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20 YEARS OF FREILICH

1999-2019

A History of the Herbert & Valmae Freilich Project for the
Study of Bigotry at The Australian National University

ANU College of
Arts & Social
Sciences

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The Herbert and Valmae Freilich Project for the Study of Bigotry

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**Bigotry is universal.
It is the target
that differs.”**

Dr Herbert Freilich, 1925-2009

FOREWORD

My husband Herbert often quoted that, “People have to learn to live together”. After many discussions on this subject, we first approached the ANU in 1993 with the idea of making a bequest that would enable the establishment of a program of research and study into the history, causes and effects of bigotry in all its forms.

We hoped that such a program would help to alleviate this spreading scourge. At the time such a request was unusual, and further meetings were arranged to decide where best to place a bigotry project. In 1994 the Humanities Research Centre was suggested as the most suitable area. The HRC arranged a series of public lectures, group discussions, symposia and meetings with our initial and subsequent donations, before an actual Deed of Charter was drawn up five years later to formalise our own contribution and the financial commitment from the ANU.

Since 1999 there have been three active Convenor/Directors: Dr Benjamin Penny; Dr Renata Grossi; and Dr Melissa Lovell. Each has played a strategic role in overseeing the objectives and development of the project. Among activities supported by the Program there have been two annual public lecture series—one on bigotry and tolerance, and one in memory of former board member Alice Tay on law and human rights—a biannual series of four lectures by an eminent scholar/author, summer schools for primary and secondary teachers, panel discussions on public policy, book launches, a fixed-term professorial position, and research grants for early career researchers. In 2016 the Freilich bequest became a Trust with the aim of ensuring the ongoing future of The Project long after the physical departure of the Freilichs.

With bigotry an even bigger public issue than two decades ago, it is imperative that the vision of people learning to live together remains undimmed.

Mrs Valmae Freilich, June 2019



Dr Herbert and Mrs Valmae Freilich

INTRODUCTION

In June 2019, *The Herbert and Valmae Freilich Project for the Study of Bigotry* (“The Freilich Project”) achieves its twentieth year of continuous operation as part of The Australian National University (ANU).

It was known for most of its history as the *Herbert and Valmae Freilich Foundation*, until a name change occurred in January 2019 and brought the organisation up to date with recent developments in university management of philanthropic funds.

The original charter, dated 14 July 1999, documents the agreement between Herbert and Valmae Freilich, on the one hand, and the ANU, on the other, to establish and jointly fund an academic research foundation focused on the study of bigotry in all its forms.

Ambitious in its scope, this original charter described three objectives for the new foundation:

- a. **To fund study and research both within and outside the Australian National University into the causes, histories and the effects of ethnic, cultural, religious or sexual bigotry and animosity;**
- b. **To engage in all forms of education of the public into such history, causes and effects of bigotry and intolerance, including the promulgation of arguments, strategies and other resources for the reduction and overcoming of such bigotry and intolerance; and**
- c. **To advance all forms of mutual tolerance and respect between peoples of differing ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds and of differing gender and sexual orientation.¹**

The mission of the Freilich Project, which has remained substantively unchanged over the past two decades, has always marked The Project as something more than a traditional research centre within a university. Engagement with multiple scholarly disciplines, the “lived experience” of bigotry, and the broader community beyond the ANU, are all built into the very structure of this unique organisation.



Dr Benjamin Penny with Mrs Freilich (left) and Dr Freilich (right), during Dr Penny's time as Executive Officer of The Freilich Project, circa 2000

BACKGROUND - “WANTING TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE”

Herbert and Valmae Freilich first approached the ANU in the early 1990s, with a view to establish and support a program for the study of bigotry.

The Freilich Project's first convenor, Benjamin Penny, once described the establishment of The Project as “a lucky accident” for the Australian National University. In a speech at the Queensland Art Gallery in 1999, Dr Penny commented that the Freilichs originally “knew of the ANU only as ... the name of a university in Canberra”. However, the Freilichs were attracted to the idea of working with the ANU, because they felt that the university's location in the national capital would ensure that bigotry studies would be enriched by the proximity to policy-makers and national institutions. It was not immediately apparent how the Freilichs' philanthropic goals might best be accomplished. Herbert reportedly told Benjamin that, “No-one quite seemed to know what we were on about. Apparently no-one had offered the ANU a bequest before”.²

However, the motive for establishing a program of research on bigotry, broadly defined, was much clearer. While of Jewish background themselves, the Freilichs saw bigotry as a universal problem that had many forms, and that could be combatted through research and education. In his notes from the early years of The Project, Herbert Freilich described bigotry as “endemic”,

“all too easily aroused”, and “highly destructive to the victim, to the bigot and to the environment in which the bigotry exists”. Drawing on the metaphor of bigotry as an infectious disease, he argued that: “... we need a vaccine before it [bigotry] becomes, or while it is becoming, a global pandemic. The purpose of the Foundation is to participate, in however small a way, in the vaccination process. And that process must be education.”³ Showing a keen interest in the commonalities between different types of bigotry and prejudice, Dr Freilich also outlined a number of possible directions for research. These included the question of whether bigotry was inherent to the human condition, why some individuals seem more prone to bigotry (and some less), and both the histories and effects of different types of bigotry such as—but not limited to—homophobia, anti-Semitism, religious bigotry, colour prejudice and discrimination on the basis of disability.⁴ Dr Penny, reflecting on the Freilichs' motivations in his Art Gallery talk, surmised that: “They are, simply, wanting to make the world a better place. Moreover, they clearly think that education, learning and research, and their dissemination, can make a difference to people's lives directly.”



The Signing of the Foundation Charter. From left to right: Dr Herbert Freilich, Mrs Valmae Freilich, Professor Deane Terrell, Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Peter Baume, Chancellor of the University, Ms Maureen McInroy, Acting University Secretary, Professor Iain McCalman, July 1999

The Freilichs' vision of a program for the study of bigotry clearly struck a chord at the ANU, and early discussions resulted in a number of events under the auspices of the Humanities Research Centre (HRC). This included the inaugural Annual Freilich Lecture on Bigotry and Tolerance which was held in 1997 with Philip Adams, award-winning ABC Radio National journalist, as the speaker. Other events included a public lecture by Father Frank Brennan, and talks by overseas academics.⁵ In July 1998, the ANU announced that it would contribute funds for the establishment of an anti-bigotry program to extend the activities undertaken by the HRC, and to partly match the existing and anticipated financial contributions of the Freilich family.⁶

The head of the HRC at the time, Professor Iain McCalman, spoke to *The Canberra Times* about the importance of anti-bigotry education, especially in a time marked by intolerant public figures such as Queensland politician Pauline Hanson. McCalman announced that the new ANU program would, among other activities, engage with schools in the development of anti-bigotry resources and teacher training.⁷ The program was formally established the following year, allowing for a continuation of activities such as the Freilich lecture, and laying the groundwork for new directions in anti-bigotry research and education at the ANU.



Herbert and Valmae Freilich

The Day I Wish I Had Protested

Extract, *Dr Herbert Freilich's Reminiscences of Bigotry*⁸

From 1933, with the increasing Nazification of Germany, the Nuremberg racial laws of 1935 and particularly after the Anschluss with Austria, the Sudetenland crisis of August/September 1938 and the aggressive and growing power of Hitler's Germany, some European refugees were allowed into Australia.

The numbers were relatively small — a few thousand — but the popular attitude was far from sympathetic. They were the "Reffos". They were mostly, if not entirely, Jewish and in an overwhelmingly Anglo-Saxon population they stood out disproportionately to their numbers. Apart from the accents and the limited English, the European

clothes were a giveaway. (One did not then use the term Anglo-Celtic; there was still a dividing line between British and Irish origins. The fact that the Welsh were of Celtic origin was not considered. The Welsh, like Lloyd George and Billy Hughes, were Protestant. The Italians and Greeks — the "dagos and wops" — were of course not thought of as Australian at all!)

I met quite a number of refugees at Jewish community functions and those who contacted my father for advice and assistance. Most arrived with nothing. My father's sister, her husband and infant son arrived from Antwerp in early 1939. My mother's youngest sister, a girl in her twenties, had a visa to come and was booked on a ship to sail from Danzig on September 1st, 1939, the day Germany invaded Poland. She is believed to have reached Danzig on the day. She was never heard of again, her fate unknown.

In 1939 or 1940 I was 14 or 15 and a schoolboy at Sydney Grammar. I used to catch the bus outside Winns store in Oxford Street. At the bus-stop in Kings Cross a foreign-looking man asked the conductor a question — presumably a bus direction. He received a reply along the lines of: "Bloody reffo bastard. Learn to speak English why don't you. Get out of here." The conductor pulled the cord and the bus left leaving the man standing off the kerb. I was shocked. I was even more shocked at the reaction of the bus passengers. "Good on you mate. That's the way to talk them. Reffo bastards. etc."

I was stunned. I felt I should stand up and protest. But I didn't. I sat silent. And have felt ashamed of myself ever since. Perhaps the Foundation on Bigotry is the protest I did not make 60 years ago.

THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER OF THE FREILICH PROJECT



A Freilich Advisory Board meeting in 2010: Dr Benjamin Penny, Professor Debjani Ganguly, Professor Penelope Mathew, Mrs Valmae Freilich, Ms Joan Uhr and Dr Renata Grossi

From the outset, The Freilich Project has focused on promoting conversations about bigotry. In the two decades since its establishment, it has developed a distinctly inter-disciplinary, cross-sector and public-facing character which makes it unique among centres at The Australian National University, and within the university sector more broadly.

It has always been a relatively small operation, typically guided by a single academic staff member and a voluntary advisory board. However, The Freilich Project is nonetheless an active and innovative program.

The greatest part of this activity, aside from the research contributions of its academic employees, has consisted of sponsorship and organisation of events on a wide range of topics relating to bigotry and the production of a more inclusive society. These events, which are outlined in detail below, have drawn on the expertise of some of Australia—and the world's—most prominent intellectuals and public figures on subjects related to bigotry. However, they have also featured many other voices from a wide variety of social backgrounds, with differing personal experiences of bigotry and discrimination, and with very different perspectives on how bigotry might best be combatted and addressed. The events organised by The Freilich Project have almost always been delivered at no cost to participants, and have included public lectures, public conferences, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, film screenings, and book launches. They have drawn members of both the university and broader community together on multiple occasions, and those who have attended these events have experienced the opportunity to learn from each other as well as from invited speakers.

The Freilich Project has also provided a focal point for supporting and fostering research and education on bigotry and related subjects at The Australian National University, and beyond. Between the years of 2001 and 2012 it ran regular professional development workshops for Australian school teachers on topics such as “Racism”, and “Understanding Islam”. The Freilich Project encourages scholars with research interests in relevant topics—at whatever stage of their careers, and from any discipline—to be part of its Research Network. Research Network members have participated in and initiated a wide range of research activities over the years, including master classes, scholarly conferences and occasional seminars. Since 2014, The Freilich Project has supported emerging scholars across Australia by offering a competitive research grant program, the *Freilich Early Career Researcher Small Grants Scheme*. This scheme receives applications from scholars currently completing, or who have recently completed, postgraduate studies on topics related to The Freilich Project's focus. The projects funded through this scheme are summarised later in this document.

Four academics have held appointments with The Freilich Project. The Freilich Project's most senior academic appointment was Professor Penelope Mathew who occupied a Research Chair position with The Freilich Project between 2010 and 2014. Dr Mathew, an expert on refugee law and policy, participated as a speaker at a number of key events including presenting the Freilich Lecture in 2010 on the topic of Australia's role in refugee protection. Her book *Reworking the Relationship between Asylum and Employment*, was launched in June 2012, in a public event featuring Richard Towle, currently Deputy Director of the UNHCR. Praised in the *International Journal of Refugee Law* as an "excellent contribution to an overlooked yet extremely important aspect of refugee protection,"⁹ Professor Mathew offered her "heartfelt thanks" to Herbert and Valmae Freilich in the book's acknowledgments section.¹⁰ Professor Mathew is currently the Dean of Law at the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

The other three academics—Dr Benjamin Penny, Dr Renata Grossi and Dr Melissa Lovell—were appointed consecutively as Convenors of The Project and have overseen the activities, development and overarching direction of the organisation. The Convenors have been ably supported in these responsibilities by an advisory board, consisting of both ANU and external stakeholders and experts. The Freilichs, in particular, have provided ongoing encouragement and support to the convenors of The Freilich Project. Herbert Freilich was a member of the advisory board until his death in 2009 and Valmae Freilich continues as an active and involved member of the advisory board.

Dr Benjamin Penny, a scholar specialising in religious movements in contemporary China, was The Project's first Convenor/Executive Officer between 1999 and 2005. Dr Penny oversaw the establishment of The Project's governance structure, initiated a publications program and supported a number of research and education initiatives including conferences, commissioning a research project on sexuality discrimination, and launching a program to support Indigenous reconciliation in Australian schools. Three major public lecture series were also established during Dr Penny's tenure; these were the Freilich Lecture in Bigotry and Tolerance, the Eminent Lecturer series, and the Alice Tay Lecture in Law and Human Rights. The Freilich and Alice Tay Lectures continue to be offered annually. Dr Penny is currently an Associate Professor and Senior Research Fellow at the Australian Centre on China in the World, ANU.

The Freilich Project's longest serving convenor was Dr Renata Grossi, an interdisciplinary legal scholar with interests in the area of law and emotion. Dr Grossi was Convenor between 2006 and 2017, and significantly expanded the activities and profile of The Freilich Project. Dr Grossi initiated a Visiting Fellow program in 2007, and established the biennial Summer School program of professional development for Australian teachers (as mentioned above). She successfully negotiated for the appointment of Professor Mathews with the objective of further enhancing the research activities of The Freilich Project. Dr Grossi is the author of numerous publications including a 2014 book *Looking for Love in the Legal Discourse of Marriage*.¹¹ She is now a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS).

The current convenor, Dr Melissa Lovell, was appointed in June 2017. Dr Lovell is an interpretive politics scholar with interests in the political framing of Australian Indigenous Affairs policy. Dr Lovell has fostered an active and diverse program of events, both public facing and research focused. These have included: a film screening; book launch; seminars and master classes for early career researchers; and the maintenance of earlier initiatives such as the annual Freilich and Alice Tay public lecture series and the ECR Small Grant Scheme. She has preserved the distinctive character and strengths of The Freilich Project throughout recent shifts in the management of the University's philanthropic funds. This process culminated in the approval of a new Funds Purpose document (which replaced the original Charter document) by University Council in December 2018, and with the organisation's change of name in early 2019.



Professor Will Christie, head of the HRC, met with Mrs Valmae Freilich (on the left) and (from left to right) Ms Kristina Klugar, Dr Renata Grossi and Dr Melissa Lovell as part of his duties as chair of the Freilich advisory board, June 2017

A Home at the ANU Humanities Research Centre

For the majority of its existence, the Freilich Project has been housed at the ANU Humanities Research Centre (HRC). In 1995, the First Freilich Colloquium on Tolerance Studies was presented at the HRC and convened by Professor Dipesh Chakrabarty and Dr Kalpana Ram on the topic of “Diasporic and Multicultural Approaches to South East Asian Studies”. This signalled the start of what the Humanities Research Centre’s 30th Anniversary Publication called “one of the HRC’s most important adjunct programmes”.¹²

The relationship between the Freilich Project and the HRC was solidified in 1999 with the signing of the Foundation Charter. Dr Benjamin Penny, who was working for the HRC at the time, became The Freilich Project’s first Executive Officer. HRC support further extended to the composition of the Freilich Board, with many HRC academics serving on the Freilich Advisory Board throughout the past two decades. With the concerns of The Project not confined to the academic sphere, the Freilich lectures have attracted a broad audience to the ANU and expanded the reach of the HRC. As the HRC’s 30th Anniversary document reflected in 2004, “The Freilich Foundation programmes were some of the HRC’s most successful and the facilities at Old Canberra House allowed for more general public attendance”.¹³

After a couple of years being hosted by the Dean’s Office in the College of Arts and Social Sciences between 2015 and 2017, The Freilich Project has returned to the HRC’s new home in the Sir Roland Wilson Building on the city side of ANU campus. The relationship between the two organisations has continued to flourish, with the current staff of the HRC providing strong support to The Freilich Project. “As long as understanding and tolerance remain core values of the humanities”, writes HRC Director Professor Will Christie, “The Freilich Project’s study of bigotry will remain an important part of the HRC’s wide-ranging and interdisciplinary research into human ideas and institutions, and human potential”.¹⁴ The constructive working partnership between The Freilich Project and the HRC has enabled a number of events to be co-hosted by the two organisations; the most recent of these events was an Africa Week public lecture on the international community’s “responsibility to protect” with ANU Chancellor and former politician, Professor the Hon. Gareth Evans as the speaker.



Former Convenor of The Freilich Project Dr Renata Grossi

Reflections of Dr Renata Grossi

Freilich Convenor & Fellow 2006-2017

When I attended my interview for the position of Freilich Foundation Fellow in December 2005 I was asked why I wanted the job. I answered that it struck me as a position where I would never need to ask myself what the point of my day was going to be. And indeed that was so. During the 10 years that I worked at the Foundation we participated in some important social conversations. Indigenous rights, multiculturalism, refugee policy, human rights, freedom of speech, terrorism. We debated ideals of toleration and democracy and their effectiveness in fighting bigotry in all of its forms. Race, ethnicity, religion, sex and gender and sexuality were never far from domestic and international affairs. There was always something to say, an insight to be shared through the lens of the Freilich Foundation's charter. There were many moments of shared agreement that did not necessarily march us towards a change in society – only did the important work of sustaining the cause - but there were also some important moments when we led discussions.

In 2012 we collaborated with the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia and successfully won a grant from the Australian Government acting through the Attorney-General's Department under its Building Community Resilience Grants Program. The project was to run a two day workshop which explored political radicalisation of young people. The workshop was attended by teachers, youth workers and police officers. The political discourse at the time was firmly focused on Islamic radicalisation but we were determined to highlight radicalisation in other contexts. I was particularly interested in white nationalism. At the time this was considered a fringe issue – clearly not so now. The workshop also brought a real “a-ha” moment when the room collectively came to the view that if you want young people to believe in democracy they need to be living it in their daily lives, in schools, in workplaces, in families. Authoritarianism will not produce a belief in democracy, tolerance and inclusion!

In the ten years I worked at the Freilich Foundation the issues were everywhere, the conversations were challenging and intelligent, our collaborators were committed and inspiring. But the people who will always be at the heart of the organisation and its work are Herbert and Valmae Freilich whose belief that the work of the organisation can make a dent in the way humanity behave towards one another is unrivalled.

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

The Freilich Lectures in Bigotry and Tolerance

Keen to bring the concerns of the Freilichs to an audience beyond the University, the first regular event that was organised was a series of annual public lectures.

The First Annual Freilich Lecture on Bigotry and Intolerance was held in 1997. In every year since, expert speakers have presented on the theme and enabled conversations to occur across academia and the broader community.

1997	"Bigotry and the Bunyip"	Mr Philip Adams
1998	"The Wik Debate - A Legitimate Quest for Workability and Certainty or Just Downright Intolerance?"	Father Frank Brennan
1999	"Bigotry in Australia Today: The Role of the Churches"	Mr David Marr
2000	"Countermeasures"	Mr Les Murray
2001	"On the Evil of Tolerance and the Virtue of Intolerance"	Dr Evelyn Scott
2002	"Beyond Mere Tolerance: The Vocation of the Three Abrahamic Faiths in Creating the Conditions for World Peace"	Archbishop Peter Carnley
2003	"Genocide and Resistance in Cambodia and East Timor"	Professor Ben Kiernan
2004	"Defending the Enlightenment: Liberalism and Religious Intolerance"	Mr Stephen Crittenden
2005	"What Price Bigotry? Undermining the Rich Foundation of Humanity"	Reverend Dorothy McRae-McMahon
2006	"Small Bodies Big Hearts: Why I write children's books"	Mr Morris Gleitzman
2007	"The 3Rs: Racism, Reparations and Reconciliation in the 21st Century?"	Professor Raymond A Winbush
2008	"The Elusive Inclusive Republic"	Professor Marion Maddox
2009	"Antisemitism: Medieval and Modern"	Professor Steven Katz
2010	"Where to From Here? Australia's Role in Refugee Protection"	Professor Penelope Mathew
2011	"Gay Marriage: As Important as Race"	Professor Raimond Gaita
2012	"Constitutionalising Racial Non-discrimination"	Professor Megan Davis
2013	"Re-examining the Prejudice Problematic"	Professor Martha Augoustinos
2014	"Why is it so Difficult to Resolve Peacefully Intractable Conflicts?"	Professor Daniel Bar-Tal
2015	"On Education"	Ms Dorothy Hoddinott
2016	"How do we Define Racism in Modern Australia?"	Dr Tim Soutphommasane, Dr Maria Hynes, Dr Scott Sharpe, Professor Michael Platow
2017	"Tolerance from Below: Unsettling the Sovereign Subject"	Professor David Simpson
2018	"Islamophobia and the Struggle for Recognition"	Professor Tariq Modood



Poet Les Murray presenting on "Countermeasures" for the 2000 Annual Freilich Lecture on Bigotry and Tolerance



Morris Gleitzman signing books after his 2006 Annual Freilich Lecture entitled "Small Bodies Big Hearts: Why I write children's books"



Professor Mick Dodson and Professor Megan Davis following the annual Freilich Lecture in Bigotry and Intolerance where Davis presented on "Constituting racial non-discrimination"

Dr Evelyn Scott reflected on the significance of The Freilich Project during her presentation at the fifth Annual Freilich Lecture on Bigotry and Tolerance:

"Centres such as this, and those in other universities, which examine the causes and motivations of intolerance, act as a beam of light illuminating the dark and murky subterranean world inhabited by racial and religious extremists, a world which always threatens to undermine the foundations of our lives".



The 5th Annual Freilich Lecture on Bigotry and Tolerance where Dr Evelyn Scott presented "On the Evil of Tolerance and the Virtue of Intolerance". From left to right: Dr Herbert Freilich, Dr Evelyn Scott, (unknown guest), Mrs Valmae Freilich and Dr Benjamin Penny

The Eminent Lecturer Series

Every second year between 1999 and 2013, The Freilich Project invited an internationally recognised scholar to be its Eminent Lecturer and to deliver four thematically linked lectures over the course of a month.

1999	"Sovereignty, Indigenous Australia and Human Rights"	Professor Henry Reynolds
2001	"Rethinking the Nature of Prejudice: From Psychological Distortion to Socially Structured Meaning"	Professor John C. Turner
2003	"Intolerance: The E. Coli of the Human Mind"	Professor Donald Harman Akenson
2005	"Fear and Public Policy"	Dr Carmen Lawrence
2007	"Religious Toleration in an Age of Terrorism"	Professor Susan Mendus
2009	"Women and War"	Professor Hilary Charlesworth, Professor J Ann Tickner, Associate Professor Bina D'Costa Professor Penelope Andrews
2011	"Unpacking Gender in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law"	Professor Ratna Kapur
2013	"Prejudice, Reason and Understanding"	Professor Raimond Gaita



Professor Susan Mendus on “Religious Toleration in an Age of Terrorism” for the 2007 Eminent Lecture Series

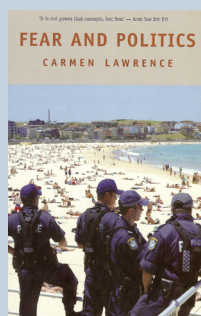


Presenters of the “Women in War” Eminent Lecture Series Left to right: Professor Penelope Andrews, Dr Bina D’Costa, Professor J. Ann Tickner, Professor Hilary Charlesworth

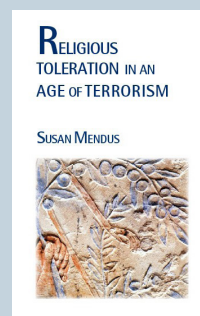


From left to right: Professor Penelope Mathew, Professor Fiona Jenkins, Mrs Valmae Freilich, Professor Debjani Ganguly and Professor Raimond Gaita, following Gaita’s Eminent Lecture Series on ‘Prejudice, Reason and Understanding’

Many of these lecture series were later published as books by either The Freilich Project or other publishers. For instance, The Freilich Project published Carmen Lawrence’s lectures as “Fear and Politics” in 2006 and Susan Mendus’s lectures as “Religious Toleration in an Age of Terrorism” in 2008.



Fear and Politics



Religious Toleration in an Age of Terrorism

The Alice Tay Lectures on Law and Human Rights

In 2005 The Freilich Project inaugurated a new public lecture series in memory of Professor Alice Tay, former Board member of the Foundation and President of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission on the theme of “Human Rights and Law”. The first lecture was co-sponsored by the Foundation and HREOC and took place in Parliament House on May 25, 2005.



Following Mary Kostakidas' 2009 Alice Tay Lecture. From left to right: Dr Renata Grossi, Freilich Project convenor, Mrs Valmae Freilich, Ms Mary Kostakidas, and Professor Debjani Ganguly, Chair of the Freilich Board

2005	“A Culture of Human Rights and Responsibilities”	Professor Jim Ife
2006	“As Good as it Gets or as Good as it Can Be? Benchmarking Human Rights in Australia”	Professor Larissa Behrendt
2007	“Human Rights Charters - How Important to Improving Government?”	Professor John McMillan
2008	“Where is Our Place? Seeking a Home in a Time of Insecurity”	Professor Penelope Mathew
2009	“The Protection of Human Rights in Australia: A Way Forward”	Ms Mary Kostakidis
2010	“The Future of the Australian Human Rights Debate”	Professor George Williams
2011	“Implementing the Responsibility to Protect: Lessons and Challenges”	Professor Gareth Evans
2012	“Development and Human Rights: An Unsustainable Marriage?”	Professor Sundhya Pahuja
2013	“When are Refugees ‘Unworthy’ of Admission?”	Professor Satvinder Juss
2014	“Two Freedoms – Freedom of Expression and Freedom from Racial Vilification”	Dr Tim Soutphommasane
2015	“Magna Carta: How Relevant to Australia and Human Rights?”	Professor Gillian Triggs
2016	“Unpacking Justice Re-investment”	Professor Tom Calma, Dr Jill Guthrie, Dr Michael Levy
2017	“Constitutional Recognition: What Options Do We Have Left?”	Associate Professor Asmi Wood
2018	“Rights-Mindedness”	Professor Rosalind Croucher
2019	“Human Rights in Sport”	Associate Professor Kate Seear



Professor Sundhya Pahuja with Professor Penelope Mathew after Pahuja's 2012 Alice Tay Lecture on "Development and Human Rights: An Unsustainable Marriage?"



The 2014 Alice Tay Lecture presented by Dr Tim Soutphommasane on the topic of "Two Freedoms – Freedom of Expression and Freedom from Racial Vilification". Left to right: Dr Benjamin Penny, Dr Tim Soutphommasane, Mrs Valmae Freilich, Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington, Dr Renata Grossi



Associate Professor Kate Seear after her 2019 Alice Tay Lecture on "Human Rights in Sport"

Collaboration with the Australian Human Rights Commission

Professor Rosalind Croucher, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission

The Herbert and Valmae Freilich Project and the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) have enjoyed a long and fruitful history of collaboration. It began in earnest in 2005 when the AHRC and The Freilich Project co-hosted the inaugural Alice Tay Lecture in Law and Human Rights at Parliament House. The Lecture series, held annually in memory of Professor Alice Ehr-Soon Tay, who died in April 2004, honours her incredible contribution to human rights as a scholar and a former President of the AHRC, then known as the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

I had the pleasure of joining a long list of Presidents and Commissioners from the AHRC to deliver the Alice Tay Lecture in 2018. In it, I reflected on all I had learnt from Alice as her student in law in the late 1970s, as her Dean at the University of Sydney Law School and as her 'successor in title' at the Commission. I spoke of the need to build a culture of 'rights-mindedness' across all aspects of our society. As Alice said, 'we need trust, education, honesty and collective will' to make human rights a reality for all.

The broader missions of the AHRC and Freilich Project align closely. We both focus on building respect for human rights and enhancing the role of rights and freedoms in our national psyche. Over two decades, The Freilich Project has been dedicated to promoting conversation about intolerance—and how best to combat it. Through events such as the Alice Tay Lecture Series, and support for emerging scholars in the field, The Freilich Project continues to facilitate an environment for powerful and creative discussion about building a tolerant society and pushing back against bigotry. At the Australian Human Rights Commission, we are pleased to be able to work with initiatives such as The Freilich Project to build an Australia where we all can live lives filled with respect and dignity.



Professor Rosalind Croucher, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission

OCCASIONAL LECTURES

Periodically, The Freilich Project has invited visiting fellows and other speakers to deliver public lectures outside of the regular lecture series. The ANU HRC has funded a visiting fellow program for many years, and this program has been a particularly rich source of occasional lecturers for The Freilich Project.

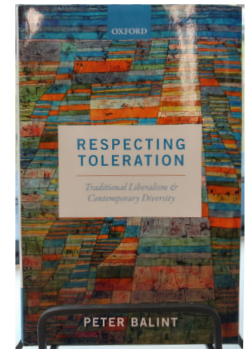


Mr Thomas Mukoya (pictured centre) presented an occasional lecture on the topic "Through the Lens: An African Perspective" in 2010

2000	"No Distinction of Any Kind: Modern Definitions of Human Rights," in association with the "Human Rights, Human Wrongs" conference	Professor Marilyn Lake
2001	"The Evolution of The Tribe: The Challenge for an Old Culture in a New Century," in association with the Consortium of Humanities Centres and Institutes of Australia meeting	Sir Tipene O'Regan
2002	"Growing Up in Bigotry: Northern Ireland," in association with the "International Perspectives on Reconciliation" conference	Professor Paul Connolly
2002	"Growing Up in Bigotry: South Africa," in association with the "International Perspectives on Reconciliation" conference	Professor Mapule Ramashala
2007	"Negotiating a Most Difficult Relationship: Christianity and Islam"	Dr Paul Collins
2009	"The New Crusade? Militant Secularism, Strident Atheism and Social Harmony in Australia"	Professor Tom Frame
2010	"The Remnant Perfume of Imperial Dreams: Politics Violence and War in the Age of American Power"	Mr Mark Danner
2010	"Through the Lens: An African Perspective"	Mr Thomas Mukoya
2011	"Multiculturalism - Success or Failure?"	Dr John Hewson
2012	"World Refugee Day Lecture: What's So Great About Being Displaced?"	Dr Kim Huynh
2017	"Dealing with Diversity: Respect or Toleration?"	Dr Tim Soutphommasane, Professor Kim Rubenstein, Dr Peter Balint
2019	Africa Week Lecture: "The Responsibility to Protect in Africa."	Professor Gareth Evans

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOR A MORE TOLERANT, INCLUSIVE FUTURE

The Freilich Project has supported research into the causes, histories and effects of ethnic, cultural, religious or sexual bigotry and animosity since its early days. It continues to support a range of scholarly activities and projects related to these subjects, including through the provision of research grants, and through the funding and organisation of conferences, master classes and workshops for scholars and students.



Supporting Emerging Researchers

The Freilich Project has, since 2014, offered grants of between \$3000 and \$5000 each to emerging scholars as part of its Early Career Research Small Grants Scheme. Successful awardees have used these grants to research a wide range of topics, in a variety of locations, and from a range of different disciplinary and methodological approaches.

Associate Professor Anna Boucher & Dr Joseph Toltz. "Songs of the Camps: The First Holocaust Songbook". The University of Sydney (2014 grant recipient).

The Freilich Project ERC grant provided support for essential fieldwork activities in Israel in early 2017 (translation, acquisition of archival materials, travel) related to our project, "Out of the Depths: the first Holocaust Song book". The project looks at issues of displacement, migration, commemoration and testimony through the prism of a small pamphlet of songs, produced in war-torn Bucharest in the immediate aftermath of WWII. The book's production complements a larger early testimonial project that the compiler of the small pamphlet was undertaking in Romania. Our project is looking at an aesthetic response to experiences of bigotry and intolerance, thus aligning directly with the mission of The Freilich Project.

We are now collaborating with the Jewish Holocaust Museum in Melbourne to build track-record towards lodgement of an ARC Linkage in either 2020 or 2021. They are also interested in placing the songbook and material from our research in the Museum's repository. We have a book contract to publish the book with Indiana University Press and a draft article to be submitted to the Journal of Refugee Studies this month.

Dr Peter Balint. "Respecting Toleration". University of New South Wales (2014 Grant Recipient).

I used the grant to help with research assistance for my book: Respecting Toleration: Traditional Liberalism and Contemporary Diversity (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017).

From the book blurb: "Respecting Toleration provides a new, original, and provocative take on the question of toleration and its application to the politics of contemporary diversity. Peter Balint argues for both the conceptual coherence and normative desirability of toleration and neutrality. He argues that it is these principles which best realise the basic liberal good of people living their lives as they see fit, rather than appealing to principles of recognition or respect for difference. While those who criticised liberalism's failings in dealing with the claims of diversity had justification, it is the tenets of traditional liberalism that hold the answer. Respecting Toleration argues that if one cares about people living divergent lives, then it is liberal toleration that should be respected by legislators and policy makers, and not people's differences."



A panel session on Dealing with Diversity, in honour of the publication of Dr Peter Balint's 2017 book *Respecting Toleration: Traditional Liberalism and Contemporary Diversity*. From left to right: Dr Peter Balint, Professor Kim Rubenstein, Dr Melissa Lovell, Dr Tim Soutphommasane

Dr Jennifer E. Cheng. “Muslim Women’s Participation in Auburn Giants AFL Team”. Western Sydney University (2016 Grant Recipient).

The Freilich Project Early Career Researcher Small Grants Scheme enabled me to conduct my first funded research project. I have since published an article from my research on the Auburn Giants women’s AFL team... For the Auburn Giants members, the article represents validation of the issues that they have faced and continue to face. The members have also told me, ‘This gives us the words to express what we already know but did not have the words for.’ They now want to use my article to push for continual change in the white male-dominated AFL landscape. As a social researcher, there is no higher reward than having helped your research participants further their goals.

My research interests have always been situated in combatting racism and promoting acceptance of diversity, the exact mission of The Freilich Project. This stems from my childhood growing up as an Asian minority in a predominantly white area of Sydney. The bigotry I experienced was subtle and covert. Therefore, through my research, I want to expose the racism and intolerance that is both inadvertently and deliberately hidden. The Freilich Project ECR grant has helped me to achieve this.

It is really important that research into bigotry and intolerance is supported. Funding for research often goes to the hard sciences. However, we only need to look to the Christchurch massacre to see how much work is needed in combatting racism and bigotry. The Freilich Project enables early career researchers to pursue research with real-world impact in exposing racism and promoting acceptance of diversity.

Ms Justine Chambers. “Understanding Buddhist Nationalism and Anti-Muslim Sentiment in Postconflict Karen State”. Australian National University (2017 Grant Recipient).

The Freilich Foundation’s ECR Small Grants Scheme provided crucial funding which allowed for further field research on Buddhist nationalism and anti-Muslim sentiment in southeastern Myanmar in August 2018. Since the start of Myanmar’s political liberalisation in 2011, the upsurge in extreme Buddhist nationalism, anti-Muslim hate speech and deadly communal violence, has taken centre stage in discussions of the country’s transition. The state violence against Rohingya communities that ravaged Myanmar’s Rakhine State in 2017 underscores the challenges the country faces on its bumpy road from military rule to democracy.

*The research explicitly sought to better understand the current crisis in western Myanmar and why the state’s response resonates so widely with citizens in southeastern Myanmar. Since completing the field research I have had an article accepted for publication in *Sojourn: The Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia*, exploring moral authorities and their relationship to violence in Myanmar, particularly in light of the massive atrocities visited on Muslims in Rakhine State. In addition to this, I have prepared several seminars at the Australian National University to help people better understand the situation in Myanmar through the lens of my fieldwork. I am also preparing a shorter piece for dissemination in the Australian National University’s *New Mandala*.*

Dr Bernhard Resch. “Human Methods Lab: Deploying Human Difference to Counter Bigotry”. University of Sydney Business School (2018 Grant Recipient).

The grant has enabled me to start working on the website for my new research project. It is meant to serve as a hub to foster a lively research-practice network around the research. So far, I have hosted and recorded three podcasts that are going to be part of a series, where I am ‘thinking out loud,’ making my literature research transparent, dialogic, and engaging.

Mrs Kristen Stevens. “Welfare Stigmatisation and Racial Conflict: Contextual Explorations of the Lived Experiences of the Cashless Debit Card Impacting Community Cohesion and Inclusion in Australia”. University of South Australia (2018 Grant Recipient).

The grant has greatly assisted me in increasing my ability to conduct my study on the ground in the community I am working with - the community is in a remote location and without the grant I would struggle to secure adequate accommodation for the time needed to best immerse myself in the local culture and setting. This has subsequently ensured my early data collection, of which I have been invited to write a paper on for a special issue in a high-impact journal, very little has been written academically about my subject. The grant has also allowed me to give back to community via connecting and sharing the grant as a resource, in exchange for establishing a language translation partnership. Finally, I have been approved to present my early research at the Canadian-Australian Sociology of Health Conference in Vancouver this coming June. While my outputs are not yet finalised, the grant has allowed me at the very early stages of my project to create and grasp opportunities that would otherwise have not occurred. I am so very thankful for the assistance provided by the Freilich Grant and all the hard work by Herbert and Valmae Freilich, in supporting students like me to better contribute to reducing bigotry in our society.

Mr Jordan McSwiney. “Networked Organisation: The Far Right in Australia”. University of Sydney (2018 Grant Recipient)

At this point, the fieldwork which the grant is enabling has only really just begun. I have a lot coming up relating to the project later in the year however. I am presenting a paper based on the findings of the social network analysis component of my project in July at a joint iCS-COSMOS symposium in Florence (with plans for the proceedings to be published as a special edition of Information, Communication & Society). I’ve applied to present findings from the project at this years APSA conference in Adelaide in September - though presentations haven’t been finalised for the conference as yet. I’ve also been awarded the University of Sydney x WZB Berlin doctoral research exchange and so will be working on the project from Berlin during June-July.

Other Grant Recipients:

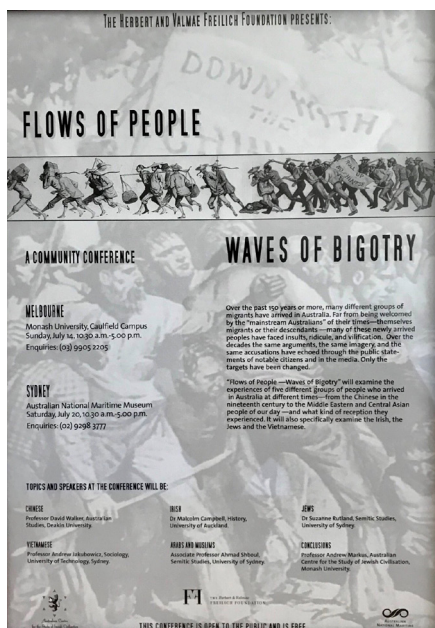
- > Dr Bonnie McConnell. “Singing Sudan and Senegal: Music, Race, and Representation in Contemporary Australia”. Australian National University (2016).
- > Professor Asmi Wood. “Halal and Kosher Methods of Protein Supply, Religious Freedom and Bigotry”. Australian National University (2016).
- > Dr Joel Anderson. “An Exploration of Differential Prosocial and Antisocial Effects of Exposure to Religion on Attitudes Towards Gay Men and Lesbian Women, and Support for Marriage Equality”. Australian Catholic University (2017).



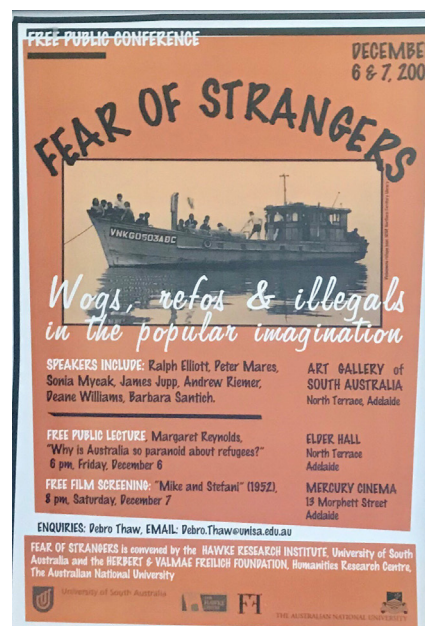
2019 Anderson ECR Small Grant Recipient Dr Joel Anderson presenting a Freilich Research Network Occasional Seminar (2019) on “The Effects of Exposure to Religious Music on Unconscious Bias Against Gay Men”

BUILDING RESEARCH NETWORKS AND COLLABORATIONS

The Freilich Project has coordinated a number of research activities and events, including conferences, master classes and workshops, with the aim of promoting connections between scholars working on different topics relating to bigotry and disseminating scholarship in these fields. Collaborations with a wide range of community organisations and institutions have greatly enriched these research activities, while providing access to a broader audience.



Poster for 2002 community conference "Flows of People, Waves of Bigotry"



Poster for 2002 conference "Our Fear of Strangers: Wogs, Refos and Illegals in the Popular Imagination"



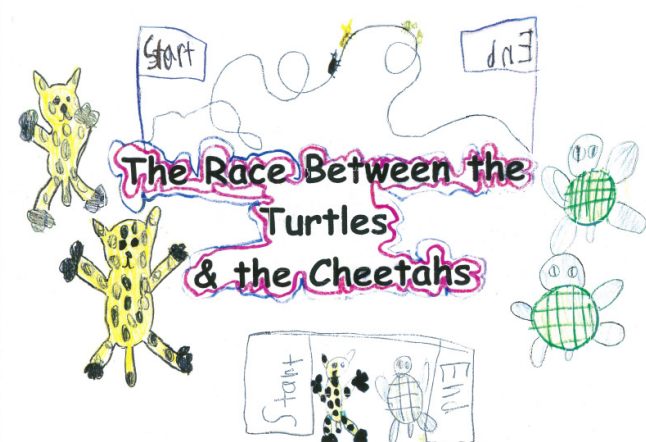
Dr Raihan Ismail responds to questions from the audience following a film screening of The Cost of Discrimination in 2018. Also on the panel: Dr Heba Batainah, Dr Melissa Lovell, and Dr Sam Kosari

2000	"Cyberhate: Prejudice and Bigotry on the Internet"	In association with the Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council
2000	"Human Rights, Human Wrongs: Bigotry, Government and Social Change in Australia 1949-2000"	Freilich Foundation convened conference
2001	"Bigotry and Religion in Australia 1865-1950"	Freilich Foundation convened conference
2002	"Flows of People, Waves of Bigotry"	Community conference in association with the Australian Centre for the Study of Jewish Civilisation and the Australian National Maritime Museum
2002	"International Perspectives on Reconciliation"	Conference convened in association with Reconciliation Australia and the National Library of Australia
2002	"Our Fear of Strangers: Wogs, Refos and Illegals in the Popular Imagination"	Conference co-convened in association with the Hawke Research Institute of the University of South Australia
2003	"Genocide and Colonialism"	Conference co-convened in association with the University of Sydney and the Humanities Research Centre
2006	"Islam, Nation, World: Cross-Cultural and Geopolitical Perspectives"	Seminar series co-presented with the Centre for Cross Cultural Research at the Humanities Research Centre
2007	"Negotiating the Sacred IV: Tolerance, Education and the Curriculum"	Conference partially funded by the Freilich Project and held at the Centre for Cross Cultural Research at the Humanities Research Centre
2007	"National Conference on Racism in a Global Context"	Conference partially funded by the Freilich Project and held at Murdoch University
2007	"Renewing the Critique of Violence: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives"	A Freilich Project interdisciplinary workshop
2007	"Civil Unions, Gay Marriage, What's the Problem?"	A Freilich Project interdisciplinary workshop
2008	"From Melbourne to Canberra: Comparing Musical Behaviour among Immigrant Communities in Australia"	Visiting Fellow Work in Progress Seminar by Professor Marcello Sorce Keller
2008	"Telling Holocaust Stories in Postwar America"	Visiting Fellow Work in Progress Seminar by Professor Arlene Stein
2008	"Music and Ideology"	Postgraduate workshop with Professor Marcello Sorce Keller
2009	"A Brighter Day"	Art Exhibition
2010	"Beyond the Spin: Asylum Seeker, Immigration and Citizenship"	A Freilich Project discussion forum
2011	"On Asylum"	Postgraduate workshop with Professor Ranjanna Khanna
2013	"The People Smuggler: The True Story of Ali Al Jenabi, The 'Oskar Schindler of Asia'"	Public lecture where Robin de Crespigny discussed her first book
2014	"Revisionist Histories"	Postgraduate workshop with Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington and Dr Alex Cook
2018	"The Cost of Discrimination"	Film screening with Dr Sam Kosari, Dr Heba Batainah, Dr Raihan Ismail, Dr Melissa Lovell, in association with the Australian Bahá'í Community
2018	"The Safe House Down Under: Jewish Refugees from Czechoslovakia in Australia 1938-1944"	Book launch with Professor Tim Bonyhady, Dr James Jupp, Dr Anna Rosenbaum, in association with the Czech Embassy of Canberra
2019	"The Effects of Exposure to Religious Music on Unconscious Bias Against Gay Men"	Freilich Research Network Occasional Seminar by Dr Joel Anderson

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS

The development of workshops and summer schools for teachers has been a key strategy in The Project's goal of building mutual understanding and respect between people of different backgrounds. These professional development events have drawn on the experiences and expertise of both scholars and members of community organisations, and assisted teachers to deepen their own understanding of these important topics. They have also encouraged teachers to consider how to embed more nuanced understandings of difference within their teaching practice and curriculum at both primary and secondary levels.

2001	"The Aboriginal History of the Canberra Region"	Weekend workshop for teachers of Indigenous Studies and who mentor Indigenous student
2002	"Teaching the Holocaust and Other Genocides"	Two-day workshop for high school history teachers
2002	"Discrimination Amongst Four-to-Six Year Olds"	Afternoon professional development program for pre-school teachers
2003	"School Visits on Issues of Racism"	A series of visits to pre-primary, primary and high schools by Mbulelo Mzamane, an eminent South African writer, teacher and story-teller
2007	"Understanding Islam"	Inaugural three-day summer school for teachers held in Canberra
2009	"Religion and Bigotry"	Three-day summer school for teachers held in Canberra
2011	"Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Whose Responsibility?"	Three-day summer school for teachers held in Canberra
2012	"Teaching Democracy: Political Extremism and Global Lessons for Local Educators"	Two-day workshop for teachers held in Canberra



Once in a far away country called South Africa there were two groups of animals - the cheetahs and the turtles.

Mbulelo Mzamane's school visits inspired children to make books focusing on the issue of racism

Feedback from Summer School Participants:

"As my school population is 10% Muslim, a greater understanding of Islam is needed. A greater understanding of the religion, conflicts, ideals, reasons for bigotry and intolerance were objects all met... I feel that I have learnt a lot and am very conscious of my responsibility to share what I have learnt." Participant, 2007 Summer School.

"I really appreciate the opportunity to have participated in the summer school. I can utilise the material gained here to provide meaningful learning experiences for my students..." Participant, 2011 Summer School.

"Thank you, this opportunity means a lot to a High School teacher who hasn't been a student herself for 25 years, and rarely gets the chance to experience professional development of this calibre." Participant, 2011 Summer School.

"Once again you have provided us with a fantastic Summer School. It puts us in a wonderful mood to start the school year—you're inspirational!" Participant, 2011 Summer School.



2007 Summer School for teachers on "Understanding Islam"



A fieldtrip to the Sakyamuni Buddhist Temple for the 2009 Summer School for teachers on "Religion and Bigotry"



Attendees of the 2012 teacher's workshop on "Teaching Democracy - Political Extremism, Global Lessons for Local Educators"

Board membership

The Freilich Project has greatly benefitted from the guidance and enthusiasm of its advisory board throughout its history. We thank both present and former board members for their service.

Present board membership

Professor Will Christie (Chair)

Mrs Valmae Freilich

Dr Renata Grossi

Professor James Arvanitakis

Professor Rae Frances

Ms Felicity Gouldthorp

Emeritus Professor Suzanne Rutland

Former members of the board

Dr Herbert Freilich

Associate Professor Benjamin Penny

Professor Peter Baume

Professor Deane Terrell

Professor Ian Chub

Professor Alice Tay

Professor Ian Donaldson

Professor Iain McCalman

Mr Bob Sercombe, MP

Professor Adam Shoemaker

Ms Hilary McPhee

Professor Simon Bronitt

Ms Joan Uhr

Professor Penelope Mathew

Professor Debjani Ganguly

Dr Jill Guthrie

Professor John Warhurst

Dr Kim Huynh

Mr Colin Taylor

Professor Marnie Hughes Warrington

Rabbi Dovid Freilich

Endnotes

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- 9 Foster, Michelle. 2014. “Reworking the Relationship between Asylum and Employment (book review). *International Journal of Refugee Law*, 26 (2): 315-318.
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- 13 Ibid.
- 14 Personal correspondence with Professor Will Christie, 13/6/2019.

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