

The Friday Forum

Via Teams

3.30pm–5.00pm AEST, 28 April 2023

Voice. Treaty. Truth. A First Nations Voice to Parliament

The Albanese government's upcoming referendum proposal for an indigenous Voice to Parliament is the first in a sequence of reforms proposed by the 2017 Referendum Council's Uluru Statement from the Heart. It calls for a First Nations Voice enshrined in Australia's Constitution to be followed by a Makarrata Commission to supervise the process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history. How new or radical is the proposed sequence of Voice—Treaty—Truth? What does it mean for the contemporary politics and policy surrounding the Voice proposal and its likely outcome? Our panel will consider these questions in light of indigenous and settler colonial history, constitutional law, land rights and the ongoing reconciliation process.



Guest Chair:
[Bridget Cama](#) (UNSW)

<https://ulurustatement.org/take-action/supporter-kit/>

Speakers:
[Eddie Synot](#) (Griffith University)
[Kate Fullagar](#) (ACU)
[Amanda Nettelbeck](#) (ACU)
[Heidi Norman](#) (UTS)

(Bios below).

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Biographies

Bridget Cama is a Wiradjuri First Nations and Pasifika Fijian woman. She has worked with the Uluru Dialogue under Professor Megan Davis since 2019, providing research and legal support. Bridget is an associate of the Indigenous Law Centre at UNSW and Co-Chair of the Uluru Youth Dialogue, a national platform for First Nations youth voices in the Uluru movement and in First Nations affairs more broadly. <https://ulurustatement.org/about-us/our-people/bridget-cama/>

Kate Fullagar is professor of history at the Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences, Australian Catholic University. She is also co-editor of the Australian Historical Association's journal, *History Australia*. Her last book was *The Warrior, the Voyager, and the Artist: Three Lives in an Age of Empire* (New Haven, 2020). Her next book will be *Bennelong & Phillip: A History Unravelling* (Simon & Schuster, 2023).

<https://www.acu.edu.au/research-and-enterprise/our-research-institutes/institute-for-humanities-and-social-sciences/our-people/professor-kate-fullagar>

Amanda Nettelbeck is professor of history at the Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences, Australian Catholic University, and a Fellow of the Australian Academies of the Humanities and Social Sciences. Her latest books are *Indigenous Rights and Colonial Subjecthood* (Cambridge University Press, 2019) and *Aboriginal Protection and its Intermediaries in the Antipodean Colonies* (co-edited with Sam Furphy, Routledge 2020). Her edited book *A Cultural History of Violence in the Age of Empire* is forthcoming with Bloomsbury.

<https://www.acu.edu.au/research-and-enterprise/our-research-institutes/institute-for-humanities-and-social-sciences/our-people/amanda-nettelbeck>

Heidi Norman is professor of history at University of Technology Sydney. Her books include *"What Do We Want?": A Political History of Aboriginal Land Rights in New South Wales* (2015) and *Does the Media Fail Aboriginal Political Aspirations? 45 Years of News Media Reporting of Key Political Moments* (2019). A descendant of the Gomeroi people from north-western NSW, she convenes the Indigenous Land and Justice Research Group and is Associate Dean (Indigenous) in UTS's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Her most recent work includes an ARC Discovery-funded study of the social, economic and cultural benefits of Aboriginal land repossession in NSW. At the heart of her research, is her support for Aboriginal peoples' rightful place in the nation, especially within political institutions, in society and the economy as landholders.

<https://profiles.uts.edu.au/Heidi.Norman>

Eddie Synot is a Wamba Wamba First Nations public lawyer and researcher. Eddie has professional and academic experience in Indigenous affairs and public administration. Eddie has worked across both State and Commonwealth levels of government, including Indigenous affairs, environmental protection, and law enforcement, and has worked for the past decade in higher education and community development.

<https://www.edwardjsynot.com/>

Enquiries: ihss@acu.edu.au

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