

# *The State and the Dynamics of Enslavement, From Past to Present*

13 - 15 February 2019

Melbourne, Australia

In memory of Joel Kahn



**Convenors: Bruce Kapferer, Rohan Bastin, Marina Gold, Julia Sauma**

**A collaborative event between the ERC Advanced Grant ‘Egalitarianism: Forms, Processes, Comparisons’ and Deakin University**



## Preamble

The state is inherently implicated in dynamics of enslavement: through the slave systems of classical antiquity, imperial processes of colonialism and the rise of industrial capitalism, sovereignties have persistently depended on centralizing mechanisms that violently manage people, land, grain and money. While state power has guaranteed the ownership of the productive labour of other human beings – defining institutionalized slavery – enslavement extends well beyond this relation. It emerges in the family, education system, different class relations (including gender, race, ethnicity), the failures of different instances of emancipation and suffrage, and in the very conception of the individual subject of rights. We therefore take the slave-master relation – a dialectic that gives rise to enduring slave mentalities (Hegel 1807) and moralities (Nietzsche 1887) – as still critical to understanding emerging forms exploitation in a contemporary context of state corporatization.

*The Dynamics of Enslavement* will be a 3-day workshop that will consider the relationship between forms of oppression and emancipation and re-evaluate institutionally recognized forms of slavery through contemporary phenomena such as digitalization, human trafficking, mass incarceration, and the coercive utilization of itinerant human populations for political ends.

The conference is dedicated to the memory of Joel Kahn, Professor (emeritus) of Anthropology at La Trobe University. Friend to many of us, Joel was an important figure in the application of Marxist theory to anthropology, particularly through the establishment of the journal *Critique of Anthropology*, and the relation between ethnography and global social movements. Appreciating the new pathways being developed by the teaching staff in Anthropology at Deakin University, Joel joined us as Honorary Professor in 2016 only to lose his battle with cancer in May 2017.



**13 Feb - Day 1 - On state dynamics of enslavement: Perspectives**

**Chair: Rohan Bastin**

**9:30 - 10:00 - Introduction:** Bruce Kapferer,<sup>1</sup> *Director Advanced EU Project Egalitarianism:*

Welcome and Introduction.

**10:00 - 10:30 - Keynote:** Anne Norton,<sup>2</sup> *Stacey and Henry Jackson President's Distinguished Professor, University of Pennsylvania:* *Intimate Inscriptions: Race, Sex and Labor in the Empire of Capital.*

10:30 - 10:45 - Question time

**10:45 - 11:15 - Keynote:** Brackette Williams,<sup>3</sup> *Associate Professor, University of Arizona:*

*Black at the Bone: A Semaphore Language for Assessing Moral Order*

11:15 - 11:30 - Question time

**11:30 - 11:45 - Morning Tea**

**11:45 - 12:15 - Keynote:** John Rundell,<sup>4</sup> *Professor, La Trobe University:* *From Slavery and Domination to Freedom and Power*

12:15 - 12:30 - Question time

**12:30 - 13:30 - General Discussion: Freedom, slavery and the state.**

**Discussion leader: Rohan Bastin**

**13:30 - 14:30 - Lunch**

**14:30 - 16:30 - Panel 1: State and Slavery. Orientations**

**Chair: Julia Sauma**

14:30 - 14:45 - Clive Kessler<sup>5</sup>: *The State, Freedom and Slavery.*

14:45 - 15:00 - Questions

15:00 - 15:15 - Robin Rodd<sup>6</sup>: The *Mise en Scène* and *Mise en Stage* of Servitude: Clastres and Lefort on the Symbolic Domain of Politics.

15:15 - 15:30 - Questions

15:30 - 15:45 - Simon Tormey<sup>7</sup>: The Populist Insurgency: a Twenty-first Century 'Slave Revolt'?

15:45 - 16:00 - Questions

16:00 - 16:15 - Chris Gregory<sup>8</sup>: 'I want to rip out their heart and eat it before they die.' Why do the High Priests of Wall Street have a Slave Morality?

16:15 - 16:30 - Questions

**16:30 - 16:45 - Afternoon Tea**

**16:45 - 17:45 Round table: The current global crisis. Chair: Clive Kessler**

**17:45 - 18:15 - Drinks before dinner**

**18:15 - Dinner:**

**14 Feb - Day 2 - State and dynamics of enslavement in ethnographic focus**

**9:00 - 13:15 - Panel 2: Emancipatory discourse and its contradictions**

**Chair: Andrew Lattas<sup>9</sup>**

9:00 - 9:15 - Diane Austin-Broos<sup>10</sup>: Falling towards Kingston: Dis-armed Labour 180 Years after Slave Emancipation in Jamaica.

9:15 - 9:30 - Question time

9:30 - 9:45 - Julia Sauma<sup>11</sup>: Collective: A Maroon Sociology.

9:45 - 10:00 - Question time

10:00 - 10:15 - Caroline Ifeka<sup>12</sup>: Beyond Moralising Ideologies of Ethno-Religious Violence: Case Studies from Nigeria in the Dynamic Articulation of Relations between Capitalist and Non-Capitalist Modes of Production.

10:15 - 10:30 - Question time

10:30 - 10:45 - Ryan Schram<sup>13</sup>: *Bruk na lusim*: Colonial Emancipation and Postcolonial Bondage in New Guinea since 1945.

10:45 - 11:00 - Question time

**11:00 - 11:15 - Morning tea**

11:15 - 11:30 - Rosita Henry<sup>14</sup>: Transactions in Dividuals: Debt and Dominion in Papua New Guinea.

11:30 - 11:45 - Question time

11:45 - 12:00 - Gillian Tan<sup>15</sup>: Revelation and purification: religious creativity in historical and contemporary Kham, eastern Tibet.

12:00 - 12:15 - Question time

12:15 - 12:30 - Ute Eickekamp<sup>16</sup>: Between *Eigensinn* and Commoning: On Work, Nature and Freedom in Germany's Ruhr District.

12:30 - 12:45 - Question time

12:45 - 13:00 - Jayaseelan Raj<sup>17</sup>: Dalits and the Caste-Based Slavery: Dynamics of Enslavement and the Techniques of Emancipation.

13:00 - 13:15 - Question time

**13:15 - 14:15 - Lunch**

**14:15 - 17:00 - Panel 3: The colonial and post-colonial Australian state: Aboriginal enslavement, dependency and resistance**

**Chair: Diane Austin-Broos**

14:15 - 14:30 - Barry Morris<sup>18</sup>: From King's Subjects to Citizens: Settler Colonial Race and Class Dynamics.

14:30 - 14:45 - Question time

14:45 - 15:00 - Jon Altman<sup>19</sup>: The New Frontier Wars in Remote Indigenous Australia.

15:00 - 15:15 - Question time

15:15 - 15:30 - Melinda Hinkson<sup>20</sup>: Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Displacement, Becoming and the Paradoxes of Being 'free to the world'.

15:30 - 15:45 - Question time

**15:45 - 16:00 - Afternoon tea**

16:00 - 16:15 - Eve Vincent<sup>21</sup>: Dependency, Care, and the Gender of the State: Analysing a 'Welfare Reform' Initiative.

16:15 - 16:30 - Question time

16:30 - 16:45 - Tess Lea<sup>22</sup>: The State and the Dynamics of Enslavement: on Policy Artefacts, Ambience and Activation.

16:45 - 17:00 - Question time

**17:00 - 17:30 - Round Table: The state and marginality. Chair: Premakumara de Silva<sup>23</sup>**

**17:30 - 20:00 Evening Event**

Gary Foley<sup>24</sup>: Aboriginal People and the State.

Film viewing: *Sweet Country* 1h 53 mins. Q&A with director Warwick Thornton (to be confirmed).

**20:00 - Buffet dinner and drinks at Deakin Downtown**

**Day 3 - Crises of control; state sovereignty and new dynamics of enslavement**

**9:30 - 10:00 - Keynote:** Rohan Bastin<sup>25</sup>: War Assemblages, Cannon Fodder, Suicide Bomber.

10:00 - 10:15 - Question and discussion time

**10:15 - 12:30 - Panel 4. State Transformations, Globalism, Technology and new structures of enslavement.**

**Chair: Caroline Ifeka**

10:15 - 10:30 - Don Nonini<sup>26</sup>: Enslavement, Digitalization, and the Mediation of the Demos: The Controversy over Climate Change in the United States.

10:30 - 10:45 - Question time

10:45 - 11:00 - Marina Gold<sup>27</sup>: Refugee or economic migrant: the contradictions between the nation-state and the corporate state.

11:00 - 11:15 - Question time

**11:15 - 11:30 - Morning tea**

11:30 - 11:45 - Roland Kapferer<sup>28</sup>: Digital Slavery and Neurotechnology: Towards a Theory of the Inorganic Society.

11:45 - 12:00 - Question time

12:00 - 12:15 - Michael Humphrey<sup>29</sup>: Human Rights and Corporate Pactism: The Neoliberal Peace Equation in Colombia.

12:15 - 12:30 - Question time

**12:30 - 13:15 - Round table: Technologies of control: new dynamics of domination.**

**Chair: Don Nonini**

**13:15 - 13:30 - Rohan Bastin closing remarks**

**13:30 - Lunch.**

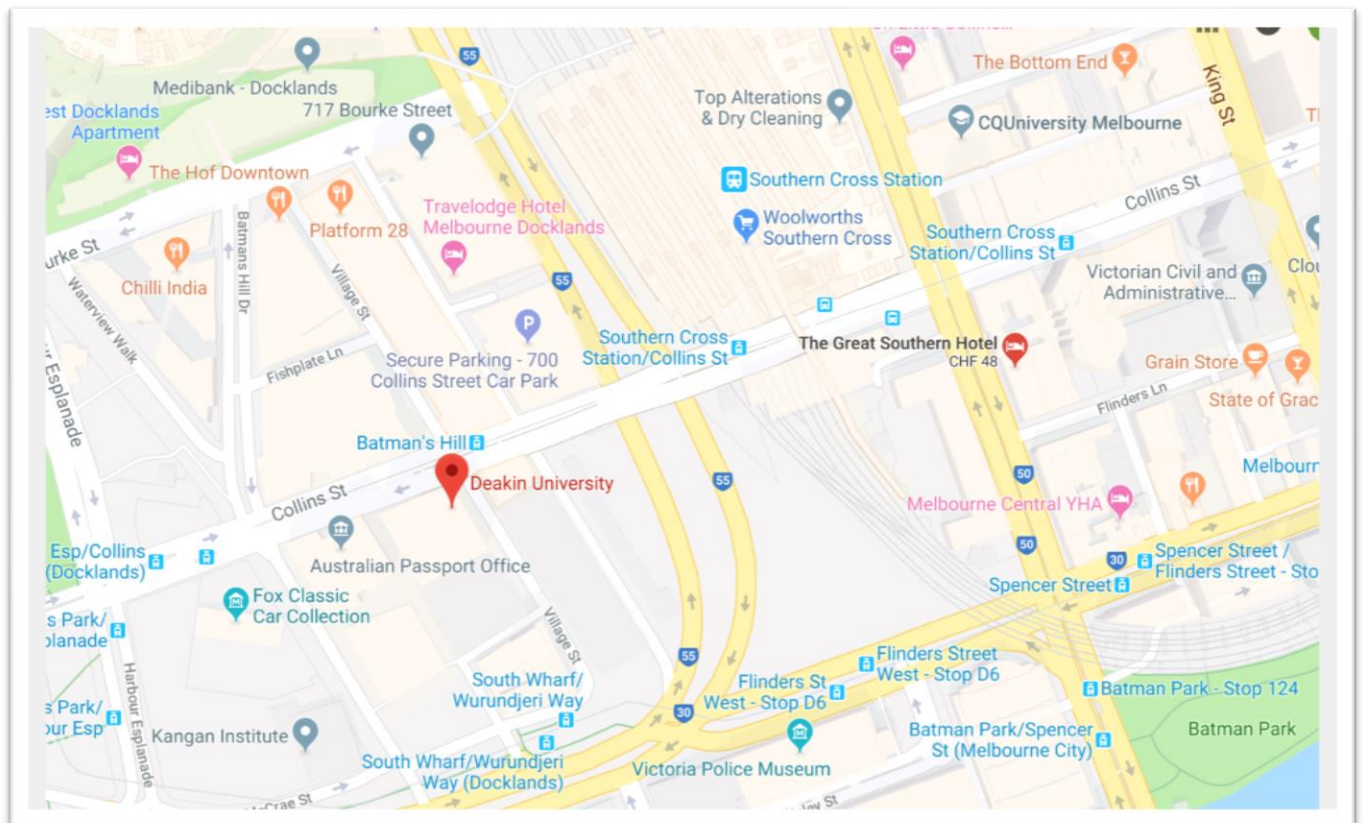
**Workshop Venue: Deakin Downtown**

Level 12, Tower 2

727 Collins Street

Melbourne Victoria 3008

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/locations/deakin-corporate-centres/deakin-downtown>



---

**Participants (in order of appearance)**

**<sup>1</sup> Bruce Kapferer, Director Advanced EU Project Egalitarianism**

**<sup>2</sup> Anne Norton, Stacey and Henry Jackson President's Distinguished Professor, University of Pennsylvania**

**<sup>3</sup> Brackette Williams, Associate Professor, University of Arizona**

**<sup>4</sup> John Rundell, Professor, La Trobe University**



- 
- <sup>5</sup> **Clive Kessler, Professor, University of New South Wales**
- <sup>6</sup> **Robin Rodd, Lecturer, James Cook University**
- <sup>7</sup> **Simon Tormey, Professor, University of Sydney**
- <sup>8</sup> **Chris Gregory, Professor, Australian National University**
- <sup>9</sup> **Andrew Lattas, Professor, University of Bergen**
- <sup>10</sup> **Diane Austin Broos, Professor, University of Sydney**
- <sup>11</sup> **Julia Sauma, Researcher, University of Bergen, Egalitarianism Project.**
- <sup>12</sup> **Caroline Ifeka, Visiting Fellow, Australian National University**
- <sup>13</sup> **Ryan Schram, Senior Lecturer, University of Sydney**
- <sup>14</sup> **Rosita Henry, Professor, James Cook University**
- <sup>15</sup> **Gillian Tan, Senior Lecturer, Deakin University**
- <sup>16</sup> **Ute Eickelkamp, Senior Lecturer, University of Sydney**
- <sup>17</sup> **Jayaseelan Raj, Assistant Professor, Center for Development Studies, India**
- <sup>18</sup> **Barry Morris, Senior Lecturer, University of Newcastle**
- <sup>19</sup> **Jon Altman, Professor, Australian National University**
- <sup>20</sup> **Melinda Hinkson, Associate Professor, Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation**
- <sup>21</sup> **Eve Vincent, Senior Lecturer, Macquarie University**
- <sup>22</sup> **Tess Lea, Associate Professor, University of Sydney**
- <sup>23</sup> **Premakumara de Silva, Professor, University of Colombo**
- <sup>24</sup> **Gary Foley, Professor, Victoria University.**
- <sup>25</sup> **Rohan Bastin, Associate Professor, Deakin University**
- <sup>26</sup> **Don Nonini, Professor, University of North Carolina**

---

<sup>27</sup> **Marina Gold, Researcher, Egalitarianism Project, Bergen University**

<sup>28</sup> **Roland Kapferer, Lecturer, Deakin University**

<sup>29</sup> **Michael Humphrey, Professor, University of Sydney**