



STATE OF AUSTRALASIAN CITIES CONFERENCE 2025

9–12 December Brisbane, Queensland

Call for Abstracts HDR Symposium

PREPARED BY:



Absolute Events
& Marketing

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS



Australasian
Cities
Research
Network

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

2025 HDR SYMPOSIUM

AT THE STATE OF AUSTRALASIAN CITIES CONFERENCE

Australasian Cities at the Crossroads: Navigating Legacy, Innovation & Sustainability

7 - 9 December 2025 | Brisbane Australia

We warmly invite PhD candidates conducting urban research to join the 2025 HDR Symposium, a two-and-a-half-day event preceding and complementing the State of Australasian Cities Conference. This year, the symposium will be held in Brisbane, Australia, and will continue its tradition of creating a collegial, inclusive, and supportive environment for candidates to share, refine, and receive valuable feedback on their research.

Since 2013, the HDR Symposium has brought together PhD candidates from across Australasia, fostering connections and relationships within the diverse PhD. This year, the symposium will be guided by the values of inclusivity, collaboration, and respect, ensuring a welcoming and culturally safe space for all participants.

The symposium is highly recommended for candidates post confirmation to nearing completion. As in past years, a core feature of the symposium will be the mentoring workshop, where participants are grouped based on shared research themes or methodologies and paired with two mentors—one senior academic and one Early Career Researcher (ECR)—to provide tailored feedback and guidance.

Additional sessions will focus on career development, research pathways, and navigating the academic journey.

We encourage participants to also consider submitting an abstract to the main SOAC 2025 conference.

Key Dates

Abstract Submission Deadline	9 May 2025
Notification of Acceptance	19 June 2025
Full Program Released	25 July 2025
Presenter Registration Deadline	1 September 2025
Symposium Dates	7 - 9 December 2025



CONFERENCE THEMES

The 2025 HDR Symposium invites submissions from PhD candidates across a wide range of urban research disciplines. For full details on the conference themes, visit the [conference website](#).



City Economics and Development



City Governance and Structure



City Health and Liveability



City Housing and Inclusion



City Movement and Infrastructure



City Nature and Environment



City Cultures and Identity



City Design and Morphology



Reckoning with Settler Colonial Cities



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

HDR SYMPOSIUM SUBMISSION PORTAL

All submissions must be made through the online submission portal and each submitter must set up an account. This account is specific to SOAC 2025 only.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Abstract Information

- **Title** – 15 words maximum in sentence case
- **Presentation type** – HDR Symposium Individual Oral Presentation
- **Presentation theme** – select one theme from available dropdown options
- **Abstract** – A concise overview of your research and its relevance to the symposium themes maximum of 300 words. Abstract is text only. Graphics cannot be included in your abstract
- **Year of Canditure**

Author Information

- **Author Details** – Name, position and affiliation for each author
- **Author Headshot** – Provided in jpeg format and a head and shoulders style photo that will suit cropping into a circle

Notes regarding submission

- All submission are to be received via the online submission portal. Email or document submission will not be reviewed or accepted
- If you do not receive an email confirmation within one hour of submitting, please contact the Event Organisers on soac@absoluteevents.com.au



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

REVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS

Submissions will be peer-reviewed, and successful authors will be invited to present at the symposium and contribute to the proceedings.

Submissions will be assessed based on the following criteria:

Relevance and Contribution to the Conference Themes

- Does the abstract address the conference themes such as the legacy, long-term sustainability, resilience, or innovation in urban planning, design, and policy? (5%)
- Does it provide insights into the interplay between global trends and local challenges relevant to cities and regional centres? (10%)

Originality and Significance

- Does the abstract present original ideas, innovative approaches, or new perspectives in urban research? (30%)
- Does it contribute to advancing knowledge or addressing critical challenges in urban and regional contexts? (30%)

Clarity and Methodological Rigor

- Is the abstract clearly written, well-structured, and coherent? (10%)
- Does it outline a sound methodology, robust evidence, or clear arguments that support the research? (15%)

TRAVEL BURSARY

The Australasian Cities Research Network (ACRN) offers a Travel Bursary to support participation. Details on eligibility and the application process will be shared with accepted candidates.

The HDR Symposium at SOAC 2025 promises to be a vibrant and enriching experience, providing a platform to engage with peers, mentors, and leading urban scholars.

Submit your abstract today and join us in shaping the future of urban research across Australasia!

Join us at SOAC 2025 to shape the future of Australasian cities through dialogue, collaboration, and innovative ideas.

For further details and submission, please visit our [website](#).



SUBMISSION POLICIES

All submissions must meet the requirements outlined in this document. You will be required to confirm acceptance of these when submitting

- Submissions must be original work, written in English and free of typing/grammar errors. Accepted submissions will be printed as received
- All submissions must be completed electronically via the online submission website. If you are unable to submit in this manner, please contact the Event Organisers to discuss options. The Event Organisers will not be held responsible for submissions that are not received via the online submission site or for any submission errors
- All correspondence will be emailed to the primary presenter. It is the responsibility of the primary presenter to forward correspondence to co-presenters and co-authors
- Submission does not constitute an acceptance of the presentation
- **Registration Consent:** On notification of acceptance of presentation, the presenter consents to register and pay applicable fee within the required deadline in order to present at the symposium and to ensure publication of the presentation
- **Publishing Consent:** All accepted presentations will be published as received on the SOAC Conference website and in the symposium abstract book
- **Photo/Video Consent:** If the presentation is accepted to the program, consent is provided for any photos/videos taken during the presentation to be used and published by SOAC 2025, Australasian Cities Research Network and Absolute Events & Marketing
- **Change in Presenter:** Once the presentation has been approved and allocated, any change in presenter must be reviewed for potential approval by the Program Committee



Queries

For any queries, please contact the SOAC Event Organisers on the details below.

Absolute Events & Marketing

Phone: 07 3848 0089

Email: soac@absoluteevents.com.au

Website: www.soac2025.com

