



ANZASA



UNITED STATES
STUDIES CENTRE



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Biennial Conference

Democracy and Resilience

26 – 28 November 2025

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



Acknowledgment of Country

The conference organisers wish to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the unceded land on which the Parkville campus is located, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples. We pay respect to Elders past, present and future, and acknowledge the importance of Indigenous knowledge in the Academy. As a community of researchers, teachers, professional staff and students we are privileged to work and learn every day with Indigenous colleagues and partners.

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Notes

The **ANZASA 2025 Conference Program** including Paper Abstracts and Presenter Biographical Information is available at: <https://anzasa.org/programme-2/>

Hybrid Sessions: Some panels and roundtables are designated as *hybrid*, which means some presenters join the conference remotely. However, the relevant session takes place in person at the allocated room and the audience is in person.

Opening Plenary Session Optional Drinks Day 1 17.30-18.30: Everyone is welcome to join us for drinks at own expense at University House, 53 Professors' Walk, The University of Melbourne, Parkville VIC 3010

Morning/Afternoon Tea and Lunch Breaks for Day 2 and Day 3: Please head to Basement Foyer, opposite Singapore Theatre in Glyn Davis Building (133).

Guest WiFi details:

[Wifi Account]

Username: chass25

Pwd: Qvz\$7z

Welcome to ANZASA 2025

Democracy and Resilience: At a moment of profound national and international reflection and debates about the future of American institutions, we welcome explorations of democracy's fragility and resilience through American history as well as in the present and future. This theme invites scholars to consider how democratic ideals, practices, and institutions have been challenged, reimagined, defended, and transformed throughout the American experience.

Keynote Speakers

Melinda Cooper (Australian National University) is Professor in the School of Sociology at the Australian National University. She is the author of two recent books on American political economy, *Counterrevolution: Extravagance and Austerity in Public Finance* (2024) and *Family Values: Between Neoliberalism and the New Social Conservatism* (2017). She is currently writing a book on factions of asset-based capitalism and their political alliances.

Kendall Johnson (Hong Kong University): An interdisciplinary scholar of British and US literatures, Professor Kendall A. Johnson (HKU) researches material print culture in a transnational and global historical frame. His publications include *The New Middle Kingdom: China and the Early American Romance of Free Trade* (2017), *Narratives of Free Trade in Early US-China Relations* (editor, 2010), and *Henry James and the Visual* (2007). His articles have appeared in American Literature, American Quarterly, Modern Fiction Studies, and elsewhere.

Nancy Beck Young (University of Houston) is the John and Rebecca Moores Professor of History & Director of the Center for Public History. A historian of twentieth-century American politics, Professor Young also has interests in public history and digital humanities. She has authored five books including *Two Suns of the Southwest: Lyndon Johnson, Barry Goldwater, and the 1964 Battle between Liberalism and Conservatism* (2019) and *Why We Fight: Congress and the Politics of World War II* (2013). She is currently working on two book projects: a biography of John Nance Garner and a book about the idea of the first lady.

University of Melbourne – Getting there

Old Arts Building (149)

William Macmahon Ball Theatre: PAR;149;1;107 <https://go.unimelb.edu.au/8fy8>

Glyn Davis Building (133)

The Singapore Theatre - Lecture Theatre: PAR;133;0;1;B120 <https://go.unimelb.edu.au/m3c8>

The Malaysian Theatre - Lecture Theatre: PAR;133;0;1;B121 <https://go.unimelb.edu.au/icb8>

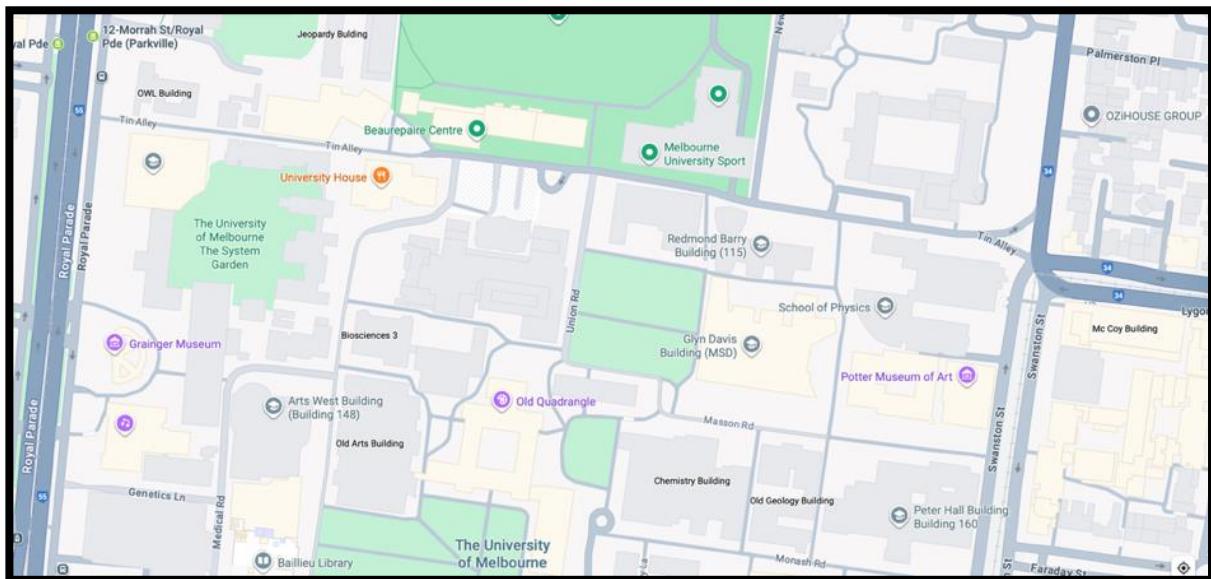
B115 – Basement Foyer <https://go.unimelb.edu.au/man2>

Old Quadrangle Building (150) Parkville Campus

G17, Old Quadrangle: <https://go.unimelb.edu.au/8iux>

G18, Old Quadrangle: PAR;150;0;G18 <https://go.unimelb.edu.au/9yop>

G10, Old Quadrangle: PAR;150;0;G10 <https://go.unimelb.edu.au/eo7p>



Public transport

The University of Melbourne's Parkville campus is only a few minutes from the centre of Melbourne and has many public transport stops within walking distance – including stop 1 for the Swanston street tram routes. You can enter your current location and travel destination into the Public Transport Victoria Journey Planner for personalised instructions for tram, train and bus connections for travelling to any University of Melbourne campus.

Organising Committee contact details

Prof. David Goodman
E: d.goodman@unimelb.edu.au

T: 0412 652 509

Dr. Athanasios Antonopoulos
E: a.antonopoulos@unimelb.edu.au
T: 0434 119 855

Dr. Jessica Lake
E: jakej@unimelb.edu.au
T: 0412 775 048

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Wednesday 26 November 2025

12:00– 13:20	Postgraduate Session including Publishing Workshop William Macmahon Ball Theatre – Old Arts Building (149)
13.15 – 15:30	Registration Opens Outside Singapore Theatre in Glyn Davis Building (133)
13:30 – 15:30	Panel 1: African American History and Memory Singapore Theatre, Glyn Davis Building – Melbourne School of Design (Building 133) Panel 2: Empire, Nation and Resistance Malaysian Theatre, Glyn Davis Building – Melbourne School of Design (Building 133)
16:00 – 17:30	Conference Opening Plenary Session Singapore Theatre, Glyn Davis Building – Melbourne School of Design (Building 133)

Thursday 27 November 2025

8:30 – 9:30	Registration Opens Outside Singapore Theatre in Glyn Davis Building (133)
9:30 – 11:00	Panel 3: Hollywood, Film and Political Cultures 1 Singapore Theatre, Glyn Davis Building – Melbourne School of Design (Building 133) Panel 4: Presidents, Exceptionalism and Space Exploration Room G17, Old Quadrangle Building (150) Panel 5: Democracy in Literature – Hybrid Room G18, Old Quadrangle Building (150)
11:00 – 11:30	Morning Tea
11:30 – 12.45	Keynote 2: Professor Melinda Cooper, Australian National University: 'Against corporation and state: Trump's war on (woke) capitalism' Singapore Theatre, Glyn Davis Building – Melbourne School of Design (Building 133)
13:00 – 14.15	Lunch Break
13:15 – 14:15	ANZASA Annual General Meeting Singapore Theatre, Glyn Davis Building – Melbourne School of Design (Building 133)
14:15 – 15:45	Panel 6: Hollywood, Film and Political Cultures 2 Singapore Theatre, Glyn Davis Building – Melbourne School of Design (Building 133) Panel 7: Race, Memory and Media Room G17, Old Quadrangle Building (150) Panel 8: Cold War 1 – Hybrid Room G18, Old Quadrangle Building (150) Panel 9: War, Memory and the far Right Room G10, Old Quadrangle Building (150)

15:45 – 16:15	Afternoon Tea
16:15 – 17:45	Panel 10: Power and Resilience in Media Singapore Theatre, Glyn Davis Building – Melbourne School of Design (Building 133) Panel 11: Labor Histories Room G17, Old Quadrangle Building (150) Panel 12: Democratic Governance Room G18, Old Quadrangle Building (150) Panel 13: Digital American Studies – Open Discussion Room G10, Old Quadrangle Building (150)
17:45 – 18:45	Roundtable 1: The Second Trump Administration: Domestic, international and intergalactic policies Singapore Theatre, Glyn Davis Building – Melbourne School of Design (Building 133)
19:15	Conference Dinner – University Café, 257 Lygon Street Carlton 3053 (upstairs).

Friday 28 November 2025

8:30 – 9:30	Registration Opens Outside Singapore Theatre in Glyn Davis Building (133)
9:30 – 11:00	Panel 14: China and US – Hybrid Singapore Theatre, Glyn Davis Building – Melbourne School of Design (Building 133) Panel 15: Cold War 2 Room G17, Old Quadrangle Building (150)
	Panel 16: Protest Room G18, Old Quadrangle Building (150) Panel 17: Women Writing Room G10, Old Quadrangle Building (150)
11:00 – 11:30	Morning Tea
11:30 – 12.45	Keynote 3: Professor Kendall Johnson, University of Hong Kong: Singapore Theatre, Glyn Davis Building – Melbourne School of Design (Building 133)
13:00 – 14:15	Lunch Break
14:15 – 15:45	Roundtable 2: Black Sonic Resistance and Liberation Singapore Theatre, Glyn Davis Building – Melbourne School of Design (Building 133) Panel 18: Currency, constitutionalism, and professionalism in US legal history – Joint Session with ANZLHS Room G17, Old Quadrangle Building (150) Panel 19: Intervention and Isolation – Hybrid Room G18, Old Quadrangle Building (150) Panel 20: Writing and Researching History Room G10, Old Quadrangle Building (150)
15:45 – 16:15	Afternoon tea
16:15 – 17:15	Roundtable 3: US Democracy as seen from Ukraine – Hybrid Singapore Theatre, Glyn Davis Building – Melbourne School of Design (Building 133)

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Wednesday, 26 November 2025

12:00 – 13:20: POSTGRADUATE SESSION INCLUDING PUBLISHING WORKSHOP

Presented by: Ethan Blue (University of Western Australia)

This session, intended to help postgrads think through processes for getting published, will be hosted by the editors of the Australasian Journal of American Studies, and will have guest appearances from the conference keynote speakers.

13.30 – 15:30: PARALLEL SESSIONS

Panel 1: African American History and Memory

Chair: Amy K. King

- Clare Corbould (Deakin University), “The Awakening of Sally Hemings in the Wake of #MeToo”
- Liam Gunson, “‘Lemme tell you how freedom came’: Emancipation moments in early twentieth-century ex-slave testimonies”
- Oliver Clark (Monash University), “Sea, Sand, and Segregation: The Manhattan Beach Swim-in and New Negro Activism”

Panel 2: Empire, Nation and Resistance

Chair: Kendall Johnson

- Kit Candlin (University of Newcastle, Australia), “Refugees of the American Revolution and the Global Post-War Fight for Imperial Rights 1783-1810”
- Timothy Marr (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), “The only Mohammedans under the American flag’: Evangelism, Imperialism, Literacy, and Islam in Frank Laubach’s Mission in Lake Lanao, Philippines”
- Prudence Flowers (Flinders University), “The increasing threat to our life, liberty, happiness and possession of land’: Marshallese Resistance to Nuclear Testing and America’s Pacific Empire”
- Taylah Leathem (Independent Researcher), “The Capitol Insurrection as a critical event: Ritual, Rupture, and the Transformation of American Democracy”

16:00 – 17:30 CONFERENCE OPENING SESSION

- Acknowledgement of Country
- Welcome by Mr. Patrick Arnold, Vice Consul, U.S. Consulate General Melbourne
- Welcome by Dr Prudence Flowers, ANZASA President
- Opening Keynote

Professor Nancy Beck Young, University of Houston: “Rethinking Political Periodization in Modern American History”

Chair: David Goodman

Day 2: Thursday, 27 November 2025

9:30 – 11:00: PARALLEL SESSIONS

Panel 3: Hollywood, Film and Political Cultures 1

Chair: Jessica Lake

- James Deutsch (Smithsonian Institution), “There is still time, comrades’: The reception of *On the Beach in Moscow*”
- Jennifer Frost (University of Auckland), “Hollywood’s Joan of Arc’: When Olivia de Havilland Took on the Studio Contract and Won”
- Leah Anderson (Monash University), “Boys Will Be Boys’: The Place of the Pansy in Pre-Code Hollywood”

Panel 4: Presidents, Exceptionalism and Space Exploration

Chair: Brendon O’Connor

- Zim Nwokora (Deakin University), “The Construction of American Exceptionalism in the Presidential Nominating Process”
- Tom Wilkinson (University of Auckland), “From ‘Plan’ to ‘Race’: The Political Promotion of Outer Space Exploration 1957 – 1963”
- Angus Davison (Independent Researcher), “The Heron and the Astronaut: Apollo 8, Technological Salvation, and the Environmentalism of the Lindberghs”

Panel 5: Democracy in Literature – Hybrid

Chair: Professor Paul Giles

- Kimiko Hiranuma (Aichi University of Education), “Literature as a Site of Democratic Practice: Writing Resilience in Percival Everett’s James”
- Yohei Chiba (Chukyo University), “The Hermeneutics of Suspicion in Hunter S. Thompson’s Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail ’72 (1973)”
- Reshma Sanil (Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee), “Immunitas as Microbiopolitical? Tracing the Sympoietic Evolutionary Paradigm through Michrochimerical Agency in Greg Bear’s Darwin’s Radio”

11:30 – 12:45: KEYNOTE 2

Professor Melinda Cooper, Australian National University: “Against corporation and state: Trump’s war on (woke) capitalism”

Chair: Jessica Lake

14:15 – 15:45: PARALLEL SESSIONS

Panel 6: Hollywood, Film and Political Cultures 2

Chair: Ethan Blue

- Erich Nunn (Auburn University), “A Minstrel Song with Teeth’: *Sinners*’ Musical Vampires”
- Sophie Vannan (University of Sydney), “Structuring Power: The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Challenge of Unionisation, 1927-1933”
- Kevin Brianton (La Trobe University), “Hollywood and the Lost Cause of John Ford”

Panel 7: Race, Memory and Media

Chair: Clare Corbould

- Amy K. King (Tuskegee University), “(Neo)colonial Horrors in *Atlanta*, Season 3”
- Alex King (University of Auckland), “Representations of Antebellum Slavery in American Film: Reading ‘Audiovisual Historiographies’ from *Beloved* (1998) to *Emancipation* (2022)”
- Shuhui Yang (Macquarie University & Wuhan University), “‘Imprisonment and Escape’ – Writing the Body in Whitehead’s *The Underground Railroad*”

Panel 8: Cold War 1 – Hybrid

Chair: Paul Taillon

- Aaron Leonard, “Menace of Our Time: The Long War Against American Communism”
- Ben Hammond (Flinders University), “The New Crusade for Freedom: Cold War Broadcasting and Popular Music Programming in the Reagan Era’ Cold War and Media”
- Nick Fischer (Monash University), “Why Ronald Reagan sacked the president of the University of California: Big business, the universities and the dawn of neo-liberalism”

Panel 9: War, Memory and the far Right

Chair: Nancy Beck Young

- David Goodman (University of Melbourne), “Charles Coughlin’s Isolationism”
- Julia Lange (*Der Spiegel*), “Identity Trouble: German American Politics of Memory and the Holocaust”

16:15 – 17:45: PARALLEL SESSIONS

Panel 10: Power and Resilience in Media

Chair: Jennifer Frost

- Keir Wotherspoon (Trinity College, University of Melbourne), “Networking: history of a resilient idea in the American Counterculture 1966 to 1982”
- Jarkko Tanninen (University of Nottingham), “Figures of Resilience: Reframing Regional Photography through Appalachia”
- Rebecca Weeks (Media Design School, Auckland), “Resilience Behind the Scenes: Gender and Labor in Visual Effects History”

Panel 11: Labor Histories

Chair: Timothy J. Minchin

- Paul Michel Taillon (University of Auckland), “A radical moment? Railroad workers and the election of 1924”
- Shannon Peters (University of Melbourne), “Unbecoming a Teacher”: Ideological Surveillance and the Contestation over Educational Freedom in Interwar New York City”
- Michelle Shu Wun Kuek (La Trobe University), “The General Motors Saga: Driven to Greatness, Derailed by Times”

Panel 12: Democratic governance

Chair: Mia Martin Hobbs

- Claudia Haake (La Trobe University), “Democratic Issues – Sioux leadership in times of change (1850s to 1920s)”
- Peter Field (University of Canterbury), “Lincoln on Lincoln: New Salem’s Strange, Friendless, Uneducated and Penniless Newcomer”
- Christopher P. Simmonds (La Trobe University), “Free Trade, Protectionism and Democracy in the 1980 US Election”

Panel 13: Digital American Studies – Open Discussion

Chair: David Goodman

- Nancy Beck Young (University of Houston), “The Sharing Stories project on the National Women’s Conference”: <https://sharingstories1977.uh.edu/>
- Emily Fitzgerald (University of Melbourne), “Accessing historical newspapers with *Chronicling America* and its API”
- David Goodman (University of Melbourne), “Databases and use of AI tools (examples include a Charles Coughlin and *Social Justice* database, parliamentary/Congressional records and handwritten documents)”.

17:45 – 18.45: ROUNDTABLE 1

The Second Trump Administration: Domestic, international and intergalactic policies

Chair: David Goodman

Brendon O’Connor, Kathryn Robison, Daniel Smith (US Studies Centre, University of Sydney)

Day 3: Friday 28 November 2025

9:30 – 11:00: PARALLEL SESSIONS

Panel 14: China and US – Hybrid

Chair: Kendall Johnson

- Pete Millwood (University of Melbourne), “Not “a Piece of Real Estate”: Democracy and Taiwanese Self-Determination in US-China Rapprochement”
- Shouyue Zhang (University of Melbourne), “Wong Kim Ark in El Paso: Investigating Chinese Immigrants Who Crossed the U.S.-Mexico Border, 1892-1953”
- Yunrou Liu (Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong), “Taking Advantage of the Dollar: A Case Study of Platitude Press in the Cold War Context, 1950–1954”

Panel 15: Cold War 2

Chair Nick Fischer

- Athanasios Antonopoulos (University of Melbourne), “Malcolm Fraser, Jimmy Carter and Australian foreign policy, 1977-1980”
- Niro Kandasamy (University of Sydney), “US Aid in the Indian Ocean: Responding to Crisis and Corruption in Ceylon during the 1960s”
- Daniel Fazio (University of South Australia), “American and Australian misconceptions of the ANZUS alliance, 1951 to the present”

Panel 16: Protest

Chair: Zim Nwokora

- Clayton R. Koppes & David “Jax” Kelly (Oberlin College & Aging and HIV Institute), “The Sap of the Body Politic’: HIV/AIDS and the Travail of American Democracy”
- Timothy J. Minchin (La Trobe University), “People Have the Right to Be Mad: Wildcat Strikes and Labor Relations in the Post-World War II U.S. Auto Industry”
- Nick Sharman (University of Melbourne), “Covering the conspiracy the *New York Times*’ coverage of the Dr Spock conspiracy trial”

Panel 17: Women Writing

Chair: Rebecca Weeks

- Felicity Hodgson (University of Melbourne), “Americans Interned’: *The Open City* by Shelley Mydans”
- Tamara Dima Imboden (University of Basel), “Avoiding My Mother’s Kitchen’: Cultural Authenticity as Medium in Yaa Gyasi’s *Transcendent Kingdom*”

11:30 – 12:45: KEYNOTE 3

Professor Kendall Johnson, University of Hong Kong: "Expanding the Global History of the US Declaration of Independence (1776-2026): Imperial Declarations of Free Trade Interdependence during the Opium Wars"

Chair: Michael McDonnell

14:15 – 15:45: PARALLEL SESSIONS

Roundtable 2: Black Sonic Resistance and Liberation: The Democratic Legacies of Black Diasporic Music

Chair: Clare Corbould

Wesley Watkins, Michelle R. Scott, Jason Glenn (University of Sydney; University of Maryland, Baltimore County; University of Kansas Medical Center)

Panel 18: Law and History in the Americas – Joint Session with ANZLHS (Australia and New Zealand Law and History Society) conference

Chair: David Ash

- Adriane Sanctis de Brito (Harvard University): “Circuits of Currency and Control: Corporations, Foreign Debt, and International Law in Latin America”
- Jiahao Liu (University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences), “The U.S. Judiciary’s Impact on Democratic Backsliding: A Critical Constitutional History Perspective” (submitted to ANZASA)
- Jessica Lake (University of Melbourne), “Sexual Virtue Capitalism: Professional men, defamation and democracy in the late nineteenth century US”

Panel 19: Intervention and Isolation – Hybrid

Chair: David Goodman

- Mia Martin Hobbs (Deakin University) “Reading institutional oral histories as artefacts of ideology: Exploring the failures of ‘spreading democracy’ in the United States Institute of Peace ‘Oral History Iraq Experience’”
- Mariia Kravchenko (Fulbright office, Kyiv), “Persuading America: Intellectual Arguments Against Isolationism Before Pearl Harbor”

Panel 20: Writing and Researching History

Chair: Paul Taillon

- Robin K. Lowry (University of New England), “Journey to Arkansas: Researching and Writing Bill Clinton”
- Harry Melkonian (The University of Sydney) “Avoiding Error in Modern History”

16:15 – 17:15: ROUNDTABLE 3

US Democracy as seen from Ukraine – Hybrid

Chair: David Goodman

Facilitators: Professor Mark Edele and Dr. Iryna Skubii (University of Melbourne) From Ukraine: Larysa Mytsyk, Svitlana Pyk, Mariia Kravchenko, Timur Bronnikov, Alisa Kyrychenko (Mykola Gogol State University of Nizhyn, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Fulbright Ukraine & Institute of International Education Kyiv, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Oles Honchar Dnipro National University)

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