

Biography Workshop

Professor Elleke Boehmer, Dr Michael R. Griffiths, Dr Benjamin Mountford
& Professor Christina Twomey

Panel & Book Launch - *Fighting Words: Fifteen Books that Shaped the Postcolonial World*

Date: Tuesday 20 February 2018

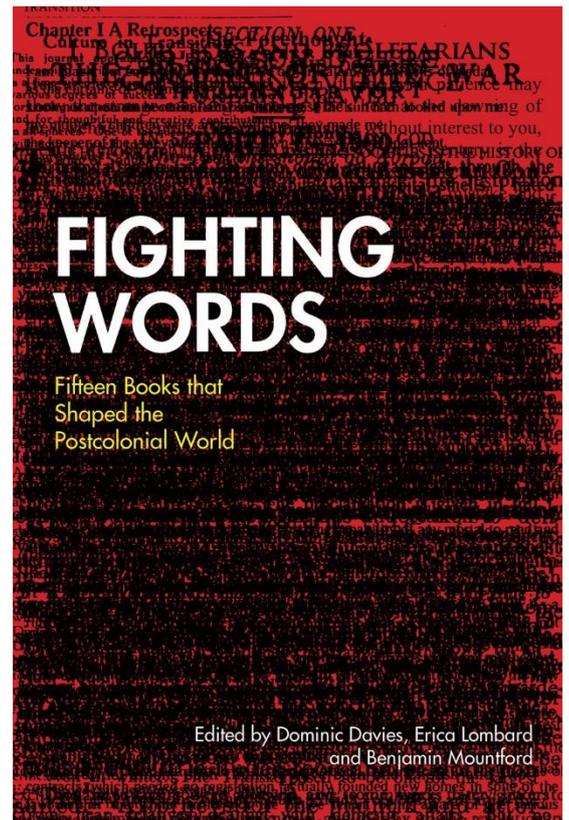
Venue: Sir Roland Wilson building, Room 2.02, ANU

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Inquiries: Nicole.McLennan@anu.edu.au

Can a book change the world? If books were integral to the creation of the imperial global order, what role have they played in resisting that order throughout the twentieth century? To what extent have theories and movements of anti-imperial and anticolonial resistance across the planet been shaped by books as they are read across the world?

Panel members who contributed to the monograph *Fighting Words* will respond to these questions. Using case studies that bring together literary, biographical, historical and book historical perspectives, they explore the ways in which books have circulated anti-imperial ideas, as they themselves have circulated as objects and commodities within regional, national and transnational networks.



Elleke Boehmer is Professor of World Literature in English in the English Faculty at the University of Oxford and Director of The Oxford Centre for Life Writing (OCLW). Her most recent monograph, *Indian Arrivals 1870-1915*, won the ESSE 2016 prize for Literature in English.

Michael R. Griffiths is Lecturer in the English and Writing Discipline at the University of Wollongong. He has published on topics ranging from settler colonial biopolitics, to Indigenous life-writing, to the critical theory of decolonising poetics, and much besides.

Benjamin Mountford is a David Myers Research Fellow at La Trobe University. His first book *Britain, China & Colonial Australia* was published by Oxford University Press in 2016, and in 2017 he won the Allan Martin Award for his research on the Australian gold rushes.

Christina Twomey is Professor of History, and Head of the School of Philosophical, Historical and International Studies at Monash University. She has published widely on the cultural history of war. Her most recent book is *The Battle Within: POWs in post-war Australia* (2018).

NOTE: Launch participants will be able to order a copy of *Fighting Words* at a special, one-time 30% discount.