This talk provides a general introduction to the latest book by Professor Desmond Manderson, Kangaroo Courts and the Rule of Law, which ties together DH Lawrence in Australia, the relationship of modernity and modernism, and the rule of law. Between those who care about the rule of law and those who are interested in contemporary legal theory, there has been a dialogue of the deaf, which cannot continue. Starting from the position that contemporary critiques of linguistic meaning and legal certainty are too important to be dismissed, Desmond Manderson takes up the political and intellectual challenge they pose. Can the rule of law be re-configured in light of the critical turn of the past century, rather than being steadfastly opposed to it? Pursuing a reflection upon the relationship between law and the humanities, the book stages an encounter between Derrida and Bakhtin, and D.H. Lawrence’s strange and misunderstood novel Kangaroo (1923). At a critical juncture in our intellectual history – the modernist movement at the end of the First World War – and struggling with the same problems we are puzzling over today, Lawrence articulated complex ideas about the nature of justice and the nature of literature. With this framework in mind Kangaroo Courts outlines a ‘post-positivist’ conception of the rule of law – in which justice is imperfectly possible, rather than perfectly impossible. This conception has something to do with Thirroul, and with the ocean waves that lap on its shore.

With Professor Nan Seuffert, Director, Legal Intersections Research Centre and Dr Luis Gómez Romero, Law and Popular Cultures Theme, Legal Intersections Research Centre

And presenting

Responding to Place: Culture & Colonialism - Pictures and music about D H Lawrence and Thirroul (Dharawhal)

By Richard Mohr, Visiting Professorial Fellow, Legal Intersections Research Centre and Darien Midwinter, Hal Pratt, Roy ‘Dootch’ Kennedy, Celeste Couke

With contributions by members of the Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts about DH Lawrence and his time in Thirroul.
Professor Desmond Manderson is an international leader in interdisciplinary scholarship in law and the humanities. He is the author of several books including *From Mr Sin to Mr Big* (1993); *Songs Without Music: Aesthetic dimensions of law and justice* (2000); *Proximity, Levinas, and the Soul of Law* (2006); and *Kangaroo Courts and the Rule of Law—The legacy of modernism* (2012). His work has led to essays, books, and lectures around the world in the fields of English literature, philosophy, ethics, history, cultural studies, music, human geography, and anthropology, as well as in law and legal theory. Throughout this work Manderson has articulated a vision in which law’s connection to these humanist disciplines is critical to its functioning, its justice, and its social relevance. After ten years at McGill University in Montreal, where he held the Canada Research Chair in Law and Discourse, and was founding Director of the Institute for the Public Life of Arts and Ideas, he returned to Australia to take up a Future Fellowship in the colleges of law and the humanities at ANU.