You are invited to a Book Launch and Panel Discussion

**Courting Blakness: What can art do in a university?**

**Date:** Thursday 5 November  
**Time:** 4.00 – 6.00pm  
**Location:** Moot Court 67.202  
**RSVP:** Online

**INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSION:**

What does public art bring to the challenge of communicating about the issues that matter to Indigenous and non-Indigenous people? This interactive panel discussion focuses on the challenges and achievements of the 'Courting Blakness' project at the University of Queensland to explore the potential and pitfalls of creative interventions at the University of Wollongong, UQ and beyond. 'Courting Blakness' was a groundbreaking exhibition curated by Fiona Foley in the Great Court at UQ (see [http://courtingblakness.com](http://courtingblakness.com)) Panelists and audience participants will engage with questions such as: What is the role of public art in reimagining the history and politics of place? What can public art contribute to tackling some of the most intractable questions within disciplinary knowledge formations? How effective is public art in highlighting or addressing enduring tensions between Indigenous and neo-colonial ways of knowing, seeing and being in place? What might Courting Blakness look like at the University of Wollongong?

Following the panel discussion, the 'Courting Blakness' book will be launched by Dr Aunty Barbara Nicholson.

**PANELLISTS:**

**Djon Mundine OAM** is an independent Bandjalang radical curator, writer, activist, and PhD candidate at the University of New South Wales/Art & Design.

**Dr Alice Te Punga Somerville** (Te Atiawa, Taranaki) was born in Wellington, raised in Auckland and currently teaches Indigenous Studies at Macquarie University in Sydney. She is also Associate Professor of Pacific Literatures at the University of Hawai‘i-Ma¯noa. At its heart her research is about locating, contextualising, and analysing texts written by Māori, Pacific and Indigenous people and her first book was called *Once Were Pacific: Māori Connections to Oceania* (Minn, 2012). She also writes the occasional poem.

**Dr Fiona Nicoll** is a lecturer in the School of English, Media Studies and Art History at the University of Queensland, and an active interdisciplinary researcher in the field of cultural studies. She has taught and published on the politics of Aboriginal art since 1993 and is a founding member of the Australian Critical Race and Whiteness Studies Association.

**Facilitator:** Dr Tanja Dreher, ARC Future Fellow, Legal Intersections Research Centre.