



**TIME
INTER-
DISCIPLINARY
FORUM**

CREATIVE PRESENTATION

Submerged

Amaara Raheem, choreographer and writer

Submerged is a listening score for body and imagination. It draws on the ancient practice of Yoga Nidra (as led by Jennifer Percy), the writings of Ursula Le Guin and Body-Earth guided somatic improvisation by Andrea Olsen. *Submerged* also flows through my own creative practice-research exploring how language can transport us, through sound and silence, space and time.

KEYNOTE

Our Ancestral Memory is Always Two Days Away.

Gerald McMaster, curator, artist, author, and Professor Emeritus OCAD University, Toronto

Professor McMaster's presence in Australia is made possible by the Terra Foundation for American Art and the Power Institute.

Gerald's paper centres on Indigenous notions of time, as it is expressed by the cultures of the northern Great Plains of North America. The title of my talk is from Blackfoot scholar Leroy Littlebear whose notion of time is measured relationally. I will introduce Indigenous artists, scholars, and historical material as further examples of how time is articulated by Indigenous peoples from this region.

SESSION 1

Deep Time Earth History

Dr Agathe Lise-Pronovost, DECRA Fellow, School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

The Earth is 4.5 billion years old. The Earth's magnetic field flips polarity a few times per million years. And people have lived on the Australian continent from around 65,000 years ago, at the time giant marsupials roared the land. How do we know these deep time ages? How old is a rock or an archaeological artefact? Geoscientists use an arsenal of methods to date materials over the full time range from years to billions of years. Each dating method has advantages and limitations, thus combining dating methods is often key. I am a paleomagnetist – someone interested in the history of Earth's magnetic field. By studying rocks and collating information about the ancient geomagnetic field in Australia, I aim to provide researchers and the Heritage and Archaeology sector a new way to date rocks and artefacts to better understand Australia's cultural and natural history.

The Afterlife of Plants

Yasmin Smith, artist

Growth> death> coalification> extraction> reduction> return. From the Industrial Revolution onward, sections of humanity have dug vast amounts of coal from the earth leaving voids where forests once stood. A seam of geological time is removed. The coalified remains of these ancient forests are burned and its ashes resown back into geological time, returning the ashes to the earth's surface and creating a new sedimentary record. Yasmin Smith's work *Forest* is a story of the afterlife of these ancient forests and where humans enter this narrative via industrial-scaled coal combustion. To officially enter the so-called Anthropocene into the geological record, evidence of humanity must be defined in strata as it is laid down on the earth and contributes to a new geological age. The spectrum of Yasmin's eleven coal-ash glazes in

Forest, sourced from eleven coal-fired power stations around Australia, present a visual understanding of this geochemical contribution and narrate this timeline over 300 million years.

Unfolding Language

Robert Andrew, artist

Yawuru artist Robert Andrew's work uses programmable machinery to create micro and macro evolutions of natural materials – uncovering hidden histories, building new landscapes, and revealing language over time. His current post-doctoral studies at Griffith University's Queensland College of Art are on oral and conceptual languages with a focus on Yawuru Ngan-ga. Conceptual languages require expansive discourse and emphasis on experiences, philosophies, ideas, abstractions, and connections. To truly understand a conceptual language is to know the land and experience its evolving from – to speak it brings Country into the vocal cords and into the bodies of the people. Its resonance is held within the land it's born from. Andrew's work reveals the gradual evolution of knowledge systems and language – revealing glimpses of language or history, interactions of earth pigments, and over time, a fuller story.

SESSION 2

AI, Technological Change and Time: Should Anxious Time Reign?

Leah Ruppanner, Professor in Social and Political Sciences, Founding Director of Future of Work Lab

The future of work is now and not a part of some distant future. Through our Gender Equity Initiative, we have been thinking about the ways in which the future work is changing and women's position within that change. The rise of AI, and automation mean that some jobs will be lost, some jobs will be gained, and many will need to reskill. No sector is immune from these experiences, with generative AI imposing serious challenges and opportunities for all of us. So should we be anxious about the future of work? Should we spend our time worried about the impending technological change? This talk will unpack how these changes are impacting the future of work and how we should be spending our time ... anxiously or not.

"There is No Time Without Man" (sic)

Robert Hassan, Professor of Media and Communication, School of Media and Communication

This title is from a quote by Martin Heidegger who argues that time is first and foremost subjectively experienced. There is no time on Mars, or in the distant stars, only in our heads and in our cultures. The mechanical clock that measures our experience of duration, is now joined in our lives by the time of the network. This relatively recent transformation is important, yet we know little about the effects upon our temporal lives, apart from feeling even more 'time poor' than before. If clock time made us anxious, network time makes man of us feel even worse. Why is this? Why do increasingly millions of network users feel like the promises of the Internet and social media are empty? Robert's contribution will be to consider the nature of time through a phenomenological lens and ask if we have finally lost control over our temporal lives, and if so, what can we do about it — as individuals and as part of an increasingly (time) fractured society?

It's OK to be Afraid: Honouring Sacredness of Country during Climate Apocalypses

Dr Cullan Joyce, Insight Fellow – Contemplative Studies Centre, School of Psychological Sciences and Yin Paradies, Professor of Race Relations, Deakin University

First Nations Cultures in Australia have experienced and responded to multiple apocalypses in the pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial ages. Many aspects of spirituality in contemporary Australia are emerging as a response to ecological crises and are consciously or unconsciously emulating First Nations connection with Country. A contemporary spirituality that dialogues with First Nations can identify the more-than-human as animating Country, see sacred connection as emerging from practical care of, and kinship with, the land, and see spirituality as concerned with the ongoing transformation of culture. Cullan and Yin reflect on how Extinction Rebellion crew in Australia interpreted Regenerative Culture; what aspects of Regen were prioritised or downplayed, and why. How did the process interact with or ignore First Nation's wisdom? They conclude by discussing that an Australian Regenerative culture can engage Australian First Nations via SACRED values (e.g.: it is a form of Safe, Anarchist, Country-Centred, Restful, Experiential, Dreaming).

SESSION 3

Circular Time and the Cosmic Self

Lisa Sammut, artist

Plants, Clocks and Seasons

Dr Marie Keatley, RMIT University, Applied Chemistry and Environmental Science/ Adjunct Senior Fellow, University of Melbourne, School of Agriculture, Food and Ecosystem Sciences

Plants have an internal clock that determines when they grow, when they flower, when they set fruit, when they lose their leaves. Their internal clock keeps time on a daily and seasonal basis and is influenced by day length and temperature. Plant timing is important for many things including agriculture, health, and conservation. In a warming climate this timing is changing. This talk will illustrate this with global and local examples and their impact on people.

Longitudinal Epicycles: Anecdotes From a Decade Spent Building Research Study Platforms

Dr Loren Bruns Jr, AURIN eInfrastructure Team Lead, Architecture, Building and Planning

Prospective longitudinal studies in medical and psychological research aim to collect data about the human condition on timescales that are usually measured on the order of the human lifespan. The paradox of these studies is that the very process they leverage for insight is the same one that is constantly threatening to frustrate the enterprise: time. In this talk Loren will provide observations and anecdotes on longitudinal studies he's been involved with from his vantage point as a research software engineer, where he's been tasked with designing the digital infrastructure these studies rely upon, and then keeping them healthy and fit for purpose as they run. He'll aim to show that these studies, which follow participants over a non-insignificant period of time, contain within their organising and governing structure epicycles of academic, financial, digital, and human activity that turn and churn on their own timescales.

In this talk, visual artist Lisa Sammut invites the audience to imagine their life through the personification of the cyclical motions of the extra-terrestrial; the circular, orbital, elliptical and eclipse. Borrowing from the visual language and performative qualities of astronomical GIF animations, we glimpse the unfamiliar otherworld of deep space from the security of this one. This cosmic reading of the human lifecycle takes shape in the knowledge that our fate is intertwined with the events and laws of the universe. It seizes on the ability of time, and the embodiment of interplanetary cycles and rhythms, to gain access to that which often lies beyond our capacity to logically comprehend.

BIOGRAPHIES



Amaara Raheem

Amaara Raheem's practice of choreography and writing is deeply shaped by her history of migration. In her life and work Amaara practises multiple belongings and is fascinated by creative, cultural and interdisciplinary collaborations, to develop new tools for transformation. In 2021 Amaara completed a PhD by practice at the School of Architecture & Urban Design (RMIT University). Her work crosses many borders and occurs in multiple modes: performance, text, video, sound, documentation and design. In 2022 Amaara was selected for ABC Top 5 - a media residency with Radio National - to voice her ongoing research on artists-in-residence programs, to wider audiences.



Gerald McMaster

Gerald McMaster is a curator, artist, author, and professor emeritus OCAD University, Toronto. Dr. McMaster has forty years of international work and expertise in contemporary art, critical theory, museology, and indigenous aesthetics. His international curatorial projects include the 1995 Venice Biennale, 2018 Venice Architecture Biennale, and Artistic Director to the 18th Biennale of Sydney in 2012. His most recent books are *Ijuwas Bill Reid: Life & Work* (2020); *Postcommodity: Time Holds All The Answers* (2022); and *Arctic/Amazon: Networks of Global Indigeneity* (2023). McMaster is a nêhiyaw (Plains Cree) and a citizen of the Siksika Nation.



Agathe Lise-Pronovost

Agathe Lise-Pronovost is an expert in Earth's magnetic field research working in the disciplines of Geochronology, Paleoclimate, and Archaeological Sciences. She is currently an Australian Research Council DECRA Fellow in the School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Melbourne and Chair of the Science Committee for the Australia and New Zealand Consortium for International Ocean Discovery Program. Her research unlocks data from the past in materials such as lake and marine sediments, cave deposits, archaeological artifacts and lava flows to understand geomagnetic field changes and how it impacts society.



Yasmin Smith

Yasmin Smith works with ceramics and glaze technologies, producing large-scale sculptural installations that investigate particular sites via extensive field research, community collaboration and studio development. Her practice brings scientific and artistic concerns together to allow ecological forms of intelligence to be expressed through aesthetic outcomes in ceramic glazes. Smith works with plants, ash, rock, coal, salt and wild clay in her expanded material investigations that involve an ongoing conceptual interrogation of labour, extraction, colonisation and political ecology. Her large-scale ceramic installations have been presented in prestigious national and international exhibitions and extensively acquired by major public institutions in Australia.



Robert Andrew

Robert Andrew is a descendant of the Yawuru people, their Country is the lands and waters of the Broome area in the Kimberley Region, Western Australia. His work investigates personal and family histories that have been denied or forgotten. Andrew's work speaks to the past yet articulates a contemporary relationship to his Country. His work often combines programmable machinery with earth pigments, ochres, rocks, and soil to mine historical, cultural, and personal events that have been buried and distanced by the dominant paradigms of western culture.



Leah Ruppner

Leah Ruppner's research investigates gender and its intersection to inequalities, technologies and policies. Professor Ruppner is a leading expert on COVID-19 and its impact on gender inequality in US and Australia. Her book, *Motherlands: How States Push Mothers out of Employment* (2020) provides a typology of childcare and gender policies and their relationship to mothers' employment varies across US states. This has led to a range of high impact publications showing women have divergent experiences based on their state of residence. Finally, she is leading a project on gender bias in hiring algorithms to understand how gender bias limits women's access to employment.



Robert Hassan

Professor Robert Hassan's most recent book is *Analog* (2022) which considers the question: 'are human's analogue creatures in a digital world?' His book *Uncontained* (2020), was an autoethnographic account of a four-week journey on a container ship from Melbourne to Singapore, with no access to digital media of any kind, so to discover the effects 'digital detox' on the subjective experience of time and memory. From 2012 until 2022 he was Editor of *Time & Society*.



Cullan Joyce

Dr Cullan Joyce is a passionate collaborator, activist, and meditation practitioner and is an Insight Fellow at the University of Melbourne's Contemplative Studies Centre. He has twenty years of living with, studying, and practising different Buddhist and Christian contemplative traditions in Australia and overseas, particularly China and Vietnam. He has lived (now part-time) in a contemplative interfaith community outside Melbourne since 2018. He helped organise with Extinction Rebellion Regenerative Culture or Regen until 2021 by supporting the community's well-being and providing care during dozens of disruptive actions. His research examines how the insights and practices of contemplative traditions can support communities during the Anthropocene.



Yin Paradies

Professor Yin Paradies is an animist anarchist activist Wakaya man who is committed to understanding and interrupting the devastating impacts of modern societies. He seeks mutuality of becoming and embodied kinship with all life through transformed ways of knowing, being and doing. Yin is Chair in Race Relations at Deakin University where he conducts research on racism and anti-racism. He also teaches and undertakes research in Indigenous knowledges and decolonisation. Yin has authored 242 publications, been awarded grants worth \$48 million, is an invited reviewer for 127 journals and 17,669 citations with a Google *h* index of 64.



Marie Keatley

Dr Marie Keatley is a plant phenologist; she studies the timing of budding, flowering and fruiting of plants including what influences the timing and whether timing is shifting. This intersects with vegetation ecology, botany, climate change and citizen science. At the international level, she has contributed to studies on the impacts of climate on plant phenology, particularly of the southern hemisphere. She is a member of the Executive Board of the International Society of Biometeorology. Marie was one of the founders of ClimateWatch, Australia's citizen science phenological observation network.



Loren Bruns Jr

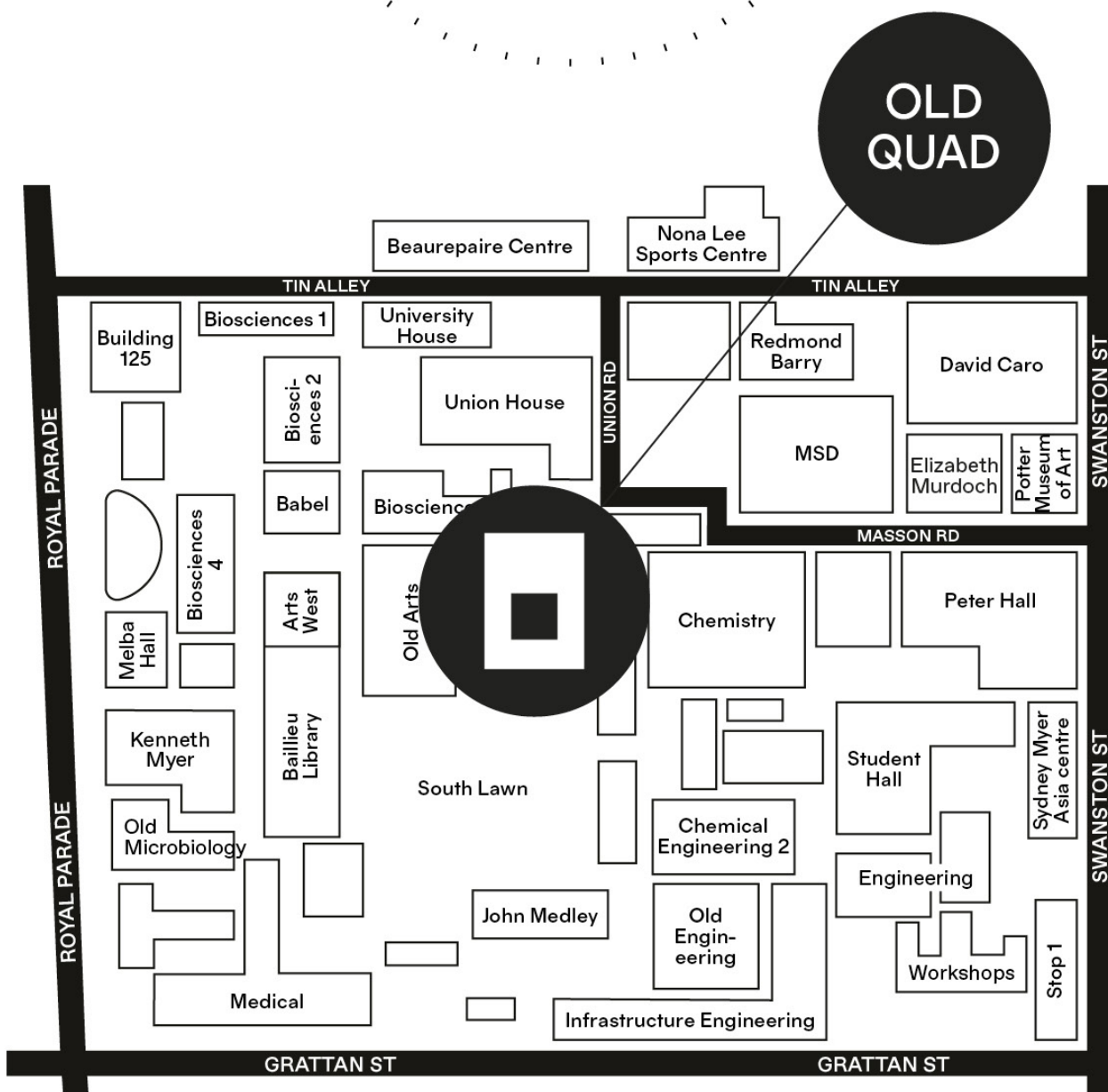
Dr Loren Bruns Jr is the eInfrastructure Team Manager at the Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network (AURIN), overseeing a team of research infrastructure engineers building modern, cloud-first digital infrastructure for the urban research community. Prior to joining AURIN, Loren completed a Bachelor of Arts in Physics from Reed College and a PhD in Astrophysics from the University of Melbourne. This was followed by a decade spent as a full-stack research software engineer, creating research platforms and co-authoring papers in the fields of Alzheimer's disease, neuropsychology, addictive behaviours, and juvenile diabetes before pivoting to managing national digital research infrastructure.



Lisa Sammut

Working in sculpture, video and installation, Lisa Sammut's practice oscillates between notions of cosmic perspective, belonging, connection and time. Privileging the poetic, intuitive and experiential, her immersive installations use a wide range of media to alter perceptions and question human-centric thinking. Incorporating objects, light and moving image, Sammut draws on natural, cultural, and historical imagery, transforming familiar visual language in unexpected ways. Sammut holds a Bachelor of Fine Art with Honours (2012) and Master of Fine Art by Research (2018), both from UNSW Art & Design. She currently lives and works in Kambarri/Canberra.

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Upstairs at Old Quad (Building 150),
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