

Rachael McDonald

Political Research & Advocacy

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Academic Career

Bachelor of Arts (Honours in Politics & International Relations), University of Melbourne 2024

- 15,000-word thesis: *A Comparative Analysis of Settler State Policy and Its Implications for Australian Subnational Jurisdictions*
- Advanced theoretical & methodological coursework in political science/international relations
- H1 / High Distinction grade (88.25%)

Bachelor of Arts (Politics & International Relations, Indigenous Studies), University of Melbourne 2019-2022

- H1 / High Distinction grade (81.65%)
- Valedictorian nominee, Co-Chair of the Arts Student Forum (2022)

Diploma of Languages (French), University of Melbourne 2019 - 2022

- C1 level French competence, Distinction grade (77%)
- French Language Mentor, French Tutor

Research and Publications

- *Indigenous Economic Sovereignty: a comparative analysis of settler-state policy* (Honour's thesis and forthcoming paper), Rachael McDonald, 2024
- [The Reading Guarantee: How to give every child the best chance of success](#) (research assistant), Jordana Hunter, Anika Stobart, and Amy Haywood, 2024, Grattan Institute
- [MK Turner Report Series: Policy Recommendations](#), Rachael McDonald, 2024, Children's Ground
- [A gap analysis of services used by young people in Melton, Victoria: Report prepared for the Hon. Steve McGhie MP, Member for Melton](#), Rachael McDonald, 2022, Library of the Parliament of Victoria
- *The Removal of Solitude: Magical Realism and its role in reclaiming marginalised cultural identity* (HSC Ext. 2 English 5000-word critical response), 2017, State Library of New South Wales

Prizes

- Politics & International Studies Honours Thesis Prize | University of Melbourne
- 1st in Course: Key Debates in Political Science 2 University of Melbourne
- 1st in Course: Aboriginal Art History University of Melbourne
- 3rd in New South Wales: English Extension 2 High School Certificate

Skills and Languages

- NVivo, R, SPSS
- MS Office, Google Suite
- NationBuilder, CiviCRM, MailChimp
- Canva, InDesign
- French - C1
- Spanish - B1
- English - Native

Relevant Professional Experience

Indigenous Tutorial Assistant Scheme Tutor | University of Melbourne | 2022 - present

- Tutors to improve academic skills of Indigenous tertiary students
- Engaged in constructive pedagogy in political science subjects including Indigenous Environmental Heritage, Australian Indigenous Politics, Indigenous Public Policy

Communications Specialist | Children's Ground | 2021 - 2023, 2025

- Managed two employees and ~10 volunteers, leading 3 annual digital fundraising campaigns to raise over \$600,000 in online donations in 2023
- Created supporter communication strategy across email, website and social media platforms, platforming the voices of First Nations community leaders in Central Australia & Darwin

Organiser | Mandy4Richmond | The Australian Greens | 2024 - 2025

- Organised 1000 volunteers + 100 events in hyper-marginal target seat of Richmond, NSW
- Achieved a +1% swing, making it the most winnable Greens seat in Australia

Intern Associate | The Grattan Institute | February - March 2023

- Researched and synthesised best-practice Australian education policy via systematic reviews of national literacy reforms under the guidance of Australia's leading progressive think-tank
- Received training from seasoned policy professionals in high-quality research & evaluation

Parliamentary Intern | Parliament of the State of Victoria | 2022

- Conducted independent qualitative research to create a high-distinction paper, as requested by a Minister of the Victorian Parliament (Steve McGhie MP, Member for Melton)
- Recommended youth policy co-design and holistic services in Melbourne's outer-suburbs

Community Work and Experience

Fellow | The Australian Centre (University of Melbourne) | 2024

- Engages with a community of post-/graduate researchers in the interdisciplinary academic field of Indigenous-settler relations to support more just First Nations futures in Australia

Co-Chair | University of Melbourne Arts Student Forum | 2022

- Led and facilitated a democratic forum attended by Arts Faculty staff, leadership & students
- Coordinated actions and findings to improve outcomes for the Arts student body

Volunteer Assistant | The Australian Centre (University of Melbourne) | 2021-22

- Organised post-graduate retreats, academic public conversations, and research symposiums

Greens Fellow | The Australian Greens | 2021

- Honed political and community organising skills alongside 20 likeminded young campaigners to support actions on social and economic justice in Australia

Professional & academic references are available on request
