

The Friday Forum

To be held by Teams Meeting

26th March 2021
3.30pm - 5.00pm

Speaking Up about Sex and Gender: Histories/Futures

The politics of who can, and has been able, to speak about sex, sexualities, sexual harassment and cultures in various settings remains a pressing topic in contemporary Australia. This panel sets recent discussions in wider historical contexts, exploring case studies past and present, as well as how we approach and write the history of speaking up and out about sex and gender. How has defamation law been used not only to silence speech about sexual morality but also about sexual misconduct and sexual assault? What do those usages, past and present, tell us about contemporary standards of sexual behaviour and gender ideologies? Are we now at a turning point in how we understand and treat sexual harassment, as Kate Jenkins, Australia's Sex Discrimination Commissioner, has recently suggested? How indeed do we frame the history of such offences in the wider context of sexual misconduct and sexual culture? How do we write the histories of complex and often confronting topics, from transgender history to domestic violence? How do we reflect on our own positionality in developing suitable methodologies, including hearing, centring and presenting the voices of those with lived experiences in respectful and appropriate ways?

Chair: Prof. Susan Broomhall

Gender and Women's History Research Centre, IHSS, ACU

Speakers:

Dr Jessica Lake, Gender and Women's History Research Centre, IHSS, ACU

Prof. Jenny Morgan, Melbourne Law School, The University of Melbourne

Dr Zora Simic, History and Gender Studies, UNSW

Prof. Noah Riseman, School of Arts, ACU



Slander, Illustration by George Wooliscroft Rhead 1854-1920