

National
**Research
Pathways**
Conference

2026
14-15 October

Program

une
University of
New England



**Graduate
Research
School**

Conference Program

DAY ONE

Wednesday 14 October

Registration

8:00am - 8:30am | EM1 Foyer, Natural Resources Building (W055)

Conference Opening

8:30am - 9:00am | EM1, Natural Resources Building (W055)

Welcome: Professor David Miron, Acting Dean of Graduate Research

Welcome to Country: Uncle Steve Widders, Anaiwan Elder

Keynote Address

9:00am - 10:00am | EM1, Natural Resources Building (W055)

Dr Mohammad Taha

University of Melbourne

Title: "Phase Transitions: Curiosity, Community, and the Unconventional Research Career"

Bio: Dr Mohammad Taha is a Research Fellow in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology at the University of Melbourne, where they lead research on phase-change semiconductors and adaptive materials for electromagnetic modulation. Their work spans the THz, RF, and infrared regimes, with applications in flexible optoelectronics, climate control, and heat management, bridging materials science, sustainability, and electronic engineering with a strong emphasis on industry translation.

Beyond their research, Mohammad is deeply committed to the early-career research community, serving as co-convenor of Queens in Science and previously as chair of the EMCR Forum. They believe that genuine curiosity about fundamentals is as essential to building a thriving research career as it is to solving hard scientific problems, and that continuous growth, intellectual and personal, is what defines a good researcher.

House-keeping matters: Dr Prashneel Goundar (Conference Convenor)

Morning Tea

10:05am - 10:20am | EM6, Natural Resources Building (W055)

Session One

10:20am - 12:00pm

EM1: Education

Title: Perceived Impacts of a Book Gifting Program in Regional NSW

Presenter: Beth Boland

Title: Native Bees and Early Childhood Educator Perspectives

Presenter: Kelli-Anne Price

Title: Walking Alongside: Individual Musical Journeys through the Pathway of Decolonisation

Presenter: Tabin Brooks

Title: Equity in Expert Teaching: Distribution of HALTS across NSW schools

Presenter: Terri Swartz

Session Chair:

Associate Professor Elizabeth Temple

EM2: HASS

Title: The Death of Ali Jan: a Study of Narrative Transformations

Presenter: Paul Galloway

Title: Vedanā as the Affective Dimension through which Salience is Experienced and Enacted

Presenter: Brendan Lindsay Eyles Irwin

Title: The Far-Right Assault on Research: Defunding, Self-censorship, and Anticipatory Compliance

Presenter: Steph Rey

Title: Brahmanical Patriarchy vis-à-vis Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Tamil Nadu

Presenter: Shritha Kapisthalam Vasudevan
(University of New South Wales, Sydney)

Title: Fire Reviewer Two: Academic Feedback and the Pedagogy of Care

Presenter: Erin Kathleen Burrell (ONLINE)

Session Chair: Dr Felicity Joseph

Lunch

12:00pm - 12:30pm | EM6, Natural Resources Building (W055)

Information stalls available during the break

Panel Discussion

12:30pm - 1:20pm | EM1, Natural Resources Building (W055)

The UNE HDR Experience

HDR Candidates and Graduates:

Sivarajah Nivetha, Dr Julie Clark, Sunil Jha, Dr Ruvi de Mel, Dr Francesca Brady

Chair: Dr Prashneel Goundar (Conference Convenor)

Comfort Break

1:20pm - 1:30pm | EM6, Natural Resources Building (W055)

Session Two

1:30pm - 3:10pm

EM1: HASSE Interdisciplinary

Title: Lost, Tossed, or Simply Ignored: The Cartoon Legacy of Alice Solly (1875-1938)

Presenter: Virginia Sandell

Title: Stimming in the Seminar Room: Neurodivergent Research Methods and the Inclusive Research Community

Presenter: Tess Ezzy (ONLINE)

Title: Support for Twice Exceptional Students in School Settings: Identification, Programs

Presenter: Catherine Wormald

Title: Effects of a Cognitive Load Theory-Based Instruction on the Phonics Skills of Students with Dyslexia

Presenter: Mehtab Hussain (ONLINE – Pakistan) (*Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad, Pakistan*)

Session Chair: Dr Ariella Van Luyn

EM2: SABL Interdisciplinary (Law/Business)

Title: Regulating Older Persons' Wellbeing Towards Social Business

Presenter: Khatun Rafea

Title: Whose Voice Counts? Frontline Workers in Hospitality's AI Transition

Presenter: Chafica El-Labban

Title: Energy Poverty and Growth: Energy Access, Inequality, and Fiscal Sustainability

Presenter: Susantha Dissanayake (ONLINE)

Title: Exploring the Relationship Between Supply Chain Finance and Sustainability Performance of SMEs: Evidence from Ghana

Presenter: Joseph Quartey (ONLINE)

Title: Regulatory Intelligence: Reflections from an Interdisciplinary PhD Journey

Presenter: Michael McGuinness (ONLINE)

Session Chair: Professor David Miron

Comfort Break

3:10pm - 3:20pm | EM6, Natural Resources Building (W055)

Session Three

3:20pm - 4:20pm

EM1: Psychology

Title: Cue-Reactive Distress Mediates Social Anxiety and School Refusal
Presenter: Jennifer Gilmour

Title: Defining the Rural Generalist: A Model of Rural Psychology Practice
Presenter: Margot Moody

Title: Before Stress Becomes Injury: AI-Assisted Neurotechnology for Regulation, Readiness, and Performance
Presenter: Anoop Alex

EM2: SABL Interdisciplinary (S&T/ERS)

Title: Development of Carbohydrate-based Cryoprotectants
Presenter: Michael J. Foster

Title: Intrinsic and Extrinsic Motivators for Initial Attachment to Permaculture Lifestyles in Southeast Queensland, Australia
Presenter: Anuradha (Anu) Alahakoon

Title: Citizen Science and Water Quality Monitoring: An Australian Review
Presenter: Alex Beth Borisut (ONLINE)

Session Chair: Associate Professor Kylie Rice **Session Chair:** Dr Rukshan Ahamed

Day One - Conference Concludes | 4:20pm

Networking Event

4:30pm - 6:00pm | Natural History Museum

Welcome: Dr Heidi Kolkert (UNE PhD Graduate, Lecturer, HDR Supervisor and Collections Manager of the Natural History Museum)

Bio: Dr Heidi Kolkert is a fauna ecologist specialising in threatened species management. Heidi's current and past research focuses on insectivorous bats in agri-ecosystems and the acoustic analysis of bat echolocation and other fauna sounds. Heidi's research also examines wildlife interactions in agri-ecosystems and the impacts of environmental disturbance (roads, renewable energy) and land-use change on wildlife communities, species interactions, and natural history.

Heidi completed her PhD at UNE, she is now a HDR Supervisor, and she also serves as Collections Manager of the UNE Natural History Museum.

DAY TWO

Thursday 15 October

Registration

8:30am - 9:00am | EM1 Foyer, Natural Resources Building (W055)

Acknowledgement of Country: Dr Prashneel Goundar (Conference Convenor)

9:00am - 9:05am | EM1, Natural Resources Building (W055)

Keynote Address

9:05am - 10:05am | EM1, Natural Resources Building (W055)

Distinguished Professor Kim Usher

Executive Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of New England

Title: “Building Research Partnerships with Marginalised Communities”

Bio: Distinguished Professor Kim Usher is an experienced academic nursing leader and researcher recognised both nationally and internationally. Kim has held many academic roles including Dean, Head of School, and Deputy Dean Graduate Research.

She has published over 400 peer-reviewed journal articles in mostly top ranked nursing and health related journals, numerous book chapters including ones on research methods, and has a current Scopus h-index of 48 and has over 9,000 citations of her work (Scopus June 2026). Kim is a Fellow of the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses. Kim is the current Editor-in-Chief (past 10 years) of the International Journal of Mental Health Nursing, the second top ranked nursing journal and the top ranked mental health nursing journal in the world. In addition, Kim has attracted over \$10 million in research funds including Category 1 and 2 funding programs. Kim has successfully supervised over 50 PhD students and was awarded the James Cook University Research Supervisor of the Year in 2009 and the Dean's Supervisor of the year at UNE in 2023. She was awarded the Madgwick Distinguished Professor award at UNE in 2024.

Kim was recognised for her teaching by the award of an Australian Learning and Teaching Council Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning (2008). She was honoured to be awarded a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of sustained contribution to nursing and midwifery education and research.

Morning Tea

10:05am - 10:20am | EM6, Natural Resources Building (W055)

Session Four

10:20am - 12:00pm

EM1: Education

Title: EAL/D Teachers and Bilingual Teaching Assistants: Towards Plurilingual Practice
Presenter: David Partridge

Title: Mapping ESL Learners' Humour Preferences for Humour-Integrated L2 Pedagogy
Presenter: Shavindra Chandradasa

Title: The Role of Heritage Languages in Australian Secondary School Classrooms
Presenter: Victoria Norford

Title: Investigating Equitable Career Outcomes for NNES Accounting Graduates
Presenter: Wun Bein Maurice Cheong

Title: Plurilingual Writing Pedagogies: Teachers' Understanding, Mediation and Enactment
Presenter: Faezah Al-Ali (ONLINE)

Session Chair: Dr Prash Goundar

EM2: Health

Title: Health Professionals' Perspectives Towards Integrative Mental Health Care: Challenges and Opportunities
Presenter: Alemayehu Molla Wollie

Title: Whose Evidence Counts? Building an Equitable Healthcare AI Evidence Base
Presenter: Usman Yousaf

Title: Barriers and Facilitators of Rabies Control Interventions: Mixed-methods Systematic Review
Presenter: Abebe Belete Bitew

Title: Effectiveness of Psychosocial Interventions to Promote Mental Health and Psychological Well-being Among Older Persons with Depression and Anxiety: Systematic Review
Presenter: Endashaw Habtamu Bayu (ONLINE)

Title: Exploring Depression and its Psychosocial Determinants Among Adolescents living in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs): A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis
Presenter: Techilo Tinsae Agegnehu (ONLINE)

Session Chair: Dr Julie Clark

Lunch

12:00pm - 12:30pm | EM6, Natural Resources Building (W055)

Information stalls available during the break

Session Five

12:30pm - 2:30pm

EM1: SABL Interdisciplinary (Law/ERS)

Title: Blue Economy and Third World Approaches to International Law: A Lesson Learned from the Mandalika Project, Indonesia
Presenter: Erlies Septiana Nurbani

Title: Spatiotemporal Analysis of Meteorological Drought Dynamics in Southeastern Ethiopia
Presenter: Elias Cherenet Weldemariam

Title: Phenotyping for Heat Tolerance: Using Novel Tools to Find Novel Traits
Presenter: Joy Ojo

Title: Drivers of Rice Energy Metabolism, Growth and Biomass Accumulation Under Heat Stress
Presenter: Alam Md Ashraful

Title: When Knowledge Is Not Enough: Long-Term Farmer Learning
Presenter: Najemia Tahiruddin

Title: Namoi River Sub-Catchment Prioritisation for Flood Risk Assessment
Presenter: Purnima Das

Session Chair: Dr Andrew Lawson

EM2: HASS

Title: Women's Alternative Peacebuilding Practices in Myanmar: A Black Feminist Analysis of Flexible Solidarity
Presenter: Godwin Yidana

Title: Youth, Islam, and Everyday Peace: Ethnographic Reflections from an Indonesian Islamic Boarding School
Presenter: Syaiful Anam

Title: Surveying Australia's First Generation of Build to Rent Infrastructures
Presenter: Glen Hanchard

Title: Symbolic Fluidity: Bipolar Collapse in Religious Sites of Sylhet City, Bangladesh
Presenter: Sayed Ahmed (ONLINE)

Title: Conflict Transformation in Practice: A Study on the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh
Presenter: Obayedul Hoque Patwary (ONLINE)

Title: When Survival Strategy becomes Second Nature: Understanding Identity Concealment in Ahmadiyya Muslim Community through the Spiral of Silence Theory
Presenter: Faiza Idrees (ONLINE)

Session Chair: Dr Bernadine Cocks

Comfort Break

2:30pm - 2:40pm | EM6, Natural Resources Building (W055)

Session Six

2:40pm - 4:40pm

EM1: HASS

Title: Narratives of the Unheard: Sonic Innovation in Creative Nonfiction

Presenter: Christine Robertson (ONLINE)

Title: Collaboration and Affinity in the Correspondence of Australian First-Wave Feminists

Presenter: Dr Elizabeth Chappell

Title: Testing L2 Listening Vocabulary: Finding the Right Assessment Tool

Presenter: Brett Milliner (ONLINE)

Title: Listening in Fiction: Exploring Oral History as a Narrative Form

Presenter: Bronwyn Birdsall

Title: Building Creative Expression: Digital Music for Military Veterans

Presenter: Mansell Laidler (ONLINE)

Title: From Tactile Control to Interactive 3D: Comparing Interfaces for Digital Audio Mixing

Presenter: Bernhrad Jochum (ONLINE)

Session Chair: Rhiannon Morgan-Wright

EM2: Education

Title: Teaching Nature of Science Through Quantum Mechanics in High School

Presenter: Vijit Vinod Nautiyal

Title: Development of Stakeholder-Aligned Frameworks for High School STEM Internships

Presenter: Erika Eunice Salvador
(Queensland University of Technology)

Title: Leveraging Visual Cues to support EAL/D Learners' Knowledge about Grammar

Presenter: Shalaka Ghaisas (ONLINE)

Title: Quantum Technologies for Sustainable Integrated STEAM Education

Presenter: Vijit Vinod Nautiyal

Title: Cognitive Journeys and STEM Identity in High School Quantum Education

Presenter: Erika Eunice Salvador
(Queensland University of Technology)

Session Chair: Dr Bernadine Cocks

Conference Concludes | 4:40pm

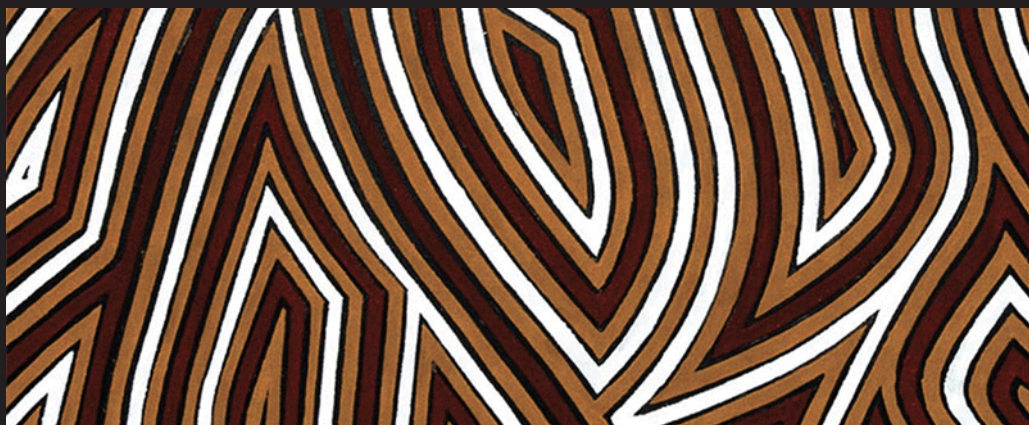
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Acknowledgement of Country

The University of New England respects and acknowledges that its people, courses and facilities are built on land, and surrounded by a sense of belonging, both ancient and contemporary, of the world's oldest living culture. In doing so, UNE values and respects Indigenous knowledge systems as a vital part of the knowledge capital of Australia.

We recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of the Aboriginal community and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future.