

Symposium Biographies



Emcee

Dr Janice Rieger

Senior Lecturer, School of Design, Queensland University of Technology, Australia

Dr Janice Rieger has been advocating for people with disabilities for over twenty years and has been awarded a Mayor's Access Recognition Award and a state level disability award for her leadership in promoting access and inclusion globally. Prior to her academic appointment at QUT in the School of Design, Dr Rieger spent a decade at Mount Royal University, where she taught one of the only Universal Design courses in Canada and was also co-founder of a national certificate program in accessible design. She is a member and editor of the European Society for Disability Research, and co-facilitated the 2018 international doctoral school, Disability Mundus in France. She is also an active member with the Centre for Universal Design, Australia.



Panel Chair

Dr Lisa Scharoun

Professor and Head of School, School of Design, Queensland University of Technology, Australia

Professor Lisa Scharoun is a multi-award winning teacher, researcher and designer with expertise in Visual Communications and Cross-cultural design. On completion of her PhD in Visual Communications from Griffith University, she was offered the role of Program Director of the Graphic Design discipline at Deakin University in Melbourne. Lisa is currently a Professor and Head of School - School of Design in the Creative Industries Faculty at the Queensland University of Technology. A highly awarded teacher and researcher, Lisa received six Vice Chancellor's Excellence Awards for teaching and research at the University of Canberra along with the Australian Council of University Art and Design School's "Distinguished Teaching Award."



Keynote Lecturer & Panel Member

Jasmien Herssens

ZAP-track position, Faculty of Architecture and Arts, Hasselt University, Belgium

Dr Jasmien Herssens is an architect, a Designer for All, teacher and researcher. She studied architecture at the Faculty of Architecture, KULeuven and worked at *Wim Goes Architectuur*. In her PhD research, she worked together with people born blind considering them as experts in order to find design parameters supporting multisensory experiences. Currently, she teaches DfA to bachelor and master students at Hasselt University and conducts research on design methods and methodologies with a focus and interest on inclusion. In 2018, she received an *FWO grant* to start up an international collaboration action for EIDD-Design for All Europe. Jasmien is an Executive Board Member of EIDD-Design for All Europe and a Representative for EIDD-DfA Europe in the European Disability Forum (EDF). As President of the Belgian Design for All network, Dr Herssens founded the first DfA (UD)- Week in Hasselt, Belgium in 2016. For her work she received several Best Paper Awards and a Cera Senior Award (Engineers with a heart).



Mini-Keynote Lecturer & Panel Member

Kathryn Lyons

Co Founder Accessibili-T

Kathryn Lyons is an award-winning global disability advocate, a passionate leader, innovator, mentor, change agent and ambassador, focusing on universal inclusion for all. Her vision is to empower and enable people globally, beginning with better access for disabled patrons. Kathryn has overcome major barriers through her complex disability, a progressive degenerative unidentifiable connective tissue disorder, global in nature, which left her bedbound for nearly six years. By working with state and federal governments and global humanitarian organisations to change and create legislation, to improve regulations, to change building codes, to amend charters, and to create new Australian and world standards, Kathryn's work is aimed at achieving global transformation and inclusive communities.



Mini-Keynote Lecturer & Panel Member

Jane Bringolf

Founding Director, Centre for Universal Design Australia (CUDA)

Dr Jane Bringolf has a background in community services spanning more than thirty years. Her experience ranges from direct service provision to senior management roles. A recipient of a Churchill Fellowship in 2004, Jane travelled overseas to investigate organisations pursuing universal design, accessible environments and assistive technology. She then went on to do a PhD in Urban Studies specifically looking at industry barriers to universal design in Australian housing. Jane's nine years as Executive Director with the *Independent Living Centre* NSW, and more recently as *Liveable Communities Project Manager* with Council on the Ageing NSW, adds to her experience of working in the aged and disability sectors.



Mini-Keynote Lecturer & Panel Member

Megan Strickfaden

Professor, Department of Human Ecology, University of Alberta, Canada

Dr Megan Strickfaden is a Professor in Material Culture Studies, in the Department of Human Ecology at the University of Alberta, Canada. She is a design anthropologist who focuses on complicated problem solving through design environments and products for older adults, caregivers, and persons with disabilities. She is in her twenty-fifth year of teaching and has hundreds of scholarly outcomes including publications, patents, designed products, exhibitions, and films. Recently she was awarded with *ALES Teacher of the Year* (2013, 2015), the *Award of Excellence in Education* from the *Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Alberta* (2016), and the *University of Alberta Great Supervisor Award* (2018).



Panel Member

Margaret Ward

Co-convener, Australian Network for Universal Housing Design

Dr Margaret Ward was awarded her PhD in 2013 in the School of Design at Queensland University of Technology. Originally an architect, Margaret has been an advocate, public servant and service provider in the areas of housing and disability. Margaret has spent much of her career working towards the adoption of housing design which includes everyone regardless of age and ability. Her thesis explored the notions of voluntariness and responsibility in providing inclusive housing within a framework of distributive justice. Margaret Ward co-convenes Australian Network for Universal Housing Design, which seeks regulation of access features in all new housing construction through the National Construction Code.



Panel Member

Lena Belin

Director, Community Insights, Queensland Public Service Commission &
Co-founder of Public

Dr Lena Belin is a Director at the Queensland Public Service Commission as well as Co-founder of research and design practice Public. Prior she founded a CX- consultancy that specialised in working with people from “diverse” backgrounds. She brings 15+ years experience in social science research and human-centred design to the innovation of social infrastructure, services and environments. Her work has included service-and experience design projects for Australia's largest organisations, and has helped them understand people in environments as diverse as schools, museums, hospitals and retail. Her focus at PSC and Public is to bring the people that use or are impacted by services and built environments into the design process. In doing so, better outcomes can be achieved for people and organisations.