

# Interdisciplinary mental health research: Why and for whom?

Join us for three stimulating talks to  
launch the **RMIT Health Network**

*Interdisciplinary experiments in the medical  
humanities & the social sciences*

**Felicity Callard**

“I will discuss work that I have developed with others to rearticulate how interdisciplinarity might offer new lines of inquiry for research on mental health in the medical humanities and social sciences. What might be possible if we do not disaggregate the domains of the social, the biological and the psychological from one another but open up historical moments, paradigms and possibilities that offer ways of envisaging subjectivity, psychosocial relations, and psychopathology? My talk will draw on topics in relation to which I and others have attempted to develop these possibilities (including: the psychosomatic, rest, fantasy, daydreaming and mind-wandering, and anxiety).”

*Complexities, challenges & cool ideas about  
engaging with lived experience*

**Indigo Daya**

“In this provocative talk, I will speak from my own lived experience about engagement in academic settings. How can academics authentically engage with people with lived experience? What is authentic, and who decides? What is tokenism, and why does it keep happening? How can engagement processes avoid causing harm? Why does engagement matter, anyway? I will reflect on respectful language use in relation to lived experience, including tensions and opportunities. I will discuss what coproduction looks like in practice, with examples from real life scenarios. This challenging talk aims to encourage more innovative, social justice perspectives about knowledge.”

*Creative arts-based approaches to mental health research*  
**Stacy Holman Jones and Anne M. Harris**

“Arts-based methods offer mental health researchers a creative and effective ‘way in’ to working with people living with diagnoses that challenge, disrupt or destabilize identity. Our talk explores examples of performance and narrative-based methods including verbatim and character-based theatre, autoethnography, and poetic texts that offer researchers targeted and meaningful ways to engage people living with identity stigma and to work with them in narrating a complex and dynamic sense of self.”

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#### **Date**

Tuesday 12 March 2019

#### **Time**

1 pm to 4:30 pm

#### **Location**

The Green Brain, Storey Hall  
Building 16, Level 7  
RMIT University  
Melbourne 3000

Contact Jacinthe Flore ([jacinthe.flore@rmit.edu.au](mailto:jacinthe.flore@rmit.edu.au)) with any queries.

## Speaker Biographies



**Felicity Callard** is Professor of Social Research in the Department of Psychosocial Studies, and Director of the Birkbeck Institute for Social Research, University of London. An interdisciplinary scholar in the social sciences and humanities, she has collaborated with life scientists (as well as social scientists, humanists and artists). Her research centres on broad topics in mental health, the medical humanities and social sciences. From October 2014 to December 2016, Felicity was Director of Hubbub – the first interdisciplinary residency of the Hub at Wellcome Collection.



**Indigo Daya** has held consumer leadership roles across the mental health sector for more than fourteen years, including community and clinical sectors, academia and government. Indigo has lived experience as a survivor of childhood trauma, madness and coercive mental health services. She is passionate about consumer-led change that puts human rights first. Indigo is currently Human Rights Advisor at Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council (VMIAC) and Research Fellow at the Melbourne Social Equity Institute, Faculty of Law, University of Melbourne.



**Stacy Holman Jones** is Professor and Deputy Director in the Centre for Theatre and Performance at Monash University. Her research focuses broadly on performance as socially, culturally, and politically transformative activity. Over the course of a 20-year career, she has developed an international reputation for leading the development of innovative arts-based methodologies, particularly critical autoethnography, performative writing and performance.



**Anne M. Harris** is an Associate Professor and Vice Chancellor's Principal Research Fellow at RMIT University, and an Australian Research Council Future Fellow (2017-2021) studying intercultural creativity. Anne is an Honorary Research Fellow at University of Nottingham (UK) and an Adjunct Professor at Monash University (Australia). Anne researches in the areas of gender, creativity, diversity, performance and emerging digital ethnographies.

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