

Born in southern Australia, John Keane is Professor of Politics at the University of Sydney and the WZB (Berlin), and currently teaching at Beijing Foreign Studies University. He is renowned globally for his creative thinking about politics, history, media and democracy, and is the author of many distinguished books including the best-selling *Tom Paine: A Political Life* (1995), *The Life and Death of Democracy* (2009), *Democracy and Media Decadence* (2013), *When Trees Fall, Monkeys Scatter* (2017), *Power and Humility* (2018) and *The New Despotism* (2020). He has contributed to *The New York Times*, *Al Jazeera*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, *Financial Times*, *The Guardian*, *Die Zeit*, *Hindustan Times* and the *South China Morning Post*. He was recently ranked by *El País* (Madrid) as ‘one of the greatest theorists of political systems’. During the years he lived in Britain, *The Times* of London described him as among the country’s leading political thinkers and writers whose work has ‘world-wide importance’. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) speaks of him as ‘one of Australia’s great intellectual exports’. He was nominated for the 2021 Balzan Prize (Italy) and the Holberg Prize (Norway) for outstanding global contributions to the human sciences. His latest book is *The Shortest History of Democracy* (2022), which is so far published in 15 languages.