

Distinguished Visiting Researcher: Dr Sara Ratner

A collaboration between the Forrest Research Foundation and the Fogarty Foundation

The Forrest Research Foundation (FRF) and the Fogarty Foundation (FF) are collaborating to host Dr Sara Ratner, an internationally recognised leader in artificial intelligence in education, for a one-week (29th June – 4th July) Distinguished Visiting Researcher residency in Western Australia. This residency brings global expertise into direct dialogue with educators, researchers, policymakers, and system leaders, fostering ethical, equitable, and future-focused AI integration across WA schools.

Artificial intelligence is reshaping classrooms worldwide, presenting both significant challenges, such as safeguarding academic integrity, and extraordinary opportunities, including the potential to advance educational equity. While WA schools and universities are experimenting with AI, there is a need for timely research translation, cross-sector knowledge sharing, and coordinated policy guidance. Dr. Ratner’s residency will address these needs by bridging research, policy, and practice, helping ensure AI literacy reaches all WA students and educators.

The residency will focus on building AI literacy in pre-service teachers, facilitating cross-sector collaboration, and translating global research into practical strategies for schools. Key activities during the week will include media engagement to raise public awareness, roundtables with policymakers and sector leaders, workshops for teachers and pre-service teachers, and events for parents and school communities. The residency will culminate in a cross-institutional event for WA teaching students, building capability in AI pedagogy and connecting global research with local practice. Preparatory work, including a policy-focused think tank, will ensure the visit is purposeful and delivers meaningful outcomes.

Dr. Sara Ratner currently leads the [AI in Education at Oxford University initiative \(AIEOU\)](#) and has contributed to the UNESCO AI Competency Framework for Teachers, among other global projects. Her expertise spans classroom innovation, teacher preparation, AI policy, and ethical, human-centred AI integration. Hosting her as a Distinguished Visiting Researcher will strengthen WA’s leadership in AI education, providing guidance for policy, pre-service teacher programs, and school-level practice.

This initiative builds on prior work by the Fogarty Foundation, including the [2025 State of AI in WA Schools Forum](#), and is part of a broader effort to ensure that Western Australia is strategically positioned for the future of AI in education while supporting equitable access and evidence-informed innovation.



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