



Call for Chapters on the Role of Arts and Creative Practice in Addressing Bigotry.

The Freilich Project for the Study of Bigotry invites contributions for an open access edited volume focused on the role of arts and creative practice in addressing bigotry.

We see bigotry manifest in the daily news in reaction to First Nations reconciliation and justice, in discussions about the recognition of LGBTQIA+ rights and attacks on the queer and trans communities, in attitudes towards domestic and family violence against women and responses to the #metoo movement, in violent attacks against Muslim and Asian Australians, and elsewhere. These and other forms of bigotry take place in spheres both private and public, from the home to the halls of governments. Universities are also a site where these issues intersect. While expressing awareness of - and even acting to inhibit-bigotry and discrimination - many universities continue to contend with the impacts of their own institutional biases (c.f. Casellas Connors & McCoy 2022; Jankowski 2022; Dobinson & Mercieca 2020; Miller et al. 2018).

Creativity and creative practice have been put forward as one possible means of combatting bigotry and increasing representation, for example, through arts activism or by increasing empathetic relations and understanding between people and communities (Groyecka-Bernard et al. 2021; Coombs 2014; Frostig 2011; Bell & Roberts 2010; Kaufman 2010). For those who are otherwise invisible, the act of artistic expression can be seen as innately political (Bessant & Watts 2017).

We invite the submission of abstracts for papers on the following topics and themes:

- Exploring frameworks and theories for relating creative and artistic activism to various concepts of the public humanities and/or to contested ideas about the actual or ideal purposes of universities.
- Reflecting on the experience of academics/practitioners of creative/arts activism projects, including challenges, surprises and areas of intellectual and emotional growth or development. 'Own voice' contributions from scholars/artists from minority communities and backgrounds speaking of their own experiences are particularly welcome and encouraged.
- Considering how 'success' is understood by the agents and participants in such projects and reflecting on processes designed to document the impacts of creative projects. This might include discussion of the efficacy of qualitative and/or quantitative measures of the impact, effects, or outcomes of creative activism projects on individual attitudes or broader social norms (especially those that reproduce bigoted and prejudiced attitudes towards particular social groups).
- Specific artistic projects, installations or creative experiments designed to increase empathy and connection, combat prejudice and hatred, give voice to specific communities, or shift an audience's assumptions about an 'othered' minority.
- Multimodal practices that blend both scholarly and/or pedagogical knowledge and arts practice to deconstruct colonialism, racism, sexism, and other discriminations.

Please send abstracts of proposed chapters to freilich.project@anu.edu.au by Monday 18 September 2023. We especially encourage ECR scholars and creative practitioners to consider participating in this collection.

Submissions should include: proposed title, 200 word abstract, and short author/s bio.

Editors:

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The Herbert and Valmae Freilich Project for the Study of Bigotry is a philanthropically funded, interdisciplinary research centre based at The Australian National University. The Project supports research into the causes, histories and effects of ethnic, cultural, religious, and sexual bigotry and animosity. It promotes public discussion on how such intolerance can be combatted, and how co-existence can be promoted through social, research and educational programs.

References

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