

After Robodebt:

The role of civil society, the media, the law and the public service in delivering responsible, ethical, and inclusive government automated decision-making

Tuesday 11 July 2023
9AM- 1PM (AEST)
The University of Sydney New Law Building
Camperdown, NSW and [Online](#)

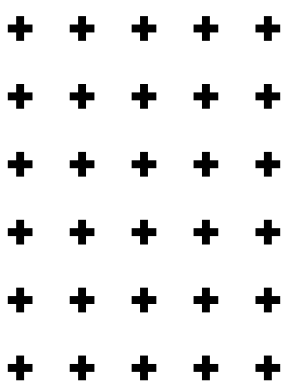
[Registration link](#)

On the eve of the release of the findings of the Royal Commission on the Robodebt Scheme it is timely to look back at the origins of public awareness of Robodebt and look forward to the lessons for informing future engagements with government use of automated decision making (ADM).

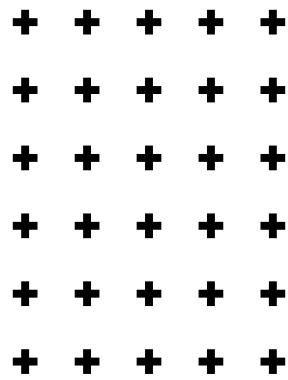
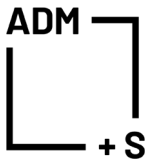
This half-day symposium will reflect on the role of various actors involved in bringing Robodebt to light, and challenging its operation, namely:

- Civil society & service users
- Journalists, news and media
- The legal profession
- Public service

Structured around a series of interactive roundtable discussions, this reflection will be geared towards learning from the past to shape future engagement with government use of ADM.

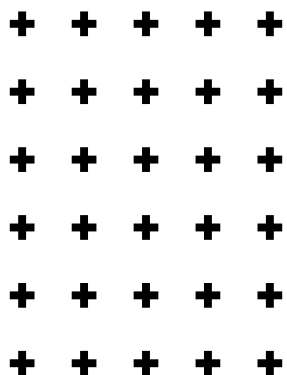


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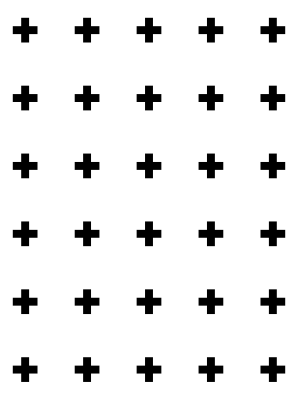
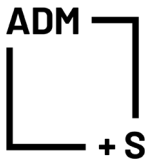


Program

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|-----------------|---|
| 9AM- 9.05AM | <i>Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country</i> Professor Paul Henman |
| 9.05- 9.10AM | <i>Introduction</i> Professor Julian Thomas |
| 9.10AM- 10.40AM | <i>Roundtable 1: Civil society and the Media</i> Professor Paul Henman (Chair) Civil society perspective – Asher Wolf Welfare rights advocacy – Dr Cassandra Goldie & Sarah Sacher News & Media – Professor Monica Attard |
| 10.40AM- 11AM | <i>Morning Tea</i> |
| 11AM- 12.30PM | <i>Roundtable 2: The legal profession and the public service</i> Professor Christine Parker (Chair) Administrative law perspective – Professor Terry Carney Human Rights challenges – Dr Aitor Jimenez (online) & Professor Edward Santow Public Service IT Systems – Pia Andrews Culture – Professor Paul Henman |
| 12.30PM- 1PM | <i>Drawing together the lessons and action points</i> Professor Kimberlee Weatherall (Chair) |
| 1PM-2PM | A light lunch will be served |



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Event Participants



Professor Julian Thomas

Director – ADM+S & RMIT

Julian Thomas is Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society (ADM+S Centre) and a Distinguished Professor in the School of Media and Communication at RMIT University.

Prior to the commencement of the ADM+S Centre, he was Director of the Swinburne Institute for Social Research (2005-2016), and then Director of RMIT's Social Change research platform. He also leads the team producing the Australian Digital Inclusion Index since 2015. His work ranges across the contemporary histories of new communications technologies, digital inequality and inclusion, and the internet and communication policy.

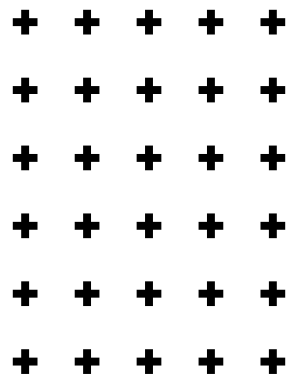


Professor Paul Henman

Chief Investigator – ADM+S & UQ

Paul Henman is Professor of Digital Sociology and Social Policy at The University of Queensland. He is a Chief Investigator of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society. For about 30 years, Paul has studied the benefits and misuses of technology by governments in social policy and services, and particularly the welfare state. From 1996-99, Paul worked in the Australian Public Service where he asked "career limited questions".

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Asher Wolf

Freelance journalist and Community worker

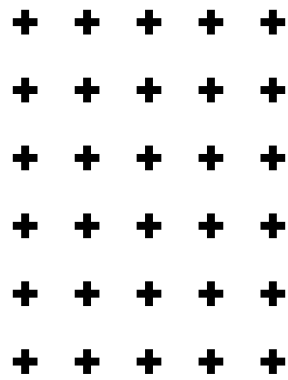
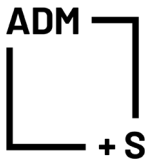
Asher Wolf is a freelance journalist and community worker. They were a leading organiser in the campaign against Robodebt. They were a co-founder of the decentralised worldwide Cryptoparty movement, promoting the use of cryptography for privacy and security. In 2014 they were the recipient of an Amnesty Australia Media Award. Asher is currently working in the community services sector while completing a Masters of Social Work.



Dr Cassandra Goldie AO

CEO - ACOSS

Dr Cassandra Goldie AO has been CEO of Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) since July 2010. With public policy expertise in economic and social issues, civil society, social justice and human rights, she has represented the interests of people who are disadvantaged and civil society in major national and international processes as well as in grassroots communities, including previously as Director of Sex and Age Discrimination with the Australian Human Rights Commission, Director and Principal Solicitor with the Darwin Community Legal Service and Senior Executive with Legal Aid in Western Australia. Cassandra has a PhD from UNSW and a Masters of Law from University College London.



Sarah Sacher

Law Reform Officer – Economic Justice Australia

Sarah Sacher is a Law Reform Officer at Economic Justice Australia, where she leads a research project on Automation in Social Security. Prior to joining EJA, Sarah worked across a range of human rights policy issues as a lawyer, advisor and researcher – including as an advisor to the President at the Australian Human Rights Commission and as a Policy Lawyer at the Law Council of Australia. She has an LLM from the London School of Economics where she researched the use of predictive analytics in child protection systems.

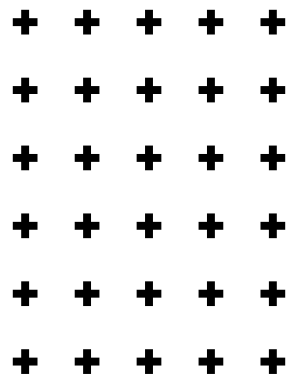


Professor Monica Attard, OAM

University Technology Sydney

Professor Monica Attard OAM spent 28 years at the ABC, working across radio and television. Monica holds a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Law, Order of Australia for services to journalism and is the winner of 5 Walkley Awards for excellence in journalism (including gold).

She is best-known for hosting some of the ABC's flagship programs, including PM, The World Today and Media Watch, and being a reporter and foreign correspondent for AM. A journalist for 35 years, she has also been a TV and radio reporter, including for Four Corners and Lateline, a foreign correspondent and was the foundation editor of the website, The Global Mail.

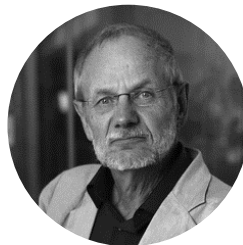


Professor Christine Parker

University of Melbourne & ADM+S

Christine Parker is a Chief Investigator at the University of Melbourne node of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making & Society (ADM+S).

Christine's current research focuses on the politics, ethics and regulation of food. Her recent research has critically examined whether ethical labelling can make food systems healthy, sustainable and just with a particular focus on animal welfare labelling and superfood health claims. She is continuing with various collaborators work on the potential to leverage responsible investment for sustainable food system transitions; and also the potential for transformative governance in relation to human-animal relationships in the food system.

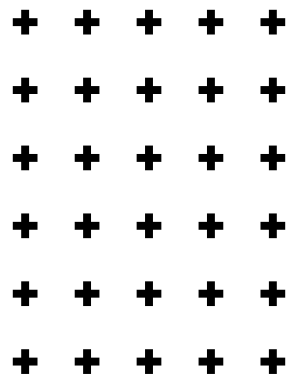
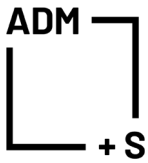


Professor Terry Carney

University of Sydney & ADM+S

Terry Carney AO is an Associate Investigator at the University of Sydney node of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making & Society (ADM+S) and Emeritus Professor of Law at the Law School, University of Sydney and Visiting Research Professor at the University of Technology, Sydney.

A Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law, he has written extensively on social security and served for nearly 40 years as a member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and its predecessor the Social Security Appeals Tribunal. His work on AI covers AI in social security administration and tribunal review, administration of the NDIS scheme, and the recent robo-debt episode raising \$721,000 of unlawful 'debts'.



Dr Aitor Jimenez

University of Melbourne & ADM+S

Dr Aitor Jiménez is a Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne node of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making & Society (ADM+S).

Aitor is a sociologist, lawyer and activist. Previously, Aitor had the opportunity to work as a policy and legal analyst for progressive causes in Latin America and Europe. He has also worked as a Human Rights lawyer defending cases of leftist activists and artists.

His research interests comprise Marxist and decolonial theory, critical legal studies (including critical criminology) and tech & law.

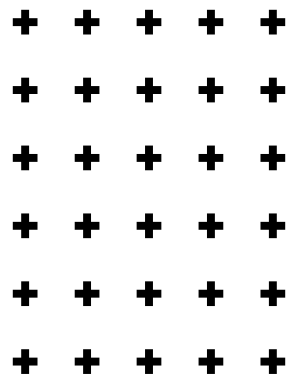
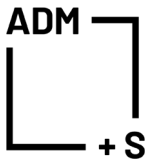


Professor Edward Santow

UTS

Edward Santow is the Director - Policy & Governance at the Human Technology Institute, and Industry Professor - Responsible Technology at the University of Technology Sydney. Ed co-founded the Human Technology Institute, which he leads with Prof Nicholas Davis and Prof Sally Cripps. Ed is leading a number of major initiatives to promote human-centred artificial intelligence. Focus areas include digital government, the future of AI regulation, and facial recognition and digital identity. From 2016-2021, Ed was Australia's Human Rights Commissioner, where he led the Commission's work on AI & new technology; refugees and migration; human rights issues affecting LGBTIQ+ people; national security; and implementing the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture. Ed is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law.

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Pia Andrews

Strategic Advisor of Public Services - Amazon Web Services

Pia Andrews is an open government, digital transformation and data geek who has been trying to make the world a better place for 20 years. She usually works within the (public sector) machine to transform public services, policies and culture through greater transparency, democratic engagement, citizen-centric design, open data, emerging technologies and real, pragmatic actual innovation in the public sector and beyond.

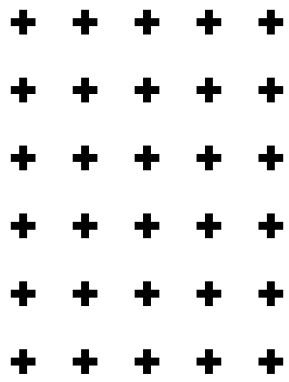


Professor Kimberlee Weatherall

University of Sydney & ADM+S

Professor Kimberlee Weatherall is a Professor of Law at the University of Sydney Law School, specialising in the regulation of emerging technologies and intellectual property law, a Chief Investigator with the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society (ADM+S), and an Honorary Fellow with the Gradient Institute. Her current work centres on regulation of ADM and AI, as well as data governance questions including questions around linkage of administrative data across government. She is also co-chair of the Australian Computer Society's AI Ethics Committee, and a member of the Data Sharing Taskforce led by the NSW Chief Scientist. She is currently leading a project seeking to map the use of automated decision-making across the NSW public sector in partnership with the NSW Ombudsman's Office.

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