Second International Food and Thought Mela

The Second International Food and Thought Mela is part-celebration, part-dialogue about critical issues and practical local responses to food production, climate change and a sustainable future.

‘Mela’ is the Sanskrit word for a festival or fair. In this tradition, the Food and Thought Mela is a chance for people to come together to share good food and talk.

The theme of this year’s Mela is ‘Food, Community and the Future’. It will include an exciting list of local and international guests including scholars from India, Ecuador and the USA, as well as RMIT’s Globalism Research Centre.

The Mela will be framed by a keynote address by Ecuadorian ecologist Carlos Zorilla and conclude with a formal dinner, featuring special guest presenter Rod Quantock.

The Mela is an initiative of the Local-Global research project team. The first one, held two years ago, attracted around 300 people.

This year’s Mela will be held at the RMIT Hamilton campus and Hamilton institute of Rural Learning on Saturday 21 June.

For more information and registration form please visit www.communitysustainability.info/events/FoodandThought2.html

New Timor-Leste research report

Globalism Research Centre Fellow Dr Damian Grenfell recently met with the Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equity in Timor-Leste to present a report, the final stage of a joint project between the Globalism Research Centre and the Office for the Promotion of Equality (OPE, now known as SEPI).

The report, a confidential document aimed at improving the ties between government and civil society in Timor-Leste on questions of gender, was warmly received by the office and is seen as part of ongoing relations between the two organisations. Idelta Rodrigues, the Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality, thanked RMIT and the reports authors, Dr Grenfell and Anna Trembath, stating that the report would be drawn on as part of the ongoing development of the office in its pursuit of gender equity.

Events

GLOBAL CITIES INSTITUTE

Community Sustainability Seminar Series

Indigeneity as a Global Identity
Peter Phipps, Globalism Research Centre

Diffusion of e-government services in Australia: Citizen’s perspectives
Professor Mohini Singh, Information Technology and Digital Business

SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES, SOCIAL SCIENCE AND PLANNING

Applied Social Science Seminar Series

The World Bank and Innocence Abroad: The Globalization of ‘Childhood and ‘Adolescence’ in Policy Transfer Processes
Professor Judith Bessant, Youth Work
The Rudd Revolution: A Critical Assessment of the Labour Government After One Year

Call for expressions of interest by Friday 16 May

The Rudd Labor Government has promised major changes in public policy which some believe heralds a ‘Rudd Revolution’. This seminar will bring together leading scholars and policymakers to critically discuss the first twelve months of the Rudd Labor Government. Papers are invited on all areas of public policy including: macro-economic management of the economy; foreign policy and trade; federal-state relations; labour relations and the workplace; education and schooling; housing and homelessness; Indigenous affairs; social inclusion and welfare; international aid; human rights and justice; environmental policy; and public health.

Friday 28 November
Storey Hall, RMIT University
Registration: $100 full; $85 early bird; $60 half-day, $40 student
Expressions of interest (paper or convening panel session): benno.engels@rmit.edu.au
General enquiries: chris.chamberlain@rmit.edu.au

RMIT

3rd Australasian Housing Researchers’ Conference: Housing Research for a Sustainable Affordable Future

The purpose of the conference is to bring together researchers from Australian, New Zealand and international universities, industry, government and industry sector research units to present research findings and analyse contemporary issues in housing policy research.

Hosted by RMIT University and supported by the Global Cities Institute and the Victorian Government, this conference promises to build on the success of the last two and address the challenges facing researchers in an environment where housing issues are increasingly the focus for business, government and welfare groups.

Wednesday 18 to Friday 20 June
Rydges on Swanston, Swanston St, Carlton
Website: www.rmit.edu.au/dsc/research/AHRC08

MELBOURNE

HEALTH: Securing Health in the Asia-Pacific

SARS, Bird Flu and other regional pandemics have highlighted that infectious disease and health issues for Australia has to be seen in the broader context of a healthy and prosperous region. This is recognised in the communiqué of the APEC Health Ministers meeting in Sydney last year to address health related threats from the aspect of livelihood, trade and security for the 2.6 billion people in the Asia-Pacific region.

This lecture will be chaired by Prof Graham Brown, Foundation Director of the Nossal Institute for Global Health at The University of Melbourne with our two speakers: Mr Murray Proctor and Reverend Tim Costello.

This event is presented by Asialink and the Nossal Institute for Global Health.

Tuesday 13 May
Carrillo Gantner Basement Theatre, Sidney Myer Asia Centre, The University of Melbourne
Free entry
To reserve a seat, please send an email to Asialink Events at events@asialink.unimelb.edu.au with 'Asia Pacific Health’ in the subject line.

Change of name

The Globalism Institute has formally changed its name to the Globalism Research Centre.

Local-Global


New report on Nanotechnology and Food

Friends of the Earth have recently released an international report on nanotechnology in food and agriculture, which can be viewed at http://nano.foe.org.au. A Word version of the report will be available soon on the same website.

Professional Development

IDSS Training Courses

Capacity Development Across Cultures
27 and 28 May 2008

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. These techniques have been applied to a wide range of development contexts.

Project Design and Logframe Approach in International Development
30 June to 1 July 2008

This is a practical two day workshop which looks at the key elements of the complementary project management methodologies of Project Cycle Management (PCM) and the Logical Framework Approach (LFA). This course is designed for practitioners involved in community development projects in both Australia and overseas, the former including work in both urban and rural settings.

For further information and enrolment, please visit the IDSS website on www.idss.com.au
Voices from Bangladesh Speaking Tour

The people and ecosystems of Bangladesh face many of the most devastating consequences of climate change and sea level rise—at the same time as international financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank continue to finance projects such as the Phulbari Coal project that directly contribute to climate change and threaten the environmental health human rights of developing communities.

This national speaking tour aims to raise awareness of the unequal impacts of climate change and to voice the urgent need for Australia to support development projects that are socially and environmentally just, rather than destructive.

Speakers:
• Prof Anu Muhammad is a Professor in the Department of Economics at Jahangirnagar University in Dhaka and has been integral in leading the civil society campaign against the Phulbari mine.
• and local Phulbari residents

Hosted by AidWatch, and supported by Friends of the Earth, Oxfam Australia and Amnesty International Australia.

Friday 23 May (Public meeting)
Northcote High School, St Georges Road, Northcote
For more information: cam.walker@foe.org.au

Negotiating the Sacred V: Governing the Family

This interdisciplinary conference will explore how ideas of the sacred inform our concepts of what the family should look like, how we relate to each other as family, and how these family structures are recognised, or fail to be recognised, in law and structures of governance. It seeks answers to questions about the appropriate role of the state in the governance of family.

Keynote speakers:
• Associate Professor Lori Beaman, Canada Research Chair in the Contextualization of Religion in a Diverse Canada, University of Ottawa
• Emeritus Professor Gary Bouma, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and UNESCO Chair in Intercultural and Interreligious Relations—Asia Pacific at Monash University, and Chair of Board of Directors for The Parliament of the World’s Religions 2009
• Professor Chandran Kukathas, Chair in Political Theory, London School of Economics

Call for papers (deadline 6 June). Papers are sought on the following themes:
• Representations of the family, marriage and gender roles in religious traditions
• Recognition of religious law
• Recognition of alternative family structures
• Social justice and the rights of women and children
• Health, reproduction and the family

Thursday 14 and Friday 15 August
Japanese Studies Centre Auditorium, Building 54, Monash University, Clayton Campus, Wellington Road, Clayton
Registration: $130 full; $75 concession
Abstract submission and more information: Joanna.Kujawa@arts.monash.edu.au

Critical Pedagogy and Participatory Learning for Social Transformation: The Role of Higher Education

The conference aims to share and reflect on participatory and transformative teaching-learning experiences, aimed at improving practice; promote participatory learning, critical pedagogy, popular and transformative education in higher education in Australia and elsewhere; develop networks of educational practitioners and thinkers experienced and active in participatory learning and teaching; and create publications with examples of current thinking and practice

The conference will include a number of international and national keynote presentations, as well as interactive workshops on the themes of ‘Critical pedagogy, participatory and transformative learning’, ‘Popular education’ and ‘Community-based education’.

A call for papers has been released, with a deadline of 31 August.

Thursday 27 and Friday 28 November
For more information: bruce.missingham@arts.monash.edu.au
INTERNATIONAL

Edu-Com 2008 International Conference

The theme for this year’s conference is Sustainability in Higher Education: Directions for Change. Conference sub-themes to be covered in concurrent sessions include:

• Community as a Resource for Sustainability
• Interdisciplinary Initiatives for Sustainability
• Innovations in Learning and Teaching for Sustainability
• Entrepreneurship for Sustainability in Higher Education

EDU-COM has secured inspiring keynote speakers from four countries.

3 to 5 December
Khon Kaen, Thailand
For more information: educom2008@ecu.edu.au
Website: http://educom2008.scis.ecu.edu.au

AUSTRALIA

The Sub-Prime Mortgage Meltdown: Origins, Trajectories and Regional Implications

This symposium will address the question of how a crisis in the non-bank sector in the United States could lead so quickly to the threat of meltdown in the entire international financial system. Amongst other things, the Symposium will analyse: the origins and nature of the crisis; its different manifestations in a range of countries; whether or not the world economy is ‘de-coupling’ from the US economy; the potential for ‘systemic feedback’ leading to serious recession on a regional or global scale, and the mechanisms for containment and recovery.

Friday 16 May
Adelaide Convention Centre – Riverbank
Room 3, North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia
For more information: mary.lyons@flinders.edu.au
Website: www.fiap.flinders.edu.au

A Public Conversation About Public Housings

This forum will consider policies and strategies that can be developed to counteract the stigma that surrounds public housing.

More specifically, the forum will:

• explore some of the significant factors that accentuate negative perceptions of public housing.
• Comment on the existing practices (both here and overseas) that have been deployed to counteract negative perceptions of public housing.

Thursday 5 June
Staff Club, University of Tasmania, Hobart
Registration: $20;
rowland.atkinson@utas.edu.au
Website: www.utas.edu.au/sociology/HACRU/

Re-orienting Whiteness

Following the success of the Historicising Whiteness conference of 2006, Re-Orienting Whiteness continues the critical engagement with whiteness studies. This time in conjunction with the Australian Critical Race and Whiteness Studies Association, Re-Orienting Whiteness 2008 invites scholars to explore the potential, or otherwise, of ‘whiteness’ to analyse the operations of ‘race’, past and present.

Keynote speakers:
• Ann Laura Stoler, New School for Social Research
• Aileen Moreton-Robinson, Queensland University of Technology
• Lynette Russell, Monash University
• Patrick Wolfe, La Trobe University
• Matt Wray, Harvard University

Call for papers by 29 August (200 word abstracts, along with a half-page CV).

Friday 3 to 5 December

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19 to 21 November
Khon Kaen, Thailand
For more information: educom2008@ecu.edu.au
Website: http://educom2008.scis.ecu.edu.au
The conference will discuss and debate the opportunities and challenges that come with ongoing transition and peace-building efforts in Nepal and the region. It will focus on understanding how societies organize, re-orient and redefine themselves during transition.

Keynote speakers:
- Ms Medha Patkar, recipient of Right Livelihood Award Green Ribbon Award (BBC) and Human Rights Defender’s Award (Amnesty International)
- Dr Kamal Krishna Joshi, Chairman, University Grant Commission, Nepal
- Prof, Brij Mohan, former Dean, LSU School of Social Work

26 to 28 November
Dhulikhel, Nepal
For more information: Dr Manohar Pawar,
email mpawar@csu.edu.au
Website: www.iucisd.org

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.