

HRC Distinguished Lecture Series

The Hans Mol Memorial Lecture in Religion and the
Social Sciences

Hans Mol's "The Faith of Australians", Redux

Professor Andrew Singleton

Deakin University

Friday 11 November



**Australian
National
University**

Andrew Singleton is Professor of Sociology and Social Research at Deakin University. He is author of three books: *Freedoms, Faiths and Futures: Teenage Australians on Religion, Sexuality and Diversity* (with A. Halafoff, M.L. Rasmussen & G.D. Bouma, 2021); *Religion, Culture and Society: A Global Approach* (2014) and *The Spirit of Generation Y: Young People's Spirituality in a Changing Australia* (with M. Mason & R. Webber, 2007).

This public lecture revisits Hans Mol's 1985 book *The Faith of Australians*, a major sociological analysis of religion and Australian society. The Faith of Australians saw Mol update and re-examine his 1971 masterpiece, *Religion in Australia*, and together these books offer precious insight into the conventional religious mood of the post-war era, grounded in Mol's outstanding quantitative data and erudite analysis.

Mol seemed to have missed the social upheaval of 1970s, however, and *The Faith of Australians* is curiously silent about the ways in which the Whitlam Government, the Vietnam War, women's liberation, the occult revival, migration and the Baby Boomer generation remade Australian spirituality

in the time between his books. This lecture reframes *The Faith of Australians* considering these historical developments and with survey data that Mol knew about but was unable to access. In doing so, it will highlight the enduring utility of Mol's pioneering sociology of religion in understanding post-war religion in Australia.

Details

Friday 11 November, 5pm.
Theatrette 2.02, Sir Roland Wilson
Building, 120 McCoy Cct ACTON

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