

The Friday Forum

On Teams

3.30pm–5.00pm AEDT, 28 October 2022

The Violent State: **From Surveillance to Mass Atrocity**

With the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February of this year, accounts of Russian atrocities and mass killings started to appear in the media. It soon became apparent that Russian forces were deliberately targeting and killing civilians, as well as committing acts of torture, rape, and mutilation. This is hardly new in war, but is it characteristic of modern state violence, or does it occur because of lack of control from civilian authorities? What of other forms of state intervention, including surveillance? This panel will place mass killings, atrocities, and violence and the state in a larger historical context, discuss the entanglements of surveillance and mass atrocity in the Soviet case, as well as discussing how Soviet migrants negotiated the Australian state and its surveillance during the early Cold War.



Chair: Dr Margaret Hutchison, ACU

The Russian military waged a brutal bombing campaign against Ukrainian civilians – here a scene from Mariupol – killing and wounding thousands of people. March 30, 2022. REUTERS/Alexander Ermochenko

Speakers:

Prof Philip Dwyer, University of Newcastle

Philip Dwyer is Professor of History and the founding Director of the Centre for the Study of Violence at the University of Newcastle, Australia. He has published 18 books and edited books, including a three-volume biography of Napoleon, as well as numerous articles and chapters. He is currently writing a global history of human violence.

Prof Mark Edele, University of Melbourne

Mark Edele is the inaugural Hansen Professor in History at the University of Melbourne where he also serves as Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Arts. He is an historian of the Soviet Union and its successor states, in particular Russia. His latest book, entitled *Stalinism at War. The Soviet Union in World War II*, was published in 2021. He is a Chief Investigator on ARC Discovery Grant DP200101728, “KGB Empire: State Security Archives in the former Eastern Bloc,” (2020-2023); and ARC DP200101777, “Aftermaths of War: Violence, Trauma, Displacement, 1815-1950,” (2020-2024).

Dr Ebony Nilsson, ACU

Ebony Nilsson is a postdoctoral research fellow in the Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences at Australian Catholic University, Melbourne. She is an historian of migration, politics, and surveillance during the early Cold War. Her first book, forthcoming with Bloomsbury Academic, explores the lives of Soviet refugees resettled in Australia after the Second World War, who drew the attention of ASIO with their political activity.