

AUSTRALIA / IDEAS



THE FESTIVAL OF QUESTIONS

The Festival of Questions is a series of thoughtful, quick-witted and exhilarating discussions that will change how you see the world.

In four sessions across one day, the **Wheeler Centre** brings together some of the sharpest and funniest thinkers of today. They'll wrestle with the big questions facing Australia, and the world. Think culture, class and climate; politics and punditry; philosophy and feminism.

With: Lauren Duca, Geoffrey Robertson, Helen Razer, Jamila Rizvi, Krissy Kneen, Gareth Evans, Amy McQuire, George Megalogenis, Jordan Raskopoulos, Rebecca Huntley, Julian Burnside, Tim Wilson, Shen Narayanasamy, Shireen Morris, Deborah Frances-White, Geraldine Doogue, Anna Krien and Damon Young.

12.00pm – 1.30pm *What's the big idea? Questions for the Nation* is the quintessential Wheeler Centre Gala storytelling event, asking the big questions facing Australia. How can we improve our political leadership? What does gender equality in the workplace look like? What will become of a Treaty with Indigenous Australians? These questions and so many more, discussed with rigour and flair.

2.30pm – 4.00pm *Philosophical Fight Club* kicks off with a 30-minute lecture by Canadian-American feminist media critic, **Anita Sarkeesian**, followed by a panel discussion led by human rights barrister, academic, author and broadcaster, **Geoffrey Robertson**. The panel will examine potent questions of modern life: should I have children in an over-populated planet?

5.00pm – 6.30pm *What is right? What is left?* A landmark debate on how we understand politics: and, when traditional ideas of right and left-wing are changing - what are the great moral responsibilities of our time?

7.30pm – 9.00pm *What the hell? The Handmaid's Tale in 2017* Comedian and feminist **Deborah Frances-White** (*The Guilty Feminist*) leads an all-star panel to consider Margaret Atwood's groundbreaking dystopian text, and Hulu's highly-acclaimed screen adaptation. Does it reflect current issues for women in the modern world?

The Festival of Questions is one whole day of querying, questioning, wondering and asking why. There will be storytelling, comedy, debate, discussion and ... possible disarray. We'll open our minds and mind the whole world's business.

Melbourne Town Hall

Sun 15 Oct

12.00pm – 9.00pm

Full day passes \$60

Single sessions \$20

wheelercentre.com

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Presented in association with the Wheeler Centre

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