

Sydney Postgraduate Psychology Conference (SPPC) 2025

Hosted by The School of Psychology

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



Research Unlimited 2.0

Conference Program



The 2025 meeting of our Conference for Psychology students,
by Psychology students

WSU | Monday, 24th November 2025

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Welcome

The School of Psychology at Western Sydney University is delighted to welcome to you to the 2025 Sydney Postgraduate Psychology Conference.

This is an annual student-organised conference that offers an exciting opportunity for postgraduate students to present their research in a supportive and constructive environment.

We hope that you enjoy learning about the latest psychological research being undertaken by Postgraduate students across Sydney.

Please use #SPPC2025 and tag @SPPC2025_WSU and @WSUPsychology to engage with your fellow researchers on Social Media.

Acknowledgement of Country

With respect for Aboriginal cultural protocol and out of recognition that its campuses occupy their traditional lands, Western Sydney University acknowledges the Darug, Eora, Dharawal (also referred to as Tharawal) and Wiradjuri peoples and thanks them for their support of its work in their lands in Greater Western Sydney and beyond.



Organising Committee

Aastha Ahuja, Khadija Malik with support from Associate Professor Evelyn Smith, Dr Cindy Harmon-Jones, Chantelle Young and Sue Veen.

Our Sponsors

Australian Clinical Psychology Association (ACPA)

ACPA actively advances the recognition of clinical psychology as a clearly identifiable area of expertise. ACPA's mission is to promote the role and the expertise of qualified clinical psychologists to the benefit of the Australian public, ACPA's members and the profession. We are committed to ensuring and advocating the highest training standards and the best practices for ongoing training and learning within clinical psychology.



The Positivity Institute

The Positivity Institute works with organisations, individuals, teams and schools, to provide education, coaching and guidance on embracing a Positive Psychology informed approach to life, work and learning.



Woodslane Health

Woodslane Health distributes resources on behalf of exceptional local and international publishers including Guilford Press, American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association and Jessica Kingsley Publishers. We have an extensive range of titles for academics, clinicians and researchers across psychology, clinical psychology, neurodiversity, research, social work, healthcare and more.

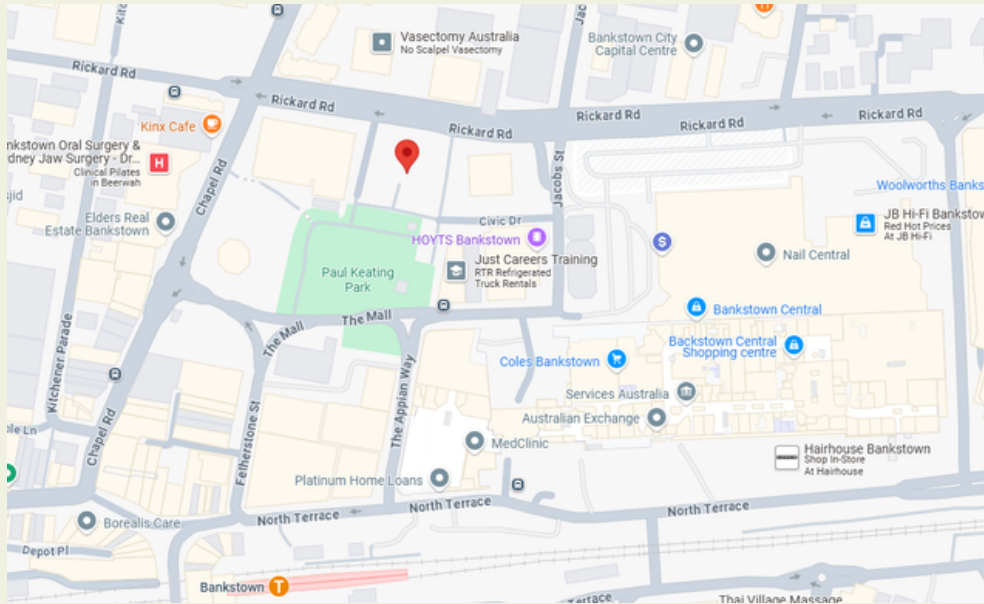


Conference Schedule

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8:30am -9:00am	Registration Tea and Coffee on Arrival	Level 8 Foyer and Terrace
9:00am-9.10am	Welcome	Level 8 Conference Room 1
9:10am-10:00am	Keynote: Dr Ben Morrison Title: TBC	Level 8 Conference Room 1
10:00am-10:30am	Morning Tea	Level 8 Foyer and Terrace
10:30am-12:30pm	Presentation Sessions 1 - Stream 1 - Experimental (Facilitator: A/P Evelyn Smith) - Stream 2 - Clinical (Facilitator: Dr Cindy Harmon-Jones) - Stream 3 - Applied (Facilitator: Dr Alina Ewald)	Level 8 - Conf. Rm 1 Level 8 - Conf. Rm 2 Level 6 - 01.6.08
12:30pm-1:15pm	Lunch	Level 8 Foyer and Terrace
1:15pm-3:00pm	Presentation Sessions 2 - Stream 1 - Experimental (Facilitator: A/P Evelyn Smith) - Stream 2 - Clinical (Facilitator: Dr Cindy Harmon-Jones) - Stream 3 - Applied (Facilitator: Dr Alina Ewald)	Level 8 - Conf. Rm 1 Level 8 - Conf. Rm 2 Level 6 - 01.6.08
3:00pm-3:30pm	Afternoon Tea	Level 8 Foyer and Terrace
3:30pm-4:30pm	Panel Discussion: Chair: - Associate Professor Evelyn Smith Panelists: - Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews - Professor Ann Dadich - Dr Xi Liu	Level 8 Conference Room 1
4:30pm-5:00pm	Awards and Thank yous	Level 8 Conference Room 1
5:00pm onwards	Post-Conference Social Event Canapes and drinks	Level 8 Foyer and Terrace
7:00pm	Close	

Conference Location

Western Sydney University - Bankstown City Campus
74 Rickard Road, Bankstown NSW 2200



Public Transport

- Buses stop right outside the Bankstown City Campus on Rickard Road, the Bankstown Central Shopping Centre and the Bankstown Train Station. Students and staff have access to frequent bus services to nearby suburbs including Condell Park, Chester Hill, Panania and Roselands. Visit Trip Planner to find the best trip options to Campus.
- Trains: the T3 Bankstown Line is closed between Sydenham and Bankstown stations for metro conversion work.
 - Southwest Link buses provide a high-frequency bus service between Sydenham and Bankstown stations.
 - The new T6 Lidcombe & Bankstown Line runs between Lidcombe and Bankstown.
 - T3 Liverpool & Inner West train service runs between Liverpool and the City, via Regents Park and Lidcombe.

Parking

There is no on-campus parking but there are nearby carpark located within a short stroll, including both paid and free options. The Bankstown Central Shopping Centre is free and recommended.

- Bankstown Central carpark (350m): enter from Stacey Street, Rickard Road, Jacob Street, Lady Cutler Avenue or North Terrace, Bankstown. Rickard Road entrance is closest to campus
- Civic Tower carpark (300m): enter from Civic Drive, Bankstown
- Meredith Street carpark (350m): 29 Meredith Street, Bankstown

We are incredibly proud of our new campus and look forward to showing you this wonderful campus in Western Sydney.

Please allow extra travel time if coming via public transport.

Keynote Speaker



Dr Ben Morrison

Biography: Ben Morrison is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Psychological Sciences at Macquarie University, Australia. He completed his PhD with MARCS Laboratories at the University of Western Sydney in 2010. Ben is a member of Macquarie's Performance and Expertise Research Centre. He is an endorsed Organisational Psychologist, member of the Australian Psychological Society, and a fellow of the College of Organisational Psychologists.

Research Interests:

Ben's research focuses on psychology in the workplace, including areas relating to expertise development and the impacts of emerging technologies. He has a particular interest in applied research, and as such regularly undertake research projects within real-world work settings or simulations of such environments. Ben is currently working on research projects relating to the role of cue utilisation in expert judgement in cyber security, driving, and sport, as well as the barriers to effective use of intelligent decision support technologies in the workplace.

View Ben's Research Publications on Google Scholar:

<https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?user=rhvXVqgAAAAJ&hl=en>

Panel Discussions

Chair

Associate Professor Evelyn Smith

Associate Professor Evelyn Smith is a clinical psychologist, specialising in eating disorders, obesity, personality disorders and trauma. She also sees clients with depression and anxiety. She primarily uses CBT-E, schema therapy, DBT, motivational interviewing and cognitive remediation therapy in her practice.



Associate Professor Evelyn Smith's main research program has focused on the possible effects of obesity and associated correlates (inflammation, arterial stiffness, diabetes) on cognition, and whether cognition and cognitive processes impact on eating behaviour and body image. She also focuses on developing or modifying treatments for obesity and eating disorders (attention training therapy, cognitive remediation therapy, cognitive behavioural therapy, schema therapy). Her passion is bringing experimental approaches to obesity and eating disorders research, with the aim of understanding the determinants, consequences and management of obesity/eating disorders and comorbid psychopathology. As a clinical psychologist, she works closely with other health professionals, and capitalise the different associated ways of thinking about each research problems.

Associate Professor Smith also works as an academic at Western Sydney University and is the Associate Dean of Higher Degree Research in the School of Psychology and Associate Editor of the journal Clinical Obesity.

Panel members:

Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews

Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews is a D'harawal man raised on Bidigal (bitter water) and Nattaimattagal (sweet water) Country. As a scholar, Prof Bodkin-Andrews' research encapsulates and promotes Aboriginal Australian standpoints and perspectives across a diversity of disciplines (most notably education and psychology). He has been a chief investigator for numerous research grants examining a diversity of topics including, mental health, mentoring, identity, Traditional Knowledges and Storytelling, Indigenous-centered statistics, education, racism, and bullying. Prof Bodkin-Andrews is currently Director of Indigenous Research at Western Sydney University.



Panel Discussions

Panel members:

Professor Ann Dadich

Professor Ann Dadich is a registered psychologist, affiliated with the Western Sydney University School of Business. She has accumulated considerable expertise in health service management, notably knowledge translation. This encompasses scholarship on the processes through which different forms and sources of knowledge coalesce to promote brilliant care – that is, care that exceeds expectation. This is demonstrated by her publishing record; the research grants she has secured; the postgraduate theses she is invited to examine; and the awards she has received. Professor Dadich holds editorial appointments with several academic journals. She is also the Deputy Director of the Sydney Partnership for Health, Education, Research and Enterprise (SPHERE) Knowledge Translation Platform; she co-chairs the Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management (ANZAM) Health Management and Organisation (HMO) Conference Stream; she co-convenes the ANZAM HMO Special Interest Group; and she serves on the Executive Committee of ACSPRI (the Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Inc.). Additionally, Professor Dadich supervises doctoral candidates and teaches undergraduate units on change management, innovation, creativity, and organisational behaviour.



Dr Xi Liu

Dr. Xi Liu (they/them) is queer, non-binary, and an internationally recognized Schema Therapy practitioner and trainer, known for pioneering work in telehealth, LGBTQIA+ mental health, racial trauma and intergenerational trauma. They have presented at international conferences, covering topics such as online therapy and therapy for trans and gender-diverse populations. Also known affectionately as the "Grandmama of Schema Therapy in China," Xi was the first Chinese-speaking ISST-certified supervisor and has supported multiple therapists across China and Hong Kong toward their accreditation.



With both lived experience and professional expertise, Xi has contributed to academic research, advocacy, and direct clinical care for LGBTQIA+ communities. As the co-founder of SchemXcollective, they are dedicated to making Schema Therapy more accessible and affirming for marginalized communities.

Presentation Sessions - Experimental

(this information will be available once Abstracts close)

Morning session (10:30am - 12:30pm)

- Name - Abstract Title
- Name - Abstract Title
- Name - Abstract Title
- Name - Abstract Title

Afternoon session (1:15pm - 3:00pm)

- Name - Abstract Title
- Name - Abstract Title
- Name - Abstract Title
- Name - Abstract Title



Presentation Sessions - Clinical

(this information will be available once Abstracts close)

Morning session (10:30am - 12:30pm)

- Name - Abstract Title
- Name - Abstract Title
- Name - Abstract Title
- Name - Abstract Title

Afternoon session (1:15pm - 3:00pm)

- Name - Abstract Title
- Name - Abstract Title
- Name - Abstract Title
- Name - Abstract Title



Presentation Sessions - Applied

(this information will be available once Abstracts close)

Morning session (10:30am - 12:30pm)

- Name - Abstract Title
- Name - Abstract Title
- Name - Abstract Title
- Name - Abstract Title

Afternoon session (1:15pm - 3:00pm)

- Name - Abstract Title
- Name - Abstract Title
- Name - Abstract Title
- Name - Abstract Title



Awards and Prizes

Awards for the best and runner-up talks in each stream will be presented at the end of the day. The prizes available are as follows:

EXPERIMENTAL STREAM

- First place: \$150, sponsored by Woodslane Health.
- Second place: \$50, sponsored by Woodslane Health.



CLINICAL STREAM

- First place: \$150, sponsored by the Australian Clinical Psychology Association.
- Second place: \$50, sponsored by the Australian Clinical Psychology Association.



APPLIED STREAM

- First place: \$150, sponsored by The Positivity Institute.
- Second place: \$50, sponsored by The Positivity Institute.



Post-Conference Social

Please join us for canapes and drinks on Level 8 foyer and terrace spaces.
Time to celebrate your achievements and connect with new and old friends.
Play some games and have some fun. Prizes to be won.

