Recent events

Food and Thought Intercultural Mela, Hamilton, Victoria, 24-25 February

The Food and Thought Mela was an extraordinary event that brought people together to exchange stories and to celebrate the rich diversity of our food communities. The Sanskrit word Mela refers to large gatherings that create a festive atmosphere in which serious issues can be discussed. In this spirit, the Mela was a public event for anyone interested in giving in-depth thought to the connection of food to everyday life and to the world around us. more >>

Publication of Local-Global, Volume Two

Volume Two of Local-Global: Studies in Community Sustainability, has recently been published. Local-Global is a collaborative international journal concerned with the resilience and difficulties of contemporary community life, and published by the Globalism Institute. This issue focuses on Sarajevo and the international conference Pathways to Reconciliation and Global Human Rights, held in Sarajevo in August 2005. more >>

Upcoming events

GLOBALISM INSTITUTE

Research Seminar Series
Post-tsunami Sri-Lanka: Great Achievements and Wasted Opportunities
Speaker: Dr Martin Mulligan
Venue: 15.3.03
Date/time: Wednesday 15 March, 3.30 - 4.30 pm
Contact: Todd Bennet, Phone +61 3 9925 1921 Email todd.bennet@rmit.edu.au

Famed conservationist Professor Norman Myers, in Melbourne
Sponsors: Friends of the Earth and the Globalism Institute
Venue:tbc
Date: Tuesday 21 March, from 10.00 – 11.30 am
Contact: cam.walker@foe.org.au;
Web http://www.foe.org.au/ci/ci_06normanmyers.htm (please check this website closer to the day for details on the location) more >>

Unity for Peace: National Peace Activists’ Conference (Public Meeting)
Speakers include Cindy Sheehan, Hassan Juma’a and Anas Altkriti
Sponsors: Unity for Peace, the Globalism Institute and others
Venue: Storey Hall Auditorium, Swanson St, Melbourne
Date: Thursday 25 May 7.00 - 9.00 pm
Contact: David Glantz, Phone 0418 316310; Email dglantz@optusnet.com.au

In the media

Professor Paul James on the Food and Thought Mela, on ABC Radio National’s, ‘Bush Telegraph’, 24 February

Dr Chris Scanlon’s opinion piece on declining linguistic diversity, published in The Age, 20 February and discussed on Radio 2CC AM, ‘Drive Program’, and Radio Australia’s, ‘The Breakfast Club.

Local/Global

Paul James will be joined by fellow editors of Arena journal Geoff Sharp and John Hinkson in a panel discussion about the ‘Two Sides of John Howard: Freedom and Authoritarianism’ 2.30-4.00pm Saturday 11 March
Victorian Trades Hall more >>

Paul James: ‘Technology, Pedagogy and the Continuing Importance of the Face-to-Face’, an invited address as part of a consultancy to the Victorian Department of Education & Training ‘Schools in 2020’ project, 2 March.

Paul James: ‘Globalization and Internationalism’, an invited address to the Australian Institute of International Affairs VCE series, ABC auditorium Melbourne, 3 March.


Dr Chris Ziguras; ‘The Impact of Free Trade Agreements on VET Providers in Melbourne’ at Kangan TAFE in an industry consultation session organised by OTTE, 1 March.
RMIT UNIVERSITY

Public Lectures on Research
Date/time: Every Tuesday, 28 February - 16 May, 4.30 - 5.30 pm
Venue: MCCC Lecture Theatre, Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne
Contact: Dr Pavla Miller, Phone +61 3 9925 2668
Email pavla.miller@rmit.edu.au
more >>

Contemporary Social and Political Theory Public Lectures
Date/time: Every Wednesday, 1 March - 31 May, 4.30 - 5.30 pm
Venue: MCCC Lecture Theatre, Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne
Contact: Dr Pavla Miller, Phone +61 3 9925 2668
Email pavla.miller@rmit.edu.au
more >>

Education and the End of Poverty Conference
Sponsors: RMIT (International Development Program) and World Vision
Venue: Hotel Y, 489 Elizabeth St, Melbourne
Date: Friday 28 April (registrations open soon)
Contact: Dr Matthew Clarke
Phone +61 3 9925 2960, Email matthew.clarke@rmit.edu.au
more >>

MELBOURNE

Relaxed and Comfortable? Challenging John Howard’s Australia
Guest speakers include Julia Gillard (ALP), Brian Boyd (Victorian Trades Hall), Alice Garner (Actors for Refugees)
Venue: Victorian Trades Hall
Date/time: Friday 10 - Saturday 11 March
For more information visit http://www.overlandexpress.org/overevents.html
more >>

Dialogue of Civilisations: Breakfast Seminar with Professor Joe Camilleri
Sponsor: City of Darebin and Victorian Multicultural Commission
Venue: Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre, Cnr Bell St and St Georges Road, Preston
Date/time: Thursday 30 March, 8.00 - 9.30 am
Entry: Free/Bookings essential
Contact: Phone +61 3 8470 8613, Email kasvesta@darebin.vic.gov.au
more >>

Unity for Peace: National Peace Activists’ Conference
Sponsors: Unity for Peace and others
Venue: Maritime Union of Australia, 46 Ireland St, West Melbourne
Date: Saturday 27 May 10.00 am - 5.30 pm (registration from 9.00 am)
Contact: David Glantz, Phone 0418 316310; Email dglantz@optusnet.com.au
more >>

INTERNATIONAL

Capitalism and its Critiques
Sponsor: European Studies, French Department, King’s College
Venue: Room 2C, King’s College, London
Date/time: 25 March, 10.30am-5.00pm
Entry: Free (please register)
Contact: Chantelle Punch, Phone + 020 7848 2486,
Email chantelle.punch@kcl.ac.uk
more >>

Common Ground Conferences
Common Ground host a number of conferences each year in the Humanities, Education, Sustainability, Cultural Diversity, Publishing, Technology, and Management
more >>

Professional development

RMIT’s Open Program
A series of free workshops are now available to all teaching (including sessional) staff at RMIT through the Open Program. This year, a stream specifically designed for teachers and academics has been organised by the Learning and Teaching Development (LTD) Group.

As well as the workshop series, LID is offering a Professional Certificate in tertiary teaching and learning. The certificate will articulate into and is equivalent to half the Graduate Certificate (TTL) Program offered by the RMIT School of Education.

For further details on all the programs on offer go to www.rmit.edu.au/higheredpd

International Development Support Services - Professional Development Program

‘Managing Across Cultures’
Facilitator: Ernest Antoine
Date: Thursday 16 and Friday 17 March
Time: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm (both days)

‘Introduction to Capacity Building in International Development’
Facilitator: Chris Dureau
Date: Thursday 23 and Friday 24 March
Time: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm (both days)

Course Venue: IDSS, 60 Albert Road, South Melbourne VIC 3205

Cost (both courses): Full fee - $600; 2nd and subsequent course in 2006 - $540; Staff from ACFID member organisation - $510; Student - $450; Student with assignment - $550.

Contact: Atiq Rahman
Phone +61 3 9697 8184
Email atiqr@idss.com.au

Centre for Popular Education at UTS 2006 Workshop series: Tools for Public Education, Community Development, Social Action and Environmental Change

‘Action Conversations: strategic questions for turning social concern into effective action’
Date: 24 March 2006 (half-day)
Contact: Tony Webb
Phone 0418 212 632
Email tony.webb@uts.edu.au
The Food and Thought Mela was an extraordinary event that brought people together to exchange stories and to celebrate the rich diversity of our food communities. The Sanskrit word Mela refers to large gatherings that create a festive atmosphere in which serious issues can be discussed. In this spirit, the Food & Thought Mela was a public event for anyone interested in giving in-depth thought to the connection of food to everyday life and to the world around us.

This setting produced a powerful exchange between the communities of the Hamilton region, academics and some of Australia’s leading food writers, activists and practitioners including Helena Norberg-Hodge, Stephanie Alexander and Zannie Flanagan. The result was wide-ranging discussions that highlighted the importance of local food economies while introducing new dimensions to the question of how communities respond to the threats and opportunities of globalisation. It was also an opportunity for over 300 people from around Victoria and beyond to come together in the spirit of having fun, laughing, and engaging in meaningful dialogue and enjoying good food at a shared table. Many participants felt it was one of the best public events they have attended in years.

The success of the Mela can also be attributed to the wonderful support of local producers, the volunteer cooks and the general community who assisted with the event. The Mela was an important step in building on the food movement in Australia in a way that gives critical thought to our local and global food systems. Researchers at the Globalism Institute hope to continue their collaboration and engagement with the community through the production of an edition of Local Global: Studies in Community Sustainability and a recipe book in which explores of the politics of the global food supply.

Publication of Local-Global, Volume Two

Volume Two of Local-Global: Studies in Community Sustainability, a collaborative international journal concerned with the resilience and difficulties of contemporary community life, published by the Globalism Institute is out now. This issue focuses on Sarajevo, with most of the articles emerging from the international conference Pathways to Reconciliation and Global Human Rights, held in Sarajevo in August 2005, organized by the Globalism Institute (RMIT University) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) BiH.

Publication of the hard copy of the journal was made possible with support from the European Diaspora Research Network. For more information about the Network see www.anu.edu.au/NEC/EDRN

Hard copies can be ordered from the Globalism Institute for $12. To order contact Todd Bennet at todd.bennet@rmit.edu.au.

Alternatively the full contents of Local-Global are available free at: http://www.communitysustainability.info/publications/local-global_v2.html
Abstract:
Martin Mulligan and his Sri Lankan wife, Nelum Buddhadasa, spent five weeks in the southern province of Sri Lanka during December and January speaking to tsunami victims, aid workers, local government people and academics. In this seminar he will argue that sweeping international criticisms of Sri Lanka’s tsunami recovery work are not helpful and that there have been some substantial achievements as well as failings. He will provide some commentary on the recommencement of peace talks between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil Tigers and will also include some comparative comments on post-tsunami work in India’s Tamil Nadu. He will show a small number of relevant slides.

Speaker Bio-note:
Martin Mulligan is a Senior Research Associate and Research Project Manager at RMIT University’s Globalism Institute. His research interests are in environmental and community sustainability. He has a long-term association with Sri-Lanka.

Famed conservationist Professor Norman Myers, in Melbourne
Sponsors: Friends of the Earth and The Globalism Institute
Venue:tbc
Date: Tuesday 21 March, from 10.00 – 11.30 am
Contact: cam.walker@foe.org.au;
Web http://www.foe.org.au/ci/ci_06normanmyers.htm (please check this website closer to the day for details on the location)

Professor Myers, from Oxford University, is one of the world’s most renowned conservation biologists who gained international fame through his invention of the biodiversity hotspots concept, and was one of the first scientists to warn, back in the late 70s, of the threat to global security through the destruction of tropical rainforests. He is the recipient of a range of international prizes and has been an adviser on environmental matters to several Prime Ministers and United Nations bodies.

Since the early 1990s, Professor Myers has written widely on the phenomena of environmental refugees, people displaced from their homes by various ecological impacts, including global warming. These are people who can no longer gain a secure livelihood in their homelands because of drought, soil erosion, desertification, deforestation and other environmental problems, together with associated problems of population pressures and profound poverty. In their desperation, these people feel they have no alternative but to seek sanctuary elsewhere, however hazardous the attempt. Not all of them have fled their countries, many being internally displaced. But all have abandoned their homelands on a semi-permanent if not permanent basis, with little hope of a foreseeable return.

As far back as 1995, these environmental refugees totalled at least 25 million people, compared with 27 million traditional refugees (people fleeing political oppression, religious persecution and ethnic troubles). When global warming takes hold, there could be as many as 200 million people overtaken by disruptions of monsoon systems and other rainfall regimes, by droughts of unprecedented severity and duration, and by sea-level rise and coastal flooding.

Relaxed and Comfortable? Challenging John Howard’s Australia
Guest speakers include Julia Gillard (ALP), Brian Boyd (Victorian Trades Hall), Alice Garner (Actors for Refugees)
Venue: Victorian Trades Hall
Date/time: Friday 10 - Saturday 11 March
For more information visit http://www.overlandexpress.org/overevents.html

‘Relaxed and Comfortable?’ is a conference to mark the tenth anniversary of the election of the Howard government to office in 1996. The conference, to be held at Victorian Trades Hall 10-11 March 2006, seeks to place the Howard government’s policy interventions and historical legacy in a practical and theoretical perspective, offering not only critiques but creative and effective strategies for ‘challenging’ Howard’s vision of Australia. We are particularly concerned with popular mobilisations and cultural interventions that creatively reflect upon the democratic traditions of ‘the Left’.
Dialogue of Civilisations: Breakfast Seminar with Professor Joe Camilleri  
Sponsor: City of Darebin and Victorian Multicultural Commission  
Venue: Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre, Cnr Bell St and St Georges Road, Preston  
Date/time: Thursday 30 March, 8.00 - 9.30 am  
Enter: Free/Bookings essential  
Contact: Kathy Asvestas, Phone +61 3 8470 8613, Email kasvesta@darebin.vic.gov.au

Much has been said about Samuel Huntington’s theory on the Clash of Civilisations. In a globalising world, cultures and civilisations are constantly interacting. People are more eager than ever to unlock the wisdom of how to live and survive together peacefully. How do we tap into our differences as assets to learn from, celebrate and value as part of our collective identity as Australians? This question and more will be explored by Joseph Camilleri, Professor of International Relations at Latrobe University. Includes a special appearance by the Signorcas. The Seminar will include the launch of Darebin e-Forum (an online discussion forum for people who live, work, study or have other links to the City of Darebin and are interested in local issues).

Capitalism and its Critiques  
Sponsor: European Studies, French Department, King’s College  
Venue: Room 2C, King’s College, London  
Date/time: 25 March, 10.30am-5.00pm  
Enter: Free (please register)  
Contact: Chantelle Punch, Phone + 020 7848 2486, Email chantelle.punch@kcl.ac.uk

Luc Boltanski’s and Eve Chiapello’s The New Spirit of Capitalism, a highly praised study of the transformation of capitalism in the last third of the twentieth century, appeared in France in 1999. The English translation of what Le Monde called a ‘vast and ambitious work, which is inscribed in a great tradition of theoretical and critical sociology’, was published by Verso on 1 February. This conference will offer an opportunity for a discussion in Britain of Boltanski’s and Chiapello’s work, as well as for a broader discussion of globalization by some of its leading analysts.

Funded with the assistance of the Institut Français.

Common Ground Conferences  
Common Ground host a number of conferences each year in the Humanities, Education, Sustainability, Cultural Diversity, Publishing, Technology, and Management.


Main speakers, parallel sessions are regularly updated, which you can mine for news.

Common Ground now have Newsletter co-ordinators blogging on each of its journal sites (and each conference has a journal attached). Take the journal -> weblog links at http://www.CommonGroundPublishing.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.
Public Lectures on Research

HUSO 2079/2112 Research Strategies
HUSO 1222 Research Methods (Honours)

Every Tuesday from 28th February to 16th May 2006, there will be a public lecture on a key topic dealing with research and researchers in the Portfolio of Design and Social Context at RMIT University.

Designed to inform and inspire, the lectures will deal with issues of particular usefulness to postgraduate and honours students planning to write a thesis. While the lectures are designed specifically as part of a research course, they will be open to all RMIT staff and students, and the public. Bring friends and colleagues if you think they will be interested!

The public lectures are held
4.30 to 5.30 pm
MCCC Lecture Theatre
(enter via Little Lonsdale St through the back door of the church at the corner of Swanston St & Little Lonsdale St.)

For further information contact: Course Coordinator, Dr. Pavla Miller pavla.miller@rmit.edu.au or (03) 9925 2668

<table>
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<th>WEEK</th>
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<th>SPEAKER</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tues, 28 Feb</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course/ Surviving &amp; Completing a Research Project</td>
<td>Assoc. Prof. Pavla Miller</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Tues, 07 March</td>
<td>PhD students doing exciting research: on Young Moslem Women; on Planning an Environmentally Sustainable Suburb; &amp; on making a ‘No cost video’</td>
<td>Chloe Patton, Joe Hurley</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tues, 14 March</td>
<td>Hiding the Elephant, or Visible &amp; Invisible Evidence</td>
<td>Assoc. Prof. Jock McCulloch</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Tues, 21 March</td>
<td>Ethics and Research</td>
<td>Panel</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Tues, 28 March</td>
<td>Research with Indigenous Communities</td>
<td>Assoc. Prof. Kim Humphery</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Tues, 04 April</td>
<td>Going to Cinema</td>
<td>Dr. Deb Verhoeven</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Tues, 11 April</td>
<td>Cross-cultural Research in the Globalism Institute</td>
<td>Peter Phipps &amp; Dr. Damian Grenfell</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Tues, 25 April</td>
<td>Anzac Day</td>
<td>No Speaker</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Tues, 02 May</td>
<td>Researching the Victorian Police at CASR</td>
<td>Dr. Kerri Whittenburry</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Tues, 09 May</td>
<td>Three students who have recently finished a thesis</td>
<td>Panel</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Tues, 16 May</td>
<td>Future Directions for Research at RMIT</td>
<td>Prof. Tony Dalton</td>
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### PUBLIC LECTURES

#### Contemporary Social & Political Theory

Every Wednesday between the 1st March and 31 May 2006, there will be a public lecture on a key topic in the general area of contemporary social and political theory.

Designed to inform and inspire, the lectures will be delivered by expert and inspirational speakers from RMIT University. While the lectures are designed specifically as part of the Contemporary Social and Political Theory course, they are open to all RMIT staff and students, and the public. Bring friends and colleagues if you think they will be interested!

**Public lectures are held:**

4.30 - 5.30pm

MCCC Lecture Theatre

*(enter via Little Lonsdale St through the back door of the church at the corner of Swanston St & Little Lonsdale St)*

For further information contact Course Coordinator, Dr. Pavla Miller pavla.miller@rmit.edu.au or 03 9925 2668

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wed, 1 March</td>
<td>The State of Social Theory and How to Survive It</td>
<td>Dr. Peter Marden &amp; Assoc. Prof. Pavla Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wed, 8 March</td>
<td>Globalisation and its Critiques</td>
<td>Prof. Paul James</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Wed, 15 March</td>
<td>Wealth, Poverty, Economy</td>
<td>Prof. Rob Watts</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Wed, 22 March</td>
<td>Social Movements</td>
<td>Dr. Damian Grenfell</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Wed, 29 March</td>
<td>Gender and Social Relations</td>
<td>Assoc. Prof. Pavla Miller</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Wed, 5 April</td>
<td>The Politics of Sexuality</td>
<td>Peter Robinson</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Wed, 12 April</td>
<td>Race, Racisms, Racialised States</td>
<td>Peter Phipps</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Wed, 26 April</td>
<td>Contesting Democracy</td>
<td>Dr. Peter Marden</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Wed, 3 May</td>
<td>Environmental Social Theory</td>
<td>Dr. Anitra Nelson</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Wed, 10 May</td>
<td>Materialism &amp; Over Consumption</td>
<td>Assoc. Prof. Kim Humphery</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Wed, 17 May</td>
<td>Colonialism and Postcolonialism</td>
<td>Assoc. Prof. Jock McCulloch</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Wed, 24 May</td>
<td>Modernity and Postmodernity</td>
<td>Assoc. Prof. Kim Humphery</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Wed, 31 May</td>
<td>The Challenge of Social Theory</td>
<td>Assoc. Prof. Pavla Miller &amp; Dr. Peter Marden</td>
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