

Reflecting on the Past, Experiencing the Present, Shaping the Future?

AAIR Forum
19-21 November 2018
Melbourne, Australia

Melbourne welcomed the largest number of attendees to an AAIR Forum to-date, with 170 registered delegates this year. Pre-forum special interest group workshops covered Government Reporting, Load Management, and Business Intelligence/Data Warehousing. This coincided with a half-day session for survey managers welcomed by Pam Muth, Executive Director of Education Research and Strategy at the Social Research Centre (SRC) and facilitated by Shane Compton and Lisa Bolton from SRC.

Following a welcome to country that engaged everyone, Tuesday's keynote presentations signalled the official commencement of the 2018 Forum.

Christine M Keller, Executive Director of the Association for Institutional Research (AIR) presented to attendees via satellite from Florida in the US. Christine recognised that student success is the common priority for those of us working in institutional research, and that despite the increase in data and technologies that support our work, the human element can never be replaced. Christine encouraged delegates to participate in [AIR professional development opportunities](#) offered both online and via events.



Kerri-Lee Krause (pictured above), Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Professor of Higher Education at La Trobe University, was the second keynote speaker. Professor Krause set a clear tone for the Forum itself, acknowledging the need for multitasking, strong qualitative and quantitative skills, and the criticality of placing institutional research at the centre of strategy and planning.

Professor Krause proposed three 'big ideas' for delegates:

1. Institutional research in an age of disruption;
2. Navigating the second curve (see [The Second Curve: Thoughts on Reinventing Society, Charles Handy](#)); and
3. Is it time to refresh the IR vision in your institution?

Professor Krause's book recommendations are reviewed on **pages 11–12**.

Delegates participated in parallel sessions over Tuesday and Wednesday presented by speakers from just under 20 different higher education institutions and related organisations, including the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), the Holmes Institute, and SRC.

Wednesday's World Café event (think facilitated knowledge sharing meets speed dating) saw around 80 delegates discuss hot topics related to institutional research ranging from, 'How to engage students to increase participation in surveys?' and 'How can universities justify public investment in teaching and research?' to 'What is the future of higher education in a global market?'. Kudos to **Tania Blanksby** and her team from La Trobe University for organising and facilitating this innovative new event introduced to the AAIR Forum.

Wednesday's keynote presenter **James Fazzino**, Vice-Chancellor's Fellow at La Trobe University and Chairman of Manufacturing Australia, took a different perspective and reminded us of the importance of culture and values which are 'the glue that unites an enterprise'. Sharing his learnings from a former business career, James positioned strategy as the 'what' and culture/values as the 'how'.

At the official close of the Forum two awards were presented that perhaps reflect the tone of the event and about placing students at the centre of institutional research.

The Best Presentation award went to:

Data driven innovation for student success
Professor Jessica Vanderlelie, La Trobe University

The Best New Presenter/s award went to:

Insights from student experience survey results: The link between students considering withdrawal from their course and actual attrition

Samaneh Rastegari and Elizabeth Hemsley, La Trobe University

Finally, congratulations to **Malcolm Rees** from Massey University who received the AAIR Institutional Researcher Award.

The AAIR AGM, held during the Forum, acknowledged the significant contributions and farewelled some Committee members, including **Andrea Jeffreys** (Secretary), **David De Bellis** (Treasurer), and **Kerry Martin and Louise Hargreaves**. New Committee members were welcomed and introduced **Lisa Bolton** (The Social Research Centre) **David Carroll** (Monash University), **Andrew Bradshaw** (Macquarie University) and **Leone Nurbasari** (The Australian National University).

Finally, without AAIR's wonderful partners and sponsors there would be no forum. So huge thanks to **Platinum sponsor eXplorance**, **Silver sponsor QILT and the SRC**, **Bronze sponsor Tableau** and **Silver partner and university supporter, La Trobe University**. Our exhibitors this year included **Altis Consulting, eXplorance, QILT and Tableau**.

In lieu of gifts for speakers, the AAIR Committee donated to **headspace**, a national service addressing mental health and supporting young people 12–25 years of age.



More Forum pictures on page 13 and visit <https://aaiforum.com.au/conference-photos/>



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FROM THE ACTING PRESIDENT

Saying goodbye – breaking up is really hard to do!

Every two years AAIR holds elections for the Executive Committee, and the 2018 AAIR Annual Forum in Melbourne recently was held during an election year. At the AGM, several longstanding members stepped down and retired from the Executive Committee, and I would like to pay tribute to each and every one of them for their selfless contributions to AAIR during their term in office.

Dave Marr has been involved with AAIR for many years and was Immediate Past President of AAIR from 2016–2017, President from 2012–2016, and Vice-President from 2008–2012. He was also an Ordinary Member of the Committee from 2006–2008. We convinced Dave to stay on for one last year through 2018 after his year as Immediate Past President ended in 2017. As you can imagine, it is hard to put into words the contribution that Dave has made over the years. Perhaps, the best way I can express what Dave has meant to AAIR is that he was awarded Life Membership in Alice Springs in 2017 for his leadership and dedication to institutional research. It will be hard to imagine not having Dave around on a regular basis, but I know that he will be enjoying himself doing what he loves to do.

Andrea Jeffreys has been the Secretary of AAIR for four years, having been elected to the position in 2014. She has been involved with the Executive Committee since 2012. Most recently, Andrea also organised the highly successful AAIR Forum in

Melbourne just a few weeks ago that saw the highest number of delegates for any AAIR Forum, with 170 registrations. Andrea has been tireless in her work for AAIR and I have so appreciated her organisational skills and her ability to keep things on track. I will miss her suggestions and consideration, but I know that we will be in touch from time to time.

Like Andrea, David de Bellis, has been a member of the Executive Committee since 2012. Since 2014, he has been Treasurer, working on the finances for the organisation. David has steered us through audits and budgets and dealings with our bank—which haven't been as easy as we would have hoped. Fortunately, David's persistence, honesty and attention to process, sees us in good shape. David's cool head and thoughtful contributions have certainly made my job easier.

Kerry Martin has been a member of the Executive since 2014. Since then, she has helped in the development of AAIR, most recently as leader of the Membership and Mailing Lists portfolio. Kerry has also enhanced our relationship with the [Australian Network of University Planners](#). She has been a strong advocate for AAIR. I will certainly miss that advocacy and wise counsel, and her willingness to provide assistance at any time. I know I will continue to hear from Kerry, and that she will continue to be involved when she can.

Louise Hargreaves started off with us as editor of the Newsletter from 2014–16 before becoming a member

of the Executive in 2016. Louise put her stamp on the Newsletter, and then went on to support Tracy Creagh and Monica Chen when they took over from her as editors of the Newsletter at the end of her term. The greatest contribution that Louise has made to AAIR was in the area of strategic planning, which has been her portfolio over the last year. She was instrumental in AAIR developing the [Strategy Map and KPIs](#), which are now available on the website. I will miss her not only because of the impact she has had in the strategic direction of AAIR, but also for her selflessness and willing support. I know even now if I were to ask for help, she would be there.

As I have said before, involvement with the AAIR Executive Committee is very rewarding, and is also a good way of giving back to the institutional research community. Everybody has something to add so consider being involved and making a difference like these great people have.

Next time I will introduce the new members of the Executive Committee, so you get the chance to know them too.

Until then, be well and safe during the holidays.



Kathie Rabel
Acting AAIR President



EDITORIAL

Well, the La Trobe University Forum organising committee certainly did an excellent job organising this year's event in Melbourne. Andrea Jeffreys and her organising committee, which included Tanya Blanksby, Michael Cudmore, Dominic Eyre, Alistair Duncan, Matt Brett, Julia Petrou and Don Johnston (from Southern Cross University), deserve our thanks – and some downtime to recover I expect. As well as their outstanding efforts in organising the AAIR Forum with the largest turnout, La Trobe University's participation in the suite of presentations over the three days was admirable.

The keynote presentation from Professor Kerri-Lee Krause, DVC (Academic) and Professor of Higher Education at La Trobe University also provided us with two of the book titles summarised in this month's issue (page 11–12). These books relate to the overload of information trends, and the phenomena of fake news.

Our Institutional Researcher this month is Lisa Bolton, Director, OILT Research and Strategy at the Social Research Centre. Lisa's expertise and experience in evaluation services is recognised across the sector. Her contribution to recent AAIR Forums, including her participation in the pre-forum special interest group workshop this year, means we're super pleased with ourselves for featuring Lisa in the last issue of the Institutional Researcher newsletter for 2018.

Happy reading – Tracy

SECTOR NEWS AND VIEWS

Regional education package: Is this a funding announcement that will split Australia's universities?

Government commits \$134m to new regional education package.

Education Minister Dan Tehan has committed \$134m in new funding to support regional and remote university students. The package, includes \$34m for nearly 2000 new scholarships and \$92m over four years for student support services at "regionally focused universities".

Universities Australia claims the funding is a "raid on uni research" while the Regional Universities Network are **predictably positive**. Julie's Hare, however, provides some perspective (in *Wonkhe*, November 11) and outlines the **graduate success rate** of students from regional campuses to-date referring to data from the Grattan Institute and the Social Research Centre.

Federal government grant to boost places at CQU and JCU.

Courses targeting those in Cairns for whom a degree would have otherwise been out of reach will benefit from an end-of-year funding pledge from the Federal Government. Leichhardt MP Warren Entsch said \$9.1 million over four years would be spent to increase the number of sub-bachelor students at James Cook University and CQUniversity campuses, including Cairns. CQUniversity will increase intake by 165 bachelor places in 2019, increasing to 193 bachelor places from 2020. JCU will receive funding for an additional 106 sub-bachelor places in 2019, increasing to 263 sub-bachelor places from 2021.

Oh dear. Senator Simon Birmingham's **personal intervention** during his time as education minister in 2017 and 2018 to deny funding to 11 Australian Research Council (ARC) grants, all in the humanities and worth a combined total of A\$4.2 million, sparked outrage. Jon Piccini and Dirk Moses (*The Conversation*, October 29) review of this news provides a tight summary of the revelation and Stephen Matchett's summary in *Campus Morning Mail* (October 29) does a good job of detailing the reaction

across the sector (and it's not pretty...)

The research issue went on for a number of weeks and included some interesting reading, including: **Some questions for Simon Birmingham, from two researchers whose ARC grant he quashed** and Julie Hare's perspective in *Wonkhe* (October 29) **Letter from Australia: In search of quality research. Universities Australia** also published an open letter to condemn the vetoing of research projects.

The new Education Minister was quick to pledge to practice greater transparency in research funding grants. Federal **Education Minister Dan Tehan said he would** introduce a national-interest test on research grants to "improve the public's confidence" in the process for distributing the \$3 billion the Australian Research Council is expected to hand to university researchers in the next four years.

SA 'super' university merger plan abandoned. A merger between the University of Adelaide — Australia's third-oldest — and the University of South Australia proposed in June has been abandoned. In a joint announcement, the chancellors of both universities said that after spending the past four months "exploring the opportunities and challenges" of creating a new "super" university for SA, a previously agreed process had been cut short and talks concluded.

Setting standards: what will define an Aus university. Former QUT VC Peter Coaldrake will undertake the review of higher education provider standards announced in March. A discussion paper is expected before year end, to be followed by consultations and a report to government in the second half of 2019.

New federal figures show total applications for a 2018 undergraduate place, via tertiary admissions centre and direct to universities, were down 3.3 per cent on 2017. **Universities Australia CEO Catriona Jackson** attributes the overall drop to an improving job market. The offer rate was steady at 84 per cent. Non Y12-leaver applications were down 5 per cent. Overall applications from people in the lowest SES quartile were down



4.4 per cent. Applications from Indigenous Australians dropped 5.2 per cent, the first fall since this data collection commenced, in 2010.

The new [Course Seeker website](#) has been launched. The Australian Government Department of Education and Training worked with the Tertiary Admission Centres (TACs) to develop a national higher education admissions information platform. The platform was a recommendation by the Higher Education Standards Panel (the Panel) in their [Improving the Transparency of Higher Education Admissions](#) report released in October 2016.

[University leaders reaffirm longstanding commitment to founding ideals.](#) Vice chancellors have united to assert their institutions' independence. In a statement released November 7, the leaders of all 39 members of Universities Australia state; *'Universities have a special role as institutions dedicated to free, open and critical expression across the full scope of human knowledge and endeavour. Central to this role is the freedom of staff and students to teach, research, debate and learn independent of external political circumstance and pressure.'*

[Letter from Australia: shadow games.](#) *Wonkhe* editor Julie Hare claims UK and Australia have a track record of shadowing each other in higher education policy, and now a similar dynamic is being played out in the two countries' premier higher education research centres.

[It's still worth it for overseas students to study in Australia, but universities could be doing more.](#) Julie Hare, writing for *The Conversation* (23 November) notes, "The value of the international education sector might have hit an all-time high, but there's pressure on individual universities to do their best to ensure graduates get a genuine return on their massive investment in their education abroad".

Other news

The [Innovative Research Universities](#) (IRU) group is urging Senators to vote down a proposed charge on administering student loans that will cost Australian universities millions of

dollars a year. The Government is set to introduce the levy as a "cost recovery" measure to claw back spending on the [Higher Education Loans Program \(HELP\)](#) accessed by Australian students to pay fees or study overseas. As well, the IRU have released a discussion paper [Towards a tertiary future](#) which "aims to explicate the need for change, challenge common assumptions and provide an evidence-based picture of the take up of vocational and higher education by a current generation of young Australians".

[International students propping up ACT's fast population growth.](#) Growing numbers of international students flocking to Canberra's universities helped the ACT record the second-fastest population growth in the nation in the September quarter, a key economic report has found. The latest Deloitte Access Economic business outlook shows a combination of low interest rates and the best federal budget outlook since the global financial crisis also helped the ACT maintain its second-place spot on the economic leader board.

The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) has released its [annual report for the 2017-18 financial year](#), highlighting positive feedback on the agency's increased engagement with the sector. The *TEQSA Annual Report 2017-18* includes positive evidence of reductions in the time taken to reach decisions on applications for renewal of course accreditation, and increased engagement and quality enhancement activity undertaken by the agency.

[Also, TEQSA streamlines application for renewal of registration and course accreditation.](#) The changes, which reflect the greater level of information and understanding of providers' operations, will see the agency use its powers under the TEQSA Act to offer extensions to the registration and course accreditation periods of a select number of higher education providers.

[Ex-Navitas CEO part of surprise takeover offer.](#) Global education provider, Navitas Group, has received an unsolicited AUD\$1.97bn bid from a consortium, including former Navitas chief executive Rod Jones, to take over the publicly-listed company and move it into the private RollCo.

[Pearson opens new test centres in Australia.](#) English testing provider Pearson has opened two test centres in Melbourne and Adelaide to bring its tally to five new centres in Australia this year. The two centres join those opened in Perth, Sydney and Brisbane, and the organisation said plans are underway to expand into regional locations next year.

Julie Hare's piece for *Wonkhe*: [Letter from Australia – getting the right mix?](#) examines diversity in our higher education space and notes "So while gender representation is both good (board makeup) and bad (number of chancellors), it is when we get to ethnic diversity (or lack thereof), that the real issues emerge ... Universities function in a global marketplace for staff and that is reflected in the ethnic diversity of academics and researchers".

Simon Marginson's new paper [World higher education under conditions of national/global disequilibrium](#) examines, among other issues, the rapid worldwide rise of participation in higher education, the rise of China in the physical sciences and engineering/computing and political populism and the associated attacks from some quarters against universities and science. (*Editor's note: Disequilibrium = a loss or lack of equilibrium or stability, especially in relation to supply, demand, and prices*)

Campus News

[Space lawyers: ANU space institute looks for lawyers, policy analysts.](#) The Australian National University launched its very own space agency, InSpace, which hopes to harness talent from all faculties across the school. Professor Anna Moore, who will head the new institute, said the university has supplied funding to closely match Australia's own federal space agency which received a \$50 million funding boost at the last federal budget.

Monash University is establishing a robotics research facility to be led by Dana Kulic. Professor Kulic will move from the University of Waterloo in January.

[ISPT and Victoria University to build vertical campus.](#) Industry super fund backed developer ISPT has teamed up with Victoria University and the Victorian Department of Education



and Training to develop a 32-storey vertical campus in the heart of Melbourne.

Edith Cowan University is [expanding at its Joondalup campus](#), again, announcing a \$48m "science facility" there. The five-storey building will accommodate science, medical and nursing courses plus two floors for scientists and students "to engage with the cyber security industry."

Staff and Student Wellbeing

[Learning by heart: wellbeing in education](#). Today the majority of educational establishments take the issue of wellbeing far more seriously, with comprehensive policies and – sometimes – resources to match. But is it enough? The Office for National Statistics reported that the suicide rate among UK students rose by 56% between 2007 and 2016. The same period saw a three-fold increase in demand for student counselling services. Why?

[Student safety and wellbeing is priority](#). Universities Australia chief executive Catriona Jackson has written in The Australian (October 23) to clarify the institutional protocols handling incidents of sexual assault on staff and students stressing: "Contrary to assertions, Australian universities do not determine culpability in sexual assault cases ... Investigations into criminal matters are rightly handled by police and the courts, and universities are not proposing that this change".

From the UK: [More students seek mental health support, analysis shows](#). The number of students seeking mental health support while studying at university has increased by more than 50% in five years, analysis suggests.

From the UK, Professor Joy Carter is Vice Chancellor of the University of Winchester and Chair of GuildHE discusses [Taking a holistic approach – wellbeing in higher education](#) and notes the release a new [research report](#) on behalf of GuildHE which looks at the wider issues that may affect student wellbeing.

[Forget Lazy Rivers. Does Your College Offer a Concierge?](#) New Mexico State University has launched a "campus concierge" to alleviate student stress.

Services are expected at more campuses.

From *Wonkhe* (November 11), Paul Greatrix examines the rise in interest in student wellbeing and [looks at three US courses that aim to support students in developing their mental well-being](#).

Rankings and ratings

The [2018 Graduate Outcomes Survey – Longitudinal \(GOS-L\)](#) has been released. The proportion of undergraduates in employment in 2015, four months after completing their course was 89.7 per cent, while three years later 92.4 per cent of the same cohort of graduates had secured employment. Three years after graduation, universities with high full-time employment rates for undergraduates include Charles Sturt University, 93.6 per cent, Murdoch University, 93.2 per cent, the University of Technology, Sydney, 92.7 per cent, the Australian National University with 92.2 per cent and the University of South Australia with 91.8 per cent.

The [Australasian Campuses towards Sustainability 2018 Green Gown](#) awards have been announced. Campus health, food and drink: University of Wollongong. Continuous Improvement: Institutional Change: RMIT. Impact: James Cook University. Learning, teaching and skills: Deakin University. Leadership team: University of Melbourne executive. Student engagement: Victoria University of Wellington. Sustainable campus: University of Otago. Staff excellence: John Pederick, University of Melbourne. Student excellence: Rachel Hay, University of Tasmania

The new [Times Higher Education humanities](#) ranking is out, and just three Australian universities make the global top hundred. The ANZ universities included are: ANU (33), UniMelbourne (41), UniSydney (47), Monash U (101-125), UoQ (101-125), Uni Auckland (126-150), Macquarie U (126-150), UNSW (126-150), Victoria U of Wellington (126-150), Uni Otago (151-175), La Trobe U (176-200), Uni South Australia (176-200), UWA 176-200, RMIT (201-250), UTS (201-250), Uni Waikato (201-250), Western Sydney U (201-250), Australian Catholic U (251-300), Uni Canterbury (251-300), Curtin U (251-300), Flinders U (251-300), Massey U (401+).

The United States and United Kingdom remain at the top of *US News and World Report's 2019 Best Global Universities ranking*, announced on 30 October, with Harvard University taking the top spot, followed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley, all from the US. The UK's University of Oxford came fifth.

The Times Higher Education subject rankings have been released for [business and economics, education, law, social sciences](#). The University of Melbourne is first in the ANZ ranking for three of the discipline groups and second, to ANU, in social sciences. UniMelbourne is in the world top 50 in three out of four groups and tenth in the world for law. All up there are 12 Australian universities in the global law top 100.

The StartUp Muster [annual survey](#) has been released, including the top 13th institutions where start ups were studied. In descending order they are; UNSW, Uni Sydney, UTS, QUT, Macquarie U, TAFE, UoQ, Uni Melbourne, RMIT, ANU, Curtin University, Monash and University of Adelaide. Just 6.1 per cent of this year's survey responders cite "a university-based entrepreneurial programme" as "a critical event". Some 6 per cent of start-ups say they are based on a university campus.

University of Sydney comes in first in the country and 23rd in the world, ahead of University of Melbourne at 26th, in the new nations-edition of the academic performance league table produced by researchers at the Infomatics Institute of the Middle East Technological Institute, in Ankara. The [University Ranking by Academic Performance](#) measures research performance on six sets of data, all extracted from InCites, which measures citation data from Web of Science.

Meanwhile in New Zealand

[New Zealand: rebalancing industry surpasses \\$5 billion](#). The value of New Zealand's international education industry has hit another record high, reaching \$5.1 billion for the 2017/18 financial year as economic distribution rebalances across regions and sectors, according to the latest



statistics from Education New Zealand.

[Student counselling usage on the rise.](#)

Counselling use by students at New Zealand's universities has increased by nearly 25 per cent since 2015, in data released by the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA) today. "This data is proving what students around the country already know too well; that their services are under increasing pressure and access to counselling services is becoming increasingly difficult," says National President Jonathan Gee.

[International news](#)

In the not-so-distant future, one way to "go to college" in the United States could be to periodically dip into a state-sponsored university's educational offerings over the course of a lifetime—paying an annual subscription for the privilege. This "Subscription University" approach is one of five models for state-supported higher education explored in Deloitte's report [The future\(s\) of public higher education: How state universities can survive—and thrive—in a new era.](#)

[Office for Students warns universities facing bankruptcy 'you are not too big to fail'.](#)

UK universities facing bankruptcy will not be bailed out by the taxpayer, the head of the universities' regulator has warned. Sir Michael Barber, chair of the Office for Students, told leaders in the higher education sector that they cannot assume the watchdog will step in to save them from collapse.

[Universities call time on handwriting.](#)

Rising numbers of students are doing their exams on computers, rather than having to complete handwritten papers, in a move that could spell the death of the pen-and-paper test. Universities such as Edinburgh, Oxford and Cambridge are testing the move — but adopting different policies on whether to allow spell-checking.

[Institute for Ethical AI in Education launches in a UK first.](#)

A new Institute for Ethical AI in Education (IEAIED) has been launched to tackle the threat young people face due to the unduly rapid growth of new technology. It is being led by educationalist [Anthony Seldon](#), AI in education scientist Professor Rose

Luckin and social impact entrepreneur Priya Lakhani, and is supported by an advisory council made up of senior academics, politicians and entrepreneurs.

[From the U.S., Coaxing Dropouts to Return and Earn Degrees.](#)

The Institute for Higher Education Policy recently [launched](#) a three-year initiative, called Degrees When Due, to help colleges identify former students who dropped out and help them earn a degree or academic credential.

[Why Many College Dropouts Are Returning to School in North Carolina.](#)

A new plan to lower tuition has led to a 60 percent jump in the number of students who have re-enrolled at one university.

[Ministry launches mass student survey to assess teaching.](#)

The Danish government has initiated work on a student 'Learning Barometer' which will be used from 2022 to determine part of the budget allocation that institutions will receive from the government, based on the quality of the teaching provided. The Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science on 23 October sent out a survey with 80 questions over eight pages to 100,000 students.

[Yale University sued over 2008 data breach.](#)

Yale discovered the breach on June 16 this year during a security review of its servers, it said [in a letter to those affected](#). Intruders gained electronic access to a Yale database between April 2008 and January 2009 and extracted names, Social Security numbers, dates of birth, email addresses and, in some cases, physical addresses, the university said in its letter.

From Paul Greatrix at *Wonkhe*, [A goose on the loose: more animal action on campus](#), an interesting examination of animal life on campus — includes a goose named Gugu that has been awarded a place at Shanghai Maritime University and the outstandingly named Professor Beauregard Tirebiter is a two-year-old black goldendoodle and one of a handful of full-time university wellness dogs in the US appointed to provide affection and comfort to stressed-out students.

And also, Greatrix's regular [True Crime on Campus #53: Head, shoulders, knees and toes.](#)

BIG DATA, ONLINE LEARNING, ANALYTICS & TECHNOLOGY

The [EDUCAUSE 2019 Top 10 IT Issues](#) [are out.](#)

They are:

1. **Information Security Strategy**
2. **Student Success**
3. **Privacy**
4. **Student-Centered Institution**
5. **Digital Integrations**
6. **Data-Enabled Institution:**
Taking a service-based approach to data and analytics to reskill, retool, and reshape a culture to be adept at data-enabled decision-making.
7. **Sustainable Funding**
8. **Data Management and Governance:** Implementing effective institutional data governance practices and organizational structures.
9. **Integrative CIO:** Repositioning or reinforcing the role of IT leadership as an integral strategic partner of institutional leadership in achieving institutional missions.
10. **Higher Education Affordability**

From AIR: [Ethical Use of Data](#). As more and more campuses employ predictive analytics tools, the logical next question is how to ensure the ethical use of the insights gained. We need to ensure that the information and interactions boost opportunities for students, rather than limit their choices. Institutional researchers are at the forefront of this issue, as we have access to the data, perform analysis, and generate research insights that may trigger interventions by end users. Therefore, we must pay special attention to the ethical use of data.

From *The Conversation* (November 12) [The promise and problems of including 'big data' in official government statistics.](#) The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) will soon [announce](#) the kinds of information it will collect in the next national census in 2021. If international trends are a guide, "big data" will comprise a



growing part of ABS data collection and analysis.

Perspectives from Jonathan Stephen, President of the Huddersfield Students' Union in [Why perfect data tells an imperfect story](#) and their involvement in a pilot activity for the UK's Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework process.

[One state uses data about job needs to help decide what colleges should teach.](#) A seemingly obvious way to connect supply with demand, the approach remains rare. A scientific projection using data from employers and state agencies to help determine which subjects' colleges should and shouldn't teach and steer students to the highest-paying occupations that the state most needs to fill. This case study shows a scientific projection using data from employers and state agencies to help determine which subjects' colleges should and shouldn't teach and steer students to the highest-paying occupations that the state most needs to fill. More than 700 researchers from across Europe and beyond have signed an [open letter](#) criticising Plan S, a European plan to force scientists to publish findings of publicly funded research in open access journals that has the backing of the European Union and a number of national funding agencies.

[Strategically Planning for the Future of Higher Education: Attracting New Student Demographics.](#) Higher education is changing. With the decline of traditional 18- to 22-year-old students on campus, colleges and universities can no longer rely on the historic assumptions that have driven their marketing and recruitment strategies for decades. In this interview, [which builds off their first piece](#), Keith Lewandowski and Kayla Manning offer ideas and tactics that can help higher education institutions think strategically about how best to recruit this high-growth student population.

From *The Conversation* (November 2) [Five projects that are harnessing big data for good](#) The authors argue that the data science boom shouldn't be limited to business insights and profit margins. When used ethically, big data can [help solve](#) some of society's most difficult social and

environmental problems (some interesting visualisations included).

[Conflicted Views of Technology: A Survey of Faculty Attitudes.](#) From the U.S. *Inside HigherEd* has compiled the results of a survey soliciting the views of 2,129 instructors and 206 digital learning leaders on a wide range of topics related to how technology influences their teaching and work with students. The survey offers results that will probably satisfy (and agitate) the most optimistic booster, and the biggest skeptic, of using technology to expand the reach of college-level teaching and learning while also improving its impact.

[Connecting Data Science to 'Almost Every Domain of Inquiry'.](#) As reach of big data and AI grows, UC Berkeley and Massachusetts Institute of Technology unveil plans for major expansions. Both institutions are creating entirely new institutions within their campuses to come to terms with the ubiquity of data and the rise of AI - and to accommodate a surge in popularity that these fields are generating among students and employers. Also, and overview from Diana Oblinger - [Learning in the flow of life with help from AI.](#)

[It Takes a Village to Build the Digital Campus.](#) Higher education's technical ecosystem is changing as mobile, cloud, social, and advanced analytics technologies are transforming the way our community interacts within that ecosystem. As campuses move into this next generation IT, it is characterized by niche cloud applications giving end users greater power.

[Can Education Keep Up with Technology?](#) Trends such as automation and artificial intelligence (AI) are not just concerns for the future. With machines expected to handle over [50% of workplace tasks by 2025](#), it is imperative that we begin to take seriously the rapidly accelerating pace of technological change.

[Why CIO Is the Best Job on Campus.](#) Is the CIO position the pinnacle of a technology career—or a powerless position? Five CIOs tell us why they think they have the best job on campus.

From *University World News* (October 26) [How will artificial intelligence](#)

[change admissions?](#) AI has the potential to change how colleges and universities recruit domestic and international students by creating algorithms that can predict the applicants most likely to be accepted and enrol, from which states and countries, and the enrolled students most likely to progress and graduate and become engaged alumni.

From *Inside Higher Ed* - [The Pulse Podcast: Audrey Watters of Hack Education.](#) In the conversation with Rodney B. Murray, host of *The Pulse*, Watters discusses [the recent publication](#) of the Horizon Report and what Watters calls "the history of the future of education technology," which she frequently explores on her blog, [Hack Education.](#)

LEARNING & TEACHING

[15% of students admit to buying essays. What can universities do about it?](#) New [research](#) on plagiarism at university has revealed students are surprisingly unconcerned about a practice known as "contract cheating". The term "contract cheating" was [coined in 2006](#), and describes students paying for completed assessments. At that time, concerns over the outsourcing of assessments were in their infancy, but today, contract cheating is big business.

A few years ago, in a move toward professional learning, LinkedIn [bought Lynda.com](#) for \$1.5 billion, adding the well-known library of video-based courses to its professional social network. [LinkedIn officials have now announced](#) that they plan to open up their platform to let in educational videos from other providers as well. The plan is to let companies or colleges who already subscribe to LinkedIn Learning add content from a select group of other providers. The company or college will still have to subscribe to those other services separately, so it's essentially an integration—but it does mark a change in approach. *Inside HigherEd's* [article](#) (November 12) on this is worth reading.



RESEARCH

New guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research education have been released. Developed by the Australian Council of Graduate Research in collaboration with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Consortium, the resource offers guidance for research candidates, supervisors and universities. Universities Australia Chief Executive Catriona Jackson said the [Good Practice Guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Education](#) would help to deliver the next generation of Australia's Indigenous researchers and academic leaders.

[Journal blacklists: show your working.](#) Most scientists and scientific policymakers would agree that it's good to condemn predatory journals. But it can be difficult to distinguish them from ones that operate in good faith, but which might have published some poor-quality or fraudulent research because of short cuts in editorial decision-making due to lack of resources, because scientists deceived them, because of lapses in judgement — or because people just make mistakes.

[Closing the Gap Between University Presses and Libraries.](#) MIT Press and the University of Michigan Press have both announced plans to start selling their ebook collections directly to libraries by creating their own distribution platforms. The publishers previously did not have a mechanism for selling to institutions directly. Instead, access to ebooks was largely brokered through third-party acquisition services such as EBSCO, ProQuest, OverDrive, Project Muse and JSTOR.

October 22 marked the start of [Open Access Week 2018](#). This year's theme 'Designing Equitable Foundations for Open Knowledge' reflects a scholarly system in transition. While governments, funders, universities, publishers, and scholars are increasingly adopting open policies and practices, how these are actually implemented is still in flux. Some worthy commentary: From *The Scholarly Kitchen*, [Open Access: A Look Back](#), *The LSE Impact Blog* [Do we need to "fail fast" to achieve open access?](#)

Also, international screenings of [Paywall: The Business of Scholarship](#). The documentary, which focuses on the need for open access to research and science, questions the rationale behind the \$25.2 billion a year that flows into for-profit academic publishers, examines the 35-40% profit margin associated with the top academic publisher Elsevier and looks at how that profit margin is often greater than some of the most profitable tech companies like Apple, Facebook and Google.

October saw the launch of [Retraction Watch Database](#) containing more than 18,000 retractions, along with a [six-page package of stories and infographics](#) put together with partners at Science Magazine. Amongst the posts the top ten countries for retractions and the top 10 most highly cited retracted papers.

[Addressing the Crisis in Academic Publishing.](#) Excellent summation of the state of academic publishing (a world view) from Hans De Wit and Phillip G. Altbach and Betty Leask. 'We must find ways to ensure that equal respect, recognition and reward is given to excellence in teaching, research and service by institutional leaders, governments, publishers, university ranking and accreditation schemes'.

[In win for open access, two major funders won't cover publishing in hybrid journals.](#) Plan S, [the open-access \(OA\) initiative launched by the European Commission and Science Europe](#) in September, has gained two major new members. The Wellcome Trust and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation—two of the world's largest private foundations that support research—announced today they are joining a consortium of 11 European funding agencies in requiring their funded research to be immediately free for all to read on publication.

ON THE MOVE

Peter Coaldrake will chair Jobs Queensland as the state government adviser. Professor Coaldrake retired as vice chancellor of QUT at the end of last year. He is also conducting an inquiry on service delivery data management for the state. In October the Commonwealth appointed him to

review higher education provider standards.

Dominique Parrish has started at Macquarie University as PVC Learning and Teaching. She joins from the University of Wollongong where she was associate dean in the science, medicine, health faculty.

Julia Richardson moves up to head the school of management at Curtin University. She is now deputy head of school.

The University of Sydney has abolished the registrar position, now vacant since **Tyrone Carlin** stepped down at the end of last year. Professor Carlin was appointed to the post in April 2014 and returned to being a professor, of financial reporting regulation at the end of last year. Tyrone is now DVC Academic at Southern Cross University.

Stan Grant is joining Griffith University as professor of global affairs when his ABC NEWS channel series Matter of Fact ends in December. Mr Grant also combined journalism with his previous academic appointment, professor of Indigenous affairs at Charles Sturt University, which he took up in 2016.

Shaun Collin will become dean of La Trobe University's School of Life Sciences next year, he will move from UWA. He will replace Mike Clarke, who will focus on research and teaching.

At the University of Adelaide, **John Williams** moves from PVC Research Opps to Executive Dean Faculty of Professions and associate provost. **Michael Liebelt** becomes PVC R Opps and Dean of Graduate Studies. He was recently interim Executive Dean of the Sciences Faculty.

La Trobe University has appointed a new head of LT U Asia. **Euan Graham** joins from the Lowy Institute. He replaces Nick Bisley, who moved up to run the university's HASS school.

Jim Nyand (ACU) has taken over as chair of [Engagement Australia](#) and **Callista Thillou** (Flinders University) is the new deputy chair.



Jason Cowie starts as Curtin U's CIO in January. He returns to Perth from Florida, where he works with IT advisors Gartner.

Louis-Philippe Demers will join QUT next year as professor of creative innovation and director of the university's Creative Lab. He joins from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

William Locke will become director of the University of Melbourne's Centre for the Study of Higher Education in February. He will move from University College London where he is now director of the Centre for Higher Education Studies and deputy director of the Centre for Global Higher Education. Dr Locke replaces Gregor Kennedy, who continues as the university's PVC Teaching and Learning.

QUT's new PVC digital learning appointment has been filled by **Kevin Ashford-Rowe**, who moves from Australian Catholic University.

UTS dean of arts and social sciences, **Mary Spongberg** is moving to Southern Cross University where she will be DVC Research.

Andrew Johnson is moving to the University of New England as director of Research Services. He was previously with the Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine.

Leanne Harrison becomes onshore recruitment manager at University of Canberra she moves from a similar role at UNSW in Canberra.

Leading business figure and high-level policy adviser **John Pollaers** will be the next chancellor of Swinburne University of Technology, taking over from Graham Goldsmith.

The New Zealand Tertiary Education Union has a new national president, Victoria University of Wellington philosophy tutor **Michael Gilchrist**. He replaces Sandra Grey.

Robert Wood is to join UTS to lead the Future Academy in the university's business school. Professor Wood joins from UNSW

Naomi Dempsey is Victoria University's new PVC Students. She is

promoted from student services director at VU.

Higher education professional **Richard Irons** will join the University of South Australia in November as its new director of student and academic services.

The University of Sydney has confirmed Professor **Lisa Jackson Pulver** as its new deputy vice-chancellor, Indigenous strategy and services. She comes from UWS.

Guang Shi will be the inaugural head of the University of Wollongong's School of Earth, Atmospheric and Life Sciences. Professor Shi will move from Deakin University to UoW in March.

REPORTS AND RESOURCES

nous

Sustainable growth in international higher education

Nous

In *Sustainable growth in international higher education* Nous authors Jonathan Chew and Ethan Fogarty raise concerns around current growth in international higher education markets.

The Federal Government two-year freeze on the Commonwealth Grant Scheme is having significant implications for university revenues across the country. The Department of Education and Training's own analysis on the impact on revenue from this policy change is forecast to be significant with some universities estimated to be worse off by up to 15 per cent or up to \$150 million over four years. Importantly, the impact may not be evenly distributed. While Group of Eight (Go8) universities on average will be 3.5 per cent worse off, universities that make up the Regional Universities Network (RUN) will be 7 per cent worse off on average.

This paper explores the implications of this policy context, including whether sustainable growth in

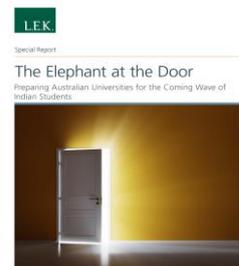
international enrolments can improve the domestic context.



AI Forces Shaping Work & Learning in 2030

Institute for the Future (ITF) and Lumina Foundation

In 2018, Institute for the Future (ITF) and Lumina Foundation (U.S.) convened experts from diverse fields to explore the conditions and context of a future rich in machine intelligence and its impact on work and learning. Facilitated by ITF's futurists, more than 45 experts representing the tech industry, government, education, policy, and community and economic development participated in the discussions. This report summarises the experts' views on what skills will likely be needed to navigate the work + learn ecosystem over the next 10–15 years—and their suggested steps for better serving the nation's future needs.



Preparing Australian Universities for the Coming Wave of Indian Students.

Anip Sharma and Maryanna Abdo
L.E.K. Consulting

India is rapidly emerging as the biggest growth market opportunity for Australian Universities. And with estimates showing that Chinese student demand for international education in Australia is slowing in growth from 15% to 5-10% over the next decade, new strategies are necessary to realise the full potential of the Indian market. Chinese students comprise 40% of all international students in Australia and therefore constitute a key revenue source for Australian universities.



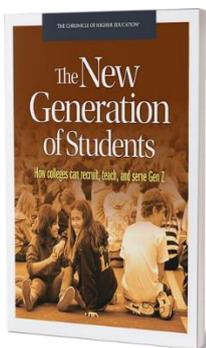
BOOK REVIEWS



Institutional Research Standard Requirements

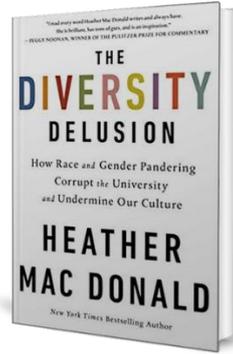
Gerardus Blokdyk

How likely is the current Institutional research plan to come in on schedule or on budget? What prevents me from making the changes I know will make me a more effective Institutional research leader? What are the top three things at the forefront of our Institutional research agendas for the next three years? Ask yourself: are the records needed as inputs to the Institutional research process available? How to deal with Institutional research changes? Defining, designing, creating, and implementing a process to solve a challenge or meet an objective is the most valuable role... In every group, company, organization and department.



Planning for that transition means rethinking strategies and priorities to meet the needs of today's students. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* recently released a special report, "[The New Generation of Students: How Colleges Can Recruit, Teach, and Serve Gen Z](#)," drawing on demographic trends, surveys, front-line observations, and an expanding array of books and experts to examine the mind-sets and motivations of Gen Zers and describe how colleges can best serve them. In the report, we

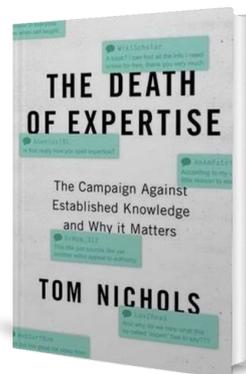
explored some changes to teaching that would suit this new cohort. (\$129 digital/\$179 print)



The Diversity Delusion: How Race and Gender Pandering Corrupt the University and Undermine Our Culture

Heather Mac Donald

America is in crisis, from the university to the workplace. *The Diversity Delusion* argues that the root of this problem is the belief in America's endemic racism and sexism, a belief that has engendered a metastasizing diversity bureaucracy in society and academia. Diversity commissars denounce meritocratic standards as discriminatory, enforce hiring quotas, and teach students and adults alike to think of themselves as perpetual victims. From #MeToo mania that blurs flirtations with criminal acts, to implicit bias and diversity compliance training that sees racism in every interaction, Heather Mac Donald argues that we are creating a nation of narrowed minds, primed for grievance, and that we are putting our competitive edge at risk.



The Death of Expertise: The Campaign Against Established Knowledge and Why it Matters

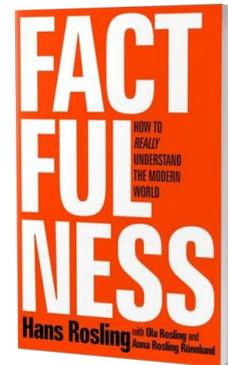
Tom Nichols

Today, everyone knows everything: with only a quick trip through WebMD

or Wikipedia, average citizens believe themselves to be on an equal intellectual footing with doctors and diplomats. All voices, even the most ridiculous, demand to be taken with equal seriousness, and any claim to the contrary is dismissed as undemocratic elitism.

As Tom Nichols shows in *The Death of Expertise*, this rejection of experts has occurred for many reasons, including the openness of the internet, the emergence of a customer satisfaction model in higher education, and the transformation of the news industry into a 24-hour entertainment machine.

*Book recommended by Professor Kerri-Lee Krause at 2018 AAIR Forum. Editor recommends [review by Rod Lamberts](#), ANU in July 2017 (*The Conversation*).*



Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About The World - And Why Things Are Better Than You Think

Hans Rosling, Anna Rosling Roennlund and Ola Rosling

When asked simple questions about global trends—*what percentage of the world's population live in poverty; why the world's population is increasing; how many girls finish school*—we systematically get the answers wrong. So wrong that a chimpanzee choosing answers at random will consistently outguess teachers, journalists, Nobel laureates, and investment bankers.

In *Factfulness*, Professor of International Health and global TED phenomenon Hans Rosling, together with his two long-time collaborators, Anna and Ola, offers a radical new explanation of why this happens. They reveal the ten instincts that distort our perspective—from our tendency to divide the world into two camps (usually some version of *us* and *them*) to the way we consume media (where fear rules) to



how we perceive progress (believing that most things are getting worse).

Book recommended by Professor Kerri-Lee Krause at 2018 AAIR Forum. Editor recommends: Review by Bill Gates [here](#)



POSITIONS VACANT



LOOKING FOR SOME TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT?

See our [Training and Development](#) webpage focused on training for institutional researchers.



Higher Education Information Management System (HEIMS).

Visit the HEIMSHelp [Training page](#) with details of the training resources that are available to help you meet reporting and verification deadlines

LOOKING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION CONFERENCES AND EVENTS?

Here is a selection of upcoming events that may be of interest. See our [Events/Fora](#) webpage for more national and international events.

[ANZSSA Conference 2018](#)



The University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

2-5 December 2018

The University of Melbourne will host the Australian and New Zealand Student Services Association Inc. (ANZSSA) Conference in December 2018. The theme, *Authentic Partnerships for Quality Outcomes*, aims to provide opportunities to learn new ways to enable students to achieve their educational and life goals through actively working together.

Building Visual Analytics Tools for Cyberanalytics

Wednesday 5 December, 6-8:30pm

Speakers: Dave Thomas (CSO Kx)

Hosted by Data Science Melbourne, special guest, Dave Thomas, the Chief Scientist at Kx, will be discussing his experience 'Building Visual Analytics Tools for Cyberanalytics'.

[Details](#)



[Data4Good Conference](#)
28 March 2019

Sydney, Australia

This inspirational day will offer tangible insights and creative approaches from speakers who are using data for positive change across industries including the environment, health, communities and much more.

This one-day program features a series of case studies from leading organisations that are leveraging data for good.



[Call for Proposals for the 2019 AIR Forum](#)

2019 AIR FORUM • MAY 28 – 31, 2019
Denver, CO, U.S

Proposals open Sept. 12 - Oct. 14, 2018.

The AIR Forum, the Association's annual conference, is the world's largest gathering of higher education professionals working in institutional research, assessment, planning, and related postsecondary education fields.

Save the Date

28th National VET Research Conference 'No Frills'

10–12 July 2019, Adelaide, South Australia

Convenor: National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER).

'No Frills' is a well-known annual national conference where researchers and practitioners in the vocational education and training (VET) sector come together to present, discuss and share information about key issues confronting the sector.

The 2019 conference will be held in Adelaide, South Australia. Further details will be released at a later date.



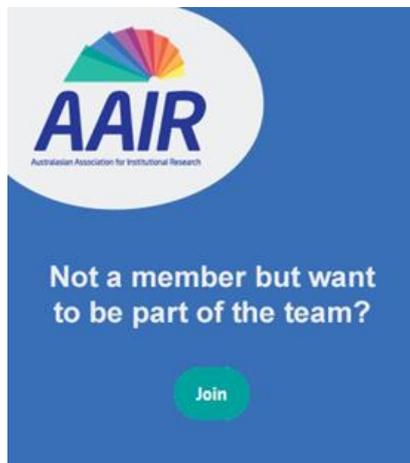
Pictured: Twelve past AAIRies enjoyed the 'Last Century Dinner' the evening prior to the pre-forum activities



Pictured: Welcome Reception at Bobby McGee's



Pictured: Giraffe experience prior to the Forum dinner at the Melbourne Zoo



Pictured: World Café in progress. Facilitator Greg Jakob, Federation University



Pictured: Choice of stickers on offer for delegate name tags

FORUM GALLERY



Pictured: Close up of the AAIR Forum satchel



Pictured: Best Presentation – Professor Jessica Vanderlelie, La Trobe University



INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCHER'S CORNER

Five quick questions with Lisa Bolton, Social Research Centre



What is your job title?

Director, QILT Research and Strategy at the Social Research Centre

Briefly, how would you describe your role in terms of your place in your institution?

My role is pretty different compared to when I was working in the sector, but in many ways there are similarities with the role of institutional researchers in that we in the SRC QILT team collect relevant data from students and graduates and try to make that available to institutions in a consumable way. A major part of my role here is to liaise with the higher education sector—including the non-university higher education institutions (NUHEIs)—and the Department of Education to try to ensure that the QILT surveys are meeting institution needs in terms of content, methodology, implementation, reporting and benchmarking, and helping them to integrate this data into their

systems in order to engage with QILT as fully as possible.

From your perspective, what are the emerging areas of interest in institutional research?

From my perspective, there seems to be a growing emphasis on performance indicators and benchmarking, and my impression is that the focus is moving to BI and big data, including machine learning and datamining. There also seems to be a shift from long narrative reports to customisable and interactive reporting systems like Tableau and PowerBI, which require some real expertise to make the data speak for itself to a range of stakeholders.

What do you believe will be the future priorities for institutional research?

As I said above, I think that the shift for institutional research will be a shift to more IT-heavy datamining and big data systems, and move away from narrative reporting to customisable dashboards as reporting mechanisms. The challenge will be to ensure that we don't lose the expertise of those who understand the 'story' and are able to guide consumers of this information to the information that they need to make the best strategic decisions for their institutions and the sector.

Complete this statement: *In my role, I can't operate effectively without ...*

Coffee?

The good will and generosity of the relevant staff in the higher education sector in their engagement with the QILT surveys and their willingness to work with us to improve the instruments, methods and reporting. Sometimes, these large-scale central surveys can lose touch with the sector and

become a hurdle that doesn't add value, but I think that the engagement of institutional researchers like survey managers, planners, data analysts and stats people, has been invaluable to the QILT program.

Connect with Lisa on [LinkedIn](#)

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Issue 1, January 2019

A great way to get involved with the AAIR community is to share your thoughts and ideas. Do you have something you would like to share with your IR colleagues? The first AAIR Newsletter for 2019 will be published in late January 2019. Please send your contributions to the editor@aaair.org.au by January 19, 2018.

A reminder about the organisations' social media links to keep you up-to-date and in touch with all the latest news and events.



 AAIR on Twitter
[@AAIRaustralia](https://twitter.com/AAIRaustralia)



Tracy Creagh
Editor, *The Institutional Researcher*

