

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: AWE2739

Grimshaw, Patricia

(1938 -)

Born 1 January, 1938, Auckland New Zealand

Occupation Academic, Feminist, Historian

Summary

Pat Grimshaw has enjoyed a long and distinguished academic career. Having completed postgraduate studies in New Zealand, she joined the Department of History at the University of Melbourne in 1977. Pat is a Fellow of the Academy for Social Sciences in Australia, a Fellow of the Australian Academy for the Humanities, and Deputy Editor of the UK journal *Women's History Review*. She has been a member of the editorial committees of *Australian Feminist Studies*, *Gender and History*, *Journal of Women's History* and *Pacific Historical Review*, and has supervised over 50 PhDs to completion. In her various roles as supervisor, mentor, lecturer, professor, Head of Department, Deputy Dean, and member of multiple academic and professional associations, she has made an extraordinary contribution to women's history, to the history profession, and to the wider community.

Her extraordinary (and continuing) contribution was recognised in 2017 when she was awarded an Order of Australia for 'distinguished service to the social sciences and to the humanities through researching, documenting and preserving Australian history, and the roles of women in society'.

Details

Pat Grimshaw completed her postgraduate studies at Auckland University. Her seminal study of women's suffrage in New Zealand was published by Auckland University Press in 1972.

In 1977, Pat was appointed as a lecturer in women's history at the University of Melbourne. Her new course, 'Changing Concepts of Women's Place', remained central to the women's studies program for the next twenty years. The establishment of the Women's Studies Centre in 1988 owed much to her influence. Pat became renowned for her dynamism and enthusiasm as a lecturer, inspiring the hundreds of students under her tutelage.

Pat's academic work spans a wide field. Early research into American missionary wives in Hawaii sparked her ongoing interest in settler feminism, the civilizing mission, and the rights of white and indigenous women on the Pacific Rim. Later research focused on working mothers, families and social change: the co-edited *Double Shift* was published in 2005. Pat has co-edited several collections in women's history including *Australian Women: Feminist Perspectives* (1981), *The Half-Open Door* (1982), and *Women's Rights and Human Rights* (2001). *Freedom Bound* (1995, with Marian Quartly and Susan Janson) brought to light a large number of documents on women in colonial and modern Australia. *Creating a Nation* (1994, republished 2006) re-told the story of Australia's settlement history with particular focus on the place of women and of Aboriginal Australians within that history. In 1994, Pat co-edited *Colonialism, Gender and Representations of Race*; in 2002, *Letters from Aboriginal Women in Victoria*; in 2003, *Equal Subjects, Unequal Rights: Indigenous Peoples in British Settler Colonies, 1830-1910*; in 2006, *Collisions of Cultures and Identities*; and in 2007, with Kate Darian-Smith and Stuart Macintyre, *Britishness Abroad*.

Pat served as Head of the Department of History at the University of Melbourne for a decade (1992-2002) with just one year in respite, and became the Max Crawford Professor of History. She was Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Arts from 1993 to 1996; reappointed in 2003. From 1995 to 2000 she was President of the International Federation for Research in Women's History. As a Director of the National Foundation for Australian Women, she was instrumental in obtaining an Australian Research Council linkage grant to support the Australian Women's Archives Project – one of approximately ten ARC grants awarded to her or to projects with which she has been involved.

Loved and revered by countless students and frequently called upon for her skills in research, oratory, supervision and leadership, Pat Grimshaw's official retirement in 2006 was a mere formality.

In March 2008 Pat Grimshaw was inducted onto the 2008 Victorian Honour Roll of Women, a Government initiative which recognises and celebrates the achievements of women from all walks of life. In the same week the University of Melbourne announced the Patricia Grimshaw Mentor Excellence Awards, to honour her contribution as a mentor of postgraduate students and younger colleagues on their research projects and career development.

Events

2008 - 2008

Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

1995 - 2000

International Federation for Research in Women's History

Published resources

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Journal Article

In Pursuit of True Anglican Womanhood in Victoria, 1880-1914, Grimshaw, Patricia, 1993

Gender, Citizenship and Race in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Australia, 1890 to the 1930s, Grimshaw, Patricia, 1998

Colonising motherhood : Evangelical social reformers and Koorie women in Victoria, Australia, 1880s to the early 1990s, Grimshaw, Patricia, 1999

Caring for Country: Yuwalaraay Women and Attachments to Land on an Australian Colonial Frontier, Evans, J., Grimshaw, P. and Standish, A., 2003

Book Section

A white woman's suffrage, Grimshaw, Patricia, 1996

Reading the silences: suffrage activists and race in nineteenth century settler societies., Grimshaw, Patricia, 1999

White women, Aboriginal women and the vote in Western Australia, Grimshaw, Patricia and Ellinghaus, Katherine, 1999

Book

Women historians and women's history : Kathleen Fitzpatrick (1905-1990), Margaret Kiddle (1914-1958) and the Melbourne History School, Carey, Jane, 1972- and Grimshaw, Patricia, 1938-, 2001

Letters from Aboriginal Women in Victoria, 1867-1926, Nelson, Elizabeth, Smith, Sandra and Grimshaw, Patricia, 2002, <http://hdl.handle.net/11343/42073>

Colonialism, Gender and Representations of Race: Issues in writing women's history in Australia and the Pacific, Grimshaw, Patricia, 1994

Edited Book

The Half-open door : sixteen modern Australian women look at professional life and achievement, Grimshaw, Patricia and Strahan, Lynne, c1982

Australian Women: Feminist Perspectives, Grieve, Norma and Patricia Grimshaw, 1981

Britishness Abroad: Transnational Movements and Imperial Cultures, Darian-Smith, Kate, Patricia Grimshaw and Stuart Macintyre, 2007

Collisions of Cultures and Identities: Settlers and Indigenous Peoples, Grimshaw, Patricia and Russell McGregor, 2006

Creating a Nation, Grimshaw, Patricia et al, 2006

Double Shift: working mothers and social change in Australia, Grimshaw, Patricia, John Murphy and Belinda Probert, 2005

Equal Subjects, Unequal Rights: indigenous peoples in British settler colonies, 1830-1910, Evans, Julie et al, 2003

Families in Colonial Australia, Grimshaw, Patricia, Chris McConville, Ellen McEwen, 1985

Freedom Bound, Quartly, Marian, Susan Janson and Patricia Grimshaw, 1995

Women's Rights and Human Rights: International Historical Perspectives, Grimshaw, Patricia, Katie Holmes, Marilyn Lake, 2001

Site Exhibition

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014, <http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

Archival resources

The University of Melbourne Archives

[The Half Open Door](#)

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

[Papers of Marilyn Lake, 1964-1999 \[manuscript\]](#)

Author Details

Barbara Lemon

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