

Oceania Expert Group Meeting in preparation for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Year of Family, 2024

## The Intertwined Impact of Technological Transformation and Climate Change on Families in Oceania: Navigating the Policy Response

[UQ Brisbane City](#), 308 Queen Street, Brisbane, Australia, 30-31 May 2024



**Khalid Al-Naama**

*Director of Family Research and Policy, Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), Qatar Foundation (QF)*

Khalid J. Al-Naama, currently the Director of the Family Research and Policy Department at Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), has an extensive background in family care and sexual health policies. He previously collaborated with the CDC in the Ministry of Public Health and played a role in policy development at Qatar Gas, particularly in crisis communication and employee technical competencies. Khalid holds a postgraduate qualification in applied psychology, and a PhD in psychology from the University of Huddersfield, UK. His research has been published in notable journals, including the International Journal of Technology and Management, and research gate. Additionally, he has presented a scientific poster at the Fifth International Conference of the Arab Society for Forensic Sciences and Forensic Medicine.



**Professor Daniel Angus**

*Director, Digital Media Research Centre; Professor, School of Communication; QUT*

Professor Daniel Angus FQA is Professor of Digital Communication and Director of QUT's Digital Media Research Centre. He is also Chief Investigator in the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision Making and Society, and Chief Investigator on the ARC projects: Using machine vision to explore Instagram's everyday promotional cultures; Evaluating the Challenge of 'Fake News' and Other Malinformation; and, Young Australians and the Promotion of Alcohol on Social Media. His current research examines artificial intelligence, misinformation, and new methods to study the digital society. Daniel has been involved in computer and social science research for 20 years and he contributes regularly to media and industry on the impact of technology on society.



**Dr Ahmed Aref**

*Planning and Content Manager, Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), Qatar Foundation (QF)*

Experienced policy-research expert, working on evidence-based policy development including research, interdisciplinary policy analysis, impact assessment, advocacy and international cooperation. Prior to joining QF, Ahmed worked for UNFPA Arab States Regional Office, EU Program on Family and Child Rights and the Egyptian Prime Minister's Office. His broader areas of expertise include politics of social policies, political economy, labour policies, family policies, social justice and protection, migration, social inclusion/exclusion, demography, populations dynamics and sustainable development. He led strategic initiatives and managed impact-oriented projects in the mentioned fields. He contributed to numerous national, regional and international conferences and EGMS. Ahmed holds a PhD from the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Bath, UK.



### **Susan Beetson**

*Research Academic, School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, UQ*

Susan is a research academic within the Human Centred Computing group in the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering (ITEE). She has a B.InfoTech, Data Comms and Info Systems (Honours) awarded 1st Class. She has just submitted her thesis, and when conferred will complete her PhD degree in Information Systems Theory at QUT. Her thesis explores the dyadic phenomenon of nodes in culturally different social media networks, with implications in the design of information systems. Her research centres on

Aboriginal peoples' design methods in human computer interaction; specifically within cultural learning contexts, including languages.

As Ngemba Wiradjuri woman growing up on Country, her lived experience of social, institutional and political dimensions that impact Aboriginal peoples' lives in Australia enables Susan to critically analyse and reflect on all aspects, reflexively throughout her research. Along with esteemed national and international Indigenous academics, Susan is a Chief Investigator on the \$35,000,000 [ARC Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Futures](#) and won a highly competitive [Science & Technology Australia's #SuperstarsOfStem](#) program. Susan is also a guest Academic Editor for Information Systems Journal (ISJ) and Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues (JAIS).



### **Associate Professor Nicholas Carah**

*Director, Centre for Digital Cultures and Societies; Associate Professor, School of Communication and Arts, UQ*

Nicholas Carah is Director of Digital Cultures & Societies in the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences and Associate Professor in the School of Communication and Arts. He is an Associate Investigator in the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society, and a Chief Investigator on ARC Discovery and Linkage projects. In 2023, they were Deputy Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and

Social Sciences. Nicholas' research examines the algorithmic and participatory advertising model of digital media platforms, with a sustained focus on digital alcohol marketing. Nicholas is the author of *Media and Society: Power, Platforms & Participation* (2021), *Brand Machines, Sensory Media and Calculative Culture* (2016), *Media and Society: production, content and participation* (2015), *Pop Brands: branding, popular music and young people* (2010). He is co-editor of *Digital Intimate Publics and Social Media* (2018) and *Conflict in My Outlook* (2022). Nicholas is a Director and Deputy Chair of the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education.



### **Dr Fiona Charlson**

*Principal Research Fellow, Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research; Adjunct Associate Professor, School of Public Health, UQ*

Associate Professor Fiona Charlson is a NHMRC Research Fellow at the Queensland Centre of Mental Health Research and School of Public Health, University of Queensland. She is a psychiatric epidemiologist and health services researcher with strong experience in addressing some of the most challenging global mental health research questions. Her research utilises a wide range of highly-specialised research skills, from traditional

qualitative and quantitative research methods to new and innovative methods aimed at breaking down barriers to progress in the field. She has been a core member of the Mental Disorders and Illicit Drug Use Research Group for the Global Burden of Disease Study since 2009 and is at the leading edge of research into the mental health impacts of climate change and leads the Social and Emotional wellbeing group of UQ's Climate Change and Health Transdisciplinary Impact Research Network. Her technical expertise is highly sought after and has attracted collaboration requests and funding from a wide range of national and international stakeholders, including; Queensland Health, the World Health Organization, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (University of Washington), US National Institutes of Health, Alan Flisher Centre for Public Mental Health (University of Cape Town) and various organisations in low- and middle-income countries.



**Dr Anne Cleary**

*Senior Consultant, Mosaic Insights; Adjunct Research Fellow, Institute for Social Science Research, UQ*

Anne is an urban green and blue space expert specialising in the health and social outcomes of green and blue infrastructure. She is passionate about shaping landscapes and systems that promote human connection with nature for the benefit of people and the planet. Anne is skilled in using co-design and place-based approaches with diverse stakeholders to produce fit-for-purpose, nature-based solutions that deliver co-benefits

across environmental, health and social outcomes.

She is experienced in transdisciplinary, mixed methods research with experience investigating the role of nature-based interventions (Green Gyms, Care Farms) as part of social prescribing within mental health care. Additionally, Anne is proficient in the effectiveness of urban green space interventions for delivering social, health, environmental and equity outcomes. Anne completed a PhD on the mental health and wellbeing benefits of urban green space at Griffith University's School of Medicine and holds an adjunct position at the University of Queensland's Institute for Social Science Research. Her career has spanned diverse sectors and locations with experience in academia, not-for-profit and industry. This includes working as a research fellow at the Institute for Social Science Research at The University of Queensland, Brunel University London, World Health Organisation (European Centre for Environment and Health) in Germany, and Healthy Land and Water in southeast Queensland.



**Professor Michael Dezuanni**

*Professor, School of Communication, QUT*

Professor Michael Dezuanni undertakes research about digital media, literacies and learning in home, school and community contexts. He is the Program Leader for Creating Better Digital Futures for QUT's Digital Media Research Centre which produces world-leading research for a creative, inclusive and fair digital media environment. He is also a chief investigator in the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child. Michael has been a chief investigator on six ARC Linkage projects with a focus on digital literacy and learning

at school, the use of digital games in the classroom, digital inclusion in regional and rural Australia and in low-income families, and the use of screen content in formal and informal learning.



**Dr Aimee Hourigan**

*Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University*

Dr Aimee Hourigan is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow within the Institute for Culture and Society at Western Sydney University. Her current research explores socioculturally grounded approaches to digital and media literacy development, with a particular emphasis on the experiences of marginalised, vulnerable, or excluded communities globally and in Australia. Aimee has worked extensively across a range of research projects exploring topics such as inclusive digital media use in regional and rural Australia, the

digital experiences of in low-income Australian families, digital storytelling, health communication, youth leadership and politics, and human rights in digital contexts.



**Dr Yanshu Huang**

*Research Fellow, Institute for Social Science Research, UQ*

Yanshu is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Institute for Social Science Research with the ARC Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course. She has a social psychology background and has research interests in tracking changes in gender role attitudes over time and public support for gender equality policies. Her other research interests include looking at the outcomes of family members of people living with chronic illness and disability. She has expertise in analysing longitudinal panel surveys

and experience in analysing integrated administrative data. She has also been involved in various evaluations of parenting, public health, and health services.



**Dr Laurel Johnson**

*Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Social Science Research, UQ*

Laurel is a spatial and social planner with over 30 years of experience as a practitioner and an educator/researcher. Laurel has led, designed and participated in over 60 applied research projects. Many of those research projects guide and influence the policies and programs of various Australian Local and State governments and non-Government organisations in the fields of social infrastructure, social planning, urban planning and transport provision.



**Renata Kaczmarek**

*Social Affairs Officer, Focal Point on Family, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations (UN DESA)*

Renata Kaczmarek is the Social Affairs Officer and the Focal Point on Family in the Division for Inclusive Social Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. In this capacity, she acts as a spokesperson on family issues for the United Nations Secretariat. She prepares publications and drafts UN reports on a variety of subjects relating to families and organizes international and regional expert group meetings on family policy issues, observances of the International Day of Families and other events to raise awareness of the importance of family policies for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and targets. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Social Sciences and Bachelor of Arts in Political Science as well as United Nations Studies Graduate Diploma.



**Professor Ilan Katz**

*Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW Sydney*

Ilan has many years of policy, practice and research experience relating to life course inequalities in the UK and Australia. Ilan joined the Social Policy Research Centre in January 2005 and directed it from 2005-2011. He was the lead researcher on a study for the prevalence study of Elder Abuse in Australia and was an advisor on the overall project in relation to design of the study.

He is a CI on a study of loneliness and isolation of older Chinese migrants to Australia. He leads the evaluation of the Integrated Carer Support Services – the Commonwealth government signature policy on carers. His work for governments and Royal Commissions (Age Care, Disability, Veteran Suicide and Institutional Child Sexual Abuse) has led to improvements and refinements in policy and practice. For example, the research for the Age Care Royal Commission informed their recommendations about quality assurance and safety in community and residential age care.



**Teresa Lifuka-Drecala**

*Master's Student, The University of Melbourne*

Teresa is an experienced Director, Board Member, volunteer and sustainable development advocate with experience working in health, justice, and non-governmental sectors in Fiji and Tuvalu. She was the youngest appointed Director of the Tuvalu Association of NGOs and later became Executive Director of the Tuvalu Family Health Association. Prior to this, Teresa was Crown Counsel for the Government of Tuvalu Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and then collaborated with UNICEF Fiji on a child protection project.

Teresa is Board Secretary for the Fuligafou Association, which promotes youth collaboration to mitigate the impacts of climate change. She is passionate about the promotion of women in sports and hopes to empower all Tuvaluans to use sustainable, practical and contextually relevant methods to combat climate change. She also hopes to strengthen the inclusion and collaboration between NGOs, island communities, and government agencies for sustainable development in Tuvalu. Teresa holds a Bachelor of Law from the University of Fiji.



**Professor Jenevieve Mannell**

*Professor, Institute for Global Health, UCL; Visiting Professor, National University of Samoa*

Jenevieve Mannell is Professor of Social Science and Global Health at UCL's Institute for Global Health in the UK. She currently holds a prestigious Future Leaders Fellowship from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to improve the evidence base for preventing violence against women in the world's highest prevalence settings globally. Her research focuses on understanding the role of communities in preventing family violence and protecting the mental health of women affected by it. Prof Mannell is a leading expert on co-producing violence-prevention interventions in partnership with Indigenous communities and is currently working with communities in Peru and Samoa. Over the past 15 years, she has lived and worked in Bangladesh, Samoa, South Africa, Afghanistan, Rwanda, Canada, and the UK, on research related to HIV/AIDS, climate change, migration, and mental health. She is currently based in Samoa where she is a Visiting Professor of the National University of Samoa.



**Professor Greg Marston**

*Director, Centre for Policy Futures, UQ*

Greg Marston is the Director of the Centre for Policy Futures at The University of Queensland. Previously he was the Deputy Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Science at UQ (2020-2023) and prior to this he was the Head of School of Social Science at UQ (2016-2019). He has also held leadership positions in peak social welfare bodies at the state and national level and been the Chairperson for several non-profits and Commonwealth Government advisory bodies. His research interests cover climate change and social justice, unemployment and poverty and the future of work.



**Dr Louise Mataia Milo**

*Dean, Faculty of Arts, National University of Samoa*

Louise Mataia Milo is a dedicated historian and academic leader from Samoa. She currently serves as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the National University of Samoa, a role she has held since 2019. With over 20 years of experience in teaching and research, Dr Milo specializes in Pacific history, culture, education, gender studies, and indigenous research methodologies.

She holds a PhD from Victoria University of Wellington, where her doctoral thesis explored Samoan women's experiences during World War II. Dr. Milo has made significant contributions to the field through her publications, including journal articles, book chapters, and creative works. Her research interests span topics such as Pacific geopolitics, migration, conflict, women's roles in wartime, gender and climate change and the preservation of oral histories.



**Professor Lisa McDaid**

*Director, Institute for Social Science Research, UQ*

Lisa McDaid is Director of the Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR) and Professor of Social Sciences and Health at The University of Queensland. Lisa has an international reputation grounded in knowledge exchange and partnership. Her research has made significant contributions to identifying solutions to health inequalities among the most disadvantaged and marginalised in our society. Lisa is experienced in how to engage communities at high risk of poor health and wellbeing in health improvement research and in developing new methods of co-production for intervention development.

Lisa is a Social Scientist and obtained her PhD in Medical Sociology from the University of Glasgow in 2007. She has been Chief-Investigator on research grants c.AU\$100M and has authored over 100 publications. Lisa is also an Associate Director of the Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, a consortium research centre based at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.



**Associate Professor Alina Morawska**

*Director, Parenting and Family Support Centre; Associate Professor, School of Psychology, UQ*

A/Prof Alina Morawska is Director of the Parenting and Family Support Centre, The University of Queensland. She is passionate about creating a world where children develop the skills, competencies and confidence to adapt and thrive in an ever-changing world. Her research focuses on the central role of parents in influencing all aspects of children's development, and parenting interventions as a way of understanding healthy development, a means for promoting positive family relationships, and a tool for the prevention and early intervention in lifelong health and wellbeing. She has published extensively in the field of parenting and family intervention and has received numerous grants to support her research. She has been recognised as Australia's top scholar in family studies.



**Associate Professor Rebecca Olson**

*Director of Teaching and Learning; Associate Professor, School of Social Science, UQ*

Rebecca Olson is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Queensland, cutting-edge translational qualitative researcher, mentor and award-winning educator with expertise in the sociologies of health and emotions. As Director of SocioHealthLab, she leads an interdisciplinary collective of researchers, health professional educators and practitioners interested in doing health and healthcare differently: more socially aware, more relational, more inclusive and more just. As Director of Teaching and Learning in the School of Social Science, she prioritises collaborative, reflexive, creative and emotions-centred practices in higher education. With over 75 scholarly publications – as well as news media and creative video productions – Rebecca is a prolific contributor to public debate. With research interests spanning medicinal cannabis and health professions education to climate anxiety, Olson is internationally renowned for bringing sociological insight to complex challenges related to emotions, wellbeing, healthcare and caregiving.



**Dr Kim Osman**

*Senior Research Associate, Digital Media Research Centre, QUT*

Dr Kim Osman is a digital inclusion researcher and advocate for the quarter of Australia's population unable to access and use digital technologies in the ways they want and need. Kim's research has enabled organisations and government to develop evidence-based policy and programs through her development of best-practice advice, guides, and toolkits for improving digital inclusion. Using place-based and ethnographic methods, Kim researches how social infrastructure like libraries support people to develop the digital skills and literacy needed to access education opportunities and fully participate economically, socially, and culturally in Australian society. Kim is a Senior Research Associate in the Creating Better Digital Futures Research Program at the Digital Media Research Centre, Queensland University of Technology.



**Associate Professor Jenny Povey**

*Deputy Director (Training), Principal Research Fellow, Institute for Social Science Research, UQ*

Jenny is the Deputy Director (Training) at Institute for Social Science Research, The University of Queensland. In this role Jenny leads the development and implementation of ISSR's training programs. This includes professional short courses aimed at Industry, tailored capability training for industry, Higher Degree Training, external and internal internships/placements, internal staff capability training, and teaching opportunities for ISSR staff in the schools including Honours supervision. In addition to leading this portfolio of work and teaching professional short courses, Jenny continues to lead a Research Group (Social and Educational disadvantage), contribute as an Associate Investigator to research for the ARC Centre of Excellence on Families and Children over the Life Course (the Life Course Centre), and supervise HDR students. She is a Psychologist and obtained her BA Honors, MA and PhD from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in South Africa. Before coming to ISSR, Jenny worked as a Chief Researcher at the Human Sciences Research Council in South Africa in the area of Education effectiveness.



**Professor Tim Reddel**

*Professor (Social Solutions), Institute for Social Science Research, UQ*

Professor Tim Reddel is leading the Social Solutions Lab at the Institute for Social Science Research, University of Queensland. The Lab's goal is to create greater public policy impact for social science knowledge and research through more collaborative, deeper, evidenced based, outcome focussed and mutually beneficial partnerships between researchers, end users and citizens.

Prior to his appointment to the Institute in August 2019, Professor Reddel worked in a range of senior executive roles in the Australian and Queensland public service, the community services sector and academia. He has previously led the Australian Government's Department of Social Services' Policy Office which was responsible for evidence, data analysis, research and evaluation strategies to support and enable quality strategic social policy. Professor Reddel joined the Australian Public Service in 2010 as Deputy Coordinator General for Remote Indigenous Services and has longstanding interest and experience in Indigenous policy and practice. Professor Reddel is also an Adjunct Professor with the Cities Research Institute at Griffith University and was appointed to the Australian Research Council's Engagement and Impact Assessment Panel for Social Sciences in 2018 to examine how well universities were engaging with research end-users and delivering policy impact.



**Dr Maram Shaweesh**

*Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Institute for Social Science Research, UQ*

Dr Maram Shaweesh is a qualitative researcher. Her interdisciplinary research spans several humanities and spatial disciplines, including architecture, housing adequacy, migration, multiculturalism, everyday encounters in the Australian suburb, urban design, and young people's experiences in urban spaces.

Maram has conducted various research projects focused on housing. For instance, she investigated everyday life in suburban housing as experienced by the Australian Lebanese community. This research utilised social qualitative research methods to explore the relationship between housing design and policy, and the social and cultural context in Australia, such as changing family ideals, household composition, children's wellbeing, parenting values, and social marginalisation. Additionally, Maram has experience working with remote Indigenous communities, having contributed to the "Gunana Futures" research project investigating housing adequacy in Mornington Island.



**Associate Professor Tamasailau Suaalii-Sauni**

*Associate Professor, School of Social Sciences, University of Auckland*

Dr Tamasailau Suaalii-Sauni is Associate Professor in the Criminology Programme, School of Social Sciences, University of Auckland. She is currently a Commissioner in New Zealand's inaugural Criminal Cases Review Commission. She served as a member of the Pacific Reference Group and as a Kaitakawaenga/Delegated Private Hearing group facilitator in New Zealand's Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care. She is also a Kaitakawaenga for New Zealand's Survivor Experiences Services. Her teaching and research interests focus on Indigenous crime and justice issues, Indigenous jurisprudence and Indigenous research methodologies, especially relating to Samoan and wider Pacific Indigenous communities. Pacific Indigenous models of family and care informs her policy, education and advocacy related work.



**Dr Chloe Watfern**

*Postdoctoral Fellow, Black Dog Institute; Postdoctoral Research Associate, Ecological Emotions Research Lab, University of Sydney*

Dr Chloe Watfern is a maker and researcher with a longstanding interest in climate change, mental health, and human-nature connections. She is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Black Dog Institute, where she leads the Climate Lab. She is also a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Ecological Emotions Research Lab at the University of Sydney.

Chloe is committed to climate justice, and her work with neurodivergent and disabled collaborators has led to a monograph with [Routledge](#) and a socially engaged art exhibition at [Manly Art Gallery and Museum](#). In other projects, she has used the arts-based method of body mapping to explore ecological emotions with young families. As a collage artist, she encourages her two young children to scribble and play with her growing archive of materials, and she uses their art in much of her recent work. Mothering in the climate crisis is a source of constant anguish and motivation.



**Nathan R.J. Wiltshire**

*PhD Candidate, Centre for Social Research and Methods, ANU*

Nathan Wiltshire is a researcher and PhD candidate at the Australian National University interested in human relations and culture; in particular, forms of connection and understanding in societies i.e. empathy and solidarity. Earlier, Nathan spent over a decade undertaking research and community-based programs at the University of Technology Sydney with ongoing collaborations in Australia, India, and Japan. More recently, he held a research position at Yale University as a Fox International Fellow, with research focused on bridging cultural divides. To this work, Nathan takes an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating theories and methods from social sciences e.g. Sociology and Anthropology, mind sciences e.g. Psychology, and human-centred innovation domains. This recognises the diverse and ever-changing nature of human cultures and the importance of healthy interpersonal relations for flourishing families, communities, and societies. In this sense, Nathan has increasingly applied his work to understanding human relations in situations of entrenched issues, such as climate change, political polarization, and sustainable development.