

# HUMANITARIANISM & HUMAN RIGHTS

48th Annual Symposium

Western Australia · 15–17 Nov 2017



## SESSION

### Belonging and Citizenship

FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER, 11:30am-1:00pm

WA MARITIME MUSEUM, Fremantle

The session speaks to forms of belonging and citizenship and who may be considered a legitimate 'Australian', 'legally' 'culturally' or otherwise. The session will discuss Indigeneity, migration, asylum-seeking and how human rights have been, and are, configured within the Australian story alongside the ongoing effects of colonialism.

## CHAIR

### Professor Alan Dench FAHA

CURTIN UNIVERSITY AND SYMPOSIUM CONVENOR

**Alan Dench** is Pro Vice-Chancellor Humanities and Professor of Linguistics at Curtin University. His research program focuses on the documentation and grammatical description of Australian Aboriginal languages, especially those of Western Australia. He has written grammars of three languages of the Pilbara — Panyjima, Martuthunira and Yingkarta — and has worked on a number of other languages including Nyamal and Nyungar. He has also made contributions to the historical, comparative and typological analysis of Australian languages and has written in the general areas of language contact and ethnolinguistics.

Alan has a Bachelor's degree with Honours in Anthropology from The University of Western Australia, and Masters and PhD degrees in Linguistics from The Australian National University. He is a member of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and a Vincent Fairfax Fellow.

Prior to joining Curtin in 2016, Alan was Dean of Graduate Research and Postdoctoral Training at The University of Western Australia (UWA). In that role he also held terms as a member of the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Graduate Research and chaired the committee of Deans of Graduate Schools in the Australian Group of Eight Universities.

## SPEAKER

### Professor Diana Eades FAHA

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

#### **Meaning, Context and Equality before the Law**

*The dominant view of language in the law is that of a neutral tool for communication, whose main purpose is to transmit referential or propositional meaning. In this view meaning is seen as neutral, inherent, transparent, and fixed, and as residing exclusively in linguistic forms. As a result, the interactional, social or cultural context in which these forms occur is often ignored or erased. This talk will argue that the fundamental human rights principle of equality before the law will always be compromised while this view persists. The focus for this argument will be on the interpretation of answers by Aboriginal Australians to interview questions in the criminal justice process, looking at two monosyllabic words. There are also important implications in other areas of law, and for any Australians whose sociocultural contexts and ways of communicating are not recognised or understood in the legal process.*

**Diana Eades** (Adjunct Professor, University of New England and Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities) is a critical sociolinguist whose main research examines communication with, to and about Australian Aboriginal speakers of English in the legal process. Her books include *Aboriginal English and the Law* (1992, Queensland Law Society), *Courtroom Talk and Neocolonial Control* (2008, Mouton de Gruyter) and *Sociolinguistics and the Legal Process* (2010, Multilingual Matters) and *Aboriginal Ways of Using English* (2013, Aboriginal Studies Press). In addition to using sociolinguistic research in training lawyers and judicial officers, she has provided expert evidence in criminal and civil cases in courts and tribunals in three states and the Northern Territory. Diana is a past President of the International Association of Forensic Linguists.

The University of Western Australia is hosting Diana's participation at this year's Symposium.

## SPEAKER

### Ms Rabia Siddique

**Rabia Siddique** is an Australian criminal and human rights lawyer, retired British Army officer, former terrorism and war crimes prosecutor, international humanitarian, hostage survivor, professional speaker, facilitator, coach and published author. In 2006 Rabia was awarded a Queen's commendation for her human rights work in Iraq, in 2009 was the Runner Up for Australian Woman of the Year UK and in 2014 was selected as a Telstra Australia Business Woman of the Year Finalist and was named as one of the Westpac/Australian Financial Review's Top 100 Women of Influence. Rabia was also named as one of the 2016 Australian of the Year Award finalists and was recently appointed as a Director of the International Foundation for Non-Violence and the Western Australian Museum of Freedom and Tolerance.

In October 2014 Rabia received a standing ovation from 1700 people at her TEDx talk en-titled *Courage Under Fire* where she spoke about the power we all have as individuals to create the change we wish to see in this world. In March 2015 Rabia was nominated for the WA Women Lawyer of the Year Award, was used as a case study at the most recent UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York and was this year named as the Professional Speakers Australia (PSA) Keynote Speaker of the Year.

Rabia's best-selling memoir *Equal Justice* was published in 2013 and is currently in its seventh reprint. An international feature film based on Rabia's book is currently being developed. She has appeared in various Australian, UK, South East Asian, North American and Middle Eastern media and print publications and has appeared as a guest at several Australian Writers Festivals. She has earned an international reputation as a powerful, transformative and unforgettable inspirational/motivational speaker, as well as a committed and passionate human rights advocate, thought leader and philanthropist.

Rabia speaks English, French, Spanish and Arabic, has run the London marathon and participated in other endurance events for charity, undertaken human rights and community aid work in the Middle East, South America, United Kingdom and Australia, and is a mother to young triplet boys, her biggest and most rewarding challenge yet!

Follow Rabia on [Twitter](#) and her [website](#)

Curtin University is hosting Rabia's participation at this year's Symposium.

## REGISTER

Visit the [Academy's website](#) for more information on the program, speakers and to register. Join the conversation via Twitter [@HumanitiesAU](#) and [#AAHSymposium](#)