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ABC announces Top 5 minds in science and the humanities

The ABC has announced the recipients of this year's ABC Top 5 Humanities and Science media residencies, which will enable some of Australia's brightest minds to share their knowledge and expertise with a wide audience.

The annual program trains PhD-qualified early-career researchers in the craft of communicating with the nation, with recipients working alongside some of Australia's best broadcasters at ABC Radio National in developing content across radio and digital platforms.

The 2020 ABC Top 5 Humanities is offered in partnership with the University of Sydney. The ABC Top 5 Science is offered in collaboration with new partner the Australian National University.

The ABC Top 5 Humanities recipients are:

- Dr Crystal Abidin, Curtin University – Digital studies (focusing on influencer cultures)
- Dr Luara Ferracioli, University of Sydney – Political philosophy (immigration and citizenship in liberal democracies)
- Dr Hannah McGlade, Curtin University – Law & Philosophy (Indigenous human rights)
- Dr Michael Richardson, University of New South Wales – Culture & Media Studies (the relationship between drone technologies and how drones witness the world)
- Dr Stephane Shepherd, Swinburne University – Forensic Behavioural Science (African, Indigenous and non-English speaking background youth at risk and youth justice).

The ABC Top 5 Science recipients are:

- Dr Kiara Bruggeman, Australian National University – Biomedical Engineering (focusing on the use of nanotechnology to repair damaged brain tissue)
- Dr Jared Field, University of Melbourne – Mathematics (exploring human behaviour and evolution using mathematics)
- Dr Evita March, Federation University – Cyber-psychology (cyberbullying, internet trolling and cyberstalking)
- Dr Ian McLeod, James Cook University – Marine Biology (protection and restoration of shellfish reef ecosystems)
- Dr Lisa Stinson, University of Western Australia – Molecular Science (study of human breast milk microbiome and early-life microbiome development)

Joe Gelonesi, ABC Manager Religion & Ethics, said the ABC Top 5 will help Australians understand the world, particularly amid the uncertainty caused by COVID-19. "From artificial intelligence to pandemics, the challenges confronting us seem ever more complex by the day. Yet, there is careful work afoot to make sense of our predicament.

"This year's ABC Top 5 Humanities researchers represent the nation's best and brightest minds in making sense of the world. We'll equip them with the skills to share more widely their important research and insights, to better inform and support all Australians in these testing times."

Dr Jonathan Webb, ABC Science Editor, said he was similarly impressed by the breadth of important research being undertaken across the country. "Looking at the achievements and aspirations of the ABC Top 5 Science applicants was genuinely inspiring. The Australian science community is packed with talent – and these recipients show that in spades.

"Whether the challenge is medical, mathematical, environmental or technological, researchers like these hold the keys to our future."

The ABC Top 5 Humanities and Science media residencies are scheduled to take place in Sydney in November, pending COVID-19 restrictions.

In July, the ABC announced the recipients of the inaugural [ABC Top 5 Arts program](#), in partnership with the University of Melbourne and Australia Council for the Arts.

Further information on the ABC Top 5 is available at abc.net.au/radio/programs/top5/.

[Click here for images](#) of the ABC Top 5 Humanities and Science recipients.

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