The Visual Matrix
A Participatory Psychosocial Method for Investigating the Experience of Art Science Exhibitions

11am-1pm Wednesday 29th August (including 30 mins to visit the exhibition)
Optional lunch and Q&A 1-1.30pm
Booking essential

This is an STS Making & Doing presentation which will be run as a standalone event prior to the formal opening of the session

The Visual Matrix is a psychosocial group-based method designed to investigate shared aesthetic experiences. It is led by imagery and affect and aims to capture emotional, aesthetic and cognitive aspects of audience responses to objects or processes, and their impacts on individuals and communities. We are inviting 4S delegates to take part in a Visual Matrix workshop responding to the exhibition Human non Human at the Powerhouse Museum; with an optional Q&A afterwards to learn more about the method itself. Human non Human includes four immersive artworks that examine what makes us human and speculates on how humans may adapt in the future.

The Visual Matrix method has been used in public art and arts and health contexts in UK, Norway and Australia and has recently also been used to investigate attitudes to climate change. This workshop is part of an international project that applies the Visual Matrix to
Art Science exhibitions, with the aim of exploring the kinds of knowledge produced in these transdisciplinary public encounters. No particular experience or expertise is necessary to participate. The workshop will appeal to those interested in: the civic, social and epistemic role of museums, art and cultural programs; science communication; the intersection of art and science; public participation and engagement in knowledge creation and qualitative, evidence based methods for understanding experience.

Focusing on four themes of Belief, Sex, Work and Food, the Human non Human exhibition incorporates architecture, design, robotics, biotechnology, film and performance. Participants will be invited to view the exhibition before taking part in the matrix (approx. 1.5 hours). Our intention for this workshop is to gather data about how experts from the fields of arts, science and technology respond to the Human non Human exhibition, while also sharing the method with fellow researchers in the field.

Booking is essential and refreshments will be provided. Please contact v.bartlett@unsw.edu.au to register your interest


Research Team: Professor Lynn Froggett, Psychosocial Research Unit, University of Central Lancashire. Professor Jill Bennett, UNSW Australia. Dr Elizabeth Muller, UNSW Australia. Ethics Approval No: HC15513