

Round Opens: 14 August 2023
Round Closes: 22 September 2023
Decisions announced: October 2023

The Sydney Social Sciences and Humanities Advanced Research Centre (SSSHARC) will award up to twenty-five places for PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and early career faculty working in sexuality studies (broadly construed) to participate in the Hunt-Simes Institute in Sexuality Studies in February 2024. Participants must reside in Sydney for the two-week duration of the Institute (20/02/2024 – 03/03/2024). The Hunt-Simes Institute in Sexuality Studies is supported by a bequest from the late Dr Gary Simes (BA '73, PhD '79) – a linguistic historian, biographer and University of Sydney graduate.

Hunt-Simes Institute in Sexuality Studies at SSSHARC (HISS@SSSHARC)

The purpose of HISS@SSSHARC is to raise the international reputation of the University of Sydney in sexuality studies via the provision of innovative graduate training workshops that will attract outstanding early-career researchers from across Australia and internationally. To help seed ongoing collaborations in this area, we are particularly interested in recruiting participants from the University of [Sydney's partner institutions](#).

While there are similar initiatives of longstanding in the UK, Europe, and the US, none are as well placed to serve the Asia Pacific region. Nor do they have the disciplinary breadth that is represented by HISS@SSSHARC, which encourages the participation of researchers from the full span of the social sciences and humanities, including economics, education and social work.

What is HISS@SSSHARC about?

In 2024, HISS takes the theme Queer Relationality.

Many of us work on relationality in one form or another. The 2024 HISS Faculty, for instance, have significant expertise in thinking about queer relationality in regard to sex, to others, to kinship, to history, to media, to genre, to games, to artificial intelligence, to methods, to space, to institutions, and to diversity. Many of our foundational experiences of these and other forms of relationality can be traced to school settings. The global rise of the marriage equality movement has recentred discussion of queer relationality in what many consider irrevocably heteronormative terms. By situating relationality in the context of schooling, learning and pedagogy, we hope to bring out new understandings of queer attachment, friendship, community, affect and thriving, which seems particularly important given the current clampdown on LGBTQI+ inclusive education in many jurisdictions.

What will the Institute involve?

The Institute will be directed by [Professor Lee Wallace](#) (SSSHARC) and ARC DECRA Fellow [Dr Victoria Rawlings](#) (Critical Education Studies, SSESW), with the involvement of an outstanding line-up of scholars from a range of disciplines and career stages, including:

- [Dr Tyler Bradway](#) English (SUNY, Cortland)
- [Associate Professor Adam Greteman](#) Art Education (School of the Art Institute of Chicago)
- [Dr Xavier Ho](#) Interaction Design (Monash University)
- [Professor Yuko Itatsu](#) Information Studies (University of Tokyo)
- [Professor Pamela Lannutti](#) Human Sexuality Studies (Widener University)
- [Dr Sam Stiegler](#) Education (Wesleyan University)
- [Dr Martín Torres](#) Geography (University of Chile)
- [Professor Amy Villarejo](#) Film, Television and Digital Media (UCLA)
- [Dr Indigo Willing](#) Criminology and Criminal Justice (Griffith University)

The Institute builds on the observation that all of us, young or old, established or emerging, have been school students at some time and might usefully revisit that experience in a queer-led context.

Many institutes are organised around delivering masterclasses to advanced students who already have specialist knowledge in a particular discipline or practice. HISS@SSSHARC abandons this model in favour of the generalist classroom that is more commonly associated with the primary or secondary school experience. HISS is designed to facilitate a queer cohort model of embodied learning and knowledge building across different subjects that everyone engages with whatever their disciplinary background. Rather than pursuing interdisciplinarity in the abstract, HISS students will be put through English, mathematics, science, technology, art, music, drama, physical education, and sex education classes. Extra-curricular activities will include fieldtrips and school photographs.

In sync with Sydney Mardi Gras, the Institute will also advance public-facing activities designed to engage the broader community in queer creative play.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

We invite applications from PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and early career faculty (up to 5 years post PhD). Masters students in a research-track degree or those transitioning to a PhD program will also be considered. Participants will be selected for diversity, including diversity of discipline. There are no restrictions based on citizenship, residency status, or country of study/employment.

We welcome applicants from all backgrounds and fields of study, especially applicants from groups currently underrepresented in sexuality studies. We will evaluate applications in the following dimensions:

- research experience in sexuality studies
- likelihood to benefit from participation
- likelihood to contribute to the educational experience of other participants
- potential to share insights gained with new intellectual communities

When making our evaluations, we will attempt to account for an applicant's career stage and previous educational opportunities. We do not ask for formal letters of recommendation, but we do ask applicants to provide the name and email of a supervisor or colleague we can approach for

guidance on the above if we are having difficulty adjudicating between applications. In 2023, we did not need to seek advice of this kind.

How to Apply

The online application form will ask you for your current academic details and invite you to:

- briefly outline your experience in sexuality studies or aligned fields
- briefly outline your current research
- tell us why you want to attend HISS@SSSHARC
- upload a curriculum vitae of no more than two pages
- upload a writing sample. Co-authored work is acceptable, but we recommend you include a few sentences describing the contribution of each author
- optionally, you may also provide a short diversity statement, voice memo, or video.

All application materials must be received by 22 September 2023 (23:59 AEDT).

Application materials must be submitted through the [online application portal](#). Applications that are not complete by the deadline may not receive full consideration. We will notify all applicants of our decision in October and ask successful applicants to confirm their participation shortly thereafter.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

I'm enrolled in a Masters degree: can I apply?

We will consider applications from Masters students in a research track, such as an MA (Research) or MPhil degree, or students transitioning to a PhD degree who have demonstrated interest and commitment to research in sexuality studies.

Can bachelor students apply? Can established researchers apply?

No, unfortunately participation is limited to PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and early career faculty (up to 5 years from PhD award). The institute will run again in 2025, so please consider applying next year. If you are an established researcher who is interested in being involved in the delivery of HISS 2025, please get in touch with SSSHARC.

Can I submit a writing sample written in a language other than English?

Unfortunately, this is not possible at this time.

I would really like to attend but do not have institutional funding for travel and accommodation in Sydney. What are my options?

SSSHARC has some capacity to provide grants-in-aid to assist with travel and accommodation costs for participants from outside the Greater Sydney area (AUD\$1000 for Australian-based participants; AUD\$3000 for internationally based participants). If you require a grant-in-aid to participate, please indicate this in your application. We encourage successful applicants to seek research funding from their home institutions. SSSHARC can provide documentation of acceptance to assist you in this endeavour.

Can I apply if I am a student or ECR at the University of Sydney?

Yes. Internal applicants will be considered alongside external applicants.

Can I apply if I live outside Australia?

HISS@SSSHARC welcomes international applications particularly from those at the University of Sydney's partner institutions or those who are already collaborating with USYD researchers. In this context, we would expect participants to actively pursue matching funding arrangements.

How will I find accommodation in Sydney for the duration of the Institute?

SSSHARC cannot assist you to find accommodation in Sydney, but we can connect you to HISS 2023 alumni who might have tips they can share. We will be announcing the results of the application round in October so you can start looking early, since Sydney always fills up for Mardi Gras. Wherever you stay to you will need to commute to SSSHARC, which is located on the University of Sydney's Camperdown campus, a 15 to 20-minute walk from Central Station or Redfern Station.

How many participants will be selected?

We are seeking to recruit no more than 25 participants. In 2023, we selected 23 participants from 45 applications. We anticipate receiving more applications this year.

What will be expected of participants in the Institute?

All participants are expected to fully engage in the entire program. Some reading and other preparatory tasks may be required in advance. We hope that research collaborations will be seeded across HISS and extend beyond the Institute, as happened with HISS 2023.

Timeline:

Deadline for applications: 22 September 2023 (23:59 AEST)

Decisions announced: October 2023

To apply to participate in the Hunt-Simes Institute in Sexuality Studies, please [complete the online application form](#) and attach the required CV, writing sample and diversity statement (if you elect to provide one).

Further information about SSSHARC can be found at www.sydney.edu.au/arts/sssharc

Enquiries should be directed to: Sydney Social Sciences and Humanities Advanced Research Centre
sssharc.research@sydney.edu.au