Australasian Society for Continental Philosophy

8 December 2025

Dear Professors Dowton and Dixon,

The Executive Committee of the Australasian Society for Continental Philosophy (ASCP) is shocked to learn of the forced redundancy of Dr Joanne Faulkner, Senior Lecturer in Media and Communications at Macquarie University, in the School of Communication, Society and Culture. Dr Faulkner is a leading scholar in the fields of Critical Child Studies, Settler Colonial Studies and Feminist Theory and Philosophy, with a stellar international and national reputation. She publishes regularly in top-ranked journals (Scimago Q1), and with leading academic presses (SENSE A). She has also held prestigious ARC DECRA and Future Fellowships. Finally, we understand that Dr Faulkner is a vital teaching member of staff, charged with a large second-year unit in the coming semester that her Faculty will need to cover.

Our Society, established in 1995, represents researchers working in the field of Continental European philosophy across Australia, New Zealand, the South Pacific and Southeast Asia, and in disciplines ranging across the humanities and social sciences. Dr Faulkner is well known and highly respected by our large membership. She was a keynote at our annual conference at the University of Sydney in 2023. She has also held numerous positions on the ASCP Executive Committee, including Chair (2014-2017), and has mentored scores of postgraduate and early career researchers, shaping a generation of scholars.

We find it incomprehensible that Dr Faulkner could have been made redundant on performance grounds. To outside observers, the perception is that she was likely sacked due to her work with the NTEU. In fact, the breakdown of staff who were made redundant at Macquarie University presents observers with a recurring pattern: they appear to be mostly women with excellent track records, but associated either with the union or other political causes – in short, staff who are well-respected by their peers and students, but who may be a source of discomfort for their managers. We thus feel that this action against Dr Faulkner will do lasting harm to the reputation of Macquarie University, which should be of concern to the Senior Leadership Team and University Council. We urge you in the strongest possible terms to reverse this decision.

Sincerely,

A/Prof. Charles Barbour, Chair of the ASCP
On behalf of the ASCP executive.