



Australian
Academy of the
Humanities

PROGRAM

HUMANITARIANISM & HUMAN RIGHTS

48th Annual Symposium

Fremantle WA · 15–17 Nov 2017



www.humanities.org.au

 @HumanitiesAU #AAHSymposium



About the Academy

The humanities explore how we experience, understand and describe our world and our place in it. As the national body for the humanities in Australia, we promote excellence and leadership in this endeavour.

Established by Royal Charter in 1969, we are an independent, not-for-profit organisation with a 600-strong Fellowship comprising the leading experts in human cultures, values and beliefs. We provide independent expert advice, inform policy development, host annual events, and invest in the future through grants and awards. We are one of Australia's four Learned Academies.

www.humanities.org.au

Join the conversation on Twitter **@HumanitiesAU** and **#AAHSymposium**

Contents

Program at a glance 2

Convenors' welcome 4

First Day at Sea 6

WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER

Public event & reception 7

THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER

Thursday Introduction 9

Address 10

Session 1: Displacement and Diaspora 11

Session 2: Violence and Persecution 14

Lunchtime briefing 16

Session 3: Freedom, Protection and Safety 17

48th Annual Academy Lecture 19

FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER

Friday Introduction 20

Session 4: The Environment and Human Environment 21

Session 5: Belonging and Citizenship 23

CLASH OF CIVILISATIONS?

The Australian Academy of the Humanities' 49th Symposium 25

Program at a glance

Wednesday 15 November

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

4:30 PM	REGISTRATION
5:00 PM	Emotions, Human Rights, and Humanitarianism
KEYNOTE	Professor David Konstan FAmersAAS FAHA, New York University
SPEAKERS	Professor Anna Haebich FASSA FAHA, Curtin University
SPEAKERS	Dr Paul Gibbard, ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions
	Associate Professor Jacqueline Van Gent, ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions
	Professor Andrew Lynch, ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions
CHAIR	Professor Susan Broomhall FAHA, The University of Western Australia and Symposium Convenor
6:30–7:30 PM	Reception
	Hosted by Professor Kent Anderson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Community and Engagement), The University of Western Australia
7:30 PM	Bus transfer
	For delegates registered for the one-way bus transfer from the University to The Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle.

Thursday 16 November

NWS SHIPPING THEATRE AT THE WA MARITIME MUSEUM, FREMANTLE

8:00 AM	REGISTRATION
9:00 AM	Introduction
	Welcome to Country · Elder Marie Taylor
	Welcome from Australian Academy of the Humanities · Professor John Fitzgerald FAHA, President
	Convenors' welcome · Professor Susan Broomhall FAHA and Professor Jane Lydon FSA FAHA, The University of Western Australia
9:30 AM	Address
SPEAKER	Professor Jennifer Burn, Anti-Slavery Australia
CHAIR	Professor Jane Lydon FSA FAHA, The University of Western Australia and Symposium Convenor
10:00 AM	Session 1 · Displacement and Diaspora
SPEAKERS	Mr Alec Coles OBE, Western Australian Museum
	Professor Suvendrini Perera, Curtin University
	Professor Joseph Pugliese, Macquarie University
CHAIR	Dr Shino Konishi, The University of Western Australia
11:00 AM	MORNING TEA

Thursday 16 November CONTINUED

11:30 AM	Session 2 · Violence and Persecution
SPEAKERS	Professor Amanda Nettelbeck FAHA , University of Adelaide Professor John Erni FHKAH , Hong Kong Baptist University Dr Yirga Woldeyes , Curtin University
CHAIR	Professor Baden Offord , Curtin University and Symposium Convenor
1:00 PM	LUNCH Commencing 1:30pm in the NWS Shipping Theatre, Professor Joanne Tompkins – the Australian Research Council’s Executive Director, Humanities and Creative Arts – will host an informal briefing on the Centres of Excellence program (<i>optional session, open to all</i>).
2:00 PM	Session 3 · Freedom, Protection and Safety
SPEAKERS	Dr Tim Soutphommasane , Race Discrimination Commissioner Mr Caine Chennatt , The University of Western Australia Professor Gerard Goggin , University of Sydney
CHAIR	Associate Professor Katie Ellis , Curtin University
3:30 PM	AFTERNOON TEA
4:00 PM	The 48th Annual Academy Lecture: Not Just Warriors or Victims
SPEAKER	Professor Kim Scott FAHA , Curtin University
CHAIR	Professor John Fitzgerald FAHA , President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities
5:00–	RECEPTION
6:00 PM	Hosted by Professor Deborah Terry AO , Vice-Chancellor of Curtin University

Friday 17 November

NWS SHIPPING THEATRE AT THE WA MARITIME MUSEUM, FREMANTLE

8:30 AM	REGISTRATION
9:00 AM	Introduction Welcome to Country · Associate Professor Simon Forrest, Curtin University Convenors’ Comments · Professor Alan Dench FAHA and Professor Baden Offord, Curtin University
9:30 AM	Session 4 · The Environment and Human Environment
SPEAKERS	Professor John Kinsella , Curtin University Dr Matthew Chrulew , Curtin University Ms Elise Bohan , Macquarie University Professor Stephen Muecke FAHA , University of Adelaide
CHAIR	Associate Professor Andrea Gaynor , The University of Western Australia
11:00 AM	MORNING TEA
11:30 AM	Session 5 · Belonging and Citizenship
SPEAKERS	Mr Steve Kinnane , The University of Notre Dame Australia Professor Diana Eades FAHA , University of New England Ms Rabia Siddique
CHAIR	Professor Alan Dench FAHA , Curtin University and Symposium Convenor
1:00 PM	SYMPOSIUM CLOSE AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

Convenors' welcome

The idea of human rights, now entrenched in contemporary political, legal and moral thought, has become a core paradox of our times. Since 1948, the liberal vision enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has become an international discourse, marked by stark contradictions between globalisation, imperialism and capitalism in contest with anti-globalisation, decolonisation and socialism. Although human rights are popularly regarded as a hallmark of social justice, peace-making and emancipation, they are also frequently deployed to further neocolonialism, Western supremacy, individualism and nationalism. Human rights, simultaneously universal and relative, have come to embody a key moral and cultural struggle. Similarly, the sometimes parallel, sometimes overlapping notion of humanitarianism reveals the way that a concern for the suffering of others may both challenge social norms yet also remain deeply complicit with structural inequalities.

Over the last decade, there has been an explosion of interest in the history of human rights, linked to critique of its current global formations. The long history of human rights has been shaped by the ideas of humanism, conflicts for religious freedoms, free speech and political representations, as well as colonial engagement, which has provoked debates about notions of universal humanity and inviolable rights. The 48th Annual Symposium of the Academy is framed around three related questions:

- How is contemporary Australia shaped by these long intellectual and emotional histories regarding human rights and humanitarianism?
- Can we identify a distinctively Australian perspective on these questions?
- What are the challenges for Australia today in engaging with human rights related to matters as wide-ranging as sexuality, disability activism, Indigenous rights, linguistic imperialism, refugees, and religious freedoms?

Building on the precept that new perspectives often arise when different disciplines meet and cross over, the Symposium explores intersections between the fields of creative writing, philosophy, history, linguistics, heritage, law, cultural studies, visual arts and the media. We hope this Symposium provides stimulating and enjoyable opportunities for each of us to take a fresh look

at our own disciplinary approach to human rights and humanitarianism.

The Symposium is based on five sessions organised around unique, critical and current work undertaken by humanities researchers, scholars and thinkers.

Session 1 on Displacement and Diaspora focusses on a range of historical and contemporary interventions and representations of refugee, asylum seekers, and others. **Session 2** approaches the themes of **Violence and Persecution** to explore how discourses of human rights and humanitarianism are implicated in the ways that forms of violence and persecution are constituted, mitigated, or ended. **Session 3, Freedom, Protection and Safety**, investigates how human rights frameworks and discourses seek to protect vulnerable communities and societies.

Session 4 moves humanities research towards **The Environment** and explores challenges to the boundary between the human and non-human, focusing upon issues of disconnection, individualism, and extinction in the age of the Anthropocene (human impact on the globe). Finally, **Belonging and Citizenship** asks who may be considered a legitimate 'Australian', discussing Indigeneity, migration, asylum-seeking and how human rights have been, and are, configured within the Australian story alongside the ongoing effects of colonialism.

In addressing these issues, we have brought together many thought leaders, researchers, and cultural professionals who are actively promoting human, cultural, and social rights from a broad range of disciplines including history, linguistics, cultural studies, classics, law and the creative arts. We thank them for their significant contribution to not only the program but for their commitment to understanding and advancing humanitarianism and human rights.

Curtin University and The University of Western Australia are delighted to host this Symposium. Both have a long academic engagement with human rights and have been recognised for their ongoing commitment to social justice. Curtin University established the Centre for Human Rights Education in 2003 and proudly supports the Centre's ongoing activities. In 2001, the University of Western Australia established the first Australian ALLY program in support of LGBTIQ staff and students, and continues to lead in the development of initiatives that support and celebrate the diversity of its staff, students and the wider community.

We are very grateful for the support of the Academy's Secretariat, in particular Dr Julia Evans for helping to coordinate the program. We also acknowledge and thank the Symposium's other sponsors Edith Cowan

University, the University of Notre Dame Australia, and the Perth Convention Bureau. We also recognise the generous support of Curtin University's Centre for Human Rights Education and the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions. Together, these institutions have helped us showcase outstanding humanities research in Western Australia, as well bringing together leaders, advocates and scholars from around the country and internationally to exchange ideas and collaborate to find solutions to pressing human rights challenges.

Convenors

Professor Susan Broomhall FAHA
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Professor Alan Dench FAHA
CURTIN UNIVERSITY

Professor Jane Lydon FSA FAHA
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Professor Baden Offord
CURTIN UNIVERSITY

First Day at Sea



Barat Ali Batoor
© Enzo Amato



First Day at Sea
© Barat Ali Batoor

“We were 93 asylum seekers on board and we were told to stay below the deck. It was very congested there and was very difficult to breathe as the place was too small and there were also some diesel tanks which made everyone sick. People who were closer to the entrance took turns to get some fresh air.” **BARAT ALI BATOOR**

The Academy is grateful for Barat Ali Batoor’s permission to use *First Day at Sea* as this year’s Symposium image.

Barat is a multi award-winning photographer based in Melbourne. He was born in 1983, in a family that was driven out of Afghanistan during the civil war when most of his people were massacred. He returned to his ancestral country for the first time after September 11, 2001, when the Taliban regime was still in Kandahar, despite the United States-led campaign to oust them. After visiting the devastation and destruction of 23 years of war, Batoor decided to work for his country and to draw the world’s attention to the plight of the Afghani people the problems facing the country. He chose photography as his medium of expression.


At the Nikon-Walkley Awards in Australia in 2013, Batoor won Photo of the Year Award for *First Day at Sea* and was a winner in the Photo Essay category.


He describes the journey as one of “sudden midnight departures, long road trips, surreptitious transactions, treks through jungles, and terror at sea. It is a journey that mixes fear, boredom and extreme loneliness. A journey that sometimes ends in joy, sometimes in despair and sometimes in death.”

Batoor started photography in 2002 and launched his first solo exhibition in 2007. His photographs were exhibited in the United States, Denmark, Austria, Sweden, Dubai, Australia, Pakistan, Italy, Japan, Switzerland and Afghanistan. His works have been published in magazines, newspapers and catalogues such as TED Gallery, The Washington Post, Newsweek, Wall Street Journal, Stern, India Today, Afghan Scene, Risk Magazine, The Global Mail, The West Australian, Strategic Review and others. He participated in the Lahore Artist Residency in Pakistan and was the 2009 recipient of a photography grant from New York’s Open Society Institute for the documentary project ‘Child Trafficking in Afghanistan/ The Dancing Boys of Afghanistan’. He was also awarded the 2014 Communication for Social Change Award by the University of Queensland.

Barat is a public speaker and advocate for refugees and human rights. You can learn more about Barat and his work here:

 www.batoor.com

 <https://www.facebook.com/bbatoor>

 TEDxSydney talk <www.ted.com/talks/barat_ali_batoor_my_desperate_journey_with_a_human_smuggler>

Public event & reception

5:00–6:30PM WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY · THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

This event opens Symposium of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and is hosted by the Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions. It will showcase what new humanities emotions research can bring to understanding of the long history of human rights and humanitarianism.

Following the event at 6:30pm will be a reception hosted by Professor Kent Anderson Deputy the Vice-Chancellor (Community and Engagement) of The University of Western Australia.

ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE HISTORY OF EMOTIONS

www.historyofemotions.org.au @ThinkEmotions

Keynote speakers

Professor David Konstan FAmersAAS FAHA
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Does respect for human rights and dignity involve emotions? If so, which ones? I will briefly consider the role of pity, sympathy, anger (elicited by the perception of injustice), shame, love, and hatred as factors that affect the way we regard the rights of others.

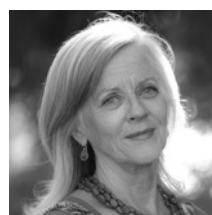


David Konstan is Professor of Classics at New York University. Among his publications are *Greek Comedy and Ideology* (Oxford, 1995); *Friendship in the Classical World* (Cambridge, 1997); *Pity Transformed* (London, 2001); *The Emotions of the*

Ancient Greeks: Studies in Aristotle and Classical Literature (Toronto, 2006); *"A Life Worthy of the Gods": The Materialist Psychology of Epicurus* (Las Vegas, 2008); *Before Forgiveness: The Origins of a Moral Idea* (Cambridge, 2010); and *Beauty: The Fortunes of an Ancient Greek Idea* (Oxford, 2014). He is a past President of the American Philological Association (now the Society for Classical Studies), and Vice President of the Bristol Institute of Greece, Rome, and the Classical Tradition. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and member of the Advisory Board of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions.

Professor Anna Haebich FASSA FAHA
CURTIN UNIVERSITY

Colonisation was catastrophic for Nyungar people. After 50,000 years, it took only decades for its destructive forces to wreak havoc and devastation, dispossession, disease and death (80 per cent dead by 1900) followed by segregation of the few survivors, forced removal of their children, assimilation, incarceration, institutionalised poverty and the legacies of trauma and grief down the generations. What could have sustained Nyungar people during this catastrophe that affected everything? In this presentation, I look for answers in the rich Nyungar performance culture that animated their world. From Yagan's 1833 corroboree to Coolbaroo dances, Nyungar theatre to Noongaroke nights, we see the people performing combinations of the old and the new in performances of activism that expressed sovereignty and identity and community gatherings that healed broken bodies and spirits with memories of ancestors who overcame similar struggles with the power of song and dance.



Anna Haebich is a multi-award winning Australian historian and author, who is recognised for her research and work with Aboriginal communities and, in particular, the Nyungar people. As a John Curtin Distinguished Professor at Curtin

University, her career combines university research, community engagement and non-fiction writing. Her current projects are histories of *Nyungar Performance* and *Nyungar Letter Writing in the Archive*. Anna is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and of

the Australian Academy of Social Sciences, a former Vice President and Council member of the Academy of Humanities, and a member of the Advisory Board of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions.

Speakers

Dr Paul Gibbard

ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
FOR THE HISTORY OF EMOTIONS

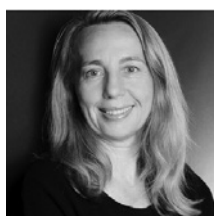
The campaign for religious tolerance in France in the late eighteenth century, led by Voltaire, relied on a careful appeal to the emotions of the public and the authorities: I will look at how the 'philosophes' made this appeal.



Paul Gibbard is Senior Lecturer in French at The University of Western Australia and a Chief Investigator in the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions. He worked previously as an editor of the *Complete Works of Voltaire* and his research interests lie in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century French literature, the history of ideas and emotions, and the French exploration of Australia. His translation of Emile Zola's *The Dream* will appear next year in the Oxford World's Classics series.

Associate Professor Jacqueline Van Gent

ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
FOR THE HISTORY OF EMOTIONS



Jacqueline Van Gent is an Associate Professor in History and Gender Studies at The University of Western Australia and a Chief Investigator of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of

Emotions. Her research explores the role emotions play in shaping early modern and late colonial encounters with indigenous people and cultures in conversions and missions, in the acquisition, exchange and display of colonial objects, and in early ethnographic texts and collections.

Professor Andrew Lynch

ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
FOR THE HISTORY OF EMOTIONS

In medieval usage, 'violence' is an ethical category, identifying uses of physical force as 'against right': unnatural, abusive or tyrannical. Yet in literary representations judgements about right or wrong uses of physical force relate strongly to the emotional engagement of audiences with the poetic form of narratives. This prompts the question: how much do aesthetic factors, influencing emotions, create a sense of 'right'?



Andrew Lynch is Professor in English and Cultural Studies at The University of Western Australia, and Director of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions. He has published widely on medieval

literature and its modern afterlives from 1800 to the present, with an emphasis on representations of war, peace and emotions. Recent publications include *Emotions and War: Medieval to Romantic Literature* (with Stephanie Downes and Katrina O'Loughlin, Palgrave Macmillan, 2015) and *Understanding Emotions in Early Europe* (with Michael Champion, Brepols, 2015). He is also a General Editor of the *Bloomsbury Cultural History of Emotions*, and Co-Editor of the journal *Emotions: History, Culture, Society*.

Chair

Professor Susan Broomhall FAHA

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
AND SYMPOSIUM CONVENOR



Susan Broomhall is Professor of History at The University of Western Australia and Director of The University of Western Australia Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies. She was a Foundation Chief Investigator in

the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions. She became an Honorary Chief Investigator in 2014, having taken up an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship. She is a historian of early modern Europe whose research explores gender, emotions, material culture, cultural contact, ecologies and the heritage of the early modern world. Susan is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Thursday Introduction

9:00AM THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER

NWS SHIPPING THEATRE · WA MARITIME MUSEUM

Welcome to Country

Elder Marie Taylor

Welcome from the Academy

Professor John Fitzgerald FAHA

PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF
THE HUMANITIES



John Fitzgerald is President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. He is the Truby and Florence Williams Chair of Social Investment and Philanthropy at Swinburne University of Technology where he directs the Program

for Asia-Pacific Social Investment and Philanthropy, and is Deputy Director of the Centre for Social Impact Swinburne. Previously, John served five years as Representative of The Ford Foundation in Beijing where he directed the Foundation's China operations; as Head of the School of Social Sciences at La Trobe University; and directed the International Centre of Excellence in Asia-Pacific Studies at the Australian National University. He has served as Chair of the Education Committee for the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia-China Council; chair of the Australian Research Council Committee for National and International Cooperation; and as International Secretary of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. His research focuses on territorial government and civil society in China and on Australia's Asian diasporas.

Address

9:30AM THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER

NWS SHIPPING THEATRE · WA MARITIME MUSEUM

Address

Professor Jennifer Burn

ANTI-SLAVERY AUSTRALIA



Jennifer Burn is Director of Anti-Slavery Australia and Professor of Law at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). Anti-Slavery Australia is the only university-based law and research centre in Australia dedicated to advancing the

rights of people who have experienced human trafficking and extreme forms of exploitation by providing access to legal advice and representation for trafficked and enslaved people in Australia. The law practice currently assists over 80 clients with a wide range of legal issues including representation for those in or facing forced marriage, migration matters including protection or humanitarian visa claims, representation of trafficked people seeking financial compensation, housing and other issues. Anti-Slavery Australia also promotes and provides leading research, education and advocacy supporting the dissemination of information about human rights abuses affecting trafficked, enslaved and exploited people; as well as advocating for changes to laws and policies to improve the protection of the rights of people who have been trafficked. Jennifer is a member of the National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery, a frequent media commentator and a practicing lawyer and migration agent. She convenes a subject within the UTS Law Faculty, 'The Law of Human Trafficking and Slavery'.

www.antislavery.org.au

[f](#) & [t](#) @AntiSlaveryOz

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

Chair

Professor Jane Lydon FSA FAHA

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND
SYMPOSIUM CONVENOR



Professor Jane Lydon is the Wesfarmers Chair of Australian History at The University of Western Australia. She is the Deputy Head of the School (Research) Humanities. Her research centres upon Australia's colonial past and

its legacies in the present. Her books include *Eye Contact: Photographing Indigenous Australians* (Duke, 2005) and *Fantastic Dreaming: The archaeology of an Aboriginal mission* (AltaMira, 2009), which won the Australian Archaeological Association's John Mulvaney Book Award in 2010. Her book *The Flash of Recognition: Photography and the emergence of Indigenous rights* (NewSouth, 2012) won the 2013 Queensland Literary Awards' History Book Award. She edited *Calling the Shots: Aboriginal Photographies* (Aboriginal Studies Press, 2014) which brings together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal scholars to explore the Indigenous meanings of the photographic archive. Other major current research interests include anti-slavery in Australia, the role of magic lantern slides in shaping early visual culture, and the emotional narratives that created relationships across the British Empire. Her latest book is *Photography, Humanitarianism, Empire* (Bloomsbury, 2017). Jane is on the Council of the National Trust (WA), and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries London and the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

[t](#) @LydonJane

Displacement and Diaspora

SESSION 1 · 10:00AM THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER

NWS SHIPPING THEATRE · WA MARITIME MUSEUM

This session focuses on a range of historical and contemporary interventions and representations of refugees, asylum seekers, and others by institutions, community and academic actions.

Speakers

Mr Alec Coles OBE

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

Emotional Ties: Challenges of sharing stories of identity, origins, belonging, diaspora and displacement

The Western Australian Government is building a new State Museum. Its content will reflect three main areas: Being Western Australian, Discovering Western Australia and Exploring the World. All these themes speak to our origins as Western Australians – but what is a Western Australian? In this place where a 50,000 plus year old Aboriginal culture rubs shoulders with a rapidly diversifying population: Western Australia, much to the surprise of our colleagues on the east coast, is now officially Australia's most diverse state, per capita.

Australia, of course, is often described as a country of migrants but this in itself is multi-faceted: to many Australian Aboriginal people the archaeological account of a diaspora from the west around the Indian Ocean rim sits uneasily with the dreaming stories of their origins. To the descendants of the early European settlers, there is often a cognitive dissonance between a sense of entitlement and of guilt. Post 1945 arrivals left war torn Europe seeking salvation but had to cope with an alien and sometimes unforgiving environment. The ten pound poms rolled the dice in the lucky country – but there were winners and losers. The welcome received by refugees from the Viet Nam war, or communist Eastern Europe, seemed to have evaporated by our 2013 election and was replaced by a spiteful, some would say paranoid, isolationism that saw politicians vie for the most draconian stance on how to deal with refugees arriving by boat. And what of those descendants of the world's longest continuous culture? At various times, displaced, dispersed, disenfranchised and disaffected: in many cases, ultimately, disappointed. These are just some of the more challenging stories of our people that sit

along the heroic stories of courage, of innovation, of achievement and of humanity.

So how should a State museum go about presenting these stories and who should tell them? Can some of the more confronting stories of persecution and prejudice be shared without alienating our visitors? We want visitors to think, to learn, and to consider, not be overwhelmed with so much guilt and despair that they fail to engage. Museums are often described as safe places for unsafe ideas: places where contentious issues can be debated without rancour. The Western Australian Museum aspires to be one of those places: it intends to allow many voices to ensure that multiple perspectives are shared. But this noble commitment will still be challenging to deliver: which voices should be represented and who should decide? Which ideas are just too unsafe? How do we navigate the choppy waters between curatorial control and a cacophony of noise? The new museum will be a \$400 million project – we will only do it once – so we had better get it right.



Alec Coles is the Chief Executive Officer of the Western Australian Museum, the State's museum with branches in Perth, Fremantle, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie and Albany. Alec has held this position since March 2010. He was previously

Director of Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums in North East England, a post that he held for eight years where he was also lead officer of the North East Regional Museums Hub. Prior to that, he was CEO of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust, a wildlife conservation charity in North East England. In the UK, Alec was a member of the Heritage Lottery Fund's Expert Panel and an executive member of both the National Museum Director's Conference and the Museums Association. He is an Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Social Sciences at The University of Western Australia; Executive Member of the Council for Australasian Museum Directors; and Chair of ICOM Australia. Alec is committed to developing and demonstrating the public value of museums. He is driving Western Australia's

initiative to build a new State Museum in Perth and aspires to create a museum that is owned and valued by all West Australians and admired by the world. He was recognised for Services to Museums in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2010, being made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE). In March 2017 he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters from The University of Western Australia in recognition of his contribution to the Arts.

🐦 @alecwam

Professor Suvendrini Perera CURTIN UNIVERSITY

The Deathscapes Project

Deathscapes is a transnational research project, funded by the Australian Research Council that aims to map racialised deaths in custody across several settler states. Its lead Chief Investigators are Suvendrini Perera and Joseph Pugliese, with Partner Investigators Sherene Razack (UCLA), Jonathan Inda (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and Marianne Franklin (Goldsmiths, University of London). What is distinctive about the research is its grounding of anti-refugee and anti-migrant violence in the logic of the settler-colonial state and its foundational and continuing violence against Indigenous sovereignty. From their very different positions, refugee and the Indigenous bodies are limit-figures that exceed the spatial and temporal bounds of the settler state, and are thus subject to shared technologies of state violence.

This presentation focuses on refugee and migrant bodies as they die in their myriad ways across the deathscape, from the desert borders of the United States to the waters of the Mediterranean and offshore detention sites in Australia. It discusses some of the key analytical concepts developed through the research and offers a preview of the Deathscapes website, which will be a key outcome of this project, demonstrating how the site functions as an interface for diverse forms of engagement and exchange among communities, activists, artists and researchers.



Suvendrini Perera is John Curtin Distinguished Professor and Research Professor of Cultural Studies in the School of Media, Culture and Creative Arts at Curtin University. She has published widely on issues of social justice, including

decolonization, race, ethnicity and multiculturalism, refugee topics, critical whiteness studies, and Asian-Australian studies. She has combined her academic career with participation in policymaking, public life, and activism. She is the author and editor of seven books, including *Reaches of Empire: Australia and the Insular Imagination: Beaches, Borders, Boats and Bodies* and *Survival Media: The Politics and Poetics of Mobility and the War in Sri Lanka* (nominated for ISA EMSA

Distinguished Book Award). Currently she is the lead investigator on two Australian Research Council funded projects, *Old Atrocities, New Media* and *Deathscapes*. With Joseph Pugliese, she is a founding member of Researchers Against Pacific Black Sites.

🌐 <http://researchersagainstpacificblacksites.org>

Suvendrini's profile photo courtesy of Curtin University.

Professor Joseph Pugliese MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

Displacement, Diaspora and the Ethical Imperative of the Incomplete Community

Diasporic movements of displacement, specifically in the context of asylum seekers and refugees, are inscribed by relations of ruin and fracture. Fleeing sites of persecution, war, torture and other regimes of trauma, asylum seekers often experience irreparable breaks with their homelands and their communities in ruin. In their desperate desire for sanctuary, they undergo dangerous journeys. In the Australian context, the asylum seekers and refugees who have landed on our shores by boat have had their trauma compounded by their incarceration in camps riven by violence, sexual assault and physical and psychological torture. In other words, they flee a community in ruins only to be compelled to endure the trauma of systemic ruin in the context of Australia's immigration detention camps.

In the course of the last two decades, together with Suvendrini Perera, I have sought to draw international attention to the gross violations experienced by Australia's asylum seekers and refugees in onshore and offshore camps. Since 2015 we have sought to extend our interventions on this topic through the establishment of a platform, Researchers Against Pacific Black Sites (RAPBS), that attempts to bring together research, creative practice and activism. The platform enables the dissemination of refugee testimonies, critique and acts of resistance as it also aims to share our own theoretical and critical understandings of refugee policy among a non-academic audience.

As such, the RAPBS platform is an attempt to make available and extend our humanities research among broader communities and coalitions. We understand these as contributions, in Jean-Luc Nancy's terms, to making communities of 'incompletion', that is, communities marked by an incomplete 'activity of sharing' that simultaneously marks the asymmetries of power and resources that inscribe our respective spaces.

This presentation discusses two RAPBS initiatives and reflect on the ethical implications and imperatives of working toward an incomplete community underpinned by the non-negotiable commitment to justice.



Joseph Pugliese is Professor and Research Director of the Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies at Macquarie University. His key research areas are: social justice praxis, law, culture and the

humanities, colonialism and decoloniality, race, ethnicity and whiteness, refugees and asylum seekers, bodies and technologies, and state violence. His most recent publications include two monographs: *Biometrics: Bodies, Technologies, Biopolitics* (Routledge, 2010), shortlisted for the Surveillance Studies Book Prize, and *State Violence and the Execution of Law: Biopolitical Caesurae of Torture, Black Sites, Drones* (Routledge, 2013), nominated for the US Law and Society Book Award and the UK's Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize. His latest book, *Forensic Ecologies*, will be published by Edinburgh University Press in late 2017. With Suvendrini Perera, he is a founding member of Researchers Against Pacific Black Sites.

🐦 @joseph_pugliese

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

Chair

Dr Shino Konishi

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Shino Konishi is an Aboriginal historian based in the School of Humanities and School of Indigenous Studies at the University of Western Australia. She is the author of *The Aboriginal Male in the Enlightenment World* (2012), and in

2017 will begin an Australian Research Council project in collaboration with the Australian Dictionary of Biography on Indigenous biography.

Violence and Persecution

SESSION 2 · 11:30AM THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER

NWS SHIPPING THEATRE · WA MARITIME MUSEUM

This session explores how discourses of human rights and humanitarianism are implicated in the ways that forms of violence and persecution are constituted, mitigated, ended, or ameliorated.

Speakers

Professor Amanda Nettelbeck FAHA
UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

Humanitarianism, violence and colonial legacies

Rights discourse has a particular kind of racialized history in nineteenth-century humanitarian campaigns, directed towards delivering 'justice' and 'rights' to Indigenous peoples who were suffering the violence of dispossession and exploitation in the Anglo settler world. But in so far as calls for humanitarian intervention were implicated in the continuing needs of colonial governance, nineteenth-century humanitarian discourse was always ambivalently entangled in the business of colonialism, implicated in the justification of violence even as it sought to mitigate it.

This presentation explores the ambivalent nature of nineteenth-century humanitarian discourse as something that sought both to ameliorate colonial violence and to perpetuate the institutional conditions under which it took place. It considers some of the ways in which this ambivalence is still visible today, as former settler nations grapple with the problem of how to acknowledge and overcome the inequalities that are the enduring legacies of colonial histories. What role does the humanities have in bringing focus to this question, and in doing the work of what Paulette Regan calls 'unsettling the settler within'?



Amanda Nettelbeck is Professor in the Department of History at the University of Adelaide and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. She has published widely on the history and memory of colonial violence and the legal

governance of Indigenous people. Her most recent co-authored book is *Fragile Settlements: Aboriginal peoples, law and resistance in southwest Australia and prairie Canada* (with Russell Smandych, Louis Knafla and Robert Foster, UBC Press, 2016).

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

Professor John Erni FHKAH
HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Notes on Modern Rights Consciousness in China

My discussion focuses on the general rise of rights consciousness across China in recent years and how it relates to the specific, and rather contested, practice of the 'weiquan' (or 'rights protection') lawyers within the larger historical context of China's legal reform. The arrest of over a hundred Chinese weiquan lawyers has been widely reported in the last two years. Here, I propose a critical discussion of the figure of the weiquan lawyers as both the symbol of popular struggles in China today, and interestingly, also as members of the legally educated class groomed by the state as a constitutive part of its post-Mao modern legal reform. With adequate hermeneutical procedures, the dynamic meanings of weiquan as a discursive and political construct and of China's university legal education as a potential site of production of rights consciousness, will be made clear, so as to provide a basis for contextualization the recent state action. I shall conclude by turning to a discussion of the emerging framework of 'Chinese exceptionalism' for explaining how China grapples with human rights and produces its own ideological approach to it.



John Nguyet Erni is Fung Hon Chu Endowed Chair Professor of Humanities and Head of the Department of Humanities and Creative Writing at Hong Kong Baptist University. He is currently President of the Hong Kong

Academy of the Humanities. A recipient of the Gustafson, Rockefeller and Annenberg Research Fellowships, and other awards and grants, John has published widely on international and Asia-based cultural studies, human rights legal criticism, Chinese consumption of transnational culture, gender and sexuality in media culture, youth popular consumption in Hong Kong and Asia, and critical public health. He is the author or

editor of ten books, among them *Visuality, Emotions, and Minority Culture: Feeling Ethnic* (Springer, 2017); *(In)visible Colors: Images of Non-Chinese in Hong Kong Cinema – A Filmography, 1970s–2010s* (with Louis Ho, Cinezin Press, 2016); *Understanding South Asian Minorities in Hong Kong* (with Lisa Leung, HKUP, 2014); *Cultural Studies of Rights: Critical Articulations* (Routledge, 2011); *Internationalizing Cultural Studies: An Anthology* (with Ackbar Abbas, Blackwell, 2005); *Asian Media Studies: The Politics of Subjectivities* (with Siew Keng Chua, Blackwell, 2005); and *Unstable Frontiers: Technomedicine and the Cultural Politics of ‘Curing’ AIDS* (Minnesota, 1994). Currently, he is completing a book project on the legal modernity of rights.

Curtin University is hosting John’s participation at this year’s Symposium.

Dr Yirga Woldeyes

CURTIN UNIVERSITY

Protecting and Negating Lives: The Janus face of human rights and humanitarian discourse on Africans’ sense of belonging

The discourses of human rights and humanitarianism have contributed to the consideration of nation states as moral agents who would act to protect endangered lives within and beyond their territories. While the positive contributions of human rights and humanitarianism are well known, little emphasis has been given to the various ways through which these discourses are used to negate the flourishing of lives they sought to protect. States use human rights discourses to cast some people as human and others as not, while simultaneously justifying their own human rights abuses.

This paper explores the dehumanising effect of the politics of human rights and humanitarianism on the lives of Africans by taking into consideration the various ways these discourses impose new rules that negate the African sense of belonging within and outside the continent. In Africa, these discourses do not take into account the importance of one’s relationship with nature, community and other traditional and local knowledges as a basis of belonging. Consequently, definitions of what it means to be ‘human’ are imposed from outside, casting aside local understandings as ‘inhuman’. Outside the continent, African migrants and refugees experience further alienation in countries like Australia by being subjected to mechanisms to ‘test’ their humanness, such as citizenship tests and value exams. For those who go through this system, the effect of having to prove one’s right to human rights results in a lack of agency and a sense of alienation. The paper argues that although human rights and humanitarian discourses contribute to the protection of lives from physical violence, a critical approach is required to challenge the very mechanisms through which these discourses are used to deny the humanity of others.



Yirga Gelaw Woldeyes is a researcher and lecturer at the Centre for Human Rights Education, Curtin University. Yirga taught law and worked with grassroots organisations in Ethiopia before completing his Doctorate in

Australia. Yirga’s research focuses on the critical study of development, education and law, and the importance of lived experience and epistemic diversity for sustainable futures. His book *Native Colonialism: Education and the Economy of Violence against Traditions in Ethiopia* was published in 2017. His teaching practice is informed by his research on how to teach human rights from the perspective of diverse cultures and religions. He also researches African experiences and Ethiopian traditions, and writes creatively on belonging and diasporic lives

<http://curtin.academia.edu/YirgaGelawWoldeyes>

Chair

Professor Baden Offord

CURTIN UNIVERSITY AND SYMPOSIUM CONVENOR



Baden Offord holds the Dr Haruhisa Handa Chair of Human Rights; is Professor of Cultural Studies and Human Rights and Director of the Centre for Human Rights Education at Curtin University. An internationally

recognised specialist in human rights, sexuality, culture and education, he is part of a scholarly and activist community that works collectively to decolonize and destabilise the study of sexuality in Southeast Asia. Baden’s approach to research is through self-reflexive, interdisciplinary and empirical research into cultural, social and activist aspects of human rights. Under the rubric he conceived of ‘activating human rights’ he convened landmark international conferences in 2003 and 2008, endorsed by Desmond Tutu. His publications in the field include the co-edited books *Activating Human Rights* (with Elizabeth Porter, 2006), *Activating Human Rights Education: Innovation, Exploration, Transformation* (with Christopher Newell, 2008), and *Activating Human Rights and Peace: Theories, Practices, Contexts* (with Bee Chen Goh and Rob Garbutt, 2012). His most recent co-authored book, *Inside Australian Culture: Legacies of Enlightenment Values* (with Kerruish, Garbutt, Wessell and Pavlovic, 2015) is a collaboration with eminent Indian cultural theorist and analyst Ashis Nandy.

<http://humanrights.curtin.edu.au/>

[@CurtinCentreForHumanRightsEducation](#)

Lunchtime briefing

1:30PM THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER

NWS SHIPPING THEATRE · WA MARITIME MUSEUM

The HASS Sector and ARC Centres of Excellence

In advance of next year's opening of expressions of interest for Australian Research Council (ARC) Centres of Excellence, this presentation by Professor Joanne Tompkins – the ARC's Executive Director, Humanities and Creative Arts – outlines some of the issues for thinking about developing expressions of interest that capitalise on humanities, arts, and social sciences (HASS) disciplines and academics.

This is an optional session, open to all. Please note, no food or drink is allowed in the NWS Shipping Theatre.

Speaker

Professor Joanne Tompkins

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL



Joanne Tompkins is Executive Director, Humanities and Creative Arts, at the Australian Research Council. In addition to publishing numerous books and essays on different aspects of contemporary and historical theatre research, she

has been a foundation member of AusStage, the research database/resource of Australian performance materials. She currently researches the possibilities of recreating theatres that no longer exist by means of virtual theatre, through the start-up company Ortelia. She is completing a term as Editor of the discipline's leading journal, *Theatre Journal*.

Freedom, Protection and Safety

SESSION 3 · 2:00PM THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER

NWS SHIPPING THEATRE · WA MARITIME MUSEUM

How human rights frameworks and discourses seek to protect vulnerable communities and societies.

Speakers

Dr Tim Soutphommasane,

RACE DISCRIMINATION COMMISSIONER

Freedom of speech and protection against racial discrimination

Recent public debates have involved contests about freedom of speech and its limits. In a multicultural society, there is an imperative to protect people from the harms of racial discrimination and vilification. Legal protections are one means of doing this, but are not the only means. This paper reflects on the continued need for legislative protections and for responses from civil society.



Tim Soutphommasane has been Race Discrimination Commissioner since August 2013. Prior to joining the Australian Human Rights Commission, Tim was a political philosopher and held posts at the University of Sydney and Monash

University. His thinking on multiculturalism, patriotism and national identity has been influential in shaping debates in Australia and Britain. Tim is the author of four books: *I'm Not Racist But ...* (2015); *The Virtuous Citizen* (2012); *Don't Go Back To Where You Came From* (2012); and *Reclaiming Patriotism* (2009). He was co-editor of *All That's Left* (with Nick Dyrenfurth, 2010). He has been an opinion columnist with *The Age* and *The Weekend Australian* newspapers, and presented the documentary series *Mongrel Nation* on ABC Radio National (2013). Tim is an adjunct professor at the School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University and chairs the Leadership Council on Cultural Diversity. Born in France and raised in southwest Sydney, Tim holds a Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Philosophy (with Distinction) from the University of Oxford, and is a first-class honours graduate of the University of Sydney.

🐦 @timsout

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

Mr Caine Chennatt

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The art museum as mediator, facilitator and exemplar of inclusion

Art museums and galleries around the world have often tried to promote themselves as neutral. However, is this a lost opportunity? This presentation considers the tension between the positive roles the museum can play in communities: as a mediator in building bridges, bringing different communities together; as an activist; and as an exemplar of inclusion for vulnerable communities. From the Canadian Museum of Human Rights to the Arte Útil practices of the Yerba Buena Centre for the Arts in San Francisco, we will consider how art museums and galleries can better engage with human rights frameworks and instruments such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



Caine Chennatt develops the role the arts can play in fostering empathetic, inclusive and future-focused societies. At The University of Western Australia's Cultural Precinct, he is Audience Engagement Manager, facilitating

programs at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery for people with disabilities to engage with the arts. In 2016, he was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to research international access structures and inclusion programs at art galleries, museums and performing art centres in South Korea, Japan, USA, UK, and Canada. In addition to arts administration, Caine is an accredited practicing mediator and conflict-resolution coach. He applies his facilitative outlook in projects that use the arts to build bridges between communities.

🐦 @cainechennatt

Professor Gerard Goggin

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Reimagining Communication Rights with Disability

Like many countries, Australia is shaped by long, complex, rich, and contested histories of communication that play a central yet still under realised role in the traditions, dynamics, dispensations, and cultural resources of social life. Communication, of course, is also central to notions of the human (and non-human), as well as humanitarianism, and human rights. With the advent of communication technologies and transformations in recent decades, communication has assumed even greater prominence when we come to conceptualise, discuss, and design institutions and frameworks to secure freedom, protection, and safety.

In this talk, I reflect upon our distinctly antipodean heritage of communication rights; however, I do so from the vantage point of an even more under studied domain of social life and rights – disability.

Disability is one of the newest areas of human rights, in which key Australians with disabilities played a leading role in formulating the ground-breaking 2006 United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This treaty puts disability human rights firmly on the global agenda, and also requires states parties to enact new norms and requirements of communication, hinging on digital technologies in particular. So weaving these two themes together, I argue that – not only is disability a vital and rich area of life's diversity – it helps us reimagine the ancient arts of communication to be fit-for-purpose for democratic, fair, and equal social futures.



Gerard Goggin is Professor of Media and Communications at the University of Sydney and an Australian Research Council Future Fellow. Gerard is internationally renowned for his research on the cultural and social dynamics of

digital technology. He has made benchmark contributions to the understanding of mobile communication, national and international Internets and their histories, and is a founding figure in research on disability, technology, and culture. His key books include the *Routledge Companion to Global Internet Histories* (2017); *Disability and the Media* (with Katie Ellis, 2015); *Global Mobile Media* (2011); *Cell Phone Culture* (with Christopher Newell, 2006), *Disability in Australia* (2005); and *Digital Disability* (2003).

🐦 @ggoggin

Chair

Associate Professor Katie Ellis

CURTIN UNIVERSITY



Katie Ellis is Associate Professor and Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Internet Studies at Curtin University. Her research focuses on disability and the media extending across both representation and active

possibilities for social inclusion. Her books include *Disability and New Media* (with Mike Kent, 2011); *Disabling Diversity* (2008); *Disability, Ageing and Obesity: Popular Media Identifications* (with Debbie Rodan and Pia Lebeck, 2014); *Disability and the Media* (with Gerard Goggin, 2015); *Disability and Popular Culture* (2015); *Disability, Media Work: Opportunities and Obstacles* (2016); and her recent edited collection with Mike Kent *Disability and Social Media: Global Perspectives* (2017).

🐦 @kkatieelliss

48th Annual Academy Lecture

4:00PM THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER

NWS SHIPPING THEATRE · WA MARITIME MUSEUM

Since 1970, the Academy has demonstrated the extraordinary breadth and depth of our Fellows' contribution to the Australian and international humanities community, and to enriching the cultural life of the nation, by inviting a Fellow to deliver the annual Academy Lecture.

The 48th Annual Academy Lecture will be given by award-winning novelist and Honorary Academy Fellow Professor Kim Scott FAHA.

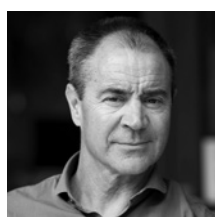
The Lecture is a free public event and will be followed by a reception at 5:00pm, hosted by Professor Deborah Terry AO, the Vice-Chancellor of Curtin University.

Speaker

Professor Kim Scott FAHA
CURTIN UNIVERSITY

Not Just Warriors or Victims

Language and land, blood and money: Kim Scott will reflect upon a particular example of language revitalisation, weigh the significance of 'abiding stories' being reunited with landscape and community, and consider the exchange of stories of identity and belonging.



Kim Scott is a multi-award winning novelist. *Benang* (1999) was the first novel by an Indigenous writer to win the Miles Franklin Award and *That Deadman Dance* (2010) also won Australia's premier literary prize, among many others. Proud to be one among those who call themselves Noongar, Kim is founder and chair of the Wirlomin Noongar Language and Story Project, which has published a number of bilingual picture books. A *Companion to the Works of Kim Scott* (Camden House, 2016) deals with aspects of his career in education and literature. He received an Australian Centenary Medal and was 2012 West Australian of the Year. Kim is currently Professor of Writing in the School of Media, Culture and Creative Arts at Curtin University. His latest novel is *Taboo* (Picador, 2017).

Chair

Professor John Fitzgerald FAHA
PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF THE HUMANITIES



John Fitzgerald is President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. He is the Truby and Florence Williams Chair of Social Investment and Philanthropy at Swinburne University of Technology where he directs the Program for Asia-Pacific Social Investment and Philanthropy, and is Deputy Director of the Centre for Social Impact Swinburne. Previously, John served five years as Representative of The Ford Foundation in Beijing where he directed the Foundation's China operations; as Head of the School of Social Sciences at La Trobe University; and directed the International Centre of Excellence in Asia-Pacific Studies at the Australian National University. He has served as Chair of the Education Committee for the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia-China Council; chair of the Australian Research Council Committee for National and International Cooperation; and as International Secretary of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. His research focuses on territorial government and civil society in China and on Australia's Asian diasporas.

Friday Introduction

9:00AM FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER

NWS SHIPPING THEATRE · WA MARITIME MUSEUM

Welcome to Country

Associate Professor Simon Forrest

CURTIN UNIVERSITY



Simon Forrest was born and raised in Wadjuk country (Perth). He has connections to country at Goomalling (Balardong), Swan Valley (Wajuk), Mt Magnet (Badimaya) and Leonora (Wongutha). He trained as a

teacher in his early years and taught Aboriginal primary school students in a number of different settings in Western Australia, from remote communities to small rural towns to regional cities. He has also worked in the public sector in senior managerial positions in education and curriculum and Indigenous affairs policy and implementation.

Simon is Elder in Residence at Curtin University and Western Australia's longest serving Aboriginal academic having been taught undergraduate and postgraduate students since 1983 at Edith Cowan University (ECU), The University of Western Australia, Curtin University and Michigan State University. He was the Inaugural Head of KurongKurl Katijin School of Indigenous Australian Studies at ECU. His services are widely sought particularly as a presenter in the areas of Aboriginal Education, History and Politics, Cultural Awareness and Competency and Cultural Consultancy. In 2005 was awarded National Scholar of the Year at the National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee Awards (NAIDOC Awards).

He has considerable experience working in the field of Aboriginal education and provides many Welcome to Country performances throughout many industry businesses, small corporations and schools.

The Environment & Human Environment

SESSION 4 · 9:30AM FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER

NWS SHIPPING THEATRE · WA MARITIME MUSEUM

This session explores the implications of a recent expansion of notions of rights that challenges the boundary between human and non-human, focusing upon issues of disconnection, individualism, and extinction in the age of the Anthropocene.

Speakers

Professor John Kinsella

CURTIN UNIVERSITY

Sightings-failure

We often tell our son of birds and animals we saw frequently as children, now seen rarely or not at all in the same locations. This talk will look at not only the loss of habitat and 'species', but also the way we inadvertently accommodate loss and change through adjusting the language we use to describe place at a particular moment. Sightings-failure also becomes citing-failure in the immediate, with loss recorded and archived as *fait accompli*. The poem or story or essay can become a repository of an accepted past, when I feel it might become a dynamic affirmation of the present and the future as well as the past — a space in which life is valued, encouraged and respected. This talk suggests a language of rejection of loss, and posits a language of engagement and protection.



John Kinsella is the author of numerous books of poetry, fiction, criticism, and cross-genre works. He is Professor of Literature and Environment at Curtin University and a Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge University. His

Polysituatedness: A poetics of displacement has just been published by Manchester University Press (2017).

John's profile photo courtesy of Wendy Kinsella.

Dr Matthew Chrulew

CURTIN UNIVERSITY

Captivity Histories

In this era of extinction, of trafficking and management between zoos, labs, farms and parks, new ways are needed to identify and remediate the transformative, often deleterious effects of human activity on nonhuman communities. The hybrid genre of captivity histories takes up the challenge of chronicling a species' encounter with human institutions and practices (such as zoological gardens and wildlife management). This demands a very particular sort of interdisciplinary work across the animal sciences and humanities, work that is capable of understanding both human and animal cultures, the differences within and between them, and their entanglement. Such analysis of the cultural and behavioural destructions and transformations undergone across generations in captivity might help to support and refashion rehabilitation and conservation practices, and to comprehend the impoverished and remade subjects and communities that emerge through and despite them.



Matthew Chrulew is an Australian Research Council DECRA Research Fellow and leader of the Posthumanism-Animality-Technology research program in the Centre for Culture and Technology at Curtin University. Recent

publications include the edited collections *Extinction Studies: Stories of Time, Death, and Generations* (with Deborah Bird Rose and Thom van Dooren, Columbia, 2017) and *Foucault and Animals* (with Dinesh Wadiwel, Brill, 2016). He was Associate Editor of the journal *Environmental Humanities* (Duke) from 2012–2017. With Brett Buchanan and Jeffrey Bussolini he edited three

issues of *Angelaki* on the work of Dominique Lestel, Vinciane Despret and Roberto Marchesini. His current research focuses on the history and philosophy of zoo biology, ethology, and conservation biology.

Ms Elise Bohan MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

Transhuman Rights: A Defining Issue for 21st Century Humanity

Should you have the right to marry a robot? Are you liable if your self-driving car runs over a pedestrian? If machines claim to be conscious should we believe them? And if AI's demand equal rights to humans should we grant them? In the past these issues only ever arose in the pages of science fiction novels, but in the twenty-first century they are poised to become some of the most pertinent social, legal and ethical issues of our time. How far will we extend human rights to non-human beings? Will we broaden our conception of humanity, or personhood, to encompass intelligent cyborgs and other trans, or posthuman beings? I argue that it is not a question of if, but when.



Elise Bohan is a PhD student at Macquarie University's Big History Institute, currently writing a thesis on the history of transhumanism from the Scientific Revolution to the present. She teaches Big History at Macquarie and recently authored

the introduction to Dorling Kindersley's popular introductory text, *Big History*.

<https://elisebohan.com>

[@elisebohan](https://twitter.com/elisebohan)

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

Professor Stephen Muecke FAHA UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

Extensions of the Human

Humans are not so much 'surrounded by an environment' as intricately networked within various ontologically distinct 'worlds' where through 'making kin' with other species (Haraway), we can extend our capacities, as we do with technological extensions, typified by the internet. This intervention argues for a descriptive practice in the humanities that materially traces these extensions to more-than-human capacities.



Stephen Muecke is Jury Chair of English Language and Literature in the School of Humanities at the University of Adelaide. Recent publications are *The Mother's Day Protest and Other Fictocritical Essays* (Rowman and Littlefield

International, 2016), a special edition of *New Literary History* titled 'Recomposing the Humanities—with Bruno Latour' (2016), and a new edition of Paddy Roe's *Gularabulu: Stories from the West Kimberley* (UWA Publishing, 2016).

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

Chair

Associate Professor Andrea Gaynor THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Andrea Gaynor is Associate Professor of History at The University of Western Australia. An environmental historian, her research seeks to use the contextualising and narrative power of history to solve real-

world problems. She has undertaken research with a range of organisations including the WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Power and WWF-Australia, and collaborated with colleagues from a range of disciplines in a research project on engineering education for social and environmental responsibility. She has published on topics as diverse as landscape art and feral cats; her recent publications include an article with Joy McCann in *Oral History Review* on the uses of oral history in marine conservation, and a book chapter with Professor Tom Griffiths on Geoffrey Bolton's environmental history, in *A Historian For All Seasons* (Monash University Publishing). Recent and forthcoming books include *Never Again* (UWA Publishing), a book on Roe 8 co-edited with Professor Peter Newman and Emeritus Professor Philip Jennings, and *Big Skies: land, people and nature in Australia's southern mallee country* (Monash University Publishing, 2018) co-authored with colleagues from La Trobe University. Her new research project is on the history of nature in Australian urban modernity. When not researching or teaching she manages the website and newsletter of the Australian and New Zealand Environmental History Network and is a member of The Beiliar Group: Professors for Environmental Responsibility.

[@enviro_history](https://twitter.com/enviro_history)

Belonging and Citizenship

SESSION 5 • 11:30AM FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER

NWS SHIPPING THEATRE • WA MARITIME MUSEUM

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.

Speakers

Mr Stephen Kinnane

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME AUSTRALIA



Steve Kinnane has been an active researcher and writer for more than 20 years as well as lecturing and working on community cultural heritage and development projects. His interests are diverse encompassing Aboriginal history, creative documentary (both visual and literary), and tensions surrounding the ideals of sustainability and the relationships between individuality, community, country, economy and human development. Steve is a Marda Marda from Mirrowoong country in the East Kimberley. He Lectured at Murdoch University in Australian Indigenous Studies and Sustainability; completed a Visiting Research Fellowship at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), Canberra, and was currently Senior Researcher for the Nulungu Research Institute of the University of Notre Dame Australia, Broome. Steve remains involved with Nulungu as an Adjunct Research Fellow.

He co-wrote and produced *The Coolbaroo Club* (1996) an ABC TV documentary, awarded the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Human Rights Award for the Arts, and collaborated with Lauren Marsh and Alice Nannup on the completion of *When the Pelican Laughed* the story of Mrs Alice Nannup (Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1992). His book, *Shadow Lines*, was awarded the WA Premier's Award for Non-Fiction 2004, the Federation of Australian Writer's Award for Non-Fiction 2004, The Stanner Award 2004, and was short-listed for the Queensland, South Australian Premier's Awards. Recent publications include the chapter 'Indigenous Australia' (in collaboration with Anna Haebich) for the Cambridge History of Australia, the chapter 'Blood History' for the *First Australians* book accompanying the *First Australians* television series, and reports and chapters examining sustainable livelihoods and how communities are changing the future by confronting

systemic impediments, addressing priorities and developing regionally relevant solutions.

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 is Adjunct Professor, University of New England and Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and 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* (Queensland Law Society, 1992); *Courtroom Talk and Neocolonial Control* (Mouton de Gruyter, 2008); *Sociolinguistics and the Legal Process* (Multilingual Matters, 2010) and *Aboriginal Ways of Using English* (Aboriginal Studies Press, 2013). 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.

Ms Rabia Siddique

Putting the Citizen back into Citizenship: What it means to be an Australian in the modern context – legal, cultural and political reflections on the ability to belong

In 1964, public intellectual Donald Horne wrote *The Lucky Country* in which he said Australians were devoid of an identity that bred curiosity, ideas, and leadership. By the time that Donald Horne wrote *The Lucky Country* divorce proceedings that would lead to the loss of a British identity for Australians were already well advanced.

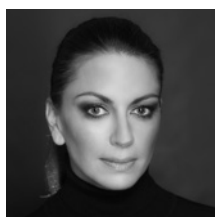
Today, with notable exception of our first peoples, our true Australians, our Indigenous brothers and sisters, an Australian identity is still very much in the minority and is still greeted with suspicion by the political and activist class. It is often caricatured as uncultured, racist, drunkard, crass and the personification of all that is negative in Australian history. For example, white social commentator Catherine Deveny said,

'An Australian Flag in your front yard tells everyone you're only a couple of Bundy and Cokes away from lynching a wog, slope or Arab.'

However national identity has also been used in more recent times as a tool to fuel the narrative of division, fear, ignorance – the 'them and us'.

From a legal perspective, the concept of citizenship has seen significant shift, largely resulting from immigration law reform and the impact that has had on the human rights of many that have come from elsewhere in the hope of one day becoming Australian citizens.

With large scale global humanitarian crises and displacement of millions around the world, is it finally time that we re-define our national identity, and re-examine the concept of citizenship in terms of what it means to belong? Do we need to give more agency back to the individual in order to make becoming and being an Australian a more inclusive aspiration, process and outcome?



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 *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.

www.rabiasiddique.com

[@rabia_speaks](https://twitter.com/rabia_speaks)

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

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. His recent collaborative work focuses on the formal semantic analysis of temporal categories in Australian languages. He is a member of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and a Vincent Fairfax Fellow.

CLASH OF CIVILISATIONS?

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF THE HUMANITIES'
49TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM
15–16 NOVEMBER 2018 // SYDNEY

Twenty-five years ago, American political scientist Samuel P. Huntington posited the question ‘The Clash of Civilisations?’ suggesting religious and cultural identity would be the primary source of conflict in the post-Cold War era (Foreign Affairs, 1993). He predicted that, as the West began to develop a better understanding of the cultural fundamentals underlying other civilizations, Western civilization and its values would cease to be regarded as ‘universal’. This has certainly proved to be the case. As a result, conflicts generated around the world are being felt even in Australia. It is now time to reassess Huntington’s question, as recent waves of voluntary and forced migration of many peoples to Europe, North America, and Australasia have changed how we think of ‘western civilisation’. Such migrations demand a re-think of our understanding of conflict between civilisations, whether that conflict is religious, secular, or prompted by religious secularism.

The Symposium will explore modern and ancient cross-cultural clashes and their contemporary implications in the spheres of history, politics, and studies in religion, and their cultural expressions in literature, film, and the arts.

CONVENORS

Professor Bronwen Neil FAHA
Professor Catriona Mackenzie FAHA

This event is open to all, and will bring together a large cross-section of Academy Fellows, scholars, early career researchers and members of the broader community, especially those working in education, policy, and community development.

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR





Australian
Academy of the
Humanities

HUMANITARIANISM & HUMAN RIGHTS

48th Annual Symposium

Fremantle WA · 15-17 Nov 2017

CO-PRINCIPAL SPONSORS

The Academy acknowledges the generous sponsorship and support by Curtin University and The University of Western Australia for this year's Symposium.



ASSOCIATE SPONSORS



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
A U S T R A L I A

WEDNESDAY PUBLIC EVENT



Australian Government
Australian Research Council



SYMPOSIUM VENUE SPONSOR



Curtin University

CENTRE FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS EDUCATION

DESTINATION SPONSORS



The Academy acknowledges the ongoing support of the Australian Government provided in 2017 through the Department of Education and Training.



Australian Government

Department of Education and Training