Professor Helen Watt – Professor of Educational Psychology; commencing 16 October 2017.

Helen joins us from Monash. She is enthusiastic about coming back to Sydney; Helen is an alumna: PhD in 2002 and a BEd Secondary Mathematic (Hons) in 1993.

Helen is recognised within the educational and developmental psychology field for her work researching motivation in relation to career choice, in two programs of research concerning students’ and teachers’ motivations and development. This work is focused on addressing issues of educational significance, concerning girls’/women’s (and boys’/men’s) engagement and participation in STEM fields, as well as teachers’ goals and resilience.

Professor Valerie Harwood - Professor of Sociology and Anthropology of Education; commencing 1 July 2017.

Valerie is an ARC Future Fellow and joins us from University of Wollongong.

Valerie’s research is centred on a social and cultural analysis of access and participation in educational futures. This research includes: work on disadvantage, imagination and educational futures; the production of knowledge on child and youth psychopathology; critical disability studies; and child and youth exclusion. Her current research includes: Getting an Early Start to Education: Understanding how to promote educational futures in early childhood (ARC Future Fellowship); and partnership with the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME).

Dr Samantha McMahon - Early Career Development Fellow, Teacher Education Foundation Studies; commencing 10 July 2017.

Sam McMahon joins us from the University of Wollongong where she was a Fellow in the School of Education. She was working on the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience Partnership Project.

Sam’s PhD thesis was a study of preservice teachers' knowledge of challenging behaviour. Her research interests include: sociology of education, the medicalisation of child behaviour, pre-service teacher epistemology, inclusive education and teacher education.
Dr Victoria Rawlings – Early Career Development Fellow, Teacher Education Foundation Studies; commencing on 10 July 2017.

Victoria has worked for the Sydney School of Education and Social Work as a sessional academic during the last five years. Prior to this, she was a Senior Research Associate at Lancaster University and has also been a secondary teacher, tutor at UWS and a worked on research projects at Sydney and UOW.

Victoria received her PhD from the University of Sydney in 2013. It investigated the social structures and moments of violence and aggression in schools, particularly in relation to gender and sexuality. It also explored the meanings of ‘bullying’ in schools, and the ways that prominent discourses often constrained meaningful interventions of bullying incidents.

Dr Ari Lobel – Lecturer in Classical Hebrew and Judaism Curriculum; commencing on 17 July 2017.

Educated in the US, Ari’s qualifications include a Master of Liberal Arts (MLA), (History of Ideas) from Johns Hopkins University, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, and a PhD in Talmudic Law from Ner Israel Rabbinical College.

Ari was a Lecturer in Classical Hebrew and Biblical Studies in Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies at the University of Sydney. He has also been a high school teacher and HSE marker and he is a member of the NESA committee that develops syllabus and course prescriptions for HSC Classical Hebrew. He formerly served as a writer/editor for the Artscroll Talmud, Mishnah and Midrash series.