Angela Dobele
Senior lecturer, School of Economics, Finance and Marketing

Academically, I am interested in word-of-mouth referrals, both traditional and electronic/digital, and learning and teaching topics that include at-risk students and uses of digital technology.

Non-academically, I am a Foster Dog Carer, enjoy Science Fiction and am planning on taking music lessons – any day now...

Did you always want to be in academia?

It was not on my list of possible careers during high school. I was living in Brisbane and saw an ad for a regional university position about an hour from where my family lived at that time. It seemed like a good opportunity to live closer to my family after years of travelling, so I applied for the job and have been an academic ever since.

What motivated you to choose this career?

The career grew out of enjoying the job. My first university was very supportive of hiring staff, then allowing them to do their PhDs part-time, so I took that opportunity and was really lucky with my supervisors. Professor Chad Perry, Associate Professor Tony Ward and Associate Professor Robert Ho were great. I also had a marketing mentor, Mr Paul Bell, who instilled the practical, while my other supervisors instilled the theory.

What are you currently researching?

I have two broad research topics of interest: word-of-mouth referrals and learning and teaching. Currently, I am looking at rewarding referral programs and the influences of social media on referrals. With learning and teaching, I’m looking at academic workloads and the use of technology by at-risk and high achieving students. I like research topics that are interesting but, it is even better when they inform both our research and teaching goals.

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Feature Profile (cont.)

Have you got any research advice you’d like to pass on?

I got a great piece of advice the other day that I would like to share. Keep your reviewer comments for your promotion applications, grant applications and review meetings with your supervisors/managers. For example, if you get a reviewer who tells you: “This is a very interesting piece of research. And is not something I have seen before,” then it makes it easier for you to claim your research is ground-breaking or theory-building, rather than an addition to existing thinking or literature. Especially if the review was for an international journal. Or a reviewer may suggest that “while this topic has been researched many times, I have never seen it with this type of methodology. Such an approach, based on observable data rather than relying on participants’ memories of past events, is well thought out and will have a major impact on analysis of this important topic! Well done!”, which means you are totally on the right track and can include such a comment as justification for future projects.

Source: Angela Dobele

Research News

Business Research Showcase 2012

Explore current research and emerging trends during a two week celebration of research in the College of Business.

How you can get involved?

Academic staff in the College of Business are invited to submit abstracts of 150 words for the 3MT Competition to be held on 7 November 2012 during the Business Research Showcase. The top two winners will be awarded an iPad 3 each!

Abstract submission deadline: Monday 1 October 2012. Shortlisted candidates will be notified by mid-October.

Abstracts should be submitted through online registration form AVAILABLE HERE.

Paper presented at Fourth Subsistence Marketplaces Conference

Jeff Fang, Professor Roslyn Russell and Professor Supriya Singh presented a paper on, "Understanding The Impacts of Microfinance Services Using Mobile Phones (Mobile Money Services) On Consumers and Micro-enterprises In Subsistence Marketplaces - Lessons From Rural Cambodia", at the fourth Subsistence Marketplaces Conference in July 2012.

Held in Chicago, USA, and jointly organised by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Loyola University (Chicago) and Monash University (Melbourne), the Subsistence Marketplaces Conference has been a leading platform for sharing research findings and fostering best practices in consumer and entrepreneurial communities living at subsistence income levels in developing countries and regions. The presenters have been invited to submit a paper in mid-November for the Journal of Macromarketing (JMK) and the Journal of Marketing Management. For more information about the Conference, CLICK HERE.

Source: Jeff Fang
Research News (cont.)

Visiting Professor at School of Accounting

Professor Graeme Wines from Deakin University is visiting the School of Accounting until 2 November 2012. During his visit, Graeme will be meeting with HDRs and academics from the School of Accounting.

Source: Marita Shelly

Visiting Professors at the School of Economics, Finance and Marketing

Professor Benjamin E. Hermalin from the University of California - Berkeley, presented a seminar on “Unobserved Investment, Endogenous Quality and Trade” on 31 August, 2012, which was attended by academics and HDRs in the School of Economics, Finance and Marketing.

Benjamin’s paper explored the severe moral hazard problem when a seller makes investments that affect a tradeable asset’s future returns without the potential buyer of the asset having any access to observe seller’s investment prior to trade, or verify the investments after trade.

To read about the speaker, CLICK HERE.

Professor Philippe Jorion from the University of California - Irvine, presented a seminar on ‘The Strategic listing decisions of hedge funds’, which explored how hedge fund companies list their best performing funds in multiple outlets immediately while preserving the option to list their other funds in additional databases at a later date. Despite these strategic actions that could potentially lead to poor allocations by investors, Philippe’s research finds that investors react reasonably based on the predictability of hedge fund performance.

The seminar was held on 27 August, and Philippe met with academic staff and HDRs from the School of Economics, Finance and Marketing.

To read about the speaker, CLICK HERE.

Joint Seminar on Sports Economics and Statistics

A joint seminar was organised by the School of Mathematical and Geospatial Sciences and School of Economics, Finance and Marketing on 7 September, 2012.

Dr Alberto Posso from EF&M presented on ‘Let’s get Messi? Top-scorer productivity in the European Champions League. ’ Getting a player like Lionel Messi in the squad would seem like a dream come true for a professional football manager, but is it always best to have top quality players? The project’s findings have important implications for managers who are looking to sign on new players and maximise their potential during a competitive match.

Professor Anthony Bedford, Head of RMIT Sport Specialists and Performance Analytics, and Chair of MathSport Australia, presented on ‘Bolt, Bullets and Basketball: An Investigation into Conditional Distributions and Simulation in Sport’.

Was Usain Bolt’s time at the Olympics predictable? How can we model pistol shooting in-play? Can we conquer the efficient markets of NBA?

Anthony’s outlined three current simulation-based approaches that prove practicable in sporting events.
Through her research, Vinita aims to define a framework for the design of culturally appropriate banking products and services that meet their needs.

Lachlan’s research on ‘Vulnerability and Resilience in the Pacific: Insulating Households from International Economic Shocks’ sheds light on the reasons why households in the Pacific (Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands, which are often seen as tropical island paradises) are vulnerable and resilient to the effects of economic shocks.

Lachlan’s research will contribute to the design of social protection policies in developing countries around the world.

**HDR News**

**3 MT Semi-finalists, College of Business**

Being given three minutes to present a compelling oration on your research is a task that demands a great deal of hard work, clarity and conciseness.

Dr Caroline Tan, while describing the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) concept to the audience, compared the competition to an ‘elevator pitch’ - a condensed, easy-to-understand version of a business pitch that is delivered in the time it takes to ride an elevator. “Essentially, the researcher shares ideas and significant findings,” she said.

We would like to congratulate all of the participants who took up the challenge of presenting during the 3MT Semi-finals Competition held on 12 September 2012 at the College of Business:

- Shannon Sidaway and Daniella Juric (School of Accounting)
- Peter Hadad (School of Business IT and Logistics)
- Kelly Burns, Dennice Allen and Lachlan MacDonald (School of Economics, Finance and Marketing)
- Vinita Godinho and Vivek Sharma (Graduate School of Business and Law)

Congratulations to Vinita Godinho (winner) and Lachlan MacDonald (runner-up), who will be competing in the RMIT 3MT final on Monday, 24 September 2012. They will also be joined by Kelly Burns.

Vinita’s research on ‘Money in Indigenous Australia’ explores how Indigenous Australians understand money: how they talk about it, manage it, and want to use it in their everyday lives.

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**RMIT Three Minute Thesis Final**

Come support your college finalists at RMIT Three Minute Thesis Final!

**Date**: Monday 24 September

**Time**: 12:30pm - 2pm.

**Registration**: Essential - email events@rmit.edu.au with "3MT Final" in the subject line.

For more information, visit: http://www.rmit.edu.au/graduateresearch/3minthesis.

**Source**: Kati Kuusisto
Upcoming Research Events

Information Transmission of the Stock Index Futures Markets between the U.S. and China: Spillovers of Returns and Volatilities

The Graduate School of Business and Law invites you to its next research seminar. It examines the short-term information transmission in daily returns and volatilities between the Stock Index Future Markets between the U.S. and China.

Event details:

**Presenter:** Professor Steven Li

**Date:** 20 September 2012

**Time:** 12.15-1.30 pm (light lunch will be served)

**Venue:** Emily McPherson

**RSVP:** aastha.swaroop@rmit.edu.au

Buildings, Books and Blackboards - Intersecting Narratives

A combined conference of the Australian and New Zealand History of Education Society (ANZHES), Mechanics’ Institutes World Wide and the Australian Library History Forum presents an opportunity for the exploration of complimentary historical perspectives, sharing of ideas and a forum for cross-disciplinary engagement through the prism of shared interests.

**Date:** 28 Nov-1 Dec, 2012

**Call for Papers:** closes September 30

**Website:** CLICK HERE

**Contact:** sue.reynolds@rmit.edu.au

The conference will focus on the ways in which the stories of individuals (including librarians, philanthropists, administrators, educators and also organisations and institutions) have intersected throughout history to engage with their communities to promote the diffusion of knowledge and access to learning.

Source: Sue Reynolds

Recent Publications


Research Funding Opportunities

The following funding opportunities have internal RMIT closing dates (indicated in green).

If you’re interested in any of these schemes, please contact Dr Tseen Khoo (tseen.khoo@rmit.edu.au) for assistance with the planning and development of your application at least a fortnight before the RMIT internal deadline.

SEPTEMBER 28/09/2012
Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia – Workshop Program

The Academy's Workshop Program is a competitive program bestowing grants to assist social sciences researchers to convene a two-day, multidisciplinary research workshop on issues of national concern in the social sciences, or at the cutting edge of social sciences research.

OCTOBER 05/10/2012
Society of Actuaries – Individual Grants Competition

The sponsors, along with the Casualty Actuarial Society, provide support for the advancement of knowledge in actuarial science. Grants of $5,000 to $60,000 have been awarded.

OCTOBER 12/10/2012
Calgary Institute for the Humanities – Visiting Researcher Fellowships

The sponsor provides support for visiting research fellowships at the University of Calgary’s Institute for the Humanities. Visiting fellows will be expected to conduct their research at the Institute.

OCTOBER 19/10/2012
National Academy of Education - Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowships

The Postdoctoral Fellowship supports early career scholars working in critical areas of education research.

(opens) OCTOBER 31/10/2012
BUPA Grants Program

Bupa Health Foundation looks to fund new initiatives that provide a clear benefit to the Australian community. This year, the Foundation is inviting expressions of interest for funding in the key strategic areas of: wellbeing, chronic disease, healthy ageing, empowering people about their health, and promoting affordable healthcare.

NOVEMBER 02/11/2012
Swiss Government – Excellence Scholarships for Foreign Scholars and Artists for the academic year 2013-2014

The Embassy of Switzerland has announced that the Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships for the academic year 2013/2014 are now available.

NOVEMBER 16/11/2012
Geneva Association – Research Grants

Every year, the Association offers two grants for research to be conducted on risk and insurance economics.

DECEMBER 03/12/2012
Ian Potter Foundation – Travel Grants (Round 2)

The travel grants enable outstanding individuals, with promising careers and potentially important contributions to make to the Australian community, to exchange knowledge with their peers through participation in professional development opportunities.

DECEMBER 17/12/2012
Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation – Research Grants (Round 2)

The Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation (DRWF) accepts research applications related to finding the cause, prevention, treatment, and cure of diabetes and its complications.

More funding opportunities are listed at Research Alert.
Recent Posts from The Research Whisperer

ERA: The good, the bad, and the ugly (Peter Macauley)

This post focuses on the consequences of, and strategies for, dealing with the now-defunct ERA journal rankings.

Landing a big fish (Tseen Khoo)

This post talks about my “Top 5” strategies for getting that Big Name to keynote at your conference or symposium.

Don’t just throw your keys in the bowl (Inger Mewburn)

What should we really be looking for when we approach research collaborations?

Shut up and write - One year later (Tseen Khoo)

Shut up and write is a writing productivity experiment that’s gained a cultish following. Find out why.

Stepping out from the screen (Tseen Khoo)

In this electronically connected present, do we still need face-to-face time?

What do the headings mean? (Jonathan O’Donnell)

Common headings on grant applications and what they really mean.

The Research Whisperer blog welcomes guest posts from academics and professional staff. If you have something relevant you’d like to share, or a topic you’d like to see addressed, please contact Tseen Khoo (tseen.khoo@rmit.edu.au).

Business Research Office (BRO)

Professor Geoffrey Stokes
Deputy PVC Business (Research)

Tania Tambiah
Senior Manager, Research Development

Dr Tseen Khoo
Senior Advisor, Research Grant Development

Danielle Annesse
Research Coordinator

Kalpana Lalji
Resource Coordinator

Kristina Tsoulis-Reay
Ethics Coordinator

Prue Lamont
Administrative Officer – Research

Aastha Swaroop
Administrative Officer – Research

Marita Shelly
Research Coordinator (Accounting & GSBL)

Sherrin Trautmann
Administrative Officer – Research (Management), commencing 24 September 2012

Priyanka Erasmus
Administrative Officer – Research (Business IT and Logistics)

Esther Ng
Administrative Officer – Research (Economics, Finance and Marketing)

For detailed information on research funding and support see www.rmit.edu.au/bus/research