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| **Project title:** | **The cognitive and neural bases of creative thought: an aging study** |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | 6 weeks, on-site, 36hrs/week  13 January - 21 February 2025 |
| **Description:** | Creative thought - the ability to generate novel and appropriate ideas - is fundamental to human advances throughout history and adaptive daily functioning. Despite universal interest in creativity, we are still far from understanding its cognitive and neural bases. Currently, creativity has typically been studied as a distinct cognitive ability with its own neural mechanisms. In the parallel and yet unconnected approach, neuropsychology and cognitive neuroscience evidence has suggested that the generation, evaluation and selection of novel and adaptive ideas are supported by neurocognitive mechanisms underlying controlled retrieval and flexible manipulation of acquired knowledge.  This is an ARC-funded project that examines the cognitive and neural bases of creative thought through the lens of clinical and cognitive neuroscience. By integrating behavioural, neuropsychological, and functional neuroimaging paradigms, we test the following hypothesis: creative thought arises from semantic cognition, controlled episodic memory retrieval, and executive control functions, each with its own neurocognitive mechanisms. |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | The scholar will learn about current theories of the neurocognitive mechanisms of semantic cognition, controlled episodic memory retrieval, and executive control functions. He/she will gain skills in collecting behavioural and neuropsychological data, and will be involved in functional neuroimaging data collection. He/she is also asked to produce written report and oral presentation at the end of their project. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to applications from*students* with a background in psychology only. Limited to3rd – 4th year students. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Prof. Gail Robinson |
| **Further info:** | For further enquiry, please contact Prof. Robinson via email ([gail.robinson@uq.edu.au](mailto:gail.robinson@uq.edu.au)). Prof. Robinson wishes to be contacted by students prior to submitting an application. |

**2025 UQ Summer Research Project Description**