Australian National University

Grandparenting in Australia:
A Multidisciplinary Symposium

Thursday 26 November 2026
Room 2.56, PG Meeting Room (Level 2)
RSSS Building, 146 Ellery Crescent
Australian National University

Program

9am – 10.30am

Session 1: Towards a history of grandparenting

Chair: Francesco Ricatti

Emily Gallagher (ANU): 'Grandparents in twentieth-century Australian children's literature'

Alexandra Dellios (ANU), 'How do different (migrant) generations perceive the boundaries and responsibilities of their role as Yiayia and Papou?'

Francesco Ricatti (ANU), 'Matrilineal continuity across generations: the grandmother as "a strong woman"'

Tanya Evans (Macquarie), '"Having time to chat": grandparents finding time for family'

Nathalie Nguyen (Monash), 'Absence in grandparenting'

Liz Allen (ANU), 'Grandparented | Grandparenting: an analysis of grand-care'

10.30 – 11am

Morning tea

11am – 12.30pm

Session 2: Intergenerational inheritance and storytelling

Chair: Alexandra Dellios

Jadzia Stronell (USyd), 'It starts at the orange tree: An ethnography of remembering, mediating, and meaning-making in grandparent survivor stories'

Zac Roberts (Macquarie), '"Bubbe loves the mob": Grandparents and Grandparenting in Indigenous-Jewish families'

Stav Lampropoulou (RMIT University), 'Refusing the Archive: Critical Fabulation and the Silences of Greek Migrant Grandmothers'

Scott Beasley (UWA), 'The Transmission of Family History Knowledge to Grandchildren: A Meaningful Developmental Role for Australian Grandparents'

12.30– 1.30pm

Lunch

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1.30 – 3pm	**Session 3: Contemporary grandparenting** **Chair: Nathalie Nguyen** Rebecca Bullingham (Edith Cowan), ‘Why do grandparents care? An exploration of motivation in grandparenting’ Gillian Pennington, ‘Time for Grandparents’ Jessamine Chen (Macquarie), ‘Barriers and Facilitators to Grandparenting: A Systematic Review’ David A. Coall (UWA), ‘The Hidden Voices of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and their Policy Impact in Australia’
3– 3.30pm	**Afternoon tea**
3.30– 5pm	**Session 4: Collaboration and publication** **Chair: Tanya Evans** This workshop will involve a closed discussion between symposium presenters.
6.30pm	**Dinner** Venue TBC

This symposium is part of an Australian Research Council Discovery Project 'Grandparenting in Australia: a history (1945–2025)' (DP250100728).

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