

# Research Workshop Series

## Abstract

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### ***Reclaiming the Political Protection of Rights: A Defence of Australian Party Politics***

It is generally assumed that political parties have no role in the protection of rights or worse, are hostile towards such protection. Political parties are neglected, amongst others, because of a prejudice that party politics is inherently 'unprincipled'; an analytical preoccupation with the branches of government and a simple/simplistic view of political representation that writes off the role of intermediaries like political parties. On the contrary, politics in modern democracies are pervasively party politics: political parties play a central role in mediating between citizens and those who exercise public power, at times, through rich debates concerning questions of principles and rights. Moreover, party discipline and the danger of political parties becoming a faction are not insurmountable hurdles to political parties advancing the protection of human rights.