Call for Applications: Fully funded PhD opportunity

**Breaking silences: Media and the Child Abuse Royal Commission (DP190101282)**

The **News and Media Research Centre**, University of Canberra, Invites applications from outstanding candidates to undertake a PhD on a topic related to the **Breaking silences: Media and the Child Abuse Royal Commission** ARC Discovery Project (DP190101282).

The **Breaking Silences**project analyses the role of media, journalism and social media activism in the ground-breaking Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (2013-17) (RCIRCSA). Through an investigation into the impacts of a rapidly changing media environment on this national ‘listening’ exercise, this is the first major Australian research to explore the nexus between media and commissions of inquiry in the digital era.

The project’s Chief Investigators are Prof Kerry McCallum (UC), A/Prof Lisa Waller (Deakin), A/Prof Kristy Hess (Deakin), A/Prof Tanja Dreher (UNSW) and Prof Eli Skogerbø (U Oslo, Norway).

Under the Primary Supervision of Kerry McCallum (UC), the PhD candidate will undertake an independent study that addresses the Breaking Silence project’s aims and scope. This project might focus on the institutional media practices of the Royal Commission to investigate the innovations and challenges enabled by the digital media environment in contemporary inquiries. This doctoral research would be suited a candidate with a professional background in communication, as well as appropriate academic qualifications.

The PhD candidate will be supervised within UC’s [News and Media Research Centre](http://www.canberra.edu.au/nmrc) which researches digital news consumption and the impacts of digital technology on public discourse and democratic participation. The N&MRC provides a stimulating and supportive research training environment, where Higher Degree by Research candidates work with experienced researchers and participate in seminars, workshops and masterclasses.

Applications for this PhD Scholarship are invited from competitive applicants with excellent academic track records, and relevant professional experience. We encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candidates. The possibility of part time study is available, in accordance with stipend Conditions of Award. The Breaking Silences stipend scholarship is part-funded by the UC Deputy Vice Chancellor and Innovation will be paid at the full RTP Scholarship rate of $27,596 (2019 rates), plus $4,000 Faculty of Arts and Design infrastructure support.

Interested candidates should prepare an Application incorporating:

1. Covering letter addressed to Professor Kerry McCallum of no more than two pages. State your background and motivation for applying for the Breaking Silences scholarship.
2. Curriculum Vitae. This should include academic qualifications and professional experience.
3. Research Proposal of up to 1000 words should include: Title, aims and purpose of the proposed research; reference to key academic literature; understanding of the topic and its professional context; proposed research design and methods; and potential outcomes of the study. Candidates are strongly advised to contact Kerry McCallum to further discuss the scope and potential topics available within the Breaking Silences project.
4. References: All applications require two academic and/or professional references.

Applications are welcome by 15 September 2019, for commencement in 2019 or 2020.

For further information contact: kerry.mccallum@canberra.edu.au. For information about the News and Media Research Centre see: [www.canberra.edu.au/nmrc](http://www.canberra.edu.au/nmrc)