

What do our speakers think needs to change?

7:30pm–8.30pm



Duncan McDuie-Ra

“Impunity”

Professor Duncan McDuie-Ra’s research takes him to the border cities of north-east India to explore race, migration and development.



Sarah Walker

“The way we think about refugees”

Development economist Dr Sarah Walker has studied poverty, conflict and deforestation in places like the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Kenya.



Helen Lochhead

“How we make cities”

Architect, landscape architect and urbanist Professor Helen Lochhead is Dean of UNSW Built Environment . She wants to make sure that the important concept of public good plays a bigger role in how we shape cities.



John McGhee

“The democratisation of inner space”

Associate Professor John McGhee is an artist who uses computer-generated imagery to visualise complex scientific and medical data, creating images from inside the human body.



Khandis Blake

“Choosing between nature and nurture”

Evolutionary social psychologist Dr Khandis Blake combines biology, psychology, and feminism to understand conflict and competition amongst and between women and men.



Program

1 December 2017

Grand Challenges Program Presents

UNSOMNIA 2.017

What needs to change?



What gives you #UNSOMNIA ?
Share what you think needs to change on the hashtag to go in the draw to win a special prize.



Following our Grand Challenges Program launch in 2016, UNSOMNIA returns to UNSW's Leighton Hall, upgraded to version 2.017. Last year we asked "What keeps you up at night?" This year, ten of UNSW's best thinkers consider "What needs to change?"

UNSOMNIA is a collaboration between UNSW's Grand Challenges Program and the brand-new Centre for Ideas, providing our distinctive home-grown but globally-oriented balance of expertise and entertainment. Strategy 2025 includes an ambitious vision for UNSW to lead debate and policy responses to the biggest issues of our time. The Grand Challenges Program aims to do just that and, in the process, to promote the work of UNSW academic staff and students, and enhance their profiles as public intellectuals.

Our first two Grand Challenges, Climate Change, and Refugees and Migrants, were joined in 2017 by new Grand Challenges on Inequality and Living with 21st Century Technology. Some of the global issues tackled tonight at UNSOMNIA 2.017 reflect our

four current Grand Challenges, while others provide a taste of Grand Challenges to come.

We hope you enjoy the show tonight. More than that, we hope you enjoy participating in, shaping and giving life to the Grand Challenges Program in the coming years. Follow us on Facebook, and remember to tag your Twitter and Instagram posts #UNSOMNIA.

Scientia Professor Rob Brooks
Academic Lead
– Grand Challenges Program
grand.challenges@unsw.edu.au

Dr Justine Rogers will be our host for UNSOMNIA. A Senior Lecturer at UNSW Law, her research and teaching concerns professions and professional ethics in a changing world. She has also founded, produced, and participated in several pop academic events, including Nerd-Nite Sydney, Nerd Gala, and That'll Learn You!

*What does Justine think needs to change?
"Many more important things, but, since you're asking, a reduction in the time audiences take to warm to women on stage, LOLs!"*



What do our speakers think needs to change?

6.00pm–7.00pm



Tom Frame

"Make humility great again"

A student of the ethics of public leadership, Professor Tom Frame asks how we can bring civility back into public conversation.



Lyria Bennett Moses

"Keeping knowledge in boxes"

Associate Professor Lyria Bennett Moses leads UNSW's Grand Challenge on "Living with 21st Century Technology". Her research provides practical insights into how law should respond to technological change.



Martin Green

"We need to stop being pessimistic about renewable energy"

For 30 of the last 34 years, Scientia Professor Martin Green's research group has held the world record for silicon solar cell efficiency. A world-leading photovoltaics researcher, he has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, one of science's highest honours.



Denton Callander

"Our relationship with sex"

Dr Callander's research asks medical, behavioural and social questions about human sexuality, revealing just how consistently our societies struggle to come to grips with sex.



Solange Cunin

"Reach for the stars"

As CEO of Cuberider, recent UNSW student Solange Cunin is transforming STEM education by giving school students access to space.

7.00pm–7.30pm

Interval. Food and drinks available for purchase at the bar.