

# Your research opportunities in the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Study Flinders Honours



## **Fine tune your research skills and dive into a project that inspires your passion with an honours degree at Flinders.**

We want you to dive into a project that you are truly passionate about. If you have a research topic you'd love to pursue, you can design an honours project from scratch in collaboration with your supervisor. Alternatively, you can select a ready-made project from a wide range of interests, including festivals and the human experience, Indigenous representation, identities and agency, or the culture of food in space. These Aligned Projects have been designed by supervisors with honours students in mind. The choice is yours, as an honours year is your year. Some honours projects include paid bursary opportunities up to \$5,000 each.

Contact the supervisor attached to the project to begin your honours journey, or contact [HASSenquiries@flinders.edu.au](mailto:HASSenquiries@flinders.edu.au) if you have any questions.

There are a range of opportunities for honours students to work with Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences scholars on existing research projects. There are also bursaries available as below.

## INDIGENOUS HONOURS STUDENT BURSARY

**\$5000 EACH X2**

As part of the College's commitment to the University's Reconciliation Action Plan, we are delighted to offer two student bursaries of \$5000 each for Indigenous students undertaking honours in HASS in 2022. Students may come from any disciplinary area within the College and undertake a project of their choice. Supervision and mentoring will be tailored to each student's needs from among the College's academic researchers.

To express an interest in this scheme, please email as follows:

BA students

**matthew.fitzpatrick@flinders.edu.au;**

BCA students:

**thomas.young@flinders.edu.au**

## Pleasure in music

Much has been written about how music expresses and arouses emotions but the pleasure of music is likely to deeply affect our sense of emotional content. As such, this project aims to investigate how music manages to arouse pleasure in listeners, with a particular emphasis on the role of harmony and rhythm. Students will review the existing philosophical literature on this topic, as well as any relevant findings in psychology. Reflecting on this material they will develop their own account of the way that music impacts listeners. Students need not have expertise in philosophy or psychology, but they should have some background in theoretical writing on the arts, and an interest in philosophical approaches to music.

**Areas of interest:** philosophy, music, pleasure, emotion

**Supervisor:**

Dr Tom Cochrane

**tom.cochrane@flinders.edu.au**



## Social Regulation during COVID-19

This project examines the myriad forms of social control and regulation during the COVID-19 pandemic. It investigates individuals' experiences of the regulations and control that have been put in place by new laws and asks how these regulations have shaped their behaviour and activities. A significant line of inquiry will be understandings of privacy and the social responsibility. The project will rely on qualitative data, particularly interviews.

**Areas of interest:** Sociology, qualitative empirical research, socio-legal research, social sciences

**Supervisor:**

Professor Sharyn Roach Anleu

**Sharyn.roachanleu@flinders.edu.au**

## Technology and Subjectivity: A Feminist Philosophical Analysis

Using a feminist lens, this project questions the perception of technology and the digital world as neutral and unbiased and uses feminist philosophy to examine the effects of the entanglements of subjectivity and technology in our contemporary lives. If we take seriously the entanglement of our lives with technology, then we must be concerned when the technology reproduces sexist and racist stereotypes. The project takes Rosi Braidotti's fluid understanding of subjectivity as that which 'takes place in between nature/technology; male/female; black/white' (Braidotti 2008, 6) as a starting point for these investigations, and the student will have the opportunity to explore various feminist philosophical perspectives, including a range of themes in the field of Feminist Technoscience Studies. The student will be encouraged to consider a case study – for example, gender bias in AI – and ask how feminist theory can help to identify and challenge these problems. Ultimately, the project will explore how the insights of feminist philosophy can help us to think deeper about the types of subjects, human and non-human, we are becoming.

**Areas of interest:** Feminist philosophy and theory, post/decolonial theory, feminist activism, social movements, feminist cities, European social and political philosophy

**Supervisor:**

Dr Laura Roberts

**laura.roberts@flinders.edu.au**



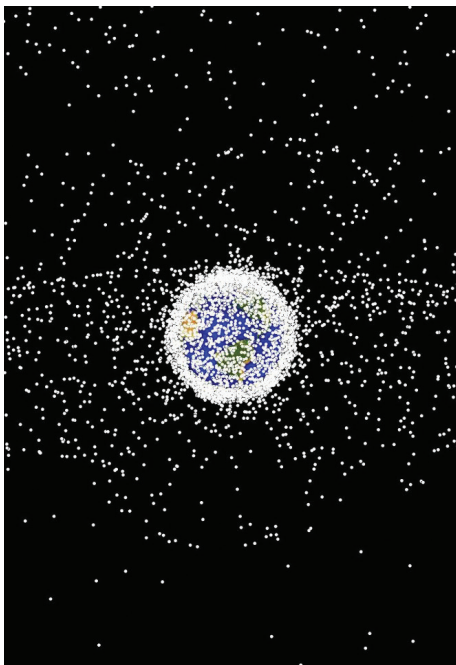


Image: NASA

## Post-colonial anxiety and depictions of nature in early medieval texts

Early medieval English literature is marked by an obsession with imaginative empathy and other perspectives. There is a fascination with travel and travel literature, the highest-status grave goods seem to be those from furthest away cultures. In their maps, they place themselves on the edges, with their focus elsewhere—usually Rome or Jerusalem. This period saw the creation of texts told from the perspective of monsters and which empathise with monsters. In poems like *Deor*, we see juxtaposed the same story told from opposing views. There is also a significant body of literature which tries to imagine the experiences of plants and animals and in which humans typically figure as violent despoilers of the natural world and as ultimately rejected by the natural world.

This project will focus on the depiction of the natural world in early medieval English texts as a site of post-colonial anxiety to investigate early medieval English attitudes to belonging, invasion, and the Other.

**Areas of interest:** English, medieval history, postcolonialism

**Supervisor:**

Dr Erin Sebo  
[erin.sebo@flinders.edu.au](mailto:erin.sebo@flinders.edu.au)



Image: Ali Gumillya Baker (2017), *sovereignGODDESSnotdomestic*, Natasha Wanganeen (performer), digital light box print.

## Indigenous representation, identities and agency

Projects in this group are specifically designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. They examine how scientific understandings of race as a social construct shape and inform the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, identities and communities, historically and within contemporary settler-colonial Australia. By employing a decolonising critical and creative critique through the mediums of Indigenous visual arts, poetry, song, spoken work, popular culture, screen and media each project examines Indigenous responses to such representations and explores Indigenous agency and activism to shift the discourse of expressions of Indigeneity.

Students can focus one or more topics in the following areas:

- Race, representation and Indigenous identities;
- Sites of collections (such as museums, galleries, libraries) which represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, cultures and identities;
- Colonial intimacies and human as praxis;
- Race and racism within Australia.

**Supervisors:**

Dr Ali Gumillya Baker  
 Senior Lecturer Faye Rosas Blanch,  
 Dr Natalie Harkin  
 Associate Professor Simone Ulalka Tur  
[ali.baker@flinders.edu.au](mailto:ali.baker@flinders.edu.au)

## Anti-racist and anticolonial based critical race theory

These projects seek honours students who are interested in anti-racist educational pedagogies and anti-colonial based critical race theory.

Students can focus on topics in the following areas:

- Discipline based Anti-racist praxis
- Counter narratives and storytelling pedagogies
- Critical Race theory within disciplines (such as education, law, psychology).

Any eligible honours candidate can propose a project application in this area and we especially welcome applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander honours candidates.

**Supervisors:**

Dr Ali Gumillya Baker  
 Senior Lecturer Faye Rosas Blanch  
 Dr Natalie Harkin  
 Associate Professor Simone Ulalka Tur  
[ali.baker@flinders.edu.au](mailto:ali.baker@flinders.edu.au)

## German Imperialism in Africa, Asia and the Pacific

What drove Germany's global foreign policy (*Weltpolitik*) and colonial policy (*Kolonialpolitik*) prior to the First World War? What economic and social pressures was it a response to? How did German imperialism interact with and disrupt societies in Africa, Asia and the Pacific? Intersecting with postcolonial and decolonising approaches to imperial history, this project offers the opportunity to study the history of a major European imperial power and its relationship with the Global South. Professor Matt Fitzpatrick is seeking an honours student interested in working on one of the following topics:

- the history of a particular German colony in Africa, Asia or the Pacific;
- the effects of German colonialism on those whose territory they colonised;
- German colonists in South Australia;
- German global shipping and commerce prior to the First World War;
- the First World War and its effects on German colonialism.

The prospective student will focus on one of the topics above and develop a guiding research question in partnership with Professor Fitzpatrick.

**Area of interest:** History, colonialism

**Supervisor:**

Professor Matt Fitzpatrick  
[matthew.fitzpatrick@flinders.edu.au](mailto:matthew.fitzpatrick@flinders.edu.au)



## Oceanic Histories in Australia

How have communities lived with and thought about marine environments? What are the histories of human-ocean connections in Australia? These are some of the big questions that Dr Alessandro Antonello is asking in his research on the environmental history of oceans. Globally, oceans are currently under significant environmental stress from a range of factors, but climate change, overfishing and pollution are among the most severe problems. Understanding and adapting to current problems requires an understanding of the past. Dr Antonello is seeking a student who is interested in studying marine and coastal communities in Australia in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In particular, he is hoping to encourage work on one of the following topics in relation to Australia's southern coasts:

- the history of fishing communities and industries;
- coastal development, including new coastal and marine infrastructures, ports and marinas, and housing developments;
- offshore oil and gas exploration and exploitation in Australia;
- histories of law, policy and management of the marine environment, including conservation and protected areas.

The prospective honours student will work with Dr Antonello to identify a topic which interests them, and which will be appropriate in scope for an honours thesis.

**Area of interest:** History, environment

**Supervisor:**

Dr Alessandro Antonello

[alessandro.antonello@flinders.edu.au](mailto:alessandro.antonello@flinders.edu.au)

## Children and Biography: Reading, Writing and Influence

This project considers life writing for children. The project could be a creative project or literary studies thesis, but its basis would explore the history and recent popularity of life narratives (biographies, autobiographies, etc.) for children. These increasingly popular texts present some of the most pressing issues for children, such as the representation of knowledge, environmental change, health crises, education, and personal and cultural development. But there is little research on these texts or their significance to scholarship or to the community. The project would produce new knowledge on how these texts are produced and read, and the cultural work they do, and (potentially) foreground children's voices in discussions of how children read life narrative and are engaged in its production.

**Areas of Interest:** Life narrative, life stories, biography, children's literature

**Supervisor:**

Professor Kate Douglas

[kate.douglas@flinders.edu.au](mailto:kate.douglas@flinders.edu.au)

## English Literature: Suicide and the Gothic

This project examines the prevalence of suicide in the first wave of the Gothic Revival during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Why was self-destruction such a key trope of the Gothic in this period? How might contemporary attitudes and developing knowledge have influenced Gothic representations of suicide? The student will select key texts to examine how these representations of what is at times inexpressible might respond to both contemporary sociohistorical contexts as well as the aesthetic and affective needs of the Gothic mode.

**Areas of Interest:** English literature, cultural history, history of emotions, creative writing

**Supervisor:**

Dr Eric Parisot

[eric.parisot@flinders.edu.au](mailto:eric.parisot@flinders.edu.au)

## English Literature and Creative Writing: Is Youth Life Writing Activism?

This project explores young people's use of life writing and self-representation in the context of literary activism. The project draws from the proximal disciplines of Literary Studies, Australian Studies, Creative Writing, Cultural Studies, and Media Studies and can be completed as either (a) creative research, incorporating a creative artefact (10,000 words) + a research exegesis (8,000 words); or (b) literary research (18,000 words).

The project will identify and discuss the ways in which non-fiction forms (for example, memoir, biography, essays, speeches, or first-person visual or digital media) are used by youth seeking to intervene in or contribute to a recognised debate of public significance (for example, climate change, #MeToo, refugee rights, Black Lives Matter) or on topics of social and cultural importance (disability and illness, sexuality, class, precarity). The project structure is negotiable in terms of historical or contemporary focus, international or Australian context. The project would likely constitute a case study or series of case studies of activist texts/authors and will allow for the student to explore figures and/or causes of interest to them.

**Areas of interest:** literary ethics, nonfiction genres, life writing, activism

**Supervisors:**

Dr Kylie Cardell

[kylie.cardell@flinders.edu.au](mailto:kylie.cardell@flinders.edu.au)

Professor Kate Douglas

## The Linguistic Landscape of Central Adelaide

Linguistic landscapes provide an exciting opportunity for understanding the use of languages in a particular speech community, and can inform us on the language practices of speakers within that community. For this project, students will investigate the visibility and public display of languages in central Adelaide, with the aim of describing the role of languages in the public domain in the city. A multidisciplinary approach will be especially welcome in order to capture the dynamics underlying the use of languages in Adelaide's linguistic landscape.

**Areas of interest:** Language in society, language variation, sociolinguistics

**Supervisor:**

Dr Werner Botha

[werner.botha@flinders.edu.au](mailto:werner.botha@flinders.edu.au)



## Multilingualism at Flinders University

Currently there is a dearth of research on the sociolinguistic realities of university students' language practices. Sociolinguistic profiles provide an exciting opportunity to understand the language dynamics and language practices of students, and can inform on the language needs and difficulties of students. The aim of this study is to provide a sociolinguistic profile of languages spoken and used among Flinders University students. This sociolinguistic profile will also be compared to the language profile of the greater Adelaide region. Students are encouraged to utilise a multidisciplinary approach to the topic.

**Areas of interest:** Language in society, language variation, sociolinguistics

**Supervisor:**

Dr Werner Botha

[werner.botha@flinders.edu.au](mailto:werner.botha@flinders.edu.au)

## Feminist Media and Cultural Studies: Focus on Female Practitioners

What is the nature of women's impact on screen content and cultures, as practitioners, advocates, critics, and curators? This project aims to explore the intersections between women's media practice, screen content and cultures. It seeks an honours student interested in studying how women have had an impact on screen practice through their work in a variety of professional roles as writers, producers, directors, editors, animators, and VFX artists, and as media critics, curators, and bloggers. You may be interested in studying the contributions of a single practitioner or those of a relevant professional organisation or advocacy group, such as WIFT. Research into all forms of media is welcomed. Ultimately the project would create new knowledge about women's active roles contouring screen cultures and contents while broadening public understanding of the myriad ways women make these contributions.

**Areas of interest:** Media and cultural studies, feminist production studies, screen history

**Supervisor:**

Associate Professor Julia Erhart

[julia.erhart@flinders.edu.au](mailto:julia.erhart@flinders.edu.au)



## Film archiving and preservation

Film archiving and preservation enrich our understanding of cinema history. This project invites students to work across a range of audiovisual collections on campus, including the South Australian Film Corporation Collection and State Film and Video Library of South Australia collection of 16mm motion picture films. Students will audit and catalogue collections and work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to develop film preservation protocols. This project provides a platform for exploring larger questions around cultural heritage management, canon formation, and film history.

**Areas of interest:** Film preservation, archiving and cultural heritage management, Australian cinema, film history

**Supervisors:**

Dr. Nicholas Godfrey, Dr. Tully Barnett, Associate Professor Julia Erhart  
[nicholas.godfrey@flinders.edu.au](mailto:nicholas.godfrey@flinders.edu.au)

## Documentary and New Technologies (including MoCap)

Contemporary documentary media in the 2020s is hybridising and colliding with experimental technologies. It is becoming live and performed, captured and manipulated, interactive and immersive. It engages with archives in creative new ways. How are new technologies like motion capture expanding the capacities of documentary media and its established claims to truth? Creative and critical studies projects welcome.

**Areas of interest:** Creative and performing arts, screen critical studies, screen production, visual effects and entertainment design

**Supervisor:**

Associate Professor Julia Erhart

[julia.erhart@flinders.edu.au](mailto:julia.erhart@flinders.edu.au)

## Misusing the medieval

There is a long history of the political and ideological use of the "Anglo-Saxon" past, stretching back to 19th century scholars of early medieval England who used ideas of medieval "Germanic" virtues as the basis for a construction of the English national character. More recently, misconceptions of the medieval past have been used by a range of extremist groups in their own constructions of identity and their mission statements.

This project will examine one facet of the use of misconceptions of the medieval in contemporary political or popular extremism.

**Areas of interest:** English, medieval history, identity

**Supervisor:**

Dr Erin Sebo

[erin.sebo@flinders.edu.au](mailto:erin.sebo@flinders.edu.au)

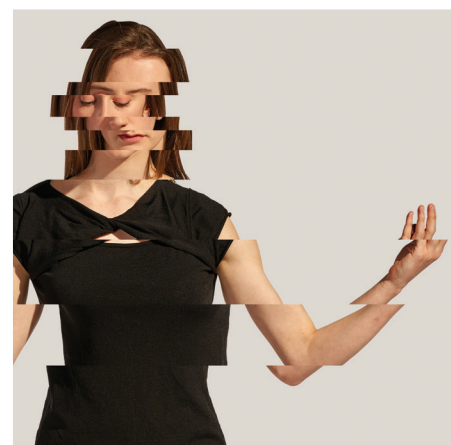




Image: Exhibition launch of Tjina Nurna-Ka, Pmarra Nurna-Kanha, Ibla Ibla Nurna-Kanha: Our Family, Our Country, Our Legacy, 2019, photograph Ryan Cantwell. Flinders University Museum of Art.



## FLINDERS UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF ART

### Student Research Partnerships with FUMA

The following projects are for students to undertake research in any relevant discipline within CHASS, on collections held by FUMA.

#### About Flinders University Museum of Art

Flinders University Museum of Art (FUMA) is located south of Adelaide's city centre on the University's main campus at Bedford Park. Recently expanded and refurbished, the museum was formally established in 1978 to house and manage an expanding collection of art, actively acquired for teaching and research purposes since 1966. Today FUMA is custodian of some 8,000 Australian and international works spanning the fifteenth to twenty-first centuries, making it one of the largest public collections of art in South Australia. FUMA serves the University and wider community as an academic resource and dynamic site of cultural and intellectual exchange through its cross-disciplinary and collaborative projects, exhibitions, research, education and public programs. In partnership with the Flinders University College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, FUMA currently welcomes expressions of interest on the following research projects.

### Victor Klemperer's Germany

One of Germany's most important diarists was Victor Klemperer. From his time as a soldier in World War One, his experience of the German revolutions of 1918 and 1919, his narrow escape as a German Jew from the Holocaust through to his later life in Communist East Germany, Klemperer kept a careful and deeply personal record of the course of history and its direct impact upon his own life. This project will take up an aspect of Klemperer's life and examine how he viewed social changes as both political and deeply personal.

**Areas of interest:** German revolutions, Nazism, communism, the Holocaust

#### Supervisor:

Professor Matthew Fitzpatrick  
[matthew.fitzpatrick@flinders.edu.au](mailto:matthew.fitzpatrick@flinders.edu.au)







### **Shedding Light on Józef Stanislaw Ostoja-Kotkowski: The Edward Stirling Booth Collection**

As a result of the widespread devastation of the Second World War, Polish-born artist Józef Stanislaw Ostoja-Kotkowski migrated to Australia in 1949. In the early 1950s he worked at the Leigh Creek coalmines and was captivated by the local iridescent desert light, an influence which shifted the focus of his visual arts practice to the illustration of kaleidoscopic variations of light in an Australian context. He settled in the Adelaide Hills in 1955 where he occupied a cottage on the estate of Edward Stirling Booth for forty years, until his death in 1994. Donated by Mr Booth, the Collection of over 400 works reveals the development of the artist's practice from drawing and painting to experimental photography, particularly with laser kinetics. Students can analyse the development of Ostoja-Kotkowski's work within the context of postwar Australia and the early development of multimedia art forms. Students will also learn to prepare a significance assessment of the Collection.

**Areas of interest:** Creative and visual arts, multimedia art, contemporary art, art history, cultural heritage management, émigré experiences, post-Second World War society

**Supervisors:**

Professor Peter Monteath,  
Professor Penny Edmonds  
[peter.monteath@flinders.edu.au](mailto:peter.monteath@flinders.edu.au)

### **Uncovering the Archive of Australia's Oldest Aboriginal Art Centre: The Pukatja/ Ernabella Arts Community Collection**

On behalf of the Pukatja community based in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands of Far North South Australia, Ernabella Arts Inc. deposited over 600 objects at Flinders University Museum of Art to consolidate cultural material for future generations of Pukatja and the wider community, and to ensure safekeeping. Representing key art historical developments at Pukatja, the Collection comprises ceramics, sculpture, textiles, paintings, prints and works on paper from the mid-twentieth century to the early twenty-first century. Students can examine the history and development of the Collection, the roles of women in contributing to and facilitating the Collection, and the Collection's national significance in line with protocols for community consultation. Students will also learn to prepare a significance assessment of the Collection.

*Please note that all projects undertaken with the Pukatja/Ernabella Arts Community Collection must adhere to relevant cultural protocols and are subject to community approval.*

**Supervisors:**

Dr Natalie Harkin  
Dr Ali Baker  
[natalie.harkin@flinders.edu.au](mailto:natalie.harkin@flinders.edu.au)



## **General enquiries**

Our friendly staff are available to answer your general questions about studying at Flinders:

**1300 354 633 (local call cost)**

**[flinders.edu.au/ask](https://flinders.edu.au/ask)**

**[askflinders@flinders.edu.au](mailto:askflinders@flinders.edu.au)**

**[Flinders.edu.au](https://flinders.edu.au)**