The world and Scotland too: Tom Nairn at 75

The Globalism Institute’s Tom Nairn has recently been paid tribute as one of the world’s great thinkers about nationalism and globalization.

In a special tribute to mark Professor Nairn’s 75th birthday, the online journal and forum openDemocracy reflects on his ‘radical, vigorous, and incisive work [which] continues to ignite and provoke’. It includes contributions from Perry Anderson of The New Left Review, Stephen Howe from Bristol University and Juliet Mitchell from Cambridge University.

openDemocracy is the leading independent website on global current affairs, and Professor Nairn has been a significant contributor to it over many years. He is the author of a number of books on nationalism and globalization, including the influential The Break-Up of Britain (1977) Faces of Nationalism (1998) and After Britain (2000).

The full tribute can be found at www.opendemocracy.net/debates/article.jsp?id=6&debateId=27&articleId=4667

Researcher awarded Australia-Malaysia Fellowship

The Globalism Institute’s Cate Gribble has received an Australia-Malaysia fellowship to undertake research on international student mobility and skilled migration in Malaysia. The research fellowships, which are an initiative of the federal Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australia-Malaysia Institute, were established in 2006 to promote closer ties between Australia and Malaysia.

The findings of the research project will contribute towards Cate’s doctoral thesis, as well as the ARC Discovery project ‘Governing International Trade in Higher Education: a Comparative Study of International Education Policy Development’.

In the media


Dr Christopher Scanlon, ‘We’ve given away our privacy, a card’s just the final blow’, The Age, 10 April.

Dr Christopher Scanlon, ‘Fight over broadband is not just about speed’, The Canberra Times, 14 May.

Dr Christopher Scanlon, ‘Zero-tolerance drug policies too easily abandon the user’, The Age, 23 May.

Dr Christopher Scanlon, ‘Meaning of life in the love of strangers’ (Review of Terry Eagleton’s, The Meaning of Life), The Canberra Times, 26 May.

Dr Christopher Scanlon, ”The PowerPoint of No Return”, The Age (A2 section), 2 June.


Local–global

Manfred Steger, ‘Political Ideologies and Social Imaginaries in the Global Age’, talk at the University of Technology, Sydney, 25 May.

Publications Subsidies Scheme

The Australian Academy of the Humanities is pleased to announce that the Publications Subsidies Scheme, which had been suspended, has now been reinstated.

The Publications Subsidies Scheme provides modest financial support (of up to $3,000) to assist scholars in the humanities to have their work published. This scheme is one of the ways in which the Academy helps foster high quality scholarship in the humanities in Australia.

Both independent scholars and those affiliated with an institution are eligible to apply. The work to be published should already have been accepted for publication by a reputable publisher at the time of application. Applications are assessed in terms of academic merit and demonstrated need for the subsidy.

There will be one round of applications this year, closing on 31 July.

For more information and application details: Phoebe Garrett, tel. 02 6125 8965 or phoebe.garrett@humanities.org.au

Global Cities Institute

Community Sustainability: Local and Global

This talk will take up the theme of community sustainability, local and global, and call for a substantial rethinking of the usual approaches to researching communities. The speakers will argue for a new integrated method of local-global ethnography that takes seriously different ways of being in the world.

Paul James is Director of both the Global Cities Institute (RMIT) and the author or editor of fourteen books including, most importantly, Nation Formation (1996) and Globalism, Nationalism, Tribalism (2006).

Yaso Nadarajah is Program Manager for the Community Sustainability Program in the Global Cities Institute, and has been working on sustainability issues in India, Malaysia and PNG where her work has been taken up by governments and NGOs.

Thursday 7 June
4.00–5.00 pm
Casey Plaza lecture Theatre, RMIT Building 10.4.27
For more information: Frank Yardley, Global Cities Institute, tel. 9925 8357
Sovereignty and Software: National Media and Cultural Policies in an Age of Media Globalization

This presentation will provide an overview of trends in media globalisation and consider what they may mean for national media and cultural policies. It will argue for the ongoing significance of governments and policies as being, along with cultural forces, major filters of the media globalisation process. At the same time, by noting the rise of sub-national (e.g. city-based or state-based) and supra-national policy forums and decision-making processes, it will ask whether we now need to draw a line between nationally-based media and cultural policy formations as they developed in the twentieth century, and emergent forms whose significance may increase in the twenty-first century.

Associate Professor Terry Flew is the Head of Postgraduate Studies in the Creative Industries Faculty at the Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia. He is the author of New Media: An Introduction (Oxford University Press, 2005, 2nd Edition) and Understanding Global Media (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007). He is the author of 26 book chapters, 35 refereed academic journal articles and the editor of five special issues of academic journals.

Thursday 7 June
5.15–6.15 pm
RMIT Council Chamber, Building 1, City campus
For more information: brian.morris@rmit.edu.au

Fourth Australasian Conference on Interactive Entertainment, 2007

The Australasian Conference on Interactive Entertainment, in its fourth year, is a cross-disciplinary conference that brings together researchers from artificial intelligence, cognitive science, media studies, drama, HCI, psychology, interactive media, cultural studies, graphics, audio, as well as researchers from other disciplines working on new game specific technologies or providing critical analysis of games and interactive environments. The 2007 conference considers the difference between convergence as rhetoric and practice, imaginary and reality.

The conference will accept innovative submission types that present new scientific ideas, improvements to existing techniques or provide new ways of examining, designing and using computer games.

Call for papers. Papers are invited on the following suggested topics. (Deadline 30 May. Accepted papers will be blind-peer refereed.).

- Artificial Intelligence
- Augmented, Virtual and Mixed Reality
- Art, Design and New Media
- Convergence and cross-platform media
- E-learning and the roles of games in pedagogy
- Technology, co-presence and place
- Pervasive (location aware) mobile technologies
- Policy and legislative responses to mobile and locative media
- Cultural and Media Studies on Computer Games
- Education, Training, and Edutainment Technologies
- Graphics/Animation Techniques
- Interactive Digital Storytelling
- Mobile Media
- The rise of social software and networking (technical and social)
- Sound and Music

Monday 3 to Wednesday 5 December
RMIT Storey Hall, Swanston Street, Melbourne
For more information: www.ie.rmit.edu.au
Whatever Happened to Reconciliation?
This six week free public lecture series begins on Wednesday 13 June with Peter Sutton. Other speakers are:
Mick Dodson (20 June), Raimond Gaita (27 June), Paul Patton (4 July), Frank Brennan (11 July) and Robert Manne (18 July).
The series is presented by the School of Philosophy, Australian Catholic University.

Wednesdays 13 June to 18 July
6.30 pm
The Christ Lecture Theatre, Australian Catholic University, 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy
For more information: Jasmin Chen, email jasmin.chen@acu.edu.au

Community Building: Critical Voices, Alternative Strategies
Governments around the country are currently throwing money and officials at ‘community building’ objectives, often with little conceptual or strategic clarity about what they are doing or what they are aiming to achieve. Highly bureaucratised initiatives, excessive amounts of hype, and low levels of actual community participation tend to characterise most of these initiatives. Debate and critical thinking about these processes has largely been forced underground, since open, public critique is not favoured by governments or encouraged by government-funded agencies in receipt of community building dollars.

This conference aims to gather community leaders, activists, researchers, policy makers, social entrepreneurs and workers in community agencies who are interested in authentic community building, critiques of government sponsored community building programs and models, and alternative community building strategies which have a stronger emphasis on empowerment, devolution, subsidiarity and self-determination.

Tuesday 19 June
9.00 am - 5.00 pm
Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre
Abstracts: Vern Hughes, PO Box 159 Yarraville Vic 3013 or email vern@civilsociety.org.au
For more information: email vern@civilsociety.org.au
Website: www.civilsociety.org.au

World Refugee Day
20 June is the United Nations World Refugee Day and this coincides with Refugee Week (Sunday 17 June to Saturday 23 June) in Australia. To mark these important dates, ICEPA at Victoria University will be holding a half day seminar on refugee settlement in Australia. The aims of the seminar are to:

* Identify the needs of refugee communities
* Reflect on refugee settlement experiences
* Generate reflection, debate and considerations on refugees in Australia

The seminar will also feature the launch of the ICEPA report: The Relocation of Refugees from Melbourne to Regional Victoria: a Comparative Evaluation in Swan Hill and Warrnambool.

Wednesday 20 June
9.00 am - 2.00 pm
Lecture Theatre G.02, Victoria University, 295 Queen Street, Melbourne
Fee: $60 government and corporate; $50 academica and NGO; $25 public; $20 students
For more information: Sue Butterworth, tel. (03) 9919 5478, email sue.butterworth@vu.edu.au
New Worlds, New Sovereignties

From Columbus’ landing in the so-called ‘New World’ to the post-Soviet expansion of the European Union and beyond, nations and nation-states have continuously preoccupied themselves with the problem of sovereignty. Which human groups should be recognised as possessed of sovereignty and who should be excluded? How do sovereign states accommodate the presence and competing claims of other sovereign states without compromising their own autonomy? Is there a higher power to which sovereigns can turn to have their disputes resolved or is sovereignty’s only ultimate sanction violence? Are sovereigns subject to their own law or do they stand outside it? Should nation-states refuse to interfere in each other’s affairs regardless of the treatment of minorities? Can different sovereignties overlap and coexist or is sovereignty monolithic and exclusive? Are settler democracy and Native sovereignty compatible? How is sovereignty (or are sovereignties) gendered?

The conference will address questions such as these with a view to bringing history to bear on the problems of the present. The conference’s standpoint will be from below. We will be focusing on sovereignty’s consequences for those whom the current order excludes or diminishes. The conference will bring together distinguished international scholars, policy-makers and community organizations in an exchange of information that will make the fruits of contemporary scholarship available to those responsible for delivering practical outcomes at the local level. At the same time, it will alert academics to the practical experiences and problems that should be informing our scholarship.

Call for papers. Proposals for panel presentations are invited on the following topics. (Deadline 15 July).

A. Thematic:
   i) Indigenous concepts and practices of sovereignty.
   ii) Historical genealogies of European concepts of sovereignty.
   iii) Limits and contradictions of sovereignty.
   iv) Sovereign subjecthoods – individuals, human rights and the nation-state.
   v) Overlapping and coexistent sovereignties – Natives, minorities, and the nation-state.
   vi) Sovereignty and the new global order.

B. Case Studies:
   i) Aboriginal Australia/Torres Strait Islands (a): Local agreements, delegated sovereignties.
   ii) Aboriginal Australia/Torres Strait Islands (b): Camp Sovereignty.
   iii) Native North America.
   iv) Palestine.
   v) Timor Leste.
   vi) Post-Soviet Europe.
   vii) Refugees, asylum seekers and national borders.

Tuesday 11 to Friday 14 December
For more information: email newworlds@newsovereignties.org

INTERNATIONAL

The Diversity Conference has a history of bringing together scholarly, government and practice-based participants with an interest in the issues of diversity and community. The conference examines the concept of diversity as a positive aspect of a global world and globalised society, and will seek to explore the full range of what diversity means and explore modes of diversity in real-life situations of living together in community. The conference supports a move away from simple affirmations that ‘diversity is good’ to a much more nuanced account of the effects and uses of diversity on differently situated communities in the context of our current epoch of globalisation.

In addition to linguistic, cultural, ethnic and ‘racial’ diversity, the conference will also pursue its established interest in other aspects of diversity, including the intersecting dynamics of gender, sexual orientation, (dis)ability, locale and socio-economic background.

The conference looks at the realities of diversity today, critically as well as optimistically and strategically. It will be a place for speaking about diversity, and in ways that range from the ‘big picture’ and the theoretical, to the very practical and everyday realities of diversity in organisations, communities and civic life.

Monday 3 to Thursday 6 July
OZW-School of Health, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
For more information: email info+D07@commongroundconferences.com
Website: diversity-conference.com
Humanities Conference 2007

This conference will address a range of critically important themes in the various fields that make up the humanities today. Main speakers will include some of the world's leading thinkers in the humanities, as well as numerous paper, workshop and colloquium presentations by teachers and researchers.

Over the past five years, the Humanities Conference has established a reputation as a focal point for new ideas and new practices in humanities research and teaching. Anthropology, Archaeology, Classics, Communication, English, Fine Arts, Geography, Government, History, Journalism, Languages, Linguistics, Literature, Media Studies, Philosophy, Politics, Sociology or Religion are just some of the many disciplines represented at the Humanities Conference.

Tuesday 17 to Friday 20 July
American University, Paris, France
For more information: email info+H07@commongroundconferences.com
Website: humanitiesconference.com

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.