

You are invited to...

POLITICS & TRUST IN TROUBLED TIMES

An Interdisciplinary Symposium

Thurs 25th & Fri 26th June 2026

9.00 am to 5.00 pm

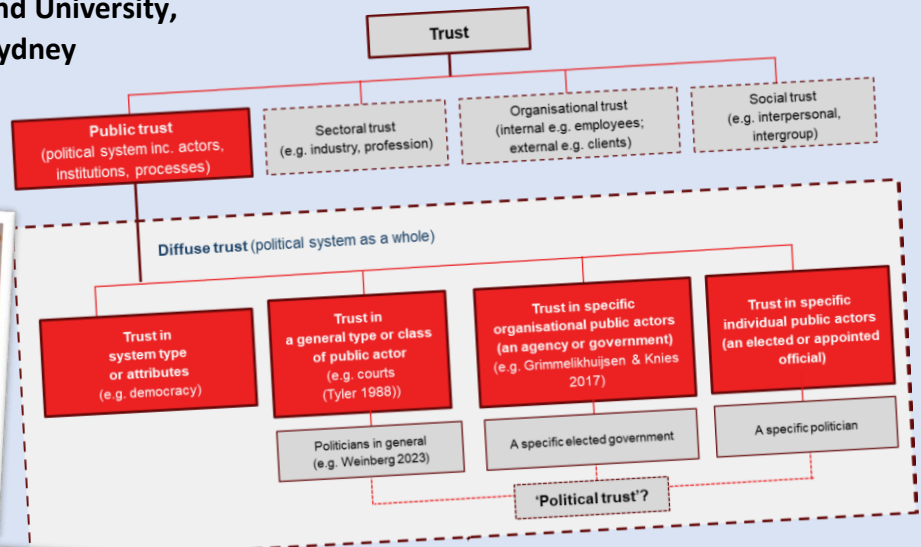
Emporium Hotel | South Bank | Brisbane



Since 2023, the Australian Research Council Project 'Mapping & Harnessing Public Trust and Mistrust' has been using the Australian Constitutional Values Survey to chart new ground on **what is 'public trust'**, how its **drivers are best measured**, and how best to understand and strengthen the **role of guardrail institutions** in translating mistrust into trust in our political system.

Join academic researchers, civil society groups and government practitioners to **share results, research and developments** from across Australia, investigating and promoting public trust.

Brought to you by **Griffith University, Bond University, University of Melbourne, University of Sydney** and the Australian Research Council.



See over for session topics

Free! Click here to **REGISTER** by COB 19 June

POLITICS & TRUST IN TROUBLED TIMES | BRISBANE | 25-26 June 2026

Thursday 25 June

9.00 am	Welcome coffee
9.30	Official welcome
9.45	Trust, democracy and reform: charting the landscape <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Professor Andrea Carson, University of Melbourne</i>• <i>Dr Elaine De Gruyter, Research and Strategy, McKinnon</i>• <i>Dr Sarah Cameron, Australian Election Study, Griffith University</i>
11.00	Morning tea
11.30	What defines public trust? Updating concepts and measurements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Jacob Deem, School of Law, Bond University</i>• <i>Simon Jackman, University of Sydney ("You Had Me at Hello": mass surveys and biased estimates of trust and civic engagement)</i>• <i>George Argyrous, University of Sydney ("How survey question formats affect measures of trust in news")</i>
1.00 pm	Lunch
1.45	Converting mistrust: how guardrail institutions impact on trust <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Max Grömping, Griffith University</i>• <i>Kylie Kilgour, Deputy Commissioner, National Anti-Corruption Commission</i>• <i>Thomas Ryan, First Assistant Commissioner, Australian Electoral Commission</i>
3.30	Afternoon tea
4.00	Critical questions: what else do we need to know about dynamics of trust? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Ika Trijsburg, Australian National University ('Networked Resilience and Trust')</i>• <i>Graeme Gunn, Australian National University ('Broadcasting Integrity: What Corruption Narratives Teach Us About the Limits of Public Trust')</i>• <i>A J Brown AM, Griffith University</i>
5.30	Day close
6.30	Dinner – Mado Turkish Restaurant, South Bank

Friday 26 June

9.00 am	Methodology and experimentation: using citizen attitude research to put our finger on public trust <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Kate White, University of Newcastle (Chair)</i>• <i>Pat Leslie, Australian National University ("Trust's Fatalistic Streak: Entrenching Low Expectations in the UK and Australia?")</i>• <i>Kyle Peyton, University of Melbourne ("Distrust as Signal: Information, Institutional Performance, and the Politics of Public Trust")</i>• <i>Kieren Moffat, Voconiq ("The functional role of trust and confidence in governance for resource development")</i>
10.30	Morning tea
11.00	Politics and the information environment: understanding mis/trust drivers and disseminators in a disinformed world <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Tanya Notley, Western Sydney University ("Everyday mis— and distrust practices online: the role for media literacy education")</i>• <i>Tenzin Liddy-Corlett, La Trobe University ("The psychology of distrust: what drives political alienation?")</i>• <i>Osbern Huang & Max Grömping, Griffith University</i>
12.30 pm	Lunch
1.15	Open discussion, next horizons
2.30	Symposium close - Afternoon tea
3.00	Farewells