Securing Globalization: Neoliberalism, War and Bailouts

Does globalization promote security or insecurity? In this free public lecture, Professor James Mittelman, American University, argues that a more comprehensive approach is required for us to understand the systemic drivers of global security and insecurity.

Some policy analysts maintain that globalizing processes are prone towards peace. From this perspective, the expansion of commerce, the spread of democracy and technological advances bring the world closer together and favor cooperation. Other observers argue that the same global structures provoke conflict over trade, enable criminal and terrorist networks and lower the costs of dangerous transactions including flows of weapons. These debates stumble over major issues that can be brought to light by bridging the geoeconomics and geopolitics of globalization, and by extending discussion to the geostrategic sphere. Few scholars have sought to span this gulf. In this lecture, James Mittelman argues that a more comprehensive approach requires us to understand the systemic drivers of global security and insecurity. It also requires historical perspectives that explain current implosions in globalization.

James Mittelman is University Professor of International Affairs at American University, Washington, DC. His books include *The Globalization Syndrome* (Princeton University Press, 2000), *Whither Globalization?* (Routledge, 2004), and *Hyperconflict: Globalization and Insecurity* (Stanford University Press, 2010).

Wednesday 20 May
4.30-6.00 pm
Research Lounge, RMIT Building 28
(opposite RMIT Library, entry via Building 8, Swanston Street)

New research projects

The Globalism Research Centre has recently begun two new research projects. The ‘Telling the Story of Melbourne’s Cultural Precincts’ project undertakes research for the City of Melbourne into the histories and heritage of cultural precincts identified in Melbourne’s CBD—the Chinese, Italian and Greek precincts—and how to ‘tell’ the story of each precinct thorough mediums and methods that will engage the hearts and minds of locals and visitors alike.

The project has three components:

- To provide a policy framework for the development of cultural precincts
- To provide an understanding of the three cultural precincts’ historical development
- To provide resources and material based data to be used by the City of Melbourne, Tourism Victoria and local businesses and inform their strategies around the promotion, marketing and business development of cultural precincts.

The project is being undertaken by researchers in the Globalism Research Centre—Peter Phipps, Martin Mulligan, Yaso Nadarajah and Aramiha Harwood—and Supriya Singh in the Global Cities Research Institute, in partnership with the Reputation Group.

The ‘Impacts of National NGO Gender Programming in Local Communities in Timor-Leste’ project involves Globalism Research Centre staff—Anna Trembath, Damian Grenfell and Carmenese Noronha—working with five East Timorese NGO partners to evaluate the impacts of their gender programming in local communities.

The $130,000 eight month project will provide a combination of quantitative and qualitative data to establish a comprehensive and sophisticated picture of the work and social impact of East Timorese gender-focused NGOS, especially in rural areas.

The project presents a rare and innovative opportunity to develop East Timorese research skills and experience while further developing the analytical and fieldwork skills of RMIT staff, together making for a research partnership between an international university-based research centre and local institutions.
GLOBAL CITIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Impact of the War on Terror on Muslims in Melbourne

This paper looks at the impact of the war on terror on Muslims in Melbourne through discussion of the findings obtained from 40 in-depth interviews conducted with members of the Turkish and Arabic speaking communities in 2008.

The interviews reveal that media reporting and the Howard government contributed to increased prejudice and racism against Muslims. Many members of the Muslim community who were interviewed reported incidents of verbal abuse, racial harassment and discrimination in the public domain and felt vilified by the mainstream media coverage of the war on terror. There was a strong link between wearing a veil/hijab or other visible markers of ethnicity such as the growing of a beard or ones religion and experiences of racism and prejudice.

The report concludes by arguing that religious and racial vilification of Muslims in Melbourne has impacted on them by way of increased distress and insecurity, thereby rendering the community as not belonging in Australia.

Presented by Dr Alperhan Babacan, Senior Lecturer in Law, RMIT University.

Thursday 21 May
3.30-4.30 pm
Meeting Room, RMIT Building 37, level 5
411 Swanston St, Melbourne

RMIT

Patriarchy: the Eventful Life of a Key Concept in Western Social and Political Thought

Presented by Professor Pavla Miller, Social Science, RMIT, this paper looks at the meanings and uses of patriarchy in feminist theory.

Friday 15 May
3.00-4.30 pm
RMIT Building 8, level 7, Room 6

Art & Globalization: Urban Futures and Aesthetic Relations Symposium

This symposium considers the ways processes of globalization are transforming the cultural experiences and productions in contemporary urban spaces. The overall concern is to identify and map how cultural production, including art, contributes to the re-imagining of identity and place through art-events, artefacts and attitudes. This will re-cast our understanding of cities: the ways knowledge of urban spaces might be formed, framed and transferred through art and other forms of cultural production; and the means by which knowledge is mediated to construct meaning and value for inhabitants of urban spaces. The symposium seeks to locate the sites of codified and tacit knowledge of civic space, place and identity and analyse how such sites can be read to invigorate a re-imagining and greater understanding of urban landscapes in the context of global economies.

Call for Papers (deadline 18 May)

Papers which address themes of relevance to the symposium topic, including but not limited to: Globalization and aesthetics; Creative knowledge economies; Artists as creative knowledge workers; Public art and civic spaces; Place, space and identity; Urban cultural events and festivals; The changing role of museums and galleries; and Intercultural exhibitions and exchanges.

Proposals for papers should take the form of a 300-word abstract, with five keywords identified, and may be submitted on any aspect of the symposium theme.

Submit abstracts to kristen.sharp@rmit.edu.au.

Wednesday 12 August
RMIT University

Local-GLOBAL


Anne McNevin, visitor at the UCLA Downtown Labor Center in Los Angeles, working on the ARC research project: Political Belonging and Irregular Migrants in Global Cities.


Manfred Steger, ‘No End to History: The Great Ideological Struggle of the Twenty-First Century’, paper for the Conflict and Security Research Speakers Series, School of Political Science and International Studies, University of Queensland, Brisbane, 1 May.

Professional Development

Facilitating Participatory Approaches in International Development
Facilitator: Michelle Whelan
26-27 May

The course will explore techniques to enhance meaningful participation in development programs. Participatory approaches aim to engage beneficiaries and stakeholders in all stages of the development process, and are key to equitable and sustainable outcomes. Methodologies based on Participatory Learning for Action (PLA) tools enable us to engage with the views, perceptions and experience of others.

Practical Monitoring and Evaluation Systems for International Development
Facilitator: Bill Pennington
11-12 June

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.

For further information and enrolment, please visit the IDSS website on www.idss.com.au
2009 Housing Researchers Conference

The 2009 Housing Researchers Conference provides an opportunity to:

- Join with leading housing researchers and international and local speakers
- Explore the economic, social, cultural and environmental challenges for housing
- Discover the potential for collaborative research projects across the Asia-Pacific region
- Tour Sydney housing projects

Hosted by Swinburne University of Technology’s Institute for Social Research, Sustainable Cities and UNSW’s City Futures Research Centre. Sponsored by the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services and the NSW Department of Housing.

5-7 August
Citigate Central, Haymarket, Sydney
Website: www.fbe.edu.au/cf/apnhr

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Friday 29 May
National Museum of Australia, Canberra
More information and registration: G.Seal@curtin.edu.au

NATIONAL

Australia, Asia and the Pacific: Imaginaries, Histories and Futures

This conference, which is a joint initiative of Curtin University’s Centre for Advanced Studies in Australia, Asia and the Pacific (CASAAP) and the National Museum of Australia, addresses significant issues relating to the past, present and future of Australia’s regional relations.

Among the speakers are eminent academics and social commentators including Hanifa Deen, Regina Ganter, Brij Lal, Peter Mares, Suvendrini Perera, Bob Pokrant, Peter Reeves and Peter Stanley.

In the context of complex and often contradictory developments, the notable group of cultural commentators and academics addresses the questions:

- What are the new ways of thinking about historical, spatial and cultural relations between countries and cultures in the region?
- What forms of collaboration, cooperation and coexistence are emerging?
- What are the potential flashpoints, challenges and possibilities for the future?

Friday 29 May
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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 Research Centre Bulletin please email globalism@rmit.edu.au with the word ‘Unsubscribe’ in the subject field.