

Inventing the Human

29 November – 2 December 2023

Arts West, Parkville campus

University of Melbourne

DRAFT Conference Program

This document provides an overview of the conference as a whole. Please keep an eye on the 'Inventing the Human' [website](#), where the full program will soon be available. The conference website will be the place to find abstracts of each paper, bios of presenters, and further information about the roundtables. It is also the place to access conference news, learn about developments, find handy information about Melbourne, and, most importantly, to check for changes in the schedule of events. More information about '[Dominion](#),' the exhibition accompanying the conference, will be published there too.

DAY 1

Wednesday 29th November

9–9.30am	WELCOME TO COUNTRY		
9.30am–11am	<p>Conversation 1</p> <p>Indigenous pasts and Futures</p> <p>(i) Kevin Martens Wong, 'Alkandra di Ardansa: Recentering the primacy and privilege of paradox (kontrontru) in the reclamation and revitalisation of Kristang, a critically endangered creole/indigenous culture and language in Singapore'; (ii) Lucas da Costa Maciel, 'Be in/with the land: re-inventing what it means to be human caring for some Mapuche ontological indistinctness'; (iii) Sushree Raj, 'Reinventing the Past and Future of Santal: Indigenous tribal community of India'.</p>	<p>Conversation 2</p> <p>Entanglements (01) (humans, moths, bees, gorillas, plants)</p> <p>(i) Hannah Von Seventer, 'Telling Stories with Moths in the Anthropocene: metamorphosis and symbiosis in interdisciplinary art practice'; (ii) Erich Nunn, 'Men, Women, and Beasts in the Scientific Imagination'; (iii) Alexis Harley, 'Bees and being, from before pollination to <i>Blade Runner 2049</i>'.</p>	<p>Conversation 3</p> <p>Remembering the Enlightenment (01)</p> <p>(i) Alex Watson, 'Inverting Race: Enlightenment and Romanticism in George Forster's Construction of the Human in <i>A Voyage Round the World</i> (1776/7)'; (ii) Kristie Flannery, 'The Other Enlightenment? Black and Indigenous abolitionist and anti-colonial revolts in 1763'; (iii) Will Christie, 'De-Humanising China for De-Humanising Women.'</p>
11.30–1pm	<p>Conversation 4</p> <p>Embodied knowledges (song, ballet, dance)</p> <p>(i) Sam Curkpatrick, Tula Wynyard, Daniel Wilfred, "Because body, he got song": connecting kin, country and bodies through Wāgilak song'; (ii) Ya-feng Wu, 'Motion, Affect, and the Human in Coppélia and Petrushka'; (iii) PERFORMANCE Carol Brown, Tia Reihana-Morunga (Ngāti Hine), 'We-atherlands for Sky & Bones'.</p>	<p>Conversation 5</p> <p>Entanglements (02) (humans, plants, and animals)</p> <p>(i) Vanessa Lemm, 'Plant Life and Human Existence in the Age of the Anthropocene'; (ii) Elliot Patsoura, 'Morphologies of the Human: Herder and the Heavenly Plant Hypothesis'; (iii) Libby King, 'Human Forgetfulness and Animal Memories in <i>Frankenstein</i> and <i>The Last Man</i>'.</p>	<p>Conversation 6</p> <p>Remembering the Enlightenment (02)</p> <p>(i) Chiara Rolli, 'Burke versus Hastings: the Human against a Beast and Inhuman Monster'; (ii) Kurt Baird, 'Inventing the (Soldier) Citizen, Realising the Human: Natural Law, Military Honour and State Citizenship in the Habsburg Monarchy, 1769-1815'; (iii) Jessica Lee, 'Misogyny Ancient and Modern: The Misappropriation of Aristotelian Political Thought in Far-Right Social Media Discourse'.</p>

1-2.30pm	Lunch
1-2.30pm	Postgraduate Workshop (and lunch) Details TBA

2.30-3.30PM	<p>Keynote / Provocation:</p> <p>Wanta Jampijinpa Pawu</p> <p>Warlpiri Elder and Professorial Fellow in Indigenous Studies – University of Melbourne</p>
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4.00–5.30pm	<p>Conversation 7</p> <p>Writing/rewriting the human (01)</p> <p>(i) Clareese Hill, 'A Black Feminist Poethics of Wording in XR'; (ii) Molly Brown, 'Prismatic refractions of the human in the poetry of Chris Zithulele Mann'; (iii) Mackenzie Smith, "'This Tree is a Witness': Violence, Necessity and the Human'.</p>	<p>Conversation 8</p> <p>Disability, Ability, and the human</p> <p>(i) Sharon Choe, "'A Form Was completed, a Human Illusion": Encounter and Erasure in William Blake's <i>The Book of Los</i> (1795); (ii) Tekla Babyak, 'Disabled Humans and Able-Bodied Gods in Johannes Brahms's <i>Gesang der Parzen</i> (1882)'; (iii) Lesley Champion, 'The competent human speaker: Ableism and disabled speech'.</p>	<p>Conversation 9</p> <p>First and Last things</p> <p>(i) David Newheiser, 'Miracles and Imagination: The Politics of an Early Modern Debate'; (ii) Sheridan Palmer, 'Done to Death: Aesthetics of Disappearance'; (iii) Chris Danta, 'Last Adams and Last Eves: Catastrophism as a Way of Inventing the Human'.</p>
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6-7pm	<p>Keynote / Provocation:</p> <p>James Davies</p> <p>Professor of Music – University of California, Berkeley</p>
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DAY 2**Thursday 30th November**

9.30am-11am	<p>Conversation 10</p> <p>Science Fiction: writing/rewriting the future</p> <p>(i) Anne Maxwell, 'George Turner and the Future of Humanity'; (ii) Nahoko Alvey, "'Are you alive?": The Invention of the Human/e in Mary Shelley, Banna Ren, and Fujita Kazuhiro'; (iii) Killian Quigley, 'Diving for Homo Aquaticus'.</p>	<p>Conversation 11</p> <p>Digital Futures (education; reading; imagination)</p> <p>(i) Brian Martin, 'Conceptualising postdigital humanity in higher education: A novel theorisation of subjectivity using Romantic literature and literary theory'; (ii) Francesca Kavanagh, '#Clarissa2020: Reading Apart, Together'; (iii) Rachel Hennessy, Amy Matthews, Alexander Cothren, 'The collective imagination: considering the site of creation via collaborative writings of climate change'.</p>	<p>Conversation 12</p> <p>Corporealities</p> <p>(i) Elizabeth McLean, 'Inventorying invention: Annie Ernaux's <i>The Years</i>'; (ii) Alda Balthrop-Lewis, 'Food Writing and the Politics of Enjoyment'; (iii) Paromita Patranobish, 'Spectral (Dis)embodiments and Disordered Eating in Helen Oyeyemi and Claire Kohda'.</p>
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11.30am– 1pm	<p>Conversation 13</p> <p>Telling stories about the human</p> <p>(i) Lenka Filipova, 'Enchanted Objects: Material Fictions in the Eighteenth Century'; (ii) Gillian Russell, 'Humans of Romanticism: George Scharf's street people'; (iii) Sara Fernandes Crouch, Lauren Weber, 'Inventing the Colonial Child: Romantic Pedagogical Legacies in Lousia Anne Meredith's Children's Literature'.</p>	<p>Conversation 14</p> <p>Between the human and the artificial</p> <p>(i) Purnima Mankekar, 'Getting to Know You: How Artificial is Engineered Friendship?'; (ii) Jithya Paul, 'From Nonperson to More-Than-Human: Understanding ageing in Gerontology's Posthuman Turn through Changanthi Tuli's "Sunstroke"'; (iii) Sandra Ponzanesi, 'Virtual Reality as Empathy Machine: Rethinking the Human in Distant Suffering'.</p>	<p>Conversation 15</p> <p>Writing/rewriting the human 02</p> <p>Panel: Mutant people: Reading reinventions of the human subject across the 20th century avant-garde.</p> <p>Participants: James Macaronas, Sarah Fantini, George Mouratidis.</p>
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1-2.30pm	Lunch
1-2.30pm	Postgraduate Workshop (and lunch) Details TBA

2.30–3.30pm	<p>Keynote / Provocation:</p> <p>Genevieve Bell</p> <p>Distinguished Professor & Director of the School of Cybernetics and Vice Chancellor at the Australian National University</p>
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4 – 5.30pm	<p>Futures (Roundtable 1)</p> <p>Disability</p> <p>Convened by Anthea Skinner (McKenzie Postdoctoral Fellow, Victorian College of the Arts).</p> <p>[Details TBA]</p>	<p>Futures (Roundtable 2)</p> <p>Futures of secondary education</p> <p>Convened by Professor Larissa McLean Davies (Deputy Dean, Melbourne Graduate School of Education).</p> <p>[Details TBA]</p>	<p>Futures (Roundtable 3)</p> <p>Artificial Intelligence</p> <p>Convened by Fabio Mattioli (Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology, University of Melbourne, and Associated Researcher at the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Ethics).</p> <p>Participants:</p> <p>Joel Stern (artist, curator and researcher; Vice Chancellor's Research Fellow at RMIT School of Media and Communication).</p> <p>Sean Dockray (artist and writer; Senior Lecturer in Fine Art at Monash University; founding director of the Los Angeles non-profit Telic Arts Exchange, and initiator of knowledge-sharing platforms, The Public School and AAAARG.ORG.)</p>
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6– 7pm	<p>Keynote / Provocation:</p> <p>Sujit Sivasundaram</p> <p>Professor of World History, Faculty of History – University of Cambridge</p>
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DAY 3**Friday 1st December**

9.30– 10.30am	<p>Keynote / Provocation: Amanda Jo Goldstein Associate Professor of English – University of California, Berkeley</p>		
11.00am-12.30pm	<p>Conversation 16</p> <p>Rethinking categories: Romanticism, Liberal Humanism, Posthumanism</p> <p>(i) Greta Perletti, “‘Where Branchèd Thoughts [...] Shall Murmur in the Wind’. Re-Thinking the Human in Keats’s Theories of Expanded Sympathy and Artistic Creation’; (ii) Omar Miranda, ‘X Marks the Spot: <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> at the Bookends’; (iii) Li-hsin Hsu, “‘Color – Caste – Denomination –’: War, Humanity, and Racial Intimacies in Nineteenth-Century Transatlantic/Transpacific Romanticism’.</p>	<p>Conversation 17</p> <p>Panel: ‘In the Penal Colony: Romanticism/ Colonialism/ Australia (01)’</p> <p>Convened by Justin Clemens and Tom Ford.</p> <p>Participants: Claire Knowles, Brendan Casey, Kyle Kohinga, and Hannah Murray.</p>	<p>Conversation 18</p> <p>Intelligent machines (01) (from the 19th to the 21st century)</p> <p>(i) Katherine Nolan, ‘Raiding the Lost and Found in Kazuo Ishiguro’s <i>Never Let Me Go</i>’; (ii) Henry Dobson, ‘<i>Frankenstein</i> in the 21st century - a Promethean dilemma’; (iii) Stephanie Polsky, ‘Bringing up Alan Turing’s Baby: Queering the Contours of the Turing Test’.</p>
12.30-2pm	Lunch		
12.30-2pm	Postgraduate Workshop (and lunch) Details TBA		
2.00– 3.30pm	<p>Conversation 19</p> <p>Panel: Humanity and Human Nature in Revolutionary and Early Socialist Thought</p> <p>Participants: Alexander Cook, Thomas Lalevée, Rhianne Grieve.</p>	<p>Conversation 20</p> <p>Panel: In the Penal Colony: Romanticism/ Colonialism/ Australia (02)</p> <p>Continuation of Conversion 17.</p>	<p>Conversation 21</p> <p>Inventing and Reinventing the Human in Asia (01)</p> <p>(i) Yaqi Wang, ‘Malleable Body and Mind: The Genealogy of “New Human” in Modern China, 1900 – 1950’; (ii) Babu Gogineni, ‘The Asian Enlightenment’; (iii) Sangeetha Puthiyedath, ‘Being Human in the Anthropocene: A Case for Indigenization’.</p>
4 – 5.30pm	<p>Futures (Roundtable 4)</p> <p>First Knowledges Law: The Way of the Ancestors</p> <p>Professor Marcia Langton and Professor Aaron Corn in conversation about their new book.</p> <p>(Langton is Foundation Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies and</p>	<p>Futures (Roundtable 5)</p> <p>Futures of the Humanities</p> <p>Convened by Reverend Professor Russell Goulbourne (Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne).</p> <p>[Details TBA]</p>	<p>Futures (Roundtable 6)</p> <p>Music and Sound</p> <p>Convened by Miranda Stanyon (ARC Decra Senior Research Fellow, University of Melbourne) and Fred Kiernan (Melbourne Postdoctoral Fellow, Melbourne Conservatorium of Music)</p>

	Associate Provost at the University of Melbourne; Corn is Inaugural Director of the Indigenous Knowledge Institute at the University of Melbourne.) [Details TBA]		[Details TBA.]
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6 – 7pm	<p>Keynote / Provocation:</p> <p>Delia Lin</p> <p>Associate Professor in Chinese Studies – University of Melbourne</p>		
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7.30pm	CONFERENCE DINNER		
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DAY 4
Saturday 2nd December

9.30 – 10.30am	<p>Keynote / Provocation:</p> <p>Susan Stryker</p> <p>Professor Emerita, Gender and Women's Studies – University of Arizona</p>		
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11am-12.30pm	Conversation 22	Conversation 23	Conversation 24	Conversation 25
	<p>The human beyond binary divisions (trans, gender diverse, non-binary)</p> <p>(i) Suzy Killmister, 'Dehumanization of trans and gender diverse people';</p> <p>(ii) Ana Dragojlovic, 'Pedagogies for Nonbinary World Making: Lu Yang's Multi-dimensional Future';</p> <p>(iii) Niranjana Ganesan, 'Memory, Materiality and Ecologies of Remembering in Transgender Narratives'.</p>	<p>Inventing and Reinventing the Human in Asia (02)</p> <p>(i) Shrimi Gupta, 'Gender-fluid Identities and Resistant Narratives: Rethinking the (Post)Human vis-à-vis the Hijra';</p> <p>(ii) Priyanka Shivadas, 'Everything the Light Touches: Juxtaposing Indigenous wisdom and Enlightenment thought';</p> <p>(iii) Ryan Johnson, "'the shipwreck of modern civilization": Paul Valéry's "contemporary man"'.</p>	<p>Intelligent Machines (02)</p> <p>(i) James Metcalf, 'Queering the Clinamen: Ann Yearsley's Atoms';</p> <p>(ii) Russell Smith, 'Manufacturing the Human: Charles Babbage, Andrew Ure, and the Birth of Intelligent Machines';</p> <p>(iii) Adrian Schober, 'Kubrick, Spielberg and A.I. Artificial Intelligence: Romanticism, Robots and Post-Humans'.</p>	<p>Rethinking the Human</p> <p>(i) Robert King, 'The Evolution of Agency from Autonomous Human to Network of Surveillance';</p> <p>(ii) Michael Farrell, 'How Is Poetry Possible? A Propositional Nonpoetics';</p> <p>(iii) Christopher O'Neill, 'Inventing the Human-in-the-Loop: Catachresis, Error, and the Place of the Human in Automated Systems'.</p>

12.30-2pm	Lunch		
12.30-2pm	<p>Postgraduate Workshop (and lunch)</p> <p>Details TBA</p>		

2– 3.30pm	Conversation 26	Conversation 27	Conversation 28
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	<p>Panel: ‘Self, Consciousness, and the More than Human; A Critique of Contemplative Research’</p> <p>Participants: Cullan Joyce, Julieta Galante, and Tim Wood.</p>	<p>Entanglements (03) (the human, animals, fires, and the sea)</p> <p>(i) Emily McAvan, ‘On Animal Address: The Question of (Human) Animality in the Anthropocene’; (ii) Nicola McCartney, ‘Animal Drag’; (iii) Yuko Otagaki, ‘Another Romantic Environmental Aesthetics: Kenji Miyazawa’s Cow Song and Cowherd Story’.</p>	<p>Remembering the Enlightenment (03)</p> <p>(i) Geoffrey Hondroudakis, ‘What’s Left for us in the Human? Judgement and Purposiveness Beyond the Organic’; (ii) Jodie Heap, ‘Enlightenment Legacies We are “only human”: Imagination and anxiety in the age of Enlightenment’; (iii) Mathew Abbott, ‘Nature, Significance, and the Human Perspective: Refusing the Choice between Scientism and Posthumanism’.</p>
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4 – 5.30pm	<p>Futures (Roundtable 7)</p> <p>Wellbeing</p> <p>Convened by Assoc. Professor Ana Dragojlovic (Gender Studies and Insight Fellow at the Contemplative Studies Centre at the University of Melbourne)</p> <p>[Details TBA]</p>	<p>Futures (Roundtable 8)</p> <p>What is Human? Intercultural Perspectives</p> <p>Convened by Professor Aaron Corn (Inaugural Director of the Indigenous Knowledge Institute, University of Melbourne)</p> <p>[Details TBA]</p>	<p>Futures (Roundtable 9)</p> <p>[Details TBA]</p>
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5.30pm	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>(See you in 2024, same time in the year, same place, for ‘Human / Nonhuman,’ the second conference in the series on ‘Human and Posthuman’)</p>
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