

LEGAL INTERSECTIONS RESEARCH CENTRE (LIRC) **CONNECT: SCHOOL OF LAW**

You are invited to a Legal Intersections Research Centre Symposium:

Troubling Waters: Speaking (of) Forbidden (Legal) Subjects. Symposium in Honour of Penny Pether

Date: Friday 18 July 2014

Time: 9am – 5pm

Location: 67.202 – Moot Court

RSVP: [Online](#)

This symposium brings together colleagues and friends to honour the work and life of Prof Penny Pether (1958-2013). Penny was most recently a Professor of Law at Villanova University in Pennsylvania and a Visiting Professorial Fellow at the University of Wollongong, having previously been a Professor of Law and Director of Legal Rhetoric at American University and, in her earlier career, a lecturer at both the University of Wollongong and the University of Sydney. She was a leading international interdisciplinary scholar across a number of areas, including: law and literature; constitutional and criminal law; appellate court reform and accountability; race, gender, sexuality and law; indefinite detention; culinary jurisprudence; psychoanalysis and law; and colonialism and law. She convened the first Law and Literature conference in Australia, was a major contributor to the foundation of law and humanities studies in Australia and in the US, and co-founded the journals *Law Text Culture* in Australia and *Law and Literature* in the US. She was most recently engaged in critical interdisciplinary work on culinary jurisprudence and indefinite detention.



Prof Penny Pether

Penny was a critically engaged scholar whose work was consistently underpinned by a drive for transformative visions of a better society. In a recent unpublished manuscript Penny wrote about US cookbook writer Edna Lewis a passage that equally could be applied to Penny's own life:

[she] created with love, in food and in her repeated construction of elective families that crossed lines of race, nation, sex, class, and sexual orientation, the embodiment of a nation at last promising the achievement of redemption from its defective origins.

Contributing to the Inside/Out Program in the US, teaching criminal law classes to law students and inmates in prisons, was also very important to Penny.

Papers and Presenters

Opening Keynote: “Critical and Feminist Legacies: unmaking law to make better futures. An Introduction to a Celebration of Penny's Life and Work”, Terry Threadgold, Visiting Professorial Fellow, Legal Intersections Research Centre, University of Wollongong, Professor of Communication and Cultural Studies, PVC Staff and Diversity, Cardiff University (2008-2013)

“Sinister Metaphors”, Dr Maria Giannacopoulos, Lecturer in Socio-Legal Studies, Flinders Law School, Flinders University, Adelaide

“Legitimizing White Sovereignty: *Terra nullius*, the Rule of Law and Self-Preserving Force in the Northern Territory Intervention”, Ms Jillian Kramer, PhD candidate, Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies, Macquarie University, Sydney

“Brokeback’s Bareback: Rum, Sodomy and the Lash in (Queer?) Legal Fictions”, Dean and Professor William MacNeil, Griffith Law School, Griffith University, Queensland

“Literising Illegal Subjects: breaching forbidden terrain”, Aunty Barbara Nicholson, Wadi Wadi Elder and Honorary Senior Fellow, School of Law, University of Wollongong

“Colonial Law as ‘a Species of Excess of Its Own Authority’: Aboriginal Social Justice as Praxis, Deaths in Custody and Asylum Seekers in the Colonial Present”, Professor Joseph Pugliese, Research Director, Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies, Macquarie University, Sydney

“Rape trials, medical texts and the threat of female speech”, Dr Julia Quilter, Senior Lecturer, School of Law, University of Wollongong

“Haunting ‘Constitutional Epics’: LGBT Asylum Seekers”, Professor Nan Seuffert, Director of the Legal Intersections Research Centre, School of Law, University of Wollongong

Closing Comment: Professor David Caudill, Arthur M. Goldberg Family Chair, School of Law, Villanova University, Philadelphia, USA

