

## **National Interdisciplinary Conversation on Democracy and Human Rights**

9 to 5pm AEST – Thursday June 4, 2026 – Hybrid in person at The University of Queensland's St Lucia campus, Room 273, Level 2 Global Change Institute (Building #20) and online.

[Register for Zoom link and catering here.](#)

**9:00am** – Winnifred Louis, Social Change Lab – Acknowledgement of Country, Opening remarks  
and The Commons Social Change Library – Holly Hammond, Opening remarks

**9:15am** – Prof. Simon Niemeyer, Centre for Deliberative Democracy, University of Canberra – *The identity of Deliberative Democracy as a family of ideas: Coherent diversity or dysfunctional confusion?*

**9:30am** – Prof. Mathieu O'Neil, News and Media Research Centre, University of Canberra – *Building democratic resilience in disrupted information environments.*

**9:45am** – Dr. Ella Chorazy, Digital Media Research Centre, Queensland University of Technology – *The Dark Political Communication Project.*

**10am** – Dr. Victoria Fielding, School of Communication, Media, and Journalism, Adelaide University - *The media war on climate action, democratic consensus, and truth.*

10:15am - coffee break

**10:35am** - Sonia Randhawa, Sortition Foundation, Victoria – *Is deliberative democracy working? Reflections from a practitioner.*

**10:50am** – Dr. Lisette Yip, Flinders University: *Social Cure or Social Curse: Effects of group deliberation on anti-immigration and anti-government conspiracy beliefs differ based on individual vulnerability*

**11:05am** – Dr. Lara King, Flinders University: *Who leads in the manosphere? Modelling networks and narratives to elucidate identity leadership in the Men's Rights movement*

**11:20am** – Prof. Piers Howe, Complex Human Data Hub, Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences, University of Melbourne - *Strengthening democracy through psychological intervention.*

**11:35am** - Emily Haines, Flinders University: *What can social psychology tell us about deliberative democracy?*

**11:50am** - *Democracy, Human Rights, and the Arts* – A 30m panel

A/Prof Eve Klein, School of Music, UQ - *Doing social transformation through artistic research.*

Katherine Marchingo, School of Music, UQ - *Practicing Artivism in the Global South.*

Patty Preece, Central Queensland Conservatorium of Music - *Situated listening for Hot Futures.*

Demetra Politakis, School of Music, UQ - *Democratising accessibility for ancient music forms: Byzantine chant adaptation from Greek to English.*

12:20pm – lunch break

**1:20pm** - Dr. Helen Young, Deakin University – *Preventing violent extremism in youth video-gaming.*

**1:35pm** - Maria O'Sullivan, Associate Professor, Deakin Law School - *Perspectives from the interaction between law and democracy: How violent extremism is dealt with by the law of protest in Australia.*

**1:50pm** – Andrew Beaton, The Australian Democracy Network – *Australia's democracy today.*

**2:05pm** - Chloe Spackman, Next25, NSW - *Constructive discussion and the future we're building.*

**2:20pm** - Andrew Bartlett, Australian War Powers Reform – *Democracy, sovereignty, and war powers.*

2:35pm - coffee break

**2:50pm** – Prof. Simon Angus, Impact Labs, Monash University – *Theorising and Measuring Social Cohesion.*

**3:20pm** – Dr. Nengzheng Shi, School of Political Science and International Studies, University of Queensland, *Research and Dialogue, self-mastery, and democratic change*

**3:30pm** – Dr. Christoph Klebl, School of Psychology, University of Queensland, *How democratic functioning undermines or strengthens responsibility attribution for climate mitigation.*

**3:40pm** – Dr. Robyn Gulliver, School of Communication and Arts, University of Queensland, *Empirical research on outcomes of dissent and advocacy.*

**3:50pm** – Prof. Winnifred Louis, School of Psychology, University of Queensland, *Projects in Systems of Democratic Strengthening and Backsliding.*

**4pm** - Discussant summary & Closing remarks