

## “The New Unlosable Election”

### The 2019 Federal Election in Historical Perspective

The 2019 federal election result has already been the subject of intense discussion. Academics, journalists, political professionals and the public are asking questions about the surprise result itself, the polling data, party leadership, policy debate, and the campaign. Clearly, when it comes to this “new unlosable election”, there are many factors to be dissected if we are to begin to come to terms with the result.

The School of History is hosting a 90-minute Panel Session, entitled “The New Unlosable Election: The 2019 Federal Election in Historical Perspective”. Rather than providing political commentary, our panel will historicize the election in order to better understand the result and suggest alternative futures. Key questions include:

- Are there useful parallels with previous elections?
- How did the polling get it so wrong? (And is the preferred prime minister polling a better indicator of electoral fortune today?)
- It has been said that “all Australian elections are fought around the economy”: is this politically or historically accurate?
- Have recent Australian elections pitted different generations of Australians against one another? Are there historical precedents for a generational split between younger and older voters?
- Why have several recent Australian elections produced knife-edge parliaments?

Date and time: Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May, 4:00 to 5:30 pm.

Venue: Sir Roland Wilson Building, Rm 1.02.

Panellists: Nicholas Brown (Chair); Frank Bongiorno; Jill Sheppard; Marija Taflaga; Joshua Black.

Contact:

Joshua Black

PhD Doctoral Candidate

School of History

National Centre for Biography

College of the Arts and Social Sciences

**The Australian National University**

**[Joshua.Black@anu.edu.au](mailto:Joshua.Black@anu.edu.au)**