

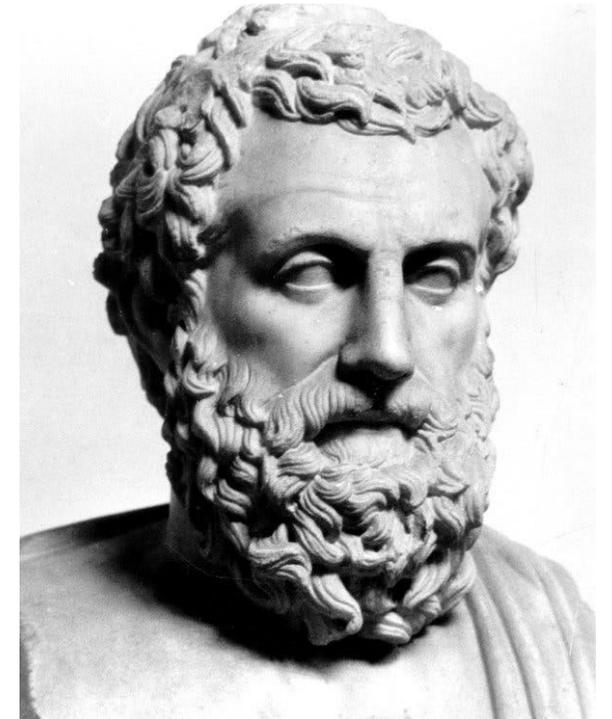


Corporate Lecture Series
An Introduction



What can modern corporations learn from the conduct of the French Revolution when it comes to change management? And how does the ancient Greeks' control of their vast Mediterranean empire differ from the implementation of contemporary mergers and acquisitions?

These are but a couple of examples of how the Humanities relate to the modern world and of how the lessons of history and past regimes suggest strategies for contemporary management. Together with a variety of thought provoking subjects and ideas they are the strengths of our Corporate Lecture Series.





ABOUT

Our Corporate Lecture Series provides insight into contemporary issues through the lenses of history and philosophy. Talks are led by some of Melbourne's leading academics and encourage the development of critical thinking skills.

Taking place on client premises at a time of their choosing, they typically consist of a forty-minute presentation followed by twenty minutes of questions and discussion. This format is suitable for up to thirty people, and lectures for larger groups can also be arranged.

The program has been developed by the H21 Committee of Management and affiliated academics. The H21 offering is not limited by the catalogue with the ability to program sessions featuring a wide variety of topics and speakers that explore philosophy, literature, history, archaeology, anthropology and fine arts.

The H21 corporate and academic network is far reaching and we welcome clients to share their objectives and organisational challenges so that we may propose a topic tailored for their strategic needs.





WHY HUMANITIES 21?

When senior executives are asked what capabilities they would most like to see their staff develop the answer is seldom specific knowledge from a conventional training course. More often, they seek cognitive skills – such as the ability to tackle questions they have never seen before, test hypotheses critically, and develop solutions based on well- articulated logic and analysis.

Talks within the Humanities 21 lecture series expose staff to unusual situations and ideas, which encourage them to think through questions for which there are no clear answers. This kind of critical thinking helps to develop perceptive and creative individuals able to think laterally and plan strategically. These skills can be applied to many kinds of work and are becoming more valuable as job requirements change rapidly.

Our lectures have been catalogued under key themes, including “Leadership”, “Great Women”, “Managing Change”, “History of Melbourne”, “Ethics”, “Indigenous History and Culture”, and “General Interest”.

In concert with your objectives we can provide you with recommendations as to the most appropriate talk(s) for your organisation.

Our Corporate Lecture Series comprises in excess of 50 talks. The following provides a brief overview of how we have structured the program and a sample of the types of lectures offered by leading experts in their subject field.



Example:

Subject: Leadership

Topic Lecture: “Julius Caesar and the Power of Image”

Key Themes: An early example of populist politics. The importance of engaging a mass audience and the triumph of style over substance

Speaker: Dr Rhiannon Evans, LaTrobe University.



Topic:

Gaius Julius Caesar remains one of the most famous figures of Roman Antiquity. Why is his name still so familiar, 2060 years after his death?

One reason is that he presided over Rome at a time of enormous political, social, and cultural change – when populism emerged, and the ability to engage a mass audience was crucial. This scenario bears some striking parallels to life in the 21st century: vital to Caesar’s fame as a leader, in his own time and beyond, was his mastery of self-presentation, particularly in his own war diaries.

According to Dr Rhiannon Evans, his diaries can be seen as a marketing coup rarely equalled.



Example:

Subject: Great Women

Topic Lecture: “Women in Australian History”

Key Themes: The obstacles Australian women have overcome and those that remain for women today.

Speaker: Professor Joy Damousi, The University of Melbourne



Topic:

Taking into consideration the historical factors that have inhibited women’s involvement in corporate leadership, Professor Joy Damousi discusses the problems for women in leadership today. From the changes that have so far occurred, and the enduring factors that inhibit further progress, this historical view seeks to identify issues – and what can be done about them.



Example:

Subject: Managing Change

Topic Lecture: “The French Revolution: Mismanaging Change”

Key Themes: The challenges of change and typical mistakes in responding to them.

Speaker: Professor Peter McPhee, The University of Melbourne



Topic:

Change management is an essential skill in today’s workplace, but what can the French Revolution teach us about it?

The French Revolution of 1789-99 was a turning point in Modern history; the Bourbon regime, based on absolute monarchy, was violently disrupted by a new society. The former was a feudal system, with ‘corporate’ privileges for the church and nobility. The new regime was based on constitutional government, popular sovereignty, and equality among citizens and religions. Many historians have argued that the French Revolution was the result of Louis XVI and his noble elite mismanaging the fiscal and social challenges confronting them in the 1780s.

Professor Peter McPhee examines those challenges and the mistakes made by the regime, surmising what we can learn from them about managing change.



Example:

Subject: History of Melbourne

Topic Lecture: “There Goes The Neighbourhood: The Changing History of Suburban Melbourne”

Key Themes: How Melbourne’s suburbs have continued to evolve. Is their individuality sustainable in an increasingly uniform world?

Speaker: Dr Andrew Lemon, The University of Melbourne



Topic:

If Sydney derives its character from the harbour and its beaches, Melbourne owes its quality as a ‘liveable city’ to its distinctive neighbourhood precincts. Dr Andrew Lemon explores how our suburbs have evolved – and how they never stop changing. Are development and population pressures forcing a bland uniformity on our metropolis? Can Melbourne and its suburbs survive much longer with character intact?



Example:

Subject: Ethics

Topic Lecture: “What Good is Free Speech?”

Key Themes: Does free speech help propagate truth or falsehoods? Is it just a matter for governments or for individuals too? How do we identify what should be permitted and what should not?

Speaker: Dr Bob Simpson, Monash University



Topic:

In this talk, Dr Bob Simpson discusses a series of questions and challenges that arise for classical liberal free speech theory. First, does free speech actually conduce to knowledge, truth, and understanding – as classical liberal arguments claim – or can a culture of free speech facilitate widespread belief in falsehoods? Second, are there any reasons for us to respect free speech as private individuals, or is free speech merely about governments foregoing censorship? Third, is there any principled way to identify the things that should be protected under the auspices of free speech, or is free speech just an empty political slogan that powerful actors invoke when it's advantageous to do so? Fourth, does the character of modern corporate employment constitute a form of censorship?



Example:

Subject: Indigenous History & Culture

Topic Lecture: “What’s the problem? Attributing Authorship in Australian Art”

Key Themes: How Australian Art is attributed and how forgeries can pass unnoticed.

Speaker: Associate Professor Robyn Sloggett, The University of Melbourne



Topic:

In this talk, Associate Professor Robyn Sloggett presents an outline of the history of art and cultural heritage crime in Australia. She examines the ways in which scholarship in the humanities, science, and law is used to support studies of attribution, and how economics determines what is at stake in financial terms. While definite figures are difficult to find, it has been proposed that the Australian Indigenous art market is estimated at around \$500 million, and that the amount of problematic art in the market is about 10%. These figures are weighed against a very low reporting rate and an even lower rate of prosecution. Robyn looks at these issues and at the current options for dealing with the problem of art fraud in the Australian market.



Example:

Subject: General Interest

Topic Lecture: “As Luck Would Have It: Discovery in the Digital Age”

Key Themes: The limitations of search engines for serendipitous discovery..

Speaker: Professor Deb Verhoeven, Deakin University



Topic:

Contemporary scholars have access to an unprecedented abundance of information, but ‘discovery’ is not supported by contemporary search technologies. Search engines omit some vital elements of humanities scholarship – such as meandering and fortuitous connections – in pursuit of efficiency. Professor Deb Verhoeven designs research tools that increase opportunities for serendipitous discovery.



TESTIMONIALS

‘The Humanities 21 speakers are true experts in their fields. Tapping into this expertise on a topic outside the ordinary realms of business is intellectually invigorating. For a firm full of curious people, Humanities 21 talks are like a theme park full of unexpected thrills.’

– Management Consultant, The Boston Consulting Group.

‘Humanities 21 has provided us with a broad range of speakers for lunchtime talks. We invite staff from all corners of our firm on a purely voluntary basis, and the talks have been very well attended and received at all levels. Our people often ask when the next one will be held. Humanities 21 talks break down barriers, stimulate discussion, encourage broad thinking, and are a welcome change to our usual narrow diet. The speakers are skilled at talking engagingly about their subjects to a diverse group of lay people.’

– Partner, Ashurst Australia.

‘As a client-driven firm, it is critical to Corrs that our lawyers have a broad perspective and are well-rounded people. We have worked with Humanities 21 for a number of years and our lawyers value the opportunity to learn about topics and areas that provide them with current or historical context, and extend their views beyond their areas of specialised practice.’

– Partner and CEO, Corrs Chambers Westgarth.

‘PEXA’s lunchtime sessions with Humanities 21 have been critical to helping our employees think and reflect about things other than our day-to-day work. It’s fantastic hearing from academics who are highly eminent in their field; you get to hear from real experts!’

– Chief Executive, Property Exchange Australia.

‘It gave me a great insight into the French Revolution and the correlations between historic events and current corporate life.’

– Solicitor, Maurice Blackburn Lawyers.

‘Humanities 21’s professional series engrosses audiences, providing fresh insight into contemporary business issues.’

– Director, Sterling Equity.

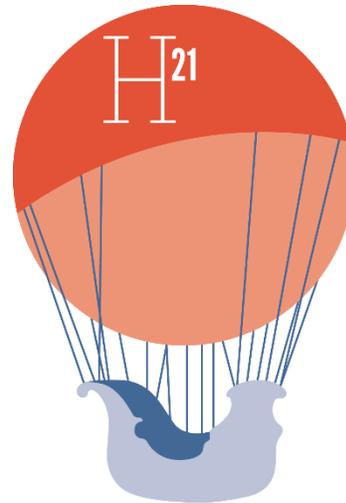


Rates & Bookings:

In order to ensure availability of our speakers, we encourage clients to select a series of four or more talks to be held at defined times throughout the year. Each lecture costs \$1,800. To discuss the benefits of our Corporate Lecture Series to your staff and company, please contact us either via [email](#) or phone.

Corporate Partners of Humanities 21 receive a preferential lecture series rate, in addition to inclusion of their logo on our website and promotional material. To find out more please contact us either via [email](#) or phone.

To request a copy of the complete catalogue Corporate Lectures, please contact us either via [email](#) or phone.



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