

Research capability
delivering value



Design and Creative Practice

Enabling Capability Platform

Contact us to partner for a better future

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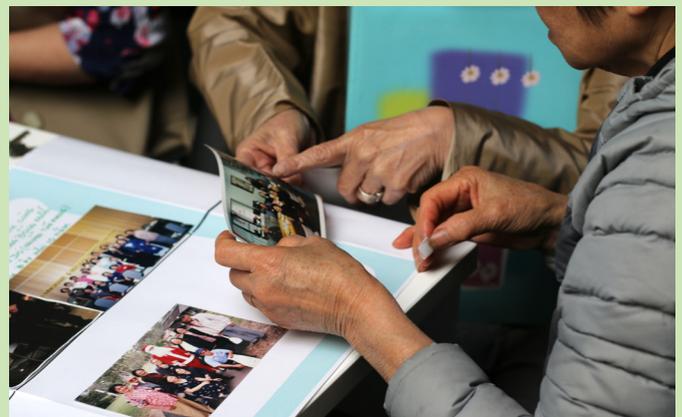
Designing the world of tomorrow

In a world geared towards automation, datafication and artificial intelligence, how can our future public spaces, workplaces, homes and transport systems be designed to embrace new technologies while also supporting social connection and sustainability?

How can we design the health and aged care services of the future to meet the needs of an unprecedented number of older citizens? And how can the creative arts assist in developing innovative and design-centred responses to complex, real-world problems?

RMIT's Design and Creative Practice Enabling Capability Platform (ECP) is committed to ensuring that the world of tomorrow is designed to support sustainability, health and wellbeing as well as technological innovation and economic prosperity. It draws together the University's long-standing strengths in design, architecture, digital media, communication, the performing arts, visual arts and crafts, fashion, engineering and business to examine major design innovation questions facing today's society.

This ECP's internal research affiliates include national and international thought leaders in design and creative practice. This capability platform also looks at ways of introducing the arts into STEM areas (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) to generate STEAM approaches to achieving alternative, creative solutions to societal issues.



The Impact Observatory

The Impact Observatory was established to ensure that design and creative practice research is captured as it is emerging, and to support it through relevant translational pathways, through collaboration with industry partners. It provides evidence of activities and approaches to research that are outstanding in their engagement with external organisations/industry partners and end-users.

<https://dcp-ecp.com>



Our vision

Larissa Hjorth, Director, RMIT Design and Creative Practice ECP



We will apply an inventive, explorative and rigorous approach to addressing real-world problems that lie at the intersection of digital design, health, sustainable practice and material innovation.

We are committed to advancing social, health and digital innovation and developing alternative pathways for producing knowledge and achieving impact through collaboration.



Creating stronger partnerships

This ECP harnesses RMIT's cross-disciplinary design and creative practice expertise to strengthen our research collaborations with industry, government, and the social and cultural sectors.

Our creative research partnerships are becoming more agile, playful and experimental. We apply critical, design-centred approaches to co-creating practical and inventive solutions with our partners.

The Design and Creative Practice ECP also works across our other seven Enabling Capability Platforms, supporting their research projects and drawing on their expertise for its creative investigations.

A Sector Expert Research Advisory Group of design and creative practice industry leaders and stakeholders will help shape the future direction and priorities of this capability platform.



Image: Troy Innocent.

Examples of Design and Creative Practice ECP collaborative research projects

Elements in the cloud: a brain injury rehabilitation system for clinical and home use

This project aims to translate a digital application for brain injury (BI) rehabilitation, called Elements into an integrated system of hardware and software for clinic and home use – this includes the design and testing a cloud-based delivery system that customises cognitive and motor tasks for the individual. Responding to significant social and economic costs of BI, this project may enhance the provision of rehabilitation services by engaging clients in more sustained and intense forms of therapy to augment and accelerate recovery. Expected outcomes include tailored programs made commercially available for therapists that may be scaled to benefit around 300,000 Australian patients living with disability, and exported internationally.

This project is being funded by RMIT's ECP Opportunity Fund.



DCP and Telstra Design Challenge for Ageing Well & Digital Health: CaTPin

The Design Challenge was a joint initiative between Telstra and the Design and Creative Practice ECP which sought to tackle the real-world issue: *How do we design for Ageing Well Futures?* The challenge asked researchers, students and industry to collaborate in interdisciplinary ways to address key concerns. We received many outstanding entries, with the finalist being the CaTPin which took the idea of "conversation as therapy".

A collaboration between RMIT researchers Paul Beckett, Leah Heiss, Emma Luke and Bolton Clarke's Matiu Bush, CaTPin aimed to address the issue of loneliness due to a lack of social interaction by developing a discreet, low-cost wearable (in the form of a lapel pin or brooch) which detects the presence or absence of conversation. It is founded on the premise that loneliness is manifest in a poverty of conversation, hence using the number of words spoken a day as a surrogate marker for social isolation and loneliness. The team's expertise traverses design, user engagement, wearable technologies, microelectronics and aged care.



Key capabilities

Hundreds of expert research affiliates in disciplines ranging from media and communication, design, architecture and the visual arts, to global, urban and social studies, engineering, fashion, textiles and business.

Internationally recognised areas of research excellence:

- > design and practice management
- > architecture
- > film, television and digital media
- > performing arts and creative writing
- > visual arts and crafts
- > digital innovation and ethnography

Additional strengths in:

- > working models and methods for innovative, interdisciplinary social practice
- > designing for wellbeing and improved health care
- > alternative methods of translating research outcomes into real world applications
- > emergent technologies and youth cultures

Research facilities and centres include:

- > RMIT Design Hub, Design Archives, Virtual Reality Centre, and RMIT Gallery
- > Creative Agency
- > Digital Ethnography Research Centre (DERC)
- > Contemporary Art & Social Transformation group (CAST)
- > Care-full Design Lab
- > Centre for People, Work & Organisation (CPOW)
- > Health, Arts, Social sciences & Humanities Network (HASH)
- > DCP Impact Observatory (a digital portal for our impactful research) www.dcp-ecp.com
- > nonfictionLab (NFL)
- > Social & Global Studies Centre (SHSC)
- > Screen & Sound Cultures
- > Future Social Service Institute
- > Cultural Value Impact Network (CVIN)
- > Wearables and Sensing Network

Close relationships with:

- > federal, state and local governments
- > leading arts and cultural institutions
- > design, architecture and visual arts practices
- > industries, research institutions and networks in Australia, Asia and Europe

Research and innovation priorities

Resilience, health and care

Exploring how design and creative practice can be deployed to:

- > promote creative solutions to codesigning for ageing populations
- > reimagine care services, facilities, infrastructure and behaviours
- > develop creative solutions to social problems and
- > keep social connection at the heart of human interactions

Playful, digital and material encounters

Investigating how play and the notion of 'the playful' can be used as a mechanism for:

- > generating creative and inventive solutions to real-world problems
- > harnessing technological innovations creatively to reinterpret our material world for the better and
- > transforming how geographic places are experienced and defined

The social and sustainable

How we envisage a world:

- > that has equality, biodiversity and sustainability at its core and
- > where social connection continues to be pivotal to human existence

Design and creative practice industries

Identifying and evaluating how design and creative practice:

- > add value to industry
- > are crucial for future work practices and skills and
- > enable creative solutions for improving health care and aged care, urban living and our ability to live in social and environmentally sustainable ways

RMIT'S ENABLING CAPABILITY PLATFORMS (ECPs)

- > Advanced Materials
- > Biomedical and Health Innovation
- > Advanced Manufacturing and Fabrication
- > **Design and Creative Practice**
- > Global Business Innovation
- > Information and Systems (Engineering)
- > Social Change
- > Urban Futures

Key application areas



Cover image: The Augmented Reality experience TIMEr explores the multiple, multisensorial and contested modes of making place. It features stories of land, river and sky with Boonwurrung elder N'Arweet Carolyn Briggs, acknowledging the land on which RMIT stands on as unceded lands of the people of the Woi wurrung and Boon wurrung language groups of the eastern Kulin Nation. This project is a collaboration between DCP post-doc Hugh Davies, Associate Professor Olivia Guntarik, Boonwurrung elder N'Arweet Carolyn Briggs and VC Research Fellow Dr Troy Innocent.