

# MEDIA RELEASE

Books with Spine – The best in politics, current affairs and biography



EMBARGOED UNTIL: 01 October 2015

Level 1, 11-15 Argyle Place South, Carlton 3053 Australia :: +613 9342 0300 :: [mup.com.au](http://mup.com.au)



RRP Print \$32.99  
RRP eBook \$19.99

Stephen Knight is available for interview from October.

For more information please contact:

**Terri King** at MUP  
on 0406 998 020  
or email [taking@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:taking@unimelb.edu.au)

## THE POLITICS OF MYTH

by Stephen Knight

*'This engaging study traces the evolving role of mythical figures and illuminates their centrality to the modern world.'* - MICHELLE DE KRETZER

Mythical figures are more than fantasy: they have their own politics. They dramatise issues of social importance and they can change to interpret new contexts and concerns.

In *The Politics of Myth*, Stephen Knight studies nine figures still vividly alive, all of them appearing in twenty-first century film and television. Analysing how they relate to the major themes of power, resistance and knowledge, he shows how fact and fiction interweave to help us explore and understand the complexities of our world.

Myths shift with time: Robin Hood can be a tough antiauthoritarian, a genial aristocrat, a Saxon patriot; Queen Elizabeth I has been seen as a Protestant heroine, a love-lorn lady, even a grumpy manipulator. From Merlin's multiple manifestations and Sherlock Holmes's smoking habits to the ongoing arguments about Ned Kelly, this book explores the richness and the range of figures of myth.

**Stephen Knight** worked as a Professor of Literature in Australia and Britain, focusing on the inter-relationship of culture and society, publishing many books and essays, with major work on King Arthur, Merlin, Robin Hood and world crime fiction. He is currently an Honorary Research Professor at the University of Melbourne.

*'We might think we know the stories of mythical figures, but Knight shows us just how more complex and deep their stories are, how their lives all shift and switch their meanings, astonishingly and unpredictably. In the end, Knight's compendious, deft, sparkingly written accounts of these myths demonstrate how they seem to know us better than we know them.'* **Philip Mead**,  
Chair of Australian Literature, University of Western Australia

MELBOURNE · UNIVERSITY · PUBLISHING

Find MUP on Twitter/ MUPublishing or Facebook/ MUPublishing