



5th ALAA EARLY CAREER LAW ACADEMICS FORUM

LAW IN CONVERSATION

Connect • Collaborate • Create

Friday 20 November 2026 | The University of Sydney Law School

TIME	PROGRAM
9.30 – 10.00am	WELCOME FROM THE DEAN OF SYDNEY LAW SCHOOL PROFESSOR FLEUR JOHNS
10.00 – 11.00am	KEYNOTE ADDRESS <i>Finding Your Place in Legal Academia</i> Networks, mentoring, career pathways, and academic community Keynote speaker: Professor Nicole Graham, Sydney Law School
11.00 – 11.15am	MORNING TEA
11.15 – 12.45pm	LAW IN CONVERSATION: RESEARCH <i>Building Your Research Identity</i> Developing a research agenda, collaboration, publishing and creating future research opportunities
11.15 – 11.45am	Professor Katherine Biber, UTS will be talking about how you can draw together your expertise, ambitions, passions and experiences into a coherent career narrative. By telling a powerful story about your research, you can improve your success in publication, reach diverse audiences, and attract support through funding and fellowships.
11.45 – 12.15pm	Professor Cameron Holley, UNSW will share his experience and provide advice on collaborating with colleagues in other disciplines across your university, with industry and the government. His presentation will focus on the importance of developing enduring research networks as early as possible.
12.15 – 12.45pm	Associate Professor Gemma Turton, Editor of Sydney Law Review Although publication in leading journals remains central to academic progression in law, emerging scholars often lack clear guidance about how peer review works, how editorial decisions are made, and how to position their work for successful submission. This session will provide practical insights into the lifecycle of a manuscript and will reflect on common reasons for rejection, strategies for responding effectively to reviewer reports, and how to frame contributions for generalist journals.
12.45 – 1.45pm	LUNCH

1.45 – 3.15pm

LAW IN CONVERSATION: TEACHING

Creating Classrooms Where Students Can Learn and Belong

Pedagogy, inclusive teaching, student engagement, and the changing needs of our students

1.45 – 2.15pm

Associate Professor Genevieve Wilkinson, UTS - Winner of this year's Council of Australian Law Deans (CALD) Teaching Excellence Award: Engagement

Drawing on UTS Law initiatives such as the Law Tech Challenge and Tech + Social Justice Week, Associate Professor Wilkinson will explore how inclusive, partnership-based approaches to teaching can respond to the changing needs of today's students by building confidence, professional identity and connection to community. These two initiatives both prepare students to engage thoughtfully with technology and its challenges and create meaningful opportunities for connection, purpose and real-world engagement which can help students not only learn more effectively, but also develop a genuine sense of belonging within their academic community.

2.15 – 2.45pm

Associate Professor Helen Gibbon, UNSW

This session explores how law schools can respond to TEQSA's call for a systemic, program-level approach to assessment. It considers the possibilities of moving beyond disconnected, course-based assessment to create a more coherent assessment experience across the degree. In particular, it examines how assessment can provide richer evidence of student learning, support the progressive development of legal skills and professional capabilities, and help students understand their development as emerging legal professionals.

2.45 – 3.15pm

Dr Marie Hadley, University of Newcastle – Winner of this year's CALD Teaching Excellence Award, will discuss the opportunities presented by public-facing videos and microlearning materials to enhance student engagement, support students learning new legal skills, create feedback opportunities, and demonstrate teaching impact.

3.15 – 3.30pm

AFTERNOON TEA

3.30 – 5.00pm

LAW IN CONVERSATION: THE ACADEMIC WE WANT TO BECOME

Building an Academic Life with Purpose

Academic identity, values, and choices: building a meaningful and sustainable academic career

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

Professor of Educational Scholarship Mary Wright, Division of Teaching and Learning, DVC (Education & Students) the University of Sydney, will be facilitating a workshop to help us articulate our strengths as educators, our educational narratives, and how these might align or drive the direction and decisions we make looking ahead. Please note that this is a highly interactive discussion.

5.00 – 5.30pm

CLOSING CONVERSATION

Where to From Here?

Reflections, ideas, and connections to take beyond the Forum

5.30 – 7.00pm

NETWORKING RECEPTION

Drinks, canapés, and conversation