



Australian Academy of the Humanities

53rd Annual Symposium
17–18 November 2022
Ballarat · Victoria

**Citizenship,
Diaspora
and Belonging**

Program

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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 685 scholars, leaders and practitioners across the humanities disciplines of culture, communication, history, languages, linguistics, philosophy, religion, archaeology and heritage.

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Program at a glance

All times are AEDT

Thursday 17 November 2022

The Goods Shed · Terminus Theatre

9.00am Registration desk opens

9.30am **Opening & Welcome**

11.00am Morning break

11.30am **Session One**
Inherited citizenship tradition

1.00pm Lunch

Art Gallery of Ballarat

2.00pm **Session Two**
Belonging

3.30pm Afternoon break

3.45pm **Academy Lecture**
Democracy Regained: Uluru and Australian Citizenship
Professor Duncan Ivison FAHA

The Goods Shed · Terminus Theatre

5.30pm **New Fellows' Signing**

6.30pm **Academy Dinner**

Friday 18 November 2022

The Goods Shed · Terminus Theatre

9.00am Registration desk opens

9.30am **Session Three**
Modified citizenship practice

11.00am Morning break

11.30am **Session Four**
Inherited citizenship tradition

1.00pm Lunch

1.45pm **Session Five**
Disrupted citizenship

3.15pm Afternoon tea

3.45pm **Session Six**
A new Australian civilisational compact

4.30pm Symposium close

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A new Australian civilisational compact

01

CITIZENSHIP, DIASPORA AND BELONGING

Welcome from the President



On behalf of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, I warmly welcome you to the 53rd Academy Symposium 'Citizenship, Diaspora and Belonging'.

Our Symposium comes during a time of a renewed commitment to the Uluru Statement of the Heart and the establishment of a Voice to Parliament. The Academy acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land where we are holding the Symposium this year, the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways of the region.

Humanities perspectives are crucial for examining core questions for Australian society examined in this Symposium. Speakers will consider language, history, political and ethnic conflict, and the role of the arts in representation and defining citizenship and belonging. They will explore the politics and the tensions inherent in what it means to belong in a multicultural society with a colonial history. This will allow us all to consider the possibilities and opportunities our past and our present offer us in shaping our society.

After two years of virtual events, I am delighted we have an opportunity to meet together in person. My warmest thanks go to Joseph Lo Bianco AM FAHA for his hard work in convening this year's program, which has been on top of his role as the Academy's International Secretary and Vice-President. He has assembled a remarkable program, bringing together researchers from different career stages, as well as those from many different sectors offering varied perspectives on this important topic.

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

Emeritus Professor Lesley Head FASSA FAHA
Academy President

Convenor's Welcome



Almost a quarter of the way into the new millennium the world is confronted by a significant paradox in how nations, citizens and belonging are expressed. On the one hand there is clear evidence of an integrating supra-national world at the level of trade economics, communication technologies and migration of peoples that is generating a fusion and hybridity of cultural forms, while on the other we see persisting struggles for unique identities within, across and against existing nations.

Many kinds of supra-national identity, connection, and 'unification' (such as languages of wide communication), and dominant forms of transnational capital, are contested by claims for rights based on difference.

Within many 'settled nations' Indigenous and immigrant populations are refusing the assimilation that is imposed by education systems and citizen regimes, and nearly everywhere immigrant groups form interconnected diasporas that expand the identity horizons of their members. There are many states where citizenship struggles are bitter and violent, and where even today states seek to impose 'blood and ancestry' regimes of belonging; yet there are many others that have shifted towards civic bonds as the basis of political membership. In Southeast Asia alone in some 26 conflicts sub-national identity groups reject the prescription imposed by dominant national cultures, though only some of these struggles aim to disrupt the existing national framework.

Alongside these kinds of ethnic/linguistic and racial struggles, there are, everywhere, emancipatory movements advancing recognition for a variety of identities attached to personal, gender and sexual, professional, recreational, and ideological characteristics and interests. These all challenge dominant norms that seek cultural homogeneity through prescriptive identity. All this turmoil is itself shaped by the threat of looming ecological catastrophe, itself global in character.

Old characterisations of the nation and how its denizens 'belong' have made use of two main forms of affiliation, 'ethnic' roots, and attachments (including, in the extreme, blood and ancestry), or 'civic' ones, in which differences co-exist with unitary political membership. What actually counts as the content of civic or ethnic definitions is itself historically shaped and variable. The civic/ethnic distinction was once foundational, and while it retains some explanatory power today it seems inadequate to account for the reality that both kinds of belonging co-exist and shape each other. Citizenship must therefore be seen as formal, but also *substantive* and *participatory*, recognising people 'as they are' and with their differences, and for 'what they can do' and achieve.

Humanities scholars bring unique perspectives from literature, art, philosophy, culture, language, history, faith etc, to these dynamics of social and political life. The 53rd Annual Symposium explores many themes of loyalty and nationality, internationalism, mobility and how these interact with questions of participation, affiliation, and the politics of 'nativism'. Distinguished researchers, community members, advocates and academics, will present historical and legal perspectives, discuss contemporary issues, explore cultural representations and look at the specific experiences of a variety of community groups. Accompanied by the Annual Academy Lecture by Professor Duncan Ivison FAHA and a closing roundtable reflecting on the Symposium itself, we aim to discuss the new and unique Australian civilisational compact that is perhaps emerging today – a substantive kind of citizenship for a multicultural society with deep trans-national and diaspora connections, tied to a reimagined polity negotiated with First Nations concepts and rights.

Joseph Lo Bianco AM FAHA

Professor Emeritus

University of Melbourne

AAH International Secretary & Vice-President

Thursday 17 November

Opening and Welcome

9:30–11:00am

The Goods Shed · Terminus Theatre

Welcome to Country

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners

Welcome from the Academy

Emeritus Professor Lesley Head FASSA FAHA

PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY
OF THE HUMANITIES



Lesley Head FASSA FAHA is Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Melbourne. Prior to this she held an ARC Australian Laureate Fellowship at the University of Wollongong from 2009–14. Her

research focusses on human interactions with the Australian environment, past and present, and on the cultural dimensions of environmental issues including climate change. Lesley was awarded the Vega Medal of the Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography (2015). Her recent publications include *Hope and Grief in the Anthropocene: reconceptualising human-nature relations* (2016) and *Plants: past, present and future* (2022) co-edited with Zena Cumpston and Michael-Shawn Fletcher.

🐦 @ProfLesleyHead

Welcome from the Principal Sponsor

Professor Zlatko Skrbis

VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY



Zlatko Skrbis is the Vice-Chancellor and President of Australian Catholic University. He is also President of the Strategic Alliance of Catholic Research Universities (SACRU). Professor Skrbis holds a PhD in sociology and maintains an internationally

recognised research profile. He has made significant contributions in the areas of migration, cosmopolitanism, and life-course studies. As Vice-Chancellor he is working to ensure that ACU is a future-focused and impactful university that improves the lives of others through excellence in education, research, and service.

Welcome from the Convenor

Professor Emeritus Joseph Lo Bianco AM FAHA

CONVENOR OF THE 53RD SYMPOSIUM



Joseph Lo Bianco AM FAHA is Professor Emeritus at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education (MGSE) at the University of Melbourne and International Secretary & Vice-President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Prior to this he was Chief Executive of Language Australia Ltd: the National Languages and Literacy Institute, of which he was the founder. He has been commissioned to advise on language policy and literacy planning in South Africa, Hawai'i, Italy, New Zealand, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Western Samoa and other Pacific Island countries, Sri Lanka, Ireland, Scotland and Slovenia. He was a member of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO for 10 years and he previously served as Academy President from 2009–2011. He researches and advises on language and literacy policy, intercultural education and peacebuilding and language rights for minority populations in conflict affected settings in SE Asia.

🐦 @josephlobianco

Thursday 17 November

Opening and Welcome

9:30–11:00am

The Goods Shed · Terminus Theatre

Welcome

Professor Megan Davis FASSA FAAL

UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Pre-Recorded presentation



Megan Davis FASSA FAAL is Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous at UNSW. As PVCI, Prof Davis leads UNSW's Indigenous Strategy and is the Director of Nura Gili: Centre for Indigenous Programs.

Prof Davis is a Professor of Law and the Balnaves Chair of

Constitutional Law. She is a Cobble Cobble woman and a renowned constitutional lawyer and public law expert, focusing on advocacy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Her work extends internationally, through roles at the United Nations, focusing on global Indigenous rights. In this capacity, she was elected by the UN Human Rights Council to the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples based in Geneva in 2017 and again in 2019 (2019–2022). She is currently the Chair of the Expert Mechanism.

Prof Davis is an Acting Commissioner of the NSW Land and Environment Court, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law, and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences. She is also a member of the NSW Sentencing Council and an Australian Rugby League Commissioner. Prof Davis was Director of the UNSW Indigenous Law Centre (2007–2017) and Director of the Bill of Rights project at the Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law (2002–2004).

Welcome

Professor Michelle Foster

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Alienage, Citizenship and Belonging in the Australian Constitution



Michelle Foster is a Professor and Director of the Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness at Melbourne Law School. Michelle has published widely in the field of international refugee law, human rights and statelessness including *International Refugee*

Law and Socio-Economic Rights: Refuge from Deprivation (CUP, 2007), with James C. Hathaway, *The Law of Refugee Status*, Second Edition, (CUP, 2014), with Hélène Lambert, *International Refugee Law and the Protection of Stateless Persons* (OUP, 2019) and with Cathryn Costello and Jane McAdam, *The Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law* (OUP 2021). Michelle teaches Refugee Law and International Refugee Law at Melbourne Law School, and directs the annual Statelessness Intensive Course at Melbourne Law School.

Michelle has undertaken consultancy work for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and training of refugee tribunal members in New Zealand and Australia. She is Editor in Chief (with Laura van Waas) of the **Statelessness and Citizenship Review**. Michelle is also an Advisory Board Member of the Melbourne Journal of International Law and an Associate Member of the International Association of Refugee and Migration Law Judges. She is also a Board member and Deputy Chair of **AMES Australia**.

Chair

Professor Emeritus Joseph Lo Bianco AM FAHA

Convenor of the 53rd Symposium

Thursday 17 November

Session One

Inherited citizenship tradition

11.30am–1.00pm

The Goods Shed · Terminus Theatre

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CITIZENSHIP, DIASPORA AND BELONGING

This session explores the pattern of development and expansion of the Australian citizenship compact, its formal legal and political dimensions, criticism, and directions. What have been key informing discourses and patterns in shaping what we ordinarily mean when we discuss citizenship in Australia today?

Speakers

Professor Mark Brett FAHA

Spiritualities of Belonging and Intercultural Politics in Australia

The Uluru Statement from the Heart proposes that Indigenous sovereignty is a spiritual notion that arises from belonging to ancestral country and that it “co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.” The Crown, for its part, derives its sovereignty from an entirely different ancestral country and from a doctrine of colonial discovery, refracted through an English Protestant lens. Accordingly, the federal constitution of 1901 lacks any substantive concepts of nationhood or citizenship, and up until 1949 Australians were British subjects. Alongside legal questions about the doctrine of discovery, recent census data concerning the diverse patterns of religious adherence in Australia provoke the question of how the settler religion of Christianity can renounce its inherited imperial privileges and take its place as a diaspora tradition alongside other diaspora communities and “spiritual but not religious” sensibilities. A renewed national polity will include multiple spiritualities of belonging.



Mark Brett FAHA teaches Hebrew Bible and ethics at Whitley College in Melbourne, within the University of Divinity. He was raised in Papua New Guinea, which has yielded a lifelong interest in the cultural contexts of education. His

research has focused on postcolonial studies, ethnicity, the history of biblical interpretation, and political theology. During 2005–2008, he worked as a policy officer in the native title system and as a secretary for the Victorian Traditional Owner Land Justice Group in negotiations with the Victorian Government. He has served on the editorial boards of several scholarly journals and is currently writing on the history of Indigenous rights in international law. His most recent book is *Locations of God: Political Theology in the Hebrew Bible* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019).

Professor Frank Bongiorno AM FR HistS FASSA FAHA

Belonging in Australia: A Brief Contemporary History

What has it meant to belong in Australia? In this presentation, I'll examine the different ways that belonging in Australia has been understood since the early 1960s, with a particular focus on the 1980s. Most Australians ceased to think of themselves as British in this period, but what did they become? First Nations peoples came within the scope of Australian citizenship at the same time as some settler Australians looked to Indigenous culture and dream time as a way of imagining a meaningful sense of belonging. Multiculturalism provided another, sometimes competing way of reconciling cultural diversity and common citizenship at a time that saw the resumption of mass Asian immigration for the first time in about a century. Beginning in the 1980s in the lead-up to the Bicentenary of 1988, the complex national identity debate launched in the early 1960s generated its own reaction, with the resurgence of forms of

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Inherited citizenship tradition

11.30am–1.00pm

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belonging that looked nostalgically to an older unitary nationalism. The revival of Anzac Day and Australia Day are each a part of this history. Here, I draw particular attention to the resilience of this form of settler nationalism by a rereading of the Bicentenary, and to consider its implications for our larger understanding of the history of citizenship and belonging in Australia.



Frank Bongiorno AM FRHistS FASSA FAHA is Professor of History at the Australian National University, and was formerly a Senior Lecturer at King's College London and the University of New England. He was Head of the School of History at the ANU

from 2018 until 2021. He is the author of *The Sex Lives of Australians: A History* (2012), *The Eighties: The Decade That Transformed Australia* (2015) and *Dreamers and Schemers: A Political History of Australia* (2022). He is currently President of the Australian Historical Association.

🐦 @fbongiornoanu

🌐 LinkedIn profile

Dr Rayner Thwaites

Dual citizenship, indigeneity, and the harm of citizenship deprivation: variegated responses to legal inheritance and current claims of belonging

Citizenship, understood as a legal status, and constitutional membership, are always in flux, alternately disregarding or reflecting wider shifts in our understanding of ourselves and our history. But in the last five years the frequency with which the constitutional dimensions of citizenship have come before the Australian High Court is unusual.

Why might this be so? A recurrent tension centres on how to give content to constitutional membership of the Australian community. Should the constitutional concepts be determined by statutory citizenship, leaving it to the legislature? Or should the constitutional concepts preserve a measure of independence from statutory

determination, allowing for non-citizen non-alien, as in Love and Thom? Answers to these questions are best sought by engaging with the issues and complexities of our inherited citizenship tradition; our evaluation of how the law has both registered and resisted claims of belonging. I will analyse issues and complexities exposed in recent High Court case law.

Rayner Thwaites' presentation is representative of the team working on the Australian Research Council Special Research Initiative, *Citizenship and Claims of Belonging in Australian Law and History* (2021–24), namely Elisa Arcioni, Helen Irving and Rayner. See <https://www.sydney.edu.au/law/our-research/research-projects/citizenship-and-claims-of-belonging-in-australian-law.html>.

Elisa Arcioni is Associate Professor at Sydney Law School. Her work focuses on the identity of the constitutional 'people'. Her most recent publications include 'Aboriginal identity and status under the Australian Constitution' (with Kirsty Gover) (2022) 44(1) *Sydney Law Review* 137 and 'Chetcuti and exclusion under the Australian Constitution: the ongoing story of alien status' (2022) 33(1) *Public Law Review* 3.

Helen Irving is Professor Emerita at Sydney Law School. She is the author of, most recently, *Allegiance, Citizenship and the Law: The Enigma of Belonging* (Edward Elgar Publishing 2022).



Rayner Thwaites is a Senior Lecturer at Sydney Law School. His most recent publications are the chapter 'Citizenship and Immigration' in the *Cambridge Legal History of Australia* (August 2022) and "Proof of Foreign Nationality

and Citizenship Deprivation: *Pham* and Competing Approaches to Proof in the British Courts", *Modern Law Review*, advance publication available at: <http://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2230.12741>.

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Inherited citizenship tradition

11.30am–1.00pm

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CITIZENSHIP, DIASPORA AND BELONGING

Chair

Professor Joy Damousi AM FASSA FAHA

Australian Catholic University



Joy Damousi AM FASSA FAHA

is Director of the Australian Catholic University's Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences, and is the Academy's Immediate Past President. Prior to this she was Professor in the School of Historical and

Philosophical Studies, Head of School, Associate Dean (Research) and Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) at the University of Melbourne.

Joy's areas of research include Australian social and cultural history, gender history and memory and the history of emotions. Her current research project is a history of child refugees, humanitarianism and internationalism from 1920, for which she was awarded an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellowship. Her latest publication is *The Humanitarians: Child War Refugees and Australian Humanitarianism in a Transnational World, 1919–1975* (Cambridge 2022).

🐦 @joydamousi

Thursday 17 November

Session Two

Belonging

2.00pm–3.30pm

The Goods Shed · Terminus Theatre

S2

How has national belonging and association been represented in film, language and new technologies? What is the image and representation of being Australian? Who has been iconically represented, who has been marginalised, and how has the representation of belonging worked to bolster or transgress formal citizenship and participation in the life of the nation?

Lateness and Modernism: Untimely Ideas about Music, Literature and Politics in Interwar Britain (Cambridge UP, 2019), and *The Aesthetic Life of Cyril Scott* (Boydell, 2013); editor of *Music and Victorian Liberalism: Composing the Liberal Subject* (Cambridge UP, 2019); and co-editor with Paul Watt and Michael Allis of *The Oxford Handbook of Music and Intellectual Culture in the Nineteenth Century* (Oxford UP, 2020). Sarah lectures in musicology at the University of Western Australia. She has held visiting fellowships at Harvard University, the University of Oxford and Durham University, and has received competitive research funding from a range of sources including the British Academy, the Australian Research Council, and the European Research Council.

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CITIZENSHIP, DIASPORA AND BELONGING

Speakers

Associate Professor Sarah Collins FAHA

Belonging as Contagion

With pandemics in mind, this paper explores the idea of belonging as a form of ‘mimetic contagion’ – a contagion that engages the aesthetic categories of sympathy, affect, and judgement as a way of parsing those who are the same from those who are different. I discuss how this contagion has been historically attributed to particular organs of sensation (especially the ear and the eye), and examine historical examples from the stage (theatre and opera) and screen (film animation) in order to locate belonging within a genealogy of ideas pertaining to art and representation.



Sarah Collins FAHA is a cultural historian who has published on the relationship between music and literary aesthetics and broader intellectual and political currents in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. She is the author of

Professor Jane Lydon FAHA

One People?

A Visual Language of Australian Citizenship

After World War II the legal category of Australian citizenship was created through the Nationality and Citizenship Act 1948, but continued to overlap with British status. A ‘new language’ of photography actively constituted ideas about Australian citizenship through three interlocking discourses centring on the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a new assimilationist policy for Australia’s Indigenous people, and a migration program which advanced a powerful visual language of whiteness. The universalising language of the ‘family of man’ took on distinctive vernacular forms as officials sought to define an ‘Australian way of life’ through new photographic formats, including pamphlets, highly-illustrated periodicals, and media stories. As mapped by these visual projects, the universalising and inclusive rhetoric of human rights shaped international aspirations as well as Australian assimilation policy during these post-war years, yet both featured notable ‘blind spots’, or exclusions, that define the limits of citizenship.

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Session Two

Belonging

2.00pm–3.30pm

Art Gallery of Ballarat

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CITIZENSHIP, DIASPORA AND BELONGING



Jane Lydon FAHA is the Wesfarmers Chair of Australian History at The University of Western Australia. She currently leads the 'Western Australian Legacies of British Slavery' project, with Jeremy Martens, Paul Arthur, Zoë

Laidlaw, Georgina Arnott, Catherine Hall, Keith McClelland and Alan Lester, which seeks to analyse Australian legacies of British slave-ownership by tracing the movement of people, capital and culture from the Caribbean to the settler colonial world. Her most recent books include *Imperial Emotions: The Politics of Empathy across the British Empire* (Cambridge University Press, 2020) which examines the role of the compassionate emotions in creating relationships spanning the globe, and *Anti-slavery and Australia: No Slavery in a Free Land?* (Routledge, 2021). This book explores the anti-slavery movement in imperial scope, arguing that colonisation in Australasia facilitated emancipation in the Caribbean, even as abolition powerfully shaped the Settler Revolution. Abolition posed problems to which colonial expansion provided the answer, intimately linking the end of slavery to systematic colonisation and Indigenous dispossession.

🐦 @LydonJane

Chair

Professor Jennifer Milam FAHA

University of Newcastle



Jennifer Milam FAHA is Professor of Art History and Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic Excellence) at the University of Newcastle. A scholar of eighteenth-century art, architecture, and garden design, she collaborates

widely on interdisciplinary research topics with academics located in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Her books include *A Cultural History of Plants in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries* (2022), *Making Ideas Visible in the Eighteenth Century* (2021, co-edited with Nicola Parsons), and *Beyond Chinoiserie: Artistic Exchanges Between China and the West during the Late Qing Dynasty* (2018, co-edited with Petra Chu).

Thursday 17 November



2022 Annual Academy Lecture

3.45–4.30pm

Art Gallery of Ballarat

Each year, 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.

The New Fellows Signing at 5:30pm and the Academy Dinner at 6:30pm will follow at The Goods Shed.

Democracy Regained: Uluru and Australian Citizenship

The Uluru Statement from the Heart marks a distinctive phase in the long history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander resistance to and engagement with the Australian state. There are important issues about the details of the proposal and the structure of the Voice to Parliament. But what does its emergence tell us about the nature of Australian citizenship more broadly? And what opportunities does it present for thinking about the future of liberal democracy given the times we live in today?

Speaker

Professor Duncan Ivison FRSN FAHA



Duncan Ivison FRSN FAHA is Professor of Political Philosophy at the University of Sydney. He was Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) from 2015–22, and prior to that, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Head of the School of

Humanities. He was Chair of the Go8 DVCRs Committee, the NSW DVCR Committee, a member of the ARC Council, and board member of UniSeed, the US Studies Centre, the James Martin Institute for Public Policy, among others. He was elected a Fellow of the Academy in 2009 and has served on the Council since 2019. He has published six books, more than 60 academic papers, and contributed extensively to public debate and commentary on a wide range of issues across political and moral philosophy, as well as higher education policy and innovation. His latest book is *Can Liberal States Accommodate Indigenous Peoples?* (2020).

[@Duncanivison](#)

Chair

Emeritus Professor Lesley Head FASSA FAHA

President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities

Read about Professor Head on [page 04](#).

Session Three

Modified citizenship practice

9.30–11.00am

The Goods Shed · Terminus Theatre

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How have the many struggles to expand and deepen the meaning of citizenship been experienced and enacted by different groups at different times? How have immigrants interacted with and transformed the sense and meaning of citizenship and belonging? What have been some of the interactions and relationships between immigrant settler diasporas and Indigenous identities of belonging and being in Australia?

Speakers

Dr Alexandra Dellios

Access And Equity, Representation And Participation: Revisiting Ethnic Rights Campaigns from the 1970s/1980s

In public hearings held for the Commission of Inquiry into Poverty in the early 1970s, G.S Green from the Australian-Jewish Welfare Society, argued that “surely the Australian population has reached the stage where it is mandatory at any such institution serving a large portion of the population that there should be inbuilt some provision for catering to those who are not of basic English or Australian origin?” Forty years later, as we continue to grapple with the disproportionate effects of Covid on ethnic-minority communities, the same questions are being asked – about institutional representation, equitable communication, and responsive welfare services for communities without an Anglo-Celtic background. In this paper, I wish to return to certain moments in the 1970s and 1980s, when grassroots ethnic campaigns for

equity and access reached a fever pitch. These communities’ voices – buoyed by a university educated second generation – spoke to a developing sense of Australianness and belonging that was hybrid, outward-looking, multi-ethnic, and bolstered by social justice agendas. Elements of these discussions continue to this day, as seen in recent reportage around the 2021 Census results. While the economic and workplace realities facing new and ethnicised migrants in Australia today are different, the root issues (access and equity, representation and participation) are remarkably consistent. This paper will also end by discussing the responsibilities of longer-established migrant and ethnic-minority communities, and their efforts to promote and educate their communities about the Uluru Statement from the Heart.



Alexandra Dellios is a historian and senior lecturer in the Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies at the Australian National University. Her research considers the public and oral history of migrant and refugee communities, their experiences

of settlement, and working and family life. She is the author of *Heritage Making and Migrant Subjects in the Deindustrialising Region of the Latrobe Valley* (Cambridge University Press, April 2022) and *Histories of Controversy: Bonegilla Migrant Centre* (Melbourne University Publishing, 2017), editor of *Memory and Family in Australian Refugee Histories* (Routledge: 2019), and co-editor (with Eureka Henrich) of *Migrant, Multicultural and Diasporic Heritage: Beyond and Between Borders* (Routledge: 2020). She is Chair of the Editorial Board for *Studies in Oral History*, a founding member of the Australian Migration History Network, and Executive Committee member of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies.

🐦 @AlecaDell

Session Three

Modified citizenship practice

9.30–11.00am

The Goods Shed · Terminus Theatre

S3

Dr Anh Nguyen Austen

Refugee Childhood, Status, Citizenship, and Activism in the Global and Digital Diaspora

National citizenship is often considered the endpoint for refugees; however, Vietnamese in Australia and the global and digital diaspora continue to refer to their refugee status and heritage as social capital for activism. In this overview of my research and activism with the Vietnamese diaspora in Australia and their connection to the global and digital diaspora, I will discuss how Vietnamese war orphans and refugees have mobilised their historical vulnerabilities to create new community practices of citizenship and belonging.

Global and Digital citizenship has been transformed in practices of diasporic belonging after the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 when more than 2.7 million Vietnamese refugees resettled throughout the world, particularly in Australia, Canada, and United States. Technology, national citizenship, and their former status as refugees allowed them to later organise as a global and digital diaspora on Facebook. Select oral histories including analysis of Facebook and the works of some local organisations such as *VietSpeak* and *Viet Nam Family Search* reveal how humanitarian and refugee status informed their local and global practices of civic engagement, especially amongst Vietnamese child refugees and war orphans who resettled in Australia.



Anh Nguyen Austen is a historian and Research Associate in the Centre for Refugees at the Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences of Australian Catholic University. She is the editor of the new *Digital Diasporas Series* and author of *Vietnamese Migrants in Australia and the Global Digital Diaspora* (Routledge: 2022).

Her research and engagement with *Melbourne Museum*, *VietSpeak*, *Free to Feed*, *Kid's Own Publishing*, *Viet Nam Family Search*, and *Mentoring Men* explores refugee social entrepreneurship and art practices, teaching game design and migration history, and storytelling about food and migration. Anh graduated from Bryn Mawr College, Harvard Divinity School, and completed her PhD at the University of Melbourne. She worked for native title land rights for Indigenous Peoples in Victoria, legal aid for immigrants in Boston, and HIV/AIDS research and treatment in Nigeria.

🐦 @Joan_Of_Arts

Zac Roberts

"I thought I was the only one": Citizenship and belonging among Aboriginal-Jewish communities

In 1999, Andrea Goldsmith wrote that, "Expulsion, massacre, genocide, eternal scapegoats: Jews and black Australians are equally experienced". This statement is one of many that draws on the idea of a perceived 'parallel journey' between Jewish and Indigenous Australians; or the idea that both Jews and Indigenous people have experienced the same story of persecution, and triumph against all odds. Yet, despite this seemingly popular narrative, there is very little writing – scholarly or otherwise – that concerns the experiences of individuals who are both Jewish and Indigenous. In this paper, I draw on a series of oral history interviews conducted with Aboriginal people who are also Jewish – either by birth or conversion. These diverse experiences of citizenship, belonging, and identity to both their

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Session Three

Modified citizenship practice

9.30–11.00am

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CITIZENSHIP, DIASPORA AND BELONGING

Indigenous and Jewish communities draws attention to some of the challenges faced by people belonging to two minority communities.



Zac Roberts is an Yuin scholar from the South Coast of New South Wales. His research interests centre on Indigenous histories, with a particular interest in interrogating the unspoken space of Indigenous narratives within the broader

national history of Australia. Zac is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Indigenous Studies at Macquarie University, where he is researching the relationship between Indigenous and Jewish communities in Australia since 1788. Zac was awarded the Academy's John Mulvaney Fellowship in 2022.

 @isaacjroberts

Chair

Professor Duncan Ivison FRSN FAHA

University of Sydney

Read about Professor Ivison on [page 11](#).

Session Four

Diaspora dilemmas and experiences

11.30am–1.00pm

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How has English, and languages generally, been used in citizenship determination, refugee status and service delivery. How does a transnational world of mobility and change transform everyone's sense of attachment and belonging? What are some effects of geopolitical relations, and tensions, between Australia and some Asian societies on domestic communities identifying across national homelands?

Speakers

Professor Ghassan Hage FASSA FAHA

The Diasporic Condition

Pre-recorded presentation

In this presentation, based on my most recent book *The Diasporic Condition*, I will go through the key components of the diasporic condition that is ethnographically detailed in the work: transnational viability, comparative spatiality, anisogamic intercultural dynamics and lenticularity. I will speak about their significance and about the significance of conceptual innovation in migration and diasporic studies more generally.



Ghassan Hage FASSA FAHA is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Melbourne and a Senior Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute of Social Anthropology in Halle (Germany). He has published widely on questions of racism and multiculturalism including key works such as *White Nation* (2000) and *Against Paranoid*

Nationalism (2003). His more recent works include *Alter-Politics* (Melbourne University Press 2015), *Is Racism an Environmental Threat?* (Polity 2017), *Decay* (Duke University Press 2021), *The Diasporic Condition* (University of Chicago 2021) and *The Racial Politics of Australian Multiculturalism* (forthcoming – Sweatshop 2023). He is currently working to finish a book on the anthropology of Pierre Bourdieu and a book titled 'Anthropology and the Viability of Life' based on the Ruth Benedict Lectures he has delivered at Columbia University in April 2022.

Professor Wanning Sun FAHA

A Question of Loyalty: Mandarin-speaking Migrants in Australia and the Impossible Politics of Belonging

This presentation centres on the experience of Australia's first-generation Mandarin speaking migrants as they live out the daily challenges of being caught between China and Australia – two countries that are growing increasingly hostile toward each other. It examines how the current geopolitical dynamics of Australia's foreign policy shapes their citizenship practices and politics of belonging. By tracing the formation of a new transnational Chinese subjectivity against the backdrop of an emerging new Cold War, the presentation advocates a rethinking of the concept of Chinese transnationalism as well as the notion of the diasporic condition in general.



Wanning Sun FAHA is Professor of Media and Communication Studies at the University of Technology Sydney. She is currently a member of the College of Experts (2020–2022) of the Australian Research Council. A Fellow of Australian Academy of the Humanities since 2016, she has worked in the area of cultural anthropology of migration for more than two decades. Wanning has spearheaded global diasporic Chinese-language media as a distinct area of research,

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with the publication of her first book, *Leaving China: Media, Migration, and Transnational Imagination* (2002), and three edited Routledge volumes on this topic: *Media and the Chinese Diaspora: Community, Communications and Commerce* (2006), *Media and Communication in the Chinese Diaspora: Rethinking Transnationalism* (2016, with John Sinclair), and the recently published *WeChat and the Chinese Diaspora* (2022, with Haiqing Yu). Her new book *Digital Transnationalism: Chinese-language Media in Australia* (Brill, with Haiqing Yu) is forthcoming.

Group Presentation

Shibboleth: The role of language tests in Australian citizenship policy

Language tests have long served as regulatory mechanisms in controlling immigration flows, access to citizenship and other prized forms of social participation and advancement (Davies 1997, McNamara & Roever 2006, Shohamy 2001, 2009, McNamara & Khan 2017). The paper offers a historical overview of the powerful roles played by English language tests in the context of Australian immigration policy. We begin with reference to the notorious Dictation Test (McNamara 2009) designed to exclude 'undesirable aliens' under the White Australia policy and then consider iterations of the Australian Citizenship test first introduced in 2007 to test knowledge of society through the medium of English (McNamara & Ryan 2011). We then consider the debates around the (failed) attempt in 2017 to introduce a stand-alone English language requirement for citizenship in addition to the knowledge of society test (Macqueen & Ryan 2019, Elder, Knoch & Harradine 2019). It is argued that despite their quasi-scientific character, modern psychometrically informed language tests established as shibboleth mechanisms controlling immigration and citizenship rights are implicated in the inherent violence of law and of language itself and reflect what Derrida (1986) calls 'the terrifying ambiguity of the shibboleth, sign of belonging and threat of discrimination...'.

Associate Professor Ute Knoch



Ute Knoch is the Director of the Language Testing Research Centre at the University of Melbourne. Her research interests are in the areas of policy in language testing, and assessing languages for academic and professional purposes. Her recent books include *Scoring Second Language Spoken and Written Performance* (2021, Equinox, with Judith Fairbairn and Jin Yan), *Fairness, Justice and Language Assessment* (2019, OUP, with Tim McNamara and Jason Fan), and *Assessing English for Professional Purposes* (2020, with Susy Macqueen).

Professor Tim McNamara FAHA



Tim McNamara AM FAHA is Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the School of Language and Linguistics at The University of Melbourne. He is best known for his work in language testing. He has also written extensively on language and identity, in which he has focused on the impact of poststructuralist approaches. His recent books include *Language and Subjectivity* (CUP, 2019) and *Fairness, Justice and Language Assessment* (OUP, 2019, with Ute Knoch and Jason Fan).

Associate Professor Catherine Elder



Catherine Elder is Associate Professor and Principal Fellow in the School of Languages and Linguistics and a former Director of the Language Testing Research Centre at the University of Melbourne. She has worked in various roles at the interface between language policy and assessment in English and other languages.

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Chair

Professor Kam Louie FHKAH FAHA

University of New South Wales



Kam Louie FHKAH FAHA. Before serving as Dean of Arts at Hong Kong University (2005–2013), Kam was Professor of Chinese at ANU (2003–2005) and UQ (1993–2002). He has also taught at Nanjing, Auckland and Murdoch Universities. He has studied

at USyd, CUHK and Peking University, and held professorial fellowships at the Center for Chinese Studies, Taipei and NTU, Singapore. He is currently Honorary Professor at HKU and UNSW. He served on government committees such as the Australia–China Council, and on leaderships roles such as President of the HK Academy of Humanities and Head of the Asian Studies Section at the Academy. Kam has written or edited 18 books, including *Inheriting Tradition: Interpretations of the Classical Philosophers in Communist China* (Oxford UP), *The Literature of China in the Twentieth Century* (co-authored), (Columbia UP) and *Theorising Chinese Masculinity* (Cambridge UP). He was also Chief Editor of *Asian Studies Review* (1998–2006).

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Session Five

Disputed citizenship

1.45–3.15pm

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CITIZENSHIP, DIASPORA AND BELONGING

In some world settings disputes about who can claim citizenship, whether merely legal political citizenship or a deeper sense of belonging to the nation, is a direct cause of violence and political conflict. This session discusses several dramatic instances of recent conflict around Disputed Citizenship.

Speakers

Professor Marko Pavlyshyn FAHA

Complexities of Belonging: Reflections on Citizenship and Identity in Ukraine

How, and to what extent, should a newly independent state endeavour to dismantle inherited colonial structures of political and cultural dominion? Where lies the demarcation between social and cultural customs naturalised by long colonial practice, and thus tolerable, and intolerable legacies of abusive imperial power? These questions have been differently addressed in the post-Soviet countries since 1991. In Ukraine, in the context of anxieties about the unextinguished ambitions of the former colonial hegemon, they have animated debate over the state's role in shaping the identity of Ukrainian citizens. Among the matters in contention have been cultural and language policy, the status and cultural rights of minorities, and the acceptability of dual or diaspora citizenship. Researchers have observed in the course of Russia's war on Ukraine since 2014 and its escalation in February 2022 a shift in the public understanding of "Ukrainianness" from possession of an array of cultural attributes toward a sense of participation in a Ukrainian polity united by attachment to a shared territory and a shared

future. In this paper I reflect on what appear to be the salient features of this emergent experience of national belonging.



Marko Pavlyshyn FAHA is Emeritus Professor of Ukrainian Studies at Monash University. He is the author of *Ol'ha Kobylanska: Interpretations* (Kharkiv, 2008), *Canon and Iconostasis* (Kyiv, 1997), of

translations from the Ukrainian into English of Yuri Andrukhovych's *Recreations* (Edmonton, 1998) and Yuri Izdryk's *Wozzeck* (Edmonton, 2006), and of more than 100 chapters and articles, mainly on modern and contemporary Ukrainian literature, many applying postcolonial approaches to its analysis. He has edited and co-edited twelve scholarly collections, including, with Giovanna Brogi and Serhii Plokhy, *Ukraine and Europe: Cultural Encounters and Negotiations* (Toronto, 2017). In 2004–2018 he was the director of the Mykola Zerov Centre for Ukrainian Studies at Monash University, where at various times he also headed the Centre for European Studies and the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics. Marko Pavlyshyn was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities in 2002 and an International Member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in 2021.

Associate Professor Susan Costello

Citizenship and ethnic allegiances in Myanmar's nation building

The post independence journey of Myanmar, formerly Burma, has been marked by practically continual conflict. One of the central features of the many civil conflicts the country has experienced has been the bitterly contested politics of belonging. While the nation acknowledges many ethnic groups and languages, 135 in fact, many of these have been in almost continuous struggle against assimilation by the dominant Bamar ethnic majority. In addition to these struggles, the country experienced the brutal military campaign waged

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Disputed citizenship

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against Rohingya in Rakhine state in 2017, and extensive political violence unleashed after the overthrow of Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy in February 2021. This talk will introduce some aspects of the complex issues of citizenship and belonging to attempt to explain and contextualise Myanmar's search for national cohesion, federalism and peaceful relations among its constituent population groups.



Susie Costello is an Adjunct Professor at the Australian College of Applied Professions and an Associate Professor at RMIT University. Susie worked with UNICEF to develop social work and child protection

training on the Thai–Burma border, in Myanmar and Palestine and taught social work in Australia for over 20 years.

Dr Yirga Gelaw Woldeyes

The violence of nation-building and ethnolinguistic nationalism in Ethiopia

Pre-recorded presentation

From 1991 to the present, Ethiopia has been divided into ethnic zones where citizenship is possible only through belonging to a linguistic group that is made into a sovereign regional state by the constitution. Ethiopia faces ongoing civil war, ethnic violence and further ethnic-based nationalism, where linguistic groups who do not have regional states seek to define themselves as 'states' within but separate to the 'nation' of Ethiopia. This paper examines the genealogical roots of this phenomenon, and reflects on how this form of nationalism continues to have violent consequences for the majority of Ethiopians outside politics. Ethiopia is the only uncolonised African country whose state was not established by European colonialists. However, by the time other African countries became independent and started a nation building agenda, a new western educated class in Ethiopia mobilised the downfall of the

monarchy. They utilised a Eurocentric conception of the 'nation' that required the invention of a national enemy against which political membership could be mobilised. This paper argues that by using western notions of the 'nation-state', nation-building in Ethiopia has become a process that mobilises ethnolinguistic identities against a perceived ethnic national enemy with tragic consequences to the majority.



Yirga Gelaw Woldeyes is a Senior Lecturer, multidisciplinary researcher and writer based at Curtin University's Centre for Human Rights Education, Australia. Drawing from the history, philosophy and experiences of marginalised

people and diverse communities, Yirga contributes critical insights for reimagining the future and addressing epistemic and racial injustices. He researches African experience and Ethiopian traditions and writes creatively on belonging and diasporic lives. He has won university and industry awards for his teaching, research, and creative writing. His publications include the sole authored book *Native Colonialism: Education and the Economy of Violence Against Traditions in Ethiopia*. (New Jersey: The Red Sea Press, 2017) and the co-edited book (with Offord, Fleay, Hartley and Chan) *Activating Cultural and Social Change: The Pedagogies of Human Rights* (London: Routledge, 2022).

🐦 @YirgaGelaw

Chair

Professor Emeritus Joseph Lo Bianco

Convenor of the 53rd Symposium

Read about Professor Lo Bianco on [page 04](#).

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Session Six

A new Australian civilisational compact

3.45–4.30pm

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CITIZENSHIP, DIASPORA AND BELONGING

Roundtable discussion of the key features of an inclusive citizenship, for a multicultural society and a reimagined polity negotiated with First Nations concepts and rights.

Speakers

Professor Duncan Ivison FRSN FAHA

Read about Professor Ivison on [page 11](#).

Associate Professor Shino Konishi FAHA



Shino Konishi FAHA is a Yawuru historian and Associate Professor in the Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences at the Australian Catholic University. Her research interests include histories of exploration, cross-cultural encounter, and

representations of Indigenous masculinity and labour. Her current work explores early collecting practices in Western Australia, imperial travellers' observations of Indigenous peoples in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, and methodological approaches to Indigenous biography.

She is the author of *The Aboriginal Male in the Enlightenment World* (2012), which was short-listed for the NSW Premier's Australian History Prize, and a number of edited collections including *Indigenous Intermediaries: New Perspectives on Exploration Archives* (2015) with Maria Nugent and Tiffany Shellam. From 2010 to 2014 she was the editor of *Aboriginal History* and she is now editing a volume on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander biographies in collaboration with the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

Dr Laura Smith-Khan



Laura Smith-Khan is a Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Faculty of Law at the University of Technology Sydney. Her research examines the inclusion and participation of minoritised groups in legal settings,

especially migration processes, and seeks to uncover and address inequality. Her current project explores the role of migration lawyers and agents in these processes. Laura has been admitted as a lawyer in the NSW Supreme Court, and has assisted refugees and asylum seekers in a paralegal and pro-bono capacity. She speaks several languages and regularly shares her research with the public through the research blog, *Language on the Move*, and via social media.

This year, Laura received the Academy's Max Crawford Medal, awarded annually to an outstanding early-career scholar whose research and published work has made an exceptional contribution to the understanding of their disciplines by the general public.

[@LauraSKh](#)

Chair

Professor Emeritus Joseph Lo Bianco AM FAHA

Convenor of the 53rd Symposium

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