

ANU LAW 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE:  
PUBLIC LAW AND INEQUALITY  
8-9 DECEMBER 2020, CANBERRA

To mark the 60th anniversary of the Australian National University (ANU) College of Law and the 30th anniversary of the ANU Law Centre for International and Public Law (CIPL), ANU Law will host a major conference in Canberra, 8-9 December 2020.

As a precursor to the conference, on 7 December 2020, Professor Philip Alston - NYU Law, United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, and the inaugural Director of CIPL – will deliver the annual public Geoffrey Sawer Lecture.

**Conference Theme: Public Law and Inequality**

Growing inequality is a defining challenge of our times, domestically and globally. Yet the role of inequality in social, political and economic life is often muted (sometimes, invisible) in much public law scholarship. Notably, public law's foundational concepts were forged in a social world where the inevitability of inequality was often taken for granted. The stuttering processes of democratization have rendered that assumption untenable.

Although public law scholarship has considered how the field can contribute to political equality, there has been less focus, particularly in recent decades, on the relationship between public law and material equality. The question of whether equality is achievable in a world of yawning disparities in wealth can no longer be brushed aside.

How do public law concepts, institutions and norms frame or contribute to political and material inequality? How can public law and public law scholarship contribute to clear thinking about the set of problems associated with pervasive inequality in contemporary society?

**Keynote speakers**

Listed in alphabetical order

[Peter Cane](#)

University of Cambridge

[Rosalind Dixon](#)

University of New South Wales

[Tarunabh Khaitan](#)

University of Oxford  
University of Melbourne

[Jeff King](#)

University College London

[Samuel Moyn](#)

Yale University

[Amelia Simpson](#)

Australian National University

[Adrienne Stone](#)

University of Melbourne

[Julie Suk](#)

City University of New York

[Asmi Wood](#)

Australian National University

**Geoffrey Sawer lecture**

[Philip Alston](#)

New York University

### Call for abstracts

We invite papers addressing these and similar themes along a variety of dimensions (e.g. gender), from a number of perspectives (e.g. the experience of Indigenous Peoples) and across multiple disciplines.

The conference will be of broad interest to constitutional and administrative law scholars, including those whose work focuses on history and theory of public law or its broader role in social, political, economic and cultural life.

We encourage abstracts from early career researchers. Conference speakers receive a 20% discount on their conference registration fee.

### Submitting an abstract

Abstract submissions for this event are through an online portal.

Please follow the instructions below to submit an abstract.

- > Go to the website: [law.anu.edu.au/2020-anu-public-law-conference-abstract-submission](http://law.anu.edu.au/2020-anu-public-law-conference-abstract-submission)
- > Fill out the online form (2 pages) and click submit. You will have the opportunity to review before submitting it. Please ensure you scroll to the bottom of the review page and click the 'SUBMIT' button.
- > You will receive a confirmation email advising that your submission was successful.

### Requirements

The following details are required as part of the submission process.

- > Your abstract submission (max 400 words) and proposed presentation title.
- > Names and organisations of any co-authors.
- > Name, organisation, and bio (max 250 words) of the presenting author.

### Contact Details

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Project Manager – 60 Years

ANU College of Law

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### Key dates

2 DECEMBER 2019

Online portal opens for abstract submissions

FEBRUARY 2020

Conference website launch

2 MARCH 2020

Online portal closes for abstract submissions

6 APRIL 2020

Outcomes of abstract submissions will be advised

4 MAY 2020

Program launched and conference registrations open

9 NOVEMBER 2020

Papers due – to be made available to registered delegates

7 DECEMBER 2020

Precursor event – Annual [Geoffrey Sawer Lecture](#)

8-9 DECEMBER 2020

Conference