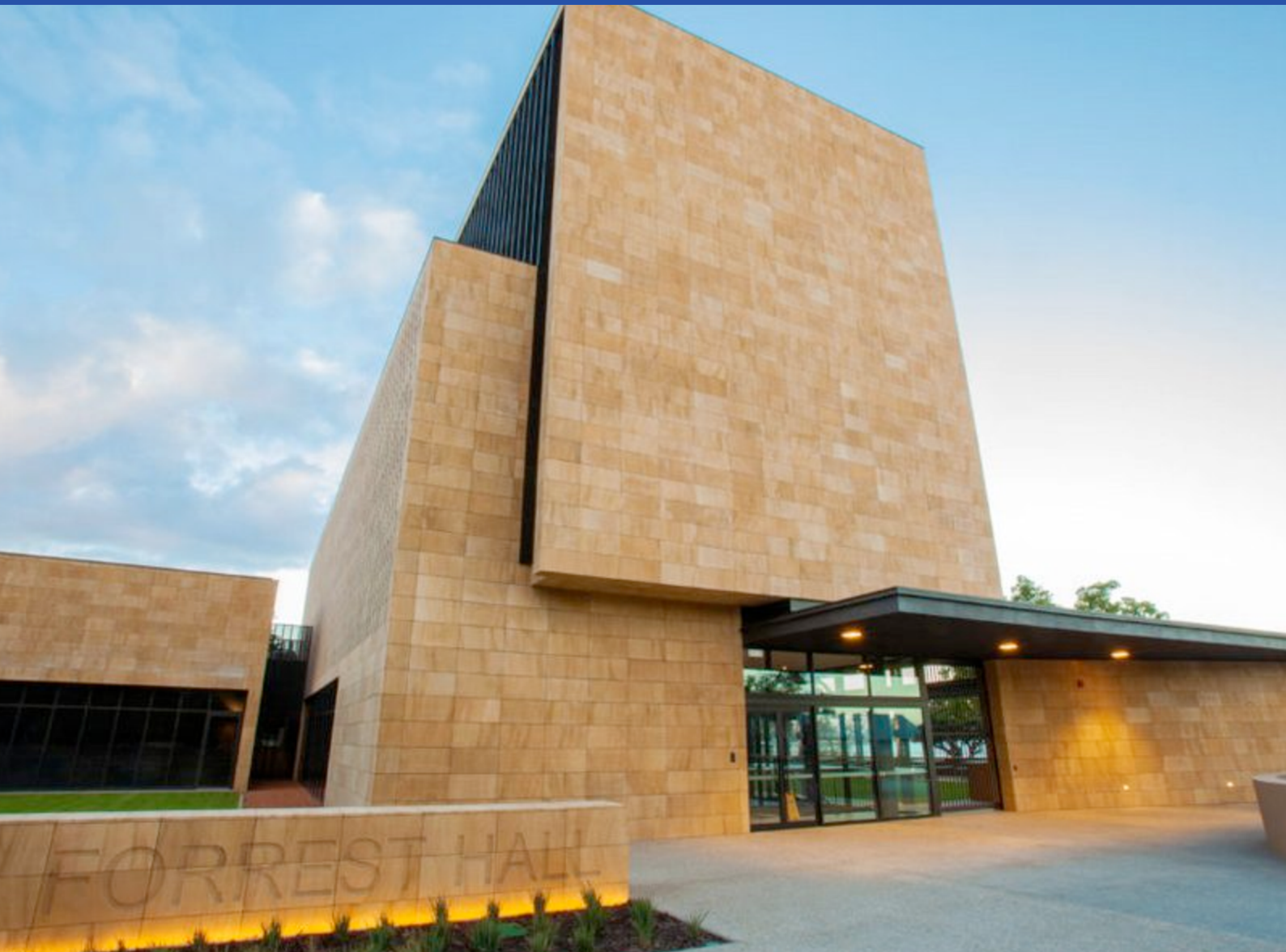


Australian Political Studies Association PhD Symposium 2024



MONDAY, 25TH OF NOVEMBER

Forrest Hall

21 Hackett Dr., Crawley WA 6009

**ORGANISED BY THE APSA POSTGRADUATE CAUCUS, THE APSA 2024
LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE & UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN
AUSTRALIA, WITH SUPPORT FROM FORREST HALL**

Welcome to the 2024 APSA PhD Symposium

We are excited to welcome you to UWA for the first day of this year's conference.

Today is intended to be an opportunity for postgraduate students to learn from established academics at all stages of their careers. We have aimed to provide something for everyone – public engagement, methodology, careers, publications and the PhD experience itself will all be covered, and there will be chances to ask questions and get advice.

During the breaks throughout the day, we hope you also get the chance to talk to your peers, catch up with old friends and maybe make some new ones. In our experience, your fellow PhDs are often the people who will commiserate and celebrate with you, provide support and advice, and help us feel at home in these big (and occasionally daunting) spaces. Take the opportunity to meet new people!

Thanks for joining us today, we hope you learn a lot and enjoy yourselves.

Phoebe, Josh and Francesco
– *The APSA Postgraduate Caucus Convenors*

ORGANISERS

The APSA PhD Day has been organised by the Postgraduate Caucus Convenors, with the support of the APSA Local Organising Committee, the University of Western Australia, Forrest Hall and APSA Leadership. Thanks to all involved for helping make today possible.

For any questions, issues or feedback, please contact the caucus convenors:

Phoebe Hayman | p.hayman@latrobe.edu.au

Josh Dunman | josh.sunman@flinders.edu.au

Francesco Vittonetto | francesco.vittonetto@griffithuni.edu.au

GETTING HERE

FORREST HALL

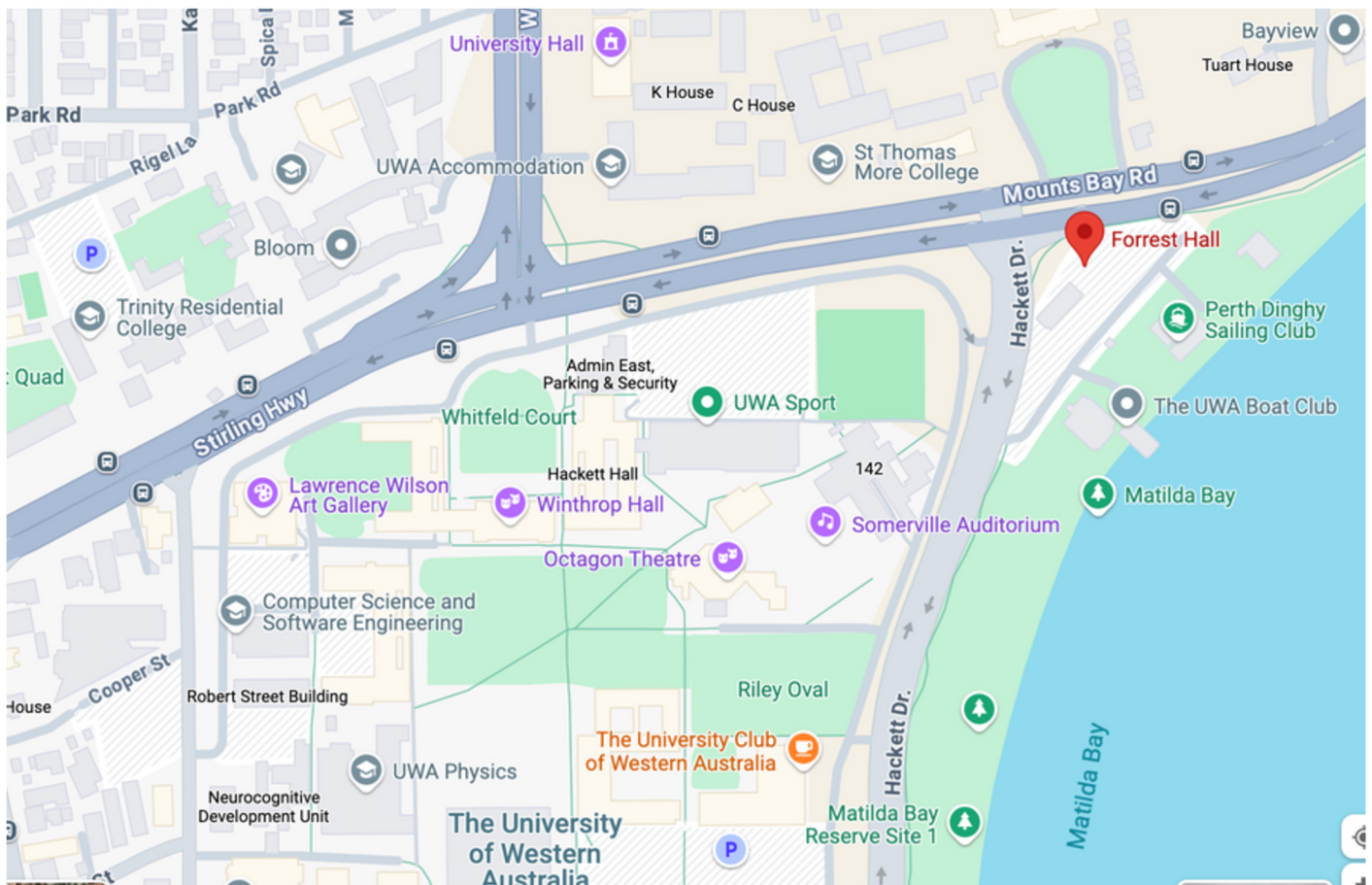
21 Hackett Drive

The venue for the 2024 APSA PhD Symposium has been generously provided by Forrest Hall and the University of Western Australia.

Forrest Hall is on the eastern edge of the campus, along the waterfront. On UWA campus maps, the building is identified as 672. The campus is accessible via public transport from the city centre, and the 23, 950 and 995 buses all have stops directly outside the building. See transperth.wa.gov.au for timetables and routes.



*QR code for
directions*



Program

All sessions will take place in the Ashburton Room in Forrest Hall

REGISTRATION

8:30am – 9:30am

WELCOME

9:30am – 10am

SESSION 1

10am – 11am

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Michael Hopkin, *The Conversation*.

The keynote address will be followed by a discussion of how PhD candidates can engage with media and the public and an audience Q&A.

MORNING TEA

11am – 11:30am

SESSION 2

11:30am – 12:30pm

MAKING SANDWICHES IN ACADEMIA - SERVICE WORK IN THE PHD

Kelly Gerard, The University of Western Australia

The keynote address will be followed by a discussion of how PhD candidates can engage with media and the public and an audience Q&A.

LUNCH & CAUCUS FAIR

12:30pm – 1:30pm

Lobby area

The Australian Political Science Association has a number of specialist research groups and caucuses, representing the association's many sub-disciplines, methodologies and identities. As you enjoy your lunch, we encourage you to visit the stalls set up with information on these groups, join one (or many!) and meet other postgraduates within your discipline.

SESSION 3

1:30pm – 3:30pm

INTERPRETIVE METHODS SESSION AND DISCUSSION

Nick Cheesman, April Biccum, Sarah Ball, Jack Corbett.

This session, run by AusPSA's Interpretive Methods Research Group, will introduce and discuss interpretivist methods in the Australian academy to the HDR cohort and contribute to the building of a community of practice that is both familiar with and conversant in interpretive methodologies.

AFTERNOON TEA

3:30pm – 3:45pm

SESSION 4

3:45pm – 5pm

SPEED MENTORING

Andrea Carson, Jordan McSwiney, Sarah Cameron, Daniel Baldino, Alica Kizekova

This session will give you the opportunity to speak directly to academics from a range of specialities at all stages of their careers, to ask them questions and get advice. To find out more about our mentors, please see their bios in this program.

CLOSE

5pm

The APSA conference Welcome Reception follows at 7:30pm at The Reveley, Eastern Promenade The Towers at Elizabeth Quay, Ophir Walk, Perth WA 6000.

Presenters

In order of appearance



MICHAEL HOPKIN

The Conversation

Michael Hopkin is The Conversation's Environment and Energy Editor, and he is also its only editor on this side of the Nullarbor. Based in Perth, Michael joined The Conversation after several years as a journalist with Fairfax, The West Australian, and others. Before moving to Australia from his native UK, he was a senior news and features writer for *Nature*.



KELLY GERARD

The University of Western Australia

Kelly Gerard is Assistant Professor in Political Science and International Relations at the University of Western Australia. Her research interests span political economy, social movements and governance in East Asia, and her work has been published in *The Pacific Review*, *Contemporary Politics* and *Globalizations*.



NICK CHEESMAN

The Australian National University

Nick Cheesman is one of the convenors of the Interpretive Methods Research Group at APSA. He teaches interpretive methods courses and convenes the Interpretation, Method and Critique Network at the Australian National University. He is an Executive Committee member of the American Political Science Association's Interpretive Methodologies and Methods group and host of the *New Books in Interpretive Political and Social Science* podcast.

Dr. Cheesman and **April Biccum** (below) are editing a forthcoming symposium on interpretive methods for the *Australian Journal of Political Science* and authoring a book, *Meaning in Politics: Teaching Interpretive Methods*, for the Routledge Series on Interpretive Methods (forthcoming 2026).



APRIL BICCUM

The Australian National University

April Biccum is Senior Lecturer in International Relations in the School of Politics and International Relations and co-convenor of the new Interpretive Methods Research Group at APSA. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Interpretive Methods. Her research is examining the use of the concept 'Global Citizenship' by state and non-state actors. New work in this area is forthcoming in the Yearbook of Development History (2025).



SARAH BALL

The University of Melbourne

Dr Sarah Ball is a lecturer in public policy. She is currently working on an ARC Linkage Project titled 'The new digital governance of welfare-to-work' and an ESRC project on ethics and expertise during crises. She completed her PhD at the Institute of Social Science Research at the University of Queensland, exploring the use of behavioural insights and experimental methods in Australian social policy development. She has worked for the Australian Public Service Commission and the Department of Social Services, where she developed a deep interest in public administration, knowledge sharing, and evidence-based policy.



JACK CORBETT

Monash University

Jack Corbett is Professor of Politics and Head of the School of Social Sciences at Monash University. He has co-convened the Interpretive Political Science specialist group for the UK's Political Studies Association and taught his co-authored book, *The Art and Craft of Comparison*, at the Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (US) and the National Centre for Research Methods (UK). His latest co-authored book is *Sustaining Development in Small Islands: Climate Change, Geopolitical Security, and the Permissive Liberal Order*.



ANDREA CARSON

La Trobe University

Andrea Carson is a Professor of Political Communication at La Trobe University, specializing in the news media's role in politics and the quality of public information. In 2024, she was a visiting research fellow at the University of Oxford with the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism. Her research focuses on media trust, political communication, gender politics, and regulating digital platforms. A recipient of multiple ARC grants and La Trobe University's 2023 Vice Chancellor's Overall Research Excellence Award, she has authored and co-edited books, including *Investigative Journalism, Democracy and the Digital Age*. Before academia, she was an award-winning journalist.



SARAH CAMERON

Griffith University

Dr. Sarah Cameron is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Government and International Relations at Griffith University and a Chief Investigator on the Australian Election Study and investigator on cross-national studies of elections, including the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems. Her award-winning research on political engagement and democracy has been published in leading journals and with Oxford University Press. She authors major reports on Australian elections, such as *Trends in Australian Political Opinion*. Her research on 'Political trust and satisfaction with democracy in Australia' is funded by an Australian Research Council Discovery Project. Dr. Cameron holds a PhD from ANU and has held Visiting Fellowships at Harvard and ANU.



JORDAN MCSWINEY

The University of Canberra

Jordan McSwiney is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at the University of Canberra. He researches the far right, with a focus on the organisation and communication of far-right parties and movements. He is co-research lead on the Centre's Building Democratic Resilience research cluster. Within this, Jordan is working on the project 'Democratic Resilience: The Public Sphere and Extremist Attacks' (Discovery Project, funded by ARC, 2021-25).



DANIEL BALDINO

Notre Dame University

Associate Professor Daniel Baldino is a political scientist specialising in Australian foreign, defence and security policy at the University of Notre Dame. He has been a Research Associate at the Library of Congress, Washington DC, a visiting scholar within The Canadian Centre of Intelligence and Security Studies and the Security and Governance Program at the East-West Center. His co-edited book *Controversies in Australian Foreign Policy: the core debates* was the winner of the AIAs inaugural publication grant. He is currently the WA chapter convener for AIPIO, and an Associate Editor for the *Journal of the Indian Ocean Region* and the *Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism*.



ALICA KIZEKOVA

Curtin University

Dr. Alica Kizekova is a lecturer in strategic and security studies and international relations at Curtin University and a Senior Research Fellow at the Slovak Foreign Policy Association. Her research deals with state strategies, global governance, security, multilateralism, and regionalism within the contexts of Europe, Eurasia, and the Indo-Pacific. Between 2017 and 2023, she led the Asia-Pacific Unit at the Institute of International Relations in Prague. Dr. Kizekova has government experience as an expert adviser to the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies in the Czech Republic, a ministerial adviser and the National Contact Point for the Slovak Republic in the EU's IDABC program.

Symposium organisers

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For any questions, issues or feedback, please contact the caucus convenors.



FRANCESCO VITTONETTO

Griffith University

francesco.vittonetto@griffithuni.edu.au

Francesco Vittonetto is a PhD candidate at the School of Government and International Relations, Griffith University. His research interests include populist radical right politics, political communication, and digital media.



JOSH SUNMAN

Flinders University

josh.sunman@flinders.edu.au

Josh is Ph.D candidate in Government and International Relations at Flinders University. His thesis examines conceptual gaps left by current frameworks of democratic backsliding and resilience – with a particular focus on electoral systems and management regimes. He is a regular contributor to the Australian Journal of Politics and History and he has two forthcoming book chapters on South Australian Politics and the Liberal Party currently in production



PHOEBE HAYMAN

La Trobe University

p.hayman@latrobe.edu.au

Phoebe Hayman is a PhD candidate in Politics, Philosophy and Media at La Trobe University. Her doctoral thesis examines the 2022 Australian independent campaigns as a case study of changing forms of political participation. Her research interests and recent publications focus on independents and minor parties, community organising and campaign organisation.