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RAVE News

#### Issue 12

[*https://federation.edu.au/schools/school-of-education/research/research-groups/rave-researching-adult-and-vocational-education*](https://federation.edu.au/schools/school-of-education/research/research-groups/rave-researching-adult-and-vocational-education)

**Welcome**

*Professor Erica Smith, RAVE (Researching Adult and Vocational Education) Convenor*

*We report here on activities of the research group since December 2020. More information about all of our activities is available on our web site (see link above) and our email address is* [*vet.research@federation.edu.au*](https://outlook.uob.ballarat.edu.au/owa/m.wise@ballarat.edu.au/redir.aspx?C=qicVly1hm0-m_uT_kFi1WswoGNpFk9MILOSWGNsZ9MZT1J4EORn4VPd2hr4q2DxrNIkDDiONXR4.&URL=mailto%3avet.research%40federation.edu.au)*. Do not hesitate to email RAVE about any items*.

Our VET teacher-education programs at Federation University, on-line and with printed learning materials, continue to grow. Government funding policies mean that our Associate Degree of VET prices are now reduced from 2021, by around 40%. Contact Erica Smith at [e.smith@federation.edu.au](mailto:e.smith@federation.edu.au) or see

<https://study.federation.edu.au/#/course/DTV3>

We also continue to enrol many students in our applied research single-subject course, successfully completing small research projects about VET or industry. A paper about the topics studied in past projects was presented at the Australian VET Research Association (AVETRA) conference in April 2021. Details can be found later in the newsletter.

In the newsletter you will find information about our research activities, research events that we have facilitated or helped to facilitate, our publications and engagement in policy and practice in the VET sector. Please forward to colleagues and encourage them to contact us to be added to the mailing list.

RAVE welcomes a new staff member to the Associate Degree of VET teaching team, Peter Fieger, who will be an active member of RAVE.

**New RAVE member: Dr Peter Fieger**

Peter Fieger joined FedUni on March 2021 as a senior lecturer on the VET teacher education programs. Peter started his career as a fitter and turner apprentice in Germany, while concurrently completing his university entrance qualification. After completing his undergraduate studies he worked for several years as a mechanical engineer.

After several academic appointments, Peter worked as



**June 2021**

After several academic appointments, Peter worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) in Adelaide, where his main areas of research were the quantitative analysis of surveys and administrative data collections in VET and its social, economic and labour market outcomes. Most recently, he was the Senior Economist at ChristchurchNZ, researching the regional training/skills/workforce nexus. Peter holds a doctorate in vocational education from the University of New England.



**New funded RAVE research projects**

**‘Careers in everyday industries’: Project funded by a National Careers Institute Partnership Grant**

RAVE researchers: Erica Smith (project leader) and Andy Smith. Other researchers: Richard Robinson and Victor Callan (University of Queensland), Darryn Snell (RMIT), Antonella Sterrantino (Skills IQ).

The project (2021-2022) will map career paths that exist in two ‘everyday industries’, investigate reasons for the low status of careers in the industries, and find strategies that might correct the problem. The low status of retail and hospitality industries and their constituent occupations discourages people from imagining long-term careers in the industries. This factor restricts the view of young people and mature people alike of available careers, discouraging uptake of those careers that are in fact most attainable for people. The COVID crisis has emphasised the vital role played by these industries, in Australia and world-wide, making this a very timely project.

This government project is funded by the National Careers Institute (Department of Education, Skills and Employment) for $151,679, plus in-kind contributions from the project partners. It was one of only 13 projects awarded from 600 applications to the first round of the National Careers Institute’s Partnership Grants Program.

The project webpage will be progressively updated over the life of the project, during the next 18 months. You can see it at [https://federation.edu.au/research-everyday-careers](https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/qnk7CANpqVulX8Z0UGNiia?domain=federation.edu.au)

The project is featured, with more detail, in the Australian VET Research Association’s June 2021 ‘A-News’, via <https://www.avetra.org.au/news.php>

**Increasing the attractiveness of apprenticeships: project funded by the**

**International Labour Organization**

Researcher: Erica Smith

This 2021 project, funded by the International Labour Organization and the government of Flanders, forms part of a major ILO project ‘Apprenticeships Development for Universal Lifelong Learning and Training (ADULT)’. The ‘attractiveness’ theme examines reasons why apprenticeships may be attractive, and may not be attractive, to different groups in society, and to people who advise on career choices, and provides examples of initiatives in a range of countries to increase the attractiveness. The project as a whole includes researchers around the world, and is led by Jörg Markowitsch from Austria and Andrew McCoshan from the U.K.

Funding: International Labour Organization, Geneva, $10,000 USD ($13,100 AUD). Watch the RAVE ‘current research’ page for updates. The main ILO project web page is at <https://www.ilo.org/skills/projects/adult/lang--en/index.htm>

**New internally funded project**

Researcher: Peter Fieger

Peter is using data from NCVER's ‘Student Outcome’ Survey and the ‘Survey of Employers' Use and Views of the VET system’ to analyse the VET system in the context of COVID.

This research was made possible with the support of a small grant from RAVE to access the datasets.

Indicative plans for articles are:

· Performance measurement of vocational education institutions in Australia.

· The impact of COVID 19 on Australian student outcomes in vocational education.

**Unfunded research**

**VET teachers’ work during COVID**

Researchers: Erica Smith, Daryl South (Charles Sturt University) and Megan Short (University of Tasmania)

This project, commencing shortly, will gather evidence on the COVID-related changes to VET teachers’ teaching practices in 2020. Most literature on COVID-19 and VET is about changes at system and training provider level - e.g. Pilcher & Hurley (2020), ILO (2021), Productivity Commission (2020), There is also speculative literature on how COVID-19 changes may have future effects on adult education (Kaiser & McKenna, 2021) and on VET systems (Avis, Atkins, Esmond & McGrath (2020)

There is as yet no published empirical literature on the experiences of teachers.

The project will answer two questions: 1. How did Australian VET teachers’ work change during 2020 as a result of COVID-19 – including but not limited to moving to on-line learning? 2. What did teachers learn from this experience and how might practices change in the future? The research will involve surveys of VET teacher-training students at the three universities, who were working in VET during 2020, as well as a small number of interviews.

**Research impact and engagement**

**TAFE NSW podcast**

Erica Smith was Interviewed for a podcast for TAFE NSW’s Education Quality Programme, May 2021, ‘Quality teaching in VET.’ The web page says ‘The thought-provoking discussion covers a lot of ground, including what makes a good VET teacher, the role of pedagogy and industry currency, teacher qualifications, and what Erica would do if she had the power to change VET in Australia.’

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/956512/8628328>

**International Network for Innovative Apprenticeship (INAP) ninth event on apprenticeships.**

INAP held its ninth conference virtually, on Wednesday May 26th. Together with the Urban Institute, Washington, INAP hosted this virtual event focussed on trends in seven countries across East Asia, Europe, and North America. INAP scholars presented new research findings and had productive exchanges about real-world apprenticeship practices. Erica is the co-chair of INAP, and RAVE members may remember that the 2015 conference was held at Federation University in Ballarat. The papers from the 2021 forum, and also a recording, may be seen at:

<https://www.inap.uni-bremen.de/>

**Strengthening Australia-India Research Collaboration and Engagement: Case Studies and Good Practices**

Erica Smith was one of 20 Australian scholars interviewed for this Australia-India Institute project on research collaboration with India (see p. 51)

[https://www.aii.unimelb.edu.au/publications/report/strengthening-australia-india-research-collaboration-and-engagement-case-studies-and-good-practices/](https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/M5DJCgZ0Y3cwv9J5cN2kwV?domain=aii.unimelb.edu.au/)

**RAVE achievements**

**RAVE members’ publications and achievements since RAVE News 11 (December, 2020)**

**Book chapter**

**Smith, E**. (2021). Getting ready for new apprenticeship arrangements for a new world of work.  The next steps for apprenticeship. Cedefop reference series, No. 118. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. pp 57-68. <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/publications/3087>

**Peer-reviewed journal papers**

Hall, C. M., **Fieger, P**., Prayag, G. & Dyason, D. (2021). Panic buying and consumption displacement during COVID-19: Evidence from New Zealand. *Economies, 9*(2), 46-59. <https://www.mdpi.com/2227-7099/9/2/46>

Dyason, D., **Fieger, P**. & Rossouw, R. (2021). COVID-19, the effect of lockdowns on retail expenditure and displacement effects on the regional economy. *Australasian Journal of Regional Studies*, *27*(1), pp 66–87.

**Smith, E**. (2021, published online 14.5.21).The expansion and contraction of the apprenticeship system in Australia, 1985-2020. Journal of Vocational Education and Training, special edition, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13636820.2021.1894218>

**Non-peer reviewed papers**

**Smith, E**. (2021). VET teachers’ accounts of difficult teaching situations and how learning theories explain them. *Research Today*, Issue 27, May.

**Conference papers - peer-reviewed**

**Smith, E**. & **Foley, A**. (2021). Choosing VET as a post-school activity: What are some influences on non-metropolitan students? Recover, rethink and rebuild: All eyes on VET, Annual Conference of the Australian VET Research Association (AVETRA), **on-line, April 19-23.**

**Conference papers – other**

**Smith, E**. (2021). Emergency - what emergency? The slow response of Australian VET curriculum to the pandemic. *Recover, rethink and rebuild: All eyes on VET*, *Annual AVETRA conference.*on-line, 19-23 April.

**Smith, E**. (2021). Research by VET teachers: Empirical evidence. *Recover, rethink and rebuild: All eyes on VET*, *Annual AVETRA conference*, on-line, 19-23 April. Presentation won a ‘Highly commended’ award.

All AVETRA papers and presentations will be **at** <http://www.avetra.org.au/pages/publications-conference-archives-46.html>

If you would like to access Erica’s papers or presentations before AVETRA uploads them, please contact RAVE.

**Smith, E**. (2021). Apprenticeship in Australia: Trends and COVID initiatives. *The State of Apprenticeship During the Covid-19 Pandemic: Reports from Seven Countries*. On-line virtual forum of INAP (International Network of Innovative Apprenticeships). May 26. For papers, see <https://www.inap.uni-bremen.de/>

**Smith, E**. & **Foley, A**. (2021, forthcoming). Preparation for post-school careers in rural and peri-urban Australia: Connections with employers and labour markets. *Employer engagement: preparing young people for the future,* *6th International conference on employer engagement in education*. 1-2 July, on-line.

**RAVE member other achievements**

**Barry Golding** has finished writing his book, ‘Shoulder to Shoulder: Broadening the Men's Shed Movement’. The text has been submitted to the US-based publishers, Common Ground.

**Barry Golding**, Lucia Carragher & **Annette Foley** have recently submitted a paper for peer review, scoping Women's Sheds internationally, to the *Australian Journal of Adult Learning*, and two other papers for other journals.

**Barry Golding** is working with colleagues on two separate book chapters.

**Shreeve, R**. (2021). Micro-credentials don’t belong in universities: Students say there is no time to study anything in depth. *Campus Morning Mail*, February 23, 2021. [https://campusmorningmail.com.au/news/micro-credentials-dont-belong-in-universities/](https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/ObRnC91W6KUND7wViog4Bs?domain=campusmorningmail.com.au/)

**Shreeve, R**. (2021, in press). Review of book: *New Frontiers for College Education: International Perspectives* edited by J.Gallacher & F. Reeve. International Journal of Training Research.

**Robin Shreeve** was a panel member at the AVETRA Conference session on April 19 2021. The long-term challenges for VET research in the wake of COVID-19.

**Robin Shreeve** contributedLinkedIn posts on VET topics: [March 2021 - Review on the NSW vocational education and training sector, *“In the same sentence: Bringing higher and vocational education together"*. by Dr Peter Shergold and David Gonski](https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/QglXC0YKqxigpPA0sDHD9M?domain=education.nsw.gov.au)

**Robin Shreeve** contributed LinkedIn posts on VET topics: March 2021 - How does Australia’s VET system compare?

**Erica Smith** gave an invited online presentation to Professional Educator College (five TAFE Institutes) Summit, July 1st 2021, *Making a difference in 2021: Effective teaching.* The title of the presentation was ‘Reflective practice for VET teachers - Why and how’.

**Erica Smith’s** research was cited four times in the ‘Macklin’ review of post-secondary education in Victoria, ‘Future skills for Victoria’, January 2021 <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/department/macklinreview-finalreport.pdf>

**Erica Smith’s** research, on three different topics (VET teachers, apprenticeship, and student fees) was cited five times in the Productivity Commission report of the Inquiry into the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development, released January 2021. <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/skills-workforce-agreement#report>

**Erica Smith’s** research reached 40,000 reads on Researchgate, 15 April 2021.

A paper **including three RAVE researchers**  published in 2019 reached 1500 Researchgate reads in June 2021: **Smith, E**., Callan, V., Tuck, J. & **Smith, A**. (2019). Employer training in Australia: Current practices and concerns. *International Journal of Training and Development,* 23:2, 169-183.

**International**

**Erica Smith** was appointed as a member of the International Advisory Committee for an U.K. (economic and Social Research Council) funded project, based at Glasgow University. This is a comparative study of Indian and Mexican apprenticeship systems. See <https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=ES%2FS004297%2F1>

**Erica Smith** was asked to advise International Labour Organization office Jakarta, on a series of Webinars and Virtual Workshops on Quality Apprenticeship for Industries, June 2021.

**Erica Smith** was asked to advise on Chilean research on VET teacher-training, March 2021.