

Outcomes report

Grant details

- A short introduction stating the reason why you sought funding from the Gender Institute and what you were able to achieve with this grant

The opportunity arose to have Professor Bonnie Honig visit the ANU at minimal cost as she was coming from a Visiting professorship in New Zealand rather than from Brown university, USA. Honig is a leading feminist political theorist and we organised a public lecture, masterclass and workshop in relation to her visit.

The workshop included the participation of artist Julie Gough who led a fascinating tour of the NGAs new Australian art section, which includes her work. She spoke about this new way of collecting Indigenous and Colonial work together. She also gave a talk about her artistic practice at the workshop.

Event details

- The title of the project/event/initiative

1. Public lecture sponsored by the ANU Gender Institute, Give Me Glory: Feminism and the Politics of Refusal on Thursday 20 February.

2. Masterclass for Early Career Researchers

Professor Bonnie Honig also agreed to meet with interested Early Career Researchers, including post-graduates and post-doctoral fellows, for a morning tea on Thursday 20 February, from 10-11.30am.

3. Workshop: **Belonging: Art - Aesthetics - Politics – Law** with Bonnie Honig, Julie Gough, Dimitris Vardoulakis, Fiona Jenkins and Desmond Manderson.

More details and registrations (very limited places available): https://law.anu.edu.au/event/workshop/belonging-art-aesthetics-politics-law?mc_cid=7b16bab06a&mc_eid=110a6569da

- Date(s) of the event

20-21 Feb 2020

- A brief description of the project/event/initiative

1. PUBLIC LECTURE In this lecture, Bonnie Honig describes her response to a recent turn to “refusal” (challenging settler colonialism, white supremacy, patriarchy, or neoliberalism) and looks at *The Bacchae* as a drama of refusal. The Bacchantes in Euripides’ play refuse work (shunning the “shuttle and loom”), join forces, idle on Cithaeron, fight and then topple a king, and return to Thebes to claim their right to the city, before being exiled. *The Bacchae* is not normally seen as a drama of refusal but the women commit regicide and when they experiment with pleasure and spirituality outside the city (this is their offence, and their resource) they model a refusal with world-building powers. Honig considers the concept of “fabulation” as a “refusal concept,” and uses a reading of black girlhood in Saidiya Hartman’s *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments* (2019) to confront the question of infrapolitics among black women, with revolutionary political implications.



2. MASTERCLASS This was a small attendance (6) but the ECR participants were treated to a very open conversation about how Honig writes her books and how they approach their own research practice.

- A short comment on how the project exceeded or fell short of expectations

This event was very well-received. Professor Honig was very generous and engaged thoughtfully with all questions.

- The names of speakers or panellists, with a short biography on each

Bonnie Honig is a political, feminist, and legal theorist specializing in democratic theory. In 2013-14, she became Nancy Duke Lewis Professor-Elect of Modern Culture and Media and Political Science at Brown University, succeeding Anne Fausto-Sterling in the Chair in 2014–15. Honig was formerly Sarah Rebecca Roland Professor of Political Science at Northwestern University and Research Professor at the American Bar Foundation. She is the author of many important books, including *Democracy and the Foreigner* and *Antigone, Interrupted*.

Julie Gough is an artist, writer and curator who lives in Hobart, Tasmania. Julie's research and art practice involves uncovering and re-presenting subsumed and often conflicting histories, often referring to her own and her family's experiences as Tasmanian Aboriginal people. Current work in installation, sound and video provides the means to explore ephemerality, absence and recurrence. Julie is Trawlwoolway through her maternal family, and her Traditional homeland is Tebrikunna in far north eastern Lutruwita / Tasmania, with her extended family living in the Latrobe / East Devonport region since the 1840s. Julie's paternal heritage is mostly Scottish and Irish. Her work is held in all the major Australian galleries.

Impact

- Give an indication of the number of participants and their academic levels (e.g. postgraduates, ECRs, senior researchers, etc.)

These were challenging times, in the weeks after we had all been impacted by fire, smoke and hail.

The lecture was attended by an audience of approximately 39 registrants comprising graduate students (7) early career (12) and senior researchers (20). There were about 10 externals.

- Specify, if possible, the affiliations of attendees (i.e. ANU internals vs ANU externals)

Mostly ANU attendees, with the workshop speakers from Tasmania and Sydney.

- Give details of the impact or outcomes of the event/project for the University and the wider community, and assess the extent to which you achieved what you set out to do

This was an excellent 2 days of discussion and conversation. The visit to the NGA was attended by around 10 besides our speakers and was generally considered a highlight of the event (photos attached)

Outcomes

- The event program, if available

Belonging – Workshop

Walking through Belonging, with Julie Gough

2.00pm to 3.30pm Thursday 20 February 2020

National Gallery of Australia

PUBLIC Lecture: ‘Give me Glory’ – Feminism and the Politics of Refusal,

Bonnie Honig

5.30pm to 7.00pm Thursday 20 February 2020

Theatrette (2.02) Sir Roland Wilson Building

Friday 21 February

Hedley Bull, Lecture Theatre 2

Constitutional and Political Imaginaries

9:30 – 9:40

Introductions & outline of wider project

9.40 – 10:40

Fiona Jenkins – Arts of Acknowledgment

10.40 – 11:00

Coffee

11:00 – 12:00

Dimitris Vardoulakis — James Tully’s Oedipus: The Use of Cultural

Cosmopolitanism

12:00 – 12.30

Intersections (linking back to Thursday’s discussions)

Lunch

Constitutive Silences

1:45 – 2:45

Julie Gough – Hunting Grounds

2:45 – 3:00

Coffee/tea

3:00 – 4.00

Desmond Manderson – The silence of the lambs

4:00 – 4:30

Closing Discussion – Future research directions

- The event/project flyer or poster, if available

N/A

- Submit any photographs and/or videos (in the highest possible resolution) separately in order to maintain the quality of the image.

Some photos of the gallery visit sent separately. I think GI took photos at lecture?

- If you event/project receive any media coverage please include any articles, press clippings, podcasts, radio interviews, etc.

N/A

PUBLICATIONS

Prof. Honig is completing her book and will probably acknowledge the workshop.

The topics of the workshop are being developed by Prof Des Manderson as an ARC Laureate project

Jenkins has been in discussion about a successor project to this one with partners at King's College London

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