Congratulations to...

Our ECRs in the press

Prey to Publish: Focus On...Predatory Journals

Workshops

Preparing for Academic Promotions

Other MQ Training Opportunities

Looking beyond the company website: developing your business research skills

Mindfulness meditation sessions - Online

Elsevier SciVal and Scopus Training Webinars

Library Click and Collect Service – Now Available

Survey Invite: Practices of Identifying and Initiating New Research Collaborations

Funding Opportunities

Fulbright Postdoctoral Scholarships

Prizes, Awards, and Competitions

Applications for Vice-Chancellor’s Learning and Teaching Awards – NOW OPEN

ECR Notice Board

Your ECR Representatives
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Our ECRs in the press

- Dr Klay Lamprell from the Australian Institute of Health Innovation for her contribution to the article 'COVID-19: Bridging the gap between common sense and nanny state' in *MJA Insight*

- Dr Vanessa Pirotta from the Department of Biological Sciences for her interviews with *ABC Radio Sydney Breakfast* and *ABC Radio Canberra Breakfast* about the whale migration, and her comments to the *Sydney Morning Herald* about a study of the diets of Great White Sharks, and to the *Daily Mail* about a reported early sighting of the white whale Migaloo

Prey to Publish: Focus On…Predatory Journals

“Publish or perish” the oft-cried (and somewhat problematic – but that is discussion for another day) mantra of academia has been seized upon by predatory journals and publishers who prey upon unsuspecting early career researchers (ECRs) and higher degree research (HDR) candidates by dangling the lure of opportunity: a chance to publish. This introduction may perhaps be a touch dramatic, but predatory journals and publishers (and conferences) are something we researchers need to be aware of.

Predatory journals are scam entities who exploit the academic publishing business model – typically by charging publication fees without checking articles for quality and legitimacy and without providing the other editorial and peer review services that legitimate academic journals provide. They frequently garner interest by extending flattering, but often poorly worded, “invitations” to publish (or present at conferences) and prey on, in particular, ECRs and HDRs by offering a tantalising opportunity to build up track record.

But if it means we get our work published, why should we be wary of predatory journals? Well, first, many of these “journals” are not recognised by trusted and respected literature search engines and so your publication may be missed by the research community. But most importantly, the lack of peer review undermines the credibility and integrity of any research published in these journals, and this can damage your reputation as a researcher. Just think, the last thing you would want is for your meticulously designed and executed research to be published alongside articles made up entirely of a repeated, profanity-laced, seven-word statement or other un-“credible” articles that get “accepted” by predatory journals (like this *Star Wars themed one*).

So how do you determine if you are being preyed on? A cross-sectional study on biomedical journals, published in 2017, identified 13 characteristics of potential predatory journals:

1. *The scope of interest includes non-biomedical subjects alongside biomedical topics*
2. *The website contains spelling and grammar errors*
3. *Images are distorted/fuzzy, intended to look like something they are not, or which are unauthorized*
4. *The homepage language targets authors*
5. *The Index Copernicus Value is promoted on the website*
6. *Description of the manuscript handling process is lacking*
7. Manuscripts are requested to be submitted via email
8. Rapid publication is promised
9. There is no retraction policy
10. Information on whether and how journal content will be digitally preserved is absent
11. The Article processing/publication charge is very low (e.g., < $150 USD)
12. The contact email address is non-professional and non-journal affiliated (e.g., @gmail.com or @yahoo.com)


To help you avoid publishing in a predatory journal (and find the best journal for your research) you can consult the University’s resources on strategic publishing. You can also reach out to your faculty Research Librarians for help with assessing the credentials of a journal or publisher.

Taking the time to do your due diligence in researching potential homes for your research not only ensures the best chance of publication success but also prevents you from potentially damaging your early research career.

***Please note that the follow up “part 2” for June’s “Focus On...Minding your career gap” article has been delayed and will be published in an upcoming edition***

Workshops

Preparing for Academic Promotions
August 5, 1pm -2.30pm

Have you just submitted your application for a promotion to Level B or Level C? Then now is the time to start thinking about the interview process. This panel session will help ECRs prepare for academic promotions interviews by sharing information about how the interview process works, what panellists are looking for and what you can do to prepare for a successful interview. A panel of experienced promotions committee members from each Faculty will give an overview of the process and share their perspectives on stumbling blocks and opportunities to shine.

If you would like to attend please register at myRDC, and to help make the most of this session, please fill out this pre-session survey.

If you cannot attend the live event, a recording of the panel session will be posted on the ECR website afterwards.

And if you want to get a head start, feel free to view last year’s panel session recording and slides.

Other MQ Development Opportunities
Please see myRDC for a full list of upcoming workshops for research staff and students.

• Looking beyond the company website: developing your business research skills, July 14
• Build your professional online profile: tips, tricks and essentials, **July 28**
• Introduction to the ARC DECRA Funding Scheme for Funding Commencing in 2022, **July 29**
• Developing a Competitive ARC Linkage Project Application, **Aug 17**
• Developing your Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence for the DECRA Scheme, **Sep 23**
• Developing your DECRA Project Description, **Sep 30**

**Looking beyond the company website: developing your business research skills**

**July 14**

A time may come when you need to identify potential collaborators in industry or get ready for an interview with an employer. As part of this preparation you might look at a company website, browse the annual report, or try a few internet searches to develop a deeper understanding about the company. Whilst this information will give you a good start, you have access to many other company and industry databases through the Macquarie University Library. These databases will allow you to do more in-depth research on the company, the industries it operates in and its key people.

This [company and industry database workshop](#), run by HDR Support and Development and the Library, is for those of you interested in learning more about these resources and how to use them, to develop your business research skills and to help you prepare for job interviews or industry collaborations.

**Mindfulness meditation sessions - Online**

Dr Michelle Jamieson’s weekly mindfulness meditation sessions will continue throughout July.

In these uncertain times, there has never been a more important moment to practice mindfulness – to be aware of the behaviour of our own minds, and to relate to ourselves and others with clarity, patience and kindness. Over the weeks, Michelle will guide you through a series of simple meditation and deep relaxation practices.

These free online sessions are open to any staff or students interested in meditation (beginners welcome). To join this community as we weather this storm together, register at [https://myrdc.mq.edu.au/](https://myrdc.mq.edu.au/)

**Elsevier SciVal and Scopus Training Webinars**

**May through to August, Mondays 12-1pm**

As part of MQ Library’s Elsevier subscription, Senior Customer Consultant Steven Riddell is offering fortnightly SciVal and Scopus training webinars on Mondays, 12 – 1pm.

These sessions are available for all staff including (but not limited to) research office and academics.

**Upcoming SciVal Webinars**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Webinar Title</th>
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<td>May 16</td>
<td>Introduction to SciVal</td>
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<td>May 23</td>
<td>SciVal - Enhanced Search</td>
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<td>May 30</td>
<td>SciVal - Advanced Searching</td>
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<td>June 6</td>
<td>SciVal - Researcher Profiles</td>
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<td>June 13</td>
<td>SciVal - Grant Writing</td>
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<td>SciVal - Editions and Series</td>
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<td>SciVal - Data Sharing</td>
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Did you say donuts - yes 5 of them - 100,000 Topics (Overview) and Research Areas

Finding the golden ticket - Benchmarking other metrics

SciVal speed dating – collaboration

Say my name, say my name - SciVal author profiles

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**Upcoming Scopus Webinars**

**Library Click and Collect Service – Now Available**

The Library has opened a “Click & Collect” service giving MQ staff and students access to a large number of library print resources. Print items can be requested for collection via MultiSearch and when ready for collection you will be sent an email notification. Pick up hours are 10am-2pm every day and 5-7pm Wednesday evenings. The pick-up point for collection of items on Level 2 of the Library adheres to social distancing guidelines.

The Library is also resuming ‘holds’ and accepting loan returns. Anyone with an item currently on loan is encouraged to check their loans via MyLibrary on the Library website or via the libMQ app. You can visit the Library website for more details about these services.

**Survey Invite: Practices of Identifying and Initiating New Research Collaborations**

ECRs are invited to participate in a study on the “Practices of identifying and initiating new research collaborations”. Participation in the study is voluntary and involves an online survey of approximately 5 minutes. During the survey you will indicate your preferences relating to email requests to collaborate on a research project.

Please [click here](https://elsevier.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_F2R6JNJ3Ty6MiCiaW_mqRQ) to complete the survey or find out more about the project.
Funding Opportunities

A reminder that all funding applications should be submitted through PURE, well ahead of the funding body deadline, to leave time for approvals by HoD, ADR, and Research Services. Check with your Faculty Research Office to find out about timelines for submission.

Internal and External funding opportunities are listed on the Fellowships and Grant Opportunities page. Current opportunities include:

- ARC Linkage Projects 2020 Assessment Round 2 (MQ submission date July 15)
- ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (MQ EOI date August 19, MQ submission date October 21)
- ARC Future Fellowships (MQ EOI date August 19, MQ submission date November 4)
- NHMRC Clinical Trials and Cohorts Studies Grants (MQ submission date October 28)
- MQ Fellowship for Indigenous Researchers
- MQ Co-funding Scheme
- MQ Enterprise Partnerships Scheme
- MQ DVCR Discretionary Fund

The Research Professional Database is available for Macquarie researchers to search for fellowships, grants and prizes by discipline area.

Fulbright Postdoctoral Scholarships

Due July 6

The Australian-American Fulbright Commission offers scholarships to individuals seeking to undertake postdoctoral research in the U.S. for 3-10 months, who have either completed their PhD in the past 5 years or are in the last year of completion.

The National Library of Australia’s Creative Arts Fellowships for new creative artworks and writing offer $10,000 to support writers and artists to spend four weeks in the Library developing an artistic concept, artwork or body of work inspired or informed by the collections. Applications close Friday 10 July.

Prizes, Awards, and Competitions

- Falling Walls Lab, July 6
- Australian Cognitive Neuroscience Society Young Investigator Award, August 7
- The Paul Bourke Awards for Early Career Research in social science, August 31
- AIATSIS Stanner Award for best academic manuscript written by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander author, opens July 1
Applications for Vice-Chancellor’s Learning and Teaching Awards – NOW OPEN
July 24

Applications for the Vice-Chancellor’s Learning and Teaching Awards are now open. There are several award categories including an early career award (staff with no more than 5 years teaching experience in higher education institution/s). Nominees may be full time, part time, casual, fixed-term, continuing or adjunct staff. We highly encourage our teaching ECRs to apply for these awards.

ECR Notice Board

Keen to reach out to other ECRs across campus? Want to find someone to collaborate with? Explain R to you? Explore Sydney’s best walking tracks? Or just looking to connect with others? The ECR Notice Board is the place to go. Just send us a brief message (no more than 50 words) with your MQ email and, if appropriate, we’ll include it here in the newsletter.

Invite to join the Biological Sciences ECR Network

Here at the biological sciences ECR committee we’re working on creating a better network among biology (and broader) ECRs, because we’re facing some pretty tough challenges in the academic job market for the next few years, and frankly we need all the support we can get!

As a way to communicate and share information within our ECR network, we’ve created a slack group and we’d love you to join. You can add yourself here: https://join.slack.com/t/biologyecrs/shared_invite/zt-etytuwqp-y5sMUREm_nBte66u5kUE8A

Looking forward to getting to know you all a better and meeting those of you I don’t know soon.
~Dr Lizzy Lowe (Chair of the ECR committee for Biological sSiences)

Your ECR Representatives

Do you know the ECR representatives in your Faculty and Department? The following ECRs meet every two months as part of the ECR Network Advisory Group, led by Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Integrity and Development), Professor Lesley Hughes, to discuss issues and identify solutions to the challenges specific to ECRs:

Faculty of Arts

Dr Tom Baudinette
Dr Katrina Hutchison
Dr Sarah Powell
If you would like something raised with the ECR Network Advisory Group, please contact your Faculty representative.

Let us know what else you’d like to see in this newsletter. Email ecrsupport@mq.edu.au with your suggestions and feedback.

Don’t want to receive these emails? Please unsubscribe here

https://staff.mq.edu.au/research/resources-and-support/early-career-research-network