Books that Changed Humanity:
A Vindication of the Rights of Woman
Friday 6 October, 5.30 – 7.00pm

Speaker
Assoc Prof Karen Green
University of Melbourne

Location
SRWB Theatrette
Sir Roland Wilson Building,
Building #120, McCoy Cct, ANU
Lecture followed by light refreshments

Registration:
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This lecture is free and open to the public
Books that Changed Humanity information: hrc.anu.edu.au/books

It has been claimed that ‘the first major feminist voice belongs to Mary Wollstonecraft’ (1759-1797), and her Vindication of the Rights of Woman is often described as the origin of the ‘first wave of feminism’. It was written in the early years of the French Revolution and argued against male authors, most centrally Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who had helped develop the ‘prevailing opinion of a sexual character’ which Wollstonecraft claimed had reduced women to ‘a state of degradation’. This talk will provide an introduction to Wollstonecraft’s most famous work, and situate it in relation to Wollstonecraft’s other writings. It will also discuss the influence on Wollstonecraft of some of her less famous female contemporaries, and in particular, the republican historian, Catharine Macaulay.

Associate Professor Karen Green has taught philosophy at many Australian universities, on a wide variety of subjects, including existentialism, feminism, political philosophy, and philosophy of language. She currently holds a research fellowship at the University of Melbourne. For some years she has been engaged in research that aims to foster philosophical discussion of the works of women in the history of philosophy, and she is currently completing a book on the eighteenth-century historian and republican, political theorist, Catharine Macaulay.