

# Research Newsletter



# Research across the CBLG

## What has been going on across the college?



### Challenges and key factors in planning legacies of mega sporting events

**Dr. Simona Azzali**  
JCU Singapore.

Mega events provide near-unique, fast track opportunities for urban transformation.

Since the 1960s, the impact of mega sporting events on the built environment has become increasingly important, and the relationship between hosting cities and events increasingly complex and controversial. The outcomes of these mega-events, however, are very discouraging, especially in terms of the state of sports venues and event sites. In many cases, Olympic parks and event sites stand abandoned once the event is over, and sports facilities are often either closed or underutilized.

The purpose of this research is to identify replicable best practices and successful examples used in mega-events to transform events sites and venues into

liveable public open spaces, enjoyed by the local communities.

Particularly, the research identified a framework of six major elements that determine, or contrast, the long-term use of events sites and sport facilities. It is expected that this framework can be used as a guidance to deliver sustainable events and long-term legacies and to define a strategy for optimization of planning mega sport events. The research also highlighted some recurrent mistakes, such as the exorbitant costs of a mega event, the inability to keep the initial budget unchanged and the difficulty to adjust plans to local needs.

This research can be used as guidance for the overall mega sporting events stakeholders, such as the IOC, FIFA, and local organizing committees, to identify replicable best practices and successful examples in the leverage of mega events to transform events sites and venues into liveable public spaces.

## Cairns

*Dr. Dale Wadeson and Adjunct Senior Research Fellow Dr. Sue Ciccotosto, Cairns Campus, CBLG*

### **Project title: Accountants' Preferences for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in Regional Areas**

In late 2018, a successful application was made for a research grant from AFAANZ (The Accounting and Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand) to consider the demands of accounting professionals with regard to continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities in a regional area. It is a requirement for continuing membership of accounting professions in Australia (for instance CA ANZ and CPA Australia) for members to complete a minimum of twenty hours of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) a year, building to one hundred and twenty hours every three years. The literature notes that time, distance and cost were factors that affected accounting professionals' choice and engagement with CPD activities (De Lange et al, 2012 and Lindsay, 2012, 2016).

With the advent of digital technology and the internet, accountants' choices have increased. Little data exists in the public domain regarding the kinds of professional development that are currently demanded by accounting professionals, including whether those choices are digital or face-to-face and whether they are technical or non-technical in nature.

This project is centred in the Cairns area, and its immediate environment. This area does not support the number of accountants necessary for sufficient live CPD events, such events being held in major centres such as Brisbane and Sydney. Previous research has highlighted time and cost as a concern

for participants; such factors limiting their ability to access CPD events in the capital cities. This qualitative project has explored the demand for relevant CPD in the Cairns area and how participants access appropriate CPD. It will also inform the professional bodies regarding the need for CPD in regional centres and suggest ways to present CPD opportunities for the professional regional accountant.

The results of this project should be of interest to professional accountants in regional cities as well as members of other professions. The professional bodies will find the results useful, especially their local branch committees who will be able to use this information to plan CPD that meets the needs of local accounting practitioners. Those who provide the resources for professional development will find the outcomes of benefit, as they will be better able to target the delivery of CPD to practitioners in a mode that is useful to the accountant. The results will also extend our knowledge of CPD in the accounting context and the impact of digital disruption/opportunities on the CPD of the accounting professional.

As of September, data collection has been completed, and the analysis and write up of our findings should be finalised by the end of the year.

## Townsville

*Dr. Benedict Atkinson*

### **Reducing social inequality by creating a domain of non-ownership**

Debate on redistributive inequality – or 'social inequality' – is confused by the tendency to view inequality as a function of unequal income distribution. The range of national income distribution, usually calculated using the Gini Coefficient is typically (scale 0-1) between about .24 and .64

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(United Nations Development Program et al). However, the critical measure is not income distribution but wealth distribution. Income is derived from wealth, and wealth distribution, far more than income distribution, tells us about the disposition of power and social control in a country (Piketty et al World Inequality Report). Income is less concentrated in richer countries because they collect taxes and redistribute in social spending. However, wealth concentration in richer countries is often as great as in the so-called kleptocracies – some rich countries are rated between .70-.80 on the Gini inequality scale. Scandinavian countries, touted as leaders in redistribution are among the world's most unequal in wealth distribution (Davies et al Worldwide Wealth Distribution Wider-UNU 2008). By analysing patterns of ownership and the allocation of property rights we can determine who controls resources and who is excluded from access. Income statistics are derived from analysis of tax returns but data on wealth is much harder to obtain. Assets are easier to conceal than income. The only systematic and approximately reliable survey of worldwide household wealth is nearly 20 years old, although updated (Davies et al). While tax redistribution is indispensable to social welfare, the structure of wealth distribution creates a structure of social inequality (Marx). History tells us that changing that structure is probably beyond human capability. Humans desire ownership and ownership is exclusionary. Wealth concentration is a product of politics, which creates property systems. Property systems advantage selected groups. My research suggests that a feasible way of shrinking the effects of inequality is for government to establish one or more agencies dedicated to advocating for – and protecting as part of a domain – that which is not owned. In this domain – a public park would be part of the domain – inequality does not pertain.

## Singapore

*Dr. Zilmiyah Kamble*

### **Displaced due to conservation and tourism in the Heart of India: A Review of the Relevant Policies**

Protecting biodiversity besets other issues owing to the size of space it requires for certain species to thrive. One of the key issues is the displacement of human populations. If efforts to conserve brings about distress to human beings, especially the marginalised indigenous communities, then the whole idea of conservation does not make sense. Research on conservation and displacement has been indicated mainly through lens of poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods and income (McNeely & Miller, 1984; Bromley & Cernea, 1989; Mehta & Kellert, 1998; Turton, 2002; Cernea & Soltau, 2003; Mishra, Badola & Bhardwaj, 2009; Chundawat, 2017). There is also acknowledgement that conservation of biodiversity depends on the local communities (Cernea, 2006; Jain & Sajjad, 2015) as well as realisation that policies that ignore the indigenous communities within the parks are bound to be unsuccessful (McNeely, 1995) and that displacements from original lands has often been catastrophic to those displaced (Cernea, 2000). Displacement distances the local communities from conservation. The cost of such displacement has mostly been impoverishment, loss of traditional livelihoods, withdrawal of the displaced and loss of culture. Seizure of land devoid of prior consultation, compensation and informed consent; tend to violate international laws (Cernea & Soltau, 2003). Furthermore, many protected areas tend to rely on tourism for financial support. However, tourism further complicates the conflict with other powerful stakeholders like the

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tour operators and hoteliers having continued access to these forest reserves while the locals have been displaced. As it affects communities, displacement is a key issue of conflict and significant aspect of policies (Rangarajan, 2006). Displacement in central India (Madhya Pradesh) due to tiger reserves since 1973 is said to have impacted 80 villages and 2900 families, though the actual figures are higher, making it a conflict between conservation and social justice (Rangarajan, 2006). Furthermore, it becomes a case of social exclusion if the local communities are from a marginalized indigenous community as in the case of some of the 'adivasis' (tribes) in Madhya Pradesh in India. Displacement due conservation is still a concern in Madhya Pradesh, which also promotes its tiger reserves as wildlife destinations. This research focuses on reviewing the relevant policies concerning such wildlife

tourism destinations in Madhya Pradesh to examine the involvement of the indigenous local communities and highlight their plight due to displacement. This paper utilizes a critical interpretive lens in reviewing the policies and the concerned acts. Findings highlight three areas of concern; firstly, there is a lack of clear information on how wild life tourism would be developed, implemented and governed. Secondly, the relevant policies do not mention the involvement of the local indigenous community or their issues and finally the policies does not clearly address the displaced indigenous communities' issues while subsisting to a sustainable tourism vision. Despite the gravity of the 'displacement due to conservation' dilemma, it is still not a key part of the discussion levels of policy makers (Rangarajan, 2006).

# CITBA

## 1st Sustainable Tropical Urbanism Symposium: Tropical cities in a warming world

The world's urban population surpassed the rural population for the first time in 2007, reflecting a global shift from agriculture to manufacturing, services, and finance. The urbanisation process is so intense that by 2050 two-third of the world's population will live in cities. The growth of tropical cities is a key component in this shift. Indeed, tropical urbanisation grew from 31% in 1980 to 45% in 2010. In Southeast Asia alone, urban dwellers increased from 110 million to 360 million over the same period and almost 50% of people now live in urban environments.

While the future of tropical cities is diverse, malleable, and creative – reflecting an increasingly connected and global world – under-regulated urban growth can result in inefficient, inequitable and unsustainable urban environments. As we expect big changes in cities, we also need big changes in city planning, design, and urban lifestyles, along with changes that can address climatic, environmental, and socio-economic challenges.

James Cook University's Tropical Urbanism and Design Lab (TUDLab) and Centre for International Trade and Business in Asia (CITBA) welcome contributions to an interdisciplinary symposium on tropical cities took part at our Singapore campus on 27 September 2019.



CITBA is pleased to announce that its proposal to host a UN-Habitat Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC) is approved. The title of the campus is

***“URBAN DESIGN, ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND JOBS OF THE FUTURE IN THE TROPICS”***,

The campus will be held in JCU Cairns, on 25-27 November 2019, and Dr Taha Chaiechi is leading it.

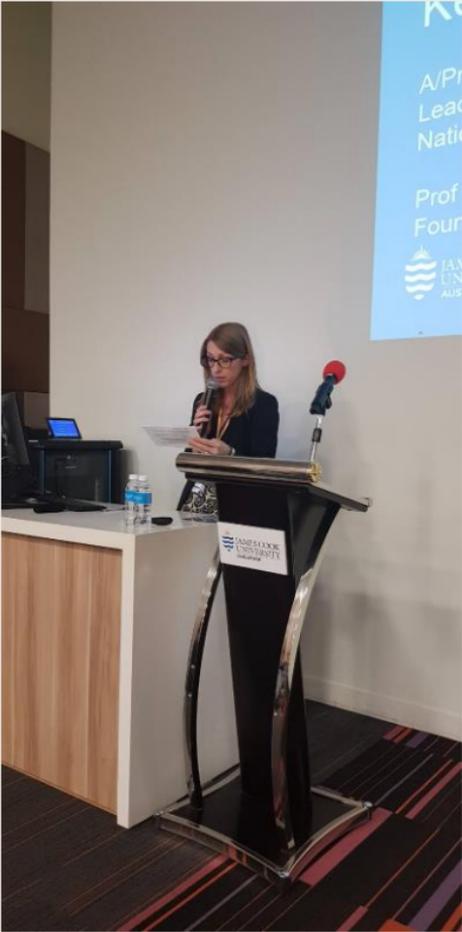
The UTC- Cairns will be featured in the calendar of events on the World Urban Campaign website, as well as on the Urban Thinkers Campus page and will have its own dedicated page.

### **CITBA on Social media:**

Follow us on Twitter: @CITBA4

Connect with us on LinkedIn: CITBA James Cook University

# 1st Sustainable Tropical Urbanism Symposium



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### *Summary of the Event*

On September 27, JCU Singapore hosted the 1st Sustainable Tropical Urbanism Symposium: Tropical cities in a warming world. It was an insightful event that brought together more than 60 academics, researchers, practitioners, and students from Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Australia, and the US.

Delegates discussed contemporary pressing issues as methods for tropical urban research, how tropical cities respond to climate in an era of climate change, creation and curation of tropical space and place, and new regulations and policies for the tropical city.

After inspiring keynote talks and parallel sessions, the event ended with a workshop on design communication, a walking tour in the vibrant Geylang neighbourhood and a visit to first Singapore's urban farm, Citizen Farm in Penjara.

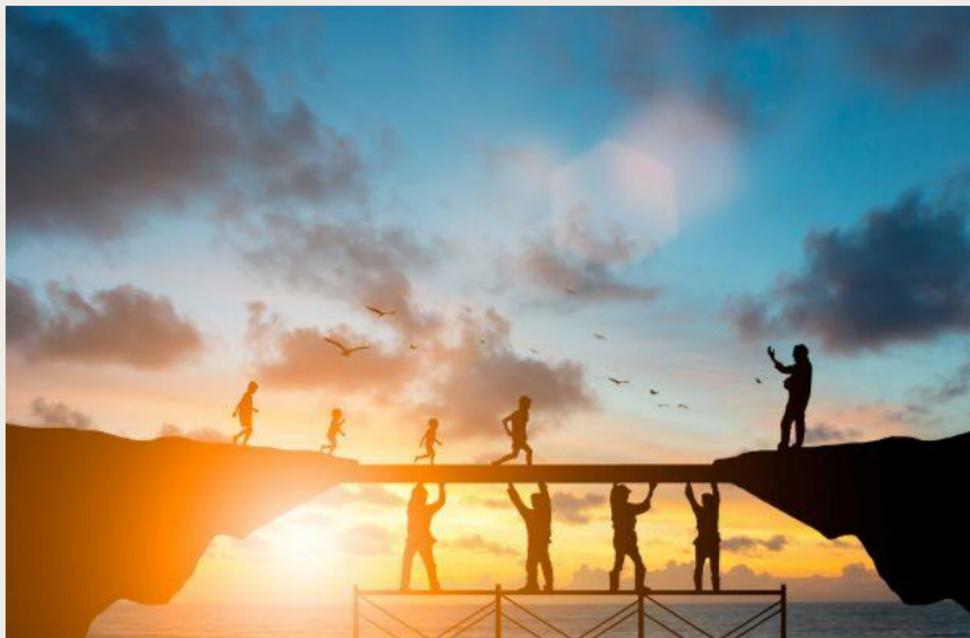


## CITBA Flagships:

(1) Community empowerment, transformative cities, and building a climate-resilient economy

Project Lead: Dr. Taha Chaiechi

communities and exposed areas (particularly in urban areas) that tend to experience higher susceptibility to climate change have been largely ignored in incremental adaptation plans. Vulnerable communities and areas not only require different



Australian cities are lagging behind in their Global Sustainability Index scores with no Australian city making the top 30. This index ranks 100 leading global cities on the three pillars of sustainability (people, planet and profit) as well 32 other different indicators that are closely aligned with the United Nation's sustainable development goals (SDG). This indicates that long-term planning is crucial for major Australian cities in order to achieve a degree of sustainable balance, economic legacy and strategic decisions to manage long-term impacts of economic growth. On the other hand, the orthodox methods of addressing climate change adaptation plans and sustainable economic growth in cities are no longer adequate. These methods, so far, have not only ignored the ongoing structural changes associated with economic development but also failed to account for evolving industries' composition and the emergence of new comparative advantages and skills. Particularly, vulnerable

adaptive responses to climate risk but also possess unlocked adaptive capacity that can motivate different patterns of sustainable development to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda. It is essential, therefore, to make cities and urban areas an integral part of the solution in achieving sustainable development goals and fighting climate change.

Accordingly, this flagship is directly aligned to with SDG8, SDG11 and SDG13. The flagship has two major objectives:

1. Explore the hidden relationships that exist between socio-environmentally responsible communities and their ability to unlocking inclusive and sustainable growth capacities.
2. Provide empowered solutions for capacity building within communities so as to facilitate climate-change actions, and achieve our vision for the development of transformative cities.

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### (2) Circularity and sustainability towards zero waste

**Project Lead: Associate Professor Adrian Kuah**

requires the evaluation and incorporation of intangible factors. Such an interdisciplinary approach requires the decoupling of economic growth from reliance on resource



Leveraging on JCU Singapore campus' strategic location within the ASEAN business hub, CITBA's Circular Economy and Sustainability (CES) flagship brings multidisciplinary expertise from across the three JCU campuses to uniquely weave social and environmental sciences into evaluations of real business models in line with the framework of sustainable development. Our flagship collaborates with private and public sector partners to embed circularity into real-world business models and communicate its relevance on sustainable development in tropical Australia, Southeast Asia, the Pacific and China.

Circular economy theorizes a closed-loop system where finite resources are reused and kept in a loop of continuous usage. This cradle-to-cradle approach interrupts a linear consumption model and its built-in obsolescence that we are experiencing today. The circular economy model has thus far dealt with materials and resources with advancement in technological innovation, however, the next leap in understanding and implementation

extraction and negative human impacts. The team builds intangible social and environmental analyses into CES evaluations including digital analytics. Digital aspects of the program will be supported by Accenture, while Ogilvy & Mather will collaborate with CES on public education campaigns, thus extending the reach and impact of the flagship. This flagship aligns with JCU's Strategic Intent by engaging peoples and societies of the tropics in industries and economies that sustain communities and ecosystems. The research that we do is directly aligned with SDG 12, SDG 9 and SDG8 and supports SDG 1 and SDG 2. The flagship has two major objectives:

1. To develop innovative tools to measure social, consumption and environmental value, and identify success factors behind CES innovation.
2. To evaluate practical steps businesses can take to align financial, societal and environmental goals to activities that genuinely build economic, social and ecological value.

# JCU/ JCUS Panel Discussion

## How do overseas business activities affect the performance of business firms?

Expanding a business overseas is an appealing idea for many firms. This is particularly true of Australia's small open economy, where firms are actively engaged in overseas business operations such as exports and outsourcing.



In fact, Australian businesses have, in recent years, expanded their operations into Asia and beyond for a variety of reasons — which include broader market, cost of production, distribution opportunities, diversification of the business and to manage employment in terms of skills and costs.

That said, it is important to consider the impact such activities may have on the firm's performance — notably the employment of both casual and full-time workers, profitability, and total sales revenue. Associate Professor Abhishek Bhati, Campus Dean and Head of Teaching, Learning and Student Engagement for James Cook University in Singapore, elaborates, "In situations where a firm expands operations overseas, it may well be due to its reduced or lost competitiveness in its home market.

The reduced or lost competitiveness can lead to employment loss at home if the business significantly scales down or completely closes its operations."

He adds, however, "The growth in Asian markets could have a positive impact on the organisation's growth and available jobs in Australia. As such, the decision to expand overseas may be instrumental in regaining competitiveness and hence in protecting jobs in Australia." This economic discourse is examined in "The Effects of Overseas Business Expansion on

Firm Performance: Evidence from Australia," which saw its report launch on Friday 2 August 2019 at the Singapore campus of James Cook University.

Dr Hong-Bo Liu, Adjunct Research Fellow in the College of Business, Law & Governance at James Cook University, along with colleagues from the same college — Dr Rabiul Beg, Associate Professor Sizhong Sun, Professor Zhang-Yue Zhou — as well as Associate Professor Bhati, co-authored the report to present a better understanding of the interaction between a firm's overseas business activities and its performance in the domestic market.

In order to estimate a firm's performance in relation to overseas business activities, a multi-year survey dataset from the Business

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Longitudinal Database in Australia, collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, was used.

The investigation uncovered the following:

- Outsourcing negatively affects employment of casual workers but not full-time workers.
- Outsourcing negatively affects a firm's profitability and positively affects its total sales revenue.
- Import generates positive impacts on employment of both casual and full-time workers and total sales revenue, and weakly and negatively affects profitability.
- Export negatively affects employment of both casual and full-time workers, and positively affects sales revenue.

and policymakers should not discourage a firm from engaging in overseas business activities. Associate Professor Bhati explains that "overseas business expansion can become a useful approach to boost Australia's future economic wealth and needs to be promoted by governments and employee groups alike."

The report launch also included a panel discussion, moderated by Dr Jacob Wood, Senior Lecturer in Business in the Singapore campus of James Cook University, comprising of the following experts:

His Excellency Bruce Gosper - Australian High Commissioner to Singapore

Associate Professor Riccardo Welters - Head, Economics and Marketing, College of Business, Law and Governance, James Cook



However, as the report states, "the negative impact, for example the perceived negative impact of outsourcing on employment, is likely not to be as severe as one would expect," indicating that the opportunity for growth may indeed outweigh and therefore offset the negative impacts generated.

This offers great practical significance to businesses and policymakers. As such, this suggests that overseas business expansion can be a critical part of a growth strategy,

University (Australia)

Mr Ben Smith - Head of Australia New Zealand Desk, ANZ

Ms Ally Tehan - Co-Founder, Ally's Basket

The experts shared valuable insights that helped to provide nuance as well as broaden the discussion of overseas business expansion.

Ultimately, overseas business expansion may offer significant benefits that cannot be discounted by the risks involved.

## **CBLG Research Committee Recognition Awards**

**Rationale:** The Research Committee of the College seeks to encourage high quality research as well as valuing superior levels of productivity. Following the demise of the research incentive scheme some years ago, there are now no explicit College funds or incentives that encourage excellence in research. Accordingly, after several discussions about this topic, the College Research Committee has decided to put in place new Recognition rewards. There will be a certificate and a small incentive to mark the receipt of the award.

**Eligibility:** All staff, including adjunct staff and casual staff who use the name of the University on their publications, are eligible for the awards. Postgraduate students or recent graduates /alumni, either by themselves or with their supervisors, are also eligible for the awards. Again the designation of James Cook University must be on the published work.

**Criteria:** The Research Committee Recognition Awards will be given to eligible staff/students who:

1) produce one A\* or A rated or equivalent research paper in the relevant calendar year. The paper must be published, or formally accepted for publication with a doi number or equivalent. If the paper is in press at the time of application and/or the researcher wishes to apply using a paper without the full reference details or doi numbers, then a letter from the editor accepting the paper must be provided. Papers tentatively accepted but still in revision will not be eligible for the award. The A\* and A journal rankings are those determined by the Australian Business Deans Council or other discipline quality criteria.

2) produce 3 or more publications in the one calendar year in journals which are rated as B or C by the Australian Business Deans Council or equivalent discipline quality criteria.

3) produce 3 or more book chapters in the one calendar year in edited works from

quality publishers with ISBN recognition.

4) as a principal/chief investigator successfully receive external research funding for JCU of \$50,000 AUD or more in a calendar year.

Conference papers and papers in edited conference proceedings are not considered in this recognition scheme.

**Multiple authors:** Applications to meet any of the above criteria will be limited to papers or chapters with three or less authors. Where there are two or three JCU authors on the paper or book chapter, certificates of recognition will be given to all the relevant JCU authors but the small incentive will be shared.

**Recognition:** A modest financial incentive provided by the College will accompany the documentation of recognition. It is anticipated that this will be \$100 for researchers whose work meets criteria 1, 2 3, or 4. A researcher may apply for recognition in more than category, although a successful applicant will only be eligible for one \$100 award, with subsequent achievements receiving certificates of recognition.

**Application process:** Researchers should provide an email to the Associate Dean of Research outlining succinctly their name, their affiliation as it appears on the published work, and the title of the paper and journal or edited book. A convenient way to do this would be to scan the title page /front piece of the published work.

**Date of the application:** Applications close on 31 October 2019 for work published in 2019. The successful applicants will be notified following the subsequent research committee meeting.

**Form of payment:** Payment will typically be staff IRA. Staff sharing awards with postgraduate students will need to make arrangements for the student share to be directed to their SSA account.

# Grants

## 1. NHMRC dates released for 2020 schemes

Please find below confirmed dates of key NHMRC 2020 schemes for funding commencing in 2021. Note that these funding schemes are applicable to a broad range of disciplines and sectors.

Scheme	Open	Minimum data due	Close
Investigator Grants	2 October 2019	30 October 2019	27 November 2019
Synergy Grants	26 February 2020	25 March 2020	22 April 2020
CTCS Grants	4 March 2020	1 April 2020	29 April 2020
Ideas Grants	11 March 2020	8 April 2020	6 May 2020

Note that these are NHMRC's deadlines, and that internal JCU Connect deadlines will be provided shortly following discussions with the Divisions and Institutes.

JCU Connect encourages you to discuss your plans for bids within your colleges/divisions/institutes and with JCU Connect early (Rochelle, Tina Langford, and Javier Balanzategui) so that we can work with you to ensure a robust process which supports the development of high quality collaborative proposals. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT FOR THE GRANT GUIDELINES TO BE RELEASED to have these discussions.

In support of these competitive grant rounds, JCU Connect is also providing externally and internally facilitated NHMRC Grants workshops between August – November 2019, specifically:

- Grant ED will be facilitating NHMRC Investigator Fundamentals workshops for Early Career Researchers on Tuesday 27 August 2019:

a. The invitation and registration for this event can be accessed at the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/nhmrc-investigator-fundamentals-workshop-tickets-63091187440>

b. Please do encourage your researchers to register for this opportunity.

- JCU Connect, with the support of our researcher community, is also planning two internal NHMRC/DTHM grants workshops:

a. For Early-Career Researchers in late September, providing advice on making NHMRC grant applications and insights from NHMRC peer review processes;

b. For Mid-Career Researchers in late October, providing advice on making large-scale, collaborative grant applications, particularly in an international context.

- The planning for these workshops is under development and details will be provided as soon as they are available.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

