



Apply Now - \$1,500 Fellowships for Bachelor students interested  
in a hands-on research role

## **Joss Family Fellowship for Future Researchers**

August 2023

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## Apply Now - \$1,500 Fellowships for Bachelor students interested in a hands-on research role

Five research projects, under the supervision of Albury-Wodonga Campus researchers, are on offer, covering disciplines such as:

- Australian History, Military History, Gender History, History of Religion
- Biomedical Science
- Social Work
- Social Sciences, Communications, Public Health, Digital Health and Technology and Systems Design.
- Sociology and Crime, Justice and Legal Studies

Toward the end of the research period, the Fellows and their supervisors will present their research project at a campus Research Symposium.

Details of the fellowships are as follows:

<b>Fellowship</b>	\$250 per week (tax-free), \$1500 total
<b>Tenure</b>	Six weeks, weekly hours to be negotiated with supervisor. Supervisors will endeavour to design flexible research schedules that fit with part time work. This is designed to be a taste of research!
<b>Commencement</b>	Commencement and completion dates will be negotiated with the supervising academic staff member. All projects will be completed by 25 February 2024.
<b>Selection</b>	Project supervisors will make the final decision. Only one fellowship will be awarded per student.
<b>Application</b>	Students are required to submit their resume and the fellowship application form.
<b>Eligibility:</b>	Undergraduate students from La Trobe university with a minimum of 180 credit points are eligible to apply, however, preference will be given to students based at the Albury-Wodonga Campus.  Designed to provide a taste of research experience to undergraduate students, this program will not be offered to Honours students who will be undertaking research as part of their Honours program.
<b>Submission</b>	Closes 11.59pm on 24 September 2023 by email to <a href="mailto:hoc.aw@latrobe.edu.au">hoc.aw@latrobe.edu.au</a>

### **The Joss Family Fellowship for Future Researchers, Award**

The two most outstanding students (as determined by a selection committee including one senior independent researcher) will each receive an additional \$2,000 funding to continue involvement in the research project.

La Trobe University thank the generosity of the Joss Family who sponsor this program.

**Project 1:** War Service, Religion and sexual ethics in the letters of Lola Burkitt and Brian Kerr, 1945-1948

**Discipline area:** Australian History, Military History, Gender History, History of Religion

**Academic Supervisors:** Associate Professor Jennifer Jones

**Project Overview:**

This project focuses upon a newly donated archive of 600 love letters (circa 1944-1947) the Burkitt-Kerr Letters. This collection provides significant insight into the WWII home front experience in Albury-Wodonga, from the perspective of long-term local residents and transient enlisted personnel. These border towns were of strategic importance to the military and the presence of the military was of significance for the local community, especially for local families who incorporated transient soldiers into their ranks through romance and marriage. Soldier-civilian romance and settlement in the early post-war period therefor provides a unique and as yet un-examined lens through which to understand the Army's ongoing status as a major stakeholder in the Albury-Wodonga district and other regional settings across Australia.

**Objectives:**

The project will provide deeper understanding of the local impact of the armed forces and give opportunity to communicate the shared past to residents and current service personal, enhancing understanding of the local importance of the armed forces, boosting engagement with history. The project can also contribute the military education of military members by shaping understanding of to the Army's impact on garrison communities.

**Methods:**

- 1) Collating the letters and telegrams into archival boxes
- 2) Preparing an inventory including letter number, date, author, recipient and paragraph topic in each letter
- 3) Identifying key events and themes that emerge from the letters
- 4) Co-authoring research findings

**Project 2:** High-definition imaging of meiotic recombination

**Discipline area:** Biomedical Science.

**Academic Supervisor:** Dr Cathryn Hogarth

**Project Overview:**

Meiotic errors are the number one cause of miscarriages and issues during early embryonic development. Chromosomal abnormalities and trisomies (3 copies of a chromosome rather than 2) occur when the crossing-over of chromosomes during meiosis, known as meiotic recombination, does not occur properly. While we do understand the complement of proteins that drive the recombination process, very little is known about what initiates a recombination event to occur and why these events sometimes don't progress properly. Our laboratory is interested in the role of the protein STRA8 in the onset of meiosis. Based on studies with genetically modified mice, STRA8 is known to be essential for meiosis in both males and females but it's specific role in regulating recombination has yet to be investigated.

**Objectives:**

Super-resolution microscopy is a next-generation imaging technique that allows for the visualisation of single molecules within cells in high definition. We will utilize super-resolution microscopy to visualize the localization of STRA8 during the onset of meiotic recombination and determine whether it closely associates with any of the known recombination proteins.

**Methods:**

1. Image STRA8 localization in cultured mammalian cells using super-resolution microscopy and determine whether foci of this protein are present on specific types of chromatin or along specific parts of chromosomes. We will use the P19 embryonic carcinoma cell line as STRA8 was first identified in these cells and they are known to express high levels of our protein of interest.
2. Image STRA8 localisation in freshly isolated mammalian germ cells to determine whether foci of this protein can be found closely associated with the meiotic recombination machinery.

**Project 3: The Impacts of Climate Change on Those Dependent on the Visitor Economy in Albury/Wodonga**

**Discipline area: Social Work**

**Academic Supervisor: Dr Heather Downey**

**Project Overview:**

In the Murray Darling Basin tourism contributes as much as irrigated agriculture to the economy and is now worth around \$7.5 billion per year, when including overnight stays (MDBA, 2018). However, in the geographic context of rural Australia, water issues are compounded by a dominant culture that privileges the commodification of water for agricultural purposes over other interests. Promoting tourism and enhancing the Albury/Wodonga region as a destination of choice is a key strategic priority of local Government (Albury City, n.d.; Two Cities One Community, 2021). Water scarcity and abundance threatens the sites used by tourism operators and other service providers, and visitors to the region; nature reserves by waterways, wetlands, and blue spaces such as rivers and lakes. The individual health benefits of interaction with these spaces, such as relaxation and psychological rejuvenation resulting from sensory engagement with landscapes, waterways, vegetation, and wildlife are well recognised. Although there is an emerging body of literature that highlights socio-cultural change in community water use in response to climate change, little is known regarding changing recreational use of water, including change in tourism sectors in the context of climate change (Downey et al, 2022). Understanding the multiple dimensions of water is critical to rural economic, social and environmental sustainability and to a more inclusive and environmentally just approach to water management.

**Objectives:**

This study aims to examine the impacts of climate change on those reliant on the visitor economy, specifically, on those directly and indirectly connected to fresh water tourism for example, canoe, kayak or paddle board hire, nature-based tours, and fishing competitions, and accommodation, hospitality and other services, such as wedding celebrants, in Albury/Wodonga. Additionally, it aims to understand how businesses are adapting to a changing climate and business owners expectations for the future.

**Methods:**

- (1) Review the literature regarding the effects of a changing climate on Australian freshwater tourism.
- (2) Focus groups comprising approx. five participants each. Participants will be Albury/Wodonga business operators who are directly or indirectly involved in freshwater tourism.



**Project 4: Multilingual Inclusive Emergency Alerts – an Albury Wodonga case study**

**Discipline area:** Social sciences, communications, public health, digital health and technology and systems design.

**Academic Supervisor:** Dr Samantha Clune and Associate Professor Raelene Wilding

**Project Overview:**

Recent events, such as floods, fires and the COVID-19 pandemic, have demonstrated time and time again that the needs of many people who do not speak English are often overlooked in emergency communications. This is a challenge in multicultural communities around the world.<sup>1</sup> Even when information is provided in diverse languages, it is typically only provided in a small number of languages, the translated information is often delivered later than the English information, with poor checks on quality, and in formats that often fail to reach the community members who need that information.

This multidisciplinary project is a first step towards understanding the obstacles, challenges and opportunities for effective emergency communications in diverse languages, which will then inform the development of robust solutions. The project will begin by working with stakeholders to develop a case study of emergency communications in Albury Wodonga, selected because it is an example of a particularly complex communication situation – it is an Anglo-dominant context, with numerous small-scale language communities, that crosses borders. Our aim is to then use this case study to better understand the opportunities and obstacles to emergency communication in multiple languages, so that we can later design a solution that can be applied to other languages in other urban and regional locations in Australia and internationally.

**Objectives:**

- To work with local communities and stakeholders to map emergency communications in Albury Wodonga
- To identify the challenges, obstacles and opportunities that impact emergency communications in multiple languages

**Methods:**

Analysis of reports, guidelines and media accounts, interviews and focus groups with community members,

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<sup>1</sup> E.g. Baba et al 2022; Bang 2021; Cole et al 2019; Healey et al 2022; Henry et al 2018; Kosiyaporn et al 2022; Lee et al 2016; Scott and Errett 2018; WHO 2017

**Project 5: A Pilot Project to Develop an Australian Gambling Advertising Archive**

**Discipline area: Sociology and Crime, Justice & Legal Studies**

**Academic Supervisor: Dr Matt Wade**

**Project Overview:**

It is well known that Australians are the biggest losers when it comes to gambling, easily losing more per capita [than anywhere else in the world](#). While the bulk of these losses are through gaming machines (i.e. pokies), a significant proportion also comes from sports betting, which has grown rapidly in Australia in recent years due to increased online offerings. However, regulations on gambling advertising are likely to undergo major reforms in the near future. In particular, greater restrictions on advertisements for online sports gambling appears to have [bipartisan support](#) in the Federal Parliament, and could be banned entirely [within the next three years](#). Of course, such proposals will be met with fierce resistance. Moreover, in a manner comparable with vaping products, advertising for gambling is escaping the bounds of ‘traditional’ media [and targeting young people](#) in ways difficult to monitor and regulate.

In any case – regardless of whether gambling advertising becomes less widely visible and/or emerges in new forms – there is social, political, and historical value in creating an archive of such advertisements. Alas, these advertisements typically make a splash and then completely disappear once they are no longer in use, while their effects linger on. Given the outsized influence such advertisements have imparted on Australian culture it would be a significant detriment if such material was lost to posterity. The [Stanford Research into the Impact of Tobacco Advertising](#) (SRITA) collection is an incredible online archive of over 60,000 tobacco (and more recently vapes/e-cigs) advertisements over three centuries. It now serves as a truly excellent public resource, available to all. The Australian Gambling Advertising Archive will adopt a similar ethos, seeking to establish an online historical repository that captures a significant aspect of Australia’s history, economy, and culture. While initially focussing on current and recent advertisements, ideally the archive will expand far beyond this into older gambling practices, such as the use of state lotteries to fund major institutions (the Sydney Opera House being probably the most famous example). Once established, further submissions to the archive can then be crowdsourced.

**Objectives:** Establish an online archive of gambling advertising in Australia, focussing initially on recent examples of advertising for online sports betting companies. Under the guidance of the supervisor, conduct a preliminary content analysis of such advertisements, connecting them to contemporary policy debates on potential increased restrictions and outright bans.

**Methods:**

- 1) Collect suitable advertisements through screen capturing and video downloading methods
- 2) Build a website to establish a pilot model of the online archive
- 3) Conduct a content analysis of the initial sample, focussing on online sports betting advertisements