

**Berrick, Genevieve**, University of Melbourne, Australia

**Mediating Bodies and Critical (Mis)Recognitions: Reporting the ‘Van Nguyen’ Case**

The ‘Van Nguyen’ case, an international incident in which Australian national Nguyen Tuong Van was convicted and hanged in Singapore for drug trafficking, was the focus of heightened legal-judicial, diplomatic and media debate between and within Australia and Singapore.

Its academic discussion has been typically focused upon examinations of the ethics of drug trafficking, the applications of the principles of democracy and human rights to capital punishment, merits and means of intervention or protest.

My research, however, seeks to question what may be left out when discussion is limited to these topics, through a detailed textual analysis, studying how individual and collective/national ‘bodies’ are taken up in the newsprint reporting of the case across the two countries.

This paper focuses on ramifications of the rhetoric of human rights through this case, and points to its limits. It is an examination of the ‘outside’, for what might be left out of these frameworks, through the precedent which is this case.