



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# Criminology - The question of harm, a conversation

School of Social and Political Sciences  
'Critical Issues' Seminar

Public Event: Panel with Q&A

Criminology has been devoted to an idea of minimising or relieving harm through the management and understanding of crime. But neither crime nor harm are constant concepts. What is harm to one is perhaps justice to another. What is a crime to one may be a resistance to harm by another. Criminology works to understand and shape these conflicts but in doing so it can also do harm. That is, knowledge and authority, understanding and informing can have its own impacts on bodies, on students and on societies.

This panel will converse about harm as a concept in criminology and harm as an effect of criminology. Presented as opening remarks and an in-depth conversation, we consider both the effects of the work of criminology on societies and the effects of harm on scholars and workers in the field. We ask - What are the effects of harm as understood by criminology? What are the effects of criminology as a harm?

**When:** Thursday 10 August from 6.00pm - 7.30pm AEST

**Where:** Conference Room, Woodward Conference Centre, Level 10,

Melbourne Law (Building 106), 185 Pelham St, Carlton VIC 3053

**Register:** Through [Eventbrite](#).

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**Amanda Porter** (Yuin, she/her) is an associate professor, researcher and community advocate based in Criminology. Amanda researches processes of criminalisation and racialisation in policing, with a special interest in police powers and police accountability law. Her recent and current research projects examine: the history of the police and police unions, the history of Aboriginal community safety/defence mechanisms, deaths in police custody, near misses, cold cases, strategic litigation and the politics of Indigenous refusal in the justice context.



Juliet Rogers (S/He) is an associate professor in Criminology. She researches on trauma, post-conflict remorse and bodily modification using psychoanalysis and legal theory. Prior to her academic career she was a therapist in the trauma field and a manager and youth worker in the community sector. Her current research focuses on contested experiences of violence and harm, with an attention to encounters with incommensurable difference on Indigenous land.



Alison Young (She/her) is the Francine V. McNiff Professor of Criminology. She has researched graffiti and street art for many years, and her ongoing research engages with the ways in which we live in and govern city spaces. She is currently researching the relationship between the built environment and urban governance in Australia and Japan, in respect of issues such as graffiti and urban creativity, homelessness, and the night-time economy and street crime.