

THE CONVERSATION

Share knowledge. Inform decisions.



2025

**IMPACT
REPORT**

Apr – Jun

Australia & New Zealand

Turning knowledge into impact

This report details some of the ways in which The Conversation has helped academics achieve a public impact in the past three months, from April to June 2025.

Ultimately the stories presented here show how the team at The Conversation works with academics to produce journalism that is constructive rather than destructive.

For academics, this work involves sharing research and analysis beyond the university.

For readers, we present the expertise and insights of academic experts in a way that is clear, timely and useful.

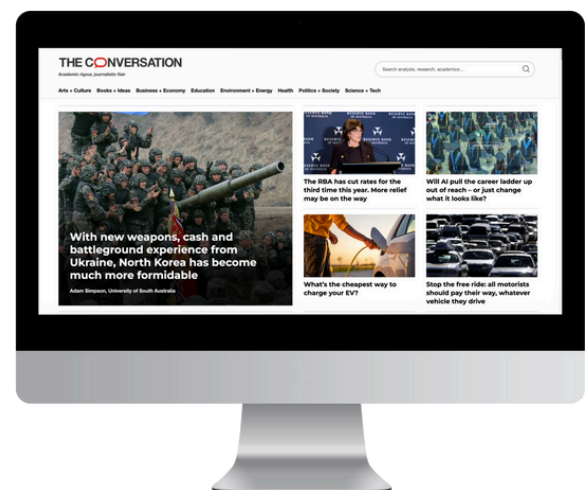
For media outlets, and policy-makers we aim to make access to academics around the world seamless and rewarding.

By bringing expert knowledge into the broader conversation, academics help people make evidence-based decisions in every aspect of their lives.

We hope you enjoy reading this report as much as we enjoy working with academic contributors who selflessly give up their time and share their expertise.



Misha Ketchell
Editor, The Conversation



Outputs & outcomes

13,275,365
average monthly pageviews
including republishing

April - June 2025
The Conversation Australia and New Zealand

1,297
total articles

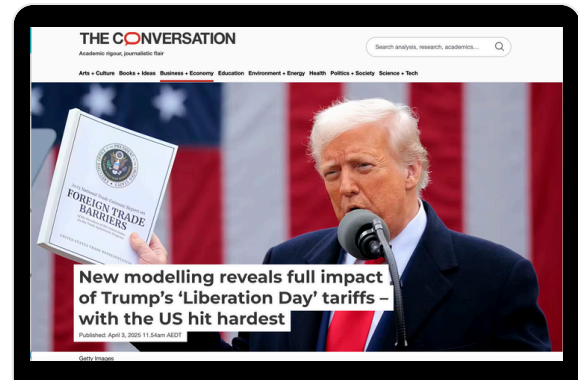
1,542
total authors

Informing policy with evidence-based insight

Expert modelling on tariffs influences governments, think tanks and central banks

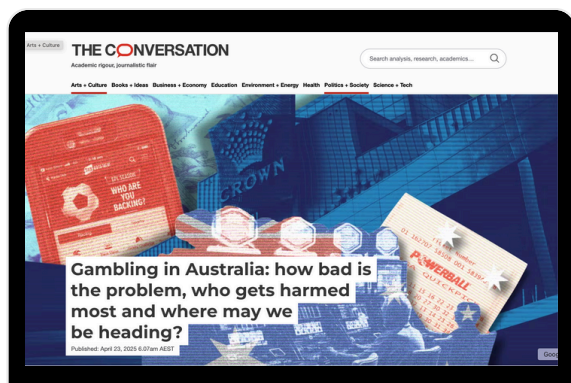
After Niven Winchester (Auckland University of Technology) published New modelling reveals full impact of Trump's 'Liberation Day' tariffs – with the US hit hardest the article had a number of powerful impacts:

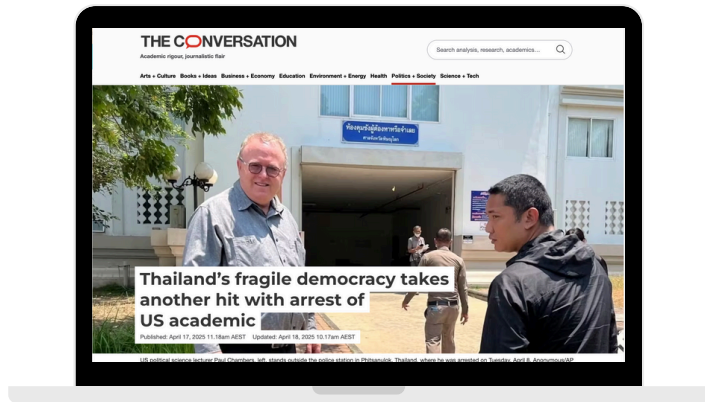
- He was contacted by Jim Redden, an external advisor to DFAT to provide further analysis on how the tariffs will impact Fiji. Jim used the information to provide advice to the Fijian government.
- He was invited to meet with the President of the Observer Research Foundation (India's premier think tank) to discuss trade policy analysis.
- He was asked to present the research underpinning the article to staff at the Reserve Bank of New Zealand.
- He was contacted by the Chinese Embassy in New Zealand to provide further details about the analysis in the article.



Research on gambling harms informs policymakers and inspires frontline action

After Alex Russell (CQUniversity Australia) published Gambling in Australia: how bad is the problem, who gets harmed most and where may we be heading?, the article attracted strong attention from both media and policymakers. Russell gave at least four interviews across various ABC radio stations, including regional programs. Multiple government employees reached out to acknowledge the article's impact in shaping internal discussions. It also fostered a new collaboration with Anita Smith, a professional supporting people affected by gambling, who credited the piece with expanding her understanding of the issue.



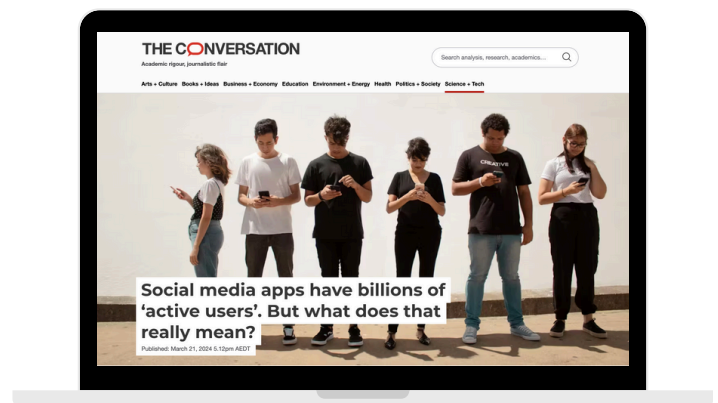


Academic's research helps secure release of US scholar facing Thailand's royal insult charges

After Adam Simpson (University of South Australia) published Thailand's fragile democracy takes another hit with arrest of US academic, Mark S. Cogan, Associate Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies at Kansai Gaidai University in Japan asked permission to republish the article in the "Free Paul" campaign page on Change.org to advocate for the release of Dr Paul Chambers. After Adam agreed to the article's republication on the campaign page, on 1 May 2025, Thailand's state prosecutor announced it would drop the royal insult charges against Dr Chambers, marking a successful outcome for the international campaign in defence of academic freedom.

Social media research cited in European Parliament briefing on TikTok regulation

After Milovan Savic (Swinburne University of Technology) published Social media apps have billions of 'active users'. But what does that really mean? on 21 March 2024, it was cited in a European Parliamentary Research Service briefing titled TikTok and EU regulation: Legal challenges and cross-jurisdictional insights, published on 30 June 2025. The document examines the European Union's legal response to TikTok's data practices, addictive design, and user safety issues, referencing Savic's analysis to help frame broader questions around how user engagement is measured and interpreted in policy and regulation.



European
Union

Sparking high-level political and diplomatic response

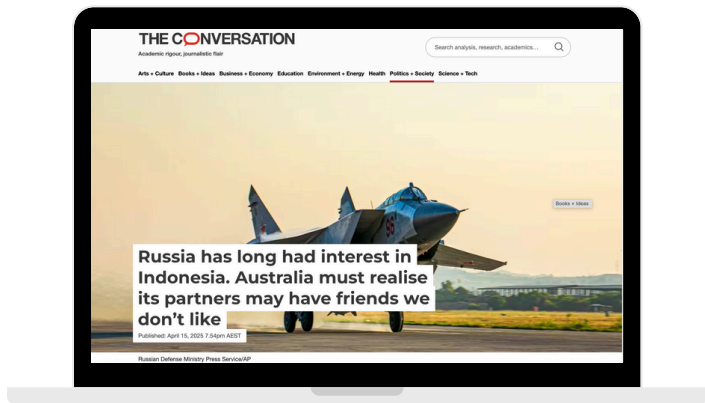
Analysis of Russian approach to Indonesia prompts ambassador's rebuke and PM's dismissal

After Matthew Sussex (Australian National University) published an instant analysis on April 15 about reports that Russia had approached Indonesia to base military aircraft in Papua, the article had significant impacts:

- The piece was republished by The Jakarta Post and became a major talking point in both Indonesia and on the Australian campaign trail.

- The Russian Ambassador to Indonesia, Sergei Tolchenov, responded with a letter to The Jakarta Post, accusing Australian politicians of playing the “Russian card” and warning against anti-Russian rhetoric, stating ominously, “you have no cards.” Tolchenov did not deny Sussex’s claims but confirmed military cooperation between Russia and Indonesia. The ambassador’s warning made headlines in Australia, prompting a response from Anthony Albanese, who dismissed it as Russian “propaganda.”

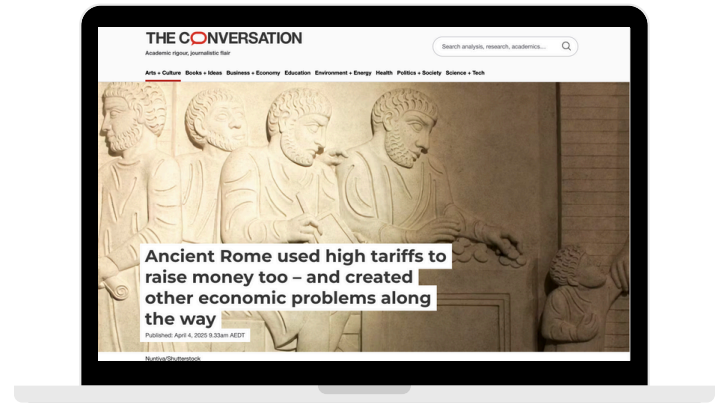
- Sussex published a follow-up response on April 23, calling Tolchenov’s letter defensive and inaccurate, and rejecting the “Russophobia” accusation as meaningless.



Turning research into headlines

Research on Roman trade tariffs gains worldwide media coverage

After Peter Edwell (Macquarie University) published Ancient Rome used high tariffs to raise money too – and created other economic problems along the way he was interviewed on the BBC World Service Newshour, spoke with David Astle on ABC Radio Melbourne 774, and appeared on ABC Radio National, 2CC Canberra, and ABC 106.7 Far North Queensland. The article was republished by The Independent (UK). It was also translated into Japanese and published by Koichi Ikenoue.



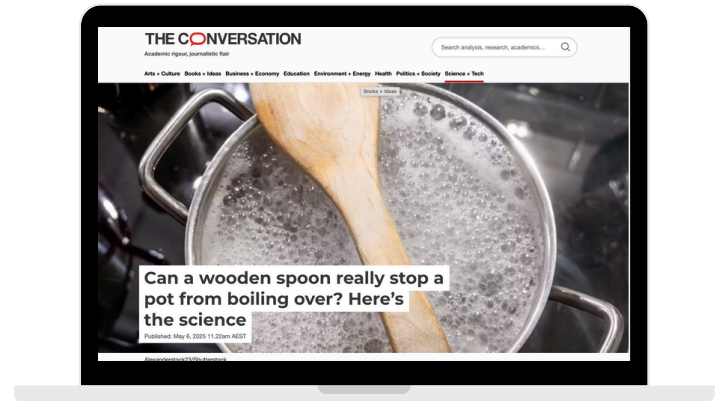
How a pope is chosen: expert commentary makes headlines worldwide

After Darius von Guttner Sporzynski (Australian Catholic University) published How will a new pope be chosen? An expert explains the conclave, he was interviewed on RTRFM, 2SM Radio, Washington Post, Channel 7 Pope's Live Funeral Coverage, Brasil's news service interview, ABC Radio Hobart, ABC Canberra, ABC Melbourne, ABC WA, CNN, BBC, ABC WA Drive, ABC RN and ABC QLD. It was also republished by The New Daily.



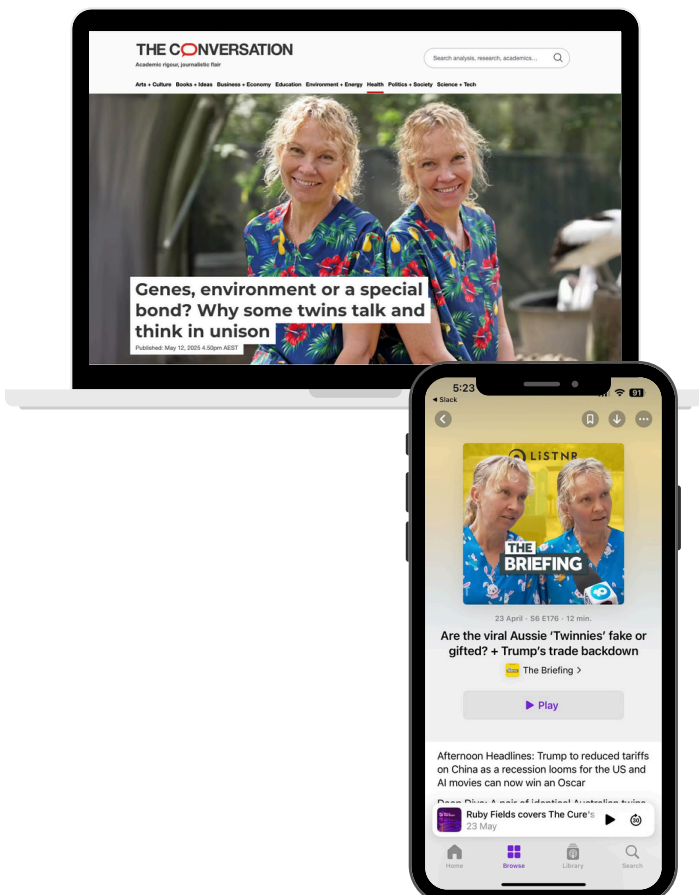
Wooden spoon science story earns global media, education and professional praise

After Jay Deagon and Gemma Mann (CQUniversity Australia) published [Can a wooden spoon really stop a pot from boiling over? Here's the science](#) Jay was interviewed on ABC Radio Darwin and the Northern Territory's Saturday Morning Breakfast Show. The article also received international attention, including a reprint request from the Chinese teen magazine 21st Century Teens. The President of the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) personally congratulated Deagon, highlighting the article's public impact. Additionally, The Global Bread (Sweden) reposted the article on LinkedIn with positive commentary on its educational value and relevance to Home Economics and STEM.



Twin study gains wide media attention

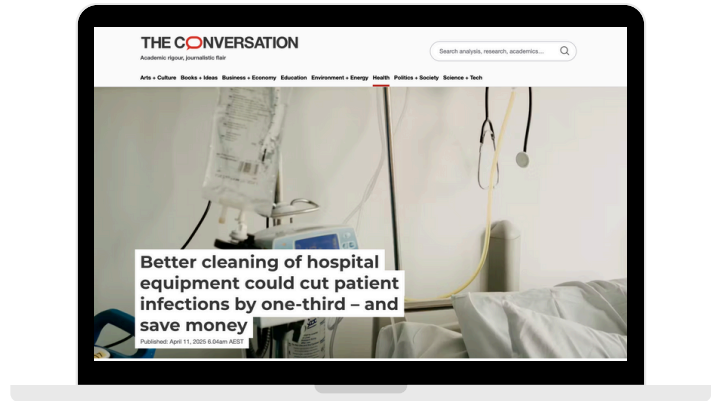
After Jeffrey Craig (Deakin University) co-published [Genes, environment or a special bond? Why some twins talk and think in unison](#), the article generated significant media engagement. Craig appeared on ABC NSW Statewide, ABC Australian Story, ABC regional Queensland, and ABC Queensland Evenings. He was also interviewed on JOY 94.9's Drive show with Warren Andrew (19 May), and featured on the LSTNR Network's The Briefing Podcast with Natarsha Belling (23 April) [listen here](#).



Industry & Academia Recognition

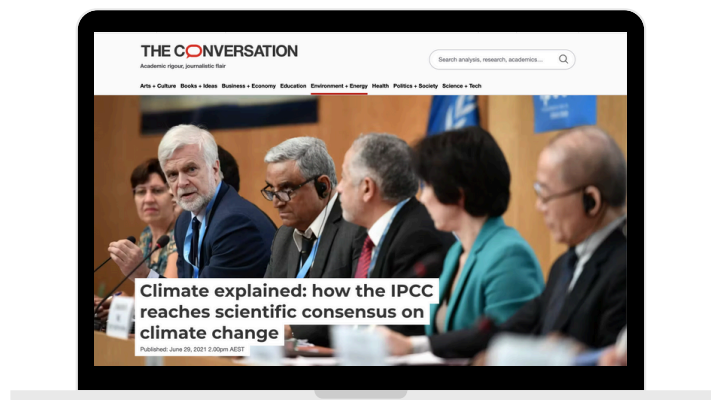
Better cleaning study shared with thousands of nurses and broadcast on ABC

After Brett Mitchell (University of Newcastle) co-authored Better cleaning of hospital equipment could cut patient infections by one-third – and save money the article was included in the Australian Nursing Federation's April 2025 newsletter, distributed to 30,000 nurses. Brett also discussed the topic in an interview on ABC breakfast radio.



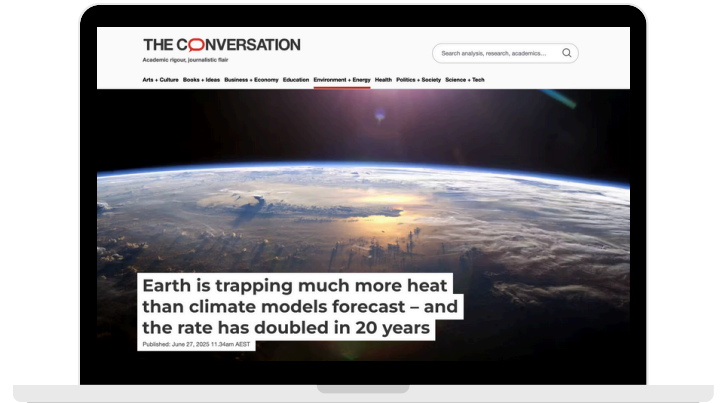
IPCC explainer becomes teaching resource

Rebecca Harris (University of Tasmania) published Climate explained: how the IPCC reaches scientific consensus on climate change in 2021, then in May 2025 The Open University (UK) got in touch to ask permission to include the article in their upcoming module 'T330 Environmental Management: Pathways to Sustainability'. It will be used for educational, non-commercial use and accessible for students who have enrolled on the T330 module.



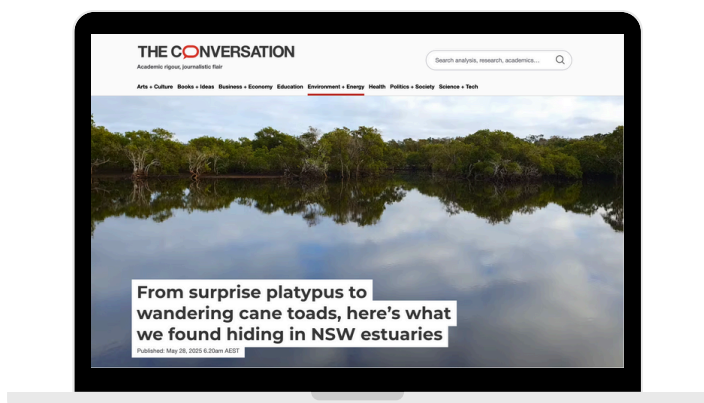
Injecting facts into environment and climate discussions

After Steven Sherwood (UNSW Sydney) co-published Earth is trapping much more heat than climate models forecast – and the rate has doubled in 20 years, the article was widely shared by prominent climate commentators, including former NSW Environment Minister Matt Kean, climate journalist David Wallace-Wells, and sustainability advocate Aaron Thierry. Their engagement helped amplify the article's message about the accelerating heat imbalance and its implications for global climate action.



Research on NSW estuaries prompts collaboration requests and public discussion

After Maarten De Brauwier (Southern Cross University) co-published From surprise platypus to wandering cane toads, here's what we found hiding in NSW estuaries, he was interviewed on four radio programs and one TV segment, including ABC and 7 News. He has since been approached by a charity organisation for potential collaboration, received research inquiries from peers, and heard from members of the public about cane toads.



Community impact

After Giovanni E. Ferreira (University of Sydney) Rachelle Buchbinder (Monash University) published What's the difference between osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis? she heard from several people wanting to take part in the research.

Giovanni said "We've had some positive responses from the community, including people reaching out who are keen to take part in arthritis research after reading the piece. It's great to see this kind of engagement."

"Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our national discourse and ensuring that readers are best informed about the stories they read. Having just returned from the US, I can assure you that the only news source I accessed while visiting there, was The Conversation!" - Reader Sean

*After publishing this article David Trembath said:
"This is wonderful news. We greatly appreciate all your help and expertise in getting to this point. The Conversation plays such an important role in the community and it is a privilege to contribute. I hope we have the chance to work together again soon."*

"I read the Conversation most days and appreciate the calibre of those who contribute to it. There is so much disinformation in various forms of media, particularly social media that it's comforting to know there are highly knowledgeable people to give us information." - Reader Irene

Philanthropy powers public interest journalism

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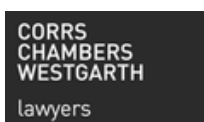
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Helmut Schwabe
Legacy Supporter

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Thank you to all your team who make it possible to engage with thoughtful and incisive analysis of the issues that matter.

Lynne Badger, FoTC

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