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| **Curriculum Vitae: Dr Victoria Minson** |
| **Tel:** 0406761687 **Address:** 115b Victoria Pde, Fitzroy 3065 **email:** [victoria.minson@acu.edu.au](mailto:victoria.minson@acu.edu.au) |
| **Profile** |
| Victoria completed her PhD at Monash University in 2019 and joined Australian Catholic University (ACU) in the Faculty of Education and Arts as a Lecturer in 2020. In 2024, Victoria was promoted to Senior Lecturer. Presently, Victoria is the Course Coordinator for the Bachelor of Early Childhood Education (Birth to Five Years) (Accelerated), an Early Childhood Innovative Initial Teacher Education (IITE) program funded by the Victorian Department of Education and Training. Victoria played a unique role in securing $25 million in IITE funding and establishing the program within an ambitious three-month timeframe. She now leads the groundbreaking integration of Virtual Reality (VR) into the early childhood pre-service teacher curriculum, setting a new standard for VR in early childhood initial teacher education.  Victoria began her career as an early childhood educator, working in long day care for five years. This experience grounded her understanding of early childhood practice and sparked a lifelong interest in early learning. While completing her postgraduate studies, she transitioned to parenting services in local government, where she facilitated playgroups and developed parent education programs.  Before entering academia, Victoria worked in practice and quality improvement for Australia’s largest not-for-profit early childhood education provider. This experience sharpened her focus on service delivery, educational leadership, and policy implementation. Victoria is deeply committed to ensuring every child has access to high-quality early learning. Her research and teaching are driven by a belief in the transformative power of education, and she is passionate about preparing the next generation of early childhood educators to lead with knowledge, care, and innovation. |
| **Education** |
| * Doctor of Philosophy, Monash University 2019 * Honours Degree of Bachelor of Education, Monash University 2014 * Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies, Monash University 2012 * Diploma of Children’s Services, Swinburne University 2009 |
| **Academic Experience** |
| **Course Coordinator, Bachelor of Early Childhood Education (Birth to Five Years) (Accelerated)**   * February 2022 – present, *excluding parental leave from August 2022 to August 2023*   + Over 350 students enrolled across three states (and five campuses), with an inaugural graduating cohort of 100 students in 2024, 150 graduating cohort in 2024 an expected graduating cohort of 100 students in 2025.   **Innovative Initial Teacher Education Program,** **Project Leadership Team**   * November 2021 – present, excluding parental leave from August 2022 to August 2023   + Shared leadership of the BEDECA program from August 2023 to April 2024   + Steering the integration of Virtual Reality (VR) into the early childhood pre-service teacher curriculum   + Led the design and initial delivery of a Professional Learning Program (PLP) designed to help mentors effectively guide BEDECA mentees.   **Senior Lecturer, Australian Catholic University**   * January 2025 – Present   **Lecturer, Australian Catholic University**   * June 2020 – December 2024, excluding parental leave from August 2022 to August 2023 * Contributed to teaching and learning at a campus level, as a local Lecturer in Charge for seven units, EDAR104, EDCX202, EDEC100, EDEC111, EDEF261, EDEF315 and EDEF481. * Contributed to teaching and learning at a national level for a placement unit EDEC111.   + As National Lecturer in Charge for EDEC1111, Victoria led the development of a new unit and oversaw its delivery across four campuses. This included coordinating the sequencing of new content, negotiating the allocation of content development among team members, leading a national approach to moderation, supporting sessional markers and tutors, and managing results   *Casual Academic Contracts*  **Research Officer, Monash University**   * July 2019 – June 2020   **Teaching Associate, Monash University**   * February 2018 - July 2019 (sessional work)   **Research Assistant, Monash University**   * October 2017 – December 2017 |
| **Grants** |
| **Australian Research Council, Discovery Program 2025**   * ARCDP25 *Artificial Intelligence for the Early Years*.   Project funding awarded over three years, $929,546   * Chief Investigators: Prof Susan Edwards (ACU), Prof Michael Henderson (MON), Prof Jane Page (UoM), Prof Amanda Third (WSU), **Dr Victoria Minson** (ACU), Prof Andrew Manches (UE), A/Prof Sherri Hope Culver (TU),   **Victorian Government Early Childhood Innovative Initial Teacher Education Program**   * Contributed to securing funding of $25 million ($13.5 million 2022-2024 & $12.3 million 2024-2026)   + Victoria was part of the team that conceptualised the accelerated degree in the 2021 tender submission and established the program within an ambitious three-month timeframe.   + Victoria led the 'Pedagogical Innovation' section of the tender and wrote a position paper conceptualising a framework for integrating VR within the curriculum. The successful tender application attracted a significant amount of funding for ACU, increased student enrolment numbers as well as addressing critical shortages in the early childhood education workforce by increasing the number of graduate teachers   **Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship Skills (TIES)**   * Victoria’s unique contributions to the Victorian tender (e.g. a framework for integrating VR within the curriculum) were adapted and used to support one project within the New South Wales grant application, Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship Skills (TIES). Total project funding $997, 317.   + While this grant funded multiple projects, funds were allocated to facilitate VR experiences for the New South Wales BEDECA cohort. |
| **HDR Supervision** |
| Victoria achieved provisional accreditation as an ACU HDR Supervisor, supervising her first PhD completion in 2022 as an assistant supervisor. In 2025, Victoria is supervising three PhD candidates. |
| **Publications** |
| ***Research Publications***  Victoria has published six works during her Early Career Researcher (ECR) period (PhD conferred September 2019, excluding parental leave from August 2022 to August 2023). Four publications are first-authored, including two invited book chapters with A-ranked publishers (APSA). Victoria’s most recent publication is a co-authored paper in the journal Trauma, Violence, and Abuse, ranked in the top 2% of journals for Public Health (SCIMAGO Q1, 14/611).  Sun, Y., Blewitt, C., **Minson, V**., Bajayo, R., Cameron, L., & Skouteris, H. (2024). Trauma-informed Interventions in Early Childhood Education and Care Settings: A Scoping Review. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, *25*(1), 648-662. 14/611. [Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health](https://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php?category=2739)   * Advancing new insight into trauma informed early education. Q1 and ranked 14/611 Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health (SCIMAGO)   **Minson, V**., & McLean, K. (2023). Playgroup Families’ Experiences of Play-Based Remote Learning. *Australasian Journal of Early Childhood*, *48*(2), 117-133. <https://doi.org/10.1177/18369391221139316>.   * Invited paper following ranking as top 2/60 papers at the Australasian Early Childhood Journal (AJEC) 2023 Symposium.   Edwards, S., McLean, K., & **Minson, V**. (2022). From Technology as Tool to Digitally Mediated Contexts for Learning in Early Childhood Education and Care in Australia. *The Routledge Handbook of Media Education Futures Post-Pandemic*.   * Invited chapter responding to demands of young children’s digital learning during the pandemic. #A rank publisher (APSA)   **Minson, V**., & Nuttall, J. (2022). Assessment for learning within Australia's Early Years Learning Framework: What is the place of Learning Stories? *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood*, 14639491221133464.   * Problematises reliance on Learning Stories as a predominate approach to assessing children’s play and learning in the Early Years Learning Framework. 663 downloads.   **Minson, V**., Veresov, N., & Hammer, M. (2022). Development; The Alchemy of Learning: The Case of Andy. In *Assessing and Evaluating Early Childhood Education Systems* (pp. 111-124). Cham: Springer International Publishing.   * Invited chapter based on PhD findings highlighting relationships between development and assessment in the early years. Book held in 175 libraries worldwide.   **Minson, V**., Hammer, M., & Veresov, N. N. (2016). Rethinking assessments: creating a new tool using the zone of proximal development within a cultural-historical framework. *Cultural-Historical Psychology*, *12*(3), 331-345.   * Major publication from PhD providing a new assessment tool for educators. SCIMAGO Q1, 27/1,119 (Cultural Studies)   **Non-traditional outputs**  As a parent and academic, Victora has contributed to writing non-traditional research outputs and being interviewed by media outlets to address critical topics. These outputs aim to disseminate practical insights to a broader audience beyond academia, including parents, educators, policymakers, partners and alumni. These efforts are essential for informing public discourse, shaping policy discussions, and providing evidence-based guidance to stakeholders involved in early childhood education.  Minson, V. (20 March 2025). [How can you tell if your child’s daycare is good quality?](https://theconversation.com/how-can-you-tell-if-your-childs-daycare-is-good-quality-252613)*The Conversation.*  Constantinou, M. (September 2024). Valuing the work of early childhood educators. *ACU Impact* (interview). <https://www.impact.acu.edu.au/career/valuing-the-work-of-early-childhood-educators>  Minson, V. (19 June 2024). [Early childhood educators are not ‘babysitters’](https://theconversation.com/early-childhood-educators-are-not-babysitters-what-do-their-jobs-really-involve-228107#:~:text=Early%20education%20is%20not%20just%20'care'&text=Play%20(both%20initiated%20by%20children,social%2C%20literacy%20and%20numeracy%20skills.). What do their jobs really involve?*The Conversation.*  Borg, R., Delibasic, S. (8 June 2024). Why parents are picking private and independently run kinder services over government centres. *Sunday Herald Sun*.[Private kinder fees: more Vic parents choosing independent early learning centres | Herald Sun](https://www.heraldsun.com.au/victoria-education/early-education/why-parents-are-picking-private-and-independentlyrun-kinder-services-over-government-centres/news-story/a849a5ef8a1fdf63326af2c0bf18bdf6?btr=3c2ed68ad6ba646720bae238535415bb)  Convery, H. (23 April 2024). A Fast Way to Become an ECT. *KindiCare* (interview) <https://kindicare.com/career-advice-for-childcare-job-seekers/a-fast-way-to-become-an-ect>  Smith, M. (5 February 2024). New kinder teachers fast-tracked to help fill staff shortages*. The Courier (Ballarat).* [New ACU early childhood degree training more kinder teachers | The Courier | Ballarat, VIC](https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/8506732/new-acu-early-childhood-degree-training-more-kinder-teachers/?cs=62)  Harris, C. (31 January 2024). More kids are starting Kindy late. *The Sydney Morning Herald*. [Kindergarten students starting at later age (smh.com.au)](https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/more-kids-than-ever-are-starting-kindy-late-ryan-isn-t-one-of-them-20240131-p5f1e4.html)  Lucas, R. (23 January 2024). ACU graduates ready to lead classrooms after 18-month short course. *The Sector.* [ACU graduates from short course are ready to teach (thesector.com.au)](https://thesector.com.au/2024/01/23/acu-graduates-ready-to-lead-classrooms-after-18-month-short-course/)  Highfield, K., Minson, V. (29 August 2023). [How can I tell if my child is ready to start school next year](https://theconversation.com/how-can-i-tell-if-my-child-is-ready-to-start-school-next-year-211997)? *The Conversation.*  Victoria has achieved media coverage for her work with ABC Ballarat & Newcastle (live radio interview), Hope FM and WIN News (TV interview) |
| **Awards** |
| **2023:** Faculty of Education and Arts, 2023 Excellence in Teaching Award  **2022:** ACU Teaching Development Grant 2022, Expanding Virtual horizons: Virtual Reality in Teacher Education  **2017:** Best presentation at the International Society of Cultural-historical Activity Research (ISCAR) Student PhD Day, Quebec  **2017:** Australian Scholarship Group Winner, Travel Grant  **2015:** Nominee for Victorian Young Achiever of the Year  **2015:** Australian Research and Training Scholarship, PhD funding |
| **Service** |
| **Assistant Editor for the journal ‘Australasian Journal of Early Childhood (AJEC)**   * July 2021 – August 2022   Victoria contributed to the early years research community as Assistant Editor of the Australasian Journal of Early Childhood (AJEC) in 2021. In this role, Victoria managed paper submissions, participated in editorial decision-making, facilitated peer reviews, and engaged with authors, significantly enhancing my capacity to evaluate high-quality research and contribute to knowledge advancement through rigorous methodologies. During her time in this role, AJEC saw an increase in its impact factor. Victoria did not return to this role post parental leave, as she navigated new demands managing work and a young child.  **Assistant Editor for the Monash journal ‘International Research in Early Childhood Education’**   * November 2017– June 2020   **Cultural Historical Reading Group Leader, Monash University**   * November 2017–March 2019 |
| **Sector Experience** |
| **Practice Improvement Area Lead, Goodstart Early Learning**   * January 2020 – June 2020   **Individual Parenting Support Worker, Family Services City of Melbourne**   * January 2018– January 2020   **Playgroup Facilitator, Family Services, City of Melbourne**   * November 2012 – January 2018   **Junior Kindergarten Team Leader, Fawkner Park Children’s Centre**   * October 2010 – November 2012  Early Childhood Educator, Fawkner Park Children’s CentreAugust 2008 – October 2010 |