

# Conference: The Politics of Death Penalty Abolition in Australia and Beyond

Thursday 6 May 2021

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

### **Simone Abel**

Simone Abel is Capital Punishment Justice Project's Chief Executive Officer and an Affiliate of Eleos Justice, Monash University. She joined CPJP in 2020, having previously been a Director of Reprieve UK for seven years. Before this, Simone was the Executive Director of René Cassin, a London-based human rights organisation. Simone has also worked in the General Counsel team at a global human rights organisation's New York office, and as a commercial lawyer in the US and in the Sydney office of law firm Mallesons.

Simone has a Masters of Laws (with a focus on international law and human rights) from the University of NSW. She is a NSW licensed solicitor and has a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts from the University of NSW.

### **Mark Finnane**

Mark Finnane FAHA FASSA is Professor of History at Griffith University, where he has worked since 1984. He has published widely on the history of criminal justice, policing, punishment, and criminal law in both Australia and Ireland. His books include *Insanity and the Insane in Post-Famine Ireland* (1981, 2003), *Police and government:* (1994), *Punishment in Australian Society* (1997), *When Police unionise* (2002), *JV Barry: a life* (2007) and (co-authored with Heather Douglas) *Indigenous Crime and Settler Law: White Sovereignty after Empire* (2012). With the support of an ARC Laureate Fellowship (2013-18) he established the Prosecution Project, hosted at the Griffith Criminology Institute, a historical database of criminal prosecutions in Australian higher courts in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

### **Stephen Keim**

Stephen Keim is a barrister practising out of Higgins Chambers in Brisbane and Republic Chambers in Hobart. Stephen has been a barrister for 36 years and a legal practitioner for 43 years.

Stephen is Chair of the national anti-capital punishment body, Capital Punishment Justice Project and is patron of two Brisbane based anti-death penalty bodies, Australians Against Capital Punishment and the Julian Wagner Memorial Fund.

## **Sara Kowal**

Sara is Manager of Partnerships and Clinic for Eleos Justice, as well as Vice-President of the Capital Punishment Justice Project. She has practised exclusively in criminal law since 2003 and has extensive experience in defending complex prosecutions.

In 2018, Sara was appointed to establish the Anti-Death Penalty Clinic at Monash, the first stage of Eleos Justice. The Clinic has been extremely popular with students and has been enthusiastically embraced by our partners.

In November 2019, Sara joined the Executive of the Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN). She also sits on three country-specific working groups of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

## **Tim Lindsey**

Tim Lindsey AO FAHA FAIA is Malcolm Smith Professor of Asian Law, Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor and Director of the [Centre for Indonesian Law, Islam and Society](#) in the Melbourne Law School. His more than 100 publications include *Indonesia: Law and Society; Islam, Law and the State in Southeast Asia* (three volumes); *The Indonesian Constitution; Drugs Law and Practice in Southeast Asia; Religion, Law and Intolerance in Indonesia; Strangers Next Door: Indonesia and Australia in the Asian Century; Indonesian Law; and Crime and Punishment in Indonesia*. He is a founder and an executive editor of *The Australian Journal of Asian Law*.

## **Julian McMahon**

Julian McMahon AC SC is a barrister in Melbourne working in criminal law. He was President of Capital Punishment Justice Project from 2015 to 2020. In 2002, Julian was briefed on the matter of Van Tuong Nguyen, a young Australian arrested in Singapore carrying heroin from Vietnam to Australia. Van was executed in 2005. Since that case, in addition to being a local barrister, Julian has been working on death penalty cases and related issues. He has had death row clients in numerous countries, some executed, some not. He was part of the team who defended Australians Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran, executed in Indonesia on the 29th of April 2015.

In 2017, Julian was made a Companion of the Order of Australia. In 2016, he was awarded the Law Council of Australia's President's medal.

## **Mary Ellen Miller**

Mary Ellen Miller is a career public servant at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. She is currently in the role of Assistant Secretary, Human Rights Policy and Social Inclusion Branch, managing Australia's obligations under the UN Human Rights Council and other elements of international human rights policy; DFAT's commitments to disability-inclusive development, disability advocacy and our Indigenous diplomacy agenda as well as other social inclusion issues. Prior to her current role, Mary Ellen held the position of Australia's Ambassador to Denmark, Norway and Iceland. She has previously held a number of senior roles in DFAT and AusAID including Assistant Secretary NGOs and Volunteers Branch, managing the relationship with the NGO sector and the deployment of volunteers through the Australian Volunteers for International Development program; managing the Australia Awards program, the People & Planning branch, procurement and the strategy/portfolio planning areas of the aid program.

## **Andrew Novak**

Andrew Novak is a specialist in international and comparative law and teaches courses related to international criminal justice and human rights. He has a PhD in Law from Middlesex University and a Juris Doctor from Boston University. Most of his research has been on the death penalty and comparative constitutional law, especially in common law Africa. Currently, his research focuses on comparative executive clemency. He's most recently author of *Transnational Human Rights Litigation* (Springer: 2019) and, with Daniel Pascoe, editor of *Executive Clemency: Comparative and Empirical Perspectives* (Routledge: 2020). He is licensed to practice law in New York and Washington, DC.

## **Daniel Pascoe**

Born in Canberra, Australia, Daniel studied law and Asian studies at the Australian National University before working for short periods at the NSW-ACT Aboriginal Legal Service and the ACT Government Solicitor. In 2008 Daniel moved to the United Kingdom where he was Keith Murray Graduate Scholar at Lincoln College, Oxford, reading for an MPhil and a DPhil. Daniel joined City University of Hong Kong in January 2014 as an Assistant Professor, being promoted to Associate Professor in July 2020.

Daniel's research focuses on criminal law and punishment in comparative perspective, also extending to Southeast Asian law, Islamic Law, transitional justice and legal pedagogy. He is available for research collaborations, media commentary and PhD supervision in these areas.

## **Mai Sato**

Mai is the inaugural director of Eleos Justice and her academic focus is on the death penalty. She is a social scientist by training and has led and worked on projects on the death penalty in Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, India, Kenya, and Zimbabwe. Her monograph *The Death Penalty in Japan: Will the Public Tolerate Abolition?* (Springer, 2014), and her documentary film which captured a social experiment exploring what the death penalty meant to ordinary Japanese citizens, influenced the decision by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations to become an abolitionist organisation in 2016.

Mai's interest in the death penalty is not limited to scholarly understanding of punishment and the criminal justice system. After completing a European Commission funded project, Mai has created and currently co-runs an NGO CrimeInfo which promotes the abolition of the death penalty in Japan.

Mai has a PhD from King's College London. She relocated to Australia in February 2019 and joined the School of Regulation and Global Governance (RegNet) at the Australian National University. Prior to joining the ANU, she worked at the School of Law, University of Reading; the Centre for Criminology, the University of Oxford; and at the Institute for Criminal Policy Research (UK).

## **Tobias Smith**

Tobias Smith is a researcher, educator and advocate specializing in punishment and law in the U.S. and China. His most recent project, *The Contradictions of Chinese Capital Punishment*, is a study of death penalty reform in contemporary China. He is currently a China Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and a Visiting Scholar in the Department of Political Science at San Francisco State University. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley and a J.D. from Berkeley Law School.

## **Carolyn Strange**

Carolyn is professor of history at the Australian National University. She has published extensively on the history of capital crime, punishment, mercy and parole in nineteenth-and twentieth-century Canada, the U.S. and Australia. Her latest book is *The Death Penalty and Sex Murder in Canadian History* (University of Toronto Press, 2020).

## **Sue Trevaskes**

Susan Trevaskes is Professor of Chinese Studies at Griffith University and is Head of School (interim) in the School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science at Griffith. Her research has resulted in over 60 publications including the first books in English on criminal courts contemporary China (2007), policing serious crime in China (2010), and the death penalty reform in China (2012). She has published papers on Chinese justice in a number of journals including *The China Journal*, *The British Journal of Criminology*, *The China Quarterly*, and *Modern China*. Her latest co-edited volumes are *The Politics of Law and Stability in China* (2014), *Legal Reforms and Deprivation of Liberty in Contemporary China* (2016) *Justice: the China Experience* (2017) and *The Party and the Law in China: Ideology and Organisation* (2021).