

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2013

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## 2013 Martineau Lecture: walking in the shoes of the asylum seeker

Australian philosopher and feminist Professor Genevieve Lloyd will take on the controversial subject of asylum seekers in the 2013 James Martineau Memorial Lecture this week, titled “Asylum Seekers and the Rhetoric of Compassion.”

To be held in Hobart on Wednesday 27 November and in Launceston on Thursday 28 November, the annual UTAS School of Humanities lecture aims to enhance public engagement with questions of moral philosophy and the philosophy of religion.

Genevieve Lloyd is Emeritus Professor in Philosophy at the University of New South Wales and Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Her lecture will explore conflicting aspects of compassion in the current asylum seeker debate in Australia, drawing on the theories of sympathy and imagination of 18<sup>th</sup> century philosopher Adam Smith.

Smith argued that sympathy is fundamental to morality, but also that there can be no sympathy without imagination because that allows us to “enter into the situations” of others.

Prof Lloyd was the first female Professor of Philosophy appointed in Australia (1987) and has published on the history of philosophy in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, on feminist philosophy and on the relations between philosophy and literature.

Her most important publication arguably is *The Man of Reason: ‘Male’ and ‘Female’ in Western Philosophy* (1984) in which she traces a history of the common association of reason with maleness.

- Hobart lecture: Wednesday 27 November, 6pm, MS2 lecture theatre, UTAS Medical Science Precinct, 17 Liverpool St.
- Launceston lecture: Thursday 28 November, 6pm, Sir Raymond Ferrall centre, UTAS Newnham campus.

**Information Released by:**

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