

Knowledge for the Future: EU and Australian Research Collaboration

Friday 12 May: 11.30am for 12pm-2pm AEST

RMIT University, Council Chamber, Building 1, 124 Latrobe Street Melbourne, 3000 (+ live-streamed)

Australia and the EU have a long history of productive research collaboration. The EU has maintained a delegation in Australia since 1981, with the first-ever treaty-level and technology agreement signed between the EU and an industrialised country being with Australia in 1994.

This agreement focused on cooperation in fields such as biotechnology, materials science, and new energy technologies, paving the way for future collaborative efforts.



Today, the EU is Australia's third largest trading partner and second largest source of foreign investment. To celebrate Europe Day, the panel will discuss the future of Australia and EU research collaboration in space, artificial intelligence, and technology.

What are the key drivers for cooperation and innovation in space, AI and technology? What can we expect in the coming years in terms of developments and breakthroughs? How can we ensure that our joint efforts lead to a more sustainable, equitable and prosperous future for all?

You are invited to a panel discussion co-hosted by the [EU Delegation to Australia](#), RMIT University [EU Centre](#), the European Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand ([ESAANZ](#)) and the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) Victoria.

- **HE Mr Gabriele Visentin**, EU Ambassador to Australia. *Opening Remarks.*
- **Nishant Shandilya**, Regional Coordinator - Australia and New Zealand, EURAXESS Worldwide. *Horizon Europe (EU's Framework Programme for Research & Innovation)*
- **Dr Rebecca Allen** - Co-Director of Swinburne Space Technology and Industry Institute. *How Critical is Collaboration for the Future Workforce?*
- **Dr Chetan Arora** - Senior Lecturer in Software Engineering, Monash University. *Generative Artificial Intelligence and its Implications.*
- **Dr Emma Shortis** - European Union Centre of Excellence at RMIT University. *Moderator.*

PROGRAM:

- 11.30am: Registrations open for in-person guests; coffee and tea on arrival
- 12.00pm: Panel discussion and livestream commences
- 12.50pm: Audience Q&A
- 1.15pm: Livestream concludes
- 1.15pm: Buffet lunch and networking
- 2.00pm: Event concludes

[REGISTER ONLINE HERE](#) FOR IN-PERSON OR WEBINAR TICKETS

ENTRY FREE, BUT REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL. REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.



RMIT
UNIVERSITY



ESAANZ
European Studies Association Australia and New Zealand



**Australian Institute
of International Affairs**
Victoria

***HE Mr Gabriele Visentin** has been the European Union Ambassador to Australia since September 2022, and was appointed EU Special Envoy for the Indo-Pacific in September 2021. Prior to his arrival in Australia, Mr. Visentin served as Head of the Parliamentary Affairs Division in the European External Action Service for several years. Earlier in his career, Mr. Visentin was an official of the European Commission and served in the Directorate General for External Relations. Mr. Visentin was also Head of Cabinet to the last President of the ECSC (European Community for Steel and Coal) and Advisor on European affairs to the Italian Minister of Industry, Energy and International Trade. He holds a degree in law and is specialised in International and Community law.*

***Nishant Shandilya** is the Regional Coordinator of EURAXESS Australia and New Zealand, an initiative of the European Commission that addresses barriers to the mobility of researchers and seeks to enhance scientific collaboration between Europe and the rest of the world. He has prominently led strategy, innovation, and international research projects – including European Commission funded grants (FP7 & Horizon 2020) and tenders, specifically in the fields of ICT, Internationalisation and Social Innovation. He has also led-wrote evaluation studies and impact assessment reports for several EC DGs. In addition to helping run several 'Centres of Excellence' in different parts of the world, he has advised private and public sector clients in different areas, including innovation, R&D support mechanisms and economic development.*

***Dr Rebecca Allen** completed her PhD in astrophysics at Swinburne University of Technology where her research focused on understanding the evolution and growth of galaxies over time, going all the way back to when the Universe was barely a billion years old. Now the Co Director of Swinburne's Space Technology and Industry Institute, she applies her scientific expertise to help support Australia's growing space industry. She is focused on how space can be used to build climate change resilient communities and empowering learners by obtaining critical skills and experience through hands-on projects. When she's not studying space or sending things there, she's sharing her enthusiasm for space by communicating the wonders of the Universe to others and creating inspiring learning experiences.*

***Dr Chetan Arora** is a Senior Lecturer in Software Engineering at Monash University. His research focuses on developing human-centred solutions at the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and software engineering (SE), with a specific focus on enhancing software trustworthiness and responsible AI. In addition to his academic work, Dr Arora has extensive industry and collaboration experience and has worked with organisations such as the Australian DSTG and European Space Agency. Prior to his academic career, he worked in innovation management at SES Satellites in Luxembourg. He received his PhD from the University of Luxembourg and his Masters in Computer Science from Technische Universität Kaiserslautern in Germany. His research in SE4AI and AI4SE has been published in high-impact journals and conference proceedings.*

*Moderator: **Dr Emma Shortis** is a Lecturer in the European Union Centre of Excellence at RMIT University. She is a nationally recognised expert in the history and politics of the United States and global environmental politics. Emma co-hosts RMIT's popular history podcast, [Barely Gettin' By](#). She writes regularly for mainstream media including The Conversation. Before joining RMIT, Emma spent a year in the United States as the Fox-Zucker International Fellow at Yale University, where she finished writing her PhD in History. She is the author of [Our Exceptional Friend: Australia's fatal alliance with the United States](#) (Hardie Grant Books, 2021).*

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