



# Social Sciences Week at MQ

SEPTEMBER 9-13 2024



# Social Science at MQ: Schedule



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1. Monday 9 September 2pm-4pm – **Scholarly Publishing in the Social Sciences Workshop** (*Prof Kirsten Bell and Prof Lisa Law*)
  2. Monday 9 September 4pm-5.30pm – **Implications of the University Accord** (*Prof Andrew Norton*)
  3. Tuesday 10 September 1.30pm-4pm – **Writing out from the Academy** (1:30-2:30pm **the Ethics and Aesthetics of Social Science Research**; 3-4pm **The Generalist Essay**) (*multiple speakers*)
  4. Wednesday 11 September 1.00pm-2.00pm – **Care infrastructures and regional energy transitions** (*Dr Chantel Carr*)
  5. Wednesday 11 September 2.30pm-3.30pm – **Amani Haydar on Violence**
  6. Wednesday 11 September 6pm-8pm – **Careers Event**
  7. Thursday 12 September 1.00pm-2.30pm - **Amy McQuire and Sandy O'Sullivan on Black Violence**
  8. Thursday 12 September 3.00pm-3.30pm – **2023 Prize Giving Ceremony**
  9. Thursday 12 September 3.45pm-4.45pm – **Who's on top? Inequality for rich and poor** (*Work inequality and wellbeing group*)
  10. Friday 13 September 2-3.30pm - **Tech for Good? Anthropology and the quest for 'ground-truths' after weather disasters**

# HDR / ECR Workshop: Scholarly publishing in the social sciences



MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2-4PM C120/121, 25 WALLY'S WALK BUILDING C

Zoom link: <https://macquarie.zoom.us/j/81476545794>

For Social Sciences Week 2024, Visiting Research Fellow Kirsten Bell (Imperial College London) and Professor Lisa L. Wynn (Associate Editor of the journal *American Ethnologist*) will host a publishing workshop discussing changes afoot in the publishing arena, including a discussion of the effects of open access initiatives, combined with practical advice on getting published. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about trends in the academic publishing space and to ask questions about publishing your own work.

Bell is a former journal editor (of *Critical Public Health*) and Wynn is a current journal editor (an associate editor of *American Ethnologist*). In addition to her experience as a journal editor, Bell has published three columns in the former *Chronicle of Higher Education* blog, 'Vitae', providing tips on getting published. She also holds a Master of Publishing from Simon Fraser University, is a former member of the Executive Committee of Libraria, a collective of social scientists exploring new models of publishing that supported Berghahn and Pluto to move their stable of journals open access under a 'subscribe to open' model, and has helped the editorial team and board of *Critical Public Health* to leave their owner and publisher, Taylor & Francis, and move to a diamond open access journal.

# The University Accord and its implications for higher education



MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER, 4.00PM-5.30PM, B603, 25 WALLY'S WALK

Professor Andrew Norton is a leading analyst of the Australian Higher Education system and is located at Centre for Social Policy Research at ANU. He'll be talking to Macquarie staff about the policy implications of the University Accord and specifically commenting on the current state and future of social sciences education. This seminar is the place to get answers to your questions about the current policy framework and what it means for us as knowledge workers in higher education.

Andrew Norton is Professor in the Practice of Higher Education Policy at the Centre for Social Research and Methods at the Australian National University. Prior to joining the ANU he was the Higher Education Program Director at the Grattan Institute from 2011 to 2019. While at Grattan, he was a government appointed co-reviewer of the demand driven university funding system over 2013-14. He also served on an expert panel advising the government on higher education reform, particularly on financial issues, over 2016-17. Before joining the Grattan Institute, he worked for three University of Melbourne vice-chancellors as a policy adviser. He also worked part-time for The Centre for Independent Studies, as a research fellow and editor of its journal Policy. He started his higher education policy career as a ministerial adviser to Dr David Kemp, from 1997 to 1999.

# Writing Out from the Academy



*Presented by Macquarie University's School of Social Sciences, in partnership with the Imagined Lives research collective, Sydney Review of Books, and the Centre for Applied History.*

**TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER, 1.30PM-2.30PM, C122 25 WALLY'S WALK**

Zoom link <https://macquarie.zoom.us/j/89509375779>

Join us for a special event which brings together scholars, creative writers and publishers to discuss the practices, challenges and affordances of 'writing out from the academy.'

## Program

### 1.30pm-2.30pm Session One

'The ethics and aesthetics of social science research.'

Panel discussion: Lisa Wynn, Kirsten Bell, Randa Abdel-Fattah, and Kate Rossmanith

### 2.30pm-3pm: Afternoon Tea

### 3pm-4pm: Session Two:

'The generalised essay'

James Jiang (editor, *Sydney Review of Books*), with Christian Gelder and Kate Rossmanith

Over the past several decades, more and more academic researchers are using different forms of writing as part of their scholarly practice. They are producing novels, short stories, nonfiction monographs, memoir, biography, literary journalism, essays and poetry. These writing innovations have been driven by the reflexive turn in the social sciences, the humanities' interest in questions of subjectivity, artists and writers entering the academy and the acceptance of creative practice research, and, more recently, the expectation that scholars produce 'approachable' work that has 'real world impact'

Researchers working with such forms of writing are confronted by particular compositional and philosophical problems. These include, for example, how to convey ideas and information, how to give dense (plotless) research sufficient momentum for a reader, and how to represent other people, environments, and situations ethically. There is the question too of 'narratorial presence': who or what is the 'voice' on the page organising and narrating the material? How can the 'narratorial presence' be developed to best effect?

Meanwhile, what are publishers looking for? How does an essay, for example, differ from a scholarly journal article? What is the publishing process for a trade book?

# Writing Out from the Academy

SPEAKERS (1/2)



## Randa Abdel-Fattah

Randa Abdel-Fattah is a Future Fellow at Macquarie University. Her research areas cover Islamophobia, race, Palestine, the war on terror, youth identities and social movement activism. Dr Abdel-Fattah is also a lawyer and the multi-award-winning author of 12 books for children and young adults, beginning with the 2005 *Does My Head Look Big in This?* which won the Australian Book Industry Award and the Australian Book of The Year Award for older children. Her 2021 book, *Coming of Age in the War on Terror*, was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Literary Awards 2022: Multicultural NSW Award, and her picture story book *11 Words for Love* was shortlisted for the 2023 Prime Minister's Literary Award.

## Kirsten Bell

Kirsten Bell is Senior Research Fellow in Anthropology at Imperial College and has previously held appointments at the University of Northern Colorado, Macquarie University, the University of British Columbia and the University of Roehampton, where she was Professor of Social Anthropology. Her research interests include the anthropology of public health, research ethics and infrastructures of scholarly publishing. She also has a strong interest in engaging directly with the public and has written on a variety of topics for *Wired*, *Popanth*, the *Globe & Mail* and *Sapiens*. Her latest book, *Silent But Deadly: The Underlying Cultural Patterns of Everyday Behaviour*, caters to her longstanding obsession with bodily effluvia & other topics too mundane, inane & profane for serious scholarly attention.

## Christian Gelder

Christian Gelder is an essayist and a Macquarie University Research Fellow. His current research focusses on American literature and the development of psychiatry in the twentieth century. He completed his PhD in English at Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge in 2022. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Modernism/modernity*, *The Cambridge Quarterly*, *Australian Humanities Review*, *Psychoanalysis and History*, *S: Journal for the Circle of Lacanian Ideology Critique* and elsewhere. With Robert Boncardo, he is the author of *Mallarmé: Rancière, Milner, Badiou* (Rowman and Littlefield).

# Writing Out from the Academy

SPEAKERS (2/2)



## James Jiang

James Jiang is editor of Sydney Review of Books. A critic and a scholar, James has worked as Assistant Editor at Griffith Review and Australian Book Review. Prior to becoming an editor, he taught in the English and Theatre Studies program at the University of Melbourne. He holds a PhD in modernist literature from the University of Cambridge and has written reviews and essays for a variety of publications in Australia (Sydney Review of Books, Australian Book Review, Cordite, LIMINAL Magazine) and abroad (Cambridge Quarterly, Ploughshares, Modernism/modernity). His interests range across poetry (contemporary and historical), the history and theory of criticism, diasporic writing, translation and sport.

## Kate Rossmann

Kate Rossmann is an essayist, an ethnographer and an Australian Research Council Future Fellow at Macquarie University. She is the author of the hybrid nonfiction monograph *Small Wrongs* (2018), nominated for national and international literary awards, and co-editor of *Remorse and Criminal Justice: Multi-disciplinary perspectives* (2022). Her essays 'Ditching the New Yorker Voice' (2022) and 'On Not Asking "Should I Insert Myself in the Text?"' (2023), published by Sydney Review of Books and re-republished by Public Books (Columbia University) are informing the practice of fiction and nonfiction writers. She is an Associate Professor of Media, Cultural Studies and Creative Writing.

## Lisa Wynn

Lisa L. Wynn is a Professor of Anthropology in the School of Social Sciences at Macquarie University in Sydney. Her most recent solo-authored book is *Love, Sex, and Desire in Modern Egypt* (2018) and she is the co-editor of three books, most recently, *Sex in the Middle East and North Africa* (2022). She is a past President of the Australian Anthropological Society and currently Associate Editor of the journal *American Ethnologist*.

# Guest Speaker: Dr Chantel Carr

## Geography & Planning Seminar Series



WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER, 1.00PM-2.00PM, C120/121, 25 WALLY'S WALK

Can the concept of care infrastructures play a role in regional energy transitions?

Energy transitions are social transitions, shifting existing patterns of everyday life and challenging shared societal values. This is especially evident in Australia's carbon-intensive regions, where community capacities to cohere and care for each other are being re-shaped. In this paper I draw on the concept of care infrastructures to analyse some of the contemporary social dimensions of regional energy transitions. Care infrastructures are 'forms that pattern the organisation of care within society' (Power and Mee 2020: 489). The case study focuses on the Illawarra, a region on the cusp of a new wave of change prompted by imperatives to decarbonise heavy industry, the globalisation of coal capital, and the emergence of new renewables infrastructure, including offshore wind. I identify the care infrastructures that have long underpinned industrial change in the region, noting that capacities to care have always existed at the household and community scale. I examine the challenges energy transitions present for existing care infrastructures and identify where gaps are emerging around support for affected workers and the broader community, before concluding with some implications for transition planning and policy.

Chantel Carr is an ARC DECRA Fellow in the Discipline of Geography and Sustainability at the University of Wollongong. Her research looks at energy and sustainability transitions, with a focus on how climate change is transforming work practices, places and communities that have historically been at the heart of the carbon economy. Chantel's work often highlights the deeply grounded expertise and place-based knowledges that shape localised responses to planning, climate and energy policy.





# Guest speaker: Amani Haydar

WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER, 2.30PM-3.30PM, C120/121, 25 WALLY'S WALK

Amani is a multi-award-winning author, visual artist, and advocate for women's health and safety

Zoom link <https://macquarie.zoom.us/j/84349845537?pwd=kPMbNNYgxXQbcVsVHqNiUHtlrNayue.1>  
Password 634169



Peak bodies working to end violence against women in Australia recognise that violence is preventable but condoned and trivialised societally, emboldening perpetrators, and compromising systems of accountability. Amani lost her mother to domestic violence in 2015 and her grandmother was killed in Israeli violence in 2006. Drawing on lived expertise and contemporary conversations around coercive control and primary prevention, Amani will speak about the parallels between interpersonal abuse and state-sanctioned violence. She will examine the way tactics of victim-blaming, gaslighting and DARVO occur at the macro and micro levels and the ways in which survivors engage in creative resistance against these strategies. What are the impacts of these strategies on women and other vulnerable groups? How can feminists engage in more deliberate and meaningful critiques of state-sanctioned abuse in a time of genocide? If both pro-Palestine activists and activists against domestic violence believe that violence can be prevented, what knowledge can be shared across movements to give us a clearer understanding of how power and control is exercised over vulnerable individuals and populations?

Amani's ground-breaking feminist memoir *The Mother Wound*, published in 2021, explores the effects of domestic abuse and state-sanctioned violence. As an appointee to the DFSV Commission's Lived Experience Advisory Council, Amani is one of the country's leading voices on how gender-based violence can be addressed through improved law, policy, and services. Amani has received the 2021 UTS Faculty of Law Alumni Award and a Parliamentary Community Recognition Statement for her advocacy and was named Local Woman of the Year for Bankstown at the 2020 NSW Women of The Year Awards. Drawing on her legal background, Amani has also served on the boards of Bankstown Women's Health Centre and the Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights and consults with various government and non-government institutions on improving access and outcomes for victim-survivors. As an active visual artist and former Archibald Prize Finalist, Amani collaborates with various organisations to facilitate visual arts and storytelling workshops for victim-survivors from diverse communities.



# Careers for Social Science Graduates

WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER, 6-8PM C122, BUILDING C, ARTS PRECINCT

## Have you wondered about what career you might pursue with your Degree?

This 2-hour special event is for current students in the Bachelor of Social Science and Bachelor of Arts (major in Sociology, Gender Studies, Social Justice, Anthropology, Human Geography, Politics/International Relations).

Come hear a panel discussion where alumni share insights from their career journeys. You'll learn how they use their Degree skills and knowledge in their work, advice on how they've found work and information on what employers currently seek.

There will be an opportunity to chat with alumni and staff over food and beverages after the panel discussion!

To register: <https://goto.mq.edu.au/socialsciencecareers>



# Guest speaker: Dr Amy McQuire

THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER, 1.00PM-2.30PM, C122, 25 WALLY'S WALK

Join journalist Dr Amy McQuire in conversation with Professor Sandy O'Sullivan

From one of this country's leading Indigenous journalists comes a collection of fierce and powerful essays proving why the media needs to believe Black Witnesses. Black Witness showcases how journalism can be used to hold the powerful to account and make the world a more equitable place.

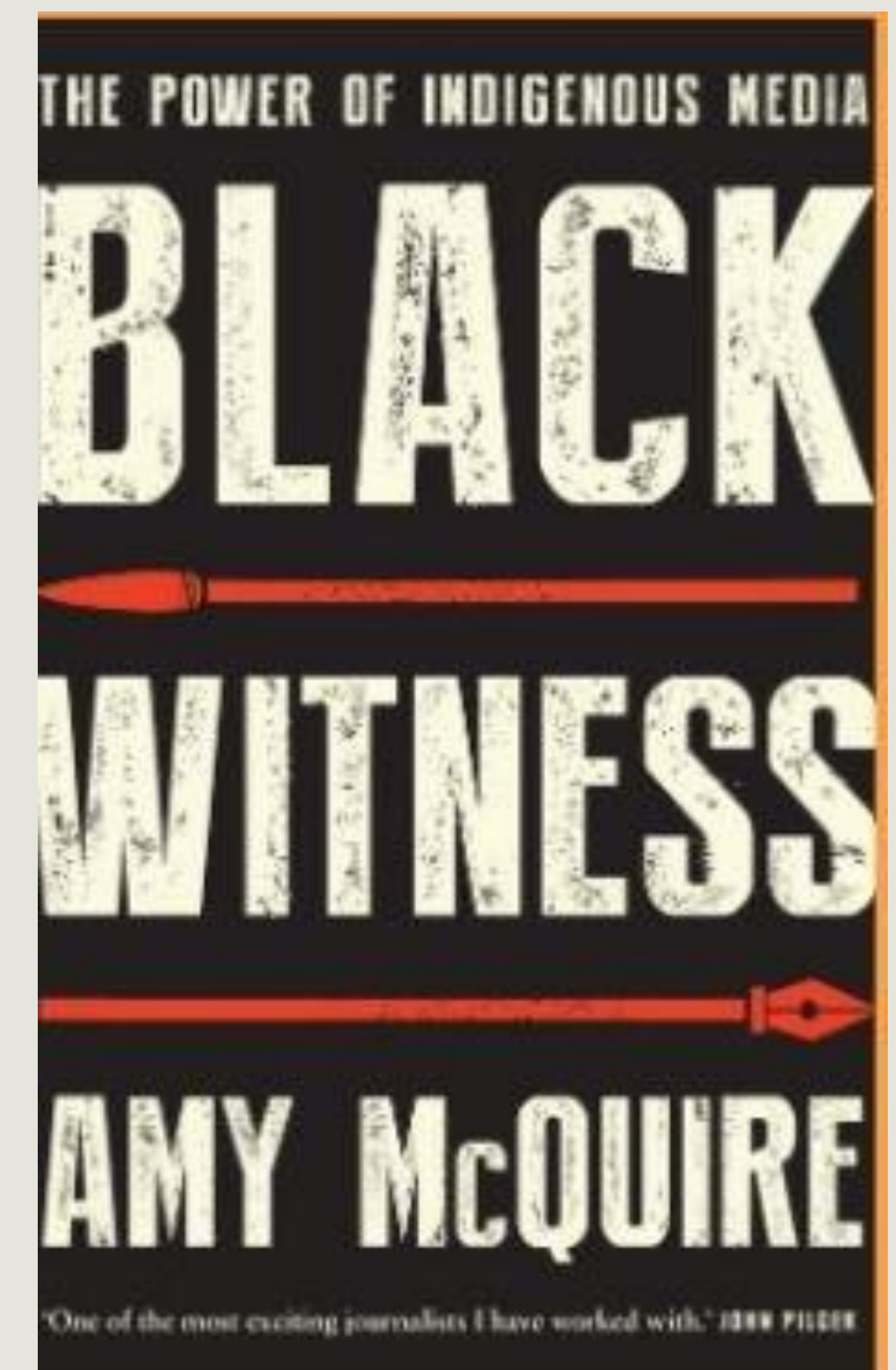
Dr McQuire will be in conversation with Wiradjuri trans/non-binary Professor of Indigenous Studies/ARC Future Fellow Sandy O'Sullivan.

Hosted by the Department of Critical Indigenous Studies and the Discipline of Sociology

Dr Amy McQuire has been writing on Indigenous affairs since she was 17 years old. Over the past two decades, she has reported on most of the key events involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including numerous deaths in custody, the Palm Island uprising, the Bowraville murders and the Northern Territory Intervention. She has also exposed the misrepresentations and violence of the mainstream media's reports, as well as their omissions and silences altogether in regards to Indigenous matters.

Click here to register:

<https://events.humanitix.com/dramymcquire>



# Prize giving ceremony for outstanding students of 2023



THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER, 3.00PM-3.30PM, C122 25 WALLY'S WALK

Annual Prize ceremony celebrating the achievements of the 2023 School of Social Sciences prize winners in the disciplines of:

- Anthropology
- Geography & Planning
- Politics & International Relations
- Sociology

The ceremony will be followed by refreshments and lightning presentations on the topic:  
**Whose on top: inequality for rich & poor**



# Who's on top? Inequality for rich and poor

THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER, 3.45PM-4.45PM, C122, 25 WALLY'S WALK

A one-hour seminar featuring 3 lightning talks by Nick Harrigan, Hangyoung Lee and Jarvis Zhou.

*Presented by the Work, Inequality and Wellbeing School Research Strength.*



Economic inequality shapes all our lives. But how does it play out at the top and bottom of the global economic order? This presentation uses three studies to examine this question. Hangyoung Lee will look at top wealth households in the United States and China, showing how the elite in these two countries have very different compositions. Jarvis Zhuo will present a study of one million Covid-19 deaths in the United States and show how between one in ten and one in seven deaths appear to be due to the low educational backgrounds of some of the most disadvantaged communities in the United States. Nicholas Harrigan will present a study of 10,000 residents of eight low-income villages in Cambodia, and show how inequality within villages shapes subjective wellbeing, with inequality having the most negative effects on the poorest households within these villages. Together, these three studies show the causes and consequences of inequality in a diverse range of settings, with the unifying insight that inequality changes lives and shapes the societies in which we live.



# Tech for Good? Anthropology and the quest for 'ground-truths' after weather disasters



FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER, 2.00PM-3.30PM, C120/121, 25 WALLY'S WALK

Guest speaker: Caroline E. Schuster

This August, South America experienced a deadly heat wave, topping 40°C in the middle of winter. Flash flooding, wildfires, and oceanic waterspouts are just some examples of what we might call 'global weirding' – weird, extreme weather events are becoming the norm.

Many areas, including here in Australia, are at risk of becoming uninsurable. This talk explores new technology that is promising a financial safety net for vulnerable communities who are dealing with these environmental perils. Parametric insurance uses remote sensing technologies, weather stations, and state of the art climate models, to link policies to the weather itself – if a drought strikes, the insurance pays. And yet for all of their technological sophistication, do these novel financial arrangements actually work for the small family farms they cover? Taking an anthropological approach means we can ask hard questions about competing views of what the "ground-truth" is, how damage is measured, and who is ultimately responsible for making life liveable in increasingly unknowable and unrecognisable environments.

Caroline E. Schuster is an Associate Professor in economic anthropology at the Australian National University. Her most recent book, *Forecasts: a story of weather and finance at the edge of disaster* (2023, University of Toronto Press) is a graphic ethnography – anthropological graphic novel – co-created with Paraguayan illustrators.