UDL Symposium Program 2025

*(as at 25 June 2025)*

All presentations will be accessible to both online and in-person participants, with every session live-streamed and live-captioned. Presenters will either appear in person at the venue or join remotely via live stream.

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| Day 1 | Wednesday 25 June 2025 |
| 12:30pm | Registration desk open |
| Level 4 Foyer | Meet and greet |
| Online | Online meet and greet <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81874889803>  1:00 – 2:00 pm |
| 2:00pm | Welcome |
| Julie Wu Lecture Theatre 321 | **Conference Opening - Samantha Poulos MC** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88525421396>  Conference Housekeeping  Welcome to Country  Welcome and Perspectives - Prof Lucy Marshall, DVC Community and Leadership |
| 2:20pm | Keynote |
| Julie Wu Lecture Theatre 321 | **Turbocharging Accessibility? Negotiating Paradigm Shifts for Inclusive Learning, Teaching and Assessment in the Shadow Light of AI** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88525421396>  Dr Seán Bracken, Principal Lecturer, University of Worcester  2:20 – 3:20 pm (Presenter/s: in-person) |
| 3:20pm | Break |
| 3:30pm | Concurrent Presentations |
| **Stream A**  Julie Wu Lecture Theatre 321  **Workshop**: 60 minutes | **Growth of UDL Implementation among faculty: Understanding the risks that lead to instructors losing momentum** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88525421396>  Dr Frederic Fovet, Assistant Professor, Thompson Rivers University, Canada  3:30 – 4:30 pm (Presenter/s: In-person) |
| **Stream B**  Lecture Theatre 308  **Workshop**: 60 minutes | **Making the Potential of UDL a Reality: Challenging Barriers to Institution-Wide Adoption** https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88314837474  Dr Katie Butler, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator; Dr Carl Leonard School of Education, University of Newcastle  3:30 – 4:30 pm (Presenter/s: In-person) |
| **Stream C**  Lecture Theatre 309  **Workshop**: 60 minutes | **Toward an Institutional-Wide Approach for Embedding UDL in Tertiary Education Settings** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/87389997082>  Dr Erin Leif, Senior Lecturer; Dr Amanda Gigliotti, Senior Lecturer, Monash University  3:30 – 4:30 pm (Presenter/s: In-person) |
| 4:30pm | Gallery Presentations, Book Launch & Welcome Drinks |
| Event Space 416 | <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88525421396>  **Book Launch**   * **Decolonizing UDL** Frederic Fovet   **Gallery Presentations**   * **From a university sessional advocate to an emerging universal design for learning institutional-wide approach** Christine Krol, Assoc. Lecturer/Researcher, Western Sydney University * **UDL in Vocational Education & Training (VET) - Communities for collaboration on assessment practices** Trina Bianchini, Teaching & Learning Specialist, TAFE SA; Jennifer Cousins, Coordinator SA and NT, Positive Partnerships * **Institutionalising UDL: Bottom Up Meets Top Down** Susan Hemsley, Educational Designer, School of Chemistry, University of Sydney * **Cultivating Sustainable and Inclusive Learning through Proactive Design Intensives** Ella Collins-White & Monique Laura, Educational Designers, University of Sydney * **Innovative UDL Practices in Teaching and Learning: Supporting Self-Regulated Learning in Higher Education** Kria Coleman, Education Designer, University of Sydney * **Transforming Placement Preparation for Asynchronous Online Learners with a Multimodal, Universal Design for Learning Approach** Jessi Dillon, Senior Learning Designer (Educational Developer), Victoria University   **Pre-recorded Video Presentations**   * **Exploring University Services: Insights from the Student Perspective** Dr Ana Lobo, Senior Teaching Fellow and Academic Coach, UTAS * **From Intent to Action: Academic Perspectives on Disability and Inclusion in Higher Education Classrooms** Adam Holden, Lecturer of Prosthetics and Orthotics, University of the Sunshine Coast * **HOUSE: A transferrable and interactive resource for students that introduces them to digital accessibility** Trevor Boland, Assistive Technology Officer, Dublin City University |

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| Day 2 | Thursday 26 June 2025 |
| 8:00am | Registration desk open |
| Level 4 Foyer | Meet and greet |
| Online | Online meet and greet <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81874889803>  8:00 – 9:00 am |
| 9:00am | Welcome |
| Lecture Theatre 320 | <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88525421396>  Dr Samantha Poulos  Welcome  9:00 – 9:10 am  Dr Seán Bracken  Reflections on yesterday and setting the scene for the day’s keynote  9:10 – 9:20 am |
| 9:30am | Concurrent Presentations |
| **Stream A**  Lecture Theatre 320  **Presentations**: 25 minutes | **Building an Institutional Culture of UDL: Empowering University Faculty to Foster Learner Agency** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88525421396>  Dr Annjanette Bennar, Director of Mathematics and Computer Literacy; Dr Robert LeGary, Director, Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Teacher Leadership, Goodwin University, Connecticut, USA  9:30 – 9:55 am (Presenter/s: Online)  **BREAK 9:55-10:05**  **Beyond the Excuses: Advancing Inclusive Education Without Compromising Academic Excellence** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88525421396>  Dr Susannah French, Academic/Administrator, Australian National University  10:05 – 10:30 am (Presenter/s: In-person) |
| **Stream B**  Lecture Theatre 308  **Presentations**: 25 minutes | **Leveraging AI and Assistive Technology to Enhance Inclusion in Higher Education** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88314837474>  Dr Hillary Goldthwait-Fowles, Assistive Technology Specialist/Instructional Design Specialist, Kennedy Krieger Institute, Baltimore, USA  9:30 – 9:55 am (Presenter/s: Online)  **BREAK 9:55-10:05**  **Universal Design for Learning: A Pilot Study on Improving Student Success Rates** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88314837474>  A/Prof Kelly Linden, 2025 ACSES Equity Fellow, Charles Sturt University  10:05 – 10:30 am (Presenter/s: Online) |
| **Stream C**  Lecture Theatre 309 **Workshop**: 60 minutes | **Liberatory Pedagogy: Where UDL Meets Anti-Racism** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/87389997082>  Dr Tanya Manning-Lewis, Assistant Teaching Professor; Dr Frederic Fovet, Assistant Professor, Thompson Rivers University, Canada  9:30 – 10:30 am (Presenter/s: In-person) |
| 10:30am | Morning Tea – Level 4 Foyer |
| 11:00am | Concurrent Presentations |
| **Stream A**  Lecture Theatre 320  **Presentations**: 25 minutes | **Institutional Change Through UDL: Building a Culture of Inclusion at Maynooth University, Ireland** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88525421396>  Dr Margaret Flood, Assistant Professor, Inclusive and Special Education, Maynooth University, Ireland  11:00 – 11:25 am (Presenter/s: In-person)  **BREAK 11:25-11:35**  **Enhancing Authentic Engagement in Group Assessments** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88525421396>  Dr Jessica Zanuttini, Lecturer of Special and Inclusive Education, University of Sydney  11:35 – 12:00 pm (Presenter/s: In-person) |
| **Stream B**  Lecture Theatre 308  **Presentations**: 25 minutes | **UDL as the basis for inclusive digital education – Analysis of an intervention program in higher education for teachers at vocational schools** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88314837474>  Dr René Wüthrich, Lecturer, Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training  11:00 – 11.25 am (Presenter/s: In-person)  **BREAK 11:25-11:35**  **Teaching UDL by doing UDL: Modelling inclusive design in Initial Teacher Education** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88314837474>  Dr Ana Garcia-Melgar, Lecturer, Inclusive Education, La Trobe University  11:35 – 12:00 pm (Presenter/s: Online) |
| **Stream C**  Lecture Theatre 309  **Workshop**: 60 minutes | **Experiencing Universal Design for Learning: An Immersive Approach to Inclusive Teaching** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/87389997082>  Raymond Rutgers, Learning Accessibility Consultant; Bec Inwood, Manager, Access & Inclusion, Murdoch University  11:00 – 12:00 pm (Presenter/s: In-person) |
| 12:00pm | Break |
| 12:15pm | Concurrent Presentations |
| **Stream A**  Lecture Theatre 320  **Presentations**: 25 minutes | **Beyond Accommodation: Embedding Inclusive Assessment for Institutional Change** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88525421396>  Dr Nattalia Godbold, Project Officer; Christopher Frost, Manager e-learning, University of Queensland  12:15 – 12:40 pm (Presenter/s: In-person)  **BREAK 12:40-12:50**  **Rethinking Examinations in the Age of AI: Enhancing Student Agency and Inclusion Through Universal Design for Learning** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88525421396>  Dr Kashmira Dave, Senior Lecturer; Kylie Day, Manager, Exams & eAssessment; Jeanne Heath, Coordinator, Exams & eAssessment, University of New England  12:50 – 1:15 pm (Presenter/s: Online) |
| **Stream B**  Lecture Theatre 308  **Presentations**: 25 minutes | **University Pathway Teachers’ Adoption of Universal Design for Learning: An Observational Case Study** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88314837474>  Nelson Lo, PhD Candidate & Sessional Academic; Professor David Evans, Special Education; A/Prof Ilektra Spandagou, Inclusive Education, University of Sydney  12:15 – 12:40 pm (Presenter/s: In-person)  **BREAK 12:40 -12:50**  **The UDL quandary of organisational implementation** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88314837474>  Jennifer Cousins, Coordinator SA and NT, Positive Partnerships; Trina Bianchini, Teaching & Learning Specialist, TAFE, SA  12:50 – 1:15 pm (Presenter/s: In-person) |
| **Stream C**  Lecture Theatre 309  **Workshop**: 60 minutes | **Implementing innovative and effective UDL 3.0 in your classroom: a collaborative workshop** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/87389997082>  Adjunct A/Prof Cathy Snelling, Education Specialist, Title Holder, Faculty of Health & Medical Science; Dr Hayley McGrice, Associate Dean, Learning Quality, Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology; A/Prof Beth Loveys, Associate Head of School (Learning and Teaching), School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, University of Adelaide  12:15 – 1:15 pm (Presenter/s: In-person) |
| 1:15pm | Lunch – Level 4 FoyerOnline Lunch Box Chat |
| 2:00pm | Concurrent Presentations |
| **Stream A**  Julie Wu Lecture Theatre 321  **Presentations**: 25 minutes | **UDL 3.0 in Action: Reducing Stress and Enhancing Inclusion for Students in Higher Education** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88525421396>  Elizabeth Hitches, PhD Candidate, Sessional Academic, University of Queensland (Research); Griffith University (Teaching); A/Prof Stuart Woodcock, Griffith University; Dr Melissa Johnstone, Senior Research Fellow, University of Queensland; A/Prof Dean Dudley, Macquarie University  2:00 – 2:25 pm (Presenter/s: Online)  **BREAK 2:25-2:35**  **Attending to (neurodivergent) identity: universal design and professional identity formation** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88525421396>  A/Prof Laura Gray, Deputy Director, Drapac Centre for Equity in Health Professions Education; A/Prof Jo Tai, Deakin University  2:35 – 3:00 pm (Presenter/s: Online) |
| **Stream B**  Lecture Theatre 308 Presentations: 25 minutes | **Empowering Students as Co-Designers: Innovative Assessment Design for Equity and Engagement** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88314837474>  Dr Karen-Anne Wong, Sessional Academic and Research Affiliate, University of Sydney  2:00 – 2:25 pm (Presenter/s: In-person)  **BREAK 2:25-2:35**  **Reclaiming “SLACKERS”: Co-designing accessibility with students** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88314837474>  Ashley Willcox (filling in for Katie Duncan, Inclusive Practices Coordinator); Liz Penny, Manager, Accessibility and Financial Assistance Service, University of Technology, Sydney  2:35 – 3:00 pm (Presenter/s: In-person) |
| **Stream C**  Lecture Theatre 309  **Workshop:** 60 minutes | **Leveraging AI to Create Inclusive Educational Podcasts** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/87389997082>  Mark Shelton, Senior Teaching Fellow, University of Tasmania  2:00 – 3:00 pm (Presenter/s: In-person) |
| 3:00pm | Break |
| 3:10pm | Keynote |
| Julie Wu Lecture Theatre 321 | **Empowering Learners through Universal Design for Learning: Voice and Agency** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88525421396>  Dr. Seán Bracken, Principal Lecturer, University of Worcester  3:10 – 4:00 pm (Presenter/s: In-person) |
| 4:00pm | Student Panel |
| Julie Wu Lecture Theatre 321 | **The Importance of Lived Experience in UDL**   * Gemma Lucy Smart, PhD Scholar, School of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Sydney * Sarah Huffman, current Juris Doctor Student, University of Sydney Law School * Remy Lebreton, currently serving Disabilities Co-Officer and councillor in the 2025 University of Sydney SRC * Victor Zhang, Disabilities Inclusion Action Plan Coordinator, University of Sydney Union (USU)   <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88525421396>  Panel Discussion: 45 minutes  4:00 – 4:45 pm (Presenter/s: In-person) |
| 4:45pm | Symposium Wrap-up |
| Julie Wu Lecture Theatre 321 | <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88525421396>  Dr Samantha Poulos  4:45 – 5:00 pm |