



16 September 2021

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

On behalf of the AHDA Executive Committee, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our third newsletter of 2021! In this issue, we have an exciting announcement about our new website, as well as information about our keynotes and Annual General Meeting for this year's online conference. We also introduce you to two more members of our Executive Committee, highlight some opportunities for getting involved with AHDA, and provide some job and conference advertisements.

First, it is my pleasure to welcome Molly Speechley as our new Junior Member-at-large! Molly is a first-year PhD candidate with the School of Applied Psychology at Griffith University. Her research explores the developmental gender identity process and experiences of gender diverse peoples. We are excited to have Molly on board and look forward to her involvement in the association.

Website Update

We have been working behind the scenes on a new website for AHDA and are excited to announce that it will be unveiled at our 2021 conference! The website will include a members-only portal with exclusive content, as well as a conference page, information on AHDA's history, links to related organisations and conferences, and information on our Executive Committee and Regional Representatives.

AHDA is dedicated to creating research and community connections in Australasia to enhance and enrich lifespan development. We are excited to show you all what we have been working on and to continue growing as an association with your support!

AHDA 2021 Annual General Meeting: Save the Date

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held at the AHDA 2021 Online Conference, on the 18th of November. All members are encouraged and welcomed to attend.

Get involved with AHDA: Become a Regional Representative!

We have recently seen some changes to our regional representatives and Executive Committee, and would like to thank **Amelia Maika** and **Kirsten Baird-Bate** for their involvement and service to AHDA. 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 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 after this year's AGM.

AHDA's 2021 Online Conference: Registrations Reminder

The dates for AHDA's third online conference are November 18 and 19, 2021. Registration is free for Honours students, postgraduates, and post-docs! For others, Registration is \$50 which includes an annual membership to AHDA.

The theme for this year's online conference is:

Distance unites us: Connecting through human development research in Australasia

Our online conference offers researchers an outlet and exciting opportunity to showcase new and interesting developmental work within the Australasian region. We are excited to announce our **two Keynote speakers**: The Life Course Centre's (UQ) Professor Janeen Baxter, and Associate Professor Kate Williams of the Centre for Child and Family Studies Research Group (QUT).

Professor Baxter will be presenting on social disadvantage, family dynamics, and gender inequality through a life course lens. You can view Professor Baxter's UQ profile [here](#). **Associate Professor Williams** will be presenting an overview of how the human brain and body perceive rhythm, and the intersection between rhythm, movement, and development. You can view Associate Professor Williams' QUT profile [here](#).

Please note that all current members who wish to renew their membership with AHDA for 2022 can do so by registering to attend the conference. If you want to renew your membership but do not want to attend the conference, please contact us at AHDAmembers@gmail.com and we will provide instructions on how to do this.

Submissions for this year's conference have now closed. We would like to thank everyone who submitted an abstract for consideration. Acceptance notifications will be sent out on October 5th.

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 two Junior Members at Large, Nichole Breeland and Molly Speechley. For more information on who is involved in the Executive Committee and our Regional Representatives, please visit our [People page](#).



Nichole Breeland

Exponent Scientific and Engineering Consulting, Phoenix User Research Centre
PhD - University of Auckland, New Zealand – Early Learning Lab
New Zealand Junior Member for AHDA

What does your research explore/investigate?

I recently completed my PhD under the supervision of Associate Professor Annette Henderson in the Early Learning Lab. Upon completion of my PhD, I shifted from academia to industry. I currently conduct user experience (UX) studies at the Phoenix User Research Centre in Phoenix, Arizona. Specifically, I conduct product and usability testing, and safety evaluations for products such as medical devices and head-mounted displays (e.g., virtual reality equipment).

My PhD research investigated children's social-cognitive development across the first two years of life. Specifically, I examined how parental and individual-specific factors impact children's mental representations of shared goals and ability to attain shared goals (i.e., cooperate) with others. My research also focused on identifying a "cooperative phenotype" that examined the relationships between children's social-cognitive abilities (e.g., intention understanding, attention capacity, and person perception) and their cooperative behaviours.

Do you have any advice for Early Career Researchers/Post-docs/PhD candidates?

The time you spend completing your PhD should be a time to learn about yourself. Try to focus more on finding out what you enjoy and what you don't, rather than focusing on doing everything to perfection. Relatedly, embrace opportunities to learn about a new research area or career path by attending a webinar, presentation, etc., that may not be directly relevant to you. You never know where you will find your niche or meet a potential collaborator!



Molly Speechley

PhD Candidate, School of Applied Psychology, Griffith University
Australian Junior Member for AHDA

Molly received her Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) from Griffith University in 2020 and is now completing her PhD under the supervision of Dr Jaimee Stuart and Associate Professor Kathryn Modecki.

What does your research explore/investigate?

My main work is in the developmental gender identity process and experiences of gender diverse peoples. My original PhD was going to examine only a small slice of these experiences, but after a lot of reading in the earliest days of my candidature, we felt that the concept as a whole demanded a far more thorough investigation. To that end, my research seeks to build an understanding of these myriad processes by systematic, qualitative review, working toward eventual quantitative investigation into this space. I also work with my PhD supervisor in areas of parenting, and cyberpsychology.

What drew you to work in human development?

An incredible lecturer in my second year of university, whose passion basically rerouted my entire academic career. A lot of questions I had (and still have) about psychology made a lot more sense when I began to consider them from a developmental viewpoint. To some extent, I'm not sure it's possible to study any field of psychology without considering the developmental angle.

[Please visit and like our Facebook page to see the full highlights for Nichole and Molly!](#)

Call for Involvement

We are dedicated to connecting researchers and promoting the work of our members and want to highlight the publications of our members in the coming newsletters and on our Facebook page. **If you would like to share your research or media updates and are a**

current member, please let us know! Further, to share upcoming or ongoing projects, job opportunities, or to be included in our Member Spotlight, please email us at AHDAmembers@gmail.com.

The Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) 2022 Conference: Call for Submissions

The **AIFS 2022 Conference** is scheduled to be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from the **15-17th of June 2022**. The conference is a must if you are a researcher or policy maker, or if you design, deliver or evaluate services for families, children and their communities. Join thought-leaders, researchers, policy makers, practitioners and change-makers for three days of insights, inquiry and thought-provoking discussion about *putting families at the centre*.

The Call for Abstracts for AIFS 2022 is now open, with abstract submissions closing on the **14th of October 2021**. Visit the [conference webpage](#) for more information on abstract submissions, speakers, and registration information!

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 **December 10, 2021**.

The conference is open to all scholars of adolescence internationally, and to practitioners who work with adolescent populations. Submissions are welcome on:

Body and brain (e.g., biology, neuroscience, health, growth, sleep)

Agency and participation (e.g., civic engagement, volunteering, digital activism)

Culture and society (e.g., gender, ethnicity, minority groups, religion, sexual diversities, cultural and cross-cultural research, social disadvantage)

Digitality (e.g., digital identities, smartphones, social media, video games, gamification)

Education and careers (e.g., achievement motivation, schooling, college, engagement, career choice and development, employability)

Methodology (e.g., new theories, new assessments and research designs, new methods for the study of change and development)

Relationships (e.g., parenting styles, family relations, romantic relationships, sexuality, role models, popularity)

The self (e.g., narrative identity, identity development, social self-concept, body image, temperament, conscientiousness, personality)

Social, emotional, and moral development (e.g., wellbeing, empathy, prosocial behavior, bullying, emotion regulation, coping, resilience, anxiety, depression, suicidality, addiction, substance use)

ISSBD 2022 Early Career Travel Grants & Workshops

The 26th ISSBD Biennial Meeting will take place in person, **June 19-23, 2022, on the Island of Rhodes, Greece**. Information about and the application for ISSBD 2022 Early Career Scholar Travel Grants and Pre-Conference Workshops are now available on the [ISSBD 2022 webpage](#).

Job Alerts

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

Position: 2x Professor (Level E), 1x Associate Professor (Level D) Positions

University: Griffith University

Department: School of Applied Psychology

Position Information (Professor): We are seeking two outstanding candidates who are leaders in their field with an impressive program of research and a track record of publications along with citations in the last five years. Demonstrated ability to attract competitive research funding and research student supervision would apply. Candidates should also demonstrate leadership in research, or in service to the university.

The Professors will promote and lead the enhancement of performance and reputation of the University by fostering excellence in research, teaching, engagement and professional activities in scholarship, and purposeful, impactful industry and community outreach activities.

Position Information (Associate Professor): We are seeking a highly experienced academic who demonstrates leadership in both learning & teaching and research. This position will assume a leadership role in undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum development and implementation as well as a track-record in research, including funding, publication, and research student supervision.

Application Deadline: October 15, 2021

Apply: To discuss the position and apply in confidence, please contact Pam Lubrainschik from Ccentric Group on paml@ccentricgroup.com or +61 452 295 088 by the closing date, quoting reference number 119681. Your application should comprise your resume with a cover letter addressing your suitability for the role. Visit [this website](#) for more information.

Position: Postdoctoral Fellowship, 3 years full-time (up to four positions)

Organisation: VicHealth

Future Healthy Countdown Fellowship (1 fellow): This fellow will lead the development of an innovative approach to tracking children's health and wellbeing to influence policy and practice change. This research fellow will develop and implement an approach to monitoring progress towards improving health and wellbeing outcomes for Australia's children and young people.

Harmful Industries Monitoring Hub Fellowship (up to 3 fellows): These fellows will help to reduce the influence and impact of harmful industries on the health and wellbeing of Victorians and Australians. Successful fellows will gather and report intelligence on harmful industry activity in Australia, with a focus on the alcohol, gambling, unhealthy food, and sugary drinks industries.

Application Deadline: October 4, 2021

Apply: Visit [this link](#) for more information and to access the application portal.

Position: Assistant Professor in Psychology

University: Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)

Department: The Division of Social Science

Position Information: Candidates may work in any of the major areas in psychology and will contribute to the Division's minor program in psychology. We welcome applicants who work on cross-disciplinary topics with other social science subjects, and/or who may contribute to the development of computational or quantitative social science in the Division. Applicants should have a PhD degree in hand by the time of employment. Teaching will be at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. HKUST is an English-speaking research university with international faculty. For more information about HKUST and the Division of Social Science, please visit <http://www.sosc.ust.hk>.

Salary is competitive and will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. Fringe benefits including annual leave, and medical and dental benefits. Housing benefits will also be provided where applicable. Initial appointment at Assistant Professor rank will normally be on a three-year contract, renewable subject to mutual agreement. A gratuity will be payable upon successful completion of contract.

Application Deadline: 1 November, 2021

Apply: Applicants should send a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, a sample publication, and three letters of reference to the attention of Search and Appointments Committee, Division of Social Science through the following link: <https://facrecruit.hkust.edu.hk/>. Please sign up first to create a personal account. In the "Application Information" section, please select the Division of Social Science on "HKUST Hong Kong Campus." (Job ID 6540)

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

As our online presence continues to grow, please 'Like' and follow our [AHDA Facebook Page](#) where we highlight current advances in our field and highlight the work done by our members. **We will be posting more information about the conference on our Facebook shortly.** If you would like to contribute material for our Facebook page, please get in touch with us.

Sincerely,

Riley Scott, on behalf of the 2021 AHDA Executive

Annette Henderson, President, AHDA
Paul Jose, Outgoing President, AHDA
Jaimee Stuart, Treasurer, AHDA
Cassy Dittman, Secretary, AHDA
Riley Scott, Communications Director, AHDA
Nichole Breeland, Junior Member, AHDA
Molly Speechley, Junior Member, AHDA