



**May, 2016**

Dear reader,

Welcome to the [Connected Intelligence Centre](#) (CIC) newsletter.

CIC was launched in August 2014, as an innovation centre with a mission to help UTS faculties and business units benefit from data science.

Our priority is to advance UTS's [learning.futures](#) strategy through the use of Learning Analytics (data science in education), a field in which we have recruited world class expertise. We also assist UTS researchers in understanding the potential of analytics for their work, as well as support UTS business units in making sense of their data.

Beyond UTS, we secure external funding to advance our mission in collaboration with our partners.

CIC is distinctive in its development of Human-Centred analytics. We place issues such as learning, ethics and participatory design at the heart of our work, and take a critical stance on the fanfare surrounding big data in society. Our research staff straddle multiple disciplines in order to fuse machine intelligence with the established UTS strength of Creative Intelligence, to which we add Collective Intelligence: as we tell students on our transdisciplinary [Master of Data Science & Innovation](#) — “data science is a team sport”.

The highlights below demonstrate how we're innovating in the teaching and application of analytics across UTS, work which is recognised as leading within Australia, and internationally.

Don't hesitate to get in touch if you want to talk.

Regards,

Simon Buckingham Shum

Director & Professor of Learning Informatics



## RECENT NEWS



### MDSI – Master of Data Science & Innovation

The Master of Data Science and Innovation (MDSI) is now in its 2nd year and is proving to be a flagship program of study in UTS' strategy to be a leading University of Technology.

[Read more.](#)



### MDSI students shine (again) in NSW Gov Data Challenge

Students enrolled in the Master of Data Science & Innovation (MDSI) have once again emerged victorious in the second NSW government's Data Analytics Centre invitational hackathon (having won the inaugural one).

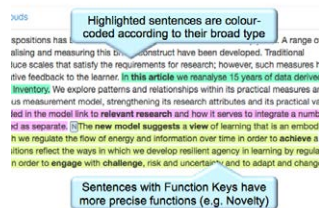
[Read more.](#)



### An MDSI Student Perspective on Hackathons

On 23rd April 2016, MDSI student, Anthony So attended the NASA Space App Hackathon. Read about his experience, the challenges he faced and the lessons he learned.

[Read more.](#)



### A3R: Authentic Assessment Analytics for Reflective Writing

An exciting new project called A3R, has been funded by the DVC(ES) and jointly led by CIC and the Institute for Interactive Media and Learning (IML). The project will focus on building faculty capability to use reflective writing and Academic Writing Analytics (AWA) to learn from workplace experiences. This project is part of the UTS priority to transition towards increasingly authentic assessment.

[Read more.](#)



## Analytics for Collaboration and Creative Intelligence

We have recently launched a new R&D strand which focuses on making visible how people work in teams, both face-to-face and digitally mediated. Led by new CIC research fellow, Roberto Martinez-Maldonado, the strand will benefit teaching/learning and research. CIC have reached out to all the Associate Deans to engage in this across the University.

[Read more.](#)

## Ph.D. LEARNING ANALYTICS

### 2016 PhD Scholarships Announced

We have launched our Learning Analytics PhD program, with 3 scholarships available for highly motivated, multidisciplinary-minded candidates to join the team from 2016 Spring Semester. If you are interested, it's not too late to get in touch!

[Read more.](#)



### CIC-Around

Responding to student feedback, we have been working with students to develop a wordpress multi-site platform to provide a CIC community space for discussion and blogging called CIC-Around.

[Read more.](#)



### CIC@LAK

The CIC research team was active at the 6th International Learning Analytics and Knowledge (LAK) Conference, at the University of Edinburgh, UK in April. Find out what they presented.

[Read more.](#)



Australian Government



Office for  
Learning & Teaching

### Scaleable-PLSA

The national Office for Learning & Teaching has just announced \$340,000 funding for a new project to improve the quality of student feedback. Learning Analytics techniques will deliver "Personal Learning Support Actions" at scale. This is a collaboration between CIC and Jurgen Schulte (UTS lead), in partnership with other Australian universities led by USydney.

[Read more.](#)

## TEAM NEWS



The CIC team continues to grow in size and talent! We have welcomed two new research fellows, Andrew Gibson and Adam Aitken, who will work specifically on the A3R Project and reflective writing. [Read more about the A3R project.](#)



We welcome back Gabrielle Gardiner as Senior Manager and Georgia Markakis has now taken on the role of CIC Course Manager. We have also welcomed two new members to our professional staff team: Michelle Gubanyi as our Marketing/Communications Officer and Bridget Payne as our Administration Assistant or as we like to call her 'the glue that holds the team together'.