

Program & Abstracts



10th Annual Postgrad
Research & Practice
Hybrid Conference

22-23 June

Gold Coast Campus & ZoomOnline

Welcome from SCPA President



Dear PRAXIS delegates,

On behalf of the SCPA Management Committee, I extend a warm welcome to the Gold Coast for PRAXIS 2023: SCPA's 10th Annual Postgrad Research & Practice Conference.

Again, this year, we are pleased to showcase a program of innovative and ground-breaking research from many of SCU's best and brightest postgraduate and honours students. And again, this year, we see strong representation from across the Faculties of Education; Health; Science & Engineering; Business, Law and Arts; and Gnibi College.

Some of our presenters are close to completing here at SCU, while many more will be just starting out and presenting their work for the very first time. We hope, then, that we'll all maintain a welcoming, supportive and inclusive atmosphere throughout the conference. To further promote the conference, presenters and postgrad research here at SCU, we encourage you to use the conference hashtag **#PRAXIS2023** and tag **@scupostgrads** on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Finally, I offer our thanks and congratulations to all of our presenters for taking the time to share your work with all of your colleagues in this way.

Best regards,

EMANUEL CARTACAI
PRESIDENT

Day One:

Thursday 22 June (Morning)

8.30	Room C.105: Registrations Open Arrival Morning Tea until 11.00am will be provided in Marquee between Buildings A & C before you walk into the Theatres in Building C.		
9.00	SCPA President Emanuel Cartacai to introduce Welcome to Yugambeh Country: Uncle John Opening by SCPA President Emanuel Cartacai and introduce Prof. Mary Spongberg		
Opening Speaker: Prof. Mary Spongberg, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Academic Capability)			
Session 1 Room C1.05 Chair: Maddison Orpin-Patrick			
9.30	Mark Henderson In Person	Faculty of Health	<i>Volunteer mentors and the agency uncovered in empathy.</i>
9.50	Tamsin Thomas In Person	Faculty of Health	<i>Social Prescribing of Forest Therapy for Adults with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness Living in the Community: A Mixed-Methods Evaluation.</i>
10.10	Denise Mannix Zoom	Faculty of Education	<i>PhD by Research is an exercise in not knowing what you don't know. It is after all a philosophy degree!</i>
10.30	BREAK		
Session 2 Room C1.05 Chair: Tamsin Thomas			
11.00	Cathrina Geldard In Person	Faculty of Health	<i>Clinically-relevant urinary tract infection biofilm models for testing herbal medicine efficacy.</i>
11.20	Ilma Imtiaz In Person	Faculty of Health	<i>Traditional and Contemporary Herbal Medicines in Management of Cancer: A Basis for Cancer Drug Discovery.</i>
11:40	Kerry Oakes In Person	Faculty of Health	<i>The practice of herbal medicine in community managed health care is under-represented in academic literature.</i>
12.00	LUNCH - Room A4.05		

Day One: Thursday 22 June (Afternoon)

1:00				SCPA Annual General Meeting & Elections:		Room C1.05	
Session 3		Room C1.05		Chair: Alison Watts			
2.00	Erin Davis In Person	Faculty of Health	<i>Non-Pharmacological Tactile Activity Interventions for Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia in the Acute Hospital Setting: An Integrative Review.</i>				
2.20	Emma Babbage In Person	Faculty of Business, Law & Arts	<i>How to do a PhD: the question behind your research question.</i>				
2.40	BREAK						
Session 4		Room C1.05		Chair: Craig Wilson			
3.00	Masum Billah In Person	Faculty of Health	<i>Investigating health professionals' knowledge, attitudes, and practices about refugees' health risk behaviours and healthcare utilization in Australia.</i>				
3.20	Rebecca Giani In Person	Faculty of Health	<i>Case Studies of Play-based Therapy for School-aged Children with Autism using a Neurodivergent-affirming Approach.</i>				
3.40	Nourah Labidi Zoom	Faculty of Health	<i>Can participating in communication lead to a happier life? Investigating the link between communication savouring and well-being.</i>				
4.00	Finish for the day						

**6.30 – 10.00pm Conference Dinner
Greenmount Beach Surf Club –
Corner of Hill St & Marine Parade, Coolangatta**

Day Two:

Friday 23 June

(Morning)

9.00	Room C1.35: Registrations Open Arrival Morning Tea until 11.00am will be provided in Marquee between Buildings A & C before you walk into the Theatres in Building C.		
Session 5: Room C1.05 Chair: Maddison Orpin-Patrick			
9.30	Katie Hotko In Person	Faculty of Education	<i>We Make Art and Art Makes Us: An A/r/tographic Exploration of Generalist Primary Teachers' Creative Self Beliefs.</i>
9.50	Kathryn Baltrosky In Person	Faculty of Education	<i>What can we do when 'everything' goes wrong? Kate is going to share how she has found the motivation to keep going when things get tough.</i>
10.10	Carl Hotko In Person	Faculty of Education	<i>Teaching while Black Dogs Bark - Teacher's stories of Vicarious Trauma.</i>
10.30	BREAK		
11.00	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Professor Andrew McAuley former SCU Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)		
Session 6: Room C1.05 Chair: Tamsin Thomas			
11.30	Tobias Gebhardt via Zoom	Gnibi College	<i>How we can walk the talk: Yarning about professional learning in higher education and how Indigenous cultural learning can be provided to staff.</i>
11.50	Gurmeet Matharu In Person	Faculty of Business, Law & Arts	<i>Is Australia ready for change? Consumer behaviour towards plant-based foods.</i>
12.10	Irani De Alwis In Person	Faculty of Business, Law & Arts	<i>Innovation Control Tensions in Information System Development: A Paradox Theory Perspective.</i>
12.30	LUNCH Room A4.05		

Day Two:

Friday 23 June (Afternoon)

Session 7 Room C 1.05 Chair: Alison Watts			
1.30	Maddison Orpin-Patrick In Person	Faculty of Health	<i>The influence of cannabidiol (CBD) on the psychosocial abilities of autistic adults.</i>
1.50	Thor Rigney In Person	Faculty of Health	<i>Chiropractic profession attrition and my journey toward publication.</i>
2.10	Mathew Doyle In Person	Faculty of Health	<i>Chiropractic philosophy in chiropractic education - a mixed methods inquiry through a constructivist and pragmatist lens.</i>
2.30	BREAK		
Session 8 Room C1.05 Chair: Craig Wilson			
3.00	Jubilee Smith In Person	Faculty of Education	<i>Early Childhood Educator Decision-Making about Digital Technology: An Unexplored Dimension.</i>
3.20	David Shaw In Person	Faculty of Education	<i>Gathering some educational experiences of young people who have a parent incarcerated: Using a critical realist methodology to look for mechanisms and structures influencing their education.</i>
3.40	Gabriela Castan In Person	Faculty of Science and Engineering	<i>The effectiveness of current restoration methods in restoring the floristic diversity of open forest Koala habitat.</i>
4.00	Conference Wrap-Up and Close		

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Abstracts

SCPA wishes to acknowledge that the content of each abstract remains in its original form as supplied by the presenter.

Carl Hotko

Teaching while Black Dogs Bark - Teacher's stories of Vicarious Trauma.

This inquiry seeks to understand the impact that pedagogy driven engagement with trauma-affected students might have on the wellbeing of Queensland secondary teachers. The educational climate and culture of Queensland secondary schools, present a variety of factors that influence a teacher's wellbeing, job satisfaction and work-related stress. Within this climate, teachers are required to meet learning outcomes of the National Curriculum (Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority [ACARA], 2023) while also supporting the positive wellbeing of their students (AITSL, 2011). However, teachers are often ill-equipped to appropriately recognise, or respond to student trauma, hence the emergence of the trauma-informed classroom in recent educational research (Brunzell et al., 2016). Through an explanatory, sequential mixed-methods research design, this thesis seeks to identify and explore the risks, extent, and experiences of vicarious trauma in Queensland secondary teachers. The analysis of a cross sectional, self-administered questionnaire including the Vicarious Trauma Scale (n = 380+) will be used to inform the structure of a subset of semi-structured interviews (n = 6), conducted and analysed in a method inspired by narrative inquiry. The data collected through both research phases will be analysed together to provide insight into the vicarious trauma experiences of Queensland secondary teachers and develop a set of recommendations for policy reform, professional development, and teacher education programs.

Cathrina Geldard

Clinically-relevant urinary tract infection biofilm models for testing herbal medicine efficacy

Introduction: Biofilm models of polymicrobial infection are used to study interactions between different microorganisms in biofilms, being important for understanding the molecular mechanisms of biofilm establishment and development, as well as for testing new antibiofilm compounds. In vitro models of polymicrobial biofilm-related infections are essential for exploring fundamental questions about biofilms, laying a foundation for confirmatory in vivo testing. However, most in vitro antimicrobial susceptibility testing assays are performed using monomicrobial biofilms. Few studies have focused on polymicrobial biofilms. There is a need for easy-to-use methods of testing the antibiotic susceptibility of bacteria and fungi that form biofilms and for screening new possible antibiofilm treatments. Here, we describe the development of 2 in vitro models that will be used for screening novel antimicrobials.

Methods: Microtiter plate-based assays were utilised to grow single and mixed-species biofilms of 3 uropathogens (*C. albicans*, *E. coli*, *E. faecalis*). This assay allows high throughput screening of antimicrobials with biofilms grown on abiotic surfaces.

Results: Single-species and mixed-species biofilms were developed. *E. coli*-*E. faecalis* dual-species biofilm was not, even after a range of conditions were explored.

Future directions: Abiotic surfaces do not represent cell layers utilised by microorganisms in vivo. We will develop a biotic model utilising bladder cells in a flow cell system. These systems allow continuous flow of media and nutrients, which better mimics the in vivo environment. Biofilms formed under high shear and turbulent flow are more strongly attached. Biofilms grown under hydrodynamic conditions allow real-time monitoring of biofilm growth and detachment.

Curtis (Thor) Rigney

Chiropractic profession attrition and my journey toward publication

Objectives: A better understanding of the rate of attrition from the chiropractic profession and its reasons may offer insights into the profession's practice environment, education, and professional outcomes. Accurate information on attrition may assist with workforce modelling and help prepare for the projected increase in musculoskeletal health care demand. This review investigated current evidence regarding attrition from the chiropractic profession.

Methods: Searches for peer-reviewed observational and experimental papers published within the past 30 years were conducted in five databases: Medline, CINAHL, AMED, SCOPUS, and Web of Science. Keywords such as chiropractic, attrition, and "burnout, professional" were used. Studies related to student or patient dropouts were excluded.

Results: Three of the 108 identified papers met the inclusion criteria. The two studies that measured attrition reported rates between 4.5% and 27.8%. These ranges were limited to specific chiropractic populations during particular years. The remaining study that investigated the attitudes of non-practicing chiropractors proposed multifactorial causes leading to attrition. The included studies all used a retrospective observational design.

Conclusions: As measured directly or indirectly, the reported rate of attrition from the chiropractic profession ranged between 4.5 and 28%. The factors linked to attrition remain inconclusive. Further research into the rate and reason for attrition from the chiropractic profession is warranted. These early studies, all published more than ten years ago, suggest a retrospective observational design would be appropriate for future research.

David Shaw

Gathering some educational experiences of young people who have a parent incarcerated. Using a critical realist methodology to look for mechanisms and structures influencing their education.

Children affected by parental incarceration. Recognition and support in education.

I aim to examine the educational experience of children affected by parental incarceration. Previous research has shown that these children can face challenges in a wide range of aspects that include physical and mental health, societal engagement, and education. It is also known that although teachers are believed to be well-placed to help and support these young people, evidence suggests that they are not always able to identify or meet their needs. Additionally, information about these children is not routinely collected or considered in the education system, and their voice is missing from both policy and often contemporary research.

To focus on this gap, I propose to conduct a small-scale qualitative study using Critical Realism (CR) to gain a deeper understanding of the stratified reality of these young people in the context of their education. Reaching out to these young people in a manner and setting that seeks to mitigate potential organisational prejudice. I plan to work with a group of around 12 young participants, aged 12-18, who have direct experience of being a child affected by parental incarceration. The main research question I am seeking to address is: "What is school like for young people affected by parental incarceration?"

Supplementary questions of interest include exploring the young people's perceptions of adults in education, the influence of self-stereotypes on the teacher-student relationship, the understandings and beliefs that shape their behaviour, and the impact of the stigma and prejudice associated with parental incarceration on their education. By including the voices and experiences of these young people, I hope to gain valuable new knowledge and improve our understanding of their educational journey and using CR reasoning examine potential pathways to redressing inequalities while also illuminating the causation of how efficacious features such as resilience may have emerged.

Denise Mannix

*PhD by Research is an exercise in not knowing what you don't know.
It is after all a philosophy degree!*

Most would agree that taking on a PhD by research is no small decision. In the light of the journey that has to be navigated, the various gates maneuvered through, and the specific outcome to be achieved, I am here to argue that the initial decision is definitely, small in comparison to the complexity of what follows. You don't know what you don't know at the beginning and towards the end, you wouldn't suspect where you end up in your learning and in coming to understand and know. The journey to my In Candidature Review was a mixed bag of uncertainty, lack of confidence and being lost in my head. And then the fog began to clear . . . Join me as I discuss my experience of my still-to-be-finished PhD path with helpful hints that I found in hindsight while uncovering certainty, confidence and clarity on the way.

Erin Davis

Non-Pharmacological Tactile Activity Interventions for Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia in the Acute Hospital Setting: An Integrative Review.

People living with dementia will likely require hospitalisation at some point, with many experiencing an exacerbation of behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia. Pharmacological interventions are often used to manage behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia despite the low success rate and the heightened risk of morbidity and mortality. A low-cost and resource-intensive alternative is non-pharmacological interventions such as tactile activity interventions.

We conducted an integrative review of the literature and found that there is limited evidence exploring tactile activity interventions for the behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia in acute hospital settings. However, it appears an Individualised approach in combination with staffing expertise are central to the successful implementation of tactile activity interventions. I wish to share the findings of this review in more detail.

Emma Babbage

How to do a PhD: the question behind your research question.

We spend so much time researching our theory, methodology and methods, and making sure that our research design aligns, but how often do we stop and think about our own processes? Perhaps it is time to pause and reflect on what it is that you are doing when you are doing your PhD, and whether this is working for you. In the beginning of doing my PhD, I was preoccupied with the question of how to do a PhD. I would ask everyone I know doing a PhD what they did, how often they worked, and how long they worked for. Then I realised that there is no “one size fits all” of doing a PhD and that it was actually up to me to devise my own processes that suit not only my project, but myself. I never fulfilled the ‘get up and write at 5am’ vision, but I did adopt and adapt some strategies from the literature that became a sort of process for me of defining, and then getting in, the arena. Each ‘arena’ is different, and I will give examples from my own PhD life of how I devised my own tasks based on what was needed at the time, as well as strategies and advice from my journey. The purpose of this presentation is to share insights into what came to work for me, in the hope that it may be helpful to you as you reflect on your own processes of doing a PhD.

Gabriella Castan

The effectiveness of current restoration methods in restoring the floristic diversity of open forest Koala habitat

Efforts to restore open forests ecosystems have increased substantially over recent decades, but it is unclear if current methods, mostly involving the planting of canopy trees, are restoring the full floristic diversity of these forests. The scope of this research involves a flora assessment and soil seed bank analysis at SEQ and Northern NSW, comparing remnant and restored koala forests to determine if current approaches restore floristic composition, and finally, a review of the restoration plans to identify if issues arise at the planning stage. The first chapter of this thesis will identify groundcover species (above and belowground), to investigate if the floristic diversity of restoration sites is different than remnant sites. Then, mechanisms of dispersion and cues to germination of the species list will be obtained by desktop assessment, to examine if species traits are influencing on the results found.

In chapter two, I will review koala habitat management/ restoration plans to determine how they approach the restoration of floristic composition, and whether an additional restoration treatment would be beneficial for the enhancement of natural regeneration. This research will provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of current methods of koala/open forest restoration, and guide development of improved methods to achieve better outcomes on restoration techniques currently being used within this ecosystem.

Gurmeet Kaur Matharu

Is Australia ready for change? Consumer behaviour towards plant-based foods.

Plant-based (PB) food has many health benefits (e.g., lowering of cholesterol, blood pressure and weight), environmental benefits (e.g., reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and saving of water), and avoids issues of animal cruelty. Despite these advantages, the proportion of vegetarians and vegans in the Australian population has increased only marginally in recent years, and Australians have the second-highest meat consumption per capita in the world after Argentina. There are calls by the Australian government, animal-welfare activists, and nutritionists to reduce meat consumption, especially red meat.

The quantitative data have been collected from Australian consumers through an online structured questionnaire designed and distributed in Qualtrics. 825 completed questionnaires have been received through an online survey via social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and WhatsApp). The results indicated that skills, knowledge, habits and self-monitoring and action planning each share a significant share of variance in capability. The findings revealed that social/professional role and identity, optimism, intentions, beliefs about consequences, beliefs about capabilities, emotions, and reinforcement each share a significant portion of variance with motivation. The results further claimed that environmental context and resources, and social influences each share a significant portion of variance with opportunity. After that, capability, opportunity and motivation positively and significantly influence behaviour towards PB foods. Then, motivation was affected by the capability and opportunity and mediated their effects on behaviour towards PB foods.

Ilma Imtiaz

Traditional and Contemporary Herbal Medicines in Management of Cancer: A Basis for Cancer Drug Discovery

Background: Cancer is one of the leading causes of death worldwide and is predominantly managed by a range of anti-cancer drugs. Chemotherapy provides many survival benefits to cancer patients at both early and later stages of disease but are known to develop resistance, exhibit non-selective toxicity against normal cells and induce dose-limiting side effects such as chemotherapy induced peripheral neuropathy. Traditional medicine is used extensively worldwide due to availability, affordability, wide applicability, and accessibility. While potential for traditional medicines in management of cancer is well-documented, there is limited literature that collates traditional knowledge and contemporary herbal medicine practices. This review could form the basis for future research to uncover less known medicinal plants and their compounds with potential anti-cancer activities.

Objective: To collate available evidence on herbal medicines used in the management of all cancers from traditional world-wide sources, and the management of lung and colorectal cancers in contemporary practice.

Methods: Medicinal plants with anti-cancer properties were identified through a search of the following sources: Trove, Archive.Org, and Henriette's herbal medicine page (traditional historical herbal texts; 1800 to 1945), book list available from World Naturopathic Federation white paper (contemporary naturopathic texts; 1945 to 2021), and in scientific databases (case studies; any time period).

Results: The traditional texts (n=111) noted the highest number of different anti-cancer herbal species, followed by case reports (n=52) and contemporary texts (n=13). From traditional herbs (n=111), *Calendula officinalis*, *Hydrastis canadensis*, and *Cannabis sativa* are the only herbs used in contemporary clinical practice (n=3).

Conclusion: This review identified various herbal medicines used to treat cancer traditionally that are distinct to those found in contemporary use. Further, the incorporation of herbs used from native medical systems around the world was noted in the contemporary Australian naturopathic practice. This is in line with the movement of herb use from the traditional Anglo-American system to the contemporary mixed system. The evidence presented in the review could be utilized in pre-clinical settings to research traditional preparations of herbs and their anti-cancer properties.

Irani De Alwis

Innovation Control Tensions in Information System Development: A Paradox Theory Perspective

In contemporary organisations, tensions between minimum viability and fostering an innovation culture are inevitable. Need for minimum viability creates a compelling need for delivering a viable product within constraints such as time, budget, and functionality. Nevertheless, Information system (ISD) organisations strive to create an environment that encourages risk taking, experimentation, and the pursuit of breakthrough solutions. Drawing upon paradox theory, this study explores the inherent tensions between opposing priorities of aforementioned concepts and their implications for ISD projects.

This study presents the paradoxical tensions that are not limited to exploration vs. exploitation and risk-taking vs. risk-avoidance. Paradox theory proposes that such tensions are not mere problems to solve but inherent to the nature of ISD projects. The theory demonstrates the need to acknowledge and embrace the tensions rather than endeavouring to eliminate them. It highlights that successful organisations are those that can effectively equilibrate the contradictory goals of minimum viability and innovation culture.

By exploring paradoxical nature of the tensions between minimum viability and innovation culture, this study aims to contribute to a better understanding of the challenges faced by ISD projects. It provides insights on the importance of fostering an organisational culture that encourages innovation while concurrently ensuring project deliverables meet minimum viable requirements. Ultimately, this study underlines the significance of recognising and embracing the tensions between minimum viability and innovation culture in ISD projects. It emphasizes that the optimal management of these tensions can lead to divergent thinking, cost efficiency, and eventually, project success.

Jubilee Smith

Early Childhood Educator Decision-Making about Digital Technology: An Unexplored Dimension.

This thesis investigates early childhood educator decision-making with digital technology through a qualitative study of sixteen Australian early childhood educators. The research incorporated Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory (2006) to identify a complex system of influences on decision-making. The societal context, including early childhood policies, learning frameworks, and the early childhood centre, interacted with the microsystem of educator experiences, confidence, and professional knowledge and informed educators' decision-making. Educators balanced current concerns about children with their future learning needs. Educators wanted further support and professional learning regarding how best to make decisions regarding digital technology in their practice. This presentation will present some of the findings from the thesis and future directions

Kathryn Baltrotsky

I Before E Except After C

What can we do when 'everything' goes wrong? Does motivation grow on a tree? From failed confirmations to countless rejections, Kate is going to share how she has found the motivation to keep going when things get tough. Her lessons in letting go of how things 'should be' and embracing 'what is', might just make others feel a little lighter about their scholarly journey.

Katie Hotko

We Make Art and Art Makes Us: An A/r/tographic Exploration of Generalist Primary Teachers' Creative Self Beliefs

In Australia, generalist primary teachers are tasked with teaching all curriculum areas and experience a lack of self-efficacy in the Visual Arts. The literature points to self-beliefs as a powerful source of motivation for action, and teachers with low creative self-beliefs are less likely to engage in high-quality Visual Arts lessons with their students. This study aims to gain greater insights into primary teachers' creative self-beliefs and how these beliefs are affected by making Art. This inquiry was conducted with 20 generalist primary teachers, who engaged in Art making workshops over six weeks.

This study found that Art making positively impacts teachers' creative self-belief and expands their understandings of creativity. Art making as a collective created a safe and supportive culture for creative action, and when combined with the engagement of enabling constraints, increased creative self-efficacy and creative self-concepts were apparent across all co-inquirers, developing praxical creativity. This was demonstrated in ongoing self-reported changes to pedagogical approaches in the teachers' classrooms as well as shifts in more positive attitudes and personal Art making praxis.

Process philosophy-informed Visual Arts praxis experiences are essential for generalist primary teachers in both their in-service training and initial teacher education. Praxical creativity is crucial to developing an understanding of creative potential and self-belief, which contributes to the likelihood of teachers providing authentic creative Visual Arts experiences for students in their classrooms.

Kerrie Oakes

The practice of herbal medicine in community-managed health care is under-represented in academic literature.

With the increasing incidence of chronic disease and its associated social and economic burdens, primary healthcare is a core component of global strategies to manage illness. The contribution of communities to planning and provision of primary healthcare has been recognised since the adoption of the Declaration of Alma-Ata in 1978. Community based healthcare provides affordability, equality and healthcare justice through social change and broad community involvement. It provides an avenue for people to participate in planning and implementing healthcare.

Community-focused models of practice are consistent with the holistic philosophy of herbal medicine. Herbalists aim for physical, mental, and social wellbeing of the person and is the second-most used form of Traditional and Complementary Medicine (T&CM) amongst member states of the World Health Organisation.

However, little is known about the extent to which herbal medicine is included within community models of healthcare. Therefore, a systematic search is required to identify existing literature on community models of care where herbal medicine is a feature of intervention and map existing evidence and knowledge gaps. This presentation outlines the scoping review strategy and progress to date. Kerrie will also highlight some of the challenges and benefits of conducting a formal scoping review as a research phase in her PhD project.

Maddison Orpin-Patrick

The Influence of Cannabidiol (CBD) on the Psychosocial Abilities of Autistic Adults

Background: Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a lifelong neurodevelopmental disorder characterised by the DSM-V as persistent deficits in social interaction and social communication, as well as restrictive or repetitive behaviours, interests, and/or activities. Our Australian autistic population is commonly being prescribed antipsychotics and antidepressants off-label, as an intervention for challenging autistic characteristics.

Aim: The overarching aim of this research project is to determine the potential effectiveness of cannabidiol (CBD) on influencing autistic characteristics to improve social abilities in autistic adults, to benefit overall quality of life.

Methods: Using evidence-based practice this project will synthesise the current research relating to CBD and ASD in an umbrella review. An Australian cross-sectional survey will evaluate the thoughts, beliefs, and attitudes of autistic adults, to determine their perspectives on CBD.

Conclusion: This project aims to use the promoting action on research implementation in health services (PARIHS) framework, in conjunction with a neurodiversity affirming approach to research CBD use within the autistic population. Our research will involve an advisory board inclusive of autistic adults, health professionals and academics to support our research processes.

Masum Billah

Investigating health professionals' knowledge, attitudes, and practices about refugees' health risk behaviours and healthcare utilization in Australia

Background: Refugees have specific health needs and experience health inequities. Inadequate attention and initiatives remained in practice to address these significant health needs in Australia. Communication gaps and insufficient cultural competency appeared as established interaction barriers between health professionals and refugees. The lenses of health professionals are significant in double-checking refugees' health needs and suggesting health promotion strategies. This study investigates health professionals' knowledge, attitudes, and practices about refugees' health risk behaviours and health promotion strategies for refugees in Australia. This is essentially a PhD research guided by social cognitive theory, socio-ecological model, and behaviour change wheel model.

Methods: This is a quantitative study designed to conduct a cross-sectional survey. A web-based survey tool, Qualtrics, will collect data via a structured questionnaire to achieve the overall objectives of the study. Healthcare and support professionals such as doctors, nurses, midwives, dentists, health workers, settlement officers, bilingual interpreters, multicultural officers, and health promotion officers will be considered to attend the survey. This study will adopt convenient sampling to select study participants. Data Analysis: Descriptive analysis will be performed to show the frequency and percentage distribution of outcome variables of interest. The logistic regression model will be used to determine the association between variables of interest.

Results: This project is significant because it will contribute evidence to support effective health promotion strategies for refugees living in Australia. Potential suggested research outcomes include improvement of health literacy, availability of multi-lingual health materials, and utilization of technology to disseminate health information for refugees in Australia.

Mark Henderson

Volunteer mentors and the agency uncovered in empathy.

Many men belong to communities that invest heavily to socially connect their residents, yet some men are unwilling or unsure how to communicate meaningfully with other men. Pushing this boundary, voluntary mentoring connects self-nominating adult men one-to-one with strangers. Following trust building, some mentors experience an emergence of empathy, a shift in their awareness of others which they enjoy. This presentation will unpack some aspects of human empathy, and the journey contained within an authentic connection with others.

Matthew Doyle

Chiropractic philosophy in chiropractic education - a mixed methods inquiry through a constructivist and pragmatist lens.

This research explores how the philosophy of a profession is understood and applied in its educational process. First-year students through to early graduate practitioners were engaged, qualitatively and quantitatively, and their responses were considered relative to the pragmatic outcome of its utility to their lived experience. This research uses a mixed methods convergent design with quantitative survey data and qualitative semi-structured interviews. This has been conducted with cohorts points from multiple educational institutions in Australia and New Zealand. The theoretical framework for interpreting the learners' journey through the survey data is one of constructivism.

Nourah Lababidi

Can participating in communication lead to a happier life? Investigating the link between communication savouring and well-being.

Savouring, the process of actively engaging with and prolonging positive experiences, has been linked to enhanced well-being and greater resilience in the face of adversity. Communication savouring, which focuses on language and social interaction elements of savouring, has recently gained interest as a potential avenue for promoting positive social connections and enhancing well-being. The study's primary objective is to validate a new scale, the Communication Savouring Index (CSI), which measures individuals' inclination to savour communication experience. To accomplish this, a confirmatory factor analysis will be conducted to validate the Communication Savouring Index (CSI), a questionnaire consisting of 21 items that measure engagement in communication savouring. Convergent validity will be tested by examining the relationship between the CSI and the Savouring Beliefs Inventory (SBI), which measures individuals' general tendency to savour positive experiences. Additionally, this study seeks to investigate the association between communication savouring and well-being. The research question will be addressed by examining the relationship between the results on the CSI and the WHO-5, a validated measure of psychological well-being. The study aims to provide insights into the potential role of communication savouring in enhancing positive experiences and overall well-being through social interaction, offering a valuable tool for further exploration and potential intervention aimed at promoting well-being.

Rebecca Gianì

Case Studies of Play-based Therapy for School-aged Children with Autism using a Neurodivergent-affirming Approach

There is a rapidly expanding body of research investigating individual differences in brain function, particularly differences between neurotypical and neurodivergent types. According to Doyle (2020), it is reasonable to estimate that 15-20% of the population is neurodivergent, considering individual and co-occurring diagnoses. In Australia, 30% of all active participants of NDIS have autism as their primary disability. As part of my social work master's degree I recently completed a four-month placement at an agency called Instinct AU where I worked with a group of 15 neurodivergent children with multiple diagnoses in a play-based therapy environment. I learned how the use of the neurodivergent-affirming approach is more effective in therapeutic settings for neurodivergent children to achieve their goals. The common goals are the development of social skills and forming friendships, acceptance of their neurodivergence and creating a better sense of self-esteem. This presentation outlines the neurodivergent-affirming approach and presents case studies of the children I worked with, showing the evolution of their personal goals.

Tamsin Thomas

Social Prescribing of Forest Therapy for Adults with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness Living in the Community: A Mixed-Methods Evaluation.

Severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) frequently co-occurs with metabolic disease and loneliness, and thus effective treatments target biopsychosocial wellbeing. Social Prescribing (SP) achieves this by facilitating access to a large variety of local health and welfare services. Forest Therapy (FT) is an appropriate community-based SP activity for SPMI as it is accessible, affordable, and scalable. FT comprises group nature walks with prescribed mindfulness and group activities. FT lowers physiological arousal and promotes relaxation, self-reflection, and healing. FT is demonstrated to improved psychophysical wellbeing in mental illness, but psychosocial wellbeing (loneliness) and SPMI have not been widely investigated.

We developed and implemented a SP FT intervention for community-dwelling Australian adults with SPMI at the Gold Coast (Australia) from 2020-2022. This PhD project comprises a mixed-methods evaluation of quantitative improvements in biopsychosocial wellbeing and a qualitative process evaluation. We used a longitudinal pretest-posttest design with quantitative assessment of short-term (pre-post walk) and long-term (pre-post intervention) outcomes, and mid/post-intervention interviews. Long-term measures included the WHO Brief Assessment of Quality of Life, the Work and Social Adjustment Scale, the UCLA 3-item Loneliness Scale, and others. Short-term assessments included the Profile of Mood States, Heart Rate, and Blood Pressure. Quantitative and qualitative results will be presented at PRAXIS 2023.

Tobias Gebhardt

How we can walk the talk: Yarning about professional learning in higher education and how Indigenous cultural learning can be provided to staff.

I present my learning story within the context of culturally responsive professional learning (CRPL) in the Indigenous Knowledge space in higher education. This story entails how Southern Cross University became the example around which my participants and I developed a culturally responsive professional learning framework (CRPLF) and respective recommendations for action. A yarning methodology underpinned this research as a culturally respectful tool that led to a best practice framework and recommendations to act for Southern Cross University, which could be used to guide other institutions as well.

A particular continuum exists in CRPL that indicates what knowledge can be gained depending on the type of learning opportunity. At the low end of the continuum are one-off online learning opportunities that can only foster superficial understandings; while the high end of the continuum is characterised through on-Country learning experiences that are ongoing and build on reciprocal relationships of respect and responsibility, which enable deeper relational understandings about Indigenous Knowledges, its culture, and peoples. The CRPLF has Country as its grounding base where knowledge exercises its own agency and where learning is situated in Country and connected to local communities. Experience lies at the heart of these learning opportunities, which is fostered through dialogue to lead to relational understandings. The CRPLF's focus is critical self-reflection to relate one's own worldviews to learnings about Indigenous Knowledges and histories with a focus on cultural strengths to improve collegial and community relationships that influence educators' learning design to ultimately improve student outcomes.

NOTICE & AGENDA

10th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



DATE: Thursday 22 June, 2023

TIME: 1.00 pm

VENUE: Building C Lecture Theatre,
Room C1.05
SCU Gold Coast Campus, QLD

AGENDA

1. Open, acknowledgement of traditional custodians and welcome by President (Emanuel Cartacai)
2. Attendance & Apologies
3. Minutes of previous AGM held Thursday 21 June 2022

Motion required:

"This meeting adopts the minutes of AGM 21 June 2022, as circulated and tabled, as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting."

4. President's Report
5. Financial Report to 31 December 2022

Motion required:

"This meeting adopts the Auditor's Report and audited annual financial statement for the year ending 31 December 2022 as a true and accurate account of the association's finances for 2022."

6. Election of Returning Officer and assistants
7. Election of Management Committee
 - a. President
 - b. Secretary
 - c. Treasurer
 - d. Vice President
 - e. Three (3) Ordinary members of Committee
8. Thanks & Close of Meeting

On behalf of the Management Committee

CRAIG WILSON
PUBLIC OFFICER

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