

**Religion and Society Research Cluster  
School of Social Sciences and Psychology**

**Religion and Society Research  
Cluster HDR Day**

**Friday, 11 October 2019**

**Parramatta City Campus 01.7.65**

**(Please access level 7 via the concierge)**

**10:00-16:00**

**Guest Speakers**

Dr Sebastian Boell (University of Sydney)

Dr Lisa Worthington (WSU)  
Jasbeer Mamalipurath (WSU)

**Convenors:** Dr Jennifer Cheng (WSU) and  
Dr Alan Nixon (WSU)

Everyone Welcome  
RSVPs compulsory due to limited spaces

Time	Speaker and Activity
10am-10.30am	Morning tea & Welcome
10.30am-12.30pm	Dr Sebastian Boell  Workshop: "Dealing with Information Overload in Research: a Hermeneutic Approach to Literature Reviews"
12.30pm-1.30pm	Lunch and Networking
1.30pm-2:00pm	Dr Jennifer Cheng  Group activity: "Staying Sane during the PhD Process"
2.00pm-2:30pm	Dr Alan Nixon  Group Activity: "Communicating your Research Succinctly"
2.30pm-3:00pm	Jasbeer Mamalipurath  "Advice from Near the Goal"
3.00pm-3:30pm	Dr Lisa Worthington  "Advice from after the Finish Line"

**RSVP By:**

Friday, September 27, 2019

**Submit to:**

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## Dealing with Information Overload in Research: a Hermeneutic Approach to Literature Reviews

By Dr Sebastian Boell

Over the last few decades we have seen an exponential rise in the amount of research that is available online. Dealing with this 'information overload' has now become a major issue for academics. This presentation focuses on how to make use of this wealth of research without getting lost in the literature. Using the concept of the 'hermeneutic circle', it introduces techniques and approaches for the efficient identification of relevant literature. This hermeneutic approach offers an antidote to the often misused 'systematic literature reviews' in the social sciences and humanities. By using the techniques introduced in this presentation, time can be spent reading relevant research instead of engaging in a painstaking process of spending days sorting through thousands of documents to identify only a few relevant publications.

This workshop is suitable for HDR students at any stage of their candidature as well as seasoned academics, as the techniques can be applied in any academic work.

**Dr Sebastian Boell** holds a PhD from UNSW and an MA from Saarland University in Germany. Sebastian's research draws from his multi-disciplinary training in *Information Systems, Information Science, Cognitive Psychology, Engineering* and further expertise in different research methodologies including: historiography, qualitative research, interpretive work, scientometric and bibliometric approaches, practical information retrieval and literature analysis. This broad intellectual foundation is applied to problems such as: the use of technology for remote work (telework); conducting literature searches and analysis; the visibility of research output in journals, libraries and online; the creation of knowledge in academic disciplines; and for investigating fundamental concepts in information systems and information science.

## "Staying Sane during the PhD Process"

By Dr Jennifer Cheng

While it is important to stay focused on your thesis, we sometimes neglect ourselves during the PhD process. This activity will discuss self-care during the PhD journey. We will explore different types of self-care (especially on a tight budget), how to deal with "imposter syndrome", and how to respond to obstacles both in life and in research.

## "Communicating your Research Succinctly"

By Dr Alan Nixon

There are many situations where academics and HDR students need to explain their research in a short and succinct way. From confirmation of candidature panels to discussions with colleagues, networking at conferences and 3 minute thesis competitions. In this group exercise we will help each other to communicate our research, quickly and concisely. A skill that is especially important when speaking to non-experts.

## "Advice from Near the Goal and After the Finish Line"

By Jasbeer Mamalipurath and Dr Lisa Worthington

Others have come before you in this process and it can be useful to hear about their experiences. Those who have recently graduated have likely gone through a similar process to you and have experience in how to make it to the other side. In recognition of this, two of our more recent HDR students have volunteered their time to give you insights on their PhD journey and what they learned during the process.