



AUSTRALASIAN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

13 December, 2021

Dear Members of the Australasian Human Development Association (AHDA),

Welcome to the final AHDA Newsletter of 2021! In this issue, we have a message from our President Annette Henderson, a summary and highlights from our 2021 Online Conference, our Member Spotlight, job alerts, and information about how you can get involved with AHDA.

A message from AHDA's President, Associate Professor Annette Henderson

Although we continue to feel the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, our association continues to be focussed on growing and enabling connections with our members. As travel continues to be restricted, I remain more convinced than ever that our society has played a valuable role in maintaining connections between human development researchers within Australasia. I feel extremely fortunate to represent you all as President of AHDA and to be in a position where I can reflect on 2021 while looking forward to being able to spend the holiday season enjoying the summer with nearby family and friends. It is my hope that you enjoy reading this Newsletter, which offers a brief summary of AHDA's 2021, as you too are unwinding and getting ready for a much needed and well-deserved holiday season.

2021 was a busy year for AHDA with a number of exciting ventures, which I outlined in our AGM held November 18, 2021. The year began with our Regional Representatives joining the bi-monthly meetings of the Executive Membership Committee, which has resulted in lively and productive meetings. I am grateful for the regional representatives' commitment to contributing to our association and representing the members in their regions.

A main focus for the year was undertaking the development of our new brand and [website](#). I hope you love the lively colours in our new brand and enjoy perusing through our new website. Please keep in mind that the website continues to be a work-in-progress as we plan on enhancing our Membership Portal with targeted members-only content.

The next highlight is our **third online conference**, which was a huge collaborative effort between the Executive Committee, the Regional Representatives, and three additional members: Alecia Moser, Jacqueline Homel, and Alexander O'Donnell. The conference was a massive success. It provided a welcomed opportunity to share our research with our colleagues in a year during which most of the regularly scheduled conferences continued to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Please see below to review the key highlights of our third online conference.

This year also brought some **changes in our Executive** which began with Cassy Dittman as our new Secretary. Sadly, Nichole Breeland completed her first term as the NZ junior member at large and will not be able to continue as she has completed her PhD, moved back to the USA, and needs to focus on her new role at a user-research company. On behalf of our association, I thank Nichole for her excellent service as our first junior member at large and wish her the best as she moves into this next chapter of her life. Fortunately, Molly Speechley joined mid-year as our new Junior Member at Large (Australia) and Sina Gibhardt will come onboard as our next NZ Junior Member at Large. It has been

great working with Molly thus far and we look forward to welcoming Sina to the team. With all the changes 2021 brought, I have been immensely grateful to have the continued dedicated support of long-term Executive Committee Members: Jaimee Stuart (Treasurer), Riley Scott (Communications Director) and Paul Jose (Past President).

It has also been great working more closely with our active non-Executive Committee **Regional Representatives: Nic Badcock, Susan Walker, Jacki Henderson** who have attended most of our meetings this year and played an integral role in contributing to the success of our recent conference. On behalf of the membership, I would like to extend ongoing gratitude to past and present Executive Committee Members and Regional Representatives.

We held our **2021 AGM** as part of the online conference. Please see minutes [here](#). Here are a few highlights from our discussion:

- Our Treasurer, Jaimee Stuart updated us her activities, which involve her working tirelessly to ensure our accounts align with current policy requirements. On behalf of AHDA, I would like to thank you, Jaimee, for your enduring commitment to future-proofing our finances and financial processes. The next Treasurer will be well-placed thanks to your massive efforts!
- Our **social media presence** continues to grow with thanks to Riley Scott. Please help us in growing our society by liking our [AHDA Facebook Page](#) and following us on [Twitter!](#)
- AHDA now has 236 members with many opting to become members as part of their online conference registration. **If you have not renewed your membership for 2022 yet, your membership will lapse December 31st, 2021.** [Please renew here if you are a paid member \(non-student\)](#). If you are a student or postdoctoral fellow, please email us at AHDAmembers@gmail.com so that we can verify your student status for your free membership. Your membership will help support our ongoing activities and is greatly appreciated.

I hope you agree that AHDA has continued to achieve much across two years filled with uncertainty and that you have enjoyed this opportunity to reflect on our successes this year as much as I have. I am extremely grateful to be a member of AHDA and for the opportunity to work alongside the wonderful Executive Committee and Regional Representatives. I would like to thank you for being a part of AHDA and wish you a very happy and safe holiday season and new year.

Sincerely,

Annette Henderson, on behalf of the 2021 AHDA Executive Committee

AHDA 2021 Online Conference

The ongoing effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in many conferences being shifted online in 2020 and 2021. Luckily, our experience with our 2019 and 2020 online conferences meant that we were well-prepared to host another great conference this year! Our 2021 Online Conference offered a great opportunity to connect through human development research in Australasia. Our 2021 conference was held across two days: November 18th and 19th, and was a great success with 53 presenters, 2 keynote

presentations, and 134 registrations from 34 institutions and organisations across Australasia.

We received some much appreciated feedback on the conference, which was rated almost **5 stars across all aspects** including the programme, ease of using Zoom, timing of presentations, keynote presentations, and overall success. Our attendees loved the variety and range of presentations as well as the opportunity to connect with researchers in Australasia:

What did you like best about the conference?

- The keynote presentations at the start of each day
- Interesting topics, genuinely collegial and supportive atmosphere. I also like the fact that online, it was easier to attend, cheaper, and generally more accessible
- Variety of presentation topics
- The quality of the presentations was very high – all sessions provided material of interest

Some snapshots of the conference presentations and networking can be seen below:



We would again like to congratulate **Lewis Nitschinsk** for receiving first place in our Individual Student Presentation Category, and **Molly Speechley, Jessica Spence,** and **Anna Elisara** who received second place. We would like to thank the International Society for the Study of Behavior and Development (ISSBD) for their generous support for these awards.

Our People's Choice Awards also had a number of winners, including:

- **Most Impactful:** Sabine Baker
- **Most Creative Method:** Jacqueline Homel, Wan-Ting Yeh, Lewis Nitschinsk
- **Most Interesting Findings:** Evita March, Jaimee Stuart, Julia Rudolph, Wan-Ting Yeh
- **Most Engaged Audience Member:** Sina Gibhardt

We would also like to extend huge thanks to our 2021 Online Conference Organising Committee members, who worked alongside members of the Executive Committee and Regional Representatives: Alecia Moser, Jacqueline Homel, and Alexander O'Donnell.

If you attended or presented at our 2021 online conference and have not yet provided feedback, you may do so by following [this link](#).

All recordings of conference presentation sessions will be made available to our members once our new website and members portal is finalised in January. If you would like to access a copy of your own presentation before then, please contact us.

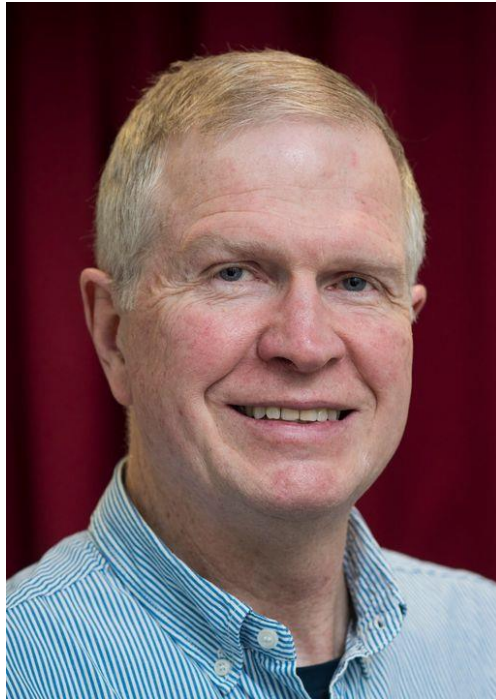
AHDA 2022 Conference and Events

Please reach out to us at AHDAmembers@gmail.com if you would consider hosting or joining an organising committee for another online conference in 2022. International Conference hosting is an extremely valued contribution to the field. Our previous online conferences have allowed us to build networks with like-minded researchers and to learn more about valuable human development research being conducted in Australasia.

In 2022, we would like to hold a number of events for our members, including networking events, webinars, and workshops. Please get in touch if you have any ideas for topics that our members may benefit from, or if you would like to get involved in organising or presenting.

AHDA Member Spotlight

Our Member Spotlight is designed to introduce our members to one another and to highlight information about research, interests and opportunities in this space. We continue this series by introducing you to our Outgoing President, Paul Jose, and the other members of our Executive Committee and Regional Representatives. For more information on who is involved in the Executive Committee and our Regional Representatives, please visit our [People page](#).



Professor Paul Jose

School of Psychology, Victoria University of Wellington

1. **What does your research explore/investigate?**

My career has encompassed a variety of subdisciplines within psychology (social, developmental, personality, clinical, cross-cultural, quantitative methods, and positive), but if I had to come up with a single descriptor it would be 'social development'. I have sustained an interest over decades in how people develop their social skills (or fail to do so). Although I take a life-span approach (see my latest talk at this year's AHDA conference), I have historically studied development from late childhood through to emerging adulthood because that's where considerable social development occurs.

2. **What drew you to work in human development?**

If someone wants to make sense of a psychological phenomenon (and I don't care what it is), then they must be curious about how it changes over time and through development. Only through tracing what forces and influences shape and mould the development of a psychological construct can one understand what it is that they're looking at. And humans are always changing, in some respects, all lifelong up to until death. So, we're endlessly interesting from a developmental perspective.

3. **What do you love best about being a researcher?**

Finding new knowledge. The process of doing research is one long treasure hunt in which being clever, persistent, and resourceful often pays off in finding something new that no one has described before. And we get to do it collaboratively with people we like (I presume that most people work in teams of people that they personally like;

I do), so the process is enjoyable and fun even if you don't find that imagined treasure chest at the end of your search.

[Please visit and like our Facebook page to see Paul's full highlight!](#)

Call for Involvement

We are dedicated to connecting researchers together and promoting the work of our members. If you would like to share information about your recent research publications, upcoming or ongoing projects, or job opportunities, please email us at AHDAmembers@gmail.com.

Please also like and follow our [AHDA Facebook Page](#) and [Twitter](#) where we will continue to highlight current advances in our field and the work done by our members. We hope that our members will engage with our content and take the time to suggest exciting and interesting information to post via our email. If you would like to contribute material for our social media, please get in touch with us at AHDAmembers@gmail.com.

Get involved with AHDA: Become a Regional Representative!

As AHDA is a growing organisation, we encourage and welcome the involvement of our members as regional representatives of our association.

We currently have openings for regional representatives in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, the Northern Territory, and Asia. The chief role of a regional representative is to be a conduit between the Executive Committee and the society members in their region (i.e., regional representatives are encouraged to actively distribute information to regional members and forward relevant information back to the Executive Committee in a timely fashion). Regional representatives are expected to attend AHDA's Annual General Meeting and are invited (and encouraged) to attend bi-monthly Executive meetings. Please get in touch if you would like to see our Executive Management Committee Guidelines.

Inspired by last year's conference, Nic Badcock signed on as a regional representative for Western Australia. He says: "It's been really refreshing working with a fun and motivated group to promote and expand developmental science in Australasia. Great to assist in building connections when it's challenging to meet in person."

Please get in touch with us at AHDAmembers@gmail.com if you are interested in becoming a regional representative for AHDA and to self-nominate. Our new regional representatives will begin their term in January 2022.

The European Association for Research on Adolescence (EARA) 2022 Conference: Call for Submissions

Abstract submission is now open for the [18th EARA conference](#) which will take place in person, in **Ireland**, at Trinity College Dublin campus in the heart of Dublin city. The conference will run from **Thursday, 25 August to Saturday, 27 August 2022**, with a day of

pre-conference events on Wednesday, 24 August.

Please submit your abstract here: <https://www.eara2022.com/submissions>.

Abstracts for symposia, individual papers and posters, views by two, and discussion sessions, are due on **January 10, 2021**.

European Early Childhood Education Research Association (EECERA) 2022 Conference: Call for Submissions

Abstract submission is also open for the 31st EECERA conference which will take place in **Glasgow, Scotland** between the **23rd and 26th of August, 2022**. The conference organisers encourage all members and the wider ECEC research community to submit proposals for presentations in line with the conference theme: [Cultures of Play: Actors, Affordances and Arenas](#).

For more details about each proposal type and how to submit, please refer to [this webpage](#). Abstracts for poster presentations, symposia, individual papers and PED talks must be submitted by **Wednesday, 2nd March 2022**.

International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (ISSBD) 2022 Conference: Call for Submissions EXTENDED

[ISSBD](#) invites submissions for its 2022 Biennial Meeting which will take place **June 19-23 on the island of Rhodes in Greece**.

ISSBD encourages submissions from researchers at all career stages from all over the world.

Presentation types include paper symposia, poster symposia, individual poster presentations, roundtable discussions. The submission deadline for ISSBD 2022 has been extended to **Monday December 20th, 2021**. For more information, or to submit an abstract for consideration, follow [this link](#).

2022 Jacobs Foundation Research Fellowship Program

The Jacobs Foundation is pleased to announce the 2022 call for applications for its Research Fellowship Program.

The Jacobs Foundation Research Fellowship Program is a globally competitive fellowship program for early and mid-career researchers whose work is dedicated to improving the **learning and development of children and youth worldwide**. The relevant disciplines include, but are not limited to, education sciences, psychology, economics, sociology, behavioral science, computer science, pedagogy, linguistics, neurosciences, and science of learning.

Particularly encouraged to apply are scholars who seek to combine **multiple levels of analysis** and engage in **interdisciplinary work**. A special focus lies on work to **understand and embrace variability in learning; promote the generation, transfer, and practical**

application of evidence on human learning and development or increase the capacity to **scale up effective education policies and practices**.

For further information and to submit an online application, please visit: [Call for Applications 2022](#). **Submissions are due January 16, 2022.**

To find out more about the Jacobs Foundation Strategy 2030 please visit [Jacobs Foundation](#).

Job Alerts

Please click the following links to find out more information on job vacancies in areas of human development:

Position: Postdoctoral Researcher

University: University of Goettingen, Germany

Department: Psychology of Language Research Group

Position Description: In 22 projects, the CRC 1528 “Cognition of Interaction” investigates how fundamental cognitive functions and their neurobiological foundations contribute to human and nonhuman primate social behaviour and social interactions. The network is formed by a highly interdisciplinary consortium formed by psychologists, systems and computational neuroscientists, data scientists, and behavioural and cognitive biologists. The advertised position is in a project examining curiosity-driven learning in dynamic social interactions. The project will examine how children selectively sample information from their environment in social interactions with their caregivers and peers using a novel dyadic interaction platform to be developed within the research network.

Your profile

Master’s degree and PhD in Psychology, Psycholinguistics, Cognitive Sciences or related field

Excellent statistical and analytical skills including proficiency in R or similar languages

Very good command of English

Advanced programming skills (desirable)

Experience in studies with young children (desirable)

Fluency in German (desirable)

Application Deadline: 9th January, 2022

Apply: Please submit your application (with the keyword CURIOSITY) as a single pdf with the usual documents (motivation letter, curriculum vitae, university degrees, contact details of up to two referees) electronically until 09.01.2022 to **Georg-August-Universität**

Göttingen, Dr. Christian Schloegl, Kellnerweg 4, 37077 Göttingen. E-Mail:

christian.schloegl@mail.gwdg.de

For questions about the position, please contact nmani@gwdg.de

For questions about the application procedure, please contact

christian.schloegl@mail.gwdg.de

Position: Competition Funded PhD Project

University: Cardiff University, Wales

Department: Cardiff School of Psychology

Position Description: The studentship builds on a collaboration between Cardiff University and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust to evaluate Generation Wild. The PhD student will join an interdisciplinary team, including researchers with training in theories and methods from psychology, geography, anthropology, and conservation. The PhD student will have the opportunity to plan and conduct research investigating the contexts and consequences of the Generation Wild programme, including, for example, barriers to engagement with nature-based interventions, how interventions impact on the health and wellbeing of children from disadvantaged communities, and how interventions impact children's identities as environmental citizens, such as their place in nature and the natural resources used in their everyday lives.

The overall project involves a mixed-methods intervention design, combining quantitative and qualitative methods, and the PhD student will have opportunities for advanced training in both quantitative and qualitative methods. The PhD student will also have opportunities for hands-on learning about policy-focused research, including a placement within WWT's policy and communication team.

Application Deadline: 4th February, 2022

Apply: Visit [this link](#) for more information and to apply.

Position: Postdoctoral Researcher

University: University of Konstanz, Germany

Department: Department of Psychology: The Normativity Lab (directed by Marco F. H. Schmidt)

Position Description: In our group, we investigate infants' and children's social-cognitive development, broadly construed. In particular, we explore the developmental origins of human cooperation, norms, and morality. Moreover, we are interested in the role of (social-)cognitive and motivational processes (e.g., theory of mind, epistemology, prosociality) in the ontogeny of normativity. Empirical methods include, inter alia, interview techniques, interactive behavioural paradigms, and eye-tracking experiments. The position holder has the opportunity to develop his / her own research program within the framework of the research topics of the working group.

Application Deadline: 14th January, 2022

Apply: Visit [this link](#) for more information and to apply.

Future newsletters and communications will only be sent to our members in 2022. If you are unsure of your member status or if you would like to renew your membership (and did not do so by registering for this year's conference), please email us at AHDAmembers@gmail.com.

Finally, please email us with any comments, questions or suggestions for future newsletters, such as job alerts, calls for papers, and opportunities for AHDA members.

Sincerely,

Riley Scott, on behalf of the 2021 AHDA Executive

Cassy Dittman, Secretary, AHDA
Riley Scott, Communications Director, AHDA
Nichole Breeland, Junior Member, AHDA
Molly Speechley, Junior Member, AHDA
Sina Gibhardt, Junior Member, AHDA