**DAY 1**

**Friday 16 October 2015**

**SURVEILLANCE FACTS AND FICTIONS**

5:00-6:30pm
Edward Snowden confirmed facts that had previously been considered the stuff of fiction. Nicky Hager, Frank Moorhouse, Felicity Ruby and Bernard Keane will form the opening panel for this year’s Festival of Democracy and will discuss the fate of democracy in a world of surveillance states and industries. What facts and fictions about national security, secrecy and corporate power are driving the public debate about surveillance? Is the “balance” between national security and democratic rights and freedoms a fact or a fiction?

6:30-8:00pm
Simon Tormey and special guest Francisco Jurado Gilabert will look at the state of play between democratic initiatives and the political mainstream in today’s Spain, shaped by one of the most extraordinary popular uprisings in the history of any advanced democratic society on 15 May 2011. Will we see a Spanish “Syriza” emerge victorious? Or has the rage now subsided to the point where “normal” politics is restored?

8:00-9:00pm
Venue
Nicholson Museum
University of Sydney
Sydney Democracy Network welcomes you to join all speakers and guests for the opening night reception of the 2015 Festival of Democracy in the Quadrangle at the University of Sydney.


**DAY 2**

**Saturday 17 October 2015**

**HETEROTOPIA: HOLDING A MIRROR TO INDIFFERENCE**

9:00-10:15am
Jonathan Bogais, Mohammed Anwar and Devorah Wainer will speak on the Rohingya refugees, whose present fate many people in Australia greet with indifference. This session aims to reflect on the roots of this indifference. It holds up a mirror to ourselves, just as Michel Foucault recommended when he described the concept of heterotopia. A utopia, he pointed out, is a placeless place that gives us visibility. A heterotopia, by contrast, functions to disrupt our sense of place, to challenge our beliefs and values, to remind us that being oblivious to the suffering of others is neither normal nor timeless.

**NO NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP!**

10:45-11:45am
Helen Caldicott looks at the medical implications of converting South Australia into the world’s radioactive waste dump. The terms of reference for the Royal Commission into South Australia’s nuclear industry do not address health impacts for nuclear workers of the general public, despite the legacy health issues arising from nuclear weapons testing and uranium mining in the state. What some have described as a Trojan Horse of the Commission is the search for a place to dump nuclear waste.

www.sydneydemocracynetwork.org

**EVENTS VENUE**
General Lecture Theatre
Quadrangle Building A14
University of Sydney

Contact: sdn@sydney.edu.au
THE PROFESSIONALS

11:45am-12:45pm
Stephen Mills will discuss “campaigning” beyond the electoral context. Campaigning is emerging as perhaps the dominant form of political activity in many contexts, domestic and international, formal and informal. Campaigning describes both a managerial activity for the professionals and an important form of expression and participation by activists and everyday citizens. The apparent tensions between these activities deserves critical attention.

RECOGNITION AND BEYOND

1:45-2:45pm
Jakelin Troy and George Newhouse
Why don’t all Australians have a right to equal protection under the law, as citizens do in the US? Where is our right to free expression and the prohibition against cruel and inhumane punishment? Where are the limits of our executive to imprison us? And the most ugly and shameful question; how is it that our constitution actively permits racist laws?


MACHIAVELLI TODAY

2:45-3:00pm
James Der Derian will reflect on why we are still reading The Prince five centuries after Niccolo Machiavelli dedicated it to Lorenzo de’Medici. What does this handbook for rulers written by an unemployed civil servant have to tell us about democratic values and effective leadership today?

CHINA AS A POLAR GREAT POWER

3:30-4:30pm
Anne-Marie Brady will introduce her forthcoming book China as a Polar Great Power at the Festival of Democracy. China is now a member of a unique club of nations, the polar states: those few countries who are powerful at the Arctic and the Antarctic. Polar states are the global giants, strong in military, scientific, and economic power. China has global interests and is well on the way to becoming a global great power. In order to succeed in this evolution it must be dominant in the new geopolitical Heartland: the Polar Regions.

DESPAIR AND DEFiance

5:00-6:30pm
Senator Scott Ludlam noted that many of the people working for justice are tired of fighting against poorly conceived megaproposals, toxic developments and wars, one after another. His work in the Senate to support economic and social justice is often in defiance of a Government that has given up, however, it is also inspired by the tireless efforts of people who band together and fight back, who teach us all what compassionate resistance and defiance to callous government policy actually looks like. Scott Ludlam will be joined by Julian Assange, Editor-in-Chief of WikiLeaks on his 1216th day inside the Ecuadorian Embassy in London and soon after the 9th anniversary of the founding of WikiLeaks. He will discuss the definitive new book on the State Department cables, The WikiLeaks Files: The World According to US Empire.