



## Sponsorship brochure

We invite you to sponsor events or attendees at the 2017 international conference for realist research, evaluation, and synthesis. The event will be held in Brisbane, Australia from 24 to 26 October 2017 (with workshops and other events preceding and following the conference). See [www.realist2017.org](http://www.realist2017.org) for full details.

### About the international realist conference

The conference theme is “20 years on: from promise to practice.” It intends to investigate whether and how the promise of realist evaluation, set out in the work of Ray Pawson and Nick Tilley 20 years ago in their book on “Realistic Evaluation”, has been met in practice.

Pawson and Tilley pointed out that programmes have different effects for different people, even within a single group; and that evaluations needed to find out whether an initiative’s effects would be the same if extended to a different location or group. They posed a new central question for evaluation: “What works for whom in what circumstances, and how?”

That insight underpinned methodological developments including realist review (the realist form of systematic literature review), rapid realist review (developed with the intent to provide more timely findings for policy makers), international standards for realist evaluation and for realist review, and the adaptation of specific methods to suit particular investigations. Together, these developments have shifted the terrain in research and evaluation, for those who do research and evaluation and those who commission and use it.

### Benefits of sponsorship

Associating your organisation with this international conference offers a range of benefits, depending on who you are.

- If you hire researchers or evaluators, sponsorship will give you greater visibility with practitioners, including new researchers. Putting your name in front of attendees may help you attract talented researchers later.
- If you commission research or evaluation, you will learn more about the practical implications of realist methods for the policies or programs you are concerned with, and benefit from exposure to new ideas.
- If you develop or implement programs to be evaluated, your policy area and concerns may gain greater visibility with research practitioners. They in turn will bring more rigorous and innovative ways to address evaluation questions of concern to you.
- If you undertake research or evaluation, sponsorship will raise your profile with policy and programme personnel, commissioners of research or evaluation, and your peers.

Right from that first text, a central premise, and promise, has been that realist approaches would be useful for policy and programs. By increasing understanding of how, when and why policies and programs do and do not work, policy makers and practitioners would be better able to select appropriate approaches for particular contexts, and to adapt their policies and programs to different contexts. As well as examining whether and how this has happened, the conference will continue to showcase developments in realist methodology.

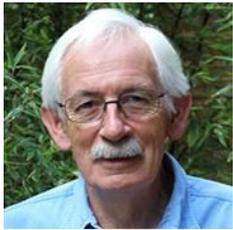
This will be the first realist research conference held in Australia. Around 150 – 200 attendees are expected, including researchers and policy professionals. Anyone who commissions realist research or is considering realist synthesis and evaluation methods in future would benefit from attending. Research students or practitioners will also be expected to take part.

We do hope you will consider joining us.

**Emma Williams and Gill Westhorp**, Co-chairs  
Northern Institute, Charles Darwin University  
**David Turner**, Sponsorship co-ordinator

## Keynote speakers

### Prof Nick Tilley



Nick Tilley is a professor within UCL's Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the Griffith Criminology Institute, Brisbane and Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Nottingham Trent University. His long-term research interests concern policing, crime prevention, programme evaluation methodology, and the use of science to inform improvements in policy and practice. Recent projects relate to the international crime drop, 'what works' in crime reduction, and the prevention of youth related sexual abuse and violence. He was awarded an OBE for services to policing and crime reduction in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2005 and elected a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences (FACSS) in 2009.

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### Emeritus Prof Joseph Maxwell



Joseph Maxwell is an Emeritus Professor in the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University. His doctoral degree is in anthropology, but for the past 35 years his research and teaching has been mainly in education, with an increasing focus on methodology. He is the author of *Qualitative Research Design: An Interactive Approach* (3rd edition, 2013) and *A Realist Approach for Qualitative Research* (2012), as well as articles on qualitative and mixed methods research, Native American societies, and medical education. His current research deals with using qualitative methods for causal explanation, validity in qualitative and quantitative research, the history and breadth of mixed methods research, the value of philosophic realism for research, and the importance of diversity and dialogue across research paradigms and methods.



### Penny Hawkins

Penny Hawkins is an evaluation specialist with extensive experience in international development evaluation and public policy across a wide range of sectors and organizations. Penny is the former Head of Evaluation, UK Department for International Development (DFID). Over the past two decades she has held evaluation leadership and management roles in the government and philanthropic sectors, including at The Rockefeller Foundation and as Head of Evaluation for the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Trade (NZAID) and Social Development, New Zealand. Penny has also held international evaluation leadership roles including as Chair of the OECD-DAC Network on Development Evaluation (2013-16) and as a former President and current Fellow of the Australasian Evaluation Society (AES). Her recent publications include the book *Evaluation Cultures: Sense Making in Complex Times*, Transaction (2012), and a chapter in *Enhancing Evaluation Use: Insights from Internal Evaluation Units*, Sage (2014). Penny now works as an independent evaluation consultant, based in Scotland and New Zealand, working with philanthropic, multi-lateral and private sector organizations to develop their Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning systems.

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### Emeritus Prof Raymond Pawson



Ray Pawson is Emeritus Professor of Social Research Methodology at the University of Leeds, UK. Persistently, doggedly, truculently he has pursued a career promoting the cause of realist research. Every 8 years or so this results in a book – namely *A Measure for Measures* (1989), *Realistic Evaluation* (1997 with Nick Tilley), *Evidence-Based Policy: A Realist Perspective* (2006) and *The Science of Evaluation: A Realist Manifesto* (2013). His writing is painfully slow. Expect the next monograph – *Evidence-based Medicine and Evidence-based Policy: A Realist Tryst* in 2020.

## Sponsorship options

You may choose to provide general support for the conference as a whole, to sponsor particular events, or to support participation by students or community group members who may otherwise be unable to afford the cost of conference registration and related costs such as travel and accommodation.

### Platinum: A\$10,000

- logo on conference website
- logo in conference program
- logo on the introductory slides at conference sessions
- three (3) complimentary registrations
- two (2) inserts to be placed into the delegate satchels (up to A4 size, content to be approved by the conference organising committee)
- 100-word company profile on the conference website
- 100-word company profile in the conference program (subject to printing deadlines)
- opportunity to place one company provided freestanding pull-up banner (2 m high x 1 m wide) in the registration area
- half page advertisement in the conference program
- one (1) trade display table
- naming rights to either a keynote speaker or a session (subject to agreement by the speakers).

### Gold: A\$7,500

- logo on conference website
- logo in conference program
- logo on the introductory slides at conference sessions
- two (2) complimentary registrations
- one (1) insert to be placed into the delegate satchels (up to A4 size, content to be approved by the conference organising committee)
- 50-word company profile on the conference website
- 50-word company profile in the conference program (subject to printing deadlines)
- quarter page advertisement in the conference program
- one (1) trade display table.

### Silver: A\$5,000

- logo on conference website
- logo in conference program
- logo on the introductory slides at conference sessions
- one (1) complimentary registration
- one (1) insert to be placed into the delegate satchels (up to A4 size, content to be approved by the conference organising committee)

## Other forms of sponsorship

### Opening reception: A\$3,000

The sponsor may display a logo at the reception, and will be acknowledged in conference materials.

### Conference dinner: A\$5,000

The dinner sponsor may display a banner at the conference dinner, and a logo on the dinner menus. One free registration will be available to the dinner sponsor.

### Indigenous or community group sponsor

The sponsor will be asked to provide support of up to A\$1,500 per sponsored attendee. Sponsors will be acknowledged in the conference program.

### Delegate satchel inserts: A\$440 per insert

Companies will have the opportunity to reach all delegates directly by providing inserts for delegates' satchels. Inserts can be up to A4 size and may take the form of a brochure, flyer or sample, promoting products or services. The conference secretariat will approve all inserts (maximum 1 x A4 double-sided flyer).

## Sponsorship terms and conditions

- Acceptance of sponsorship applications will be subject to committee approval. The committee reserves the right to decline applications based on any association, direct or indirect, that does not uphold the objectives of the Conference. There may be more than one sponsor in each category.
- Acknowledgement in printed material is subject to sponsorship confirmation and the receipt of artwork prior to printing deadlines.
- 50% deposit is payable with the application and the balance is due by **Monday 24 July 2017**. All sponsorship amounts include GST.
- All attendees must register officially via the online registration portal (provided on confirmation of sponsorship).

## Further information

If these sponsorship opportunities do not meet your requirements, but you would like to support the conference, please do not hesitate to contact the conference secretariat, Expert Events.



Tel: +61 7 3848 2100

Email: [realist2017@expertevents.com.au](mailto:realist2017@expertevents.com.au)

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## Hosted by



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