

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 23/9/2020 | **EMBARGOED UNTIL 30/9/2020**

From: *Australian Book Review*

(03) 9699 8822 | abr@australianbookreview.com.au

Bodies in Motion

The pandemic, the economy, the dictator

by Paul Muldoon

In his remarkable and nuanced cover essay, Paul Muldoon examines responses to the coronavirus. Drawing on Hobbes and Foucault, Muldoon looks at the relationship between freedom and security and the complexities of the Victorian government's response, finding that 'the coronavirus pandemic has shown us just how far democracies can be taken from their fundamental principles by the logic of biopower'.



Paul Muldoon

Quotes from Paul Muldoon's article

'While accusations of a police state make for powerful rhetoric, they ultimately do little more than testify to the poverty of our political concepts in the face of the unprecedented.'

'The more we learn about this highly contagious and uncommonly lethal virus, the more old verities like "liberal is good" and "authoritarian is bad" lose their power to illuminate or guide.'

'How is one meant to respond to restrictions on liberty imposed on the authority of science? Where does one turn for guidance?'

'A dictatorship this would surely be, were it not for two things: the lack of arbitrariness in the restrictions and the great reluctance with which they are imposed.'

About Paul Muldoon

Paul Muldoon is a Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations at Monash University.

Interviews

Paul Muldoon is available for interview.

Please contact Peter Rose at editor@australianbookreview.com.au or call on (03) 9699 8822.