



BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER FOR CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER: THE ETHICS CENTRE ANNOUNCES 2023 PUBLIC PROGRAM

Protest, punishment, power and partnerships: The Ethics Centre has unveiled its public program for the year ahead featuring free residencies, thought-provoking presentations and pertinent conversations – with a focus on how to bring ethics to the centre of everyday life.

The Ethics Centre is a fiercely independent not-for-profit that, for over 30 years, has advocated for a more ethical society. The Centre’s programs are recognised for stimulating public awareness and understanding, creating a safe space for open, honest and often difficult conversations.

Executive Director of The Ethics Centre, **Dr Simon Longstaff AO** said: “In an increasingly challenging world, it’s essential that we be able to talk together about the issues we face. For over three decades The Ethics Centre has created spaces where it’s safe for people, of diverse experience and opinions, to tackle difficult or controversial topics. This year’s program builds upon that tradition.”

A first for the Centre, the inaugural **The Ethics Centre Residency Program** will invite thinkers, leaders, makers and facilitators to create and share in a collaborative and inspiring space at Ethics’ HQ in Sydney’s CBD. Residents will get complimentary access to use the Centre’s eco-renovated

heritage venue to undertake projects that are aligned to ethics. Coming from a range of practice including philosophy, science, architecture, design, social impact, AI, film, theatre, dance, experimental performance, visual arts, hybrid, and likely different, new or undefined practice.

The popular series '*The Ethics of...*' is back, tackling the meaning, mess and morality of life, throughout 2023, kicking off with **Protest** and then **Punishment**. How far should you go for what you believe in? Amid World Pride Sydney, hear from human rights lawyer and chair of Amnesty International UK, Dr Sen Raj and The Ethics Centre's Senior Philosopher Dr Tim Dean on the ethics of protest as it is today. How has it changed? Is it effective? Is it dangerous? In *The Ethics of Punishment* explore the role we all play in the way we punish as a society and as individuals. Why do we accept certain forms of punishment and not others? Is punishment necessary in society or are there other, fairer ways to bring about justice? Each event is more than just a talk; led by Australia's best philosophers and speakers, they are intimate live and engaging interactions that involve thought experiments and opportunities for participants to share their experiences, views and learn from each other.

The Ethics Centre Executive Director Dr Simon Longstaff AO will host the new series '*In Conversation with...*', an opportunity to delve into hotly relevant and difficult issues we are grappling with – and perhaps see things from a different perspective. On 4 April, Simon will be joined by proud Wiradjuri and Wailwan woman and lawyer, **Teela Reid**, for *Reckoning not Reconciliation* to unpack the Voice to Parliament, exploring: What is the Voice to Parliament? Can the national conversation for constitutional recognition reconcile the truth of our nations' past? How do we embrace the discomfort of this moment and what does it mean – for us collectively and individually? What do we need to know to make an informed decision?

This year marks the launch of The Ethics Centre's first Youth Advisory Council. The Council will help find innovative ways to bring ethics to the centre of young people's lives. It will be a platform for young people to share their insights and develop initiatives that will help others navigate the unique ethical challenges they face now and into the future. Expressions of interest are open for interested people aged 13 to 25 years.

And finally, it's been more than 30 years since Simon placed a circle of 12 chairs in Sydney's Martin Place with a sign that read: "If you would like to discuss ideas with a philosopher, join the circle". In 2022, The Ethics Centre reactivated *Circle of Chairs* at Festival of Dangerous Ideas, seeing it become one of the Festival's most popular interactive sessions ever. This year, *Circle of Chairs* will return to connect city, regional and remote communities in respectful, meaningful and urgent conversations on the topics that matter to us the most. Stay tuned for dates and locations.

More details available online at www.ethics.org.au

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ABOUT THE ETHICS CENTRE

The Ethics Centre is a not-for-profit organisation developing and delivering innovative programs, services and experiences, designed to bring ethics to the centre of personal and professional life. Across all its work, the same goals drive what the Centre does: to bring people together, create space for open and honest conversations, and build the skills and capacity of people to live and act according to their values. Alongside public programs, the Centre also offers consulting and leadership services for organisations, membership programs for individuals and businesses, and a free ethics helpline, Ethi-call.

KEY DATES 2023

- The Ethics of Protest: 2 March
- The Ethics Centre Residency Program: Expressions of Interest close 15 March
- The Ethics of Punishment: 16 March
- Youth Advisory Council: Expressions of Interest close 31 March
- In Conversation with Teela Reid – Reckoning not Reconciliation: 4 April
- In Conversation with: 19 September, guest to be announced
- The Ethics of Inhibition: 2 November
- The Ethics of Ownership: 16 November
- Circle of Chairs: dates to be announced

The Festival of Dangerous Ideas, Australia's original disruptive ideas festival, will be presented by The Ethics Centre in winter 2024.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Kathleen Evesson | communications@ethics.org.au | 0414 171 945