DMRC

World-leading research for a creative, inclusive and fair digital media environment

Digital Media Research Centre

ANNUAL REPORT
2018

QUT Digital Media Research Centre

Digital Media
Research Centre

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1.0 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Welcome

Across our research, engagement and training activities, the DMRC aims to:

- promote creativity and innovation—in the digital economy, in everyday life, and in our own research;
- address issues of inclusion and diversity—on the internet, in the media, and in our own backyard;
- understand and tackle the challenges associated with trust in media organisations, in digital platforms, and in journalism; and
- develop new methods and policies to improve fairness and transparency in how the platforms that dominate our communications are governed and regulated.

These ambitions have never had more real-world relevance than they do in early 2019, and so we embark on a new year with a heightened sense of purpose.

During the course of 2018, we have bedded down our refreshed mission—world-leading research for a creative, inclusive and fair digital media environment—and worked to ensure all our research aligns with and stretches the boundaries of the associated research priorities.

We have continued to deepen and broaden our transdisciplinary collaborations, particularly with law and education researchers, as well as with relevant areas of computer science, economics, and mathematics.

While enjoying excellent, active partnerships with Australian universities, government organisations and industry, we have built on and consolidated our international reputation as well. The Centre is proud to be a major contributor to QUT's excellent results in the most recent QS rankings, which sees us taking the no. 1 spot among Australian universities in the field of Communication and Media Studies, and 16th globally (equal with New York University)—up 15 places from previous rankings.

Centre Membership Update

During 2018, the School of Communication made a series of nine exciting new appointments in areas of direct relevance to the DMRC's mission. We welcome these new members to the DMRC community!

Amanda Lotz – Capacity Building Professor

Amanda was most recently a professor in the Department of Communication Studies and Screen Arts and Cultures at the University of Michigan. She earned a PhD in Radio-Television-Film and certificate in women's studies from the University of Texas at Austin in 2000, and completed a two-year Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Television Studies at Washington University in St. Louis. Her research focuses on U.S. television, specifically the industrial shifts since the end of the network era, and on representations of gender on television and in the media.

Dan Angus – Associate Professor in Digital Communication

Dan was previously a Senior Lecturer in Computational Social Science, journalism program coordinator, and leader of the Communication Analytics Lab in the School of Communication and Arts at the University of Queensland. Dan's research is focused on the development of visualization and analysis methods for communication data. His computational methods have improved our understanding of the nature of communication in medical consultations, conversations in aged care settings, television broadcast, social media, and newspaper reporting. Dan has been involved in computer science research for 15 years and contributes regularly to media and industry on the impact of technology on society.

Timothy Graham – Senior Lecturer in Digital Media and Communication

Tim was formerly a Postdoctoral Fellow in Sociology and Computer Science at the Australian National University. His research combines computational methods with social theory to study online networks and platforms, with a particular interest in content production, ratings and rankings devices, and political bots. He is a Chief Investigator of an ARC Discovery Project that utilises large-scale hyperlink network analysis and web experiments to comparatively assess the web presence of 10 countries. He develops open source software tools for big data analysis, and has published in journals such as *Information, Communication & Society, Information Polity, Big Data & Society,* and *Critical Social Policy*.

Jenny Hou – Senior Lecturer in Professional Communication

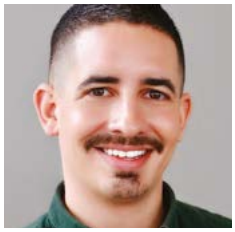
Jenny was awarded a PhD in Strategic Public Relations from the University of Queensland. Her research interests include strategic communication and institutional sociology, fake news in the digital age, and the interrelationship between public relations and journalism. Her work has been published in *Public Relations Review, Asia Pacific Public Relations Journal, Journal of Business & Technical Communication, Communication Research and Practice*, and *PRism*. Prior to joining QUT, Jenny taught in universities in New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, Hong Kong and China. In 2017, Jenny was awarded a Public Relations Educator Fellowship by the prestigious Plank Centre for Leadership in Public Relations.

Ariadna Matamoros-Fernández – Lecturer in Digital Media and Communication

Ariadna holds a PhD in Digital Media from Queensland University of Technology. Her research focuses on the politics of social media platforms, with particular interest in online discriminatory practices and hate speech, content moderation, and digital culture. She is currently working on research projects examining social media's shift to end-to-end encrypted and ephemeral communication. Ariadna has experience in developing new methods to study digital platforms, and her research has been published in *Information, Communication & Society, International Journal of Communication, Convergence* and other international, peer-reviewed journals. Prior to joining QUT, Ariadna worked as a journalist in Spain for more than 8 years.

Benjamin Nicoll – Lecturer in Digital Media and Communication

Before joining QUT, Ben was a Research Fellow in the School of Culture and Communication at the University of Melbourne. He is Secretary of the Digital Games Research Association of Australia. His research focuses on the history and critical theory of videogames and videogame platforms, with a particular focus on notions of technological failure and marginality in game history. He is currently working on a research project that examines the use of 'game engines' in Australian videogame and software development industries, through a grant from the Networked Society Institute.



Aljosha Karim Schapals – Lecturer in Journalism

Aljosha has a PhD in Journalism from City, University of London, and has worked as a Research Associate and a Lecturer in the School of Communication at QUT. In his role as Research Associate he is a team member on the ARC Discovery Project "Journalism beyond the crisis" and in his role as Lecturer he has been a Unit Coordinator of Political Communication. Aljosha's research interests lie in the changes taking place in news production and consumption as a result of the internet, with a particular focus on citizen journalism, politics and social media. As part of that research agenda he is the lead editor of an edited collection on "Digitizing Democracy", which was published with Routledge in early 2019.

T.J. Thomson – Lecturer in Journalism

T.J. comes to QUT from one of the world's first journalism schools, the University of Missouri in the United States, where he completed his master's and PhD degrees. As a visual communication scholar, his research focuses on the production and distribution of visual media in journalistic and social media contexts and has been published in top peer-reviewed journals including *Journalism, Journalism Practice,* and *Journalism Studies*. He has served as the associate editor of *Visual Communication Quarterly* since 2017 and is on the advisory board of the Society for Phenomenology and Media. Before his career in academia, T.J. worked as the photo editor for an international wire service, produced visuals for The Associated Press, The Washington Post, The Omaha World-Herald, The Huffington Post, and provided design production and consulting for dozens of companies and clients, including a California startup that was acquired in 2015 by Facebook.

Tess van Hemert – Lecturer in Media and Entertainment Industries

Before her appointment to this advertised role, Tess was already teaching Media and Entertainment Industries in the School of Communication. Her current areas of research include global screen distribution and exhibition, and gender equality and diversity in the screen industry, with a particular focus on international film festivals and emerging women's cinema. Tess' PhD (QUT) was the first international study to investigate the role that international film festivals play in supporting and advancing the profiles of emerging women filmmakers.

Professor Jean Burgess, Centre Director
March 2019

2.0 STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

The DMRC is based in the Creative Industries Faculty's School of Communication with active participation from researchers in the Law and Education Faculties. Led by Centre Director Jean Burgess, the Centre has a tiered model of membership which includes:

- **Centre Members (including Chief Investigators)**
- **Affiliated Researchers**
- **Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students**

The Chief Investigators, along with the Centre Director, comprise the Centre's senior leadership team, and are expected to have substantive participation in Centre research projects, research training programs, external grant applications and public engagement activities. In 2018 the DMRC's Chief Investigators were:

- Professor Jean Burgess (Centre Director)
- Associate Professor Michael Dezuanni (Associate Director)
- Associate Professor Peta Mitchell (Research Training Coordinator)
- Professor Axel Bruns
- Distinguished Professor Stuart Cunningham
- Professor Terry Flew
- Associate Professor Nic Suzor
- Associate Professor Stephen Harrington
- Dr Kevin Sanson
- Professor Patrik Wikström

The Centre Members are QUT researchers who are primarily and actively engaged in the DMRC's projects and programs. In 2018, the Centre Members (in addition to the Chief Investigators) were:

- Associate Professor John Banks
- Dr Elija Cassidy
- Professor Susan Danby
- Dr Joanne Gray
- Dr Brendan Keogh
- Dr Ariadna Matamoros-Fernández
- Dr Marion McCutcheon
- Dr Brenda Moon
- Dr Kim Osman
- Dr Kylie Pappalardo
- Dr Mark Ryan
- Dr Aljosha Karim Schapals
- Dr Christina Spurgeon
- Dr T.J. Thomson

Affiliated Researchers are QUT researchers who are actively engaged in collaborative research with the DMRC. The DMRC's Affiliated Researchers in 2018 were:

- Dr Debra Adams
- Dr Naomi Barnes
- Professor Ruth Bridgstock
- Dr Mark Burdon
- Associate Professor Susan Carson
- Dr Michael Chataway
- Dr Christy Collis
- Associate Professor Molly Dragiewicz
- Dr Ruari Elkington
- Professor Marcus Foth
- Dr Bridget Harris
- Dr Lesley Hawkes
- Dr Monique Mann
- Dr Hai Hong Nguyen
- Dr Dan Padua
- Dr Sandra Phillips
- Dr Mark Piccini
- Professor Matthew Rimmer
- Associate Professor Angela Romano
- Mr Andrew Simpson
- Dr Marissa Takahashi
- Dr Tess Van Hemert

HDR Members are QUT Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students whose research projects are directly aligned to the DMRC and are supervised by a Centre Member (typically as principal supervisor). HDR members are expected to actively participate in research training programs and public engagement activities. In 2018 the DMRC had 55 HDR students, made up of 47 PhD students, 5 Doctorate of Creative Industries students and 3 Masters by research students. In 2018, the DMRC's HDR students were:

- Christel Antonites
- Virginia Balfour
- Malcolm Burt
- Xu Chen
- Delfi Chinnappan
- Ella Chorazy
- Bryan Crawford
- Ehsan Dehghan
- Katherina Drinkuth
- Sara Ekberg
- Akhmad Firmannamal
- Rosalie Gillett
- Sofya Glazunova
- Lisa Harrison
- Harry
- Guy Healy
- Rachel Hews
- Bronwyn Hope
- Matthew Hsu
- Edward Hurcombe
- Jungeun (Rachel) Ji
- Bondy Kaye
- Katherine Kirkwood
- Morag Kobez
- Amanda Levido
- Kelly Lewis
- Haili Li
- Kerryn Manifold
- Ariadna Matamoros-Fernández
- Callum McWaters
- Smith Mehta
- Jay Mogis
- Sylvia Ximena Montaña Nino
- Gabriela Monteiro Lunardi
- Felix Münch
- Zin Mar Myint
- Judy Newton
- Rido Parulian Panjaitan
- Alila Pramiyanti
- Andrew Quodling
- Aleesha Rodriguez
- Samantha Ryan
- Yu Shan
- Jessica Stevens
- Kim Stewart
- Chunmeizi Su
- Fiona Suwana
- Sonam Tobgye
- Portia Vann
- Jarrod Walczer
- Yi Wang
- Lisa Wheildon
- Alice Witt
- Jing Zeng
- Xiaoting Yu

In 2018, the DMRC hosted 23 research visitors, including:

- Sarah Bannerman, McMaster University
- Bridget Conor, Kings College London
- Stephen Cushion, Cardiff University
- Abigail De Kosnik, Berkeley Center for New Media
- Paul Dourish, University of California

- Harry Dugmore, Rhodes University
- Paulo Faustino, Porto University
- Ane Kathrine Gammelby, Aarhus University
- Tarleton Gillespie, Microsoft Research New England
- Melissa Gregg, Intel
- Hollis Griffin, Denison University
- Folker Hanusch, University of Vienna
- Alison Harvey, University of Leicester
- Andrew Herman, Wilfred Laurier University
- Agnieszka Leszczynski, Western University
- Trisha Lin, National Chengchi University
- Jessa Lingel, University of Pennsylvania
- Giada Marino, Urbino University
- Nyx McLean, Cape Peninsula University of Technology
- Christian Nuernbergk, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Institute of Communication Science and Media Research
- Damien Spry, University of Hong Kong Space International College
- Stefan Stieglitz, University of Duisburg-Essen
- Ruth Towse, Bournemouth University

3.0 CENTRE GOVERNANCE

During 2018, the DMRC was led by an Executive Committee, which was responsible for strategic and operational leadership, chaired by the Centre Director. Overall governance of the Centre is provided by the Advisory Committee, who review and monitor the Centre's strategic direction and performance.

The Centre Director has overall responsibility for the operation and strategic direction of the DMRC, and since January 2017 has reported to the Head of School, School of Communication. Until the end of 2018, the Centre Director and Chief Investigators shared responsibility for the leadership of the research programs and the acquittal of the Centre's strategic objectives, and collectively comprised the Executive Committee, which met in person every 4-6 weeks.

In 2018 the Executive Committee members were:

- Professor Jean Burgess (Centre Director and Chair)
- Associate Professor Michael Dezuanni (Associate Director)
- Tess McGlone (Centre Coordinator and Secretary)
- Associate Professor Peta Mitchell (Research Training Coordinator)
- Professor Axel Bruns
- Distinguished Professor Stuart Cunningham
- Associate Professor Stephen Harrington
- Dr Kevin Sanson
- Associate Professor Nicolas Suzor

From 2019, the DMRC's strategic direction and everyday operations will be overseen by the DMRC management committee, comprising the following ex officio members:

- Professor Jean Burgess (Centre Director and Chair)
- Associate Professor Michael Dezuanni (Associate Director)
- Tess McGlone (Centre Coordinator and Secretary)
- Associate Professor Peta Mitchell (Research Training Coordinator)

The DMRC Advisory Committee meets twice a year and provides feedback and guidance throughout the year on the strategic direction, performance and impact of the Digital Media Research Centre. The membership of the Committee in 2018 was:

- Professor Terry Flew – Assistant Dean Research, Creative Industries Faculty, QUT (Chair)
- Nicole Buskiewicz – Managing Director, Digital Industry Group Inc.
- Michelle Carter – Director, Digital Economy and Productivity, Queensland Government Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation
- Professor Bronwyn Harch – Executive Director, and Professor Roger Hellens, Deputy Executive Director, Institute for Future Environments, QUT
- Professor Denise Meredyth – Director, Outside Opinion, and Adjunct Professor, RMIT
- Jon O'Brien – State Manager, Customer Management and Sales, Queensland Enterprise and Government, Telstra
- John Swinson – Partner, King & Wood Mallesons
- Professor Julian Thomas – ECP Director, Social Change, Enabling Capability Platforms, RMIT University
- Professor Patrik Wikström – Head of School, Communication, Creative Industries Faculty, QUT
- Deborah Murray, Research Manager, Creative Industries Faculty, QUT

Together with the DMRC leadership team:

- Professor Jean Burgess, Centre Director
- Associate Professor Michael Dezuanni, Associate Director
- Tess McGlone, Centre Coordinator, Committee Secretary
- Associate Professor Peta Mitchell, Research Training Coordinator

4.0 RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM

In 2018, the DMRC had 55 Higher Degree Research students undertaking or completing a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Master of Philosophy (MPhil), or Doctor of Creative Industries (DCI). Of these students, the majority (85%) were enrolled in a PhD and 49% were international students. In 2018, the DMRC welcomed 7 new PhD students, graduated 8 PhD students and 1 MPhil student, and saw a further 6 students submitting their theses for examination. A list of the DMRC's graduating 2018 HDR cohort and their thesis titles is provided in Section 10.0 Key Outcomes in this report.

In 2018, the DMRC focused on two strategic priority areas for research training, namely 1) Placing digital methods at the heart of HDR training and 2) Embedding industry and end-user engagement within HDR training.

Placing digital methods at the heart of HDR training

An early priority for 2018 was to develop a coherent and structured approach to the methods workshops we had previously offered regularly, though in an ad hoc way, through the DMRC. At the beginning of the year, the DMRC Monthly Methods series was established: a regular series of research training workshops offered to our own PhD students as well as the broader Brisbane research community. Across the year, these workshops were very well attended, and we received strong positive feedback from participants. In 2019, particularly with our cohort of new academic staff joining the DMRC, we will be able to expand our workshop offerings to incorporate an even broader range of methods and approaches.

Embedding industry and end-user engagement within HDR training

In 2018, the DMRC also continued its focus on growing industry or end-user engaged HDR projects in response to QUT's institutional-level strategic plan (as detailed in QUT's Blueprint 5), which seeks to 'transform QUT's HDR training via cohort-based, industry focused programs that prepare students to be agents of change in the broader economy'. Throughout the year, the DMRC has continued its focus on developing HDR projects that provide direct opportunities for industry engagement (e.g., PhD projects engaging with the Social Media Entertainment industry and the Australian greentech industry). We have also sought opportunities for DMRC HDRs under QUT's internship scheme for students who are under examination. Additionally, in the second half of 2018, the DMRC began a program of directly funding industry engagement opportunities by providing domestic travel funding for HDRs who wish to undertake and arrange an engagement activity with an industry partner of direct relevance to their project.

Internationalisation of the HDR cohort

The DMRC's research training is strengthened by the international diversity of its HDR cohort, and in the past year the Centre has seen continued strong growth in its international HDR cohort. The 2018 intake of new HDRs comprised 71% international students, bringing the overall DMRC HDR cohort to 49% international. This represents clear growth from 2017, when the DMRC HDR cohort was 40% international while QUT's overall HDR cohort stood at 35% international. This growth speaks to the international standing and visibility of the DMRC and continues the DMRC's trend in growing its international cohort.

HDR achievements and graduate outcomes in 2018

A number of our current HDRs and recent graduates have received awards or achieved excellent graduate outcomes, both in the higher education sector and in industry.

HDR awards and achievements

- **Delfi Chinnappan** (current PhD candidate): Selected with scholarship for the ICTDX Doctoral Consortium at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, India.
- **Dr Stefanie Duguay** (PhD 2017): Awarded the 2017 QUT Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Award (top 10% of theses across QUT).
- **Dr Sara Ekberg** (PhD 2018): Awarded the 2017 Oskar Sillén Award for Best Doctoral Thesis in Business Administration (best thesis in Business Administration in Sweden during 2017).
- **Dr Ariadna Matamoros-Fernández** (PhD 2018): Nominated for the 2018 QUT Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Award (top 10% of theses across QUT; to be awarded in 2019).
- **Ehsan Dehghan** (current PhD candidate): Awarded the 2018 John Hartley Scholarship to attend the Oxford Internet Institute Summer Doctoral Program.
- **Smith Mehta** (current PhD candidate): Selected by UNESCO as the Youngest Creative Specialist for a workshop on Protection and Promotion of Diversity and Cultural expressions in Asia Pacific region held in Seoul between 10 June 2018 – 15 June 2018 and selected with a scholarship to participate in the 2018 NCA (National Communication Association) Doctoral Honors Seminar, held in July 23-26 at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, US on the theme of 'Communicating Intersections'.
- **Aleesha Rodriguez** (current PhD candidate): Selected for the Foundation for Young Australians 2018 Young Social Pioneers program.
- **Jarrod Walczer** (current PhD candidate): Awarded a scholarship to obtain a certificate in archival digital humanities from the Humanities Intensive Learning and Teaching (HILT) Institute held at The University of Pennsylvania; interviewed in September 2018 by Triple J's Hack program on the subject of unboxing videos from the dark web.

Graduate outcomes

- **Dr Ella Chorazy** (PhD 2018): Appointed as Lecturer in the School of Media and Communication at RMIT.
- **Dr Stefanie Duguay** (PhD 2017): Appointed as Assistant Professor of Data and Networked Publics in the Department of Communication Studies at Concordia University, Canada.
- **Dr Sara Ekberg** (PhD 2018): Awarded a Research Fellowship in the Australian Institute for Business and Economics, University of Queensland.
- **Dr Jiajie Lu** (PhD 2017): Appointed as Lecturer at Dongguan University of Technology, China.
- **Dr Ariadna Matamoros-Fernández** (PhD 2018): Appointed as Lecturer in Digital Media and Communication in the School of Communication, QUT.
- **Dr Prue Miles** (PhD 2017): Appointed as Relationship Manager in QUT's Faculty of Education; Prue is QUT's primary liaison with the new Fortitude Valley high school.
- **Dr Emma Potter-Hay** (PhD 2017): Appointed as a consultant with Ernst & Young in Christchurch, New Zealand.
- **Dr Jing Zeng** (PhD 2018): Awarded a Post-doctoral Research Fellowship in the Department of Communication and Media Research Science, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

Alumni Profiles

Dr Sara Ekberg

Sara Ekberg completed her PhD with the DMRC in 2018 as a joint degree supervised between the DMRC and Jönköping International Business School (JIBS) in Sweden's Jönköping University. Sara's thesis, which examines how newspaper organisations have responded to radical changes brought by digitisation, was awarded the 2017 Oskar Sillén Award for the best doctoral thesis in Business Administration in Sweden during 2017. Since graduating, Sara is working as a Research Fellow at the Australian Institute for Business and Economics and the University of Queensland Business School, where she is conducting innovative research on the new venture creation process and the development of the startup ecosystem.

Dr Prue Miles

Prue Miles graduated with a PhD from the DMRC in 2017. Capitalising on her extensive professional experience with Secondary Education in Queensland, Prue's doctoral thesis examined teachers' use of multiplatform educational screen content, including being based for half her candidacy at Australia's SBS in Sydney. Since being awarded her PhD, Prue has been appointed Relationship Manager and Senior Lecturer in QUT's Faculty of Education. In this role, Prue is working as QUT's academic liaison for Brisbane's new inner-city Fortitude Valley High School—the city's first 'vertical' high school, which will be built in partnership with QUT and is scheduled for completion in 2020.

5.0 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Digital Media, Location Awareness, and the Politics of Geodata (ARC Discovery Project, 2018 - 2021)

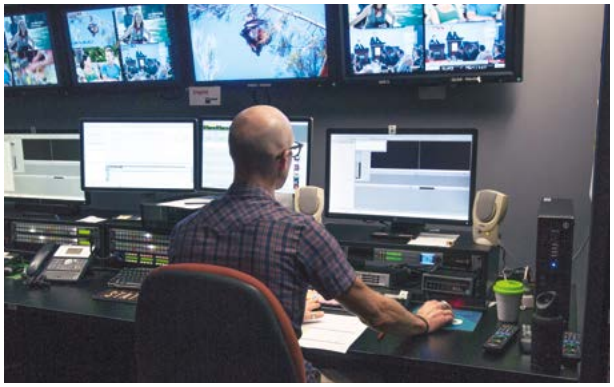
Associate Professor Peta Mitchell (DMRC), Professor Larissa Horth (RMIT), Dr Tim Highfield (University of Amsterdam), Dr Agnieszka Leszczynski (Western University), Professor Paul Dourish (University of California)

This project critically examines the increasingly pervasive role of location metadata (or geodata) in Australian smartphone practices and cultures and the implications this has for users, industry, and public administration. With near-ubiquitous levels of smartphone use in Australia, digital media have become integrated within everyday lives. These services, however, rely on access to an individual's location, raising privacy and cybersecurity concerns over this sensitive datapoint.

The project will deliver online and open resources to enhance public understanding of geodata and geoprivacy, as well as industry and policy recommendations that address the crucial issue of 'location awareness' in everyday digital media use. Officially starting in late 2018, the Digital Media, Location Awareness, and the Politics of Geodata Discovery hosted research visits of two of its international Partner Investigators—Professor Paul Dourish (UC Irvine) and Dr Agnieszka Leszczynski (Western University)—at the DMRC during 2018. These visits have enabled the project team to develop a collaborative, cross-institutional schedule of fieldwork and research outputs for the project's first year in 2019, including journal articles and a proposed panel on geolocation and trust at the 2019 AoIR conference. In 2018, an article related to the project focusing on big data and the ethics of location and co-authored by lead Chief Investigator Peta Mitchell was published in *Social Media + Society*.

Journalism beyond the Crisis: Emerging Forms, Practices and Uses (ARC Discovery Project, 2016-2019)

Professor Axel Bruns (DMRC), Dr Aljosha Karim Schapals (DMRC), Associate Professor Stephen Harrington (DMRC), Professor Folker Christian Hanusch (University of Vienna), Professor Christoph Neuberger (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München), Dr Christian Nuernbergk (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München), Professor Mark Deuze (University of Amsterdam), Professor Tamara Witschge (University of Groningen)



This project conducts a transnational comparative study that investigates how journalism is changing as a cultural form. Journalistic culture in Australia and elsewhere is in transition, with significant implications for political, cultural, and economic life. Change is affecting the forms of journalism available to audiences, how journalism is produced and who produces it, and how journalistic content is used by practitioners and citizens. To date the project has interviewed 100 journalists in Australia, Germany, and the UK, examined their online activities, and evaluated social media engagement with their work.

Importantly, the project points to the emergence of a new category of non-traditional actors in news production, who we refer to as 'peripheral actors', and who account for an ever-growing portion of journalistic work, but who are understudied. This project has also showed that the presence of 'peripheral actors' in journalism is a growing, global phenomenon, and that globally comparative perspectives are needed to understand this trend.

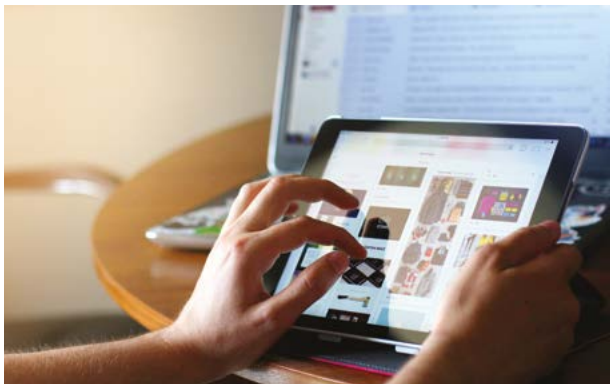
The project examines how novel journalistic actors working for organisations like Junkee (Australia), Correctiv (Germany) and Bellingcat (U.K.) differentiate their work from that of established, legacy organisations. Findings to date detail the significant cultural impact the 'peripheral actors' are having on journalistic practice, and the challenges that these transgressive actors pose to the authority of traditional journalists. Further, our findings suggest that whilst 'traditional' journalists appear increasingly willing to experiment with the approaches deployed by 'peripheral actors' in the field, their acceptance is conditional upon long-established definitions of what 'counts' as journalism, despite the precarious economic environment and the context of changing audience demands in which established journalism currently finds itself.

The project has so far produced a major monograph and an edited collection, as well as a number of journal articles and conference papers in 2018, including:

- Bruns, A. (2018). *Gatewatching and News Curation: Journalism, Social Media, and the Public Sphere*. New York: Peter Lang.
- Schapals, A.K. (2018). Fake news: Australian and British journalists' role perceptions in an era of 'alternative facts'. *Journalism Practice*, 12(8), pp. 976-985.
- Bruns, A., Nuernbergk, C., & Schapals, A. K. (2018). What Journalists Share: A Comparative Study of the National Press Corps in Australia and Germany. In A. Gruzd, J. Jacobson, P. Mai, R. Vatrapu, K. H. Kwon, J. Hemsley, … J. Hodson (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Social Media and Society* (pp. 256–260). Copenhagen: ACM Press. https://doi.org/10.1145/3217804.3217924

Advancing the news media literacy of young Australians (Western Sydney University, Museum of Australian Democracy, Google Australia; 2018 – 2019)

Associate Professor Michael Dezuanni (DMRC), Dr Tanya Notley (Western Sydney University)



This project responds to changes in the production, experience and consumption of news media by young Australians. Research leading up to the project identified several barriers that prevent news media literacy from being developed in the home and in schools in a meaningful and effective way. This project will document, analyse and address some of these barriers. The project will respond to emerging questions regarding the changing role of news in relation to active citizenship and democracy, and the challenge of 'fake news' or disinformation. It will achieve this in several ways. It will contribute to the design, implementation and evaluation of a new major semi-permanent exhibition at the Museum of Australian Democracy in Canberra, to be launched in late 2019.

A media literacy framework for the digital age will be developed to support the design of news engagement and learning materials. It will also engage young Australians and school teachers as co-designers of the Museum's news exhibition content and news literacy learning resources and activities. Throughout 2018, the project team met with Museum staff, including the exhibition and education teams on several occasions, to undertake preliminary planning. An article associated with the project was also published:

Notley, Tanya M. & Dezuanni, Michael L. (2018) Advancing children's news media literacy: Learning from the practices and experiences of young Australians. *Media, Culture & Society*. DOI: 10.1177/0163443718813470

Formal, Informal, Embedded: Game Developers and Skills Transfer (DECRA, 2018-2020)

Dr Brendan Keogh (DMRC)

This project is investigating the sustainability of the Australian videogame industry, which includes showing how videogame development skillsets play a role within the broader digital economy. One year into the three-year project, Brendan Keogh has used his extensive industry networks to conduct in-depth interviews with more than 150 videogame developers and industry representatives in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, and Adelaide. While the analysis is ongoing, the project has already begun to reveal a larger, more complex range of identities, work practices, and business models among Australian game developers than what is traditionally understood of the videogame industry. Rather than growing into large companies, the majority of Australian game developers seem more focused on being able to continue making games at a small scale, not unlike a band trying to stay together. This potentially has significant ramifications for how the game industry can be supported by government, and how games education needs to be approached by universities. Further, the project has found a substantial number of game developers applying their skillsets beyond 'the games industry' per se, using games software and design skills in education, web design, training, marketing, and a range of other industry sectors.

The project has produced preliminary publications in *Creative Industries Journal* and *Convergence*, and early findings have been presented at both the Digital Games Research Association and Association of Internet Researchers international conferences. 2018 also saw the publication of Keogh's book *A Play of Bodies: How We Perceive Videogames* with MIT Press, which establishes the foundations for the cultural component of the project. Following the next phase of data analysis, Keogh will be presenting the project's findings at a number of international events, including the Game Developers Conference in San Francisco.

Existing systems, new languages: prototyping blockchain models for the book publishing industry (Institute for Future Environments Catapult Project Funding, 2018 – 2019)

Dr Mark Ryan (DMRC), Associate Professor Nicolas Suzor (DMRC), Dr Kylie Pappalardo (DMRC)

In this project, researchers and book publishers collaborate in an experiment to create a collection of short stories underpinned by smart contracts that encode rights management, distribution incentives, and author royalties. The project examines whether existing blockchain models adequately address the Australian publishing sector's needs, and whether the process can be simplified using a higher level language to encode smart contracts.

The Australian book publishing industry, a key copyright industry, continues to adapt to a rapidly changing landscape and digital disruption is encouraging new relationships between publishers, authors, and audiences. Blockchain technologies present an opportunity to decentralise production processes in ways that could radically enhance access to culture while creating new avenues for commercial exploitation and new incentives for production and distribution.

During 2018, the project team has developed a shortlist of prototype options based on this scoping work. One prototype option is currently in development in partnership with the industry partner, Tiny Owl Publishing. The prototype is a special edition of an existing book comprised of several paratext bundles that will shed light on the publishing process for independent writers and educators from early drafts, the book's commissioning process, the editing process and design decisions made in production and typesetting. Blockchain technology is used to create a sophisticated system for tracking workflow, attribution and provenance for all parties involved and tracking sales patterns between physical and digital copies. The research team has been in contact with the Queensland Writers Centre, the State Library of Queensland, and small independent bookstores in Brisbane, to discuss the potential impact of blockchain technologies. The team has also submitted a peer-reviewed conference paper, to be published in 2019, and has been working on the development of a white paper.

Amplifying Public Value (ARC Linkage Project, 2016 - 2019)

Professor Axel Bruns (DMRC), Professor Jean Burgess (DMRC), Distinguished Professor Stuart Cunningham (DMRC), Professor Patrik Wikström (DMRC), Associate Professor Nicolas Suzor (DMRC), Dr Kim Osman (DMRC)

Publicly funded researchers and agencies are increasingly expected to demonstrate the impacts of their contributions beyond academia, including on public debate and opinion formation. Working closely with partners *The Conversation* and the Cooperative Research Centres' Association, this project applies groundbreaking mixed methods to improving the assessment of impact of scholarly public intellectual content. It does this by investigating 'amplifier platforms' like *The Conversation*'s contribution to the impact of public intellectual outputs on public debate as well as how these services impact researchers' and public intellectuals' career trajectories.

In 2018, our initial rounds of interviews with publicly engaged scholars highlighted several of their key characteristics and approaches to positioning their research in public debate. These included engaging in discussions about controversial topics on platforms such as Twitter, writing about other people's research for a general audience and a commitment to introducing evidence-based research and information into public debate. These scholars recognise that being able to tell a good story about their research has real social impact.

The project is also using social media issue mapping approaches to assess the dynamics of public engagement with scholarly public intellectual contributions to public debates, including, for example, the discussion around Australia Day in 2018. The project is also developing new systems for managing and deploying relevant impact metrics data to evaluate both upstream impacts (for scholars and institutions) and downstream impacts (for the general public).

Team members have presented on the project at a range of conferences both nationally and internationally, and produced published outputs including:

- Bruns, A. 2018. Impact and Engagement through The Conversation and Other Amplifier Platforms. *Measuring Impact in the Mathematical Sciences*, October 4 2018, Brisbane, Australia.
- Burgess, J. 2018. Exploiting the "Hybrid Media Environment" to Amplify Scholarly Contributions to Public Debate. *68th Conference of the International Communication Association*, 24-28 May 2018 Prague, Czech Republic.
- Cunningham, S., Osman, K. 2018. Amplifying Public Value: Use of amplifier platforms for engagement and impact. *Cooperative Research Centres Association Conference*, May 16 2018, Sydney, Australia.
- Osman, K., Bruns, A., Cunningham, S., Burgess, J., Wikström, P., Suzor, N. 2018. The engaged academic: Scholars' engagement and impact through The Conversation. *ANZCA 2018: Multiple Realities*, July 4-6 2018, Auckland, New Zealand.
- Osman, K. 2018. The engaged academic. *DMRC Friday Seminar Series*, June 22 2018, Brisbane, Australia.
- Zardo P., Barnett A.G., Suzor N., Cahill T. (2018) Does engagement predict research use? An analysis of The Conversation Annual Survey 2016. PLoS ONE 13(2): e0192290. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0192290

Australian cultural and creative activity: A population and hotspot analysis (ARC Linkage Project, 2016 - 2019)

Distinguished Professor Stuart Cunningham (DMRC), Professor Patrik Wikström (DMRC), Dr Marion McCutcheon (DMRC), Professor Greg Hearn (QUT), Associate Professor Phillip McIntyre (University of Newcastle), Dr Susan Kerrigan (University of Newcastle), Peter Higgs (QUT)

This project aims to grasp the contemporary dynamics of cultural and creative activity in Australia. It represents a major innovation, bringing together population-level and comparative studies of local cultural and creative 'hotspots'. The project will advance the integration of quantitative and qualitative research strategies, exploring the factors that are producing local and regional creative hotspots. The project will deliver outputs such as reports and forums that are framed in close collaboration with partners in order to deliver outcomes such as better-targeted policy and program initiatives. This will provide national cultural and policy benefits from placing the creative sector in front of policy makers as a vital contributor to high growth, labour-intensive economic activity in the context of an Australian economy in transition.

To date, the project has compiled detailed statistical data. Factsheets on the Australian creative economy have been posted on the project's research website, and statistical analyses have been provided to our state agency research partners to assist with the identification of creative hotspot areas suitable for in-depth qualitative analysis. The national factsheets provide an overview of creative employment by industry, comparing creative services and cultural production, while the statistical summaries drawn on a diverse range of data sources including the Australian Census, the Australian Business Register, IP Australia registration data, infrastructure availability lists and creative grants and rights payments. These data, describing each hotspot area, will significantly inform fieldwork and be included in project outputs including research reports and econometric analyses.

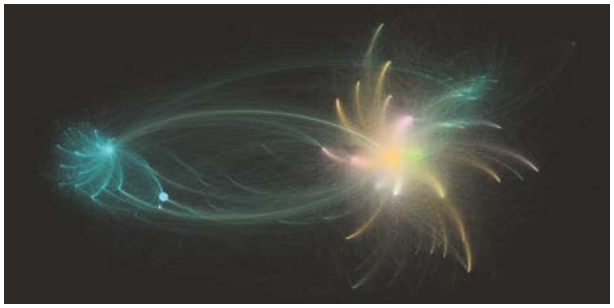
Fieldwork is underway, with the QUT-based team conducting a pilot in the Sunshine Coast region in February 2019, interviewing stakeholders in local government, educational institutions, creative practitioners and key organisations in the location creative economy. QUT researchers will continue fieldwork in the Queensland hotspot areas, the Central West, Gold Coast and Cairns regions, from late March into the end of April, 2019. The University of Newcastle team has recruited a research assistant and will undertake its first fieldwork visit to Wollongong in April 2019.

6.0 RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

The DMRC's world-leading research capabilities in critical, computational and large-scale methods rely on access to and the continuous development of cutting-edge research infrastructure and tools, many of which are unique in Australia and/or internationally.

QUT Digital Observatory (IFE)

Research lead: Professor Axel Bruns
Manager: Dr Marissa Takahashi

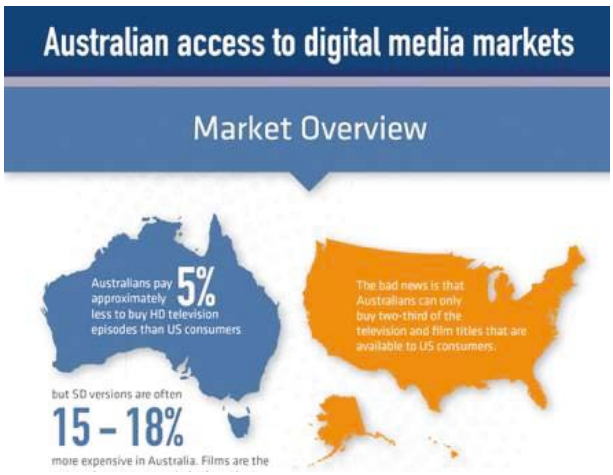


The QUT Digital Observatory (DO) facility hosted by the QUT Institute for Future Environments (IFE) incorporates the research data infrastructure developed through the DMRC's TrISMA ARC LIEF project (2014-16) as well as a number of other infrastructure elements, and consolidates these under a single umbrella. The DO's mission is to establish state-of-the-art technical and organisational infrastructure for tracking, collecting, and making accessible collections of continuous and live digital data that are of interest to researchers independent of their specific topical, thematic, or disciplinary orientation. A successful example of the data infrastructure built via the TrISMA project was the tracking of public communication by Australian users of social media, as well as the production and consumption of online culture at large scale, in close to real time, and for the long term, across a series of ARC-funded and industry-engaged projects led by Professors Axel Bruns, Jean Burgess, and Patrik Wikström.

For example, the infrastructure gathers tweets from all identified Australian accounts on a continuous basis. This enables comprehensive nationwide research approaches that advance well beyond the limitations of existing tools and methods: researchers are able to comprehensively examine user activities within a distinct national communication space, without a need to preselect only those tweets that contain particular hashtags or keywords or set up Twitter tracking processes in advance of anticipated events. Such analytics capabilities provide considerably more reliable information on user activity patterns than comparable commercial solutions that act as black boxes generating opaque and untested engagement metrics.

The DO's existing and planned capabilities provide QUT with significant support for innovative digital media and society research as well as the capacity to engage a wide range of researchers across the university, independent of their research interests.

Digital Media Observatory (DMRC) (see http://digitalmediaobservatory.net.au)



Developed through a DMRC project led by Nicolas Suzor and funded by the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN), Australia's peak body for consumer representation in communications, the Digital Media Observatory (DMO) tracks the relative availability of digital media content to Australian consumers, focussing on download and streaming services. It identifies available film and television, music, computer games, and mobile apps content, evaluating three criteria: pricing, timeliness, and diversity of delivery channel options (including quality and format choices). These data generate an ongoing comparison between the Australian and US media markets. The DMO provides data on how digital media markets are changing over time. These data help us understand how markets are co-evolving with changes to media consumption. The infrastructure provides information on how cultural production and distribution is changing, how copyright laws are working, and how well digital markets are operating, and addresses the question of whether Australians still suffer from an 'Australia tax' where we pay more, wait longer, and have less choice than consumers in other countries.

Australian Music Observatory (DMRC)

Developed through a DMRC-led ARC Linkage project, the Australian Music Observatory (AMO) continuously tracks data on Australian music consumption across a range of media, including radio airplay, recorded music performance in public venues, and streaming media. It consolidates these complex and diverse datasets to enable cross-media comparisons and support the tracking of consumption careers for individual tracks and artists. AMO is the only Australian source of such cross-media consumption data, with a variety of applications in studies of cultural consumption, music business analysis, and royalty distribution modelling. It is developed in partnership with major Australian music industry bodies, including APRA/AMCOS.

7.0 EVENTS AND COURSES

Associate Professor Michael Dezuanni

In 2018, the DMRC delivered a vibrant series of public events and practical training for academics at all levels. Our program of events included workshops, a summer school, seminars and masterclasses built around the Centre's research, helping participants to acquire an in-depth understanding of emerging topics in digital media, build practical skills at the cutting edge of digital methods, and engage with external academic and industry stakeholders.

Events

DMRC Fridays research seminars (April, June, September, and November)

Throughout the year, the DMRC hosted four research seminars, featuring a total of 16 DMRC researchers discussing their work. The seminar series attracted researchers from across the university. Presentations included:

- Dr Deb Adams: The Reality of Fake News
- Professor Jean Burgess: YouTube and Participatory Culture: A decade of competing logics
- Professor Axel Bruns: Following, Mentioning, Sharing: A Search for Filter Bubbles in the Australian Twittersphere
- Dr Ella Chorazy: Public profiles of political staffers: Detracting the message and distracting democracy
- Professor Terry Flew: Technology, Trust and Governance: Options for Regulating Digital Platforms
- Guy Healy: Pro-am Australian YouTube Creators; leaving the 'funny cat video' stereotype behind
- Dr Brendan Keogh: Who Else Makes Videogames Here? Considering Informal Videogame Development Practices in Australia
- Dr Ariadna Matamoros-Fernández: 'El Negro De WhatsApp' Meme and how it enacts racism
- Dr Kim Osman: The engaged academic: Scholars' engagement and impact through The Conversation
- Professor Matthew Rimmer: The Trans-Pacific Partnership: Intellectual Property and Trade in the Pacific Rim
- Dr Aljosha Karim Schapals: The challenges and opportunities of automated journalism: Illuminating the status quo in German newsrooms
- Alice Witt and Associate Professor Nicolas Suzor: Making progress: New methods to evaluate the formal equality of the processes that moderate images that depict women's bodies on Instagram

The 'El Negro De WhatsApp' Meme

Dr Ariadna Matamoros-Fernández

The "El Negro de Whatsapp" is a platform-specific meme particularly popular amongst Spanish and Latin-American Whatsapp users that involves the posting of a picture that looks legitimate in preview but when clicked on reveals a lurking image of a black man with disproportionate genitals. This Whatsapp meme is situated within broader 'bait-and-switch' internet pranks like rickrolling (Know your meme, Rickroll), which imply a post of something appearing to be one thing but which is really something else. Ariadna's presentation examined the racism enacted by the memetic appropriations of "El Negro de Whatsapp". Ariadna argues that users' appropriations of this meme – independently of their intent – and Whatsapp's affordances enact "platformed racism". Platformed racism is "a new form of racism derived from the culture of social media platforms—their design, technical affordances, business models and policies—and the specific cultures of use associated with them" (Matamoros-Fernández, 2017, p. 930). The presentation discussed the uses of "El Negro de Whatsapp" in the specific context of Spain through an exploration of the appropriations of the meme that have circulated in Whatsapp groups.

At Work with Digital Media (February)

Professor Marek Kowalkiewicz, PwC Chair in digital economy, (QUT), Dr Melissa Gregg, Director of Smart Home Research (Intel Corporation), Dr Kevin Sanson (DMRC), Associate Professor Sarah Kaine (University of Technology, Sydney)

Each year, the public panel is a highlight of the DMRC Summer School program. The 2018 panel was recorded for an episode of the ABC's Future Tense program, hosted by Antony Funnell. The panel addressed the idea that digital tools and platforms are now transforming the work environment, just as they have the personal/social environment.

The panellists canvassed a number of ideas, including the changing nature of work; the connections between personal and professional life as mediated with digital technologies such as smart phones; and what changes when work and labour are increasingly mediated via digital platforms. Particular issues raised included the surveillance of workers with digital technologies, the unintended consequences of digital media in the workplace, and changes in working conditions – including disruptions to traditional employer-employee relationships associated with these changes.

Digital inclusion research forum (March)

Following on from 2017's successful digital inclusion research forum, co-hosted with the Australian Digital Inclusion Alliance, the DMRC hosted a follow-up meeting with key stakeholders from across industry, the non-profit sector and with researchers. The event included the launch of 'Measuring Queensland's Digital Divide', an Australian Digital Inclusion Index project led by the DMRC in collaboration with RMIT University and Telstra.

The forum particularly focused on the need for further research in the area of Digital Ability, including processes for digital ability self-assessment and approaches to effective digital mentoring. As a follow up to this meeting, the DMRC was engaged in commercial research projects by the Queensland government and Australia Post.

Communication, Culture and Governance in China and East Asia symposium (August)

This symposium, co-hosted by the DMRC and the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (IASH), at The University of Queensland, considered the relationship between communication, culture and governance in the East Asian region. It addressed how communications infrastructure is a central element of expansionary projects such as China's Belt and Road initiative, and that governments throughout the region are increasingly investing in digital content in order to promote cultural soft power, in Asia and globally. The symposium also suggested phenomena such as 'fake news', as well as privacy and data protection issues, are presenting new challenges for governance. Such issues arise at a time when international tensions are increasing, over economic, diplomatic, political and cultural issues. Attendees heard that while there have been initiatives to build bridges, (for example Hollywood-China film co-productions), anti-China rhetoric by leaders such as U.S. President Donald Trump and the escalation of U.S.-China tariff wars point to growing contestation and the potential for conflict that goes beyond national soft power competition. Where regional players in the Asian region, including Australia, will be situated in such an environment remains unclear.

Summer School, 2018

Our annual DMRC Summer School was held over the week of 5 – 9 February 2018 at QUT Kelvin Grove. 37 PhD and early career researchers from 11 different countries and 25 different institutions participated in the week-long event. In a series of intensive workshops and masterclasses, participants learned and applied methods in the areas of social media analytics, the app walkthrough method, ethnographic approaches to the use of media technologies in daily life, information visualisation, and encryption, as well as other areas. Working alongside DMRC staff were several international guest facilitators, including Abigail de Kosnik (University of California, Berkeley), Melissa Gregg (Intel), Bridget Conor (King's College London), Alison Harvey (University of Leicester), and Harry Dugmore (Rhodes University).

Summer School, 2019

As we go to press, the 2019 DMRC Summer School has already taken place. Between 11 – 15 February, 23 participants enjoyed a series of workshops, clinics and professional development sessions focusing on advanced critical, qualitative, and computational approaches to digital media, communication and cultural research, with active participation from all of our recently recruited academic staff. The DMRC will continue to host a series of high-profile research events throughout 2019.

Courses

Social Media Analytics: Using Data to Understand Public Conversations

Social Media Analytics MOOC Website

Our popular free online course continued to be delivered in 2018 on the FutureLearn platform. The course focused on the collection, analysis and visualisation of social media data. Participants in the course chose to analyse a topic that was relevant to their own interests and used three digital tools (TAGS, Tableau and Gephi) to understand how that topic plays out in online conversations on digital media platforms like Twitter. The course ran three times in 2018 with a total of 4,519 enrolments. Participants came to the course with a range of experience, and many were also studying or had completed an undergraduate or masters level degree. The majority of participants were from the United Kingdom with significant cohorts from Russia, India, South Africa, the U.S. and Australia.

8.0 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

International and national leadership of the field

Our members are actively engaged in leadership and engagement in the field, at a national and international level. Recent activities and leadership roles include the following:

- Stuart Cunningham, Julian Thomas and Jean Burgess collaborated to convene an Australian Academy of the Humanities workshop, 'Trust and its Discontents' at RMIT in September 2018, involving participants from philosophy, law, communication, engineering, and economics.
- The DMRC is the local host organisation for the Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR) Conference, to be held in October 2019.
- Jean Burgess is co-editor of the Q1 ranked *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, and Kevin Sanson is co-founder and Managing Editor of the *Media Industries Journal*.
- Terry Flew is now President-Elect of the International Communication Association (ICA), the major international association for our broad discipline of communication.
- Axel Bruns is the current President of the Association of Internet Researchers, the leading international association for our specialist sub-field of digital media, communication and cultural studies.

Policy engagement

Policy-relevant reports and submissions from 2018 include:

- Bruns, A., Bechmann, A., Burgess, J., Chadwick, A., Clark, L. S., Dutton, W. H., et al. (2018) Facebook shuts the gate after the horse has bolted, and hurts real research in the process. *Internet Policy Review*. https://policyreview.info/articles/news/facebook-shuts-gate-after-horse-has-bolted-and-hurts-real-research-process/786
- Flew, Terry, Suwana, Fiona, & Tam, Lisa (2018) *ACCC digital platform inquiry: Submission by Facebook Australia Pty Limited*. QUT Creative Industries, Brisbane, QLD.
- Suzor, Nicolas P., Impiazzi, Bella, Webster, Michael, Lester, Craig, & Keast, Cameron (2018) *Digital Rights Watch submission to Review of the Copyright Online Infringement Amendment*.
- Suzor, Nicolas P. & Pappalardo, Kylie M. (2018) *Digital Rights Watch submission to Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Enquiry into the Copyright Amendment (Service Providers) Bill 2017*.
- Suzor, Nicolas P., Weatherall, Kim, Daly, Angela, Vromen, Ariadne, & Mann, Monique (2018) *Submission to Human Rights and Technology Issues Paper*.

Visiting scholar research seminars

Assistant Professor Jessa Lingel

The DMRC is increasingly a magnet for leading international researchers. During 2018, the DMRC hosted 12 visiting scholar presentations:

- **Sara Bannerman**, Canada Research Chair in Communication Policy and Governance: *Algorithmic imperialism and fake news*.
- **Peter Tschmuck**, Professor of Cultural Institutions Studies, University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. *The Economics of Music Streaming – who benefits?*
- **Jessa Lingel**, Assistant Professor, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania. *The craigslist ethic: A web 1.0 vision of online democracy*.
- **James Drummond and Fiona Drummond**, Rhodes University, South Africa. *The role of cultural festivals in regional economic development: A case study of Mahika Mahikeng*.
- **Andrew Herman**, Associate Professor, Wilfred Laurier University, Canada. *Dreamworld, Catastrophe and the Silicon Valley Uncanny (unheimliche): Canadian Tech Ecosystems and the Fraught National Imaginaries of Innovation in 21st Century Informational Capitalism*.
- **Romain Guedj**, The Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM). *The photographic work of Michel Campeau* (Presented in association with the QUT Creative Lab).
- **Stephen Cushion**, Reader at Cardiff University School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies. *Reporting Elections: Rethinking the Logic of Campaign Coverage*.
- **Tarleton Gillespie**, principal researcher at Microsoft Research. *Custodians of the Internet: Platforms, Content Moderation, and the Hidden Decisions that Shape Social Media*.
- **Hollis Griffin**, Associate Professor of Media Studies at Denison University. *Architectures of Information and the Queerness of Desire: Mobile Apps and Mediated Intimacies*.
- **Paul Dourish**, Chancellor's Professor of Informatics, University of California, Irvine. *Doing Data Work – Technical and Organizational Pragmatics in Smart Cities*.
- **Harry Dugmore**, Director of the Centre for Health Journalism at Rhodes University. *Philanthropically-funded news: the future of public interest journalism in South Africa?*
- **Agnieszka Leszczynski**, Assistant Professor, Western University, Canada. *Glitchy vignettes of platform urbanism*.

Custodians of the Internet

Associate Professor Tarleton Gillespie

Most social media users want their chosen platforms free from harassment and porn. But they also want to see the content they choose to see. Platforms face an irreconcilable contradiction: while platforms promise an open space for participation and community, every one of them imposes rules of some kind. In this presentation, Tarleton discussed how the illusion of the open platform has, in recent years, begun to crumble. Today, content moderation has never been more important, or more controversial. Tarleton's work investigates how social media platforms police what we post online – and the societal impact of these decisions.

9.0 COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

The Digital Media Research Centre's vibrant research generates a steady stream of media coverage, and a number of its members are already star media performers. The Centre's media strategy is focused on capitalizing on and amplifying the combined media reach of its members and HDR students, and on maintaining a lively, engaged presence across the major social media platforms.

Media Presence

The Centre Director, Members and HDR students are regular commentators in the media, contributing pieces to outlets such as Medium and The Conversation, making feature appearances on national and international radio and television, and providing expert commentary for leading Australian and international news outlets such as The Washington Post, The Guardian, The Australian, Huffington Post, The Courier Mail, The Age, The ABC and The Conversation.

Examples of media coverage from 2018 include:

- **Professor Jean Burgess** was interviewed about Twitter's history and its attempts to create a more 'healthy conversation' on ABC Radio National's weekly pop culture show Stop Everything, 2 November 2018.
- **Professor Jean Burgess** was interviewed about YouTube for ABC NSW's Drive program on 29 October, 2018.
- **Dr T.J. Thomson's** research on the emotional labour and work of visual journalists was featured in Wall Street Online Denmark, News Medical, Medical Xpress, Mirage News, GetStem, and Presse Online, among others.
- **Distinguished Professor Stuart Cunningham** wrote an article for The Conversation, 'We must not punish content creators in our rush to regulate social platforms' on 9 May, 2018.
- ABC Radio National interviewed **Distinguished Professor Stuart Cunningham** on The Money, on the economic efficiency of ABC/PSBs, on 24 May, 2018.
- **Distinguished Professor Stuart Cunningham** was interviewed by Rob Csernyik, in Maisonneuve (Canadian magazine), on the ABC and public service broadcasting.
- **Professor Axel Bruns** led a global campaign to highlight the negative effects of Facebook's API clampdown for independent public-interest research, as described in The Guardian, on 25 April, 2018.
- **Professor Axel Bruns** commented on ABC News and Der Standard (Austria) on a new study showing distribution patterns for 'fake news'.

- **Professor Axel Bruns** spoke to ABC Radio National about Facebook's communication strategy for managing the fallout from the Cambridge Analytica scandal, on 6 December, 2018.
- **Dr Mark Ryan** was interviewed on ABC News on 19 March, 2018 on the Queensland Film Industry.
- ABC Radio Brisbane interviewed **Dr Mark Ryan** on the BAFTA Awards, on 20 February, 2018.
- **Dr Brendan Keogh** was interviewed on his research and game industry current affairs for radio stations 4ZZZ and Triple J and the website CKGSB Knowledge, and podcast Downloadable Context.
- **Dr Ariadna Matamoros-Fernández** wrote an article for The Conversation on how the use of emoji on Islamophobic Facebook pages amplifies racism, on 13 November, 2018.
- ABC Radio National interviewed **Dr Ariadna Matamoros-Fernández** on whether or not YouTube was the worst offender for fake news, 10 September 2018.
- **Associate Professor Nicolas Suzor** was interviewed by CNET about his research into YouTube's response to concerns about their algorithmic recommendations of alt-right channels to users.
- The Gold Coast Bulletin interviewed **Associate Professor Nicolas Suzor** on use of the 'dark web' for shady dealings on 23 February, 2018.
- ABC News interviewed **Associate Professor Nicolas Suzor** on the defamation via Google search case to be discussed by the High Court on 20 March, 2018.
- **Dr Kylie Pappalardo** was interviewed by ABC Radio Brisbane on the economics of creativity in an age of digital disruption on 3 July, 2018.
- **ABC News** (online) interviewed **Dr Kylie Pappalardo** on music copyright on 23 January, 2018.

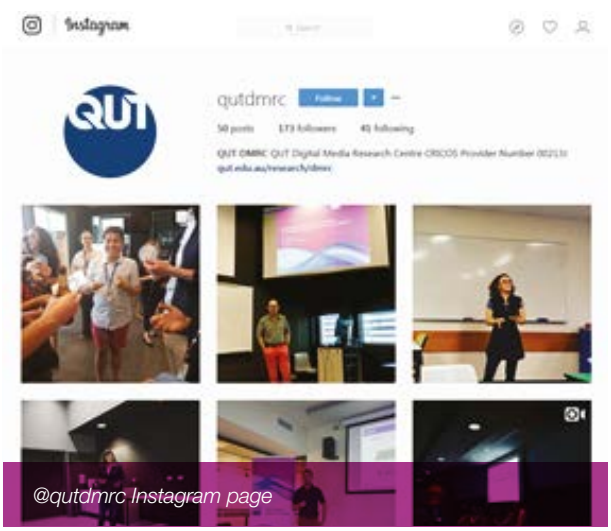
Centre Website

The Centre website is located at
www.research.qut.edu.au/dmrc

Social Media

Established in June 2015, by early 2019 the DMRC Twitter account (@qutdmrc) had 2392 followers. Also attached to the @qutdmrc twitter account is the Medium publication *DMRC at Large*, established at the beginning of 2016. The DMRC Facebook page (**http://facebook.com/qutdmrc**) is an important channel for major news items and announcements, which are also cross-published via the QUT News functionality on the Centre website. The DMRC also has an active Instagram account (@qutdmrc) which is used to visually document and personalise Centre events, activities and news.

@qutdmrc Facebook page



@qutdmrc Instagram page

10.0 KEY OUTCOMES – COMPLETED STUDENTS

Name	Thesis title	Supervisors
Ella Chorazy	Spin un-spun: unravelling cultural representations and Australian understandings of public relations	Principal supervisor: Associate Professor Stephen Harrington Associate supervisor: Professor Terry Flew
Sara Ekberg	The role of organisational integrity in responses to pressures: A case study of Australian newspapers	Principal supervisor: Professor Patrik Wikström Associate supervisor: Professor Per Davidsson Associate supervisor: Professor Folker Hanusch
Ariadna Matamoros-Fernández	Platformed racism: The mediation and circulation of the Adam Goodes booing and war dance controversy on Twitter, YouTube, and Facebook	Principal supervisor: Professor Jean Burgess Associate supervisor: Associate Professor Nicolas Suzor External supervisor: Dr Timothy Highfield
Rido Parulian Panjaitan	Government in online spaces: Critical evaluation of citizen-to-government participation in urban cities in Java, Indonesia	Principal supervisor: Professor Terry Flew Associate supervisor: Dr Emma Baulch
Fiona Suwana	Digital media literacy and Indonesian young people: Building sustainable democratic institutions and practices	Principal supervisor: Professor Terry Flew Associate supervisor: Associate Professor Angela Romano Associate supervisor: Associate Professor Stephen Harrington
Sonam Tobgye	Digital transformation in Bhutan: Culture, workforce and training	Principal supervisor: Professor Clive Bean Associate supervisor: Dr Emma Baulch
Portia Vann	Gateway to the sideline: Organisational communication on social media at large-scale sporting events	Principal supervisor: Professor Axel Bruns Associate supervisor: Associate Professor Stephen Harrington
Jing Zeng	Contesting rumours on social media during acute events: The 2014 Sydney Siege and 2015 Tianjin blasts	Principal supervisor: Professor Jean Burgess Associate supervisor: Professor Axel Bruns
Gabriela Monteiro Lunardi (MPhil)	"The 'zoeira' never ends": The role of Internet memes in contemporary Brazilian culture	Principal supervisor: Professor Jean Burgess Associate supervisor: Associate Professor Stephen Harrington

11.0 KEY OUTCOMES – PROJECTS

New Competitive Grants

In 2018 DMRC members were awarded new competitive grants in ARC Discovery and a range of smaller schemes. The total amount of new ARC Discovery funding awarded was $718,000 while the total amount of new funding received through smaller schemes was $326,069.20 and is detailed at the end of this section.

Project Title	**Platform Governance: Rethinking Internet Regulation as Media Policy**
Project Type	ARC Discovery Project
Project Team	Prof Terry Flew, Dr Fiona Martin, A/Prof Nicolas Suzor, A/Prof Tim Dwyer, Prof Philip Napoli, Prof Josef Trappel
Project Summary	The Platform Governance Project will investigate the regulatory and policy implications of understanding global digital platforms as media companies. Responding to ongoing public concern about these companies' self-management of online communication and social media, a team of leading Australian and international digital media researchers will evaluate regulatory approaches to mediating abusive, offensive, defamatory and potentially illegal digital content. Drawing on a multidisciplinary team of researchers across the fields of communication and media studies, law and economics, the project examines the shifting balance between government regulation and self-regulation, and national content regulation in an age of global digital platforms.
Total Amount Awarded	**$378,000**

Project Title	**Internet-Distributed Television: Cultural, Industrial and Policy Dynamics**
Project Type	ARC Discovery Project
Project Team	Dr Ramon Lobato, D/Prof Stuart Cunningham, Prof Amanda Lotz
Project Summary	This project investigates the impact of global subscription video-on-demand platforms on national television markets. As US-based services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video open up these markets to unprecedented competition, the project will provide much-needed comparative analysis of how governments are responding and what the implications are for debates about local content, local screen production, and media diversity. Analysis of original production and programming strategies will identify new forms of transnational media flow. Conceptually, the project aims to advance our understanding of an emerging paradigm of globalising, multiterritory television.
Total Amount Awarded	**$340,000**

Project Title	**RISE Social Media Analytics**
Project Type	Marie Sklodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)
Project Team	Prof Jean Burgess, Prof Axel Bruns, and others
Project Summary	The RISE scheme promotes international and cross-sector collaboration through staff mobility and knowledge exchange. The RISE-SMA consortium is led by University of Duisburg-Essen and involves Leiden University, University of Agder, Virtimo AG, City of Kristiansand as beneficiaries, and Queensland University of Technology, Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos, University of Padjadjaran, and University of Sydney as partners.
Total Amount Awarded	**€1,168,400 (travel support only to QUT)**

Continuing Competitive Grants

In 2018, Centre members held continuing grant funding comprising three ARC Linkage Grants, three ARC Discovery Grants, one ARC Future Fellowship, two Discovery Early Career Researcher projects, a Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) project and other smaller competitive schemes, with total funds exceeding $4,000,000.

Project Title	**Integrating career development and curriculum**
Project Type	Graduate Careers Australia
Project Team	Associate Professor Ruth Bridgstock, Dr Alan McAlpine
Project Summary	Graduate employability is increasingly a central concern of the higher education sector, and all Australian universities are now working to embed career development learning into their programs. University careers services possess specialist knowledge and skills relating to career development, and yet historically they have not been well integrated into the development or delivery of university degree programs. Further, careers services are not resourced sufficiently to service all degree programs using traditional methods. This project asks: How can university careers services and faculties collaborate to foster effective and sustainable curriculum-based career development learning for graduate employability, on a university-wide basis? Through interviews with careers and academic staff representing a cross-section of Australian universities, along with national and international cases of best practice, this project seeks to: (1) explore and investigate the various collaboration models and strategies that exist across the sector; and (2) identify barriers and enablers to successful collaboration.
Total Amount Awarded	**$37,800**

Project Title	**Formal, Informal, Embedded: Game Developers and Skills Transfer**
Project Type	Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) (2018 - 2020)
Project Team	Dr Brendan Keogh
Project Summary	This project aims to examine the transferability and sustainability of videogame development skillsets to the broader digital sector. The project will lead to future job creation, and to cultural and economic innovation in Australia.
Total Amount Awarded	**$383,114**

Project Title	**Digital Media, Location Awareness, and the Politics of Geodata**
Project Type	ARC Discovery Project (2018 – 2021)
Project Team	A/Prof Peta Mitchell, Dr Tim Highfield, Prof Larissa Hjorth, Prof Paul Dourish, Dr Agnieszka Leszczynski
Project Summary	This project aims to examine the increasingly pervasive role of location metadata, or geodata, in Australian smartphone practices and cultures and the implications this has for users, industry, and public administration. The project will deliver online and open resources to enhance public understanding of geodata and geoprivacy, as well as industry and policy recommendations that address the crucial issue of 'location awareness' in everyday digital media use. The project will generate new insights into the critical role of geodata in everyday digital media use and will contribute to broader public discussion about data privacy, surveillance and cybersecurity. Its findings will also provide industry benefits, enhancing developers' understanding of how everyday users apprehend and negotiate the privacy implications of location services.
Total Amount Awarded	**$324,700**

Project Title	**Instituto Nacional de Ciência e Tecnologia em Democracia Digital (INCT-DD)**
Project Type	National Science and Technology Institutes
Project Team	Prof Axel Bruns, Prof Jean Burgess, and others
Project Summary	National Science and Technology Institutes are the most prestigious grants in Brazil, and are awarded once every 6 years. The total funding awarded to the INCT-DD is $2m USD, involving 81 researchers from 45 universities, including QUT, through the DMRC.
Total Amount Awarded	**$US 2,000,000 (total funding across 45 universities)**

Project Title	**Australian cultural and creative activity: A population and hotspot analysis**
Project Type	ARC Linkage Project (2016 – 2019)
Project Team	D/Prof Stuart Cunningham, Prof Greg Hearn, A/Prof Phillip McIntyre, Prof Patrik Wikström, Dr Susan Kerrigan
Project Summary	This project aims to grasp the contemporary dynamics of cultural and creative activity in Australia. It represents a major innovation, bringing together population-level and comparative studies of local cultural and creative activity. The comprehensive project will advance the integration of quantitative and qualitative research strategies, painting a complete national picture, while also exploring the factors that are producing local and regional creative hotspots. The project will deliver outputs such as reports and forums that are framed in close collaboration with partners in order to deliver outcomes such as better-targeted policy and program initiatives. This will provide national cultural and policy benefits from placing the creative sector in front of policy makers as a vital contributor to high growth, labour-intensive economic activity in the context of the Australian economy in transition.
Total Amount Awarded	$480,000 (ARC funding only)
Industry Partners	Arts Queensland, Creative Victoria, Arts NSW, Arts SA, Department of Culture and the Arts

Project Title	**Towards Greater Transparency in Content Moderation**
Project Type	Internet Policy Observatory, Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania
Project Team	A/Prof Nicolas Suzor, Ms Jillian York, Ms Sarah Myers West
Project Summary	This project is a collaboration with Jillian York from OnlineCensorship.org and Sarah Myers West from the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. The project will work to engage civil society organizations and academic researchers to create a consensus-based priority list of the information users and researchers need to better understand content moderation and improve advocacy efforts around user rights.
Total Amount Awarded	$18,597

Project Title	**Digital play - using pedagogical approaches to teach information literacy skills through play**
Project Type	Department of Education and Training (Qld) Horizon Grant
Project Team	Dr Amanda McFadden, Ms Kathleen Smeaton, Dr Maryanne Theobald, Prof Joanne Lunn, Prof Susan Danby, Ms Kerry Boland, Ms Marilyn Way
Project Summary	Being able to find, evaluate and apply information for personal benefit is a key attribute in today's knowledge economy. Termed information literacy, this process goes beyond developing functional skills to creating attributes that enable lifelong learning (Bruce, 2008). However, simply having access to digital technologies and online resources does not always equate to developing these attributes (Zammit & Callow, 2013). Findings from our 2016/2017 Education Horizon project showed significant knowledge gaps relating to how best to support young children's information literacy. This project expands the pedagogical model developed in our 2016/2017 Horizon study by investigating approaches that embed information literacy through play in order to promote children's evaluative, creative and critical thinking skills. Through a focus on information literacy, this research embeds 21st century skills into the curriculum via digital play. Digital play provides a contemporary perspective on children's everyday experiences in a digital culture (Edwards, 2011; Marklund & Dunkels, 2013).
Total Amount Awarded	$478,248

Project Title	**Amplifying public value: Scholarly contributions' impact on public debate**
Project Type	ARC Linkage Project (2016 – 2019)
Project Team	Prof Axel Bruns, Prof Jean Burgess, D/Prof Stuart Cunningham, Prof Patrik Wikström, A/Prof Nicolas Suzor, Dr Anthony Peacock, Ms Lisa Watts
Project Summary	This project aims to improve the international evidence base for the public impact and value of publicly funded scholarly research, using mixed-methods analysis. Publicly funded researchers and agencies are increasingly expected to provide more detailed and transparent information about how their research is publicly valuable, contributes to public debate, and forms opinions.
Total Amount Awarded	$246,892 (ARC funding only)
Industry Partners	The Conversation Media Group Ltd, Cooperative Research Centres Association Inc.

Project Title	**Journalism Beyond the Crisis: emerging forms, practices and uses**
Project Type	ARC Discovery Project (2016 – 2019)
Project Team	Prof Folker Hanusch, Prof Axel Bruns, Prof Christoph Neuberger, Prof Mark Deuze, Prof Tamara Witschge, Dr Christian Nuernbergk, Dr Aljosha Karim Schapals, A/Prof Stephen Harrington
Project Summary	This project seeks to conduct a transnational comparative study designed to discover how journalism is changing as a cultural form, and the implications of this for political and cultural life. Journalistic culture in Australia is in transition, with significant implications for politics, culture and economic life. Change is affecting the forms of journalism available to Australian audiences; the ways in which, and by whom, journalism is produced; and the uses to which practitioners and citizens in general put journalistic content.
Total Amount Awarded	**$461,121**

Project Title	**The new screen ecology and innovation in production and distribution**
Project Type	ARC Discovery Project (2016 – 2018)
Project Team	D/Prof Stuart Cunningham
Project Summary	The project aims to explore new models of online and screen content creation. Major United States information technology corporations are challenging Hollywood and television networks and are likely to come to dominate new screen services into the future. This project focuses on the most challenging and potentially disruptive and innovative forms of production and distribution this new screen ecology is taking. Processes of professionalization and monetisation of previously amateur content creation are underpinning an explosive growth of a lower-budget, more diverse and structurally innovative tier of advertising- and sponsor-supported online content. Centred on strategies of platforms such as YouTube, but international in scope, the project aims to contribute to innovation in Australian screen production and distribution.
Total Amount Awarded	**$535,000**

Project Title	**Regulating Internet content through notice-and-takedown**
Project Type	ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (2016 – 2019)
Project Team	A/Prof Nicolas Suzor
Project Summary	This project is designed to create a set of principles to help governments, firms and civil society organisations to address harmful online content in more sophisticated ways. Such groups are increasingly seeking to influence the intermediaries that provide internet services to take more responsibility for content on their networks. Globally, these intermediaries receive millions of requests to remove content posted by users each month. This project seeks to understand how Australian and international intermediaries respond to takedown requests in three areas: copyright, defamation, and hate speech. It aims to create new knowledge about how intermediaries can be influenced to regulate internet content, and how due process and freedom of speech can be protected.
Total Amount Awarded	**$350,000**

Project Title	**Understanding Intermedia Information Flows in the Australian Online Public Sphere**
Project Type	ARC Future Fellowship
Project Team	Prof Axel Bruns
Project Summary	The emergence of new media forms has led to a profound transformation of the Australian media environment; mainstream, niche, and social media intersect in many ways, online and offline. Increased access to large-scale data on public communication online enables an observation of how the nation responds to the news of the day, how themes and topics unfold, and how interested publics develop and decline over time. This project uses such observations to trace how information flows across media spaces, and to develop a new model of the online public sphere. It makes significant contributions to innovation in research methods in the digital humanities, and provides an important basis for policies aimed at closing digital and social divides.
Total Amount Awarded	**$870,398**

Project Title	**Emergent Music Engagement Practices via SoundCloud**
Project Type	UA-DAAD Australia-Germany
Project Team	Prof Axel Bruns, Prof Patrik Wikström, Dr Brenda Moon, Dr Felix Muench, Ms May Lyn Chew, Prof Stefan Stieglitz, Mr Florian Brachten, Mr Bjoern Ross
Project Summary	This project examines engagement practices around one leading site, SoundCloud (which attracts 175 million unique monthly listeners), using big data from SoundCloud and social media. SoundCloud users are able to listen to tracks provided by artists and attach their own comments to them; they are also able to share links to these tracks through social media such as Facebook and Twitter. We draw on the Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) of these platforms to capture a large dataset of SoundCloud comments as well as tweets and Facebook posts sharing links to SoundCloud, and use a combination of automated content analysis of these comments and posts, and network analysis of the overlap in user populations between individual songs, to measure the affinity between songs and develop a framework for making automatic song recommendations to users as they engage with SoundCloud content.
Total Amount Awarded	$24,990
Industry Partners	University of Duisberg-Essen

Project Title	**Music Usage Metrics and the Future of the Australian Music Industry**
Project Type	ARC Linkage Project (2016 – 2019)
Project Team	Prof Patrik Wikström, Prof Axel Bruns, Prof Dan Hunter, Dr Ramon Lobato, Mr Stuart Watters, Mr Stephen Green, Mr Andrew Harris
Project Summary	This project aims to conduct a comprehensive and systematic examination of changing music consumption patterns in Australia in an era of digital downloads. Based on a comprehensive longitudinal dataset on music use in Australia provided by industry partners, the project plans to use innovative computational methods to develop and test evidence-based models for generating, sharing and distributing music revenues. It also plans to examine the current and future uses of music usage data in decision-making processes in music organisations, as well as the potential consequences of such use for practitioners and industry stakeholders. The project aims to support the future growth of the Australian music industry.
Total Amount Awarded	$274,139 (ARC funding only)
Industry Partners	Nightlife Music Pty Ltd, D-Star Music Delivery Pty Ltd, and APRA

Project Title	**Creative Industries After 20 Years: The Complex Path from Policy to Curriculum**
Project Type	Commercial (Menzies Centre for Australian Studies Bicentennial Fellowship)
Project Team	Prof Terry Flew
Project Summary	This project will examine the context in which this growth has occurred in creative industries programs in the U.K. and Australia, and its relationship to creative industries as a policy and research field. The nature of these programs is quite diffuse, emphasizing areas across a spectrum for music technology to writing and publishing to the performing arts to digital enterprise. But they all identify the creative industries nomenclature as opening up opportunities or graduates that are not adequately served by more established programs such as fine arts or liberal arts. This project would undertake interviews with key informants in these universities to establish a clearer picture of what constitutes the basis of the contemporary creative industries degree.
Total Amount Awarded	$2,500
Industry Partners	King's College London

New Commercial Research Projects 2018

In 2018, $335,222.31 was secured on a range of commercial research projects.

Project Title	**ACCC Digital Platforms Inquiry – Scoping Report**
Project Type	Commercial (Facebook)
Project Team	Prof Terry Flew, Dr Lisa Tam, Dr Fiona Suwana
Total Amount Awarded	$51,915.23

Project Title	**Trust: Exploring the Contribution of the Humanities and Related Disciplines to a Central Issue**
Project Type	Commercial (Australian Academy of the Humanities)
Project Team	D/Prof Stuart Cunningham
Total Amount Awarded	$6,818.18

Project Title	**First Idea Consulting Soft Power Consultancy for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**
Project Type	Commercial (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Government)
Project Team	Prof Terry Flew
Total Amount Awarded	$30,000

Project Title	**A Social Media Analysis of Australian Higher Education**
Project Type	Commercial (Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency)
Project Team	Prof Axel Bruns, Prof Jean Burgess, A/Prof Michael Dezuanni
Total Amount Awarded	$10,397.58

Project Title	**Creative Skills for the Future Economy**
Project Type	Commercial (Department of Communications and the Arts, Australian Government)
Project Team	D/Prof Stuart Cunningham
Total Amount Awarded	$13,407.95

Project Title	**Measuring and evaluating digital ability**
Project Type	Commercial (Department of Housing and Public Works, Queensland Government)
Project Team	A/Prof Michael Dezuanni, Prof Jean Burgess, A/Prof Peta Mitchell
Total Amount Awarded	$18,101.09

Project Title	**Music Industry Research Collaboration INN & QUT**
Project Type	Commercial (Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences)
Project Team	Prof Patrik Wikström
Total Amount Awarded	$102,782.28

Project Title	**Global Creator Culture**
Project Type	Commercial (Facebook) (Unrestricted gift)
Project Team	D/Prof Stuart Cunningham
Total Amount Awarded	$32,400

Project Title	**Mentoring Digital Mentors – Facilitating Impactful Digital Ability Programs for Australians at Risk of Digital Exclusion**
Project Type	Commercial (Australia Post and LifeTec Australia)
Project Team	A/Prof Michael Dezuanni, Prof Jean Burgess, Prof Marcus Foth, A/Prof Peta Mitchell, Ms Julia Symons, Ms Jennifer Poppe
Total Amount Awarded	$69,400

Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Funding

Project Title	**Rapid Analytics Interactive Scenario Explorer (RAISE) Toolkit**
Project Type	CRC for Spatial Information
Project Team	Dr Markus Rittenbruch, A/Prof Tomasz Bednarz, Prof Marcus Foth, A/Prof Peta Mitchell, A/Prof Christopher Pettit, Ms Melanie Plumb
Project Summary	In collaboration with the University of NSW, this project focuses on building a highly interactive geo-visualisation toolkit for accessing automated land valuation models through to more complex land value uplift models. This will enable land valuers, city councils, state government policy and decision-makers and industry to collaboratively explore and test hypotheses connected with the likely causes of land valuation changes in relation to infrastructure decisions. The RAISE toolkit won the Best Industry-led Partnership Award at the 2017 Committee for Sydney's Smart City Awards.
Total Amount Awarded	$123,297
Industry Partners	University of NSW

Other Research Projects – New 2018

In 2018 DMRC members were successful in a number of other external and internal grant schemes, and were awarded a total of $326,069.20 in funding.

Project Title	**Advancing the news media literacy of young Australians**
Project Type	Western Sydney University (seed funding), Museum of Australian Democracy, Google Australia (2018 - 2019)
Project Team	A/Prof Michael Dezuanni, Dr Tanya Notley
Project Summary	This project responds to changes in the production, experience and consumption of news media by young Australians. Recent research has identified several barriers that prevent news media literacy from being developed in the home and in schools in a meaningful and effective way. This project will document, analyse and address some of these barriers. The project will respond to emerging questions regarding the changing role of news in relation to active citizenship and democracy, and the challenge of 'fake news' or disinformation.
Total Amount Awarded	$130,000
Industry Partners	Western Sydney University, Museum of Australian Democracy, Google Australia

Project Title	**Putting end-users in charge of algorithms: Privacy and autonomy by design**
Project Type	QUT Engagement Innovation Grant; QUT Strategic Links Pilot Project (internal)
Project Team	Dr Monique Mann, Prof Marcus Foth, A/Prof Nicolas Suzor, A/Prof Peta Mitchell, Dr Kylie Pappalardo
Project Summary	This project will engage technologists and end-users in igniting social change. The team will conduct a series of workshops using 'Hackathon' formats to bring together relevant communities (social media users, software engineers, interactive designers, policy makers and government representatives). This will help these communities to forecast issues, design interventions to inform real-world practice, and address a real-world need of putting end-users in charge of algorithms to protect their privacy and autonomy.
Total Amount Awarded	$39,498
Industry Partners	Consumer Policy Research Centre (CPRC), ThoughtWorks, Office of the Information Commissioner Queensland

Project Title	**Interactive big data visualisation for decision making: A prototype for mobility data**
Project Type	QUT Institute for Future Environments – Catapult Project Funding (internal)
Project Team	Dr Ashish Bhaskar, Prof Axel Bruns, Dr Dhaval Vyas, Timothy Gurnett, Leigh Burgess, Ray Johnson
Project Summary	Efficient and integrated transport system is the backbone of our economy. The system in general is very complex and for better understanding multiple sources of information are needed. Stakeholders (such as Qld Department of Transport and Main Roads) are collecting 'big data' from transport. The availability of this data provides opportunities to establish data driven decision making from real time congestion management to strategic planning of infrastructure. Unfortunately, the data is currently highly underutilised and the real potential of integrated data is not yet explored. There is a real need to conceptualize the information from multiple data sources and develop innovative interactive tools to do so. Addressing this need, this project will establish meaningful visuals of the data supporting transport business intelligence, speed up decision making and uncover new business opportunities. The project will make QUT as the research partner of choice in the growing big transport data analytics and visualization space.
Total Amount Awarded	**$69,571.20**

Project Title	**Existing systems, new languages: prototyping blockchain models for the book publishing industry to deliver rights management, royalties and audience engagement**
Project Type	QUT Institute for Future Environments – Catapult Project Funding (internal)
Project Team	Dr Mark Ryan, A/Prof Nicolas Suzor, Dr Kylie Pappalardo
Project Summary	This project will develop a new collaboration between a transdisciplinary research team and publishing partners to prototype blockchain publishing systems and explore a high-level abstraction language for smart contracts.
Total Amount Awarded	**$63,000**

Project Title	**'I'll be back!': screen genres as a foundation for engaging young men in help-seeking**
Project Type	QUT IHBI/HASS Incentive Scheme (internal)
Project Team	Dr Mark Ryan, Prof David Kavanagh, Dr Oksana Zelenko
Project Summary	Research consistently shows that young men are a high-risk, and disengaged, group when it comes to help-seeking behaviour and mental health. The overarching aim of the project is to develop novel ways of engaging young men by bringing screen genre theory, typically applied to popular media, into mental health help-seeking. The research will distil current research in genre theory, narratology and audience engagement and align this with the latest research into help-seeking behaviours and intervention strategies in youth mental health and psychology. The research will then develop and test with end-users principles and a preliminary framework for engaging young men in help-seeking.
Total Amount Awarded	**$24,000**

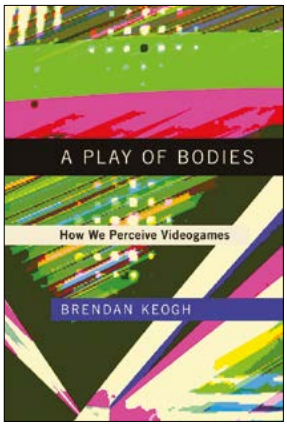
Other Research Projects – Continuing

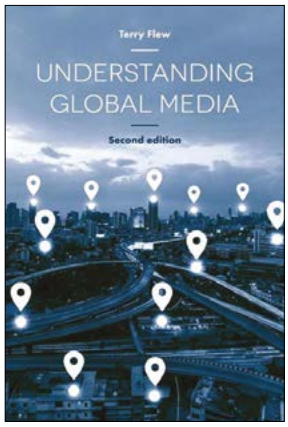
In 2018, Centre members held continuing internal/other grant funding to a total of $41,016.00.

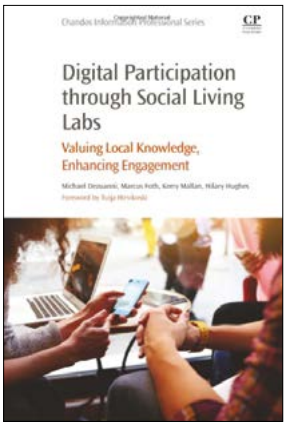
Project Title	**Identifying and responding to online abuse and harassment through machine learning models**
Project Type	QUT Institute for Future Environments – Catapult Project Funding (internal)
Project Team	A/Prof Nicolas Suzor, Prof Jean Burgess, A/Prof Richi Nayak, A/Prof Molly Dragiewicz, Dr Bridget Harris
Summary	This transdisciplinary project aims to develop new machine learning models to identify harassment and abuse on social media. This is a pressing problem: the modern internet is rife with harassment and abuse, misogyny, and exploitation. To date, social media platforms have not been able to develop solutions that adequately protect people from harm online. Bringing together legal, social, computational and media expertise, the project aims to produce an empirically validated classification model that can detect and measure abuse and harassment in near real time, and that can inform future regulatory efforts.
Total Amount Awarded	**$41,016.00**

12.0 KEY OUTCOMES – PUBLICATIONS

Listed below are 2018 publications by DMRC Members, HDR students, and (where closely aligned to DMRC research) Affiliated Researchers.







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