

Methods of Connection

Methodology as meaning making.

Conference Programme

In-Person and Online

3rd - 5th June 2026

Venue: Babbage 002

This year's FoAHB Doctoral Conference invites our PGRs to explore **Methods of Connection**. The theme positions research methodology as a site of meaning making rather than a purely technical stage of doctoral work. It foregrounds how researchers connect methods, theory, context and research questions, and how these connections shape what kinds of knowledge can be produced.

Contemporary research increasingly addresses complex, relational and socially embedded phenomena - especially within our disciplines. This year's conference invites critical reflection on the appropriateness of methodological choices in such contexts, including the intellectual and ethical work involved in aligning methods with epistemological and theoretical positions. We particularly welcome contributions that engage with hybrid, adaptive or non-traditional methodological approaches.

Methods of Connection emphasises connection in two distinct but entangled senses:

- Methodological connection refers to how research design brings together theory, data and researcher positionality.
- Intellectual connection refers to how methods enable engagement with ideas, disciplines or literatures not typically held together.

In this framing, we understand methodology as a creative and reflexive practice.

DOCTORAL CONFERENCE 2026

FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES
AND BUSINESS

Conference Programme

Day 1: Wednesday 3rd June

Join online: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/323566338265775?p=juXAhigMuiECnowD2q>

Time	Event	Presenter
9:30-10:00	Conference registration and refreshments.	
10:00-11:00	Opening remarks and welcome speeches	Kia Shackleton Professor Shaofeng Liu Deputy Director of Doctoral College Professor James Daybell Associate Dean of Research
	Session One	Chair: Dr Narissa MacLennan-Matthews
11:00-11:20	Staying with the Rhizome: Connecting Research Methods and Complexity within Further Education and Education for Sustainable Development	Kia Shackleton
11:20-11:40	Connecting the Fragments: Zettelkasten as Methodology for Meaning-Making in Doctoral Research	Julia Strang
11:40-12:00	Methods of Connection: A Buddhist-Post Qualitative Constellation for an Educational Inquiry	Amanda Burn
12:00-12:20	Interpreting Neurodiversity in Paramedicine: A Bourdieusian Exploration of Identity, Culture, and Professional Practice	Allan Sunderland

DOCTORAL CONFERENCE 2026

FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES
AND BUSINESS

Conference Programme

Day 1: Wednesday 3rd June

12:20-13:20	Lunch	
	Session Two	Chair: Miriam White
13:20-13:40	Reflecting on the 'Aca-Fan' Approach in the Context of Football Fan Research	Thomas Jenkins
13:40-14:00	When Flexible Work Isn't Enough: Breadwinning Mothers' Experiences of Informal Childcare	Nim Smale
14:00-14:20	Exploring the Interactions Between Student–Teacher Relationship, Teacher Passion, and Student Intrinsic Motivation: Validating a Hierarchical Model of Inspirational Teaching	Stephen Rowcliffe
14:20-14:40	Break	
	Session Three	Chair: Kia Shackleton
14:40-15:00	Exploring the Impact of Place on Coastal Youth Future Expectations	Miriam White
15:00-15:20	The impact of AI disruptions to the labour market on perceived employability of university students in Hong Kong	Elaine Wang
15:20-15:40	Understanding the impact of hybrid working environment on turnover intention among Gen Z expatriates in the UAE: Investigating the mediating role of employee well being	Anushka Lydia Issac
15:40-16:10	Closing Remarks	Kia Shackleton

DOCTORAL CONFERENCE 2026

FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES
AND BUSINESS

Conference Programme

Day 2: Thursday 4th June

Join online: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/323566338265775?p=juXAhigMuiECnowD2q>

Time	Event	Presenter
9:30-10:00	Conference registration and refreshments.	
10:00-10:20	Opening remarks and welcome speeches	Kia Shackleton Professor Professor Chris Bennewith Executive Dean FoAHB
	Session One	Chair: Olasumbo Olaniyi
10:20-10:40	Designing methodology in creative, innovative ways that engage marginalised people more equitably in education research	Phyllis McNally
10:40-11:00	"I feel like a ghost." How these words of disconnection inspired a research project that focuses on re/connection.	Jen Shute
11:00-11:20	Embodied Methodologies: Female Dancing Body as the Site of Knowledge in Chinese Classical Dance Training	Yue Dong
11:20-11:40	Break	
	Session Two	Chair: Kia Shackleton
11:40-12:00	Memorycombing as Practice	Emma George
12:00-12:20	The Leeds Arcades Project: Creating Contemporary Myths	Patrick S. Ford

DOCTORAL CONFERENCE 2026

FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES
AND BUSINESS

Conference Programme

Day 2: Thursday 4th June

12:20-12:40	Curating Digital Art: Hybridity as a Curatorial Method in On-/Offline Exhibition Spaces	Zinnia Xiaorong Wang
12:40-13:00	Materialities of Colonisation and Empire in the Cottonian Collection and its associated contemporary curatorial practices	Polly Rayner-Woodrow
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
	Session Three	Chair: Kia Shackleton
14:00-14:20	Illustrative practices as queer methods of knowledge production	Devon Tipping
14:20-14:40	The altered state of sensory absorption as a method in practice research investigating experimental filmmaking as an extension of autistic embodied experience	Patrycja Loranc
14:40-15:00	Queer Sensory Ethnography as a Method of Connection	Janina Smietanka
15:00-15:30	Closing Remarks	Kia Shackleton

DOCTORAL CONFERENCE 2026

FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES
AND BUSINESS

Conference Programme

Day 3: Friday 5th June

Join online: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/384935313894020?p=vMsM24hqRXkAfFeve3>

Time	Event	Presenter
9:30-10:00	Conference registration and refreshments.	
10:00-10:20	Opening remarks and welcome speeches	Kia Shackleton
	Session One	Chair: Dr Narissa MacLennan-Matthews
10:20-10:40	Multi-Method Methodology as Intellectual, Reflexive and Ethical Practice in the Study of Informal Urbanism in Lagos, Nigeria	Olasumbo Olaniyi
10:40-11:00	Connecting policy, numbers and voices: A mixed method study of Post 16 maths disparities, disruption and future relevance in the age of AI	Misbah Karim
11:00-11:20	Enhancing Systematic Literature Review with Flexibility: Finding Support for Novelty and Depth	Caleb Fagade
11:20-12:40	Lunch	

DOCTORAL CONFERENCE 2026

FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES
AND BUSINESS

Conference Programme

Day 3: Friday 5th June

	Session Two	Chair: Olasumbo Olaniyi
12:40-13:00	Connecting data and interpretation in social media research on consumer narratives about Cultured Meat	Guoste Pivoraite
13:00-13:20	A Qualitative Methodological Study: Exploring Older Adults' Consumer Behaviour in Gerontechnology Footwear	Jenny Cheung
13:20-13:40	The hospitality industry in transition: Exploring the impact of self-service technologies on service encounters between the frontline service staff and guest in Hong Kong's luxury hotels	Candace Fu
13:40-14:00	A framework for extending Value Co-Creation to enhanced human-centric impact within the Plant-Based Food value chain: A case study of Nestlé	Robert Godfrey
14:00-14:30	Closing Remarks	Kia Shackleton