

Bite-sized Thesis Project June 2017 - June 2018

Final report

Submitted by Bronte McHenry (*Bossy* editor-in-chief)

Summary

The Bite-Sized Thesis Project was organised and executed by the *Bossy* team, and involved sourcing and publishing 1500–2500 word versions of the theses being written by ANU postgraduate and honours students. We published 20 bite-sized theses in total.

Bossy is ANU's intersectional feminist publication, boasting an online publication and a biannual print magazine.

Outcomes

A. More postgraduate contributors

In 2017, *Bossy* was a new publication and was relatively unknown on campus. For this reason, there were very few postgraduate contributors. The Bite-Sized Thesis Project enabled us to incentivise postgraduate and honours students to write for *Bossy*. Significantly, introducing *Bossy* to postgraduate students through the Bite-Sized Thesis Project actually resulted in an increase in postgraduate writers outside of the project, which has continued to increase since the project concluded.

B. Including postgraduates

Postgraduate often report feeling disjointed from or unwelcome in women's spaces and projects at ANU. Through the Bite-Sized Thesis Project — a project which was exclusively designed for postgraduates — we were able to make a grand gesture, demonstrating this was not the case, and that *Bossy* was for all women and non-binary people on campus. Our intention was to also promote involvement in the ANU Women's Department as well, which was successful.

C. Sharing research and ideas

The kaleidoscope of topics or ideas currently being researched on campus is exciting and monumental, but generally goes unrecognised. The Bite-Sized Thesis Project was a way to showcase some of the interesting, niche and often extremely insightful research being conducted by hardworking students, which served to educate *Bossy* readers on an increased intellectual level.



D. Supporting women and non-binary postgraduates and honours students

It is a well-known fact that many students don't lead the most financially secure lives, and this is especially true of those undertaking postgraduate study. The Bite-Sized Thesis Project enabled us to not only offer these students some exposure, but pay them for their hard work and make student life that bit more comfortable.

E. Huge exposure and reach

- Eleven of the bite-sized theses we published were viewed by over 300 different users.
- The bite-sized theses were read by people in every Australian state and territory, and 29 other countries.
- "My Friend: The PhD Grad And Trans Escort" was viewed by 789 people.
- "Want Gender Equality? Watch Game of Thrones" was viewed by 761 people.
- We were able to feature six bite-sized theses in our second print edition.

Three fantastic bite-sized theses

[Mass Media, Massively Misogynist](#)

[Want Gender Equality? Watch Game of Thrones](#)

[My Friend: The PhD Grad And Trans Escort](#)

Room for improvement

The postgraduate community is often hard to reach out to, and this is especially true of the women and non-binary postgraduate community. There is no Facebook group with an all-encompassing membership that you can post in, and not everyone is signed up for the PARSA newsletter. After initially struggling to reach out to people beyond my own networks, and only publishing two theses in the first four months, I tried something a little different: I directly emailed all the women and non-binary people listed on the ANU Gender Institute's "Graduate Student List". It was extremely tedious, but it was highly effective. Something I will pass on in my handover is that the best way to reach postgraduates is through a direct email.