

Celebrating Jane Austen's Life, Writing, and Legacy

Program

17 NOVEMBER | ROSS LECTURE THEATRE, PHYSICS BUILDING

9:30 AM Talk: The Austen Collection: Jane Austen and her Times.

UWA Associate Professor Ned Curthoys (English and Literary Studies) will present a public lecture on Jane Austen and her times, exploring the University of Western Australia's Library Special Collections, and its rare and remarkable original editions of Jane Austen.

10:30 AM Break

Attendees are welcome to view UWA Library's display of works by Jane Austen, including the first editions of *Emma* and *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* from the Special Collections. Head to Reid Library Level 1.

The University Club Café is providing a special offer during the break for attendees who want to purchase a Devonshire Tea for discounted rate of \$13.50. Booking in advance is essential.

11:30 AM Panel Discussion: Jane Austen and her Legacy: adapting Austen.

A panel discussion moderated by Dr Jessica Murray, with speakers Associate Professor Ned Curthoys and Emerita Professor Imelda Whelehan (School of Humanities, UWA) will explore questions about Austen's fiction as well as her enduring influence today. What makes a successful Jane Austen adaptation and what it is about her writing that invites such diverse re-imaginings?

Program Details

The Austen Collection: Jane Austen and her Times. Associate Professor Ned Curthoys

This presentation will explore the University of Western Australia's Library Special Collections, and its rare and remarkable original editions of Jane Austen. These now rare first printings, soon to be exhibited by UWA Library in commemoration of Austen's birth, remind us that although she is a globally beloved author today, Jane Austen originally published her novels anonymously. We will discuss the famous dedication to the Prince Regent in *Emma* and the fascinating story of Jane Austen's humour and defiance that lies behind it. Other noteworthy items include the combined four volume posthumous publication of *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* with its note on the author that revealed Austen's identity, and an edition of the 1869 memoir of Jane Austen by her nephew James Edward Austen Leigh that influenced a long-standing perception of Austen as a modest and domestically focused novelist of manners. Whether you're a devoted 'Janeite', a lover of rare books, or simply curious about the treasures hidden in UWA's Special Collections, we look forward to seeing you there!

Jane Austen and her Legacy: adapting Austen. A panel discussion moderated by Dr Jessica Murray, with speakers Associate Professor Ned Curthoys and Emerita Professor Imelda Whelehan (School of Humanities, UWA)

Despite her arch remark on "the little bit (two Inches wide) of Ivory, on which I work with so fine a Brush, as produces little effect after much labour", Jane Austen's legacy is towering. This panel discussion will explore questions about Austen's fiction as well as her enduring influence today. What matters in her novels, and why are they so often adapted and transformed into films, television shows, parodies, and pastiches? We will ask what makes a successful Jane Austen adaptation and what it is about her writing that invites such diverse re-imaginings.

Speaker Bios

Ned Curthoys is an Associate Professor in English and Literary Studies at the University of Western Australia. He is the author of *The Bildungsroman in a Genocidal Age* (Bloomsbury 2024) and has a long standing interest in Jane Austen as a theorist of the novel and an ethically motivated writer. A lecture he gave at UWA in 2017 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of her passing can be found here: <https://echo360.org.au/media/74504cf2-23c1-46cd-8e53-0988985525a9/public>.

Dr Jessica Murray is a Lecturer in English and Literary Studies, and Gender Studies, at the University of Western Australia. She researches the literature and culture of nineteenth-century England, with a particular focus on the idea of conscience. At UWA, Jessica teaches the course *Jane Austen and Her Legacy*.

Imelda Whelehan is Professor Emerita at UWA and has written widely on literature, film, feminism and adaptation. She was the co-founder of the OUP journal *Adaptation* and the UK based Association of Adaptation Studies.

What's on Display

From November, UWA Library is holding an exhibition of works by Jane Austen and some of her contemporary female authors. The display includes:

- The first edition of *Emma* published in three volumes in 1816.
- The first edition of *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* in four volumes published posthumously in 1818.
- Modern editions of Austen's books.
- Jane's memoirs published by her nephew James Edward Austen-Leigh in a 1926 edition.
- Early editions of Austen contemporaries such as Anne Radcliffe, Fanny Burney and Hannah More.
- Facsimiles of sketches by John Constable picturing the fashion of the day.

Head to Reid Library Level 1 to view the display.

How to Redeem Uni Club Offer

The University Club Café, located close by, is offering a delicious Devonshire Tea for just \$13.50 per person and includes a freshly baked scone, strawberry jam, whipped cream with a tea or coffee. Bookings are essential and can be made by calling the University Club Café direct on 6488 4805 or email to info@universityclub.uwa.edu.au

Getting Here

For information on getting to campus see:
<https://www.uwa.edu.au/about/campus-services/transport-and-parking>

Register for Event

Please register to attend:
<https://events.humanitix.com/jane-austen-250th-at-uwa>

UWA acknowledges that its campus is situated on Noongar land, and that Noongar people remain the spiritual and cultural custodians of their land, and continue to practise their values, languages, beliefs and knowledge.