

Songs for Europe: the history and politics of the Eurovision Song Contest

Panel discussion co-hosted by the Monash European and EU Centre and the ANU Centre for European Studies

Thursday 27 April 2017, 6 – 7.15pm

Venue: Caulfield HB39

The Eurovision Song Contest is the largest song contest in the world. In 2017 an estimated one billion viewers worldwide including a growing audience in Australia will watch it. Although its organisers promote it as a 'non-political' event, a contest that spans Europe's post-War and Communist eras cannot help but be political. It formed part of early attempts to unify the continent, and continues to be a platform for the celebration of minority identities, while taking place in countries embroiled in conflict. This panel will interrogate the Eurovision Song Contest as a way to illuminate identity politics in contemporary Europe. As an idealised vision of Europe, Eurovision has long existed in a strained relationship with reality. Yet, as this panel will show, there is more to it than Euro-kitsch. The discussion will be recorded for ABC Radio National's Big Ideas program.

Speakers:

Associate Professor Julie Kalman, Australian Research Council Future Fellow, School of Philosophical, Historical and International Studies, Monash University

Professor Alison Lewis, Department of German Studies, University of Melbourne

Dr Nina Markovic Khaze, Lecturer, University of New South Wales, and Visiting Fellow, ANU Centre for European Studies

Dr Catherine Strong, Senior Lecturer (Music Industry) School of Media and Communications, RMIT University

Moderator:

Professor Marko Pavlyshyn, Director of the Monash European and EU Centre, Monash University