

2024 Transformative Futures Conference

Responding to Change: Doing Values-Based Research in the Humanities

THURSDAY 31st OCTOBER 2024

The Ship Inn, South Bank

Abstract Booklet

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Full Program

	Main Function Room:		
8.30-8.55	Arrival: Tea/coffee		
9.00-9.50	Welcome from Conference organisers & Keynote Address: Associate Professor Caroline Lenette (UNSW)		
	Room 1: S07_2.17	Room 2: S07_2.18	Room 3: S07_2.19
Session 1	Heritage & Landscape (1) Session chair: Stuart Cooke	Gaming & Social Media Session chair: Barb Pini	Society & Culture: Gender Session chair: Tonia Chalk
10.00-11.15	<p>Jillian Huntley: Transforming cultural heritage outcomes in joint management frameworks: facilitating the inclusion of Indigenous values through The Agayrr Bamangay Milbi Project.</p> <p>Kane Alexander Sardi: The Tasmanian Gothic in the Contemporary Australian Cultural Landscape</p> <p>Amy Way: 'Between Discovery and 'Deep Time': Mungo Man, settler mythology, and the contest of Australia's deep history</p>	<p>Kyle Medlock: "I alone determine my destiny:" Contending with tainted nostalgias in Magic: the Gathering.'</p> <p>Giulio Pitroso: Navigating gaming communities for research purposes. A short guide written by an unexperienced PhD student.</p> <p>Susan Grantham and Kai Grant: Winning votes one TikTok at a time: An analysis of how TikTok was used in the UK General Elections</p>	<p>Hannah Adler: Communicating endometriosis prevalence: How can gender inclusivity and accuracy coexist?</p> <p>Heather Anderson and Bridget Backhaus: Feminist fractures: Locating 'her stories' in the history of Australian community broadcasting.</p> <p>Erin Nichols (online): 'Care-full aggression': Exploring the disruptive potential of kinetic excess.</p>
11.15-11.45	Morning tea		

Session 2	Voice & Affect Session chair: Kayla Mildren	Education: Policy Session chair: Giulio Pitroso	Heritage & Landscape (2) Session chair: Jillian Huntly
11.50-1.05	<p>Adele Pavlidis: Build it and they will come? Repoliticizing inspiration to rethink sport participation legacies from the Olympic Games</p> <p>Louise Smith: Using artificial intelligence to support adult migrants and refugees learn English: EAL teachers' voice matters.</p> <p>Emily House: Sound as Method: Listening beyond borders in the Australian context</p>	<p>Bruce Fitter: Synergy in Study: Interdisciplinary Paths of Humanities and STEM</p> <p>Phuoc Hoang and Ben Fenton Smith: Defining Internationalisation: To What Extent is it Values-Based?</p> <p>Kai Grant: 'The Greatest Value of Them All?'</p>	<p>Courtney Webster: Characterising formation pathways of oxalate accretions: implications for radiocarbon dating rock art</p> <p>Nam Nguyen and Sarah Baker: Adaptation and Adversity Acceptance as Resilience to Flooding at World Heritage Sites: a case study of Hoi An Ancient Town, Vietnam</p> <p>Robert Mason: Bordering Conflict: Curating War, Violence and National Identity in Museums</p>
1.05-1.55	Lunch		
Session 3	Storytelling & Research Session chair: Ella Jeffery	Positionality Session chair: Kyle Medlock	Society & Culture: Youth Session chair: Hannah Adler
2.00-3.15	<p>Jessica Woods: 'Feeling the Heat': Short Stories on Climate Change and the Female Experience.</p> <p>Rosemary Long: Fragments of Self: Dementia in The Father</p> <p>Tonia Chalk: Story, Fact, Law: The suspicious death of 13-year-old 'half caste' Cissie Brennan</p>	<p>Devpriya Chakravarty: Values and Researcher Identities: Methodological Reflections in studying EDM Culture Among Urban Indian Youth</p> <p>Carl Johnson Anacin: Insider Research in Migration and Music Sociology: Contextualizing Indigenous and (G)local Method(ologie)s in Studying Migrant Musicians</p> <p>Narayan Ghimire: Reflections on insider positionality in migration research</p>	<p>Barb Pini and Marnie Cruickshank Affective Governmentality and the Financialised Child</p> <p>Caitlyn Fields & Susan Forde 'I thought we would all be the same and I don't think we were': Young Australians' Reflections on the 2023 Voice to Parliament Referendum</p> <p>Alexandra Dunn Why Do You Care? They're Just Criminals</p>

Session 4	Social Justice Session chair: Bridget Backhaus	Education: Experiences Session chair: Caitlyn Fields	
3.20-4.40	<p>Emily Wright: In what ways does the Phenomenon of White Privilege Exist Below the 'Poverty Line' in Contemporary Australia?</p> <p>Jade McGarry: Framing public vs private violence: a content analysis of The Australian, The Sydney Morning Herald, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and The West Australian</p> <p>Nat Kassel: Humanising the economic: mediating the visceral effects of millennial precarity through literary journalism</p> <p>Ella Jeffery: 'overexposed & underdeveloped': The Poetics of Gentrification in Keri Glastonbury's <i>Newcastle Sonnets</i></p>	<p>Maryline Kassab: The Fall Guys (and Girls): Surviving Sessional Teaching in the Age of Crisis</p> <p>Mingyan Hu and Kelly Shoecraft: Use of GenAI to facilitate learning in higher education: Students' voices matter</p> <p>Mark Finnane: The ethics of scholarship and the right to speak</p>	
	Main Function Room:		
4.45-5.00	Closing Remarks: Professor Michael Ondaatje		
5.00-6.00	Casual drinks		

Keynote speaker

Associate Professor Caroline Lenette

Caroline Lenette is Associate Professor, School of Social Sciences and Deputy Director of the Big Anxiety Research Centre. She is a leading interdisciplinary researcher focussing on participatory methods and social justice informed research especially with refugee-background co-researchers. Her scholarship centres on how ethical co-research through creative means can influence decision-makers towards meaningful change. Caroline is interested in sociocultural approaches to suicide based on refugee perspectives, an area of research in critical suicide studies. She is the author of *Arts-based methods in refugee research: Creating sanctuary* (2019, Springer) and *Participatory Action Research: Ethics and Decolonization* (Oxford University Press, 2022), and co-editor of *Disrupting the Academy with Lived Experience-Led Knowledge* (Bristol University Press, 2024). Her edited book, *'Anti-Colonial Research Praxis: Methods for Knowledge Justice'* will be published in 2025 with Manchester University Press. Caroline is the creator of the Anti-Colonial Research Library.

Closing remarks

Professor Michael Ondaatje

Michael Ondaatje is Head of the School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science, and Professor of History, at Griffith University. Awarded his PhD with Distinction by the University of Western Australia in 2008, Michael is a prize-winning researcher and teacher and a regular commentator on American history and politics in the media. He has been a Senior Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Oxford and was selected by the US Embassy in Australia for the International Visitor Leadership Program, the premier professional exchange program of the US government. He is also a recipient of the Max Crawford Medal - 'Australia's most prestigious award for achievement and promise in the humanities' (Australian Academy of the Humanities) - and a Fellow of the Queensland Academy of Arts and Sciences. Michael's primary research focus is African American history, with a particular emphasis on the history of Black conservatism. But his interest in race and conservatism extends to the Australian context, where he is currently writing a biography of Neville Bonner, the first Indigenous Australian elected to federal parliament. The book is under contract with Melbourne University Press.

Session one: 10.00-11.15am

Heritage & Landscape (1)

Room 1: S07_2.17

Session chair: Stuart Cooke

Session abstracts:

Jillian Huntley

Transforming cultural heritage outcomes in joint management frameworks: facilitating the inclusion of Indigenous values through The Agayrr Bamangay Milbi Project.

The Laura Sandstone Basin of Cape York Peninsula hosts one of the richest bodies of rock art in Australia and the world, documenting the life-ways of generations of Aboriginal Australians from their original settlement, through major environmental changes, to European invasion. With a team of ten researchers and multiple graduate students from six universities working alongside six Industry Partners, this project is recording the spectacular cultural heritage places of Cape York Peninsula, providing a framework for sustainable management of this unique country so it endures for future generations. In this presentation we reflect on the co-design of the program with Bama (Aboriginal Cape York) research partners and explore how a values driven approach underpins our research methods.

Co- authors: Professor Lynley Wallis, Ms Mia Dardengo, Buubu Gujin Aboriginal Corporation, Laura Rangers, Balngarrawarra Aboriginal Corporation, South Cape York Catchments, Cape Melville, Flinders and Howick Islands Aboriginal Corporation, Waarnthuur-iin Aboriginal Corporation, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Ms Courtney Webster, Ms Cat Morgan, Dr Yinika Perston, Professor Maxime Aubert and Ms Sahitya Raja.

Kane Alexander Sardi

The Tasmanian Gothic in the Contemporary Australian Cultural Landscape

This paper explores the Tasmanian Gothic in recent cultural texts. It begins by tracing the genre's origins from pre-colonial European imaginings to its manifestation in colonial and contemporary Australia. Following this I outline the methodological approach of multimodal discourse analysis, historical research, and intertextual analysis which informed the study and overview of the case study texts. The texts selected for analysis were tourism advertisement campaigns and a performance artwork from a festival in Hobart. In the next sections of the paper, I explain the study's key findings; that the Tasmanian Gothic is characterised by themes of isolation, violent encounters with Indigenous people, patriarchal oppression, and displacement of familiar European elements in a landscape uncannily resembling Britain. These findings highlight the Gothic's role in reflecting and critiquing Australia's colonial history and associated ongoing cultural tensions. The study contributes to cultural studies by offering a nuanced understanding of how Gothic elements are localised in Tasmania, enriching the discourse on national identity, cultural estrangement, and the legacy of colonialism. The research

investigated how Gothic elements have been integrated into Australian literature and socio-cultural imaginary, focusing on the impact of colonial experiences and the landscape's role in shaping the Australian Gothic mode.

Amy Way:

'Between Discovery and 'Deep Time': Mungo Man, settler mythology, and the contest of Australia's deep history

Deep history is at the forefront of a contemporary reorientation of Australian history and national identity. Through an engagement with deep time, scholars are pushing beyond the confines of colonial archives and narratives, whilst a settler public grows increasingly aware of the voices and histories of Australia's diverse Indigenous nations. This reorientation is complicated, however, by the fact that 'deep history' is at once a period of the ancient past, an academic methodology, and an embodied, living history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' enduring connection to Country. How are these diverse historicities, built from entirely different knowledge-making traditions, understood and expressed by a broader Australian public? What values drive current discussions and practices of deep history?

This paper considers the politics of deep history in Australia through a study of the cultural representations of Mungo Man, the 42,000-year-old human skeleton 'discovered' in 1974 in the dried beds of the Willandra Lakes. Pivotal in the development of Australian archaeology and a concurrent assertion of Aboriginal rights and sovereignty, Mungo Man became a site of contest whose meaning shifted from an exclusively human, scientific artefact to a distinctly Aboriginal ancestor with the power to redeem national narratives. By delineating these representations, this paper explores the tensions between Mungo Man's humanity and Aboriginality, and the extent to which deep history remains a mechanism of settler-colonial mythology.

Gaming & Social Media

Room 2: S07_2.18

Session chair: Barb Pini

Session abstracts:

Kyle Medlock:

"'I alone determine my destiny.'" Contending with tainted nostalgias in Magic: the Gathering.'

Returning to or reflecting on an activity from our past to find it – or ourselves – transformed in the wake of time's passage is a powerful experience that forces us to reckon with our expectations and memories; even if the activity is still something we actively engage with. While this experience can be cathartic and illuminating, it holds the potential to confront us with new realities that are bittersweet or sorrowful. Such was the case during 2020, when after twenty-five years of painting for the globally popular

trading card game Magic: the Gathering (MTG), popular fantasy artist Terese Nielsen's relationship with the game was suspended after public outcry over her association with alt-right and anti-trans movements. No new art would be commissioned by her, and all existing artwork by her would not be reprinted on future cards. As a result, cards painted by her have taken on a new and tainted meaning for those who once held her work in high esteem, with joyful atmospheres of nostalgia now intertwining with a confronting reality that players must now navigate. This paper unpacks how this change is reflected in the evolution of the game's visual identity, and examines how players have reckoned with and sought to reclaim their personal pasts of play from external factors such as this. In doing so, it seeks to illuminate the everyday processes of transformation that are inherent to our identities, our memories and our nostalgias alike.

Giulio Pitroso:

Navigating gaming communities for research purposes. A short guide written by an unexperienced PhD student.

In this study, I reflect on the methodological problems tied to my positionality and the political polarisation of gaming communities in Australia in my research journey as a foreign PhD student and gamer (Brownlow et al., 2023; Yu & Wright, 2016). In particular, I describe how I relied on a hybrid snowballing process (Antoun et al., 2016; Bennetts et al., 2019) and on offline and online networking to recruiting and interviewing 20 Australian video games players aged between 18 and 30 years old, who played video games representing the Mafia, such as the *Grand Theft Auto* series (Pitroso, 2020).

For about two years, I attended events in cultural infrastructures (Getzner, 2024) and commercial spaces on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane to understanding Australian gaming cultures and finding participants for my research. However, several factors hindered the recruitment process: a) cultural barriers; b) scepticism towards academic research; c) ideological polarisation of gaming spaces; d) age gap; e) targeted video games genre; g) identification of gatekeepers. Hence, I started to use the horizontal networking approach (Geddes et al., 2018) and to provide participants with incentives. In this context, false participants (Peach et al., 2023) made me develop special strategies to verify if interviewees were Australian.

In conclusion, I understood that: a) that a foreign researcher should acquire the Australian gamer *habitus* (Jačević, 2022) to effectively navigate local gaming communities; b) gatekeepers, cultural infrastructures, and groups should be involved in the research project design; c) in-game digital ethnography and traditional ethnography would have facilitated the recruitment of interviewees.

Susan Grantham and Kai Grant:

Winning votes one TikTok at a time: An analysis of how TikTok was used in the UK General Elections

TikTok's impact is a global phenomenon seen in elections worldwide (Grantham, 2024; Cervi, 2023). In the lead-up to the UK general election, political parties used TikTok to connect with voters by leveraging trends, popular culture, music, and humour in campaign videos, a technique known as 'visibility labour' (Abidin, 2020). This strategy

underscores TikTok's significance in modern political campaigns (Grantham, 2024). This study analyses the UK political parties' use of TikTok to engage voters, highlighting a broader trend and revealing how digital media shapes modern politics (Maares et al., 2021). Understanding these strategies provides insights into the intersection of technology and electioneering. The global uptake of TikTok underscores its growing significance and relevance in contemporary elections.

Preliminary findings consider 249 TikToks—UK Conservatives (n=40), UK Labour (n=135), UK Reform (n=74). UK Labour maximised the platform's affordances by creating engaging content that used current trends and popular culture. These videos featured a higher presence of women and incorporated humour, especially in negative campaigning. The UK Conservatives concentrated on policy-driven content, with humour being less prevalent but highly effective when used. UK Reform adopted a different tactic by emphasising the political authenticity of leader Nigel Farage, who was prominently featured to project an image of ordinariness. This focus on authenticity (Enli, 2024) helped differentiate their approach.

These strategic differences are captured in the analysis by correlating video topics with engagement rates, providing an overview of how each party used TikTok to connect with voters and influence public perception. The analysis shows the varying effectiveness of digital campaign tactics and highlights the growing significance of social media in modern political strategies.

Co-author: Dr Sara Garcia Santamaria

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Society & Culture: Gender
Session chair: Tonia Chalk
Room 3: S07_2.19

Session abstracts:

Hannah Adler:

Communicating endometriosis prevalence: How can gender inclusivity and accuracy coexist?

This paper reflects on how to balance accuracy with gender inclusivity when communicating endometriosis prevalence. While there has been an increased awareness of the importance of inclusive language within the endometriosis community, the use of binary gendered language continues to pervade this space. However, certain efforts of inclusivity also carry unintended consequences on the accuracy of definitions and further erase certain identities, undermining the health of transgender, gender-diverse, intersex, and cisgender people. To investigate this, we canvassed endometriosis definitions found in three key environments: academic literature, social and digital media, and digital healthcare platforms, using co-operative inquiry as the methodology. Co-operative inquiry is a community and action-based methodology which emphasises the need to do research *with* rather than *on* participants. As a team of co-inquirers, we explored endometriosis definitions systemically and discursively, engaging in our own lived experiences as cisgendered and gender-diverse people with endometriosis, and as researchers, industry professionals, and healthcare experts. We identified examples of exclusive and inclusive language in the three environments explored, with digital and social media providing the most marked example of the challenges associated with defining 'who' endometriosis affects. We conclude with three recommendations for best-practice language use: list all identities of *who* endometriosis affects; when communicating academic results, be specific as to *who* was researched; and critically consider umbrella terms. We recommend that academics, healthcare professionals, advocates, endometriosis organisations, and importantly, newsmakers, consider these three suggestions when communicating endometriosis prevalence; pausing and reflecting on how the language we use impacts all with endometriosis.

Co-authors: Sam Jeffrey, Louis Max Ashton, Danielle Howe, Michelle O'Shea, Cecilia Hoi Man Ng, Lanna Last, Genester Wilson-King, Deborah Bush, Mike Armour

Heather Anderson and Bridget Backhaus:

Feminist fractures: Locating 'her stories' in the history of Australian community broadcasting.

Community broadcasting has existed in Australia for over fifty years and has long been considered a valuable third tier of broadcasting, alongside its commercial and public (government) counterparts. Ostensibly, a media premised on the values of participation, alternative voices, and diversity, the history of Australia's community radio sector conceals biases and power imbalances. The main agitators for the establishment of a community broadcasting sector came from four distinct threads (Melzer, 2010) – ethnic communities, universities, fine music enthusiasts and grassroots groups. While each provided a unique contribution, this article focuses on the contributions made by the latter; specifically, we examine the roles played by feminists, and the feminist movement, in the establishment and growth of community broadcasting in Australia. We use Queensland radio stations to create a collective case study; Queensland being under conservative National Party governance from the 1950s to late 1980s and considered a cultural and political backwater by much of the rest of the country at that time (Knight

2007). This research identifies struggles for women to be included in early community broadcasting endeavours, scathingly critiqued in *Hecate* by the Brisbane Women's Media Group (1977), with feminist groups – and women more generally – across the State facing similar challenges for equality within community broadcasting as elsewhere in 'mainstream' Queensland. It contributes to a more diverse Australian community broadcasting history, currently dominated by (white) male voices.

References:

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Erin Nichols (online):

'Care-full aggression': Exploring the disruptive potential of kinetic excess.

Feminist engagement with fight sports is often ambivalent given that the masculine history of combat and the achievement of 'self' transformation at the 'expense' of another, exist in tension with the possibilities of women's empowerment. This research examines the doing of values-based research exploring the embodied experiences in the high contact sport of Muay Thai or Thai Kickboxing. Recognised as the national sport of Thailand, this striking system is a stand-up form of fighting, also referred to as the 'art of eight limbs' since it allows the use of elbows and knees in addition to punches and kicks. The principle focus centres around the complex relationships entangled within the physical cultural practices of sparring which have often been the site of a protectionist attitude towards women in sport and beyond. Utilizing a feminist new materialist framework this project orients multiple research encounters towards a care-full approach to fight space(s). The aims of this research underpin a concerted effort to unsettle hidden logic(s) which associate masculinity with physical capability and aggression and importantly femininity with caring and passivity. Drawing on a trauma-informed coaching-researching pedagogy I argue that such a methodological endeavour can mobilise the paradoxical tensions of 'care-full aggression' as a dynamic force in and of itself. Specifically, that kinetic excess enacted within a fight space organised and supported through a reflexive commitment to a feminist ethics of care offers a generative site of self-world transformation with significant implications for coaching pedagogies more broadly.

Session two: 11.50-1.05pm

Voice & Affect

Room 1: S07_2.17

Session chair: Kayla Mildren

Session abstracts:

Adele Pavlidis:

Build it and they will come? Repoliticizing inspiration to rethink sport participation legacies from the Olympic Games

The Olympics promises to deliver a lot including reducing obesity, increasing wellbeing and sport participation. Billions of dollars are invested of public funds in an event that is supposed to be 'for all'. But who is this 'all' and how might we reach those that are not gaining benefits from this public investment? To address these questions, I turn to feminist theories of affect to understand the deeply complex entanglements of sport and the popular cultural imagination and its place in society. Inspiration and sports are deeply entangled with each other and form a key driver of sport legacy plans not only as a precursor for a successful completion of mega events, but as a tool that produces tangible positive outcomes before and after the games within the wider community. These often comprise of the ways in which we engage and participate in sports beyond the tenure of these events, by encouraging us to be engaged, and inspired. However, the ways in which inspiration as an intimate affective register unfolds and entangle with the wider sporting consciousness of a community remain under examined. In this paper I present details of a current ARC Discovery Project titled, 'Engaging "Outsiders" in Sport: Co-Creating an Inclusive Sport Participation Legacy for the 2032 Games'. The focus of this project is how the inspiration of 2032 might affect those traditionally positioned as 'outside' of sport. That is, girls, women and non-binary folk experiencing various intersectional inequities (such as experience of disability, unemployment, mental health challenges, and more). I then present some of the creative renderings we have been co-creating with participants, including songs and poetry, that get at some of the complex affects that impede people's desire to engage in sport.

Louise Smith:

Using artificial intelligence to support adult migrants and refugees learn English: EAL teachers' voice matters.

Teachers' intentions to use artificial intelligence teaching assistance may be affected by their teaching experience, employment, digital literacy and competence, and their professional development preferences. A case study involving teachers of English as an additional language (EAL), found that teachers were also influenced by their students' diverse cultural, socio-economic, literacy and health needs. Hearing the teacher's voice was fundamental to this study. Valuing their perceptions about their role in an increasingly ubiquitous AI in education (AIED) domain ensures that the unique needs of their students are represented in technology decisions. Additionally, teachers want support that will help them make sound ethical and pedagogical choices for their students' learning experience and that realise some of the much-vaunted affordances of AI which have the potential to deliver personalised and differentiated learning to their students. This paper explores how the teachers' perceptions are contributing to the design and development of professional development (PD) tailored to their needs. In the next stage of research, a design-based research (DBR) method will be employed to enable the teachers to work with the researcher to explore actionable solutions (Broekkamp & van Hout-Wolters, 2007) to their real-life challenges in integrating an AI teaching assistant in classrooms. DBR is especially suitable to research projects involving the "iterative development of solutions to practical and complex educational problems" (McKenney & Reeves, 2012, p.7). The outcomes of the proposed research will have

implications for institutions planning to integrate AI-based tools in their teaching and learning practice.

References

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Emily House:

Sound as Method: Listening beyond borders in the Australian context

Borders are to be seen, but are they meant to be heard? In contrast to the permanence of visible borders, their potentially sonic atmospheric and ephemeral condition is under-researched. The purpose of this article is to propose a shift from simply 'hearing' oral narrative testimony, towards the need for deep and embodied practices of listening in understanding the ever-changing nature of the border in Australia. Drawing on novel methods of non-lexemic podcast analysis, the paper is centred around listening to the intimacies of the human voice - such as breath, timbre, and pitch - that accompany oral narrative testimony of the Temporary Protection Visa. Resonances of the border compound in the ear of the listener and draw the analysis away from the, often visual, immediacies of the border spectacle, and towards its temporal affects. The paper argues that through a shift towards sound and deep-listening methodologies, borders become perceptible in places in which they once were not. Highlighting listening as an important methodology for witnessing bordering practices on an intimate and human scale, contributes to new understandings of the ever-changing nature of the border as an atmospheric and everyday force.

Education: Policy

Room 2: S07_2.18

Session chair: Giulio Pitroso

Session abstracts:

Bruce Fitter:

Synergy in Study: Interdisciplinary Paths of Humanities and STEM

In a world dominated by the certainties of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), the humanities can often be overlooked by businesses and governments. However, the term "humanities" signifies an area of study that delves into what it means to be human, beyond our capabilities to understand and create. The spiritual, ethical, philosophical, creative, historical, and anthropological dimensions of our nature reveal both our strengths and weaknesses. The achievements of STEM must be viewed through the humanities if humanity is to thrive. Interdisciplinary study and research, both within and outside the humanities, are crucial for a comprehensive and

critical understanding of global issues. Over-specialization leads to a narrowing of perspectives, while interdisciplinary research fosters diverse thinking and a networked cognition among global scholars. The integration of diverse perspectives, methodological pluralism, and innovative knowledge production are imperative for interdisciplinary study. An example of the importance of interdisciplinary research is the field of environmental humanities. This emerging field combines insights from literature, history, philosophy, and ecology to address urgent environmental challenges. This paper will explore two key issues: the role of the humanities in STEM and what the humanities can learn from STEM in examining our humanity.

Phuoc Hoang and Ben Fenton Smith:

Defining Internationalisation: To What Extent is it Values-Based?

‘Internationalisation’ has been an influential buzzword in higher education for the past quarter century. Ever since Jane Knight’s (2004) well-received definition of internationalisation in higher education (IHE), as “a process of integrating an international, intercultural or global dimension into the purpose, functions and delivery of post-secondary education”, much debate has occurred about its apparent lack of an ethical dimension. These debates have been supercharged by the commercialist paradigm within which countries such as Australia have approached their international education goals. More recently, therefore, Simon Marginson (2023) bracketed Knight’s ‘Western-centric’ definition within the Global North’s hegemony of IHE. As such, the perspective of the Global South in IHE has been largely overlooked and under-represented in the academic literature. In this presentation, the researchers consider these multiple perspectives on internationalisation and discuss implications for current research and practice.

Kai Grant:

‘The Greatest Value of Them All?’

There is no greater value in the humanities, and indeed perhaps in a university itself, than academic freedom. It is a value that touches and impacts us all, whether we are aware of it or not. It provides us with space to disagree with colleagues, space to challenge ideas, and space to agitate and push for change. It gives us the freedom to research whatever we set our minds on... in theory, anyway. But is that statement true in reality? How does this value shape our identity as researchers? Where are the boundaries, who determines them, and what happens if they are reached? In an ever-changing social and political climate, academic freedom has been weaponised by those on either side of the political spectrum as a licence to do and/or say whatever they please, remarkably similar to the arguments made around free speech; these two are often conflated in the context of universities. This paper will have two main points of focus. Firstly, it will briefly discuss the origins of academic freedom. Secondly, the paper will discuss some recent examples of academic freedom coming to the fore in Australian institutions; most notably among these will be the case of Peter Ridd and James Cook University, with a focus on how the case has been discussed in public. The aim, ultimately, is to illuminate the importance of this concept and argue why we all have something invested in it – whether conscious of it or not.

Heritage & Landscape (2)

Room 3: S07_2.19

Session chair: Jillian Huntly

Session abstracts:

Courtney Webster:

Characterising formation pathways of oxalate accretions: implications for radiocarbon dating rock art

Oxalate mineral formation in rockshelter sites is a phenomenon associated with rock art across the globe. Oxalate accretions are often assumed to be the product of geological weathering or biological processes despite a definitive mechanism for their formation still being largely unknown. Carbon bearing oxalates have previously been radiocarbon dated and used to build chronological sequences associated with rock art. With the mechanism for their formation remaining ambiguous, the source of the carbon used to obtain radiocarbon dates is frequently unknown, leading to concerns regarding the accuracy and veracity of such age determinations. Under the umbrella of the Agayrr Bamangay Milbi project, oxalate mineral accretions from rockshelter sites in south-east Cape York Peninsula have been sampled with the goal of characterising the formation pathway to evaluate if they are suitable for radiocarbon dating. Here we report the characterisation of oxalate mineral from southeast CYP and possible formation pathways, assessing the hypothesis of a biological source of oxalate accretions. We trialed multiple pretreatments for radiocarbon dating, providing insights regarding the amount of initial sample viable and potential contaminants.

Co-authors: Jillian Huntley, Geraldine Jacobsen, Balnggarrawarra Aboriginal Corporation, Buubu Gujin Aboriginal Corporation, Laura Rangers, Maxime Aubert, Noelene Cole, Lynley Wallis

Nam Nguyen and Sarah Baker:

Adaptation and Adversity Acceptance as Resilience to Flooding at World Heritage Sites: a case study of Hoi An Ancient Town, Vietnam

This article investigates long-term adaptation and resilience to floods at World Heritage sites through a case study of Hoi An Ancient Town, Quang Nam, Vietnam. Drawing on fieldwork observation, document review, and unstructured interviews conducted in Hoi An, we examine the enduring processes and experiences of co-living with floods. The article considers residents' ability to comprehend, acknowledge, and address the challenges of flooding using the conceptual lens of adaptation and adversity acceptance as resilience. Our findings reveal an inseparable bond between residents and their built environment, encompassing invaluable lessons and experiences, local beliefs, resource availability, and adaptive strategies aimed at harmonious cohabitation with flooding described as 'leaning into nature'. Strikingly, residents have developed their own practices and identities shaped by the town's inundation by flood waters over a few centuries. Various modern flood prevention measures trace their origins to historical efforts,

underscoring the vital role of traditional knowledge and practices in coping with the impacts of climate change.

Robert Mason:

Bordering Conflict: Curating War, Violence and National Identity in Museums

In this paper, I explore museums in places of conflict, interrogating their role in reconceptualising the boundaries of acceptable violence. There is increasing scholarly interest in 'activist museums' (Black 2020), 'anti-museums' (Franklin 2020) and 'curatorial activism' (Reilly 2018), often circling questions of colonialism and colonial legacies in the contemporary moment. In parallel, academics have considered heritage politics and museums as tools for international peacebuilding (Whitehead 2024), whether through acts of restitution or exchange across states' borders. There is far less consideration of museums in regions of endemic violence, where historical injustice is considered amid jarring contemporary injustice. This paper derives from several years of fieldwork in Mexico and the Philippines, two countries experiencing entrenched and widespread violence. This paper focuses on my work in dozens of museums across the countries, considering how curators approach historical violence critically as a contributing factor to national identity. In so doing, certain forms of violence are deemed constitutive of national identity while others are condemned as abhorrent. As I discuss, such reflective spaces of public history can empower people forced to the violent margins of political debate, enabling them to challenge national identities that laud suffering, human rights abuse, and warfare.

Session three: 2.00-2.15pm

Storytelling & Research

Room 1: S07_2.17

Session chair: Ella Jeffery

Session abstracts:

Jessica Woods:

'Feeling the Heat': Short Stories on Climate Change and the Female Experience.

There is increasing evidence that "the climate crisis is not 'gender neutral'. [That] women and girls experience the greatest impacts of climate change, which amplifies existing gender inequalities and poses unique threats to their livelihoods, health, and safety" (UN Women, 2022). My creative writing practice uses short fiction to respond to the historical understanding of climate change as it relates to cause and effect (Bristow & Ford, 2016), and examines the experience of individual female protagonists set against the backdrop of larger scale climate disasters through a series of interlinked short stories. In this paper, I consider this practice-led research in relation to other writers of short fiction whose works are underpinned by ecofeminist concerns and an individual's connection to climate as place. The short story is a form that, historically, challenges and experiments with narrative as a deviant from the novel. It allows for a 'snapshot' of a larger story, inviting the reader to actively engage in imagining the broader context, and the story's speculative

future. I contend that this particular focus on narrative sees the potential of the short story to not only act as a mode of creative inquiry, but to also offer transformative means of cognizance. I will examine my own creative research in relation to the existing frameworks of ecofeminism, spatial theory and linked short stories, and contend that the short story as a mode of creative inquiry allows us to consider new ways of thinking about the complex intersection between climate change and the female experience through fiction's capacity to invite imaginative, rather than prescriptive, responses.

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Rosemary Long:

Fragments of Self: Dementia in *The Father*

The topic of mental illness in film has been the focus of scholarly inquiry for decades, however the literature focusses almost exclusively on negative portrayal and misrepresentation of mental illness, and the generation and reinforcement of stigma. The literature recognises that these inaccurate or stereotyped depictions help create stigmatising attitudes and argues that a shift to more accurate portrayals needs to occur. People living with mental disorders report the effects of stigma are often more distressing than the symptoms of the illness, and stigma is a major barrier preventing them accessing health services (Everymind, 2020). There is, however, little information on how authentic portrayals that are cinematically and emotionally engaging might be achieved. This lack of information is perplexing considering one in five people suffer from mental illness (ABS, 2018). This paper addresses this by presenting cinematic techniques in the *The Father* (2020) that have been devised to accurately represent the subjective symptoms of Alzheimer's disease—techniques that afford the viewer a greater understanding of the emotional experience of the disorder. Focusing primarily on the subjective viewpoint of the character, this paper assesses the techniques utilised in the formal elements of the film that have been designed to allow the audience to enter the mind of a character suffering dementia and experience his psychological state. It highlights the importance of subjective representations of mental illness to improve accuracy, authenticity and thus a move away from stereotypes and stigmatisation.

Tonia Chalk:

Story, Fact, Law: The suspicious death of 13-year-old 'half caste' Cissie Brennan

This paper explores the death of 13-year-old 'half caste' Cissie Brennan in far North Queensland in 1910. Through the investigation into her death, the entangled narratives of property owners, police constables, the Government Medical Officer, and family members, reveal how the narratives surrounding her death are buried deep within the coronial structures and colonial discourses of the inquest file. This is reflected in terms of what was printed, what could not be seen, who was allowed to speak, and who was spoken for, highlighting some of the inconsistencies, fears, flaws, and mistakes of the settler

colonial in the practice of investigating a suspicious death. Coronial investigations into deaths of this kind during the early 20th century in Queensland involved documenting the details of the deceased in a Certificate of Particulars, recording the testimonies of those who witnessed the deceased prior to and after death, attaching a medical officer's report, and presenting the chief investigator's findings. This legal process created a provable narrative in the inquest through the fragmentary evidence provided by witnesses, who *knew* Cissie. While the inquest file attempts to write her death as a singular, settler narrative, the death act combined with the statements made by the witnesses, creates a complex coronial record of the events, before and after death. This paper argues that through investigating Cissie's death, the evidence provided through witness testimonies in the magisterial inquiry, including the findings of the police constables, and Government Medical Officer, creates a multinarrative about Aboriginal female bodies within coronial law, revealing a tenuous historical account.

Positionality

Room 2: S07_2.18

Session chair: Kyle Medlock

Session abstracts:

Devpriya Chakravarty:

Values and Researcher Identities: Methodological Reflections in studying EDM Culture Among Urban Indian Youth

In this study, the author aims to put forth a methodological reflection in a discussion on the increasing prominence and presence of electronic dance music culture among the contemporary urban youth of India through the ethnographic exploration of the growing number of commercial EDM festival-scapes. This study is focussed on exploring how values shape our identities as researchers. The author argues that such values can have two chief considerations. First, examining a contemporary youth popular cultural moment in India, from the inside and through the experiences of the social scene actors, becomes vital as it aids in building the cultural narrative from the vantage point of the cultural members. Second, the researcher positionality as a partial insider of the cultural space adds a certain sense of authenticity to such studies. As insiders, whether partial or complete, our immersion in the cultural milieu allows for a nuanced understanding that expands both theoretical and methodological knowledge. By studying this significant cultural phenomenon from within, we can compare it with similar occurrences worldwide, enriching the global dialogue on music-based youth cultures. Additionally, the insider perspective challenges the applicability of existing theoretical, conceptual, and methodological tools, which are often developed within and for different contexts. Ultimately, this study underlines the importance of considering diverse values and perspectives in research, highlighting how these elements shape our identities as researchers and influence the outcomes of our scholarly endeavours. It calls for a more inclusive approach to cultural sociologies, one that values and integrates insights from varied contexts to build a more comprehensive and globally relevant body of knowledge.

Carljohnson Anacin:

Insider Research in Migration and Music Sociology: Contextualizing Indigenous and (G)local Method(ologie)s in Studying Migrant Musicians

Researching migrants in various geographical and social environments necessitates the use of culturally sensitive and contextualized modes of understanding. Migrants' perspectives, lifeways, and knowledge need to be recognized through proper historical and cultural perspectives. This article discusses the use and potential application of culturally contextualized method(ologie)s in conducting insider research in migration and music sociology, both of which have traditionally been dominated by Western methodologies and scholars. The use of the Filipino method(ologie)s – *pakikipagkuwentuhan* and *pakikilahok* – is examined as applied in understanding musical experiences and everydayness of Filipino musicians in Australia. Furthermore, I demonstrate that in such interdisciplinary study, cultural differences in practice, community, and conversations demand (g)localized techniques that benefit both the researcher and respondents. This paper responds to the call to contribute to the decolonization of research methodologies and the co-creation of migrant epistemologies and ontologies.

Narayan Ghimire:

Reflections on insider positionality in migration research

This research presents a methodological framework integrating a unique approach: insider interviews enhanced by ethnographic observation. This approach was applied in my doctoral thesis, which investigated the negotiation of gender roles and relations among Nepalese male migrants living in Australia and upon returning to Nepal, mainly focusing on their engagement in domestic chores such as cooking, cleaning and grocery shopping. My shared origin and migration history with the research participants were pivotal in my strategic choice of insider interviews supplemented by ethnographic enquiry. Sharing a similar cultural and social background with the participants, significantly facilitated the interview recruitment process, rapport-building and unreserved conversations during interviews. At the same time, I encountered a series of challenges as an insider researcher. They included the potential bias due to my familiarity with the research subject, the challenge of maintaining objectivity and eliciting honest responses concerning domestic life's intimate affairs, and ensuring participants' anonymity. These challenges were acknowledged and addressed in the research process, underscoring the credibility and validity of the findings. Reflecting on my biases helped to mitigate their influence on the data collection and enhance the depth of analysis. The ethnographic observation was crucial in capturing nonverbal expressions and the physical atmosphere during interviews, ensuring the comprehensiveness of the data collection process. Overall, this research highlights the value of cultural knowledge, insider positionality, and trust, which allow the discovery of meaning revealed in daily domestic life that may not be recognisable to outsiders.

Society & Culture: Youth
Room 3: S07_2.19
Session chair: Hannah Adler

Session abstracts:

Barb Pini and Marnie Cruickshank

Affective Governmentality and the Financialised Child

Children have been largely invisible in financial studies. We have been led to view the child as remote from the economy and its attendant logics, values, dispositions, affects and subjectivities. This is evident in the extensive literature on financialisation, a term which is used to describe the increasing significance of finance to everyday life. In contrast, this paper places the child at the centre of its inquiry into financialisation by analysing a recently published Australian children's financial self-help guide, that is, Scott Pape's *Barefoot Kids* (2023). Framing the paper is the notion of affective governmentality, which recognises that disciplinary power has an affective dimension so that emotions operate as technologies through which individuals and populations self-regulate and regulate others. Using a multimodal discourse analysis, we identify the affects through which the financialised child is governed in Pape's (2023) text. We identify how financialisation is presented to children through fun, independence, confidence, pride and kindness, and explore what these affective logics mean for social and economic inequality.

Caitlyn Fields & Susan Forde

'I thought we would all be the same and I don't think we were': Young Australians' Reflections on the 2023 Voice to Parliament Referendum

On October 14, 2023, Australians turned out to vote in what became known as the 'Voice' Referendum – a referendum to enshrine an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 'Voice to Parliament' in the Australian constitution. The Voice was to provide a formal and constitutionally embedded advisory role to government on issues affecting Indigenous peoples. It was the 45th referendum in Australian history and joined 37 other referenda in being defeated. The referendum occurred in the middle of a larger research project examining young Australians' political attitudes. Drawing on data from a quantitative online survey (N=95) and follow-up qualitative interviews (n=12) conducted in the wake of the referendum, this paper offers insight to how young Australians – particularly university students, aged 19-20 years – gathered information about the referendum, and how this influenced their vote. Consistent with pre- and post-referendum polling, our research shows young people were most likely to support the Voice. Though both 'Yes' and 'No' voters considered voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be the most influential on their decision, discernible differences emerged in their news consumption habits: Yes voters were heavier news consumers and gravitated toward social media for information about the Voice, while No voters placed greater importance on information from traditional media and their family. Qualitative data also point to various strategies employed by young people to navigate their highly mediated information environment. Findings highlight the influence of diverse media on young

voters and suggest the need for stronger media literacy in navigating complex political debates.

Alexandra Dunn

Why Do You Care? They're Just Criminals

This paper examines the psychological, criminological, mental and physical health issues surrounding government sanctioned management of children in police watch houses and youth detention centres across Australia. My presentation will draw on my PhD, a creative work and exegesis on the causes of youth crime, the draconian measures used against youth offenders, explore community understandings of risk factors and prevention, and consider which solutions best enable families to end intergenerational cycles of abuse and drug addiction. The creative aspect will be presented via excerpts from the PhD novel *Why Do You Care?*. This project also explores the theme of parenting deficiency, the notion that parents, have a vital responsibility to provide a safe, secure, drug free home, and to prevent their children from developing antisocial tendencies which lead to criminal activity. Further, this paper explores the processes involved of literary authors utilising personal trauma to craft a story and investigates the relationship between emotion and creative writing.

Session four: 3.20-4.40pm

Social Justice

Room 1: S07_2.17

Session chair: Bridget Backhaus

Session abstracts:

Emily Wright:

In what ways does the Phenomenon of White Privilege Exist Below the 'Poverty Line' in Contemporary Australia?

This dissertation investigates the intricate dynamics of White Privilege among individuals living below the poverty line in contemporary Australia. Through a critical examination of historical policies and their ongoing impacts, the study sheds light on the ongoing impacts of structural racism embedded in Australian society. By exploring the 'invisibility' of Australian white culture, concepts such as white fragility, the traumatized self, and truth-telling in the context of the 'History Wars' are analysed. The author's self-reflexive autoethnographic approach employs counter narrative and counter fiction that humanises the phenomenon of white privilege, below the poverty line. The research findings offer insights into the complexities of unearned privilege in contemporary Australia. Through a blend of traditional academic analysis, and research methods which prioritise Indigenous ontologies and epistemologies, this dissertation contributes to a deeper understanding of white privilege and its implications for individuals facing economic challenges in Australia.

Jade McGarry:

Framing public vs private violence: a content analysis of *The Australian*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and *The West Australian*

Since the turn of the century, terrorism has been central to the public sense of security and insecurity (Neal, 2009). The term has rightly been used in reference to acts of violence carried out with an ideological, political, or religious motivation with the intent to coerce governments and people more generally (Law, 2016). Although it is the case that the public has witnessed horrific acts of political terrorism over the past two decades that have resulted in thousands of deaths, this pales in comparison to the level of fear, violence and death resulting from Domestic and Family Violence (DFV). However, media and political and public discourses are reluctant to use the term terrorism in reference to DFV. It is important to note that the use of the term terrorism in reference to DFV has been proposed by significant literature and by victims, perpetrators, and advocates (Edwards, 2015; Esman, 2020; Hill, 2019; Johann, 1994; Johnson and Leone, 2005; Marcus, 1994; McCulloch et al, 2019; Pain, 2014; Perilla, 1999, Sloan-Lynch, 2012), focusing on the combination of power, coercion and control at the heart of this form of violence and abuse. This paper examines 'terrorism' in regard to the (in)security threat presented by the DFV issue in Australia. The purpose of this is to examine and understand *how* and *why* we use certain terminology in relation to certain phenomena, how these impact on our sense of (in)security, and how we as a society respond to the phenomena. This paper is part of a monograph dissertation, in the form of a chapter overview. The research employs the primary methodology of inductive thematic analysis (and other manifest units of data) to gain a comprehensive understanding of the way DFV and terrorism are presented in Australian news media. Australian news outlets, *The Australian*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian Broadcasting Corporation* and *The West Australian* are used and their coverage of both DFV and terrorism over a 10- year period is analysed. The purpose of this is to understand the way the stories are framed, the type of language that is used, and identify the emerging trends and patterns of the coverage that effect the way audiences understand and grade the severity and nature of both issues. This research aims to re-frame the way audiences understand DFV through experimenting with language, harnessing the socio-political influence and impact of the term 'terrorism' to address and expand upon the work being done to reduce the epidemic of DFV in Australia.

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Nat Kassel:

Humanising the economic: mediating the visceral effects of millennial precarity through literary journalism

Despite the enduring trope of the financially irresponsible, smashed avocado eating millennial, economists such as Pennington (2023) have established that intergenerational inequality is on the rise in Australia and millennials are the first generation to be financially worse off than their parents. While economic analysis of the housing crisis and gig economy provide a grim picture for millennials and successive generations, less attention has been paid to Holmberg and Alvinus' (2022) suggestion that scholars consider what these forms of precarity can do to peoples' lives. This research takes a literary journalism approach to humanising the economic, revealing some of the visceral costs of a polycrisis that encompasses housing, employment, and the climate. While precarity is often understood through a macro-economic lens, my long form literary journalism output is decidedly more personal, visceral, and narrative-based, concerned with identifying how precarity plays out in peoples' lives and how different forms of precarity interact and interrelate. Through ongoing interviews with six millennials experiencing varying forms of precarity, problems that are often identified and described by economists – such as insecure housing, gig work, workplace injuries and debt – were discussed in deeply personal and individual terms, revealing some of the pathos hidden behind the statistics. This research responds directly to the idea that to understand what precarity *is*, we need to understand what it *does* and how it affects the people who experience it.

Ella Jeffery:

'overexposed & underdeveloped': The Poetics of Gentrification in Keri Glastonbury's *Newcastle Sonnets*

The gentrification of working-class places in Australia has a range of complex ramifications, which a number of contemporary Australian poets including Lachlan

Brown, Petra White, Lucy Van and Harry Reid, have grappled with in their recent work. Few poets, however, have undertaken an extended examination of gentrification in a single Australian city, as Keri Glastonbury does in her 2018 collection *Newcastle Sonnets*, a book in which Glastonbury adopts a “remodelled” sonnet form to contend with the changing architectural, cultural, political, and environmental landscapes in the formerly industrial city of Newcastle in New South Wales. In this paper I examine how Glastonbury blends traditions of found poetry with a radically revised sonnet form, which she terms ‘a recombinant poetics of place’ (2018, 81) to replicate the piecemeal, unpredictable scope and scale of gentrification and critique the uncanniness of gentrified places, viral trends, and the representation of place via digital media in contemporary Newcastle. Glastonbury’s sonnets are themselves a renovation of the traditional sonnet, and in this paper I examine the ways in which Glastonbury remixes languages from a vast range of different registers, working Australian slang, corporate jargon, promotional material, and political spin into a gentrified sonnet form that is distinctively discordant, unstable, and resistant to interpretation. Gentrification, in Glastonbury’s poetics, is an ambiguous and unsettling phenomenon, one which transforms Newcastle by severing it from its history, replacing the city’s future with ‘an historicist melancholy / plastered all over Instagram’ (2018, 34).

Education: Experiences

Room 2: S07_2.18

Session chair: Caitlyn Fields

Session abstracts:

Maryline Kassab:

The Fall Guys (and Girls): Surviving Sessional Teaching in the Age of Crisis

In the recent action blockbuster, *The Fall Guy* (2024, dir. David Leitch), Colt Seavers (Ryan Gosling) plays a down-on-his-luck stuntman who always takes the fall for his more successful colleagues. **Being a sessional staff member can often feel like taking on the role of the fall guy**; all risk, little reward - or so it seems. In this presentation, I draw on my experience in early career teaching to reflect on and re-evaluate the critical role sessional staff members play in the educational and organisational structure of the university. Building on the pedagogical concept of **students-as-partners**, I suggest new ways of engaging higher education students which are informed by Griffith’s value of **Diversity and Inclusion**. Finally, I propose practical tips for beginner teachers as well as pose crucial questions for future educators and policymakers. While we may still have to take the fall, we could all benefit from the valuable insights sessional staff bring to the academic workplace in the age of crisis.

Mingyan Hu and Kelly Shoecraft:

Use of GenAI to facilitate learning in higher education: Students’ voices matter

The influence of Generative AI (GenAI) on Higher Education has become an urgent issue for debate among practitioners, institutions and policy makers. A major concern relates to students’ academic misconduct while using Generative AI for assessments, particularly

language-related assessments. Despite recognition that students are using GenAI, very limited empirical evidence is available to comprehend how students are integrating GenAI into their learning practices. In response to this gap, this survey-based pilot study aimed to foreground students' perspective by exploring and understanding how students in our HLSS language-related courses perceive and use GenAI tools, such as ChatGPT, to facilitate and enhance their learning. Data was collected through an anonymous online survey distributed to students in language-related courses in HLSS. A total of 29 valid responses were used for data analysis. Overall, the data revealed an alternative perspective which considers the positive use of GenAI by students to activate learner agency in regulating and enhancing learning experiences while ensuring academic integrity. Two thirds of the respondents did not believe they had difficulties complying with academic integrity when using GenAI. Whilst some concerns were mentioned, the students generally executed strategic ways of utilising GenAI for their learning (e.g., brainstorming ideas, checking concepts and meaning, translanguaging, copyediting, etc.). We therefore argue that listening to student voices, understanding their use of GenAI for their learning, and considering their perspectives, provides an important avenue for university educators who aspire to integrate GenAI in classrooms.

Mark Finnane:

The ethics of scholarship and the right to speak

In this short reflection I will discuss the challenges of writing, publishing and teaching in an era of aggravated political contest. Who shall speak and on what grounds should they be listened to? In this age of what is commonly called 'identity politics' there are continuing challenges to the idea that scholarship and research have an inherent value that should, or even just might, over-ride claims of privilege that flow from the identities (eg ethnic, national, sexual, religious, political) of those who might be the subject of research. In some contexts these challenges have become tied to practices of cancellation, or refusal to publish. The conditions under which research or speaking about it becomes subject to a veto on grounds other than the merits of scholarship call for reflection. I will consider some examples, including my own experience, less to advance a general rule than to bring the matter into open discussion.