

**DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES,  
TRANSFORMATIONS AND SKILLS:  
ROBOTICS AND EU PERCEPTIONS**

**"AI AND DIGITAL SKILLS"  
D3REU CONCLUDING  
CONFERENCE**

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23-24 July 2019  
Bradley Forum, City West Campus  
University of South Australia



University of  
South Australia

Hawke EU  
Jean Monnet  
Centre of  
Excellence



## WORKSHOP PARTNERS

**The ‘AI and Digital Skills’ Conference is hosted by the University of South Australia. The conference is part of the suite of activities for the Digital Technologies, Transformations and Skills: Robotics and EU Perceptions Jean Monnet Project (D3REU), which is co-funded by a European Union ERASMUS+ Grant and the University of South Australia.**



With the support of the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
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# PROGRAM

*Bradley Forum, level 5 Hawke Building,  
City West Campus, UniSA, 55 North Tce, Adelaide*

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## **TUESDAY 23 JULY 2019**

- 12.00 – 12.30**            **REGISTRATION**
- 12.30 – 13.15**            **THE TASK REMAINING: RETHINKING DIGITAL SKILLS  
IN THE AGE OF AI**  
Prof. Anthony Elliott
- 13.15 – 13.45**            **D3REU FOUNDATIONS AND DEBATES OVER DIGITAL  
SKILLS**  
Dr Ross Boyd
- 13.45 – 15.15**            **PANEL 1: LESSONS FROM MUNICH, WARSAW,  
HELSINKI**  
Prof. Sven Kesselring (Video Presentation)  
Prof. Roman Batko  
Mr Ralf Blomqvist  
Dr Martha Bell (Chair)
- 15.15 – 15.45**            **AFTERNOON TEA**
- 15:45 -17.00**            **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIGITAL LANDSCAPE**  
  
Prof Anthony Elliott in discussion with Jess Pincombe, Lead – Digital Skills Program, Office for Digital Government, ICT and Digital Government, Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- 17.00 – 17.05**            **DAY 1 CLOSE**  
Prof. Anthony Elliott
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## **WEDNESDAY 24 JULY 2019**

- 8.30 – 9.00**            **MORNING COFFEE AND NETWORKING**
- 9.00 – 10.00**            **DIGITAL SKILLS IN THE FAST LANE**  
Dr Eric Hsu, Hawke EU Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, UniSA

**10.00 – 11.15**      **PANEL 2**      **SENDING IT ALL BACK HOME**

Prof Mike Innes  
Prof Anthony Elliott  
Ms Katarzyna Baliga-Nicholson  
Prof Robert Holton  
Mr Ralf Blomqvist (Chair)

**11.15 – 11.45**      **MORNING TEA**

**11.45 – 12.45**      **PANEL 3**      **BRINGING IT ALL BACK HOME**

Dr Thomas Birtchnell  
Ms Veronika Mooses  
A/Prof David Bissell  
Dr Ramona Marinache  
Prof. Anthony Elliott (Chair)

**12.45 – 13.00**      **D3REU: OUTCOMES, REPORTS AND NEXT STEPS**  
Prof. Anthony Elliott

**CLOSE**

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## WORKSHOP INTRODUCTION

A grand societal challenge facing the EU and other parts of the world such as Australasia, is how to respond to the current rise of the robotics revolution. What recalibrations are needed to our understanding of digital skills in order to promote economic growth and renewal? However, thus far, there has been limited media and public debate about EU innovation policy processes, particularly with respect of managing the complex transitions to robot/AI integrated economies and societies across Europe and maintaining social cohesion. Additionally, EU research and innovation in the area of new digital skill requirements emerging in conjunction with robotics, and the importance of stakeholder and public perceptions to effective policy design and implementation, has not been highly visible in academic research and discussions across Australasia and the wider Asia Pacific region.

The EU co-funded ‘Digital Technologies, Transformations and Skills: Robotics and EU Perceptions’ (D3REU) Jean Monnet Project Grant has sought to address this need by promoting EU/Australia research dialogue around the opportunities and challenges associated with the effects new robotic technologies are having on EU innovation and cohesion policy, especially with respect of the redefining of digital skills in the broadest sense (encompassing intellectual, physical and emotional skills), as well as on perceptions of the EU as an international policy leader. Across workshops in Munich, Warsaw and Helsinki, social scientists, industry and civil society representatives and practitioners have shared their research and analysis of robotics and digital skills along with relevant EU innovation and cohesion policy processes, as well as developed new lines of inquiry.

The findings and inquiries developed in these workshops are now being brought to Adelaide, Australia, in the concluding conference for D3REU. This international multidisciplinary Conference will further promote EU/Australasian research dialogue around the policy challenges associated with the effects new robotic technologies are having on redefining digital skills. This will promote interchange between key academics engaged in the study of the social consequences and design of robotics at the level of digital skills who are based respectively in either the EU or Australia and explore the relevance of European approaches for Australasia. It will also address how the EU as an international actor generally, and EU innovation and cohesion policy specifically, is viewed externally, and explore how to align international institutions with EU policy on and investment in robotics and AI.

## ABOUT THE D3REU JEAN MONNET PROJECT

The Digital Technologies, Transformations and Skills: Robotics and EU Perceptions (D3REU) Project focuses on perceptions of EU policy and investment in advancing digital technologies - specifically, robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) - and its impacts upon workplace change, educational retraining and new digital skills. The project is comprised of an international team working across Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Denmark, Poland, Finland, Japan, UK and Ireland. The field of robotics and AI promises the most profound disruptive technological shift since the Industrial Revolution. The advent of supercomputers, intelligent machines, robots and algorithms ushers in a world for which many developed countries are not prepared, and

against which government policy and intervention - on regional and global levels - is increasingly vital.

Focussing on EU policy in key areas of technological innovation and employment changes, the project centres on a suite of activities - workshops in three European regions and an international multidisciplinary conference in Australia – bringing EU and Australasian academics together with industry, business, policy makers and community stakeholders. Specifically, these activities will address: EU innovation and cohesion policies; the diversity of region-specific challenges and opportunities around robotics; AI technologies and the redefinition of digital skills; and, the importance of EU perceptions for effectively implementing policies aimed at the socially inclusive management of technological transitions. The relevance of European approaches for Australasia, and alignment of Australasian policy discourses with EU policy and investment will also be explored.

## D3REU PROJECT TEAM



**Professor Anthony Elliott** is Dean of External Engagement at the University of South Australia, where he is Executive Director of the Hawke EU Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence and Network, and Research Professor of Sociology. He holds a BA Honours degree from the University of Melbourne and a PhD from Cambridge University, where he was supervised by Lord Anthony Giddens, architect of Third Way progressive politics. Professor Elliott holds various international research fellowships and professorships, and is currently Visiting Super-Global Professor of Sociology in the

Graduate School of Human Relations, Keio University, Japan and Visiting Professor of Sociology at University College Dublin, Ireland. Professor Elliott is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, a Fellow of the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, and a member of King's College, Cambridge. Professor Elliott is a prominent social theorist, sociologist and public intellectual. He is the author and editor of over 40 books, which have been translated or are forthcoming in seventeen languages. His most recent book is *The Culture of AI* (2019).



**Sven Kesselring** is professor in 'Automotive Management: Sustainable Mobilities' at Nuertingen Geislingen University, Germany, and visiting professor at Aalborg University, Denmark. He co-edits the new journal *Applied Mobilities*. Sven studied sociology, political science and psychology and holds a PhD in sociology and a doctoral degree. He was research fellow at Hans Böckler Foundation, Erich Becker Foundation (Fraport) and the German Research Association. He is the director of the Cosmobilities Network and vice-

president of the International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic and Mobility (T2M). From 1999 to 2006 he was member of the reflexive modernisation research centre in Munich. His research focuses on mobilities theory, social change and reflexive modernization, corporate mobilities regimes, urban sociology, aeromobilities, and future research.



**Roman Batko** is Professor in Management Science at the Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland, a member of the Culture and Media Management Committee of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, European Academy of Management and the European Media Management Association. From 2018, the Founder and CEO of the consulting company SenseMaking Consulting Group ([www.smcg.com.pl](http://www.smcg.com.pl)). He specializes in process management, quality management, project management, audits and evaluation systems, as well as innovation management, digital strategies and automation. He conducts research on related issues from the so-called organizations of the future: robotization, cyborgization, new forms of communication, issues related to changes in the labor market, as well as the creation of technological networks in which the position of a human changes radically.

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**Professor Martin Holland**, holds New Zealand's only Jean Monnet Chair (ad personam), is Director of both the National Centre for Research on Europe at the University of Canterbury and of European Union Centres Network in New Zealand and is an active member of a number of international EU research networks. Professor Holland has taught at the University of Canterbury since 1984: in 2000 he established the National Centre for Research.

Professor Holland has been a visiting lecturer at a number of EU programmes in Asia (Chulalongkorn in Thailand, Fudan and Renmin in China, Waseda in Tokyo, the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur and Korea University in Seoul) and in the USA at the University of Pittsburgh and Washington University in Seattle. He has also been a guest lecturer at several prestigious EU Studies programmes in the EU including at the College of Europe (Natolin), Leuven, Krakow, Navarra and the University of Kent Brussels Institute, as well as spoken at think tank and diplomatic events in Brussels. Professor Holland is the author of over one hundred articles as well as twenty-three books (single-authored, co-authored and edited collections), two recent titles being "Development Policy of the EU" (with M. Doidge, Palgrave, 2012) and Communicating Europe in the Times of Crisis: External Perceptions of the European Union (Ed. with N. Chaban, Palgrave-McMillan, 2014).

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**Dr. Eric L. Hsu** is a Lecturer at the School of Creative Industries at the University of South Australia (UniSA). He is an Associate Member of UniSA's Centre for Sleep Research. Previously, he was an Associate Lecturer of Sociology at Flinders University. In 2014, he was a Visiting Research Fellow at the College of Sociology at Rikkyo University, Japan. Dr. Hsu is an emerging expert in the sociology of sleep and in the sociological study of time, especially on the issue of social acceleration. His research also extends into the

sociology of disasters and globalization studies. He currently sits on the Editorial Board of Palgrave Communications.



## PRESENTERS & CHAIRS

Ms Katarzyna Baliga-Nicholson	SenseMaking Consulting Group, Poland, Jagiellonian University, Poland
Prof. Roman Batko	SenseMaking Consulting Group, Poland Jagiellonian University, Poland
Dr Martha Bell	Media Associates, New Zealand
Dr Thomas Birtchnell	University of Wollongong, Australia
A/Prof David Bissell	The University of Melbourne, Australia
Mr Ralf Blomqvist	MainDialog, Helsinki
Dr Ross Boyd	University of South Australia, Australia
Prof. Anthony Elliott	University of South Australia, Australia
Prof Robert Holton	University of South Australia, Australia
Dr Eric Hsu	University of South Australia, Australia
Prof. Mike Innes	University of South Australia, Australia
Dr Ramona Marinache	University of Bucharest, Romania
Ms Veronika Mooses	University of Tartu, Estonia
Prof. Sven Kesselring	University of Nürtingen-Geislingen, Germany
Ms Jess Pincombe	Office for Digital Government, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, South Australian Government



