

The La Trobe Debates

THE IDEAS & SOCIETY PROGRAM LA TROBE UNIVERSITY | 2019

The Ideas and Society Program, convened by Professor Robert Manne, is a forum for discussion about the future of Australia and beyond. At present we believe that the camps of 'progressives' and 'conservatives' speak only to those with whom they already agree. For this reason in 2019 we are hosting The La Trobe Debates, a series of discussions between those with genuinely different points of view about some of the most pressing and polarising issues Australians now face.

March 6

DOES CHINA POSE A THREAT TO AUSTRALIA? WHAT SHOULD OUR POLICY BE?

One of the most critical and difficult questions now facing Australia is its policy towards China at a time when China's economic and military power is growing steadily and when American policy is nearly impossible to predict. The future of our China policy will be discussed by two thinkers at the centre of this debate, **Hugh White** and **Clive Hamilton**.

April 9

DOES AUSTRALIA STILL HAVE A SERIOUS RACISM PROBLEM?

Has Australia fully transcended the racist shadows cast over its history—the dispossession of its indigenous people and its once whites-only immigration policy? This question will be debated by the former Race Discrimination Officer at the Australian Human Rights Commission, **Tim Soutphommasane** and

Tom Switzer, the Executive Director of the Centre for Independent Studies.

June

WHAT KIND OF FEMINISM DO WE NEED?

The feminist movement has fundamentally re-fashioned our world. What must still happen if the feminist revolution is to be complete? Two of the most brilliant younger Australian feminists, **Clementine Ford** and **Petra Bueskens**, will give their answers to this question.

August 13

DOES AUSTRALIA NEED A HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER?

Former President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, **Gillian Triggs**, is a passionate advocate for an Australian Human Rights Charter. **Greg Craven**, the Vice-Chancellor of The Australian Catholic University, equally passionately disagrees. They will explain the reasons for their differences in this debate.

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