

Dr Patrice Braun

Deputy Director

Centre for Regional Innovation & Competitiveness (CRIC)

University of Ballarat

POBox 663, Ballarat, Vic 3353

(03) 5327-9465 phone

(03) 5327-9405 fax

www.cric.com.au

p.braun@ballarat.edu.au

Biography

Patrice Braun is Deputy Director and a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Regional Innovation & Competitiveness (CRIC) at the University of Ballarat, which has a focus on sustainable regional development and innovation. She is also the Director of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Women & Technology (www.apcwt.org), one of ten globally networked not-for-profit centres to mainstream women in the knowledge economy.

Patrice holds a PhD in regional small business and network innovation underpinned by information and communication technologies (ICT). She also holds a Masters by Research on the use of the Internet for community informatics. Patrice is an action researcher. Her research and consultancy philosophy is to work *with* rather than *on* people to achieve engagement, collaborative learning and action-oriented outcomes.

Patrice's current work has a focus on ICT as an enabler to advance women in the workforce, business and entrepreneurship, education and leadership. She has collaborated with government and industry, both in Australia and abroad, on SME policy, strategies and eLearning strategies for industry innovation, small business skills development and ICT as an enabler to advance women entrepreneurs through aggregate forms of collaboration such as networking and clustering.

Dr Braun is a frequent speaker at APEC forums and was the Ministerial appointed ICT chair for the 2007 APEC Women Leaders Network meeting. Patrice is the Australian focal point for an APEC-wide research program on Women's Participation in the Digital Economy. She is on the Steering Committee of the International Taskforce for Women and Technology (ITF), a regional champion for the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and development (UNGAID), and on the Advisory Group of the Latin American Centre for Women & Technology.

Patrice's interests include ICT-enabled entrepreneurship to promote and support entrepreneurship and self-employment for women in developed and emerging economies and the weaving of technology with sustainable economic, social, learning and governance practices towards building viability and innovation in regional milieux, especially in the areas of small business viability and green entrepreneurship.