

## Presenters Profiles

Matthew Dyktynski



Matthew Dyktynski is an Australian actor and comedian, graduating from Australia's National Institute of Dramatic Art in 1992. Television Dyktynski has played lead roles on television series Shock Jock and Raw FM, and has appeared on The Man from Snowy River, Stingers, Blue Heelers, Water Rats, Halifax f.p., All Saints, The Secret Life of Us, House Husbands and Offspring. Film Dyktynski's movie credits include Love and Other Catastrophes (1996), Japanese Story (2003) and Wil (2006), in which he played the title role. Comedian As a comedian, Dyktynski has toured the United Kingdom, Europe and Australia. He spent several years living in London, performing as a regular on the stand-up comedy circuit. He has also performed at the Edinburgh Festival and Melbourne International Comedy Festival as well as a sold-out season at London's Soho Theatre. Radio & voiceover work Dyktynski has undertaken voiceover and narration work, including campaigns for Digital Radio Plus, Kelloggs and McDonalds. On radio he co-hosted Perth's Mix 94.5 breakfast show for eight years as part of Clairsy, Matt and Kymba and then Pete, Matt and Kymba. Dyktynski is currently working on a musical that he has written together with his wife, called Funeral – The Musical which had its first public reading in August 2023.

Loretta Baldassar



2002 - NSW Premier's Literary Award for *Visits Home*, Melbourne Uni Press.  
2006 - Shortlisted for NSW Regional and Community History Award for Baldassar & Pesman, *From Paesani to Global Italians*, UWA Press. Currently,

Professor Baldassar leads a research group in the School of Arts and Humanities at ECU, the Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab. Her team is leading research in social care across the life-course, contributing social science perspectives and methodologies to the creative and caring professions. This approach is targeted at the development of a social care research agenda for the aged care sector to facilitate collaborative communities of care that extend people's support networks at every age. Loretta is also leading the TRACS Migration Research Network at ECU to support an active program of national and international collaborations. This ECU TRACS Migration Research Network will co-host the Annual Migration Update Conference (launched in 2015), as well as be the Australian university Partner on two international research projects: (i) UK Sustainable Care Project (2017-21), which has just won further ESRC funding to establish a Centre for Care (2022-27); and (ii) The Decentering Migration Knowledge project, which brings together four research entities in Canada, India, China and Australia, to create new knowledge about migration scholars from the Global South and North.

### **Susanna Iuliano**



**Dr Susanna Iuliano** is a historian specialising in Australian multicultural and community histories. She has published several community histories relating to the history of Italian migrants in Western Australia including: *Blessing of the Fleet: A History of Fremantle's Festa* (2018); *Fremantle's Italians* (2011) and *Vite Italiane: Italian Lives in Western Australia* (2010) which won the WA Premier's Book Award for history in 2010. She has worked as a researcher and policy officer in migration and heritage related fields for Federal and State government agencies, including the Department of Immigration and the Australian Human Rights Commission. From 2013-2018, she worked as the Battye Historian at the State Library of Western Australia helping to collect and promote Western Australian history through a variety of specialist projects. In more recent years, she has worked in the local studies collecting sector as a qualified librarian developing, managing and sharing local histories for the City

of Vincent. Susanna currently works with the City of Perth where she has just co-ordinated the successful Lotterywest Boorloo Heritage Festival.

Verena Thomas



Professor Verena Thomas, Associate Dean Research, ECU School of Arts and Humanities

Verena Thomas is Professor of Communication and Associate Dean Research in the School of Arts and Humanities at Edith Cowan University. Verena's work focuses on creative research approaches and communication for social change in international development contexts. She has led award-winning research and production projects in the areas of health communication, climate change, gender equity and education. Verena facilitates participatory research processes in collaboration with community groups and works with institutions and organisations that want to strategically integrate creative approaches into social change programs.

Manonita Ghosh.



Dr Manonita Ghosh is a Research Fellow in the Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab, School of Arts and Humanities. Additionally, she serves as the Editor-in-Chief for the Anthropology and Ageing Journal and leads research editorial teams. With a background in anthropology and public health, her research explores cross-cultural influences on health behaviour, aging and social care, health service evaluation, and music and migrant health. Manonita holds two

master's degrees: one in Sociology from Dhaka University, Bangladesh, and another in Anthropology from the University of Western Australia. She completed a PhD in Population Health at the University of Western Australia. Manonita leads the Arts & Music Engagement stream in the SAGE Future Lab. A trained musician, Manonita applies her skills in music direction to multicultural communities. With over 15 years of experience, she has worked in government organisations like the Department of Health WA and the Department for Communities. She has also made significant contributions to non-governmental health organisations, focusing on training, capacity building, and community development.

Lesya Melynyuk Morgan



Lesya is a children's author with a Ukrainian historical and ethnic focus. Baba's Chooks series began in 2021 resulting in a Silver Medal for the first publication. The books are in the process of being translated into Ukrainian for wider distribution.

As a self-employed writer and researcher, I specialized in the Ukrainian Holodomor/Genocide of 1932-1933, publishing books and articles on this topic in Australia. I have over many years of experience in this field, combining my passion for Ukrainian history, education, and information science skills. I have a Doctorate in Arts History from the University of Notre Dame Australia, a master's degree and Graduate Diplomas in both Educational Administration and Librarianship from Curtin University.

In addition to my writing and research work, I also present workshops at the Australian College of Administration, mentor students and professionals in the information learning skills development and problem solving. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia has developed fundraising activities and close involvement with the Displaced Ukrainians who arrived in Western Australia. I have maintained my involvement with Holodomor commemoration events in WA. As a result of involvement with the Honorary Consul for Sweden I became a recipient of the Swede of the Year award 2006 for services in facilitating the visit of the Swedish royal couple to Perth.

## Nonja Peters



### **Adjunct Professor at ECU School of Arts and Humanities.**

Nonja is an anthropologist, historian and museum curator whose focus is transnational migration (forced and voluntary) and resettlement in Australia, and the sustainable digital preservation of immigrants' cultural heritage. She has a special interest in Dutch connections with Australia (maritime, military, migration and mercantile) since 1606, and Dutch connections with the South-East Asian Region (slavery) since 1595. She is initiator/innovator, researcher, and curator of 25 permanent and travelling exhibitions that have been displayed in the GLAMS (galleries, libraries, archives and museums) in Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, and the Netherlands. She is currently involved in academic, community-based, visual, and bilateral research and events in all these areas in Australia and internationally.

2011: Curtin Humanities Book of the Year Award for: *We Came Buy Sea*, Museum of WA Press; *Milk and Honey But No Gold: Postwar Migration to Western Australia 1945-1964*, UWA Press, (launched by the Premier Dr Geoff Gallop in the Fremantle Passenger terminal to 500+ audience, the book was short-listed for the: Short-listed for NSW Premier's History Award: John and Patricia Ward History Prize 2002; Short-listed for Queensland Premier's Literary Awards: Best History Book 2002; Short-listed for Western Australian Premier's Book Awards: Non-fiction 2001; Book chapters in short-listed books: 2012: WA Premier's Literary Award, Paul Longley Arthur and Geoffrey Bolton (eds). *'Voices of the West End of Fremantle*. Fremantle: WA Museum. "Immigration on Victoria Quay 1906-2006," N. Peters contributing author and in 1996: Short-listed. NSW Premier's Literary Award Jenny Gregory (ed), *On the Homefront: Western Australia and World War II*, UWA Press, Nedlands. ('Arriving in the Lucky Country' N. Peters contributing author). In 1993 she was awarded a *Special Commendation* in the WA Premiers inaugural History Award, for the exhibition, *Postwar Immigration and Resettlement: The Northam Camps*. Nonja's principal research aim is to bridge the gap between academia, and the public via exhibitions in galleries, libraries, archives, and museums (GLAMs), books that engage a wider public, documentary films, multicultural events, and YouTube interview series. These public platforms enable indigenous peoples and migrants to tell their story, be heard and acknowledged.