Director of Research Report

Welcome to our research newsletter for December 2018.

As you will see, there continues to be a lot of activity in the research space. Our researchers continue to score hits in high-ranking journals and our Research Clusters continue to build a culture of collaboration and research excellence. In this edition of the newsletter, I am delighted to report that:

- **Professor Dian Tjondronegoro** and collaborators from the University of Sydney were awarded an ARC Discovery Project (DP19) entitled *Designing Offices Well* ($350,000).
- **Professor Dian Tjondronegoro** was awarded the 2018 Gold Disruptor ICT Researcher of the Year.
- **Professor Yvonne Brunetto** recently attended the Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management Conference (ANZAM) to deliver a workshop on positive leadership.
- **Dr Jennifer Harrison** delivered a keynote presentation at the 3rd International Seminar on Applied Science and Technology.

In this edition, we also profile doctoral candidate, **Kayleen Wood**, whose PhD research is devoted to examining: “How can a gamified learning experience enhance student engagement in learning about technical threshold concepts of accounting and finance?”

So, in conclusion, please take a moment to look at the achievements of our researchers.

Kind regards

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**Michael Kortt**  
Associate Professor | Director of Research  
School of Business and Tourism

17 December 2018
Research Hits

The journal rankings below comply with the current ABDC journal quality ranking. However, please let us know if you publish in a Q1 or Q2 ranked journal listed on Scimago (http://www.scimagojr.com/).

**A*, A & Q1 Ranked Journals**


**B & Q2 Ranked Journals**


**Books**


Research Income & Grants

**ARC Discovery Project DP19**

Congratulations to Professor Dian Tjondronegoro, and collaborators from the University of Sydney, on a successful Australian Research Council Discovery Project (DP19) proposal. Prof Tjondronegoro is the second Chief Investigator collaborating with The University of Sydney on the ARC funding commencing in 2019.

**Project Title:** Designing Offices Well $350,000.

**Project Aim:** This project aims to describe, quantify and analyse the impact of workspace design on workers’ satisfaction, productivity and health. The Australian market is the fastest adopter of Activity-Based Working (ABW) in the world and impacts arising from this workspace typology on workers will be significant now and in the next decade.

This project will develop benchmarking for ABW offices, techniques for monitoring cognitive performance in situ, and design guidelines for health promotion. By shifting attention to design features that actually perform well, this project will provide the empirical basis needed to transform the way workspaces are designed now and in the future. It will therefore lead to greater productivity in and among workplaces.
Kayleen Wood

The higher education classroom is increasingly accessed exclusively online by both internal and external students, but simply transferring the conventional lesson plans used in the classroom to the online learning environment is not the way forward. Students interact with material differently when they’re online or face-to-face, and what works in the classroom typically doesn’t directly transfer to online, or vice versa. Research on gamification in education comparing traditional methods of teaching and learning to a gamified pedagogy confirms that learning with games has a positive effect on both learning outcomes and student engagement.

My research goes to the next level of investigation, and I’m looking at what gamification features lead to learning, and when, plus how to integrate them into curriculum. We see gamified learning experiences as part of a capstone unit where learners are required to bring all their accumulated learning into a virtual simulation. With critical thinking identified as a desirable attribute for graduates, as accounting educators we need to be embedding opportunities to develop these skills at the introductory unit level. I’m interested in using a gamified learning experience at the beginning of the learners’ higher education journey, and I’m using the technical threshold concept of the time value of money to demonstrate this. In my active gamified learning pedagogy for time value of money, passive theory and concept is blended with a plot-driven narrative giving realism and context to the learning experience.

My simple research question is: How can a gamified learning experience enhance student engagement in learning about technical threshold concepts of accounting and finance?

To do this I have developed the Time Value of Money Game. Participants are randomly allocated to either the treatment or control group. Survey data is collected to profile their learning characteristics. They complete the TMV and answer some questions to measure their learning. Finally they are surveyed about their experience within the experiment. I am still looking for participants to fulfil my sample set and allow me to begin data analysis, with an aim to completion of my PhD mid to end of 2019.

Future expansion of this research, will see the model replicated and extrapolated, within the interdisciplinary common courses of business, and potentially across other disciplines in higher education. My research will not only assist educators to further develop appropriate pedagogies to meet the needs of twenty-first century learners, but also has application for adult learning in financial literacy.
Engagement and Impact

Professor Dian Tjondronegoro awarded the 2018 Gold Disruptor ICT Researcher of the Year

Professor Dian Tjondronegoro was awarded the Gold Disruptor 2018: Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Researcher of the Year at the recent Australian Computing Society (ACS) Digital Disruptor Awards.

The ACS Digital Disruptor awards were presented at the Reimagination Conference held 1st November in Melbourne. The awards serve to honour the efforts of Australia’s ICT professionals at the forefront of digital disruption.

Further details of the ACS Digital Disruptor awards can be found at: https://reimagination.acs.org.au/disruptors.html

This is a major achievement for Dian and serves to highlight the cutting-edge research that Dian has been undertaking. Congratulations on this major accomplishment!

Visiting Professor Rona S Beattie: The role of social innovation in public service HRM in the 2020s.

Visiting Professor Rona S Beattie from Glasgow Caledonian University recently delivered a workshop at the Gold Coast on the role of social innovation in public service HRM in the 2020s.

The workshop is a key part of a study visit to Australia being undertaken by Professor Beattie, funded by Glasgow Caledonian University’s Social Innovation and Public Policy Group’s Research Excellence Grant (REG) by building on informal links between Scottish/UK-based academics and Australian colleagues. The aim of the workshop is to commence building the research agenda to investigate the role and/or potential role of social innovation to enhance the delivery of public service HRM, particularly in terms of how HRM can support public service professionals during an era of complexity and transformational change. It is hoped that following the workshop colleagues can commence working on joint projects, including the development of funding bids for joint funding of Scottish/UK/European/Australian research.
Dr Jennifer Harrison delivers keynote presentation at the 3rd International Seminar on Applied Science and Technology

Dr Jennifer Harrison was one of four invited keynote speakers at the 3rd International Seminar on Applied Science and Technology (SENIT), themed “Disruptive Innovation and Digitalisation in Social, Economics, Engineering and Health: Opportunities or Threats to Higher Education in Indonesia” held in Tegal, Indonesia from the 6-7th November.

Jennifer’s keynote presentation, titled “The Opportunity of Disruptive Innovation in Australian Universities”, gave an overview of Harvard University academic Clayton Christensen’s model of disruptive innovation, related this to trends in the Australian university sector this century and provided an illustrative case study based on practical examples from SCU’s School of Business and Tourism.

Other keynote speakers included Professor Hiroshi Yasuda from Hiroshima University of Japan, Professor Erry Yuliant T. Adesta, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at the International Islamic University Malaysia and Saryo, an analyst from Indonesia’s central bank, Bank of Indonesia.

The seminar attracted an audience of more than 1,000 Indonesian academics and students, creating quite an impact on this small city in Central Java. While in Tegal, Jennifer also visited a campus of Harapan Bersama Polytechnic, organisers of the seminar, and spent time mentoring some of its lecturers in accounting, finance and economics.

Left: At the conference (L to R): Professor Yasuda, Sunandar, Dr Jennifer Harrison, and Yeni Priantna Sari.

Right: Jennifer visits Harapan Bersama Polytechnic campus.
Postgraduate Immersive Writing Retreat – November 2018
By Amanda Scott (PhD Candidate)

I recently attended the inaugural immersive writing retreat for post-graduate students run by the Southern Cross Postgraduate Association (SCPA). This two-day pilot retreat had the aim of providing postgraduate students with the time, space and support needed to progress their writing projects.

10 SCU PhD students from across different schools, and at various stages of their PhDs, were selected to attend.

The moment I arrived at the magnificent house just outside of Bangalow, I instantly felt relaxed. I couldn’t believe this slice of paradise would be my home for the next few days. There were: views for miles; bountiful gardens; a yoga room; pool, and lots of writing nooks.

On day one, we introduced ourselves to the rest of the group. We talked about our goals for the retreat, and with the help of our facilitator Katie (another PhD student and retreat participant), we structured our program for the next two days to suit our needs. This involved a combination of: quiet writing times (no talking and no phones to distract us); groups sessions to discuss solutions to writing problems, for general discussion, and to provide retreat feedback; free time in the afternoons, and the opportunity to come together at night over a magnificent two-course dinner cooked by one of the local residents.

Being able to get away from the demands of everyday life such as family and full-time work commitments and dedicate time to the PhD without that guilty feeling was an invaluable opportunity, and one that resulted in productivity and re-motivation for me. During the retreat, I wrote 5000 words, drafted a conference presentation and worked on my survey question for my data collection. This momentum has continued post-retreat. I’m finding myself ticking lots of PhD to-do tasks off my list. My peers share similar experiences.

Sharing a space for a few days with nine likeminded people in a tranquil setting, leaving the worries of the world behind me has been one of my PhD journey highlights to date. I would like to thank the SCPA for this incredible opportunity. I understand SCPA is looking to run more of these immersive retreats in 2019. I hope I get the chance to attend another of these retreats during my candidature, and would strongly encourage any postgraduate student to consider this opportunity.

Left: Retreat participants (L to R): Mahi Paquette, Megan Lee, Amanda Scott, Lisa Sigel, Katie Hotko, Laura Stolenberg, Annie O’Shannessy, Megan Pedler, and Holly Lovegrove.

Right: Our group meeting space.
Prof Yvonne Brunetto presents leadership workshop at 32nd ANZAM Conference

Professor Yvonne Brunetto recently attended the Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management Conference (ANZAM) in Auckland, 4-7th December 2018. The theme for this year’s Conference was Managing the Many Faces of Sustainable Work. This Conference brought together local and international academics and practitioners to share evidence and insights on this and a host of other pertinent issues.

Yvonne presented a leadership workshop at the conference titled: “Using positive organizational scholarship (POS) to identify strategies and skills for building resilience leadership in public, private and NFP healthcare middle managers to ensure high wellbeing”.

Right: Presenters of the leadership workshop; Dr Katrina Radford (Griffith U), Dr Ben Farr-Wharton (UTS), Professors Rona Beattie (Glasgow Caledonian University) Kerry Brown (ECU) and Yvonne Brunetto (SCU) and Dr Ivano Bongiovanni (Glasgow University).

Luan Bernardelli - Visiting PhD Candidate from Brazil

Associate Professor Michael Kortt is currently hosting Brazilian PhD candidate, Luan Bernardelli. Luan is in the final stages of completing his PhD in economics at the State University of Maringá. His PhD dissertation is entitled: Three essays on economics of religion: Earnings, economic development, health and life satisfaction. He is currently working with Associate Professor Kortt on:

- Examining how the rapid spread of Protestantism is influencing the economic and social fabric of Brazilian communities; and
- Determining the optimal size of Brazilian local governments.

Welcome Luan! We hope you enjoy your time at SCU.

Share your research success with us

Do you have a news item to share with the School of Business and Tourism and the wider community? If so we would love to hear and promote your research achievements within the School. Please email your research achievements to tanya.stewart@scu.edu.au