

**Professor Yasmin Haskell**  
Cassamarca Foundation Chair in Latin Humanism  
University of Western Australia,

***‘Idols, Demons, or Passions? The Gods in Jesuit Latin Epic’***

**4pm Thursday 18 March (Melbourne)**  
**9pm Wednesday 17 March (Los Angeles)**

To register: [MEMS.seminar@acu.edu.au](mailto:MEMS.seminar@acu.edu.au)



**Professor Yasmin Haskell**, FAHA, is Cassamarca Foundation Chair in Latin Humanism at the University of Western Australia, Perth. She has published widely on Neo-Latin literature, and especially on the Latin culture of the early modern Society of Jesus, e.g. *Loyola's Bees: Ideology and Industry in the Jesuit Latin Didactic Poetry* (Oxford, 2003), and on the history of emotions and psychiatry, e.g. (ed.) *Diseases of the Imagination and Imaginary Disease in the Early Modern Period* (Brepols, 2011). From 2010-2017 she was a Foundation Chief Investigator in the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions: 1100-1800, where she led teams on 'Jesuit emotions', 'Passions for learning', and a research cluster on 'Language and emotion'. In 2018 she gave the 39th Erasmus birthday lecture at the Royal Academy of the Netherlands on 'Erasmus and the health of scholars — physical, emotional, spiritual emotional'. Yasmin's next book, for Bloomsbury, is *Jesuits at Play: Latin Poetry and Team Spirit in the Early Modern Society of Jesus*.

#### Abstract

The early modern Jesuits were heirs to the Latin humanism of the Renaissance and devotees of the cult of Virgil. In this talk I will introduce three Jesuit "Virgilian" epics from the beginning, middle and end of the "Old" Society: Francesco Benci's *Five Martyrs* (1591), on the Jesuit martyrs of Cuncolim, southern India; Bartolomeu Pereira's *Paceicis* (1640), on the life and martyrdom in Nagasaki in 1626 of the poet's cousin, Francisco Pacheco; and the *Heroum libri iv* by Emmanuel de Azevedo (1789), on the expulsion of American Jesuits from New Spain and their journey to Italy. How did these poets, writing at three critical moments in the Society's history, mobilize the traditional epic machinery of supernatural apparitions, interventions, and motivation of human passions? And how did they treat the "new" gods encountered in the Jesuits' overseas missions?