

## Social Change Symposium

**Candidate:** Joann Cattlin

**School:** Global Urban and Social Studies

**Presentation:** Confirmation of Candidature, May 2023

**Supervisors:** Professor Lisa Given (RMIT University) and Professor Anita Kocsis (Swinburne University of Technology).



**Title:** Institutionalising the impact agenda: how universities are enabling societal impact of research.

**Abstract:** There are increasing expectations, globally, that academic research outcomes will provide tangible and demonstrable benefit to society. Universities are responding by increasing the emphasis on the societal impact of research in their strategic priorities and in performance expectations of academics. Yet, research indicates that the activities involved in achieving societal impact are complex and require skills, time and resources that are not traditionally part of most academic roles, nor typically recognised in promotion processes. Embedding societal impact as part of academic culture and practice represents a shift in how universities function; however, limited research has been conducted on the role of universities in supporting and enabling impact work.

This study will use a holistic, qualitative study design to explore the experiences and information behaviours of academic and professional staff undertaking the work involved in enabling societal impact of research. The goal of this study is to understand the role of universities in supporting researchers with the work involved in enabling societal impact, including better understanding of the information environments that can foster a strong and productive impact culture.