

MEDIA RELEASE

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sydneyfestival.org.au



UTS Big Thinking Forums at Sydney Festival 2018



The partnership between UTS and Sydney Festival is back in January 2018 with an assortment of academics, artists and advisors creating a series of forums surrounding culture and expression. Sydney Festival 2018 features the UTS Big Thinking Forums, focusing on topics of technology's place in the modern world, environmental sustainability and shifts in cultural appreciation within Australia. The Great Hall at UTS is home to these three discussions, each moderated by **Prof. Larissa Behrendt**, throughout the month of January 2018.

Analogue Body in A Digital World delves into how humans are exploring the world through virtual reality and augmented reality, questioning if the shift towards digital existence means a better understanding of our world or if it's just escapism. The panel offers insight from **Wesley Enoch** (Sydney Festival Director), **Passiona Cottee** (UTS), and **Ms Jonnie Standish** (*Ghost Train*). *Analogue Body in A Digital World* asks questions about the connection between humans and technology. The forum also questions what regulation and enforcement is required with the rise of artificial intelligence.

Consuming the World derives from other features of Sydney Festival 2018. The Festival's art installations, *Jurassic Plastic* by **Hiroshi Fuji** and *Four Thousand Fish* by **Emily McDaniel**, raise questions about humankind's connection to the environment, challenging thought about sustainability in the lives we each lead. **Jenni Dowes** (UTS), **Hiroshi Fuji** (*Jurassic Plastic*), **Kathryn Hunyor** (ArtsPeople), and **Emily McDaniel** (*Four Thousand Fish*) join *Consuming the World* in a discussion about the relationship between humankind and the environment. It explores how Aboriginal cultures were able to survive for 65,000 years by appreciating the concepts of sustainability, reciprocity and respect.

Competing Sovereignties, is another panel presented by Sydney Festival which is led by leading Aboriginal thinkers **Prof. Michael McDaniel** (UTS), **Prof Mark McMillan** (RMIT), and **Patricia Turner AO** (NACCHO), who are discussing what the aspiration to Aboriginal sovereignty means in 2018. This discussion speaks to on-going issues of recognition, treaty and constitutional reform which comes following The Uluru Statement from the Heart, drafted by Indigenous Australians that set an ambitious agenda for our country. Thoughts on whether a treaty will unite or divide Australia and what all of this means for the Australian Constitution and the future of our country is a part of the talks dialogue. This forum will be recorded and broadcasted on ABC radio on January 26th.

All three Big Thinking Forums are presented by Sydney Festival and UTS.

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More information on the Sydney Festival Website: <https://www.sydneyfestival.org.au>

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