

Symposium: Call for Papers

JM Coetzee Centre for Creative Practice, The University of Adelaide

Political Lives: Political Biography, Memoir and Australian Democracy

Date: Monday and Tuesday, 4-5 December 2023

Confirmed Speakers Include

Judith Brett
Frank Bongiorno
Jennifer Hocking
Jacqueline Kent
Stuart Ward

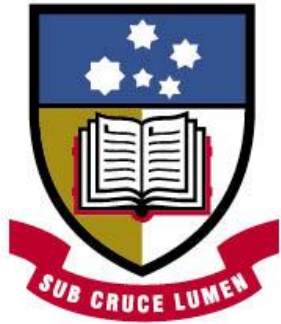
.....

The JM Coetzee Centre for Creative Practice is pleased to call for papers for a symposium on political biography and memoir in Australia as part of a series of events to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the award of the Nobel Prize in Literature to John Coetzee. Coetzee's interest in censorship, citizenship and social justice, and his creative engagements with genre (including auto- and *autre*biography), have been features of his career. In this spirit, we welcome papers on all aspects of Australian political memoir and biography.

Biography is one of the most potent arts of democracy because as a genre of writing it links the individual to the body politic and to history. Biography is currently one of the most popular genres of publishing, with political biography and memoir amongst the most popular of forms. Moreover, in the academy, the status of biography has transformed over the last twenty years or more, with historians embracing the genre, and a wealth of new infrastructure embedding biographical enquiry in Australia. The biographical turn has also brought the two disciplines of history and literary studies closer together and enriched their scholarship immeasurably.

This symposium seeks to explore the purpose and practice of both political biography and memoir in Australia and their relationship to democratic institutions, political careers, legacies and public culture. Questions of independence arise in biographical writing as do ideology, censorship and defamation: these are live issues for political biographers and their readers. We invite papers on any aspect of political memoir, on the making of political biography, its methodologies and practices, as well as the evolving approaches to the understanding of political power and to personality, whether in relation to living subjects or those from earlier historical periods.

Abstracts are invited for papers of 20 minutes or panels of 90 minutes. Please send abstracts to Professor Anne Pender by 29 September 2023 at anne.pender@adelaide.edu.au



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE

