

# SWINBURNE CELEBRATES RESEARCH CONFERENCE 22-23 JUNE 2017

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



### **Laureate Professor Peter Doherty**

Professor Peter Doherty shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1996 with Swiss colleague Rolf Zinkernagel, for their discovery of how the immune system recognises virus-infected cells. His research is mainly in the area of defences against viruses. He regularly devotes time to delivering public lectures, writing articles for newspapers and magazines and participating in radio discussions. He was named Australian of the Year in 1997 and in the Australia Day Honours of 1997, he was named a Companion of the Order of Australia for his work with Zinkernagel. He is also listed as a National Trust Australian Living Treasure.

Peter Doherty graduated from the University of Queensland in Veterinary Science and became a veterinary officer. Moving to Scotland, he received his PhD from the University of Edinburgh Medical School. He is the first person with a veterinary qualification to win a Nobel Prize. He is also the author of several books, including "A Light History of Hot Air", "The Beginners Guide to Winning the Nobel Prize" and "Sentinel Chickens: What birds tell us about our health and the world".



### **Leanne Harvey Acting Chief Executive Officer Australian Research Council (ARC)**

Ms Leanne Harvey manages the Australian Research Council (ARC) in line with the requirements of the PGPA Act and Public Service Act 1999.

She played a pivotal leadership role in developing and delivering Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA). Demonstrating the quality of ERA in 2010, the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) recognised the exercise as 'state-of-the-art'. Each ERA cycle continues to build on the utility and evidence base for research policy both for Australia and internationally.

Ms Harvey joined the ARC in March 2008. Since then, she has led the ARC through a substantial reorganisation to better align the agency with current Government agendas.

Ms Harvey graduated at the top of her school and holds a Bachelor of Business in Accounting from (the now) Charles Sturt University. She moved to providing policy analysis and advice regarding Australia's research sector in 2004. Her career has seen her involved in social policy initiatives including leading publicly funded research, child support and taxation reforms.

## GUEST SPEAKERS



**Jill Gallagher AO**  
**CEO**  
**Victorian Aboriginal Community**  
**Controlled Health Organisation**

Jill Gallagher AO is a Gunditjmara woman from Western Victoria who has worked within, led and advocated for the Victorian Aboriginal community all her life. Since 1998 this has been through the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), now one of Australia's largest and most effective state Aboriginal peak advocacy organisations.

As CEO since 2001, Ms Gallagher has led a major growth in the organisation's status by working to raise its profile and to position it as the key body in addressing Aboriginal health and wellbeing issues.

In 2010, Ms Gallagher was inducted in the Victorian Honour Roll of Women and in 2013 she was awarded an Order of Australia in recognition of her strong and effective leadership in Aboriginal health. Furthermore Ms Gallagher is a Board member of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).



**Amanda Dunn**  
**Politics + Society Section Editor**  
**The Conversation**

Amanda Dunn is the politics and society editor for The Conversation.

Before joining the Conversation she was for 16 years a writer and editor at The Age newspaper, holding a number of senior roles including news and features editor, and opinion editor, of The Sunday Age; senior writer and columnist on The Age; editor of M magazine; health reporter and schools reporter.

Before joining The Age Amanda completed a Master of Arts in English language and literature at the University of Melbourne, part of which she spent at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Her first book, *The New Puberty*, will be published by Melbourne University Press in August.



**Sue Barrett**  
**Managing Director**  
**Barrett**

Sue Barrett is the founder and CEO of the innovative sales advisory and education firm, Barrett (est. 1995) and the online sales education and resource platform [www.salesessentials.com](http://www.salesessentials.com).

Sue lives by the philosophy that selling is everybody's business and everybody lives by selling something. She is one of the most authoritative thought leaders reporting and working on Purposeful Sales Systems in Australia today and has written more than 600 blog posts and 21 e-books in areas such as Sales Strategy, Sales Process, Sales Leadership and Sales People. Sue and her team also produce the 'must read' Annual 12 Sales Trends Report and range of whitepapers.

Helping people and businesses sell better, Sue is a Selling Better Strategist and Advisor, Sales Philosopher, Keynote Speaker, Sales Trainer, Coach, Writer and Activist. Sue and her team were the first in Australia to get Selling a university qualification. She was also inducted into the Business Women's Hall of Fame 2000, a Finalist in 1998 & 2001 Telstra Business Woman of the Year Award and 1997 Winner of Telstra & Victorian Government Small Business Award.

## GUEST SPEAKERS



**Heidi Krebs**  
*Director*  
*Aviation Aerospace Australia*

Heidi is the Director of Calex and helped take the business from its infancy to being a globally recognised advanced manufacturer of custom cables and harness assemblies, servicing the defence/aerospace, transportation, telecommunications and electronics industries.

More recently, Heidi was Director – Business Development and Marketing but during her career had responsibility for strategy and operations. She has particular expertise in the establishment of global supply chains and understands the critical importance of achieving competitive advantage.

Heidi sits on the Victorian Defence and Alliance - Land Systems (Australian Industry Defence Network) Committee, is an SME Ambassador for the Australian Advanced Manufacturing Council, a Director of the Aviation/Aerospace Australia Board and a Director of the German Chamber of Commerce in Australia.

In June 2015, Heidi accepted the Employer of the Year Award on behalf of Calex at the "Women in Industry Awards Dinner"



**Daniel Aubin**  
*Researcher and Performing Artist*  
*Charles Sturt University*

Daniel has been a performing artist, director and educator for over 20 years. He has toured extensively performing across Europe, North America and Australasia working in theatre, film, stunts, festivals, special events and circus.

Daniel is a lecturer and researcher working in the School of Communication and Creative Industries at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst, NSW.

He is one of the core lecturers in the innovative Theatre Media course. His specialty areas are: communication, movement, creativity and performance. His diverse industry experience ranges from designing corporate leadership programs to stunt doubling Mark Wahlberg. As a former Canadian national gymnast he developed his foundations at the Olympic Training Centre. Daniel has taught at Flinders University, Adelaide College of the Arts and for The Australian Dance Theatre.

From 2006-2010 he was the Artistic Director and Co-CEO of the South Australian Circus Centre, home of Cirkidz. There he developed programs that launched many successful professional careers. His former students are working with companies such as CIRCA, Gravity and Other Myths and Cirque du Soleil as well as undertaking other work in the communication and creative industries.

## SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY SPEAKERS



**Professor Linda Kristjanson AO**  
*Vice Chancellor*

Professor Kristjanson is Vice-Chancellor of Swinburne University of Technology.

She has been a pioneer in the field of palliative care research – recognised in 2012 by the Bethlehem Griffith Research Foundation lifetime achievement award.

During her academic career she has received competitive research funding from national bodies in Canada (National Cancer Institute of Canada), USA (NIH) and Australia (NHMRC) and has published more than 300 refereed publications.

She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and previously served on the National Health & Medical Research Council (2006-2009). In 2002

Professor Kristjanson was named the Australian Telstra Business Woman of the Year in recognition of her entrepreneurial work in health and science. Professor Kristjanson is Chair of the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre. In 2017 Professor Kristjanson was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in the 2017 Queen's Birthday honours list. She was recognised for her distinguished service to tertiary education through leadership and governance roles, strategic and innovative university reforms, contributions to cancer research and palliative care, and to women.



**Professor Aleksandar Subic**  
*Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
(Research and Development)*

Professor Subic is internationally recognised for his research in engineering design and advanced manufacturing, having led numerous global R&D projects in collaboration with industry leading to important translational research outcomes and impact.

Professor Subic held positions on the Prime Minister's Industry 4.0 Taskforce, the Australian Advanced Manufacturing Council Leaders Group, Deputy Chair of the National Aerospace and Aviation Industries Association, Director of Oceania Cybersecurity Centre, Director of SAE-A and on the Executive Committee of the Global Engineering Deans Council (GEDC). He served on the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) National Assessment Committee for Engineering and Environmental Sciences and on the research advisory panels of the Defence Materials Technology Centre and the European Engineering Research Council.

Professor Subic is an honorary Professor of Tsinghua University, Tianjin University and Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and a Fellow of the Institute of Engineers Australia (IEAust), Fellow of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) and Fellow of the International Energy Federation (IEF).



**Professor Bernadine Van Gramberg**  
*Pro Vice-Chancellor  
(Graduate Research and Research Training)*

Professor Bernadine Van Gramberg was appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor (Graduate Research and Research Training) in November 2015. She is responsible for candidature management, employability skills development, the examination processes, supervision, and research training over the life cycle of researchers from HDR, ECR to research leader level. Bernadine's expertise is in the area of alternative dispute resolution and public sector management.

She holds a PhD from Monash University and degrees in Science and Law from the University of Melbourne and Victoria University respectively. She also has Graduate Diplomas in Dispute Resolution & Judicial Administration; Industrial Relations; and Education & Training.



## SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY SPEAKERS



**Dr Nishar Hameed**  
*Research Fellow  
Faculty of Science,  
Engineering & Technology*

Dr Nishar Hameed is a Research Fellow within the Factory of the Future and his research is mainly focused on the novel and faster processing of next generation polymers and composite materials. Nishar recently developed a new method to produce flexible, toughened and fast cure resins that can be integrated to make formable and rapid cure fibre reinforced composites, concrete preforms and graphene nanocomposites. His research has also led to the development of a new, environmentally processing route to make plastics films and fibres from natural polymers (cellulose, wool, silk).

Nishar has won many awards as he advances his research career including AINSE Post Graduate Research Award, Smart Geelong Early Researcher award and Deakin's Best Doctoral Thesis Award. He has been awarded a number of prestigious fellowships including the highly esteemed Victoria Fellowship, Famelab State Finalist, two Endeavour Fellowships and Australian Research Council DECRA Fellowship.



**Professor Lester Johnson**  
*Professor of Marketing  
Faculty of Business & Law*

Lester W Johnson is Professor of Marketing at Swinburne University of Technology, Australia. He holds a PhD in econometrics from the University of Connecticut. He was elected as one of three inaugural Fellows of the Australia New Zealand Marketing Academy in 2004, and in 2008 was also elected as a Fellow of the Australian Market and Social Research Society.

His research interests lie broadly in the area of marketing modeling. Recent work includes models investigating consumer brand equity, consumer brand engagement, celebrity endorsement, and luxury consumption.



**Dr Amie Hayley**  
*NHMRC ERC  
Faculty of Health, Art & Design*

Dr Amie Hayley is an NHMRC Peter Doherty Biomedical Early Career Research Fellow (APP1119960: 2017-2020) at the Centre for Human Psychopharmacology, Swinburne University.

As part of this four-year fellowship, Dr Hayley will conduct a series of clinical trials aimed at evaluating the specific and global cognitive and performance-based effects of methamphetamine use on diving ability and accident-risk. She has additional ongoing collaborative partnerships with the Critical Care Department at Monash Health, where she has previously conducted the first clinical trial of its kind examining the effect of ketamine on driving performance and cognition.

She will also lead several upcoming clinical, hospital-based trials assessing the effects of combined narcotic opioids such as ketamine/fentanyl and ketamine/dexmedetomidine on sedation, analgesia and cognitive performance. Dr Hayley has specific expertise in the field of illicit drugs, drug use and accident risk, clinical trial methodology and biostatistical methods.

## SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY SPEAKERS



**Dr Luke Downey**  
*NHMRC ECF & CDF*  
*Faculty of Health, Arts & Design*

Associate Professor Luke Downey is an NHMRC R.D. Wright Biomedical Career Development Fellow (CDF: 2017-2020) at Swinburne University.

Associate Professor Downey completed a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Psychology at The University of Melbourne, and received his PhD in the field of Psychology in 2010 from Swinburne University. He has undertaken two years of postdoctoral work at Swansea University with the support of a NHMRC CJ Martin Overseas Biomedical Research Fellow (APP1054279: 2013-2016) with Professor Andy Parrott, and held a visiting scholar position at Harvard Medical School in 2015.

Associate Professor Downey has specific expertise in understanding linkages between drug usage, cognitive performance, driving simulation and neuropsychology. Associate Professor Downey has over 70 career publications, published in a number of respected journals in the psychology/psychopharmacology journals, including; Psychopharmacology, European Psychopharmacology and journals more specifically related to driving research, such as Accident Analysis and Prevention.



**Andrew Gunstone**  
*Professor Andrew Gunstone,*  
*Inaugural Executive Director*  
*(Reconciliation Strategy and Leadership) and Professor of Indigenous Studies*

Professor Andrew Gunstone is the inaugural Executive Director (Reconciliation Strategy and Leadership) and Professor of Indigenous Studies at Swinburne University. He leads the development of strategies and initiatives at Swinburne regarding Indigenous education, research and engagement, and Swinburne's Reconciliation Action Plan.

Andrew has researched and published widely in the disciplines of Indigenous studies, Indigenous history, Indigenous public policy and Indigenous education, particularly in the areas of reconciliation, stolen wages, reparative justice and higher education policies. He has written over 130 publications, including eight books. Andrew has also obtained nine nationally competitive research grants, including ARC, AIATSIS and NCSEHE grants. Andrew is also the Foundation Editor of the Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues ([www.swin.edu.au/jaii](http://www.swin.edu.au/jaii)), an important new journal in this area of research.



**Angela Burt**  
*Lecturer, Indigenous Education*  
*Faculty of Health, Arts & Design*

Angela Burt is a Lecturer in Indigenous Education, PhD candidate and recipient of the Swinburne University Postgraduate Research Award. A proud Palawa woman and experienced primary school teacher, her research interests include Indigenous curriculum development with a focus on Indigenous perspectives and pedagogies.

Angela was a researcher for the Swinburne Indigenous Futures Project, a pathways program funded by the Commonwealth Government HEPPP. Her role was to develop culturally inclusive training packages utilising assistive technologies and delivering this training to Indigenous communities in remote and regional locations.

## SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY SPEAKERS



**Terry McEvoy**  
*Senior Project Manager and  
Croydon Campus Manager*

Terry McEvoy is the Director of Trades and Engineering Technologies at Swinburne University of Technology. Terry joined Swinburne University in January 2010.

As a product of the vocational education system in Victoria, Terry understands the value of work based learning and the inclusion of flexible educational strategies in curriculum

Terry has an extensive work history in the development and delivery of programs that support work force development strategies in the public and private sector. Recently, his work has focused on the remote communities of Northern Australia, in particular East Arnhem Land, providing Indigenous Australians with access to high quality vocational education.

Terry has worked with several government departments and various private industry partners to develop contextualised curriculums that ensure the demand in remote communities for locally sourced skilled labour can be met.



**Associate Professor Kurt Seeman**  
*Director, Centre for Design  
Innovation Research  
Faculty of Health, Arts & Design*

Professor Kurt Seemann is a specialist in the relationship between people, technology and the environment as a complex, mutually influencing and adaptive system.

His research operates at two levels: the human scale of holistic technology education including processes of design and innovation, and the larger societal scale of systems driving and defining the sustainability of human settlements. He has developed particular expertise in cross-cultural and indigenous technology transfer, design and development research.

Professor Seeman's work in Technacy Genre Theory was foundational to his success in national competitive ARC and CRC research programs as well as his appointments as Thinker with the Design and Technology Teachers Association of Victoria. He is a member of the World Society for Ekistics whose charter restricts membership to 400 worldwide, and DATTA Victoria.



**Professor Bronwyn Fox**  
*Director, Factory of the Future  
Faculty of Science,  
Engineering & Technology*

Professor Bronwyn Fox is Director of Swinburne's Manufacturing Futures Research Institute, which is strategically positioned at the intersection of design, business, engineering and science. Professor Fox is a recognised industry leader with over two decades' experience in composites and advanced manufacturing.

Professor Fox is translating this industrial research expertise into the development of a new Industry 4.0 manufacturing capability, focusing on the challenging automation processes associated with the construction and curing of composite structures. She has delivered major research projects in collaboration with industry both nationally and internationally.

Professor Fox comes to Swinburne from Deakin University, where she was a co-founder of the Carbon Nexus facility – a \$100 million research precinct development in Geelong focused on advanced materials and manufacturing. Professor Fox was the inaugural Research Director at Deakin's Carbon Nexus facility, working with international teams to develop new approaches for carbon fibre production.

## SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY SPEAKERS



**Professor Mirko Bagaric**  
*Professor of Law*  
*Faculty of Business & Law*

Professor Mirko Bagaric is the Director of the Evidence-Based Sentencing and Criminal Justice Project. He is also the Director of Research at the Swinburne University Law School.

Professor Bagaric is an internationally renowned expert in punishment and sentencing.

Professor Bagaric is the author or co-author of over 30 books and 150 articles which have been published in leading international and Australian journals. While his main work is in the area of punishment and sentencing, he has also written extensively in migration and refugee law and human rights law. His articles have been cited in over 50 court judgments, including the High Court of Australia and superior courts in Canada, Singapore, New Zealand and Ireland.

His research actively and regularly engages with the community, having written approximately 500 opinion pieces on a range of socially relevant and important legal topics. He appears regularly in the electronic media as an expert commentator on his research areas.



**Professor Matthew Cuthbertson**  
*Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Development, Innovation and Commercialisation)*

Professor Cuthbertson's responsibility is to grow and develop Swinburne's research partnerships with industry, contributing to the broader goal of achieving real-world impact from Swinburne's research portfolio. Matthew concentrates especially on strategic partnerships with major companies, industry engagement at the sectoral level and major multi-party collaborations (especially CRCs).

Matthew also oversees the establishment and operation of the Swinburne Innovation Precinct – positioning the university as a leader in research-led innovation and as a centre of entrepreneurial activity in research.



**Anita Kocsis**  
*Director Design Factory Melbourne*

As director of DFM since 2013, Associate Professor Anita Kocsis is at the forefront of industry and university co-creation.

She drives the impact of global relevance through research and design-led innovation. As a leader in a global network, she has spearheaded projects with major Australian and international companies to solve complex problems and generate innovative solutions.

Dr Kocsis has also spent many years researching the phenomenon of the visitor experience in interactive and immersive experiences for museums, galleries and the digital humanities.



## SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY SPEAKERS



**Professor Jo Barraket**  
*Director, Centre for Social Impact  
Faculty of Business & Law*

Professor Jo Barraket is a leading researcher in social enterprise and social innovation in Australia. Her work spans questions of public policy, organisational hybridity and social change.

Jo is known for her work in mapping the social enterprise field in Australia and has been an international advisor to the OECD on the role of the social economy in social innovation.



**Julia Scott**  
*Director, Media and External  
Communications*

As Swinburne's Director, Media and External Communications, Julia leads Swinburne's news team to find, create and share hundreds of Swinburne stories about successful students, inspirational staff and world-class research that is changing lives.

Responsible for media and social media at Swinburne, Julia's team works with academic and professional staff to develop strategic communications that promote, position, enhance and protect Swinburne's reputation. Julia's team also manages the production of Venture magazine and supports the production and distribution of Research Impact.

Julia started her media career in radio while completing a Master of Arts (Comparative Politics) from the University of Melbourne. She spent more than a decade in broadcast, web and social media at the ABC and SBS. In the education sector, she held leadership roles in digital and content marketing at La Trobe University, before joining Swinburne in 2015.



**Professor Alan Lau**  
*PVC Research Performance  
and Development*

Professor Alan Kin-tak Lau's research focuses on materials science, particularly bio-composites, smart composites and nano-composites. He holds a PhD from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and degrees in aerospace engineering from RMIT University.

Since 2014 Professor Lau has served as International Vice-President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers – the first scholar elected to the role outside the UK. He is a fellow with the Royal Aeronautical Society, the Institution of Materials, Minerals and Mining, the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, Engineers Australia, the Institution of Engineering Designers and the European Academy of Sciences and Arts. Professor Lau has also been an Independent Non-executive Director of Kingsflair International (Holdings) Limited (Stock Code 6822) since 2015.

Professor Lau has received numerous awards including the Young Scientist Award (2002), Young Engineer of the Year Award (2004), the Faculty Award for Research and Scholarly Activities (2005), the Award for Outstanding Research in Nanocomposites for Space Applications (2006), Most Cited Paper Award – Chemical Physics Letter (2003-2007), the Ernest L Boyer International Award for Excellence in Teaching (2009) and Outstanding Contribution in Education (2014).

## SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY SPEAKERS



**Professor Lisa Given**  
*Associate Dean  
(Research and Development)  
Faculty of Health, Arts & Design*

Lisa M. Given, Ph.D., is President of the Association for Information Science and Technology and has served on the College of the Australian Research Council. Lisa is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Information Studies, Charles Sturt University (Australia), as well as in the Faculties of Arts (Humanities Computing) and Education, University of Alberta (Canada).

She is Lead Investigator of a current ARC Linkage Project exploring research adoption by the wine industry and of an ARC Discovery Project looking at knowledge management practices in non-profit organisations. Lisa is also co-investigator for the ARC Linkage Project "Library and Information Science Research Australia" which recently launched the Research Assistance & Development Australian Researchers Grant Program to provide a series of supportive activities to foster research collaboration in library and information science.

Lisa co-authored the new edition of *Looking for Information: A Survey of Research on Information Seeking, Needs and Behavior* (Emerald, 2016) and is author of *100 Questions (and Answers) About Qualitative Research* (Sage, 2016). She is the editor of *The Sage Encyclopedia of Qualitative Research Methods* (Sage, 2008).



**Prof Matthew Bailes**  
*Laureate Fellow  
Faculty of Science,  
Engineering & Technology*

Professor Matthew Bailes is an Australian research Council Laureate Fellow and the Director of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Gravitational Wave Discovery (OzGrav). He is a world leader in the discovery and timing of millisecond pulsars and has made pivotal contributions to the discovery of the Fast Radio Bursts – enigmatic millisecond-duration bursts of radio waves that strike the Earth many thousands of times per day and are of unknown origin.

His research mainly concerns developing instrumentation for time domain astrophysics and using it for pulsar and FRB discovery in conjunction with collaborators in Australia, Europe and the US. He is the Australian Champion of the Breakthrough Listen project with the Parkes 64m radio telescope.

From 2017 he will lead the MeerTIME project that will use the new MeerKAT telescope to time radio pulsars as part of an international collaboration.

Professor Bailes founded the Centre for Astrophysics and Supercomputing at Swinburne in 1998 and served as its Director for the first 12 years. His team developed a supercomputer for the 50 year-old Molonglo telescope to transform it into a pulsar timing and FRB discovery machine as part of the UTMOST project.



**Dr Sonja Pedell**  
*Associate Professor  
Communication Design  
Faculty of Health, Arts & Design*

Sonja Pedell is Associate Professor in the Department of Communication and Digital Media Design (CDDMD) at Swinburne University of Technology since January 2012; contributing extensive knowledge of human-computer interaction (HCI) and research methods to the teaching of digital media and communication design. She is leading the Future Self and Design Living Lab hosted by the Centre for Design Innovation and Academic Director for Research Development for CDDMD.

Her research interests are user-centred design methods, scenario-based and mobile design, domestic technology development, and the design of engaging novel technologies for various user groups, in particular for the ageing population.

Sonja holds a Masters of Psychology from the Technical University of Berlin (Germany) and was employed as an Interaction Designer, Usability Consultant and Product Manager in industry for several years.

## SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY SPEAKERS



**Simone Taffe**  
*Associate Professor and  
Program Coordinator  
Communication Design  
Faculty of Health, Arts & Design*

Simone lectures in the areas of identity design and strategic brand management and participatory design for over ten years at Swinburne Institute of Technology. Simone worked as a graphic designer and design manager for over fifteen years. This experience includes seven years as design manager for the City of Melbourne, overseeing the council's branding program. Simone has also managed branding projects for the leading Melbourne design consultancy Flett Henderson Arnold (now Futurebrand), being involved in design work for the Sydney Olympic branding program, BHP Biliton, the ANZ bank and the State Government.

Simone has a Diploma of Graphic Design from Swinburne 1988, a Master of Arts (Design) from RMIT 2000 and a PhD from Swinburne University of Technology 2012. Simone's research addresses participatory design and the communication design process.

Simone has several teaching awards including the Swinburne University of Technology Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Award, Higher Education in 2013 and an OLT citation, 2014.



**Yashaswini Vegi**  
*PhD Student*

Yashaswini Vegi graduated with Bachelors in Biomedical Engineering in 2011 from JNTU-K, India and obtained her masters in biomedical engineering in 2013 from University of Twente, Netherlands. As a current PhD student at ARC Training Centre in Biodevices at Swinburne, Yash is working on a project named "A scalable, enzyme free detachment of mesenchymal stem cells recovery" in collaboration with St. Vincent's Hospital as her project industrial partner.

The ARC training centre developed a program named "BioReactor Mentorship Program", which encouraged the students from the training centre to meet and talk with various potential mentors. During this program, Yash developed a rapport with Dr. Elaine Saunders and ended up having Elaine as her mentor. Dr. Saunders is not only the co-founder and managing director of Blamey Saunders Hears, but also an award winning business woman including Australia's 100 most influential women in 2015. Since, Yash's PhD deals with developing an industrial based product, she feels that her mentor is very much suitable in guiding her through market loopholes and gives advice on the progression of her PhD. So far she has never been disappointed.