



FORREST  
RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION

**Building Research Cultures**

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# The Forrest Research Foundation



**Mission: To establish Western Australia as a global knowledge, research & creativity hub**

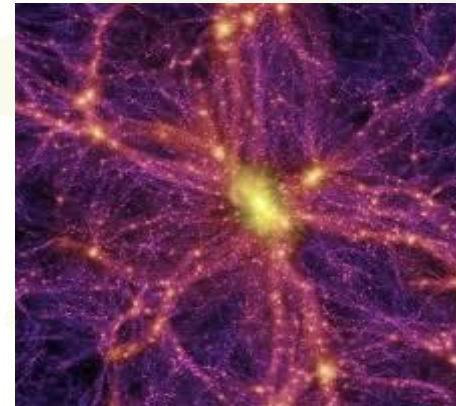
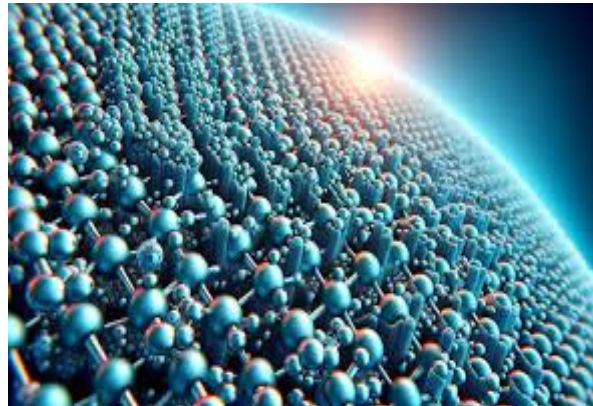
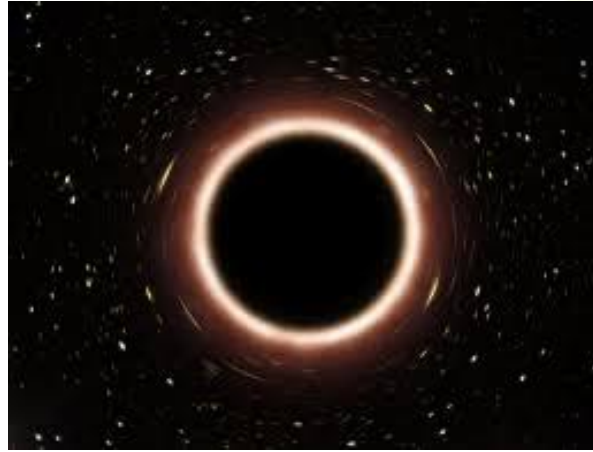
# Overview...

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- Established in 2014 following donation of \$130 million by Andrew and Nicola Forrest.
- First intake, 2015.
- Attract early career researchers to Western Australia's five universities.
- No theme: only excellence (and engagement)...

# Exciting range of topics...

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# How we were set up...



- Established a mini-campus including accommodation, a for-profit hotel, office spaces, seminar rooms...
- 55 apartments – ranging from studio to 3 bedroom.
- Steady state of 60 researchers who live at Forrest Hall.

# Our programs

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## Forrest Scholars – PhDs – 4 years:

- First 3.5 years covered by uni, last 6 months by FRF – standard stipend

## Forrest Fellows – Post-doctoral researchers – 3 years

- Covered by the Foundation

## Forrest Creative and Performing Fellows – 2 years

- Covered by the Foundation



# Wonil Hotel – part of the precinct

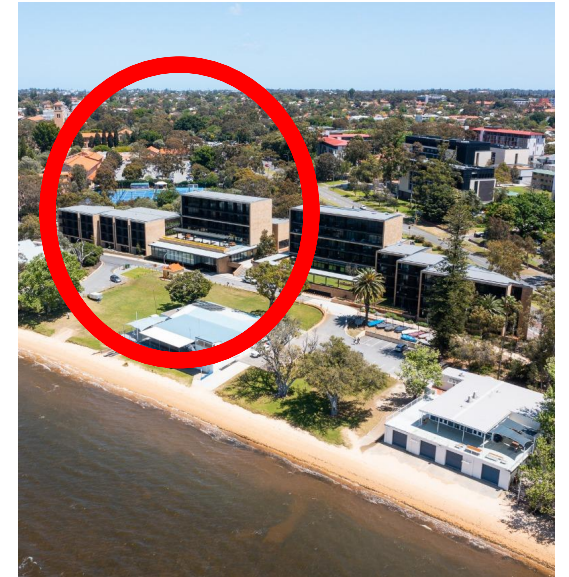
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66 room boutique hotel

Managed by Accor

Net profits flow back into the  
Foundation

What does a sociologist know about  
running a hotel?





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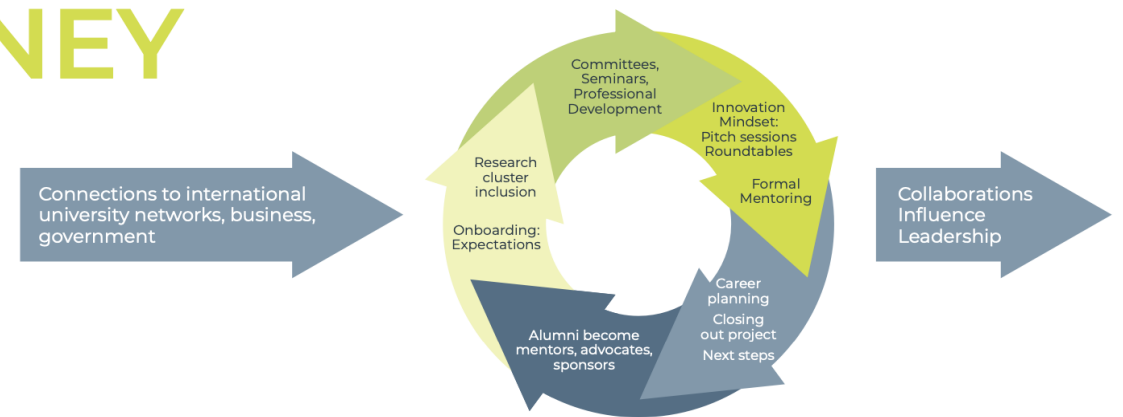
**2023-25 Strategy**



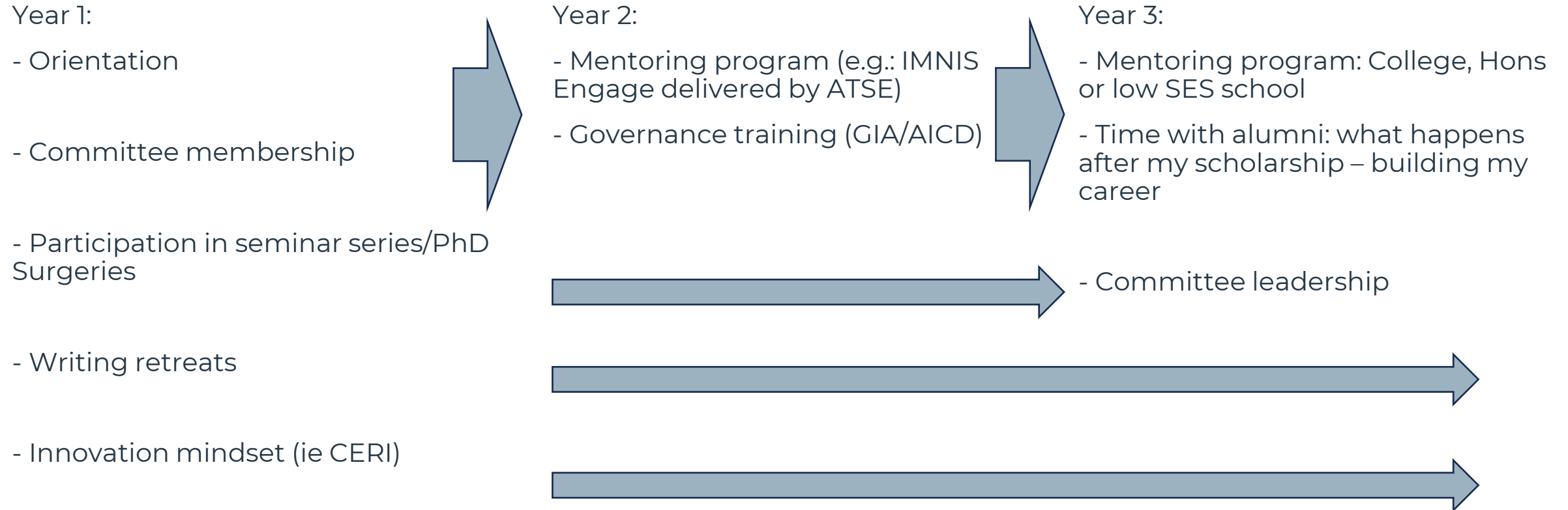
# 1. A unique researcher journey

## FRF SCHOLAR JOURNEY

Fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, engagement and collaboration in FRF researchers



# The researcher journey...



# Unique seminars covering key issues...

**Over the three years, topics include...**

## **Professional development**

- Entrepreneurial/leadership mindset (CERI/etc.)
- Science comms
- Learning to mentor
- How do I manage a lab?
- Supervising research candidates
- Research data governance (connect with library)
- Building collaborations
- Writing workshops

## **Thought leadership**

- The science/law interface
- How to talk to a sceptic/ limitations of scientific method
- So, you want to do a TED Talk?
- From research to policy

## **Personal development**

- My social media life
- Media training
- Thriving (not just surviving) in academia
- Governance Training

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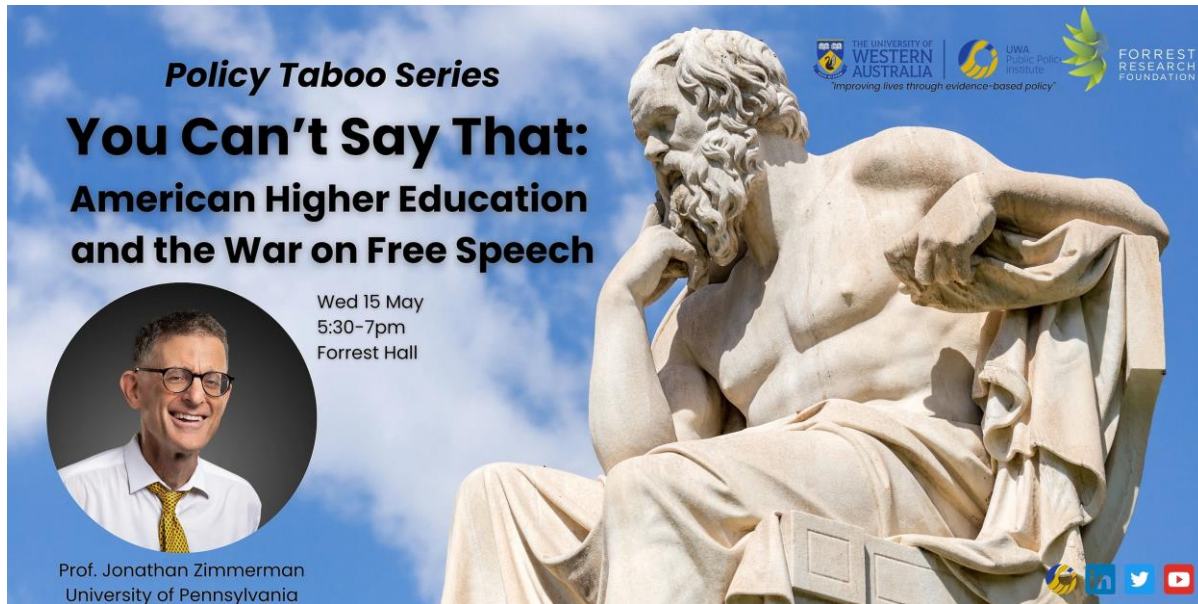
## Personal development

- My social media life
- **Media training/Science Comm**
- Thriving (not just surviving) in academia
- Governance Training

# 2. Shaping the Western Australian research community



# 3. Thought leadership



**Policy Taboo Series**

**You Can't Say That:  
American Higher Education  
and the War on Free Speech**

Wed 15 May  
5:30-7pm  
Forrest Hall

Prof. Jonathan Zimmerman  
University of Pennsylvania

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
"Improving lives through evidence-based policy"

UWA Public Policy Institute

FORREST RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Twitter, Facebook, YouTube icons



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# What have we learnt? Five key lessons!

# 1. Culture eats strategy for breakfast: We must build cultures of support and collaboration.

“As researchers, we go further when hunting in packs”

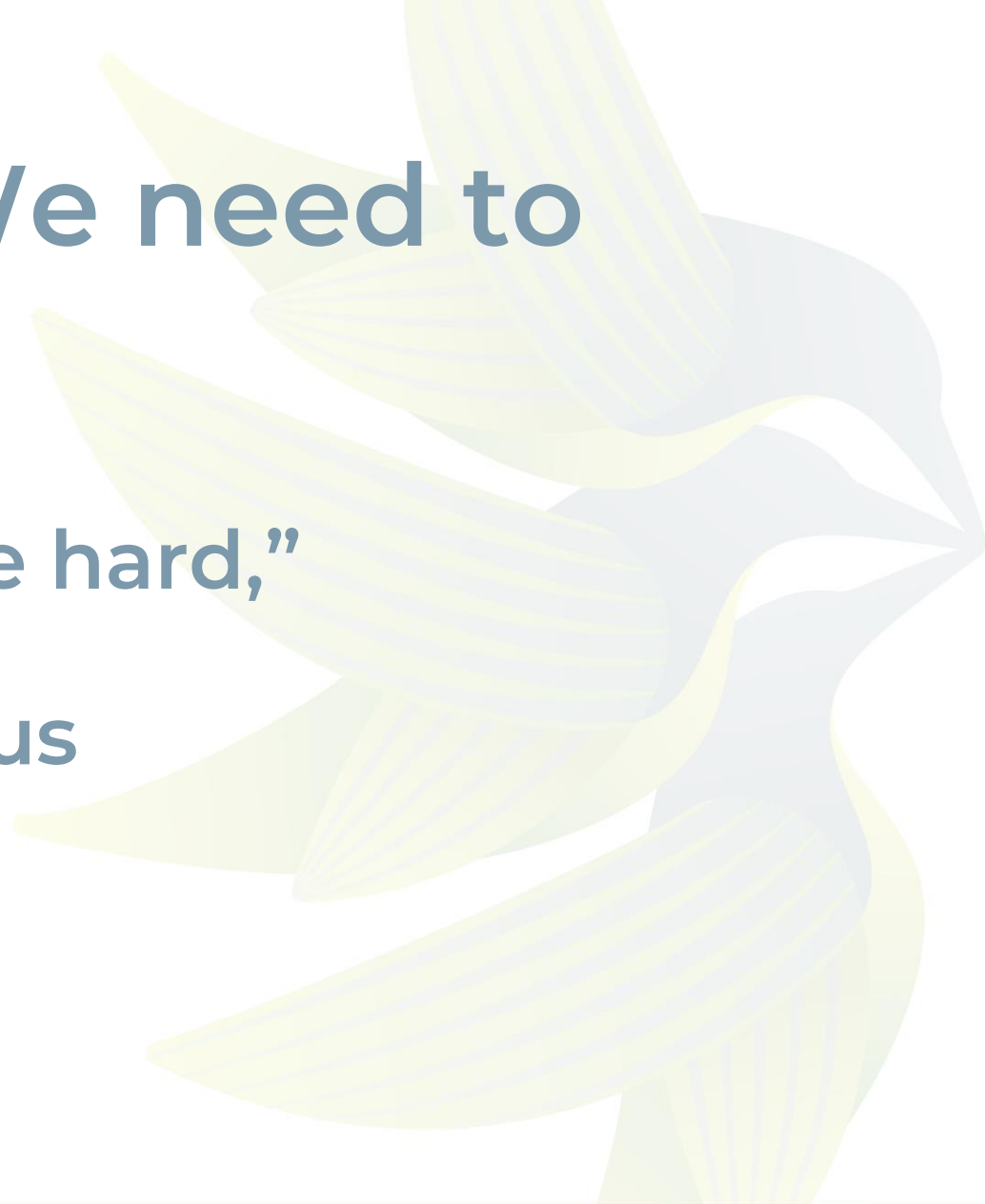
Prof Robyn Owens, Independent Board Member



## 2. Break boundaries: We need to integrate disciplines

“Astrophysics is easy, people are hard,”

Dr Jacob Martin, Forrest Alumnus



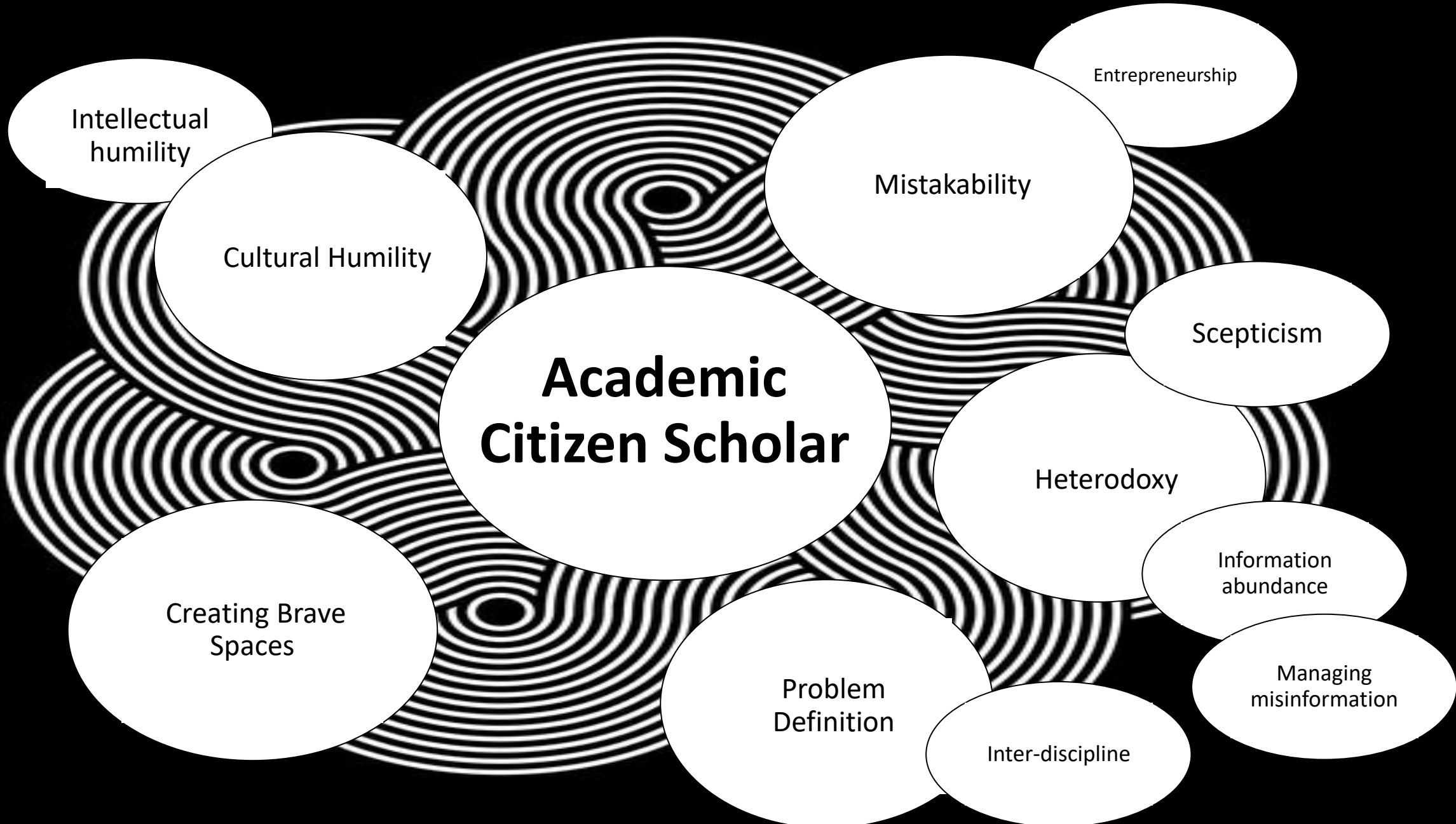
# 3. Build brave spaces: We must embrace curiosity, innovation and mistakability to create a brave spaces

“We have the technology to solve the world’s problems, all we lack is imagination and creativity.”  
Robert Galluzzo, FINCH Company

# 4. We need to invest in the researcher not just the research...

## The Academic Citizen Scholar





Intellectual  
humility

Cultural Humility

Mistakability

Entrepreneurship

Scepticism

**Academic  
Citizen Scholar**

Heterodoxy

Information  
abundance

Creating Brave  
Spaces

Managing  
misinformation

Problem  
Definition

Inter-discipline

# 5. The physical environment matters

**“Design creates culture. Culture shapes values. Values determine the future.” - Robert L. Peters**

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# Challenges...



# 1. A clash of cultures...

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- Working across five universities, the Minderoo Foundation, and the university sector more generally...
- Speed of delivery
- Risk avoidance
- Uncompromising systems
- Uncompromising attitudes



## 2. Meritocracy...

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- **Perpetuation of Privilege:** Meritocracy can perpetuate existing privileges by favouring those who have access to better resources, networks, and opportunities, thereby reinforcing systemic inequalities.
- **Oversimplification of Success:** Meritocracy oversimplifies the factors that contribute to success, overlooking the role of luck, connections, and other external factors that can significantly influence an individual's achievements.
- **Leads to a belief that 'I deserve this':** arrogance – disconnecting from those that do less well.



# 3. Against the grain...

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- The Foundation challenges current university structures...
- Cooperation v. competition
- Publishing v. engagement
- Speed v. blue sky
- Risk taking v. risk avoidance





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Questions and thank you