



TUESDAY 21 MAY 2024



Published by J. Cundieff 1706.  
HANNAH TRAPNEL,  
a Quaker, and pretended Prophetess.  
(From a scarce Print by Goussard)  
For an account of this extraordinary woman, see *Worth's Chronicle*, *Cromwell's Women* and the *High Court of Justice*.

WORK IN PROGRESS  
SEMINAR SERIES

## Anna Trapnel Forever: Life Writing and the Risk of Eternity

10:15 am  
Tuesday  
21 May

Baldessin  
Bld. Level 4  
Room E4.11

Followed by  
Morning Tea

This paper considers the representation of 'relative time' in the apocalyptic work of Anna Trapnel. Trapnel believes that she is living through the 'fifth monarchy', a brief age of spiritual turmoil which adverts the end of the world. In her autobiographical work, written in the wake of the bloody Civil Wars in seventeenth century England, she explores her own feelings of entrapment and stasis, while looking outwards to the expanse of a cosmos that is divinely fated to collapse. Her life writing and her poems are insistently bound to the idea of time: the span of her own life, and the coming of the final days of earth, obsessed with what it means to record the painstaking details of one's own life and to negotiate that life within the infinity of God's time. Trapnel is acutely aware of her present moment, engaging in the ever-shifting politics under Cromwell's parliament, while at the same time insisting such moments are temporary and that true salvation can only be found in the timeless after-space of heaven.



### Dr Laura Jayne Wright

Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, Newcastle University, UK.  
HRC 2024 Visiting Fellow

**Laura Jayne Wright** is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow working on auditory hallucinations and sensory experience in women's prophetic writing. Her first monograph, *Sound Effects: Hearing the Early Modern Stage* (Manchester, 2023), examined early modern sound effects and their capacity to unsettle the spatial dynamics of the playhouse. Her Cambridge Element, *Shakespeare's Visionary Women* (Cambridge, 2023), considers the ways in which women's dreams and visions offer a space for political protest which is heard by powerful men but rarely heeded.

### HRC 2024 Annual Theme – Time, Place, *Everywhen*

2024 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the ANU Humanities Research Centre (HRC). To celebrate, the HRC is supporting research into different ideas of time and place and paying respect to Indigenous people through the theme of 'everywhen'.

[hrc@anu.edu.au](mailto:hrc@anu.edu.au) | [hrc.cass.anu.edu.au](http://hrc.cass.anu.edu.au)