

Jury Research and Practice Conference

Brisbane, November 13, 2026

Research on jury decision making

Jury research uses a variety of methodologies ranging from vignette studies, simulations, transcript analysis, to surveys and interviews with real jurors. Some jurisdictions have enabled greater access to actual jurors and built close collaborations between researchers and the courts to set research agendas. What can we learn from those jurisdictions, and how might we advance the study of juries and jury trials in Australia?

Jury Manager Pre-conference

Thursday, November 12

Contact Paul Dore for additional details: Paul.Dore@juries.vic.gov.au

Public Lecture – Supporting good quality jury decision-making

Thursday, November 12, 5:15 pm for a 5:30 pm start. Followed by drinks and canapés until 7pm.

Hosted by the University of Queensland Law School and the Queensland Law Reform Commission, this is an opportunity for a public discussion of law reform, juries, and jury research, and to explore key issues relevant to jury decision-making. This lecture brings together three distinguished panellists to speak about how best to support humans to make ‘good-quality’ decisions in a trial context. Attendees of the jury research and practice conference and members of the public are welcome to attend this event.

Facilitated by: Chair Fleur Kingham, Queensland Law Reform Commission

Featured speakers: Judge Meryl Sexton, Professor Jane Goodman-Delahunty, and Associate Professor Carolyn McKay.

Jury Research and Practice Conference

Friday, November 13, 9 am to 4:10 pm

Session 1: The current state of jury research	Session 2: What should we study?	Session 3: How do we make it happen?
Featuring presentations from: • Professor Jane Goodman-Delahunty • Professor Julia Quilter • Associate Professor Jacqui Horan • Dr Faye Nitschke • Dr Hayley Cullen • Professor David Tait (Chair)	Featuring a panel of professionals from the criminal justice system, including: • Deputy Chief Judge Sexton (Victoria) • Judge Rafter (QLRC) • Justice Martin (Queensland) • Mr Paul Dore (Victoria) • SJA Justice Burns (Chair)	A panel of researchers respond, including: • Professor Julia Quilter • Dr Rebecca Wallis • Dr Natalie Martschuk • Professor Blake McKimmie • Associate Professor Jacqui Horan (Chair)

Location for all events

Banco Court, Level 13

Queensland Supreme and District Courts, Brisbane

1/415 George Street, Brisbane, QLD

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/FpJgPWBjpp7PfCzBA>



Registration

Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/jury-research-and-public-lecture-4868739?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=odclsxcollection&utm-source=cp&aff=odclsxcollection>

Registration is free but a ticket is required to reserve your place at the public lecture and/or conference.

In the interests of making this event as accessible as possible and to allow people to come and go during the day of the conference as necessary, we are not charging a registration fee. This means that morning tea and lunch will be self-catered. There are many places in the immediate vicinity of the courts complex at which to get coffee and lunch. We encourage you to make connections with other attendees over lunch and coffee.

Jury Research and Practice Conference Speakers and Panellists

Professor Jane Goodman-Delahunty Honorary Professor of Law, University of Newcastle	Dr Faye Nitschke Lecturer, School of Science (Psychological Science), University of Newcastle	Dr Hayley Cullen Lecturer in Psychological Sciences, Macquarie University
Jane is a lawyer-psychologist whose work spans jury behaviour, expert evidence, memory and gender-based violence. She has consulted internationally on jury systems and authored 280 scholarly publications including influential books on juries and the law. Her research promotes evidence-based decision-making and law reform.	Faye specialises in jury decision-making and criminal justice responses to gendered violence. Her research examines how jurors process information and form judgements in sexual violence cases, including work on juror misconceptions, juror emotion, deliberation dynamics, and interventions to support more accurate verdicts.	Her research focuses on the role of cognitive processes such as attention, memory, and decision-making in legal contexts, spanning eyewitness reliability and juror memory and decision-making, with the broader aim of preventing wrongful convictions and improving victims' access to justice.
Professor Julia Quilter Professor of Law, University of Wollongong	Associate Professor Jacqui Horan Associate Professor of Law, Monash University	Professor David Tait Honorary Professor, POLIS, Research School of Social Sciences, ANU
A nationally and internationally recognised criminal law and justice expert who has published widely on rape law reform including her co-authored book with Luke McNamara, <i>Reforming Rape Trials: The Impact of Law Reform on Criminal Trials in Australia</i> which analyses over 100+ sexual violence trials. She practised criminal law for over a decade prior to academia.	A courtroom communication researcher, she has led major projects on jurors' perceptions of expert evidence and published widely on ways to improve jury trials, including her book <i>Juries in the 21st Century</i>. She recently served as on-screen legal expert for SBS's <i>The Jury: Death on the Staircase</i>.	Coordinator of the Court of the Future Network. His interests include court architecture, justice rituals, and technologies used in court and tribunal hearings, and he has led numerous Australian Research Council projects examining jury deliberation technology, virtual courtrooms, and courtroom design.
Judge Anthony Rafter SC Deputy Chair, Queensland Law Reform Commission	Dr Natalie Martschuk Centre for Investigative Interviewing, GCI, Griffith University	Judge Meryl Sexton Deputy Chief Judge, County Court of Victoria
His Honour is a Judge of the District Court of Queensland, the Children's Court of Queensland and the Planning and Environment Court. Judge Rafter has served as Acting Justice on the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2021 and Acting President of the Children's Court in 2022. He was admitted as a barrister in 1985 and appointed Senior Counsel in 2003.	Natalie's research investigates how individuals can provide their best possible evidence, regardless of their cognitive or linguistic abilities, with the goal of improving legal decision-making. Using qualitative quantitative research methods, including meta-analyses she examines factors that influence the fairness and effectiveness of legal proceedings.	Judge Sexton was appointed to the County Court of Victoria in 2001 and became the Court's inaugural Deputy Chief Judge in 2022. She was a barrister from 1985 and a Crown Prosecutor from 1995. Since 2005, she has had a leadership role in the court's Sex Offences List and in law reform as well as multijurisdictional advisory committees.
Paul Dore Juries Commissioner, Victoria	Justice Glenn Martin AM Reserve Judge, Supreme Court of Queensland	Justice Martin Burns Senior Judge Administrator, Supreme Court of Queensland
Paul Dore has worked in the Victorian Public Service since emigrating from Montréal in 1994, and since 2012 has led the team responsible for the operation and administration of Victoria's jury system. A 2018 Churchill Fellowship to research juror support programs in Canada, the US and the UK sparked his interest in the psychosocial wellbeing of jurors and has underpinned Juries Victoria's service to courts and community.	Justice Martin served as a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland from 2007, and was appointed Senior Judge Administrator of the Trial Division in 2022, retiring from full-time judicial duties in December 2025 before returning as a Reserve Judge in 2026. He is a former President of the Australian Bar Association and the Bar Association of Queensland.	Justice Burns was appointed a judge of the Trial Division of the Supreme Court of Queensland in December 2014, having taken silk in 2008 after a wide-ranging practice with a particular focus on criminal law. He succeeded Justice Glenn Martin as Senior Judge Administrator at the end of 2025.
Dr Rebecca Wallis Senior Lecturer, TC Beirne School of Law, University of Queensland	Associate Professor Carolyn McKay Associate Dean (Research Education), Sydney Law School, University of Sydney	Professor Blake McKimmie School of Psychology, University of Queensland
Rebecca's teaching and research interests fall broadly within criminal law and procedure, the law of evidence, and criminal justice system structure and operation, with a focus on how criminal law theories and principles play out in policy and practice. She recently joined a QLRC panel on the future of evidence law in Queensland.	Carolyn teaches criminal law, process and legal research, and digital criminology. She has served on the NSW Bar Association's Media Information and Law Technology Committee. She is recognised for her research on technologies in criminal justice, and is a former ARC DECRA fellow.	Blake researches jury decision making, with a focus on social cognition and group processes. He led the creation of state-wide training in response to Royal Commission recommendations, and co-authored a book on expert testimony, made submissions to law reform commissions, and provided training to police, prosecutors, and judges.

Organised by the Court of the Future Network

Organising committee: Professor Blake McKimmie, Professor David Tait, Professor Jane Goodman-Delahunty, Associate Professor Jacqui Horan, Dr Rebecca Wallis, Dr Faye Nitschke, Dr Gianni Ribeiro, Mr Paul Dore.