jeannie Paterson	The University of Melbourne
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Jing Qian	The University of Melbourne
Dr Ruth Richards	RMIT University
Prof Megan Richardson	The University of Melbourne
Dr Michelle Riedlinger	Queensland University of Technology
Prof Ned Rossiter	Western Sydney University
Alexa Scarlata	RMIT University
Dr Sebastian Sequoiah-Grayson	The University of New South Wales

Dr Jolynna Sinanan	University of Manchester
Dr Sarah Sinclair	RMIT University
Dr Kacper Sokol	ETH Zurich
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Simon Taylor	Australian National University
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Laura Vodden	Queensland University of Technology
Dr Emmanuelle Walkowiak	RMIT University
Dr Andrew Whelan	University of Wollongong
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Suzannah Wood	Queensland University of Technology
Dr Xiaofang Yao	Federation University
Dr Anna Zhu	RMIT University
International Visitors	
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Ms Weronika Łajewska	University of Stavanger
Mr Wouter van Loon	Leiden University, the Netherlands
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Ane Bislev	Aalborg University
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Rogier Creemer	Leiden University
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Prof Maarten de Rijke	University of Amsterdam
Susan Demais	Microsoft Research New England
Rachel Douglas-Jones	University of Copenhagen

Prof Vaike Fors	Halmstad University
Dr Melissa Gregg	Consultant, Oregon USA
Dr Sun-ha Hong	Simon Fraser University
Malavika Jayaram	Digital Asia Hub
Min Jiang	University of North Carolina
Weronika Lajewska	University of Stavanger
Prof Agnieszka Lesczynski	Western University
Dev Lewis	Digital Asia Hub
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Tarunima Prabhakar	Tattle
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Prof Minna Ruckenstein	Consumer Society Research Centre
Florian Schnieder	Leiden University
Nick Seaver	Tufts University
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Amy Boike	The University of Queensland
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Loren Dela Cruz	RMIT University
Taal Hampson	Queensland University of Technology
Leah Hawkins	RMIT University
Astari Kusumawardani	The University of Melbourne
Dr Dorothy Kwok	The University of New South Wales
Isabella Mahoney	Monash University

Dr Nonie May	Monash University
Elaine McDonnell	RMIT University
Kathy Nickels	Queensland University of Technology
Rebecca Ralph	Queensland University of Technology
Julia Robertson	The University of Sydney
Sally Storey	RMIT University
Dr Yasmin Tambiah	Western Sydney University
Lucy Valenta	RMIT University
Nick Walsh	RMIT University
Matt Warren	RMIT University

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Equity, diversity, and inclusion are integral to the ADM+S Centre's mission: to create knowledge and strategies for responsible, ethical, and inclusive automated decision-making (ADM). The Centre recognises that racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and ableism are principal obstacles to equity, diversity and inclusion, and remain primary causes of injustice and inequality. We believe that responsible, ethical, and inclusive ADM can deliver broad social benefits, including reducing inequalities for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. This strong conviction guides our work as a Centre community and informs our equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) goals.

In 2023, the ADM+S Equity and Diversity Committee's primary objective was to implement the new ADM+S Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan. The Plan was developed in 2022 through a series of workshops where committee members identified key strategic objectives and incorporated feedback from the 2021 EDI Survey and post-event surveys, as well as consideration of founding and ARC documents and best practice from other ARC CoEs and our host institutions. In November 2022, a second Centre-wide EDI survey was conducted, and the results were used to inform the ongoing review and implementation of the strategy in 2023.



Above: PhD student Marwah Alaofi at the 2023 Summer School

Achievements in 2023 included:

- + Annual funding guidelines and criteria for EDI initiatives developed;
- + Accessible and Inclusive Events, Meetings and Presentations Policy updated;
- + Committee membership was renewed, welcoming CI Anthony McCosker and AI Anjalee da Silva to the group;
- + Establishment of the ADM+S Working Group for Inclusive, Collaborative and Participatory Research Design and Practice;
- + Inclusive participatory research workshop at the 2023 ADM+S Symposium HDR training day.
- + Inclusive research workshop with Partner Organisation Data & Society 'Research for data justice: navigating ethical inclusion, solidarity, and activism' was funded and will be delivered in 2024;
- + Document Accessibility Essentials training delivered to members in September;
- + All major events delivered in hybrid mode to ensure accessibility and inclusivity;
- + All Phase 1 research projects (2021-2024) were assessed, with Project Leaders asked to respond to the following questions: "How has the project engaged with EDI considerations in regard to: a) the diversity of the research team, b) citation practices, and c) how EDI has shaped the research topic and approaches?" The data was used to help inform the development of the Centre's EDI priority activities;
- + Annual calendar of cultural holidays and inclusive events established and promoted to all members;
- + Regular EDI Newsletter established and promoted to all members.



PhD Students Anand Badola, Lesley Luo, and Yunus Yigit at the 2023 Summer School

ADM+S EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

EDI MISSION

Our EDI mission is to create an equitable, diverse, and inclusive research community. This means fostering a culture that is:

- + consistent with the expectations of an ARC Centre of Excellence;
- + reflective of our research and training mission to support the creation of responsible, ethical, and inclusive ADM; and
- + aligned with world-leading best practice through our leadership, policies, behaviours and culture.

EDI VISION

Our vision is for ADM+S to be a leader in advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion for our members, partners, and stakeholders. By recognising that our strength, distinctiveness, and potential lie in our people, and fostering an exemplary culture of diversity and inclusion, we will be at the forefront of addressing systemic inequalities that exist in academia (both in the workplace and in research practice) and ensure the Centre is a progressive organisation where all members, regardless of background, can do their best work in a professional and compassionate environment.

EDI OBJECTIVES

1. To embrace and increase diversity in our Centre community and among our partners and networks.
2. To foster an inclusive and participatory environment where everyone is safe, welcome, valued, heard, and respected.
3. To establish an equitable culture where every person in the Centre has the opportunity and support to reach their full potential, and to acknowledge and address structural drivers of inequality, including but not limited to, racism, sexism, ableism, and colonialism.
4. To improve and sustain research, employment, and study outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We will achieve our EDI objectives by identifying key priorities, actions, and timeframes to organise our efforts and measure our achievements.

Our Action Plan begins with the high-level, major initiatives that we will progress to support our overall EDI mission, including our EDI committee, EDI surveys and EDI training. This is then followed by priorities and actions to support our four specific EDI objectives of equity, diversity, inclusion, and positive outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

It can be viewed on the website at admscentre.org.au/equity-diversity-inclusion/



Senior Research Fellow Lyndon Ormond-Parker, Dr Jessa Rogers, PI Lauren Ganley, and Senior Research Fellow Daniel Featherstone on a panel at the 2023 ADM+S Symposium

2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society (ADM+S) formally commenced operations on 28 August 2020. The Centre's financial affairs are conducted within the established procedures, controls and delegations of the relevant universities, and as set out by the Australian Research Council (ARC). This statement provides a summary of the income and expenditure of the Centre of Excellence.

Income

ADM+S receives funding from three main sources: the ARC, Eligible Organisations (Australian universities), and Partner Organisations. The Australian universities and Partner Organisations also provide significant in-kind contributions, which are primarily personnel-related and consist of the apportioned salaries and on-costs of faculty members who contribute towards the Centre.

In addition to these official cash and in-kind contributions, throughout 2022, ADM+S researchers secured an additional 4.7 million in additional funding for projects studying automated decision-making from a range of national and international funds providers. This official ARC Financial Statement only includes the contributions of the official ARC Centre Eligible and Partner Organisations.

Expenditure by the Centre in 2023

Personnel accounted for the highest proportion of expenditure, followed by travel, scholarships, and professional services (including payments to our research partners in remote communities for our Mapping the Digital Gap project, funded by Partner Organisation Telstra). Overall, the Centre's cash balance at the end of 2023 was \$8,719,095; this includes nearly 2.9m of unspent funds from 2020 which will be carried forward to 2027 due to the Centre's late commencement in Q4 of its first year. The balance also includes a portion of the significant cash contribution from Telstra for the Mapping the Digital Gap project.

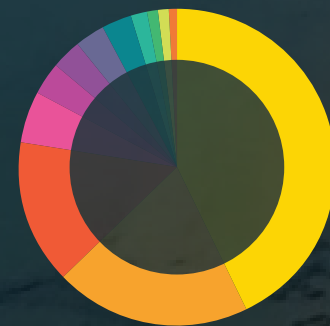
Financial Management and Performance

Quarterly financial reporting monitors institutional income and expenditure against the Centre-wide budget. The Centre's Chief Operating Officer prepares consolidated financial statements for review by the Director. The Centre meets its annual reporting requirements to the ARC and meets all other reporting obligations set by Partner Organisations that provide financial support.



Total Expenditure

- Salaries including oncosts
- Non-salary expenses



Non-salary expenses

- Travel
- Scholarships
- Professional services
- Training
- Communications
- Administrative costs
- Outreach
- Consumables
- Events
- Equity and diversity
- Equipment
- Seed funding for research translation projects

2023 Actual (\$)

Income

Carry forward from 2022	\$8,593,273.39
ARC Grant	\$5,410,179.82
State Government Grants	
Other grants	
University contributions	\$1,334,370.14
Partner contributions	\$640,000.00
Other income	
Total income	\$7,384,549.96

Expenditure

Salaries	\$4,957,758.00
Scholarships	\$456,774.00
Training	\$119,172.00
Outreach	\$70,089.00
Seed funding for research translation projects	\$18,960.00
Travel	\$989,382.00
Events	\$38,425.00
Administrative costs	\$100,917.37
Consumables	\$66,938.00
Equipment	\$23,818.00
Professional services	\$340,793.00
Communications	\$78,417.00
Equity & diversity	\$24,912.00
Total expenditure	\$7,258,728.00

Net surplus	\$125,821.96
Carry forward	\$8,719,095.35

2023 Actual (\$)

In-kind contributions (\$)

Australian Universities	\$4,045,616.28
Partner Organisations	\$804,344.00
Total in-kind contributions	\$4,849,960.28

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance Measure	2023 target	2023 outcome
1. Number of research outputs		
Journal articles	75	116
Books	8	13
Book chapters	25	21
Conference publications	75	43*
Datasets	3	7
Interactive software/systems/platforms	3	6
Films/videos	1	1†
Creative works	1	59‡
2. Quality of research outputs		
Percentage of books published through highly ranked book publishers	60%	94%
Percentage of journals published through Scimago Quadrant 1 journals	60%	77%
Percentage of conference publications published through CORE A*/A conference rankings	60%	83%
3. Number of workshops/conferences held/offered by the Centre		
Annual conferences and symposiums	1	2
Major public-facing exhibitions and fairs	1	1
Public awareness and outreach activities such as lectures, seminars, forums and events	20	53
Research and engagement workshops	10	32
4. Number of training courses held/offered by the Centre		
Specialist industry and partner organisation short courses	3	12
Engagement programs for primary/high schools	2	7
HDR and ECR workshops, masterclasses and hackathons	5	27
Major HDR and ECR summer/winter schools	2	3
Interactive gender equality and diversity training courses and workshops	2	2

Performance Measure	2023 target	2023 outcome
5. Number of additional researchers working on Centre research		
Postdoctoral Researchers	20	41
Undergraduate Students participating in Centre related coursework	15	32
Phd Students under Centre supervision	40	96
New PhD Students	35	25‡
New Masters Students	5	3†
Associate Investigators	30	38
Indigenous Pre-doctoral appointments	3	0**
6. Number of postgraduate completions	20	14††
7. Number of mentoring programs offered by the Centre	3	3
8. Number of presentations/briefings		
Government, industry, business and community forums and briefings	40	51
Invited talks/papers/keynote lectures given at major national and international meetings and industry conferences	40	108
Media coverage - media releases	15	126
Media coverage - unique media items	100	268
Website unique visits	45,000	22,684‡‡
9. Number of new organisations collaborating with, or involved in, the Centre		
New organisations collaborating with, or involved in the Centre	30	94§§
International visitors and Visiting Fellows	10	30
Visits to overseas laboratories and research institutions	30	35
Memberships of national and international professional bodies and committees	50	79
Interactions with other CoEs such as exchanges, joint outputs and events	3	5
10. Number of female research personnel	35	155¶¶

Performance Measure	2023 target	2023 outcome
Centre-specific KPIs		
11. Benefits, outcomes, impact		
Citations in policy papers	30	50
Submissions to major inquiries	10	16
Membership of policy and industry advisory committees	10	28
12. Governance		
Advisory Board meetings per year	2	2
Advisory Board attendance per meeting	70%	90%
Stakeholder satisfaction surveys with the majority of stakeholders 'satisfied' or above (every two years)	0	4
13. Effectiveness of the Centre in creating an effective and cohesive research team		
Number of cross-program events	10	45
Number of staff participating in annual Centre symposiums	150	129 ^{***}
Number of cross-node publications	70	53 ^{†††}
Number of multi-institutional supervisors	7	16
14. Organisational Support		
Additional research income secured by Centre staff	1.5m	4.7m ^{††}

These measures reflect the cross-disciplinary composition of the Centre, and therefore the need for performance indicators which are sensitive to disciplinary context, and to the different values attributed to outputs such as books (valued more highly in most HASS disciplines) conference papers (valued more highly in the computer and data sciences) and book chapters (valued more highly in law).

* Includes only Conference Proceedings and Refereed Conference Papers. Non-refereed Conference Papers and Conference Presentations are counted under KPI 'Invited talks/papers/keynote lectures given at major national and international meetings and industry conferences.'

† This includes one professionally produced film by ADM+S resident filmmaker Jeni Lee. The communications team also produced 127 outreach videos which are published on the ADM+S YouTube channel (93 event recordings, 24 researcher spotlights, 8 publication and event promotions and 2 recruitment videos made for research projects)

‡ Includes podcasts, zines, art installations, songbooks, comics, and conference posters

§ This is the total number of new PhD scholarships funded by the Centre which are active in the given reporting year. The Centre continues to exceed the KPI for the total number of PhD students under Centre supervision. An increase in new student members is expected for the Phase 2 research projects commencing mid-2024.

¶ The Centre has primarily focused on creating opportunities for HDR students but will continue to support Masters students wherever possible.

** The Centre will invest additional resources into promoting this opportunity through the RMIT program and in 2024 we will also be promoting scholarships for indigenous HDR students.

†† We are aiming for a total of 150 postgraduate completions by 2027 and currently have 25 alumni plus 96 students currently under supervision from Phase 1. Recruitment delays have impacted completion dates in some cases

††† Our website has exceeded this KPI target each year, however as of 1 July 2023, the website analytics tool Universal Analytics (UA) became Google Analytics 4 (GA4) and measures "new users" (previously unique visitors) in a different way:

- A first-party cookie is stored on the user's browser. Some users may not accept cookies when visiting the site therefore they will not be counted as a new user
- Users must stay on page for 10 seconds or more, visit another page, or trigger a conversion event. Previously UA would measure a visit as soon as they started a "session"

Further information is available at usefathom.com/learn/unique-visitors-google-analytics

§§ This figure includes all new organisations partnering with the Centre to conduct research projects and deliver joint events in 2023.

¶¶ This figure includes all Chief Investigators, Partner Investigators, Associate Investigators, Research Fellows, HDR Students, and Affiliates who identify as women.

*** Our annual Centre symposium is well attended by the Centre's core groups of researchers - Chief Investigators, Partner Investigators, Associate Investigators, Research Fellows, and HDR Students - with Affiliates, Alumni and Professional Staff attending wherever possible

††† Cross-node publishing and collaboration was impacted by COVID restrictions in 2020-2022, and standard publishing timeframes can mean the results of collaboration are often seen in later years for this KPI. Overall, the number of outputs is steadily increasing each year and expected to rise.

††† This figure includes the total of new ADM-related grants won by Centre researchers in 2023, including 2.6m in ARC Discovery grants. Some larger grants have been omitted from this total if they were awarded to a single researcher (such as Sarah Pink's \$3m Laureate Fellowship) or if they were for international projects involving only a few Centre members

AI James Meese at the International Conference on Automated Decision-Making and Chinese Societies



ACTIVITY PLAN FOR 2024

RESEARCH

- + Finalise the core projects and Centre-wide, four year budget for the Phase 2 research program (2024-2027), with a strong focus on integrated, collaborative, Whole-of-Centre signature projects
- + Develop landmark social data research infrastructure through the establishment of the Australian Internet Observatory (AIO)
- + Deliver the 2024 Annual Symposium in collaboration with industry and Partner Organisations
- + Commence strategic recruitment and workforce establishment to support Phase 2 research program
- + Complete the ARC Mid Term Review and action resulting recommendations

IMPACT

- + Expand delivery of short courses and training for government and industry partners
- + Launch the next iteration of Mapping the Digital Gap and the ADII
- + Maintain our high number of high quality submissions and briefings to major government inquiries
- + Continue to grow the ADM+S Working Paper series and promote ADM+S research through the Australian Policy Observatory and other outlets
- + Showcase our Phase 1 achievements and promote the impact of the Centre's research at highly ranked conferences (virtual and in-person)

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

- + Develop and deliver the Mobilities Focus Year, including the annual symposium, workshops, media, placements and publications
- + Renew the Centre's outreach and engagement strategy and grow our partnerships with key Australian journalists and media outlets
- + Develop and deliver additional education programs and teaching materials for primary and high school students to improve understanding of automated decision-making
- + Improve functionality and accessibility of website, newsletters and other platforms
- + Consolidate all communications and outreach contacts/information in a new dedicated Zoho database

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- + Deliver research training program including annual hackathon integrating partner organisations, monthly workshops and masterclasses, and integrating HDR training day at ADM+S annual symposium. Collaborating with fellow CoEs on like-minded training opportunities
- + Formalise and monitor mentoring arrangements and career pathway planning for new Phase 2 ECRs and HDRs
- + Expand the ADM+S Fellowship Program and number of international fellowships, placements and study opportunities with our Partner Organisations
- + Develop the Alumni program to track career outcomes and leverage potential new partnerships
- + Deliver 2nd major in-person, intensive Summer School for HDR students

GOVERNANCE, PEOPLE AND RESOURCING

- + Continue tracking progress against our EDI Strategy and Action Plan and promote a strong culture of equity, inclusion, accessibility and diversity across the Centre
- + Increase visibility and engagement of subcommittees/members in Centre initiatives and projects
- + Formalise collaborative partnerships with new stakeholders
- + Continue to promote and enrich the ADM+S experience for all members to ensure our researchers and students are supported, motivated and productive
- + Update the Centre's KPI targets to include appropriate performance measurements for 2024-2027

ABOUT THIS REPORT

REPORT DESCRIPTION

This 2023 Annual Report covers the activities of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023. Our reporting period aligns with the requirements of the Australian Research Council, our primary source of funding, and the report forms part of our official reporting (and accounting) requirements.

ANTICIPATED READERSHIP

The primary audiences for this report are our funders and stakeholders, and we also hope it will be of interest to the broader community in both Australia and overseas. Subject matter has been selected in line with our vision and Strategic Plan and in accordance with the expectations of the Australian Research Council.

Unless otherwise stated, the use of the words 'we', 'us', 'our' and 'the Centre' refers to the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society, also known as the ADM+S Centre.

You will find this report and other ADM+S publications on our website at admscentre.org.au/publications

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Australian Government
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