

Round Opens: 1 September 2022
Round Closes: 30 September 2022
Decisions announced: October 2022

The Sydney Social Sciences and Humanities 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 inaugural Hunt-Simes Institute in Sexuality Studies in February 2023. Participants must reside in Sydney for the two-week duration of the Institute (20/02/2023 – 03/03/2023). 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)

Launching in 2023, HISS@SSSHARC is timed to coincide with Sydney WorldPride and Sydney Mardi Gras. The purpose of HISS@SSSHARC is to raise the international reputation of the University of Sydney in sexuality studies via the provision of high-quality graduate masterclasses 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 will be 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?

In 2023, HISS takes the theme *Queer Age / Queer Youth*. Why is this theme important to the field? Much of the cultural anxiety around queerness centres on youth. Approaching the topic of sexuality from the doubled perspective of youth and age provides some breathing space for more thoughtful approaches to sexual development and social aspiration across the long-term. Age refers not just to ageing but also to the times, which seem to offer new rights in the form of marriage equality while other horizons of equality disappear in a landscape of fiscal and environmental crisis. The theme invites us to think in two temporalities at once: retrospectively, with a deep understanding of past wrongs, and proleptically, in anticipation of a more just future. How far have we come and where are we headed? Is there a collective voice that can hold these perspectives in a productive rather than corrosive tension?

What will the institute involve?

The institute will be directed by [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:

- [Professor Jen Gilbert](#), Education (York University, CA)
- [Associate Professor Adam Greteman](#), Art Education (School of the Art Institute of Chicago)
- [Professor Scott Herring](#), American Studies, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (Yale)
- [Dr Xavier Ho](#), Interactive Design (Monash)
- [Professor Karen Tongson](#), Gender and Sexuality Studies, English, American Studies (USC)
- [Professor Shane Vogel](#), Theatre / Performance Studies, African American Studies (Yale)

Many advanced institutes centre on the expertise of those delivering masterclasses to students who already have specialist knowledge or demonstrated talent in a particular discipline or practice. In its first iteration, HISS@SSSHARC abandons this model in favour of the generalist classroom that is usually associated with the primary or secondary school experience. HISS@SSSHARC is designed to facilitate a queer cohort model of embodied learning and knowledge building across different subjects that are framed naively rather than in advanced intellectual terms. Thus, rather than pursuing interdisciplinarity in the abstract, students will be put through a mandatory regime of English, mathematics, science, technology, art, music, drama, physical education, and sex education classes. They will also be given careers advice from successful queer professionals. Extra-curricular activities will include fieldtrips and school photographs.

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. Across the two weeks of the Institute, participants will collectively engage the notion of a queer-led classroom designed for the provision of real-world graduate training that doesn't presume exclusively academic outcomes. The Institute will also advance events designed to engage the public in queer creative play.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

We invite applications from PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and early career faculty. Exceptional 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 along 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 attempt to account for an applicant's career stage and previous educational opportunities. While we do not ask for formal letters of recommendation, we do ask you 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 specific applications. The people you name may be asked to numerically rate you against the four criteria above relative to others they have supervised or collaborated with across the last ten years.

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 in 2023

- 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 30 September 2022 (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. The institute will run for at least three iterations, so please consider applying in future or, if you are an established researcher, contact SSSHARC and indicate your interest in being involved in the delivery of HISS@SSSHARC in 2024 or 2025.

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 will provide up to 10 grants-in-aid of up to \$1000 AUD to assist with travel and accommodation costs for participants from outside the Greater Sydney area. If you would like to be considered for a grant-in-aid, please indicate this in your application. We also 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 live outside Australia?

HISS@SSSHARC welcomes international applications particularly from those enrolled or employed 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. You need to be aware that Sydney will be very crowded across Sydney Mardi Gras and WorldPride Sydney 2023. We will be announcing the results of the application round in October. It is up to you to find a place to stay from which you can commute to SSSHARC, which is located on the University of Sydney's Camperdown campus, a twenty-minute walk from Central Station or Redfern Station.

How many participants will be selected?

We are seeking to recruit 25 participants.

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. It is hoped that research collaboration will extend beyond the Institute.

Timeline:

Deadline for applications: 30 September 2022 (23:59 AEST)

Decisions announced: October 2022

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