

News and Media Research Centre

ANNUAL REPORT

2025





N&MRC ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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

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About the News and Media Research Centre

Who we are

The News and Media Research Centre (N&MRC) at the University of Canberra is Australia's leading research group focused on the critical issues facing news, media and communication industries. It brings together diverse academic and practitioner expertise to empower people, inform policy, and strengthen sustainable media and communication practice.

What we do

The media environment is changing faster than ever before. People are navigating a world of infinite content, rising misinformation and shifting trust in institutions. At the same time, journalism and media systems face profound economic, technological, and political pressures.

The N&MRC exists to respond to these challenges with evidence, integrity, and public purpose. We bring together diverse expertise across research, policy, and practice to strengthen the foundations of informed citizenship. Our work ensures that people, policymakers, and media organisations have the knowledge and tools they need to foster trust, accountability, and full participation in democratic life.

Vision

To empower people, inform policy, and support sustainable media and communication ecosystems through cutting-edge research, public engagement, and practical innovation.

Mission

To research and advocate for media systems that build trust, inclusivity and diversity, to support and strengthen social cohesion.

Year in review

A year of transformation and growth

Professor Sora Park, N&MRC Director

2025 marked a year of significant change and renewal for the News and Media Research Centre (N&MRC). As the media landscape continued to evolve rapidly, the Centre remained focused on its core purpose: to respond to emerging challenges with evidence and a strong public mission. We conduct independent research and advocate for media systems that promote trust, inclusivity, and diversity, contributing to social cohesion and the health of democratic societies.

This year was one of change for our membership. We acknowledge with deep gratitude the contributions of three valued members, Kerry McCallum, Caroline Fisher, and Kate Holland, who departed the Centre in mid-2025. Their legacy continues to shape our work in health communication, media representation, and journalism studies. We are pleased to continue our association with them as Emeritus and Adjunct members, ensuring their expertise remains part of our intellectual community.

At the same time, we expanded our network of adjuncts and international collaborators through several high-profile appointments, expanding our reach and research capacity. The Centre's future is promising, supported by a growing cohort of associate members and revitalised industry and international affiliates, who will guide us through the next phase of our strategic journey.

The Centre's reach and reputation continued to expand throughout 2025. A highly successful seminar series, symposia and workshops attracted audiences from across academia, industry, and government, reinforcing our reputation as a hub for critical debate and collaboration. Our publication program was particularly productive, generating a series of open-access reports on pressing issues in media, communication, and public life. Among these was the major post-election report, *Unpacking Election Misinformation: Australians' Experiences of News and Information about the 2025 Federal Election*, a significant collaborative effort involving researchers from across the Centre.

The report reflects our capacity to deliver timely, evidence-based research on issues of national importance. These open access reports reflect the Centre's commitment to producing research that is both academically robust and directly relevant to policy and industry stakeholders. Collectively, they reached 6000+ downloads and 90,000+ media mentions.



Our people remain our greatest strength. In 2025, we were delighted to welcome Jung Ju Yun as an International Visiting Fellow. Her research on media literacy education—particularly in the Korean context—has added valuable international perspective to our work. Jung Ju Yun brings extensive experience in bridging academia and industry, enriching our global engagement.

The N&MRC continues to be deeply embedded within the Faculty of Arts and Design. Our members, associates, and Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidates contribute to innovative teaching and research training across undergraduate, postgraduate, and HDR programs. This integration ensures that our research directly informs teaching and supports the next generation of scholars and practitioners.

A major highlight for the year was the successful outcome of the Centre's competitive review process. We are proud to have been refunded and awarded Tier 2 Research Unit status for 2026–2030, a recognition of the quality, impact, and relevance of our work. This achievement marks the beginning of a new chapter. Building on the strong foundations established in 2025, the N&MRC is well positioned to expand its research agenda, deepen its partnerships, and continue shaping the future of media and communication systems in Australia and beyond.

The past year has been one of transition, renewal, and growth. While we farewelled valued colleagues, we also strengthened our networks, expanded our research impact, and reaffirmed our commitment to public-purpose scholarship. As we move forward, the Centre remains dedicated to its core mission: producing research that makes a difference—supporting trust, inclusion, and democratic resilience in an increasingly complex media environment.

2025 Highlights

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HDR
CANDIDATES

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PROFESSORS

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ONGOING
PROJECTS

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ACADEMIC
PUBLICATIONS

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INDUSTRY
REPORTS AND
BRIEFINGS

9
SYMPOSIA
WORKSHOPS

9
SEMINARS

643
MEDIA
ENGAGEMENT
STORIES

94,450
MEDIA
MENTIONS

DIGITAL NEWS REPORT: AUSTRALIA 2025

6,145
REPORT DOWNLOADS

10,791
APO PAGE VIEWS

534
MEDIA MENTIONS

3,473,035
ESTIMATED
REACH

\$3,206,484
ESTIMATED ADVERTISING
SPACE RATE (AUD)

Statistics are based on coverage over time for 2025

Strategic pillars and focus areas

Our research is conducted across three broad themes:



People

Empowering publics

Media and information literacy: Develop and inform interventions to build media literacy for all, in particular with communities at risk.

Trust and engagement research: Track public sentiment, media habits, and the changing dynamics of trust in Australia's news and media systems.

Civic capacity building: Co-design tools and resources to help people navigate information environments and participate in democratic life.



Policy

Informing governance

Platform accountability and regulation: Monitor digital platforms and contribute to the evidence-base for regulatory responses.

Misinformation and harm tracking: Provide rigorous, real-time data on emerging threats to information integrity and civic wellbeing.

Policy engagement and foresight: Work with government, industry and civil society to develop anticipatory and adaptive policy frameworks.



Practice

Supporting a sustainable sector

Representation and diversity: Advocate for a media system that builds and sustains trust, inclusivity and diversity.

Newsroom innovation: Partner with the media industry to develop trust-enhancing communication practices and sustainable, public-interest business models.

Transparency and standards: Promote best practice frameworks and ethical practice for news, media and communication, including the use of new technologies.

Researchers and team members

Core members



Emeritus Professor
Kerry McCallum
Outgoing Director,
News and Media Research Centre



Professor Sora Park
Incoming Director,
News and Media Research Centre



Associate Professor
Caroline Fisher
Outgoing Deputy Director,
News and Media Research Centre



Dr Momoko Fujita
Incoming Deputy Director,
News and Media Research Centre



Associate Professor
David Nolan
Executive Member,
News and Media Research Centre



Professor Mathieu O'Neil
Executive Member,
News and Media Research Centre



Professor
Stuart Cunningham AM
Core Member,
News and Media Research Centre



Dr Janet Fulton
Core Member,
News and Media Research Centre



Dr Ashleigh Haw
Core Member,
News and Media Research Centre



Dr Kate Holland
Outgoing Core Member,
News and Media Research Centre



Dr Marion McCutcheon
Core Member,
News and Media Research Centre



Dr Kieran McGuinness
Core Member,
News and Media Research Centre



Dr Rys Farthing
Core Member,
News and Media Research Centre

Team members



Sue Atkinson
HDR Representative,
News and Media Research Centre

Dileka Pathiratna
Research Coordinator,
News and Media Research Centre



Pinker Yao
HDR Representative,
News and Media Research Centre

Emeritus Professor

Kerry McCallum

Kerry McCallum is the former Director of the News and Media Research Centre at the University of Canberra. Her research in political communication focuses on the relationship between evolving media environments and Australian social policy. She has an extensive track record in grants management, scholarly publication and research translation, having secured five Australian Research Council grants and 23 government and industry-funded projects since commencing her academic career in 2004.

Professor McCallum served as Lead Chief Investigator on the Australian Research Council project *Breaking Silences: Media and the Child Abuse Royal Commission* (DP190101282). She was also commissioned by the National Office for Child Safety to develop national guidelines for media professionals, as well as for victims and survivors, on reporting child sexual abuse.

Her collaborative research has contributed to discipline-leading scholarship on the mediatisation of Indigenous policy. She is co-author of *The Dynamics of News and Indigenous Policy in Australia* (Intellect, 2017).

Professor McCallum is an active contributor to the field of communication and media studies both in Australia and internationally. She is a former President of the Australian

and Aotearoa New Zealand Communication Association (AANZCA) and a member of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS).

An experienced academic leader, Professor McCallum has led and implemented complex change management initiatives at faculty, institutional and national levels. From 2017 to 2019, she served as the University of Canberra's Academic Director (Dean) of Graduate Research and was a member of the Australian Council of Graduate Research.

Her academic leadership is underpinned by nearly a decade of prior professional experience in federal parliament, where she held political and media advisory roles.



Peter Putnis

Peter Putnis is Emeritus Professor of Communication at the University of Canberra. He joined the University in 1996 as Dean of the Faculty of Communication and subsequently served as Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Division of Communication and Education from 1999 to 2006. In 2013–2014, he was the Foundation Director of the University's News and Media Research Centre.

Professor Putnis has made significant contributions to the academic community, including service as an Expert Panel Member for the Australian Research Council in the Humanities and Creative Arts. He is a past President of the Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Communication Association (AANZCA) and has led the History Section of the International Association for Media and Communication Research.

His scholarly output includes six books as author or editor, as well as approximately 100 journal articles and book

chapters. His recent research has focused on international communication and media history, with particular emphasis on the political economy of international news production in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.



HDR candidates

Ifeanyi Adigwe

Thesis Title: *The situational and social factors influencing adolescents' online risk-taking on social media: A cross-country study*

Supervisory Panel: Momoko Fujita, Jee Young Lee, Mathieu O'Neil

Sue Atkinson

Thesis Title: *Understanding people's communication needs and behaviours and how community communication ecologies spontaneously form in a natural disaster crisis*

Supervisory Panel: Kerry McCallum, Jee Young Lee

Saffron Bianchi-Howden

Thesis Title: *Reducing the impact of disinformation and misinformation: Innoculation vs factchecking*

Supervisory Panel: Sora Park, Jee Young Lee, Kieran McGuinness

Xiaolan Cai

Thesis Title: *Open source smart city projects and impacts on civic engagement in Australia*

Supervisory Panel: Mathieu O'Neil, Momoko Fujita, Barbara Norman

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

Dinithi Jayasekara Adduwa Hewage

Thesis Title: *Investigating the Role of Fact-Checking Websites in Combating social media False-information in Sri Lanka*

Supervisory Panel: Sora Park, Momoko Fujita

Lisa Hobgen

Thesis Title: *Aboriginal Women Photojournalists*

Supervisory Panel: David Nolan, Kerry McCallum

Rehnuma Hossain

Thesis Title: *Influence of Media Framing on Gender Roles: A Case-Study of Bangladesh's Student-led Government Transition*

Supervisory Panel: Jee Young Lee, Kerry McCallum

Chloe Kim

Thesis Title: *Media Flourish and Cultural Identity: Exploring the Effects of Korean Media on Korean Migrant Youth in Australia*

Supervisory Panel: Sora Park, Jee Young Lee

Beth Makin

Thesis Title: *Young People, Social Media and Connective Action*

Supervisory Panel: Jee Young Lee, Sora Park

Lilik Mardjianto

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

Supervisory Panel: Caroline Fisher, Kerry McCallum, 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

Mark Prasopa-Plaizier

Thesis Title: *Picturing humanity – choosing images of conflict and disasters*

Supervisory Panel: David Nolan, Artie McCarthy

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: David Nolan, Kerry McCallum, Milica Muminovic

Jessica Schumann-D'Offay

Thesis Title: *The Algorithm of Spirituality: Why Society Turned to Crystals, Circles and Chakras During a Year of Collective Crisis*

Supervisory Panel: Momoko Fujita, Mathieu O'Neil

Sue Stephenson

Thesis Title: *Hyperlocal news in the wake of regional media contraction. Are hyperlocal news startups in regional Australia adopting the norms of professional journalism? A mixed methods study of news content and stakeholder perceptions*

Supervisory Panel: David Nolan, Sora Park, Ashleigh Haw

Ugyen Wangchuk

Thesis Title: *The influence of social media and digital communication on migration decision in Bhutan*

Supervisory Panel: Jee Young Lee, Momoko Fujita

Pinker Yao

Scholarship Recipient: ARC Project – *The Rise of Mistrust: Digital platforms and Trust in News Media*

Thesis Title: *Multilingual users' trust in news media*

Supervisory Panel: Sora Park, Jee Young Lee, Kieran McGuinness

2025 HDR graduates

Imad Alsmadi

Thesis Title: *The effectiveness of social media on language skills - speaking and writing: A Case Study of Higher Education Learners in Jordan. Secondary supervisor*

Supervisory Panel: Eleni Petriki, Sora Park, Jeremy Jones

Mona Chatskin

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

Where Are They Now: Lecturer, Digital Communication – School of Media and Communication, RMIT University.

Lilik Mardjianto

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

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

Where Are They Now: Dean of Faculty of Communication – Universitas Multimedia Nusantara (UMN), Indonesia.

Nadrah Nadrah

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

Supervisory Panel: Sora Park, Caroline Fisher

Where Are They Now: Teaching English at the Fatmawati Sukarno State Islamic University of Bengkulu. Visiting Research Fellow.

Alysson Watson

Thesis Title: *Intrusion and Inclusion: Towards an ethical death knock practice for Australian journalists. RMIT University*

Supervisory Panel (UC): Janet Fulton

Adjunct members

Michelle Ainsworth PSM (GAICD)

Freelance Media Executive/Journalist/Consultant

Simon Benson

Political Editor & Columnist, *The Australian*

Megan Bonny

Communications Adviser,
Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Sally Burford

Adjunct Professor in Knowledge and Information Studies,
University of Canberra

Michelle Dunne Breen

Director Communications & Engagement – Infrastructure,
ACT Education Directorate, ACT Government

Caroline Fisher

Adjunct Associate Professor of Communication,
University of Canberra

Virginia Haussegger AM

Managing Director, BroadTalk Media

Will Hayward

CEO, The Contrarians

Kate Holland

Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Canberra

Chris Kim

Defence Industry Economist,
Australian Department of Defence

Jason Koutsoukis

Special Correspondent, *The Saturday Paper*

James Mahoney

Adjunct Professor of Professional Communication,
University of Canberra

Catherine Middleton

Professor, Ted Rogers School of Management,
Toronto Metropolitan University

Gaven Morris

Executive General Manager, Corporate Affairs,
Commonwealth Bank

Se-uk Oh

Primary Researcher, Korea Press Foundation, South Korea

Franco Papandrea

Adjunct Professor, University of Canberra

David Pembroke

Founder and CEO, Contentgroup

Yoonmo Sang

Associate Professor, Yonsei University, South Korea

Mike Santer

Carrier Relationship Manager EMEA APAC,
KORE Wireless, UK

Eli Skogerbo

Professor, Media Studies, University of Oslo, Norway

Michael Socolow

Professor, University of Maine, USA

Luke Toy

General Manager – Advocacy,
Australian Medical Association

Mikko Villi

Full Professor, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Lisa Waller

Associate Dean, Communication and Professor
of Digital Communication, RMIT University

Centre governance

Advisory board



Stuart Cunningham AM

Professor, News and Media Research Centre, University of Canberra



Gerard Goggin

Distinguished Professor, Western Sydney University



Catherine Middleton

Professor, Ted Rogers School of Management, Toronto Metropolitan University



Gaven Morris

Executive General Manager, Corporate Affairs, Commonwealth Bank



Julian Thomas

Director, ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society, RMIT University

Spotlight:

Proof that good things come in threes

Kerry, Caroline and Kate

The Centre experienced a significant period of change in 2025 with the departure of three valued research colleagues; Professor Kerry McCallum, Associate Professor Caroline Fisher, and Dr Kate Holland. While their transitions marked the end of an important chapter for our team, they also provided an opportunity to reflect on the substantial contributions they made to our research community and the lasting impact of their work.

Throughout their time with the Centre, Kerry, Caroline and Kate demonstrated a strong commitment to research excellence, collaboration, and innovation. Their expertise and dedication contributed to the successful delivery of numerous projects, strengthened our engagement with stakeholders, and enhanced the quality and reach of our research outcomes. Through their efforts, they helped advance the Centre's strategic objectives while fostering a culture of curiosity, rigour, and continuous improvement.

Top 3 notable achievements:

1. *Professor Kerry McCallum:* From 2019–2022, Professor McCallum led a program of research into the role of media in national inquiries in the abuse of children (ARC: DP190101282). The research advanced understanding of how news media privilege powerful voices and silence marginalised voices in prominent public debates. The research explained the impacts of news representation and framing on public opinion about First Nations peoples and issues, child sexual abuse, alcohol and pregnancy, drugs, and gambling.

After the Silence: Media reporting of child sexual abuse in the wake of a Royal Commission apo.org.au/node/321304

2. *Associate Professor Caroline Fisher:* Since 2016, Dr Fisher has been a prominent researcher on the Centre's Digital News Report: Australia. This yearly report provides insights into contemporary issues that are relevant to public communication including the declining trust in news, the proliferation of misinformation on digital platforms and the rapidly shifting news consumption habits. It 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 six continents.

Digital News Report: Australia canberra.edu.au/research/centres/nmrc/digital-news-report-australia

3. *Dr Kate Holland:* From 2022–2024, Dr Holland led a program of research exploring community knowledge and awareness of gambling harms. The findings contributed to a growing evidence base for public communication strategies and informed the Commission's work to increase public understanding of gambling-related harm.

Understanding gambling harms in the digital age apo.org.au/node/328385

Beyond their research achievements, Kerry, Caroline and Kate played an important role in supporting and mentoring others. Their willingness to share knowledge, provide guidance, and collaborate across disciplines enriched the professional development of team members and strengthened the collegial environment that is central to the Centre's success. Their contributions extended well beyond individual projects, influencing the ways in which we work together and approach new challenges.

Their departures also highlighted the value of institutional knowledge and the importance of investing in capability building across the organisation. As experienced researchers move on to new opportunities, they leave behind not only a record of achievement but also foundations upon which future work can build. The expertise, processes, and relationships they helped establish continue to benefit the Centre and support ongoing research activities.

While we acknowledge their departure with gratitude, we also recognise the opportunities that accompany organisational change. The legacy of these colleagues remains evident in the projects they advanced, the partnerships they strengthened, and the people they supported. Their contributions have helped position the Centre for continued growth and success.

We thank our former colleagues for their service, professionalism, and commitment to the Centre's mission and wish them every success in their future endeavours. Their contributions will remain an important part of the Centre's story and achievements.

Making impact

Government committees, inquiries and briefings

Government committees and inquiries

Cunningham, S. & McCutcheon, M. (2025). Consultation for The Art of Tax Reform Summit, Australian Public Policy Institutes for the NSW Government.

nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dciths/art-of-tax-reform-summit

Farthing, R. (2025). Drafted submission & gave evidence to Senate Environment and Communications Reference Committees inquiry into Internet Search Engine Services Online Safety Code. aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/OnlineSafetyCode48P/Submissions & youtube.com/watch?v=ZcuU8tWurkU

Notley, T., Park, S., Dezuanni, M. & Thomson, T.J. (2025). Submission to the Australian Code of Practice on Disinformation and Misinformation 2025 Review. DIGI

O'Neil, M. (2025). Took part in the 20th meeting of the National Science and Technology Council, Parliament House. chiefscientist.gov.au/news-and-media/national-science-and-technology-council-20th-meeting

Park, S., Fisher, C., Cunningham, S., Nolan, D., Lee, J., Fujita, M. & McCutcheon, M. (2025). N&MRC Submission to the Treasury: News Bargaining Incentive.

Park, S., Lee, J., McGuinness, K., Fulton, J. & Howden, S. (2025). N&MRC Submission to the Senate Select Committee on Information Integrity on Climate Change and Energy.

Impact: Joint Select Committee on Social Media and Australian Society published its third and final report 'From Classroom to Community: Civics education and political participation in Australia' that recommends a strengthened civic education in Australia. N&MRC researchers made two submissions. In the final report Sora Park's submission was mentioned 20 times. In the public submissions, Park's research was cited 27 times. Mathieu O'Neil's submission was cited nine times in the final report.

Briefings

Kieran McGuinness: Private briefing to the ABC News Social Media team on Political misinformation during the 2025 election (10 November 2025).

Sora Park: Parliamentary Research Presentation, Sense of belonging and media representation among multilingual audiences (3 November 2025).

Sora Park: Private briefing to the Department of Home Affairs, Sense of belonging and media representation among multilingual audiences (4 November 2025).

Sora Park: Private briefing to SBS Examines Unit, Unpacking election misinformation (9 October 2025).

Sora Park & Kieran McGuinness: Private briefing to the Communication Strategies and Campaigns Branch, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (19 September 2025).

Sora Park: Private briefing to McKinnon Foundation, Unpacking election misinformation (11 September 2025).

Kieran McGuinness: Private briefing to ABC Audience Division, Unpacking election misinformation (2 September 2025).

Kieran McGuinness: Private briefing to ABC Audience Division, *Digital News Report: Australia 2025* (2 September 2025).

Sora Park: Private briefing to Princess Consulting, *Digital News Report: Australia 2025* (25 August 2025).

Caroline Fisher & Sora Park: Private briefing to the Department of Communications, Media Literacy (12 August 2025).

Sora Park: Private briefing to McKinnon Foundation, *Digital News Report: Australia 2025* (5 August 2025).

Sora Park: Private briefing to Prime Minister & Cabinet, *Digital News Report: Australia 2025* (4 August 2025).

Caroline Fisher & Sora Park: Private briefing to the U.S. Embassy (31 July 2025).

Kieran McGuinness: Private briefing to Australian Land Conservation Alliance, *Digital News Report: Australia 2025* (29 July 2025).

Kieran McGuinness: Private briefing to Sky News *Digital, Digital News Report: Australia 2025* (18 July 2025).

Sora Park & Caroline Fisher: Private briefing to Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, *Digital News Report: Australia 2025* (17 July 2025).

Sora Park: Private briefing to Google Australia, *Digital News Report: Australia 2025* (14 July 2025).

Sora Park & Kieran McGuinness: Private briefing to LINA, *Digital News Report: Australia 2025* (10 July 2025).

Kieran McGuinness: Private briefing to ABC Strategy, *Digital News Report: Australia 2025* (3 July 2025).

Kieran McGuinness: Private briefing to Business Council of Australia, *Digital News Report: Australia 2025* (2 July 2025).

Sora Park: Private briefing to ACMA, *Digital News Report: Australia 2025* (27 June 2025).

Caroline Fisher & Kieran McGuinness: Private briefing to ABC News & Current Affairs, *Digital News Report: Australia 2025* (18 June 2025).

International engagement

Ashleigh Haw: Presented research on accessible communication and information resilience for migrants and people with disability at the 2025 conference of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) (13–17 July 2025).

Ashleigh Haw: Invited to present work on accessible communication (as it pertains to information resilience) at an international forum/workshop in Singapore, hosted by the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore (NUS) (April 2025).

Caroline Fisher: CPRA briefing. Trust, AI and Misinformation in the News (16 June 2025).

David Nolan, Jee Young Lee, Daniel Jackson, Nicole Blanchett, Daniel Hallin, Jamie Matthews, Fergal Quinn, Henry Silke & Xin Zhao. “Still distinctive from the market? Comparing the news agendas and democratic role performance of public service and privately owned media”. Future of Journalism Conference, Cardiff University, UK (11 September 2025).

David Nolan, Haiyan Wang & Chenrui Wang: “Journalism is dead”? Digital Criticism and challenges of media legitimacy in China. International Association of Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) Annual Conference, NTU Singapore (14 July 2025).

Janet Fulton: Presented research on emergency broadcasting at the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) conference (13–17 July 2025).

Mathieu O’Neil: Media and information literacy for democratic resilience, XI Congreso Internacional de Comunicación e Información Digital (CICID), Universidad Zaragoza, Spain (23 October 2025).

Mathieu O’Neil: Fourth OECD Nuclear Energy Agency Stakeholder Involvement Workshop on Optimisation in Decision Making, Boulogne-Billancourt, France. Participated in a Fireside chat moderated by Piia Kajanto (Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority, Finland) with Adriana Scialdone (Spanish Nuclear Safety Council) and Nancy Marangu (Chemichemi Foundation, Kenya) on “Misinformation, disinformation, trust and distrust” which elicited very positive reactions from attendants (15 October 2025).

Mathieu O’Neil & Andrew Ross: Renforcer la résilience face à la désinformation avec la littératie informationnelle. Session 2. Espace public à l’ère numérique. Journées du CIS 2025, Centre Internet et Société (CNRS) (25–26 September 2025).

Mathieu O’Neil: Invited to join the International Panel on the Information Environment (IPIE), August 2025.

Mathieu O’Neil & Andrew Ross: The Challenges of Embedding Information Credibility Evaluation Skills in the Australian Curriculum. Media Education Research Section, International Association for Media and Communication Research 2025, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (13–17 July 2025).

Mathieu O’Neil: Information environment improvement strategies: Civic information literacy skills. Workshop: Bridging the Gap in Political Communication Online through Technology? Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Political Communication and Technologically Supported Interventions in Online Spaces. Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Forschung (ZiF) workshop, Bielefeld (11–12 June 2025).

Mathieu O’Neil: Convenor and moderator, international policy workshop. Digital Commons Policy Council Policy / Civic Data Cooperative. Civic Health Innovation Labs, University of Liverpool, UK (22–23 May 2025).

Mathieu O’Neil : Améliorer l’évaluation de la crédibilité des informations : Opportunités et défis dans le contexte australien. Institut des Systèmes Complexes, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France (4 March 2025).

Sora Park: Invited to join RCSMM Global Network, which is dedicated to advancing impactful insight and practices relevant to sustainability in the context of media and marketing through research, advocacy, education, and outreach collaboration on a global scale, initiated by Dr. Lisa Wolter at the IU International University of Applied Sciences in Bonn, Germany.

Sora Park and Jee Young Lee: Invited to join a global project 'Restoring Trust in Journalism: A Cross-Country Investigation into the Impact of Journalistic Repair Strategies'.

Stuart Cunningham: Research Fellow, Creative PEC (Policy and Evidence Centre), UK.

Xiaolan Cai, Mathieu O'Neil & Zacchiroli: La « rente universitaire » des systèmes d'innovation des entreprises Big Tech: cartographie du travail des chercheurs universitaires dans l'écosystème du langage R. Session 4. Analyser et comprendre le numérique. Journées du CIS 2025, Centre Internet et Société (CNRS) (25–26 September 2025).

Xiaolan Cai, Mathieu O'Neil & Zacchiroli: University Rents Enabling Corporate Innovation: Mapping Academic Researcher Labour in the R Language Ecosystem. Political Economy Research Section, International Association for Media and Communication Research 2025, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (13–17 July 2025).

Panels and presentations

Haw, A.: Invited academic panellist for the 2025 International Day for People with Disabilities event 'Halting Hate: Finding Kindness', hosted by 'Advocacy for Inclusion' (3 December 2025).

Haw, A.: Invited speaker, ANU Sociology Seminar Series, presented my work on the nexus between epistemic injustice and mis/disinformation for migrants with disabilities (May 2025).

Cunningham, S., McCutcheon, M. & Brook S. (2025). Correlating creative qualifications, occupations and industries: Adding a third dimension to the creative trident, Creative PEC Seminar (10 October 2025).

pec.ac.uk/event_entries/introducing-creative-trident-iii-qualifications-with-occupations

Fulton, J. (2025). Presentation to ALIA members regarding a media literacy toolkit.

Fulton, J. (2025). Five information sessions presented to ALIA members.

Marion McCutcheon, Stuart Cunningham & Scott Brook: Creative Policy and Evidence Centre (University of Newcastle, UK), Correlating creative qualifications, occupations and industries (9 October 2025).

Marion McCutcheon & Sue Turnbull: Crime Fiction Workshop – Masterclass "Transnational Crime: the evolving International market", presentation to screenwriters, Anica Academy, Rome (20 February 2025). anicaacademy.org/corsi/crime-fiction-strategie-e-analisi

McCutcheon, M. (2025). Guest Lecture, Australian Screen Industry Policy: A State of Digital Demise? University of New South Wales ARTS2062: Australian Cinema (23 July 2025).

McCutcheon, M. & Turnbull, S. (2025). Guest Lecture, Australian Screen Content: From Bleak to Deadloch, University of New South Wales ARTS2062: Australian Cinema (25 June 2025).

O'Neil, M. (2025). ComCAN Session 4: Countering Misinformation, Australian Department of Health (26 February 2025).

Nolan, D. (2025). Panellist: 'Democratic representation in a multicultural society', Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance Seminar Series, Verity Lane Market, Canberra (5 June 2025).

Park, S. (2025). Audience perceptions of AI use in journalism. Presented at ICA 2025 AANZCA Panel AI and Communication: Navigating Truth, Ethics, and Professional Practice (Denver, 15 June 2025).

Exploring the role of personal mistrust cues in identifying misinformation online with Tanya Notley (WSU), Aimee Hourigan (WSU), Sora Park (UoC), T.J. Thomson (RMIT) and Michael Dezuanni (QUT). Panel presentation at AANZCA 2025 Conference (Sunshine Coast 26–28 November).

Park, S. (2025). Linkage Grants. CAT Series #4 Theoretical CAT (University of Canberra, 29 October).

Park, S. (2025). Partnering with industry and government, HRI Strategic Grant Planning for Research Success Workshop 3 (University of Canberra, 22 October).

Fisher, C. (2025). Trust, AI, and misinformation in news. Webinar for the Communication and Public Relations (CPRA) organisation (16 July 2025).

Park, S. (2025). Media literacy needs of culturally & linguistically diverse communities. Presented at FECCA Media Literacy Program Advisory Group Meeting (Online, 2 April 2025).

Park, S., Fulton, J. & Howden, S.: Presented at Hearts & Mind Epic "Disinformation Inoculation and Attitudes to Gas" seminar (19 February 2025).

Seminars and workshops

MISINFORMATION AND RESILIENCE N&MRC 2025 SEMINAR SERIES

Convened by Professor Mathieu O'Neil

12 March 2025

Mathieu O'Neil, N&MRC University of Canberra

Building resilience to misinformation: Why improving information credibility evaluation is key, but hard to promulgate in Australia

9 April 2025

**Marian-Andrei Rizoioi,
University of Technology Sydney**

Misinformation is not about bad information: from socially supportive to violent extremist acts

14 May 2025

Michael J. Jensen, University of Canberra

Information and Identity Logics in Manipulative Influence Operations

9 July 2025

**Michelle Riedlinger,
Queensland University of Technology**

The platform truthkeeping moment, post-platform fact checking and the future of platform content moderation

13 August 2025

Ullrich Ecker, University of Western Australia

The impacts of misinformation on people's thinking and reasoning

10 September 2025

**Timothy Graham,
Queensland University of Technology**

Beyond traditional bot detection: Using sequential coordination analysis to identify automation practices on social media

8 October 2025

**Tanya Notley and Aimee Hourigan,
Western Sydney University**

Understanding and responding to everyday experiences with misinformation using a media literacy approach

HDR WORKSHOPS

26 March 2025

**Kieran McGuinness, N&MRC
University of Canberra**

Welcome

30 April 2025

**Kieran McGuinness, N&MRC
University of Canberra**

Effective Proposal Writing for Research, Conferences, and Grants Application

28 May 2025

**Kieran McGuinness, N&MRC
University of Canberra**

PhD to Publication

30 July 2025

**Kieran McGuinness, N&MRC
University of Canberra**

Qualitative methods in the social sciences are sometimes dismissed as being 'a matter of interpretation'

24 September 2025

**Kieran McGuinness, N&MRC
University of Canberra**

Good quantitative research requires planning, knowledge of your tools, and a sound understanding of the principle of 'applying theory to data'

HDR STUDENT-LED FORUM

7 August 2025

Sue Atkinson, N&MRC University of Canberra
ACT Disaster Resilience Policy and Research Forum

JRP PROJECT SEMINAR

21 August 2025

Runping Zhu

Chinese Gen-Z's Incidental News Consumption in an Algorithm-Driven Social Media Environment and Their Perceptions of India

REPORT LAUNCH

28 August 2025

Kieran McGuinness, N&MRC

University of Canberra

Engaged Journalism in the Heartland

NEWS MEDIA, POLARISATION & DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE: FINDINGS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS.

Along with the Digital Media Research Centre (Queensland University of Technology), we co-organised a collaborative research workshop bringing together scholars working on news audiences, media systems, search practices and democratic resilience.

Researchers from the N&MRC, DMRC, the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society (ADM+S) and the Centre for Deliberative Democracy & Global Governance shared and discussed current findings from their respective projects, including work with the Digital News Report: Australia, the News Media Polarisation research stream, and research on how people navigate news through search.

The workshop provided a space for discussion focused on identifying shared challenges, opportunities for methodological integration, and avenues for future collaboration.

WORKSHOPS

October 2025

Max Scott, CEO of StratAlliance Global Event
co-hosted with US Embassy

Strategic Foresight Workshop: AI and the future of Journalism

10 December 2025

Sora Park & Jee Young Lee, N&MRC
University of Canberra

News Media Polarisation Workshop with QUT/CDDGG

SEMINAR

19 November 2025

Marcus Foth

Digital Civics: Rethinking Citizenship and Community Advocacy in the Age of Datafication and Gen AI

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT WORKSHOP: AI AND THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM

Strategic Foresight Workshop: AI and the future of Journalism

The workshop explored how AI technologies are shaping journalism practices, influencing editorial decisions, and impacting trust and transparency in news media.

- Opportunity and challenge scenarios grounded in real-life experiences and community needs
- Themes that reflect shared concerns, hopes, and values
- Prioritised AI impacts that help prioritize what matters most to communities
- Stakeholder maps and interventions that point to realistic next steps

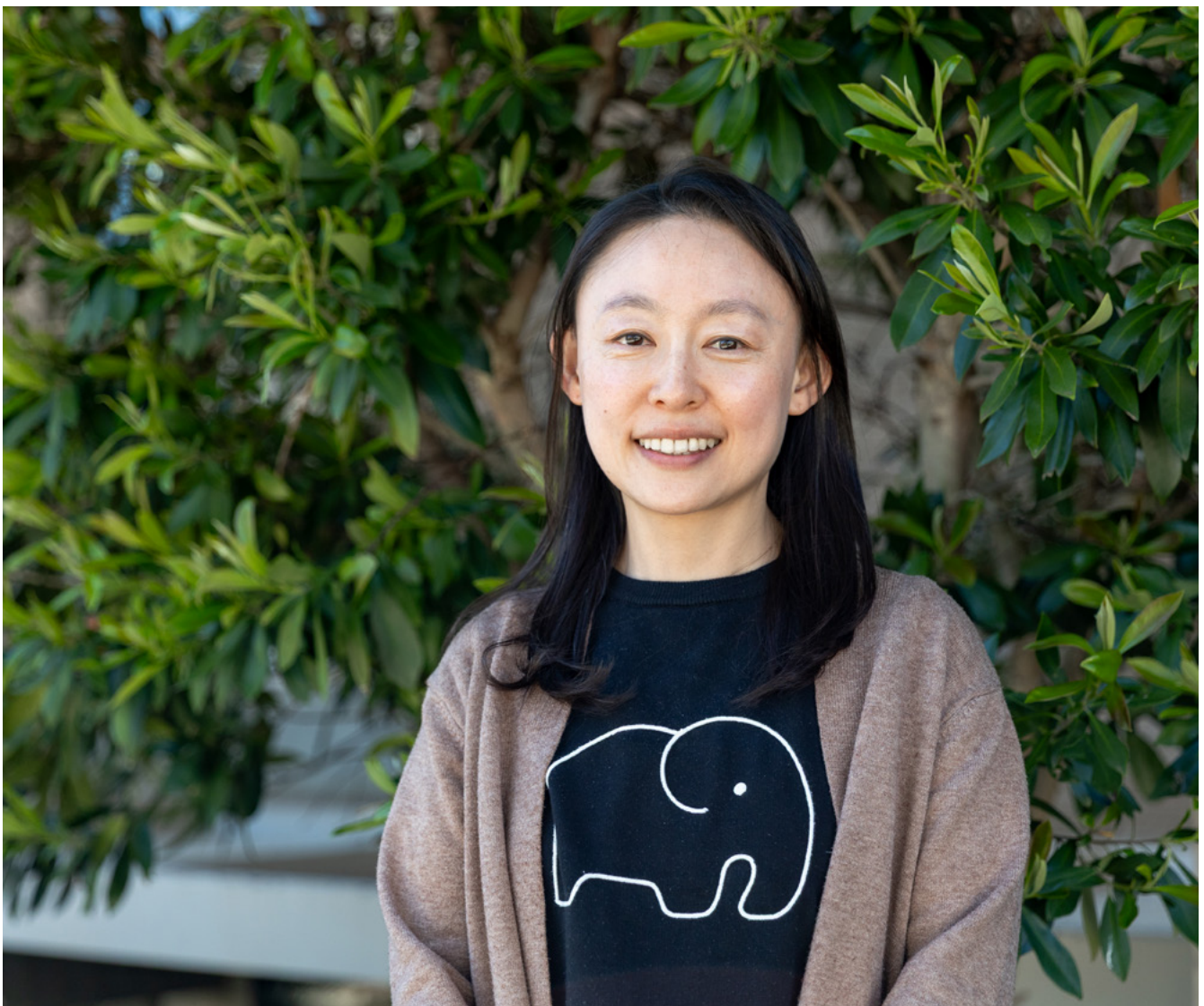
Spotlight:

Visiting Research Fellow

Jung Ju Yun

My visit to the News and Media Research Centre was an invaluable opportunity to deepen my understanding of both the Centre's research and the broader Australian media environment. The Korea Press Foundation, where I work, has maintained a longstanding relationship with N&MRC as the Korean partner organisation for the Reuters Institute's Digital News Report. Because of this connection, my time in Canberra felt particularly meaningful, allowing me to strengthen an existing institutional partnership while gaining fresh perspectives that will inform my own research and professional practice.

During my stay, I attended the Centre's seminar series and had the opportunity to engage with researchers working on a wide range of issues related to journalism and media. What struck me most was how closely the challenges facing Australia mirror those in South Korea. Topics such as the spread of mis/disinformation during election campaigns, declining news consumption, growing public distrust in news, and both the promise and risks of generative AI in journalism are central concerns in both countries. Although the media systems and policy environments of Australia and Korea differ in many respects, the underlying questions about how to sustain trustworthy journalism and support informed citizenship are remarkably similar.



My primary research interest is media education for children and young people, with a particular focus on how news content can be used more effectively in educational settings. The central goal of my current project is to explore ways to make news a more accessible and engaging learning resource for students.

In this regard, one of the most inspiring aspects of my visit was discovering how Australian media organisations have developed dedicated educational news services for young audiences. Examples such as ABC Education's Behind the News (BTN), SBS Learn, and The Squiz Kids provide age-appropriate explanations of current events and offer a wide range of supporting resources that teachers can use directly in the classroom.

These initiatives challenged an assumption I had held before coming to Australia. In Korea, discussions about using news in education have tended to focus on adapting existing articles by adding explanatory notes, discussion questions, or related activities. However, the Australian examples suggest that creating news specifically for educational purposes may be a more effective approach. When news content is designed from the outset with curriculum alignment, reading level, and classroom usability in mind, it becomes far easier for teachers to integrate into lessons and for students to engage with confidently.

I was particularly impressed by SBS Learn. Reflecting Australia's multicultural society, SBS Learn offers educational resources that highlight cultural diversity while remaining closely aligned with the Australian Curriculum. South Korea is also becoming increasingly diverse, and schools are facing growing demands to prepare students for a multicultural society. The Australian model suggests that there is significant potential for Korean media organisations – especially regional news outlets – to create educational news content that addresses issues of diversity and inclusion while supporting curriculum objectives.

Another issue that attracted my attention was Australia's policy response to the impact of social media on children and adolescents. The passage of the Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024, which is scheduled to take effect in December 2025, establishes a minimum age of 16 for certain social media services.

This initiative drew considerable attention in Korea as well, where concerns about excessive social media use among young people are becoming increasingly prominent. Observing how Australia is addressing these challenges highlighted the importance of combining regulation, public debate, and media literacy education.

Beyond the formal research activities, I also appreciated the opportunity to interact with the Centre's researchers and learn more about their ongoing work. Their research addresses a wide range of issues facing contemporary journalism, including news consumption, mis/disinformation, and the impact of emerging technologies. These conversations helped me better understand how academic research can inform policy discussions and practical responses to changes in the media environment.

This experience broadened my understanding of how news can be reimagined as an educational resource and gave me many ideas that I hope to apply in Korea. It also reinforced the value of international collaboration in addressing shared challenges related to journalism, education, and democratic participation.

I am sincerely grateful to everyone at N&MRC for their warm welcome and for so generously sharing their knowledge and experience. My time at the University of Canberra has been both intellectually stimulating and personally rewarding, and I look forward to continuing the connection between the Korea Press Foundation and N&MRC in the years ahead.

Read more about Jung Ju's visit at: canberra.edu.au/uncover/news-archive/2025/october/the-visiting-scholars-calling-canberra-home

Spotlight:

N&MRC and ABC joint research secondment

Dr Kieran McGuinness

The Centre has been developing strong working relationships with research end-users. Among those end-users, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) is one of the largest and most diverse in its services provided to Australian audiences.

To develop the Centre's understanding of the ABC's research priorities and how the broadcaster translates research into practice, a secondment was proposed and accepted by the ABC. The ABC and N&MRC signed an agreement to second Dr McGuinness to work in their Audience Insights and Analytics division from 1 July to 30 November 2025.

During this period Dr McGuinness reported to the Head of Audience Insights and Analytics and the Insights Manager for the NEWS division. Dr McGuinness conducted longitudinal analysis of comparative datasets, combining N&MRC and ABC data sources to provide practical recommendations and research design proposals to develop the ABC's ongoing research capability.

Outcomes from this research included direct briefings of research findings to senior ABC Strategy and Editorial teams, as well as a report summarising the findings of the joint data-set research. Senior ABC staff have provided positive feedback on the outcome of the secondment, via a testimonial, noting that the N&MRC were able to help them build research capacity and shape strategic decisions. The ABC has also indicated interest in pursuing future research collaborations building on the outcome of this secondment.



Digital News Report: Australia 2025

The *Digital News Report: Australia 2025* presents comprehensive insights into changing news consumption habits. It is the result of a global and longitudinal study of news and media use exploring audience perspectives on a range of issues such as trust in news, social media, AI, misinformation, local news, and media literacy. This year's report explores over 10 years of data from Australia and 47 other markets across 6 continents, alongside commentary from media and news industry experts.



Key findings include:

- One in four say social media is their main source of news, overtaking online news websites.
- Instagram (40%) and TikTok (36%) are the top two platforms for news among 18–24-year-olds.
- Only 24% of Australians have received news literacy education.
- 29% are interested in personalised AI news summaries.
- Facebook and TikTok are seen as a major misinformation threat among social platforms.

These findings provide valuable evidence for journalists, media organisations, policymakers, and professional communicators seeking to understand Australia's dynamic news environment.

Download the report here: <https://apo.org.au/node/330740>

Watch on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/pOSd92H2M6I?si=pkVaBtIZbTV8BAJm>.

Listen on *The News Now* podcast on UCFM here: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/3VZyBSrs0NfW-m8lIddQRok?si=2aa1ed79df1c4063.+&nd=1&dlsi=-7f696777eef148e4>

Spotlight:

HDR of the year

Xiaolan Cai

Thesis: *The Emergence of Open Source Smart City Projects in Australia and Their Impacts on Citizen Participation*

About the project

“Smart cities” are urban areas that use digital technologies and data to improve services, sustainability, and quality of life. This PhD research examines how community-led smart city initiatives are emerging in Australia and what they mean for citizen participation. While mainstream smart city programs are often promoted as high-tech solutions, they are frequently criticised for prioritising data, efficiency, and automation while overlooking community needs and voices.

In response, a growing number of initiatives adopt a community-led, open source approach grounded in values such as transparency, openness, and sharing. These projects aim to give citizens a more active role in shaping urban futures. Rather than relying solely on governments or corporations, they involve volunteers, community groups, and diverse stakeholders in building and maintaining shared digital infrastructures that affect everyday life.

To analyse these initiatives, the research uses a network-based approach that maps relationships between people, organisations, technologies, and underlying ideologies. It also traces how disagreements and debates evolve over time, showing how participants negotiate roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes. This approach reveals not only who is involved, but how participation is enacted in practice.

Key findings

The study identifies clear differences between traditional, state- or corporate-led smart city models and community-led approaches. In many institutional initiatives, citizens are positioned as central stakeholders but are often limited to passive roles such as being informed or consulted, with little influence over agenda-setting. In contrast, open source smart city projects create more meaningful opportunities for participation. Citizens are actively involved in identifying problems, negotiating priorities, developing solutions, coordinating collaborations, and creating and sharing digital infrastructures and knowledge. This results in more collaborative and inclusive forms of participation.

A central theme across the cases is “openness.” Questions about who can access data, who can contribute, and how decisions are made often become sites of both collaboration and conflict. Openness is not fixed but continuously negotiated among participants. Volunteers play a crucial role in sustaining these initiatives by making information accessible, addressing imbalances in knowledge and power, and enabling alternative forms of transparency.

Why it matters

This research shows that open source smart city projects represent a different vision of how cities can be governed and, importantly, envisioned by who and in what ways. By directly involving citizens in designing and managing digital infrastructures, these projects expand possibilities for public engagement and government’s accountability. Participation is not limited to inclusion in decision-making but extends to defining problems, setting priorities, proposing solutions, and imagining alternative urban futures.

The findings also highlight important prerequisites for government entities seeking to support or collaborate with these initiatives. Effective collaboration require approaches that prioritise accountability and transparency beyond short-term or budget-driven objectives. Maintaining openness in practice is essential, including keeping data and code accessible, publicly auditable, and adaptable to different contexts. Crucially, the social and democratic benefits of these initiatives can only be realised if government involvement does not undermine their autonomy or agenda-setting power, but instead supports their continued independence.

2025 activities related to PhD:

Cai, X. (2025). Negotiating the Boundary of Openness in the context of Open Government: Mapping the Controversies Surrounding Open Government Data Intermediaries through a Case Study in Australia. *IAMCR 2025, the International Association for Media and Communication Research*, 13 to 17 July 2025, Singapore.



Saffron Howden

Thesis: *How to build older Australians' resilience to misinformation through media literacy*

Saffron Howden's PhD research involves the development, application and evaluation of Australia's first empirically-validated media literacy learning resources for people aged 55+.

She developed a scaleable, user-friendly education module drawing on best-practice media literacy and misinformation interventions from around the globe – adapting them for an older Australian audience – to determine how effective training is in reducing the reach and influence of misinformation.

Seventy-nine Australians aged 55+ from diverse backgrounds in urban and regional Australia were recruited for the study and their media literacy was tested before taking the short course. It was tested directly after the module to assess its impact, and again after three months to determine knowledge retention.

The training had an immediate impact on media literacy levels, which grew by an average 23.1% across demographics, and on critical thinking skills and confidence in media abilities. After three months, the impact of the course had diminished, but nonetheless contributed to an uplift of 11.2% on initial scores. Importantly, this education helped level the playing field between those with statistically higher media literacy and confidence (left wing, educated, younger, city-living and born in Australia) and those with fewer skills (political centrists, less educated, older, living in regional areas and born overseas).

These results suggest that the course is an effective tool for teaching media and information analysis and evaluation skills to Australians aged 55+, as well as developing their critical thinking capacity, guarding against misinformation receptivity, and boosting their confidence in navigating online content. The results build on previous efforts in the field focusing on children and young people by providing empirical data showing that media literacy training can specifically help older people. It also has implications for rebuilding social cohesion and Australia's social fabric by promoting a shared set of facts and expertise in an overwhelming and polluted information environment.

The findings led to the development of a scaleable media literacy education toolkit, *Stay Smart Online: how to spot misinformation and find facts* (Saffron was part of a funded project, *Combatting misinformation through media literacy* (Boundless Earth)). The toolkit includes training slides and presenter instructions, informational videos, tip sheets, quizzes, promotional flyers and evaluation forms.

In partnership with the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), libraries were recruited to pilot the toolkit with their patrons, attracting overwhelmingly positive feedback and useful suggestions which were used to refine and improve the resources.

This project has led to deeper ties between the Centre and Australia's library and information sector, including through media literacy webinars with ALIA, NSW Public Libraries Association (NSWPLA), Public Libraries Victoria, and the State Library of Queensland Public Libraries Branch. Saffron attended the NSWPLA annual conference in November as an exhibitor and has been invited to attend the 2026 conference as a media literacy panelist. She was also a panelist at the Centre for Media Transition's Can News Survive AI? event at the University of Technology Sydney in November.

The effectiveness of the intervention and the enthusiastic uptake of the *Stay Smart Online* toolkit show the research and its findings fill an important gap in the existing media literacy and misinformation education resources available to the general public. A public report based on the project is due for release in the second half of 2026.



Spotlight:

HDR graduate



Mona Chatskin

Thesis: *Malka Leifer in News Landscapes: Community engagement with mainstream and religious media practice in cases of alleged Jewish institutional child sex abuse in Australia.*

I began my PhD remotely from Melbourne in the depths of COVID-19 lockdowns and had the pleasure of being supervised by Professor Kerry McCallum and Associate Professor David Nolan. I remember first meeting with Kerry and David online, and immediately feeling I had found the institution where I wanted to embark on my PhD because my proposed research felt valued.

My research was attached to the Australian Research Council-funded discovery project (DP190101282), *Breaking Silences: Media and the Child Abuse Royal Commission*. Despite the challenges of completing a PhD remotely (lockdowns aside), the wider News and Media Research Centre (N&MRC) community made me feel at home whenever I visited Canberra, and everyone so generously offered to share knowledge.

My doctoral research examined the potentially transformative power of the media in a mediatised world, in the context of high-profile cases of institutional child sexual abuse in religious communities. The research analysed (mainstream and local religious) news media reportage on, and local community engagement with, the Malka Leifer child sexual abuse case. Dassi Erlich, Nicole Meyer, and Elly Sapper, are three sisters and victim-survivors who were abused by Leifer while she was Principal of the Adass Israel School, an ultra-Orthodox Jewish girls' school in Melbourne, Australia, and the three women spearheaded the Bring Leifer Back campaign.

The Leifer case spanned 15 years across Australia and Israel and gained notoriety as extradition attempts were blocked by Leifer's legal team. The case study is informed by findings from the Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse's report on Case Study 22, which examined the responses in Orthodox Jewish Schools to child sexual abuse. In August 2023, Leifer was found guilty of child sexual abuse and sentenced to 15 years in prison. Using the case study as the backbone for analysis,

the research project examined community formation within a mediated event. Adopting a mixed-methods research approach to analyse 'text and talk', a qualitative framing analysis was conducted which analysed 101 news articles in *The Age*, *Herald Sun*, *Australian Broadcasting Corporation* and *The Australian Jewish News*. This analysis of Australian mainstream and local religious media reportage then informed the central analysis of 8 peer conversation-style focus groups with Australian Jewish community members from different community denominations.

The research investigated how community members engage with and utilise media, and the role of locally constructed knowledge in shaping their relationship with the press. Through engaging with Jewish community members and privileging their voices, this research demonstrated how the Leifer case's mediation impacted on the community's social fabric, and how media power was harnessed to alter community-based discourse. The thesis examined how Melbourne's Jewish community negotiate and respond to mediated public crisis events of which they are the secondary subjects, and aimed to enhance understanding of diasporic Jewish identity and its relationship to media within the contemporary, hybrid media landscape.

The powerful symbolism of 'the three sisters' utilised emotion as a lever and driver for collective action from Melbourne's Jewish community and beyond. It was their voices, against the backdrop of the Australian Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse, that primarily changed how Jewish community members understood and responded to the crisis of abuse in their community. However, divisive and shameful representations persist in mediated public crisis events as they gain notoriety.

I was quite emotional when reading my examiner reports. By that point you're so far removed from your own work, to then read that the research comes at a time when "the stakes could not be higher" was an overwhelming feeling.

One examiner described it as "an outstanding doctoral dissertation that makes an original and significant contribution to the fields of communication and media studies." Their report concluded: "this is simply an outstanding thesis — I congratulate Ms Chatskin on her impeccable and powerful achievement. It is a thesis that meets and handsomely exceeds the requirements and requires no revision."

I attended my graduation ceremony at UC in September 2025. It felt surreal, but they really did say Dr Mona Chatskin!

Since January 2025, I have been working at RMIT University as Lecturer, Digital Communication in the School of Media and Communication. I have published two papers from my PhD research, one of which was awarded the Grant Noble Prize for Best Postgraduate Student Paper at AANZCA's 2023 conference. Currently, I'm working on a book proposal and hope to have this research published as a monograph.

I have the deepest gratitude for the lovely UC N&MRC community. Thank you all for believing in my research and for your endless support.

Professional development

Academic promotions

Professor Kerry McCallum – appointed Emeritus Professor, University of Canberra.

Dr Caroline Fisher – appointed Adjunct Associate Professor, News & Media Research Centre, University of Canberra.

Dr Kate Holland – appointed Adjunct, News & Media Research Centre, University of Canberra.

Awards

Mathieu O’Neil: Granted Outside Studies Program (OSP) leave for Semester 2/2025.

Disciplinary leadership

Ashleigh Haw: Public Officer for the Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Communication Association (AANZCA).

Ashleigh Haw: Early Career Researcher (ECR) representative for the School of Arts and Communication on the Faculty Research Committee for the Faculty of Arts and Design, University of Canberra.

David Nolan: Associate Dean Research (ADR) for the Faculty of Arts and Design, University of Canberra.

David Nolan: International Communications Association (ICA) Representative, Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand Communication Association (AANZCA).

David Nolan: Editorial Board Chair, Media International Australia.

David Nolan: Editorial Board Member, Online Media and Global Communication.

Janet Fulton: Executive Member and Treasurer, Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia (JERAA).

Kieran McGuinness: HDR Research and Training Seminar Series Convenor, News & Media Research Centre, University of Canberra.

Marion McCutcheon: Appointed to Screen Australia’s Screen Currency Research Advisory Group in April 2025.

Mathieu O’Neil: Convenor, N&MRC 2025 Misinformation and Resilience Seminar Series featuring leading Australian researchers.

Momoko Fujita: Editorial Board, Journal of Service Theory and Practice.

Momoko Fujita: Social Media Editor, Journal of Service Theory and Practice.

Sora Park: Australian Research Council College of Experts.

Sora Park: International Communication Association (ICA) Fellow 2025.

Sora Park: Member, NFSA’s Media Literacy Advisory Group.

Sora Park: Committee Member, Australian Media Literacy Alliance.

Sora Park: Editorial Board, Australian Journalism Review.

Sora Park: Editorial Board, Communication Studies.

Sora Park: Editorial Board, Digital Journalism.

Stuart Cunningham: Editorial Executive member, Media International Australia (journal).

Spotlight:

Member of the year



Dr Momoko Fujita

Thesis: *Advancing misinformation research in a critical election year*

In 2025, my research was shaped by a clear and urgent question: how can we better understand and meaningfully respond to the changing dynamics of information and communication environments? As a member and Deputy Director of N&MRC, I saw this not only as an academic challenge, but also as a responsibility to contribute research that is timely, applied, and relevant to public concerns. This became particularly important in the context of the 2025 Australian Federal Election. Elections are periods of heightened public attention, where the demand for information grows rapidly and where misinformation can spread just as quickly. Against this backdrop, I led the Australian Federal Election Misinformation Watch (AFEM Watch), a major sub-project within a broader N&MRC initiative on political misinformation and media literacy.

AFEM Watch was designed to respond to several key gaps. First, misinformation on social media increasingly emerges through interactions between visuals and texts, while much of the existing research focuses primarily on written text only. Second, existing detection models predominantly rely on post-hoc fact-checking via a knowledge base, making early-stage detection of misleading content challenging. Third, while the spread of political misinformation is well documented in the literature, how people engage with misleading content has attracted less research attention. Finally, the field is shaped by US-centric datasets and assumptions, which do not effectively capture the dynamics of unique political and cultural contexts such as Australia. In response, our project sought to develop a framework to detect multimodal misinformation dynamically in Instagram posts, and to explore the relationships between misinformation, messaging, and user engagement in the Australian election context. To address these challenges, we developed an analytical pipeline combining image-text

extraction, large language models, and web search-based verification processes. This enabled us to automatically detect misinformation embedded not only in written statements, but also within images. Over the course of the election campaign period, more than 15,000 election-related Instagram posts were captured and analysed, building a uniquely Australian dataset that allows us to examine misinformation at both scale and depth. We then applied Moral Foundations Theory and econometric modelling to over 6,000 posts classified as factual or misleading, together with engagement data, to further examine these relationships.

Our findings show that misleading content receives more comments and expressions of political support than factual content, and that engagement with misinformation is particularly pronounced when it is morally framed, positively valenced, and features issues that affect the everyday lives of voters. This has important implications for platform governance and electoral integrity. As misinformation continues to evolve, particularly through visual and AI-generated content, this work places us in a strong position to contribute evidence, tools, and insights that matter beyond academia. While the academic publications from this work are currently in development and will appear in 2026, the project has already contributed to the internal seminar series and stakeholder discussions.

Alongside this flagship project, I continued to contribute to the Centre's wider research agenda. This included work on the *Digital News Report: Australia 2025*, which remains a key national benchmark for understanding news consumption and trust, as well as research on sense of belonging among

multilingual audiences in collaboration with SBS Australia. I also contributed to a submission to the Treasury's News Bargaining Incentive inquiry, reflecting the Centre's ongoing engagement with policy development and media regulation. I supervised a diverse cohort of seven HDR students and undertook external responsibilities such as journal editorial work and peer reviewing. In the second half of 2025, I launched a new project on gambling influencers and communities on social media, and joined the Centre's executive leadership group to support key initiatives, including preparation for the 2026 flagship event, the News Futures Roundtable, while also contributing to several grant applications.

These activities may be less visible, but they are essential in ensuring that we are not only producing research, but also building and sustaining the capacity and quality of our research community.

Looking back, 2025 has been a year defined by both urgency and foundation-building. The AFEM Watch project, alongside other projects led by N&MRC colleagues, illustrates how the Centre can respond quickly to emerging challenges while also investing in longer-term research capability. I would also like to acknowledge that this work has been made possible through the strong support of the Centre and the University. I am particularly grateful to Professor Sora Park for her leadership, and to my colleagues at N&MRC for their collaboration, expertise, and shared commitment to impactful research. This collective environment has been central to enabling both the scale and the ambition of the work undertaken in 2025.

Spotlight:

Research report launch

Unpacking election misinformation: Australians' experience of news and information about the 2025 federal election

The N&MRC is focused on developing innovative research programmes that address key social concerns around media misinformation. The Unpacking election misinformation report was funded by the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, recognising the University of Canberra's ongoing commitment to addressing these problems as well. The report is one output of the ongoing Political Misinformation and Media Literacy: Australian Election 2025 project, which is a Centre coordinated project leveraging the expertise of 11 members and associates.

The findings in this report draw on data from a national survey of approximately 2000 Australian adults and interviews with 35 living in marginal electorates conducted in the weeks following the 2025 Federal Election. The purpose of this research was to provide a broad understanding of how Australians are accessing information about elections, how and where they encounter misinformation, how they identify and respond to it, and their general views about how misinformation should be addressed.

The data reveal that political misinformation widespread in the two weeks before election day. Many respondents identified politicians, political parties and political advertising as the top sources of election misinformation. Cost of living and nuclear energy were the most common reported topics of misinformation. However, both the survey and interviews revealed that many were not confident they could discern



what was true or fake online. People have difficulty with or rarely engage in fact checking, preferring to avoid or ignore possible election misinformation. There was strong agreement that access to adult media-literacy education was needed, along with robust truth in political advertising laws.

The Australian public expressed strong views in this research: both the government and social media platforms need to be doing more to restrict the spread of false information online. However, the data also reveal that misinformation and media literacy are complex issues that are unlikely to be addressed by a simple solution. As such, researchers, policy makers, governments and platforms need to work together if there is hope to address this multifaceted dilemma.

Spotlight:

Conference reflection IAMCR

Sue Atkinson

Communicating Environmental Justice: N&MRC at IAMCR Singapore 2025

Attending the International Association of Media and Communication Researchers (IAMCR) conference in Singapore this July was an incredible experience, made even more meaningful by travelling with such a strong delegation from the News & Media Research Centre. Eight of us presented our research under the conference theme “Communicating Environmental Justice: Many voices, one planet” – a theme that perfectly captured the diversity and global reach of contemporary communication scholarship.

The breadth of research from our centre was remarkable. Dr David Nolan examined journalism’s challenges in China’s digital age, while Prof Mathieu O’Neill presented on embedding information credibility skills in Australian curriculum. Dr Momoko Fujita explored gambling influencers and social media risks, and Dr Ashleigh Haw investigated accessible communication for migrants and people with disability during crises. Dr Janet Fulton presented on emergency broadcasting, social media and reporting on extreme events. Our PhD students were equally impressive: Xiaolan Cai presented on open government data intermediaries, Pinker Yao explored alternative media and multicultural community belonging, and I introduced my concept of “information intermediaries” in disaster communication.

Having such a strong group attend together created incredible opportunities for mutual support. We attended each other’s sessions, provided feedback during practice presentations beforehand, and celebrated each other’s successes throughout the week. This collaborative approach really enhanced the experience and strengthened our research community.

The conference itself exceeded expectations. From the inspiring opening keynote that connected past and future scholarship, to the spectacular conference dinner at Gardens by the Bay, every element demonstrated the power of bringing global communication scholars together. The research presentations were fascinating and groundbreaking, representing diverse perspectives from around the world on pressing communication challenges.

Singapore and Nanyang Technological University proved ideal hosts. The unique campus buildings provided inspiring venues, while the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information were exceptional hosts, supported by generous student volunteers who ensured everything ran smoothly despite the humidity!

For me personally, this second IAMCR experience built wonderfully on my first attendance. I had established connections to reconnect with and new networks to build. The response to my presentation was overwhelming – including an invitation to contribute to a special journal edition and discussions about further book publications once my PhD is complete.

IAMCR Singapore reinforced why international conferences matter: they challenge our thinking, expand our networks, and remind us that communication scholarship has never been more vital for addressing global challenges.

In the media

TV and radio interviews

Caroline Fisher: MediaLand, Radio National: www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/medialand/social-media-overtakes-websites-for-online-news/105376818 (20 June 2025).

Caroline Fisher: The Briefing podcast – Political Spin open.spotify.com/episode/4wm2hayj97YLOWqGAs-jGK3?si=xhCICcLfRLy25dcKuHp2wQ&context=spotify%3Ashow%3A77nloFcQZSzcQap4Pnj9xD (16 April 2025).

Kieran McGuinness: Interview with Mix 106.3 Amplify Newsroom on Political misinformation during the 2025 election research. (24 October 2025).

Kieran McGuinness: Radio interview with Georgia Styne on ‘Digital News Report: Australia 2025’ and Australians’ increasing comfort levels with AI in journalism (7 June 2025).

Mathieu O’Neil: TV interview on WIN News with Lillian Altman on Social media ban [featured on 5:30 bulletin] (8 December 2025).

Mathieu O’Neil: Radio Interview with Renee Bogatko on Social media ban. Amplify Radio (5 December 2025).

Mathieu O’Neil: Kate Midena, Foreign interference in Australian elections, leaving Twitter. *ABC Radio Canberra Mornings*. abc.net.au/listen/programs/canberra-mornings (15 January 2025).

Sora Park: Radio interview 2CC Canberra Live with Leon Delaney on ‘Stay Smart Online and media literacy’ (9 January 2026).

Sora Park: Radio interview ABC Canberra Drive with Georgia Styne on ‘Stay Smart Online and media literacy’ (8 January 2026).

Sora Park: Radio interview The Wire with Toni Pankaluic, Misinformation was rife during 2025 elections: research (31 October 2025), thewire.org.au/story/misinformation-was-rife-during-2025-elections-research

Sora Park: Radio interview 2CC Canberra Sunday Roast with Ian Meikle and Rod Henshaw on ‘Engaged journalism’ (31 August 2025).

Sora Park: Radio interview ABC Canberra Breakfast with Ross Solly on ‘the demise of regional news’ (28 August 2025).

Sora Park: Podcast interview Ep7 The Home Front, The Big Threat with Bryce Corbette open.spotify.com/episode/6q8OPfYcV8tUqh0bKu6V7N

Sora Park: RadiInfo, Misinformation threats, AI and podcast news consumption in latest *Digital news report: Australia 2025* (19 June 2025). radioinfo.com.au/news/misinformation-threats-surge-in-ai-consumption-and-value-of-news-literacy-education-digital-news-report-australia-2025

Sora Park: Radio interview with Rachel, ABC NewsRadio on ‘Influencers and news’ (4 July 2025).

Sora Park: Radio interview with Ian Meikle and Rod Henshaw, Sunday Roast 2CC on ‘Digital News Report: Australia 2025’ (22 June 2025).

Sora Park: Podcast interview with National Security College, ANU ‘Online misinformation in Australia report’ (19 December 2024). shows.acast.com/the-national-security-podcast/episodes

Sora Park: Radio interview with JOY 94.9 Drive with Warren, ‘Online misinformation in Australia report’ (18 December 2024). joy.org.au/saturdaymagazine/2024/12/saturday-7th-december-2024-are-australian-adults-online-media-literate-dr-sora-park-university-of-canberra-media-research-centre

Sora Park: Joy Drive podcast joy.org.au/joydrive/2025/02/25/professor-sora-park-verifying-online-information

Articles and features

Fisher, C. & Park, S. (2025). Why local news matters and why regional news providers need your support. *Canberra Times* (14 April 2025). canberratimes.com.au/story/8942619/trust-and-care-understanding-the-value-of-regional-journalism

Jung Ju Yun: Featured in UnCover, The visiting scholars calling Canberra home. (10 November 2025). canberra.edu.au/uncover/news-archive/2025/october/the-visiting-scholars-calling-canberra-home

Kieran McGuinness: Young people turn to social media for political information: new UC report explores misinformation throughout the 2025 Federal Election. (2025). canberra.edu.au/about-uc/media/media-releases/2025/october/young-people-turn-to-social-media-for-political-information-new-uc-report-explores-misinformation-throughout-the-2025-federal-election

Park, S., Lee, J. & McGuinness. (2025). Misinformation was rife during the 2025 election. New research shows many people were unable to identify it. The Conversation (23 October 2025). theconversation.com/misinformation-was-rife-during-the-2025-election-new-research-shows-many-people-were-unable-to-identify-it-267852

Park, S., Thomson, T.J. & Lee, J. (2025). What will support viable regional news? The answer is closer than you think. Canberra Times (28 August 2025). canberratimes.com.au/story/9049563/strengthening-local-news-through-community-participation

Park, S., Haw, A., Fisher, C. & McGuinness, K. (2025). New research shows Australians see influencers as major sources of misinformation. The Conversation (17 June 2025). theconversation.com/new-research-shows-australians-see-influencers-as-major-sources-of-misinformation-257803

Potter, A., Lotz, A. & McCutcheon, M. (2025). 'Australia's drama dilemma: how taxpayers foot the bill for content that ends up locked behind paywalls', The Conversation (28 January 2025). theconversation.com/australias-drama-dilemma-how-taxpayers-foot-the-bill-for-content-that-ends-up-locked-behind-paywalls-246237

Sora Park: Featured in UC News, Inclusive news representation fosters sense of belonging among multilingual audiences, new report from UC and SBS reveals (29 October 2025). canberra.edu.au/about-uc/media/newsroom/2025/october/inclusive-news-representation-fosters-sense-of-belonging-among-multilingual-audiences-new-report-from-uc-and-sbs-reveals

Sora Park: Featured in SBS Online, New research shows sense of belonging is growing stronger among multilingual Australians (29 October 2025). sbs.com.au/aboutus/2025/10/29/new-research-shows-sense-of-belonging-is-growing-stronger-among-multilingual-australians

Sora Park: Featured in Canberra Times. I've met many people in my years in local news. They are the best thing about it (Megan Doherty, 31 August 2025). canberratimes.com.au/story/9050244

Sora Park: Featured in Canberra Times. Digital innovation, local voices to lead regional storytelling into the future (Carla Mascarenhas, 28 August 2025). canberratimes.com.au/story/9050274/digital-innovation-local-voices-to-lead-regional-storytelling-into-the-future

Sora Park: Australian Financial Review. What your news habits say about your – and your age. (Sam Buckingham-Jones, 17 June 2025). afr.com/companies/media-and-marketing/what-your-news-habits-say-about-you-and-your-age-20250615-p5m7ke

Sora Park: Sydney Morning Herald. Influencers blur the lines on media landscape (Calum Jaspán, 7 July 2025). smh.com.au/business/companies/australians-believe-influencers-peddle-misinformation-so-why-are-they-so-popular-20250701-p5mb1p.html (also in The Age, WA Today and Brisbane Times)

Sora Park: Featured in UC News, Digital News Report: Australia 2025. (17 June 2025). canberra.edu.au/about-uc/media/newsroom/2025/june/digital-news-report-australia-2025

Sue Atkinson: Featured in UC News, Policymakers and researchers come together at UC to enact disaster resilience change. (25 August 2025). canberra.edu.au/about-uc/media/newsroom/2025/august/policymakers-and-researchers-come-together-at-uc-to-enact-disaster-resilience-change

Spotlight:

2025 ACT Disaster Resilience Policy and Research Forum

Building bridges: N&MRC PhD Student Leads Groundbreaking Disaster Resilience Forum

What happens when you bring researchers, policymakers, and practitioners together to tackle one of the ACT's biggest challenges? Pure collaborative magic, according to participants in the first ACT Disaster Resilience Policy and Research Forum.

NM&RC PhD student Sue Atkinson conceived and organised the August forum, which brought together 70 participants from government agencies, emergency management organisations, research institutions and community groups. Co-hosted with the ACT Government's Justice and Community Safety Directorate and UC's Centre for Environmental Governance, the event exemplified the University's commitment to being locally engaged while fostering meaningful cross-faculty collaboration.

The forum directly supported implementation of the ACT Disaster Resilience Strategy 2024–2030, with high-profile speakers including Vice-Chancellor Bill Shorten, who opened the event by sharing his experiences of listening to community stories across Australia. But it was the interactive workshop that generated real excitement, with one participant calling it “BRILLIANT” and vowing to “steal that idea for my next government workshop.”

Participants praised the “great mix of researchers and policy makers” and “diversity of opinions shared,” working intensively through nine themed discussions to identify concrete research-policy partnerships. The collaborative approach clearly hit the mark, with attendees highlighting hopes for “ongoing collaboration,” “fruitful collabs,” and making it “an annual thing.”

The response was overwhelmingly positive, with 92% of participants saying the forum met or exceeded their expectations. Key themes emerged around community engagement, social cohesion, and building on community strengths rather than just addressing vulnerabilities.

A comprehensive report is being developed collaboratively with partners, with plans already underway for a second forum in 2026–27. The initiative demonstrates how N&MRC researchers can drive meaningful community impact while building lasting cross-sector partnerships.

New and ongoing projects

New projects

Sora Park, Jee Young Lee, Stuart Cunningham, Marion McCutcheon & Nhung Nguyen – *Creative Australia Quantitative Research Support* – Creative Australia, \$54,371.

Kerry McCallum, Sora Park, Jee Young Lee, Caroline Fisher, Ashleigh Haw, Mathieu O'Neil, Momoko Fujita, Andrew Ross, David Nolan, Kieran McGuinness, Aya Hussein & Janet Fulton – *Political Misinformation and Media Literacy: Australian Election 2025* – University of Canberra, \$87,222.

Marion McCutcheon, Yogi Vidyattama & Stuart Cunningham – *Screen Currency 2.0: Economic Contribution Study* – Screen Australia, \$151,499.

Susan Grantham, Hannah Adler & Kieran McGuinness – *Political influencers and the shifting landscape of Australian elections* – Giffith University, \$5,000.

Bronwyn Carlson, David Nolan, Archie Thomas & Debbie Bargallie – Discovery Project 2025 – *What does 'doing diversity' do, and how can it be done differently? Learning from experiences of diverse workers in Australian media* – Australian Research Council, \$106,963.

Irfan Khan & Momoko Fujita – *Impact of a geo-targeted Heart Health Check social media campaign on general practice attendance in high-risk regions* – The Heart Foundation, \$6,000.

Yogi Vidyattama & Marion McCutcheon – *Calculation of Industry Value Add and contribution to Gross State Product (GSP)* – WA Creative Industries, \$29,434.

Mathieu O'Neil, Braybrooke, Broca, de Blanc, Daly, Rikap, Thwaites & Zaxxhiroli – *Digital Commons Policy Council: Pilot Research and Operational Costs* – Ford Foundation, \$48,000.

Jee Young Lee, Tanya Notley, Yoonmo Sang & Kerry McCallum – Discovery Project 2026 – *News and Australian Teens: Enablers and Barriers to Digital Citizenship* – Australian Research Council, \$582,343.

Ongoing projects

Sora Park, Caroline Fisher, Uwe Dulleck, Richard Fletcher, Edson Tandoc & Se-Uh Ok – Discovery Project 2021 – *The rise of mistrust: Digital platforms and trust in news media* – Australian Research Council, \$398,000.

Mathieu O'Neil, Robert Ackland, Phillip Cimiano, Elena Esposito, Udo Seelmeyer & Tony Veale – *Bots Building Bridges (3B): Theoretical, Empirical, and Technological Foundations for Systems that Monitor and Support Political Deliberation Online* – VolkswagenStiftung, \$53,541.

Terry Flew, Derek Wilding, Tim Dwyer, Aljosha Schapels, Sora Park & Caroline Fisher – Discovery Project 2022 – *Valuing News: Aligning Individual, Institutional and Social Perspectives* – Australian Research Council, \$127,269.

Sora Park, Kerry McCallum, Jee Young Lee, Robert Picard, Paul Tyrrell & Alex Mihalovich – Linkage Project 2022 – *Heartbeat of Australia: Tracking, understanding and engaging news audiences* – Australian Research Council, \$462,126.

Tanya Notley & Sora Park – Linkage Project 2022 – *Addressing Misinformation with Media Literacy through Cultural Institutions* – Australian Research Council, \$80,960.

Stuart Cunningham, Jee Young Lee, Marion McCutcheon, Scott Brook & Janet Fulton – Linkage Project 2023 – *New approaches measuring Australia's creative workforce: Beyond the Census* – Australian Research Council, \$474,067.

Kerry McCallum & Jee Young Lee (PhD: Sue Atkinson) – *Natural Hazards Top-up Postgraduate Research Scholarship* – Natural Hazards Research Australia, \$38,833.

Mathieu O'Neil, Eryn Newman, Li Qian Tay & Ulrich Ecker – *NTSC-Office Chief Scientist Resilience to Misinformation Report* – Australian National University, \$8,890.

Sora Park, Stuart Cunningham, Jee Young Lee, Marion McCutcheon & Sonia Curll – *Creative Australia Quantitative Research Support* – Australian Council for the Arts, \$114,180.

Sora Park, Janet Fulton, Saffron Howden, Caroline Fisher & Jee Young Lee – *Combating misinformation through media literacy* – \$170,000.

Stuart Cunningham & Marion McCutcheon – *Towards Equity Data Research Commission* – Creative Australia, \$9,994.97.

Sora Park, Jee Young Lee, Kieran McGuinness & Momoko Fujita – *Sense of belonging among multilingual audiences in Australia 2024* – SBS Australia, \$41,250.

Publications and outputs

Journal articles

Adler, H., & McGuinness, K. (2025). 'Use these strategies to advocate for yourself at your next doctor's appointment': a snapshot of Australian online news framing of endometriosis in 2024. *Media International Australia*, 0(0).

doi.org/10.1177/1329878X251407719

Cai, X., O'Neil, M. & Zacchiroli, S. (2025) University Rents Enabling Corporate Innovation: Mapping Academic Researcher Labour in the R Language Ecosystem. *Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media* 5(2025), 1–39.

Haw, A. L. (in press). The nexus between accessible health communication and information resilience in diverse societies: The case of migrants, refugees, and people with disability. *Health Sociology Review*.

Fisher, C., Park, S., Fulton, J., Dulleck, U., & Flew, T. (2025). What is news in a high-choice media environment? An adapted boundary framework for audience definitions of news. *Media International Australia*, 0(0).

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Fujita, M., Harrigan, P., & Pham, T. To imitate or not: Brand-consumer mimicry (BCM) in social media. Target: *International Journal of Information Management*.

Fujita, M., Khan, I., & McGuinness, K. How gambling influencers and user-generated content on social media can contribute to risky gambling: A social identity approach. Target: *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*.

Fujita, M., Hussein, A., O'Neil, M., Iqtidar, K., Cai, X., & Yao, S. Election misinformation on Instagram: Detection, message characteristics, and virality. Target: *International Journal of Information Management*.

Jiang, Y., & Fujita, M. (2025). Cultivating diverse leaders: Enhancing competitiveness in Australian higher education through the intercultural competence framework. Target: *Journal of Higher Education Policy and Management*.

Lee, J. Y., Park, S., & Notley, T. (2025). Exploring How Young People's Access To News Literacy Education Influences Their Digital Civic Engagement. *Journal of Applied Youth Studies*.

doi.org/10.1007/s43151-025-00200-2

Lee, J. (2025) Australia's ABC Five-Year Plan 2023–2028. Korean Broadcasters Association. 127–139.

comm.or.kr/news/notice2/1000015999

McCallum, K., Dreher, T., Deas, M., de Souza, P., Joseph, S., & Skogerboe, E. (2025). Making public or quiet listening? Media logics and public inquiries into the abuse of children. *Media International Australia*, 196(1), 171–187.

McCutcheon, M., Brook, S., Cunningham, S. (2025). The Creative Trident Mark III: Correlating creative qualifications and occupations, *Cultural Trends*, published online (October 2025).

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Rahman, T., Imran, A. & Lee, J. (2025). Integration of a multidimensional framework to measure the social impact of an information technology intervention from a human centered approach. *Information Technology for Development*. doi.org/10.1080/02681102.2025.2512367

Sang, Y., Lee, J., McCallum, K. M. & Su, J. (2025). "It's so normalised. Like, yeah, I got another nude today": image-based online sexual interactions among emerging adults. *Communication Research and Practice*.

doi.org/10.1080/22041451.2025.2515639

Shine, D., Minehan, M., Agarwal, C., O'Neil, M., Fujita, M. (2025). High Reach, Low Quality: A Content Analysis of Nutrition Information Shared by Macro- and Mega-Influencers on Instagram and TikTok. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*.

Skogerboe, E., McCallum, K., & Dreher, T. (2025). Overshadowed voices in media reporting on truth-telling commissions. *Media, Culture and Society*, 47(1), 96–112.

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Whiteville, R., Gunawardena, M., & Lee, J. (2025). Homeschooling in Australia: the context, power and identity. *Journal of Unschooling and Alternative Learning*.

Winarnita, M., Yang, F., Saldin, M., Weng, E., Haw, A. L., Nilan, P., and Rastiya, A. (2025). Indonesian-Australian media during an infodemic: Fostering trust and social resilience through translation as care. *Media International Australia*.

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Research reports

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doi.org/10.60836/91tb-6829

McCutcheon, M. (2025). *Towards Equity Data Commission for Creative Australia*. News and Media Research Centre, University of Canberra.

McCutcheon, M., Fulton, J., Cunningham, S., Brook, S. & Lee, J.Y. (2025). *Teaching Music in South Australia: Briefing Paper*, University of Canberra: News and Media Research Centre.

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McGuinness, K., Park, S., Lee, J., Lukamto, W., Fisher, C., Fulton, J., Haw, A. & Holland, K. (2025). *Unpacking election misinformation: Australians' experiences of news and information about the 2025 federal election*. News and Media Research Centre, University of Canberra.

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O'Neil M, Broca S, Cai X, Daly A, Rikap C, Shulz S & Zacchiroli S (2025) *The economic and environmental sustainability of digital commons: Lessons from the 2023 Debian project survey*. DCPC/ NMRC, University of Canberra. DOI: 10.60836/kwyp-z220.

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Park, S., Griffiths, R., Lee, J.Y., Fujita, M., & Nguyen, T. (2025). *Sense of belonging among multilingual audiences in Australia (Wave 2)*. University of Canberra.

Vidyattama, Y. & McCutcheon, M. (2025). *Western Australian Cultural and Creative Activity: Contribution to state product and value add: Final Report*, researchsystem.canberra.edu.au/admin/files/125650757/WA_GVA_report_FINAL_20251218.pdf

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Books/chapters

Haw, A. L. (in press). Accessibility and information resilience. In Chesterman, S., et al. (Eds). *The Oxford Handbook on Misinformation and Disinformation*. Oxford University Press, DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.15702.72002

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Kultsum, U., Hidayat, D. & Lee, J. (2025) *Digital leadership: Developing digital literacies in schools in Indonesia for empowering education and advancing sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Towards Resilient Societies: The Synergy of Religion, Education, Health, Science, and Technology*. Taylor & Francis.

McCallum, K., & Holland, K. (2025). Child sexual abuse: Media power and silenced voices. In Nelson, C., Buiten, D., & Death, J. (Eds.), *The Public Child: Media Power, Strategic Silencing, and Children's Right in Australia* (pp. 101–121). Palgrave Macmillan. doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-97267-6_6

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Conference papers

Adler, H. & McGuinness, K. (2025). *'Use these strategies to advocate for yourself at your next doctor's appointment': A snapshot of Australian online news framing of endometriosis in 2024*. Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand Communication Conference 2025 (Sunshine Coast 26–28 November 2025).

Brook, S. and McCutcheon, M. 2025, Creative Vocations and Transferable Skills, Academy of the Humanities, UTS (13–14 November 2025).

Haw, A. (2025). The nexus between accessible communication and information resilience during crisis events: The case of migrants and people with disability in Australia. Paper presented at the 2025 conference of the Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Communication Association (AANZCA), 2025 Conference, (27 November 2025).

Haw, A. (2025). 'I'd like to stop begging for the bare minimum': Addressing access labour in organisational communication – A rationale for collective care. *Paper presented at the 2025 conference of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR)*, (17 July 2025).

Fujita, M. (2025). How gambling influencers and user-generated content on social media can contribute to risky gambling: A social identity approach. *IAMCR 2025*. Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. (13–17 July 2025).

Lee, J., Park, S., Fulton, J., McCallum, K. & Nguyen, N. (2025). News for connection, status and belonging: Mapping the social currency of local news. Paper presented at AANZCA 2025 Conference. Sunshine Coast. (26–28 November 2025).

Lee, J., Park, S., Yang, S., Sang, Y. & Kultsum, U. (2025). Teens and Digital News: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Sharing and Engagement. Paper presented at the ICA 2025 ICA Preconference Digital Asia (12 June 2025).

McCutcheon, M. & Potter, A. 2025. The Digital Demise of National Television Drama: A new policy paradigm?, Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand Communication Association, University of the Sunshine Coast (26–28 November 2025).

McCutcheon, M. 2025, Qualifying the Creative Industries: The biggest problem and the latest findings, Remix Summit Perth, WA Museum (11–12 November 2025).

McGuinness, K., Lee, J. Y., Haw, A., Nolan, D., and Fulton, J. (2025). 'I don't think that wind farms are killing whales, they're not that stupid to run straight into one': Political misinformation during the 2025 Australian federal election. *Panel presented at the 2025 conference of the Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Communication Association (AANZCA)* (27 November 2025).

Nolan, D. and Thomas, A. (2025) 'What do we do with diversity? Limited mechanisms of redress under stress', Conference paper presented at AANZCA 2025, University of the Sunshine Coast (26–28 November 2025).

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Park, S., Fulton, J., Cunningham, S., Atkinson, S. McCallum, K. & Holland, K. (2025). "Everything's changed and nothing's changed": Emergency broadcasting, social media and reporting on extreme events. Paper presented at the Journalism Research and Education Section, IAMCR 2025, Singapore (13–17 July 2025).

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