



The English-Speaking Union (Victoria Branch)

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MEDIA RELEASE

David Martin Jones wins grant to research *Sin, Crime and Hate Speech*

For immediate release, 25 May 2021

The English-Speaking Union Victoria Branch (ESU) is delighted to announce Dr David Martin Jones as the winner of its 2021 Major Project Grant of \$10,000 (AUD).

The grant will enable Dr Jones to investigate the evolution of hate speech and its policing in the 21st century.



Dr Jones (pictured) is an Australian who is currently based in London where he is affiliated with the War Studies Department, King's College, University of London.

About the research project

Sin, Crime and Hate Speech will address three themes: the relationship between sin, crime and the modern state; the public morality of the secular state; and the collectivist ethic governing sanitized speech.

Dr Jones says: "Since the millennium, English-speaking democracies have become so preoccupied by hate speech that they have sought not only to criminalise utterance, but also to extend its sanction from the public to the private domain. The novelty of policing speech represents a remarkable extension of the law. This project therefore explores how policing what we do with words has facilitated the evolution of a 'cancel culture' across the Anglosphere and in the process has eroded the common law's protection of individual liberty."

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The ESU's grant will facilitate Dr Jones' archival research at the Public Record Office (London) and in the National Archives of Australia, and will also assist his conduct of interviews with those active in maintaining freedom of speech in the UK, Australia and Canada.

Dr Jones will share the findings from his research via lectures and publications. He plans to visit Melbourne in early December 2021 to deliver a public lecture for the ESU. Details will be announced via the ESU's website, later in the year.

Comments attributable to ESU Branch President, Robert Furlan, a member of the award judging panel:

“The ESU is pleased to support Dr Jones' research into this important and timely topic.”

“The ESU acknowledges Dr Jones' academic expertise and strong track record in publishing and other forms of communication. We anticipate that his research into *Sin, Crime and Hate Speech* will have a powerful impact on the English-speaking peoples.”

“The ESU judging panel considered Dr Jones' project proposal to be well developed, with a clear focus and a practical plan for sharing the research findings with general as well as academic audiences.”

“We convey our congratulations to Dr Jones and look forward to hosting a public lecture about his research, later this year, in Melbourne.”

The Role of the English-Speaking Union (Victoria Branch)

The ESU's mission is to promote the heritage, culture, identity and fellowship of the English-speaking peoples. Via a range of competitive awards, the ESU provides funding for activities that align with this mission.

The ESU is a registered Australian charity.

The ESU has been active in supporting educational and cultural projects by Australians for over 100 years.

Further information

Details of the ESU Awards Program can be found at esuvic.org.au/content/awards.

For information about the ESU, please contact the President, Robert Furlan, on +61 419 559 608.

To arrange an interview with Dr David Martin Jones, please contact awards@esuvic.org.au.