

**Report to the Gender Institute re 2014 Signature Event:  
Women's Studies and Gender Studies @ ANU: A Celebration of Professor Jill Julius  
Matthews' career  
20 November 2015**

Award Recipient: Carolyn Strange, School of History  
Date of Report: 10 February 2015



**Honours students, 1991**

**SUMMARY**

The Gender Institute's generous funding allowed the School of History to co-ordinate an event that linked the retirement of Professor Jill Julius Matthews, one of the founders of women's studies at ANU, to the teaching, research, public outreach, and gender equity objectives of the Institute.

Unfortunately, Dr. Fiona Jenkins was unable to attend on the day, so Dr. Carolyn Strange opened the day by acknowledging the Gender Institute's support for the event.

The School of History, which provided administrative support, advertised the event through [eventbrite.com.au](http://eventbrite.com.au). Fifty individuals rsvp'd and most showed up on the day, as well as several others who had not rsvp'd.

The event program was split into two halves. The first focused on the connections between Professor Matthews' training and political activism and the impact of her research and teaching. In addition to the external academics who spoke, Dr. Helen Keane, one of

Professor Matthews' supervisees, and Ms Rebecca Preston, an honours student completing a thesis on the history of feminism, provided a broader perspective on the past and present of gender studies at ANU.

The second half highlighted the significance of Professor Matthews' work on the history of film, and the subject of sexuality as depicted in Australian cinema. Staff at the National Film and Sound Archive, who donated their time, arranged for a discount on the rental of the theatre, and they also provided recollections of the research she conducted as scholar in residence. Ms Fiona Fraser, Professor Matthews' final PhD student, also participated in this phase of the event.

Response to both halves of the day among the academics and former students was enthusiastic, and it underlined the importance of recognizing the lasting legacy left by an independent women's studies department, with the Gender Institute now a significant supporter of an expanded research and teaching agenda at ANU.

### **Media coverage**

Media attention to this three-day conference was prompted by the topic, the opening (by Andrew Leigh, MP), and the roster of international keynote speakers (see earlier GI report for full roster).

### **Interviews by Carolyn Strange re conference on Honour Killing across Culture and Time**

Radio Australia – Asia Pacific

<http://blogs.radioaustralia.net.au/english/2011/other/the-real-meaning-of-honour-killing>

RadioAdelaide Breakfast (ABC)

<http://radioadelaidebreakfast.wordpress.com/2011/12/07/the-violent-past-and-future-of-honour-killings/>

Radio National – Life Matters

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lifematters/honour-killing-across-culture-and-time/3715724>

SBS World News Radio

<http://www.sbs.com.au/podcasts/Podcasts/radionews/episode/195543/Honour-killings-examined>

### **Conference participants' interviews (arranged by Carolyn Strange)**

SBS World View Radio, 11 December 2011

Nilofur Farrukh

<http://www.podcastdirectory.com/podshows/10870713>

Marsha Freeman and Sibel Safi were interviewed on Drive, 666 ABC Canberra, 4pm, 7 Dec

Conference participants Aisha Gill and Rupa Reddy were interviewed by Damian Carrick, producer of Radio National's 'Law Report' programme, which aired on 7 February 2012  
<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lawreport/2012-02-07/3815586>

Carolyn Strange interviewed for 'A Sense of Honour', Radio National 'Earshot'  
30 April 2015  
<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/earshot/sense-of-honour/6411842>

### **Publications**

I co-ordinated plans for the production of two edited collections. The Palgrave collection was produced with two colleagues whom I had not met prior to inviting them to the conference.

Carolyn Strange, Robert Cribb and Christopher Forth, eds., *Honour, Violence and Emotions in History* (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2014)  
<http://www.bloomsbury.com/us/honour-violence-and-emotions-in-history-9781472519498/>

Aisha Gill, Carolyn Strange and Karl Roberts, eds., *'Honour' Killing and Violence: Theory, Policy and Practice* (London: Palgrave, 2014)  
<http://www.palgrave.com/page/detail/honour-killing-and-violence-aisha-gill/?K=9781137289544>

Carolyn Strange, 'Honour Killing', in Nancy Naples, ed., *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality Studies* (forthcoming, 2015)

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### **SIGNATURE EVENT: Women's Studies and Gender Studies @ ANU: A Celebration of Jill Matthews' career**

Prof. Matthews' contributions to the history of gender studies at ANU was amply highlighted by the invited speakers: Prof. Penny Russell; Prof. Joy Damousi; Prof. Desley Deacon; Prof. Sue Sheridan; Dr. Helen Keane and Ms. Rebecca Preston, an ANU history student who was then completing her honours degree on the history of the women's movement. This event, which was open to the public and advertised through Eventbrite, also marked the history of the women's movement, which fertilized the academic study of women's history and the history of sexuality.

One result of the momentum generated by this event was the hosting of the Lilith Conference (on feminist history) at ANU in May 2015, where Ms. Preston appeared to present her research in a conference setting with publication likely.