



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# A day in the life of a forensic pathologist: perspectives from Australia

Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences  
School of Biomedical Sciences  
DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY

RESEARCH SEMINAR

Dr Soren Blau

## A day in the life of a forensic pathologist: perspectives from Australia

Dr Soren Blau (Hons) MSc PhD FFSc (RCPA)

Television crime series such as “Bones”, “Silent Witness”, “CSI” and “Dexter” have influenced public perception of the role of a forensic anthropologist. This presentation will examine the origins of the discipline of forensic anthropology and provide a “real world” insight into the ways forensic anthropology has developed and is practised in Australia. The contexts where forensic anthropology may be useful will be discussed showing aspects of the discipline not typically depicted on television.

Soren Blau is the Senior Forensic Anthropologist at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM). She is an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Forensic Medicine at Monash University, Founding Fellow Faculty of Science, The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia and recipient of a Churchill Fellowship (2013).

Soren is also currently the Chair of the Medical Sciences Scientific Advisory Group and a member of the INTERPOL Disaster Victim Identification Pathology and Anthropology Sub-Working Group.

Soren undertakes domestic forensic anthropology casework and has undertaken consultancies for the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Soren has participated in the recovery and analysis of human remains from archaeological and forensic contexts in numerous countries and has delivered training to forensic practitioners and related stakeholders in Australia and overseas. In addition to publishing peer reviewed journal articles and numerous book chapters Soren co-edited the Handbook of Forensic Anthropology and Archaeology (2009; 2016).



### Event Details

**Date:**  
Wednesday 13th December 2017

**Time:**  
1.00pm to 2.00pm

**Venue:**  
Sir Peter MacCallum Room  
Room W401  
Level 4, West Wing  
Medical Building

**Enquiries:**  
03 8344 56704

**Bookings:**  
Not essential.  
Seminar Convenor:  
Dr Peter Crouch  
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*A light lunch is provided from 12.45pm*