



'To me, innovation comes from having the freedom to daydream a little and explore questions that just grab your attention and mean something to you.'

## **Vanessa Robins**





**STEM field(s):** Mathematics and Science (theoretical physics) **Born:** Canada, moved to Australia as an infant. Attended primary and secondary school in Brisbane

- Had a talent for mathematics, and loved learning about all areas of natural science.
- Has a PhD in Applied Mathematics (Computational Topology).
- Started a Bachelor degree in physics before switching to maths.
- Research interests include the mathematical description of shape and pattern, including a focus on computational topology and image processing and applications in the natural sciences.
- Is currently Associate Professor at the Australian National University and supervises undergraduate and graduate research projects.
- Has published over 30 research papers on mathematics, algorithms, and applications to scientific problems.
- Collaborated with artists Julie Brooke and Alison Munroe, of the ANU School of Art and Design, as part of an exhibition The art of science in jewellery, metal, tape and music.
- Awarded an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship in 2014

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