

# SPEAKERS



## Professor Harlene Hayne Vice Chancellor, Curtin University



Originally from the United States, Professor Hayne received a BA from Colorado College and a MS and PhD from

Rutgers University before spending three years as a post-doctoral fellow at Princeton. Professor Hayne has enjoyed an outstanding career in higher education leadership and academia, most recently serving 10 years as Vice-Chancellor of Otago University in New Zealand. Professor Hayne is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand and of the Association for Psychological Science. In 2009 she was awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to scientific and medical research.

## Kylie Percival University Librarian, Curtin University



Kylie was appointed as University Librarian at Curtin University in September 2022 and is also serving the wider sector as a

Council of Australian Librarians Board member. Previously, she was Associate University Librarian, Academic Engagement at the University of Adelaide. Prior to her recent senior library roles, Kylie was a well-known Australian archivist and active across sector including serving two terms as the national President of the Australian Society of Archivists. Kylie has an interest in facilitating creative and innovative workplace practices which support positive workplace values and student-centric services.

## Professor Marylène Gagné

Faculty of Business & Law  
Curtin University



Marylène is Professor at the Future of Work Institute in the Faculty of Business and Law, which promotes meaningful

work as an essential foundation of a healthy economy and society. Her research examines how organisations, through their structures, cultures, rewards, tasks, and management, affect people's motivational orientations towards their work, and how quality of motivation influences performance and well-being in the workplace.

## Professor Tom Gedeon

Faculty of Science & Engineering,  
Curtin University



Tom is Curtin's AI Chair for Human-Centric Advancements. Some prior roles include Optus Chair in AI, and Professor

of Computer Science at ANU. He is currently a member of the Australian Research Council's College of Experts and the governing boards of the Asia-Pacific Neural Network Society and the IEEE Systems Man and Cybernetics Society. Tom's research interests are in the use of deep learning and generative AI tools for responsive and responsible AI.

## Associate Professor Suze Leitao

Faculty of Health Science,  
Curtin University

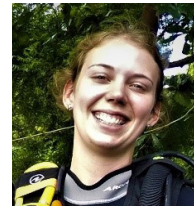


Suze is an academic researcher, lecturer and clinical speech pathologist in the Curtin School of Allied Health. She held the role of

Director of Graduate Research in the Curtin School of Allied Health for 4 years, recently returning to teaching and research. She has supervised 17 HDR students to completion and currently supervises 9. In her role as DGR and supervisor, she has learned a lot about examiner's expectations!

## Tahlia Bassett

Faculty of Science & Engineering,  
Curtin University



Tahlia is a final year PhD candidate undertaking a project with Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

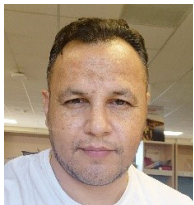
Her research aims to assess coral productivity in response to environmental stressors to identify ecologically important reefs for conservation. She has also participated in Homeward Bound, a global leadership initiative that aims increase the impact and influence of women in STEM.

# THESIS FEST<sup>20</sup><sub>24</sub>

*Curtin University acknowledges all First Nations of this place we call Australia and recognises the many nations who have looked after Country for more than 60,000 years. We are honoured and grateful for the privilege to to host this event on Boorloo (Perth). We pay our respects to Elders past and present as Custodians and Owners of these lands. We recognise their deep knowledge and their cultural, spiritual and educational practices, and aspire to learn and teach in partnership with them.*

## Kiran Awasthi

Faculty of Health Sciences,  
Curtin University



Kiran is a Nepalese student who has recently completed his PhD under the Research Training Program Scholarship. Before this, Kiran was a dentist and the executive director for a not-for-profit in Nepal. He began his PhD in 2020, continuing his commitment to eliminating malaria in Nepal. He has more than 15 peer-reviewed publications, five of which were published during his PhD.

## David Hach Soeur

Project Team Lead, Rio Tinto



David is a project team lead at Rio Tinto, specialising in Stakeholder Management & Business Transformation. As a PhD student, David published several papers in international conferences including AZMAC 2021 and 2022, completed two industry research programs, and was a DHCRC Concept Camp 2021 and 3 Minute Thesis finalist.

## Katie Kumasaka

Faculty of Humanities  
Curtin University



Katie is a Lecturer in the School of Education. She has taught Humanities and Social Sciences across a wide range of curricula, spanning from national mandated curricula to international frameworks. Her PhD investigated higher education student experiences with flow when learning online, using creative and reflective methodologies to explore human behaviour and emotions.

## Professor Nick Hopwood

University of Technology Sydney



Nick researches learning and transformation in diverse settings. He has conducted studies focused on doctoral students' learning and identities, tracking their daily activities, development as researchers, and challenges faced. He has also been the Higher Degrees by Research Coordinator for the School of International Studies and Education at UTS.

## Gretchen Benedix

Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor -  
Research, Curtin University



Gretchen is a teaching and research academic. Her research focuses on unraveling the evolution of the solar system by finding connections between meteorites, asteroids, moons and other planetary bodies primarily through geological/chemical pathways. Gretchen is passionate about STEM and being a positive role model for underrepresented groups in science.

## Richard Norman

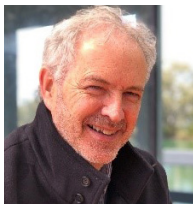
Dean of Graduate Studies  
Curtin University



Richard (he/him) is the Dean of Graduate Studies and a Health Economist in the School of Population Health. He has supervised ten PhD students to completion, two of whom won University medals. He was formerly the Director of Graduate Research in his school and is passionate about helping students develop skills that will help their careers grow in academia and beyond.

## Dr Hugh Kearns

Flinders University & iThinkWell



Hugh is recognised internationally as a public speaker, educator, and researcher. His areas of expertise include self-management, positive psychology, work-life balance, learning and creativity. He has coached individuals, teams, and executives in both the public and private sectors. Hugh lectures and conducts research at Flinders University, and has published several books.

## Professor Hadrian Djajadikerta

Faculty of Business & Law  
Curtin University



Hadrian is the Accounting Discipline Lead at the Faculty of Business and Law. Before Curtin, he held academic positions at UNSW, UTS and ECU, including Dean of Research. He has over 100 publications, has supervised more than 30 PhD students, and has received Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in research supervision and teaching.

## Professor Nicola Armstrong

Faculty of Science & Engineering  
Curtin University



Nicola is a statistician by training and is interested in the development of statistical methodology and the application of statistics to problems in genetics, genomics and biomedical research. Her research to date has focused on (epi)genomic analysis of data for cancer and healthy ageing and dementia, including biomarker studies, GWAS and other genome-wide assays.

## Professor Lucy Montgomery

Faculty of Humanities  
Curtin University



Lucy is the co-lead of the Curtin Open Knowledge Initiative, which combines critical Humanities perspectives with cloud computing

approaches to explore how big data can help universities understand their performance as Open Knowledge Institutions. She is also the Dean of Research and Graduate Studies for the Faculty of Humanities.

## Dr Petra Dumbell

Manager, Research Services  
Curtin University Library



Petra is the current acting Manager, Research Services at Curtin University Library. In her substantive role, she is an Academic Skills

Coordinator, the Library's faculty liaison for the Centre of Aboriginal Studies, and is responsible for organising GRASP, the Graduate Research Advanced Skills Program. Previously, Petra completed her PhD in Library and Information Science at Curtin.

## Professor Tuguy Esgin

Faculty of Business & Law  
Curtin University



Tuguy is a Noongar Yamatji man with many years of educational experience. He has a strong background in Health Sciences

and Entrepreneurship, holding a PhD in Exercise Science, an MBA, and a Masters of Health Science in Indigenous Community Health. He is currently working on his second PhD. He is the inaugural Dean, Indigenous Engagement for the Faculty of Business and Law.

## Tracy Piper

Learning Success Advisor  
Curtin University Library



Tracy completed her degree in Professional Writing and Publishing at Curtin in 2014. She now works as a Learning Success

Advisor, Project Coordinator (Peer Academic Mentoring) and Program Coordinator (UniPASS) within the Curtin Library. Tracy is enthusiastic about problem-solving, developing new skills, and encouraging others to do the same.

## Associate Professor Joanne McVeigh

Faculty of Health Sciences  
Curtin University



Jo is an Associate Professor at the Curtin School of Allied Health, specialising in high-impact research on physical activity and sedentary

behaviour. She is internationally recognised for her research methods to assess physical activity and sedentary behaviour. Jo also actively supervises HDR students, curriculum development, course coordination, and teaching within the Allied Health Honours Program.



Share your thoughts!

@CurtinUniversityLibrary #ThesisFest24

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FEST<sup>20</sup><sub>24</sub>**