



Dr Helena Robinson

Profile

My scholarship and teaching practice traverse museology, educational research, and transdisciplinary theory and practice. The ideas of complexity and human-centredness unite my activities across these fields: real-world problems transcend disciplinary boundaries, and benefit from methodological flexibility and an integrative approach to building knowledge.

Education

Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies (Higher Education) 2020, University of Sydney

Doctor of Philosophy (Museum Studies) 2015, University of Sydney

Master of Arts (Museum Studies) 2003, University of Sydney

Bachelor of Arts (Art History and Theory, French) 1996, University of Sydney

Publications

Authored books

Robinson, H. 2019. *Interpreting Objects in the Hybrid Museum: Convergence, Collections and Cultural Policy*. London: Routledge.

Journal articles

Robinson, H. 2020. Curating good participants? Audiences, democracy and authority in the contemporary museum. *Museum Management and Curatorship*, 35(5), 470-487.

Robinson, H. 2018. Cultural Policy, Local Government and Museums: an Australian Perspective. *Local Government Studies*, 44(5), 719-738.

Robinson, H. 2017. Encountering complexity: debates around cultural democracy and participation. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 23 (9), 899-903.

Robinson, H. 2017. Is cultural democracy possible in a museum? Critical reflections on Indigenous engagement in the exhibition 'Encounters: Revealing Stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Objects from the British Museum'. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 23 (9), 860-874.

Robinson, H. 2016. Curating convergence: interpreting museum objects in integrated collecting institutions. *International Journal of Cultural Policy*, 24(4), 520-538.

Robinson, H. 2016. 'A lot of people going that extra mile': professional collaboration and cross-disciplinarity in converged collecting institutions. *Museum Management and Curatorship*, 31(2), 141-158.

Robinson, H. 2014. Knowledge utopias: An epistemological perspective on the convergence of museums, libraries and archives. *Museum & Society*, 12 (2), 210-224.

Details

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Links

[Academia](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

Skills

Problem Solving

Creativity

Teamwork

Leadership

Communication Skills

Adaptability

Languages

Czech

German

French

Robinson, H. 2012. Remembering things differently: museums, libraries and archives as memory institutions and the implications for convergence. *Museum Management and Curatorship*, 27 (4).

Book chapters

Valiente-Riedl, E., Cejnar, L., **Robinson, H.** and Fletcher, J. 2021 (in press). Silencing and Amplifying “Collective Voices”: Reflections on Delivering Experiential Learning Online during Covid-19. In Singh, U., Nair, S., Blewett, C. and Shea, T. (eds.) *Academic Voices: A Conversation on New Approaches to Teaching and Learning in the Post-COVID World*. Amsterdam: Elsevier. [contributing author 25%]

Robinson, H., Flexner, J. & Miller, I. 2021. What is a researcher? Definitions, bureaucracy, and ironies in the Australian context. In: Rawlings, V., Flexner, J. & Riley, L. (eds) *Community-Led Research: Walking new pathways together*. Sydney: University of Sydney Press. [lead author 75%]

Cameron, F.R. and **Robinson, H.** 2007. Digital Knowledgescapes: Cultural, Theoretical, Practical and Usage Issues Facing Museum Collection Databases in a Digital Epoch. In F. Cameron and S. Kenderdine (eds.): *Theorizing Digital Cultural Heritage: A Critical Discourse*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press. [contributing author 50%]

Reports

Robinson, H. and R. Turnbull. 2018. Standards Program 2018 Report: Prince Henry Hospital Trained Nurses Association Museum. Sydney: Museums & Galleries NSW.

Robinson, H. and R. Turnbull. 2017. Standards Program 2017 Report: Fleet Air Arm Museum, Australian Navy HMAS Albatros. Sydney: Museums & Galleries NSW.

Robinson H. and R. Turnbull. 2016. Standards Program 2016 Report: Australian Golf Heritage Society. Sydney: Museums & Galleries NSW.

Robinson, H. and P. McNaught. 2015. Standards Program 2015 Report: Hawkesbury Regional Museum. Sydney: Museums & Galleries NSW.

Lavrencic, T. and **Robinson, H.** 2015. Standards Program 2015 Report: Sydney Cricket Ground Museum. Sydney: Museums & Galleries NSW.

Robinson, H. and Cameron, F.R., 2003. *Knowledge Objects: Multidisciplinary Approaches in Museum Collections Documentation*. Sydney: University of Sydney.

Conferences

Robinson, H. 2021. Encouraging thoughtful student peer feedback using thinking hats online. 2021 Sydney Teaching Symposium: Sustaining and maintaining teaching innovation for a new normal. HyFlex mode, University of Sydney, 14th July 2021.

Robinson, H., Fletcher, J., Cejnar, L. and Valiente-Riedl, E. 2021. Embracing disruption: reimagining curricula and industry engagement to give students the employability edge. AdvanceHE Teaching and Learning Conference 2021. Online 6-8th July 2021.

Robinson, H. 2018. Interpretive Sustainability: Convergence, meaning-making and museum collections. Future GLAM, Deakin University, Melbourne, 8 June 2018.

Robinson, H. 2018. Hybrid Futures: How should collaboration work within and beyond the GLAM sector? GLAMSLAM, University of Technology, Sydney, 1 March 2018.

Robinson, H. 2012. Converging museums with libraries, archives and galleries: a case for the development of cross-disciplinary expertise? In INTERCOM Conference (ICOM), Sydney, 25-29 November 2012.

Robinson, H. 2003. Show of Independence: Solo Exhibitions in Early Nineteenth Century England. In Uncover: Graduate Research in the Museum Sector Conference 2003, University of Sydney, Sydney, October 2003.

Other published works

Robinson, H. 2001. Biography of J.M.W. Turner. In Wilton, A. and G. Kolzsch, *William Turner: Licht und Farbe*. Exhibition catalogue, Museum Folkwang, Essen. Cologne: Dumont Verlag.

Blogs

Robinson, H. 2021. Two academics walk into a bar: meditations on community-led research at 1,365m. [Queensland Museum Blog](#), 19th April 2021.

▣ Competitive research funding (external)

2018 — 2022

Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Project \$445,000: *Archaeology, collections and Australian South Sea Islander lived identities*. Chief Investigators: Flexner J., Mate G., Miller I., Pragnell J., **Robinson H.**, Baumgartl T., and Fairbairn, A. <https://assilivedidentities.qm.qld.gov.au/>

▣ Competitive research funding (Usyd)

2020 Sydney Social Sciences and Humanities Advanced Research Centre Huddle program

2017 ECR Research Incubator scheme, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

2017 School of Literature, Arts and Media Research Support Scheme

📁 Employment History

Senior Lecturer, Interdisciplinary Education, University of Sydney, Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Education) (promoted from Lecturer in Jan 2020; full-time)

January 2019

Industry and Community Project Units taught (including industry partners):

2019 The Future of Work (Allianz)

2019 Diversity in Leadership (NSW Public Service Commission)

2019 Impact of Blockchain Technology in Audit and Assurance (Deloitte HK)

2019 AI in Banking (Westpac)

2019 Emergence of the Smart Consumer (Ernst & Young)

2020 Reimagining Social Housing (NSW Treasury Corporation)
2020 Unlearning Higher Education: Universities after COVID-19 (Accenture)
2020 Student-centred placemaking in the age of digital disruption (USyd)
2020 Food for Thought 4000-level unit (KPMG, Harris Farm)
2021 Using Assistive Technology to Change Lives (TAD)
2021 Climate Resilience for NSW (NSW Treasury Corporation)
2021 A Smart Systems Approach for Future Cities (Jacobs Engineering)

Lecturer, Museum and Heritage Studies, University of Sydney, School of Literature, Arts and Media

January 2017 — January 2019

Curriculum development, unit coordination, post-graduate teaching

Units taught:

MHST6901 Museums and Heritage: History and Theory
MHST6902 Museums and Heritage: Engaging Audiences
MHST6903 Managing Collections and Heritage Sites
MHST6904 Museums and Heritage: Objects and Places
MUSM6906 Internship Elective
MUSM7036 Museums and the Digital
MHST6908 Dissertation capstone (supervision)
ARHT5908 The Business of Art

Lecturer, Museum and Heritage Studies (part-time), University of Sydney, School of Literature, Arts and Media

2015 — 2016

Course design and delivery of a variety of units within the MHST program

Curator & Collection Manager (part-time), Moriah College, Sydney

2003 — 2016

Inaugural curator of the Harold Nagley Moriah Heritage Centre: collection management, preventative conservation, exhibition development, design and delivery of education enrichment programs K-12

Lecturer (Teaching Fellowship position), University of Sydney, School of Literature, Arts and Media

2014 — 2015

Course redesign and delivery of MUSM7036 - Museums and the Digital

Lecturer (casual), University of Sydney, School of Literature, Arts and Media

2008 — 2011

Design and delivery of Artefact Studies unit, including Visiting Lecturer, Hong Kong University

Assistant Curator & Registrar, Sydney Jewish Museum

2002 — 2003

Research Assistant (part-time), University of Sydney, School of Literature, Arts and Media

ARC Sesqui Grant with Powerhouse Museum: *Knowledge Objects: multidisciplinary approaches to collections documentation*

Assistant Curator, Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany

2000 — 2002

Curatorial assistance to the Director; managing loan agreements and collaboration with the Tate Gallery London on the major exhibition *J.M.W. Turner – Licht und Farbe*

▣ Teaching innovation

Educational Innovation Grant, University of Sydney \$34,530

▣ Other awards & scholarships

2020 Fellow of the Higher Education Academy

2020 Shortlisted for ICPU, QS-Wharton Reimagine Education Awards

(publisher of the World University rankings)

2019 Kathleen Fitzpatrick Laureate Mentorship Scheme, University of Melbourne

2018 Shortlisted candidate, Robinson Fellowship Scheme, University of Sydney

2014 FASS Teaching Fellow, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney

2010-2013 APA (Australian Postgraduate Award) Scholarship

▣ Governance & leadership

2021-2022 Sydney Nano Institute Early Career Research Ambassador

2021 University of Sydney Modular Professional Learning Framework unit design: *M21: Supporting Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning*

2019-2020 University of Sydney Graduate Qualities assessment rubric pilot and working group

2017-2019 Inaugural Coordinator for the Museum & Heritage Studies Alumni Network

▣ Museum and heritage sector engagement

2021 Chau Chak Wing Museum International Museums Day invited panellist for *The Future of Museums* event

2018 Chau Chak Wing Museum exhibition project user group

2015-2018 Expert reviewer, Museums & Galleries NSW Standards Review Program

2006-2008 Exhibition reviewer, Arts Wednesday program, Eastside Radio (89.7FM)

▣ Invited Peer Reviews

Australian research Council (ARC) Detailed Reviewer

Routledge (Taylor & Francis)

Museum Management and Curatorship journal

International Journal of Cultural Policy

Sustainability Journal (MDPI)

International Journal of Heritage Studies (Taylor & Francis)

Queensland Review (Cambridge University Press)

PhD thesis examiner for Australian National University

Professional Development

2021

Higher Education Academy Assessor training (1 day)

2019

Mental Health First Aid certification (2 days)

Blended Learning Symposium 2019: Complex problem-solving
and self-regulated learning

Teaching Project Management (1 day)

Principles and Practices of University Teaching and Learning (2 days)

2018

FASS Early Career Researcher Writing Retreat (2 days)

HDR Supervisor training

2014

FASS Teacher Development Program (TDP)

Workshops

2021 Teaching in Hy-Flex (hybrid online and F2F teaching model)

2019 Complex problem solving and strategy development

2018 Strategies for Giving Effective Feedback to Students

2017 Disability Confidence – Supporting Students

2017 Deputy Vice Chancellor's Research Open Day, Semester 2

2017 Storyboarding: Unit of Study design

2017 Group assessment design (incl. video assessment)

2017 Key Strategies for Effective Oral Assessments

2017 Inclusive assessment design

2017 The Strategic Academic – Accelerating Academic Careers (full day)

2017 Strategies for dealing with students in distress

2017 Engaging students in a lecture setting

References

Professor Lorraine Smith

Former Director of Education DVC-E; Sydney Pharmacy School, The University of Sydney

lorraine.smith@sydney.edu.au

Professor Annie Clarke

Head of Archaeology, School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry, The University of Sydney

annie.clarke@sydney.edu.au

Professor Jennifer Barrett

Director, National Centre for Cultural Competence, The University of Sydney

jennifer.barrett@sydney.edu.au

Professor Julia Horne

University Historian & Senior Research Fellow, The University of Sydney

julia.horne@sydney.edu.au