

Media release

for immediate release

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PhD Student Rebecca Leane key scientific researcher on international science documentary series for SBS, PBS and ZDF / arte

Uranium – Twisting the Dragon’s Tail

The untold story of the most controversial rock on earth

Premieres in Australia 8.30pm Sun 9, 16 & 23 August, SBS

Premieres USA PBS 10pm/9pmC Tue 28 & Wed 29 July

Premieres Germany / France ZDF arte 10pm Fri 31 July

Premieres Norway NRK Thu 6 of August

Australian made three-part documentary series *Uranium – Twisting the Dragon’s Tail* tells the incredible story of the rock that shaped the modern world. From its creation in an exploding star before Earth existed, to its deployment in nuclear weapons, nuclear power and nuclear medicine, this series reveals how, in a single generation, uranium went from something virtually unknown to becoming the most desirable and terrifying rock on earth.

Key scientific researcher Rebecca Leane said “Uranium is such a controversial topic so it was really important to get the science right on this project – sift the facts from the fantasy. As a theoretical physicist I’m trained to look at things objectively, without preconception. It was an amazing project to work on.”

Uranium – Twisting the Dragon’s Tail is a powerful, extended biography of the world’s most controversial rock. It is the definitive history of uranium so far and a necessary primer for the world-changing debate still to come.

Host Dr Derek Muller said: “Uranium is a divisive element in Australia. Some see it as the solution to climate change while others fear its radiation, waste, and potential to make weapons. We made this series with SBS to help inform the conversation Australians are having about the future of uranium in this country. It is not an issue that can be ignored because the largest deposits on the planet lie buried in our collective backyard. We should not rely on emotion and gut instinct to decide what to do with this element. We need to understand the story behind uranium, the element that changes everything.”

Rebecca Leane is a theoretical particle physicist at CoEPP and the University of Melbourne. Her research focuses on dark matter and physics at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), with a strong background in particle and nuclear physics. Rebecca has worked with physicists from around the world, presented her work at international conferences and at numerous science outreach events. She holds a Masters of Advanced Study in Theoretical Physics and Applied Mathematics from the University of Cambridge and her research has been published in leading physics journals. Rebecca worked as a key scientific researcher on *Uranium – Twisting the Dragon’s Tail*.

About CoEPP

The ARC Centre of Excellence for Particle Physics at the Terascale (CoEPP) is a collaborative research venture between the Universities of Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Monash. Our research looks at some of the fundamental questions in science and our scientists are foundation members of the ATLAS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN.

Available for interview:

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Since posting a teaser clip for the series on Veritasium the video has received over 600,000 views.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cO57Zm-WNmng>

Join the conversation online at <http://www.sbs.com.au/programs/uranium> and use these hashtags on Twitter #Uranium #U238

For images and screeners please visit the SBS Media Centre

<http://www.sbs.com.au/mediacentre/>

For further information and interviews with Dr Derek Muller, Director Wain Fimeri and Producer Sonya Pemberton please contact:

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