

Eugen Bacon, MA, MSc, PhD

24 April 2026

Towards a new National cultural Policy Public Consultation Paper

Dear Hon Tony Burke, MP.

I respond as an African Australian who has lived in this country for decades. I am a literary speculative fiction author, a professional editor, a scholar and serve/have served on the board advisories.

Australia is one of the most racist countries I have ever lived in. What's worse is that there are no policies to mitigate anti-Black racism that impacts immigrants from African countries.

People don't talk enough about the experiences of African migrants in Australia. There's no positive discrimination or anything like that for us. You take our taxes but you don't protect us. We're invisible. Injustices against people of colour are easily hidden.

I would like to draw your attention to Hyacinth Udah's essay, "[Anti-black Racism and Othering: An Exploration of the Lived Experience of Black Africans Who Live in Australia](#)", 2023. Taylor & Francis Vol 29, 2023-Issue 2, 185-204.

Ambient conditions in the workplace, public spaces and elsewhere normalise an everyday apocalypse for the immigrant in Australia. Culturally and linguistically diverse migrants like me who write can invent and reinvent our identities through creative practice. In navigating the shifting terrain of belonging and unbelonging, the self and other, we inscribe survival into our characters and the worlds we create, transforming lived instability into narrative agency.

My writing explores futurisms, writing the 'other'. I interrogate culture, family, climate action, folklore, the 'other', betwixt, hauntings, technology, and more. I hope to continue engaging with difference in cross-cultural worlds and themes of social in/justice, and heroing culturally diverse characters as well as strong female protagonists.

All I can say to the Australian government is do better. I hope this consultation is not empty words. Rather than tokenistic, rainbow-washing policies, the Australian government needs to implement genuine diverse cultural measures and policies against social injustice, workplace inequity and biased project funding in the creative arts.

Show us cultural Australia. Bolster our belief.

I am happy to participate in any diverse board or committee that will help realise that culture truly matters in Australia.

Eugen Bacon, MA, MSc, PhD

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About me:

Eugen Bacon, MA, MSc, PhD, is an African Australian author of several novels and collections. She is a Solstice, British Fantasy, Ignyte, Locus, Foreword Indies and BSFA Award winner. She's also a twice World Fantasy and Shirley Jackson Award finalist, and a finalist in the Philip K. Dick, Victorian Premier's Literary Awards and the Nommo Awards for speculative fiction by Africans. Eugen is an Otherwise Fellow, and was also announced on the honor list for 'doing exciting work in gender and speculative fiction'. *Danged Black Thing* made the Otherwise Award Honor List as a 'sharp collection of Afro-Surrealist work'. ██████████.

Sincerely,
Eugen Bacon