Upcoming training, grants, and prizes for ECRs at MQ

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER NEWS
February 2021

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Congratulations to…

Our ECRs in the press

Dr Daniel Fleming from the School of Social Sciences contributed the article 'The US Senate must send Donald Trump a message' to The Canberra Times.

Dr Rachael Gunn from the Department of Media, Communications, Creative Arts, Language and Literature was interviewed on 2SER about the Sydney breakdancing scene.

Dr Kumiko Kawashima from the School of Social Sciences provided comment to Yahoo News about sexism in Japan's graduate recruitment process Shukatsu.

Dr Jessica Kirkness from the Department of Media, Communications, Creative Arts, Language and Literature contributed the article 'COVID has brought Auslan into the spotlight, but it would be wrong to treat the language as a hobby or fad' to The Conversation.

Dr Mei-fen Kuo from the Department of Media, Communications, Creative Arts, Language and Literature provided comment to ABC News regarding the culture experiences of second-generation Australians.

Dr Vanessa Pirotta from the Department of Biological Sciences was interviewed on 2CC Canberra regarding the risk of shark attacks.

Dr Magda Raban from the Australian Institute of Health Innovation was featured in Australian Ageing Agenda regarding data gaps in aged care health reporting.

Dr Hanna Torsh along with Distinguished Professor Ingrid Piller from the Department of Linguistics were featured on Radio National Nightlife regarding multilingualism in Australia.

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Welcome back

Welcome back everyone! We hope you had a lovely break spending time with your loved ones, taking time out for yourselves, and refreshing yourselves ahead of what looks like another year of uncertainty.

ECRs are certainly no strangers to uncertainty. One could argue that the whole premise of research lies in uncertainty – that there is something we don’t know (but that that something is worth finding out). And of course, navigating the world of academia brings on its own set of uncertainties: Am I going to get the funding I need? Am I producing enough? Am I giving my students the support they need? am I sure this is the career I want?

While 2020 upped the ante, and 2021 looks set to follow suit, what is certain is that the ECR Network at Macquarie will continue to support you as you navigate through your early career researcher journey. We may not be able to give you the answers you want, nor unfortunately did we discover a secret stash of money in the back of our couch that could fund all your incredible research. However, we will endeavour to promote, support, and celebrate your early research careers.

A draft schedule of ECR Network events is provided below and we will circulate more information on each event when the details are confirmed. If you have any suggestions for workshops and resources (or if you have any advice you would like to share) that will help your fellow ECRs please reach out to us via email at ecrsupport@mq.edu.au.

We wish you all the very best for another year that will probably try you in more ways than you want!

~Megan Brewer and the ECR Network Team

Thank you and Farewell

We would like to thank and farewell the following ECR Network Advisory Group members who are stepping down from their roles this year.

- Dr Thomas Baudinette (Faculty of Arts ECR Representative, 2017-2020)
- Dr Michael Swain (Faculty of Science ECR Representative, 2019-2020)
- Dr Matthew Fernandez (Faculty of Science ECR Representative, 2020)
- Dr Jordi McKenzie (Senior Advisory, Macquarie Business School, 2018-2020)

We greatly appreciated your dedication, time, and hard work in supporting the ECR Network at Macquarie and wish you all the best in your future endeavours!
ECR Showcase: EoI for Organising Committee
EOI due Mar 8

The ECR showcase – developed by ECRs for ECRs – aims to exhibit the depth and breadth of early career research to the wider Macquarie University community. After last year’s successful inauguration of the 2020 ECR Showcase, we are looking to run the event again later this year.

We are currently looking for two representatives from each faculty to participate on the organising committee.

Participation will involve ~8-10 meetings over the course of 8 months starting mid-April. Tasks include organising the program, inviting guest judges, selecting ECR presenters, promoting the event, and overseeing the running of the event on the day. This is a great opportunity for ECRs to gain experience in event organisation and leadership and to contribute to the Macquarie research community.

All ECRs are welcome to apply but priority will be given to those at level A and B. If you are interested in being a member of the organising committee please fill out the following expression of interest form by midday Monday 8th March, 2021.

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Researcher Development Opportunities

ECR Network 2021 Draft Schedule

Leadership and Citizenship: How to define, identify, seek and report
March

Demonstrating leadership and citizenship qualities and experiences is important when applying for academic promotions and when interviewing for jobs both inside and outside of academia. But what is leadership and citizenship? How does one gain experience in these areas? And how do you demonstrate that you have this experience?

In this panel discussion, academics from all career stages will talk about their experience with leadership and citizenship and how they have demonstrated that experience in the past.

How to run a motivated and engaged research group
Tentatively April (TBC)

As academics we are responsible for the training, intellectual development, and general well-being of the postgrads in our research groups.

For our trainees’ (and our own) research careers to flourish we want to ensure our research groups (or labs) are supportive, vibrant, engaging, and productive. But how exactly does one develop such a group?
In this workshop Prof Martin Whiting will outline key components to running an organised, engaged, and stimulating research group. Topics covered in this workshop include:

- Motivating students by enhancing self-determined behaviour using three conditions: competence, autonomy, and social connectedness
- Developing a philosophy and lab culture
- How to run lab meetings (that won’t go stale)
- How to effectively use postdocs to help run the lab
- Importance of support and engagement between lab members and other groups
- What to do if your lab has only a few students
- The importance of fostering a philosophy of enquiry and questioning

Please note: this workshop is suited best for STEM researchers wanting to develop their own research team but all ECRs are welcome. We will also be scheduling alternative workshops for researchers in other disciplines.

Explore ~ Consider ~ Redefine: A Suite of Career Events for ECRs
Throughout July

We will once again coordinate and host a range of sessions to help ECRs with their career journey whether inside or outside of academia.

Academic Promotions Interviews
August

This panel session is aimed specifically at ECRs who have submitted an application for a promotion to Level B or Level C. In the lead up to the interview component of the Academic Promotions 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 panellists from each Faculty will give an overview of the process and share their perspectives on stumbling blocks and opportunities to shine.

Researching while raising a family
September

An online panel session and open forum for researchers with families to discuss how they manage to pursue research while caring for their children.

ECR Showcase 2021
Late November

An opportunity for ECRs to exhibit the depth and breadth of their research to the wider Macquarie University community.
MQ Workshops

Please see myRDC for a full list of upcoming workshops for research staff and students.

- Beyond the company website: Developing business research skills for employment and research collaboration, **Feb 24**
- MQ Professional Staff with a PhD: Dr Paul Hogan, **Feb 25**

Research Services Monthly Online Drop-In Sessions

**Second Thursday of each month starting Feb 11**

Research Services will soon be commencing monthly online drop-in sessions. These will be held on the second Thursday of each month at 10:30am on the Microsoft Teams platform.

Researchers are invited to join to ask questions relevant to Research Services’ activities and your current and anticipated research plans. Senior Research Services staff, including Dr Ross McLennan - Executive Director, will be in attendance to provide expertise from across all aspects of the research lifecycle. Sessions will typically have a specialist topic on which the Research Services team will provide detailed information, followed by time for discussion. General questions are also welcomed at each session.

The next session will be held on **Thursday 11th March, 10:30-11:30am**. This session will focus on tips and tricks for applying for the Medical Research Future Fund and funding from the US.

Details of the schedule of specialist topics for the year will be advertised each month via Research Services’ monthly Newsletter “Research Spotlight”.

Specialist topics may include, but will not be limited to:
- Internal Grants Update
- Pre Award basics and top tips for successful grant applications
- Medical Research Futures Fund
- Human Research Ethics – a ‘how to’ guide to successful applications
- CRC-Ps
- Post-award basics and top tips for successful grant management
- Defence export controls and associated legislation
- Enhancing your Researcher Profile

Registration is not required for virtual drop in sessions. To join any monthly session, please use this link: **Click here to join the meeting**
**eResearch Training Kick-off**  
**Feb 15 – 18**

The [eResearch team](mailto:swc@mq.edu.au) are running training events (a series of online talks, webinars and workshops) across four days in Feb.

**Monday, 15 Feb 2021, 12:45 to 4:30 PM**
- 12:45  Welcome
- 13:00  Preregistration: an important tool to improve the transparency and insight of scientific research (with Prof Simon Griffith)
- 14:15  Planning your research (with Dr Sidong Liu)
- 15:30  Data visualisation using Tableau (with A/Prof Hume Winzar)

**Tuesday/Wednesday, 16 - 17 Feb 2021, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM**
- 09:30  R Plotting Workshop (with Belinda Fabian and Richard Miller) – please note this session is not suitable for beginners. Prior experience with R is required.

**Thursday, 18 Feb 2021, 10 AM to 4:30 PM**
- 10:00  Git and Github (with Belinda Fabian, Dr Gerry Devine and Huong-Ly Tong)
- 13:00  Data analysis using (generalised) linear mixed effects model in R (with Maria Korochkina)
- 15:15  REDCap Use Cases at Macquarie (with Sarah West, Dr Andrew Hirschhorn and Kate Tong)

You are welcome to attend all four days or select specific sessions. Places are limited so make sure you [register via Eventbrite](mailto:). All enquiries about these sessions should be directed to [eResearch team](mailto:swc@mq.edu.au).

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**PURE Training**

**April 21 and October 13**

The Library will be running two training sessions to introduce Pure, one in each half of 2021:

- **Wednesday 21 April 2021** 10.00-11.30am via zoom
- **Wednesday 13 October 2021** 10.00-11.30am via zoom

The training session will cover how to set up and manage the Pure profile and maintain research outputs. It is particular ideal for all new researchers at MQ. The Library is also happy to run additional on-demand Pure training sessions as required. If you would like to organise an individual training session or drop-in session for your Department or Centre, or focused on a specific topic such as ORCID or entering non-traditional research outputs (NTROs), please contact the library via [researchonline@mq.edu.au](mailto:).

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**External Workshops**

The ECR Network has compiled a list of training opportunities offered by external groups. Please note that some of these external events may have a registration fee and it is up to each ECR to decide if the event is worth their time and money. If you know of any other external training opportunities that you want to share with your fellow ECR’s, please forward the details to the ECR Network and we will include the information in the next newsletter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GrantEd “Accelerate Your Success” Grant Funding Guides</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$0-$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>The GrantEd Group provide step-by-step advice about how to write</td>
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<td>winning applications for the most common ARC and NHMRC grant</td>
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<td>schemes, including ARC DECRA and NHMRC Investigator grants.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media and communications training</td>
<td>Sydney: May 4</td>
<td>$800 +GST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science in Public is running its media and communication masterclass in Sydney and online. During the masterclass you will meet journalists, gain confidence in talking to the press, and practice being interviewed.</td>
<td>Online: Mar 2-3 April 6-7 May 25-26</td>
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<td>You’ll learn how to plan your communication, find the story in your research and how to communicate it so that it delivers impact and reaches the audiences that are important to you.</td>
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<td><strong>21 Days of Sustainable Writing</strong></td>
<td>Starts Feb 8</td>
<td>Free for members (membership $25/month)</td>
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<td>The Well Writers’ Collective is a supportive community of creative and academic writers who embrace research-based mind-body tools and techniques as the foundation of a sustainable writing practice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>’21 Days of Sustainable Writing’ is a daily accountability challenge with not only words, but well-being in our sights. Commit to writing 7 days a week, 5 days a week or the number that suits your schedule and current life circumstances and receive accountability support over a 21-day cycle.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participants receive a tracking tool to track and share progress amongst the group. We consider minutes at the page, movement practices, mood and life circumstances to develop a clear-eyed view of our writing habits, strengthen our muscles of self-compassion, and develop a sustainable practice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing in Company</td>
<td>Every Wed, 10am-12pm</td>
<td>Free for members (membership $25/month), Donation for non-members</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Well Writers’ Collective is also running weekly mindful co-writing sessions. A calm co-writing session held each Wednesday over 2 hours from 10am, Sydney time. They open with a short meditation exercise followed by timed writing and camaraderie. The event is free for members of the collective, and open to non-members by donation. Details for casual attendance are here.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly mindfulness meditation sessions (online)</td>
<td>Every Tue, 12:30-1:30pm, and Thu, 6:30-7:30, starting Mar 2</td>
<td>Student: $15 single $100 10 class pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Michelle Jamieson is running weekly mindfulness meditation sessions that are designed to support anyone interested in establishing and maintaining a daily meditation practice. By meeting regularly with a community of meditators and a committed teacher, the classes provide a valuable source of connection and motivation as well as opportunities to deepen your understanding of the practice.</td>
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<td>Adult: $20 single</td>
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</table>
Each session runs for 60 minutes and includes a brief introduction to the practice, a guided meditation, plus an optional 15 minute Q&A. The classes cover a broad range of practice types including breath awareness, walking meditation, body scanning and self-compassion, giving you the chance to experiment with different forms of meditation and find an approach that works for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Mindful Researcher Program</th>
<th>Apr 1- May 6, Thu 10am-12pm</th>
<th>$150 10 class pass</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Mindful Researcher Program</td>
<td></td>
<td>(If you are experiencing financial difficulties and would like to attend, please email Michelle)</td>
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</table>

**The Mindful Researcher Program**

The Mindful Researcher Program – a six week course to help researchers develop focus, balance and wellbeing at work – is a one-of-a-kind offering designed and taught by Dr Michelle Jamieson. Part mindfulness, part wellbeing training and part academic skills coaching, this course addresses the unique psychological and practical challenges faced by postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers. By bringing the principles and strategies of mindfulness into conversation with everyday research practice, the program gives participants a specialised toolkit to effectively manage and enjoy their work while also taking care of themselves.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Mindful Researcher Program</th>
<th>Apr 1- May 6, Thu 10am-12pm</th>
<th>Student concession $360</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>Staff $420</td>
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**Update on Qualtrics surveys**

Please note that Macquarie has extended its Qualtrics subscription for 2 more years, and there is now an Australian-based server for its data so that use of the platform is compliant with Australian data security guidelines. IT is offering support to help migrate existing surveys to the Australian server, but comprehensive instructions are also available online. LimeSurvey is still recommended for projects longer than 2 years.
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 Indigenous Grants**, **Feb 17** (MQ submission date), **Mar 17** (ARC submission date)
- **ARC Linkage Projects**
  - Round 1: **Mar 16** (MQ submission date), **Apr 13** (ARC submission date)
  - Round 2: **Jul 19** (MQ submission date), **Aug 16** (ARC submission date)
  - Round 3: **Nov 18** (MQ submission date), **Dec 16** (ARC submission date)
- **NHMRC Investigator Grant**, **Feb 25** (FMHHS submission date), **Mar 2** (MQ submission date except for FMHHS), **Mar 3** (NHMRC Minimum Data deadline), **Mar 31** (NHMRC submission date)
- **NHMRC Ideas Grant**, **Apr 2** (MQ Minimum Data deadline), **Apr 1** (FMHHS submission date), **Apr 6** (MQ submission date except for FMHHS), **May 5** (NHMRC submission date)
- **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.

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**Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures: Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellowships**

Research Services compliance deadline: **Feb 15**
Funder closing date: **Feb 28**

The [Sainsbury Institute](#) offers several Fellowships of either six months or one year to scholars who have received a PhD in any area of Japanese culture. They are designed to strengthen academic ties with Japanese studies programmes in Asia, Europe, Oceania and North America. The Fellowships provide recipients with an opportunity to work in a scholarly environment conducive to completing a publication project.

Preference will be given to applicants working in the fields of visual studies, including but not limited to history of art, cultural heritage, archaeology, architecture, film studies and digital humanities. Preference will also be given to Early Career Researchers, defined by the AHRC as “within eight years of the award of their PhD or equivalent professional training, or an individual who is within six years of their first academic appointment”.

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Funding for EMCR activities through the Theo Murphy Initiative (Australia)
Funder closing date: Feb 21

Applications for funding by the Theo Murphy Initiative (Australia) to deliver activities that support early- and mid-career researchers (EMCRs) are now open. EMCRs are invited to submit proposals to receive funding for activities to be delivered in the period July 2021 to June 2022. In its 2021–22 round, the Theo Murphy Initiative (Australia) will fund interdisciplinary activities that provide research and career development opportunities for EMCRs in Australia. Applications are open for interdisciplinary activities in the following formats:

- conferences
- symposiums
- add-on EMCR activities to existing events
- training workshops
- e-learning resources.

Support ranges from A$15,000 to $50,000 per activity for direct activity costs. The Theo Murphy Initiative aims to support activities which would otherwise not be undertaken.

Descartes Centre Fellowships
Research Services compliance deadline: Feb 17
Funder closing date: Mar 1

The Descartes Centre Fellowships support intellectual exchange and strengthen international collaboration in history and philosophy of sciences and the humanities. Junior fellowships (ECR), which support research at Utrecht University or Dutch museums and archives, are worth up to €1,500 per month.

Candidates should have a clear affinity with the history and/or the philosophy of the sciences and the humanities, as shown by their list of publications and research proposal. Furthermore, the application should demonstrate an existing or potential collaboration with one or more members of the Descartes Centre, a collaboration that is supported by a corresponding letter of recommendation.

Volkswagen Stiftung: AI and the Society of the Future
Research Services compliance deadline: Mar 3
Funder closing date: Mar 17

The Artificial Intelligence and the Society of the Future initiative focuses on joint, integrative research approaches in the social sciences and the engineering sciences. Against the background of the current and emerging developments in the field of Artificial Intelligence the Foundation wishes to support projects dealing with the development of new perspectives and insights with a view to shaping the future of society as well as technology. The aim is to enable novel project constellations and interdisciplinary cooperations in a scientific and socially highly topical area through a shift in thinking towards new perspectives and solutions.
Prizes, Awards, and Competitions

Below is a list of currently open academic prizes, awards, and competitions that ECRs may wish to enter. For a full list of external prizes please visit: https://staff.mq.edu.au/research/resources-and-support/prizes,-awards-and-fellowships. If you are interested in applying, please contact your Faculty Research Manager in the first instance.

- **The Royal Society Medals and Awards**, Feb 15
  - Francis Crick Medal and Lecture (<15 years postdoc)
  - Kavli Medal and Lecture (<15 years postdoc)
- **ICM Agrifood Award for Excellence in Agrifood** (≤40 yrs old), Feb 22
- **FameLab**, Feb 25
- **AIATSIS Stanner Award**, Feb 28
- **Margaret Flockton Award**, end of Feb (TBC)
- **Catharine Stimpson Prize for Outstanding Feminist Scholarship** (≤7 years postdoc), Mar 1
- **L'OREAL Australia and New Zealand Women in Science Fellowships** (<5 years postdoc), Mar 1
- **Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences Jian Zhou Medal** (<15 years postdoc), Apr 30
- **NSW Young Tall Poppy Science Awards**, open mid-Feb
- **Fresh Science 2021** (<5 years postdoc), open in April and close June
- **Michelson Prizes for Human Immunology and Vaccine Research** (<35 yrs old) - tbc

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.
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 Katrina Hutchison
- Dr Sarah Powell

Macquarie Business School
- Dr Laramie Tolentino
- Dr Han Li
- Dr Rohan Best

Faculty of Medicine, Health, and Human Sciences
- Dr Elizabeth Austin
- Dr Jean (Jinhyun) Cho
- Dr Marina Junquiera Santiago

Faculty of Science and Engineering
- Dr Amy Cain

Research and Research Training Committee Representatives:
- Dr Milena Gandy (Faculty of Medicine, Health, and Human Sciences)
- Dr Mauricio Marrone (Faculty of Business & Economics)

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

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