

Wednesday 11 February 2026 | 5-6pm THE GALLERY

Moments in Motion: Navigating the Lifespan of Events

Co-chaired by Dr Effie Steriopoulos, Dr Eliza Kitchen and Dr Truc Le

Events are not static. Each begins as a spark of inspiration and, over time, evolves into an experience with the potential to leave lasting legacies. This session invites participants to rethink traditional notions of the event lifecycle by exploring how events grow, plateau, and reinvent themselves. By mapping the journeys of events from inception to icon, we interrogate the ways in which they respond to challenges, reshape their formats, and reimagine their role in society. The conversation will consider when events need interventions from, for example, government and what the intervention may look like; also, how moments of transition can offer critical opportunities for reflection and innovation. The session positions event lifecycles as dynamic, evolving pathways where responsiveness, resilience, and reinvention ensure ongoing relevance and impact.



Prof Kirsten Holmes

Kirsten is the Director of Curtin University's Tourism Research Cluster and an elected Fellow and past Chair of the Council for Australasian Tourism and Hospitality Education, which represents institutions that teach and research tourism, hospitality and events in Australia and New Zealand. An experienced project manager with over 25 years' experience delivering outcomes for industry, government and the community, Kirsten's specialism is events and festivals - both large scale mega events and smaller community events; and issues related to sustainability, event volunteer programs and event legacies. Kirsten also has expertise in the not-for-profit sector and volunteer tourism and teaches responsible tourism.



Tish Naughton

Appointed CEO of Feast Festival in April 2023, Tish is an award-winning entrepreneur with over a decade of small business management experience. Specialising in financial management, compliance, reporting, systems and procedural development, her goals are to ensure Feast becomes a sustainable business so that it can serve the community for a further 25 years and beyond.
Tish is a passionate and driven individual who seeks to inspire change and lead by example. A proud lesbian, she has been attending Feast since 2007 and is excited for the opportunity to guide Feast Festival as a queer-run event and continue the fight for representation, visibility and celebration.



Laura Smans

Experienced in stakeholder and project management with a demonstrated history of working in events, the arts and tourism industry. Skilled in stakeholder and relationship management, event and production management, people management, operational analysis, logistics coordination and strategic planning. Career focus on customer experience through design execution. Strong consulting professional with a Post Graduate Diploma focused in Festival and Events, Design and Management from Flinders University.

FROM THE CAUTHE EVENT SIG CO-CHAIRS

The Event Studies Special Interest Group (SIG) provides a forum for event researchers and educators to contribute to the development of collaborative partnerships through effective cooperation, communication and knowledge sharing. Specifically, the SIG aims to:

- Foster diverse, critical academic debate to contribute to the development of a strong, theoretically underpinned and informed body of knowledge
- Reinforce the relevance and significance of theoretically informed event studies research through the effective dissemination of knowledge to a diverse audience
- Facilitate and build evidence based teaching and research to support the practical development, implementation and evaluation of events.
- For more see https://cauthe.org/services/special-interest-groups/event-studies/



Dr Effie Steriopoulos
CAUTHE Event SIG Co-Chair



Dr. Eliza Kitchen
CAUTHE Event SIG Co-Chair



Dr. Truc Le
CAUTHE Event SIG Co-Chair