GRAfest 2023

Speaker Bios

Speakers

Simon Handley | Professor | Macquarie University

Professor Simon Handley is an accomplished academic whose passion for psychology has seen him teaching and supervising in universities for the past 30 years. He is currently Pro Vice-Chancellor, Graduate Research, responsible for managing Macquarie’s Graduate Research programs and International Research Partnerships. The role sits within the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) portfolio at Macquarie University. Prior to this he served as Executive Dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences from 2015 to 2020.

Professor Handley holds a PhD in Psychology from Cardiff University, UK. His academic career in psychology was fostered and developed during his 22-year tenure at the University of Plymouth, UK, moving from a psychology lecturer to the Head of Psychology and Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology during that time.

Professor Handley remains an active researcher in the field of human reasoning, judgment and decision making. His work primarily looks at the impact of knowledge and beliefs on thinking in children and adults and the psychological processes underpinning rational thought. Simon has authored more than 100 peer reviewed research publications, been awarded over $2m in grant funding, and has supervised 19 PhD students to completion. He is a Fellow of the Israeli Institute of Advanced Studies, having recently taken a research sabbatical at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

His portfolio incorporates the Graduate Research Academy (GRA) which oversees research training at Macquarie University, working in collaboration with faculties and the University’s broader research community to deliver an exceptional experience for Graduate Research candidates.

The GRA is responsible for:

- Providing academic and strategic leadership of the University’s Graduate Research programs
- Developing the policy framework for research training
- Developing tailored support and development programs to ensure candidates are world-ready and highly employable
- Providing opportunities for career-enhancing exposure to industry and the community
- Developing programs to build outstanding supervisory expertise and mentorship
- Providing operational management of the candidate lifecycle, including recruitment, admission, progression, and completion
- Overseeing scholarship investment to attract high potential candidates in areas of research strengths and developing relationships with external funding agencies
- Building and maintaining research training partnerships, including Australia’s largest cotutelle, joint PhD and Master of Research exchange program
Jennifer Cornish | Professor | Macquarie University

**Professor Jennifer Cornish** is Academic Director of Graduate Research and a Professor in the School of Psychological Sciences (Macquarie University). Professor Cornish obtained her PhD in Neuropharmacology from Monash University in 1997 and has since researched in the fields of drug use disorders and associated mental health issues of psychosis, anxiety and depression. Her work has discovered neurotransmitter systems and brain circuits that mediate maladaptive behaviour (90 publications, H index of 33, 3740 citations). In addition to lecturing in biopsychology and psychopharmacology, she has been Director of Higher Degree Research (HDR) for Psychology (2007-2014), acting Associate Dean Research (2014) and Associate Dean HDR for the Faculty of Human Sciences (2017-2020). Jen has a strong interest in supporting graduate research candidates, and continues in this domain in her current role in the Graduate Research Academy.

Ronika Power | Professor | Macquarie University

**Ronika Power** is Professor of Bioarchaeology in the Department of History and Archaeology at Macquarie University, and the Director of the Centre for Ancient Cultural Heritage and Environment (CACHE). Ronika is an elected Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries London, the Royal Society of New South Wales, Academia Europaea, and one of the 30 inaugural Superstars of STEM for Science and Technology Australia. In 2019, Ronika received the Max Crawford Medal from the Australian Academy of the Humanities; the Kwang-su Lim Early Career Award of the Union Académique Internationale, Brussels; and was named as a Tall Poppy of Science from the Australian Institute of Policy in Science. She obtained a BA Ancient History (Hons I) with the University Medal from Macquarie University; an MSc Human Osteology and Palaeopathology from the University of Bradford, UK; and a PhD in Egyptology, Archaeology, Biological Anthropology and Philosophy from Macquarie University.

Lisi Beyersmann | ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) Fellow | Macquarie University

**Lisi** is a cognitive scientist who is interested in how the human mind processes words, with a particular focus on units that carry meaning (“morphemes”). Besides her focus on rapid, automatic reading mechanisms in adults, she is also interested in how children learn to read, when during reading development word processing becomes more intuitive and automatized, and how reading and word retrieval skills change within the ageing population.
Professor Bronwyn Carlson | Professor | Macquarie University

Professor Bronwyn Carlson (she/her) is the Head of Department of Indigenous Studies, the Director of the Centre for Global Indigenous Futures and Deputy Director for the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW). She is committed to proving pathways and support for Indigenous students and particularly mentoring the next generation of Indigenous scholars. In the Department of Indigenous Studies, she has established a HDR Internship which is training future scholars towards careers in academia and beyond. As Deputy Director for CEVAW she has developed a Research Ethics Training program that is available to all students to learn more about Indigenous research methodologies and how to work with and for Indigenous communities. She is the founding and managing editor of the Journal of Global Indigeneity which prioritises Indigenous HDRs and ECRs and supports them to have their research published.

Dr Megan Brewer | Graduate Research Development Manager (Acting) | Macquarie University

Megan Brewer has a research background in molecular biology and human genetics. After 7 years postdoctoral research, she decided to step out of the research arena and embrace her interest in science education and communication. Megan is currently acting as the Graduate Research Development Manager overseeing the fabulous team of GRD Advisors who are here to support GR students in developing their writing, presentation, and other research related skills. Outside of work Megan enjoys eating, sleeping, reading, crocheting, photography, watercolour painting, and dance.

Milena Bojovic | PhD student | Macquarie University

Milena Bojovic is a PhD student in the Discipline of Geography and Planning, in the School of Social Sciences at Macquarie University, Sydney. Her research interests are broadly related to environmental and social sustainability issues within food systems, particularly the intersections of climate change, animal agriculture and the development and diffusion of alternative proteins. Her PhD examines just transitions for the dairy sector in Aotearoa New Zealand, and considers the justice implications for humans, non-humans and environments.
Sarah Caddy | PhD student | Macquarie University

Sarah Caddy is a PhD candidate from Macquarie University and a bit of a space nerd! As a member of the Huntsman Telescope team, she is developing new observing techniques that will enable Huntsman to join the international search for elusive optical counterparts of Fast Radio Bursts - mysterious radio signals from space that still baffle scientists with their unknown origins. When she's not coaxing Huntsman into cooperation, Sarah is hunting for practical applications for the things we learn about space that can benefit humans here on Earth. Her latest passion involves reviving centuries-old celestial navigation techniques and adapting them for the 21st century to navigate planet Earth, and perhaps one day beyond. When she's not studying, you can often find her nestled among the numerous telescopes at Macquarie Observatory.

Renee Cawthorne | MRes Graduate | Macquarie University

Renee Cawthorne baladhu a proud Wiradjuri yinna (Renee Cawthorne, is a proud Wiradjuri woman). Her family ngadiyinbuladhi (come from) Albury Nurambang (Country), NSW. Renee's skin name is Nungala, given to her by Papunya Elder Aunty Marlene Nampitjinpa Spencer, her totem is garru, the magpie maternally inherited from her grandmother.

Renee has a Bachelor of Science majoring in Biology, 2016 and recently graduated in May 2023 with a Master of Research at Macquarie University her thesis titled: Indigenising the Australian University Science Curriculum. Renee has over 8 years of experience as a cultural educator, designing, developing, delivering, and evaluating programs for primary, secondary, and tertiary students, teachers and the public. Renee is currently employed as the Project Manager of the Aboriginal Strategy and Programs at the Botanic Gardens of Sydney which encompasses three world-leading botanic gardens: Sydney, Mt Annan and Mount Tomah, The Domain, and the Australian Institute of Botanical Science. Renee manages, advises, develops, and reports on projects, programs and initiatives that embed cultural inclusion across the Organisation.

Alexandra (Ally) Doubleday | Undergraduate student | Macquarie University

Ally is a second-year Undergraduate student studying a Bachelor of Archaeology, with an elective zone specialisation in human anatomy and physiology. She is passionate about Bioarchaeology and Palaeopathology (the study of ancient human remains, health and disease) and wishes to pursue a Master's and PhD in this area. Her current research surrounds bioarchaeological and historiographical analyses into Early-Dynastic Period (3100 – 2686 BCE) Egyptian human remains, now currently in international collections.
Claire Galea | PhD student | Macquarie University

Claire Galea is a biostatistician and senior impact analyst who is currently undertaking a PhD in the School of Psychological Sciences. Her research is on the impact of shared book reading focusing on Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library.

Mary Hartley | Honorary Associate | Macquarie University

Mary Hartley studied Egyptology at Macquarie University from 2001 through 2017. She completed her BA in Ancient History, then completed my MA (Egyptology), with a thesis titled “The Eighteenth Dynasty Banquet: a Portal to the Gods”. This work analysed the depictions of banquet scenes found on 18th Dynasty tomb walls in Thebes. After completing a Research Project, she then began her PhD in 2013. This work was based on the remains of thousands of canid bones found in the Teti cemetery north at Saqqara and their significance to the religious practices of the ancient Egyptians. She has been a team member of more than 20 Macquarie archaeological digs in Egypt working at Luxor, Saqqara, and Dendara. She began as an archaeological illustrator, and then assisted in the retrieval and recording of human remains before working with animal remains as the team zooarchaeologist. She is now an Honorary Associate in the Department of History and Archaeology.

Innez Haua | Indigenous HDR Internship Convenor | Macquarie University

Innez Haua is Aotearoa Māori, a daughter of the Pacific, a descendent of iwi; Ngāti Porou, Ngāi Tāmanuhiri, Rongowhakaata, Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki and Ngāti Kahungunu. She gratefully resides on the unceded lands of Dharug Ngurra. She is the Indigenous HDR Internship Convenor and a lecturer in the Department of Indigenous Studies at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. Her research focus includes Indigenous diasporas, the entangled histories and futures of Indigenous relationalities and Indigenous cultural sustainability.
Michelle Kay | MRes Graduate | Macquarie University

Michelle Kay is a recent MRes graduate and prospective PhD candidate investigating ancient Egyptian and Nubian tattooing and scarification practices from the perspectives of embodiment and identity theory. Her master’s thesis investigated the potential connections between tattooing and ethnicity in the context of the ancient Nile Valley, publications forthcoming. Her research interests include ancient body modification practices, tools and methods of tattooing, construction and expression of identities, and feminist archaeologies.

Noeleen Lumby | PhD student | Macquarie University

Noeleen Lumby is an Aboriginal woman who was born on D’harawal Country in NSW Australia. She now lives in northern NSW on beautiful Dunghatti Country. She is a research fellow in the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Science and is a member of the team researching Aboriginal Children’s Hearing Health and Listening and Learning in Aboriginal Children projects.

She has completed a Master of Indigenous Language Education in 2010 and has supported communities and schools in the development and implementation of Indigenous language programs. Noeleen has recently written a chapter “The voice of Country: Our obligation and responsibility to listen” in the Routledge Handbook on Australian Indigenous Peoples and Futures. In 2022 she completed a Master of Research with the Department of Indigenous Studies. Her thesis is entitled, on “Strengthening Linguistic Connections to Country: An anti-colonial approach. Noeleen is currently a PhD student at Macquarie University and her area of research is language revitalisation across Aboriginal communities.

Arzak Mohamed | Assistant Lecturer | Fayoum University

Arzak Mohamed “I aspire to be a leading academic in Egypt and overseas in analysis and conservation of ancient papyrus”.

Arzak holds a Bachelor of Archaeology from the Restoration Department, Fayoum University, Egypt and a Master’s degree in Conservation of Archaeological Materials, Cairo University, Egypt. She worked as a Teaching Assistant from 2006 to 2013 and Assistant Lecturer from 2013 until now at the Faculty of Archaeology, Fayoum University. She spent one year as a Visiting Researcher at Grimwade Centre of Conservation, Melbourne University, from 2018 to 2019. She was also a Visiting Research Fellow at RMIT University from September 2018 to January 2019, working to evaluate nanomaterials for the de-acidification of archaeological papyrus. She is currently undertaking her PhD in the School of Natural Sciences, Macquarie University (with the support of an iMQRES scholarship) in the analysis of archaeological materials using X-ray fluorescence spectrometry, X-ray diffractometry, Raman spectroscopy, FTIR Spectroscopy, and Scanning electron microscopy. From September 2022 to the end of December 2022, she worked as a papyrus conservator at the Chau Chak Wing Museum, The University of Sydney.
Lotus Rana | MRes student | Macquarie University

Lotus Rana (she/her) is a Year 1 Master of Research candidate. Lotus has Norfolk Island-Pitcairn Island-Tahitian and Indian heritage. She grew up and was educated on Dharug Country. Lotus holds a Bachelor of Marketing and Media from Macquarie University and a Graduate Certificate of Human and Community Services from The University of Sydney. Her research is interested in conceptions of whiteness in stories told about Tahiti, Pitcairn Island, and Norfolk Island. Lotus feels incredibly privileged to be part of the wonderful Department of Indigenous Studies at Macquarie University, which seeks to create a future where Indigenous peoples are thriving.

Hannah Vogel | PhD student | Macquarie University

Hannah Vogel is a PhD candidate at the Department of History and Archaeology at Macquarie University and centre manager of the Centre for Ancient Cultural Heritage and Environment (CACHE). Hannah is researching disability in ancient societies. She has also presented and published on inclusive pedagogy. Her research seeks interdisciplinary communication between humanities and science, especially in bioarchaeology, history, and disability studies. She is also an advocate for accessibility.

Dr Tamika Worrell | Lecturer | Macquarie University

Dr Tamika Worrell (She/her) is a Lecturer & Research training director in the Department of Indigenous Studies. Tamika is from Gamilaroi Country, and has been grown up by Dharug Ngurra, Western Sydney. She is an alumni of MQU from undergraduate to PhD, recently graduating with a VC Commendation. Her research areas are broadly Indigenous Education, Indigenous representation and English curricular. She is passionate about Indigenous HDR success, excellence and mentorship.

Viki Qiu Yue Zhang | PhD student | Macquarie University

Viki Qiu Yue Zhang is a PhD student from the Department of Economics. Her research area is climate change policies. She loves skiing, camping and the ocean. Her dream is to reverse climate change, and for humans to find peace and purpose.