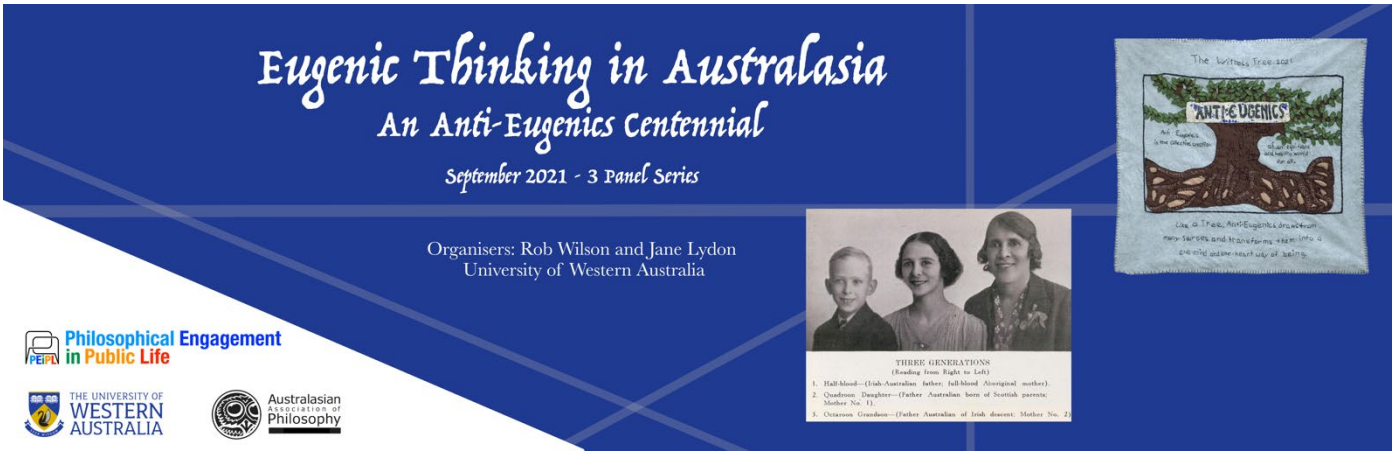

Eugenic Thinking in Australasia
3rd, 10th, 14th September 2021

Recordings from a series of two-hour, public panels exploring eugenic thinking in Australasia, past and present.

Eugenics is often thought of as a social movement ending around 1945 with the end of the Second World War. Whether or not one accepts this view of eugenics, eugenic thinking has a reach into contemporary thinking and public policy. Eugenic thinking is the confluence of a goal with a way of achieving that goal. The goal is intergenerational human improvement, increasing the balance of desirable over undesirable traits in human populations across generations. The means is the use of science, technology, and social policy in identifying such traits and in promoting improved future generations.

Despite the mantra of human improvement, eugenics often normalised the dehumanization and disposability of those with less desirable traits: those deemed "unfit". Practices, institutions, and policies such as segregation, marriage restriction laws, compulsory sterilisation, immigration restriction laws, are part of the recognised eugenic past in many countries. Child removal practices, residential schools, and some uses of reproductive technologies both to select embryos with desired traits and to terminate fetuses with undesirable traits have all been claimed to manifest eugenic thinking.

Panel 1 **Eugenics and Indigenous Australasia**
Panelists: Joanne Faulkner Lynette Russell, Peter Read, chaired by Jane Lydon
https://youtu.be/yoDDyouKSSQ

Panel 2 **Immigration, Borders, Children, Citizens**
Panelists: Luara Ferracioli, , Matt Lister, Tim Calabria, chaired by Ruth Balint
https://youtu.be/NLMMxUnKBug

Panel 3 **Eugenics, Technologies, and Disposable People**
Panelists: Rob Wilson, Jane Carey, Rob Sparrow, chaired by Ruth Wallace.
https://youtu.be/QbE3TE9uZuM

PEiPL Youtube Channel: Philosophical Engagement www.peipl.net

Further Details:

https://www.peipl.net/2021/07/28/eugenic-thinking-in-australia-an-anti-eugenics-centennial

Organised by Jane Lydon and Rob Wilson. Proudly sponsored by PEiPL, the Australasian Association of Philosophy, and the University of Western Australia in coordination with From Small Beginnings. A contribution to Phase 1 of a global anti-eugenics project commemorating the centenary of the Second International Congress on Eugenics, Dismantling Eugenics: A Convening.