

# Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the ninth volume of the *ANU Undergraduate Research Journal*.

The University takes huge pride in the calibre of the students who choose to study here, and this journal gives us the opportunity to showcase some of the best essays submitted in recent years.

ANU was established by the Australian Government more than 70 years ago with a special charter – to give the nation a world-class university.

To that end we offer the best possible research and education opportunities to our staff and students, who come to ANU from many countries around the world.

Our world-leading researchers undertake research addressing significant national and global challenges, and they are frequently recognised for this work with awards and fellowships. Our expertise informs policymakers and influences the shape of the nation. Many of our students go on to have highly influential and successful careers.

This is the environment that stimulates our students and it is wonderful to see that reflected in these pages.

The range and depth of these essays is impressive and gives us great confidence in the people who will graduate with ANU degrees in the future.

I congratulate the authors and editor of the 2019 journal on their outstanding work and contribution to advancing Australia's research cause.

Professor Brian P. Schmidt AC

Vice-Chancellor and President

The Australian National University

## Editorial note

It is 2019. Research communication efforts are perhaps more critical than ever. The undergraduate students at ANU continue to have meaningful things to say. Some wish for *you*, too, to engage with what they learn and reason about as their critical thinking skills begin to blossom. The written contributions in the *ANU Undergraduate Research Journal (AURJ)* are an offering to improve preliminary debate and reflection on things that make up our world.

From global affairs to Australian politics and law, to scientific and humanities explorations, to analysing artistic expression, there is something to be learned from each article in Volume 9 of the AURJ. This cross-disciplinary collection speaks to the strength of the academic community at ANU to include different priorities and fields of enquiry. These articles were selected from a competitive pool of High Distinction essays, and then developed even further into pieces to be appreciated by a wider audience.

It is not always easy to go back and alter a piece that has already consumed so many hours of work. Each student rose to that challenge and reminded me how research and writing can be rigorous at all levels of study. Indeed, these articles speak to the great potential to be found in our undergraduate students as our future thought leaders and communicators.

I edited this volume with the benefit of my work as a Learning Adviser at the ANU Academic Skills centre. Putting it together gave me the opportunity to see the instruction of these academic skills right through to production point. For instance, I was delighted when Nicholas Blood, author of ‘Recent Progress Towards Achieving an International Plastics Convention’, humbly wrote to me in the margins of his draft to confirm the structure we had discussed: ‘Background: The plastic situation is bad. Debate: Even an undergraduate like me can point to ways in which it’s likely even worse than the latest research suggests. Argument: To solve this we need to prioritise it globally, but we also need to encourage other approaches at the same time’. Beautiful!

Needless to say, Blood and all authors in this volume have worked hard to assert their reasoned ideas. Some articles evolved significantly from the already top-quality standard that earned their selection, and this is a reality of academic practice and integrity – to keep refining while incorporating other literature until readers can simply focus on the topic, rather than becoming distracted by writing missteps. In this way, the process of having an article published in the AURJ really does help to prepare our undergraduate students for future academic or writing pursuits.

I would like to give enormous thanks to all authors for their willingness and commitment to participating in the hard work behind this present volume. Much gratitude also goes to the copy-editor Beth Battrick, and to my colleagues at both Academic Skills and the Student Experience and Career Development Office at ANU for their support throughout the editing process.

May this volume inspire many others!

Dr. Julia Brown

*AURJ Volume 9* Editor

## About the authors

### James Atkinson

James is a final-year student of a Bachelor of Development Studies and a Bachelor of Arts (political science major). He is interested in the relationship between media and politics, and how it shapes policy and development. He recently returned from a short course in Myanmar with the College of Asia and the Pacific.

### Sarah Barrie

Sarah has recently graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) and a Bachelor of Central Asian and Middle Eastern Studies from ANU. She has a particular research interest in the Middle East, international humanitarian law and interdisciplinary legal studies.

### Nicholas Blood

Nick is in his third year of a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (Sustainability). Much of his learning so far has been relayed into articles on sustainability written for the ANU student newspaper *Woroni*, and the national student newspaper *Et Cetera*. Nick is the 2019 ANU Students' Association Environment Officer and hopes to further apply his learning towards a more sustainable campus and community. Nick's article is a response to a 'Grand Challenge' video on the problems of plastic use, including product packaging. The video was presented to students are part of the course ENV5 2013 – Society and Environmental Change.

### Jessica Elliott

Jessica graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws, Honours (First Class) in 2018. In 2019 she is the Tipstaff to the Chief Justice of New South Wales. She was an Academic Observer to the Australian Mission at the United Nations, a paralegal at Aboriginal Legal Service and Summer Clerk at King & Wood Mallesons. She was a Senior Student Editor of the *Federal Law Review* and *Australian Year Book of International Law*.

### Tom Goodwin

Born and raised in Melbourne, I was fortunate enough to receive a Tuckwell Scholarship to study a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and a Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics at ANU. I am and will always remain thankful for the opportunities that have been given to me. Inherent in my gratitude

for the start to life Melbourne has given me is an appreciation for the immense formative influence that gold has had on the cultural, economic and political prosperity of my hometown; an influence that I am proud to have investigated in my article.

## Georgie Juszcyk

Georgie is a third-year Law/International Security Studies student. Georgie currently works as a Research Assistant for Associate Professors Sarah Heathcote and Asmi Woods, and as an Administrative Assistant at Lexbridge Lawyers. Georgie's primary research interests include national security law, international law, constitutional law and administrative law.

## Rebecca Kriesler

Rebecca is currently completing her Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Arts degrees, majoring in history and international relations. She has focused her studies around researching social justice issues and the persecution of minority groups in the law. She is doing ongoing research with the CEO of Legal Aid ACT to publish a legal guide assisting self-represented litigants to navigate the criminal justice system. She is passionate about ensuring the legal system is accessible for all and aims to pursue this into the future.

## Clare Langley

Clare is currently completing a Bachelor of Medical Science at ANU. Clare's major focus has been on biology; however this paper was prepared as a part of a Population Health course.

## Kida Lin

I am currently an Honours student in philosophy at ANU. My research interests are in normative ethics. I have recently completed a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and government/international relations at the University of Sydney, where I received the Lithgow Scholarship No. IV for best performance in senior year of philosophy, and the Francis E Snare Memorial Prize for best performance in moral and political philosophy. In my free time, I enjoy debating and writing. I am a reporter for *ANU Observer*, and I have contributed to *Woroni* and *Honi Soit*. I was also a top 10 best speaker at the Australian Intervarsity Debating Championships in 2018.

## Joshua Ling

Joshua graduated from ANU in law and international relations in 2018. In his time at ANU, Joshua was an active participant in various law student competitions, was awarded the Ann Downer Memorial Prize and the Sarah Avery Prize, and was a student editor for the *Federal Law Review* and the *Australian*

*Year Book of International Law*, both published by the ANU College of Law. He looks forward to exploring a career in dispute resolution.

## Alex Lombard

Alex is currently studying philosophy, mathematics, linguistics and Ancient Greek. This paper was originally submitted as an essay for the course Philosophy of the Cosmos (PHIL2042/MATH1042), an introductory course on the philosophy of science and cosmology jointly offered by the School of Philosophy and the Mathematical Sciences Institute.

## Annika Morling

I am a third-year PhB student majoring in English. I am commencing my Honours project at the beginning of 2019, in which I plan to look at gothic cinema. My main interest is in film and I am also interested in the gothic genre and nineteenth-century British literature and society.

## Julian Moss

Julian is a final-year undergraduate law student at ANU. To support himself, he works part-time as a paralegal. He is passionate about public law, in particular the legality of restrictions on voting rights. In his spare time, he enjoys gardening and bushwalking on Canberra's many great trails.

## Dana Royle

Dana is a fourth-year student at ANU, studying a double degree in a Bachelor of Criminology and Science (Psychology). Dana has had a lifelong passion for all things creative and loves reading crime and mystery novels, driving her research interests at ANU.

## Yee Seng Tay

Tay is currently completing a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in international relations and geography, and will be pursuing his Honours coursework at the Fenner School of Environment & Society in July 2019. His primary area of academic interest lies in environmental policy, biodiversity conservation and global climate change cooperation.

## Chenghao Yu

Chenghao is a third-year Bachelor of Science (Psychology) student at ANU. He was awarded the Judith A. Slee Prize for Scientific Writing in Psychology in 2017, attended the IARU (International Alliance of Research Universities) Global Summer Program in 2018 as an ANU Grant recipient and is currently

working as vacation scholar at the Monash Accident Research Centre. He is intrigued by new explorations and applications in the field of behavioural science as he believes it ultimately serves the purpose of empowering more people to have a better life.

## Jiahuan Zhang

Jiahuan graduated from ANU with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Her major is linguistics with research interest in the interface study of second language acquisition and language testing. She has finished two pilot projects in her final year concerning Chinese-L2 learners' acquisition of classifiers, which is also the thesis topic for her current Honours year. She is also interested in teaching Chinese as a second language. As early in 2015 and 2016, she gained teaching experience from working as a Chinese language assistant as well as a Chinese culture teacher for the worldwide American government-sponsored summer program National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) in China, and has received awards for her excellent teaching.

# About the editor

## Julia Brown

Julia is a Visiting Fellow at the School of Archaeology and Anthropology at the ANU, where she recently completed her PhD in social and medical anthropology. Her ethnographic research in Australia and the UK focused on the lived experiences of clozapine-treated schizophrenia patients and their clinical caregivers. Julia hopes to continue working at the intersection between critical anthropology, public policy and the social studies of science, technology and medicine. She has several publications in reputable international journals and has both tertiary teaching and research assistant work experience, including government public health policy experience. She also co-founded the ANU-supported anthropology social engagement project (blog and podcast) *The Familiar Strange*. Julia is passionate about making academia more accessible and she worked as a Learning Adviser at the ANU Academic Skills centre throughout her PhD candidature.



# Cover art

Belle Palmer

*Symbiosis*, 2018

Interactive installation: bicycle forks, steel, bamboo, hair, string

150 x 500 x 50 cm

Photographer: David Lindesay

Belle won the Peter Karmel Award for this piece, which she completed as part of her Bachelor of Visual Arts (Honours).