



AUSTRALASIAN HUMAN  
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

March 2022

Dear 2022 Members of the Australasian Human Development Association (AHDA),

**On behalf of the AHDA Executive Committee, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our first Newsletter of 2022!** In this issue, we outline some key goals for AHDA in 2022, provide an update on our website and 2021 conference recordings, introduce you to our new Junior Member, Sina Gibhardt, and provide information about how you can get involved with AHDA this year.

First, I would like to again acknowledge the great work of the organising committee for our **third online conference** held in November, 2021. The conference was a huge success and was organised by our Executive Committee and Regional Representatives, alongside Alecia Moser, Jacqueline Homel, and Alexander O'Donnell. The 2021 online conference provided a welcomed opportunity to share research with our colleagues in a year during which most of the regularly scheduled conferences that we had planned on attending had been cancelled or shifted online due to the ongoing effects of COVID-19.

## AHDA's 2022 Vision

### 1. AHDA Webinars and Workshops

**To keep up the momentum from our previous online conferences, we plan to host a number of shorter webinars and workshops this year.** Please get in touch with us at [AHDAmembers@gmail.com](mailto:AHDAmembers@gmail.com) if you would be interested in hosting an online seminar, presentation, social catch-up, or workshop for our members. If you are interested in hosting a session, we have a number of resources available to help our hosts. Hosting a session for our members this year is a great way to build networks with like-minded researchers in Australasia and to learn more about valuable human development research being conducted in Australasia.

**We also want to know what our members would like to see in our webinar and workshop series!** Please visit [this link](#) to provide your thoughts on topics that would be useful to your career, or that may be of interest to AHDA members.

### 2. Members-Only Website Access

As our members are aware, we are currently completing an overhaul of our website, including a new Members-Only access point with resources exclusively available to our members. An interim version of this members only section is now available to members, either by visiting the website and navigating to 'Membership > Member Area Access' or clicking [this link](#). The website will prompt for a password; during 2022 this password is: **ahda2022**

In 2023 we will be integrating a much more powerful membership system with expanded capabilities for members and personal logins.

### 3. Recordings from our 2021 Online Conference are now available for members

To access these recordings, head to the [webinars page in the member areas](#).

The video recordings have been organised according to the conference sessions.

Please refer to the 2021 conference program to find specific presentations and their associated session.

#### 4. Share your Recent Publications with us!

We would love to hear from you. Please share your recent research with us via [this link](#). We ask that you provide your name, email, the reference, and a brief outline of the research that we can share on our social media or in future newsletters! This link will be available to members. To access the form, you may need to enter the password **ahda2022**

#### 5. Social Media

As our online presence continues to grow, Please help us in growing our society by liking our [AHDA Facebook Page](#) and following us on [Twitter!](#) We use our social media to highlight current advances in our field and the work done by our members. If you would like to contribute material for our Facebook or Twitter, please get in touch with us.

In conclusion, thank you for being a member of AHDA. We hope that you are just as excited as we are for what the coming year is going to bring for our society, and for human developmental research in Australasia and beyond. **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 2022 AHDA Executive

Annette Henderson, President, AHDA  
Jaimee Stuart, Treasurer, AHDA  
Cassy Dittman, Secretary, AHDA  
Riley Scott, Communications Director, AHDA  
Molly Speechley, Junior Member, AHDA  
Sina Gibhardt, Junior Member, AHDA

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## 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 newest Junior Member At-Large, Sina Gibhardt, and two of our Regional Representatives, Professor Sue Walker (Queensland), and Dr Nic Badcock (Western Australia). For more information on who is involved in the Executive Committee and our Regional Representatives, please visit our [People page](#).



**Sina Gibhardt**  
**PhD Candidate**

Early Learning Lab (ELLA), University of Auckland

Bachelor of Arts (double major in Psychology and Education; University of Auckland);  
Master of Science (majoring in Developmental Psychology; University of Leipzig, Germany)

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

My research explores prosocial development, particularly the mechanisms underlying helping in early childhood. Specifically, I am looking at how prosocial emotions motivate children to maintain and repair social relationships.

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

What I love about being a researcher is that it allows me to be creative in planning experiments as well as the freedom to ask new questions and discover new phenomena. I very much enjoy running studies with toddlers/children and to learn how they might see the world. Finally, I enjoy the social aspect of being a researcher such as discussing critical topics with the team and teaching/learning from students.

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**Professor Sue Walker**

School of Early Childhood and Inclusive Education, Queensland University of Technology  
Centre for Child and Family Studies

BEd (Hons) in Early Childhood, QUT;  
Masters (Research) QUT;  
PhD in Early childhood development QUT

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

My research explores two main areas, early childhood intervention, inclusion and the transition to school and teacher education with respect to preservice teachers' epistemic cognition and preparation to teach in inclusive classrooms. The project that is most exciting me at the moment is a collaboration with five Nordic countries exploring the politics of belonging and inclusion in early childhood education.

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

Two things really. First, I love working collaboratively in research teams, learning from others and hopefully also making my own contribution to the team. Second, the hope that my research will make some small difference in people's lives.

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**Dr Nic Badcock**

The School of Psychological Science, University of Western Australia  
Learning, Individual Development, and Life Lab (LIDL Lab)

Bsc (Hons) in Psychology, UWA;  
Masters/PhD in Applied Developmental Psychology, UWA;  
Postdocs at The University of Oxford and Macquarie University

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

I'd like to understand how small aspects of perception and cognition (e.g., perceptual learning and speed of processing) influence everyday behaviours and abilities like learning to read; and, in turn, how these relate to learning and life outcomes, and well-being.

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

It's really two things: (1) supporting others in developing their own skills and direction, and (2) discovering (or maybe just thinking about) how cognition fits together to underpin behaviour - pretty sure it's in that order!

[Please visit our Facebook page to see our full member spotlights!](#)

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**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 see this webpage for our Executive Management Committee Guidelines.

**Inspired by our 2020 Online 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](mailto: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 after this year's AGM.

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## 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, job opportunities, or to be included in our Member Spotlight, please email us at [AHDAmembers@gmail.com](mailto:AHDAmembers@gmail.com).

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## Australasian Brain & Psychological Sciences Meeting 2022

For the first time ever, three groups (the Australasian Cognitive Neuroscience Society, the Australasian Experimental Psychology Society, and Australian chapter of Human Brain mapping) are getting together for the Australasian Brain and Psychological Sciences Meeting. This will be a hybrid event between in **July (11 to 14), with the in-person gathering at the University of Queensland, St. Lucia Campus**. Twitter is the best place for up-to-date details: [@ABPS2022](https://twitter.com/ABPS2022). This is a chance for attending AHDA members to say hello in person and potentially organise a symposium. If you are interested in connected with AHDA attendees, please let us know and we'll put you in touch with like-minded AHDA people.

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## Special Issue: Frontiers in Psychology Early Social Experience: Impact on Early and Later Social-Cognitive Development

As social and cognitive development take place in human social interaction, this special issue aims to bring together research that addresses how infants' and young children's social environments shape their early and later social and cognitive development. We aim to draw on longitudinal and cross-sectional research using a variety of methods and theoretical perspectives in order to inform how infants and children build complex social skills, such as an increasingly complex understanding of other social beings.



**Research methods may include but are not limited to:** surveys, lab-based tasks, longitudinal research; neuroimaging, or large cohorts.

**Possible topics include but are not limited to:** atypical or at-risk populations; bioecological systems; collaboration; communication; contingency; cultural contexts; developmental cascades; digital learning contexts; dyadic interactions; emotional regulation; imitation; individual differences; ingroup/outgroup; joint action; neural synchrony; parent-child interactions; parenting; peer cooperation; social cognitive development; social learning; social mirroring; social networks; social rejection; teaching & learning; theory of mind.

**Abstract Submission Deadline:** 27 March, 2022.

**Manuscript Submission Deadline:** 26 May, 2022.

For more information or to submit your work, please follow [this link](#).

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## Job Alerts

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

**Position:** Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Psychology

**University:** Auckland University of Technology

**Department:** Department of Psychology and Neuroscience

**Position Description:** The Department of Psychology and Neuroscience is seeking to make a full-time appointment at the Lecturer or Senior Lecturer level. The successful applicant will be appointed to a joint position in both the School of Clinical Sciences and the School of Social Sciences and Public Policy. This individual likely will be based on the City Campus of the Auckland University of Technology.

**Application Deadline:** 21 March, 2022

**Apply:** For more information, please follow [this link](#).

**Position:** Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Psychology

**University:** The University of Melbourne

**Department:** Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences

**Position Description:** The School is seeking to appoint an outstanding academic who can enhance its research strengths and contribute to its teaching program in developmental psychology. We are particularly keen to appoint an academic whose research expertise aligns with and can build capacity in one of our research hubs or centres. The successful applicant will have a significant record of impact in research, an ability to provide outstanding classroom teaching and research supervision, and a strong commitment to service and engagement.

**Application Deadline:** 30 March, 2022

**Apply:** For more information about the role and to apply, please visit [this link](#).

**Position:** Postdoc Researcher

**University:** University of Amsterdam

**Department:** Faculty of Science

**Position Description:** Postdoc Researcher in Computational Modelling of Multimodal Communication in Face-to-Face Dialogue: We seek a Postdoctoral researcher for the project Understanding the Emergence and Maintenance of Cross-modal Convergence in Dialogue. Mutual understanding in dialogue requires convergence on mental representations of meaning between interlocutors. Such convergence emerges over time through the close coordination of interlocutors in real-time, and through building common ground by means of gesturing and speaking. Earlier conversational research has identified mechanisms of

common ground building. However, it remains unclear how and when speakers converge when referents are signalled through naturalistic multimodal behaviours (i.e., speech and gesture). The project aims to advance the status quo by investigating the dynamics of multimodal referential processes and, ultimately, by developing a computational model powered by machine learning that captures multimodal referential convergence in dialogue..

**Application Deadline:** 2 May, 2022

**Apply:** For more information and to apply, please visit [this link](#).

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Sincerely,  
Riley Scott