

An Introduction to The HPS Podcast

Hiding away in the dark recesses of the University of Melbourne, is perhaps the most wide reaching and interesting discipline available: the [History and Philosophy of Science](#). A discipline which should appeal to those with interests in history, philosophy or science, HPS has slipped through the cracks and has not received the accolades it deserves. The HPS podcast aims to bring HPS into the limelight.

Many have passed through HPS and found the need to combine three usually separate disciplines daunting, and are unsure where to dive in further. Scientists turn to HPS to gain context for their work, looking to learn more about the history of their discipline and its place in today's society. However, being confronted with theories totally unfamiliar to those who have spent their academic careers in STEM is often enough to dissuade those scientists from pursuing HPS past their first introduction to Kuhn and Popper. Many historians and philosophers have dipped their toes into HPS, but have found that the history and philosophy combination, and its subsequent application to science a task too far removed from their previous studies, and the process of learning a new trick too daunting. And so HPS remained in limbo between science and humanities, attracting only a handful of people who had the desire to tackle a strange, and yet widely important discipline.

In 2022, Professor Fiona Fidler, the head of HPS at the University of Melbourne, looked at this issue, and decided to tackle it head on. She began her academic career

in psychology, but during her time in there gained appreciation for the need for philosophy of science as part of the scientists studies. So she turned instead to metascience, and devoted her to interrogating how experts, including scientists, make decisions and change their minds. Given her beginning in science, and her subsequent switch to studying to problems in science, she is an advocate for the inclusion of scientists in HPS in an effort to ameliorate the study and practice of science. An easy introduction to HPS for those in surrounding disciplines was needed, both to attract them to HPS and to not frighten them away. And so the idea of the HPS podcast was conceived.

The first one roped into the podcast was Samara Greenwood. [INSERT SAMARA BIOGRAPHY HERE mention architecture, PhD and HPS chat and conferences please]. Having spent time in HPS, gaining contacts at various conferences, Samara was well positioned to then produce the podcast. She took on the tasks of networking and communication with the podcast guests, hosting the podcast, and the bulk of the editing and production. However, the time commitment of producing a podcast is too great for someone who is also completing a PhD and working as a tutor.

Another podcast employee was needed, and so Samara brought on board Indigo Keel. At the time of recruitment, Indigo was about to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Linguistics and the History and Philosophy of Science. Having been involved with the HPS chat run by Samara for several years, Indigo

had a strong connection to the HPS department at the University of Melbourne. This, combined with her previous experience creating websites, made her a good candidate for the HPS podcast. This year, Indigo is completing her honours year in HPS, as well as working on the podcast with Samara and Fiona. Her role in the podcast is to maintain the website and social media presence, write the blog posts, as well as some involvement in the editing of the podcast.

In June of 2023 the HPS podcast will begin to release episodes thanks to the hard work of those who have been involved in the creation of this project. The podcast aims to show as wide a range as possible of what is encompassed in the history and philosophy of science, in a manner which is accessible for those who have never before tackled HPS. Samara will be talking to experts from as many corners of the discipline as possible, both from the University of Melbourne and the rest of the world. The hope is that in showcasing the diversity and utility of HPS, a wider variety of academics and students, as well as those who simply have an interest in the discipline, will be able to find a foothold in HPS, and continue to enjoy all the discipline has to offer.