Shelly is Academic Coordinator at the Wollotuka Institute of Indigenous Education and Research, where she also teaches into the Bachelor of Global Indigenous Studies program while undertaking her PhD.

She has settler-heritage and acknowledges the privileges this brings in living and working on the unceded lands of the First Peoples of the country now called Australia. Shelly is a long-time co-resister of colonialism and capitalism, with work located in an academic-activist nexus that focuses on both dismantling settler-colonial systems and structures, and the (re)building of more equitable, ecocentric futures.

Having represented her local electorate for the Australian Greens in a federal election and coordinating the regional Amnesty International Australia local group, Shelly recognises the inherent power of First Laws and First Ways and works to create sites of solidarity through decolonial praxes that destabilise white supremacy while forging spaces for Indigenous self-determination and sovereignty.