

Housing@RMIT Network

Quarterly Newsletter

October 2025



Who are we?

Housing@RMIT is an interdisciplinary network of 250+ researchers across 13 disciplines and 18 schools, working to address Australia's housing challenges.

We focus on housing supply, sustainability, affordability, and equity—collaborating with government, industry, and communities to create real-world impact.

Check our [LinkedIn](#) and [website](#) for more details.

To become a member, reach out to Karien Dekker (karien.dekker@rmit.edu.au)

Achievements from the Network

- One of our team members, Sylvia Thompson got her book chapter published from PhD research. The chapter title is '**The Borderlands of Human Security: The Experiences of Ukrainian Romani Refugees**' in Global Security Reimagined: A Multi-Disciplinary Exploration
- Another team member, Muzna Anam, presented her first milestone. Her research looks into '**Developing business model for circular economy and nature-based solutions for construction sector**'.

Meet the Team Member!

Dr Priya Kunjan (they/them) is an early career housing researcher based at RMIT's Centre for Urban Research. Working as a postdoctoral fellow on the ARC Discovery Project 'Precarious Dwelling: Encounters with housing crisis' (2023-2026) alongside Professor Libby Porter and Dr David Kelly, they are engaged in critical qualitative inquiry into the production of contemporary housing precarity in Melbourne.



Priya's current focus is on **private rental stress** and the **experiences of public housing tenants** facing estate redevelopment, though their broader research interests span housing insecurity, belonging and emplacement, race and racism, and settler colonialism. They have a strong commitment to impactful and accountable public scholarship.

In addition to their involvement in the Housing@RMIT network, Priya is also a member of the Centre for Urban Research's 'Geographies of Land, Home and Place' theme and co-convenes the Centre's fortnightly seminar series.

Reflection on HDR/ECR Research Symposium 2025

In September, Housing@RMIT held its inaugural Higher Degree by Research and Early Career Researchers Symposium 2025. With support from the Enabling Impact Platforms and as part of Social Sciences Week, the event was keynoteed by **Wendy Stone of Swinburne University** with a personal reflection on the changing trajectory of housing as a scholarly topic, and academia's shifting approaches and opportunities for praxis.

A total of **16 presenters** shared their research in three sessions, covering themes of politics and policy, economics and finance, design, advanced technologies and administrative governance. A big congratulations to **Madeline Abigail Lukito, Moein Behzad, Lucia Valentini** and **Shanika Kanchani Manamperi**, who were selected as presenting particularly outstanding work! During the closing activity, participants reflected on the necessity for a more ambitious vision for the future of housing in Australia. They emphasised that housing policy, planning and practice should provide the infrastructure of care required for a resilient, sustainable and equitable future, accommodating the evolving needs and aspirations of Australia's diverse population.

A big thank you to **Jago Dodson** for his opening address, and Muzna Anam, Zara Vaccari-Cook and Karien Dekker for organising the event.

