“In order not to cede biography to subjects who had resources enough to secure the educations that would allow them to leave the usual sources for the usual kind of biographies, we need to construct new biographical approaches.”


To people the past with those who might otherwise remain shadowy or silent we need to be inquisitive, innovative and willing to take risks. But how can we do so in a way that honours not only our subjects and their story but also the deeper truths of our subject’s life?

Speculative biography is a relatively new subgenre of life writing that offers a fresh approach to the challenge of recounting lost lives and silenced stories. This Masterclass has been designed by historian, Dr Kiera Lindsey, who has been awarded federal funding to investigate the relationship between historical craft and speculative biography while producing her second work in this genre. Well-received when first presented at Central Queensland University in 2018, this Masterclass invites participants to consider how speculative biography might benefit their projects. Combining readings with writing exercises we will tease out the opportunities and obligations associated with using contextually informed imagination to write the lives of those who are under represented in the historical record. Suitable for writers, academics and postgraduate students.

**What previous attendees said about this Masterclass:**
’Absolutely top drawer planning and execution.’
‘I finally know how to find my subject in the crevices in between …’
‘I had an epiphany about what I was doing …’
’… gave me great new ideas about how to be creative with context …’
‘I now know understand why I am the best person to write this story.’

**Essential pre-readings for Masterclass**


Facilitated by Dr Kiera Lindsey (UTS)
Dr Kiera Lindsey is an award-winning historian and recipient of the highly competitive Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Research Award (DECRA) for a project concerned with speculative biography and historical craft. In 2016, she published her first book in this genre, *The Convict’s Daughter* with Australia’s largest independent publishing house, Allen & Unwin. Reviewers described *The Convict’s Daughter* as ‘blazing a new path through history and fiction’. Kiera will publish her second speculative biography with Allen & Unwin in 2020. She has been a consultant and on-camera historian on Foxtel’s HISTORY CHANNEL and ABC and is a regular presenter on ABC’s Radio National. [www.kieralindsey.com](http://www.kieralindsey.com)