



Australian Senate Occasional Lecture Series

Populism and Discontent: Comparing the United States and Australia

→ Professor Simon Jackman

Friday 17 February, 12.15pm to 1.15pm • Main Committee Room, Parliament House



Professor Simon Jackman

Elections in Australia and the United States during 2016 have been interpreted as reflecting a surge in populist sentiment and discontent with democratic institutions and outcomes. However, careful analysis of the election results and some accompanying survey data in both the United States and Australia indicates that, although dissatisfaction with major political parties and processes of government has been increasing for some time, it is far from universal and is strongly segmented by class and region. The political expression of this dissatisfaction in the 2016 elections followed each country's electoral rules and procedures (e.g. compulsory preferential voting in Australia and the Electoral College in the United States), which play a critical mediating role in the translation of dissatisfaction into election outcomes and policy. Professor Jackman will conclude with an analysis of Australian reactions to the election of Mr Trump and of Mr Trump's foreign policy and its implications for the US-Australia relationship.

Professor Simon Jackman is currently CEO of the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney. From 1996 to 2016 he was a professor of political science and statistics at Stanford University. His teaching and research centres on public opinion, election campaigns, political participation and electoral systems, with a particular emphasis on American and Australian politics. He is the author of *Bayesian Analysis for the Social Sciences* (Wiley, 2009) as well as numerous articles in leading political science journals. He has also been both a principal investigator and director of the American National Election Studies project, a long-running survey of political behaviour and attitudes.

Admission free – bookings not required. Can't make the lecture? Watch it live at www.aph.gov.au/Senate/Lectures
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