Community Security and Sustainability in Timor-Leste

On 5 August, three Globalism Research Centre researchers—Carmeneza Noronha, Mayra Walsh and Damian Grenfell—presented at RMIT as part of the Global Cities Human Security seminar series. The presentation was based on a new report, ‘Community Security and Sustainability in Timor-Leste’. The report, which was undertaken with partners Oxfam and Concern Worldwide, concentrates on the condition of two communities at either end of Timor-Leste—Nanu in Cova-Lima District and Sarelari in Lautem.

In addition to the launch of the report, it was announced that Irish Aid in Dili have agreed to fund a new project which draws the results from these two sites into a larger comparative report that includes communities from Venilale in central Timor-Leste and also from urban Dili, the nation’s capital.

The launch of the report follows an intensive period of field work for the ‘Timor-Leste Research’ team, which recently included a two-day training workshop to local justice monitoring organisation in Dili, JSMP.

Regional Arts Victoria report launch

A report written by Globalism Research Centre members Martin Mulligan and Pia Smith for Regional Arts Victoria (RAV) was launched publicly on 16 July at an event in Portland involving the Minister for the Arts Lynne Kosky.

The report presented the results of an evaluation conducted by Mulligan and Smith of RAV’s regional arts development officer program, and Dr Mulligan had the opportunity to outline the findings of the evaluation in the context of other work on community arts that the Globalism Research Centre.

The launch was has presented to an audience of around forty people, including the minister, two mayors and senior staff from both the Glenelg and Moyne Shire Councils.

Martin Mulligan was also asked to speak about the evaluation report to a gathering of all the program partners from across Victoria held in Port Melbourne on 24 July.

The evaluation report is basically supportive of the arts development model initiated by RAV, and it is being used to consolidate the initiative and to request additional funding from the federal government.

The report was discussed in detail by the program partners following the 24 July presentation.

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Events

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Who Is Responsible? The Problem of Moral Agency in World Politics

‘something must be done’ and ‘never again’ are common refrains in world politics. Situations are deemed intolerable, and calls to relieve suffering and hold the guilty to account are frequently made. But who, or what, is the ‘someone’ who must act or can be called to account?

In this talk, Dr Toni Erskine will argue that identifying which bodies are moral agents in the context of specific actions is fundamental to avoiding disastrous evasions and misdirected assignments of responsibility – and to responding more effectively and more robustly to the most pressing problems in world politics.

Toni Erskine is Lurie-Murdoch Fellow in Global Ethics at the Global Cities Institute; Senior Lecturer in International Politics at Aberystwyth University, UK; and Chair of the International Ethics Section of the International Studies Association (ISA).

Thursday 21 August
12:30-2:00 pm
Research Lounge, Building 28, Level 5, City Campus, RMIT University
(opposite RMIT Library)

Free entry. Light lunch provided.
RSVP: michelle.farley@rmit.edu.au by Tuesday 1 August
Whatever Happened to Nuclear Bargains?
Robert Ayson directs the Graduate Studies in Strategy and Defence Program where he teaches Strategic Studies and Strategic Concepts. His research interests centre on the relationship between strategic ideas and strategic policy. He has applied this approach to issues such as Asia-Pacific regional stability, nuclear proliferation, and Australian and New Zealand strategy. Dr Ayson is an authority on the Nobel Prize winning work of Thomas Schelling, a leading American strategic theorist. His current research projects focus on the requirements for stability in stabilisation operations and the prospects for collaboration between the great powers in Asia. He is a regular media commentator on nuclear issues and the use of force in international politics.

Monday August 18
1:30–3:30 pm
RMIT University, Building 57, Level 3, Room 14, Lygon Street, City Campus

A Very Short Introduction to Nuclear Weapons
Author Talk: Professor Joseph M. Siracusa
Presented by The Athenaeum Library, this Author Talk features Professor in International Studies and Director of Global Studies at RMIT, Joseph M. Siracusa.
In his Very Short Introduction, Professor Siracusa provides a comprehensive, accessible, and at times chilling overview of the most deadly weapon ever invented.

Wednesday 20 August
5.30–6.30 pm
1st Floor, 188 Collins Street, Melbourne
Bookings (limited seating):
tel. 03 9650 3100 or email library@melbourneathenaeum.org.au
Website: www.melbourneathenaeum.org.au

The Great Enterprise after Iraq
Castan Centre Annual Lecture presented by Dr John Pace, former Chief of the Human Rights Office in Iraq
In this public lecture, John Pace will speak about the effects of the invasion of Iraq on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In light of Henri Laugier’s 1946 description of the pioneering work of the UN in human rights as comprising “a great enterprise”, he will present the war in Iraq and its human rights issues within the context of the historic Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which incidentally turns 60 this year.

Friday 22 August
1.00–2.00 pm
Swanston Hall, Ground Level, Melbourne Town Hall, Cnr Swanston and Collins Streets, Melbourne
Free public event. Light refreshments provided
RSVP (essential):
tel. 03 9905 3327 or email castancentre@law.monash.edu.au

Local-Global
Manfred Steger, Globalization: Dimensions, Significance, and Impacts; Short Course for the American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, 27 August.
Manfred Steger, Roundtable Chair and Presenter, ‘Political Ideologies in the Global Age: Continuity or Novelty?’ American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, 29 August.

Professional Development
Gender Strategies for Development Initiatives
21 and 22 August
What are gender equality strategies and how are they developed and implemented? How can we increase the likelihood of women and men benefiting equally from development activities? What lessons have been learned on gender strategies? This participatory course will enhance participants' skills for developing key elements of a gender strategy for AusAID and multilateral development initiatives.

Development of Practical Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Systems
26 and 27 August
This course aims to explore the different types of monitoring and evaluation approaches currently being utilised by international development practitioners to guide their activities and to demonstrate the short and longer term effectiveness of their work. In addition to grappling with various M&E models this course also investigates the development of practical M&E systems and specific tools that can be utilised within this framework.

Introduction to Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) in International Aid and Development
4 and 5 September
This two day introductory course will focus on: definitions of monitoring and evaluation and how they differ and complement each other; tools and strategies useful in the field, including participatory approaches; and development of simple and appropriate systems and processes for data collection, analysis and lessons learned. The course will be participatory and draw on the experience within the group utilizing case studies, small group discussions and other participatory techniques.

For further information and enrolment, please visit the IDSS website on www.idss.com.au
Radicalisation Crossing Borders: New Directions in Islamist and Jihadist Political, Intellectual and Theological Thought and Practice

The Global Terrorism Research Centre (GTReC, Monash University) is hosting a conference that will address the political, theological and ideological developments of Islamism and other emerging radicalisms, to be held in the Assembly Chamber of Parliament House, Victoria. The conference seeks to generate new understandings of the complexities of jihadist and other extremisms, and the role of violence and terrorism by exploring the theological and ideological foundations of jihadist and other groups' political tactics, as well as the long-term objectives beyond terrorist activities.

The desired outcome of this international conference is the publication of an edited volume. It is hoped that this will ultimately contribute to establishing a new and challenging framework for discussing jihadist and other extremist movements within contemporary political science and international relations, as well as other disciplines and sub-fields within Islamic studies, comparative religious studies, history, sociology and anthropology and related areas.

Call for papers. Deadline 29 August
26 and 27 November 2008
Parliament House, Victoria
Abstracts and enquiries: email Ela.Ogru@arts.monash.edu.au

Race, Nation, History: A Conference in Honour of Henry Reynolds

Race, Nation, History seeks to honour the work of Henry Reynolds, one of Australia's finest historians and one of its leading public intellectuals, on the occasion of his seventieth year. A prodigious author, a renowned commentator and a controversial advocate, Reynolds' work has profoundly influenced two or more generations of scholarship in history and other fields, and has had a considerable impact in legal and political spheres. He has been likened to the famous English historian E.P. Thompson.

This conference shall have two approaches. First, will be to explore the nature and significance of Reynolds' intellectual, literary and political legacy by critically assessing his work as a historian of race and nation in both a national and an international context during a period of enormous social and cultural change from the 1960s to the present day. Second, it will be informed by the latest research and which address anew historical questions and historiographical problems regarding the consideration of subjects which Reynolds helped to pioneer, such as the colonial frontier, settler racism, and sovereignty, property and the law.

The conference is being sponsored by the Research School of the Humanities and the Research School of the Social Sciences at The Australian National University, the National Library of Australia and the University of Tasmania.

29 to 30 August
National Library of Australia, Canberra
For more information: email Leena.Messina@anu.edu.au

Climate Change and Water Solutions

After a decade of drought, Australia faces an unprecedented water crisis. The once mighty Murray-Darling river system stands on the brink. Projected climate change makes the prospect look even drier. The water crisis will have lasting economic, social and political effects on the future of rural Australia, the southern states, and Australia as a whole.

Kenneth Davidson, economist, Age columnist, and co-editor of Dissent magazine, has been a leading commentator on the Australian water crisis. The forum will begin with Kenneth making a presentation on the issue, and the floor will then be opened to general discussion.

Thursday 4 September 2008
7.00 pm
Dante's, 150 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy
Free event. All welcome
For more information: tel. Matthew Sharpe (Arena) 9416 0232 or Leslie Vick (Dissent) 9347 7839

To submit details of your event or to update your details please email globalism@rmit.edu.au. If you do not wish to receive a copy of the Globalism Institute Bulletin please email globalism@rmit.edu.au with the word 'Unsubscribe' in the subject field.