

23RD ANNUAL WORK IN PROGRESS CONFERENCE

PERCEPTION

/ DECEPTION

Truth and Lies in the 21st Century

OCTOBER 29 / 30, UQ ART MUSEUM

The School of Communication and Arts (SCA) at the University of Queensland invites proposals for the forthcoming 2019 Postgraduate and Early Career Researcher “Work in Progress” Conference.

In his 1981 philosophical treatise “Simulacra and the Simulation”, Jean Baudrillard argued that in modern society, signs and simulations replace reality and obscure truth. This notion seems to hold renewed relevance when considering the modern political and social landscape. Debates surrounding truth, lies, fact and fiction dominate the public sphere, in discussions of “fake news” and the popularisation of conspiracy discourse. Similarly, technological advances in digital image manipulation force us to question what is real, while social media enables the rapid transmission of false information. However, there has also been a simultaneous push towards unearthing, reinstating or redefining the idea of truth. In the wake of postmodernism, scholars have increasingly turned towards theories of affect and the body, grounding truth in the material world. Additionally, social activists have used technology and social media to bring unspoken truths into public discussion, including movements against sexual harassment and police brutality towards people of colour. These technological and social shifts of the 21st century necessitate a critical re-evaluation of how we perceive the world, and how these perceptions may be influenced by misinformation and deception.

We welcome papers that consider issues of truth and lies across the humanities. Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Reality and the unreal in art, literature, film
- Materiality and the physical world
- Technology and the digital world
- Speaking truth to power, activism, whistleblowing
- Author perspectives and unreliable narrators in literature and film
- “Fake news”, “post-truth” & associated debates
- Art forgeries and authentication
- Testimony, memory and unreliability
- Historiography and narratives of the past
- Climate change denial and science communication
- Conspiracies
- Deepfakes, image manipulation and falsified social media profiles

Practice-led researchers, including creative writers, are encouraged to submit proposals based on their creative work as well as their exegetical work.

Proposals should include an abstract of no more than **200 words**, and a **brief (50 word) biography**. Submissions are due by **Friday, 28th of June**. Please send your proposals to uqwip2019@gmail.com. Registration details, keynote speakers and prize information to follow.