ISSUE #1

CAUTHE
Bi-Annual Newsletter

April 2024



Vision
CAUTHE is the peak body for Australasian tourism, hospitality and events (TH&E) research and education. We lead, unite and grow an outstanding and diverse TH&E community.
Mission
To support our members through a sharing culture of diversity, collegiality, expertise and scholarly inquiry.

Welcome from the Chair
by Professor Erica Wilson



I hope you enjoy this first edition of the CAUTHE Newsletter, 2024!

CAUTHE 2024 Conference

What an outstanding start to the year, with a very successful CAUTHE 2024 Conference held in February in Nipaluna/Hobart. The annual academic conference is an important part of who we are as an Association, and one of the most impactful ways CAUTHE helps to unite our members. Close to 250 delegates from academe, industry, community and government 'came down for air' to attend this year's event in Tasmania.

On behalf of CAUTHE, I'd like to express my thanks to A/Professor Anne Hardy, Dr Oscar Vorobjovas-Pinta, and Professor Can Seng Ooi, for leading such a professional, quality event. Hosting a CAUTHE conference is no small feat, and I'm so appreciative of them for dedicating the better part of 18 months to planning the conference, with such collegiality and good humour.
Anne and the team took time out of their busy academic and personal lives, to showcase CAUTHE, the unique Tasmanian spirit, and of course the best of tourism, hospitality and events research and education.

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CAUTHE acknowledges the indigenous peoples, Traditional Custodians, and First Nations of the countries in and on which we live, work and study, and their ongoing cultural connections to land, sea and community. In Australia, we pay our respect to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. In Aotearoa | New Zealand we acknowledge Tangata Whenua (People of the Land) and the rights and authority agreed within Te Tiriti o Waitangi. In the great Moana-nui | Pacific we acknowledge the many indigenous peoples that are connected together by the ocean, culture and cosmology.

Welcome from the Chair, cont..

Thank you also to the stellar support team at University of Tasmania and our PCO, Leishman Associates (LA), Helene, Kan, and all of the UTAS volunteers, students and helpers, who made everything run so smoothly and seamlessly.

The CAUTHE conference always starts with the Bill Faulkner PhD/ECR Workshop – and what a great start it was in Hobart, this time combining with our Mid-Career Academic colleagues. A sincere thank you to Wally Zhang (UTas PhD Candidate), Michelle Whitmore (CAUTHE PhD Rep), Dr Richard Aquino (PhD/ECR Rep 2023), Dr Anita Manfreda (PhD/ECR Rep 2024) and the team who coordinated the successful 2024 Workshop, as well as the associated Mentoring session. I know they worked so hard to create a supportive, impactful and fun environment for our PhD/ECR/MCA members, providing vital advice to excel in their chosen career paths.

I really felt the Hobart conference embodied the best of CAUTHE, with such a strong focus on collegiality, diversity, place, and Indigenous culture. I so enjoyed seeing delegates sharing, networking and connecting. Anecdotally, everyone I spoke to across the week mentioned the friendly, professional service and hospitality– from AV through to food through to the conference desk support – as well as the quality of the panels, speakers and papers. And we'll not soon forget the Theatre Royal surprise welcome, and the fabulous Gus on saxophone at the Gala Dinner!

The 2024 Conference Feedback Survey demonstrates the success of the Hobart event: both the PhD/ECR Workshop and the Conference show high to very-high satisfaction against all key items, with overall mean scores of 4.44/5 (Workshop) and 4.4/5 (Conference), respectively. A full conference report and analysis will be presented at the Mid-Year Meeting .

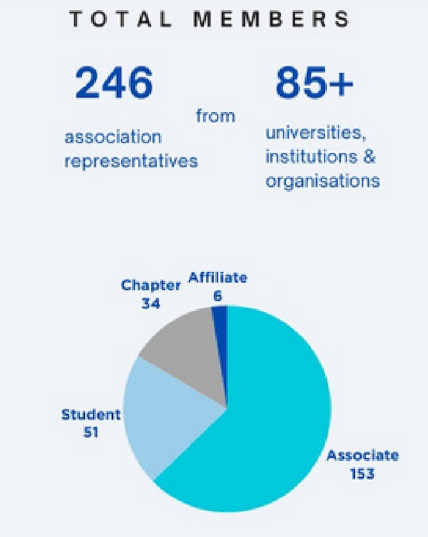
I am pleased to advise that as we finalise the budget working with LA, CAUTHE is forecasting to make a good profit from the conference, which will go into supporting CAUTHE's operations, member services and future events.

I'd also like to offer my personal congratulations to all of our very well deserving CAUTHE bursary recipients, award winners and Fellows' Awards for 2024 – you can read about their achievements later in this edition, and how CAUTHE supports our outstanding TH&E researchers and educators through these initiatives.

Like many of you, I am looking forward to CAUTHE 2025 already – don't forget to save the date for February 10-13, and join us in Meanjin/Brisbane, Queensland. A number of planning meetings have already taken place, led by our colleagues at UQ, as they start work on welcoming us early next year.

CAUTHE in Numbers

Did you know that CAUTHE was formed in 1992, has 246 association representatives from over 85 universities, organisations and other institutions, heralding from sixteen different countries? You can find out more about CAUTHE at CAUTHE at a Glance





Who are Leishman Associates?

You may have heard recently about Leishman Associates. Paula Leishman and Associates are experienced conference and association management specialists, based in Hobart, Australia. LA offer financial, HR, conference, association and sponsorship management, and technical support and have worked with a number of academic, government and private organisations and conferences.

In a new direction for CAUTHE, Leishman provided PCO services for the 2024 Conference, and if you attended in Hobart, you would have met Helene, Kan and the friendly team at the registration desk. I'm pleased to advise that CAUTHE has entered into a contract with LA for further PCO support in 2025, and they are busy already working with UQ to plan for Brisbane 2025.

Welcome from the Chair, cont....

Given Penny Jose's retirement, CAUTHE will also contract LA to provide Secretariat support for 2024, though we are delighted that Penny will continue to work with Leishman and CAUTHE across the remainder of this transition year.

CAUTHE Executive 2024

I was delighted to be voted in by the Directors as Chair of CAUTHE for 2024; this will be my third year in the role. I very much look forward to working with the new executive on supporting our members to achieve our Strategy Goals and Objectives for 2023-2026, which includes projects on equity and diversity, sustainability and industry/government advocacy.









Congratulations to the 2024 Executive Committee

Elected members
- Chair - Prof Erica Wilson
- 1st Vice Chair - Assoc Prof Tamara Young
- 2nd Vice Chair - Dr Aaron Tham
- Treasurer - Prof Naomi Dale
- Secretary and PhD/ECR Liaison - Dr Anita Manfreda

Co-opted members
- Conference Convenor – Prof Lisa Ruhanen|Assoc Prof Sheranne Fairly
- Immediate Past Chair – Prof Kristen Holmes
- Immediate Past Conf. Convenor – Assoc Prof Anne Hardy
- PhD Student Rep – Ms Michelle Whitmore
- Journal – Prof Marianna Sigala
- SIG co-ordinator – Dr Wendy Hillman

- Dr Richard Aquino
- Dr Mireia Guix
- Prof Karen Smith
- Dr Ina Reichenberger
- Assoc Prof Chrystal Zhang

For more see CAUTHE Executive Committee

Take the CAUTHE Pledge

For all CAUTHE events, activities and initiatives, I commit to:

- Advocating for and including the voices of diverse groups, recognising that difference makes CAUTHE stronger.
- Offering the names of suitable colleagues from within CAUTHE, or my own networks, to ensure diversity in events, forums and conferences.
- Building trust in an environment free of derogatory comments and discrimination.
- Advocating for the principles of the CAUTHE Be Kind Campaign, recognising the power of kindness and constructive feedback.
- Encouraging my fellow members and colleagues to participate in the CAUTHE Pledge.

Use the QR code or link to the CAUTHE Pledge.







Call for EOI: CAUTHE PhD Student representative

The CAUTHE Executive calls for expressions of interest for the co-opted PhD student representative role. Applicants must be current CAUTHE Student Members and based at a Chapter Member institution. Interested applicants are invited to submit the following documents:

- A two-page CV;
- A 500-word outline detailing your interest and vision for the role and ideas for how you will communicate with the membership; and
- A letter from your supervisor to support the application and provide evidence that you can accommodate the role in light of your PhD workload.

The closing date for applications is 17 May 2024. Download Position description.

If you have any queries related to the role, please contact 2023 PhD Student representative Michelle Whitmore or CAUTHE Chair Erica Wilson.

Reflections from the current PhD Representative

by Michelle Whitmore

I feel very fortunate to have held the CAUTHE PhD Student Representative for 2023-24. I had the privilege of working with Dr Richard Aquino as we organised the 2023 mid-year HDR conference with ANZALS (Australian and New Zealand Association for Leisure Studies) and supported the Hobart organising committee with the Bill Faulkner PhD/ECR and MCA workshop and mentoring sessions at CAUTHE 2024.

Subsequently, I have been honoured to work with Dr Anita Manfreda and Dr Mireia Giux who are great role models and provide well-considered advice and support. I am currently in the midst of organising the 2024 mid-year HDR conference with my equivalent representatives from ANZALS and SMAANZ (Sport Management Association of Australia and New Zealand).

All of the representatives are highly engaged and keen to provide the best opportunities for our student members. These are just a few of the wonderful, thoughtful, kind, and impressive people that I have had the pleasure of working with as the CAUTHE PhD student representative.

Being the PhD student representative has helped to expand my network of contacts across tourism, hospitality, and events education, but it has also allowed me to be a part of something bigger. It is rewarding to know that you are contributing to an association that is truly supportive and collaborative. The icing on the cake was attending the annual CAUTHE conference, where I had the pleasure of meeting many student members in person.

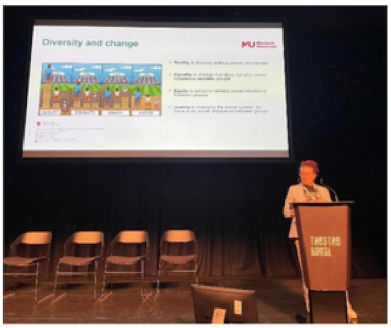
If you think you might be interested in taking on the student representative role, I encourage you to respond to the expression of interest; you won't regret it!

Save the date: 2024 ANZALS/CAUTHE/SMAANZ HDR mid-year conference

The 2024 ANZALS/CAUTHE/SMAANZ HDR mid-year conference will be held on Thursday 4 and Friday 5 July online. No charge for members. More details to come....







CAUTHE 2024 Conference highlights

by Assoc Prof Anne Hardy | Dr Oscar Vorobjovas-Pinta

In 2024 the CAUTHE Conference went south, to the island state of Tasmania. The conference was hosted by the School of Social Sciences, in the College of Arts, Law and Education at the University of Tasmania. It took place in the Hedberg Building; an award-winning learning and research space, the location of the Conservatorium of Music, and one of the most significant creative centres of the University of Tasmania.

The theme of the conference was Diverse Voices: Creating change in tourism, hospitality and events. The conference committee designed a rich and creative program to encourage discussion on diversity and change. Our program was also underpinned by a very strong commitment to sustainability. The catering was provided by a social enterprise, Hamlet, and was largely Tasmanian; the conference was largely paper and plastics-free and rather than gifts, donations were given to local charities on behalf of the keynote speakers. All our entertainment was delivered by musicians from the Conservatorium of Music.

Prior to the formal start of the conference, a PhD Early and Mid-Career Workshop was held, featuring a treasure hunt, a workshop on working in teams and three panels on networking, promotion and wellbeing. The treasure hunt was sponsored and designed by Riddle Me Adventures and provided a fun and collaborative means through which attendees could meet each other and see the sights of Hobart at the same time (see more on p. 8).

On the official first day of the Conference, delegates enjoyed a keynote by Professor Rebecca Bennett on Diversity and Inclusion, followed by a panel on Embracing Diversity. It concluded with a welcome function at the Theatre Royal, where attendees were treated to a spectacular performance by Prophecy, followed by a surprise cocktail party on the stage of the Theatre Royal.

The second day began with a keynote by Prof. Elizabeth Leane on the use of humanities as a lens to explore tourism in Antarctica and concluded with the Special Interest Group Gatherings. Guests were entertained at lunch by Wenxin (Miffy) Wang on piano.

The final day of the conference was themed Come Down for Air Day. Sponsored by Tourism Tasmania, it began with keynotes from Todd Babiak of Brand Tasmania and Sarah Clark from Tourism Tasmania, followed by a panel on Working with Industry. Attendees then enjoyed an incredible morning tea curated by Palawa Kipli, a Tasmanian aboriginal-run business.

This year, the committee broke ranks and departed from the tradition of the Great Debate. Instead, the Great CAUTHE Sing-Off was initiated. Two teams sang off against each other with a two-song repertoire. The compulsory song, Africa, became an earworm for many delegates for weeks to come! The day concluded with a spectacular dinner, where guests were treated to Tasmania fare, a jazz band and then a DJ and Doof-Sax. Records were broken with the number of dancers on the dance floor by the end of the night.

Overall, we had 247 attendees and 208 papers submitted. This was one of the largest CAUTHE Conferences ever held, and the conference committee is enormously grateful to Leishman Associates and to CAUTHE for trusting the University of Tasmania to deliver this event. Small universities rely heavily on small groups of volunteer labour, and our team was extraordinary. We also pay particular thanks to Tourism Tasmania, Business Events Perth, Elsevier and Emerald Publishers, Riddle Me Adventures, the Woolstore, Pennicott Wilderness Journeys, Destination Southern Tasmania, and Episteme Consulting for their generous support of this event.

Thank you for visiting our island. We were thrilled to host you at CAUTHE 2024.

See more CAUTHE 2024 images on Flickr.

CAUTHE 2024 Awards



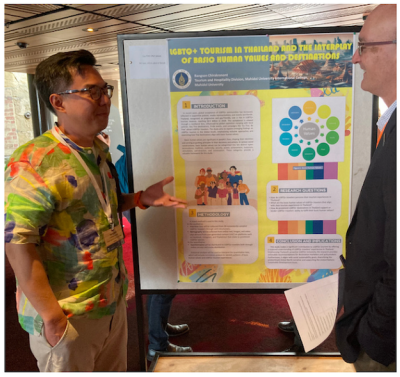
Philip Pearce Award for Best Full Paper

Assoc Prof Uwe Hermann, Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa and Pieter Hertzog Du Toit, University of Pretoria, South Africa, 'Exploring the desired attributes of postgraduate tourism students by means of an international delphi study.'



Bill Faulkner Memorial Award Best PhD Paper

Oscar Yuheng Zhu, The University of Queensland, Australia, 'Should the risk of social desirability bias in survey studies be assessed at the level of each pro-environmental behaviour?'



CAUTHE award for Best Poster

Dr Rangson Chirakranont, Mahidol University International College, 'LGBTQ+ tourism in Thailand and the interplay of basic human values and destinations.'



Hospitality & Society Best Paper

Dr Tyler Riordan and Associate Professors Richard Robinson and Gerhard Hoffstaedter, 'The University of Queensland, Hospitality at the human-digital frontier: A mediated model and a new domain.'

CAUTHE Fellows Awards

ECR – Education
- Dr Eunjung Kim, Edith Cowan University (not pictured)

ECR – Research
- Dr Mireia Guix (top) – The University of Queensland
- Dr Anita Manfreda – Torrens University Australia (Commendation)

MCA – Education
- Dr Michelle Thompson – Central Queensland University

MCA - Research
- Dr Faith Ong (bottom) – The University of Queensland



CAUTHE 2024 Awards, cont...

CAUTHE Social Media Awards

For a champion performance in online engagement

- Michelle Whitmore, Western Sydney University



For a champion performance in online promotion (number of online posts and channels used)

- Mostafa Rasoolimanesh, Edith Cowan University



Winner of the coolest conference photo shared

- Kyrie Eleison Muñoz, The University of Queensland



2023 JHTM Best Paper

'A model of luxury lodge experience quality'
Authors: Anita Manfreda, Frans Melissen, Rajka Presbury, Scott Richardson, Justin King



2023 Highly Commended JHTM Papers

'The more the better? Strategizing visual elements in social media marketing'
Authors: Irene Cheng Chu Chan, Zhaoyu Chen, Daniel Leung

'The role of tourism in healthy aging: An interdisciplinary literature review and conceptual model'
Authors: Fangli Hu, Jun Wen, Ian Phau, Tianyu Ying, Joshua Aston, Wei Wang

JHTM Best PhD Paper award

Roshis Krishna Shrestha, Australian National University, 'A Place where I belong' – The ambiguous role of the outsider-within dichotomy among Indigenous Gurung women tourism entrepreneurs in Nepal'.

JHTM Highly Commended PhD Paper award

Zhiwei (CJ) Lin, Sun Yat-sen University, 'The rising environmentalists: Fostering xenvironmental goal attainment through volunteer tourism'.

2023 BEST JHTM REVIEWERS

- Al-Ansi, Amr, Macau University of Science and Technology, Macao
- Stylidis, Dimitrios, University of Crete, Greece
- Sun, Jie, USA
- Wen, Ju, Edith Cowan University, Australia
- Yang, Shaohua, Anhui University of Technology, China

CAUTHE's Journal turns 30!

In 2024, join us in celebrating the 30 years of legacy of CAUTHE's Journal of Tourism and Hospitality Management!

More news on the 30th JHTM anniversary celebrations to follow...



2024 Bill Faulkner PhD/ECR & MCA Workshop

by Wei Wally Zhang | Michelle Whitmore

On 6 February 2024, the Bill Faulkner PhD and ECR workshop and the Mid-Career Academics (MCA) workshop kicked off the 2024 CAUTHE Conference. The day-long workshop was designed to foster engagement across various stages of academic careers and set a tone of inclusivity and collaboration.

The event was well attended with 31 PhD scholars, 11 ECRs, and 7 MCAs participating in a blend of activities for academic discussion, personal development, and networking. Rob Anders from the University of Tasmania opened the event with a heartfelt Welcome to Country followed by a welcome from Assoc. Prof. Tamara Young, the 2nd Vice Chair of CAUTHE.

A highlight from the day was the morning's Treasure Hunt, organised by Riddle Me Adventures. Participants were broken into small groups to connect over a common purpose in an informal setting. They traipsed through the streets of Hobart collecting photos, memories, and new connections.

The day then shifted into a series of workshop and panel sessions at The Hedberg. Katherine Hough from the University of Tasmania provided a session on team dynamics and recognising the strength in diversity. In the afternoon there were concurrent sessions on networking and navigating promotion in academia, and mindfulness and well-being at work. These sessions were tailored to enrich the professional lives of participants and equip them with tools for both academic and personal resilience.

This theme was continued through the group mentoring session. Participants were divided into groups with one or more experienced academics as mentors, who facilitated supportive discussions about research, work, and life.

Official proceedings were concluded by the CAUTHE Chair, Prof. Erica Wilson, with the announcement of the PhD/ECR Bursary awards. Congratulations go to Kyle Munoz and Li Xie-Carson.

The day concluded with two free walking tours: one on Hobart as a Gateway to Antarctica and the second on Tourism in Tasmania. Afterwards, the networking continued with a very respectable Pub Crawl led by Line Andersen.

The 2024 workshop provided a platform for learning and growth as well as strengthening the academic network. Further underscoring CAUTHE's commitment to building a supportive and collaborative academic community within tourism and hospitality education and research. Thanks go to the organising committee from the University of Tasmania and those that supported the event from CAUTHE.

Bursary recipient testimonials

Kyrie Eleison (Kyle) Muñoz, The University of Queensland – PhD Bursary



As an underprivileged scholar from the Global South, access to conferences like CAUTHE has always been a challenge. This is why I am grateful for being awarded the 2024 PhD bursary which allowed me to attend my first-ever CAUTHE conference and present my work titled 'A systematic review and research agenda on tourism workforce in the Global South.' This bursary not only helped me overcome financial barriers but also allowed me to have my voice heard.

Attending the PhD workshop and panel discussions helped me understand the importance of the theme, 'Diverse Voices: Creating change in tourism, hospitality and events', particularly about diversity and inclusion within our field. I realised that scholars like myself must remain steadfast in addressing the inequalities which continuously exclude and silence the voices and perspectives of the marginalised sectors in society.

These sessions made me critically reflect on my own practices and encouraged me to interrogate power dynamics, privilege, and systemic barriers to commit to fostering greater inclusivity in my research. The mentoring session was also helpful. I was fortunate to have met Prof Alison Morrison and A/Prof Clifford Lewis who offered their expertise, constructive feedback, and meaningful guidance so I could maximise my PhD journey.

Bursary recipient testimonials, cont...

Kyrie Eleison (Kyle) Muñoz, cont...

Likewise, I was able to meet new colleagues and friends because of the conference's social activities and special interest group meetings. They have given me valuable insights on tips and tricks from their experiences. I feel better equipped to navigate challenges, seize opportunities, and continue to progress towards my aspirations because of them. They have made my first CAUTHE experience extra meaningful.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the CAUTHE 2024 organising committee, conference management team, and volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Your efforts did not go unnoticed, and they were crucial in ensuring the success of the conference. To the conference convenor A/Prof Anne Hardy and program chair Dr Oscar Vorobjovas-Pinta, your passion for creating positive change and your commitment to fostering dialogue and collaboration are truly inspiring.

I would like to thank the conference organising committee from University of Tasmania for creating such a memorable experience for me. The conference program was very well designed from the PhD/ECR workshop, to keynotes, panel discussions and SIG, to social programs. The highlight for me in the PhD/ECR workshop was the Treasure Hunt by Riddle Me Adventures. Our group #HaveWineGoTravel had so much fun going through the challenges, taking creative group pictures, and getting to know each other.

I also enjoyed the practise-based workshop of mindfulness and wellbeing at work. The experience of practising mindfulness in a group setting was something that I will always remember. The idea of involving the community and the industry in the conference was brilliant, so too was the Great Choir Sing Off. I did not know that we had so many talented singers, dancers, and musicians amongst our group!

The thoughtfulness of the conference also lay in F&B including the Tasmania-shaped chocolate upon registration, wildlife-shaped chocolate and premium local ice cream, and sustainable aboriginal food offered as morning tea.

As an early career researcher, I am beyond grateful to receive a bursary to attend the conference, which allows me to foster my growth and kickstart my academic career. CAUTHE has always been my go-to conference, providing a valuable channel to receive constructive feedback for my research, learning new research topics and trends, and networking and connecting with new and old colleagues. CAUTHE 2024 was particularly meaningful to me as it was the first conference that my principal PhD advisor Professor Pierre Benckendorff and I were able to attend together along with some of my PhD siblings.

I had a fabulous time and am looking forward to many more CAUTHE conferences!



Dr Li-Xie Carson – ECR Bursary



This was the fourth consecutive CAUTHE conference that I have attended. Thanks to the pandemic, I had the unique opportunity to experience CAUTHE conferences both online and in-person. I was honoured to receive the Best Poster Award and the Social Media (online engagement) Award at CAUTHE 2023 in Fremantle, which was my first in-person CAUTHE conference.

This year, I was thrilled to receive an ECR bursary for my paper titled Insta-fame or Insta-flop? The pitfalls of using virtual influencers in tourism marketing to attend CAUTHE 2024 in Hobart.

Chapter Director Feature

by Assoc Prof Tamara Young, University of Newcastle



Spotlight on Newcastle: Leading tourism, hospitality and events education and research for our regions

Since we hosted the 2018 CAUTHE Conference 'Get Smart: Paradoxes and Possibilities in Tourism, Hospitality and Events', the University of Newcastle has grown its commitment to tourism, hospitality and events education and research. Several developments have taken place at our university that are not just about advancing our academic achievements but also to achieve our goal to become globally recognised leader in tourism, hospitality and events education for our regions.

Regional leadership: Embracing our vision and mission

At the University of Newcastle, our vision is clear: To be a world-leading university for our regions. This guiding principle informs everything we do, from the courses we design to the research projects we lead. Our mission – to deliver an exceptional student experience and to prepare graduates for life in an interconnected global society – resonates strongly with the newly inaugurated Newcastle International Hotel School in the Newcastle Business School, and the recent establishment of the flagship undergraduate degree, the Bachelor of Tourism, Hospitality and Events.

Offered at the city campus precinct in the centre of the Newcastle CBD, the Newcastle International Hotel School enhances our ability to contribute to both the local destination and broader regional development. Our city campus not only serves as a hub of academic and professional excellence, but also as a vibrant part of the visitor economy of Newcastle as a city destination, recently named the 'Top Tourism Town in New South Wales'.

The new Bachelor of Tourism, Hospitality and Events, designed in partnership with our industry and community partners, aims to equip future leaders with the skills and knowledge to navigate the complexities of the global tourism industry. Our values-driven curriculum focuses on sustainable and ethical practices, prepares graduates for strategic management and leadership roles, ensuring they make a positive impact worldwide. It's an educational program designed not just for personal success, but for local and regional impact.

Our industry partnerships enrich our curriculum and enhance collaborative learning, providing tourism, hospitality and events students with critical insights and opportunities to address real-world opportunities and challenges in our regions. With all students involved in career-ready placements, their learning extends beyond the classroom, integrating global expertise with local and regional relevance.

Expanding our expertise: Welcoming new leadership

We are thrilled to welcome two internationally renowned academics to lead our educational futures. The new Dean of the Business School, James Skinner, is a Professor of Sport Business. Joining us from Loughborough University's Institute for Sport Business in London, he was previously Head of the Department of Tourism, Hotel and Sport Management at Griffith University. His expertise centres on driving growth and innovation in tourism programs, with a strong track record in curriculum redesign, external engagement, and creating impactful research.

And more recently, joining our team in the Discipline of Marketing and Tourism, is the appointment of Professor Marianna Sigala as Director of the Newcastle International Hotel School. With extensive involvement in advancing tourism and hospitality education globally, Marianna as is a multi-award winning researcher and editor-in-chief of the CAUTHE Journal of Tourism and Hospitality Management. Working together with our discipline team, we are set to drive forward our educational and research agendas, further cementing our position as leaders in tourism, hospitality and events education and research in our region.

Looking ahead: New developments and future horizons

The University of Newcastle's motto is 'I look ahead', and in looking ahead we are excited about our university's commitment to excellent in education and research in tourism, hospitality and events. We are dedicated to enriching student knowledge of these industries and the broader visitor economy in the unique regional context within which we operate. These future leaders will be innovative and resilient, and equipped to face current and future challenges with creativity, integrity and a strong commitment to sustainable and responsible leadership.

Our ongoing initiatives, including the introduction of the new degree and our reciprocal collaborations with industry and community partners, exemplify our pledge to make an impact locally, nationally and globally. We invite our CAUTHE friends and all stakeholders in the educational and tourism sectors to join us in this exciting journey. Together we can create a lasting impact through innovation, aligning our efforts with industry and community needs and the global sustainability goals.

CAUTHE mobilities: UK edition

by Dr Anita Manfreda, with the kind contributions of Dr Samira Zare, Dr Ryan Yung, and Dr Isabella Ye

In this edition, we are excited to introduce a new feature focusing on the experiences of CAUTHE scholars navigating the complexities and opportunities of international mobility. This feature aims to shed light on the personal and professional journeys of scholars as they move across borders in their academic pursuits. In this newsletter, we feature the stories of three ECRs who moved to the UK. Through the stories of Samira Zare, Isabella Ye, and Ryan Yung, we delve into the realities of moving internationally as an ECR, exploring the shared challenges, opportunities, and invaluable advice stemming from their experiences.

A Journey of Adaptation and Discovery

Embarking on an international move presented our ECRs with a kaleidoscope of surprises and challenges. Samira reflects on her initial experiences, noting, "I was taken aback by how different everything was in the UK. I expected some differences, of course, but the reality was far from my expectations." This sentiment of unanticipated divergence echoes throughout their stories. Isabella Ye shares her complex journey, "Moving amidst the spike of COVID in Australia added an unexpected layer of complexity and stress to the relocation process." Meanwhile, Ryan Yung recounts his tale of audacious risk-taking, "Moving without first securing a job was a leap into the unknown. It was daunting, to say the least."

Their narratives converge on a common theme: the initial shock of adaptation. Samira found herself grappling with a new academic calendar, "Adjusting to the academic schedule here was my first hurdle," she admits, highlighting the unexpected challenge of balancing teaching, research, and the surprising amount of administrative work due to the disparate academic calendars and longer summer breaks.

Isabella faced the daunting task of understanding the UK's Research Excellence Framework (REF),



'Coming to grips with the REF was a steep learning curve for me.' Ryan encountered significant hurdles in adjusting to the UK's academic standards, notably the differing journal rankings (ABS and REF) and rebuilding professional networks. The financial strain of moving and the non-recognition of foreign credit history compounded his challenges. He vividly described the ordeal of migration as "I would rather eat glass than deal with VFS again for migration."

The Fabric of Support: Networking and Community

The solitude of starting anew in a foreign country was a poignant part of their narratives. Ryan vividly describes the emotional toll, "The process of establishing myself in a new country was gruelling. I would rather eat glass than go through that again." Samira, too, initially struggled with finding comfort in unfamiliar surroundings, "Every trip to the supermarket was a reminder of how far I was from home. It was unexpectedly emotional."

Yet, amidst these challenges, the critical role of networking and community emerged as a crucial support system. "There's nothing like finding someone who shares your passion for research. It makes all the difference," Samira shares. Isabella found solace and support in her academic circle, which she nurtured for many years as a former CAUTHE PhD representative, and at the many CAUTHE events and conferences she participated in. "My mentors and academic friends have been my rock. They've helped me navigate through the toughest times." Ryan emphasises the importance of maintaining connections, "First tip – keep your old connections alive. They are your lifeline in those early days." Ryan found resilience in keeping connections alive, "I managed the first few months by leveraging Research Assistant and consultancy work. It was challenging but rewarding."

Opportunities Amidst the Unknown

Despite the initial challenges, the UK's academic environment unfurled as a land ripe with opportunity. Samira highlights the wealth of support for ECRs, "The British Academy... offering numerous schemes specifically designed for ECRs," pointing to the fertile ground for research and growth. Isabella's rapid ascent to senior lecturer and leadership roles underscores the dynamic career progression opportunities, "During my two years, I was made senior lecturer."

CAUTHE mobilities: UK edition, cont..



Ryan's journey also speaks to the vast range of job opportunities and the enriching cultural and social experiences the UK offers, "The biggest opportunity is the vast range of jobs and academic landscape the UK offers, especially if you are willing to branch out ... Instead of 100 people applying for the same 2-6 universities in Australia/NZ... there are so many more academic institutions in the UK." He adds a touch of lifestyle allure to the academic opportunities, noting the easy access to Europe's rich cultural experiences.

All our ECRs found solace and security in the permanence of their position and the fast-paced career progression after years of contract work. In Isabella's words, "The upside of the relocation for me was the permanency of the job and career progression in a fast-growing institution."
Both Isabella and Ryan, for instance, were appointed senior lecturers within their first two years in the UK and are now holding leadership positions within their fast-growing university.

Navigating the path forward: Sage advice

As our ECRs look back on their journeys, they offer nuggets of wisdom for those who might follow in their footsteps. A consensus emerges on the pivotal role of teaching qualifications; Samira and Ryan stress the urgency and benefit of acquiring these credentials early. Samira advises, "Gather as much teaching experience as you can," while Ryan emphasises, "Do your teaching qualifications as part of your PhD, don't wait." Both highlight the competitive advantage provided by qualifications from 'Advance HE' or similar, with the Fellowship in Higher Education (FHEA) being specifically mentioned as a critical asset in the UK job market.

The trio also underscores the importance of building a robust support network. Isabella speaks to the power of mentorship and peer support: "I was very blessed with my mentors, my academic friends from Australia, and friends throughout the transition." Similarly, Samira encourages attending conferences and networking events to engage with established scholars and fellow ECRs, advocating for the value of shared passion in research collaboration.

Moreover, they touch on the challenges of the academic environment in the UK, with Ryan candidly advising on the practicalities of financial planning and the strategic approach to job hunting in the UK, "Pay: The salary for academics in the UK is extremely low compared to Aus/NZ... Do not take for granted that universities are 40-40-20 in terms of workload" and the need to "negotiate hard" due to the high cost of living. Samira adds a practical note on adjusting to life in the UK, mentioning one often-overlooked aspect of relocation: "Make sure you register for healthcare on the first morning after you arrive," to avoid the long queues for health services.

The stories of Samira, Isabella, and Ryan are but a snapshot of the rich and complex journey of scholars in the international academic landscape. Their experiences, shared here in the CAUTHE Newsletter, provide a roadmap filled with cautionary tales, strategic advice, and a glimpse into the boundless opportunities that await those willing to take the leap. As they continue to navigate their paths, their narratives serve as an inspiration and a guide for the next generation of academics ready to embark on their own journey of discovery and growth.

Footnote from the Fellows

by Professor Brian King, Texas A&M University

A warm "Howdy" from College Station, Texas. I'm pleased to contribute this reflection on teaching and researching tourism and hospitality at institutions in four continents – Europe, Australia, Asia and North America. Though it is 12 years since I was last employed in Australia (at Victoria University in Melbourne until 2012 when I moved to Hong Kong), my years down-under were the most enduring of my career with CAUTHE playing an important part.

Coming to the US from the Asia Pacific region

Having worked initially in Europe (5 years), my subsequent tourism and hospitality education "journey" has been spent in Australia (26 years), Hong Kong (9 years) and finally in the USA (two years since January 2022). Arriving with my partner Candy who is a hospitality professor, I took up the role as Head of the Department of Recreation, Park & Tourism Sciences and Professor at Texas A&M University, a massive research-intensive institution. To provide a sense of scale, I am writing this column overlooking Kyle Field - an on-campus football ground which attracts 105,000 on-site spectators during major college games! Our 75,000 on-campus students routinely wear their maroon A&M memorabilia when on campus or around the community. The scale of the A&M system exceeds anything I had encountered previously - the University endowment is worth a cool US$19.3billion. The Texas population of almost 30 million and is growing by ½ a million annually - you might have heard the expression "everything is bigger in Texas"! Within a three-hour drive of our campus the "Texas Triangle" is home to 21 million people – like Australia and New Zealand this is a land of opportunity. More familiar with the Australian university culture, the scale of sport and philanthropy prowess at large US state institutions like Texas A&M was new and unfamiliar. I quickly realized the massive differences between institutions in the US and in places where the British education legacy lingers.

Texas A&M is a "land grant" University located away from the major metropolitan areas. My Department is within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, unlike tourism groupings in Australian universities, which invariably sit within business faculties. I have quickly learnt about the valuable synergies between food production and hospitality in regional Texas. Though business is undoubtedly important for tourism (my department here partners with the College of Business to offer a Business Hospitality degree), I hope to see more diverse provision over time in Australia, with tourism in alignment with professional and scientific domains beyond business.

Academic and professional contributions

I have focused more or less on teaching, research and/or service at different stages of my career in tourism education (including intra-university service activities and stakeholder engagement). I was in Australia through the 1990s during the booming provision of tourism education, when 30 universities established tourism and/or hospitality programs. I look forward to witnessing a restoration over coming years of some lost capacity. It's a big adjustment relocating to a new continent, though it's exciting in the tourism field where we are constantly looking for similarities between places as well as differences. It has been gratifying to observe the increasing recognition in Australia and New Zealand for measuring impact in academic research. The engagement of CAUTHE members with The Conversation media outlet has been impressive - outreach is critical for tourism as an applied domain and it's pleasing to see Australia-based tourism scholars advocating in the public gaze. All of us working at public institutions influence the reputation of our professional fields and here at A&M I encourage my faculty colleagues to engage with media.

Concluding remarks

I have always felt that we should engage with industry and community professionals as well as treasuring our academic peers. Whilst a PhD is a rather solitary pursuit, an academic life is also a collective endeavor, whether through grant submissions, publications or team teaching. With its modest population of 25 million, Australia has impacted disproportionately on global tourism research. According to Koseoglu, King and Yildiz (2019), Australia generated over 10% of all global tourism research outputs over the period 1976-2016 and ranks top in collaborations with scholars in other jurisdictions. Active in Australia for much of my academic career, I treasure many close friendships with CAUTHE members and fellows. I commend the CAUTHE Executive and community for having elevated tourism education and for opening up to scholarly collaborations across the world, courtesy of the internet. According to Heraclitus change is the only constant. Fittingly in Texas, we have revised our curriculum and changed our Department name to Hospitality, Hotel Management and Tourism. At this later career stage, I am motivated to keep advocating for the centrality of hospitality and tourism to scholarship and treasure the connection with CAUTHE. Please stop by if you are including Texas on your future travels. I'll teach you how to say "Howdy", albeit with a Scottish-Australian accent!



CAUTHE 2025 35th Annual Conference

The University of Queensland, Business School, Tourism Department, supported by Conference Convenors Prof Lisa Ruhanen and Assoc Prof Sheranne Fairley and the organising committee are excited to host the CAUTHE 2025 Conference in Meanjin (Brisbane) from 10-13 February.

Conference Venue
The conference will be held at Brisbane City Hall, a stunning heritage venue located in the heart of Brisbane.

PhD/ECR Workshop
The PhD/ECR workshop will be held on Monday 10 February prior to the conference at UQ's Brisbane City Campus on Queen Street, Brisbane.

Social events

- The Welcome Reception will be hosted at UQ's Custom's House, in the Long Room, overlooking the Brisbane River and Brisbane's Story Bridge.
- The Conference Dinner will be held in the Main Auditorium at Brisbane City Hall.

Theme
The conference theme 'Leveraging opportunities', aligns with Brisbane's Elevate 2042 Strategy, the City's strategy to develop a legacy from hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The tourism, hospitality, and events sectors must strategically plan to leverage opportunities presented within destinations.

Sub-themes and paper topics include, but are not limited to:

- Emerging mega trends in a tourism, hospitality and events environment
- Event futures
- Innovation and technology
- Agility and adaptation
- Tourist behaviour
- Ethical tourism, hospitality and events - our expanding consciousness
- Research methods to understand futures and complexity:
- Higher education, teaching and learning

