

SEMINAR

**SCHOOL OF MEDIA, FILM &  
JOURNALISM****#BelieveWomen:  
Believability in an Age of Post-Truth****PRESENTED BY GENDER & MEDIA LAB; CULTURE, MEDIA ECONOMY AND THE SCREEN  
CULTURES RESEARCH PROGRAM**

The contemporary 'post-truth' era —misinformation, disinformation, outright lies in a digital age—is proclaimed to be a moment of crisis. It is seen as an affront to fundamental, and indeed, scientific claims of being and knowing. But authenticity, truth, believability: these are historically messy concepts, which have always depended on the actors who have been authorized by the mantle of veracity in their understandings of the world and of themselves. Women, people of color, non-normative people have lived in an age of post-truth for decades, indeed, centuries, precisely because they are rarely believed to be speaking the truth. In this lecture, I want to trouble the distinctions between “truth,” “authenticity,” and “believability” from a specifically gendered perspective. I interrogate the recent manifestation of the “post-truth,” and argue that the truth has always depended on those who are authorized to define it. That is, the concern around post-truth has become urgent when those who have defined the truth historically—primarily white, privileged men—begin to witness their truths eroding. This is also a question of belief and its historical and contemporary gendered and racialized contours. Who is privileged enough to be believed, and to be in possession of “evidence”?

This lecture will consider the contemporary conjuncture of post-truth, believability, and gender identity, and theorise the kinds of subject positions that take hold and are given authority in particular ways in the contemporary moment.

**DATE:** Thursday 5 December 2019  
**TIME:** 5.30pm – 7.00pm  
**VENUE:** Performance Space, The Wheeler Centre  
176 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne



**RSVP:** Please RSVP via link below by 28 November 2019  
<https://forms.gle/ffmmcRFnw7jMBEuS8>

**BIO:**

**Sarah Banet-Weiser** is Professor of Media and Communications and Head of the Department of Media and Communications at the London School of Economics. Previously, she was Vice Dean and Director of the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Southern California. She is an acclaimed scholar who has won numerous awards for her research, spanning gender in the media, identity, citizenship, and cultural politics, consumer culture and popular media, race and the media, and intersectional feminism.

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