

MEDIA RELEASE
Thursday 18 June 2015



What do women want from a female prime minister?

This Friday at 1.30pm, leading academics, journalists and writers will come together to discuss Australia's prime ministers from Deakin to Gillard at this year's Australian Prime Ministers Centre (APMC) Seminar at Old Parliament House.

Exploring the theme '*Notes to self for our next female Prime Minister*', journalist Karen Middleton will share her experiences reporting on Julia Gillard; Gillard's speechwriter Michael Cooney will discuss his book 'The Gillard Project'; and Professor David Denmark, one of this year's APMC Fellows, will analyse voter assessments of Gillard, asking 'What did women want?'

Ms Toni Dam, Manager of the Australian Prime Ministers Centre at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House says this is an opportunity to look forward as well as back in time,

"This public seminar which booked out early, tackles a range of issues that are on people's minds, whether it is coming to grips with the experience of Australia's first woman prime minister or considering how we will navigate our current security environment."

Presented by the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, the APMC Seminar features literary projects including 'John Curtin's life with poetry' by his great grandson Dr Toby Davidson, the crossing of the paths of prime ministers, artists and granny killers by Canberra-based writer Kaaron Warren, presentations about prime ministers and the Australian Intelligence Community and more.

The seminar will also include the launch of *Prime ministers on prime ministers*. This display will be open to the public in the heritage-listed Prime Minister's Suite from 19 June, and features interviews by George Megalogenis of former prime ministers commenting on each other's legacies.

In addition to the museum's onsite exhibitions and events relating to prime ministers, the next 12 months will see an increased focus towards online audiences for the APMC.

"We have embarked on a major digital initiative, aiming to change people's experiences of Australian prime ministers," says Ms Daryl Karp, Director of the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, "This brand new, nationally significant online resource is expected to launch in the first half of 2016. It will allow visitors to access places, people, objects and ideas connected with prime ministers in a way that has not been possible before."

A national icon, a place of great beauty, magnificent design and historical significance, Old Parliament House is home to the Museum of Australian Democracy. Celebrate the spirit of Australian Democracy and the power of your voice within it. For more information visit www.moadoph.gov.au. **Please note the seminar is fully booked.**

Please contact: Kate Connor, (02) 6270 8118, 0451 970 761 or kate.connor@moadoph.gov.au

Notes to editor:

- **Media call: 12.30 – 1.15pm, Friday 19 June 2015**

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- Seminar speakers and topics below.
 - Interviews available with APMC Fellows and most other speakers by arrangement.
- Photographers welcome. Opening session of the seminar may be filmed.
- APMC Seminar 2015 is a ticketed event open to the general public. **The event is fully booked.**

Theme	Speaker	Topic
1.30pm Welcome	Daryl Karp Director, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House	<i>Launch of Prime ministers on prime ministers</i>
	George Megalogenis Author and journalist	<i>Catching prime ministers being good</i>
2.15pm Mind and matter: Prime Ministers Alfred Deakin and John Curtin	Dr Mark Hearn APMC Fellow, Lecturer, Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations, Macquarie University	<i>The Citizen and the Nation: Alfred Deakin's speeches in the first decade after Federation</i>
	Associate Professor Fred Cahir APMC Fellow, Senior Lecturer, Aboriginal Studies Program Coordinator, Federation University of Australia, Ballarat	<i>Connections with Australian Indigenous Communities: Prime Ministers Alfred Deakin and John Curtin</i>
	Dr Toby Davidson Lecturer, Department of English, Macquarie University. Curtin's great grandson	<i>John Curtin's life with poetry</i>
	In discussion with: Professor Nicholas Brown School of History, Australian National University	
3.15pm Watching those who watch us: Prime Ministers and the Australian Intelligence Community	Dr Peter Edwards APMC Fellow, Adjunct Professor, Deakin University	<i>Prime Minister Bob Hawke, Justice Hope and the development of the Australian intelligence community</i>
	Dr David McKnight Associate Professor, School of the Arts and Media, University of New South Wales	<i>Prime ministers and the politics of security</i>
	In discussion with: Professor David Lowe Deakin University, Co-founder of the Australian Policy and History Group	
4.20pm Notes to self for our next female Prime Minister	Professor David Denemark APMC Fellow, Professor of Political Science and International Relations, University of Western Australia	<i>Voter assessments of Prime Minister Julia Gillard: What did women want?</i>
	Karen Middleton Author and journalist	<i>Covering Julia</i>
	Michael Cooney Speechwriter to Prime Minister Julia Gillard	<i>Beyond the Gillard Project</i>
	In discussion with: Wendy McCarthy AO Non-executive Director, educator, mentor, writer and campaigner for the rights of women and children	
5.20pm Noone will hear you scream in the boiler room: writing crime fiction at Old Parliament House	Kaaron Warren APMC Fellow, Writer	<i>Prime Minister Robert Menzies, Sir William Ashton and the granny killer</i>