

DIGITAL MEDIA RESEARCH CENTRE

2026 SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM

TUES 3FEB - THUR 5 FEB 2026



Digital Media
Research Centre

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Turrbal and Yugara people as the Traditional Custodians of the land where we live and work. We recognise that these lands have always been places of teaching, research and learning. For 65,000 years this land has been home to the longest and continuous thriving culture on Earth and we extend our deepest respect to all the First Nations people.

**2026
SUMMER
SCHOOL**

WELCOME

WELCOMING SPECIAL INDUSTRY GUESTS AND KEYNOTES FROM AUSTRALIA, AND ACROSS THE GLOBE

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Digital Media Research Centre's 2026 Summer School! For those joining us from other institutions, and perhaps other countries as well: welcome to QUT, and welcome to Australia!

I'd like to start by acknowledging the Turrbal and Yugara as the First Nations owners of the lands where we are meeting, and pay my respects to their Elders, lores, customs and creation spirits. I would also like to extend an especially warm welcome to all Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander participants in this year's event.

Last year marked the 10th anniversary of the DMRC's establishment. Now, in 2026, we also celebrate another milestone: 10 years since the first iteration of the annual Summer School. Over the last decade, it has developed into a flagship event for doctoral students and early career academics in our field, with a long, prestigious list of alumni. And, we're very excited to add a bunch of new names to that list this year.

The Summer School Planning Committee has worked very hard over the last 6 months to put together a stimulating and enjoyable program: it reflects not only the significant depth and breadth of domain knowledge and methodological expertise that exists within the DMRC, but also gives you an opportunity to better understand our field, think differently about your research, and time to make lots of invaluable connections along the way.

My sincere thanks go to all the staff and students who have volunteered to contribute to the program this year, the other members of the Planning Committee, and, in particular, Taal Hampson and Tia Bayer for their extremely hard work behind the scenes to make this event happen.

I sincerely hope that the next few days are filled with valuable insights, exciting new ideas, and plenty of fun.

Enjoy!



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR STEPHEN HARRINGTON
2026 SUMMER SCHOOL CHAIR

2026 SUMMER SCHOOL

EVENT INFORMATION

LOCATIONS

QUT Kelvin Grove campus

149 Victoria Park Rd, Kelvin Grove QLD 4059

The Burrow, West End

52 Russel Street, West End, QLD 4101

WI-FI

If you're a visitor, you can connect to eduroam using your username and password from your home institution. You can also connect by creating a free public account via [QUT's web link here](#).

Delegates can access free Wi-Fi on campus by creating an account and verifying it using their personal email address, either while on campus or before they arrive.

To create an account, complete your details at this [registration page](#). You'll be sent a verification email to your email address provided. To access the Wi-Fi on-campus, select the 'QUT Public Wi-Fi' network on your device. In the pop-up login page, log in with your email and password. Once connected, you'll be redirected to the QUT Public website and will have Internet access. If the pop-up login page doesn't appear, open a web browser and go to the [login page](#).

TRANSPORT

QUT has a free intercampus bus that operates between the Kelvin Grove and Gardens Points campuses, roughly every 15 minutes. If you are not a QUT staff or student, you can use the intercampus bus pass in your Summer School tote bag. Alternatively, you can collect a bus pass from the delegate registration desk when you arrive at the Gardens Theatre Welcome Event at our Gardens Point campus. See the bus timetable [here](#). For more information on the intercampus shuttle, please see our [website](#).

Ride share such as Uber or DiDi are available in Brisbane, as well as other public transport options such as the City Cat, ferries, buses and trains. You can see all public transport timetables on the [Translink website](#). The [Journey Planner](#) is also a helpful tool to help plan your route.

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EVENT INFORMATION

BREAK OUT SPACES/QUIET SPACES

There are quiet spaces available for use across both campuses, so please feel free to take a break should you need at any time.

Kelvin Grove Campus

On level 5 of E Block, there are some smaller pods available to use throughout the duration of the Summer School. Additionally, there are more pod spaces available on level 1. For quiet spaces, E Block is attached to the library which is accessible via the lifts on level 2.

KEY CONTACTS

Emergencies

Ring 000

QUT Security

Emergency line: 3138 8888

General line: 3138 5585

Summer School Event Contacts

Email | dmrc@qut.edu.au for all non-urgent queries

Taal Hampson, Digital Media Research Centre Manager







Ph | +61 3138 5972

**2026
SUMMER
SCHOOL**

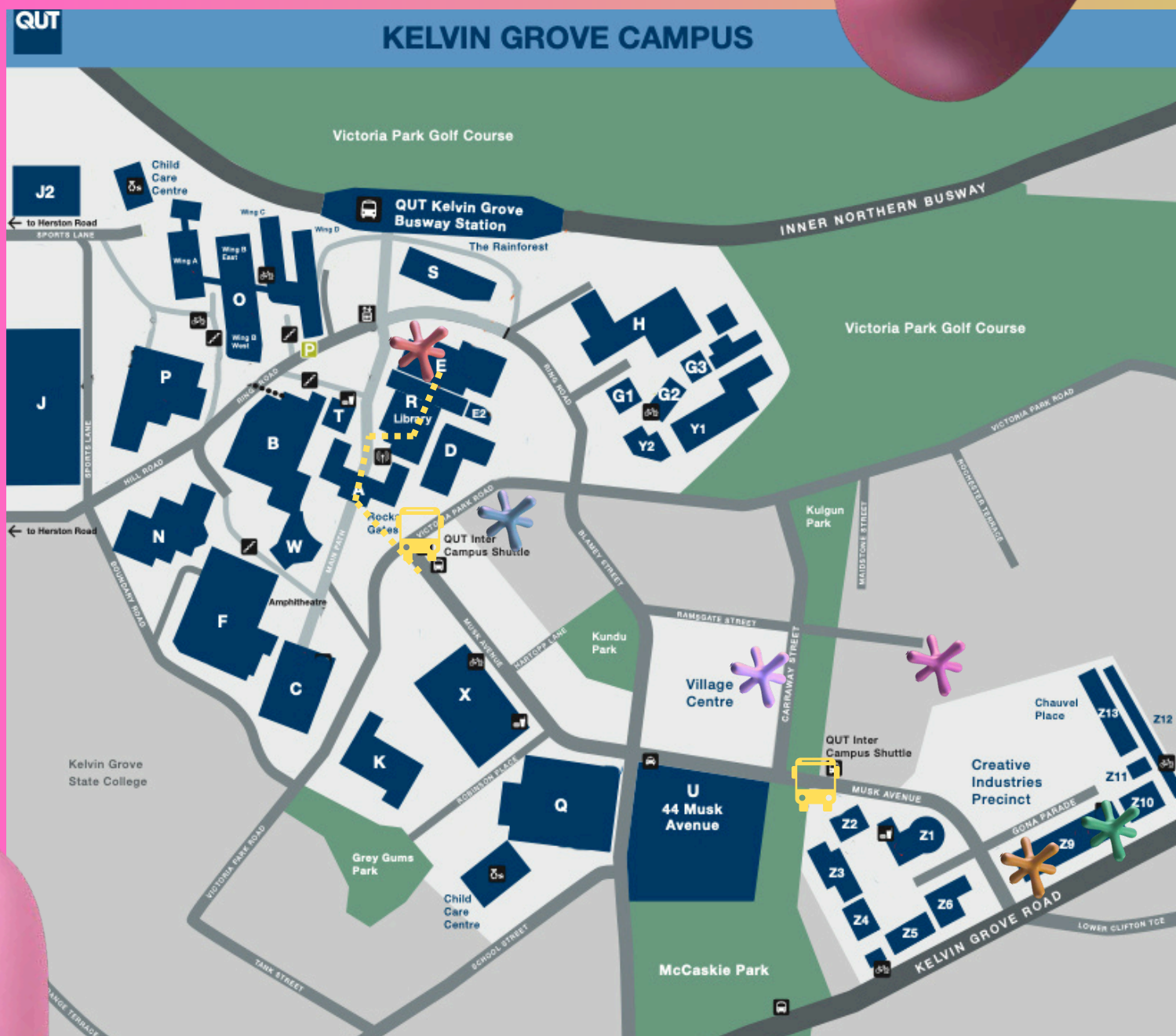
LOCATION

FIND YOUR WAY

Please see details below of the 2026 Summer School rooms and social activities:

ROOM NAME	BUILDING LEVEL	CAMPUS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
THE BURROW, WEST END	LEVEL 1	52 RUSSELL ST, WEST END QLD 4101
FELONS, HOWARD SMITH WHARVES	BREWERY	5 BOUNDARY ST, BRISBANE CITY QLD 4000
THE MENAGERIE	- 	QUT KELVIN GROVE CAMPUS, 8 CARRAWAY STREET, KELVIN GROVE
E BLOCK FOYER, E550, E557, E558, E152	E BLOCK, LEVEL 5 	QUT KELVIN GROVE CAMPUS, VICTORIA PARK ROAD, KELVIN GROVE
THE SPHERE	E BLOCK, LEVEL 1 	QUT KELVIN GROVE CAMPUS, VICTORIA PARK ROAD, KELVIN GROVE
DIGITAL MEDIA RESEARCH CENTRE OFFICE	Z9 BLOCK, LEVEL 5, ROOM 503 	QUT KELVIN GROVE CAMPUS, CRN MUSK AVE & GONA PDE, KELVIN GROVE
Z9 BLOCK, 607	LEVEL 6 	QUT KELVIN GROVE CAMPUS, CRN MUSK AVE & GONA PDE, KELVIN GROVE
QUEST KELVIN GROVE APARTMENTS	- 	QUEST KELVIN GROVE, 41 RAMSGATE ST, KELVIN GROVE QLD 4059
PRIVATE BUS TRANSFER	NEXT TO E BLOCK, LEVEL 0 	CORNER OF MUSK AVE AND BLAMEY ST

FIND YOUR WAY AROUND THE QUT KELVIN GROVE CAMPUS



TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	SPEAKERS
4:30PM - 5:00PM	THE MENAGERIE	COFFEE WELCOME (SELF FUNDED) INFORMAL SOCIAL 30MINS	HANH NGUYEN
5:00PM - 7:00PM	OUT KELVIN GROVE CAMPUS BUS STOP 2	CITY TOUR INFORMAL SOCIAL 2HRS REGISTER HERE	ALLY TUTKALUK
7:00PM - 8:00PM	FELONS BREWERY, HSW	DINNER (SELF FUNDED) INFORMAL SOCIAL 2HRS REGISTER HERE	ALLY TUTKALUK

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	SPEAKERS
9:00AM - 9:15AM	E BLOCK FOYER	DELEGATE REGISTRATION TEA & COFFEE	-
9:15AM - 9:30AM	E550	WELCOME TO COUNTRY & DIRECTOR WELCOME 15MINS	DANIEL ANGUS & LOCAL ELDER
9:30AM - 10:00AM	E550	INTERPRETATIVE POSTCARDS WORKSHOP 30MINS	GABRIELA LUNARDI & DAVID RICHARD
10:00AM - 10:15AM	THE SPHERE	GROUP PHOTO 15MINS	LEVEL 1, E BLOCK
10:15AM - 10:45AM	E BLOCK FOYER	MORNING TEA	-
10:45AM - 12:15PM	E550	WAR ON REALITY KEYNOTE 1HR 30MINS	NINA JANKOWICZ
12:15PM - 1:00PM	E BLOCK FOYER	LUNCH	-
1:00PM - 2:00PM	E550	LABELING AND ANALYZING LARGE VIDEO COLLECTIONS USING GENAI WORKSHOP 1HR	PATRIK WIKSTROM, JIARU TANG & MICHELLE NIDOY
1:00PM - 2:00PM	E557	DISCOVER YOUR TEACHING PHILOSOPHY: REFLECT AND WRITE YOUR STATEMENT WORKSHOP 1HR	MARGARITA OCHOA DIAZ & BEN NICOLL
2:00PM - 3:00PM	E550	HOW TO: INSTRUCTIONS FOR SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEWS WORKSHOP 1HR	ALJOSHA KARIM SCHAPALS & MICHELLE BARTLEMAN
2:00PM - 3:00PM	E557	BIASED BY DESIGN? UNPACKING SOCIAL BIAS IN CSS WORKSHOP 1HR	AHRABHI KATHIRGAMALINGAM

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	SPEAKERS
3:00PM - 3:30PM	EBLOCK FOYER	AFTERNOON TEA	-
3:30PM - 5:00PM	E550	SOUNDS AND FEELINGS: HOW TO ANALYSE SOUND AND MUSIC IN AUDIO-VISUAL CONTENT WORKSHOP 1HR 30MINS	SEBASTIAN SVEGAARD
3:30PM - 5:00PM	E557	A PRACTICAL WORKSHOP ON WEB ARCHIVING WORKSHOP 1HR 30MINS	ROBERT FLEET - DIGITAL OBSERVATORY
3:30PM - 5:00PM	E558	MULTIMODAL RESEARCH USING THE IMAGE MACHINE WORKSHOP 1HR 30MINS	CAROLINE GARDAM & KUNAL CHAND

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	SPEAKERS
10:00AM - 10:15AM	E BLOCK FOYER	DELEGATE REGISTRATION TEA & COFFEE	-
10:15AM - 11:45AM	E550	OPPORTUNITIES AND PITFALLS OF USING DATA DONATIONS AS A METHOD FOR STUDYING PLATFORM CULTURES 1HR 30MINS	PATRIK WIKSTROM, JIARU TANG & MICHELLE NIDOY
10:15AM - 11:45AM	E558	ONLINE SAFETY FOR RESEARCHERS WORKSHOP 1HR 30MINS	LUCINDA NELSON
11:45AM - 12:15PM	E BLOCK FOYER	MORNING TEA	-
12:15PM - 12:45PM	E550	<i>RE-THINKING MEDIA FOR THE PLATFORM AGE - INVESTIGATING MEDIA DIETS AND USE IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS</i> SEMINAR 30MINS	AMANDA LOTZ & GABRIELA LUNARDI
12:45PM - 1:15PM	E550	<i>RE-THINKING MEDIA FOR THE PLATFORM AGE - FROM 'THE' PUBLIC SPHERE TO A NETWORK OF PUBLICS: RETHINKING CONTEMPORARY PUBLIC COMMUNICATION SPACES</i> SEMINAR 30MINS	AXEL BRUNS
1:15PM - 1:45PM	E550	<i>RE-THINKING MEDIA FOR THE PLATFORM AGE - THE TIKTOK BASELINE: EXPLORING SHARED EXPERIENCES IN A HYPER-PERSONALISED MEDIA SYSTEM</i> SEMINAR 30MINS	PATRIK WIKSTROM
1:45PM - 2:30PM	E BLOCK FOYER	LUNCH	-
2:30PM - 3:30PM	E550	TBA	TBA
2:30PM - 3:30PM	E557	THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK: SOCIO-TECHNICAL GROUNDED THEORY WORKSHOP 1HR	JASPER VERMEULEN & MAL FITUCH

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	SPEAKERS
3:30PM - 4:30PM	E550	RESEARCH TRANSLATION: COMMUNICATING RESEARCH TO NON-ACADEMIC AUDIENCES FOR IMPACT PANEL 1HR	CARLY LUBICZ-ZAORSKI, KIM OSMAN, ALLY TUTKALUK & NINA JANKOWICZ MODERATOR: DAN PEARSON
3:30PM - 4:30PM	E557	INTERSECTIONAL APPROACHES TO DIGITAL MEDIA RESEARCH WORKSHOP 1HR	HANH NGUYEN, LYNROSE JANE GENON & PRAWINDA PUTRI ANZARI
4:30PM - 5:00PM	E BLOCK FOYER	AFTERNOON TEA	-
5:00PM - 5:30PM	TRAVEL	PRVATE BUS TRANSFER	BUS STOP - VICTORIA PARK ROAD (BETWEEN MUSK AVE AND BLAMEY ST)
5:30PM - 7:30PM	THE BURROW, WEST END	THE GREAT DMRC QUIZ OFF QUIZ & SOCIAL 1HR 30 MINS REGISTER HERE	SEBASTIAN SVEGAARD & BROOKE COCO

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	SPEAKERS
10:15AM - 10:30AM	E BLOCK FOYER	DELEGATE REGISTRATION TEA & COFFEE	-
10:30AM - 12:00PM	E550	NETWORK MAPPING BEYOND INTERACTION NETWORKS WORKSHOP 1HR 30MINS	AXEL BRUNS, KATERYNA KASIANENKO, TARIQ CHOUCAIR & VISH PADINJAREDATH SURESH
10:30AM - 12:00PM	E557	CROSS-PLATFORM DIGITAL ETHNOGRAPHY FOR EXPLORING SOCIAL PHENOMENA WORKSHOP 1HR 30MINS	MARGARITA OCHOA DIAZ, MEG THOMAS & MOHANA SRAVYA RAYAPROLU
12:00PM - 12:45PM	E BLOCK FOYER	LUNCH	-
12:45PM - 1:45PM	E550	DISCURSIVE-DIGITAL ANALYSIS WORKSHOP 1HR	EHSAN DEHGHAN & DAGIM AFEWORK MEKONNEN
12:45PM - 1:45PM	E558	WRITING AS PERSISTING: PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR WRITING AND PUBLISHING AN ACADEMIC ARTICLE WORKSHOP 1HR	KATERYNA KASIANENKO & CAROLINE GARDAM
1:45PM - 2:45PM	E550	THE ART OF ABSTRACT WRITING WORKSHOP 1HR	DANIEL ANGUS
1:45PM - 2:45PM	E558	PARTICIPATORY DESIGN METHODS FOR RESEARCH AND TEACHING WORKSHOP 1HR	ALLY TUTKALUK
2:45PM - 3:15PM	E BLOCK FOYER	AFTERNOON TEA	-

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	SPEAKERS
3:15PM - 4:15PM	LEVEL 5 FOYER KITCHEN	BAKE YOUR THESIS CAKE DECORATING & SOCIAL 1HR	LUCINDA NELSON
4:15PM - 4:45PM	LEVEL 5 FOYER KITCHEN	BAKE YOUR THESIS SHOWCASE AND JUDGING COMPETITION 30MINS	DANIEL ANGUS
4:45PM - 5:00PM	TRAVEL	WALK TO Z9	-
5:00PM - 7:00PM	Z9 BLOCK, LEVEL 6, 607	MOVIE NIGHT & DINNER INFORMAL SOCIAL 2HRS REGISTER HERE	KLAUS GROEBNER

END OF PROGRAM

SESSION DETAILS

MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2026

Coffee Welcome | Hanh Nguyen

Join the DMRC HDR committee for a welcome drink at the Menagerie! This is an informal social event, and an opportunity to meet other delegates prior to the formal program starting on Tuesday. Please note, this is a self funded activity.

Location: The Menagerie, QUT Kelvin Grove Campus, 8 Carraway Street, Kelvin Grove, QLD 4059

Brisbane City Tour | Ally Tutkaluk

Join the DMRC HDR committee for a tour of Brisbane City! Starting at the QUT Kelvin Grove Campus, explore the CBD, Botanical Gardens, finishing the tour at the Howard Smith Wharves. Get to know your fellow delegates and DMRC HDR's for a fun and informal social activity.

Meet-up Location: QUT Kelvin Grove Campus, Bus Stop 2

Dinner at Felons Brewery | Ally Tutkaluk

Whether you're finishing up the city tour, or would just like to join for dinner, join the DMRC HDR committee and fellow delegates for an informal dinner at Felon's Brewery. Located at one of Brisbane's premium social hubs, enjoy views of the Brisbane river and HSW precinct. Please note, this is a self funded activity. Please [register here](#) for the table reservation. For more details about the venue and to see the menu, visit the link [here](#).

Location: 5 Boundary Street, Brisbane City, QLD 4000

SESSION DETAILS

TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2026

Interpretative Postcards | Gabriela Lunardi & David Richard

For this ice-breaker activity, don your finest thinking beret, take a puff of your pipe that isn't a pipe, and get ready to do some interpretation! All your friends and family back home will definitely 'wish they were here', as you think about who you are, what you've been doing, and what's next for your Summer (School) holiday.

Keynote: War On Reality | Nina Jankowicz, *Award-winning author, counter-disinformation expert, keynote speaker, and advocate for targets of online abuse*

Around the world, our shared reality is eroding. The advent of artificial intelligence, the dominance of the hyper-partisan press, and our addiction to social media have all contributed to this degradation, but a critical component of the modern war on truth is one that the average citizen doesn't know about: coordinated attacks on the truth tellers themselves, and the toolkit lifted from authoritarian countries to carry them out in the West. In this lecture, Nina Jankowicz discusses her experience as a target of these campaigns, case studies from Poland, Georgia, the EU, the UK, Australia and Brazil, and ideas for how we might return reality to the heart of democratic discourse.

Biography | Nina Jankowicz is an internationally-recognized expert on disinformation and democratization, one of TIME magazine's 100 Most Influential People in AI, and the author of two books: *How to Lose the Information War* (Bloomsbury 2020), which The New Yorker called "a persuasive new book on disinformation as a geopolitical strategy," and *How to Be A Woman Online* (Bloomsbury 2022), an examination of online abuse and disinformation and tips for fighting back, which Publishers Weekly named "essential." She was recognized for her Distinguished Professional Contributions to Media Psychology and Technology in 2024 by Division 46 of the American Psychological Association. She is the co-founder of the American Sunlight Project, a non-profit focused on countering disinformation. Jankowicz has advised governments, international organizations, and tech companies, and testified before the US Congress, and the UK, Canadian, and European Parliaments.



Labelling and Analysing Large Video Collections Using GenAI | Patrik Wikstrom, Jiaru Tang & Michelle Nidoy

In this workshop, you will learn how generative AI can be used to label and analyse large collections of short videos. The AI tool in the workshop is Google's Gemini. We will explore both the benefits and opportunities of using GenAI for video analysis, as well as the challenges that arise in practice, such as hallucinations, reliability, costs, and ethical concerns (and some strategies for mitigating those challenges). The workshop is designed for researchers at all stages interested in the practical use of GenAI for audiovisual data, offering both technical insights and critical reflection.

NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS: Participants need to bring their laptops.

Discover your teaching philosophy: Reflect and write your statement | Margarita Ochoa Diaz & Ben Nicoll

As researchers in Digital Media, we don't just create new insights, we also shape how others learn about them. Teaching asks us to define not only what we teach, but also why and how. A clear teaching philosophy can guide your classroom practice, strengthen job applications, and clarify your professional identity. In this workshop you'll take a reflective journey to discover the values, experiences, and goals that shape your approach to teaching which then you'll translate into a concise, compelling teaching philosophy statement. Perfect for anyone getting ready to teach, already in the classroom, or simply curious about how they share knowledge with others.

NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS: Participants need to bring their laptops.

How To: Instructions for systematic literature reviews | Aljosha Schapals & Michelle Bartleman

This is a 'how to' guide on how to conduct systematic literature reviews – useful especially for early-stage HDR students, but also for anyone else who would like to refresh their knowledge. Literature reviews are a critical toolkit for any researcher, and while many are labelled as 'systematic', quite often, they're not. This hands-on, practical workshop addresses this problem using computational tools including AirTable and Covidence to de-mystify the process of what constitutes 'systematic' literature reviews. This will be useful both to HDR students in the early stages of their theses (e.g., to identify critical research gaps in existing literature which may thus help them further narrow down their topic) as well as established researchers interested in writing a 'review article' to help map the field of critical issues in their chosen discipline (e.g., see here: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1461444815600412>).

NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS: Participants should download AirTable and Covidence ahead of the session

SESSION DETAILS

TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2026

Biased by Design? Unpacking Social Bias in CSS | Ahrabhi Kathirgamalingam

Social bias is not peripheral to Computational Social Science, but deeply intertwined with it, shaping the field in multiple ways. Drawing on recent literature and empirical studies, we structure our discussion around three perspectives: understanding, detecting, and mitigating social bias. The workshop will be interactive and hands-on. After a deep dive into the connections between social bias and CSS, participants will discuss how social bias may impact their own research projects. Together, we will consider how methodological innovation and pluralism can help advance CSS toward more rigorous and just research.

NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS: Participants need to bring their laptops. Optional (!): Participants can prepare for this workshop by reading our preprint, which will provide an overview of the topic: "Reflecting on Social Bias: Challenges and Opportunities for Computational Social Science" by Ahrabhi Kathirgamalingam, Aytalina Kulichkina, Jana Bernhard-Harrer and Valerie Hase.

Link: https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/xr45y_v1

A Practical Workshop on Web Archiving | Robert Fleet, Digital Observatory

Research of digital media today involves the analysis of web content, yet collecting and preserving such materials remains a significant challenge. Researchers currently rely on manual techniques such as taking screenshots, copying text, and saving individual files – these are labour intensive and error-prone. Additionally, the ephemeral nature of some online content means that pages change or become inaccessible over time, undermining research reproducibility and integrity.

NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS: Participants need to bring their laptops. Delegates are also expected to install the following prior to the workshop.

- Archive Webpage browser extension (preferred) or desktop application: <https://archiveweb.page/>
- Web Archive Manager: <https://wam.digitalobservatory.net.au>

Multimodal research using the Image Machine | Caroline Gardam & Kunal Chand

The Image Machine provides a no-code interface, making it accessible for researchers with varying levels of experience. In this presentation, we outline the Image Machine's analysis and visualiser, and show how the Image Machine can be used as a tool for multimodal investigation across a large dataset of Instagram posts.

Sounds and Feelings: How to analyse sound and music in audio-visual content | Sebastian Svegaard

A practical workshop introducing my "mixing desk" method of video analysis and giving the participants practical experience with using it. The method introduces a structure for how to think about the sound side of audiovisual content - like TikToks, reels, YouTube - and integrate it into qualitative analyses. The workshop will first introduce the method, using a range of examples from influencers, political campaigning, and music video, and then get the participants working on analysing a video on their own or in pairs/small groups.

NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS: BYO video is very encouraged.

SESSION DETAILS

WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2026

Opportunities and Pitfalls of using Data Donations as a Method for Studying Platform Cultures | Patrik Wikstrom, Jiaru Tang & Michelle Nidoy

This workshop introduces the emerging research practice of using data donation packages as a method for accessing and analysing platform users' personal interaction data. We will discuss its methodological strengths and limitations, as well as issues related to ethics, consent, and representativeness. Using examples from TikTok and Spotify, you will learn how to navigate and analyse donated data files, considering both their potential benefits and pitfalls. The session is practical and tailored for researchers at all levels interested in innovative approaches for studying platform cultures and user practices.

NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS: Please bring your laptop.

Online safety for researchers | Lucinda Nelson

This workshop will guide participants through managing their privacy, safety and security online. We will talk through some useful risk-mitigation tools and strategies, particularly for researchers working in potentially dangerous online spaces or on controversial issues, and then dedicate some time to implementing and troubleshooting any changes together. This session will be open to everyone – whether you're just starting to think through these challenges, or you know what you're doing and just need to set aside the time to actually update your settings!

Re-thinking media for the platform age | Investigating media diets and use in the twenty-first century: Preliminary findings | Amanda Lotz & Gabriela Lunardi

The media (devices, services) and media content available to and used by Australians are now radically different from when core theories about the role of media in society were established. We are awash in data about clicks, views, and likes, but we lack evidence about what people now do with media, how they select among many options, and what they value in understanding the roles of media in the twenty-first century. Our talk presents insights gained from 40 in-depth interviews with a recruited sample of Australians 18+ in relation to three different areas of media use that is the beginning of a four-year Discovery project designed to broadly explore contemporary media use. The research applies theories and methods pioneered in late-twentieth century British cultural studies research to the twenty-first century ecosystem that has incorporated wide-ranging digital media to address a crucial absence from media and digital studies scholarship in recent decades: the investigation of human-level media use, especially through qualitative methods and interpretive analysis.

Re-thinking media for the platform age | From 'the' Public Sphere to a Network of Publics: Rethinking Contemporary Public Communication Spaces | Axel Bruns

'The' public sphere is now irretrievably fractured into a multiplicity of online and offline, larger and smaller, more or less public spaces that frequently (and often serendipitously) overlap and intersect with one another. This diverse array of what have been described variously as public spheres, public spherules, platform publics, issue publics, or personal publics nonetheless serves many of the same functions that were postulated for the public sphere itself. However, while the communicative structures, functions, and dynamics of many such spaces have been studied in isolation, we still lack a more comprehensive model that connects such case studies in pursuit of an overarching perspective. This talk identifies the crucial building blocks that help us conceptualise and investigate how the network of such spaces is structured, and in turn structures our everyday experience of public communication.

NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS: Please bring your laptop and phone.

Re-thinking media for the platform age | The TikTok Baseline: Exploring Shared Experiences in a Hyper-Personalised Media System | Patrik Wikstrom

TikTok's recommender system produces deeply personalised feeds, shaped by signals such as viewing time, comments, and likes. Yet, while this personalisation is fundamental to the platform, we know little about how divergent users' experiences truly are. Early evidence from over 100 Australian users shows that, across thousands of videos watched in a single week, only a handful were viewed by more than one participant. This suggests a striking collapse of shared cultural reference points in favour of hyper-individualised algorithmic culture. This presentation reports on early findings from the 'For You Project', based at QUT and the University of Sydney. The presentation introduces the concept of a Platform Baseline Experience, which is a hypothesised flow of information that is minimally influenced by personalisation. We ask whether such a baseline can be observed, and what it reveals about collective experience within highly individualised media systems. Our contribution is threefold: we define the Platform Baseline Experience as a theoretical lens; we develop and apply computational methods to identify and trace it; and we present empirical findings on the existence, form, and stability of a TikTok baseline in Australia.

SESSION DETAILS

WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2026

CAREful Research: Building Better Digital Futures with Indigenous Data | Bernadette Hyland-Wood, Becki Cook and Donnie Johannessen

If you are collecting, using, or sharing any form of digital information, you are likely already working with Indigenous data. But are you reflecting on the challenges and opportunities of doing so in ways that uphold Indigenous self-determination, governance, and knowledge systems? This panel brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers to explore how the CARE Principles (Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility, and Ethics) are reshaping the way we think about data. Through real-world examples from the 2023 Voice Referendum and practical insights, speakers will share how Indigenous-led approaches can transform research practices, strengthen relationships, and create more equitable outcomes. Whether you are designing a digital project, analysing platforms, or building data infrastructures, this session will equip you with frameworks and perspectives to make your work more culturally informed, impactful, and just.

NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS: Will share pre-reading (2-4 pages) to participants. Participants to use a Padlet for responses to questions.

The New Kid On The Block: Socio-Technical Grounded Theory | Jasper Vermeulen & Mal Fituch

Socio-Technical Grounded Theory (STGT) is a qualitative research method and methodology that builds on traditional grounded theory while explicitly integrating technological components. Developed by Professor Hoda and formally established in 2022 within the field of software engineering, STGT recognizes that studying only the social or the technical dimensions of a phenomenon provides an incomplete picture. Instead, it emphasizes their coupling as essential for robust inquiry. In this workshop, we will introduce the core principles of STGT and demonstrate how to apply them to research texts. Participants will gain both conceptual understanding and hands-on experience by working through examples that illustrate how STGT supports data analysis and theory building. Although emerging from software engineering, STGT's relevance extends beyond this domain, offering valuable opportunities for media scholars and others working with qualitative or mixed methods who wish to explore socio-technical phenomena in depth.

NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS: https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/978-3-031-60533-8_3.pdf

Research translation: Communicating research to non-academic audiences for impact | Carly Lubicz-Zaorski, Kim Osman, Ally Tutkaluk & guest speaker Nina Jankowicz - Moderator: Dan Pearson

Leveraging the diverse experience of those who have worked in or with industry, policymakers, the media, and civil society, we focus on how you can translate your research for maximum impact and influence. Whether you're a HDR, ECR, or further progressed in your research career, attendees will gain practical strategies for engaging different audiences. We'll explore available opportunities at the DMRC and beyond, discuss common pitfalls to avoid, and encourage participants to share their own experiences in this collaborative roundtable discussion.

Intersectional approaches to digital media research | Hanh Nguyen, Lynrose Jane Genon & Prawinda Putri Anzari

This interactive panel explores approaches that center intersectionality in digital media research. Presenting cases from Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam, it illustrates overlapping social identities shape digital practices and experiences. Through interactive questions, participants will gain a clearer understanding of what it means to do intersectionality in digital media research and how it can be applied to studies through the speakers' presentations. Participants will then be encouraged to reflect on their own projects, followed by a Q&A session. The panel is designed for researchers at all stages of their candidature who are interested in gender and digital cultures.

The Great DMRC Quiz-Off | Sebastian Svegaard & Brooke Coco

We're keeping the tradition alive with a spirited night of trivia. From digital media deep cuts to pop culture gems and general knowledge curveballs, no topic is off the table. Gather your wits, rally your team, and brace yourself for quick thinking, cheeky rivalries, and the ultimate bragging rights. Prizes for the winners.

SESSION DETAILS

THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2026

Network Mapping beyond Interaction Networks | Axel Bruns, Kateryna Kasianenko, Tariq Choucair & Vish Padinjaredath Suresh

Network mapping is a key analytical approach in the study of digital and social media. This has frequently focussed on mapping networks of direct interaction between users, especially on platforms like Twitter, or on mapping direct interlinkages between content items on the open Web. There are many other possible uses for network mapping of other aspects and elements, however - including especially also the mapping of similarities between the communicative practices (well beyond direct interactions only) that users engage in, or of similarities between the defining attributes of content items.

This workshop introduces participants to the core principles of network mapping using the powerful open-source network analysis tool Gephi, and demonstrates how network analysis can be used to study a broad range of communicative phenomena on digital and social media platforms.

NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS: Participants will need to download Gephi Software, training dataset will be provided ahead of time.

Connected cultures: Cross-platform digital ethnography | Margarita Ochoa Diaz, Meg Thomas & Mohana Sravya Rayaprolu

Researching interactions between platforms and social phenomena can be an overwhelming task. In this workshop, we explore and discuss how cross-platform digital ethnography is being used to gain insights on social phenomena. We will share concrete techniques from theory and from our own research, and then participants will put them in practice through a hands-on activity.

Discursive-Digital Analysis | Ehsan Dehghan & Dagim Afework Mekonnen

This will be a workshop to introduce the theoretical framework and methodology I have developed in my book, *The Discursive-Digital Link*. The workshop will have two parts. In the first part, I will introduce the theoretical framework, and in the second part, I will cover the methodology of Discursive-Digital Analysis through hands-on activities with the participants. This workshop will be useful for anyone doing research on digitally-mediated communication, regardless of the methods they rely on in their research.

NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS: Reading material will be provided in advance.

Writing as persisting: Practical guide for writing and publishing an academic article | Kateryna Kasianenko & Caroline Gardam

No matter the field, as scholars, we are all aware of the dreadful phrase "Publish or perish". Many are familiar with the anxiety of the blank page, the writer's block, and countless other uncertainties related to the process of academic writing. Having a draft ready and successfully in a dream journal or conference's submission system does not quell the anxiety, as we still need to navigate the lengthy review processes and the stingy rejections. In this workshop, we reflect on our writing and publishing strategies and give practical tips on persisting despite these challenges to get one's research published. We discuss topics like journal selection, genre and tone, editing one's own work, deadlines, and more. The workshop will also include hands-on group activities, based on Wendy Laura Belcher's framework for writing an academic article in 12 weeks. While not required, participants will be invited to bring a working draft they have considered publishing as an academic article for the hands-on activities.

NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS: Will provide pre-work to participants ahead of time.

The art of abstract writing | Daniel Angus

This interactive workshop introduces participants to the principles and practices of writing effective academic abstracts, with a particular focus on the distinctions between short (250-word) and extended formats. Drawing on John Swales' genre-based approach to research writing, the session will explore how abstracts function as concise, persuasive summaries that situate a study within its scholarly context, establish a research niche, and highlight key contributions. Through guided analysis of examples from DMRC researchers, participants will examine the structural moves and rhetorical strategies that make abstracts compelling, coherent, and appropriately tailored to their intended audience and purpose.

NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS: Will curate a selection of abstracts from across the centre as pre-readings/materials

SESSION DETAILS

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Participatory design methods for research and teaching | Ally Tutkaluk

This practical workshop introduces participatory design as a flexible and engaging tool for both research and teaching. Participants will explore the foundations of participatory design, including its principles of collaboration, inclusivity, playfulness, and creativity. We will consider the many ways these methods can be applied: from generating research insights, to co-creating solutions in industry, or even enriching teaching practices.

By the end of the session, participants will have an understanding of various participatory methods and will have gained practical experience in designing their own activity. They will leave with the confidence to use participatory design in both research projects and teaching environments.

NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS: Participants to bring their own laptops.

Bake Your Thesis | Lucinda Nelson

Bake Your Thesis is a baking and decorating competition that has been run at many different universities around the world. Students at all stages are invited to get creative and showcase their project in cake form! In this session, participants will get to decorate a cupcake and present it for judging. There will be prizes for the winners!

NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS: Please pre-register to participate in this session via the registration form - *registrations close at 11:45pm on Tuesday 3 February*. It is recommended to wear or bring clothes that can get a little messy, or a spare shirt to change into afterwards.

THANK YOU

TO ALL THOSE INVOLVED

We would like to thank a number of key people for their hard work and dedication in the development, planning and running of this years event. Specifically, join us in thanking the Summer School committee, event staff and presenters.

We would like to acknowledge the following people for the success of the 2026 Summer School.



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Tia Bayer