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# ADAM GRODECK: MEDIATOR AND MASTER IN PHYSICS

Adam Grodeck tells us about his journey as a Mediator at Science Gallery Melbourne, while researching habitable, earth-like planets in our galaxy.

## WHO?

- ▶ Adam Grodeck, Mediator
- ▶ Science Gallery Melbourne
- ▶ The University of Melbourne



Adam Grodeck working as a mediator during PERFECTION, 2018

## WHAT?

Adam Grodeck describes himself as a starry-eyed space nerd, with a keen curiosity for how things work, from why the sky is blue to how a light bulb glows. He was inspired to follow his passion after finishing high school, completing a Bachelor of Science at The University of Melbourne in 2017 with a major in Mathematical Physics.

In 2016, as a budding physics undergraduate student, Adam found himself in Dublin during a post-semester trip where his interest was piqued by the concept of Science Gallery. Visiting the exhibition DESIGN AND VIOLENCE, he was impressed with the curation and the content accessibility for a young audience. With this first exposure to Science Gallery Mediators, he knew immediately that it was a project that he would love to be a part of one day, and was overjoyed to hear that Science Gallery was opening a new node in Melbourne.

The experience as a Mediator in Science Gallery Melbourne was a major influence in the decision to continue his studies at the post-graduate level and to delve deeper into this area. Adam recently finished a Masters in Physics, with his research revolving around the upcoming miniature satellite project called SkyHopper currently led by a team at The University of Melbourne. The research investigates a preliminary observation strategy for the satellite's mission to find new planets orbiting stars in the cosmos other than our Sun. This focuses on discovering Earth-sized planets with conditions on the surface that can allow liquid water to exist - a precursor to life!

# WHAT THEY SAID?

*"Mediating at Science Gallery made me fall in love with my studies all over again. Being a part of so many great conversations about the impacts of science on society was invigorating in that the science course I was studying could help me be a positive vehicle for change in the world. My role as a Mediator and my university course have also complemented each other fantastically (...) For these reasons, the Mediator programme has been one of the defining experiences of my time at university."*

*"Science doesn't exist in an academic bubble; the impacts of research proliferate through all our lives. People should feel empowered to discuss the things that affect them, from the advent of new artificially intelligent machines to the stigma and taboos about blood and disease. It is through the pairing of art with science that allows a wide audience of people, particularly young adults, to engage with these things."*

- Adam Grodeck, Mediator



Adam with the exhibit Human Placenta Specimen in BLOOD, 2017

## WHAT WERE THE BENEFITS AND IMPACTS?

- ▶ Personal development
- ▶ Mediator development
- ▶ Supporting creativity
- ▶ Employee engagement
- ▶ Inspiring academic choice

### LINKS

More on DESIGN AND VIOLENCE: <https://dublin.sciencegallery.com/designandviolence/>

More on PERFECTION: <https://melbourne.sciencegallery.com/perfection>

More on BLOOD: <https://melbourne.sciencegallery.com/blood>

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**Sources:** Interview with Adam Grodeck

**Compiled by:** Jahitza Balaniuk, Science Gallery International 2019

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