



Amanda Tattersall:

Researcher, Writer, ChangeMaker

Areas of Expertise

- Social change: protest, demonstration, public contestation around the world (especially in Australia, UK, Hong Kong, Barcelona, Cape Town, US)
- Democratic participation and the dynamics between people power and elections (especially the limits of electoral work on its own)
- Public policy and public policy failure, especially when involving (or struggling to involve) affected communities in change
- Climate transition and communities having a say in how change will occur, especially in places affected by climate change (fossil fuels, disaster, heat)
- Mental health and lived experience

Short Bio (100 words)

Amanda Tattersall is an [Associate Professor](#) in urban geography at the University of Sydney. She is internationally recognised as a change maker, co-founding GetUp.org.au and bringing US-style community organising to Australia in founding the Sydney Alliance. She is now a community methods researcher at the University, where leads projects that use the method while teaching researchers core skills in how to apply the method in their research. She is the Academic Chair of the community-led climate transition project [Real Deal for Australia project](#). She is also host of the [ChangeMakers Podcast](#), which is now in its nine season and has had over 1.8 million downloads.

Long Bio (300 words)

Amanda Tattersall is an [Associate Professor](#) in urban geography at the University of Sydney. She is internationally recognised as a change maker, co-founding GetUp.org.au and bringing US-style community organising to Australia instigating the Sydney Alliance in 2007. The Sydney Alliance has gone on to create a network of seven urban alliances across Australia.

She is now a leading community methods researcher at the University, convening research projects that use the method while teaching researchers core skills in how to apply the method to their research. She has trained over 1800 academics at the University in how to use these methods in a variety of workshops, clinics and long-form training programs. She works with a

series of the university's multidisciplinary initiatives including the Net Zero Institute, Charles Perkins Centre and Sydney Environment Institute supporting community engagement and community methods. She received a Vice-Chancellor's Award in 2021 for this work, and is currently an Australian Policy Institute Policy Fellow, working with the NSW Premier's Department on a practice guide for community methods in public policy.

Amanda is the Academic Chair of the community-led climate transition project [Real Deal for Australia project](#), which runs place-based research projects in Geelong, Western Sydney, Gladstone, Northern Rivers and the Hunter, and was awarded a 2024 Australian Policy Fellow Challenge Grant in 2024. Tattersall is also a Chief Investigator on a Australian Research Council Discovery Grant (2025-28) looking at Just Transmission and community engagement.

Amanda is also host of the [ChangeMakers Podcast](#), which is now in its nine season and has had over 1.8 million downloads. She lives with bipolar and speaks and researches about her lived experience.

Presentation topics/keynotes

You can see a selection of previous Keynote speeches in the “Work” section under blogs and speeches. Amanda regularly provides training and speeches on Community Methods and People Power. Long descriptions are provided in those sections of the website, the topics include:

- Community Methods
 - Stakeholder engagement and mapping in research and policy making
 - Relationship building and outreach
 - Public narrative and relationship building
 - Working across difference
 - Convening and meeting
 - Engagement and Impact
 - Evaluation and participant leadership development
 - Community-led project and grant development
- People Power:
 - Community organising approaches and skills
 - Coalition building
 - The paradoxes of public life in how we make a difference:
 - The art of negotiation
 - People power strategies and the ecology of people power:
 - Sameness and difference
 - Building a relational culture in our organisations and movements

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