

*Chat Log: Remaking the Public Square*  
*Recorded live on 29 April 2021*

00:18:44 Graeme Tychsen: Cooee from the sovereignty of coal dust blasted Awabakal, from the cancerous growth of open cut slashing of the Hunter Valley.

00:19:03 Hayden Starr: Welcome all - Hayden from the Australia Institute here! Thanks for joining us today.

00:19:42 Fred Engels: Good Morning from Mandjoogoordap - Noongar name meaning 'meeting place of the heart'. Also known as Mandurah WA from the word 'mandjar', meaning 'trading place

00:24:41 Hayden Starr: You can have a look at Eli's book 'The Filter Bubble' here >  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/12/books/review/book-review-the-filter-bubble-by-eli-pariser.html>

<https://www.dymocks.com.au/book/the-filter-bubble-by-eli-pariser-9780143121237>

00:27:50 Graeme Tychsen: Australia is characterised by narrow sectional interests, in its colony period. A form of Lord of the Flies. Voting is simply a sideshow. There are too many unchecked very powerful hubs for democracy to have any meaning in this place. English culture can prevail in such a way that its familiar social tyranny is accepted as "normal", but so inherently destructive, of those born to rule, for those who love being born to be ruled, runs riot. The overlord Scott Morrison carrying his gift book of gee-gees, grovelling, all coy in the presence of the Queen of Australia, shows the silly formality and weakness of the so-called fair go, egalitarian nation. Then along comes cultism, as opposed to the basic idea of our society extending a helping hand. So its all manning their own corner, in the trust void.

00:30:39 Greg (Darwin, Australia): Quite right, Graeme. We are still well and truly in our "colony period".

00:31:06 Steph Rey: @Graeme - and the most ironic thing of all is England is way more progressive than Aus. The Queen is simply pageantry over there, yet in Aus we've held onto a culture of the early 1800's which still has a ruling class mentality and marginalises women and people of colour...

00:33:41 Fred Engels: Colonialism and patriarchy still remains all pervasive in Australian society

00:33:47 Hayden Starr: Find out more about Eli's new organisation Civic Signals:  
<https://newpublic.org/>

00:34:46 Hayden Starr: Appreciate the discussion, but let's aim to keep conversation on topic

00:37:42 Greg (Darwin, Australia): :-O I can't believe ANYONE still finds Facebook acceptable enough to use.

00:39:45 Paul Wilson: I wonder if panellists have views on alternative social platforms such as WT.Social; or if there's a feeling that this hypothetical public space needs to be somehow unique and/or "Australian" owned/managed?

00:40:14 Fred Engels: OH! for a healthy democracy!!!

*Chat Log: Remaking the Public Square*  
*Recorded live on 29 April 2021*

00:41:22 Hugh Gould: Hello hello from Wiradjuri Country. How can you pay moderators and not have them seen as driven by some outside determinators?

00:42:40 Graeme Tychsen: "Let's build our democracy" - polarisation is so strong now, when vital truths are buried, I am wondering what traction "remaking the public square will get". It seems to be a world in which people only want to hear what they believe, though when it comes to truth, it is a question of accepting / heeding.

00:44:24 Millie Rooney: I love this conversation about the important work of maintaining, building, supporting, facilitating community public cspaces and connections. Biden's work on care infrastructure as part of his Jobs Plan is inspiring in this way.

00:46:15 Fred Engels: It is NO surprise when you witness and read reports that the most worthy and informative ABC Q+A programs do NOT include politicians. These digital platforms must from the get go preclude politicians

00:46:16 Graeme Tychsen: Millie remains to be seen how much headway it makes. The actions of the Johnson Administration and 1960s civils rights were far more than inspiring, and look at the much more fractured US today.

00:47:48 Graeme Tychsen: Social media has had the "good" effect of revealing the toxic undercurrents of our society. The trolling and cruelty that is so hard to check.

00:48:08 Greg (Darwin, Australia): Any such social media platform or "digital town square" is doomed to fail if its existence is based on revenue from advertising.

00:48:58 Fred Engels: Agreed Greg

00:49:14 ed bernacki: Listening from Canada (ex Melb resident). I would to learn this type of discussion here.

00:49:44 Graeme Tychsen: Yes Greg, there can be no influence. ABC is hand in glove with an egalitarian society for it is the best that can be done to bring both the private and public sectors to account.

00:52:31 Graeme Tychsen: Superlative Information and reporting is crucial to a healthy democracy; so the ABC concept cannot be beholden full stop. The ABC does it job too well and then is ignored by so many, though it is heartening to see that it remains very trusted.

00:54:06 Steph Rey: Microsoft do the same with data. There is no "better" option

00:55:09 Graeme Tychsen: By doing its job so well though less than it could as it feels threatened, the ABC is risking itself, with the polarisation and growing school level debate that it brings. So the underlying grave problems of Australia may simply be given more force by a public domain.

00:56:51 Graeme Tychsen: That question highlights the real task facing Australia.

01:02:04 Hayden Starr: Here's Lizzie's book! 'Future Histories'  
<https://lizzioshea.com/future-histories/>

01:03:45 Glenn O: Next step: Skynet....!

*Chat Log: Remaking the Public Square*  
*Recorded live on 29 April 2021*

01:09:01 Hayden Starr: Digital Rights Watch: <https://digitalrightswatch.org.au/>

01:09:38 Eli Pariser: Here's a bit more thinking about applying the "public spaces" metaphor to digital life: <https://www.wired.com/story/to-mend-a-broken-internet-create-online-parks/>

01:10:51 Steph Rey: No framework on monopoly?

01:11:31 Hayden Starr: Lizzie's book 'Future Histories' <https://lizzieoshea.com/future-histories/>

01:11:32 Steph Rey: It's utterly absurd that Murdoch can own 60% of media - it should be capped at 30% to allow diversity to enter the market

01:11:36 Gerard Borg: What is Skynet? - link?

01:13:36 Glenn O: It's funny The Borg knows nought of Skynet... Apols, I'm such a sci-fi nerd :)

01:13:51 Steph Rey: @Glenn - haha

01:14:02 Steph Rey: Resistance is futile

01:14:21 Gerard Borg: okay! haha

01:14:27 Hayden Starr: Thanks to all for joining us today for a insightful discussion!

01:14:42 Hayden Starr: For details about upcoming webinars head to [https://nb.tai.org.au/webinar\\_series](https://nb.tai.org.au/webinar_series)

01:14:43 Fred Engels: Thank You All!!!

01:14:51 Steph Rey: Thank you all!

01:14:54 Hugh Gould: Thanks for all your insights. loved it!

01:14:56 Glenn O: Indeed, Steph. Exterminate!!!! Fox News!!!! Exterminate!!!

01:15:01 Andy Macdonald: Thank you, fascinating!

01:15:02 ana arvela: Thank you. Great discussion

01:15:10 Steph Rey: @Glenn indeed!

01:15:12 Kimberley Wheeler: Thanks, terrific discussion