Under the leadership of A/Prof Scott Eacott the Advancing Relational Theorising Lab is about pushing the edge of what we know about the social world. Our work is located within a network of internationally renowned and emerging scholars whose ongoing work is seriously and consequentially engaged in theoretical and methodological developments in relational research. Scholarship from the team is therefore aimed at the forefront of contemporary thought and analysis and in doing so, stimulates dialogue and debates in the interest of advancing scholarship.

COME WORK WITH US

We are constantly seeking outstanding researchers whether they be Honours, Masters, Doctoral, Post-Doc, or Visiting Scholars to undertake projects that advance our goal of changing the way people think and act through the relational approach.

Crucially, the Advancing Relational Theorising Lab’s primary purpose is creating a research environment dedicated to fostering and delivering internationally recognised research and research training.

This is achieved through weekly Lab meetings, monthly international network meetings, an annual symposium, and establishing collaborations with key national and international scholars and research centres to develop new and ground-breaking theories and methodologies relevant to the contemporary world.
The relational research program offers a methodological framework for the study of the social world. It provides a means to frame scholarly inquiry and structure an argument in a thesis, paper, book, or conference paper. The relational approach comprises five relational extensions:

- The centrality of 'organising' in the social world makes it difficult to epistemologically break from the ordinary language of the everyday;
- Rigorous social scientific inquiry calls into question the very foundation of popular labels used to organise the social world;
- Contemporary conditions cannot be separated from the ongoing, and inexhaustible recasting of organising;
- Foregrounding social relations enables the overcoming of the contemporary, and arguably enduring, analytical dualism; and
- In doing so there is a generative space to theorise organising.

NEW TO THE RELATIONAL APPROACH?

A useful overview can be found in:


The most comprehensive articulation of the relational program can be found in:


A 2019 Special Issue of Research in Educational Administration and Leadership was dedicated to discussing the problems and possibilities of the relational approach.

See scotteacott.com for further details on the relational approach.
CURRENT PROJECTS
recruiting researchers

Small town schools: Globally, small towns are in crisis. Socio-demographic and economic decline combined with environmental fragility are bringing about significant social and cultural transformation. However, images of the small town are deeply rooted in human histories. Often described as the heart of communities, the local school provides powerful insights on the constitution and emergence of the cultural imagery. This project reorients our understanding of the local school and its role in community building and identity formation.

School leadership and context: It has long been argued that context matters for school leadership. However, to this point, educational leadership studies have been unable to develop the necessary theoretical resources to explain how context matters.

Theoretically informed by the relational approach and specifically the resources of auctor, spatio-temporal conditions and organising activity, this project focuses on describing how context is both constitutive of and emergent from our understanding of schooling.

RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

We are always open to hearing different ideas for projects. The most important factor is your willingness to mobilise the relational approach in your project. If that is the case, feel free to reach out and start a discussion about potential supervision / collaboration.
Prospective staff and students are encouraged to apply for fellowships / studentship schemes in their country of origin, or from Australia, that would allow them to travel to Sydney.

In this case, the project and topic of research will be negotiated between A/Prof Eacott and the applicant, based on the applicant’s area of expertise and the relational research program. A/Prof Eacott will assess the applicant and potential project before committing to support the application.

Advice for applicants
If you are looking to apply to join the Advancing Relational Theorising Lab, apart from meeting eligibility criteria, it is important to demonstrate that your proposed work contributes to and extends the work of the Lab.

We also welcome unfunded applicants wanting to work with the relational approach.

Most importantly, we are looking for highly motivated and talented researchers who believe they have the potential to make a significant contribution to the team.

COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

UNSW Sydney offers a number of highly competitive scholarships for researchers. These range from annual stipends, living allowances and coverage of tuition fee costs, as well as funding for travel. Further details can be found at:
https://research.unsw.edu.au/graduate-research-scholarships

For Further Information about the relational research program, or to join the team contact A/Prof Scott Eacott:

s.eacott@unsw.edu.au
@ScottEacott
scotteacott.com
@DrScottEacott