

Law and Justice through Australian Lenses: Bushrangers, Battlers and Bastards

Law and justice in Australian film and television

Australian film and television occupies a special place in global cinema.

Australian lenses have captured a nation and a culture seemingly fixated on issues of (out)law and (in)justice, producing films and television of striking landscapes peopled by bushrangers, battlers and bastards. From the several outlaw tales of Ned Kelly, to the fight for justice by the Kerrigans in the *Castle*, to the antics of the 'ocker', Australia has created a lasting legacy (for good or bad) of representations of law and justice 'down-under'.

Further, Australian lenses have had a significant impact on global film and television. Deeply compromised by the violence against the lives and laws of First Australians, Australian films and television has sharply illuminated what it means to live with a 'rule of law' that rules with a legacy, and a reality, of deep injustice. In this, Australian film and television presents a critical lens through which to analyse Western law, legality and justice in its trans-cultural and global context.

This volume is the first to bring together scholars to reflect on, and critically engage with, the representations and global implications of law and justice captured by Australian film and television. It explores how Australian lenses have provided a cascade of distinctly Australian images and narratives that also provide global insights into the translations and transmutations of law and justice.

Possible questions to respond to but not limited to the following:

- What do Australian lenses tell us about law and justice?
- How has law and justice been screened by specific Australian films?
- Has Australian film transcended the legal narratives of 'bushrangers, battlers and bastards'?
- How has Australian film and television redressed or continued the violence of dispossession and colonialism towards First Australians?
- What impact does technology advances and global forces have on producing and consuming Australian films and television? How has law been responsible for this change? How has representations of law and justice been changed?

- How has Australian framing of law and justice become global?
- Does Australian film and television bring a unique perspective to the police, lawyer or prison genres?
- How Australian are Australian films and television?

How to submit

Contributors should submit a proposal (300 words) and a brief CV (no longer than one page) to: k.tranter@griffith.edu.au by 31 May 2018.

The editors will advise contributors of inclusion and process by 15 June 2018. The first draft of chapters (5000–7000 words) for peer review will be due 19 November 2018 with an expected publication date of late 2019.