An organisation’s fate is intimately tied to the innovations they bring to life. This process of creating innovation is often chaotic, unpredictable, and risky and there are many different ways organisations go about bringing order and coherence to it. My seminar will set the stage by reviewing different approaches commonly used to organise innovation within and beyond mining and discuss what we know about their effectiveness. I will then draw on two mining case studies to zoom in on the organisational challenges my research has focused on: 1) how social networks influence the way people search for innovation in mining firms; and 2) how financial resources are allocated to innovation.

Sam MacAulay is the Thiess Fellow at the University of Queensland and Sustainable Minerals Institute. Sam’s research explores how innovation is shaped by organizational design, how new products and services are created, and the role of competition in knowledge production. In doing so, he focuses on construction, infrastructure, and mining, all areas that have traditionally received little attention in mainstream research on innovation, management, and strategy. Sam is widely sought out for his expertise in these areas, teaching at leading institutions like Imperial College London and the University of Munich, while also collaborating with some of the world’s largest infrastructure and mining companies. In recognition of this expertise, Sam was recently made an Honorary Research Associate at The Bartlett School, University College London.