



**Australian
National
University**

THE VALUE OF THE HUMANITIES

**14-15 August 2014
Humanities Research Centre
The Australian National University**

Conveners: Debjani Ganguly and Colin Steele



**Hosted in conjunction with the ANU Emeritus Faculty
&
National Scholarly Communications Forum**

ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

This two-day colloquium will discuss the current state of global humanities through the question of value. Rather than simply defending the humanities against the perceived onslaught of a bureaucratic instrumentalism or praising the humanities for upholding intellectual and aesthetic autonomy, the colloquium will seek to examine the ways in which the Humanities makes and communicates knowledge, and, in the process, expresses its value to the world at large. When humanities scholars engage in public debate or seek to influence policy development, they do not necessarily capitulate to an economic or political instrumentalism. Nor are idealistic perspectives on the humanities invariably tinged with a romantic or modernist disdain for the utilitarian. Optimization of pleasure and the cultivation of a good life are after all long standing utilitarian tenets. Keynote speaker, Professor Helen Small's eponymous book *The Value of the Humanities* (OUP, 2013), will serve as a focus for discussions at the event. The colloquium will feature panels on:

Knowledge Worlds and Use Value
Pleasure and Practice
Humanities, Civil Society and Democracy
Humanities Futures
Communicating the Humanities
Evaluating the Humanities

14 August 2014
The Theatrette, Sir Roland Wilson Building, 120, McCoy Circuit, ANU

9:00	Welcome from the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ian Young, and the Dean of the College of Arts and Social Sciences, Professor Toni Makkai
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: Director, Humanities Research Centre, Debjani Ganguly
9:30 - 11:00am	Knowledge Worlds and Use Value
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Helen Small, University of Oxford • Professor Dipesh Chakrabarty University of Chicago • Professor Simon During, University of Queensland
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee
11:30 - 1:00pm	Pleasure and Practice
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Meaghan Morris, University of Sydney • Professor John Frow, University of Sydney • Professor Margaret Jolly, Australian National University • Professor Ronan McDonald, University of New South Wales
1:00-2:00	Lunch
2:00 - 3:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humanities, Civil Society, Democracy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Bruce Robbins, Columbia University • Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington, DVC (Academic), Australian National University • Assoc/Professor Debjani Ganguly, Australian National University • Dr. Fiona Jenkins, Australian National University
3.30 - 4:00pm	Coffee
4:00 – 5:00pm	Humanities Futures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Leslie Barnes, Australian National University • Dr. Glenn Roe, Australian National University • Dr. Tom Ford, University of Melbourne
6:00 - 7:00pm	ANU Emeritus Faculty Biannual lecture Professor Helen Small Sir Roland Wilson Building

15 August 2014
The Theatrette, Sir Roland Wilson Building, 120, McCoy Circuit, ANU

	Sponsored by the National Scholarly Communications Forum
9:30 - 11:00am	Communicating the Humanities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Iain McCalman, University of Sydney • Dr. Christina Parolin, Executive Director, Australian Academy of the Humanities • Mr. Tim Gardam, University of Oxford • Professor Peter Tregear, Australian National University
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee
11:30 - 1:00pm	Evaluating the Humanities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Denise Meredyth, Executive Director, HCA, Australian Research Council • Professor Helen Small, University of Oxford • Professor Graeme Turner, University of Queensland • Dr. Douglas Robertson, Director Research Office, ANU
1:00-2:00	Lunch
2:00 - 3:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concluding Panel
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dipesh Chakrabarty • Simon During • John Frow • Meaghan Morris • Bruce Robbins • Graeme Turner • Iain McCalman