



# School of Science Seminar

**When:** Friday 9:30 – 10:30 AM, 4<sup>th</sup> June

**Where:** **ZOOM ID: 886 3665 0065 (Password 093949)**

<https://uws.zoom.us/j/88636650065?pwd=U2l4SGFjeTFaUUpkMFd4RWVtMjRkUT09>

**Who:** **Professor Lisa Harvey-Smith**

Australian Government Women in STEM Ambassador  
Professor of Practice in Science Communication  
Faculty of Science UNSW



**What:** **Behind the scenes: Building the world's most powerful telescope**

## **Abstract:**

Something incredible is emerging in the red sands of Western Australia and the plains of South Africa – an exciting global scientific project to uncover more than 13 billion years of our universe's history. The Square Kilometre Array is a radio telescope spanning two continents and made up of more than 130,000 radio antennas. It is a cosmic time machine, capable of seeing invisible signals from the furthest reaches of space and will enable astronomers to build up a unique picture of where we come from and where our universe is headed. In this engaging talk for non-specialists, astrophysicist Professor Lisa Harvey-Smith skips the jargon and explains how this project will work and what riches we hope to discover.

## **Bio:**

Professor Lisa Harvey-Smith is an award-winning astrophysicist, a Professor of Practice at the University of New South Wales and an Adjunct Professor at WSU. Her research interests lie in the birth and death of stars and supermassive black holes. She serves on the Australian Space Agency's Advisory Group and worked for more than a decade on the development of the Square Kilometre Array – a continent-spanning next-generation radio telescope that will survey billions of years of cosmic history. Lisa has written three popular science books: *When Galaxies Collide*, the children's book *Under the Stars: Astrophysics for Bedtime* and *The Secret Life of Stars*. In 2018, Harvey-Smith was appointed the Australian Government's Women in STEM Ambassador, working closely with the Government and the STEM sector to increase the participation of women and girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) studies and careers across Australia.