

Round Opens: 14 August 2024
Round Closes: 9 September 2024
Outcomes: Early October 2024

The Sydney Social Sciences and Humanities Advanced 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 third and final Hunt-Simes Institute in Sexuality Studies in February 2025. Participants must reside in Sydney for the two-week duration of the Institute (17/02/2025 –28/02/2025). 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)

The purpose of HISS@SSSHARC is to raise the international reputation of the University of Sydney in sexuality studies via the provision of innovative graduate training workshops 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 is 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 about?

In 2025, HISS takes the theme Homecoming.

In life as in myth, lots of things come in threes. HISS was always conceived as a trilogy. And like many of the great trilogies of popular culture, the third installment allows us to reflect on where we have come from and how we have changed. Some of next year's contributing faculty have been with us from the beginning, specifically wunderkinds Adam Greteman, Xavier Ho and Sam Stiegler; others came on board in 2024 – the indomitable Pam Lannutti, Indigo Willing and Yuko Itatsu, another set of three. 2025 feels like getting the band back together, but it also brings in new folks to add other superpowers to the collective effort: Kush Patel and J.J. Wright. We hope this open call for participants will attract PhD students, post-docs and ECRs from around the world, and particularly from the Asia-Pacific region, who may never have heard of HISS before or only know of it second- or third-hand. We are also keeping open a small number of places for HISS alumni from 2023 and 2024 who may wish to come back for the HISS Homecoming.

Homecoming is a term from the North American schooling system and other metaverses that signals a particular kind of reunion or coming together with institutional or franchise purpose. As Co-Directors, we are hoping that the HISS Homecoming will allow us to collectively reflect on and generate some provisional closure around the queer educational journey we commenced three years ago. We know that the moment of teaching is not necessarily in sync with the time of learning, so we want to find out how our alumni are faring in their lives and careers and if the experience of HISS shaped them in any way. Those experiences have certainly shaped us. We also want to provide a ladder environment where HISS alumni can facilitate the induction of a new cohort into the HISS

paradigm. Above all, we want the last dance to generate a school charter that we can publish alongside the HISS Yearbook of school photographs and reflections from the contributors across the three-year span of our experimental school. As always, these reflections will happen in class, as we run through the standard curriculum of sex education, physical education, science and art, and lunch together at the long tables in the Women's College canteen. As always, by situating inclusivity in the broader context of schooling, learning and pedagogy, we hope to bring out new understandings of attachment, friendship, community, affect and thriving that could underwrite a new kind of charter for queer learning in place.

What will the Institute involve?

The Institute will be directed by [Professor 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. At present these are our confirmed 2025 faculty, with others still to land:

- [Associate Professor Adam Greteman](#) Art Education (School of the Art Institute of Chicago)
- [Dr Xavier Ho](#) Interactive Design (Monash University)
- [Professor Yuko Itatsu](#) Information Studies (University of Tokyo)
- [Professor Pamela Lannutti](#) Human Sexuality Studies (Widener University)
- [Dr Kush Patel](#) Art, Design, and Technology (Manipal Academy of Higher Education)
- [Dr Sam Stiegler](#) Education (University of Melbourne)
- [Dr Indigo Willing](#) Criminology and Criminal Justice (Griffith University)
- [Dr Jessica Wright](#) Sociology (MacEwan University)

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.

Many institutes are organised around delivering masterclasses to advanced students who already have specialist knowledge in a particular discipline or practice. HISS@SSSHARC abandons this model in favour of the generalist classroom that is more commonly associated with the primary or secondary school experience. HISS is designed to facilitate a queer cohort model of embodied learning and knowledge building across different subjects that everyone engages with whatever their disciplinary background. Rather than pursuing interdisciplinarity in the abstract, HISS students will be put through English, mathematics, science, technology, art, music, drama, physical education, and sex education classes. Extra-curricular activities will include fieldtrips and school photographs.

In sync with Sydney Mardi Gras, the Institute will also advance public-facing activities designed to engage the broader community in queer creative play.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

We invite applications from PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and early career faculty (up to 5 years post PhD). 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.

For HISS 2025 we also invite those who have attended HISS previously to apply to come back for HISS Homecoming. Please use the application form to tell us why you would like to come back and what you think you could contribute to HISS and the proposed drawing up of a school charter.

We welcome applicants from all backgrounds and fields of study, especially applicants from groups

currently underrepresented in sexuality studies. We will evaluate applications in 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 will attempt to account for an applicant's career stage and previous educational opportunities. We do not ask for formal letters of recommendation, but we do ask applicants 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 applications. In 2023 and 2024, we did not need to seek advice of this kind.

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, or reattend as the case may be
- 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 9 September 2024 (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 (up to 5 years from PhD award).

Can I submit a writing sample written in a language other than English?

Unfortunately, this is not possible.

I would really like to attend but do not have access to institutional funding for travel and accommodation in Sydney. What are my options?

SSSHARC has limited capacity to provide grants-in-aid to assist with travel and accommodation costs for participants from outside the Greater Sydney area, including for international applicants. If you require a grant-in-aid to participate, please indicate this in your application. We encourage successful applicants to seek research funding from their home institutions, particularly if they are institutional partners with USyd. SSSHARC can provide documentation of acceptance to assist you in this endeavour.

Can I apply if I am an HDR, Post-doc or ECR at the University of Sydney?

Yes. We welcome internal applicants from any faculty. These applications will be considered alongside those from external applicants.

Can I apply if I live outside Australia?

HISS@SSSHARC welcomes international applications particularly from those 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. SSSHARC will assist successful applicants with the documentation needed for Visa applications as needed.

How will I find accommodation in Sydney for the duration of the Institute?

SSSHARC cannot assist you to find accommodation in Sydney, but we can connect you to HISS 2023 and 2024 alumni who might have tips they can share. We will be announcing the results of the application round in early October so you can start looking then. Be mindful that Sydney fills up for Mardi Gras. Wherever you stay you will need to commute daily to SSSHARC, which is located on the University of Sydney's Camperdown campus, which is a 15 to 20-minute walk from Central Station or Redfern Station. The many buses that come down Parramatta Rd can drop you a three-minute walk from the R. D. Watt Building where SSSHARC can be found.

How many participants will be selected?

We are seeking to recruit no more than 25 participants. In 2024, we selected 25 participants from 55 applications. We anticipate receiving a similar number this year.

What will be expected of participants in the Institute?

All participants are expected to fully engage in the entire program. Some preparatory tasks may be required in advance. We hope that research collaborations will be seeded across HISS and extend beyond the Institute, as happened with HISS 2023 and 2024.

Timeline:

Deadline for applications: 9 September 2024 (23:59 AEST) Decisions announced: Early October 2024

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

