ANU EMERITUS FACULTY BIANNUAL LECTURE

THE VALUE OF THE HUMANITIES

Professor Helen Small
Professor of English Literature at Oxford University and Jonathan and Julia Aisbitt Fellow of English, Pembroke College, Oxford.

Lecture Theatre, Sir Roland Wilson Building, McCoy Circuit, ANU 6.00pm, 14 August.

Professor Helen Small, intends that her recent book, *The Value of the Humanities* (Oxford University Press), “may improve the way ‘we’ as society debate the public good of the humanities” and, in that debate, we can “keep optimism alive and cynicism in check”.

In her Emeritus Faculty lecture, Helen Small will provide a critical account of the principal arguments used to defend the value of the humanities. Unlike many works on this topic, *The Value of the Humanities* is neither a polemic nor a manifesto. Its purpose is to explore the grounds for each argument, and to test its validity in today’s society. Tough-minded, alert to changing historical conditions for argument and changing styles of rhetoric, it defines the terms of contemporary public debate.

Helen Small has a B.A. in English from Victoria University of Wellington and a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge. In 2008, Helen won The Truman Capote Award for Literary Criticism for her book *The Long Life*.

Helen Small is in Canberra as the keynote speaker at the ANU Humanities Research Centre seminar *The Value of the Humanities*. Conference details: [http://hrc.anu.edu.au/events/value-humanities-a-two-day-colloquium](http://hrc.anu.edu.au/events/value-humanities-a-two-day-colloquium)

No bookings required for the Emeritus Faculty lecture. All welcome.

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