



INAUGURAL ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON GENDERED VIOLENCE & VIOLATIONS

MASTER CLASS SUMMARY

Date: February 10, 2015

Session title: *Writing about and Documenting Trauma – ways to address loss, memory, commemoration and the desire for reparation in the context of gendered violence*

Presenter: Jill Jolliffe, award-winning journalist, author, film-maker and political activist

Convenor: Anne Brewster, Associate Professor, School of the Arts & Media, UNSW

Summary:

Jill Jolliffe has published seven books, the most recent of which is her memoir *Run for Your Life* (Affirm Press, 2014) which describes her childhood of abuse and her later career as a war journalist.

In her workshop, Ms Jolliffe talked about her involvement in *The Living Memory Project*, a video archive based on interviews, conducted in 2004, with East Timorese ex-prisoners who were survivors of torture in Indonesian jails during that country's 24-year military occupation. She showed some videos of these interviews from *The Living Memory Project*. Her presentation also featured the stories of two elderly Timorese who had been used as sex slaves by the Japanese army during World War II.

The workshop discussion centred on issues related to writing about violence. Ms Jolliffe talked about working with torture survivors, her experience of childhood abuse and the ways that this had impacted upon her work as a war journalist, and also working with people suffering the effects of trauma.

Further information about *The Living Memory Project* and Jill Jolliffe's work can be found at:

- http://sea.lib.niu.edu/project/about_livingmemory
- <http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/books/my-mother-myself-20140526-38xjv.html>
- <http://www.affirmpress.com.au/run-for-your-life>