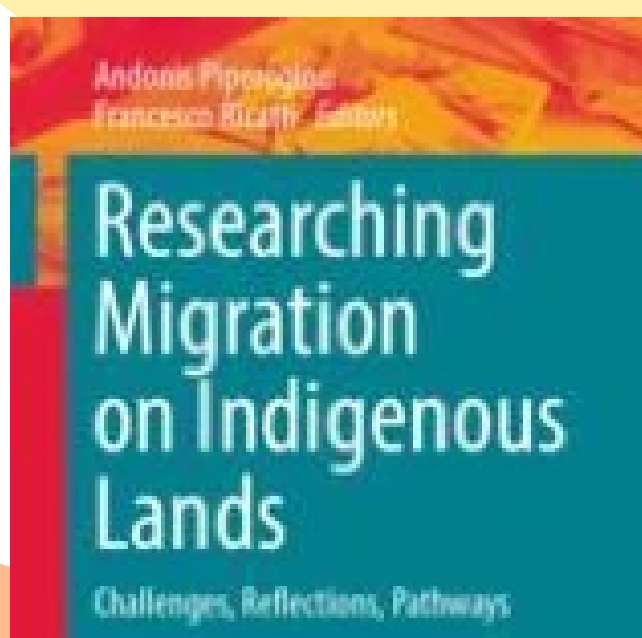


17th September 2026 5:00pm-8:00pm

ECU City Campus Level 5, Room CC.1N.500

WA Migration Update Spotlight Forum

This event is a part of Social Sciences Week



At this inaugural WA Migration Update Spotlight Forum, A/Prof Francesco Ricatti presents his volume, co-edited with Adonis Piperoglou, which examines the uneasy relationship between ongoing colonial histories and the sovereignty of First Nations peoples. Migration does not happen on empty ground, but on land with deep histories, custodianship and continuing political claims.

A/Prof Ricatti's presentation will be followed by a panel discussion with leading social scientists in this area.

This event is hosted by the ECU School of Arts and Humanities, ECU TRACS Diversity Research Network and the Academy of Social Sciences Australia.

Program

5:00–5:15 Refreshments

5:15–5:30 Welcome

Uncle Joshua McGuire, Whadjuk Elder
Prof Loretta Baldassar, ECU

5:30–6:10 A/Prof Francesco Ricatti, ANU

Panel Discussion Chair: Loretta Baldassar

6:10–6:25 Ms Sian Bennett, Kurongkurl Katijin, ECU

6:25–6:40 Prof Kanishka Jayasuriya, Murdoch

6:40–7:00 Dr Sue Bailey, ECU

Bethany Kinsela, Yamatji Woman

Prof Verena Thomas, ECU

7:00–7:15 Prof Farida Fozdar, Curtin

7:15–7:30 A/Prof Yu Tao, UWA

7:30–8:00 Q&A

This event is hosted by the ECU School of Arts and Humanities, ECU TRACS Diversity Research Network and the Academy of Social Sciences Australia.

Speakers

Loretta Baldassar

Loretta Baldassar is a Vice Chancellor's Professorial Research Fellow in the School of Arts and Humanities at ECU. A Professor of Anthropology and Sociology, she leads the Research Program in Migration, Diversity and Care. Her career has been devoted to better understanding the impact of migration on families and communities, with a focus on the role of social support networks, intergenerational relations, and the social uses of new technologies.



Uncle Joshua McGuire

Vaughn Joshua McGuire is the youngest of seven children and the son of Walter and May McGuire. Born on Ballardong Country and a proud Whadjuk man, Vaughn is deeply connected to his culture, heritage, and community. With passion, authenticity, and heart, Vaughn delivers cultural knowledge and storytelling that reflects the richness of Aboriginal history and identity.

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Speakers



Francesco Ricatti

Francesco Ricatti is an Associate Professor at the Australian National University (ANU) and a leading scholar in Italian migration to Australia. He is also a convenor of ANU's Italian Studies program. His research interests surround Italian history in Australia, decolonial and Indigenous approaches to migration history and migrant youth in Italy and Australia.

Sian Bennett

Sian Bennett is an Aboriginal woman living on Noongar Country, Perth/Boorloo, WA. She is a lecturer at Kurongkurl Katitjin (ECU) and has worked as an educator for many years, principally in access programs in higher education and more generally in pre-service teacher education. She has extensive experience providing academic and pastoral support for undergraduate Aboriginal and Equity students.



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Speakers



Kanishka Jayasuriya

Kanishka Jayasuriya is a political scientist and a Professor of Politics and International Studies at Murdoch University. His interests concern the global political economy and the rise of the far right. Kanishka Jayasuriya co-wrote a book called 'Search for Security', about the AUKUS partnership with the US and UK.

Sue Bailey

Sue Bailey is a Senior Lecturer in Social Work at ECU and has won multiple teaching awards and research awards. Her research interests include raising awareness of the connections between humans ecosystems and healthy well-beings and critical social work. Her research focuses on climate change, ecosystem degradation and mass extinction.



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Speakers



Bethany Kinsela

Bethany is a Yamatji woman, Cultural Advisor and Facilitator, Director of Yamatji Leadership Collective and Senior Aboriginal Lead at Orana House. Her work brings together Aboriginal cultural knowledge, memories in Country, history and contemporary lived experience, with a strong focus on creating greater understanding and respectful relationships between Aboriginal Peoples and the wider Australian community.

Verena Thomas

Verena Thomas is a Professor of Communication and Associate Dean Research at ECU. With a background in documentary filmmaking, her work focuses on creative research approaches and communication for social change, leading numerous award-winning research and production projects. She has mentored cohorts of researchers in cross-cultural contexts in meaningfully applying participatory filmmaking, digital storytelling, and more broadly creative and co-design research methods.



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Speakers

Farida Fozdar

Farida Fozdar is a Professor of Sociology and Dean, Global Futures in the Faculty of Humanities at Curtin University. Farida leads innovative teaching opportunities on global challenges and mentors emerging researchers, while undertaking projects such as studies of African Australians' contributions to Australia's political and economic spheres and the impacts of policy on Muslim Australians.



Yu Tao

Yu Tao is an Associate Professor in Chinese Studies at the University of Western Australia (UWA), where he coordinates the Chinese Studies courses. Yu Tao was trained in political science and sociology at Peking, Cambridge, and Oxford. His current research, centred on Global China, pays particular attention to the interaction between religious groups, civic organisations and local state agencies. He co-leads the "Two Centuries of Chinese Heritage in Western Australia" project, a community-driven project funded by the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations, an Australian government initiative.



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