

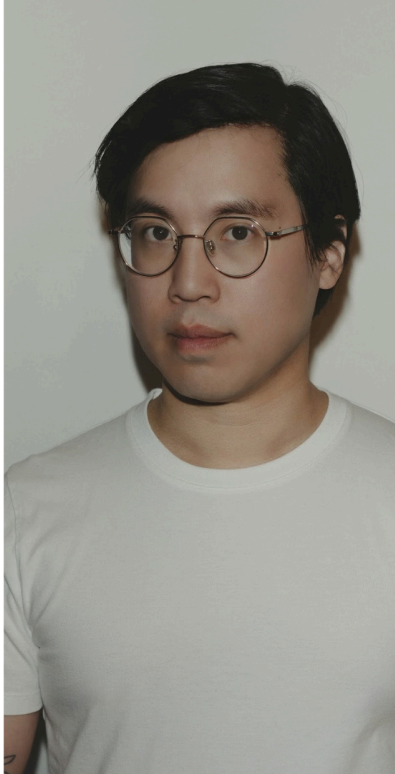


The Wheeler Centre
Books Writing Ideas

176 Little Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000 Australia
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***SLOW HORSES'* MICK HERRON, WIKIPEDIA CO-FOUNDER JIMMY WALES AND BOOK CLUB BREAKOUT FLORENCE KNAPP LEAD THE WHEELER CENTRE'S MAY LINE-UP**

Wednesday 11 March



The Wheeler Centre brings five of the world's most compelling writers and thinkers to Melbourne this May for a series of headline events – spanning spy fiction and debut novels, the crisis of truth in the digital age, the climate emergency and the thorny problems of modern life.

QUOTE FROM ERIN VINCENT, CEO, THE WHEELER CENTRE

'We're delighted to welcome these international guests to Melbourne as part of our incredible 2026 program. Stories are one of the most powerful ways to help us process complexity, so opportunities to come together around books and ideas feel vital right now. Audiences will hear from these acclaimed writers and creators, who have each shaped contemporary culture through storytelling, knowledge and imagination.'

The writer behind Apple TV's smash hit series *Slow Horses*, **Mick Herron** heads to Melbourne with *Clown Town*, the latest high-stakes instalment in his bestselling *Slough House* spy series. In conversation with **Jason Steger**, Herron will unpack the murky morality, political intrigue and biting satire that define the

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world of Jackson Lamb and his misfit agents, as well as the journey from page to screen and what lies ahead for the slow horses.

Wikipedia co-founder **Jimmy Wales** joins for an edition of the popular **The Fifth Estate** series with **Sally Warhaft** for an examination of the crisis of trust in a so-called post-truth era. Drawing on insights from his book *The Seven Rules of Trust*, Wales reflects on how Wikipedia became one of the internet's most relied-upon sources of information, why trust is fundamental to knowledge, and what it will take to safeguard credible information in an age of disinformation and AI disruption.

A word-of-mouth sensation and firm book club favourite, **Florence Knapp's** debut novel *The Names* begins with a deceptively simple question: what's in a name? From a mother's fraught decision over what to call her newborn son, the story unfolds into three alternate lives – Gordon, Julian or Bear – each shaped by that single choice. Speaking with **Beverley Wang**, Knapp will explore fate, free will and the quiet, powerful ways our earliest identities shape who we become.

Celebrated Indian writer and thinker **Amitav Ghosh** unveils his forthcoming new novel *Ghost-Eye*, a sweeping story that moves from mid-century Calcutta to contemporary Brooklyn in a meditation on rebirth, fate and the cycles of life. Hosted by **Sreedhevi Iyer** at The Capitol, Ghosh will reflect on the convergence of the novel's dual narratives, his enduring engagement with the climate crisis, and a remarkable career spanning fiction, non-fiction and reportage.

US author **Tony Tulathimutte** will visit The Wheeler Centre to discuss *Rejection*, his audacious and darkly funny novel-in-stories that landed National Book Award longlist and on 'Best Books of 2025' lists with the likes of *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *New Yorker*, *NPR*, *Time Magazine*, *Vanity Fair*, *Esquire*, *Electric Literature* and more. In conversation with **Leah Jing McIntosh**, Tulathimutte will explore the loneliness, humiliation and distorted desires of the terminally online, dissecting everything from performative feminism and incel culture to internet addiction and the bleak absurdities of modern life.

From Wednesday 11 March, The Wheeler Centre members have exclusive access to pre-sale tickets via The Wheeler Centre website. Tickets will be released to the general public at 10am on Friday 13 March.

– ENDS –

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Media centre: Images available [here](#)

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The full list of events and dates are listed below. For more information, please visit wheelercentre.com/events

Tony Tulathimutte: Rejection

Tony Tulathimutte, Leah Jing McIntosh
6.30pm, Tuesday 19 May
The Wheeler Centre

Jimmy Wales: Founder of Wikipedia

Jimmy Wales, Sally Warhaft
7.00pm, Thursday 21 May
The Capitol
Presented in partnership with RMIT University

Mick Herron: Slough House and Slow Horses

Mick Herron, Jason Steger
7.00pm, Wednesday 20 May
The Capitol
Presented in partnership with RMIT University

Florence Knapp: The Names

Florence Knapp, Beverley Wang
6.30pm, Tuesday 26 May
The Wheeler Centre

Amitav Ghosh in Conversation

Amitav Ghosh, Sreedhevi Iyer
7.00pm, Wednesday 27 May
The Capitol
Presented in partnership with RMIT University

The Wheeler Centre is Melbourne's home for smart, passionate and entertaining public talks, and exists to support writers, readers and thinkers. Through live and digital conversations, debates, readings, performances and discussions, it deepens public engagement with the most pressing topics of the day. It is dedicated to creative collaboration, community engagement, diversity, and innovation.

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