

# AUDREY BESTER née APPUDURAI

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## Science communicator, educator, biologist, artist, and writer

- I have recently submitted my PhD thesis. I am the first PhD candidate to conduct an interdisciplinary art/science research project in Western Australia through SymbioticA, and The Neuroecology Group at The University of Western Australia (UWA).
  - I have 5 years professional experience in the field of integrated art, science and biological arts and am an expert in delivering scientific, artistic and educational content through engaging and accessible ways – to the public and to academics. During this time, I have managed, curated and opened three public art/science exhibitions in iconic WA institutions and galleries, held art/science communication programmes and workshops for rural high school, under- and post-graduate students, and have written a 275 page dissertation on the study of lungfish visual perception through biological science, visual art and cultural studies.
  - I have 9 years practical experience in biological sciences, specifically genetics, microbiology, histology, tissue culture and molecular biology and working with live non-human animals.
  - I have a 4.5 year professional track record as a graduate teaching assistant for under- and post-graduate tertiary students in biology, and art/science units at UWA. Direct student feedback through the Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) questionnaires have rated my teaching 4.4/5 (124 students over 4.5 years).
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## Skills

- Project management and organization – all tasks and projects were completed to strict deadlines
  - Science communication to diverse audiences
  - Scientific, artistic and cultural research
  - Scientific and interdisciplinary art/science teaching
  - Analysis and problem solving
  - Research and information management
  - Self-motivated, self-managed and independent worker
  - Expert in written and oral communication at all levels – brief abstract, reports, articles, book length manuscripts
  - Expert in written and oral communication in the fields of science, art, and art/science
  - Leadership and interpersonal skills at all levels – from high school students to professional research academics
  - Diplomacy and ability to cope and navigate complex working environments
  - Supervision skills – from undergraduate to Masters/PhD and honours students
  - Adept at acquiring funding through grant and scholarship proposals
  - Budget management
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## Recent Employment

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| Current-2015 | Administrative Officer for SymbioticA   UWA, Australia.   |
| 2015         | Events Manager for SymbioticA   UWA, Australia. Projects/events managed: CRINGE (National Creative Research Into New Genres Event)  |
| Current-2014 | Curator of solo and group exhibitions: <i>Busied and bruised with looking...</i> (2015), <i>Cernentia: Exploring the visual perception of lungfishes without eyes</i> (2015), <i>Material/Immaterial</i> (2014). See below for details. |
| Current-2011 | Graduate Teaching Assistant for Frontiers of Biology, and Plant and Animal Biology   UWA, Australia   |
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## Education and Research

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| Current-2011 | THESIS SUBMITTED<br>Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Biological Arts<br>SymbioticA/Animal Biology/UWA Oceans Institute<br>Title: Other-Worlds: Encounters with the visual perception of lungfishes through science and art supervised by Dr. Ionat Zurr, Professor Shaun P. Collin, and Associate Professor Nathan Hart, UWA. |
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2010	Honours (BSc Hons) in Microbiology School of Microbiology and Immunology Title: Comparative Analysis of Kangaroo and Human Leishmania: Defining Human Pathogenicity Genes supervised by Assoc/Prof Christopher Peacock, UWA.
2006-2009	Bachelor of Science (Genetics) (Majors – Medical Genetics and Microbiology), UWA

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## Teaching Experience

Current-2012	Frontiers in Biology Cygnus journal sub-editor   UWA, Australia
Current-2011	Frontiers in Biology graduate teaching assistant   UWA, Australia Plant and Animal Biology graduate teaching assistant   UWA, Australia
2013	Advanced Art and Life Manipulation graduate teaching assistant   UWA, Australia
2012	Aesthetic Crossovers of Art and Science graduate teaching assistant   UWA, Australia

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## Exhibitions & Publications

2015	<i>Busied and bruised with looking...</i> Perth Centre for Photography   West Perth, Western Australia. September 17-October 11.  <i>Cernentia: Exploring the visual perception of lungfishes without eyes.</i> Kidogo Art Institute   Fremantle, Western Australia. July 24-31.
2014	<i>An Introduction to Neolife.</i> The University Club   UWA, Australia. November 4-12.  <i>Material/Immaterial.</i> ARTLAAB.   Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Art, UWA, Australia. August 15-23, 2014  "In Focus"   Trove creative arts journal Volume 4: Issue 2
2013	"In Focus"   2013 issue of Postscript Magazine UWA Press  <i>LUMINOUSnight.</i> As part of UWA Centenary & Perth International Arts Festival. The University Club   UWA, Australia. February-December, 2013.
2012	"What makes these fish lose their sight?"   UWA News. Volume 12: Number 6  <i>Tissue, Artscape: Anatomy: Series 3.</i> dir. Alethea Jones   Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Aired: 7 Feb, 2012.

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## Conferences & Talks

2015	Neolife SLSA 2015 (1-3 October)  UWA, Australia. Abstract title: The Lungfishes From A Historical Perspective: How Humans See The "Other".  Graduate Women WA (19 May)   St. Catherine's College, WA. Abstract title: Other-Worlds: Insights into the visual perception of lungfishes through science and art.
2014	SymbioticA Seminar (12 December)  UWA, Australia. Abstract title: Uncovering the visual world of nine blind lungfishes  Animal Biology Seminar Series (22 <sup>nd</sup> October)  UWA, Australia. Abstract title: Alternative Realities: Insights into the visual perception of lungfishes
2013	Advanced Art and Life Manipulation (ANHB8511) seminar   SymbioticA, UWA. Abstract title: Visual perception in non-human animals: An art/science approach.

- 2012 The Art and Science of Synthetic Biology: Critical And Creative Perspectives On 'New Life' symposium (22 November) | Discussion panel. University of Queensland.
- Science Week (12 August) | UWA, Australia. Abstract title: Alternative Realities: Insights into the visual perception of lungfishes.
- Minding Animals 2012 (3-6 July) | Utrecht University, the Netherlands. Abstract title: Exploring the visual experience of the Animal: Then and Now.
- 2011 Anatomy and Human Biology Postgraduate Student Expo (28 July) | UWA, Australia. Abstract title: Insights into the visual perception and behaviour of Dipnoan fishes.
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## Volunteering

- 2015 Management of events and speakers at NEOLIFE: The Inaugural Rest of the World Meeting of the Society for Literature, Science and The Arts (SLSA) | SymbioticA, UWA, Australia.
- 2012-2011 Conducting workshops/outreach to rural Western Australian high schools | Science Week, Chanelle Carter Memorial Fund, UWA.
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## Awards and Funding

- 2015 PhD Completion Scholarship | Australian Government Department of Education, Australia
- 2014 Mary and Elsie Stevens Bursary | Graduate Women W.A. Inc. Australia.
- Extension of Australia Postgraduate Award and UWA Top-Up Scholarship | UWA, Australia
- 2014-2011 Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) to undertake PhD | Australian Government Department of Education, Australia
- 2014-2011 UWA Top-Up Scholarship to undertake PhD | UWA, Australia
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## Relevant Skills and Courses

- 2014-2012 Attended the Professional Development workshop (each year) for teaching | Centre for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning (CATL), UWA, Australia
- 2013-2011 Centre for Microscopy, Characterisation and Analysis (CMCA) member | UWA, Australia
- 2012-2011 Conducted workshops for rural high school students through the Chanelle Carter Memorial Fund, as part of Science Week | UWA, Australia
- 2011 Programme in Animal Welfare, Ethics and Science (PAWES) approved. Licensed to work with live animals in research. | UWA, Australia
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## Referees

Dr. Ionat Zurr  
 SymbioticA, School of Anatomy, Physiology and Human Biology  
 The University of Western Australia  
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Professor Susan Barker  
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Teaching portfolio on request ♦ Available for relocation