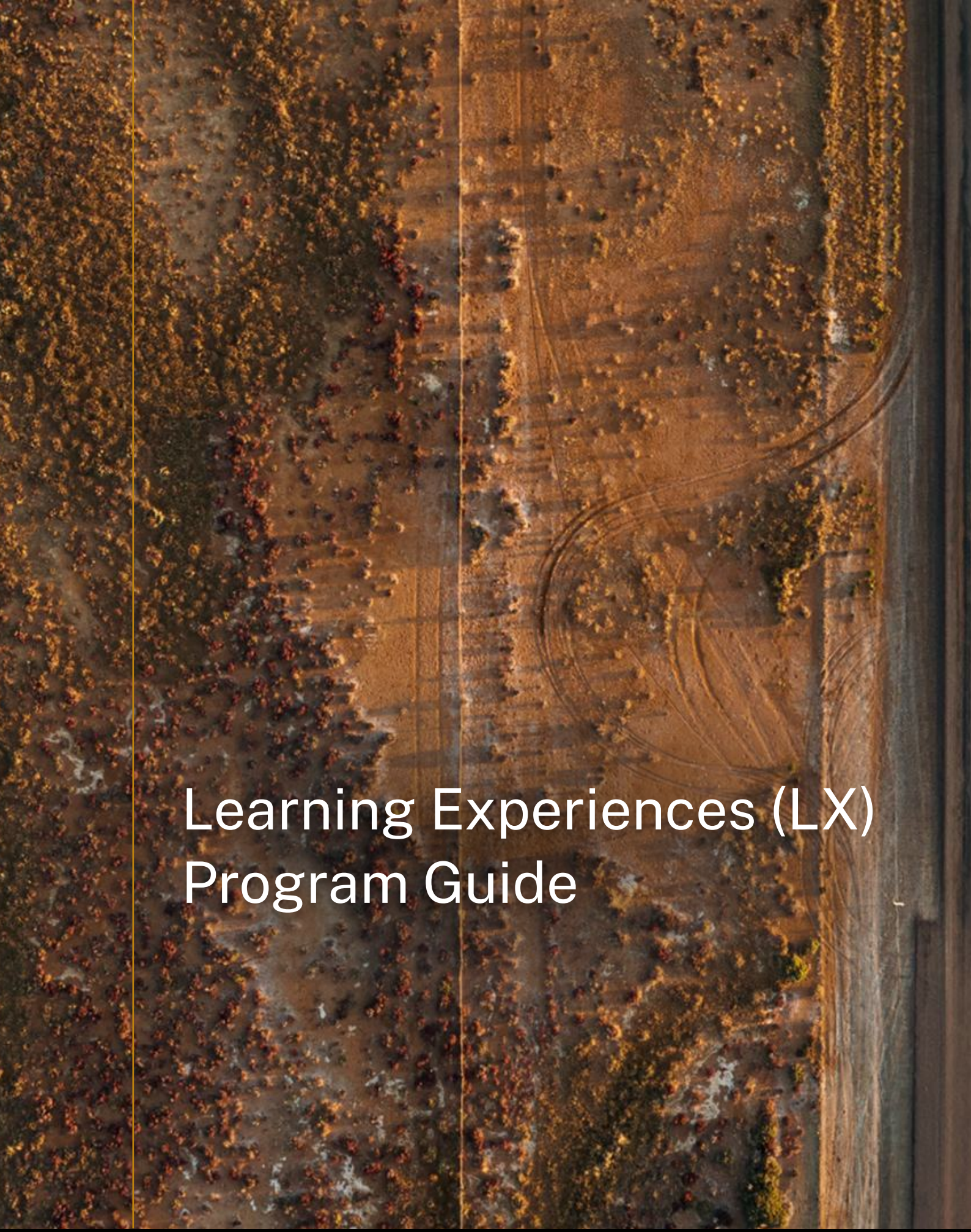


Learning Experiences (LX) Program Guide

Australian National University
School of Cybernetics

Contents

The Australian National University acknowledges, celebrates and pays our respects to the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people of the Canberra region and to all First Nations Australians on whose traditional lands we meet and work, and whose cultures are among the oldest continuing cultures in human history.

The Australian National University School of Cybernetics is committed to helping Australia and Australians navigate major societal transformations.

Cybernetics provides a unique approach to understanding and managing the complexities of technological advancements, focusing on the components, connections, and dynamics of complex systems.

Organisations around the world increasingly recognise an urgent need for the right expertise to face the challenges and complexities of the 21st century.

That expertise is more than just a technical understanding of emerging technologies — it is also a critical awareness of how these technologies interact with wider cultural, social, economic, political, and ecological systems. The School of Cybernetics is bringing the transdisciplinary practice of cybernetics to the world through innovative, research-informed Learning Experiences for industry, government, and communities.

We've partnered with:

Learning Experiences (LX)

For individuals and organisations

At the School of Cybernetics, we are guiding practitioners towards safe, sustainable and responsible futures through and with technology.

Our multifaceted Learning Experiences are designed with and for audiences across industry, government and the community sector. From leading through the uncertainty generated by novel technologies to engaging with AI from fresh perspectives, our Learning Experiences guide participants to shape and create the better, fairer, and safer systems of the future.

We offer powerful practices founded on research and cybernetic inquiry, and drive conversations that reimagine technology's role in the world and in the future.

Design principles

Our Learning Experiences are designed to be:

Collaborative

We partner with organisations and people who are shaping safe, responsible, and sustainable futures for AI-enabled systems to deliver education packages. Our goal is for genuine partnership in these collaborations, because we think combining our expertise is a pathway to meaningful impact.

Audience-focused

Our programs are designed with busy professionals in mind. Content is concise yet impactful, and we prioritise interactivity to ensure audiences take away key insights for a limited time commitment. We want to leave our participants feeling inspired by new ideas and skills to explore.

Accessible and inclusive

We develop education for audiences with various levels of experience in the complex mechanics of new and emerging technologies. Our approach is suitable for all levels of understanding and brings people from diverse disciplinary backgrounds and experiences along the learning journey. We unpack complexity in an approachable way using story.

Testimonials

"It was great learning from experts who are both **knowledgeable and passionate**. They presented technical concepts in an engaging and relatable manner."

— *Multinational professional services organisation*

"The course provided **a fresh perspective to my previous learnings in leadership**. The tools presented will be especially useful in my current role which is aiming to inspire, educate, inform and lead our organisational exploration of emerging and disruptive technology."

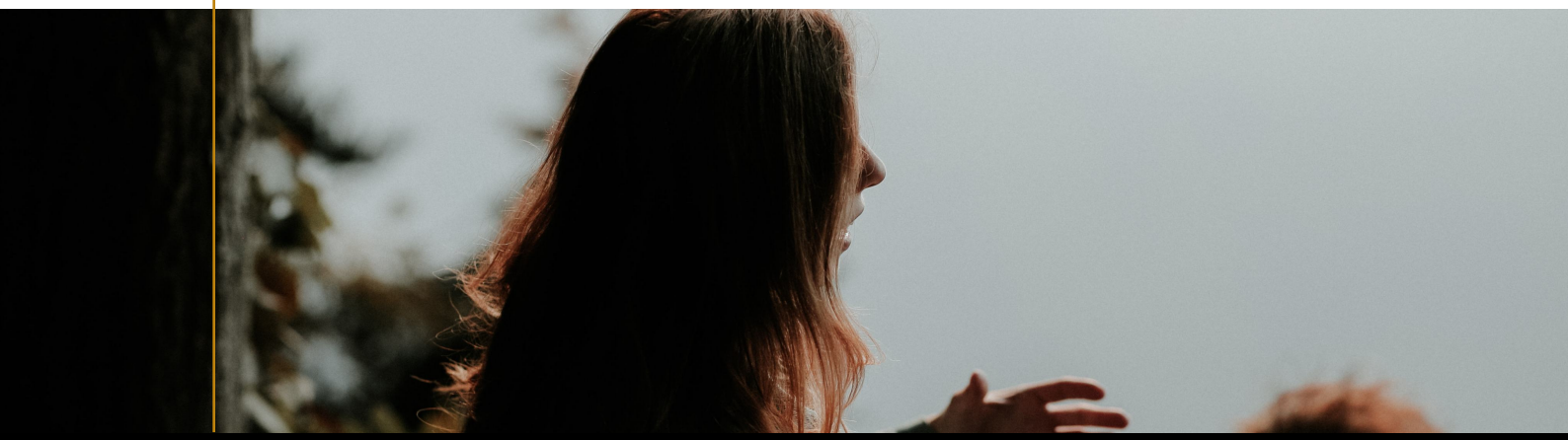
— *Australian Public Service*

"The session prompted me to reflect on some of the ways I interact with various stakeholders, from technical IT personnel to broad systems thinkers. The course gave space to consider the unintended nature of activities, and the **four cybernetic principles will be a useful tool** in my job."

— *Research organisation, Australian Government*

"Loved how the team managed the day, especially the **well-supported interactive sessions** that encouraged deep discussions."

— *Higher education institution*



LX packages

As part of our *Navigating Cybernetics Futures* series, we currently offer four short, non-award Learning Experiences that have been designed for individuals and organisations looking to equip themselves with 21st-century skills.

DECODING AI THROUGH CYBERNETICS

CREATING FUTURES WITH CYBERNETICS

TRANSFORMING COMPLEX SYSTEMS WITH CYBERNETICS

INTRODUCING CYBERNETIC LEADERSHIP

We offer these modules by open enrolment for individuals to attend in-person, in Canberra. Visit our website to enrol in our next season.

LX packages for your organisation

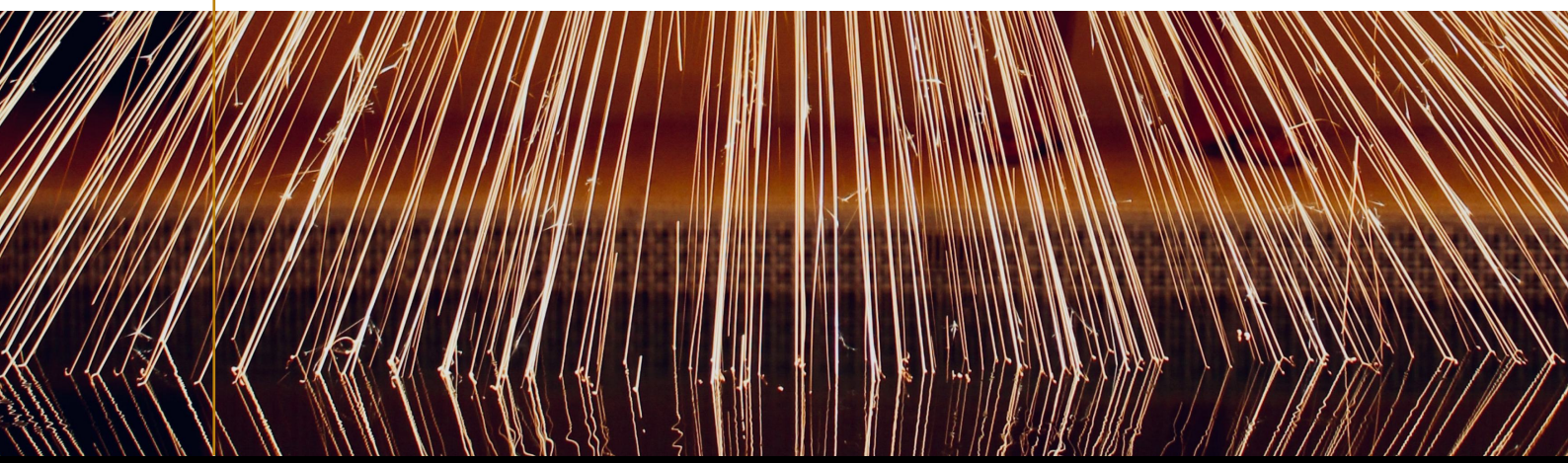
Our programs are customisable to your needs.

Our LX modules can be delivered off-the-shelf for your organisation, or combined and tailored to best fit your specific requirements and learning objectives.

That might look like an intensive half-day workshop in your city for busy Senior Executives, or a 4-day residential bootcamp at our coastal campus.

Collaborate with us to design a bespoke package that responds to the context of your organisation or sector.

Read on for further information; and for enquiries, please contact our team: lxconvenor.cybernetics@anu.edu.au.



Pricing and attendees

To maximise the opportunity for discussion and peer learning, we recommend capping the number of participants to 30 per session, with a minimum of 8 attendees.

For customised LX programs, our pricing structures can be tailored to the needs of your organisation — based on the level of co-design, development time, and the types of presenters required. Please reach out to our LX Convenor (lxconvenor.cybernetics@anu.edu.au), who can prepare a custom proposal to meet your specific needs.

The public price per person for a one-day LX Learning Experience is $2,310. More information on typical public day Learning Experiences is available on our website: https://cybernetics.anu.edu.au/education/learningexperiences/.

Delivery options

Our Learning Experiences are adaptable to your organisation's needs.

For an indication of the options available for initial program delivery:

- **90 min session online or in- person**
  - Flexible with delivery timeframe
- **Half day in-person**
  - Any 3.5-hour block from 7am, through to conclusion at 6pm
- **One day in-person**
  - 9:30-4:30pm
- **Two day in-person**
  - 9:30am – 4:30pm each day
  - Optional dinner or activity in the evening
- **Three day in-person**
  - 9:30am – 4:30pm each day
  - Optional dinner or activity in the evening
- **Three or four day offsite**
  - Residential over 3 or 4 days
  - Venue: Location with accommodation, for example the ANU Kioloa campus (subject to additional costs and availability)

Learning Experiences (LX) Modules

An overview of each module on offer.

Decoding AI

Part-day or one-day Learning Experience

DECODING AI
THROUGH CYBERNETICS

Artificial Intelligence is booming. New AI solutions are being openly released to the public and integrated into everyday computing systems across all sectors and settings — both with and without our consent. Concern about the legitimacy of these systems continues to play out in the public discourse and through legal and social challenges.

This learning experience will empower participants with a stronger and clearer understanding of AI technologies, their implications and controversies. The program will develop new ways to discuss AI outside the constraints of existing (and often misleading) technological terms and narratives.

Participants will explore expected and unexpected outcomes and interactions between the components of an AI system and wider societal systems. Using the presented tools, participants will consider how to manage the technology across current and future deployment scenarios. This program includes content on the mechanics of Generative AI, as well as discussion of other AI systems.

What you'll take away:

- An understanding of AI technologies, with new terms for explaining and framing AI
- Knowledge of how AI is integrated in broader social systems, and how we can apply systemic thinking to AI management
- An ability to assess and imagine current and future deployments of AI

Cybernetic Leadership

One-day Learning Experience

INTRODUCING CYBERNETIC LEADERSHIP

Being a leader in a tech-driven environment can be tough.

Emerging technologies like AI and automation are challenging decision-makers across all sectors to respond rapidly to complex and ambiguous situations — while these decision-makers still need to manage the unknown risks and opportunities of adopting these technologies. At the same time, these technologies are ushering in new social norms and ways of working, and organisational structures need to adapt.

This learning experience teaches leaders ways to navigate these unfamiliar waters. It develops capabilities in self-reflection and systemic thinking, and prepares leaders to meet the challenges of the future.

Drawing on interdisciplinary research, the Learning Experience guides learners through leadership principles for the 21st century that are immediately applicable to their own contexts.

What you'll take away:

- A practised knowledge of systemic and systems leadership principles, to better navigate emerging technologies and the organisational complexities they introduce
- An understanding of the history and practice of leadership from interdisciplinary perspectives
- The ability to create the conditions for team resilience in ambiguous and uncertain situations

Transforming Complex Systems with Cybernetics

One-day Learning Experience

TRANSFORMING
COMPLEX SYSTEMS
WITH CYBERNETICS

The ‘system’ is one of the most important concepts underpinning our modern world.

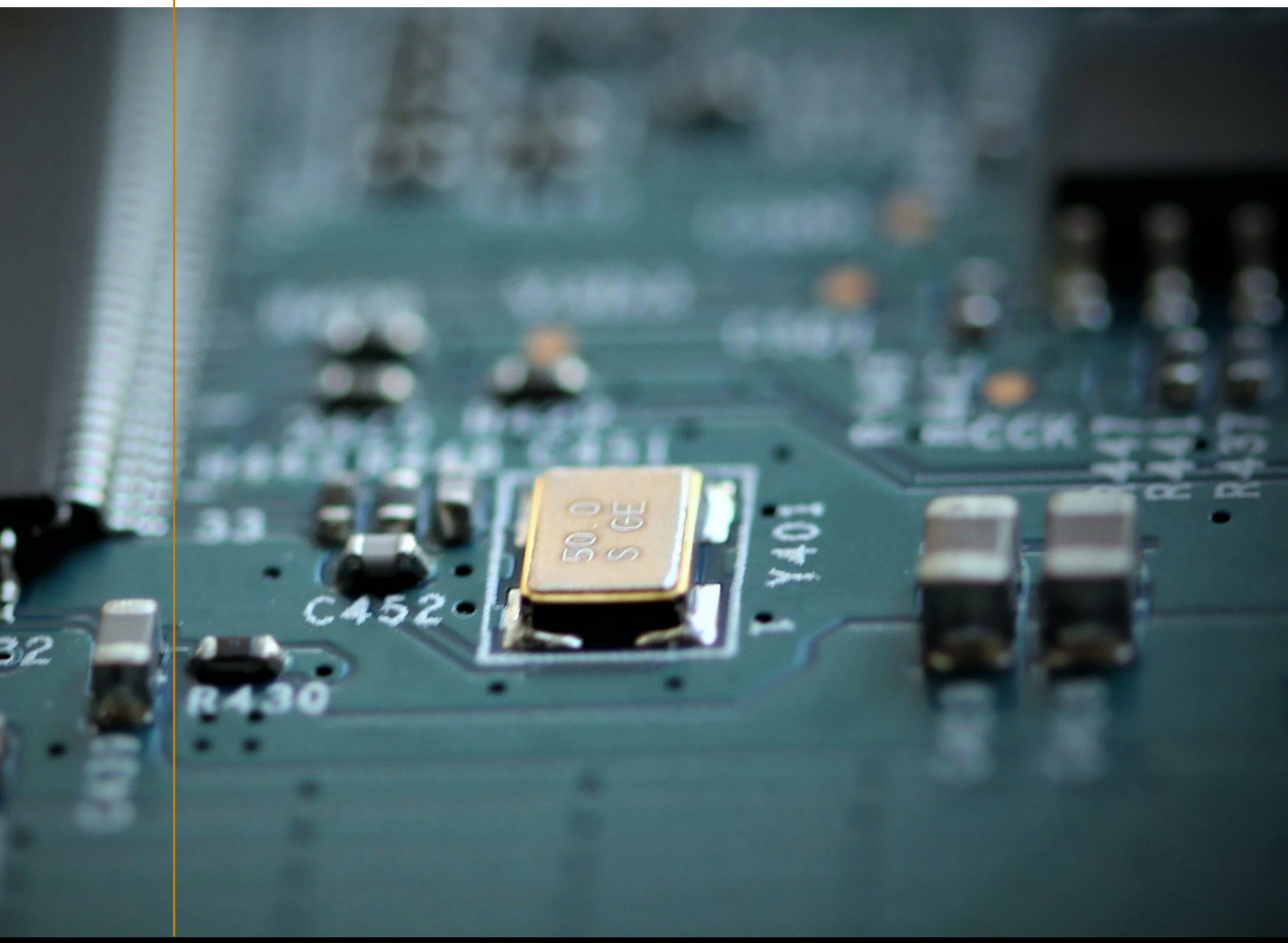
Increasing complexities and interdependencies across engineered systems create greater fragility and resilience for networked lives, while we continue to grapple with the sociological and ecological implications of these technological deployments.

This learning experience offers participants a chance to understand new perspectives and approaches for solving difficult and persistent challenges.

Participants will learn and apply three tools to illuminate a system, its dynamics and trajectories, and begin to unfold possibilities for effective intervention.

What you'll take away:

- New perspectives on systems thinking to meet complex and persistent challenges
- The ability to apply the presented tools to illuminate systems and their interdependencies
- The ability to apply the presented tools to enable interventions across systems, to resolve existing and emerging problems



Creating Futures with Cybernetics

One-day Learning Experience

CREATING FUTURES
WITH CYBERNETICS

In a time of accelerating change, we are responsible for creating a shared future in which emerging technologies and technological systems are safe, inclusive, and sustainable.

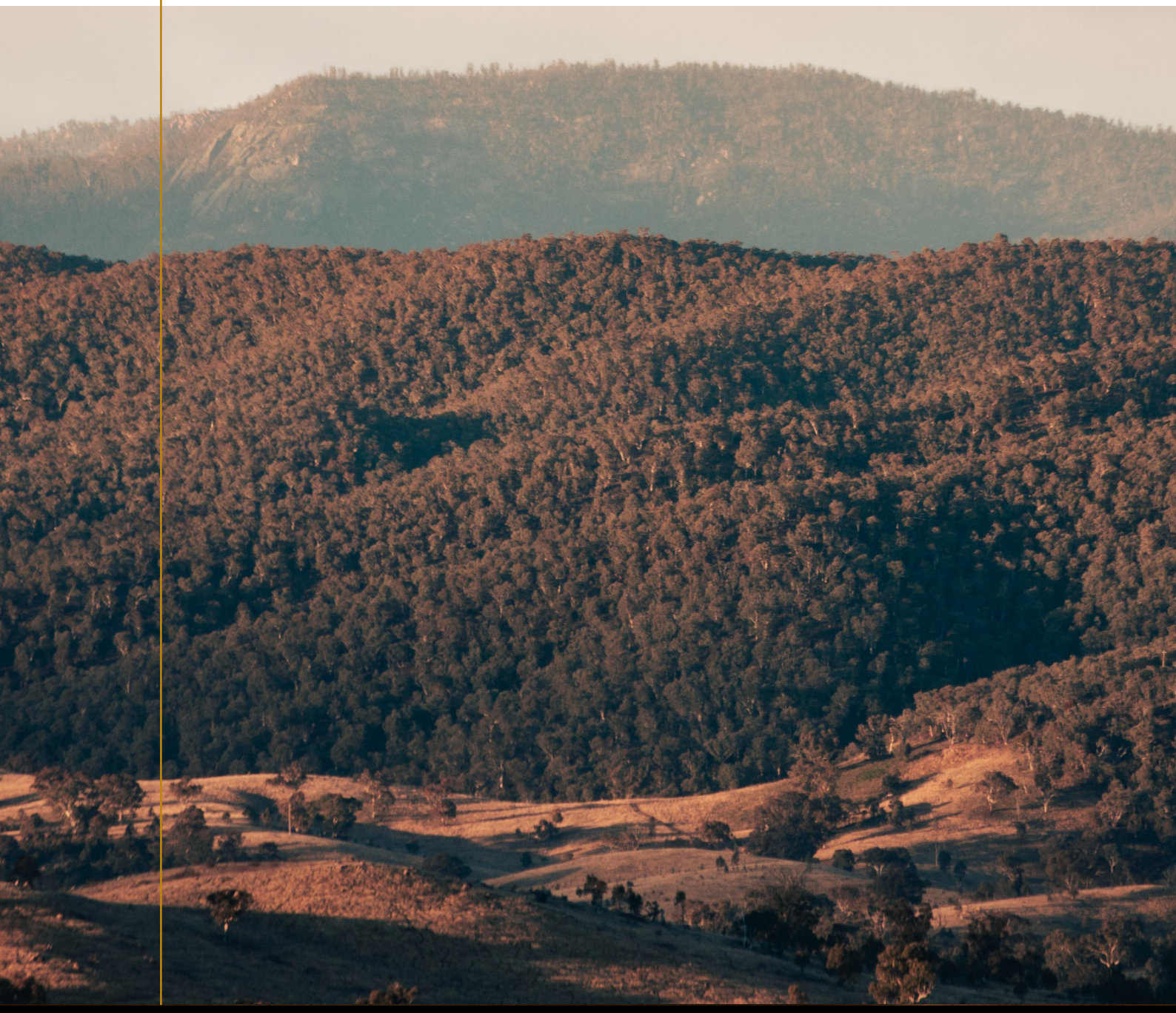
This learning experience will guide participants through **imagining and influencing the development of new systems.** With storytelling and creative practice, participants will be guided through the uncomfortable and the unexpected as they reimagine the future and their role in crafting it.

They will analyse the theories, models and strategies that inform influential narratives on the future, and delve into how our personal visions for the future shape our current actions and decision-making.

Participants will also be introduced to novel relational practices for future planning, so that they might take an active role in better crafting systems and futures.

What you'll take away:

- Your own critical position on the history and art of futuring
- The ability to use futuring tools with confidence
- A desire to imagine hopeful futures and create a concrete plan for making them possible



Learning Experiences (LX) Custom Learning

Sample packages of how our LX modules might be tailored, combined, or modified to suit your organisation's schedule and education needs.

Leading AI

Two-day Learning Experience

Our LX modules have been designed to work together. Depending on the needs of your organisation, you can stack two, three, or four LX modules together to create a custom program that is tailored to your team's specific growth and interest areas.

This custom LX combines:

DECODING AI THROUGH CYBERNETICS

INTRODUCING CYBERNETIC LEADERSHIP

TRANSFORMING COMPLEX SYSTEMS WITH CYBERNETICS

This two-day learning experience is a deep dive into the issues we face in the **implementation of new technologies, and a guide to asking the right questions about them.** Building on a foundation of AI understanding and a shared language developed in Day 1, participants will unpack their own AI use cases in the context of their organisation.

Highly practical and interactive, this learning experience builds learners' confidence to engage in discussion and decision-making around AI initiatives, and provides opportunities for them to engage with their peers in powerful conversations to lead positive systems change.

What you'll take away:

- An understanding of AI technologies and new terms for explaining and framing AI
- Knowledge of how AI is integrated in broader social systems and how to use systemic thinking for AI management
- An ability to practise systemic and systems leadership principles to better navigate emerging technologies
- An ability to create the conditions for teams to respond to workplaces that are changing in the context of AI and emerging technologies

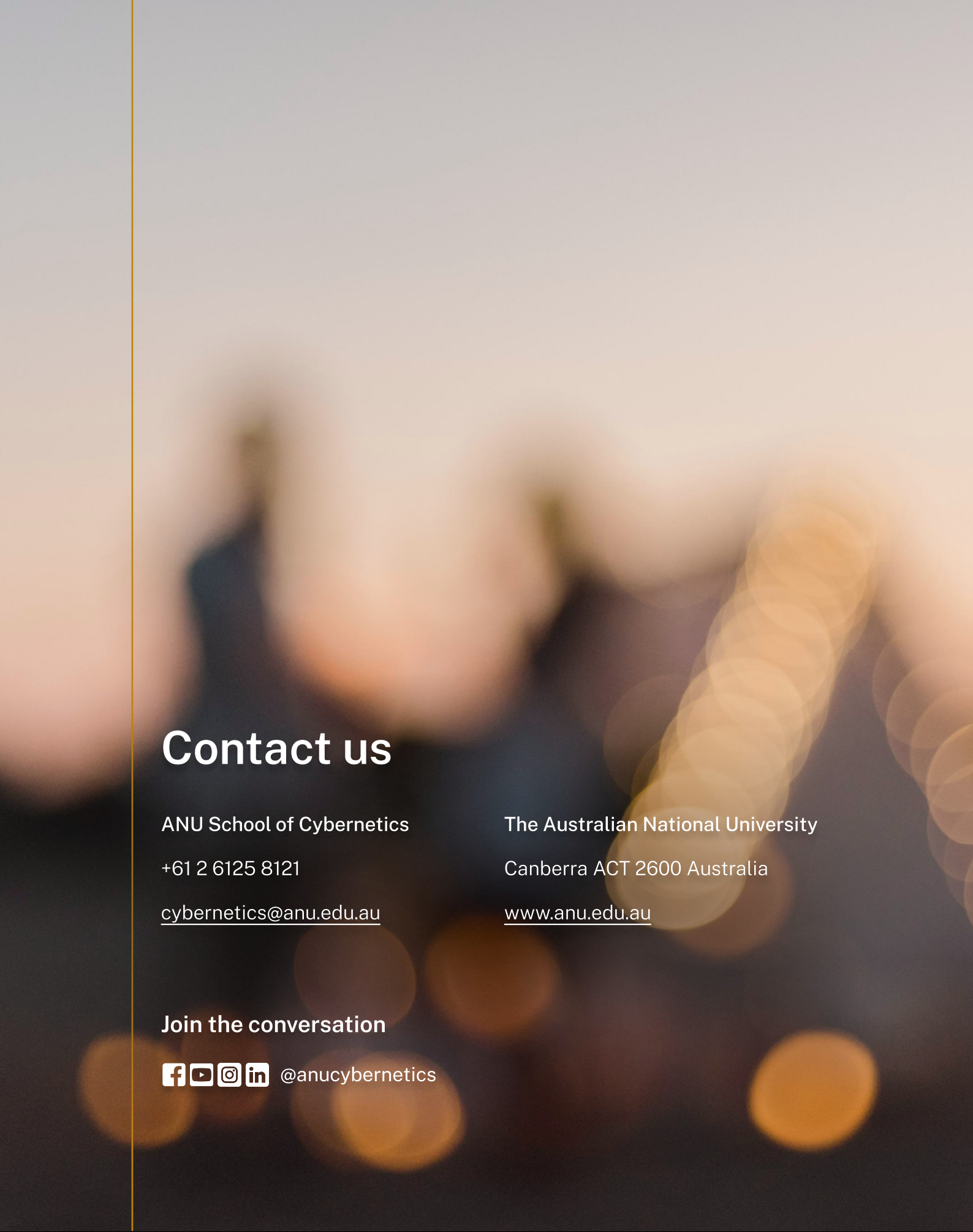
Decoding AI (abridged): The AI Tech Stack

90-minute Learning Experience

In this 90-minute, short workshop, we'll consider how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is enabled and activated by the 'AI tech stack': a tool developed by the ANU School of Cybernetics.

This tool helps to reveal how your organisation is positioned to support the design, regulation, connectivity, implementation, scaling, customer experience, and ongoing trust and reliability of AI systems.

Join us in unpacking the stack. We'll discover how understanding AI as a system allows us to be attentive to the interdependencies and relationships between people, ecologies, and technologies, to ensure our AI futures will be safe, sustainable and responsible.



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Join the conversation

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Australian National University

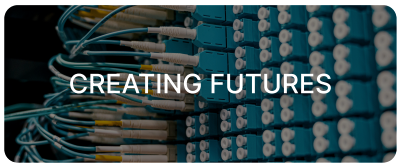
School of Cybernetics

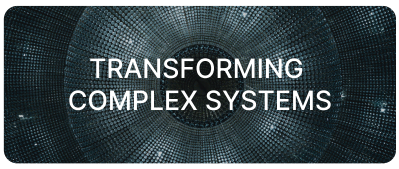
TEQSA Provider ID: PRV12002 (Australian University)

CRICOS Provider Code: 00120C

LX packages

As part of our Navigating Cybernetics Futures series, we currently offer four short, non-award Learning Experiences that have been designed for today's leaders, creatives, and change-makers:





These modules are delivered face to face, and can be booked via our website for individuals.