



UNIVERSITY OF
CANBERRA

NEWS & MEDIA
RESEARCH CENTRE

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ANNUAL REPORT 2021

NEWS & MEDIA
RESEARCH CENTRE

News & Media Research Centre
Faculty of Arts & Design
University of Canberra

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Professor **Kerry McCallum**, N&MRC Director

2021 saw the News and Media Research Centre (N&MRC) consolidate its programs of research and impact through our members' continued passion for building knowledge about the societal impacts of the seismic changes taking place in our media landscape.

Many of our operations were once again forced online due to COVID-19 lockdowns, impacting on opportunities for fieldwork, workshop, and conference attendance. It was nevertheless a period of intense activity, collaboration and visibility for the N&MRC, enabled through online events, seminars, workshops, and forums. The Centre's reach and reputation expanded over the course of 2021, with a highly successful seminar series, and the growth of significant industry, academic and international networks. The online launches of our reports, including *The Coproduction of Open Source Software by Volunteers and Big Tech Firms*; *Covering COVID-19: How Australian Media Reported the Coronavirus Pandemic in 2020* and the *Digital News Report: Australia 2021* drew diverse international audiences. We even managed to host some in-person events including a highly successful launch of *Adult Media Literacy in Australia: Attitudes, Experiences and Needs* in April, and the roll-out of the Safe Online Together school and family workshops.

Our ongoing program of media audience and industry research remains at the heart of our activities. The Centre now has five ARC-funded projects, including *The Rise of Mistrust*. In 2021 N&MRC researchers were contracted to undertake research for government (ACMA, ACT government), NGOs (Alanna & Madeline Foundation; Australian Libraries; Judith Neilson Institute and Information Association), and industry (Google, Facebook and SBS). Some of these were supported by a special DVCR&I

linkage program. It was great to see member collaborations grow, bringing our quantitative and qualitative researchers together to address research problems such as misinformation, media literacy, journalists' role performance, and Indigenous media diversity.

I would like to thank Deputy Director Caroline Fisher who shared the responsibility as acting Director from June–November while I took a period of leave and acted as Faculty Associate Dean Research (ADR). Caroline led the development of the Media Futures policy forum which brought together representatives from the media and platforms, government, and community to discuss, under Chatham House rules, the big questions of the impacts of digital platforms and responses to the rise of misinformation. The outcome of this day of open dialogue was to set an ambitious agenda for research that must be conducted jointly between academia, industry, and government.

We were delighted to welcome Professor Stuart Cunningham to the N&MRC. Stuart brings a wealth of industry-focused academic experience and esteem and is working closely with Professor Sora Park and Dr Jee Young Lee, to develop our Media Industries program of research. While we were sad to see Dr Yoonmo Sang return to Korea, and Dr Catherine Page Jeffery to The University of Sydney, we were pleased to welcome them as Adjuncts to the Centre. Our cohort of adjuncts and international collaborators continued to grow, with a number of high-profile appointments. Distinguished Visitors

Stuart Cunningham and Lisa Waller each made a significant contribution, delivering workshops, public lectures, and mentoring emerging and experienced researchers across the Faculty of Arts and Design (FAD).

N&MRC continues to be embedded in FAD, with our members, associates and Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidates working across the faculty to deliver cutting edge Communication education and research training to our undergraduate, postgraduate coursework, industry short course and HDR students. As well as building our research capacity, N&MRC HDR candidates often work closely with our researchers as Research Assistants and undertake FAD HDR internships. A real highlight for me was the invitation to attend Charles Sturt University in November to reflect upon how we developed the N&MRC, and advise on building a research culture.

Our final event of the year was the highly successful Journalism Education and Research Association conference that included top journalists such as UC honorary Professors Katharine Murphy, Karen Middleton and Michelle Grattan, who engaged, challenged and inspired Australian Journalism researchers.

It really was a big year for the N&MRC!

N&MRC 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Over
12.5k

*Page Views for
Digital News Report:
Australia 2021
via APO*

10

*Symposia
& Workshops*

28

*Funded
Projects*

40+

*International
Adjuncts &
Collaborators*

80+

*Media
Engagement*

55+

*Academic
Publications*

8

*Industry
Reports*

*Landmark
N&MRC Policy
Forum*

100+

*New Twitter
Followers*

21

*HDR
Students*

2

*Conference
Convenors
—JERAA &
ANZCA*

5

*Category 1
Grants*

Just under
\$800k

*in New
Research Funding*

11

*Centre
Members*

Over
4.25k

*Downloads for
Digital News Report:
Australia 2021
via APO*

20

*N&MRC
Seminars*

ABOUT US

WHAT WE DO

Based within the Faculty of Arts & Design at the University of Canberra (UC), the N&MRC advances public understanding of our changing media environment. The N&MRC is Australia's only specialist research centre dedicated to exploring news consumption, social and digital media networks, and the societal impacts of communication technologies.

Established in 2013 and positioned in the nation's capital, the N&MRC is a national research hub with wide and deep connections across disciplines, industries, academic and public institutions. Through its Category 1 grants and industry focused research, the Centre's work is being used to inform government policy in the areas of media regulation, public interest journalism, and social media use in politics, Indigenous affairs and mental health.

The Centre has an established record of interrogating the development, circulation, and impact of media on societal discourses to address critical issues for government, industry and community. The N&MRC is globally recognised as the home of the only longitudinal study of digital news consumption trends in Australia, through its Digital News Report: Australia.

Located in UC's Faculty of Arts and Design, the N&MRC provides a strong educational foundation for the Discipline of Communication and Media Studies, and engagement with local communities, national and international policymakers.

In 2021 the N&MRC had eleven core members and twenty one HDR students. The high quality of Media and Communication research at UC was ranked at world standard by the most recent Excellence in Research for Australia evaluation.



RESEARCH LABS

Critical Conversations

Associate Professor Mathieu O'Neil leads the Critical Conversations Research Lab (CCL) which investigates the way issues of social and political concern emerge through media and digital networks to enable public participation and influence political agendas. The CCL studies our hybrid media system in the context of political and social environments at the local, national and global levels.

We conduct qualitative and mixed-methods research into citizen engagement, inclusion and exclusion, the networks and trajectories of causes and controversies, and their influence on political systems and media institutions. Our research promotes and encourages informed public debate on the role and performance of news and media in contemporary society.

Key areas of focus are:

- Public discourse studies
- Political communication strategies
- Media and public inquiries
- Social media and diplomacy
- Indigenous media and policymaking
- Participatory media, activism, campaigns and controversies
- Media institutions and industries
- Digital literacy and inclusion

Digital News+

Professor Sora Park leads the Digital News+ Research Lab which is a media enterprise where researchers, practitioners and students work together to deliver research innovation in newsrooms, organisations, teaching and research. We provide solutions to the significant challenges and opportunities which exist for news organisations and journalists through a multidisciplinary approach including user experience, data analytics, communication, advertising, marketing and journalism.

Key areas of focus are:

- Digital News Report: Australia
- Digital innovations in news production, distribution and consumption
- Entrepreneurship in news media
- Social media and journalism practice
- Crisis in news, journalism and democracy

Media Cultures

Associate Professor Glen Fuller leads the Media Cultures Research Lab that interrogates the role of media, communication and new technologies in constructing, maintaining, and changing cultures.

It examines the impact of digital media technologies on social behaviour and social change; and it explores the complex relationships between media and communication practices in our daily lives including all areas of work, health, education, and recreation.

Key areas of focus are:

- New communication cultures and democratisation of information
- People's personal and small data practices
- Media use, consumption, sharing and creation
- Gender and media
- Conflict and incivility
- Space, mobility and work
- Health, physical activities, digital technologies and media

N&MRC TEAM



Professor Kerry McCallum
DIRECTOR

 @Kerrymccallum

Research expertise: Changing media and social policy discourse, media and inquiry, Indigenous media

Kerry is Director of the N&MRC. Her research specialises in the relationships between media, discourse and Australian social policy. She is the co-author of 'The Dynamics of News and Indigenous Policy in Australia' (Intellect, 2017), and is currently lead investigator on the ARC-funded project 'Breaking Silences: Media and the Child Abuse Royal Commission'. Kerry is former President of the Australian and New Zealand Communication Association (ANZCA) and Member of the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). She previously worked in federal parliament in political and media advisory roles.



Associate Professor Caroline Fisher
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ENGAGEMENT

 @Csquaredfisher

Research expertise: Journalism ethics and practice, regional journalism, news consumption, trust in news, political PR, media literacy

Caroline is an Associate Professor of Communication and Discipline Lead, Journalism. Her research focuses on the transformation of journalism in a changing news and communications environment. Caroline's research and teaching has a strong industry focus informed by her professional background as an ABC journalists and political media adviser.



Associate Professor Glen Fuller
LEAD, MEDIA CULTURES RESEARCH LAB

 @Eventmechanics

Research expertise: Media events, social media, media and enthusiasm

Glen conducts research at the intersection of media, technology and culture. His focus is the role of specialist media and the relation between media and enthusiasm (affect), both in the context of technology, experience and the shifting composition of relations. Other research interests include journalism and media industry innovation, and discourse and media events.



Associate Professor Mathieu O'Neil
LEAD, CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS RESEARCH LAB

 @mathieuoneil

Research expertise: Adoption of causes and innovations in the online environment, environmental, health and political controversies, organisational communication, political economy of commons-based peer production, social movements and social change, social network analysis

Mathieu leads the Critical Conversations Lab. He is also Honorary Associate Professor of Sociology at the Australian National University, where he contributed to the creation of the Virtual Observatory for the Study of Online Networks, a world leader in e-research and big data analytics.



Professor Sora Park
LEAD, DIGITAL NEWS+ RESEARCH LAB

 @sorapark

Research expertise: Digital inclusion policies, media industry studies

Sora's research focuses on digital media, media markets and media policy. She has written widely on the economics of television, newspaper markets and other information industries. Sora researches digital media user patterns, media markets and policy. She is also interested in emerging media user patterns in the digital media environment.



Professor Stuart Cunningham AM

MEMBER



Research expertise: Media policy and creative industries

Professor Stuart Cunningham AM is a Professor of Communication in the Faculty of Arts and Design at the University of Canberra, and Distinguished Emeritus Professor in the Creative Industries, Education and Social Justice Faculty at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia. Cunningham is author, co-author or co-editor of twenty books, more than 30 industry and policy reports, over 250 chapters and articles, and a wide range of general articles and public communications. Across his stellar career as a research leader in humanities and social science, he has received more than \$A28 million in research funding. From 2005 to 2013, Cunningham was Director of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation (CCI), the first Centre of Excellence based in the humanities.



Dr Kate Holland

MEMBER & SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW



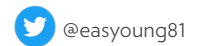
Research expertise: Media studies, public health and health communication

Kate's research sits at the intersection of media studies, public health and health communication. She has led and collaborated on research projects examining news reporting and its impacts in relation to topics such as mental health, violence against women, obesity, alcohol and pregnancy and infectious diseases. Kate specialises in qualitative research methods including in-depth interviewing, focus groups, news framing, discourse and thematic analysis. She has also published on topics such as health humanities and research ethics.



Dr Jee Young Lee

MEMBER



Research expertise: Digital inclusion policies, digital media and society

Jee is the Chief Statistical Analyst for the Digital News Report project and has developed a program of research in the fields of communication and media across diverse research methods and also different cultures with collaborations both within Australia and internationally. Her research focuses on social and cultural impacts of digital communication and technologies, including emerging digitally excluded social groups in developed communities, digital engagement and digital trust among young people and growing technology adoption in emerging markets, such as Asia-Pacific regions, and its effects on individuals and societies.



Associate Professor David Nolan

MEMBER



Research expertise: Communication development, journalism studies and changing media environments in intercultural relations

David Nolan is Associate Professor of Communication and researcher in Journalism Studies. David's research has three interconnected strands of inquiry: a) understanding how media and journalism practices shape and are shaped by shifting social and political relations; b) understanding the role of journalism and changing media environments in intercultural relations and the politics of 'race', citizenship and belonging, and c) The implications of media change in the field of humanitarianism and development communication. David is the author of more than 50 academic publications and has been lead researcher on two ARC Linkage projects: *Media Treatment and Communication Needs of Sudanese Australians* (2011-14) and *Amplifying Indigenous News: A digital intervention* (2019-22).



Dr Catherine Page Jeffery

MEMBER

@Catpage78

Research expertise: Digital media and technological change, parenting cultures and digital media use within families, moral panics and mass media framing of digital media use, teenagers' digital mass media use and the intersection of gender, including perceptions about 'gendered' online practices such as 'drama' and cyberbullying, and sexualised self-representation

Dr Catherine Page Jeffery is a Lecturer in Communication and Media at the University of Canberra. She completed her PhD in 2019 which examined parental anxieties, knowledges and practices in relation to their teenage children's use of digital media. Prior to academia she worked for Australia's ICT research centre of excellence; and in cyber safety education and media regulation.



Dr Yoonmo Sang

MEMBER

@iwbaj01

Research expertise: New Digital culture, Media law and policy

Yoonmo's primary research interests center on the intersection of new media technologies and the law and focus on the question of how socio-cultural and technological changes advantage and/or disadvantage different stakeholders. He brings his international perspective and cross-cultural research experience to the study of the intersection of new communication technologies and the law. He is on the editorial boards of three journals: *Social Media + Society*, *Communication Law Review*, and the *Journal of Media Law, Ethics, and Policy Research*, a journal of the Korean Society for Media Law, Ethics, and Policy Research. His previous positions include Assistant Professor at Howard University in Washington, D.C., Research Associate at the American Library Association's Office for Information Technology Policy, Doctoral Research Assistant at the Technology and Information Policy Institute at the University of Texas at Austin, and Business Banker at Shinhan Bank in South Korea.



Dr Kieran McGuinness

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER (ECR) REPRESENTATIVE & POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW

Research expertise: Mixed methods approaches to news audience research

Kieran McGuinness is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the News & Media Research Centre at the University of Canberra. He is a co-author of the *Digital News Report: Australia* project and specialises in longitudinal research on digital media users and news consumption. His recent research focuses on mixed method approaches to news consumption, misinformation, journalistic role performance, and defence journalism.



Dan Andrew

HIGHER DEGREE BY RESEARCH REPRESENTATIVE

Thesis Title: Selling the Audience: The role of advertisers in the audience marketplace
Supervisory Panel: Kerry McCallum (Primary) and Glen Fuller (Secondary)



Peta Sinclair

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Research Support Coordinator

ADVISORY BOARD

The N&MRC is overseen by an international advisory board who review and monitor the Centre's strategic direction and performance on a regular basis. The 2021 Advisory Board meeting was held via Zoom in June, with Board members providing detailed feedback on revised research foci and the N&MRC research agenda. Their feedback was instrumental in refining the Centre's focus into three new research Labs, and to shaping the N&MRC's successful UC Strategic Research Centre funding bid.

2021 ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Robert Ackland

Leader, Virtual Observatory for the Study of Online Networks, ANU

Rachel Davey

Director, Health Research Institute, University of Canberra

Glen Fuller

Head of School of Arts and Communication, University of Canberra

Gerard Goggin

Wee Kim Wee Professor of Communication Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Lelia Green

Professor of Communications, Edith Cowan University

Catherine Middleton

Canada Research Chair in Communication

Technologies in the Information Society, Ryerson University

Katharine Murphy

Political Editor, The Guardian Australia

Julian Thomas

Director, ARC Centre of Excellence, RMIT University

ADJUNCTS & FELLOWS

Simon Baker

Researcher and Monitoring and Evaluation Expert, Australian National University.

Peter Browne

Editor, Inside Story.

Paul Crawford

Professor of Health Humanities, University of Nottingham.

Anna Draffin

Chief Executive Officer, Public Interest Journalism Initiative (PIJI).

Michelle Dunne Breen

Assistant Director, Communication and Engagement (Media), ACT Health Directorate.

Tom Greenwell

Freelance journalist.

Virginia Haussegger

Director, 50/50 by 2030 Foundation.

Greg Jericho

Columnist for Guardian Australia and The Drum, Lecturer in Communication and Media Studies, University of Canberra.

James Mahoney

Adjunct Professor of Professional Communication, University of Canberra.

David Marshall AM

Director, Talkforce Media Consultants.

Catherine Middleton

Canada Research Chair in Communication Technologies in the Information Society, Ryerson University.

Katharine Murphy

Political Editor, Guardian Australia.

Laure Muselli

Associate Professor of Information Systems Management, Telecom Paris.

Se-uk Oh

Principal Researcher & General Manager of Digital Innovation Support Group, Korea Press Foundation.

Franco Papatrondola

Adjunct Professor of Communication, University of Canberra.

Luke Pearson

@IndigenousX founder and Aboriginal Education Consultant.

Robert G. Picard

Professor and North American Representative of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, Oxford University.

Yoonmo Sang

Assistant Professor at the Department of Media Communication, Sungshin Women's University.

Mike Santer

Adjunct Professor ICT4D and Founder Director, BluPoint.

Eli Skogerboe

Professor at the Department of Media and Communication & Co-director of POLKOM—Center for the Study of Political Communication, University of Oslo.

Michael Socolow

Associate Professor at the Department of Communication and Journalism, University of Maine.

Luke Toy

Director, Medical Practice, Australian Medical Association.

Lisa Waller

Associate Dean, Communication & Professor of Digital Communication, RMIT University.

DISTINGUISHED FELLOWS

The Faculty of Arts and Design appointed three FAD Distinguished Fellows in 2021 to foster institutional partnerships in research and to develop sustainable connections with the research community in Australia. The Distinguished Fellows spent time at UC mentoring, collaborating and engaging with our researchers and students during 2021.



Professor
**Stuart
Cunningham AM**

Stuart Cunningham AM is Emeritus Professor of Media and Communications, Queensland University of Technology and Senior Associate, Outside Opinion. He has published extensively on topics such as emerging digital industries, the creative industries and national innovation policy, and Australian screen culture and industry. He directed the first ARC Centre of Excellence based outside the sciences (Creative Industries and Innovation) from 2005 to 2014 and has had substantial senior management experience at QUT. He is a fellow of the UK-based Academy of Social Sciences and the International Communication Association, and an inaugural fellow in Cultural and Communication Studies, Australian Academy of the Humanities. He was invested as a Member of the Order of Australia in 2015. His books include *Hidden Innovation: Policy, Industry and the Creative Sector* (University of Queensland, 2013) and the co-authored *Media Economics* (with Terry Flew and Adam Swift, Palgrave, 2015) and *Social Media Entertainment: The new intersection of Hollywood and Silicon Valley* (with David Craig, New York University Press, 2019), *Creator Culture: Studying the Social Media Entertainment Industry* (edited with David Craig, New York University Press, 2021) and *Wanghong as Social Media Entertainment in China* (with David Craig and Jian Lin, Palgrave, 2021).



Professor
Lisa Waller

Dr Lisa Waller is Professor of Digital Communication in the School of Media and Communication, RMIT University, Australia. Since entering academia in 2007 she has published widely in Media and Communication studies. Her research is concerned with how the media shapes society, from Indigenous Affairs policy, to its roles in regional and rural areas, the administration of justice and political accountability. She is a member of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and is a Research Associate in the Centre for Rural Criminology at the University of New England. Lisa is a chief investigator on four current Australian Research Council funded projects: *Breaking Silences: Media and the child abuse royal commission* (DP190101282); *Promissory democratic representation: Campaign promises in Australia* (DP210102480); *Amplifying Indigenous news: A digital intervention* (LP180100201) and *Innovation and the civic future of Australia's country press* (LP180100813). Lisa was a journalist on newspapers, including *The Australian*, and *The Australian Financial Review* before entering academic life. She is the co-author of Hess, K & Waller, L (2017) *Local Journalism in a Digital Age* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan) and McCallum, K & Waller, L (2017) *The Dynamics of News and Indigenous Policy in Australia* (Bristol: Intellect).

EMERITUS PROFESSORS



The late R. Warwick Blood

The late R.W. Blood has published widely on risk communication, especially the news reporting and portrayal of health issues, such as suicide, mental illness, obesity and influenza. He has conducted research in these areas for several government departments, including the National Health and Medical Research Council and BeyondBlue.



Peter Putnis

Peter Putnis researches journalism and media history. He has been an Expert Panel Member of the Australian Research Council in the area of Humanities and Creative Arts, and has contributed to scholarship on international communication and global news networks, politics and media.

ALUMNI

2020

Morris Carpenter

Senior Research Assistant, School of Public Health, University of Queensland.

Liam Engel

Adjunct Research Fellow, School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Edith Cowan University.

Chris Kim

Researcher, Department of Defence.

Kieran McGuinness

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, N&MRC, University of Canberra.

2019

Jayan Kurian

Lecturer, Information and Communications Technology, University of the Sunshine Coast.

Catherine Page Jeffery

N&MRC Member and Lecturer in Communication and Media, University of Canberra.

Prarawan Senacha

Lecturer, Department of Marketing, Khon Kaen University.

2018

Je Young Lee

N&MRC Member and Lecturer in Communication and Media, University of Canberra.

Teresa Ryan

Senior Project Officer/Lecturer, Office of the First Peoples Directorate, Australian Catholic University.

2017

Melissa Sweet

Founder and Editor-in-Chief, Croakey Health Media.

Temple Uwalaka

Lecturer, Arts and Communication, University of Canberra.

2015

Michelle Dunne Breen

Assistant Director, Communications and Media Strategist, City Renewal Authority.

James Mahoney

Adjunct Professor of Professional Communication, University of Canberra.

David Marshall

Director, Talkforce Media Consultants.

2013

Katrina Clifford

Senior Lecturer in Communication, Deakin University.

Lisa Waller

Associate Dean, Communication & Professor of Digital Communication, RMIT University.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Jason Bainbridge

Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts and Design, University of Canberra.

Scott Bridges

Managing Director, Australia-Middle East Journalism Exchange and Lecturer in Communication and Media, University of Canberra.

Shaun Cheah

Program Director (Communication & Media) & Discipline Lead—Bachelor of Communications & Media, Faculty of Arts & Design, University of Canberra.

Rachel Cunneen

Senior Lecturer—Teacher Education & Secondary ITE Deputy Program Director, Faculty of Education, University of Canberra.

Janet Fulton

Researcher in Communication and Media & Adjunct Associate Professor, RMIT University.

Greg Jericho

Columnist for Guardian Australia and The Drum, Lecturer in Communication and Media Studies, University of Canberra.

Irfan Khan

Assistant Professor of Marketing, Canberra School of Business, University of Canberra.

Monique Lewis

Lecturer, School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science, Griffith University.

Sarah Maslen

Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Canberra.

Peter Radoll

Professor of Information Technology and Pro Vice Chancellor, Indigenous, University of Canberra.

Barbara Walsh

Associate Professor, Associate Dean, International and Work Integrated Learning, Faculty of Arts & Design, University of Canberra.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Dr Megan Deas

Projects: Breaking silences: Media and the Child Abuse Royal Commission (Kerry McCallum) and ASRP—Co-developing a new approach to media literacy in the attention economy (Mathieu O'Neil).

Dr Janet Fulton

Projects: JERAA Conference 2021 (Caroline Fisher) and Literature Reviews (Caroline Fisher & Glen Fuller).

Dr Alanna Myers

Projects: Amplifying Indigenous News: A digital intervention (David Nolan) and

Breaking silences: Media and the Child Abuse Royal Commission (Kerry McCallum)

Aeisha Saunders

Project: Amplifying Indigenous News: A digital intervention (David Nolan).

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS & STAFF

Sue Atkinson

Research Assistant

Projects: Safe Online Together: an integrated approach to navigating the risks and opportunities of digital media for families and young people (Catherine Page Jeffery), Adult Media Literacy in Australia: Attitudes, Experiences and Needs (Sora Park), Media Literacy in Australia: A Qualitative Study (Sora Park) and Engaging Culturally Diverse Communities in Times of Crisis: Identifying best practice for the ACT Government (Kate Holland).

Xiaolan Cai

Research Assistant

Projects: Mapping the co-production of digital infrastructure by peer projects and firms (Mathieu O'Neil), Health and Misinformation in Social Media (Mathieu O'Neil) and N&MRC Seed Funding Project (Mathieu O'Neil).

Ugyen Choden

Research Assistant

Project: The effects of voluntary activities for a community radio (Jee Young Lee).

Madelaine George

Administration Assistant

Project: JERAA Conference 2021 (Caroline Fisher).

Neenah Gray

Technical Support Officer

Project: Amplifying Indigenous News: A digital intervention (David Nolan).

Emma John

Research Assistant

Projects: Breaking silences: Media and the Child Abuse Royal Commission (Kerry

McCallum), COVID-19: Australian News and Misinformation (Sora Park), COVID-19: Australian News and Misinformation Longitudinal Study (Sora Park), and Measuring the impact of the eSmart Media Literacy Lab (Sora Park).

Mas Ju

Research Assistant

Project: State of the News Media in Asia (Caroline Fisher).

Lidia Kelly

Research Assistant

Projects: Journalistic Role Performance (David Nolan) and N&MRC Research Agenda—News Futures Policy Roundtable (Caroline Fisher).

Elyas Khan

Project Software Engineer

Project: Amplifying Indigenous News: A digital intervention (David Nolan).

Moon Byeong Kim

Research Assistant

Project: Digital News Report: Australia 2021 (Sora Park).

Ummi Kultsum

Research Assistant

Project: State of the News Media in Asia (Caroline Fisher).

Nyingari Little

Research Assistant

Project: Engaging Culturally Diverse Communities in Times of Crisis: Identifying best practice for the ACT Government (Kate Holland).

Vishakha Paradkar

Research Assistant

Project: Adult Media Literacy in Australia:

Attitudes, Experiences and Needs (Sora Park).

Anji Perera

Research Assistant

Project: Local News Consumers (Sora Park).

Jing Su

Research Assistant

Projects: Journalistic Role Performance (David Nolan), Adult Media Literacy in Australia: Attitudes, Experiences and Needs (Sora Park), and Media Literacy in Australia: A Qualitative Study (Sora Park).

Hang Tran

Research Assistant

Project: State of the News Media in Asia (Caroline Fisher).

Ava Wang

Research Report Production Designer

Project: N&MRC Annual Report 2020 (Kerry McCallum), Digital News Report: Australia 2021 (Sora Park), COVID-19: Australian News and Misinformation Longitudinal Study (Sora Park), 2016 Debian Project survey: work and volunteers (Mathieu O'Neil) and Media Literacy in Australia: A Qualitative Study (Sora Park).

Pinker Yao

Research Assistant

Projects: State of the News Media in Asia (Caroline Fisher) and The rise of mistrust: Digital platforms and trust in news media (Sora Park).

ABOUT ALANNA

Alanna Myers is an early career researcher whose work focuses on the relationship between media representations and social outcomes, particularly in relation to environmental issues and Indigenous affairs reporting. She is currently the project manager for the ARC Linkage Project Amplifying Indigenous News: A Digital Intervention, led by Assoc. Prof. David Nolan in the News & Media Research Centre, and also works as a research assistant on the ARC Discovery Project Breaking Silences: Media and the Child Abuse Royal Commission, led by the N&MRC's Prof. Kerry McCallum. She juggles these roles alongside a teaching position at the University of Melbourne, where she teaches into the undergraduate Media and Communications program.



Dr Alanna Myers

ALANNA'S STORY

After being born and raised a country girl in north-east Victoria, Alanna made the big move to Melbourne to pursue a degree in Media and Communications in 2006, graduating from the University of Melbourne in 2008. A growing concern about the climate crisis and involvement in climate activism led her to write her Honours thesis on media coverage of the COP15 UN climate change conference in Copenhagen, particularly the phenomenon of climate change scepticism. It was her Honours supervisor, David Nolan, who first encouraged her to take up a PhD, which she did in 2012 with the loose idea to write about media and environmental activism. As she read deeper into this area, the intractability of environmental activism from unresolved questions of Aboriginal land rights and ways of knowing in the Australian settler context became increasingly evident to her. This led Alanna to choose as her doctoral case study the campaign against a proposed gas hub at James Price Point in the Kimberley region of Western Australia, which brought together a diverse collective of locals, environmental activists, and traditional owners. Her thesis examined the mediated politics of this highly contested proposal and explored the persistence of colonial discourses in contemporary struggles over Aboriginal land.

Since completing her PhD in 2016, Alanna has worked as a researcher on various projects alongside continuing her teaching work with undergraduate and postgraduate students, a role that she loves. Her role with the Amplifying Indigenous News project has allowed her to expand and enrich her research into questions of Indigenous voice and agency in Australian media. Despite being based in Melbourne (with the occasional visit to Canberra—too few and far between sadly due to COVID-19!), since joining the N&MRC in 2020 Alanna has felt warmly welcomed and inspired by the rich diversity of projects and research that the centre supports. She has valued particularly the mentorship and collegiality of colleagues David Nolan and Kerry McCallum. Alanna will soon be taking a break from academia to pursue a project of a different kind—she and her partner are expecting their first baby in July 2022.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & OUTPUTS

- Myers, A., Waller, L., Nolan, D. & McCallum, K. (2021) Expanding Boundaries in Indigenous News: Guardian Australia, 2018–2020. Journalism Practice doi:10.1080/17512786.2021.1874484.
- Hess, K., McCallum, K., Waller, L., & Myers, A. (2021). Local journalism and the ethics of inquiry. Ethical Space: The International Journal of Communication Ethics, 18(3/4), 20-35.
- Myers, A., McCallum, K. and Waller, L. (2021) "A dark legacy": How The Courier covered institutional child sexual abuse, 2010-2019. Paper presented to Communication, Authority and Power. Australian and New Zealand Communication Association Annual Conference. Virtual: The University of Melbourne, July 6-9.
- Myers, A. (2017) The mediated (in)visibility of offshore oil and gas. Paper presented to Democracy, Borders and Public/Political Engagement: Challenges for Environmental Communication. 14th Biennial Conference on Communication and Environment. Leicester: University of Leicester, June 29-July 2.
- Myers, A. (2016) "A pinprick on the peninsula": Place, media and environmental conflict at James Price Point. PhD thesis, Melbourne: The University of Melbourne.
- Myers, A. (2015) An "unremarkable" place: Contesting value and constructing place in the James Price Point no-gas campaign. Paper presented to Bridging Divides: Spaces of Scholarship and Practice in Environmental Communication. 13th Biennial Conference on Communication and Environment. Boulder: University of Colorado, June 11-14.
- Myers, A. (2013) "Sceptics" and "Believers": The Anti-Elite Rhetoric of Climate Change Scepticism in the Media pp. 261-272 in L. Lester and B. Hutchins (eds.) Environmental Conflict and the Media. New York: Peter Lang.
- Myers, A. (2012) More than Melting Glaciers: Making Climate Change Meaningful. Review of Mediating Climate Change by Julie Doyle (2011). Communication, Politics and Culture 45: 164-7.

FACULTY OF ARTS AND DESIGN (FAD) —HDR TRAINING PROGRAM

The FAD HDR Training Program ran again in 2021 in order to continue to address the ongoing needs and demand of HDR students in their professional development. While student satisfaction in the supervision quality is very high, students have been expressing their desire to be a part of a broader research community and to learn about the trajectory of academic careers that can lead to post-award outcomes.

In 2021 the N&MRC provided opportunities for FAD HDR candidates to gain first-hand experience working on projects in the Centre with our team of experienced researchers.



The Faculty developed this scheme to provide structured training to HDR's in both education and research, by allocating students to training supervisors and adopting an internship model of learning. Teaching and research staff will take on trainees in their units or research projects for a three to nine month duration in a calendar year. The training supervisor and trainee agrees upon a work plan and both parties write an outcome report at the end of the program. This will not only help HDR's learn new skills but also will build a culture of learning and support within the Faculty.

This program provides a space where HDR's consolidate and broaden their learning by applying theory to practice in an academic work setting. In the process they deepen their theoretical understanding, develop employability skills and gain an understanding of how they can contribute to their field as emerging researchers.

HIGHER DEGREE BY RESEARCH STUDENTS

**Fawzia Alosaimy**

Thesis Title: Exploring the Use of Snapchat in Family Life in Saudi Arabia
Supervisory Panel: Glen Fuller, Sora Park, Scott Bridges

**Dan Andrew**

Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend Scholarship Recipient

Thesis Title: Selling the Audience: The role of advertisers in the audience marketplace
Supervisory Panel: Kerry McCallum, Glen Fuller

**Nabeela Asghar**

Thesis Title: Youth and Hate Speech: Role of Religious Leadership in Shia-Sunni Conflict
Supervisory Panel: Mathieu O'Neil, Tahmina Rashid

**Saffron Bianchi-Howden**

Thesis Title: Reducing the impact of disinformation and misinformation: Innoculation vs factchecking
Supervisory Panel: Sora Park, Caroline Fisher, Jee Young Lee

**Xiaolan Cai**

Thesis Title: Open source smart city projects and impacts on civic engagement in Australia
Supervisory Panel: Mathieu O'Neil, Barbara Norman

**Mona Chatskin**

RTP Stipend Scholarship Recipient

Thesis Title: Malka Leifer in News Landscapes: Community engagement with mainstream and religious media practice in cases of alleged Jewish institutional child sex abuse in Australia.
Supervisory Panel: Kerry McCallum, David Nolan

**Paul Conroy**

Thesis Title: The Media's Role in the Politics of Contemporary Serious Police Misconduct in Australia
Supervisory Panel: David Nolan, Kate Holland, Kerry McCallum

**Emma John**

ARC 'Breaking Silences' Stipend Scholarship Recipient

Thesis Title: Different Voices: A critical discourse analysis of the ABC's coverage of Australia's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.
Supervisory Panel: Kerry McCallum, Caroline Fisher

**Lidia Kelly**

RTP Stipend Scholarship Recipient

Thesis Title: Capturing Crimea: Challenges and Constraints for Foreign Correspondents in Contemporary Territorial Conflicts
Supervisory Panel: David Nolan, Caroline Fisher, Kerry McCallum, Peter Putnis

**Natalie Larkins**

Thesis Title: Disconnect Between Normative Ideals of Journalism and Practice in Australia
Supervisory Panel: Caroline Fisher, Kerry McCallum, David Nolan

**Lilik Mardjianto**

Thesis Title: Mapping and Analysis of Disinformation and Fact-Checking in Indonesia

Supervisory Panel: Kerry McCallum, Caroline Fisher, Jee Young Lee

**Kania Mayastika**

Thesis Title: Designing Culturally Appropriate ESP Materials for Political Science Students in Indonesia

Supervisory Panel: Jee Young Lee, Maya Gunawardena, Sora Park

**Nadrah Nadrah**

Thesis Title: The Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Teacher Professional Education Program (TPEP) for English Teachers in Indonesia

Supervisory Panel: Sora Park, Caroline Fisher, Yoonmo Sang

**Anji Perera**

RTP Stipend Scholarship Recipient

Thesis Title: Connecting the drops—connecting communities: beyond boundaries of water literacy

Supervisory Panel: Sora Park, Mathieu O'Neil, Ross Thompson, Thomas Mollenkopf

**Shara Ranasinghe**

Thesis Title: Enhancing Patient-centered Cancer Communication during cancer treatment

Supervisory Panel: Kate Holland, Kasia Bail, Sora Park

**Prue Robson**

Thesis Title: Positioning Canberra: the effectiveness of place image communications in attracting residents to places facing unfavourable stereotypes

Supervisory Panel: Kerry McCallum, Cathy Hope, James Mahoney

**Sonya Sandham**

Thesis Title: It's not noise: Employee voices in organisational discourses in an era of digital disruption

Supervisory Panel: Glen Fuller, Cathy Hope

**Jing Su**

N&MRC Stipend Scholarship Recipient

Thesis Title: Talking to a Bot is a turn off: users experiences of chatbot communication

Supervisory Panel: Jee Young Lee, Sora Park

**Hang Tran**

Thesis Title: Coverage of closing the gap framework's implementation on major news sites in Australia 2008-2017

Supervisory Panel: Kerry McCallum, Sora Park, Wendy Somerville

**Kathleen Veteri**

Thesis Title: Negative Partisanship in Journalistic Reporting Relating to the 2019 Australian Federal Election

Supervisory Panel: Glen Fuller, Caroline Fisher

**Danyi Wang**

Thesis Title: Negotiating and Integrating Sociocultural Identities Among Chinese Immigrants in Australia

Supervisory Panel: Sora Park, Susan Thwaites



Emma John

ABOUT EMMA

Emma John is a PhD Candidate and Research Assistant at the University of Canberra's News and Media Research Centre. Emma completed her BA in National Security and International Relations at the University of Canberra before entering UC's Honours Program. There, she began to consider academia as a career. Emma's Honours thesis focused on the role of discourse in maintaining women's underrepresentation in Australian federal politics, and that study's focus on the relationships between power and language remains a strong research interest. Prior to starting her PhD, Emma was employed as a pilot by the Royal Australian Air Force.

ABOUT EMMA'S RESEARCH

Emma's PhD is attached to the Breaking Silences: Media and the Child Abuse Royal Commission ARC Discovery Project and explores the ABC's coverage of the Royal Commission. Her methodology entails a critical discourse analysis of ABC reporting, with a particular focus on the framing of victim-survivors in discourses of child sexual abuse and the challenges of navigating existing structures of power while attempting to hold powerful institutions to account.

Emma has worked on a number of N&MRC projects as a research assistant, including: "News and Wellbeing: Older Generations and News Consumption", "COVID-19: Australian news and misinformation longitudinal study", "Measuring the impact of the eSmart Media Literacy Lab", "Understanding gambling harms in the digital age", and "Breaking Silences: Media and the Child Abuse Royal Commission". She was also a recipient of the Faculty of Arts and Design Research Training Program Scholarship in 2021 where she enhanced her quantitative research experience. As part of the scholarship, Emma helped develop and deliver a project that used data from the Digital News Report: Australia to consider the relationship between women's representation in the news and the economic value of news. The project's findings will be presented at the International Communication Association Conference in May 2022.



Jing Su

ABOUT JING

Jing graduated from the University of Canberra with a Master's in Communication (Marketing stream) in 2018. She is currently doing her doctoral study in everyday algorithms with a household focus. Jing's also a Research Assistant based in the N&MRC. Prior to taking a turn from her industry roles to academia, she had a five-year experience in advertising agency and business firms, practicing in the areas of account management, branding and digital marketing. She also holds a Master's in Public Relations and Advertising, awarded by University of New South Wales. Jing is a mentee of 2022 cohort at the 11th Annual Doctoral Consortium of the Communication and Technology Division/ Mobile Communication Interest Group of the International Communication Association (ICA).

ABOUT JING'S RESEARCH

Jing's doctoral dissertation attempts to explore how people incorporate algorithms into their everyday lives by exploring the technological, social and cultural complexities embedded in family technology usage. Her methodology employs 'media-related practice' as a theoretical and methodological vehicle to launch the inquiries into the everyday algorithm-related practices of families and their algorithmic literacy. Her areas of interest are algorithms in media, domesticity in media technologies and everyday algorithms and the audiences.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

OUR NETWORK OF COLLABORATIONS

- Patricia Aufderheide (American University Washington D.C., USA)
- Hsuan-ting Chen (The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong)
- Sujin Choi (Kyung Hee University, South Korea)
- Paul Crawford (University of Nottingham, UK)
- Mélanie Dulong de Rosnay (Centre Internet et Société of the CNRS, France)
- Ivor Gaber (University of Sussex, UK)
- Anthea Garman (Rhodes University, South Africa)
- Eliza Govender (University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa)
- Gerard Goggin (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)
- Rhonda Grantham (National Library of New Zealand, NZ)
- Maya Defianty & Didin Hidayat (Syarif Hidayattullah State Islamic University Jakarta, Indonesia)
- Avery E. Holton (The University of Utah, USA)
- S Mo Jones-Jang (Boston College, USA)
- Jaemin Jung (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, South Korea)
- Jae-Jin Lee (Hanyang University, South Korea)
- Jennifer Lees-Marshment (The University of Auckland, NZ)
- Claudia Mellado (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Chile)
- Peter Mezei (University of Szeged, Hungary)
- Catherine Middleton (Ryerson University, Canada)
- Laure Muselli & Stefano Zacchiroli (Telecom Paris, France)
- Fred Pailler (University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg)
- Se-uk Oh & Ahn Park (Korea Press Foundation, South Korea)
- Jong Jin Park (University of Michigan, USA)
- Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism—The University of Oxford, UK.
- Yoonmo Sang (Sungshin Women's University, South Korea)
- Mike Santer (BluPoint, UK)
- Molly Scudder (Purdue University, USA)
- Eli Skogerboe (University of Oslo, Norway)
- Michael Socolow (University of Maine, USA)
- Natalie Stroud & Sharon Strover (The University of Texas at Austin, USA)
- Edson Tandoc (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)
- Weiai (Wayne) Xu (University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA)
- Scott Wright (Bournemouth University, United Kingdom)

HDR STUDENTS

- Fawzia Alosaimy (Saudi Arabia)
- Nabeela Asghar (Pakistan)
- Lilik Mardjianto, Kania Mayastika & Nadrah (Indonesia)
- Hang Tran (Vietnam)
- Jing Su, Danyi Wang & Pinker Yao (China)

SYMPOSIA, REPORT LAUNCHES & WORKSHOPS

FAD Distinguished Fellow Workshop

22 March 2021

Human coding for critical discourse analysis: a hands-on workshop
Professor Lisa Waller

Workshop Abstract: Discourse analysis becomes critical when both what is present and what could have been there but is absent in a text is examined (Richardson 2007, p. 38). This kind of analysis is best done through human coding as computer programs are unable to categorise beyond the programmed rules, or to identify the range of meanings of a word, or to consider the context of content. Questions of interest to discourse analysts are, for instance: 1. Why are some things said and others not? 2. How are things said and what influence might this have on social relations? 3. Is a text helping to continue inequalities and other such social practices, or challenging them? (Carvalho 2010, p. 15; Richardson 2007, p. 42)?

In this workshop, participants will be introduced to the basics of human coding using a simple coding sheet that can be adapted to specific projects and can help researchers identify and work with sets of key variables and categories. Human coding of these key variables and categories can be used to detect the 'framing' and 'evolution' of media coverage.

Australian Media Literacy Research Symposium

13 April 2021

The National Film and Sound Archive was the venue for the launch of the Media Literacy in Australia report, a panel discussion on News, Misinformation and Media Literacy, keynote presentation by Paul Mihailidis that brought together industry stakeholders to discuss media literacy in Australia (see p. 48)

N&MRC Workshop

29 April 2021

Preparing for an ARC Discovery project
Professor Kerry McCallum



▲ Professor Lisa Waller, hosting Human coding for critical discourse analysis: a hands-on workshop, 22 March 2021.

2021 EVENTS

Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) Workshops

30 April 2021 & 18 November 2021

Dr Jee Young Lee

Workshop Abstract: This workshop will introduce the fundamentals of SPSS and related features, in particular how to code raw data of a new dataset, perform quantitative analysis (descriptive and Inferential) and interpret. The format of the workshop is instructor-led with hands-on practice. If you prefer to use your own laptop in the workshop, please install SPSS software via the Software Centre on your laptop. If it is your personal laptop, you can visit the Service Desk (Building 1) and request SPSS installation. Digital News Report 2020 data will be used in the workshop. If you have data to analyse, please bring the data and questionnaire (or coding scheme).



Coproduction of Open Source Software Report Launch

9 June 2021

The coproduction of open source software by volunteers and big tech firms
Mathieu O'Neil, Xiaolan Cai, Laure Muselli, Fred Pailler & Stefano Zacchiroli



Covering COVID-19 Report Launch

20 July 2021

Covering COVID-19: How Australian Media Reported the Coronavirus Pandemic in 2020
David Nolan, Kieran McGuinness, Kerry McCallum (N&MRC, UC) & Conal Hanna (Stream)

News Futures: Research & Policy Roundtable

3 September 2021

N&MRC hosted 37 industry, government and community media leaders to discuss, under Chatham House rules, a range of urgent media policy issues, and to articulate a media research and policy agenda. Topics included the implementation of the News Media Bargaining Cod, industry and policy responses to misinformation in social and legacy media and the urgent need for coordinated media literacy programs.

N&MRC HDR IndigenousX Workshop

22 October 2021

Nothing about us without us: Indigenous ownership in research and teaching
Hosted by David Nolan | Luke Pearson & James Saunders

Workshop Abstract: This workshop, run by Indigenous media practitioners and educators, will explore the potential benefits and harms that media practitioners, educators and researchers pose to Indigenous peoples, collaborators, colleagues and community.

Split into two sessions, Session One will explore lessons from IndigenousX's role as a media consultancy company working alongside government departments, cultural institutions, peak bodies and media agencies on Indigenous specific campaigns and related events.

Session Two will look at IndigenousX as a media outlet, what separates them from mainstream media, and what they would like to see in future from non-Indigenous media practitioners and organisations.



The Conversation: Michelle Grattan and Peter Martin talk the year that was with Dr Caroline Fisher

10 November 2021

Dr Caroline Fisher

2021 is drawing to an end. The pandemic continued, climate change was debated (still) and misinformation ran riot. On a more positive note, borders began to open and The Conversation celebrated its 10th birthday with the publication of a collection of the essays that put it on the map: No, You're Not Entitled To Your Opinion and 49 other essays that got the world talking (Thames & Hudson). Dr Caroline Fisher was joined by Michelle Grattan, Chief Political Correspondent at The Conversation and Peter Martin, Business and Economy Editor, to discuss the highlights and lowlights of 2021 and take an expert punt at what 2022 will hold.

N&MRC SEMINAR SERIES

In 2021 N&MRC hosted a highly successful series of 20 online seminars, showcasing research from emerging scholars, industry and academic leaders, N&MRC members and distinguished visitors.



15 February

Safe Online Together Project: An Integrated Approach to Navigating the Risks and Opportunities of Digital Media for Families and Young People
Presented by: Dr Catherine Page Jeffery & Ms Susan Atkinson



16 March

Don't mention the i-word
Presented by: Professor Stuart Cunningham AM

25 March

Institutional Alliances and International Accreditation: Networks in the production and resourcing of fact-checking
Presented by: Professor Lisa Waller



1 April

COVID-19 online: Health professional engagement with rumour-based and factual hashtags on Twitter
Presented by: Dr Irfan Khan, Dr Mathieu O'Neil, Dr Kate Holland & Xiaolan Cai



8 April

Platforms, publishers and the future of news: Treating journalism as critical democratic infrastructure
Presented by: Dr James Meese



3 May

Crowdsourced politics: the rise of online petitions & micro-donations
Presented by: Professor Ariadne Vromen & Professor Darren Halpin



17 May

'Thank you for sharing': Overcoming Disinformation through Democratic Deliberation
Presented by: Dr Nicole Curato

3 June

"You're not going to listen to me anyway": exploring young people's attitudes towards local government communication and stakeholder engagement in the ACT
Presented by: Ms Prue Robson



17 June

Public interest journalism and influencing the narrative during the pandemic
Presented by: Dr Greg Jericho

21 June

Golden Moments in Dark Times: Women Media Professionals & Political Accountability in the age of COVID, QAnon & Christian Porter
Presented by: Dr Chris Wallace



12 July

Tesla and Making Sense of the Energy Transition
Presented by: Professor Glen Fuller



19 July

Telephone hotlines in Papua New Guinea: a review of three research projects
Presented by: Dr Amanda H A Watson

2 August

COVID Contradictions: Trust, misinformation and audience perceptions of news and information in a hybrid media environment
Presented by: Dr Kieran McGuinness

19 August

Social media news and news engagement
Presented by: Dr Hsuan-Ting Chen



30 August

Social media in a crisis: Facebook as an official communication tool in a crisis
Presented by: Dr Jee Young Lee & Ms Susan Atkinson

2 September

Buying and selling extremism: New funding opportunities in the right-wing extremist online ecosystem
Presented by: Ariel Bogle



16 September

Must we like pets?
Presented by: Dr Ian Buchanan



7 October

We are born obsolete: Shame, laughter and the monstrous everyday
Presented by: Dr Chris Muller



4 November

Social Media and Fake News during a Global Pandemic: An example of COVID-19 in Nigeria
Presented by: Dr Temple Uwalaka

18 November

Mapping IT firm and foundation discourses about open source
Presented by: Dr Mathieu O'Neil

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



◀ CEO of Sky News Australia, Paul Whittaker, addresses the Senate Environment and Communications Committee for the Media Diversity Enquiry (6 September 2021).

ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT

ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS

Sora Park | Professorial Research Fellow | Professor of Communication, News & Media Research Centre, University of Canberra.

DISCIPLINARY LEADERSHIP

Caroline Fisher | Acting Director News & Media Research Centre—June 2021 to December 2021.

Caroline Fisher | Conference convenor, Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia (JERAA) 2021 annual conference.

Caroline Fisher | The Conversation selected one of her articles (The vomit principle, the dead bat, the freeze: how political spin doctors' tactics aim to shape the news), for inclusion in their book of the best 50 essays published since they began ten years ago (No, You're Not Entitled to Your Opinion).

Kate Holland | Member of the UC Health Humanities Network (Methodologies subgroup).

Kerry McCallum | Acting Associate Dean Research for Faculty of Arts & Design (13 September–30 November 2021).

Kerry McCallum | Attended the 65th Walkley Awards on behalf of the Centre (26 February 2021).

Kerry McCallum | Hosted the University of Canberra Professional, Research and Teaching Excellence awards ceremony (9 November 2021).

Kerry McCallum | News and Media Research Centre. Presentation to the University of Canberra Council (21 July 2021).

Kerry McCallum | University of Canberra Leaders Initiative, Outside Opinion (2021).

David Nolan | Editorial Board Member, Media International Australia.

David Nolan | President, Australian and New Zealand Communication Association (ANZCA).

David Nolan | 2021 Conference Co-convenor, Australian and New Zealand Communication Association (ANZCA).

Mathieu O'Neil | Founder, Digital Commons Policy Council

Mathieu O'Neil | University of Canberra E-Research Committee Member.

Sora Park | International Communication Association (ICA) Future of ICA Conferences Task Force.

Sora Park | International Media Management Academic Association (IMMAA) Scientific Advisory Committee.

Sora Park | Presented at the ANZCA 2021, Presidential Address—on Challenges in Communication Scholarship and Rebuilding Trust (7 July 2021).

Sora Park | University of Canberra ERA Advisory Committee Member.

Yoonmo Sang, Jee Young Lee & Sora Park | Guest Editors for The Production and Reception of News Podcasts: Global Perspectives—Media International Australia.

GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES, INQUIRIES AND BRIEFINGS

Kerry McCallum | Presentation to Australian Communication and Media Authority (ACMA)—COVID-19 News and Misinformation (7 April 2021).

Sora Park | Presented at a private briefing for Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) around Podcast Trends and Issues in Australia (17 August 2021).

Sora Park | Presented at a private briefing for Australian Community Media (ACM) around Podcast Trends and Issues in Australia (19 August 2021).

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Kate Holland | IAMCR Conference 2021 panel presentation with Monique Lewis, Mapping national news reports on COVID-19 in Australia: Topics, sources and imagined audiences (July 2021).

Kate Holland | IAMCR Conference 2021 panel presentation, Communicating COVID: Transforming society one pandemic at a time (July 2021).

Kerry McCallum, Sora Park & Mathieu O'Neil | N&MRC Delegation to the United States embassy, Canberra (5 February 2021).

Caroline Fisher | Panelist at the Regional Media in the Digital Age Summit, Charles Sturt University. (3 November)

Jee Young Lee | Public lecture for the FAD International Cooperation with Public Relations Programme Faculty of Communications, Universitas Padjadjaran (Indonesia): K-Pop and social media (2021).

Mathieu O'Neil | Featured in the Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology section (CITAMS) of the ASA,

CITAMS Summer 2021 Newsletter—The coproduction of open source software by volunteers and big tech firms. (Summer 2021).

Kieran McGuinness | UNESCO WJEC Fact Checking and Verification as Core Curriculum Roundtable. 'Verification behaviours: How do we solve the problem of passive engagement with news?' (24 November)

PANELS & PRESENTATIONS

Kerry McCallum | Covering COVID—Media in the age of the pandemic—ABC Friends NSW & ACT, Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF) & the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) (3 November 2021).

Kerry McCallum | Guest speaker with Lisa Waller Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity workshop, University of Melbourne, Indigenous Policy and Media (10 February 2021).

Caroline Fisher | Panellist for Friends of the ABC about state of the news media (21 March 2021).

Amanda Watson, Rebecca Gredley & Mathieu O'Neil | Public debate at Wright Hall, ANU—Media ownership and misinformation (24 March 2021).

Sora Park | Presented at the Australian Media Literacy Research Symposium—on Adult media literacy in Australia: Attitudes, experiences and needs (13 April 2021).

Sora Park | Panelist for The Media Entertainment & Arts Alliance (MEAA) and the Walkley Foundation discussion around MEAA Journalistic Code of Ethics 101 (6 May 2021).

Caroline Fisher, Sora Park, David Nolan, Kieran McGuinness & Natalie Larkins | Australian regional journalists' role perceptions at a time of upheaval—ICA Conference 2021 (28 May 2021).

Kate Holland & Olaf Werder | Communicating as Social Practice: How to Improve Health Communications —ICA Conference 2021 (28 May 2021).

David Nolan, Alanna Myers, Lisa Waller & Kerry McCallum | Expanding Boundaries in Indigenous News: Guardian Australia, 2018-2020—ICA Conference 2021 (28 May 2021).

Yoonmo Sang, Patricia Aufderheide & Minjeong Kim | Fair use in practice: South Korean film directors' copyright understanding compared to U.S. filmmakers—ICA Conference 2021 (May 2021).

Kate Holland | Marketing Mental Health: Critical Reflections on Literacy, Branding and Anti-Stigma Campaigns—Canadian Communication Association Conference (Health and Communication I: Promotions and Pandemics) (2 June 2021).

Kate Holland | Participated in the #CroakeyREAD Twitter fest on #CommunicatingCOVID (21 June 2021).

Catherine Page Jeffery, Sue Atkinson, Yoonmo Sang & Kerry McCallum | Safe Online Together Project: An Integrated

Approach to Navigating the Risks and Opportunities of Digital Media for Families and Young People—ANZCA Conference 2021 (July 2021).

Kate Holland & Monique Lewis | Politically engaged audiences and the emergence of the public health citizen: COVID-19 news reporting in Australia—ANZCA Conference 2021 (4 July 2021).

Caroline Fisher, David Nolan, Sora Park, Kieran McGuinness & Natalie Larkins | Australian regional journalists' role perceptions at a time of upheaval—ANZCA Conference 2021 (7 July 2021).

Caroline Fisher (Scott Wright, Edward Hurcombe, Jane Tan, Axel Bruns, Daniel Angus, Sofya Glazunova, Stephen Harrington, Phoebe Matitch, Dennis Leefink) | Tackling the "information disorder": Researching media mistrust, 'fake news', and platform-based vectors of mis- and disinformation—ANZCA Conference 2021 (8 July 2021).

Alanna Myers, Lisa Waller & Kerry McCallum | 'A dark legacy': How Ballarat's local newspaper covered institutional child abuse 2010-2019—ANZCA Conference 2021 (9 July 2021).

David Nolan, Kieran McGuinness, Kerry McCallum & Conal Hanna | Covering COVID-19: How Australian media reported the coronavirus pandemic in 2020—ANZCA Conference 2021 (9 July 2021).

David Nolan & Steven Maras | Panel Convenors for ACA @ 40 Curated Panel discussing the history, present and future of communication research and teaching—ANZCA Conference 2021 (9 July 2021).

Kate Holland | Presented at the UC Health Humanities Network Roundtable, A snapshot of health humanities in Australia and New Zealand (29 July 2021).

Sora Park | Guest Lecturer for Faculty of Arts & Design (FAD) Undergraduate Unit—The Grand Experiment—on Misinformation (9 August 2021).

Sora Park | Presented at the Australia-Korea-New Zealand Next Generation Policy Forum on News & Misinformation in Asia-Pacific (17 August 2021).

Sora Park | Guest Lecturer for Faculty of Arts & Design (FAD) Postgraduate Unit—Communication Trends and Innovation—on Media economics and the changing business of news (23 August 2021).

Mathieu O'Neil | Participated in the Media Literacy Consultation Workshop at AMLA (16 September 2021).

Mathieu O'Neil, Kate Holland & Xiaolan Cai | Presented for the ANU School of Sociology, Social Production of Mental Health Seminar #5—Framing Mental Health in the Australian Online Environment (21 September 2021).

Sue Atkinson & Jee Young Lee | Social media—connecting and sharing in a bushfire crisis—AFAC Conference 2021 (5 October 2021).

Jing Su & Jee Young Lee | An emerging change in luxury brand consumption: an interview study of Chinese young consumers—

Global Fashion Management Conference (November 2021).

Sora Park | Presented at the Research Workshop in Regional Media Use—on International Digital News Survey, CSU (5 November 2021).

Kerry McCallum | Formulation of Public Opinion, guest lecture, Communicating Politics (23 February 2021).

Kerry McCallum | Supporting Super Supervisors—Panelist, University of Canberra Researcher Development workshop (15 November 2021).

Kerry McCallum, Lisa Waller and Alanna Myers | Proximal Witnessing: How the Ballarat Courier told the story of child sexual abuse to its local news audience, Journalism Education and Research Association of Australian Conference, (2 December 2021).

Caroline Fisher | 2 x guest lectures for the Faculty of Arts and Design on Trust in news, and Digital Platforms.

MEDIA ARTICLES

Caroline Fisher, Kerry McCallum & Sora Park | The Conversation: As Facebook ups the ante on news, regional and elderly Australians will be hardest hit (18 February 2021).

Tanya Notley, Michael Dezuanni, Simon Chambers & Sora Park | The Conversation: Less than half of Australian adults know how to identify misinformation online (14 April 2021).

Laure Muselli, Stefano Zacchiroli, Fred Pailier & Mathieu O'Neil | Polytechnique Insights—Employees of the web giants contribute most to open source software (8 June 2021).

Caroline Fisher & Sora Park | The Conversation: Australian are not aware news outlets are in financial trouble: new report (23 June 2021).

Caroline Fisher & Sora Park | BroadAgenda: Young Australian women dissatisfied with how media represents them (23 June 2021).

David Nolan, Kerry McCallum & Kieran McGuinness | The Conversation—Australian media showed their best in the covering of the COVID pandemic—at least for the first few months (29 July 2021).

Sora Park, Jennie Scarvell & Linda Botterill | The Conversation: Hit hard by the pandemic, researchers expect its impacts to linger for years (11 October 2021).

Rachel Cunneen & Mathieu O'Neil | Students are told not to use Wikipedia for research. But it's a trustworthy source—The Conversation (5 November 2021).

Caroline Fisher, Kerry McCallum & Sora Park | The Conversation: Is the news media bargaining code fit for purpose? (29 November 2021).

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

DIGITAL NEWS REPORT: AUSTRALIA 2021 (MORE THAN 200 NEWS STORIES COVERED FOR 2021)

ABC Everyday (Yasmin Jeffery) | Post-2020 I realised I needed to switch off from the new. This is how I did it (23 June 2021).

The Canberra Times (Lanie Tindale) | Australians vote Facebook worst social media platform for misinformation, study by Dr Sora Park and Dr Caroline Fisher from UC finds (23 June 2021).

Caroline Fisher & Sora Park | CBR City News: Trust in news rises but young women aren't so sure (23 June 2021).

Sora Park | Inside Story: Understanding the COVID trust bump (23 June 2021).

Sora Park | Interview on Mornings ABC Canberra with Adam Shirley: Digital News Report: Australia 2021 (23 June 2021).

Sora Park | Interview on Drive ABC Sydney with Andy Park: Digital News Report: Australia 2021 (23 June 2021).

Sora Park | Interview on The Conversation Hour with Richelle Hunt & Jonathon Kendall: Doomscrolling (23 Aug 2021).

RiotACT (Genevieve Jacobs) | Digital News Report shows huge drop in newspaper readers, no desire to pay for news (1 July 2021).

TV & RADIO INTERVIEWS

Caroline Fisher | Week in Politics with Michelle Grattan: The Conversation x 12 appearances in 2021.

Sora Park | Interview on Evenings with Laura Tchilingurian (ABC NSW): Doomscrolling (11 January 2021).

Sora Park | Interview on Breakfast, ABC Radio South East SA with Selena Green: Facebook's ban on news in Australia (19 Feb 2021).

Mathieu O'Neil | Interview on Drive with Leon Delaney, Radio 2CC: Misinformation (1 March 2021).

Sora Park | Interview on ABC 666 with Anna Vidot Drive: Adult Media Literacy in Australia. (14 April 2021).

Sora Park | Interview on Life Matters, ABC Radio National with Hilary Harper: Misinformation (26 May 2021).

Sora Park | Faculti interview: Australian Regional Journalists (26 May 2021).

Sora Park | Featured in Media Watch, ABC: Local news cuts (5 July 2021).

David Nolan | Interview on ABC Radio Canberra: Covering COVID-19: How Australian media reported the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 (July 2021).

David Nolan | Interview on Radio 2CC: Covering COVID-19: How Australian media reported the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 (20 July 2021).

Mathieu O'Neil | Interviewed by D'Scribe—Misinformation and media literacy (27 September 2021).

Caroline Fisher | WIN TV News, YouTube removes vaccine misinformation (30 September 2021).

Sora Park | Interview on the World Today with Carly Williams: What is Squid Game and why is Netflix being sued over the show? (5 October 2021).

Sora Park | Interview on Mornings, 6PR Radio, Perth with Liam Bartlett: Squid Game (7 October 2021).

Sora Park | Interview on Mornings, ABC Canberra with Adam Shirley: Media literacy in Australia (8 October 2021).

Mathieu O'Neil | Interview on ABC Sydney Breakfast—WP/literacy (8 November 2021).

Mathieu O'Neil | Interview on ABC Canberra Drive—WP/literacy (9 November 2021).

Caroline Fisher | Live stream video host for the launch of the Conversation's yearbook for 2021. Year in review with Michelle Grattan and Peter Martin (10 November 2021).

Catherine Page Jeffery | Interview on 2CC radio—safe online project (19 November 2021).

Mathieu O'Neil & Stefano Zacchioli | Featured on the Digital Infrastructure Podcast—The coproduction of open source software by volunteers and big tech firms. (22 November 2021).

Caroline Fisher | Trust, money, and politics: podcast with Hal Crawford (24 November 2021). Articles & Features

Sora Park | The Guardian: Facebook's message to media industry is clear: don't rely on us (24 February 2021).

Sora Park | Faculti: Australian regional journalists: what they need and how they see the future (26 May 2021).

Sora Park | ABC News (Emma Field & Sarah Lawrence): Concerns for local content in regional TV shake-up for Victorian, Queensland viewers (1 July 2021).

Sora Park | Featured in Inside Story by Margaret Simons: Is Sky News taking Australia by storm? (5 August 2021).

N&MRC | The Sydney Morning Herald: One of the government's most vocal ABC critics admits he doesn't watch it (8 August 2021).

N&MRC | Financial Review: AFR expands on Platinum coverage (23 August 2021).

Sora Park | The Sydney Morning Herald: Bullying must end, but it can't all be tweet nothings (14 September 2021).

N&MRC | Inside Story: Information warfare (8 October 2021).

Sora Park | The Canberra Times: Netflix's Squid Game and how it captured the world's attention and caused debate (22 October 2021).

Sora Park | ABC News Online: Don Hill accused of using South Gippsland Voices to boost council re-election campaign (22 October 2021).

Kerry McCallum | Croakey Health Media (Linda Doherty & Marie McInerney): What does the crisis in Australia's media mean for public health? (10 November 2021).

Kerry McCallum | Consumers Health Forum of Australia (blogpost): Taking journalism seriously—media in the age of COVID (11 November 2021).

Catherine Page Jeffery | HerCanberra: Free UC workshops aim to reduce conflict within families around media and technology use (18 November 2021).

Catherine Page Jeffery | Canberra Weekly: Digital media workshops bringing parents and teens together (22 November 2021).

Sora Park | The Guardian: No comfort at the bottom of the feed: how to prevent information overload in the time of COVID (27 December 2021).

FEATURED MEMBERS



**Associate Professor
Caroline Fisher**
Member

ABOUT CAROLINE

Caroline Fisher is Associate Professor of Communication, specialising in journalism studies and political communication. She is Deputy Director of the News and Media Research Centre and Discipline Lead of the journalism program. Caroline has strong connections to industry through her professional experience in media and politics and drives much of the engagement activity of the N&MRC. She is a regular media contributor and is a recognised commentator on journalism and the state of the news media and election campaigning in Australia.

Caroline was awarded her PhD from the University of Canberra in 2014 and has quickly established a strong publication record and success in attracting industry funding for applied research and policy development. She was promoted to Associate Professor in 2020.

She has 50 academic publications and research reports, and her work has featured in more than 300 media stories. In the past three years, Caroline has been awarded more than \$1 million in industry funding for independent academic research into news media consumption, markets, and policy. She has also been invited to give presentations locally, nationally, and internationally, including to the National Press Foundation in Washington D.C. Her research, teaching and engagement achievements have been recognized with the prestigious Ann Dunne Scholar Award (2018) for excellence in communication research, the Vice Chancellor's Early Career Researcher Excellence Award for the Humanities and Arts (2017), Vice Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Team Achievement in Research or Innovation (2018), Vice Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Award (2017, 2014); and the Futuro Above and Beyond Award for Industry Engagement and Research Impact (2019).

CAROLINE'S STORY

Caroline entered academia after a professional career in journalism and politics. Her experiences working as a reporter and producer for the ABC and as a senior media advisor in the Queensland government have strongly influenced her passion for research and teaching in journalism and political communication. Caroline grew up in Sydney in a socially and politically engaged environment. Her mother was heavily involved in the Nuclear Disarmament Party and ran for the Senate with Peter Garret in 1984. A student exchange to Germany during high school opened her eyes to international travel, global affairs and ongoing connections with German language and culture, in which she did her undergraduate degree at the University of New South Wales. Her deep interest in social justice and politics led her back to university to study a Master of Communication (Journalism) at Charles Sturt University. An internship at the ABC's flagship investigative journalism program, 4 Corners under the guidance of Chris Masters, cemented her commitment to journalism and its ability to lead to social change. Upon graduation, Caroline successfully applied for a cadetship at the ABC and moved to Brisbane to join their news team. Her early years with the ABC included a stint in Alice Springs, reporting rural current affairs for Landline, and covering North Queensland as the Townsville correspondent. In 1996 she won a Queensland Media Alliance Award for her trilogy of television news stories about a death in custody of an indigenous 17-year-old in Sir David Longland Jail. Her desire to see politics from the other side resulted in a transition to ministerial media advising for the then Queensland minister for Families, Anna Bligh. Caroline worked closely with her for three years, before returning to the ABC.

The experience of moving back and forth between journalism and political media advising raised many ethical issues for Caroline and became the focus of her PhD research entitled 'From 'watchdog' to 'spin-doctor': An examination of the transition from journalist to parliamentary media adviser and back again'. Her professional experience of and research into political public relations has been one of the foci of her research and publications, including in the leading *International Journal of Press/Politics*. She also conducts a fortnightly interview about the week in politics with veteran journalist, Michelle Grattan, for *The Conversation*.

In 2015, Caroline was employed by the University of Canberra under its accelerated Assistant Professor scheme and became a member of the News and Media Research Centre. Her co-authorship of the *Digital News Report: Australia* has developed her deep interest and expertise in digital news consumption, regional journalism, and trust in news. Her background in journalism and connections to industry made her a valuable member of the Centre focussed on industry and media engagement to ensure the work of the Centre is relevant and impactful. Most recently, she drove the 'News Futures: research and Policy Roundtable' with 30 representatives from government, media, and academia, to collaboratively discuss future research and policy directions in relation to the News Media Bargaining Code and tackling online misinformation.

Her impact and engagement focus has also resulted in several grants, including from the Google News Initiative, the Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas, and the federal government. Caroline strongly believes in the need to make academic research accessible and understandable to the wider public and prioritises the translation and publication of her work through the media, *The Conversation*, and *Inside Story*.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & OUTPUTS

- Fisher, C., Nolan, D., McGuinness, K., Park, S. (in press) Australian regional journalists' role perceptions at a time of upheaval, *Media International Australia*.
- Fisher, C. and Park, S. (in press) 'Economic and Existential Challenges Facing Journalism' Ch 15. In Flew, T. and Thomas, J. (eds) *The Sage Handbook of the Digital Media Economy*. Sage.
- Gaber, I., & Fisher, C. (2022). "Strategic Lying": The Case of Brexit and the 2019 U.K. Election. *The International Journal of Press/Politics*, 27(2), 460–477.
- Fisher, C. McCallum, K., Park, S. (2021) Is the news Media Bargaining Code Fit for Purpose? *The Conversation*.
- Fisher, Park, Lee, Holland, John (2021) Older people's news dependency and social connectedness, *MIA*, online first.
- Park, S., Fisher, C., Lee, J. (2021) Regional news audiences' value perception of local news, *Journalism*, 1-19.
- Fisher, C., Flew, T., Park, S., Lee, J., Dulleck, U. (2020) Improving Trust in News: Audience Solutions, *Journalism Practice*.
- Sang, Y., Lee, J. Y., Park, S., Fisher, C., & Fuller, G. (2020). Signalling and Expressive Interaction: Online News Users' Different Modes of Interaction on Digital Platforms. *Digital Journalism*.
- Fisher, C. (2018) What is meant by trust in news media? In *Trust in Media and Journalism: Empirical Perspectives on Ethics, Norms, Impacts and Populism in Europe*. Publisher: Springer Verlag. Editors: Otto, K., Kohler, A., pp.19-38.
- Fisher, C., Culloty, E., Lee, J., and Park, S. (2019) Regaining Control: Citizens who follow politicians on social media and their perceptions of journalism, *Digital Journalism*.
- Fisher, C., Marshall, D., McCallum, K. (2018) Bypassing the press gallery—from Howard to Hanson, *Media International Australia*, May special issue, 167 (1). Online First.

FEATURED MEMBERS



**PROFESSOR
STUART CUNNINGHAM AM**

New Member, 2021

ABOUT STUART

Stuart Cunningham started as a part time Professor in the Faculty through the News & Media Research Centre in mid 2021 after a period as Distinguished Visitor to the University earlier in 2021. He also holds the position of Distinguished Emeritus Professor in the Digital Media Research Centre at Queensland University of Technology.

He has recently completed a very ambitious program of research funded by an ARC Discovery grant into a new creative industry—social media entertainment. Over the last decade and a half, competing social media platforms have facilitated the rise of a new class of entrepreneurial producers and communicators. Operating at the intersection of entertainment and interactivity, and between the content and communication industries, social media entertainment creators have harnessed these platforms to generate new kinds of content that depend on community commitment for career sustainability.

Collaborating with Clinical Professor David Craig at USC Annenberg, he published the massive, field-defining study *Social Media Entertainment: The New Intersection of Hollywood and Silicon Valley* (New York University Press, 2019) and the reader *Creator Culture: An Introduction to Global Social Media Entertainment* (New York University Press, 2021). With Craig and ECR Jian Lin, associate professor at Zhejiang University, he complemented these with Wanghong as *Social Media Entertainment in China* (Palgrave, 2021).

He has also just completed a large ARC Linkage project, *Australian Cultural and Creative Activity: A Population and Hotspot Analysis*. It investigated the contemporary dynamics of cultural and creative activity in largely regional cities and towns across Australia before the outbreak of COVID-19. In the qualitative component of the project, fieldwork was conducted in 17 creative hotspots across five states: Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia. It looked at what makes each hotspot 'hot', in other words dynamic and growing.

The project began with an analysis of the 2016 Census. This analysis developed in parallel to the bulk of the work on regional 'creative

hotspots' and showed that, pre-COVID, the creative economy is a high growth economy. A source of a significant number of jobs across all industry sectors, it offers decent incomes and meaningful work resistant to automation and contributes more to exports than is generally understood.

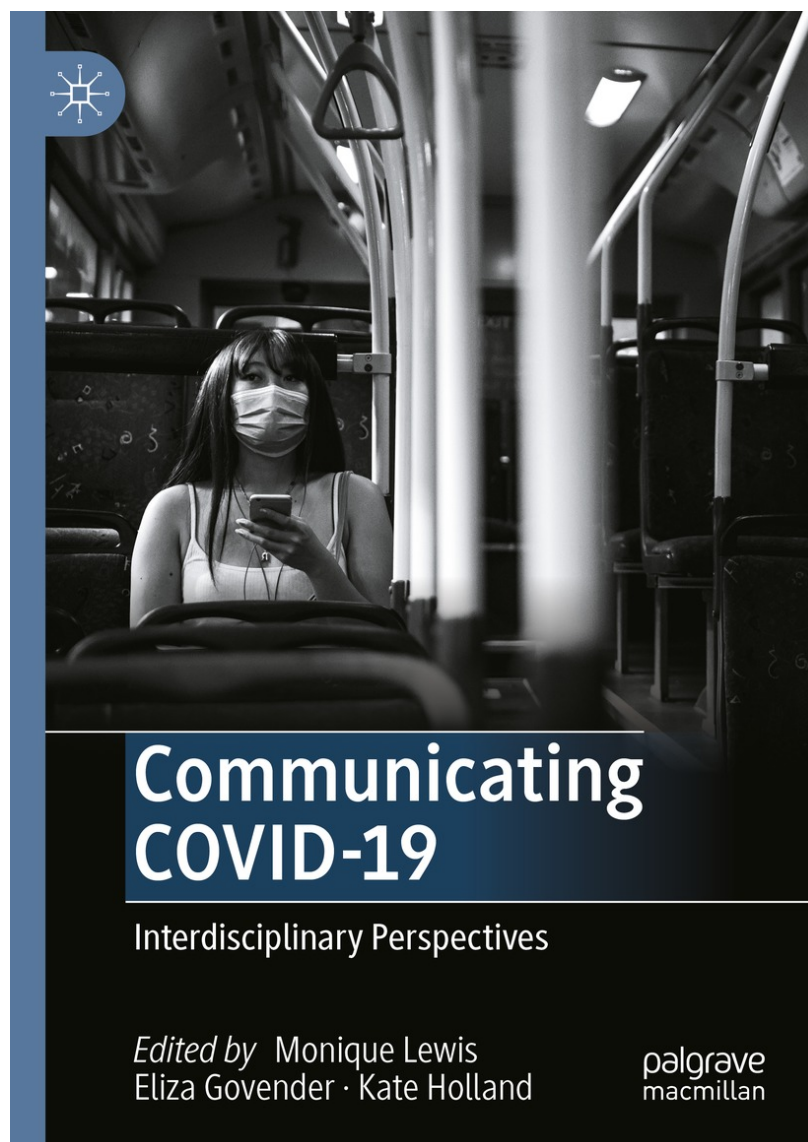
He plans to significantly innovate in this field of research through the News & Media Research Centre later this year if successful in an ARC Linkage application in which Professor Sora Park and Associate Professor Yogi Vidyattama (NATSEM) (along with RMIT's Associate Professor Scott Brook and QUT's Professor Greg Hearn) also are Chief Investigators. This project proposes to investigate a whole series of innovations in the measurement of the creative economy in Australia. It will measure second and subsequent incomes systematically for the first time; measure the impact of COVID at a population level by comparing 2016 with 2021; fold qualifications into the previous analyses of occupation and industry (called the 'Trident' method); and deepen the measurement of value contributed by those qualified in the creative disciplines.

KEY PUBLICATIONS

- Media International Australia: Special Issue: Celebrating the Career of Stuart Cunningham
- Flew, T. & Lotz, A.D. (2021). From Chauvel to creatives: Celebrating the career of Distinguished Professor Stuart Cunningham. *Media International Australia*, Vol. 182, Issue 1: 3-6.
- Gillies, M.G.W. (2021). Stuart Cunningham: From creative industries to creative economies, and beyond. *Media International Australia*, Vol. 182, Issue 1: 7-12.
- Flew, T. (2021). The ambivalent presence of economics in the work of Stuart Cunningham. *Media International Australia*, Vol. 182, Issue 1: 13-20.
- Bakhshi, H. (2021). How can we measure the creative economy? The Cunningham Project. *Media International Australia*, Vol. 182, Issue 1: 21-27.
- Aufderheide, P. (2021). Understanding the industry/state interface in creative industries studies. *Media International Australia*, Vol. 182, Issue 1: 28-34.
- Ibrus, I. (2021). Public value of media innovation systems: Building on Stuart Cunningham's work on media industries and innovation policy. *Media International Australia*, Vol. 182, Issue 1: 35-43.
- Thomas, J. (2021). Reframing culture: Stuart Cunningham's legacies. *Media International Australia*, Vol. 182, Issue 1: 44-47.
- Lotz, A.D. (2021). New Patterns of Flow and Rethinking International Mediascapes: The Influence of Stuart Cunningham on Theories of Television's Travels. *Media International Australia*, Vol. 182, Issue 1: 48-53.
- Lobato, R. (2021). The video years: Stuart Cunningham and screen industry research. *Media International Australia*, Vol. 182, Issue 1: 54-58.
- Craig, D. (2021). A Pedagogue's Progress, the Cunningham Turn, and the Birth of Creator Studies. *Media International Australia*, Vol. 182, Issue 1: 59-66.

NEW BOOK

COMMUNICATING COVID-19: INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES



Monique Lewis, Eliza Govender & Kate Holland/
Palgrave Macmillan, Springer International
Publishing AG.

On 7 October 2021 N&MRC Senior Research Fellow, Kate Holland's new book, 'Communicating Covid-19: Interdisciplinary Perspectives (with Lewis and Govender)' was released.

This book explores communication during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Featuring the work of leading communication scholars from around the world, it offers insights and analyses into how individuals, organisations, communities, and nations have grappled with understanding and responding to the pandemic that has rocked the world. The book examines the role of journalists and news media in constructing meanings about the pandemic, with chapters focusing on public interest journalism, health workers and imagined audiences in COVID-19 news. It considers public health responses in different countries, with chapters examining community-driven approaches, communication strategies of governments and political leaders, public health advocacy, and pandemic inequalities. The role of digital media and technology is also unravelled, including social media sharing of misinformation and memetic humour, crowdsourcing initiatives, the use of data in modelling, tracking and tracing, and strategies for managing uncertainties created in a pandemic.

DIGITAL NEWS REPORT: AUSTRALIA 2021



ABOUT THE DNR

This report is part of a long running international survey coordinated by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, an international research centre in the comparative study of journalism based at the University of Oxford. The Digital News Report delivers comparative data on media usage in 46 countries and across 6 continents.

The News and Media Research Centre at the University of Canberra is the Australian partner institute and author of the Digital News Report: Australia. This is the seventh annual Digital News Report: Australia.

Cite the report as: Park, S., Fisher, C., McGuinness, K., Lee, J.Y. & McCallum, K. (2021). Digital News Report: Australia 2021. Canberra: News & Media Research Centre, University of Canberra.

KEY FINDINGS

The high of COVID-19 news consumption slumps in 2021

This year's report reveals the rapid increase in news consumption by Australians at the start of the pandemic has not been maintained. The proportion of people paying for it has not increased, and interest in news has declined since 2020.

We also find Australians have become more trusting of news in general but concern about misinformation remains high. However, many Australians lack adequate levels of media literacy to identify it and the majority are unaware of the financial difficulty facing the news industry.

- Trust in news has rebounded to 43% but is well below the high of 53% trust in COVID-19 news coverage found in April 2020.
- News consumption has fallen from the COVID-19 high, with heavy news use dropping from 69% in April 2020 to 51% in January 2021, and lower than previous years.
- Interest in the news continues to decline, with those expressing high interest down from 64% in 2016 to 52% in 2021.
- Most Australians support impartial and balanced news; 73% agree news should present a range of views and 71% say news should give equal time to all sides.
- Women and young people say they are underrepresented in news, with 26% of Gen Z women saying news does not give their gender enough coverage.
- Local news continues to be an important part of Australian's news diet, and the findings confirm a significant role of local newspapers in generating a sense of community.

RESEARCH TEAM

Professor Sora Park is the Associate Dean of Research for the Faculty of Arts and Design and Professor of Communication at the University of Canberra. Her research focuses on digital media users, media markets and media policy. She is the Leader of the Digital News Report: Australia project.

Associate Professor Caroline Fisher is Deputy Director of the News & Media Research Centre, Associate Professor of Journalism in the Faculty of Arts & Design, University of Canberra and co-author of the Digital News Report: Australia project.

Dr Kieran McGuinness is the Digital News Report Postdoctoral Fellow at the News & Media Research Centre at the University of Canberra. His recent research focuses on mixed method approaches to news consumption, misinformation, journalistic role performance, and defence journalism.

Dr Jee Young Lee is a Lecturer at the Faculty of Arts and Design at the University of Canberra. Her research focuses on digital inclusion practices and policies, particularly for emerging digitally excluded social groups and the growing digital media consumption in emerging markets.

Professor Kerry McCallum is Director of the News & Media Research Centre. Her research specialises in the relationships between changing media and Australian social policy. She is the co-author of 'The Dynamics of News and Indigenous Policy in Australia' (Intellect, 2017), and is currently lead investigator on the ARC-funded project 'Breaking Silences: Media and the Child Abuse Royal Commission'.

THE COPRODUCTION OF OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE BY VOLUNTEERS AND BIG TECH FIRMS



ABOUT THE PROJECT

A significant impact of the Internet has been to enable new forms of collaboration by distributed teams. Today IT firms are working with communities of unpaid volunteers to produce open source code, used in the 'digital infrastructure' which powers contemporary communication and media industries. This project's cross-disciplinary team responded to a CFP by the Sloan and Ford Foundations. More than two hundred teams applied worldwide, thirteen were selected, and the N&MRC team was the only grantee from the Southern hemisphere. Social network analysis was used to track firm contributions to projects on GitHub, and ethnography and content analysis to map out firm employee discourses during three professional conferences.

KEY FINDINGS

Firm-project co-production network

We define 'industrial public goods' such as open source software as resulting from inter-firm cooperation, the overlap of volunteer and paid labor, and participation inequality. We collected commits by firm employees to active GitHub software repositories. Despite paid workers making more contributions, volunteers play a significant role. We found which firms contribute most, which projects benefit from firm investments, and we identified distinct firm 'contribution territories' as the two central firms (Microsoft and Google) never co-contribute to the top-20 repositories. This means there may

be 'contribution deserts' neglected by large IT firms, despite their importance for the open source ecosystem's sustainability and diversity.

IT firm and foundation discourses

Large and small IT firm employee presentations at open source conferences convey opposed visions of digital infrastructure, business models, and the firm-community relationship. The IT news media, 'Big Tech' firms and commercial foundations define firms and projects as forming a unified 'community.' Yet 'Big Tech' firms such as Amazon are using cloud computing and Software as a Service (SaaS) to transform open source software, which is intended to be shared and modified, into closed assets.

RESEARCH TEAM

Mathieu O'Neil is Associate Professor of Communication in the News and Media Research Centre, where he leads the Critical Conversations Lab. He researches digital commons, media and information literacy, and the trajectories of issues in the online environment. He founded the Journal of Peer Production in 2011 and the Digital Commons Policy Council in 2021.

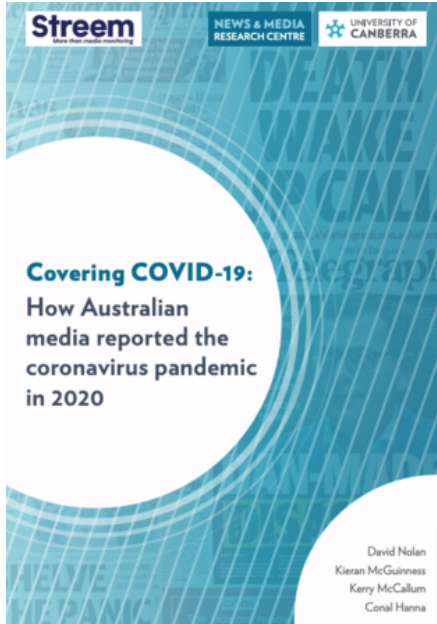
Xiaolan Cai is a PhD candidate at the University of Canberra's News and Media Research Centre. She researches community-led smart cities using computational and social network analytic methods.

Laure Muselli is Associate Professor of Information Systems Management at Telecom Paris, where she researches how new logics such as digital transformation or open source change work, occupations, identities and practices within organisations.

Fred Pailler is a post-doctoral researcher at C2DH, University of Luxembourg. He works on the uses of digital platforms and infrastructures in health, sexual, labour and/or political contexts.

Stefano Zacchiroli is Professor of Computer Science at Telecom Paris. His research interests span formal methods, software preservation, and Free/Open Source Software engineering. He is co-founder and current CTO of the Software Heritage project. He was elected Debian Project Leader for three terms (2010-2013). He is a former Board Director of the Open Source Initiative (OSI).

COVERING COVID-19: HOW AUSTRALIAN MEDIA REPORTED THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IN 2020



ABOUT THE PROJECT

This report presents the findings of a comprehensive study of the volume, patterns and nature of Australian journalists' reporting of the COVID-19 global health crisis during 2020. Researchers from the University of Canberra's News and Media Research Centre and media monitoring company Stroom identified 2,549,143 distinct news items about COVID-19 across online, television, radio and print media between January and November 2020. Items were coded into four themes, 14 categories and 37 distinct topics. We analysed how news media reporting contributed to the construction of the COVID-19 crisis in the context of the societal forces and factors that shape news and the processes and practices of journalistic decision-making.

KEY FINDINGS

Our findings show that by far the most dominant theme related to COVID-19 was information. This included stories about social distancing, tracking the spread of infections, case numbers and employment figures. By contrast, stories about conflict were the least covered. Only about a quarter of news items addressed this theme. In the first phase of the pandemic, a period of relative political consensus, news items tended to focus on informing citizens. Media played a 'civic' and 'loyal facilitator' role, encouraging people to be part of a common push to keep Australia safe. However, as 2020 wore on, cracks began to appear in the political consensus between

federal and state authorities. While federal authorities sought to gradually relax restrictions, most states refused to budge on issues such as state borders. Instead, they saw greater benefit in adopting an "elimination strategy" for their state. This gradual breakdown in political consensus saw a parallel breakdown in media consensus in the later months of the year. While the pandemic's early months saw 'social distancing' trend as a topic, this fell sharply in the second half of 2020. Then, more conflict-based stories centred on 'state borders' and, tellingly, 'blame' came to the fore. In terms of key news actors, the Australian media's focus on information pushed not only political leaders, but also medical officers to the fore as key sources in stories. Notably, too, state political leaders at times received much more coverage than their federal counterparts. In particular, coverage Victorian Premier Dan Andrews exceeded that of Prime Minister Scott Morrison between July and October. Overall, our findings suggest Australia's coverage in 2020 contributed to a more tempered and responsible response to the pandemic than we observed in overseas media, though by the end of 2020 the tone of coverage had shifted. This reflected, and arguably contributed to, the emergence of a more fractured and partisan political environment, and signalled a return to what we characterise as 'politics as usual' in media coverage.

RESEARCH TEAM

David Nolan is Associate Professor in Journalism, Media and Communication at the University of Canberra, and a member of the News and Media Research Centre. Prior to this, he was the Deputy Director of the Centre for Advancing Journalism at the University of Melbourne, and is the current Vice-President of the Australian and New Zealand Communication Association (ANZCA). Transformations in humanitarian communication and journalism.

Kieran McGuinness is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the News & Media Research Centre at the University of Canberra

Kerry McCallum is Director of the News & Media Research Centre.

Conal Hanna is Stroom's Media and Partnerships lead, providing journalists with regular analysis and commentary on the news cycle. Before joining Stroom he worked as Digital Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald, and Head of Audience and Strategy for Fairfax Media nationally. He is the recipient of a Melbourne Press Club award for Innovation in Journalism and has been a Walkley Award finalist.

NEWS FUTURES: RESEARCH & POLICY ROUNDTABLE

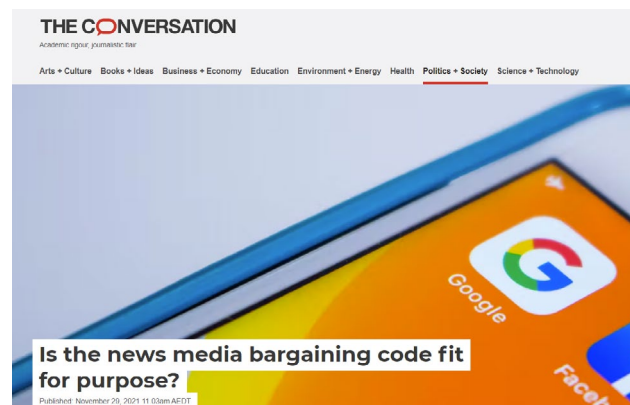
ABOUT THE EVENT

On 3 September 2021 the N&MRC hosted the News Futures roundtable, where 37 industry, government and community media leaders joined, under Chatham House rules, to discuss urgent media policy issues. Research conducted by the News & Media Research Centre (N&MRC) highlights that relentless disruption to the news industry and decline in news consumption are coupled with the challenges of combatting misinformation and low levels of media literacy. Research shows the heightened thirst for news during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic has not been sustained, with substantial levels of complacency and misunderstanding among news consumers about the current state of the news media industries.

While government and industry continue to seek the right combination of interventions, it is important to articulate a media research and policy agenda for the next decade and provide the evidence-base for policy reform. As the first step, the roundtable gave industry, government, and academia an opportunity to identify key research issues for industry and government to assist with policy into the future.

There is no one-size-fits all remedy to these problems but there is certainly a role for evidence-based research to help inform policy decisions and industry action about the news industry.

Following the roundtable, the N&MRC collated outcomes and produced a News Futures agenda for research paper. To maximise impact, we then published a piece in the Conversation about the impact of the News Media Bargaining Code on the Australian news



<https://theconversation.com/is-the-news-media-bargaining-code-fit-for-purpose-172224>

media, and made a submission the Treasury review into the efficacy of the News Media Bargaining Code.

PUBLICATION

- Fisher, K., McCallum, K., Park, S., Nolan, D., & O'Neil, M. (2021). News Futures: Research and Policy Roundtable. News & Media Research Centre, University of Canberra. <https://apo.org.au/node/315239>
- Fisher, C., McCallum, K. & Park, S. (2021, 29 November) Is the news media bargaining code fit for purpose? The Conversation. <https://theconversation.com/is-the-news-media-bargaining-code-fit-for-purpose-172224>.

PROGRAM - 3 SEPTEMBER 2021

Opening	8.00	Introduction
	8.06	Opening remarks
Session 1	8.10	News in the time of COVID-19: News consumption trends and issues
	8.11	Global insights from the Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2021
	8.36	Q&A
	8.48	DNR: Australia 2021 key findings
	9.10	Q&A
Break	9.20	
Session 2	9.30	News and digital platforms
	9.31	News Media Bargaining Code update
	9.49	News Media Bargaining Code update
	10.08	Round table discussion: Local and global responses, and research needs
Break	10.50	
Session 3	11.00	Combatting misinformation
	11:01	Policy responses to misinformation
	11:18	Round table discussion: Interventions, strategies, and research needs
Close	12.25	Closing remarks

JERAA 2021 CONFERENCE



ABOUT THE EVENT

The News and Media Research Centre JEERA 2021 conference from December 1-3, with the generous support of the Faculty of Arts and Design, and the Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation, MediaSuper, Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas, Mindframe, and Our Watch.

The conference examined the impact of policy and politics on the journalism industry, practice, and education. Located in the National Capital, it featured expert presentations by policy leaders, academic researchers, and journalists, discuss the success, failure, and future of policy on journalism in Australia.

CONFERENCE THEME

As journalism continues to adjust to shrinking revenues, increased competition and technological change, the news media also finds itself in a continually shifting policy environment as governments attempt to keep up with the pace of change. In Australia some of those responses include: a News Media Bargaining Code to level the playing field between the major digital platforms and news organisations; relief for news media during COVID-19 including the Public Interest News gathering Program for regional journalism; reform of broadcast licensing. In this context, government changes to university fees have impacted directly on the future of journalism education. On the political stage there have been calls for a Royal Commission into the impact of News Corp on Australian democracy; a Senate Inquiry established into media diversity. All the while, investigative journalism has held the government to account on a range of issues from allegations of war crimes to claims of sexual assault and harassment of women in parliament house. This has raised the temperature between journalists and politicians, including defamation action against the ABC.

HDR & ECR DAY—30 NOVEMBER 2021

- Panel 1: Alternative Career Paths
- Keynote: Engagement and Impact in Journalism
- Panel 2: Non-Traditional Research Outputs
- Panel 3: Dealing with rejection—writing journal articles and grants
- **Dr Sarah Maslen** (Associate Professor of Sociology, UC).

- **Dr Caroline Fisher** (Deputy Director, N&MRC, UC).
- **Professor Glen Fuller** (Head of School of Arts & Communication, UC).

CONFERENCE—1 DECEMBER TO 3 DECEMBER 2021

DAY 1

- Welcome to Country
- Plenary 1: Reporting of Gender Violence
- Keynote 1: Reckoning—Journalism's Limits and Possibilities
- Session 1A: Journalism & COVID-19
- Session 1B: Journalism Education
- Session 2A: Journalism Practice
- Session 2B: Diversity
- Session 2C: Panel: Panic, pivot, or progress? Reflecting on the challenges, pitfalls, and successful strategies of teaching journalism in a pandemic
- The Junction Report

DAY 2

- Keynote 2: What is Happening to our News? Challenges and Opportunities for Global Journalism
- Session 1A: News Industries & Policy
- Session 1B: Misinformation & Media Literacy
- **Dr Caroline Fisher, Dr Kieran McGuinness & Dr Jee Young Lee** (N&MRC, UC)
- **Dr Mathieu O'Neil** (N&MRC, UC) & **Dr Rachel Cunneen** (UC)
- Plenary 2: Finklestein Inquiry—10 Years On
- Session 2A: Gender
- **Dr Jee Young Lee & Emma John** (N&MRC, UC)
- Session 2B: Journalism Ethics
- Session 3A: Framing the News
- Session 3B: Reporting Abuse & Violence
- **Professor Kerry McCallum & Dr Alanna Myers** (N&MRC, UC) & **Professor Lisa Waller** (RMIT University)

DAY 3

- Keynote 3: The State of Political Journalism
- Plenary 3: Human Rights, Journalism and Press Freedom
- Session 1A: Political Policies & the Environment
- Session 1B: Regional & Community

ADULT MEDIA LITERACY IN AUSTRALIA: ATTITUDES, EXPERIENCES AND NEEDS



The report is part of the Adult Media Literacy in Australia research project, which was funded by the National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE) in the United States.

Tanya Notley, Michael Dezuanni, Simon Chambers & Sora Park, Less than half of Australian adults know how to identify misinformation online, | The Conversation: (14 April 2021).

AUTHORS

Dr Simon Chambers' research background is in quantitative and qualitative cultural sociology, with a particular interest in the dynamics of cultural fields and musical taste. He has previously worked at ABC Radio National and Classic FM and is currently a consultant analyst at both APRA AMCOS and the Australian Music Centre. He has also worked on a range of Australian Research Council projects spanning Australian cultural fields, the value of music exports and the development of personalised recommendation algorithms.

Professor Michael Dezuanni is Program Leader for Digital Inclusion and Participation in the Digital Media Research Centre at Queensland University of Technology. He is also a Chief Investigator in the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child. Michael has been a media literacy educator in schools, a past president of Australian Teachers of Media (Queensland), a teacher educator in media literacy, and he was the expert adviser to the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) for the development of Media Arts in the Australian Curriculum.

Dr Tanya Notley has 20 years of experience working with NGOs, public institutions, universities and the United Nations in the area of communication, technology and social change. She currently leads the project, Media Literacy in Australia. She is also a Chief Investigator on a new national project to support the digital inclusion of low income households (led by Michael Dezuanni at QUT). Tanya collaborates with a number of organisations to address media literacy, human rights and social justice and to design communication initiatives for social impact. She is the Deputy Chair of the Australian Media Literacy Alliance (AMLA).

Professor Sora Park is the Associate Dean of Research at the Faculty of Arts & Design, University of Canberra. She was former Director of the News & Media Research Centre. She is the project leader of the Digital News Report Australia, and author of Digital Capital (2017, Palgrave). She has published widely on the impact of digital technology on audiences, with a special focus on digital and social exclusion and the distribution of opportunities and privileges in society. She has extensive international experience in policy research and consultancy.

SUMMARY

The Adult Media Literacy in Australia report provides the first comprehensive analysis into how Australians understand and use different forms of traditional and digital media.

The report involves a collaboration between researchers at the Institute for Culture and Society at Western Sydney University, the Digital Media Research Centre at Queensland University of Technology and the News and Media Research Centre at the University of Canberra.

In November and December 2020 the research team surveyed a sample of 3,510 adult Australians to understand the different types of media they use, the value they place on different media activities, their confidence in their own media abilities and their access to media literacy support.

The findings show that most Australians use several different types of media each day, they believe a diverse range of media activities are important in their lives, but their confidence in their own media abilities is unexpectedly low. The findings also show that far too many Australians don't have access to any media literacy support when they need it.

The report co-authors argue that given how integral media is to all aspects of our lives, far more needs to be done to address the needs of groups who are the least confident about their media abilities and who have access to the least support. The findings also show that increasing media literacy can yield direct benefits for increasing people's civic engagement.

AUSTRALIAN MEDIA LITERACY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

ABOUT THIS PROGRAM

Our lives are now so saturated with information and media that the ability to use media effectively is a pre-requisite for full participation in society.

Media literacy refers to people's ability to critically engage with information and media in all aspects of their life. At the heart of this critical engagement is the ability to critique media and information as well as media technologies and business models. This includes knowing the way these produce, challenge and subvert relationships, representations and power.

We conducted the first national media literacy survey of adult Australians and found that although most people believe that media literacy is critical to many aspects of their life, many have no access to support when they need it.

This symposium included synchronous events in Brisbane, Sydney and Canberra. Each event featured a panel discussion with researchers and practitioners about the state of media literacy in Australia. Key findings from our research follow the panel discussion.



We hope that these events will help to build momentum and support collaboration to ensure that media literacy research can inform policy and practice at a time when media literacy is now on the Australia policy agenda.

The event speakers discussed how media literacy research can help address key challenges we face in Australian society including the widespread online circulation of misinformation, social and racial inequality, and a lack of trust in our democratic systems.

PROGRAM – 13 APRIL 2021

Time	Session
10:45am – 10:55am	Attendees arrived
11:00am – 12:00pm	International Keynote Speaker: Associate Professor Paul Mihailidis, Emerson College, Boston, USA – Civic Media Literacies: Pursuing equitable and just civic futures in a time of rampant media cynicism
12:00pm – 12:30pm	Lunch
12:30pm – 2:00pm	Panel Event: News, misinformation and media literacy
2:00pm – 2:30pm	Afternoon Tea
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Media Literacy in Australia Report Launch – opening remarks by Professor Leigh Sullivan, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Research & Innovation, University of Canberra



CANBERRA EVENT: THEATRETTE, NATIONAL FILM & SOUND ARCHIVE (NFSA)

Keynote Speaker: 'Civic Media Literacies: Pursuing equitable and just civic futures in a time of rampant media cynicism'

Around the world today, societies are increasingly navigating fractured media ecosystems. As we increasingly rely on information and communication from platforms that conflate fact with fiction, and prioritise sensational information over that which is credible and

complex, we struggle with increased distrust of and cynicism towards our public institutions, not least of all media institutions. As media technologies continue to develop at ever rapid paces, providing people with the skills and dispositions to navigate these environments is a civic and democratic necessity. It is also a public health priority. The keynote talk introduced civic media literacies as a pathway forward to help people better navigate abundant information ecosystems and advocate for community priorities. Civic media literacies, I argued, also provided a frame within which to prioritise equity and social justice initiatives with and through media infrastructures.

FEATURED RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Paul Mihailidis is an associate professor of civic media and journalism and assistant dean in the school of communication at Emerson College in Boston, MA, where he teaches media literacy, civic media, and community activism. He is founding program director of the MA in Media Design, Senior Fellow of the Emerson Engagement Lab, and faculty chair and director of the Salzburg Academy on Media and Global Change. His work has been featured in the New York Times, the Washington Post, Newsweek, CNN, and others. Paul has published 7 books and over 50 articles on the intersection of media literacy, civic media and participation in digital culture. His most recent book, *Civic Media Literacies: Re-Imagining Human Connection in an Age of Digital Abundance* (Routledge 2018) explores the ways in which media literacy interventions can prioritise civic impact. Paul has won numerous faculty awards at Emerson College and the Researcher of the Year award by the National Association of Media Literacy Education. He sits on numerous Editorial Boards, and the advisory board for iCivics and the Engagement Lab.

Media Literacy in Australia Report Launch

In November and December 2020 we surveyed a sample of 3,510 adult Australians to understand the different types of media they use, the value they place on different media activities, their confidence in their own media abilities and their access to media literacy support. The findings show that most Australians use several different types of media each day, they believe a diverse range of media activities are important in their life, but their confidence in their own media abilities is unexpectedly low. We also found that far too many Australians don't have access to any media literacy support when they need it. The findings demonstrate that if we accept that media is integral to all aspects of our lives, far more needs to be done to address the needs of groups who are the least confident about their media abilities and who have access to the least support. The findings also show that increasing media literacy can yield direct benefits for increasing people's civic engagement. This presentation of our key findings will be delivered by Professor Sora Park in Canberra, Dr Tanya Notley in Sydney and Professor Michael Dezuanni in Brisbane.



Panel: News, misinformation and media literacy

Much of the attention in relation to media literacy education in Australia has been focused on school-aged children. The media literacy needs of adults and disadvantaged sections of the community have only just started to generate interest in academia and policy discourse. However, educating the general public is not an easy task. This panel will discuss their experiences in media literacy education and research to consider the role of social infrastructures in educating the public in media literacy, focusing primarily on interventions in misinformation. The panel will explore how a networked approach can tackle the issue of media literacy among adults, where collaboration is encouraged, and existing networks are utilised to deliver successful community-based programs.

Opening address: Nancy Eyers, Acting CEO National Film and Sound Archives

Facilitator: Kerry McCallum, Director, N&MRC

- Pulling Together—The need for an Australian Media & Information Literacy Network (Caroline Fisher, University of Canberra)
- How teaching journalism skills can boost media literacy (Saffron Howden)
- AAP FactCheck—Fighting fakes and misinformation (Peter Bodkin, Australian Associated Press)
- Fact and fiction—trust us, we know the difference (Sue McKerracher, Australian Library and Information Association)



MEDIA LITERACY IN AUSTRALIA: A QUALITATIVE STUDY



SUMMARY

This report complements an earlier study based on a survey that was published in April 2021. We acknowledge that there are hard to reach groups that online surveys cannot fully represent. To address this, between January and July 2021, we carried out a series of interviews and focus group discussions with 22 participants across 17 organisations that serve communities with specific media literacy needs. The aim was to better understand the diversity of media literacy needs among Australians.

We focused on four target groups: people who live in aged care facilities; people living with a disability; culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people (hereinafter 'multicultural communities' and 'CALD' are used interchangeably throughout the report); and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The interviews and focus group discussions revealed that there are considerable differences within the target groups in terms of how media are used and the role they play in their lives. Common elements also emerged. For example, participants agreed that connecting with others, gaining independence, getting access to critical services and participating in society as a citizen were important outcomes of media use and media literacy for these groups.

The study highlights broader challenges related to media use and media literacy. These include inadequate access to devices and the internet, insufficient trusted sources of information (particularly among multicultural communities), a lack of understanding of these

groups within the broader public, and attitudinal barriers to using media and technology.

Participants emphasised that the key to providing adequate media literacy programs is to acknowledge the diverse needs of people within the target groups, and to develop a ground-up approach. Media use is usually coupled with other social activities and services, and this means that media literacy education should be embedded as part of and within other services.

In many cases media literacy education was delivered by social service organisations in an ad hoc manner. Front-line workers would often find that their clients need to acquire a certain level of media literacy to access social services. However, staff rarely receive training or education to deliver media literacy education as this is not seen as a key part of their role.

The findings suggest that more in-depth and comprehensive research is needed to fully understand the diverse media literacy needs of all segments of the society and to develop media literacy programs for all citizens.

The report is part of the Adult Media Literacy in Australia research project, which was funded by the National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE) in the United States.

THE RESEARCH TEAM

This report is part of an international research project, which is funded by the National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE), based in the USA. The Australian Project, Adult Media Literacy in Australia, is led by Dr. Tanya Notley (Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University). Team members include Professor Sora Park (News & Media Research Centre, University of Canberra) and Professor Michael Dezuanni (Digital Media Research Centre, Queensland University of Technology).

Sora Park is the Associate Dean of Research for the Faculty of Arts and Design and Professor of Communication at the University of Canberra.

Jee Young Lee is a Lecturer at the Faculty of Arts and Design and a member of the News & Media Research Centre, University of Canberra.

Susan Atkinson is a senior strategic communication consultant and a Research Associate at the News & Media Research Centre, University of Canberra. Her research focus is on the use of social media in crisis.

Jing Su is a doctoral student at the News and Media Research Centre, University of Canberra.

CO-DEVELOPING A NEW APPROACH TO MEDIA LITERACY IN THE ATTENTION ECONOMY —PARTS 1 & 2



Website: <http://www.canberra.edu.au/research/faculty-research-centres/nmrc/research/co-developing-new-media-literacies>

AIMS

Instilling in young people ecosystem-appropriate media literacy skills is of the utmost urgency. The digital media environment is saturated with a multiplicity of claims, some of which are dubious, whilst others actively seek to disinform. In the so-called attention economy time is precious, and deep engagement with dubious claims is a poor strategy, as it represents a waste of time better spent elsewhere. Instead, students should acquire the means to quickly decide which claims are worth their attention. We address a concrete question—how do primary and secondary school students interact with fact-checking practice—and also raise a societal issue: should the epistemological principles underlying Wikipedia editing be mobilised to combat conspiratorial thinking? This project innovates because of the age of our subjects and because we use Wikipedia as a fact-checking tool, challenging negative perceptions of its reliability.

BACKGROUND

Media literacy approaches

Traditionally, online literacy methods included a checklist of website design clues, with questions people might ask themselves when initially arriving at a webpage including: 'Does this webpage look professional? Are there spelling errors? Is it a .com or a .org? Is there scientific language? Does it use footnotes?' These questions are no longer proof of reliability: anyone can easily design a professional looking webpage and use spellcheck; a '.com' or '.org' URL (or the use of footnotes) does not always guarantee content credibility; and the use of scientific language does not always reflect levels of expertise.

Should we then rely on critical thinking skills by searching for logical fallacies? No: when solicitation is constant and the online ecosystem is awash with claims of unclear veracity, deep engagement is a poor strategy when confronted with content that expertly mixes the real with the fake. One could spend hours untangling these strands, wasting time best spent dealing with reliable information (Caulfield 2018, Warzel 2021).

Yet digital media literacy is a core competency for engaged citizenship in participatory democracy (Mihailidis & Thevenin 2013) and the need for a significant increase in media literacy programs in schools is clear. Recent studies (Notley & Dezuanni 2019, 2020) have

SUMMARY

Part 1

ACT Education Directorate—Affiliated Schools Research Program & DVCRI Industry Collaborative Research Seed Grant with Rachel Cunneen, Mathieu O'Neil, Reece Cheater, Michelle O'Brien, Kelly Turner & Wayde Margetts

Overview

This innovative project brought together researchers from the Faculty of Arts and Design and the Faculty of Education. Drawing on cutting-edge fact-checking methodologies, this project (a) investigated to what extent ACT school teachers are open to the civic online reasoning fact-checking framework and (b) co-develop with ACT school teachers a series of lesson plans that actively engaged students and enabled them to identify dubious claims, ad hominem strategies, and irrational magical thinking. When confronted with dubious claims students were encouraged to engage in best fact-checking practice.

Part 2

Embassy of the United States, Canberra Funded Project with Mathieu O'Neil & Rachel Cunneen

Overview

We live in an online media ecosystem in which false or misleading information can be created and disseminated with ease, so that the risk of people being exposed to misinformation (incorrect information) and disinformation (intentionally misleading information) is very significant. Instilling in young people ecosystem-appropriate media literacy skills is of the utmost urgency.

FEATURED RESEARCH PROGRAMS

shown that Australian schoolchildren are not getting nearly enough media literacy education: 'Just one in five young Australians said they had a lesson during the past year to help them decide whether news stories are true and can be trusted. (...) We believe young people should be receiving specific education about the role of news media in our society, bias in the news, disinformation and misinformation, the inclusion of different groups, news media ownership and technology' (Notley & Dezuanni 2020). We are sympathetic to this call for increased critical media literacy regarding bias in the news and the impact of ownership on shaping media content. However, incorporating critical themes into the school curriculum runs the risk of being perceived as a politically partisan endeavour, and of being rejected by some stakeholders.

LATERAL READING AND WIKIPEDIA

When confronted with a dubious claim, an effective strategy is to 'think like a fact-checker' (Wineburg & McGrew 2018). In practical terms, this means that one should not engage directly—instead, the best way to learn about a source of information is to leave it and look elsewhere. Underlying this 'lateral reading' is the principle of civic online reasoning which emphasises action: not what students know, but the steps taken to verify information (McGrew et al. 2017). Civic online reasoning is quick, thus nullifying the 'attention' issue, and its focus on source reliability is non-partisan. From there, our project innovates in two ways.

Firstly, media and information literacy researchers typically aim to examine and/or increase the fact-checking capacities of high school and university students. However, research conducted in 2018 by the Australian e-safety commissioner found that out of 3,520 parents surveyed, 81% said that their preschool children already spent time online. In this group, 94% reported that their child was using the Internet by the age of four. Teaching media and information literacy to high-school students therefore leaves this vital instruction much too late.

Secondly, educators are accustomed to warning students against citing Wikipedia as a primary source as 'anyone can edit it.' In fact, popular articles are reviewed thousands of times, so edits are based on 'reliable sources.' All modifications to an article, and any disputes in the article's 'Talk' page, are archived on the website: the editorial process is transparent. Apart from a few infamous exceptions, such as the Croatian Wikipedia which was hijacked by far-right activists (Wikimedia 2021), Wikipedia projects have remained neutral, and reliable: it is virtually impossible for conspiracies to be published, or remain published.

Wikipedia has multiple safeguards, yet negative perceptions of its reliability persist. To change this narrative of mistrust we published an opinion piece in the Education section of *The Conversation* in November 2021, which was shared widely on social media and reproduced in more than 20 outlets.

In conclusion, this project is co-produced with ACT school teachers. We have co-created educational resources in the form of engaging

scenarios, meant to teach students when they should fact-check a claim. The teachers use the resources in their classrooms, and provide feedback about which aspects need revision, leading to a continuous process of refinement.

THE RESEARCH TEAM

This project is part of the University of Canberra - ACT Education Directorate Affiliated Schools Research Program, in which UC academics partner with school teachers to conduct research towards system and school improvement, aligned to the ACT Government Future of Education strategy.

Mathieu O'Neil is Associate Professor of Communication in the News and Media Research Centre, where he leads the Critical Conversations Lab. He researches digital commons, media and information literacy, and the trajectories of issues in the online environment. He founded the *Journal of Peer Production* in 2011 and the Digital Commons Policy Council in 2021.

Dr Rachel Cunneen is Senior Lecturer in English and Literacy Education, Student Success and LANTITE coordinator, University of Canberra.

Mr Reece Cheater is Executive Teacher at Harrison School, Australian Capital Territory.

Ms Michelle O'Brien is Team Leader 5/6 at Harrison School, Australian Capital Territory.

Mr Wayne Margetts is Senior Primary Teachers at Ainslie School, Australian Capital Territory.

Ms Kelly Turner is Executive Teacher 5/6 at Kaleen Primary School, Australian Capital Territory.

KEY OUTCOMES & OUTPUTS

NEW RESEARCH FUNDING IN 2021

PROJECT TITLE **ACT Creative Industries Research**

TYPE *Category 2 (Chief Minister Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, ACT Government)*

TEAM Jason Bainbridge, Jen Webb, Cathy Hope, Denise Thwaites, Ben Ennis Butler, Vahri McKenzie, Robert Tanton, Lain Dare, Leonie Pearson, Yogi Vidyattama, Stephen Cassidy, Jee Young Lee

SUMMARY The ACT Creative Industries: Economic, Environmental and Policy Assessment will identify the current state, scope and potential of the creative industries in the ACT, including the benefits, challenges and opportunities for future growth of these industries about COVID-19, which sources they find trustworthy, and what impacts misinformation has on news consumers.

PROJECT TITLE **An Investigation of Indigenous Knowledge Transfer and Communication Practices to Embed in IT Innovation Design and Intervention for Children's Cyber Safety**

TYPE *Non-HERDC (UC Collaborative Indigenous Research Initiative Grant Scheme (UC CIRI))*

TEAM Ahmed Imran, Peter Radoll, Shirley Gregor, Rhonda Wilson, Maya Gunawardena, Catherine Page Jeffery

SUMMARY This project aims to promote eSafety of indigenous children through effective parental interventions facilitated with an IT design artefact appropriate for their context. The investigators acknowledge that while digital media technologies offer a range of benefits and opportunities there are potential risks that expose vulnerable indigenous children as they get involved in many online activities.

PROJECT TITLE **Co-Developing a New Approach to Media Literacy in the Attention Economy—Part 1**

TYPE *Category 2 (ACT Education Directorate—Affiliated Schools Research Program & DVCRI)*

TEAM Rachel Cunneen, Mathieu O'Neil, Reece Cheater, Michelle O'Brien, Kelly Turner

SUMMARY This innovative project brings together researchers from the Faculty of Arts and Design and the Faculty of Education. The contemporary media environment is saturated with a multiplicity of claims, some of which are dubious, whilst others actively seek to misinform. In the so-called attention economy time is precious, and deep engagement with dubious claims is a poor strategy. Instead, students should acquire the means to decide which claims are worth their attention. Drawing on cutting-edge fact-checking methodologies, this project will (a) investigate to what extent ACT school teachers are open to the SIFT (Stop, Investigate, Find, Trace) fact-checking framework and (b) co-develop with ACT school teachers a series of lesson plans that will actively engage students and enable them to identify dubious claims, ad hominem strategies, and unscientific magical thinking. When confronted with dubious claims students will be encouraged to engage in best fact-checking practice.

PROJECT TITLE	Co-Developing a New Approach to Media Literacy in the Attention Economy—Part 2
TYPE	<i>Category 3 (Embassy of the United States, Canberra)</i>
TEAM	Mathieu O'Neil & Rachel Cunneen
SUMMARY	We live in an online media ecosystem in which false or misleading information can be created and disseminated with ease, so that the risk of people being exposed to misinformation (incorrect information) and disinformation (intentionally misleading information) is very significant. Instilling in young people ecosystem-appropriate media literacy skills is of the utmost urgency.
PROJECT TITLE	Engaging Culturally Diverse Communities in Times of Crisis: Identifying best practice for the ACT Government
TYPE	<i>Category 2 (ACT Government & University of Canberra, DVCR&I)—UC Industry Collaborative Research Grant</i>
TEAM	Kate Holland, Barbara Walsh, Kerry McCallum, Jee Young Lee
SUMMARY	The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted many challenges for governments in engaging with all sectors of the community. It also highlighted how government communicators could innovate to ensure that vulnerable populations received necessary information and messaging. The ACT Government wants to develop more effective ways of engaging groups within the community that they have identified as harder-to-reach. These include Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) peoples. This project will identify how the government currently seeks to communicate and engage with these communities, how these communities interact with and respond to government messages and strategies and how they could be improved through the development of more trusting and meaningful relationships.
PROJECT TITLE	Measuring the Impact of the eSmart Media Literacy Lab
TYPE	<i>Category 3 (Alannah Madeline Foundation)</i>
TEAM	Sora Park, Kieran McGuinness, Barbara Walsh, Caroline Fisher, Jee Young Lee, Emma John
SUMMARY	The AMF's eSmart Media Literacy Lab (MLL) aims to empower young people to think critically, create responsibly, and be effective and active citizens online. This project evaluates MLL by reviewing the curriculum, students' and teachers' engagement. We analyse student knowledge and skills in media literacy, and their digital civic engagement with media in relation to their participation in the MLL, and explore educator attitudes towards their own professional knowledge and practice in media literacy education in relation to their participation in the MLL.
PROJECT TITLE	Media Literacy Intermediaries
TYPE	<i>Category 3 (Australian Library and Information Association & University of Canberra, DVCR&I)—UC Industry Collaborative Research Grant</i>
TEAM	Sora Park & Barbara Walsh
SUMMARY	Despite the rapid growth in media technology uptake and use over the past ten years, media literacy education in Australia has been offered in ad hoc and disparate ways. For school-aged children there is a national curriculum. Research highlights that the quality and delivery is neither consistent nor effective. As for the adult population, we lack a national policy or strategy. Where there is support, the main focus has been on mitigating online abuses and scams, or on developing a defined set of technology skills. The importance of informal networks and intermediaries have been found in many studies but there are very few empirical studies on how intermediaries and informal networks can effectively deliver media literacy programs and more importantly, very little is known about those who serve as intermediaries, their attitudes, needs and perspectives about their impact and influence. This project investigates the perception and attitude of library and information professionals (LIS) in the role they can play in improving the public's media literacy.
PROJECT TITLE	News Trust and Representation Amongst Multilingual Audiences
TYPE	<i>Category 3 (SBS)</i>
TEAM	Sora Park, Kerry McCallum, Kieran McGuinness, Jee Young Lee, Caroline Fisher, David Nolan
SUMMARY	By adapting the communication infrastructure theory and applying it to multilingual audiences, we will examine how non-English language news programs (TV and online) are related to trust in SBS news generally and the SBS brand overall. The assumption is that audiences who view news programs in their own language will have a greater sense of being represented in the news. Furthermore, the perception of representation and trust will be higher among those who actively utilise the information (i.e., share, discuss) within their language community compared to those who merely consume the information. These audiences are also more likely to feel more connected to, and empowered to participate in, the broader society.

PROJECT TITLE	Scoping Review and Synthesis of Evidence of the Impact of Policy and Regulatory Settings on the Potential for Mitigating Gambling Harm
TYPE	<i>Category 2 (ACT Gambling and Racing Commission)</i>
TEAM	Raechel Johns, Naomi Dale, Catherine Ordway, Tricia Brown, Caroline Fisher, Amanda George, Kate Holland, Kerry McCallum, Michael Roche, Rachel Davey
SUMMARY	The Commission is seeking to better understand the impact policy and regulatory settings have on the potential to mitigate (or conversely, exacerbate) gambling harm, while building the evidence base for gambling harm prevention strategies. Thus, an overall research question of “what is the best practice for the link between policy, regulatory settings, and gambling harm?” will underpin the scoping study. This detailed, mixed-methods study will contribute toward the Commission’s Research Themes in the Research Agenda. In particular, it will contribute toward Monitoring; Community Impact; and Harm Prevention.
PROJECT TITLE	Valuing News: Aligning Individual, Institutional and Social Perspectives
TYPE	<i>Category 1 (Australian Research Council)</i>
TEAM	Sora Park, Caroline Fisher, Terry Flew, Derek Wilding, Tim Dwyer, Aljosha Schapals
SUMMARY	The ongoing crisis of news media business models, and its implications for journalism, have thrown up new questions about the value of news, and the role of governments in financing its production. This project makes a distinctive contribution in identifying the links between three levels: the preparedness of individuals and organisations to pay for news through subscriptions (micro); the value of news brands and the decisions of news organisations (meso); and social and public value contributing to a democratic public sphere (macro). It advances key debates about the future of public interest journalism in an age of social news, as well as addressing policy issues about funding journalism as advertising transfers to digital platforms.
PROJECT TITLE	Wakul and First Nations Community Media: Amplifying Indigenous News Through Action Research
TYPE	<i>Non-HERDC (University of Canberra Collaborative Indigenous Research Initiative (CIRI))</i>
TEAM	David Nolan, Kerry McCallum, Peter Radoll, Alanna Myers
SUMMARY	This project aims to amplify news from First Nations community media organisations through an innovative action research partnership with First Nations Media Australia (FNMA). It involves deploying and assessing the impact of Wakul, a software application that aggregates content from news outlets that are owned, produced, or regularly accessed by First Nations people. For mainstream media organisations, it is a practical listening tool helping journalists to increase their awareness of critical conversations that are not on mainstream news agendas (Latimore et al. 2017; Nolan et al. 2020). For First Nations media organisations and audiences, it aims to increase connectivity and sharing of news and information produced across diverse and geographically dispersed First Nations communities. First Nations broadcasting and media are recognised as community assets that contribute to strengthening culture, community development and the local economy.
PROJECT TITLE	Wakul and Remote Indigenous Media: Amplifying Indigenous News Through a Digital Listening Tool
TYPE	<i>Non-HERDC (ANU Connected Ventures, University of Canberra & First Nations Media Australia)</i>
TEAM	David Nolan, Alanna Myers, Peter Radoll, Kerry McCallum, Sam Hinton
SUMMARY	The project seeks to expand the content offering of Wakul, a digital news aggregator designed to help amplify Indigenous voices, agendas and stories in the Australian media landscape. We propose to explore and test options for incorporating more content from remote Indigenous media into Wakul, including options for integrating customised automatic transcription software into the Wakul infrastructure. This development will significantly enhance Wakul’s social impact and commercial appeal by amplifying and increasing the accessibility of this content to our target market of journalists and media organisations.

ONGOING FUNDED PROJECTS

PROJECT TITLE **Amplifying Indigenous News: A Digital Intervention**

TYPE *Category 1 (Australian Research Council)*

TEAM David Nolan, Kerry McCallum, Peter Radoll, Lisa Waller, Scott Wright & Margaret Simons

SUMMARY This project aims to road-test, document, and analyse an innovative strategy for amplifying Indigenous voices in news media. The project will deploy and assess the impact of a new digital application designed to enable access to a diverse range of Indigenous voices, stories, and agendas. The anticipated outcomes will assist the project's industry partners to meet their strategic goals of increasing the level of Indigenous media representation in Australia and consolidate their roles as leading outlets for Indigenous content and coverage.

PROJECT TITLE **Breaking Silences: Media and the Child Abuse Royal Commission**

TYPE *Category 1 (Australian Research Council)*

TEAM Kerry McCallum, Tanya Dreher, Kristy Hess, Eli Skogerboe & Lisa Waller

SUMMARY This project will analyse the role of media, journalism and social media activism in relation to the ground-breaking Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (2013-17) (RCIRCSA). It is the first major Australian research to explore the media-related dimensions of commissions of inquiry in the digital era. The project will document and analyse changing media practices and impacts of such critical national conversations by examining public discussion of the child abuse royal commission over a 10-year period from 2010-2020. A case study approach is used to assess the role of a transitioning local, national and social media in triggering, reporting on and keeping alive the findings of the royal commission, ensuring victims of child sexual abuse are heard, and justice is upheld.

PROJECT TITLE **Covering COVID-19**

TYPE *DVCR & I COVID Research Grant (University of Canberra)*

TEAM David Nolan, Sora Park, Caroline Fisher, Kerry McCallum & Glen Fuller

SUMMARY This study captures how the COVID-19 was reported, how that changed over the course of the pandemic, and how journalists perceived and performed their roles during the outbreak.

PROJECT TITLE **COVID-19: Australian News and Misinformation Longitudinal Study**

TYPE *Category 2 (Australian Communication and Media Authority)*

TEAM Sora Park Kerry McCallum, Jee Young Lee, Kieran McGuinness, Caroline Fisher & Kate Holland

SUMMARY The COVID-19 pandemic has proven that everyone is thirsty for credible and fast news. Across the globe reporters, governments and public health professionals have worked overtime to inform communities. News consumption has increased as the public tries to make sense of this rapidly evolving crisis. This project will enhance understanding around the access, consumption and critical engagement with news and information during a global pandemic. A repeat survey of news consumption and misinformation during COVID-19 will be accompanied by a qualitative research will provide insights into how and where Australians are getting information about COVID-19, which sources they find trustworthy, and what impacts misinformation has on news consumers.

PROJECT TITLE **COVID-19: Australian News and Misinformation**

TYPE *DVCR&I COVID Research Grant (University of Canberra)*

TEAM Sora Park, Caroline Fisher, Jee Young Lee & Kieran McGuinness

SUMMARY This project examines how Australians responded to a health crisis in the period shortly after social distancing measures were put in place by the government to stop the spread of coronavirus. We conducted a national online survey of 2,196 Australians aged 18 or above to ask questions about how they get information about COVID-19, how they understand and respond to the crisis, how concerned they are and what sources of information they find to be trustworthy.

PROJECT TITLE **Health Misinformation in Social Media Networks**

TYPE *DVCR&I COVID Research Grant (University of Canberra)*

TEAM Mathieu O'Neil, Irfan Khan & Kate Holland

SUMMARY This project explores the spread of health misinformation and disinformation across online social networks. Using a combination of advanced data harvesting techniques and qualitative interviews, the project will focus in a first stage on how health professionals interact with COVID-19 rumours prevalent in major social media platforms such as Twitter and YouTube. The findings of this research are expected to assist in developing strategies to combat COVID-19 misinformation within the Australian healthcare context.

PROJECT TITLE	Fake but Not Fatal: Optimal Social Media Regulation in the Era of Fake News
TYPE	<i>Category 3 (Korea Foundation)</i>
TEAM	Benedict Sheehy, Sujin Choi, Bruce Arnold, Jaejin Lee, and Yoonmo Sang
SUMMARY	The aim of this project is to develop a viable South Korea-specific strategic policy response to address harms attributable to fake news on digital platforms (particularly social media) while deepening appropriate freedom of press and freedom of speech rights in environments where traditional media are of decreasing importance.
PROJECT TITLE	Framing and Sharing News
TYPE	<i>Category 3 (Social Science Research Council)</i>
TEAM	Sora Park, Michael Jensen, Glen Fuller, Caroline Fisher & Jee Young Lee
SUMMARY	In the digital environment, news consumers are accessing news sources directly by 'following' organisations and individuals on social media, bypassing the news media. Consumers also constantly create, co-create, and distribute information and news via social media platforms by using the interactive functions afforded by the platforms. The focus of this project is to examine how these new behaviours are affecting the news ecosystem in Australia. We investigate how Facebook users respond to different types of information by interacting with the information that is shared within their Facebook network. We examine what types of news and information are widely shared and how they are framed by the person who shared the information. It also examines the responses to the sharing activity through likes and comments and the shape of diffusion networks. The project has three aims: identify distinct temporalities between categories of news and non-news platforms, analyse differences in interactions with news and non-news URLs and domains, and investigate polarisation in news and its implications for sharing practices.
PROJECT TITLE	Local News Consumers
TYPE	<i>Category 3 (Google News Initiative)</i>
TEAM	Sora Park, Caroline Fisher & Jee Young Lee
SUMMARY	Local news organisations are suffering from both the loss of advertising revenues and readership with the migration of news production and distribution online. This has resulted in job losses, newsroom closures and amalgamations. Some research suggests this is having a negative impact on the amount of public interest journalism and other daily news available to local audiences, particularly in regional parts of the country. To date, much of the research on local journalism has mainly focused on larger metropolitan areas. More research needs to be done to identify the news gaps and information needs of local communities.
PROJECT TITLE	Media Literacy in Australia: Understanding the Needs and Developing a National Strategy
TYPE	<i>Category 3 (Western Sydney University)</i>
TEAM	Sora Park, Tanya Notley & Michael Dezuanni
SUMMARY	This project addresses information gaps relating to the media literacy values, practices and needs of Australian citizens. It will build on our recent research focused on young Australians and media literacy to ask questions about media literacy in our broader society.
PROJECT TITLE	Mapping the Co-Production of Digital Infrastructure by Peer Projects and Firms
TYPE	<i>Category 3 (Alfred P. Sloan Foundation/Ford Foundation Critical Digital Infrastructure Fund)</i>
TEAM	Mathieu O'Neil, Laure Muselli, Mahin Raissi & Stefano Zacchiroli
SUMMARY	Free and Open source software (FOSS) produced by volunteers in self-governed projects is being used in most digital devices and infrastructures. Firms are paying some developers to create FOSS, raising questions about the sustainability of projects and the profits derived by non-contributing firms. This project maps the firm-project co-production network and its representation in IT news media. It also analyses to what extent firm discourses disseminated at trade conferences are present in volunteer projects. The research aims to raise awareness of the role of digital commons in the economy. As automation gathers pace and job scarcity grows, the communal and commercial sectors are destined to invent together newforms of collaboration, and the long-term viability of innovation-rich peer projects becomes a key concern.
PROJECT TITLE	Pedalling for Change: Cultural Geography for Traffic Congestion Innovation
TYPE	<i>Category 1 (Australian Research Council)</i>
TEAM	Gordon Waitt, Teresa Lea, Ian Buchanan, Glen Fuller, Lance Barrie & Nicolas Ozolins
SUMMARY	This project aims to improve understanding of cultural resistances to cycling as a mode of transport to address traffic congestion in cities. Academic knowledge on this topic underscores the benefits for productive, healthy and sustainable cities. Yet, despite multiple plans, the number of commuter cyclists fails to grow in most Australian metropolitan centres. This project aims to synthesise insight from media, governance and embodied analysis to help explain why commuter cycling has failed to increase at a time when leisure cycling grows exponentially. Making this knowledge comprehensible

to policymakers, cyclists and other stakeholders is expected to both improve public debate and policy outcomes and the health and safety of Australian.

PROJECT TITLE	Safe Online Together: An Integrated Approach to Navigating the Risks and Opportunities of Digital Media for Families
TYPE	<i>Category 2 (eSafety Commissioner)</i>
TEAM	Catherine Page Jeffery, Kerry McCallum & Yoonmo Sang
SUMMARY	Safe Online Together aims to develop and deliver a series of evidence-based, innovative workshops and online resources to provide families with school-aged children with the skills to balance the risks and opportunities of digital technologies and reduce family conflict around technology use. By training young people to deliver the programs to parents and children as a family unit, the project aims to promote intergenerational knowledge and understanding, facilitate discussion about managing online risks, and develop a set of tailored family protocols for digital technology use amongst families.
PROJECT TITLE	State of the News Media in Asia
TYPE	<i>Category 3 (Judith Neilson Institute)</i>
TEAM	Caroline Fisher, Sora Park, Jee Young Lee & Kerry McCallum
SUMMARY	This investigation of news and media in Asia will provide journalists, policymakers and communication professionals with valuable information and ideas about audiences, news infrastructures, and policy frameworks. We have designed a comprehensive program of work to address an urgent need for analysis of the state of the media industries in Asia. This will be the first multi-site comparative study of news media industries, policy frameworks and news consumption in the Asian region. Its innovative research design is underpinned by robust, proven and independent comparative analysis methodologies into digital media consumption that can yield real impact for journalism, industry and government.
PROJECT TITLE	The rise of mistrust: Digital platforms and trust in news media
TYPE	<i>Category 1 (Australian Research Council)</i>
TEAM	Sora Park, Caroline Fisher, Terry Flew, Uwe Dulleck, Richard Fletcher, Edson Tandoc & Se-Uk Oh
SUMMARY	Mistrust in news accessed from digital platforms is an area of significant public concern both worldwide and in Australia, yet we lack empirical research into what cues on digital platforms are related to building trust or mistrust, how that leads to action or inaction, and whether news consumers would value trust signalling. This project will advance understanding of how trust and mistrust in news influence audience behaviour, through a longitudinal cross-country comparison, an experiment in four countries and qualitative interviews with news audiences. It will provide policy-makers with new insights to inform interventions to improve the quality of digital news ecosystem.

AWARD

UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

UC Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning (Commendation)—**Dr Mathieu O’Neil**

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