



**FHMRI**  
FLINDERS HEALTH & MEDICAL  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

## FHMRI Seminar

**“Agreeing machines instead of thinking machines”:  
Exploring the potential equity implications of the  
use of machine translation and neural networks in  
health and social services”**

**Associate Professor Ben Harris Roxas**



The use of machine translation, and neural networks in general, is expanding rapidly due to increasing sophistication and convenience. As use increases, there is a growing risk of misinterpretation and provision of inaccurate information. Importantly, the neural networks that translation and other algorithms rely on may recreate existing power dynamics and systems of oppression.

This presentation reports on a survey of 1,558 health care workers, and 20 in-depth interviews with workers who use machine translation apps. It discusses the implications for services, government, consumers and families. The presentation also explores the potential implications of the use of neural networks in virtual models of care, and other aspects of service delivery and planning, and which groups may lose out through these approaches.

Associate Professor Ben Harris-Roxas is Director of the South Eastern Research Collaboration Hub (SEaRCH), a joint initiative of the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District in Sydney, Australia and the UNSW Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity. His research focuses on priority populations' health service needs, health impact assessment, and integrated care. Ben heads up the Health System Integration and Primary Health Care Development Stream within the Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity. He is an Associate Editor for the Australian Journal of Primary Health, and is on the Editorial Boards for Environmental Impact Assessment Review, BMJ Integrated Healthcare Journal, and Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal.

**Wednesday September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**12pm**

via Microsoft Teams

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