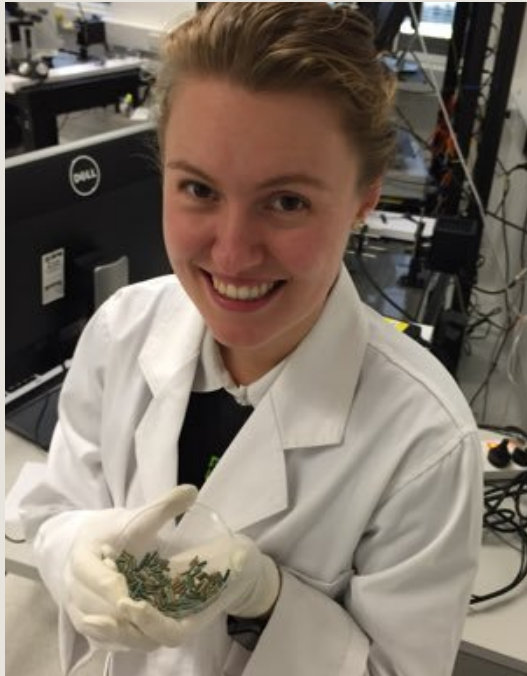


MQ Photonics Research Seminar



Speaker: Michelle Whitford,
MQ Photonics

When: Wednesday 21 April
2 PM

Scientific approaches to characterising ancient Egyptian faience

Abstract:

Ancient Egyptian faience is a material that provides a unique perspective into the past. As a material with an important cultural role in burial practises throughout Egypt's long history, faience artefacts have been recovered from tombs all over Egypt. Unfortunately, many faience artefacts curated in Australian museums have limited archaeological context – that is, limited information about when and where they were found. Without this information, many Australian faience artefacts therefore have reduced historical meaning. In this talk, I will present my PhD thesis work which sought to determine whether there are elemental fingerprints which can provide new information about the archaeological context of faience artefacts curated in Australia.

Bio:

Michelle Whitford submitted her PhD thesis three weeks ago and has since been enjoying sleeping in, hugging her dog, and catching up on the latest video games. Her PhD thesis showcased the power of combining historical and scientific analyses to study ancient materials by presenting an interdisciplinary approach to studying ancient Egyptian faience. In doing this, she highlights the unique ability to tell the ancient stories of the individuals involved with faience simply by understanding the physical and chemical properties of the material. Michelle completed her MRes (Physics) in 2016 and her BA BSc (Astrophysics and Ancient History) in 2014 at Macquarie University.

Via Zoom: Please Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device: <https://macquarie.zoom.us/j/85829287435>

OR Multipurpose room, Dept of Physics and Astronomy 7 WW, Rm 2.300

