#### Imaginations

Journal of Cross-Cultural Image Studies Revue d'études interculturelles de l'image

### Making Sense of Noise - A Symphony for Voices

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Volume 12, numéro 2, 2021

Massive/Micro Sensemaking: Towards Post-pandemic Futures

URI : https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1085737ar DOI : https://doi.org/10.17742/IMAGE.MM.12.2.6

Aller au sommaire du numéro

Éditeur(s)

York University

ISSN 1918-8439 (numérique)

Découvrir la revue

#### Citer cet article

McLaren, M.-R. (2021). Making Sense of Noise – A Symphony for Voices. *Imaginations*, 12(2), 97–137. https://doi.org/10.17742/IMAGE.MM.12.2.6 Résumé de l'article

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# REVUE D'ETUDES INTERCULTURELLES DE L'IMAGE - JOURNAL OF CROSS-CULTURAL IMAGE STUDIES



IMAGINATIONS: JOURNAL OF CROSS-CULTURAL IMAGE STUDIES | REVUE D'ÉTUDES INTERCULTURELLES DE L'IMAGE

Publication details, including open access policy and instructions for contributors: http://imaginations.glendon.yorku.ca

Massive/Micro Sensemaking: Towards Post-pandemic Futures Guest Editors: Mary Elizabeth Luka, Annette Markham, Dan Harris December 23, 2021

Image credit: Annette N Markham

To cite this article:

McLaren, Mary-Rose. "Making Sense of Noise – A Symphony for Voices." Imaginations: Journal of Cross-Cultural Image Studies, vol. 12, no. 2, December 23, 2021, pp. 97–137, doi: 10.17742/IMAGE.MM.12.2.6.

To link to this article: http://dx.doi.org/10.17742/IMAGE.MM.12.2.6



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#### MAKING SENSE OF NOISE - A SYMPHONY FOR VOICES

MARY-ROSE MCLAREN

This paper uses original and found poetry to shape the soundscape of 2020 into meaning. A critical auto-ethnographic study, it uses poetic strategies of arts-based methodology to weave stories, experiences and impressions together, to create a literary fabric of the year. So doing, it creates a choral piece for the spoken voice, which explores ideas of conspiracy, community, racism, oppression and justice, drawing on the author's experience in Australia, and connection with the wider world via the internet. Its focus on listening as meaning is formed from competing and contesting voices.

Cet article utilise une poésie originale et trouvée pour façonner le paysage sonore de 2020. Une étude auto-ethnographique critique, il utilise des stratégies poétiques de méthodologie basée sur les arts pour tisser des histoires, des expériences et des impressions ensemble, pour créer un tissu littéraire de l'année. Ce faisant, il crée une pièce de chorale pour la voix parlée, qui explore les idées de complot, de communauté, de racisme, d'oppression et de justice, en s'appuyant sur l'expérience de l'auteur en Australie et sur la connexion avec le monde entier via Internet. Son accent est mis sur l'écoute car le sens se forme à partir de voix concurrentes et contestataires.

#### INTRODUCTION<sup>1</sup>

he year 2020 began in Australia (where I live) with what Professor John Shine, President of the Australian Academy of Science, called "unprecedented" bush fires.<sup>2</sup> From fires, Australia lurched into pandemic (not quite unprecedented, because humanity had experienced the Spanish flu of 1918-20). From there, many Australians protested in support of Black Lives Matter—precipitated by the murder of George Floyd, but in response to generations of racism, oppression, and brutality the world over. Severe economic downturn, the emboldening of white supremacy, and more "unprecedented" wild fires in California (this time identified as such by Frank Lake, a U.S. Forest Service research ecologist<sup>3</sup>), bring me to September 2020, when this paper is written. This year taught me to listen differently. Previously, I would have filtered out so much of this information and opinion; I would have dismissed it as the noise of daily life. But in 2020 this 'noise' connected me across the ether with family and friends around the world through a shared sense of trauma and anxiety, and shared fixations on numbers and daily reports. In amongst the bombardment of news, when listening differently, I heard things I had previously ignored. The slowing and stilling of my daily life was counter-balanced by my increasing engagement with the world via the internet. The following is my attempt to make sense of the cacophony of sound, the competing voices and ideas that are the noisescape of 2020. This critical autoethnographic study uses poetic strategies of arts-based methodology to weave stories, experiences, and impressions together to create a literary fabric of the year. Poetry as research method, and as qualitative analysis and representation, is explored by Sandra L Faulkner (2017). She observes that poetry "shows, rather than tells, our human mysteries, triumphs, and foibles" (209). In choosing this form, I have sought to give the reader an embodied experience, taking them inside the moment of expression through the physical formation of sounds, the articulating of the words of others. This is consistent with William Faulkner's understanding that:

"Poetry can help us see a relationship bleeding out, haemorrhaging from the inside, spilling outside the neat axioms of theory. Poetry can have us experience the social structures and ruptures in situ as we read, as we listen, as we hold our breath waiting for the next line." (222)

Consequently, poetry as inquiry and research can offer transformative experiences to the reader (and writer), "by providing new insight, giving perspective, and/or advocating for social change" (227). Consistent with this viewpoint, Hodge (2017) suggests that the nature of the critical reflection made possible through poetry offers "space to voice-silenced traumas" (11), that through poetry, one might enter vicariously into the lived experience of another person.

The following poetry is constructed in two different forms. The first is free verse, in my own words, appearing in the left-hand column. The second is found poetry, appearing in the right-hand column. Found poetry is constructed by selecting words and phrases from longer, often prose texts, such as interview transcripts or narrative accounts. Lisa D. Patrick (2016) distinguishes between these two forms of poetry in her own research poem about poetry as methodology:

"Research poets refashion and reorder data, presenting it as a poem . . . crafting original poetry in the voice of the researcher, crafting found poetry in the voice of the participant." (Patrick 386)

The found poetry in the work below is drawn from transcripts of interviews, newspaper articles, opinion pieces, speeches by public figures and by activists at rallies, websites, songs, banners, and advertising material. The references for these, and where necessary the explanations, can be found in the endnotes. Although at times these words have been repeated or constructed into poetic form, they have not been altered from the original. Patrick goes on to discuss the "transaction" (387) between reader and text, and the ways in which found poetry facilitates this. One of the significant impacts of using found poetry in a project such as this one is the explicit way it identifies my interpretative role in the process of inquiry. By placing my own poetry alongside found poetry, each reflects on, and informs,

the other. At times these two forms intersect and become interwoven. In order to keep the distinction between my own words and the found poetry clear, my own words always appear in italics. Occasionally there are italicised words in amongst the found poetry in the right-hand column. These are my words, added in order to move the found poetry along, make connections, or develop the aesthetics.

A significant challenge in writing this piece has been identifying my own standpoint. My aim in the found poetry has been to amplify voices, not to take them or control them. I am a white, middle-aged woman. While I can feel shocked, diminished, and enraged by the stories of marginalised, silenced, and oppressed people, I can never know their lived experiences. I hope this work honours those voices and adds to the calls for justice in our world. Amongst the found poetry you will also find the competing voices of the privileged. I place them there to contextualise the voices they silence, and to implicitly offer critique of them. Doing so creates contested space on the page, and is a reminder of the clash of values being played out in the choices people make. You may wonder how I selected the voices I did. I used the open architecture of the internet to guide me: I started with word searches on Google and You Tube and simply followed links. I found myself delving further and further into sites I would never normally have accessed, and hearing the ideas and opinions of people whose world perceptions are very different from my own. Following links on YouTube takes the viewer to varied places, where words shift meaning according to context. At the time this poem was written, "flattening the curve" took me from coronavirus to body image, which reminded me, in turn, of Donald Trump's perceptions of, and desire to control, the female body. Some months later, as I review this paper, "flattening the curve" takes the viewer straight to conspiracy theories. I also followed links through newspaper sites; sometimes I saw images or heard or read words that resonated, and which I then specifically sought out. George Floyd's last words-"I can't breathe"-are an example of this. I knew they were also the last words of Aboriginal Australian David Dungay Jr, who died in police custody in 2015. The intersection of breath across the experience of COVID-19, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the experience of Indigenous peoples in Australia, was one route through my 2020.

One last point about the writing: the success of any work lies in its reader or listener being able to move in, out, and through it; to engage in emotional intensity and pull back and view objectively. For this reason, not all elements of the work are deeply serious. However, all reflect on the bombardment by social and political noise that has occurred during lockdown and pandemic; and on my personal growing awareness of the pain that some of us inflict, wittingly or not, on others. The Melbourne lockdown was one of the strictest and longest in the world.<sup>4</sup> Initial restrictions were introduced on March 16. Stage four restrictions, which included an 8:00 pm curfew, masks, and limiting time outside the house to one hour a day, commenced on August 2 and continued into late October. During this time the noise of aeroplanes overhead, and cars on the road, almost disappeared. But the noise of the internet, the main communication outside the home, became louder and louder. I have tried to capture that sense of loud, competing, noise outside of my own experience. In this work it is my intention to amplify the voices of oppressed people, never to trivialise them. I sincerely hope this work is read in that way.

The creation of this piece has been an exercise in embodied writing. I selected words because they generated a visceral response. I have sought to communicate this viscerality in the use of rhythms and repetition. Because music is meaning made from noise, I have taken a musical motif—the symphony—and redesigned it for the spoken word. It is designed to be read aloud by numerous voices—sometimes in unison, sometimes overlapping or echoing each other, at other times challenging each other. There are several ways you can read this work: down one column and then the other; across the page; or moving between columns by stanza or movement. Each of these ways will give a different sense to the work. I encourage you to read it aloud and to experiment with the process of reading that speaks best to you. My own preference is to read across the page.

First Movement Sonata: Exposition

I am making sense Made sense sense made Sense in the Making I am trying To make Sense.

To Sense: To feel, touch, hold, smell to breathe in the rancid and the scented to taste in the air and on the tongue to know the passage of Time to hear the cries of abandonment to listen for Hope to be deaf. We must remember to protect ourselves from people who choose to not engage in the critical act of thinking.<sup>5</sup> Thinking Thinking

To see	I don't like how my chances of
to envisage, imagine, dream,	survival
to make art	are linked to
to find	the common sense of
the current that tumbles tidelike	others <sup>6</sup>
into and out of the Mind.	

To use senses to make Sense.

IMAGINATIONS ISSUE 12-2, 2021 · 102

#### $My\ sense$

Our sense

Common sense

And yet....

The fire the smoke the blast of taser	This is how people are actually feeling.
the car horns	This is temporary shit.
the missiles, rocks	This is our future we stand up for
the calling of names	We will cause a scene <sup>7</sup>
the hiding in bunkers	Donald Trump spent
the blaming and cursing	only a "tiny" amount of time
the crying out	only a tiny amount
the penting up	tiny, tiny amount
the years of sin that lie on the land	in a reinforced bunker -
the blood seeping into soil	while protesters rage
and bitumen	Donald inspects
lying in red coagulating puddles	(but not for his safety)
under our feet	just
	to inspect <sup>8</sup>
	We tried peaceful protesting
Breaking things, breaking down	and this was our last resort
Cracking crashing crushing But	actions speak louder than words

Is this breaking or building?	actions speak louder
	It sucks to see our city
	burning burning burning
	but they're finally listening to
Breaking capitalism?	us.
Building fairness?	We will be heard.
Breaking wealth?	
Building Justice?	
Breaking privilege?	
Building solidarity?	
Who controls the paradigm of	
understanding?	Fuck those media outlets
	They're going to
	portray us in a bad light
	Only showing what's going
	on over here
	at the end of the day <sup>9</sup> A bad light
	Bad
	Shit got out of control.
	Shit
	Got
	Out of control <sup>10</sup>
the failure to listen	Fuck all that talking $^{11}$

**IMAGINATIONS** ISSUE 12-2, 2021 · 104

the failure to hear	I need you to see me
the failure to see	You don't see colour?
the failure to touch lives	You don't see me. <sup>12</sup>
the failure to taste the bitterness	
the failure to smell dissent	Some people can't walk round without
the failure.	being scared
	that some cop
	is going to come to them
	with a
The nonSense	Death sentence. <sup>13</sup>
the SenseLess	

#### Sonata: Development

When no cents doesn't mean	
No Sense	
	We want the person with no cents to their
	name to have enough word
You are on mute	in this world
muted	to change $it_{14}$
neutered	We're out here
powerless	living through hundreds of years

we're all on mute silenced by Capitalism by politicians with agendas that don't include me or you or us but someone else.	of discrimination and a bunch of stigma that we face every single day. This is the only way we are heard <sup>15</sup> It really doesn't make sense to me, to be honest <sup>16</sup>
It is the great silence and the great silencing put on a mask, muffle the voice set the incomers to mute who has the controls?	It begins with an act of recogni- tion <sup>17</sup> Australia is not inno- cent. <sup>18</sup> De-colonise this place. <sup>19</sup> There's a right way to protest and that's peacefully

We saw that many times with Martin Luther King<sup>20</sup>

They still assassinated him....<sup>21</sup>

Australia is a fucking crime scene<sup>22</sup>America is a crime scene<sup>23</sup>Every colonised country is a crime scene

They tell us to flatten the curve they've been telling women that for years: have you ever been cat-called

You're so fat

fat-called	Boys call me fat all the
body shamed	time <sup>24</sup> The thigh gap
body framed	Slimthick
body blamed?	slim and thick
lose weight	thick and slim
girdle the rolls of fat	everything has to be
make the curves that men want	proportional <sup>25</sup> <i>Put a gap here</i>
flatten the natural curve	put a lump there
through denial and sacrifice.	a plump
This is no different then	little lump
women know how to do this	right there
young teenage girls	where I can grab it <sup>26</sup> I wear black
who bind their breasts in the	leggings
hope of	because they make me look
controlling menstruation	small <sup>27</sup> I just
of never becoming women	don't look in the mirror <sup>28</sup> Hon-
because who would want to be?	estly - I just
Who would actively choose to	really
be oppressed simply by being	I just
who they are	don't feel comfortable
to be muted, flattened	in my own skin <sup>29</sup>
held on the ground by the knee of	I like my skin colour because
	it's different <sup>30</sup> I am pretty
oppression	I am empowered
Who would choose to be black	I am who I am <sup>31</sup>
to be yellow	

to be anything other than male and white

with a private school education

And an inheritance as big as a mountain?

Who would choose anything else?

#### Sonata: Recapitulation

Is stupidity a choice?	The power to think.
or a curse?	You have given away that pow-
Perhaps a blessing to live	er
the unexamined life <sup>32</sup> when	to people who will use it
everything is conspiracy because	to manipulate you,
that is easier	to control how you live,
than responsibility.	whether it be in poverty
And when stupid and nasty	or subjugation.
stand	When you fail to consider
hand in hand	the messages your world sends
stupid and racist	to you,
stupid and misogynistic	you have made a choice,
how much power do the stupid	conscious or not,
have?	to be
	stupid. <sup>33</sup>

	Stop 5G; Look up event 201;
How is there sense in that?	Newsom Gates Soros Global Psychopaths
	The W.H.O. is Poo!
	Impeach Bill Gates <sup>34</sup> Every con- spiracy you ever heard
	was pretty much true <sup>35</sup> We're looking at a seasonal flu
	and a bunch of fake death num- bers <sup>36</sup> Fake death
	fake news fake bombs <sup>37</sup> Lock- down is slavery <sup>38</sup>
	You can be stupid in any num- ber of ways:
	You can be <b>blinded</b> by your religion.
	You can be blinded by your dependence
	on social media.
	You can be stupidly parti- san
	and unable to listen
	to people who don't share
	your ways of life.
	You can be stupidly biased
	against minorities or
	against a social group or

culture you haven't made an effort

to understand.39

What if I had my knee in their neck.

for 11 minutes...<sup>40</sup>If you can talk you can breathe.<sup>41</sup>

Is it the fear of fear that propels us like circus clowns from the cannon? The fear of looking weak, feeling weak, being weakened? Weak to accept difference Weak to take precautions Weak to take precautions Weak to be female or black Weak to wear a mask Weak to seek justice Weak to share power Weak to share wealth Weak to be Human

We are teaching fear, not  $courage_{4^2}$ 

Strength is

hatred of weakness.<sup>43</sup>Fear strengthens tribalistic instincts,

tribalistic instincts amplify fear.

Nothing bonds a group more tightly

than a common enemy

a mortal threat<sup>44</sup>a mortal threat:

It's nothing more than a common cold<sup>45</sup>Sadistic

passionate

hatred,

and that's what proves they're strong,

their passionate hatred for weakness.46 If you can talk you can breathe A Fair Australia<sup>47</sup>Make America Great Again48 Failed in their duty of care49 We took the traditional lands and smashed the traditional way of life. We brought the diseases. The alcohol. We committed the murders. We took the children from their mothers. We practised discrimination and exclusion It was our ignorance and our prejudice. And our failure to imagine these things being done to us.50 I can't do anything to help.<sup>51</sup> I can't breathe.52

We are all Less all without Sense when we fail to sense the fall of Humanity.

The fall The first sin the absence of Love

Make sense of this then Make sense of change Make sense.

Sense.

# I can't. Breathe.

#### Second Movement

The whole only exists as the The problem starts with us replication the non trillions and zillions of times, Aboriginal Australians53 of the microscopic. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice Made as we are of billions of cells; everywhere54 each cell made of atoms. There is stardust in each of us - and dinosaur wee. White silence The replication of the world Equals white violence<sup>55</sup> over and over and over again: Rest in peace George Floyd.56Justice Now for David walnuts that look like brains; Dungay Jr.57 flowers that look like vaginas; If you can talk you can breathe birds that mimic human industry (or human industry that mimics *birds*) I don't support the looting leaves that show in their tracand the fires. I'm just ings supporting the cause58I just the shape of the tree. think what people are doing All around us here

microscopic images of the mas- sive,	is just ruining the whole point of this <sup>59</sup>
and each of them, built one on another,	It is Just
shapes the whole.	our mere existence
Pieces topple, people crumble,	bothering them <sup>60</sup> Stolen lives on stolen land <sup>61</sup>
systems fail,	The centre cannot hold <sup>62</sup>
voices call into the chaos, de- spair dwells,	
destruction ensues.	
We are all intimately interwo- ven.	
And yet there are those who would tear	
the fabric to make cloths of gold	
For themselves.	
Past in pages Iouca Clarks	Robocca Mahor DK Tanya

# *Rest in peace Joyce Clarke, Rebecca Maher, DK, Tanya Louise Day, SDC and Mr Ward*<sup>63</sup> *Rest in Peace.*

Rest in peace, you more than 400 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have died in custody since the end of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal deaths in custody in 1991.<sup>64</sup>Rest in peace Rayshard Brooks and Daniel Prude, Breonna Taylor and Atatiana Jefferson, and the many many, many more Black people killed by police in the US<sup>65</sup>Rest in peace all those who have been silenced, who could not breathe, all those held down and shot up, the oppressed killed by the oppressor.

Remember their names.66

What next?	Everything's inevitable.67
We struggle on.	
Can change happen?	I want to give back to you the
Is this the	ownership of this land <sup>68</sup>
beginning	
of the end?	
Is this the end we need in order to have a	
beginning?	
Is it a pandemic that brings us to our knees.	Where do we go from here? <sup>69</sup>
cursing and wielding knives?	We shouldn't be importing things that are
Or does it open our eyes	happening overseas
to the flaws,	We don't need to draw
the crevasses,	equivalence here70
the failings?	
Is COVID the critical friend we have longed	
for?	What message are we sending
It is always hard to embrace the devil's	by destroying what is ours? $7^{1}$
advocate. And yet	

what next? what next?

IMAGINATIONS ISSUE 12-2, 2021 · 114

what next?

#### Third Movement

Stay home	Stay home
shut the doors	Keep our Hospitals safe
close the curtains	1.5 metres
turn on Netflix	Wash your hands
sit it out.	Don't touch your face
	Wear a mask
28 weeks in lockdown	Stay home.
196 days	Staying apart
4,704 hours	staying apart
282,240 seconds	staying apart
and counting	keeps us together <sup>72</sup>
	34.1 million COVID 19 cases worldwide
	1,015,815 deaths
	7,245,228 cases in the US
	6,312,584 in India
	4,810,935 in Brazil
	1,179,634 in Russia <sup>73</sup> In Colom- bia, Iran, the Philippines,
	Indonesia
	In Romania, Morocco,
	Ghana and Nigeria,

	In Iceland, Yemen, West Bank and Gaza,
	In China, in Japan,
	In Ethiopia, Madagascar, Myanmar and
	Korea
	In Fiji, Cambodia, Oman, and Sweden <sup>74</sup> .
The Spanish flu was	500 million people infected
36,500 days ago.	50 million deaths
876,000 hours	worldwide <sup>75</sup>
52 million 560,000 seconds	
and counting	How long?
	Not long,
Time immemorial unimaginable	because the arc of the moral universe is
before my time	long,
your time	but it bends toward justice.76
our time.	
before	The tools to deal
	with the global emergency
No Zoom	were limited77Despite improve-
no Netflix	ments since 1918,
no washing machine	governments and health care systems
no dishwasher no phone	remain inadequately prepared for

no television no laptop no iTunes no podcast the impact of a 1918-like severe influenza pandemic.<sup>78</sup>

27 July, 1919. Homes and buildings burned to the ground. White mobs lynched forty-three African Americans, sixteen hanged, others shot, eight men burned at the stake.<sup>79</sup>

When one falls

We all fall

It is hard to breathe when you're hanging

*it is hard to breathe with a knee in your neck* 

Burning burning burning

it is hard to breath with liquified lungs

Hard to speak

When the powerful and ignorant

have their knees on the necks

of all the Lost

And Losing

Did they even have ventilators then?

Silences

stillnesses walking the footpaths He's a real nowhere man of a fantasy land making all his nowhere plans chalked rainbows for  $nobody^{81}$ teddy bears in windows cities of spoons<sup>80</sup>Every day the same: We've had people walk the dog, pad, pad, pad, trying to groom their own dogs sniff, meander, wee, cutting and gashes whoosh whoosh goes the tail, It's just pant, pant; Going on and on<sup>82</sup> home again Going on and on computer on, ding, ding, ding, Going on and on zooooooom innnn zooooom innnnn Sit.....

long slow notes of movement as the day progresses.

the long sonorous sounds of silent disruption.

Sleepless nights are dark tunnels to the future Going on and on

I'll give ya a dose but it'll never come close to the rage built up inside of me fist in the air, in the land of hypocrisy<sup>83</sup> Listen: bat in the tree cars intermittently..... night fades to day..... zzzzzz dingalingalingaling. WAKE UP WAKE UP WAKE UP. Wake up! Wake up!<sup>84</sup>

#### We all just

Need to wake up

#### **Fourth Movement**

The body is the site of our being.	Violence enforced on our bod-
Despite the intellectual pursuit	ies since invasion
the existential desire,	built on the genocide of my people <sup>85</sup>
we live and die in the body.	
We are the body	The rampant and deliberate vi- olence inflicted on us by the
destroyed by virus or violence.	state <sup>86</sup>

Say it aloud, and slowly:

Virus

Violence.

These lead to destruction,

the entanglements, of virus and violence.

their intricate inter-relations.

Does virus make us more

violent?

Does violence make us more prone to

virus?

How do we measure decay –

can we distinguish between the decay of the body and the decay of the soul,

of the moral core?

My body is a temple. That's what They say, those who would control my use of it, my life within it, my agency to act. My body is more a tent or a decaying warehouse That's what I say, where illnesses come to rave. It is the site of virus and is vul-Kick cancer's butt nerable to Etsy, Pinterest, Zazzle, faceviolence. book Let us 'fight' an illness Kick let us 'kick cancer's butt'; Fight

let vaccinations be our 'weapon' let us internalise the violence normalise the violence

make the violence part of us

We use the body

to shape the world.

There is a sickness in our minds that takes us to violence,

Kick

infects us with Violence.

Racism is a pandemic too<sup>87</sup>

Virus and violence:

one feeds the other; one informs the other. We are Please make it right<sup>ss</sup>

victims

We failed to ask – to both.

How would I feel

if this

were done to

Me?<sup>89</sup>

Let's be Just

Just

be Just.

I appreciate you listening.90

The only sense

is Justice.

## Now, we transform.<sup>91</sup>

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#### NOTES

 I wish the thank the following people who read this work in draft, and offered valuable feedback: Prof. James McLaren, Dr. Scott Welsh, Ms. Shiona Long, Mr. Anthony Balla, Dr. Rebecca Carlson, Ms. Georgina McLaren.↓

- 2. https://www.science.org.au/news-and-events/news-and-media-releases/australian-bushfires-why-they-are-unprecedented#:~:text=In%20a%20statement%20on%20the,unprecedented%20anywhere%20in%20the%20world'.
- https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/sep/12/california-oregon-washington-fires-explained-climate-change,
- 4. Details of the Melbourne lockdown and how it compared to lockdowns in other countries can be found here: https://www.sbs.com.au/ news/is-melbourne-s-coronavirus-lockdown-really-the-longest-inthe-world-here-s-how-other-countries-stack-up↓
- Thaddeus Howze, 2017, The Four Ds Surviving the Social Media Apocalypse https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/four-ds-surviving-socialmedia-apocalypse-thaddeus-howze/
- L.S.Pig, as a comment on All Gas No Brakes (independent media) video reporting of anti-lockdown demonstrations, 2020. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kkBseVTUow↓
- 7. The preceding four lines are quotes from black men present at the Minneapolis riots following the death of George Floyd (May, 2020). They are recorded by All Gas No Brakes and can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZPeD2miyF8←
- 8. https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jun/03/trump-bunkergeorge-floyd-protests-
- 9. Quotes from Black men present at the Minneapolis riots following the death of George Floyd (May, 2020). They are recorded by All Gas No Brakes and can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=kZPeD2miyF8.
- 10. Quote from Black man present at the Minneapolis riots following the death of George Floyd (May, 2020). It is recorded by All Gas No Brakes and can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=kZPeD2miyF8+
- 11. Quote from Black man present at the Minneapolis riots following the death of George Floyd (May, 2020). It is recorded by All Gas No Brakes and can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=kZPeD2miyF8.

- 12. Makan, Vidya, September 24, 2020, https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=99WPIneNxGo&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2GLG3i9XtjMkVx5QCqnWegVxOn9EHvkXjBosfcWKUi-YrHmH8w5odD2Ec In this original song, a number of BIPoC people come together to challenge the idea of colour blindness, demanding that their identities be acknowledged as other than white.
- Brady Bussman, white man, interviewed during protests in Minneapolis, 2020. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99WPIneNxGo&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2GLG3i9XtjMkVx5QCqnWegVx-On9EHvkXjBosfcWKUi-YrHmH8w5odD2Ec↓
- 14. Man during Minneapolis riots, recorded by All Gas No Brakes and found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZPeD2miyF8
- Black man during Minneapolis riots, recorded by All Gas No Brakes and found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZPeD2miyF8,
- 16. White woman during Minneapolis riots, recorded by All Gas No Brakes and found at: https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=kZPeD2miyF8.
- 17. Paul Keating, then Prime Minister of Australia, Redfern Speech (Year for the World's Indigenous People) delivered December 10, 1992. The transcript can be found here: https://antar.org.au/sites/default/files/ paul\_keating\_speech\_transcript.pdf The authorship of the speech is disputed. Keating's speech writer, Don Watson, and Keating both lay claim to its core ideas. See Tom Clark's article for *The Conversation* here: https://theconversation.com/keatings-redfern-speech-is-still-worth-fighting-over-21118-
- 18. Banner at Black Lives Matter rally in Melbourne. https://ca.finance.ya-hoo.com/video/australia-not-innocent-thousands-at-tend-110122138.html?guccounter=1&guce\_refer-rer\_aHRocHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce\_refer-rer\_sig=AQAAANZX1fxYYueVE-wHISoVX46KowXxLDTtPdh64rW6eX\_TtBXO593pje9Tjm-Wyxjr-NaTPSNKUfvA8Dpuv88SqzCo6rpmzwS9-YHeN-1QENnAR-wzSK7P\_ij8z9T\_hxrMgRH4Hnf8hVCbmplzMIyhpSLhzMchgJInAn-bCocM59hbu3FB-J
- 19. Banner at Black Lives Matter rally, Melbourne, June 2 2020, as reported by *The Project* on Channel 10 Melbourne, https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=Mi-rDPh6I88. The call to 'decolonise this place' as a catch-

phrase to open conversations and actions about the oppression of colonization originates in the USA (https://decolonizethisplace.org).

- 20. White man at Minneapolis riots, recorded by All Gas No Brakes and found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZPeD2miyF8
- 21. Black man, interviewed separately from the white man quoted above, at the Minneapolis riots, recorded by All Gas No Brakes and found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZPeD2miyF8 Both the white man in the previous quote, and this Black man, referenced Martin Luther King, though with different understandings of his impact and the consequences of his actions. Martin Luther King was also referenced by Australia's Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, when he commented on the Black Lives Matter rallies in Australia and the rioting in the USA, recorded by the Australian Broadcasting Commission https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXmREhYbiSk←J
- 22. Tameeka Tighe at the Black Lives Matter ally in Newcastle, Australia, on July 5, 2020. Tighe contextualized her assertion by stating, "In 1831 Lachlan Macquarie declared martial law on our people and we became prisoners of war in our own country." https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6819966/australia-is-a-f-ing-crime-scene-law-student-tells-blm-rally/
- 23. In 2014 Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz published An Indigenous People's History of the United States (Boston: Beacon Press) in which she states, "North America is a crime scene." An extract can be found at: https://www.salon.com/2014/10/13/north\_america/is a crime scene the untold history of america/is
- 24. Ella, aged 13, at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mP5RveA\_tk This video was made by Allure. Allure describe their YouTube channel as "focused on bringing beauty to life with unparalleled expertise, smart storytelling, and racial inclusivity." (https://www.youtube.com/ c/Allure/about).
- 25. Claudia, aged 15 at https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=5mP5RveA\_tk↓
- 26. This is a purposeful allusion to Donald Trump's "Grab 'em by the pussy" comment, made in 2005 and published by the New York Times on October 8, 2016. https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/08/us/donald-trump-tape-transcript.html↓

- 27. Izzi, aged 10, at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mP5RveA\_tk
- 28. Mia, aged 11, at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mP5RveA\_tk
- 29. Mia, aged 11, at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mP5RveA\_tk
- 30. Megan, aged 11, at https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=5mP5RveA\_tk→
- 31. Mia, aged 11, at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mP5RveA\_tk
- 32. Plato attributes these words to Socrates in Apology, set in the year 339BCE (the date of writing is unknown), section 38a. http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/ text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0170%3Atext%3DApol.%3Asection%3D38a The idea is critiqued in "Dancing Through Life", a song from Wicked by Stephen Lawrence Schwartz, 2003.↓
- 33. Thaddeus Howze, 2017, *The Four Ds Surviving the Social Media Apocalypse* https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/four-ds-surviving-socialmedia-apocalypse-thaddeus-howze/.
- 34. Banners at the anti-lockdown rally, California, 26 April, 2020. Recorded by All Gas No Brakes, at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kkB-seVTUow. Event 201 was a table top exercise undertaken on October 18, 2019, by the Centre for Health Security. It simulated global responses to a zoonotic novel coronavirus pandemic in order to build readiness for such an event. As conspiracy theories link Event 201 with COVID-19, the Centre for Health Security made the following statement: "Although our tabletop exercise included a mock novel coronavirus, the inputs we used for modeling the potential impact of that fictional virus are not similar to nCoV-2019." More information can be found here: https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/news/center-news/2020-01-24-Statement-of-Clarification-Event201.html.→
- 35. White male protester, at the anti-lockdown rally, California,26 April, 2020. Recorded by All Gas No Brakes, at https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=8kkBseVTUow←
- 36. White male protestor at the anti-lockdown rally, California, 26 April, 2020. Recorded by All Gas No Brakes, at https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=8kkBseVTUow↓

- 37. Banner at anti-lockdown rally, California,26 April, 2020. Recorded by All Gas No Brakes, at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kkBseV-TUow,↓
- 38. White female protestor at the anti-lockdown rally, California, 26 April, 2020. Recorded by All Gas No Brakes, at https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=8kkBseVTUow↓
- 39. Thaddeus Howze, 2017, *The Four Ds Surviving the Social Media Apocalypse* https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/four-ds-surviving-socialmedia-apocalypse-thaddeus-howze/←
- 40. Black man in Minneapolis, recorded by all Gas No Brakes, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZPeD2miyF8 His reference to George Floyd's death ("my knee in his neck. For 11 minutes") is powerful but inaccurate. According the Coroner's report, cited by Graeme Wood, it was "five minutes and 53 seconds of kneeling before officers declared that Floyd was unresponsive, followed by two minutes and 53 seconds of continued pressure. That totals just less than nine minutes." https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/05/george-floydkneeling/612409/←
- 41. Police officer to David Dungay Jr, prior to his death in police custody. Video footage can be seen on The Project, https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=Mi-rDPh6I88 A similar thing was said to George Floyd prior to his death: "It takes a heck of a lot of oxygen to talk." https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jul/08/george-floyd-police-killing-transcript-i-cant-breathe→
- 42. White man at anti -lockdown rally, California, 26 April, 2020. Recorded by All Gas No Brakes, at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kkBseVTUow.
- 43. Bev, cited on Suzette Sommers's facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/suzette.sommer.9?\_tn\_=%2CdCH-R-R&eid=ARC-cltatEGFrgYPQVbFcyARWK56-TlGK1QMPW\_-rjRoZYKg-tOkfE2y3R1PxuIdwMca6SmXU4drYA-zLte&hc\_ref=ARQ7w8DQBL11BbHYarwWWg7woz-Kh1y\_xvC-Ny51GJYlIXlc9SyrmGsO40-oIS9EAE70&fref=nf.
- 44. Peter Wehner, "Why Trump Supporters Can't Admit Who He Really Is." *The Atlantic*, Sept. 4, 2020: https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/ archive/2020/09/predicate-fear/616009/

- 45. Anti-lockdown protestor, California, 26 April, 2020. Recorded by All Gas No Brakes, at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kkBseV-TUow⊷
- 46. Bev, cited on Suzette Sommers's facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/suzette.sommer.9?\_tn\_=%2CdCH-R-R&eid=ARC-cltatEGFrgYPQVbFcyARWK56-TlGK1QMPW\_-rjRoZYKg-tOkfE2y3R1PxuIdwMca6SmXU4drYA-zLte&hc\_ref=ARQ7w8DQBL11BbHYarwWWg7woz-Kh1y\_xvC-Ny51GJYlIXlc9SyrmGsO40-oIS9EAE70&fref=nf\_
- 47. Prime Minister Scott Morrison claims Australia is "fair" and "wonderful". A critique of the language he uses when talking about the Black Live Matter rallies, and the deaths of Indigenous Australians in custody, can be found here: https://www.smh.com.au/national/theway-scott-morrison-talks-about-indigenous-pain-is-a-problem-20200605-p54zrv.html↓
- 48. President Trump's campaign slogan, currently in use: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFR-inbzIaI⊷
- 49. This coroner's comment appears over and over again in investigations into Indigenous deaths in custody in Australia. See *The Guardian* database: https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/ng-interactive/2018/aug/28/deaths-inside-indigenous-australian-deaths-in-custody.
- 50. Paul Keating, the Prime Minister of Australia, in the Redfern speech, December 10, 1992. https://antar.org.au/sites/default/files/paul\_keating\_speech\_transcript.pdf,...
- 51. White woman at Minneapolis riots, recorded by All Gas No Brakes. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZPeD2miyF8₊J
- 52. "I can't breathe." The last words of George Floyd, who died in police custody, Minneapolis, 2020; and of David Dungay Jr, who died in police custody, Long Bay jail, November 2015; and the dying thought of 986,000 people worldwide... and counting.
- 53. Paul Keating in 1993, cited by *The Project*, 2020, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hc4bVGVhv9Y⊷
- 54. Banner at Minneapolis protests, in video, "We're sick and tired". The New York Times, 31 May 2020. https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/31/ us/politics/trump-protests-george-floyd.html,...]

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