



# Connecting Postgraduate Climate Change Researchers

Thursday 10 October 2019

11:00 – 4.30 pm, with drinks afterwards

Ernie Cropley Pavilion, University of Melbourne, [Map](#)

Time	Session description	Speakers
11:00-11:30	<b>Introduction</b>  <b>“Speed date” a climate researcher</b>	Dr Sangeetha Chandrashekeran, Deputy Director of the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, Lecturer in the School of Geography  Dr Anita Talberg, Director of the Climate & Energy College, Science Coordinator and Research Fellow in the Energy Transition Hub
11:30 – 12:30	<b>Grouping into research themes</b>	Dr Sebastian Thomas, Lecturer, Office for Environmental Programs
12:30 – 1:15	<b>Lunch</b>	
1:15 -2:45	<b>Cracking Climate Change Research Questions: Industry panel and workshop on developing and pitching your questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• interdisciplinary research questions</li> <li>• Students pitch their question</li> <li>• Feedback on pitches from staff and industry/govt guests</li> </ul>	<b>Panellists:</b>  Dr Ramona Dalla Pozza, Senior Policy Advisor (Climate Change) at DELWP  Emily Gerrard, Director and Principal Lawyer at Comhar Group Pty Ltd  Dr Jen Rae, Artist Researcher at Fair Share Fare  Charlotte Sterrett, Climate Change Program Advisor at Oxfam Australia  <b>Additional judges:</b>  Dr Annabelle Workman, Australian-German Climate and Energy College  Dr Vanessa Lamb, Senior Lecturer, School of Geography
2:45 -3:00	<b>Afternoon tea</b>	
3:00-4:00	<b>Announcement of MSSI Postgraduate Research Translation Award</b>  <b>Panel and Q&amp;A: Making your research matter: “What comms for what purpose?”</b>	Sangeetha Chandrashekeran and Alexei Trundle  Jo Chandler, Journalist, Author, Editor and Academic Specialist in the School of Culture and Communication  Dr Linden Ashcroft, Climate Scientist and Science Communicator  Dr Danny Butt, Associate Director (Research) at the Victorian College of the Arts
4-4:20	<b>Wrap up</b>	MSSI & College
4:20pm onwards	<b>Drinks</b>	All (including industry/staff)



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## Speakers

### Dr Ramona Dalla Pozza

*Senior Policy Officer, Climate Change Adaptation at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning*

Ramona has over 18 years' experience in research and science communication, working in both Federal and State governments in palaeoclimate, climate change, fluvial and coastal geomorphology, land management and biosecurity. After completing her PhD in fluvial and coastal geomorphology at James Cook University, Ramona began her public service career as a graduate for the Federal Department of Agriculture. Before relocating to Melbourne in 2018, Ramona was previously leading the Queensland Government's Science Program to support the Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy and the Drought and Climate Adaptation Program. She is currently leading the communication of climate change science for the Victorian Department of the Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

### Emily Gerrard

*Director and Principal Lawyer at Comhar Group Pty Ltd*

Emily is a Director and Principal Lawyer at Comhar Group Pty Limited, an Australian-based legal and policy advisory firm. She is an environmental and climate change law specialist with extensive experience in native title, Indigenous land use agreements, renewable energy and resources projects. Emily has worked predominantly in corporate legal practice, with ASX listed companies and State and Federal governments. In addition, she has worked with indigenous peoples and representative organisations across Australia for over 15 years, including with respect to land and natural resource management agreements, biodiversity and carbon development projects. For a number of years, Emily has advised least-developed countries and their advisors during United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations, including with respect to the design and operation of Article 6 market and non-market mechanisms. Emily is currently a member of the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute Advisory Board and the Law Institute of Victoria's Environmental Issues Committee.

### Dr Jen Rae

*Artist Researcher at Fair Share Fare*

Dr Jen Rae is a Narm (Melbourne)-based artist-researcher of Canadian Métis-Scottish descent. Her 15-year practice-led research expertise is in the discursive field of contemporary environmental art and arts-based



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environmental communication. Her work is centred around cultural responses to climate change, specifically the role of artists. Jen is the Director and Creative Lead of Fair Share Fare – where art, performance, disaster preparedness and cookery collide into positive disruption. She is also a lead artist-researcher in Arts House’s [REFUGE](#) project and a board member of the [International Environmental Communication Association](#) and the [Creative Recovery Network](#) (AUS). Jen and Maree Grenfell (Resilient Melbourne) recently led a 2-day [Resilience Creative Lab](#) with the City of Vancouver - a deep dive lab inviting First Nations, artists, emergency services, local government, philanthropist, academics and young adults to explore creative responses to climate related disasters in a localised context. She has lectured at the postgraduate level in socially engaged art and performance at Victorian College of the Arts and Deakin University.

### Charlotte L. Sterrett

*Climate Change Program Advisor at Oxfam Australia*

Charlotte is a climate change and resilience program expert. She has been a researcher, program and policy developer, implementer and evaluator, and advocate for climate change action for over a decade, working in over 20 many countries worldwide. Her work has supported communities, organisations and governments to increase their capacities to address climate change fairly and equitably. She has authored reports on international climate finance, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, participatory approaches to development, as well as strategies, policies and guidance on climate change related topics, with a particular focus on gender. As a co-lead of Oxfam’s global Resilience Knowledge Hub, Charlotte is supporting Oxfam and partners to increase their resilient development thinking and practice across a range of programming contexts.

### Dr Annabelle Workman

*Australian-German Climate and Energy College*

Dr Annabelle Workman Australian-German Climate and Energy College Annabelle completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Melbourne in 2008, majoring in Politics and Chinese. In her Honours year, she investigated China's environmental policies in the lead-up to the Beijing Olympics. After completing her studies, Annabelle worked at the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for five years in clinical practice guidelines and research translation. While at NHMRC, Annabelle commenced a Postgraduate Diploma in Environments (Public Health), which she completed in 2014. Over the past decade, she has lived on campus at Queen’s College, mentoring and tutoring both undergraduate and graduate students. During her PhD candidature, Annabelle guest lectured in several Masters subjects. She completed her PhD in August 2019 and is eager to pursue opportunities to develop climate change policies that account for health impacts and co-benefits.



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## Dr Vanessa Lamb

*Senior Lecturer, School of Geography*

Vanessa is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Geography at the University of Melbourne. In research and teaching, she focuses on human-environment geographies and political ecology of Southeast Asia. Her professional experiences include policy analysis and research into the social dimensions of environmental change with Oxfam, International Rivers, TERRA, and UN Women. Dr Lamb was also the inaugural Urban Climate Resilience in Southeast Asia (UCRSEA) research fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto, Canada and is an affiliated researcher with the York Centre for Asian Research, York University, Toronto, Canada. Vanessa completed her dissertation, *Ecologies of Rule and Resistance*, focused on the politics of ecological knowledge and development of the Salween River at York University's Department of Geography in 2014. Her research interests include human-environment geography, political ecology, political geography, science studies, feminist political ecology, international water governance, rivers, climate and environmental change.

## Alexei Trundle

*PhD Candidate, Australian-German Climate and Energy College*

Alexei is a PhD Candidate at the University of Melbourne, based in the Australian-German Climate and Energy College. He is the Future Cities research coordinator at the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, and acts as a scientific advisor to the UN-Habitat Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI) in the Pacific. His current research is focused on Honiara, Solomon Islands and Port Vila, Vanuatu, where he has been developing urban resilience and climate adaptation plans for the two cities as part of CCCI's Pacific program. His PhD examines the interaction between climate resilient development initiatives and informal households in the two rapidly growing cities.

## Jo Chandler

*Journalist, Author, Editor and Academic Specialist in the School of Culture and Communication*

Jo Chandler is an award-winning Australian journalist, author, editor, and educator. In 2017 she took up a position as a professional expert and lecturer at the University of Melbourne's Centre for Advancing Journalism, and continues as an Honorary Fellow at Deakin University's Contemporary Histories Research Group. She also continues to produce a substantial body of longform freelance journalism. In her long reporting career she has filed news and features from assignments across Africa, Papua New Guinea, rural and remote Australia, Antarctica and Afghanistan, earning distinctions as an essayist, profile writer and narrative journalist. Particular



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areas of focus over the past decade have been climate science, environment, health, human rights, aid and development. She was the winner of the Walkley Foundation's 2017 Freelance Journalist of the Year Award. She is also a previous winner of a Walkley Award, Australia's most coveted journalism prize (Commentary, Analysis, Opinion & Critique 2009). She is also the winner of two Melbourne Press Club Quill Awards for Best Feature (2017 and 2014).

### Dr Linden Ashcroft

#### *Climate Scientist and Science Communicator*

Linden is a lecturer in climate science and science communication at the School of Earth Science. Her career highlights so far include going behind the scenes at the British Science Museum, working with a farmer in Armidale to rescue his grandfather's weather diaries, presenting videos on climate science for the Bureau of Meteorology, and being part of the winning team for the 2014 Eureka Prize for Interdisciplinary Research. She is a regular on Einstein A Go Go on Melbourne's 3RRR radio, the Editor in Chief of the Royal Meteorological Society's Geoscience Data Journal and co-Editor in Chief of the Bulletin of the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society.

### Dr Danny Butt

#### *Associate Director (Research) at the Victorian College of the Arts*

Dr. Danny Butt is Associate Director (Research) at Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne, where he also coordinates programmes in Social Practice and Community Engagement. His book *Artistic Research in the Future Academy* was published by Intellect/University of Chicago Press in 2017. He is the editor of *PLACE: Local Knowledge and New Media Practice* (with Jon Bywater and Nova Paul) (Cambridge Scholars Press 2008) and *Internet Governance: Asia Pacific Perspectives* (Elsevier 2006). He works with the Auckland-based collective Local Time, whose work engages the dynamics of visitor and host in the context of mana whenua and discourses of indigenous self-determination. Recent sites for Local Time projects have included Waitangi (2017), Mangere maunga (2014) and the Waitemata Harbour (2013) in Aotearoa New Zealand; Footscray, Australia (2014); Delhi, India (2013); and Rarotonga, Cook Islands (2015).



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**Dr Sebastian Thomas**

*Lecturer, Office for Environmental Programs*

Sebastian is a transdisciplinary researcher with a background in climate strategy, environmental management, and sustainability economics and policy. His work examines human-nature relations – the interconnected biophysical, economic, social, and policy dynamics of sustainability innovations, climate change, and environmental governance. In the context of global change issues – including technology, climate and environment, new economic forces, social movements and conflicts, and resource constraints – he investigates how communities can connect to global economic and policy frameworks to achieve resilient and prosperous sustainability outcomes. His research interests include vulnerability and resilience, ‘blue carbon’ in coastal ecosystems and its role in sustainable development, ocean governance, energy transitions, and the role of strategic business innovation in adapting to global challenges. Sebastian has extensive experience working in the Asia-Pacific as a business leader and research scientist.