



The Accord and its antinomies: from consensus to anti-politics?

Thursday 8 August 1pm – 2pm

Speaker

Dr Elizabeth Humphrys

Social and Political Sciences
University of Technology Sydney

Location

Larry Saha Room

Haydon-Allen Building #22, Room 2175,
University Avenue, ANU

This lecture is free and open to the
public

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The Prices and Incomes Accord between the ALP and the ACTU was central to economic restructuring in the Hawke-Keating era, and is generally assumed to have been consensual and in the national interest. Yet, this was also the period vanguard neoliberalism in Australia — a project usually associated with the New Right. In my recent work I use Gramsci's notion of the integral state to explore how trade unions were incorporated into neoliberalism, and how its components were detrimental

to labour organisation. I also consider how this framework can help us understand the recent breakdown in political rule in both Australia and other advanced capitalist countries.

Elizabeth Humphrys is as a political economist and political sociologist at the University of Technology Sydney. Her latest research projects are on: neoliberalism and anti-politics; heat stress, climate change and work; and, the deaths of 35 workers when the West Gate Bridge collapsed in 1970. Her book [*How Labour Built Neoliberalism*](#) was released in 2019 with Brill's Studies in Critical Social Sciences series ([Paperback: Haymarket Oct 2019](#)).

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