

FASS Graduate Research: potential projects for future graduate students

FASS academics have research projects across the following areas and are currently seeking PhD applications for related projects. Competitive scholarships are available for domestic students. Browse the list below for selected FASS supervisors and their research projects. You can also discuss your own proposed research project with supervisors. Email the supervisor for more information.

Supervisor (link to your UTS public profile)	Areas of interest/Project Title	Project Summary
Alice Loda	Migrant writings; Translingual literature; Translation; Multilingualism; Life writing (with a focus on migrant girlhood); Pop culture (with a focus on Italy) and Ecocriticism;	I am interested in exploring migrant, translingual and multilingual creative practices, and writings in particular. I have expertise in translation studies as well. Over the next years, I will focus on life writing and in particular on accounts related to migrant girlhood.
Angela Giovanangeli	French/Francophone cultural practices Mediterranean narratives French Pacific visual cultures Transculturation Foreign language and intercultural education	I am interested in the way Mediterranean narratives are constructed in French creative spaces. I also work on visual practices in the New Caledonia that include both Indigenous and non Indigenous perspectives. I am motivated to develop a focus on social justice research in foreign language and intercultural education.
Archie Thomas		Marginalised groups in institutions (particularly schools, media), school-to-prison pipeline/carceral systems, educational sociology/history/policy, media & discourse

		analysis, critical policy studies, Indigenous education, Indigenous self-determination & governance, LGBTIQ+ politics and histories, queer and trans studies, studies of childhood, critical pedagogy, alternative schooling, curriculum history, truth-telling, Australian histories (esp since 1960s), critical theory and methods, race and colonisation, eugenics & similar topics
Belinda Middleweek	Bodies in Journalism	Journalism is an embodied profession. Emotion is a crucial factor in the production and consumption of news. However, the body remains invisible or overlooked as an object of study in journalism. This project considers how the body is operationalised in the practice and conception of news work. One of the key questions this project asks is: how do journalists navigate the human experience of news work and journalism's occupational ideology of objectivity?
Bhuva Narayan	Human Learning, Human Information Interaction, Computer Human Interaction, Human Information Behaviours. Document Studies, Internet Studies	<p>Project 1: Any aspect of Personal Information Management, including personal, family and narrative histories that relate to different contextual or cultural information practices. Also, the materiality of personal archives, including objects and artefacts and their connections to memory and embodied information practices.</p> <p>Project 2: Any aspect of Scholarly Communications and Scholarly Publishing, including Open Access, e-repositories, and institutional, disciplinary, research metrics, and usability-related factors that contribute to the lack of adoption of open access by research scholars.</p> <p>Project 3: Any aspect of Information Avoidance, and the psycho-social aspects of misinformation and disinformation within various contexts.</p>
Carolyn Cartier	Cities and urban transformation in China	Research on territorial urbanization; city histories; cities, industries and economies, politics of urbanization; aesthetics of urban transformation; urban redevelopment
Catriona Bonfiglioli	Health communication Research Group	Health communication, media ethics, Covid journalism, science journalism, obesity news, frame analysis. Catriona.Bonfiglioli@uts.edu.au

Damian Maher	AI in Education	AI is currently offering new ways of doing education, which has both benefits and challenges. I am currently undertaking a range of activities associated with this topic. I have written several chapters and contributed towards an evaluation of into the Inquiry into the use of generative AI in the education system. I am currently organising research projects to investigate the use of chatbots for pre-service teachers and the use of AI by classroom teachers.
Elizabeth Humphrys	Political economy, climate change impacts for workers, social science studies of occupational health and safety, workers' rights and unions, labour history, economic change and neoliberalism, labour and social movements, Antonio Gramsci	Climate change is contributing to higher average temperatures, higher humidity, longer heatwaves and disrupted weather, as well as more intense drought, storms, floods and bushfires. This is an urgent public health issue and a major threat to safe and decent working conditions. Millions of workers worldwide, are directly affected, including through an epidemic of work-related 'heat stress'. The Too Hot to Work project UTS has been partnering with councils, think tanks and trade unions to advance new research into how to tackle these issues on the ground in workplaces and through policy action.
Emi Otsuji	Everyday multilingualism, Urban multilingualism, Critical applied linguistics, Language ideologies and language education ideologies	The project revolves around everyday multilingualism, taking linguistic ethnographical approach. By focusing on everyday, grassroots, multilingual language use (rather than top-down approaches to ethnolinguistic groups), it explores the ways in which different people, different interactions, and different semiotic and linguistic resources come together at different times and in different places. It challenges common language ideologies around multilingualism, questioning the belief in enumerable and separable languages. This inquiry also has implications for language education ideologies.
Heather Ford		data and AI ethics, bias in technological systems, Wikipedia studies, media events studies, virtual assistants, critical data studies

Heather Ford and Tamson Pietsch	wikihistories	Wikipedia is one of the most popular websites in the world and the de facto global reference of knowledge about people, places, events and things. Although Wikipedia's scope and authorship are larger than any previous encyclopedia, it nonetheless suffers from significant omissions and misrepresentations. Research on Wikipedia's systemic biases has grown over the past decade, but scholars have not yet systematically addressed either the ways partiality is produced or the platform's approach to historic events. This project aims to address these two gaps, by critically evaluating Wikipedia's representation of people, places and events.
Ian Stevenson	Spatial sound composition, audible design for the build environment, soundscape analysis, sound studies, and music production and sound pedagogy.	
Ilaria Vanni	Urban ecologies, people and the urban environment, environmental activism, urban waterscapes, waterways and wetlands, environment and diaspora, nature in design, art and fashion.	<p>As cities in Australia and abroad continue to grow during changing climates, people's relationships with the environment have been brought to the fore of national and international conversations on and about urban futures. The UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, for instance, addresses the challenge of making cities and communities sustainable. The scale of this task can seem immeasurable. While the need for large scale actions from governments, industries and policymakers is obvious, there is also a sound argument for grassroot initiatives at a local level and more careful consideration of local contexts in the creation, development and maintenance of urban environments.</p> <p>In this context, I am interested in:</p> <p>1- PhD proposals on social and cultural aspects of urban natures and ecologies, relationships between people and local environments (especially in the context of</p>

		<p>migration), environmental activism, environmental histories, and grassroots environmental stewardship.</p> <p>2 - I am currently working on a project on urban wetlands in Sydney, and I am also looking for proposals on environmental, cultural and social histories of urban waterscapes, waterways and wetlands. See waterstories.info as an example.</p> <p>I also welcome applications with creative components in line with my work across design and social sciences.</p>
Jingqing Yang	Chinese public policy and health professions, Chinese political culture	Jingqing has supervised a wide range of topics. Currently his research interests and efforts are on China's political culture and public policy process. He is particularly interested in the interaction between ideology and health policy, and heroism as a type of political culture.
Julia Scott-Stevenson	Envisaging and enacting just climate futures with immersive media	Emerging forms of nonfiction media including virtual reality, augmented reality/mixed reality, documentary film practice and futures, social impact screen media, creative media technologies including AI, climate communications
Kai Lin	International & comparative criminology, domestic & interpersonal violence, queer criminology, policing & evaluations of criminal justice policy/practice, cybercrime and victimisation, crime, justice, and LGBTQ+ issues in China	

Kate Delmo	Crisis, emergency and disaster risk resilience	This project examines the ecology of factors at play in building resilience from the perspectives of both emergency responders and the communities they serve in crisis/emergency/disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.
Katherine Bates	Literacy, language, phonics, visual literacy, environmental education through literacy, Indigenous Education	
Keith Heggart	Learning Design, Misinformation and Disinformation in Schools, Civics and Citizenship Education.	
Kirsty Young	Disability and Inclusion	Co-designed research; inclusive education; special education pedagogies; assistive technologies; universal design; Disability Royal Commission (Chapter 7); transition to employment; inclusive workplaces.
Kristine Aquino	Migration infrastructures; migrant integration; everyday racism; urban diversity; ethnography; Filipino migration; everyday transnationalisms	I am interested interested in supervising higher degree research students wanting to study Filipino migration, other migrations and mobilities from and within Asia, migration regimes and infrastructures; urban diversity and multiculturalism, and racism and anti-racism in immigrant receiving societies.
Lai-Ha Chan	International Relations; China's foreign relations; Australia's relations with great powers	I am interested in supervising research students wanting to study in Political Science/International Relations. My current research foci centre on (global) health governance and minilateralism. The former focuses on how states, particularly China, and non-state actors govern the containment of the spread of infectious diseases and the social impact of their policy whereas the latter examines the recent ascendancy

		and effectiveness of minilateral groupings in the Indo-Pacific such as the Quad and AUKUS.
Lesley Harbon	Languages education; Language teacher professional learning; Study abroad; Intercultural communication; Cultural intelligence; Teaching and learning Indonesian language	Bilingualism is beautiful; monolingualism is curable! My work over many years has investigated how languages other than English are taught, how language teachers professionally develop, the impact on language learning of a study abroad period, the importance of teachers and learners developing an intercultural competence for their teaching, learning and general communication. My work has often centred on Indonesia and even on broader areas in Southeast Asia.
Liz Giuffre	Popular music Popular culture Audience studies/fan studies Broadcast and post broadcast (TV, radio, podcast, streaming) Genre studies	
Mark Tutton	Foreign language teaching, social dynamics of the L2 classroom, French linguistics, English linguistics comparative French/English linguistics	I am interested in the social dynamics of the L2 classroom. My current research focuses on foreign language anxiety and self-disclosure in this context. Most of my previous research has been in the field of linguistics, with a focus on English and French semantics.

Mike Fabinyi	Coral reef governance in the Philippines	This project investigates the social, economic and political factors affecting coral reef governance in the Philippines, and supports local and national government agencies to develop new coral reef policies and plans.
Nick Hopwood		Professional learning and agency - especially using CHAT (Change Labs), Theory of Practice Architectures; encouraging applicants with professional backgrounds wanting to foster change, and those from Global South wanting to bring local knowledges into wider theoretical frameworks. Change Labs in schools; professional learning in services for children and families; interested in affect theory, queer theory (but not expert in these!)
Philip Birch	Crime & Security Science Research Group	<p>UTS Criminology is a relatively new discipline in the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, the Crime and Security Science Research Group (CaSS) has been established in order to advance applied and translational criminology, criminal justice, policing and community safety research and consultancy that is evidenced-based across the UTS community as well as externally around Australia and globally through multi-disciplinary, collaborative, impactful and industry relevant engagement. Research areas CaSS is seeking to develop centre on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Enforcement and Policing • Offender Management and Rehabilitation • GIS, Crime and Disorder • Digital Criminology • Safer by Design • Professional Practice and Wellbeing in Criminal and Community Justice • Quantitative Criminology • Emergency and Disaster Management and Response
Sarah Attfield		I am a senior lecturer in creative writing. My research is focused on social class, particularly the representation of working-class life (and intersecting identities) in popular culture and literature. I have published works on working-class representation in global cinema, literature, and popular music (such as UK grime, dubstep, hardcore punk and Australian hip hop). My most recent books are Class on Screen: The Global

		Working Class in Contemporary Cinema (Palgrave, 2020) and Creative Writing Practice: Reflections on Form and Process (Palgrave, 2021). I also have research interests in working-class access to higher education and the arts industries. I am the co-founding editor of the Journal of Working-Class Studies.
Tamson Pietsch		History of education, history of science, and the history of knowledge in the context of empire
Timothy Laurie		<p>I am a cultural studies and gender studies researcher, with an educational background in philosophy and media studies. I am interested in the ethical frameworks through which we understand and contest social identities, and have published research on a wide range of topics, including gender in popular music historiography, K-Pop music videos, masculinity in Australian cinema, children's film, the philosophy of Gilles Deleuze, and contemporary debates about love. I have also worked on empirical research projects around postgraduate education.</p> <p>I relish the opportunity to support postgraduate projects that ask challenging questions about culture and society. I have enjoyed supervising projects around temporality in Hong Kong cinema, Aboriginal hip-hop and the criminal justice system, the logics of capital in digital games, LGBTQI+ reading groups, cultural identities in Australian sketch comedies, and post-dictatorship memory in Brazil. I welcome research proposals broadly related to cultural studies and/or gender studies, or philosophy proposals that engage with contemporary social issues.</p>
Will Visconti	The Material Culture of Nineteenth-Century Urban Sex Work: A Transnational Study	The scope of the project is cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural, to examine the interplay of ideas and influences during the Age of Empire. Cities addressed include London, Paris, Storyville, and Melbourne, with additional examination of sites like Shanghai or Yoshiwara. It argues for a reassessment of sex workers' impact on, and their engagement with, material culture as agents rather than passive consumers or followers. Four key elements of material culture will be addressed: fashion, cosmetics, the spaces of sex work, and the use of technology.

		Ability to read/write in French and/or Spanish is a plus, even more so Mandarin/Japanese may potentially be useful. So too would familiarity with architecture and design.
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