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 HousekeepingWelcome to CountryWelcome 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 Worcester2:20 – 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/88314837474Dr Katie Butler, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator; Dr Carl Leonard School of Education, University of Newcastle3:30 – 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 University3:30 – 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 PoulosWelcome9:00 – 9:10 amDr Seán BrackenReflections on yesterday and setting the scene for the day’s keynote9:10 – 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, USA9:30 – 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 University10:05 – 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, USA9:30 – 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 University10:05 – 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, Canada9:30 – 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, Ireland11:00 – 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 Sydney11:35 – 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 Training11:00 – 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 University11:35 – 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 University11:00 – 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 Queensland12:15 – 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 England12:50 – 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 Sydney12:15 – 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, SA12:50 – 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 Adelaide12:15 – 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 University2:00 – 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 University2:35 – 3:00 pm (Presenter/s: Online) |
| **Stream B**Lecture Theatre 308Presentations: 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 Sydney2:00 – 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, Sydney2:35 – 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 Tasmania2:00 – 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 Worcester3:10 – 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 minutes4:00 – 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 Poulos4:45 – 5:00 pm |