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| Dear Colleagues,  You are warmly invited to attend the following seminar |
| Title: Job Transitions in a Time of Automation and Labor Market Crises  Speaker: Nikolas Dawson  Date: 20th April 2021  Time: 11:30 am to 12:30 pm  Venue:   <https://unsw.zoom.us/j/85654379256>  Host: Mary-Anne Williams |
| **Abstract:**  Job security can never be taken for granted, especially in times of rapid, widespread, and unexpected social and economic change. These changes can force workers to transition to new jobs. This may be because technologies emerge, or production is moved abroad. It is a global crisis, such as COVID-19, which shutters industries and displaces labour en masse. Regardless of the impetus, people are faced with the challenge of moving between jobs to find new work. Successful transitions typically occur when workers leverage their existing skills in the new occupation. Here, we propose a novel method to measure the similarity between occupations using their underlying skills. We then build a recommender system for identifying optimal transition pathways between occupations using job advertisements (ads) data and a longitudinal household survey. Our results show that not only we can accurately predict occupational transitions (Accuracy = 76%), but we account for the asymmetric difficulties of moving between jobs (it is easier to move in one direction than the other). We also build an early warning indicator for new technology adoption (showcasing Artificial Intelligence), a major driver of rising job transitions. By using real-time data, our systems can respond to labour demand shifts as they occur (such as those caused by COVID-19), and can be leveraged by policymakers, educators, and job seekers who are forced to confront the often-distressing challenges of having to find new jobs. |
| **Bio:**  Nik is a Labour Economist and currently a Senior Research Associate at [Faethm AI](http://faethm.ai/" \t "_blank). Nik's Doctoral research at UTS was on the changing labour market dynamics in Australia, where he analysed issues such as skill shortages, job transitions, and emerging technology adoption in the Australian labour market. In his research, Nik applies data science and machine learning techniques to draw insights from large datasets, including online job advertisements, employment statistics, and longitudinal household survey data. During his Doctoral studies, Nik was selected as an OECD Future of Work Research Fellow and has also worked with agencies of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland researching the ‘Economic Impacts of Artificial Intelligence’.  Prior to pursuing a PhD, Nik worked as a Measurement & Evaluation consultant for a range of International Development projects in the Middle East. He also worked as an Investment Manager for a private investment company and a Research Analyst for Social Ventures Australia on their Education and Employment investment projects. |