



Books that Changed Humanity: Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity

Friday 2 November, 5.30 - 7.00pm

Speaker

Assoc Prof Fiona Jenkins
School of Philosophy, ANU

Location

Theatrette

Sir Roland Wilson Building,
Building #120, McCoy Cct, ANU

Lecture followed by light
refreshments

Enquiries

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This lecture is free and open to the
public



The character and possibilities of gender, as lived today, would perhaps not be quite what they are without the publication in 1990 of Judith Butler's *Gender Trouble*. Its highly influential thesis that gender is performative, intends to relax the coercive hold of gender norms, enabling more 'liveable' life - life that 'breathes more freely' as it unfolds in a shared and public world.

That thesis now applies in a new and complex situation. On the one hand, the hold of certain gender norms has been loosened, if far from undone, in these intervening years. Indeed, the expanded visibility of life outside traditional heterosexual forms is now emblematic of a type of national progress for which marriage equality has become a sign. Yet, the disturbing prevalence today of 'gender wars' that threaten to turn back the clock on feminist and queer activism, scholarship and their spaces of fragile liveability, invite pause. This lecture follows two tracks Butler takes within and out of *Gender Trouble* in order to propose the larger political vision necessary to maintain such gains as have been made.

Fiona Jenkins is Associate Professor in the School of Philosophy at the Australian National University.

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