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Well what excites me the most about research and music studies at the Queensland Conservatorium is that it's unconventional. It's innovative, it's dynamic, it's open minded, it's collegial. And musicians, music making and contemporary music context are at the heart of what we do here, and that's really reflected from courses that we run, right from the first year up until the doctoral level. And I think that really great attitude has been fostered by the Queensland Conservatorium Research Centre, where there's a range of fantastic researchers of national and international standing, working on projects that look at music in communities, that look at artistic practices research, that look at the training of professional musicians, that also look at the intersections between music technology and music making. And there are millions of dollars of research funding that is actually connected to the Queensland Conservatorium Research Centre so it's a pretty exciting place to be associated with.

And closely connected to the Conservatorium Research Centre is also our wonderful cohort of higher degree research students, who are working on a range of projects. Some of them are practice based, some are autoethnographic, some are ethno musicological, and some are education focussed. We have got over 70 students enrolled and those students are around the country, and around the world, and they provide a wonderful support network for one another and I am lucky to convene the weekly colloquium where those students get together to discuss all sorts of issues relating to research.

I guess as a relatively young researcher, I have been able to grow in this environment. I have been able to work on major Australia Research Council projects. I have been able to do really interesting field work around the world and around Australia. I have been able to publish widely, both in Australia and overseas. I have been able to work with this great cohort of higher degree research students and also work with all of our first year students and introduce them to the excitement and the energy and the inspiration that can come from music research. And I have also been able to collaborate with these wonderful researchers at the Queensland Conservatorium Research Centre and work on fairly unconventional projects. Projects that have often been overlooked by traditional music research; community music, women's music, auto ethnography music, cross cultural collaborations with indigenous artists in music and more recently music making in prisons.

So I think I would be hard pressed to find an institution both here in Australia or overseas that is more imaginative, innovative, unconventional and exciting to be in and that really is what excites me about music studies and research here at the Queensland Conservatorium.