BUILDING COMMUNITIES IN ACADEMIA

Surviving and Thriving in Academia provides short, accessible books for navigating the many challenges, responsibilities and opportunities of academic careers. The series is particularly dedicated to supporting the professional journeys of early and mid-career academics and doctoral students but will present books of use to scholars at all stages in their careers. Books within the series draw on real-life examples from international scholars, offering practical advice and a supportive and encouraging tone throughout.

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BUILDING COMMUNITIES IN ACADEMIA

EDITED BY

MELINA AARNIKOIVU
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And

AI TAM LE
Deakin University, Australia

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

We would like to dedicate this book to everyone who is building communities wherever they go, often behind the scenes, motivated by sheer care, and without any extra incentives or rewards. Your work is invaluable, and it matters.

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ABOUT THE EDITORS

Melina Aarnikoivu is the Coordinator of the PhD Academy at the Faculty of Science and Engineering at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. Her background is in applied linguistics and higher education studies. In her research, she has studied doctoral education, peer-mentoring and academic writing and publishing. In whichever role she has worked, she is always trying to bring people together to create more supportive, inspiring and equitable workplaces where early-career professionals, in particular, can feel welcome.

Ai Tam Le is a Lecturer in Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Development at the Researcher Development Academy at Deakin University, Australia. Ai Tam's research interests include the academic profession, doctoral education and disciplinary cultures. Through her research and work in the graduate research space, she has been interested in exploring ways to cultivate a more nurturing, vibrant and enriching academia.

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Oscar Funeskog works at a children's emergency psychiatric ward. He studied behavioural sciences for his Bachelor's degree and followed up with courses in existential philosophy and guidance. He later turned to the International Master's in Educational Research (IMER) programme at Gothenburg University, Sweden, for his Master-level studies where he focused on theoretical implementation and proof of concept in regard to theories of learning. He is currently searching for a PhD position and eventually a research career.

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critically at higher education – and to try to do something about improving it too.

Samuel Holt is a Teacher at the International High School Göteborg Region (IHGR), where he has over 10 years teaching experience in Psychology, Theory of Knowledge, Philosophy and English. He completed his Master's thesis for the IMER programme at Gothenburg University, Sweden, in 2023 where the main research focus was the use of phenomenography to examine the understanding, perceived importance and treatment of ungraded school subjects. This is an interest he hopes to pursue further at a PhD level.

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Mee Joo Kim is a Doctoral Candidate at the College of Education at the University of Washington-Seattle, USA. Her research experiences encompass a broad range of topics such as examining instructional outcomes in undergraduate engineering education, crafting measurement scales for university campus environments, exploring political identity formation of immigrant youths and conducting adaptation capabilities assessments for pre-K children. Her ultimate goal is to conduct research that matters for expanding educational opportunities for everyone. Her current research interests include nontraditional students in higher education as well as academic motherhood.

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Martina Lazarevska is Doctoral Researcher in Education at the Department of Education and Special Education at the University of Gothenburg. She is interested in research concerning adult education and learning. Her doctoral research is planned to explore how knowledge in education for sustainable development (ESD) is constructed and implemented in the context of Swedish Municipal Adult Education. An overarching goal of her

research is to explore and understand the extent to which adult education is responsive to social problems.

Yuqi Lin is an Educational Researcher and Edutech Entrepreneur. Before heading to the business world, she worked as a Research Officer and Research Coordinator in Monash University, and University of Melbourne, Australia. She has been an active member in the community, representing international students at multiple organisations, co-authoring articles on Australian mainstream media. Her research works are published in international peer-reviewed journals, focusing on internationalisation and globalisation of higher education.

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Sinéad Murphy is an Independent Researcher focused on Arabfuturism, theories of world literature and principles and practices of community-building. She also works and writes collaboratively as part of the interdisciplinary research collective Beyond Gender. She holds an AHRC LAHP-funded PhD in Comparative Literature from King's College London. She has publications forthcoming with Routledge and Palgrave, and her writing can be found in places like *Science Fiction Studies*, *Strange Horizons*, *Wasafiri* and *The Literary Encyclopaedia*. She currently works as Policy Engagement Coodinator at University College London Public Policy, UK.

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Jonathan O'Donnell is the Lecturer, Early and Mid-career Researchers for the Researcher Development Academy at Deakin University, Australia. He is currently completing a PhD on researchers who crowdfund.

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Taina Saarinen is a Research Professor and Director at the Finnish Institute for Educational Research at the University of Jyväskylä. Her research career has consisted of several choices that have appeared as missteps or mistakes at the time but

proved interesting and important routes afterwards. Her current false starts include working together with researchers at different career stages and dabbling with crisis leadership, academic well-being and MadLibs as methodology.

Baktygul Shabdan is a Lecturer and Research Associate in the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany. She co-edited 'Dynamics of Speaking and Doing Religion' (TUP, 2022) with Deepak Kumar Ojha and authored 'Born Kyrgyz, Raised as Russians and Buried as Arabs: Negotiating Childhood and Personhood in Kyrgyzstan' (TUP, 2023). She has conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Kyrgyzstan and India. Her research encompasses the anthropology of childhood and personhood, the anthropology of Islam, Sufism, digital religion and medical anthropology.

Mayya Sundukova, PhD, is a Neuroscientist at a health research institute in Spain, narrative coach and consultant. Mayya studied narrative therapy and community work to combine mentoring, community engagement, open science and policy skills to improve the research culture. Mayya founded the Rekombinational initiative and co-founded (with Olya Vvedenskaya) the Warenje scientific community building initiative. Other interests include creative and performing arts, therapeutic writing and parenting.

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Sally Windsor is an Associate Professor in Pedagogical Work in the Department of Pedagogical Curricular and Professional Studies. Currently, Windsor teaches in an Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Master's programme and the International Master's in Educational Research (IMER) programme at Gothenburg University, Sweden. Sally's research interests include sustainability education in schools, social sustainability, Indigenous knowledge for sustainability and mentoring and induction. Her research on teacher education and professional teacher learning aims to understand the processes that lead all teachers, regardless of age or subject discipline, to engage in 'praxis' – meaningful action based on a commitment to the good for humankind, and to encourage/enable their students to do the same.

Gaoming Zheng is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Higher Education, Tongji University, China. Additionally, she is an affiliated researcher and doctoral graduate of the Higher Education Group at the Faculty of Management and Business, Tampere University, Finland. Her research spans various areas, including doctoral education, the academic profession, international higher education, Europe-China higher education cooperation and institutional logics.