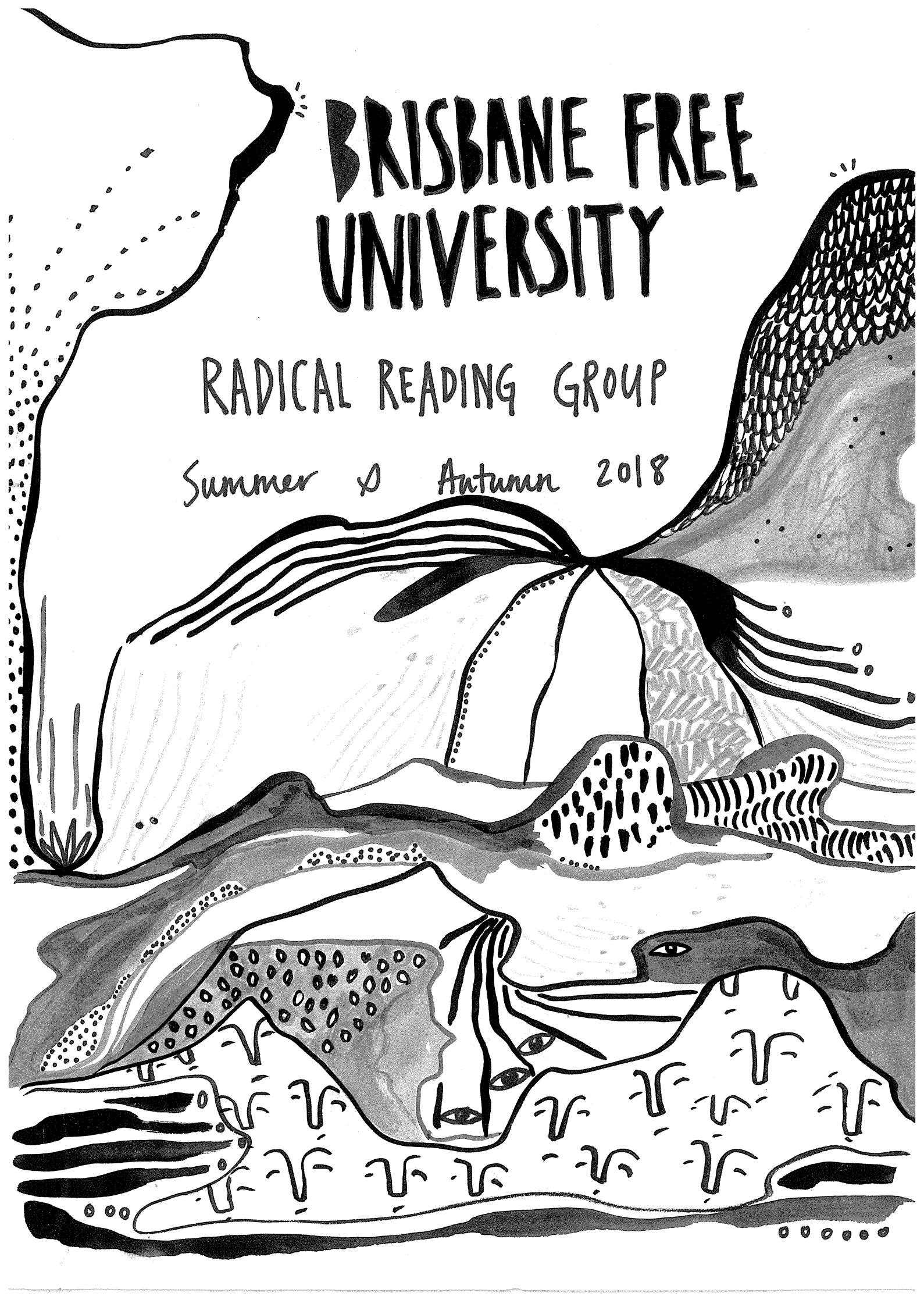
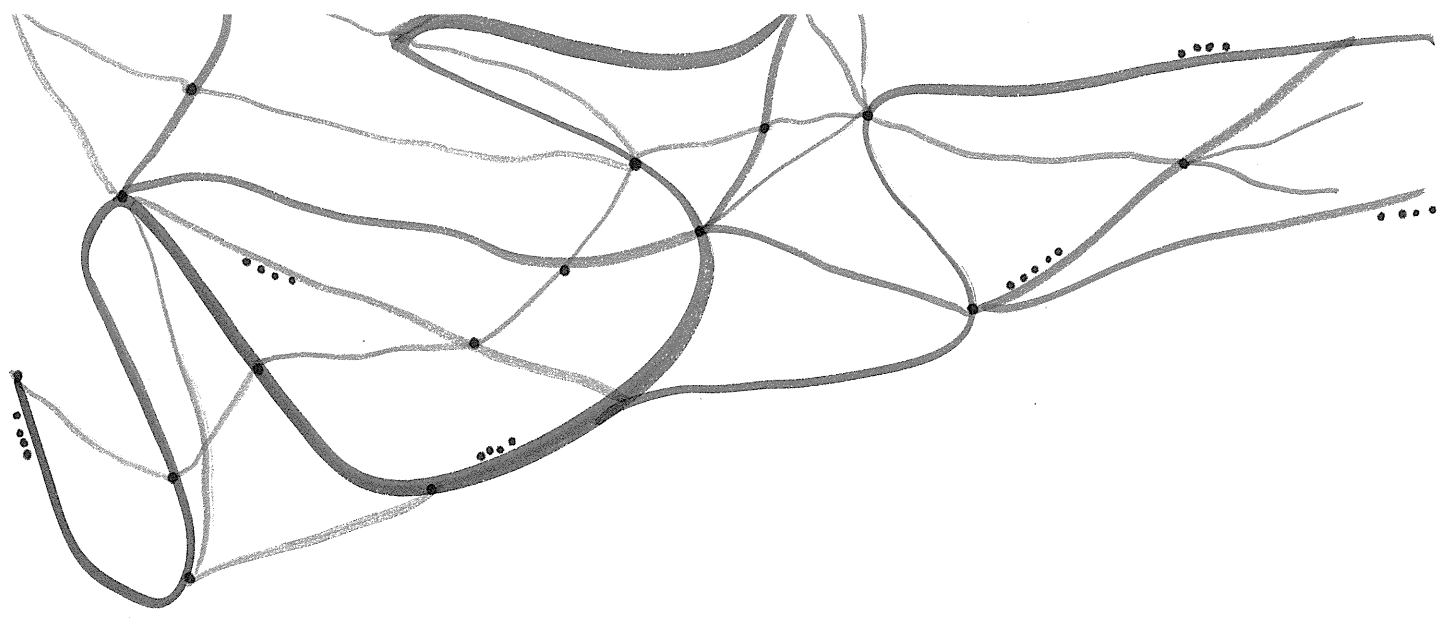


# BRISBANE FREE UNIVERSITY

RADICAL READING GROUP

Summer & Autumn 2018





# **Brisbane Free University**

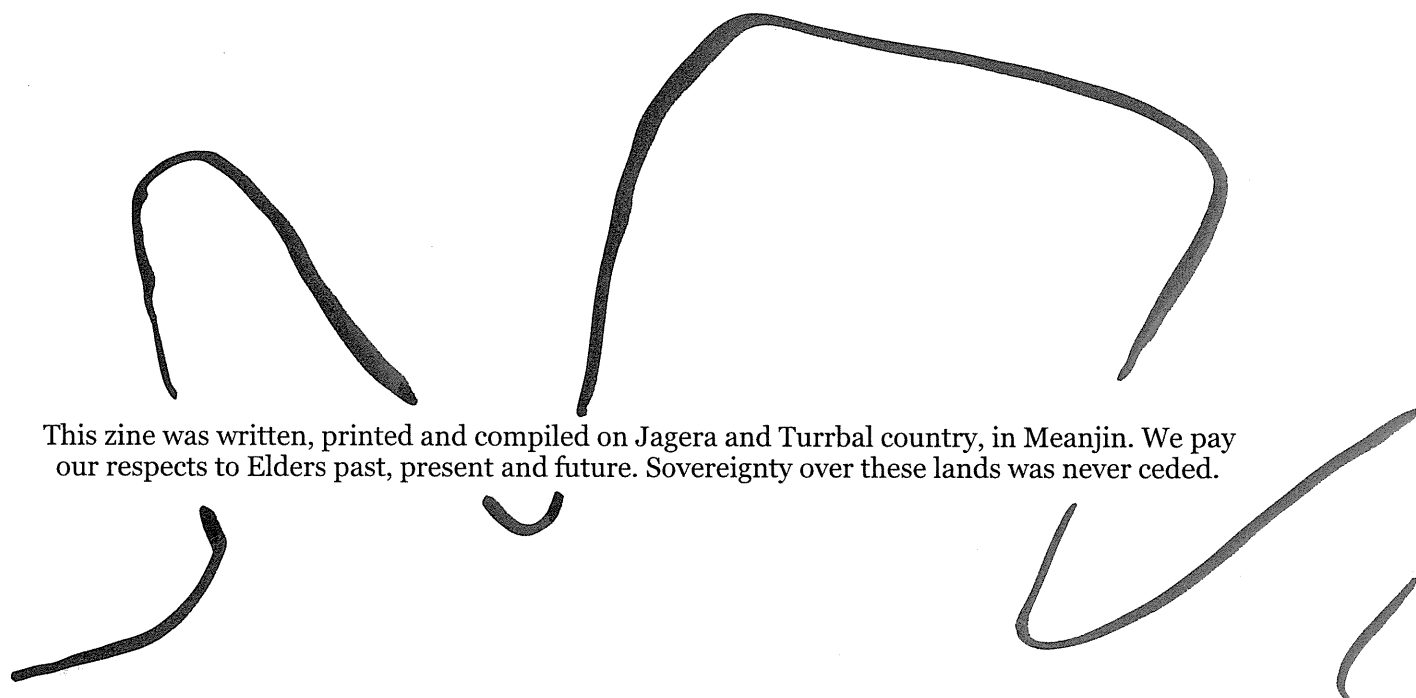
## **Radical Reading Group**

**What?** Radical reading group and discussion

**When?** Thursdays, 6pm - 7pm

**Where?** Outer Space Community Hub, 1/170  
Montague Road, West End

This zine was written, printed and compiled on Jagera and Turrbal country, in Meanjin. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future. Sovereignty over these lands was never ceded.



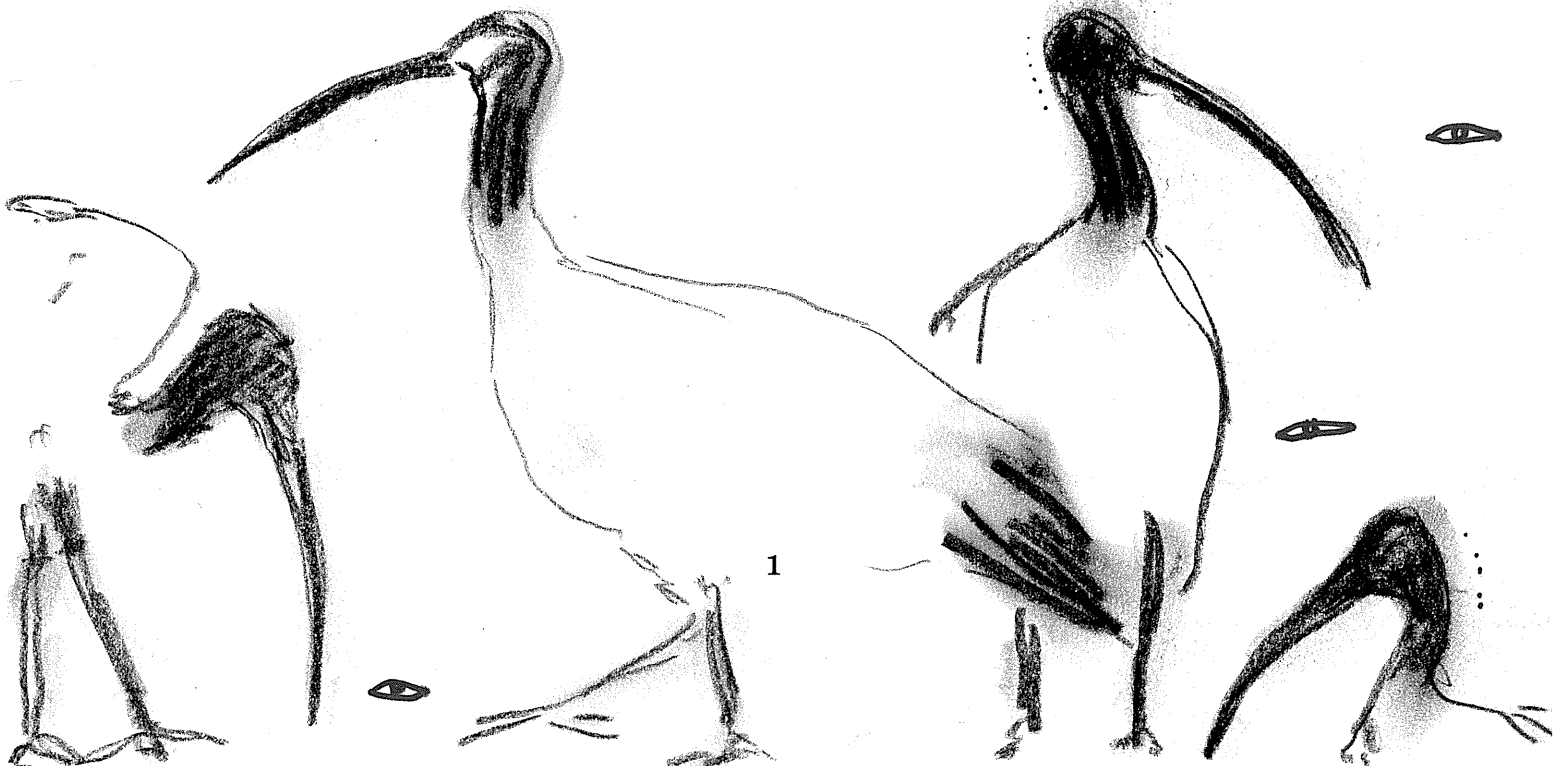
## What's BFU?

We believe that education should be a Commons. Brisbane Free University therefore opens an autonomous space in which the empowering processes of teaching and learning belong to everybody. We believe that a more just world is possible and that this is one way of bringing it into being. We want to re-imagine education by fostering conversation and critical thought in empty parks, community halls, neighbourhood festivals and forgotten carparks. We want to challenge the divide between the academic sphere and the public forum, between the sandstone and the street corner, and remember the sheer, simple joy of learning for its own sake.

In simple terms, Brisbane Free University:

- has no fixed address
- values free access to knowledge
- sees the human aspect of educational processes as paramount and therefore situates discussions in a physical space, as opposed to online
- changes learning structures by giving equal time to speakers as to open discussion, valuing knowledge sharing beyond the academy
- involves no exchange of money
- offers no accreditation
- operates independently of any political organisation, NGO, formal university or funding body

Contact: [brisbanefreeuniversity\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:brisbanefreeuniversity@gmail.com)



## Why a reading group?

This time last year (January 2017) we decided to try and test out the possibility of running an autonomous radical reading group with weekly texts and a tutorial-like discussion group structure. On the 19th January we held a panel discussion and community meeting with a bunch of interesting academics and activists talking about neoliberalism and the university, and the radical histories of reading groups. The following week, on the 25th January 2017, we hosted our first official reading group. A lot of people came. We ran out of seats. We read an impressive bunch of work that week: two chapters of Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson's *Talkin' up to the white woman*, a beautiful piece by Professor Irene Watson, 'Power of the Muldarbi, the road to its demise,' two short opinion pieces by Amy McQuire and Celeste Liddle, three poems by Oodgeroo Noonuccal, and a chapter of Alexis Wright's extraordinary *Carpentaria*. We split into a bunch of groups, sweltered in the January heat, tried to think ethically and deeply about colonisation, decolonisation and Indigenous sovereignty, and afterward, headed to Musgrave Park to help make sandwiches for the Invasion Day action the following day.

We planned to run the reading group until June. When June came around, we decided to run the reading group until the end of the year. When the end of the year arrived, we decided that really it made much more sense to continue the reading group in the new year, because there's just so much left to read.

The idea is pretty simple: a bunch of folks getting together to think through some big ideas, drink tea, and shamelessly embrace our earnest enthusiasm for critical theory and gooey philosophical chats.

This year, we'll be meeting on **Thursday evenings**, at a new creative hub in West End called OuterSpace (**1/170 MONTAGUE ROAD, SOUTH BRISBANE**) from **6pm - 7ish**. Sometimes we'll have tea afterwards. Sometimes we might screen films in addition to the readings. Sometimes there'll be lectures on in the same week. Generally though, this document should be a reasonably good indication of what you can expect from the reading group for the first half of this year.

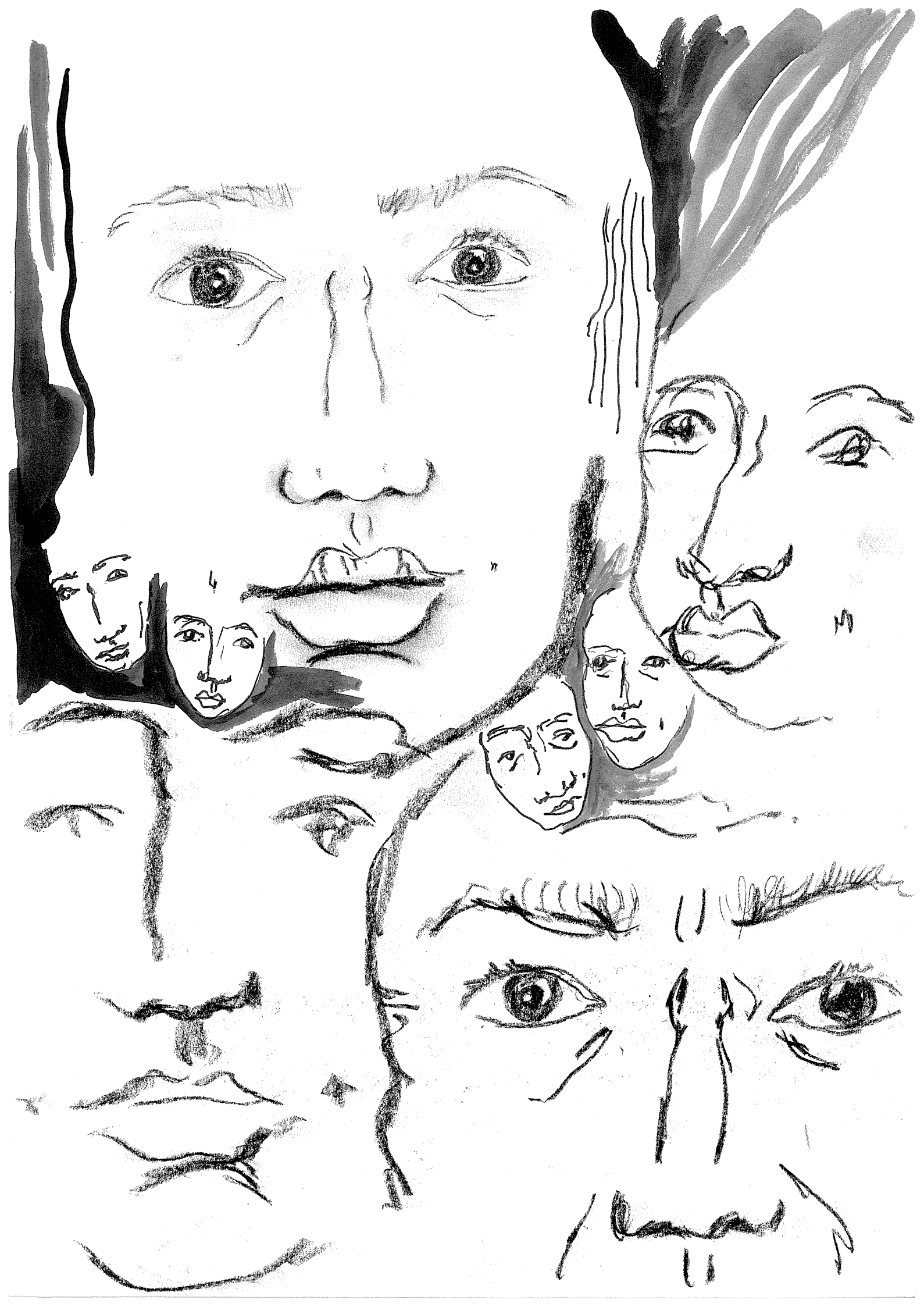
## What do we read?

The focus of this reading group is on counter-canonical works; writing by and about Indigenous, queer, black, POC, anti-capitalist and feminist ideas and theories. We want the process of collective reading to be expressly political: we are reading this content in order to know how better to respond to the crises of the present. This isn't an abstract learning exercise, though those too have their merit. This is a deliberate space for thinking philosophy, theory and politics in relation to the material, social, economic, aesthetic and emotional conditions of our lives.

These discussion groups will be open to everyone, regardless of whether or not you want to read in advance. You can find all of the readings for the first half of the year in this document. You can read these papers, or just show up on the night to talk and listen and think with us. These kinds of projects should be fun, accessible, fumble-friendly. If you'd like to come for the conversation but you feel like you won't have time to read the articles: don't worry! Please come along anyway!

If you want to read physical copies of the readings, you can find two copies of each paper in a Brisbane Free University folder at the Outer Space community hub. Pop by earlier on a Thursday to read it in the space, but please don't remove the copies from Outer Space. If you'd like a physical copy of the text, you can head to the Gabba Ward council office (Councillor Jonathan Sri) at 2/63 Annerley Rd, Woolloongabba and ask the office staff for the Brisbane Free University readings. They are all labelled with the appropriate dates; feel free to photocopy one for yourself in the office.

If you have suggestions for future readings, or want to get more involved, or just want to have a chat about the project before coming along, you can get in touch with us at [brisbanefreeuniversity@gmail.com](mailto:brisbanefreeuniversity@gmail.com), or with me, Anna, at [anna.carlson26@gmail.com](mailto:anna.carlson26@gmail.com)



# Summer...

## Thursday 8 February - Thursday 29 March

### Thursday 8th February:

Stuart Hall, "Ethnicity and Difference in Global Times" in *The fateful triangle: race, ethnicity, nation*, pp 80 - 124

### Thursday 15th February:

Bryan Mukandi, "South-South Dialogue: In search of Humanity"

### Thursday 22nd February:

Sara Ahmed, "Introduction: Bringing Feminist Theory Home," in *Living a feminist life*, pp 1 - 18

### Thursday 1st March:

Fred Moten, "Resistance of the object: Aunt Hester's Scream," in *In the Break*, pp 1 - 24

### Thursday 8th March:

Alexis Shotwell, "Complexity and Complicity: An introduction to Constitutive Impurity" in *Against Purity*, pp 1 - 19

### Thursday 15th March:

Alexis Wright, "A Question of Fear" in *Tolerance, Prejudice and Fear*, pp 129 - 169

### Thursday 22nd March:

Anna Tsing, "Part 1: What's Left?" in *The Mushroom at the End of the World*, pp 12- 43 ('Arts of Noticing' (17 - 27), 'Contamination as Collaboration' (27 - 37), 'Some Problems of Scale' (37 - 43))

### Thursday 29th March:

Cheryl I. Harris, "Whiteness as Property"

# **Autumn:**

## **Thursday 12 April - Thursday 28 June**

### **Thursday 12th April**

Lewis Gordon, "Racism, Colonialism and Anonymity: Social Theory and Embodied Agency" in *Fanon and the Crisis of European Man*, pp 38 - 66

### **Thursday 19th April**

Patricia Hill Collins and Sirma Blige, "What is Intersectionality" in *Intersectionality*

### **Thursday 26th April**

Maldonado Torres, "On the coloniality of being: Contributions to the development of a concept," pp 240 - 263

### **Thursday 3rd May**

Zoe Todd, "An Indigenous Feminist's Take On The Ontological Turn: 'Ontology' Is Just Another Word For Colonialism," pp 4 - 20

### **Thursday 10th May**

Mary Graham, "Some Thoughts on the Philosophical Underpinnings of Aboriginal Worldviews"

### **Thursday 17th May**

Alissa Macoun & Elizabeth Strakosch (2013) *The ethical demands of settler colonial theory*

### **Thursday 24th May**

Sarah Keenan, "Moments of Decolonisation: Indigenous Australia in the here and now"



**Thursday 31st May**

Andrea Smith, "Humanity through work"

**Thursday 7th June**

Audra Simpson, "Indigenous Interruptions: Mohawk Nationhood, Citizenship and the State," in *Mohawk Interruptus*, pp 1 - 35

**Thursday 14th June**

Glen Coulthard, "Introduction: Subjects of Empire," in *Red Skin, White Mask*, pp 1 - 24

**Thursday 21st June**

Andrea Smith and Audra Simpson, Introduction to *Theorising Native Studies*, pp 1 - 22  
Teresia Teaiwa, "The Ancestors we get to choose: white influences I won't deny", in *Theorising Native Studies*, pp 43 - 53

**Thursday 28th June**

Scott Lauria Morgensen, "Indigenous Transnationalism and the AIDS Pandemic: Challenging Settler Colonialism within Global Health Governance," in *Theorising Native Studies*, pp 188 - 204

**For regular updates to the schedule and general conversation, you can:**

1. Join the closed Facebook group: “Brisbane Free University Radical Reading Group”
2. Check the notice board poster at the Outer Space community art centre, 1/170 Montague Road, West End
3. Check the notice board poster at the Gabba Ward Office, 1/63 Annerley Road, West End
4. Email [brisbanefreeuniversity@gmail.com](mailto:brisbanefreeuniversity@gmail.com) or [anna.carlson26@gmail.com](mailto:anna.carlson26@gmail.com)
5. And check the Brisbane Free University website: [brisbanefreeuniversity.org](http://brisbanefreeuniversity.org)

You can also listen in to *Radio Reversal* on 4zzz (102.1fm) on Thursday mornings from 10am - midday. We will provide details of the upcoming evening's readings and discussion in the last 5 minutes of each show. You can listen back from midday at <http://ondemand.4zzzfm.org.au/radio-reversal>

