



PM GLYNN
INSTITUTE

**Ethos
2023**

**The Future
of Australia**



Ethos

Ethos is ACU's series of major events focused on the big public ethics issues of the day and what they mean for the future of Australia.

LEADING DEBATES

Ethos events bring together leading thinkers and figures shaping public discussion to tackle current and emerging challenges for our life in common.

Speakers and participants are drawn from Australia and around the world, ranging across academia, politics, government, business, the media, culture and the arts.

CONNECTING THINKERS

Based on ACU's expertise in ethics and the common good, each Ethos event connects thought-leaders and practitioners from a wide range of fields with ACU scholars and experts to discuss the issues shaping the national conversation and some of the questions they raise for public ethics.

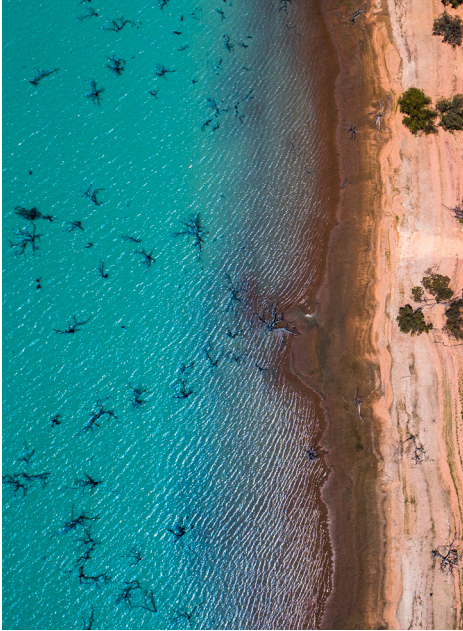
Each event considers how ethics is intertwined with public policy.

PUBLIC ETHICS

Ethos focuses on public ethics; on how ethics should inform public policy and what is required to maintain a good society.

It touches on a wide range of questions such as how we can create opportunity for those in need, foster participation and initiative, practise politics, grow the economy, protect the vulnerable, strengthen a shared culture, and renew and maintain the institutions which structure our life in common.

In short, Ethos provides an opportunity to reflect on Australia's future as a good society, and how we respond to the challenges that confront us.



Ethos events 2021–22

Ethos was launched in Canberra in 2021 and followed by two Q&A style events in Sydney and Melbourne in 2022.

In 2023, Ethos events will be held in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne to discuss the public ethics issues raised by catastrophes, artificial intelligence and housing policy.

ETHOS 2021 – IDENTITY CRISIS

For the 2021 launch of Ethos, Nine News Political Editor Chris Uhlmann and Cyber Security Cooperative Research Centre CEO Rachael Falk discussed the need to strengthen a shared identity to meet the challenge posed by the rise of authoritarian regimes led by China.



To watch highlights of this event, scan the QR code.

ETHOS 2022 – HARNESSING SOCIAL MEDIA FOR THE COMMON GOOD

For the first Ethos 2022 event, The Australian's editor-at-large Paul Kelly, Loreto Kirribilli principal Anna Dickinson, ACU's Stephen Finlay and Year 12 student Gemma Chittendon looked at the role of social media in Australian society, the ethical challenges it poses for politics, debate and wellbeing, and what social accountability means for social media.



To watch a short video introducing this discussion, scan the QR code.

ETHOS 2022 – WHAT DO WORKERS WANT?

For the second Ethos 2022 event, American Enterprise Institute's Nicholas Eberstadt, Australian Productivity Commissioner Catherine de Fontenay and ACU's John Haldane discussed the changing nature of work and the shifts in values that are reshaping our expectations of work and our attitudes to it, with reference to the Covid-19 pandemic.



To watch a short video introducing this discussion, scan the QR code.



Catastrophe

In a world that continues to be plagued by catastrophes, do we have the ethical resources for dealing with them effectively?

GREAT AND HOPELESS SUFFERING

A catastrophe is an event that results in great – and often sudden – damage or suffering.

Examples of floods and bushfires, famines and earthquakes, plagues and pandemics, and genocides and wars fill history and show how catastrophes cause immense suffering and destroy hope.

EXPLAINING CATASTROPHE

People have tried to explain the phenomenon of catastrophe in different ways, ranging from the prophecies of messianic movements to political and social theory.

Catastrophes cause enormous suffering and destruction. How should we respond to them to ensure that the conditions for the common good and human flourishing are restored as quickly as possible?

INTER-GENERATIONAL JUSTICE

We fear future catastrophes, but we also have to reckon with the consequences of past catastrophes.

What do we owe those who suffer from the consequences of a past catastrophe? What obligation does the generation facing a catastrophe hold towards future generations?

OPTIMISM OR PESSIMISM?

The 21st century has seen its fair share of catastrophes in the form of terrorism, climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic. There is also the way the fear of catastrophe can shape politics and distort how we think about the future.

Do we approach the prospect of a catastrophe with the hope and confidence of optimism, or the pessimist's tendency to fear that the worst will happen? What public ethics issues do our attitudes to catastrophe pose?

VIDEO



To watch a short video with ACU's Bryan Turner and Sandie Cornish introducing this discussion, scan the QR code.

JOIN US

To be part of the conversation, join National Anti-Corruption Commissioner the Hon Paul Brereton AM RFD SC, Plunkett Centre for Ethics Director Bernadette Tobin AO and ACU's Professor of Sociology Bryan Turner at Ethos 2023's Sydney event, presented with Loreto Kirribilli on 31 August 2023.



AI: ethics and machines

The cascading advances that are being made in artificial intelligence (AI) open a whole world of possibilities, both good and bad.

BENEFITS AND ETHICAL CHALLENGES

There are many tasks requiring human intelligence that can be done more effectively by computers.

It seems obvious that AI is something we should embrace for these sorts of tasks.

But AI also presents some enormous ethical challenges.

THREAT TO THE VULNERABLE

Routine tasks that are typically performed by unskilled or low-paid workers are among those that can most readily be taken over by machines with artificial intelligence. Some roles filled even by highly skilled workers may also be under threat.

How do we ensure work and income for vulnerable people if AI destroys their jobs?

SHARING THE BOUNTY

While some people might lose their jobs to machines with artificial intelligence, other people who own the companies deploying AI to reduce labor costs stand to gain financially from this technology.

How do we ensure that AI does not deepen divisions in our society, and that the wealth it creates is shared equitably?

LETTING THE MACHINES DECIDE

As the capacity of AI to process information and make decisions grows, what it is allowed to decide and how it decides become life and death questions.

Do we want AI making decisions about people's health and safety? About how to respond to emergencies? About what to do in war? And how do we prevent criminals from deploying AI in cyber-attacks and scams?

VIDEO



To watch a short video with UTS's Sally Cripps and ACU's Sandie Cornish introducing this discussion, scan the QR code.

JOIN US

To be part of the conversation, join Queensland's Chief Customer & Digital Officer Chris McLaren, UTS Human Technology Institute's Technology Director Sally Cripps and ACU's Queensland Bioethics Centre Director David Kirchhoffer at Ethos 2023's Brisbane event, presented with the Assembly of Catholic Professionals on 25 October 2023.



Housing

Shelter is one of the most fundamental needs we share as human beings. Meeting this need is a basic requirement of the common good.

Given all the competing economic and social considerations, how do we ensure that access to housing in Australia is available on an ethical basis today?

HOME OWNERSHIP

Many would-be homeowners are priced out of the property market, and rising interest rates make things harder still.

What can we do to make home ownership more available and more affordable?

PRICED OUT OF RENTING?

The situation is no better for renters. Affordable rental properties in the private rental market are in increasingly short supply.

Should the government intervene to address this? If so, what can it do?

SOCIAL HOUSING

Waiting lists for social housing continue to grow, and the stock of social housing is not increasing at a rate sufficient to keep up with demand.

Given the vulnerabilities of people who rely on it, should housing policy prioritise access to social housing?

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Housing is an issue where there are no easy answers and many policy problems. What are the public ethics considerations we think governments and industry should prioritise to ensuring equitable access to housing?

VIDEO



To watch a short video with Sydney University's Laurence Troy and ACU's Sandie Cornish introducing this discussion, scan the QR code.

JOIN US

To be part of the conversation, join the Hon Tim Wilson, McAuley Community Services for Women CEO Jocelyn Bignold OAM, and ACU's Professor of Philosophy of Education John Haldane at Ethos 2023's Melbourne event on 2 November.

PM Glynn Institute

Ethos is an initiative of the PM Glynn Institute, ACU's public policy think tank. Its focus is public policy for the common good.

BRIDGING DIVIDES

The institute's contributions to policy discussions and public debates encourage conversation across the divides of political, intellectual and religious life, to help build a good society where everyone can flourish.

PUBLIC POLICY

With this in view, the institute has produced recommendations on policy issues such as protecting religious freedom, the provision of palliative care, constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians and the role of schools in fostering social cohesion.

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

The institute has also produced a range of publications discussing larger issues such as religion and democracy, the future of human rights, political tribalism and the major political traditions in Australia.

TRACK RECORD OF ENGAGEMENT

In addition to the Ethos events, the institute holds regular events each year to engage public ethics and public policy, including the PM Glynn Lecture on Religion, Law and Public Life, the Greg Craven Lecture on Ethics and Politics, and the Cardinal Pell Leadership Program.

REACHING NEW AUDIENCES

Ethos 2023 events are pitched to engage new audiences with the expertise and thought-leadership in ethics that ACU offers to the community. We hope you will join us for these conversations.

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Cover image: Aerial view of arid desert dry landscape and blue lake in outback Australia

Disclaimer (July 2023): Information correct at time of printing. The university reserves the right to amend, cancel or otherwise modify the content without notice.