

From the Associate Dean (Research)



Update #12, 2023

Hi all,

This is the last ADR Update for 2023 and no. 60 since 2018.

Transdisciplinary Ideation Fund and other research collaborations

The results of this UoA fund have just been announced. Researchers from our faculty are increasingly engaging in transdisciplinary research through this initiative – applications this year showed we are collaborating with all faculties across the university and are being named on several applications being submitted to the fund:

- 13 of the 35 proposals that were submitted included UABS academics – four as PIs and nine as AIs.
- Five of the 15 awarded projects in this round included UABS academics – three as PIs or Co-PIs and two as AIs.

These numbers nearly double our success rate from the previous two years where we had three projects awarded each year. The projects our colleagues are involved in are:

- “Walkable Auckland: Transforming urban landscapes through urban data analytics” led by Assoc Prof William Cheung (PROP) in collaboration with CAI and Science
- “A Web of Lies: A strategic approach to information transmission and disinformation” led by Dr Simona Fabrizi (ECON) in collaboration with Science
- “Empowering children's voices: Research and development of child-centred consultation models and tools for inclusive decision-making”, led by Education and Social Work, in collaboration with Dr Peter Zamborsky (MIB) as Co-PI and Science, CAI, Arts, Engineering, and Law
- “The 'real' cost of food: Can large-scale web data harvesting and artificial intelligence be used to create a national database of products or examining food- an policy-relevant research questions?”, led by FMHS with Dr Sandra Smith (MKTG) and Science
- “Migration studies beyond epistemic coloniality and labour exploitation”, led by Arts with Assoc Prof Christina Stringer (MIB).

On 30 November, 27 scholars from the Business School, the School of Psychology, and the School of Computer Science came together (again) to network and discuss their research interests and plans. It was an opportunity to find out what research is currently being conducted in different parts of the University and to talk about ongoing and potential future research collaborations.

From the Early Career Researchers Committee

The Early Career Researchers (ECR) Writing Retreat aimed to support our ECRs in their academic writing pursuits. This year, 15 ECRs were provided a dedicated space at the Castaways Resort for the weekend of 18 and 19 November to participate in focused writing sessions, share ideas, and receive mentorship on paper revisions. Prof David Hay and Prof Emeritus Rod Brodie offered valuable guidance to successfully navigate the journal revision process. Much of the focus was on responding to editors' and reviewers' comments at the revise & resubmit stage. Participants' feedback is overwhelmingly positive. Two photos from the retreat are attached.

From the Mid Career Researchers Taskforce

The MCR Writing Retreat took place from November 30 to December 2. 16 MCRs from most UABS departments attended the retreat at Vaughan Park for all or part of the 2.5-day event. As well as an extended and focused writing period, the retreat featured a workshop session by Prof Paul Hibbert (University of St Andrews) on “Writing struggles: Getting

unstuck". A panel session with professors and journal editors Rod Brodie, Snežina Michailova, and Jason Thatcher (Temple University, USA) addressed MCRs' questions on getting published.

The setting was highly conducive to writing, allowing MCRs to distance themselves from their day-to-day tasks. One participant remarked that being surrounded by tapping keyboards was surprisingly helpful. The attendees were also able to get to know colleagues from across the Business School in a way that is unlikely with the brief, task-focused interactions that usually occur across departments and disciplinary areas in their daily work. The MCR Taskforce looks forward to hosting future writing retreats as part of MCR support activities in the Business School.

MCR Development Programme 2024

In 2024, we will run a 10-week MCR Development Programme funded by the UoA and our faculty. While our MCR Taskforce will organise events and activities targeted at all MCRs in the Business School, this Programme will offer a more structured approach to MCRs' development. The Programme will run twice in 2024, taking two cohorts of 10 MCRs each. In early 2024, we will have an information session to explain the objectives and the nature of the Programme and invite applications.

Our Departmental Energy Research Centre has become a Faculty Research Centre

The Energy Centre is a transdisciplinary research and education centre that was founded in 2004 in the Department of Economics with the mission to provide research policy analysis and educational programmes to help business and government confront energy issues of national significance to Aotearoa New Zealand. After 19 years of existence as a departmental research centre, the Energy Centre's status has been lifted to a faculty one. Prof Emilson Silva, Director of the Centre, wants to build on the Energy Centre's reputation for excellence in energy research, education, and engagement to promote the energy sector's long-term efficiency, fairness, security, and sustainability in Aotearoa New Zealand. The Energy Centre will also be part of a newly established Energy Research Consortium at the UoA, with the Green Energy Engineering Research Centre (Faculty of Engineering) and with researchers in the Faculties of Science and Creative Arts and Industries. The Consortium will promote collaborative research and engagement related to "Energy" across the University and with external stakeholders.

PBRF update: Redesign of the Quality Evaluation process drawing to a close

Over the past two and a half years, the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) has employed a Sector Reference Group of academics to oversee the redesign of the PBRF Quality Evaluation process. This process is now nearing completion. The TEC has now released the final versions of guidelines for [Tertiary Education Organisations \(TEOs\)](#) participating in the 2026 Quality and for the [Quality Evaluation 2026 assessment process](#). The latter is particularly useful for understanding how panellists will evaluate the evidence portfolios. In 2024, the TEC will be releasing guidelines for staff participating in the 2026 Quality Evaluation round that will help us structure our evidence portfolios in the lead up to the 2026 evaluation.

Artificial Intelligence in Research workshop

In the last [ADR Update \(#11\)](#), I alerted you to this one-day workshop, indicating two potential dates when it would take place. The final date has now been confirmed – 5 March 2024. Several colleagues have indicated their intention to participate, and we now have a waiting list. Please contact [Juan](#) if you need more information or would like to join the list.

SSRN – Trends and research on sustainability

[The Business School's dedicated Research Paper Series](#) on the Social Sciences Research Network was announced to the global community in September 2020 to give the research conducted in the Business School greater visibility. Since then, we disseminated 16 e-Journals, increased the upload of academic papers and abstracts from our researchers from 392 to 1,225, the number of authors/co-authors from 562 to 1,506, and downloads from 35,558 to 73,287. Over time, this should also increase the number of our citations. To have a group or topic-focused eJournal published on SSRN and/or your paper or abstract (with DOI reference), working or accepted paper uploaded for you, please email [Christiane Rupp](#).

The SSRN team has been working with the Education Group within the Financial Times which is responsible for the FT50 journal ranking. SSRN has provided data showing usage in the government and corporate sectors for the most downloaded papers related to sustainability. Take a look here: [Business school sustainability research: What is read most?](#)

Engaging with public audiences (and more)

Prof Jason Thatcher (Temple University, USA) joined us for a series of seminars from 28 November to 1 December. "How to communicate your research effectively and being a public intellectual", "Drivers of early career success for academics", "Navigating the competitive academic job market", and sharing thoughts on publishing at the mid-career researchers writing retreat were on the programme. With an audience of over 27,000 LinkedIn followers, his insights were described by various participants as both inspirational and practical.

The UoA is a founding sponsor of [Newsroom](#), an independent news and current affairs website. Newsroom has a new look and will continue to feature commentary and analysis from academic experts on current affairs. The Newsroom team is always happy to talk to academics keen to share their expertise – [Learn how you can contribute to Newsroom](#). Also, the Business School recently hosted Finlay MacDonald, regional editor for [The Conversation](#), who ran a workshop for researchers on how to write and pitch for this outlet. The link to the workshop video is available [here](#).

University of St Andrews Global Fellowship Scheme

The University of St Andrews is accepting applications for their prestigious *Global Fellowship Scheme* for the 2024/25 academic year. This scheme is a unique chance to spend up to a month in St Andrews, in Scotland. Global Fellows will be immersed in an environment that encourages innovative thinking, conduct research, and explore potential collaborations. The visit can be long-term and short-term; a stipend of £1000 per 28-day visit will be offered to scholars, plus accommodation, airport transfer, and return airfare. The application deadline is 1 March 2024. The visit is expected to take place between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2025. For more details on the application process and eligibility criteria, please visit the [Global Fellowship webpage](#). For further inquiries, feel free to contact addison.pan@auckland.ac.nz.

Have a good break when you get to it and all the best in 2024!

Snejina

This Update is intended to keep University of Auckland Business School staff informed about research developments, news, events, and funding opportunities. The Update has been issued since 2018. You can view editions from 2021 onwards on the [Research section of the Business School internet pages](#).