

**Business, Economics and Law**

# Partnering for Impact

# Contents

- 4 **Why BEL research?**
- 5 **Partner with us**
- 6 **Building sustainable futures**
  - › The 'glass half full' approach: making environmental offsets appealing to rural winegrowers
  - › A sustainable approach to hotel happiness: the initiative increasing guests' fun and reducing environmental harm
- 12 **Navigating technological disruption**
  - › The digital health generation: how Queensland is leading the way for healthcare transformation
  - › Trust issues: a roadmap for building confidence in AI
- 18 **Towards an inclusive society**
  - › Getting to the heart of the matter: rural and remote health research has value
  - › Youth injustice: does our justice system cause young people to offend?
- 24 **Research infrastructure**
- 25 **Specialist centres**
- 26 **Research fellowships and chairs**



## Message from Professor Andrew Griffiths

*We are committed to ensuring our research has a positive impact on the economy, environment and society at large.*

As Executive Dean, I take great pride in sharing this showcase of **Business, Economics and Law** (BEL) research and its impact. While the following pages provide a small sample of the diverse research being undertaken by BEL academics and their partners and collaborators, I congratulate all BEL academics on their research endeavours. I also thank the dedicated staff who support our research activities.

On behalf of the BEL Faculty, UQ and myself personally, thank you to our supporters and collaborators who make this great research possible and importantly, give relevance to our research findings. Through our partnerships with business, industry, government and the broader community, we can ensure our research translates into valuable outcomes for the benefit of all.

We hope you take away from this document:

- an **awareness** of the diverse research BEL academic staff and research students are undertaking
- an **appreciation** of how you could apply BEL research to your organisation, such as to resolve stubborn problems and tackle emerging challenges
- an **action** plan for engaging with BEL research, whether that is to collaborate, partner, sponsor or participate.

### **Professor Andrew Griffiths**

Executive Dean  
Faculty of Business, Economics and Law

# Why BEL research?

*Build capability in your community or organisation and create a better world*

Did you know that the challenges that keep you up at night might create a pathway to a better world? Whether you are seeking to improve people's health, safety and quality of life; increase resilience, sustainability and trust in your industry; or advocate for your community, a partnership with our researchers can help unlock a new way forward.

We are experts at discovering opportunity in the challenges you face. Working together, we can achieve more than you thought possible.

Our capacity	Our research units	Our partners	Our impact
275 researchers*	UQ Business School	Government agencies	Informing policy
160 higher degree by research students*	TC Beirne School of Law	Local industry and business	Influencing change
2 research intensive centres	School of Economics	Charities and not-for-profit organisations	Solving problems
2 state-of-the-art research laboratories	Australian Institute for Business and Economics	Industry bodies	Preventing disasters
511 research publications*	Centre for the Business and Economics of Health	Multi-national organisations	Managing risks

\*2020 figures

# Partner with us

*The BEL Faculty is committed to ensuring our research has impact for the benefit of our local and global community. Our research can take place through a variety of channels, including consultancy, collaborative research, student placements and lifelong learning.*

- Collaborate**
  - Engage BEL academics to apply their knowledge and expertise to address the needs of your organisation or community.
  - Co-create with BEL academics to generate new knowledge to deal with complex challenges.
  - Partner with BEL academics on research grants.
- Host**
  - Host undergraduate and graduate student placements in your organisation as part of UQ's commitment to workplace ready graduates through work-integrated learning.
- Sponsor**
  - Research chairs
  - PhD scholarships
  - Research facilities and infrastructure
  - Community engagement and outreach events.
- Build capability**
  - Future-proof your workforce through accredited courses or bespoke training.



**i**  
For more information on how to partner with BEL Research, contact [research@bel.uq.edu.au](mailto:research@bel.uq.edu.au).





## Building sustainable futures

We all have a role to play in ensuring the welfare of our planet. However, business and industry in particular are increasingly expected to deliver on long-term sustainability goals. Our researchers study the behaviour of consumers, industry and business to help inform the development of policy, strategies and interventions to support a sustainable future.

Research topics include:

- **Circular economy**
- **Transitioning of rural and regional economies**
- **Sustainable tourism**
- **Emissions trading and carbon offsets**
- **Business sustainability**
- **Coasts and climate change**





# The ‘glass half full’ approach: making environmental offsets appealing to rural winegrowers

*“We value their innovative approach to making environmental offsets attractive to individual farmers, effectively demystifying a very new idea in Australian agriculture.”*

Director of RECoE Associate Professor **Ben Lyons**



Planet Earth is facing a climate emergency. Rising global temperatures fuelled by greenhouse gas emissions have already had devastating consequences, including bushfires, drought, heatwaves and loss of wildlife and livelihoods.



**Thank you to our partner**  
**Rural Economies Centre of Excellence (RECoE)**

To tackle this emergency on a local scale, UQ **School of Economics** researchers **Associate Professor Ian MacKenzie** and **Associate Professor Lana Friesen** have partnered with the Queensland Government-funded **Rural Economies Centre of Excellence (RECoE)**.

Their focus was Queensland’s Granite Belt region, where they studied the effectiveness of environmental offsetting practices and investigated ways to boost their uptake by local winegrowers.

Critically, they found that providing winegrowers with relevant case studies and information on the costs and benefits of these practices could encourage uptake.

To kickstart their research, the team surveyed Granite Belt winegrowers about

their current practices and the barriers to their investment in offsetting.

Lead investigator Dr MacKenzie said offsetting practices and technologies in the region included mulching, cover cropping, reducing chemical spraying and installing solar panels.

“These practices have dual benefits – they improve biodiversity and curb emissions while giving farmers another source of revenue,” he said.

However, Dr Friesen said the winegrowers they spoke to were reluctant to invest in offsetting practices.

“They told us they aren’t participating – not because they don’t want to, but because the information they’re getting is complex and unclear,” Dr Friesen said.

“Agribusiness owners lack knowledge

about what’s available to them, particularly around the costs and benefits of offsetting practices.

“They don’t have the time or resources to figure it out; they’re simply trying to survive.”

Based on the survey results, the team designed and conducted a field experiment with their research assistant – former economics honours student and University medallist, **Jo Auer**.

Ms Auer held detailed interviews with 18 local winegrowers and used case studies to measure how information affected their offset investment decisions.

Their results showed that giving winegrowers clear information about the environmental and financial costs and benefits of offsetting practices – no matter whether that information came from the government or peers – increased their willingness to invest.

“Once we provided more information, we noticed a statistically large improvement in their adoption of hypothetical sustainable practices,” Dr MacKenzie said.

“We did find that their willingness to invest might be affected by business size – for instance, investment was higher among larger winegrowers.”

Director of RECoE Associate Professor Ben Lyons said Dr MacKenzie and Dr Friesen were leading a “central discussion” for regional and rural Australia.

“We value their innovative approach to making environmental offsets attractive to individual farmers, effectively demystifying a very new idea in Australian agriculture,” Dr Lyons said.

“No one has ever done large-scale experiments in this space, particularly not in Australia.

“This is seminal work that will be ongoing in its impact, and we will continue to build on it.”



Associate Professors Ian MacKenzie and Lana Friesen

The researchers said their experimental economics approach meant they could control variables and focus on specific aspects that partners wanted to investigate.

“By designing field or lab experiments and applying our state-of-the-art economic modelling tools to real-life scenarios, we can help with decision-making that has a positive impact,” Dr MacKenzie said.

They hope to start a conversation about sustainable practices in Queensland, showing it’s possible to improve the environment while generating profit.

“Innovation in agribusiness is starting to happen, but we must focus on designing environmental policy that clearly communicates the costs and benefits of offsetting practices,” Dr Friesen said.

“In doing so, we can reduce Australia’s climate footprint and improve the resilience of the agriculture industry.”

Their findings will reach policymakers and key agribusiness stakeholders across Queensland.

The research project received financial backing from RECoE, which is funded by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. RECoE is a


research collaboration between four Queensland universities – UQ, University of Southern Queensland, James Cook University and Central Queensland University.

Other current UQ and RECoE collaborations include projects on **energy transitions for rural and regional Queensland** and the **tourism and wine industries’ contributions to the regional economy**.

Off the back of this research, Dr MacKenzie and Dr Friesen have received a \$150,000 grant from AgriFutures – together with Dr Phillip Currey from Southern Queensland Landscapes – to investigate carbon offsetting pathways for small farmers. They will continue to explore questions around offsetting through future projects.

Read more stories like this at [bel.uq.edu.au/insights](https://bel.uq.edu.au/insights) 

**Associate Professor Ian MacKenzie**  
E: [i.mackenzie@uq.edu.au](mailto:i.mackenzie@uq.edu.au)

**Associate Professor Lana Friesen**  
E: [l.friesen@uq.edu.au](mailto:l.friesen@uq.edu.au)  
 Find Lana on LinkedIn



# A sustainable approach to hotel happiness: the initiative increasing guests' fun and reducing environmental harm



From eco-tourism hotels in Slovenia to luxury chains in Australia, a BEL researcher is working with operators to change the way tourism tackles sustainability, while making it fun for guests.

Globally, tourism has emerged as one of the hardest-hit industries during the COVID-19 pandemic, but its income is paramount to the survival of most countries. The size and growth of the industry is responsible for one in every 11 jobs worldwide.

Yet, the celebrated economic contribution of the tourism sector comes as a substantial environmental cost. Tourism is also responsible for more than 35 million tonnes of solid waste every year, contributing up to 12.5 per cent to global warming.

The challenge for tourism and hotel operators is how to reduce their environmental footprint without affecting guest satisfaction or their bottom line.

**Professor Sara Dolnicar** and her team in **AIBE** are working with hotel partners across the globe on **The Low Harm Hedonism Initiative**, developing solutions to reduce environmental damage caused in enjoyment-focused tourism contexts.

Funded by the **Australian Research Council**, the initiative set key targets for sustainable practices to remain cost-efficient and ideally increase customer satisfaction.

"We have been partnering with hotels globally on increasing sustainable measures for years now and can recommend a number of simple strategies operators can implement to become more environmentally and economically sustainable in a post-pandemic world," Professor Dolnicar said.

*"Testing our ideas in hotels is the only way we can know for sure they actually work, and that's what research is all about – understanding how things work and changing them to create better futures."*

Professor **Sara Dolnicar**

Professor Dolnicar and her team conducted several studies and discovered that hotels could become more sustainable by reducing plate waste at buffets.

"Guests leave a lot of food uneaten on their plates at buffets, about 15 grams per person per day at a hotel breakfast buffet, and 233 grams across all meals of the day," Professor Dolnicar said.

"But it's important to make it fun for visitors to behave in environmentally friendly ways."

One example from The Low Harm Hedonism Initiative research is the use of a stamp collection game for families as a way to reduce plate waste at hotel buffets.

"We conducted an experimental study during the peak summer season in two hotels in the seaside town of Portoroz in Slovenia to see if we could incorporate an element of play as a way to reduce wastage," Professor Dolnicar said.

Upon checking in, families are given a stamp collection booklet. Every day at the dinner buffet, after the entire family

leaves no uneaten food behind, they get a stamp. At checkout, the children can redeem the completed stamp booklet for a prize.

"The game reduced plate waste among families by 34 per cent and saved 8000 Euros in two months for one hotel alone, although families made up only a fraction of their guests," Professor Dolnicar said.

"The beauty of the stamp game is that it reduced food costs for the hotel, reduced food waste and increased vacation fun for children, while supporting parental messaging about eating up – truly a win-win."

One waiter working at the hotel with eight years of industry experience said the idea of rewarding families with stamps for finishing all their food was received by parents and children with the utmost enthusiasm.

"Mums were especially cute. You could tell how proud they were of their kids and sometimes even of themselves, because they managed to motivate kids to be more mindful of food," the waiter said.

Another waiter commented, "Sometimes kids would run over to me and kindly ask if they can get the stamp ... kids were excited during our walk to their table, saying that they ate it all."

According to Professor Dolnicar, partnering with hotels and tourism operators to conduct research onsite is vital in trialling new strategies to help build sustainability and long-term resilience.

"Testing our ideas in hotels is the only way we can know for sure they actually work, and that's what research is all about – understanding how things work and changing them to create better futures," she said.

Professor Dolnicar and UQ colleagues Dr Monica Chien, Dr Ya-Yen Sun, Dr Faith Ong and Associate Professor Marius Portman have received a \$360,000 ARC Linkage Project grant to further investigate which interventions are most effective at reducing hotel plate waste.

The project aims to lower food costs for the struggling tourism industry, reduce carbon emissions and contribute to Australia's aim of halving food waste by 2030.

Professor Dolnicar's Low Harm Hedonism Initiative has received global recognition at the Alimara CETT Awards in Barcelona, Spain, winning the '2021 Through Research Award' for encouraging people to become more environmentally sustainable while on holidays.



Professor Sara Dolnicar



Thank you to the Australian Research Council

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**Professor Sara Dolnicar**

**E:** [s.dolnicar@uq.edu.au](mailto:s.dolnicar@uq.edu.au)

**T:** [@SaraDolnicar](https://twitter.com/SaraDolnicar)

**in** Find Sara on LinkedIn

Sara is a member of the Business School's **Business Sustainability Initiative**



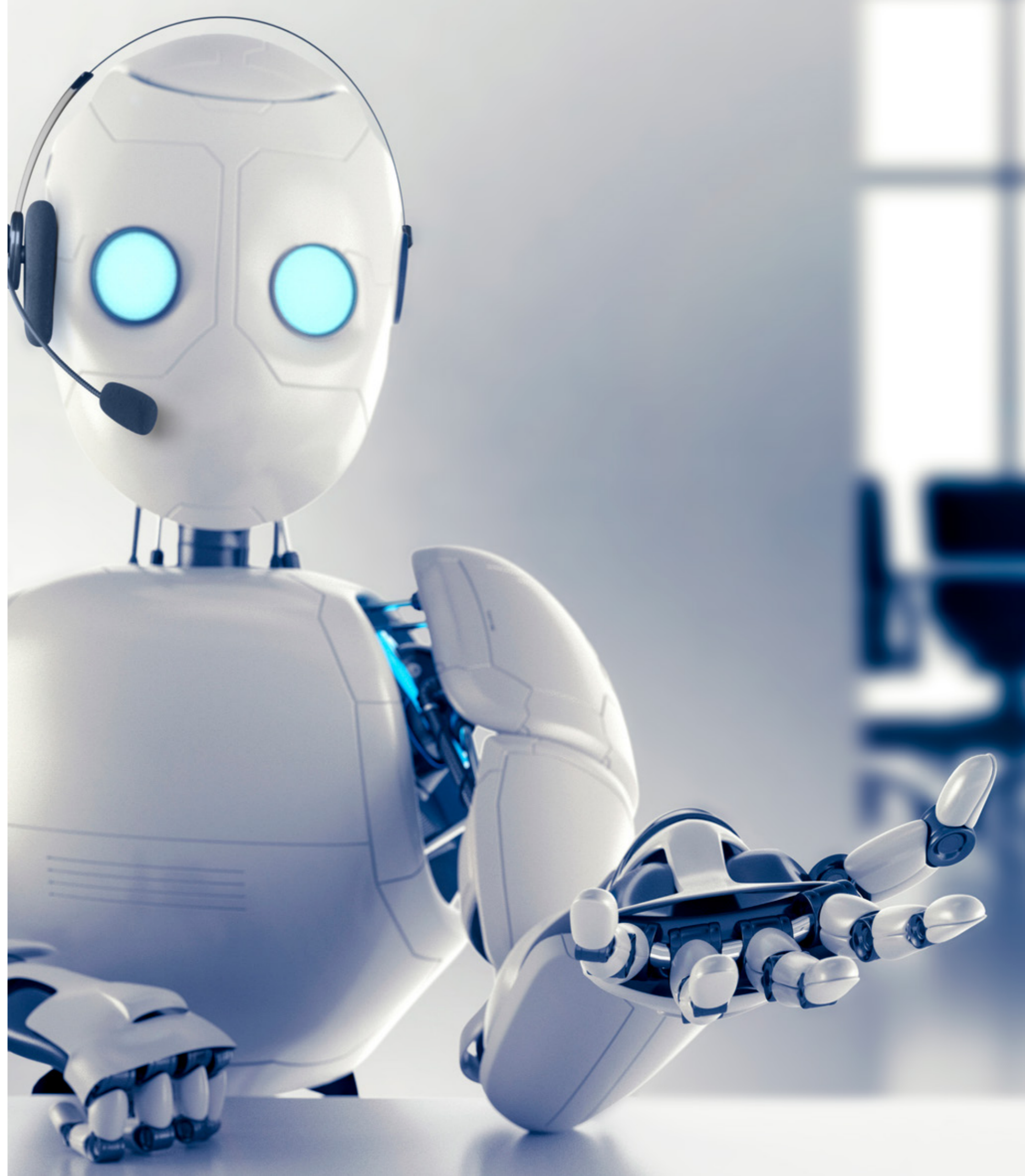


## Navigating technological disruption

New technologies have the potential to benefit society, the environment and the economy. How new technologies are adopted and implemented will determine whether their full potential is realised. No sector or industry is immune to technological disruption, which is why our researchers study how new technologies are harnessed by business managers, front-line workers and employees, consumers and end-user beneficiaries.

Research topics include:

- **Artificial intelligence – ethics, law and trust**
- **Future of health care and delivery**
- **Service innovation**
- **Productivity and efficiency analysis**
- **Food security and production**
- **Workplace futures**





# The digital health generation: how Queensland is leading the way for healthcare transformation

*“We’ve developed a framework we believe will become the gold standard for transformation leadership and project assurance.”*

UQ PhD candidate **Natalie Smith**



Professor Andrew Burton-Jones

Business School researchers are working with Queensland Health and the Digital Health Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) to help digitalise and transform healthcare delivery in Queensland.

In 2015, Business School researcher **Professor Andrew Burton-Jones** commenced research with the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane to study its journey in becoming Australia’s first large digital hospital.

It was one of the few hospitals outside the US to move to all-digital operations.

Since then, 27 Queensland hospitals have joined the digital revolution as part of a program to improve our healthcare system.

Professor Burton-Jones and UQ PhD candidate **Natalie Smith** are now working in partnership with **Queensland Health** and the **Digital Health CRC**, continuing to help Queensland’s health sector use their digital systems to transform care and empower staff.

“We’re excited to work with passionate

partners to create a program which will allow Queensland to lead the national agenda on educating digital health,” Professor Burton-Jones said.

“Digital health care holds the potential to change the way we deliver care to improve outcomes, save lives and provide treatment in a more cost-effective way.

“Healthcare services can only make the change to digital health if staff are empowered with the right knowledge and skills.

“We’re assisting healthcare services and staff to evolve by helping to create new tools, processes and educational programs so that change can occur from within the system.”

Conducting research in real-time, Professor Burton-Jones and Ms

Smith have been embedded within Queensland Health to help hospital staff, project managers and senior leaders navigate the continued digital health transformation.

Ms Smith said working systemically has helped the researchers build capability for the healthcare partners in areas such as leadership capability, information management, vendor management and cybersecurity – roadblocks that can slow progression.

“We’re analysing what systems, structures and processes are impeding progress and how we can help remove or improve them, so that both the outcomes and pace of change can be enhanced,” Ms Smith said.

“We’ve developed a framework we believe will become the gold standard for transformation leadership and project assurance, allowing governments and financiers of healthcare systems to achieve maximum return from their investment and vastly improve patient care.”

Dr Melanie Haines, Education Manager for the Digital Health CRC, said converting real-life initiatives had traditionally been difficult, but believes the partnership with UQ is changing how health care and researchers work together.

Read more stories like this at [bel.uq.edu.au/insights](http://bel.uq.edu.au/insights) 

**Professor Andrew Burton-Jones**

E: [abj@business.uq.edu.au](mailto:abj@business.uq.edu.au)

 Find Andrew on LinkedIn

Andrew is the co-lead for the Business School’s **Future of Health Research Hub**



Thank you to our partners

**Queensland Health**

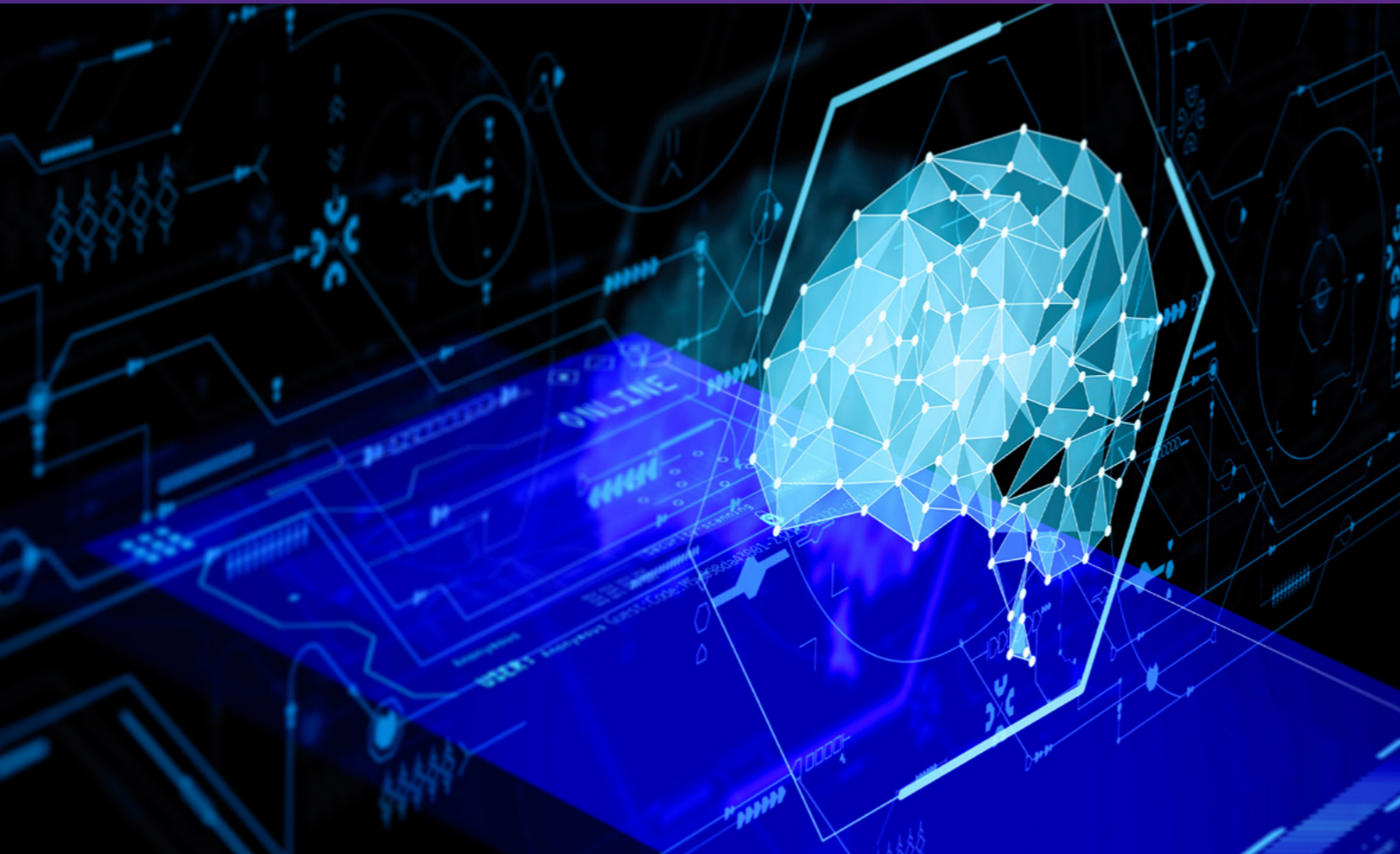
**Digital Health Cooperative Research Centre (CRC)**



# Trust issues: a roadmap for building confidence in AI

“Our work with UQ is one way to support the successful implementation of these technologies while strengthening trust between all stakeholders.”

KPMG Futures Partner in Charge **James Mabbott**



From detecting fraud to correcting typos and powering search engines to saving money, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is evolving across business, government and personal lives.

As AI's reach grows, public confidence that AI is being developed and used in an ethical and trustworthy manner is low. A world-first research project led by the **Business School** in partnership with KPMG has discovered 72 per cent of people don't trust AI.

Organisational trust is an issue that Business School Professor of Management **Nicole Gillespie** has studied for more than 20 years and one that forms a key pillar of the global values of professional services firm **KPMG**.

Bonded by this shared interest, Professor Gillespie and KPMG formalised a partnership in 2019, creating the KPMG Chair in Organisational Trust. They embarked on a series of research projects examining how organisations can build and sustain the trust of their stakeholders and design trustworthy systems.

KPMG Futures Partner in Charge James Mabbott said the partnership was a joint response to a growing awareness and understanding that organisational trust demanded attention and resources.

“Our goal in coming together was to combine KPMG's business expertise with UQ's research into organisational trust, to support organisations to take a long-term, strategic whole-of-business approach to restore and strengthen trust,” he said.

The results of their ground-breaking study **Trust in Artificial Intelligence** – which surveyed more than 6000 people in Australia, the US, Canada, Germany and the UK – together with their recent report **Achieving Trustworthy AI** offer a clear, practical roadmap for organisations to build trust in their AI use.



Professor Nicole Gillespie

“Our five-country study was designed to provide an evidence-based deep-dive into people's trust in AI systems,” Professor Gillespie said.

“The findings highlight several strategies organisations can use to enhance trust in AI, including establishing independent ethical review boards and appropriate governance mechanisms to identify and mitigate the risks of AI systems.”

The UQ-led research project also showed that organisations can bolster trust by proactively building employee and customer understanding of AI systems.

“Understanding AI is a key driver of trust, yet most people report limited understanding,” Professor Gillespie said.

“When people understand AI, they can make more informed choices, recognise and identify issues and intervene before they escalate.

“AI has many benefits, both to organisations and society but it is also a technology that poses unique risks and challenges, such as explaining how it generates recommendations and maintaining appropriate oversight of automated decisions.

“Many organisations are still at an early stage of maturity in establishing the necessary technical and governance foundations to ensure ethical AI use.

“Like any new, powerful technology, trust is really critical to its acceptance.”

Mr Mabbott said AI was described by World Economic Forum founder Klaus Schwab as a “fusion of technologies that is blurring the lines between the physical, digital and biological spheres”.

“This fusion speaks to the more sophisticated opportunities for AI such as precision medicine, autonomous vehicles, digital twins and augmented humans; a fusion that will be much harder to realise, slower to achieve and economically expensive if we don't trust in the technology,” he said.

“To build trust in AI, organisations and governments must meet society's expectations of trustworthy and ethical AI, build strong and robust regulatory frameworks and help educate Australians to strengthen our AI literacy.”

In addition to making the *Trust in Artificial Intelligence* report publicly accessible – and delivering insights via webinars, published articles, executive

education, presentations and industry engagement – Professor Gillespie's research team is working with KPMG to develop practical toolkits for organisations.

“This research doesn't stop at publication,” Professor Gillespie said.

“We are developing tools and maturity indexes to help organisations identify their strengths and areas of development in building and sustaining trust with their stakeholders and supporting trustworthy conduct in line with best practice.”

“The development of new business models, products and services can happen at speed when trust is high and stalls considerably when trust is low,” Mr Mabbott added.

“In a world where the pace of change seems to be ever-increasing and new technologies abound, trust is the fly wheel around which adoption and uptake will accelerate.

“Our work with UQ is one way to support the successful implementation of these technologies while strengthening trust between all stakeholders.”

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**Professor Nicole Gillespie**

**E:** [n.gillespie@business.uq.edu.au](mailto:n.gillespie@business.uq.edu.au)

**T:** [@DrNGillespie](https://twitter.com/DrNGillespie)

**IN:** Find Nicole on LinkedIn

Nicole is the co-lead for the Business School's **Trust, Ethics and Governance Research Hub**



Thank you to our partner  
**KPMG**





## Towards an inclusive society

An inclusive society supports people's right to live free from discrimination, violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. However, one in five Australians experience major discrimination based on their age, gender, identity, sexual orientation, religion, ability or origin. With the aim of influencing policy and corporate behaviour and promoting social change, our researchers study inclusiveness in the workplace, the legal system and society more broadly in various contexts.

Research topics include:

- **Intergenerational workplaces and knowledge transfer**
- **Gender equality from classroom to boardroom**
- **Socio-economic status and disparity**
- **Disability, inclusion, independence and accessibility**
- **Freedom of speech and press freedom**
- **Racial discrimination**





# Getting to the heart of the matter: rural and remote health research has value



UQ health economists have partnered with a rural health and medical research network to shine a light on the value of rural health research.

Cardiovascular disease is one of the leading causes of death in Australia, costing the economy about \$10 billion annually.

For rural and remote populations, much more is at stake. Around 30 per cent of Australians live rurally without easy access to health care, and these communities have 20 to 30 per cent higher rates of cardiovascular disease.

Despite these alarming statistics, UQ **Centre for the Business and Economics of Health (CBEH)** researcher **Associate Professor Haitham Tuffaha** said there was a lack of funding for rural and remote health research across the board.

“In 2018, only 2.4 per cent of National Health and Medical Research Council funding was allocated to rural health research,” Dr Tuffaha said.

“One likely explanation is poor awareness of the value of this research.”

To demonstrate the return on investment of rural and remote health research, the **Spinifex Network** commissioned a report from CBEH researchers Dr Tuffaha and **Professor Stephen Birch**.

Their report centred on a proposed randomised control trial led by University of Newcastle nutrition and dietetics researcher **Professor Clare Collins**.

The proposed trial would involve dietitians giving rural patients nutrition advice via telehealth to help reduce their risk of diet-related cardiovascular disease.

Using the ‘value of information (VOI) analysis’ method, Dr Tuffaha and Professor Birch found that if the randomised control trial took place, the

“So how will this proposed trial help healthcare providers make better decisions and avoid extra costs? We expect the value of improved decision-making to be around \$20.7 million.”

Associate Professor **Haitham Tuffaha**

return on investment would be around \$60 million.

“VOI analysis allows us to objectively and transparently assess the value of health research – specifically, in terms of how it improves decision-making and implementation,” Dr Tuffaha said.

“So how will this proposed trial help healthcare providers make better decisions and avoid extra costs? We expect the value of improved decision-making to be around \$20.7 million.

“If the proposed trial benefits the participants, other healthcare providers are more likely to try the same intervention. We estimate the value of wider implementation to be around \$39.5 million.”

Dr Tuffaha said the estimated \$60 million total payoff far eclipsed the \$1 million required to fund the proposed trial.

“For every dollar invested in this research, it will generate \$58 in value – an expected return on investment of 5800 per cent,” he said.

“If you’re funding new research, this proposed trial is an obvious choice.

“It’s time to address the funding imbalance – here, we have proven that rural research can improve health and decision-making and generate economic and social dividends for rural and remote communities.”

The study was one of the first in Australia to use VOI analysis to measure the value of a real-life research proposal.

Dr Tuffaha said their findings could benefit researchers and funding bodies.

“Researchers can use VOI analysis to forecast the expected return on investment of their proposals,” he said.

“Likewise, government agencies, research organisations and advocacy groups can use it to assess proposals and prioritise research funding – well before the research begins.



Associate Professor **Haitham Tuffaha**

“Australia spends a huge amount on medical research. This approach would allow all involved to maximise their resources, money and time.”

Professor Collins said Dr Tuffaha’s report was a potential gamechanger for her research field.

“Nutrition is undervalued for the impact it can have on health care and quality of life,” she said.

“It’s especially vital for people in rural areas with higher rates of diet-related heart disease.

“However, the only way we can get government and healthcare agencies to value nutrition research is by showing that it has economic value, which is why this study is so important.”

Although the **CBEH and Spinifex Network** report – also known as ‘the Haitham report’ – was published in January 2021, Dr Tuffaha’s work continues.

His next potential project is a user-friendly, programmable tool – similar to a tax refund calculator – that will allow researchers and decision-makers to easily measure their return on investment.

“We’re searching for partners to sponsor this project and help us develop and commercialise this tool for wider use,” Dr Tuffaha said.

The former pharmacist-turned-researcher is well versed in applying health economics principles to different healthcare contexts. His recent work includes a partnership with the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance, as well as giving evidence at a **parliamentary review** on improving access to new drugs and medical technologies.

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**Dr Haitham Tuffaha**

**E:** [h.tuffaha@uq.edu.au](mailto:h.tuffaha@uq.edu.au)

**T:** [@HaithamTuffaha](https://twitter.com/HaithamTuffaha)

**LI:** Find Haitham on LinkedIn



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**Spinifex Network**



# Youth injustice: does our justice system cause young people to offend?

*“Appearing before a court feels unjust to these children... they sense that injustice and it makes them not respect the system.”*

Professor **Tamara Walsh**



Professor Tamara Walsh

Disadvantaged children can receive criminal sanctions after committing crimes of necessity – including fare evasion – to survive. If their offending persists or escalates, these children can end up in youth detention facilities across Australia.

In her work as a lawyer, TC Beirne School of Law **Professor Tamara Walsh** has witnessed police charge a young client for fare evasion on their way to court.

With no money to their name, she said children may be wrongly punished for being disadvantaged by a system that is creating a youth justice problem instead of fixing it.

“I question why children are being made to pay transport fares in the first place,” Professor Walsh said.

“For children who can’t pay, it creates a vicious and dangerous cycle.”

Professor Walsh conducted a **study** in 2019 examining the nature and effectiveness of legal responses to the association between child protection and youth justice involvement.

Drawing on extensive contacts from her work in the community, she interviewed youth workers, social workers and lawyers about their experiences dealing with young offenders.

Professor Walsh noted there was a high level of overlap between children in youth detention and children who are placed in residential care facilities in the community.

Unsurprisingly, many participants said that children in residential care may act out because of the trauma they have experienced, or because they have psychological, cognitive or behavioural disabilities.

In one instance, a participant told of how a girl smashed a window and used the broken glass to self-harm.

She was charged with wilful damage after an ambulance was called.

In the United Kingdom, it’s legislated that children in state care “should not be charged with offences resulting from behaviour within a children’s home that would not similarly lead to police involvement if it occurred in a family home.”

There is no such policy or law in Australia.

However, there have long been discussions about lifting the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 and taking a welfare approach to children’s ‘offending’, rather than a punitive approach.

Evidence suggests that the criminal law does not provide **the most effective way to address a child’s behaviour**

under the age of 14, and it does not prevent reoffending.

Professor Walsh’s most recent research with UQ **Associate Professor Robin Fitzgerald** has focused on alternatives to criminalising children.

Research assistant and fifth-year law student Lucy Cornwell said the paper highlighted the inadequacies of the current system.

“Our research challenges the assumption that traditional criminal processes and penalties are the best or only ways to manage youth who enter the criminal justice system,” Ms Cornwell said.

“We show that other jurisdictions – for instance, in the UK and the US – have used alternatives to criminalisation that have been proven effective.”

Professor Walsh said youth workers in residential care homes may not be trained to deal with outbursts of rage or suicide attempts, resulting in more calls to police and charges laid.

“Appearing before a court feels unjust to these children, and they’re right,” she said.

“It’s not fair that they would be punished for not having any money or being unable to deal with their trauma or manage their disability.

“They sense that injustice and it makes them not respect the system.

“Then when the system does intervene, it doesn’t intervene to support or help them.”

According to Professor Walsh, the next step is to fill the gaps in the current research around child protection and youth justice.

“We must talk to affected young people directly and hear their feedback,” she said.

“I completed my 2019 study on legal responses to children in the child protection and youth justice systems without funding from government agencies or partners.

“To extend the research and speak with young people, we would need that extra support.”

Read more stories like this at [bel.uq.edu.au/insights](https://bel.uq.edu.au/insights) 

**Professor Tamara Walsh**

**E:** [t.walsh@law.uq.edu.au](mailto:t.walsh@law.uq.edu.au)



# Research Infrastructure



We have the facilities to model and simulate business and economic scenarios, and conduct research into behaviour in real life and online for world-class innovation.

## Behavioural and Economic Science Cluster Laboratory

The **Behavioural and Economic Science Cluster Laboratory** makes it possible for researchers to unravel results that are often 'mixed'. They use the lab to understand what influences people's decisions in everyday life – for example, when they are choosing a mobile phone, voting in an election, recycling or paying taxes. The lab features:

- 48 interconnected machines that allow for real-time interaction between lab participants
- online software SONA to manage experiments in person at the facility and virtually, and
- programs for delivering economic choice experiments.

## UQ Business School Behavioural Science Laboratory

The **UQ Business School Behavioural Science Laboratory** can reveal what people are really paying attention to and their responses. For example, researchers can use eye tracking to identify which parts of a message participants ignored or viewed, or skin conductance and heart rate to measure emotional arousal to television ads. The laboratory boasts state-of-the-art equipment that monitors:

- brain activity (electroencephalogram – EEG)
- eye movement
- physiological responses such as heart rate and breathing rate, and
- behaviour.

The laboratory was established in 2021 thanks to a generous donation from UQ alumnus Matt McLennan and matching investment from UQ.



# Specialist Centres



Our two largest specialist research centres promote high-quality research that benefits the economy, the environment and society both locally and globally.

## Australian Institute for Business and Economics (AIBE)

Established in 2014, AIBE's mission is to connect businesses and governments to world-leading researchers by engaging with partners focused on cutting-edge technology, environment, economics and policy problems. AIBE is the pathway to access world-class collaborative research capabilities at UQ.

**Established: 2014**

**AIBE is grateful for the ongoing support of UQ alumnus Matt McLennan.**

## Centre for the Business and Economics of Health (CBEH)

CBEH was established as the result of a joint initiative of the BEL Faculty, the **Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences (HaBS)** and the Mater Research Institute-UQ. CBEH investigates innovative, effective and cost-effective healthcare solutions and the economic and social benefits of health and health care. The Centre provides a high-profile vehicle for health policy leadership, debate, engagement and analysis on all aspects of the business and economics of health.

**Established: 2017**

**CBEH is grateful for the ongoing support of the Taylor Family.**



**Professor Brent Ritchie**  
AIBE Director (Acting)



**Professor Stephen Birch**  
CBEH Director



# Research fellowships and chairs

We are extremely proud of our prestigious research fellows and sponsored chairs. We are grateful to our philanthropic supporters and grant agencies. Through this funding, the Faculty is able to attract and retain the brightest minds in their respective fields. These individuals lead research excellence across the Faculty. Their research informs policy and influences organisational and consumer behaviour, benefiting society at large.

## Business School



### Hutchinson Chair in Business Ethics

This Chair is a partnership between UQ and global business leader Mark Hutchinson, and is currently being recruited. The inaugural Chair will guide the learning and teaching of ethics across various courses to help students understand and apply ethics in the workplace as a foundation for a successful career.



### Frank Finn Chair in Finance

Shaun has research interests in the areas of real estate finance and financial economics. Prior to joining the Business School, Shaun was the West Shell Professor of Real Estate in the Department of Finance at the University of Cincinnati and the Director of the UC Real Estate Center.

Professor **Shaun Bond**



### ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award – Charitable triad: how donors, beneficiaries and fundraisers influence giving

Cassandra is testing a new model of charitable giving to examine how donors, beneficiaries, and fundraisers together influence donor decisions. This research can help charities to fundraise more effectively and reduce donor fatigue among generous Australians.

Dr **Cassandra Chapman**



### KPMG Chair in Organisational Trust

Nicole leads a research program examining trust in organisations and emerging technology. She is working with KPMG to develop a series of practical toolkits, guidelines and maturity indexes to help organisations understand and enhance their trustworthiness and responsible use of emerging technology.

Professor **Nicole Gillespie**



### Malcolm Broomhead Chair in Finance

Stephen is well known for his work on empirical finance, asset-pricing and corporate finance. He is an active consultant to industry on issues relating to valuation, cost of capital, corporate financial strategy, financial modelling and financial risk management.

Professor **Stephen Gray**



### Advance Queensland Industry Research Fellowship – Rebuilding the arts sector through peer coaching in partnership with Queensland Ballet, La Boite Theatre and Arts Nexus

The focus of Kate's fellowship is to develop a sustainable peer-coaching program that will connect artists and arts managers around Queensland post-COVID-19. Her research will help rebuild artistic and business practices and foster capacity, collaboration, resilience and wellbeing.

Dr **Kate Power**



### ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award – Empowering users to protect their personal privacy on social media

While most people care about their privacy they often do little to protect it online. Integrating different psychological theories, Marten is seeking to offer a comprehensive understanding of the issue and develop means to overcome this paradoxical inertia after more than 20 years of research.

Dr **Marten Risius**



### Advance Queensland Industry Research Fellowship – Queensland Tourism Workforce Strategy V2: a crisis resilience and recovery plan in partnership with Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC)

Capitalising on his industry experience in food service operations and the hotel sector, Richard's research involves consultation with a broad range of tourism and hospitality stakeholders across many Queensland regions. The results of the study will inform a tourism employment crisis recovery and resilience strategy.

Associate Professor **Richard Robinson**



Dr **Felix Septianto**

### ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award – The role of emotions in marketing cultured meat

Cultured meat represents a revolutionary technology with various environmental and ethical benefits. However, consumer acceptance of this technology is a barrier to its commercialisation. Felix is seeking to understand the role of emotions in promoting consumer acceptance of cultured meat.

## School of Economics



Professor **Claudio Mezzetti**

### Colin Clark Chair

Claudio's research focuses predominantly on microeconomic theory, particularly mechanism design, and game theory and how these can be applied to areas such as competition policy, dispute resolution, procurement, blockchains, ransomware attacks, data breaches and cybersecurity.



Professor **John Quiggin**

### Laureate Fellow in Economics

John is prominent both as a research economist and as a commentator on Australian economic policy. He has written on policy topics including climate change, microeconomic reform, privatisation, employment policy and the management of the Murray-Darling River system.



Professor **Valentin Zelenyuk**

### ARC Future Fellowship – Improving productivity: theory and application to Australian hospitals

Valentin is developing novel tools for analysing productivity and efficiency in Australian hospitals. His research identifies best practices, determinants of these practices and makes recommendations for improvements to reduce healthcare costs and save thousands of lives.

## TC Beirne School of Law



Associate Professor **Paul Harpur**

### ARC Future Fellowship – Normalising ability diversity through career transitions: disability at work

One in five Australians have a disability, and of these, 47.3 per cent are not employed. Through this project, Paul aims to investigate how the higher education sector can better support people with disabilities to transition from economic exclusion to work.



Professor **Brad Sherman**

### ARC Laureate Fellowship – Harnessing intellectual property to build food security

Brad's research focuses on how intellectual property can be used to boost food security in Australia and the Asia Pacific. He consults with policymakers and industry stakeholders nationally and globally.

## AIBE



Professor **Sara Dolnicar**

### ARC Laureate Fellowship – Making a sustainable tourist

Sara has developed a model to predict pro-environmental consumer behaviour in hedonic contexts, such as on vacation. She uses this model to develop and experimentally test practical measures that trigger pro-environmental behaviours among consumers in such contexts.

## CBEH



Professor **Stephen Birch**

### Taylor Family Chair

Stephen's research focuses on the development and evaluation of models for healthcare planning based on population needs. His main contributions are in the integration of health workforce planning across health professions and linking planning models across finance, workforce and services.



Associate Professor **Haitham Tuffaha**

### NHMRC Early Career Fellowship – Improving patient access to novel cancer drugs in Australia: striking the balance

Cancer patients experience delays in accessing new drugs that are not available under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Findings from Haitham's research have policy implications for improving existing drug evaluation processes.



## Connect **with us**

**T:** +61 7 3346 9250

**E:** [research@bel.uq.edu.au](mailto:research@bel.uq.edu.au)

**W:** [bel.uq.edu.au/research](http://bel.uq.edu.au/research)

**A:** Level 5 Reception  
Sir Llew Edwards Building (#14)  
Cnr University Drive & Campbell Road  
The University of Queensland  
St Lucia 4072



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