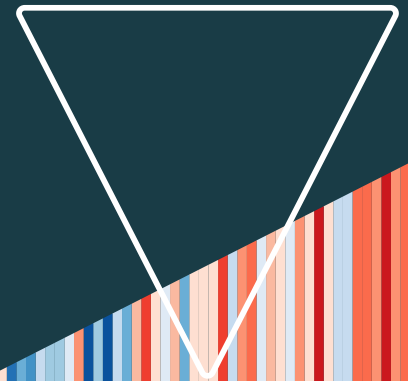




Australian
Academy of the
Humanities

52nd Annual Symposium
15–19 November 2021
Online

Culture, Nature, Climate: Humanities and the Environmental Crisis



Program

humanities.org.au

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#AAHSymposium

About the Academy

The Australian Academy of the Humanities is the peak national body for the humanities and one of the nation's five Learned Academies.

Established in 1969, we provide independent and authoritative advice, including to government, to ensure ethical, historical, and cultural perspectives inform discussions regarding Australia's future challenges and opportunities. We promote and recognise excellence in the humanities disciplines. The Academy plays a unique role in promoting international engagement and research collaboration and investing in the next generation of humanities researchers.

Our elected Fellowship comprises over 660 scholars, leaders, and practitioners across the humanities disciplines of culture, history, languages, linguistics, philosophy, religion, archaeology and heritage.

humanities.org.au

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LinkedIn

au.linkedin.com/company/australian-academy-of-the-humanities

Program at a Glance

All sessions online

All times are AEDT

Monday 15 November

9am **Introduction**

2-4:30pm **Humanities for a Changing Climate**
A co-hosted event with La Trobe University's Centre for the Study of the Inland

Tuesday 16 November

11am–12:15pm **2021 Annual Academy Lecture**
Culture, Nature, Climate: Indigenous Knowledge and the Environment
Professor Bronwyn Carlson FAHA

Thursday 18 November

11am–12:30pm **Listening to the Ancestors**

4:00–5:00pm **Awards Celebration**

Friday 19 November

11am–12:30pm **Emerging Insights in the Environmental Humanities**

SYMPOSIUM IMAGE: Our cover shows a triangle which contains the image *Warming Stripes for Australia from 1901–2020*, created by Ed Hawkins, University of Reading, UK, CC BY 4.0. <https://showyourstripes.info>

The Academy acknowledges the ongoing support of the Australian Government provided in 2021 through the [Department of Education, Skills and Employment](#).

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01

CULTURE, NATURE, CLIMATE: HUMANITIES & THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

Welcome from the President



On behalf of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, we warmly welcome you to the 52nd Academy Symposium 'Culture, Nature, Climate: Humanities & the Environmental Crisis'.

This topic is timely as our Symposium comes shortly after the COP26 meeting in Glasgow. While dealing with climate change has taken something of a back seat during Covid-19, the issues are more urgent than ever, as we saw with the release of the IPCC report just a few months ago.

There is increasing recognition that climate change response is not just a matter of 'listening to the science', as important as that is. Research in the SHAPE disciplines explains why the science has been essential but insufficient to force the necessary policy responses. For example, it has shown how vested fossil fuel interests have actively prevented climate change action.

Humanities perspectives offer new lenses on the social and cultural dimensions of the climate crisis. This week we will discuss—and see—the role of the creative arts in contributing to the transformative changes required. Speakers will also consider how the humanities disciplines might need to adapt to be more effective in a volatile world where the category 'human' is being re-examined in the context of the Anthropocene and the 'more-than-human'.

While we are disappointed that for the second year running we are unable to meet in person, we are excited at the range of presenters we are able to draw on virtually. My thanks for their hard work in convening this year's sessions go to Libby Robin FAHA, Katie Holmes FASSA and Allan Marett FAHA. They bring together researchers from all different career stages, as well as creative practitioners and collaborators from many different sectors and corners of the continent.

We hope that you enjoy what is bound to be a rich and thought-provoking program over the next week.

Professor Lesley Head FASSA FAHA
ACADEMY PRESIDENT

52 Years of Academy Symposia

1970s

01 / First Annual General Meeting and Academy Lecture, 'The Literary Influence of Academies' by A.D. Hope (Canberra)

02 / Man's Place in Nature (Canberra)

03 / Neglected Masterpieces (Canberra)

04 / Some Aspects of Change and Continuity in the Study of the Humanities During the Past 100 Years (Canberra)

05 / The Individual in Traditional and Modern Asian Society (Melbourne)

06 / The Changing Image of Australia: Localism and Universalism (Canberra)

07 / The Historical Mode (Canberra)

08 / Some Approaches to Language (Canberra)

09 / Romanticism (Canberra)

10 / The Australian Academy of the Humanities: The Last Ten Years and the Future (Canberra)

1980s

11 / Pompeii: Discovery and Impact (Melbourne)

12 / Peasants in History and Literature (Canberra)

13 / The Classical Temper in Western Europe (Adelaide)

14 / Who Owns the Past? (Canberra)

15 / Utopias (Canberra)

16 / Open Day (Canberra)

17 / The Flow of Culture: Tasmanian Studies (Hobart)

18 / Myth and Mythology in Arts, Sciences and Humanities (Canberra)

19 / Terra Australis to Australia (Canberra)

20 / The Relevance of the Humanities (Canberra)

1990s

21 / The Humanities and the Australian Environment (Melbourne)

22 / Beyond the Disciplines: The New Humanities (Canberra)

23 / The Languages of Australia (Canberra)

24 / Masks of Time: Drama and its Contexts (Canberra)

25 / Silver Jubilee 1969–1994: Celebrating the Humanities (Sydney)

26 / Creative Investigations: Redefining Research in the Arts and Humanities (Canberra)

27 / Northern Exposures (Brisbane)

28 / Our Cultural Heritage (Canberra)

29 / First Peoples: Second Chance. Australia in Between Cultures (Sydney)

30 / Humane Societies (Canberra)

2000s

31 / Cultures of Peace (Perth)

32 / Alternative Australias (Canberra)

33 / Proof and Truth: The Humanist as Expert (Canberra)

34 / Readers, Writers, Publishers (Melbourne)

35 / Memory, Monuments and Memorials (Hobart)

36 / Creating Value: The Humanities and Their Publics (Canberra)

37 / Gift of the Gab: Languages and Australia (Melbourne)

38 / Humanities Futures: New Methods and Technologies for Humanities Research (Brisbane)

39 / Inspiration of Place: The Artistic Life of Cities (Sydney)

40 / The Humanities in Australia: Taking Stock (Canberra)

2010s

41 / Sharing Our Common Wealth: Cultural Institutions (Adelaide)

42 / Educating the Nation: The Humanities in the New Australian Curriculum (Melbourne)

43 / Challenging (the) Humanities (Parramatta)

44 / Environmental Humanities: The Question of Nature (Brisbane)

45 / Look It Up: Dictionaries, Encyclopedias and Atlases (Canberra)

46 / Intersections: Time, materiality and the humanities (Sydney)

47 / Asia-Australia: Transnational connections (Melbourne)

48 / Humanitarianism and Human Rights (Perth)

49 / Clash of Civilisations? Where are we now? (Sydney)

50 / Humanising the Future (Brisbane)

51 / At the Crossroad? Australia's Cultural Future (Online)

52 / Culture, Nature, Climate: Humanities & the Environmental Crisis (Online)

Convenors' Welcome

This Symposium recognises the entanglement of culture, nature and climate. The environmental crisis of our times demands much more than technical and scientific 'solutions' to problems. The 21st century has seen many complex, overlapping and accelerating changes, including fires, heatwaves, wars, refugees, Covid-19 and extreme weather events. The oceans and atmosphere are increasingly polluted by the activities of humans.

The digital revolution has re-envisioned the world as a 'global village', yet it is increasingly unfair: the rich in the richest countries are richer than ever, and poorer nations are suffering disproportionately the effects of rising sea levels, collapsed fisheries, famines and many other consequences of the climate emergency. We have been stunned by the rapidity, the extent and the variety of negative changes to environments, including massive irreversible extinctions of species. Some feel personal guilt, grief and anxiety. Yet Australia's major institutions, including successive national governments have responded with paralysis and denial.

How can the humanities contribute to making a better, fairer world for humans and other life forms? A first start is acknowledging that this is a human predicament, felt on many scales, and that humans have responsibilities for improving the quality of air, water and other natural resources that are necessary to all life forms, including humanity itself. Given this, might it not be useful for us to look towards alternative, more finely nuanced understandings of the relationship between humans and their environment? Right here on our own doorstep there are ancient traditions of Australian Indigenous song, dance, story telling and visual arts that are available to inform and inspire us. But are we able to listen and learn? Can we, through engagement with knowledge that is indigenous to this place, move towards a better understanding of the reciprocal nature of our relationships with our environment? Could this help us engage with our planet as a living organism

with whom we can and must maintain intimate interrelationships? As the Anthropocene epoch unfolds and humans are felt as a geological force on the planet, there is also a moral and ethical imperative to make decisions that have lesser rather than greater impacts on our own and other societies, and on the quality of the life support systems available to all. This is a human problem. The Australian Academy of Humanities in this Symposium has brought together a wide range of humanists to explore ways to manage it with justice and equity.

The Symposium sessions

HUMANITIES FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE, will bring together museums, music, research and creative thinking from across the environmental humanities to reflect on how our disciplines are engaging with the challenge of living with climate change and acknowledge the personal stress, the responsibility and the injustice of the Great Acceleration.

LISTENING TO THE ANCESTORS, will explore how Indigenous traditions of song and dance can inform our responses to current ecological challenges.

EMERGING INSIGHTS IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES, will present a series of key insights and ideas from a group of early and mid-career researchers from a range of disciplines based on their research.

We are very pleased to bring you this program, and thank our presenters for their innovative perspectives. We hope that you will find it rewarding, informative and enjoyable.

We are delighted to welcome you to the 52nd Academy Symposium.

Professor Lesley Head FASSA FAHA
Professor Libby Robin FAHA
Professor Katie Holmes FASSA
Emeritus Professor Allan Marett FAHA

Convenors



Professor Lesley Head FASSA FAHA is currently Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Melbourne. She has contributed to international debates about relationships between society and nature and her most recent

research has been on the cultural dimensions of environmental issues including climate change.

She held an ARC Australian Laureate Fellowship at the University of Wollongong from 2009–14 where she was Director of the Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research. She was King Carl XVI Visiting Professor in Environmental Science in Sweden from 2005–06 and was awarded the Vega Medal of the Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography in 2015.

🐦 @ProfLesleyHead



Libby Robin FAHA is Emeritus Professor of Environmental History at the ANU. She is an historian of science and environmental ideas. She has published widely in the history of science, international and comparative environmental

history and the ecological humanities. An award-winning author, her most recent work is *The Environment: A History* (2018), co-authored with Sverker Sörlin and Paul Warde.

Libby has also had extensive experience working in the museum sector and has also had a profound influence in her role as a supervisor and mentor to many younger environmental historians. She has been a leader in the field of environmental humanities and was one of the very first scholars in Australia to be working in this field.

🐦 @Libbyde



Professor Katie Holmes FASSA is an environmental historian and environmental humanities scholar, known for her work on how individuals interact with their culture, society and environment. She is interested in how people make sense of

the world around them and how this changes over time. Her work has helped transform the field of environmental history in Australia into a mode of understanding the experience of Australian settlement, one shaped by climate and landscape which in turn shapes culture and policy. Her work in the environmental humanities has brought interdisciplinary methodologies and approaches to the field, including those of gender, oral history, mental illness, emotions and the history of gardens. Katie's key books include *Mallee Country: Land, People, History* (co-author with Richard Broome, Charles Fahey & Andrea Gaynor, 2020); *Between the Leaves: Stories of Australian Women, Writing and Gardens* (2011); *Reading the Garden: The Settlement of Australia* (co-author with Susan K Martin and Kylie Mirmohamadi, 2008); and *Spaces in her Day: Women's Diaries of the 1920s and 1930s* (1995).

🐦 @kt_holmes38



Emeritus Professor Allan Marett FAHA's main fields of research

include: Australian Aboriginal song, in particular, the *wangga* of NW Australia; and Sino-Japanese music, including Japanese court music (*gagaku*) and Japanese Noh drama. His

book *Songs, Dreamings and Ghosts: The Wangga of North Australia* won the 2006 Stanner Award, and in 2017, a seven-CD set of *wangga* songs, co-authored with Linda Barwick, won the National Indigenous Music Award for Best Traditional Release. Prior to his retirement in 2007, Allan was Professor of Musicology at the University of Sydney and before that, Professor of Music at the University of Hong Kong.

Monday 15 November

Introduction

9:00–10:00am AEDT / Online

06

CULTURE, NATURE, CLIMATE: HUMANITIES & THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

Welcome to Country

Mr Wally Bell

Elder of the Ngunnawal people, traditional custodians of the Canberra region

Welcome from the Academy

Professor Lesley Head FASSA FAHA

President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities



Dr Simon Kerr
pictured front
with Music for a
Warming World
band members

Monday 15 November

Humanities for a Changing Climate

CO-HOSTED WITH LA TROBE UNIVERSITY'S
CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE INLAND

2:00–4:30pm AEDT



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CENTRE FOR THE
STUDY OF THE INLAND

The crisis of climate change demands more than scientific understanding and technical solutions. It requires us to think again about the demarcation between humans and nature, to revisit the legacies of colonialism and our fossil-fuelled industrial past and to imagine a radically different future.

This three-part online event, hosted in partnership with La Trobe's Centre for the Study of the Inland, brings together museums, music, research and creative thinking from across the environmental humanities to reflect on how our disciplines are engaging with the challenge of living with climate change and acknowledge the personal stress, the responsibility and the injustice of the Great Acceleration.

This event will be co-hosted with Katie Holmes FASSA (Centre for the Study of the Inland), and will include musical interludes from the group Music for a Warming World.

Chairs

Session 1: Conversation
Lilian Pearce

Session 3: Roundtable
Libby Robin

2pm Session One

Conversation

Lilian Pearce (Centre for the Study of the Inland) will chair a conversation between Christof Mauch, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society (partner to the pioneering Deutsches Museum, 'Anthropocene' gallery 2014–2016, Munich), and Jenny Newell, Climate Projects Officer at the Australian Museum Sydney, whose new exhibition *Changing Climate* opened in 2021.

2:55pm Session Two

Music for a Warming World with Simon Kerr

Lead musician Simon Kerr from Music for a Warming World introduces this unique eco-art fusion of music, visual imagery, science and culture.

3:05pm Session Three

Roundtable

This roundtable will bring together a range of voices from across the environmental humanities. It will include Q&A and an open discussion between participant and audience.

Libby Robin FAHA, author of the essay *#ArtsforSurvival*, published in *Humanities Australia* No. 12 will be participating as Chair. Speakers: Barry Judd (Indigenous Studies), Susan Martin (Literature), Guy Abrahams (co-founder of CLIMARTE, lawyer and business leader), Graham Tulloch FAHA (Editor, *Humanities Australia*), Katerina Teaiwa (Arts practice in the Pacific), and Anita Smith (World Heritage in Pacific Islands).

Note: *#ArtsforSurvival* honours the creative leadership of Mandy Martin (1952–2021). If you would like to join supporters of the Mandy Martin Climarte Fellowship, visit the [Climarte website](#).

4:25pm Conclusion

Music for a Warming World

07

CULTURE, NATURE, CLIMATE: HUMANITIES & THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

Monday 15 November

Humanities for a Changing Climate

CO-HOSTED WITH LA TROBE UNIVERSITY'S
CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE INLAND

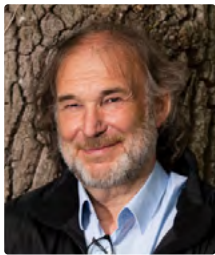
2:00–4:30pm AEDT



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Speakers



Professor Christof Mauch is Director of the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, and Chair in American Cultural History at LMU Munich. He is an Honorary Professor and Senior Fellow at the Center for Ecological History of Renmin

University in China, a past President of the European Society for Environmental History and a former Director of the German Historical Institute in Washington DC (1999–2007). His recent and upcoming books include *Slow Hope: Rethinking Ecologies of Crisis and Fear* (2019); *Urwald der Bayern (Bavaria's Primeval Forest)* (2020), and *Paradise Blues. Auf der Suche nach der amerikanischen Natur (In Search of America's Nature)* (2022).



Dr Jenny Newell is the Manager of Climate Change Projects at the Australian Museum where she works to advance understanding and engagement in climate solutions through the medium of museums. Her most recent

exhibition is *Spark: Australian innovations tackling climate change* (2021, Australian Museum—onsite and online). With a background in Pacific environmental history, Jenny has worked with Pacific communities and collections at the British Museum, National Museum of Australia, the American Museum of Natural History and the Australian Museum to amplify voices on climate change for broad audiences. Jenny convenes the Museums & Climate Change Network and is a member of the International Council of Museums' Working Group for Sustainability. Her publications include edited volumes *Living with the Anthropocene: Love, Loss and Hope in the Face of Environmental Crisis* (edited by C. Muir, K. Wehner &

J. Newell, NewSouth, 2020) and *Curating the Future: Museums, Communities and Climate Change* (edited by J. Newell, L. Robin & K. Wehner, Routledge Environmental Humanities, 2016).

[@ClimateJen](#)

[Linkedin profile](#)



Dr Lilian Pearce is a lecturer in environmental humanities at La Trobe University's Centre for the Study of the Inland and research fellow at the University of Tasmania. She holds a Bachelor of Science with honours (UTAS) and a PhD in environmental

history (ANU). She has a particular interest in issues of social and environmental justice and how environmental management practices do political work. Her most recent essay 'The Politics of Contaminated Kin' appears in *Kinship: Belonging in a World of Relations* (edited by Gavin Van Horn, Robin Wall Kimmerer & John Hausdoerffer, Centre for Humans and Nature Press, 2021).

[@Lilmpierce](#)



Dr Simon Kerr is a climate activist, musician, writer and Honorary Research Fellow in the Centre for the Study of the Inland at La Trobe University. He is the producer of the multimedia eco-music project Music for a Warming

World and runs the Melbourne-based Musicians' Climate Crisis Network. He taught politics and environmental policy at Lincoln University in New Zealand, before embarking on a 15-year career in research management. He is now the La Trobe Consortium Engagement Lead for the four-year Commonwealth-funded Murray Darling Water and Environment Program.

[@climate_music](#)

Monday 15 November

Humanities for a Changing Climate

CO-HOSTED WITH LA TROBE UNIVERSITY'S
CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE INLAND

2:00–4:30pm AEDT



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09

CULTURE, NATURE, CLIMATE: HUMANITIES & THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS



Libby Robin FAHA is Emeritus Professor of Environmental History at the ANU. She is an historian of science and environmental ideas. She has published widely in the history of science, international and comparative environmental

history and the ecological humanities. An award-winning author, her most recent work is *The Environment: A History* (2018), co-authored with Sverker Sörlin and Paul Warde.

Libby has also had extensive experience working in the museum sector and has also had a profound influence in her role as a supervisor and mentor to many younger environmental historians. She has been a leader in the field of environmental humanities and was one of the very first scholars in Australia to be working in this field.

@Libbyde



Guy Abrahams is Director of the ART+ENVIRONMENT consultancy and Co-founder and former Chair & CEO of CLIMARTE. Guy is an Associate of the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute and a valuer for the Australian Government's

Cultural Gifts Program. Guy was a lawyer before becoming Director of Christine Abrahams Gallery, one of Australia's leading commercial art galleries. Previous positions include Chair of the City of Melbourne's Art & Heritage Collection Advisory Panel and a member of their Public Art Advisory Panel, President of the Australian Commercial Galleries Association, Board member of the Melbourne Art Fair, the National Gallery of Victoria Art Foundation, the Australian Tapestry Workshop, and the Banksia Environmental Foundation. Guy holds Law and Arts (visual arts) degrees from Monash University and a Master of Environment (climate change politics & policy) from the University of Melbourne. He has received climate communications training from former US Vice

President Al Gore and is an active advocate for urgent action on the climate crisis.

@GuyAbrahams1



Professor Barry Judd is a descendent of the Pitjantjatjara people of north-west South Australia, British immigrants, and Afghan cameleers. He is a leading Australian scholar about Aboriginal participation in Australian sports and his

research focuses on engaging the broader population in difficult questions around the place of Indigenous people in Australian society. Barry has lived and worked extensively in inland Australia and has an ongoing research interest in remote Indigenous contexts. Barry commenced in the position of Professor and Director of Indigenous Studies at the University of Melbourne in February 2020.

[LinkedIn profile](#)



Susan Martin is Professor Emerita in English and a former Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) for the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce, La Trobe University. Her current research is on the teaching

of Australian literature, and Australian cultural production and the representation of drought. She has researched and published widely on contemporary and historical Australian writers. She has particular interests in Australian literature and the environment, and Australian book culture. She was a member of the Australian Research Council ERA Research Excellence Committee (REC) Panel for HCA in 2018, and a former President of the Association for the Study of Australian Literature (ASAL). Her books include *Women and Empire (Australia)* (Routledge, 2009) and *Colonial Dickens* (ASP, 2012 with Kylie Mirmohamadi).

@susanshark

Monday 15 November

Humanities for a Changing Climate

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2:00–4:30pm AEDT



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Associate Professor Katerina Teaiwa is of Banaban, I-Kiribati and African American heritage born and raised in Fiji. She is Associate Professor of Pacific Studies and Deputy Director—Higher Degree Research Training in the School of Culture, History

and Language, Australian National University. She is Vice-President of the Australian Association for Pacific Studies, Chair of the Oceania Working Party of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Art Editor for *The Contemporary Pacific: a Journal of Island Affairs*, author of *Consuming Ocean Island* (2015) and a practising visual artist. In 2019 Katerina was awarded the College of Asia and the Pacific's Teaching Excellence Award. The Pacific Women's Professional and Business Network of NSW awarded her 'Educator 2020'.

🐦 @KTeaiwa



Graham Tulloch FAHA is Emeritus Professor of English at Flinders University. He has co-edited a number of collections of essays and, as Editor of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, he has edited the Academy's journal, *Humanities*

Australia, from 2017 to the present. Graham has written extensively on Scottish Literature and the Scots language and has a special interest in Scottish literature and language in Australia. He has also edited a number of Scottish and Australian texts including Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe* and Marcus Clarke's *His Natural Life*.



Dr Anita Smith is an Associate Professor of Heritage and Archaeology at La Trobe University, with a teaching and applied research focus on Indigenous, archaeological and built heritage. Anita is internationally recognized for

her expertise in the implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention and she is currently the Cultural Expert member of Australia's delegation to the World Heritage Committee. Anita is an Advisor to the UNESCO Pacific World Heritage program and her research has supported four successful World Heritage nominations in the region including Budj Bim Cultural Landscape, Australia. She is the lead author of a report to the Heritage Council of Victoria—'Heritage and Climate Change' (Extent Heritage, 2021) and co-author of a chapter titled 'Developments in Management Approaches' in the United Nations Second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II) launched by the UN Secretary-General in April 2021.

Tuesday 16 November

2021 Annual Academy Lecture

11:00am–12:15pm AEDT

Each year, in this distinguished lecture series, a Fellow is invited by Council to deliver a lecture on their latest research. The series also features a lecture by each Academy President during their term in office. The Academy Lecture is a rich display of the breadth and depth of scholarship in the humanities and the impact and imaginative power of this work.

Culture, Nature, Climate: Indigenous Knowledge and the Environment

Professor Bronwyn Carlson FAHA

Indigenous Studies is multi-disciplinary in the truest sense of that term and does not seek to separate ‘Culture, Nature and Climate’ but sees these as integral, interwoven features of existence. We have tens of thousands of years’ experience with which to attest to the veracity of our knowledge and its capacity for observation and application. When we say the land owns us, this is not a mere mantra of ‘new age-y’ proportions. We understand that this belief is essential to the survival of the global ecosystems that sustain and support biodiversity. What is needed is a more radical approach to this crisis.



Professor Bronwyn Carlson

FAHA is an Aboriginal woman who was born on and lives on D’harawal Country in NSW Australia. Bronwyn was awarded an Australian Research Council (ARC)

Discovery Indigenous grant

in 2013 for research on Aboriginal identity and community online (IN1301000360), and a second ARC grant in 2016 for research on Indigenous help-seeking on social media (IN160100049). In 2019 she was awarded a third consecutive ARC grant (IN200100010), specifically focusing on Indigenous experiences of online violence. Bronwyn is the author of *The Politics of Identity: Who Counts as Aboriginal Today?* (Aboriginal Studies Press, 2016), which includes a chapter on identity and community on social media. She is widely published on the topic of Indigenous cultural, social, intimate and political engagements on social media including co-editing and contributing to two special issues; the *Australasian Journal of Information Systems* (2017) on ‘Indigenous Activism on Social Media’ and *Media International Australia* (2018) on ‘Indigenous Innovation on Social Media’ and an edited volume with Rutgers University Press *Indigenous People Rise Up: The Global Ascendancy of Social Media Activism* (2021). She is also the founding and managing editor of the *Journal of Global Indigeneity* and the Director of The Centre for Global Indigenous Futures. Bronwyn is an active member of The Australian Sociological Association (TASA) and a member of the editorial board for the *Journal of Sociology*. In 2020 she was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Thursday 18 November

Listening to the Ancestors

11:00am–12:30pm AEDT

This session will explore how Indigenous traditions of song and dance can inform our responses to current ecological challenges.

The panel comprises four papers, each of which looks at how the ancient traditions of Australian Indigenous wisdom and knowledge embedded in ceremonial song and dance might inform our response to ‘the connected crises of climate change and biodiversity decline’ and the ‘multitude of threats to humanity’ that they pose. Are we able to value and protect these song and dance traditions? Are we capable of the deep listening required to engage with the knowledge and wisdom that they contain? Can we grasp and apply what they have to offer us in the midst of the present environmental crisis?

Chair

Allan Marett FAHA

Speakers



Emeritus Professor Allan Marett

FAHA’s main fields of research include: Australian Aboriginal song, in particular, the *wangga* of NW Australia; and Sino-Japanese music, including Japanese court music (*gagaku*) and Japanese Noh drama. His

book *Songs, Dreamings and Ghosts: The Wangga of North Australia* (2005) won the 2006 Stanner Award, and in 2017, a seven-CD set of *wangga* songs, co-authored with Linda Barwick, won the National Indigenous Music Award for Best Traditional Release. Prior to his retirement in 2007, Allan was Professor of Musicology at the University of Sydney and before that, Professor of Music at the University of Hong Kong.



Clint Bracknell is a musician and researcher from the south coast Noongar region of Western Australia and Associate Professor at WAAPA and Kurongkurl Katitjin, Edith Cowan University where he leads an ARC funded program

of research focusing on the connections between Noongar performance, language, Country and digital technologies. He recently worked on *Hecate*, the first Shakespearian theatre work to be presented in an Australian language, and *Fist of Fury Noongar Daa*, the first feature film to be dubbed in one. Clint received the 2020 Barrett Award for Australian Studies and serves as an elected AIATSIS Council member. He delivered the Academy’s Hancock Lecture in 2019.

Listening to the Ancestors

11:00am–12:30pm AEDT



Trevor Ryan Noongar/Yamatji stage and screen performer and drama teacher with a strong interest in language and cultures. His recent career highlights include performing as King Duncan in the Noongar *Macbeth, Hecate* (2020) and as

Yoshida in the Noongar-dubbed version of the classic Bruce Lee film, *Fist of Fury Noongar Daa* (2021). As a constant member of the Wadumbah Aboriginal Dance Group, Trevor performed for the Queen on her arrival to Perth and at the opening of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2011. Trevor is currently completing a Masters of Performing Arts researching the links between Noongar performance and Country.



Linda Barwick FAHA is an Emeritus Professor at the University of Sydney's Conservatorium of Music. A musicologist, she specialises in the study of Australian First Nations musics, community and immigrant musics, and has also

worked on cultural traditions of the Philippines and Italy. Linda has published extensively in ethnomusicology, digital humanities and archiving, and has collaborated with many other researchers and communities in winning funding to support research on sustaining and developing performance traditions. She is co-founder of the digital archive PARADISEC, the Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures. Her edited volume (co-edited with Jennifer Green and Petronella Vaarzon-Morel) *Archival Returns: Central Australia and Beyond* (Sydney and Honolulu: Sydney University Press and University of Hawai'i Press, 2020) was recently awarded the Australian Society of Archivists 2020 Mander Jones Award for a "publication making the greatest

contribution to the archives profession in Australia". In 2019 she was a Leverhulme Visiting Professor at the SOAS University of London. Linda is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and a member of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.



Associate Professor Linda

Payi Ford is a Senior Research Fellow at the Northern Institute at Charles Darwin University in the College of Indigenous Futures, Education and Arts located in Darwin, Northern Territory. She underpins her

theoretical approach to her projects with her *Mirrwana and Wurrkama* (2005) methodology to her Indigenous research practice and theory across multiple disciplinary fields. Payi is a Rak Mak Mak Marranunggu Traditional Aboriginal Owner from Kurrindju. Ford's Country is Kurrindju in the Finnis River and Reynold River regions southwest of Darwin, Northern Territory. Ford balances her academic research career, teaching, and learning in higher education, family and caring for Country, threatened Aboriginal languages and culture.

Sally Treloyn is an applied ethnomusicologist with a primary area specialism in Indigenous song-dance practices and historical collections relating to the Kimberley region of northwest Australia. Treloyn has published widely on the compositional practices and processes of Indigenous song, and over the last decade on issues of archives and access, repatriation, sustainability, and revitalisation, in collaboration with Indigenous scholars and knowledge holders. Treloyn is Associate Professor in Ethnomusicology and Intercultural Research, Australian Research Council Future Fellow, and Co-Director of the Research Unit for Indigenous Arts and Cultures, in the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music at The University of Melbourne.

Listening to the Ancestors

11:00am–12:30pm AEDT



Matthew Dembalali Martin is a Ngarinyin and Wunambal (First Nations, Kimberley region) senior lawman and singer. Martin holds and shares dance, song, and associated knowledges, for Junba and Wolungarri, continuing the

legacy of his father, master composer Mr S. Martin. He is a central consultant on issues of Law, language, and culture, for Waniina-Wunggurr peoples, and champions the teaching of dance-song practice to children and young people.



Rona Googninda Charles is a Ngarinyin and Nyikina (First Nations, Kimberley region) singer, dancer, multi-disciplinary artist, and cultural teacher. Charles is a leader of the Junba Project, a community-based, research-born, initiative to

sustain intergenerational transmission of practices and knowledges of the dance-song genre known as Junba. Charles serves the Law, language, and culture, interests of Waniina-Wunggurr peoples, and has co-authored several papers that address music sustainability and research collaboration.

Thursday 18 November

Awards Celebration

4:00pm–5:00pm AEDT

This special event will bring together recipients of our major awards from 2020 and 2021 with Fellows, Academy Staff and Council as well as members of the humanities community.

Max Crawford Medal

Australia's most prestigious award for outstanding achievement and promise in the humanities by an early-career scholar



Dr André Brett is a historian of Australia and New Zealand. His research encompasses political, environmental, economic, and transport themes. His many publications include four books, most recently *Can't Get There from Here: New Zealand*

Passenger Rail since 1920 (Otago University Press), currently available for preorder. He will be Lecturer of History at Curtin University from 2022, having recently held fellowships at the University of Wollongong and the National Library of Australia. He is currently researching two projects on colonial Australia, the environmental history of railways and territorial separation movements. Dr Brett is the winner of the **2021 Max Crawford Medal**.



Dr Billy Griffiths is a historian and lecturer in Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies at Deakin University in Melbourne. His latest book, *Deep Time Dreaming: Uncovering Ancient Australia* (Black Inc., 2018), won the Ernest Scott Prize, the Felicia

A. Holton Book Award, the John Mulvaney Book Award, the Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-Fiction and the 2019 Book of the Year at the NSW Premier's Literary Awards. He is also the author of *The China Breakthrough: Whitlam in the Middle Kingdom, 1971* (Monash University Publishing, 2012) and co-editor with Mike Smith of *The Australian Archaeologist's Book of Quotations* (Monash University Publishing, 2015). He received the **2020 Max Crawford Medal**.

Thursday 18 November

Awards Celebration

4:00pm–5:00pm AEDT

John Mulvaney Fellowship

Supporting leading early-career Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholars to undertake humanities research



Dr Carol McGregor is of Wadawurrung, (Kulin Nation) and Scottish descent and works with multimedia including ephemeral natural fibres, paint, clay, metal, and paper. Her studio-based research rationale is a desire to unearth and to

visually activate histories and memories to further inform an Australian Aboriginal sense of belonging. McGregor's recent art practice revives the traditional possum skin cloak as an art form and a way to strengthen community and individual identities. With her practice McGregor has worked extensively with Indigenous communities facilitating workshops, teaching and sharing the knowledge and skills around possum skin cloak making. McGregor has exhibited widely and her work features in national and international collections. She is currently the Program leader of the Contemporary Australian Indigenous Art unit at the Queensland College of Art, Griffith University. In 2020 Dr McGregor was the recipient of the **John Mulvaney Fellowship**.



Zoe Rimmer is a *Pakana* (Tasmanian Aboriginal) community member from a large extended family from Flinders and Cape Barren Island, with Ancestral connections to the northeast coast of *Lutruwita*/ Tasmania. Zoe has grown up

connected to her community, country and culture, and has learnt the cultural skills of basket making and shell stringing from her Elders. Zoe has worked in the museum and cultural heritage management sector for the past 18 years and is currently the Senior Curator of First Peoples Art and Culture at TMAG. From 2008–2010 Zoe worked for Aboriginal

Heritage Tasmania to diversify her experience across Aboriginal heritage management and protection of *in situ* cultural heritage and landscapes and to gain skills in policy and government administration. Zoe's PhD candidature at UTAS follows on from her work in repatriation and First Nations museology. Zoe was awarded the **2021 John Mulvaney Fellowship**.

Medal for Excellence in Translation

Recognising outstanding achievement in translation



Penny Hueston's translations from French include novels by Emmanuelle Pagano (*One Day I'll Tell You Everything*), Patrick Modiano (*Little Jewel*), Sarah Cohen-Scali (*Max*) and Raphaël Jerusalmy (*Evacuation*). She has translated six books by

Marie Darrieussecq—*All the Way, Men, Being Here: The Life of Paula Modersohn-Becker, Our Life in the Forest, The Baby, and Crossed Lines*. She has been shortlisted for the JQ-Wingate Prize, the Scott Moncrief Prize, and twice for the New South Wales Premier's Translation Prize. Penny was the winner of the **2020 Medal for Excellence in Translation** for *Being Here: The Life of Paula Modersohn-Becker* by Marie Darrieussecq (Melbourne: Text Publishing, 2017).

Friday 19 November

Emerging Insights in the Environmental Humanities

11:00am–12:30pm AEDT

In this session a group of early and mid-career researchers from a range of disciplines will present a key insight or idea from their research. Themes include oceans, drought, international policy and pastoral poetry, with a geographic spread from Australia to the Himalayas.

Chairs

Stephen Muecke FAHA
Lesley Head FASSA FAHA

Speakers



Professor Lesley Head FASSA

FAHA is currently Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Melbourne. She has contributed to international debates about relationships between society and nature and her most recent

research has been on the cultural dimensions of environmental issues including climate change.

She held an ARC Australian Laureate Fellowship at the University of Wollongong from 2009–14 where she was Director of the Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research. She was King Carl XVI Visiting Professor in Environmental Science in Sweden from 2005–06 and was awarded the Vega Medal of the Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography in 2015.

 [@ProfLesleyHead](#)



Stephen Muecke FAHA is

Professor of Creative Writing at Flinders University in Adelaide and Professor Emeritus of Ethnography at the University of New South Wales. He was previously Professor of Cultural Studies at the University of

Technology, Sydney. He researches Indigenous Studies, Cultural Theory and Environmental Humanities, often focusing on the Kimberley region of North-West Australia. He is former President of the Cultural Studies Association of Australia.

He is the recipient of several prizes: *Gularabulu* was short-listed for the National Book Council Awards in 1983; *Reading the Country*, won the non-fiction prize for the West Australian Week Literary Awards, 1985, and was short-listed for the New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards, 1985; *Paperbark* was Highly Commended in the 1990 Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Awards; *No Road* was short-listed for the New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards, 1997, and Highly Commended in the Fellowship of Australian Writers National Literature Awards, 1997.

Friday 19 November

Emerging Insights in the Environmental Humanities

11:00am–12:30pm AEDT



Dr Alessandro Antonello is a Senior Research Fellow in history at Flinders University and also holds an Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA). His research investigates the environmental and international

histories of the world's oceans and Antarctica in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. He published *The Greening of Antarctica: Assembling an International Environment* in 2019.

🐦 @sandroantonello



Dr Sophie Chao is Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Department of History, University of Sydney. Her anthropological and interdisciplinary research explores the intersections of Indigeneity, ecology, capitalism, health, and justice

in the Pacific. Sophie previously worked for the international human rights organisation Forest Peoples Programme in Indonesia and the United Kingdom. Her book, *In the Shadow of the Palms: More-Than-Human Becomings in West Papua*, is forthcoming with Duke University Press in 2022 and received the Duke University Press Scholars of Color First Book Award in 2021. Sophie is the recipient of an ARC DECRA commencing in 2022 that will explore human-kangaroo entanglements from a multispecies lens.

🐦 @Sophie_MH_Chao

📘 More than Human Worlds



Dr Diana G. Barnes' field of research is early modern literature with particular emphases on gender and the literary representation of nature and community. Her book *Epistolary Community in Print, 1580–1664* was published with

Ashgate in 2013. She has book chapters and journal articles on various C17th topics including Shakespeare's *Merry Wives of Windsor*, Brilliana Harley's wartime correspondence, Margaret Cavendish's published plays and letters, Andrew Marvell's challenging poem 'Upon Appleton House' and how early modern literature shaped the Australian settler-colonial mindset. Current research projects include a study of early modern women's use of stoic discourse, emotions and letters, civility and early modern genres of community, cultures of compassion, and early modern bubbles.



Dr Ruth Gamble is Lecturer in History at La Trobe University. She is a historian of Tibet and the Himalaya, with a particular interest in this region's rapidly changing environment. She wrote *Reincarnation in Tibetan Buddhism: the Third Karmapa*

and the Invention of a Tradition (OUP, 2018) and is currently writing a history of the Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra) River. She has also published multiple articles on the region's ecological politics, literature, and histories. Before working at La Trobe, Dr Gamble was a post-doctorate fellow at Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich and Yale University's School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, and taught Tibetan language studies and Asian Religions at the Australian National University. She was recently awarded an Australian Research Council DECRA Fellowship.

🐦 @WaterThe_Planet

Friday 19 November

Emerging Insights in the Environmental Humanities

11:00am–12:30pm AEDT



Stephen Zagala is a critical writer and collection curator with a background in art history, philosophy and social anthropology. He is currently the Research Fellow in World Cultures at the South Australian Museum and

participates in the Posthumanities research theme at Flinders University.

 [@steviezeemuseologist](#)



Dr Ruth Morgan is an environmental historian and historian of science with a particular focus on Australia, the British Empire, and the Indian Ocean world, living and working on the unceded lands of the Ngannawal and Ngambri

peoples. Her research has been generously supported by the Australian Research Council, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and the Rachel Carson Center for Environment & Society. She is Director of the Centre for Environmental History at the Australian National University.

 [@ruthmorgan](#)



Dr Michelle Langley is a Senior Research Fellow in the Australian Research Centre for Human Evolution and School of Environment and Science at Griffith University. She is Australia's foremost specialist in the study of prehistoric osseous

and shell technology and ornaments and currently collaborates with several different teams based across Europe, North America, Africa, Southern Asia, and the Pacific. She is particularly interested in human cognitive evolution, Neanderthal communities, and childhood archaeology—with this last work pioneering our understanding of children in the deep past. She has authored over 85

peer-reviewed scientific papers and is a recipient of an AIPS Queensland Young Tall Poppy Science Award 2018 and a Finalist in the 2021 Women in Technology (WiT) Research Leader Science Award.

 [@Dr_MCLangley](#)



Dr James Dunk is a Research Fellow in the Department of History at the University of Sydney. A historian of medicine and the planetary environment, his research explores the way that health, medicine and psychology have responded to

ecological crises since the mid-twentieth century. His book *Bedlam at Botany Bay* won the Australian History Prize at the New South Wales Premier's History Awards, and his articles have been published in *Rethinking History*, *History Australia* and *The New England Journal of Medicine*. His writing on the environment, mental health and history also appears in *Australian Book Review* and *Griffith Review*.

 [@JamesHDunk](#)



Lauren Tynan is a Trawlulwuy woman from Tebrakunna country in northeast Tasmania, Australia. She is a PhD candidate in the Discipline of Geography and Planning, Macquarie University, Sydney.

Her research areas encompass human geography, development studies and Indigenous studies. Her PhD focuses on relationality and Aboriginal cultural burning practices in southeast Australia.

 [@LaurenETynan](#)

