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RMIT University’s Globalism Research Centre is committed to academic excellence consistent with its ethical imperative of struggling for a better world through high-level scholarship and inspiring teaching. Our faculty and staff engage in research projects that focus on issues of community, diversity and global dialogue.

In 2009 a number of major books were published that continued to build upon our work in the areas of globalisation and change, transnational relations and ideologies. Globalization and culture, the third set of volumes in the ‘Central currents in globalization’ series edited by Paul James, went to press for publication by Sage, London. This third set of four volumes, one volume of which was co-edited by Manfred Steger, addresses culture in the form of global communications, global religions, global-local consumption, and ideologies of globalism.

Kim Humphrey’s, Excess: anti-consumerism in the west (Polity Press) provides a comprehensive overview and analysis of what has come to be called the ‘new politics of consumption’; a politics embodied in movements such as culture jamming, simple living, slow food and fair trade. The book offers an examination of anti-consumerism at a time when the idea of ‘consumer excess’ is being re-framed by a global economic downturn, and explores what this means for the future of political debate.

New editions of Manfred Steger’s Globalisms: the great ideological struggle of the twenty-first century (Rowman and Littlefield) and Globalization: a very short introduction (OUP) were also published in 2009. The award-winning Globalisms is now in its third edition, while the second edition of Globalization has been updated to include developments in global politics, the impact of terrorism, and environmental issues.

In 2009 the Centre strengthened its engagement with communities, institutions and governments in Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, India, Cambodia, the US and Europe, as well as in Australia. New projects were established in Timor-Leste, where our research presence and standing continues to grow, while in Sri Lanka and India, the longest and most intense study of social recovery from the 2004 tsunami was completed, with the final report to be made publicly available in early 2010. A new volume of the Centre’s journal, Local-Global, ‘Papua New Guinea: projecting community life’, was launched by the PNG Minister for Community Development and reported in the country’s National newspaper. The volume builds upon a draft report presented in 2007 to the Minister and forms part of an ambitious research-based policy development project focusing on the relationship between livelihood and learning in PNG.

The inaugural Tom Nairn Lecture was held in early 2009 and presented by Professor Mark Juergensmeyer, University of California, Santa Barbara. ‘Global Rebellion: Religious Challenges to the Secular State’ examined the strident new religious activism which has seized the imaginations of political rebels around the world, from al Qaeda to Christian militias to insurgents in Iraq, and offered positive proposals for responding to religious activism in ways that will diminish the violence and lead to an accommodation between radical religion and the secular world.

The Centre also hosted a number of public lectures from visiting international scholars, including Professor James Mittelman, American University, and Dr Owain Williams, University of Wales. It also co-sponsored the 2009 Herb Feith Lecture, presented by Anwar Ibrahim, former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Malaysia.

The Centre jointly hosted the three-day ReGenerating Community Conference, which explored ways in which global issues are being addressed locally through collaborations between artists, communities and local government. The conference attracted over 300 participants and the opening event, held in the theatre at Melbourne’s Federation Square, was addressed by Robyn Archer AO and the founder of the India Foundation for the Arts, Anmol Vellani.

Martin Mulligan served on the organising committee for the third Two Fires Festival of Arts and Activism held to honour and explore the legacy of the great Australian poet and conservationist Judith Wright in the town of Braidwood in late March 2009. He organised two keynote panel sessions which included Australian of the Year Professor Mick Dodson and poet Christopher Wallace-Crabbe.

Overseas, the Researching Timor-Leste project organised the Nation-building across the Urban and Rural in Timor-Leste Conference in Dili. The conference was held in the lead up to the tenth anniversary of Timor-Leste’s vote for independence and as part of the process of reflection...
and celebration. The conference was opened by Timor-Leste’s acting Prime Minister and was run almost entirely in the national language, Tetun, with simultaneous translation to English. The conference also launched the Understanding community report, a comparative analysis of four different local communities in Timor-Leste.

In Amman, Jordan, the Centre co-organised the Pathways to Reconciliation Summit, which was hosted by HRH Prince Hassan of Jordan and brought together reconciliation experts from around the world to address better responses to violence and conflict by engaging locally and co-operating globally. The summit’s objective was to explore alternative pathways to peace; pathways which emphasise informal reconciliation processes operating beneath the radar of conventional regimes.

A number of new Australian Research Council (ARC) research projects were commenced or awarded in 2009. ‘Mapping justice globalism’ offers the first comprehensive analysis of the ideological claims of the global justice movement. The project assesses problem solving approaches and policy platforms of civil society groups within the global justice movement and implications for Australian policy development and practice. The project offers alternative strategies to anticipate and address problems of globalisation, such as climate change, financial volatility, migratory pressures and cultural conflict.

‘Accounting for sustainability: developing an integrated approach for sustainability assessments’ will develop a framework and software system for evaluating and applying sustainability indicators in common planning and reporting situations, as we seek new ways to sustain our cities, communities and organisations. The project will benefit Australian organisations by developing clear, practical sustainability goals; lowering the cost of reporting compliance; and improving sustainability practices.

‘Closing the gap between the wellbeing of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth: a comparative case study’ aims to develop interventions for Indigenous youth that work towards closing the gap between the wellbeing of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth. An evidence-based approach will build upon community strengths and knowledge moving beyond welfare or paternalistic approaches to improve the wellbeing of Indigenous young people.

A number of non-ARC grants were commenced in 2009. Our work in Timor-Leste continued to attract funding partners, including Irish Aid, Oxfam and Concern Worldwide, for a number of projects in the areas of gender, community sustainability and security. The largest of these, ‘Impacts of gender programming in Timor-Leste’, involved working with five East Timorese NGO partners to evaluate the impacts of their gender programming in local communities.
Locally, funding from the Australia Council for the Arts and the Cultural Development Network supported continuing research into the contributions that arts-based activities can make to the wellbeing of local communities, culminating in a major research report for the Australia Council for the Arts, *Art, governance and the turn to community: putting art at the heart of local government*.

“The telling the story of Melbourne’s cultural precincts”, funded by the City of Melbourne, researched the histories and heritage of the Chinese, Italian and Greek precincts in Melbourne’s CBD to capture stories which could be used to communicate the history and character of the three areas to a broad public audience.

“Good practice in enhancing the social dimension of international student experience on and off campus” documented existing good practice exemplars and resources in international education to make recommendations as to how these could be disseminated and used by industry stakeholders.

The Helen and Geoffrey Handbury Community Fellowship Program continued to be an integral part of the Centre’s research and community engagement. The Fellowship Program is a scholarship fund providing financial support for research projects that mutually benefit the Southern Grampians region and RMIT University communities. Another two fellowship grants were awarded in 2009, bringing to 21 the total number of awards granted since 2002.

The research monograph *Unexpected sources of hope: climate change, community and the future* explores the impacts of climate change and other global uncertainties for people living in the Hamilton region. The monograph is the outcome of a collaborative research project built on the methodology of community-engaged research which explores community participation in future planning through policy development and implementation.

The Centre was represented on a number of institutional bodies including the Global Reconciliation Forum; the Globalization Studies Network; the International Secretariat for the United Nations Global Compact Cities Programme; the Globalization Research Center, University of Hawai; the Centre of Excellence in Global Governance Research, University of Helsinki; and the International Education Association of Australia. Staff also sit on a number of editorial boards including *Arena*, *Journal of Critical Realism* and *International Relations*.

In 2009 Centre staff continued to be recognised for their achievements. Tom Nairn was elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia for his distinguished contribution in the field of political science, while Helen Smith was awarded the 2009 Francis Ormond Medal for serving RMIT University with distinction.

Staff continued to make significant contributions to teaching, particularly into RMIT’s International Studies program, and research supervision, with 18 postgraduate students supervised by Centre members.
The Globalism Research Centre consists of members and associate members, as well as research associates from local, national and international institutions.

2.1 Members

Manfred B. Steger
Director
Professor of Global Studies

Manfred B. Steger’s academic work—comprised of 16 books, dozens of articles and book chapters, and numerous reviews—has been cited widely in the pertinent literature. His study *Globalism: the new market ideology* won the 2003 Michael Harrington Award of the New Political Science Section of the American Political Science Association. He has delivered many lectures on globalisation, ideology, and non-violence in the Americas, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Australia, and has been a consultant on globalisation for the US State Department and an advisor on a US Public Television series on the rise and fall of socialism. Professor Steger serves on several editorial boards of academic journals as well as on the advisory boards of several globalisation research centres around the world. He has been a recipient of research grants from many institutions, including the Australian Research Council and the US National Endowment of the Humanities. His latest book is *The rise of the global imaginary: political ideologies from the French revolution to the war on terror* (Oxford University Press 2008).

Martin Mulligan
Deputy Director
Senior Research Fellow

Since joining the Globalism Research Centre in 2004, Martin Mulligan’s research has focused on the sustainability of local communities in the context of global change. This has included research projects for VicHealth on the wellbeing of local communities in Victoria and for Australia Council for the Arts on the contribution that community art can make to improving local governance across Australia. He was also a lead researcher on a three-year study for AusAID on the rebuilding of local communities in Sri Lanka and India in the wake of the devastating 2004 tsunami. Dr Mulligan also helped to develop the ‘community-engaged’ research methodology that is used for this kind of research in the Centre and in the broader Global Cities Institute at RMIT. He maintains an active research collaboration with researchers in the Social Policy Analysis and Research Centre at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. Dr Mulligan has an interest in discourses on community in the contemporary world and on deepening discourses on environmental sustainability. His books include *Ecological pioneers* (2001, with Stuart Hill) and *Decolonizing nature* (2003, with William Adams).

Todd Bennet
Research Centre Coordinator

Todd Bennet has been the Centre Coordinator since 2006. His role includes web, publicity and publications management, financial management and reporting, and managing the employment of new staff and other non-salaried positions within the Centre. He also provides editorial and desktop publishing services to develop and support the academic publishing goals of the Centre.
The common basis of Damian Grenfell’s research is driven by an interest in dissent and social conflict. In recent years his work has focused on various forms of conflict across the local, national and global, from ethnographic work in local communities through to work on global protest movements and the World Social Forum. The interest in social movements and resistance politics has provided an impetus for research into forms of nationalist insurrection and war, and, in turn, the patterns of post-conflict reconstruction, development and nation-building. Dr Grenfell currently works on various projects that attempt to map out the complex relationship between nationally based identity and processes of globalisation at the point of conflict, with Timor-Leste providing one key focus for this study. He is also a Senior Lecturer in Global Studies.

Kim Humphery
Deputy Dean, Research and Innovation, School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning, RMIT University

Kim Humphery has studied politics, social theory and history at the Universities of Melbourne, Cambridge and Essex. He has taught social and cultural theory at Melbourne and Monash Universities and has worked as a qualitative social researcher at King’s College London and at La Trobe University, in the areas of ageing and HIV/AIDS respectively. Between 1996 and 2002 he worked as a senior researcher on the socio-cultural aspects of Indigenous health in both the Northern Territory and Victoria, and this work culminated in the publication of Forgetting compliance: Aboriginal health and medical culture (Charles Darwin University Press, 2001). He has also developed an international reputation for his historical and theoretical work on consumption, particularly through the publication of his book Shelf life: supermarkets and the changing cultures of consumption (CUP, 1998). In his most recent work he has turned his attention to issues of overconsumption and community sustainability and this work is reported on in his latest book, Excess: anti-consumerism in the west (Polity, 2009).

Paul James
Professor of Globalism and Cultural Diversity
Director, Global Cities Research Institute

Paul James is author or editor of 24 books, including Nation formation: towards a theory of abstract community (Sage 1996) and Globalism, nationalism tribalism: bringing theory back in (Sage 2006) and the first 12 volumes of a projected 16-volume series mapping the field of globalisation (Sage 2006, 2007). He has received a number of awards including the Japan-Australia Foundation Fellowship, an Australian Research Council Fellowship, and the Crisp Medal by the Australasian Political Studies Association for the best book in the field of political studies. Professor James has been invited to deliver addresses in more than 20 different countries. He has been an advisor to a number of agencies and governments, and is currently Director of the United Nations Global Compact Cities Programme. His work for the Papua New Guinea Minister for Community Development became the basis for their Integrated Community Development Policy (2004–09).
Anne McNevin
Research Fellow

Anne McNevin’s key areas of research include citizenship, migration, and globalisation. She is especially interested in how irregular migrants are implicated in the processes through which citizenship and political belonging are constructed, policed and contested. More broadly, she investigates the transformation of citizenship and political belonging in the context of neoliberal globalisation. Her recent work brings these themes together with an interest in critical geography and socio-spatial theory. Her focus here is on irregular migration in relation to the political economy of global cities, the re-scaling of state space, and the spatial dimensions of social movements. Dr McNevin is Co-Chief Investigator with Professor Paul James on an ARC Discovery Project ‘Irregular migrants and political belonging in global cities’. This three-year project (2008-2010) involves detailed case studies of irregular migration in Melbourne, Kuala Lumpur, Los Angeles and Berlin. It includes qualitative accounts of political activism by irregular migrants and considers the implications of this activism for contemporary dynamics of citizenship. She is also working on a book: Contesting citizenship: irregular migrants and new frontiers of the political.

Yaso Nadarajah
Senior Research Fellow
Deputy Director (Acting) July–December 2009

Yaso Nadarajah’s research seeks to better understand the creation of communities as a practice of both the conscious and the unconscious imagination related to the dynamic search for wellbeing, identity and belonging. This interdisciplinary approach has given her the ability to work effectively as part of a highly interdisciplinary research team and the flexibility of a range of research methodologies both in fieldwork and textual research. The Local-Global community sustainability project, being conducted on local-global issues in the Hamilton region of Victoria (Australia), Chennai region (South India), Kuala Lumpur surrounds (Malaysia), Madang and Morobe Provinces (Papua New Guinea) and Thirukkovil and Ampara Districts (Sri Lanka), for example, draws on methods ranging from advanced social theory to community-engaged research methodology including interviews, community member profiles and demographic data. This study is also providing an insight into how radical change has also brought new ways of doing things, and how community re-exerts itself as a powerful idea. Dr Nadarajah is also the series editor of Local-Global: Identity, Security, Community, and a guest editor of International Journal of Asia Pacific Studies. She is on the Board of Governors, Centurion School of Rural Enterprise Management, Parlakhemundi, Orissa, India; Chief Executive Officer, Helen and Geoff Handbury Community Fellowships Trust; a member of the Committee for Melbourne Future Focus Group Alumnus; and on the Pariet Amman Tribal Council of Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea.
Tom Nairn

Innovation Professor of Nationalism and Cultural Diversity

Tom Nairn’s contribution to studies of nationalism is difficult to overstate. Writing in the London Review of Books, Neal Ascherson stated that Nairn has been ‘for twenty years the dominant political philosopher of his country, and an influence on the ideas of the post-1968 generation all over Western Europe’. Professor Nairn is widely known for developing in the early 1960s what would later be named the Nairn-Anderson thesis on British decline, which is much-cited and commented upon, and has had a definitive influence upon studies of nationalism and politics in Britain and beyond. He is one of the four most widely cited authorities on nationalism in the world today, along with Benedict Anderson, Anthony Smith and the late Ernest Gellner. Through his analytical and translating work, he is credited, together with Perry Anderson, with introducing Antonio Gramsci’s work to Anglophone culture, especially the notion of ‘hegemony’, which has had a major influence on the field of political and cultural studies since. Professor Nairn’s influential book The break-up of Britain (1977) gained much attention for its prediction of the unsustainability of the United Kingdom state and its probable fragmentation into a number of different republics. His much acclaimed After Britain (2000) continued the argument of The break-up of Britain, concentrating especially on Scotland and devolutionary politics, along with the structural tensions within Blairism.

Heikki Patomäki

Innovation Professor of Globalisation and Global Institutions

Heikki Patomäki researches human security, politics of global governance and political economy, along with scenarios of possible global futures. His recent book The political economy of global security: war, future crises and changes in global governance (Routledge 2008) will be followed by a larger and more general volume under the working title of Global futures. The new work develops, apart from concrete scenarios of short- to mid-term futures, the methodology of futures studies and scenarios for long-term futures. Professor Patomäki has given guest lectures in more than 20 universities and research centres around the world, and contributed to discussions in parliamentary seminars and meetings in Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Japan and Sweden. In addition, he has consulted several public and civil society organisations across the world, including the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the UN Research Institute for Social Development, UK Department for International Development, the New or Restored Democracies process; International ATTAC, and various other transnational NGOs.

Peter Phipps

Senior Research Fellow
Lecturer (International Studies), School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning

Peter Phipps’ research interests include the cultural politics of postcolonialism in the culture and history wars of the USA and Australia; Indigenous-settler relations in Australia; the history of theory in anthropology; and the cultures of global tourist and religious movements. He is Chief Investigator in a project on Indigenous cultural festivals in Australia and the Asia Pacific, ‘Globalizing Indigeneity’ (2008–10, ARC grant with Telstra Foundation), and another on cultural precincts in Melbourne (2009, City of Melbourne and Victorian Multicultural Commission). He has coordinated 12 local and international conferences and forums including the annual Garma Forum of Indigenous Knowledge in Arnhem Land (Northern Territory, Australia 2002-05). Dr Phipps is Honours Program Coordinator and a lecturer in the BA International Studies Program, responsible for coordination and delivery of four courses and research supervision.
Andy Scerri
Research Fellow

Andy Scerri’s research is focused on the political and sociological dimensions of environmental issues, and his specific interests are in city and regional responses to the challenges of defining and achieving urban sustainability. His work also explores developments in political and social theory in the face of climate change. He was awarded an Emerging Researcher Grant Scheme in 2008 by RMIT’s Office of Research and Innovation for the project ‘From liveable to sustainable cities: towards a qualitative approach to indicators of urban sustainability in Melbourne and Vancouver.’

Lisa Slater
Research Fellow

Lisa Slater joined the Globalism Research Centre in 2007 where she is currently working on the ‘Globalizing Indigeneity’ project examining the relationship between Indigenous Australian festivals and the health and wellbeing of youth and community. Before joining the Centre, she lectured in the Koori Centre, University of Sydney, teaching in the areas of Indigenous cultural production, Australian race relations and Indigenous rights.

Helen Smith
Senior Research Fellow

Helen Smith’s recent research includes the emergence of the Australian National Training Package as a new mode of governance; national longitudinal evaluation study of the Microsoft PiL initiative; an ARC-funded research project to develop a new meta-language that expresses the theory and practice of literacy teaching and learning in the context of digitisation and convergence of technologies. Dr Smith was awarded the 2009 Francis Ormond Medal for serving RMIT University with distinction. She has recently been awarded a Australian Learning and Teaching Council Fellowship to explore the potential for associate degrees to facilitate improved pathways between school, VET and higher education.

Pia Smith
Research Fellow

Pia Smith joined the Globalism Research Centre in 2005 to provide research support on the Community Sustainability program, with a particular focus on the ‘Wellbeing of communities’ project. She has undertaken research for Regional Arts Victoria and is currently researching and writing with Martin Mulligan a major research report on the ‘Generations’ project for the Australia Council for the Arts, a project exploring the links between engagement in community-based arts activities and active civic engagement.
Victoria Stead
Research Fellow

Victoria Stead joined the Globalism Research Centre in 2007 as part of the Community Sustainability program. She has worked primarily on the Centre's projects in Papua New Guinea, particularly the 'Sustainable communities, sustainable livelihoods' project, which uses a collaborative, community-engaged research methodology to identify alternate pathways to development. In 2009 she began her PhD through the Centre and the Human Security Program of the Global Cities Institute. ‘Land, power and change: globalisation and customary land tenures in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste’ will consider the transformation of social relationships to land in the encounter of custom and modernity, with a particular focus on power. An ethnographic methodology is used, involving field research in sites across the three countries. Victoria continues to work in the Community Sustainability program and also in the Human Security program, where she is part of the Timor-Leste research team.

Anna Trembath
Research Fellow

Anna Trembath is a PhD candidate and researcher with the Globalism Research Centre's Timor-Leste Research project. Her research focuses upon understanding the complex nexus between gender and nation-formation in the context of Timor-Leste. She has worked in Timor-Leste since 2005 across various team projects, including ‘Mapping the pursuit of gender equality’ and ‘Understanding community: security and sustainability in four aldeia in Timor-Leste’. She is currently managing a project that seeks to understand the impacts of East Timorese NGO gender projects in local communities and, in the process, develop the research and evaluation capacities of four East Timorese NGOs (2009–10).

Erin Wilson
Research Fellow

Erin Wilson's key areas of research are religion, global justice, refugees and NGOs. She is particularly interested in the ways in which religious ideas and practices intersect with and influence theories and practices in various dimensions of global politics. Dr Wilson is a researcher on the ARC-funded 'Mapping justice globalism' project, led by Professor Manfred Steger, which investigates and assesses the ideological status of 'justice globalism'. She is currently completing work on her book, Beyond secularism: an alternative approach to religion for international relations, forthcoming with Palgrave Macmillan in 2011.

Christopher Ziguras
Associate Professor of International Studies

Christopher Ziguras is Associate Professor of International Studies in the School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning. His research focuses on international education policy, particularly related to higher education in the Asia Pacific region. Dr Ziguras teaches within the Global Studies discipline at RMIT University. He was a founding member of the Globalism Research Centre in 2002 and continues to be closely involved with the Centre. He manages the Learning Cities program within RMIT’s Global Cities Research Institute, and established RMIT’s Research in International and Comparative Education (RICE) network in 2007. Dr Ziguras is a member of the International Education Association of Australia, the Australian and New Zealand Comparative and International Education Society, the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia.
2.2 Associate members

Paul Battersby
Discipline Leader, Global Studies, RMIT University
Research interests: Australia-southeast Asia business and diplomatic relations; issues of development, security and transnational crime

Peter Burrows
Senior Research Fellow, Globalism Research Centre
Research interests: the relationships between information and communications technology (ICT), pedagogy, and teaching and learning environments, with a focus on Kalantzis and Cope’s theory of Learning-By-Design

Desmond Cahill
Professor of Intercultural Studies, School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning, RMIT University
Research interests: Indochinese prisoners, imprisonment and drug rehabilitation; the history of the Scalabrini priests in Australia and Asia 1952–2002; religion, cultural diversity and globalisation

Guosheng Chen
Discipline Head, Languages, School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning, RMIT University
Research interests: East Asian studies; globalisation and culture; higher education reform in east Asian countries and curriculum internationalisation; multilingual knowledge economies; community development; work-integrated learning

Robbie Guevara
Senior Lecturer, School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning, RMIT University
Research interests: popular and community environmental education in the Asia-Pacific region; HIV-AIDS education; community and eco-tourism; participatory action research; international aid and development; community development; local and global sustainability

Aramiha Harwood
Research Fellow, Globalism Research Centre
Research interests: globalisation and higher education; regulation of international education; teaching and learning in international education

Elizabeth Kath
Research Fellow, Global Cities Institute, RMIT University
Research interests: the social and political dimensions of Cuba’s public health system; alternative, community-engaged pathways to development in Papua New Guinea; issues of reconciliation, particularly as they relate to health in various global contexts
Jock McCulloch  
Professor of History, School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning, RMIT University  
Research interests: politics of development; colonial history of Southern Africa; medical sociology  

Liam Magee  
Research Fellow, Globalism Research Centre  

Glenda Mejia  
Lecturer, School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning, RMIT University  
Research interests: the representation of women in Latin American cinema; women’s studies; cross-cultural studies; documentary studies; sustainable development  

Ravi Roy  
Lecturer, School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning, RMIT University  
Research interests: the role of ideas in shaping people’s beliefs and perceptions about how the world works; the role of ideas in shaping new directions in US-India relations in the twenty-first century; the influence of ideas in shaping national responses to the recent global financial crisis  

Joseph Siracusa  
Professor in Human Security and International Diplomacy and Discipline Head International and Justice, School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning, RMIT University  
Research interests: international diplomacy; ethical and humanitarian intervention; international security; Australia-United States security issues; United Nations reform; strategic responses to terrorism  

Bo Svoronos  
APAI Research Scholar, Globalism Research Centre  

Lakshmi Venugopal  
Research Assistant, Globalism Research Centre  
Research interests: community resilience, identity and belonging in modernising Malaysia  

Mayra Walsh  
Research Fellow, Globalism Research Centre  
Research interests: community and security in Timor-Leste  

Wasana Weeraratne  
Research Assistant, Globalism Research Centre  
Research interests: assessing post-tsunami resettlement projects in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India
2.3 Research associates

Peter Annear  
Research Project Manager, Globalism Research Centre

John Callinan  
Collaborating Professional, Co-editor, Local–Global journal, Hamilton editions

Bill Cope  
Adjunct Professor, Globalism Research Centre

Tommaso Durante  
Collaborating Scholar, Global Cities Institute, RMIT University

John Handmer  
Collaborating Scholar, School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning, RMIT University

Mary Kalantzis  
Adjunct Professor, Globalism Research Centre

Professor Paul Komesaroff  
Collaborating Scholar, Centre for Ethics in Medicine and Society, Monash University

Grant McBurnie  
Collaborating Scholar, Office of International Development, Monash University

Peter Marden  
Collaborating Scholar, School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning, RMIT University

Dave Mercer  
Collaborating Scholar, School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning, RMIT University

Gyorgy Scrinis  
Research Associate, Globalism Research Centre

Tony Wilson  
Research Associate, Globalism Research Centre
Indian spice seller, Kuching, Malaysia, 2009
3. Administrative structure

The organisational form of the Globalism Research Centre is intended to be co-operative and non-hierarchical. The Directors group is the board of management of the Centre, while the Executive decides on the Centre’s core research directions and designates research theme managers to develop those themes into self-sustaining funded research projects.

3.1 Directors group
Manfred Steger  
*Director*

Martin Mulligan  
*Deputy Director*

3.2 Executive
Manfred Steger  
Martin Mulligan  
Yaso Nadarajah  
Heikki Patomäki  
Todd Bennet

3.3 Research theme managers
Yaso Nadarajah  
*Community formation and transnationalism*

Christopher Ziguras  
*Global knowledges and transnational education*

Heikki Patomäki  
*Global and local governance*

Manfred Steger  
*Histories and ideologies of globalisation*

Paul James  
*Insecurity and conflict*

3.4 Administration and finance
Todd Bennet  
*Centre Coordinator*

Mai Chaing  
*Senior Finance Officer, School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning, RMIT University*

Wasana Weeraratne  
*Community Project Facilitator*

3.5 Local advisory board
Jon Altman, *Australian National University, Canberra*
Dennis Altman, *La Trobe University, Melbourne*
Robyn Archer AO  
Damein Bell, *Winda Mara Cooperative*
Tom Bentley, *Department of Premier and Cabinet, State Government of Victoria*
Tim Costello, *World Vision Australia*
Bruce Harvey, *Rio Tinto*
3.6 Global advisory board

Perry Anderson, University of California, Los Angeles
Terrell Carver, University of Bristol
Alan Chun, Academia Sinica, Taipei
Lane Crothers, Illinois State University, Bloomington
Jonathan Friedman, Écoles des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris
Barry Gills, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Jack Goody, Cambridge University
Sri Hettige, University of Colombo
Bruce Kapferer, University of Bergen
Glen David Kuecker, DePauw University, Greencastle
Krishan Kumar, University of Virginia, Charlottesville
T. Vasantha Kumeran, University of Madras
David Lyon, Queens University, Ontario
Walter Mignolo, Duke University, Durham
Juliet Mitchell, Cambridge University
Ashis Nandy, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi
Brendan O'Leary, University of Pennsylvania
Jamal Nassar, Cal State University, San Bernadino
Martha Nussbaum, University of Chicago Law School
Chris Reus-Smit, Australian National University, Canberra
Fazal Rizvi, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Jan Aart Scholte, University of Warwick
Jukka Sikala, University of Helsinki
James Spencer, University of Hawai'i-Manoa
Gayatri Spivak, Columbia University, New York
The Globalism Research Centre aims to build ongoing research links with other centres and scholars of international excellence. It is involved in collaborative activities with institutes, groups and individual scholars concerned about understanding the implications of globalisation.

4.1 Public-political bodies and grassroots organisations

**Arena Publications**

Established in 1963, Arena Publications publishes Arena Journal, an academic bi-annual, and Arena Magazine, Australia’s leading left magazine of cultural and political comment. Both publications frequently publish articles and commentary pieces on areas ranging across the work of the Globalism Research Centre, including Indigenous politics and culture, debates on bio-technology, nationalism and national identity—including the history wars—and the role of intellectuals and technology in the transformation of the current cultural and political landscape. Arena has a thriving centre in Fitzroy, Melbourne, which combines publication, public discussion and a commercial printery. The Centre has a presence on the editorial board of Arena Publications through Paul James as one of the Arena Journal editors.

**Cultural Development Network**

The Cultural Development Network (CDN) is an independent non-profit group that links communities, artists, local councils and organisations across Victoria, Australia. CDN advocates a stronger role for participatory arts and cultural expression, and a stronger role for local government in nurturing cultural vitality, with the arts (at the heart of culture) as central to this vision.

The Globalism Research Centre has undertaken research for CDN on its ‘Generations’ project, and the CDN Director, John Smithies, is a member of the Centre’s Local Advisory Board. In 2009 the Centre and CDN co-hosted the ReGenerating Community Conference, which addressed ways in which global issues are being addressed locally through collaborations between artists, communities and local government.

**Department for Community Development, Papua New Guinea**

The Globalism Research Centre has been working with the Department for Community Development for six years and has contributed to policy developments that are rewriting the national approach to community sustainability. The Department is in the forefront of rethinking community development strategies and partnerships, particularly as embodied in their recent major document Integrated Community Development Policy (2007) and a series of reports in 2008. In 2009 Paul James and Victoria Stead participated in the Second National Ministerial Forum held in Lae, while a new volume of the Centre’s journal, Local-Global, ‘Papua New Guinea: projecting community life’, was launched by Dame Carol Kidu, the Minister for Community Development.
Foundation of Goodness

In 2008 the NGO Foundation of Goodness, Sri Lanka, and the Globalism Research Centre signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the objective of developing collaborative research projects. In 2008 and 2009 this has involved working together on an ARC Linkage project on a comparative study of five post-tsunami resettlement projects (RPs) in Sri Lanka to inform national strategies for rebuilding of sustainable communities after major disasters such as the 2004 tsunami.

Friends of the Earth Australia

Friends of the Earth (FoE) is a federation of autonomous local groups who are working towards an environmentally sustainable and socially equitable future. Through a combination of research, community outreach, direct action, lobbying and offering positive business alternatives, FoE seeks to work in alliances with other like-minded groups and individuals to achieve the necessary social change which will allow for environmental protection with full protection for the rights of all people.

The Globalism Research Centre and FoE have co-sponsored and co-organised a number of public events on environmental sustainability and socially equity. The FoE Campaign Coordinator, Cam Walker, is a member of the Centre’s Local Advisory Board.

Globalization Studies Network (International)

The Globalization Studies Network (GSN) is a worldwide association that links programs of research, education and public policy regarding globalisation. The network is formed on an inclusive basis, encompassing diverse regions, disciplines, cultures, perspectives and substantive concerns. The GSN was a co-sponsor of the ‘Pathways to Reconciliation and Global Human Rights’ conference, Sarajevo, 2005, convened by the Globalism Research Centre.

Global Reconciliation (International)

Global Reconciliation, in which the Globalism Research Centre is a key participant, seeks to facilitate the process of reconciliation at both local and global levels. It does so by providing a framework within which people can explore ways of developing and extending exchanges of a cultural, educational and intellectual nature. Utilising direct, face-to-face contact and contemporary means for communication across geographical boundaries it seeks to recreate globalisation’s ‘human face’ and to formulate strategies, processes and proposals that bring the peoples of the world closer together.
In December 2009, with support from a number of organisations including the Globalism Research Centre and the Global Cities Institute, RMIT, Global Reconciliation ran the Pathways to Reconciliation Summit in Amman, Jordan. This event brought together over 200 delegates from around the world, including individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to reconciliation, representatives from NGOs, activist organisations and bodies such as the United Nations, as well as academics and the media.

**International Women’s Development Agency**

The International Women’s Development Agency (IWDA) is an Australian non-profit organisation that creates positive change for women and their communities. Its practical and rights-based projects directly address poverty and oppression in developing countries.

The Globalism Research Centre is a supporter and sponsor of IWDA events, and the IWDA Executive Director, Jane Sloane, is a member of the Centre’s Local Advisory Board.

**Spire International**

Spire International is a not-for-profit organisation that links donors to local initiatives in developing communities. Spire specialises in identifying smaller locally based initiatives where there is a need for external assistance so that goals can be achieved. Spire focuses on the areas of education, health, income generation and environment.

The Globalism Research Centre is a supporter and sponsor of Spire International events, and Paul James is its President.

**United Nations Global Compact Cities Programme**

The United Nations Global Compact Cities Programme seeks to translate the overarching ten principles of the UN Global Compact into innovative, concrete and sustainable solutions to intractable economic, social and environmental urban issues.

RMIT University, led by Secretariat Director Paul James is the global centre for a United Nations program searching for local solutions to the economic, ecological, political and cultural problems faced by cities around the world. The City of Melbourne is currently piloting research methodologies with RMIT, which are focused towards the residents within the central business district and their awareness and understanding of the responsibilities and governance of climate change adaptation. Currently the programme operates in all six continents, with membership encompassing an expanding list of geographically distinct cities, ranging from Asker, Norway to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
4.2 Academic institutes and centres

Asia-Pacific Research Unit, Universiti Sains Malaysia
In 2006 the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and the Globalism Research Centre signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the objective of developing collaborative research projects. The MoU also aims to promote joint seminars and workshops, and staff and student exchange. This has involved a series of reciprocal research trips and collaborations over research developments, including Centre members Manfred Steger and Yaso Nadarajah as guest editors for APRU’s International Journal of Asia Pacific Studies.

College of Social and Behavioural Sciences, California State University, San Bernardino
In 2008 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was developed with College Dean, Jamal Nassar, for promoting staff collaboration and exchange in the fields of global studies and global indigenerity.

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (Beersheba, Israel)
Staff at Ben-Gurion and the Globalism Research Centre are developing a joint project on community sustainability. This has involved a series of reciprocal research trips and collaborations over research developments.

The Centre of Excellence in Global Governance Research, Academy of Finland/University of Helsinki
Heikki Patomäki has been a member of the Centre’s Board its establishment in 2006 and its Vice-Director from 2006 to 2008. In 2009 he twice visited the Centre, delivering guest lectures and public seminars on the future of global governance.

Globalization Research Center and Department of Political Science, University of Hawai‘i
In September 2003 the Globalism Research Centre and the GRC collaborated with a number of other institutes in establishing the Globalization Studies Network. Since then, Manfred Steger has been working with its Director, James Spencer, to develop an ongoing research collaboration around the theme of ‘Globalization and culture’.

Institute for Eastern European Studies, Free University of Berlin
In 2009 Manfred Steger and Erin Wilson presented lectures and developed an online module on globalisation for the Institute.

Institute on Globalization and the Human Condition, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada
The Institute on Globalization and the Human Condition was established in 1998 as one of McMaster University’s strategic areas of research on globalisation, social change and the human condition. Their major current project is on globalisation and autonomy. Professors Imre Szeman and Robert O’Brien from the Institute worked with Paul James on the ‘Central currents in globalization’ series published by Sage, London.
Institute of Postcolonial Studies

The Globalism Research Centre and the Institute of Postcolonial Studies (IPS) have been working closely together since 2002. The Globalism Research Centre is represented on the Institute’s Council, its peak policy body. The IPS publishes Postcolonial Studies, an international journal founded in 1997 by a group of scholars associated with the Institute of Postcolonial Studies, including Paul James.

RMIT English Worldwide

Since 2005 the Globalism Research Centre has established a program to develop English language skills for East Timorese women. In 2009 Maria Zulmira Soares Alves, who works with Caritas in Dili, came to Melbourne for three months of English tuition. Given the extent of challenges still facing women in Timor-Leste, not only does this program allow participants to increase their English skills it also provides an opportunity for travel, cultural exchange and personal growth. Participants’ financial and logistical needs are supported by organisations and individuals in Timor-Leste and Australia.

Social Policy Analysis and Research Centre, University of Colombo

The Director of SPARC, Professor Siri Hettige, has worked closely with Martin Mulligan and Yaso Nadarajah in their study related to the rebuilding of local communities following the 2004 tsunami. Hettige, Mulligan and Nadarajah have also begun work on a new book that will compare the post-independence experiences of Sri Lanka and Malaysia.

South Eastern University of Sri Lanka

In 2007 South Eastern University of Sri Lanka and the Globalism Research Centre signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the objective of developing collaborative research projects. In 2007 and 2008, and continuing into 2009, this has involved working together on an ARC Linkage project a comparative study of five post-tsunami resettlement projects (RPs) in Sri Lanka to inform national strategies for rebuilding of sustainable communities after major disasters such as the 2004 tsunami.

University of Colombo

In 2007 the University of Colombo and the Globalism Research Centre signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the objective of developing collaborative research projects. In 2007 and 2008, and continuing into 2009, this has involved working together on an ARC Linkage project a comparative study of five post-tsunami resettlement projects (RPs) in Sri Lanka to inform national strategies for rebuilding of sustainable communities after major disasters such as the 2004 tsunami.
University of Madras

In 2006 the University of Madras and the Globalism Research Centre signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the objective of developing collaborative research projects. The MoU also aims to promote joint symposiums and conferences, staff and student exchange, and an anthology of publications.

Universiti Malaya

The Globalism Research Centre and Universiti Malaya work collaboratively on research projects, including the project ‘Community resilience, identity and belonging in modernising Malaysia’, which focuses on a number of squatter settlements populated by families from Malay and Indian ethnic groups, as well as Indonesian and Bangladeshi migrant workers.

Urban Studies and Geography, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver BC

Members of the Globalism Research centre have engaged in collaborative work with staff at Simon Fraser University since 2007. The focus of this collaboration has been on urban sustainable development, particularly the use and application of ‘indicators’ of sustainability to assess and monitor the achievements of city and metropolitan governments in Vancouver and Melbourne. RMIT Associate Professor Meg Holden is a partner investigator on grants that have been submitted to Australian and Canadian funding bodies. Most significant has been an ARC Linkage Grant which funds research to develop a software platform to support better policy and planning decisions using sustainability indicators.
The central research focus of the Centre is globalisation, nationalism, transnationalism and the nature of community. Our research projects are gathered together around key themes, all related to this core purpose.

5.1 Research themes

Community formation and transnationalism

Community formation and transnationalism serves as the thematic umbrella for researchers exploring the strengths and weaknesses of local communities, with a particular emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region, in the context of the local-global challenges of the contemporary period. It involves a global network of researchers, scholars and engaged community-activists, working together to better understand the nature of community from the local to the global; to collectively respond to key cultural political issues of the new century across all levels of community and polity; and to develop responses to deal with real-world problems. This project recognises the vital importance of the local—the place in which we live—and then seeks to draw global lines of co-operation and reciprocal connections across our institutions and other relevant networks with communities and researchers at local, national and international levels.

As researchers and community members we share a collective interest in understanding what is happening to communities in the context of globalisation. How are we to understand the processes of change, both positive and negative, that affect sustainable and peaceful ways of living? What are the issues that require urgent attention, particularly as we face new, massive challenges to the environment, not to speak of widespread violence and global insecurity? How do communities in the Asia-Pacific region (including Australia) respond to challenges of globalisation, and to what extent do they think and act independently in becoming more socially and environmentally sustainable? How does standpoint and context impact our research when, for example, we look at the region from the perspective of a squatter settlement community in Old Klang Road, Malaysia, responding to development agendas in the rapidly globalising city of Kuala Lumpur? What happens when a natural disaster such as the tsunami at the end of 2004 forces a community thriving on the fringes of the coast to rebuild itself from scratch?

Community formation and transnationalism comprises a matrix of community-situated activities which are being conducted using a common methodology, with an emphasis on the importance of comparative research. Our research stretches across the Asia-Pacific region, with projects in Australia, India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. The research is engaged in multiple communities within each site, ranging from the urban to the rural, and from those embedded in face-to-face communities to those which are closely integrated into global flows of exchange and information.

Global knowledges and transnational education

Global knowledges and transnational education serves as the thematic umbrella for researchers exploring the impact of new technologies and internationalisation on education, and the ways in which national and cultural borders effect the movements of people and knowledge.
The overarching research focus is on how increasingly globalised modern knowledge systems transform the social, economic and cultural conditions of life around the globe. The title ‘Global knowledges and transnational education’ highlights how these transformations work across and beyond national borders, as well as the boundaries that exist between different disciplines, institutions and ways of knowing, teaching and learning.

Global knowledge and transnational education research projects are linked by a common concern to investigate the transformation of knowledge production, education, dissemination through the media, communications technologies, university, and corporations linking these to flows of people, ideas and objects.

Global and local governance

Global and local governance explores the ways in which different organisations and societal wholes are steered towards desirable outcomes by means of rules, principles and various policy instruments. Although the origins of the term ‘governance’ are in the Greek word ‘kubernan’ (‘to steer’), and was used in its metaphorical sense already by Plato, in the late twentieth century the term has been associated with the rise of neoliberalism. The World Bank defines governance as the exercise of political authority and the use of institutional resources to manage society’s problems and affairs. Typically this kind of management is based on the idea of rational public intervention in an otherwise autonomous society obeying its own laws. Characteristically the ‘autonomous society’ is seen or constituted as ‘private’ and the laws they obey are the laws of the market or something analogical to them. For instance, the advocates of the New Public Management theory—the basis of sweeping public sector reforms across the world since the 1980s—have preferred the term ‘governance’ over ‘administration’ because it gives a sense of indirect steering instead of direct regulations, directives and orders. In International Relations theory the term ‘governance’ has gained popularity because while various international organisations, rules and principles lack the mechanisms of enforcement, they are nonetheless often effective in steering actions, practices and policies to a set direction.

Researchers working within the theme do not study merely the steering of organisations and societal wholes as a thing in itself but also the way this metaphorical ‘steering’ is constituted and the effects of power these constitutions have. By opening up the question of power, the point is also to study the legitimacy of practices and systems of governance, especially from a democratic theory point of view. Research questions raised in this thematic cluster include, but are not limited to, the following:

• How is the idea and mentality of ‘governance’ constituted in early twenty-first century practices, and with what effects of power?
• What forms of agency are empowered by means of governance, what disempowered?
• Are the prevailing practices and systems of governance legitimate in terms of their self-justification, especially in terms of economic efficiency?
• Are the prevailing practices and systems of governance legitimate in terms of ethico-political and legal principles, including justice and democracy? Do they serve any higher ends such as freedom and collective human learning?

• What democratic or otherwise desirable alternatives are there?

Histories and ideologies of globalisation

Histories and ideologies of globalisation serves as the thematic umbrella for researchers exploring various ideational and historical aspects involving the expansion and intensification of social relations and consciousness across world-time and world-space. While the discussion of economic matters must be a significant part of any comprehensive account of globalisation, the compression of time and space also contains important ideological aspects in the form of politically charged narratives that put before the public a particular agenda of topics for discussion, questions to ask, and claims to make. The existence of these narratives and their dependence on specific historical accounts shows that globalisation is not merely an objective and material process but also a plethora of metaphors, stories and myths that define, describe, and analyse that very process. The social forces behind these competing accounts of globalisation seek to endow this concept with norms, values, and meanings that not only legitimate and advance specific power interests but also shape the personal and collective identities of billions of people. Indeed, it is the question of whether globalisation ought to be considered a ‘good’ or a ‘bad’ thing that has spawned heated debates in classrooms, boardrooms and on the streets.

Researchers working within the theme offer new assessments and appraisals of the shifting ideological landscape of our time. They are united in their conviction that ideas and histories are not merely pale reflections of economics or technology but powerful forces capable of affecting profound social change at the opportune moment. Research questions raised in this thematic cluster include, but are not limited to, the following:

• What is new about the ideological landscape of the twenty-first century?

• What are the core concepts of today’s globalisms?

• Is globalisation a recent development or is it a long-term process?

• How can we construct histories of the global?

• How do the various geographical scales (the local, national, regional) intersect in historical accounts of the global?

• How does the rising global imaginary impact conventional historiographies?
Insecurity and conflict

Insecurity and conflict serves as the thematic umbrella for research which carries an ‘on-the-ground’ sense of the complexity of violence into broader frameworks of understanding. In Timor-Leste and around the world we have seen over the past decade a number of destabilising developments that have posed serious practical and conceptual challenges to conventional policy frameworks and responses. They are of a complex and unconventional nature involving non-state or multiple actors along with social, environmental and economic processes that do not accord with traditional models of state-based military threats. The use of militia forces in Timor-Leste, attacks by Islamic militants in New York and Washington, London, Kuta and Jakarta, and regional conflicts such as those in the Balkans, have been met with military responses that have often enough either complicated the violence further or secured a very limited kind of peace. In places such as Iraq and Afghanistan we have seen utter failure in the military attempts at securing victory in the so-called ‘War on Terror’; wars that typify the myriad difficulties encountered when orthodox military responses are used in an attempt to contain globalising networks of people committed to violent political actions.

While such spectacular violence tends to capture public attention, slower moving but no less deadly processes are also coming to challenge the conventional conceptions of security. The spread of disease, the threat to natural eco-systems, a global refugee crises, climate change, as well the impact of capital flows on local communities around the world, have all shown the increasing ways in which the sense of security people feel is intimately related to sets of complex flows and processes that cut across the formal categories of nation-states.

In terms of intellectual analysis the common threads linking these developments together are, firstly, a concern for the nature of contemporary violence and, secondly, how an understanding of immediate violence can be drawn into more abstract patterns of social formation. The project begins from the critical position that the common attempt to read non-conventional security challenges through the lens of conventional state-based analysis has gravely distorted policy and imposed significant additional costs in human and financial terms. Overall, the project seeks to examine the deeper sources of insecurity—political, military, cultural, economic and health insecurity—from local and regional arenas to the national and global. This, we argue, provides a stronger basis for understanding the grounds of conflict, violence and other forms of insecurity in the world today, and for orienting policy decisions in relation to national and regional security.

Research in this theme intersects with various other teaching and research programs at RMIT University, including the Human Security Program in the Global Cities Institute. The most obvious point of intersection between these two programs is in the way both ask how forms of violence can be negated at the policy level. However, Insecurity and conflict remains a distinct area of research on a number of fronts, not least its global scale. It has carried us from Argentina to Palestine, Bosnia to Northern Ireland, while the Human Security Program concentrates on the urban domain and is limited to the Asia-Pacific. Secondly, the emphasis in the Insecurity and conflict research has been on understanding violence rather than on different systems or approaches to understanding security. As the name suggests, the Human Security Program takes a particular security doctrine and uses that as the central point for engagement and critique. For Insecurity and conflict research the questions have long been much more around identity and social integration more generally.
5.2 Research projects

Accounting for sustainability: developing an integrated approach for sustainability

Chief investigators: Paul James, Lin Padgham, James Thom, Hepu Deng, Andy Scerri, Liam Magee, Bill Cope and Meg Holden

Sponsors: Australian Research Council, Fuji Xerox, Microsoft, City of Melbourne and others.

This project will develop a framework and software system for evaluating and applying indicators in common planning and reporting situations. It seeks to address shortcomings in other indicators for monitoring and measuring sustainability, which often become detached from the practical tasks at hand in managing businesses, preserving the environment, or promoting social and cultural wellbeing. The project will benefit Australian organisations by developing clear, practical sustainability goals; lowering cost of reporting compliance; and improving sustainability practices.

After the violence: truth, reconciliation and national integration in Timor-Leste

Chief investigator: Damian Grenfell

Research team: Mayra Walsh and Victoria Stead

Sponsor: Australia Research Council

With the closure of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation in Timor-Leste (CAVR) and the dissemination of its findings across 2006, this project examines the impact of CAVR on national integration. By focusing particularly on how CAVR sought to find ‘the truth’ regarding political violence that had occurred between 1974 and 1999, as well as to secure the reintegration of past human-rights offenders back into society, the central role of the Commission in underpinning the transition to a new nation is being considered.

While the project has continued to focus on CAVR, the socio-political crises that began in 2006 and the presidential and parliamentary elections of 2007 have both been drawn into the study so as to help answer the underpinning questions of the project that relate to the nature of nation-formation in a post-conflict Timor-Leste. As such, in 2009 research on the themes of both justice and governance were drawn into the study through an extensive survey of five sites across Timor-Leste. With the project winding up at the end of 2009, the process of writing up various findings is now underway.

Catalyst: changing practices

Chief investigators: Helen Smith, Peter Burrows and Les Morgan

Sponsor: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Victoria

This project is an evaluation of the first year of a Microsoft Partners in Learning (PiL) project. The Catalyst project grew out of, and was informed by, an evaluation of a previous PIL project, Creating eLearning Leaders (CeLL), also conducted by the Globalism Research Centre. Catalyst involves action research teams
in nine schools across Victoria which have designed and implemented action research projects focused on the integration of information and communication technologies into the curriculum, and on devising appropriate and innovative pedagogies. The methodology is based on the collection of reflective data from school teams and the analysis of the processes followed by school teams in designing their action research project and working with teachers across the school in the implementation phase. The outcome of the evaluation will inform implementation of the second year of the two-year project.

The changing nature of national identity and its relationship to other forms of identity
Chief investigator: Tom Nairn
Researcher: Andy Scerri
Sponsor: Australian Research Council
The project, completed in 2009, used case studies of locales on the ‘edge-lands’ of empires old and new to focus on the nature of identity formation in conditions of globalisation. In particular, Tom Nairn examined ways that the projections of political communities in Australia and Scotland have consistently challenged the homogenising forces of globalisation. Situated at the interstices of radicalised and often intolerant religious and secular fundamentalisms, his research uncovered evidence of a resurgent humanism based in local identities within and across the contemporary globalising cityscapes of Melbourne and Edinburgh.
In the course of the project, Professor Nairn delivered an Edinburgh Lecture on the issues surrounding what he calls post-Empire nationalism and identity in the edge-lands. Material collected for the project has been used extensively by Professor Nairn as a background to his involvement in a range of public debates, notably on the international, para-academic web forum OpenDemocracy, Australian Radio National’s Perspectives programme and in the London Review of Books. Other key outputs of the project include the book chapter, ‘Scotland and globalisation’, in The independence book: Scotland in today’s world (Luath Press 2008) and the journal article ‘The English postman’, in the ‘Scotland in Europe’ issue of Literaria Pragensia: Studies in Literature and Culture (December 2009).

Closing the gap between the wellbeing of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth
Chief investigators: Manfred Steger, Jenny Martin and AR Murray.
Sponsors: Australian Research Council and the Unity Foundation
This project will use an evidence-based approach to build upon community strengths and knowledge, moving beyond welfare or paternalistic approaches to improve the wellbeing of Indigenous young people. Ultimately the project aims to develop interventions for Indigenous youth that work towards closing the gap between the wellbeing of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth.

Community security and sustainability
Program manager: Damian Grenfell
Research team: Mayra Walsh, Carmenesa Moniz Noronha, Kym Holthouse and Anna Trembath
Sponsors: Irish Aid Timor-Leste, Oxfam Australia, Concern Worldwide
This project was framed by a concern for how communities in Timor-Leste are able to maintain security and sustainability. The concept of ‘community security’ allows for a consideration of both direct threats, such as social conflict, violence and property destruction, as well as the ability to achieve those things that might be understood to enable a good life, such as access to adequate shelter, food, health, education and cultural expression. The research has attempted to illuminate contemporary conditions and patterns of social life in Timor-Leste by focusing particularly on one of the most localised forms of community, namely the aldeia, rather than on the nation-state, as localised forms of community remain extremely important in Timor-Leste.

Research was undertaken in four sites across Timor-Leste: aldeia Luha Oli, aldeia Nanu, aldeia Sarelari and aldeia Golgota. Methods used included various individual and household surveys, semi-structured interviews, photo-narrative, and temporal, spatial and family mapping techniques. Project staff worked across various languages, including Tetun, Bahasa Indonesia and local languages.

In 2009 both English and Tetun versions of the four-site research report Understanding community—security and sustainability in four aldeia in Timor-Leste: Luha Oli, Nanu, Sarelari and Golgota was launched through additional funding from Irish Aid, and produced in association with Oxfam Australia and Concern Worldwide in Timor-Leste. The report was formally launched at the ‘Nation-building across the Urban and Rural in Timor-Leste’ conference held in Dili July 2009.

Globalizing Indigeneity: Indigenous cultural festivals and wellbeing in Australia and the Asia-Pacific

Chief investigators: Peter Phipps, Paul James and Manfred Steger
Research Fellow: Lisa Slater
PhD Researcher (APAI): Bo Svoronos

Sponsors: Australian Research Council and Telstra Foundation

This three-year project investigates the role of cultural festivals in supporting community wellbeing in selected Indigenous communities in Australia and the Asia-Pacific. The project argues that despite the very different penetration and impacts of globalisation in these places, these festivals can be understood through a common framework which understands cultural expression as a domain which both deploys and exceeds rights-based discourses as an assertion of Indigenous presence. It argues that festivals are a particularly effective forum for communities to assert and re-frame this presence, engage and educate other communities, institutions and levels of government on Indigenous terms, garner resources and strengthen the transmission of cultural knowledge across generations; all with varied wellbeing outcomes. The research is grounded in fieldwork-based case studies of each festival. It examines the role festivals play in strengthening and promoting Indigenous cultural identity and belonging and how this contributes to wellbeing. It details the initiatives that grow from festivals and analyses the extent to which they enrich social connection and community capacity.
By the end of 2009 the project team had conducted over 100 structured and informal interviews, made observations and analysis through more than 20 extended festival and field site visits from urban to remote locations, analysed relevant public statements, policy documents, reports and media representations, and extensively reviewed relevant Australian and international literature.

Significant preliminary findings and recommendations have been drawn from the extended draft report, presented to the Telstra Foundation Board in September. Research findings have been presented at several Australian and international conferences and drawn upon in a number of academic publications.

**Good practice in enhancing the social dimension of international student experience on and off campus**  
Chief investigator: Christopher Ziguras  
Researchers: Christopher Ziguras and Aramiha Harwood  
Sponsor: ISANA International Education Association  
This project documented existing good practice exemplars and resources in international education to make recommendations as to how these could be disseminated and used by industry stakeholders to improve the experiences of international students.

**Identity and belonging in modernising Malaysia**  
Research leader: Yaso Nadarajah  
Researcher: Lakshmi Venugopal  
Research collaborators: The Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), NGO Sisters-in-Islam Forum, and Datuk K. Govindan, Head, National Economic Advisory Council (Prime Minister’s Department, Malaysia).  
Community formation and transnationalism research draws from nearly three years of ethnographic fieldwork of community life in a large squatter settlement in the epicentre of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as part of broader community sustainability research across four countries in the Asia Pacific. To date it has involved in-depth and ongoing mapping of the transition of squatter settlement communities to their new low-cost high rise housing complexes in the same location, focusing on the relationship between the notion of community in the context of the recent national elections and current contestations surrounding constitutional perspectives on freedom of religion, secularism and national public life, and the affect of Tamil community mobilisation activities, such as the Hindu Rights Action Force (HINDRAF).

In 2009 Yaso Nadarajah was invited to become a senior research associate to both IKMAS and the Sister-in-Islam Forum NGO. This has deepened research partnerships in Malaysia, and Dr Nadarajah was invited to become one of lead researchers in a nationwide study on the impact of polygamy on Muslim family life. This study is done in collaboration with key universities in Malaysia: Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Malaya (UM), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and UITM Kelantan, along with RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia. This multi-disciplinary study has focused on seven areas of marriage and family law and seeks an understanding of the practice of polygamy among Muslims in

![New infrastructure for water delivery, Bario, Malaysia, 2009](image-url)
peninsular Malaysia, which is legally provided for under the State Islamic Family Law Enactments, with a view to advocate for reform of Islamic family laws and the administration of justice in relation to polygamy; conduct a public awareness campaign; and provide input into policy formulation on government programs and activities related to ‘keluarga bahagia’ (family wellbeing) and Kursus Perkahwinan’ (marriage courses). The research also seeks to influence public policy on Malaysian marriage and family law and Islamic shariah law.

The findings of this national study will be presented in 2010 in public forums and presentations to the Malaysian government, as well in the publication of a special journal edition and an edited book. The nature of community in Malaysia is an ongoing book project between Norani Othman, Rahman Embong (IKMAS) and Yaso Nadarajah for 2009 to 2011, which seeks to contribute significantly to the theoretical framing of the term ‘community’, particularly within the context of the contemporary history of Malaysia.

Impacts of national NGO gender projects in local communities in Timor-Leste

Project team: Anna Trembath, Carmenesa Moniz Noronha, Damian Grenfell and Mayra Walsh (RMIT), Filomena Fuca (GFFTL), Aida Exposto and Ambrosio Dias Fernandes (FKSH), Elda Barros and Maria Fatima Pereira Guterres (Alola), Fransisca da Silva and Mario Duarte Soriano (Women’s Justice Unit, JSMP)

Sponsors: Irish Aid and Trocaire

This project involves RMIT University’s Timor-Leste Research Program working with four East Timorese NGO partners (listed above) in order to collaboratively research and evaluate the impacts of the NGOs’ gender-focused projects in local communities. Two staff from each organisation participate as co-researchers. Each NGO has selected one project to evaluate and one locale in which to conduct fieldwork (sub-district Venilale, sub-district Ermera, sub-district Atauro and sub-district Manatuto). The RMIT team is delivering comprehensive, ongoing training and accompanying the NGO staff throughout the entire process so as to develop capacity in gender-sensitive research and evaluation. The projects runs entirely in Tetun and utilises an array of research methods.

In 2009 the research team completed the first two phases of the project (‘Project preparation and introduction to gender-sensitive research and evaluation’ and ‘Data collection, consolidation and entry’) and have now entered the third phase of the project (‘Data analysis and production of final written results’). The NGO teams together with RMIT are workshopping data analysis and beginning to write up results, with the project report (both Tetun and English versions) scheduled for release by July 2010.

Irregular migrants and political belonging in global cities

Chief investigators: Paul James and Anne McNevin

Sponsor: Australian Research Council

This project investigates the political status of irregular migrants (residing within a state without the state’s explicit sanction) in five globalising cities: Los Angeles, Kuala Lumpur, Berlin, Melbourne and Port Moresby. Through textual and policy
analysis, qualitative research and theoretical inquiry, the project examines the
central role that irregular migrants play in contemporary transformations of
citizenship. The major outcome of the project will be a book published with
Columbia University Press—Contesting citizenship: irregular migrants and new
frontiers of the political—in early 2011. Against the background of border policing
as a strategy of neoliberal governance, the book shows how irregular migrants
contest their positioning as ‘illegal’ outsiders and, in the process, reconstitute the
social and spatial parameters of political belonging.

In 2009 substantial progress was made on the empirical and theoretical
dimensions of the research, drawing on the previous year’s initial textual
analysis of academic literature, documents and statistics from government,
inter-governmental and NGO sources, examining the relevant legal, economic
and social contexts in each case site. In 2009 Paul James and Anne McNevin
carried out fieldwork in Los Angeles, Berlin, Port Moresby, and Melbourne,
with further fieldwork in Kuala Lumpur to follow in 2010. Across the case sites
around 60 interviews were conducted with groups ranging
from undocumented students and parents to undocumented
business owners, asylum seekers, policy-makers and a range of
community organisations. The bulk of the Melbourne fieldwork is
taking place via McNevin’s participant-observation in a community
development theatre project, in conjunction with the Asylum
Seeker Resource Centre. This project allows for extended contact
with asylum seekers and ongoing interviews and discussions. In
Los Angeles, Anne McNevin was based as a visiting scholar at
UCLA Downtown Labor Centre and presented preliminary findings
to the Centre.

Research findings include the identification, documentation and
theorisation of several examples of irregular migrants’ political
activities. These have been developed into ‘case studies’ that
argue for the political significance of irregular migrant activism.
In addition to the major book publication, research findings have
been incorporated into three refereed journal articles, four book chapters, and
magazine articles with wider public circulation. Findings have been presented
at several Australian and international conferences, including invited keynote
addresses.

Learning by design: creating pedagogical frameworks for knowledge building
in the twenty-first century

Chief investigators: Bill Cope, Mary Kalantzis and Nicola Yelland

Sponsors: Australian Research Council, ACT Department of Education and
Training, Victorian Schools Innovation Commission, Education Queensland and
Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Parramatta

This project examines how ‘middle-years’ teachers design, record and enact
their curriculum, searching for evidence of a relationship between pedagogical
choices and learner outcomes. The aim of the project is to prompt more mindful
and context-appropriate pedagogical choices, while encouraging teachers to
document and share their practices. From these investigations, and drawing on
the theory of Multiliteracies, the research team has developed a kit of resources for
teacher teams to use in designing pedagogies to promote more effective learning.
Literacy teaching in the changing communications environment: reading and writing multimodal and digital

Chief investigators: Bill Cope and Mary Kalantzis

Sponsor: Australian Research Council

This project contributes to the updating of literacy pedagogy to meet the needs of learners in a communications environment where digital and multimodal texts are of growing significance. We are developing an educationally accessible way of talking about contemporary texts in the classroom, which supplements and extends traditional grammatical and literary understandings of the written word. Our aim is to move towards the creation of a model of literacy teaching which is more relevant to the contemporary communications environment and more engaging for students.

Mapping justice globalism: reassessing the ideological landscape of the twenty-first century

Chief investigators: Manfred Steger, Heikki Patomäki and James Goodman

Researcher: Erin Wilson

Sponsor: Australian Research Council

This project investigates and assesses the ideological status of ‘justice globalism’: the political ideas and public policy vision associated with the global justice movement. Through qualitative textual analysis and in-depth interviews, the project scrutinises key documents of justice globalism generated by 45 civil society organisations associated with the World Social Forum. The outcome of this research will be a detailed conceptual mapping of and policy analysis of justice globalism that furthers our understanding of the ideas, values, and policy proposals behind one of the major global political forces shaping the twenty-first century.

In 2009 background research was finalised and most of the first round of interviews were completed. The analysis of the collection of textual samples was completed in early 2010, producing some preliminary findings regarding the core concepts of justice globalism and its main ideological claims. These are being revised and analysed in greater depth, and will inform the two remaining stages of the project: policy responses of justice globalism to three main global crises—food, finance and climate—and future directions for justice globalism, the World Social Forum and the global justice movement.

In 2009 Manfred Steger, Heikki Patomäki and James Goodman were invited to give public lectures and keynote addresses at a number of prestigious institutions, specifically on research themes related to this project. A special issue of New Political Science has been published and work has begun on material for special issues of Globalizations and the Journal of Political Ideologies. New and expanded editions of two books authored by Professor Steger have been published, which incorporate research insights related to this project. A project website is also being developed.
Microsoft partners in learning: Australian evaluation project

Chief investigators: Mary Kalantzis, Helen Smith and Nicola Yelland
Sponsor: Microsoft

Microsoft Partners in Learning (PiL) is a global ICT initiative to which Microsoft committed US$253 million internationally between 2004 and 2009. By offering programs, software, training and professional development and recognition, Microsoft is offering incentives for state/territory departments of education to further invest in eLearning. The Centre, in collaboration with Victoria University, has been contracted to conduct an evaluation of the impact of the PiL project on the take-up and deployment of ICT to enhance teaching and learning across the eight Australian state/territory departments of education.

Negotiating the local-global in the Hamilton region

Research team: Yaso Nadarajah, Martin Mulligan, Terrie Nicholson, Cicely Fenton, and Wasana Weeraratne

Community critical reference group: John Callinan, Cicely Fenton, John Fenton, Terrie Nicholson, Sue, Pizzey, Judy Warne, Coralie Coulson, Olive McVicker, Vicki Finch, Jenny Kane and Bob Cadden (with Suzy Clarke, Tony MacGillivray, Ken Saunders and Damein Bell—correspondence members)

1. Climate change project

The monograph Unexpected sources of hope: climate change, community and the future was published by the Centre in 2009. It explores the impacts of climate change and other global uncertainties for people living in the Hamilton region, and is the outcome of a collaborative research project built on the methodology of community-engaged research which explores community participation in future planning through policy development and implementation. Based on a two-day scenarios mapping workshop in 2008 and a series of sessions with local community co-authors and story contributors, this publication is an outcome of a collaborative research project (Community sustainability and climate change programs) that is exploring the impacts of climate change and other global uncertainties on the future for people living in the Hamilton region. This research is aimed at exploring the proposition and building on the methodology (community-engaged research) that community participation in future visioning could help to stimulate a stronger sense of local citizenship and a stronger desire to contribute to future planning through policy development and implementation. Martin Mulligan and Yaso Nadarajah are also currently working on a book proposal (Biography of the Hamilton region) which is in review with publishers.

2. Handbury Fellowships Program

The Handbury Fellowship Program is a community–university partnership scholarship fund that provides financial support to the western Victoria community region, in partnership with RMIT University staff or students, to undertake projects in the areas of education, the environment, society and culture, economics, or other research that provide a direct and tangible benefit towards the sustainability of the region and surrounds. The biennial Handbury Fellowship celebration was held in November 2009.

In April 2009 the sixth round of applications was opened, with two successful applications announced in October, bringing to 21 the total number of awards granted since 2003. The two awarded grants were: “Positive parenting pupil participation”, which will explore strategies to enable sustainable engagement
and learning opportunities for parents and a supportive environment for both parents and students; and ‘The community heritage collections: a regional development resource project’, which will assess and recommend a range of ways that community heritage collections can be employed in regional development initiatives. A previous Fellowship grant has funded research study developed in late 2009 that combines three areas of community scholarship: food production, waste water and bio-fuel, with a view to further research and providing applied alternatives for community sustainability. The overall Fellowship program will undergo evaluation in 2010 with a view to consolidating it as an ongoing community scholarship program and community development research study.

**Pedagogies for eLearning: a critical analysis of strategies for effective use of information and communications technologies for teaching and learning**

Chief investigators: Bill Cope, Mary Kalantzis and Nicola Yelland

Sponsor: Australian Research Council

What are the benefits and weaknesses of ‘eLearning’ in different subject areas and across a range of social settings? In this assessment we trace the micro-dynamics of the traditional classroom as contrasted with eLearning, and will develop models which make the most of the educational potentials of eLearning. No such direct comparison of teaching and learning has been made before. The results will inform the development of learning environments that most effectively contribute to the formation of fully enabled members of the emerging ‘knowledge society’ through the appropriate application of eLearning strategies.

**Rebuilding sustainable communities: assessing post-tsunami resettlement projects in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India**

Research team: Martin Mulligan, Yaso Nadarajah, Dave Mercer and Wasana Weeraratne (RMIT University), Judith Shaw and Iftekharp Ahmed (Monash University), and Matthew Clarke (Deakin University), with Professor Siri Hettige (University of Colombo), Kaleel Aqeel (South Eastern University, Pottuvil), Ashraff Ahmed (NESDO NGO, Sainthamaruthu) and Kushil Gunasegara (Foundation of Goodness, Seenigama)

Sponsor: Australian Research Council

The study on community rebuilding was conducted in conjunction with the study on rebuilding livelihoods and based on lessons learnt about the provision of housing in resettlement communities. It seeks to be the most thorough such study to be reported in international literature, and is the longest and most intense study of social recovery from the tsunami. It has involved RMIT and Monash University researchers in partnership with AusAID, Australia’s official aid agency. The study was conducted in five local areas—Seenigama, Hambantota, Thirukkovil, Sainthamuruthu and Chennai. The ‘community-engaged’ research methodology involved consultation with local advisors and reliance on local guides and research assistants. Research methods included the construction of social profiles of case
study areas, surveys, community member profiles, lengthy interviews and the collection of relevant local stories.

Field research was finalised in 2009, with findings to be released in a major five-part report to be published and made publicly available in early 2010. The report will be distributed to local communities as well as local government, NGOs and community organisations in Sri Lanka and India. The focus has been on three themes: political and institutional factors affecting resettlement project design and delivery; the rebuilding of economic self-reliance; and distilling a set of ‘best practices’ for use by AusAID and policy makers in the ongoing rehabilitation of tsunami-affected communities and in the design of future post-disaster interventions in developing countries, as well as the creation of stable and effective social institutions in resettled communities.

Research for the ‘Generations’ project: building civic engagement through the arts in five communities around Australia

Research team: Martin Mulligan and Pia Smith
Sponsor: Australia Council for the Arts

The Generations Project is a three-year project developed by the Cultural Development Network and the Australia Council for the Arts, taking place in five locations in eastern Australia—Latrobe Valley, Geelong, Wangaratta, Liverpool and Charters Towers. It aimed to examine ways in which local governance and engagement between communities and local government authorities could be enhanced through the use of community art practices. The Centre was invited to conduct research on the pilot phase for implementing projects in the five local government areas mentioned above, and then Martin Mulligan and Pia Smith tracked the development of the projects as they unfolded over a period of three years. This was a form of action research around the project initiated by the Cultural Development Network, but it also aimed to address questions raised in the international literature about the crisis of governance in an era of great change and uncertainty.

The final report on the research by Mulligan and Smith was due to be submitted to the Australia Council by the end of February 2010 under the title Art, governance and the turn to community: putting art at the heart of local government. This report will make a significant contribution to international literature on community art, the formation of community in the contemporary world, and new challenges for local government.

The draft research findings were presented in September 2009 at a national conference organised jointly by the Cultural Development Network and the Centre. The ReGenerating Community Conference attracted over 300 participants and the opening event, held in the theatre at Melbourne’s Federation Square, was addressed by Robyn Archer AO and the founder of the India Foundation for the Arts, Anmol Vellani. At the opening event and throughout the conference in RMIT’s Storey Hall, a wide range of community artists were able to showcase their work and work that came to fruition as a result of the ‘Generations’ project. Presentations on the five local Generations projects showed that the action research project had been very successful in demonstrating the value for local governance of community art practices. The research report written by Martin Mulligan and Pia Smith will be made public in 2010.
SparkL creative pathways to literacy program

Chief investigator: Peter Burrows
Sponsor: The Dara Foundation

The aim of SparkL is to identify effective ways to develop young people’s creative capacity and consequently increase their educational achievement and engagement with school. A strategic aim of the program is also to have an impact at the system level by integrating the SparkL model into public education more widely. The research program involves tracking and analysing teacher practice and pedagogy as they develop their skills as teacher-researchers during the SparkL Program. Specifically, this involves monitoring teacher learning and application in response to introduction of Learning by Design elements and the extent their practice in the SparkL context encourages and supports such pedagogy.

Sustainable communities, sustainable livelihoods: alternative pathways to development in Papua New Guinea

Research team: Paul James, Yaso Nadarajah, Victoria Stead and Peter Phipps, with Karen Haive, Department for Community Development, PNG and Julie Foster-Smith
Sponsor: Department for Community Development, PNG

The Community Sustainability program has undertaken work in Papua New Guinea for several years now. This project has involved in-depth and sustained research in 11 communities across the country, ranging from remote villages in the Highlands through to settler communities in Port Moresby. In partnership with the Department for Community Development in the PNG National Government, this has been an ambitious research-based policy development project focusing on the relationship between livelihoods and learning.

In May 2009 Paul James delivered three major addresses at the Second National Ministerial Forum held in Port Moresby, and wrote up a thirty-page summary of the Forum, to be published by the Department for Community Development. A new volume of the Centre’s journal, Local-Global, ‘Papua New Guinea: projecting community life’, was launched by the Minister for Community Development and reported in the National newspaper. The volume builds upon a draft report presented in 2007 to the Minister. Meetings were held with the National Research Institute in Port Moresby to explore the development of institutional links with RMIT University as well as to establish Victoria Stead’s PhD research on customary land.

Sustainable community development in Tamil Nadu, South India

Research team: Yaso Nadarajah, Martin Mulligan, Sona Thomas (RMIT postgraduate student), with Professor Thangavelu Vasantha Kumaran, Dr Guna Narasinga and Dr Kavi Arasan (University of Madras), D. Sivakumar and S. Raji (Thillagar Nagar community leaders), and Sylvester (University of Madras postgraduate student)
The focus of this project is on sustainable community development, with a particular emphasis on the implementation of participatory methodologies to enhance sustainability at the community level. The partnership with the University of Madras has been in part a process of developing a comparative basis for developing changing indicators of social wellbeing and community sustainability. This includes a research focus on livelihood trajectories, communal conflict/politics, and traditional and local knowledge systems.

In 2009 the study focused on two of the fishing slum communities (Chennai) which were relocated after the tsunami disaster, as part of the larger ARC research study ‘Rebuilding communities after the tsunami’.

**Telling the story of Melbourne’s cultural precincts**

*Research team: Peter Phipps, Martin Mulligan and Aramiha Harwood*

*Sponsor: City of Melbourne*

This consultancy, undertaken in association with the Melbourne-based Reputation Group, will advise the City of Melbourne on ways to capture and communicate the history and ‘stories’ associated with Melbourne’s three major ‘cultural precincts’ — the Lygon Street precinct, the Lonsdale Street ‘Greek precinct’ and Chinatown.

In 2009 researchers worked with renowned Melbourne writer Arnold Zable to research the history of the three precincts and to capture stories which could be used to communicate the history and character of the three areas to a broad public audience. The research also involved a review of literature and experience in regard to ‘cultural’ or ‘ethnic’ precincts, and a paper on this was delivered to both the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC). In part the consultancy resulted in a range of recommendations to the City of Melbourne on how to tell the stories of the three precincts through art installations and oral history projects. However, VMC took a keen interest in the project in order to develop a statewide policy on cultural precincts.

The project found that there are a wide range of ‘cultural precincts’: with some having an historic character while others are more alive and dynamic as expressions of immigrant cultures. While the term can be used too loosely, the researchers concluded that ‘cultural precincts’ is a useful term and that efforts should be made to identify other such precincts in Victoria that have an important story to tell about the benefits of social and cultural diversity.

**Towards the ‘semantic web’: standards and interoperability across document management and publishing supply chains**

*Chief investigators: Bill Cope, Margaret Jackson, Mary Kalantzis and Bill Martin*

*Sponsors: Australian Research Council and Fuji Xerox*

At a critical point in the development of the information economy, this project addresses the fundamental challenges of electronic standards and interoperability in the text and graphic media industries. These industries are a source of enormous and growing employment in Australia; their products also touch every person’s life in profound ways. This project will develop an extensive industry-focused knowledge base, and take this knowledge back to industry and the broader community through publications, conferences and workshops.
6. Publications

One of the aims of the Centre is to support research that leads to relevant and socially engaged publications.

6.1 Books


6.2 Book chapters


Manfred B. Steger, ‘From “We the people” to “We the planet”: neoconservative visions of a global USA’, in Samir Dasgupta, ed., Politics of globalization, Sage, New Delhi, 2009.

Manfred B. Steger, ‘Monologue of empire versus global dialogue of cultures: the branding of “American values”’, in Michalis S. Michael and Fabio Petito, eds, Global empire or dialogue of cultures? The politics of cultures, religions, and civilizations in international relations, Palgrave Macmillan, Houndmills, 2009.

6.3 Journal articles


6.4 Published conference proceedings


Victoria Stead, ‘Creative friction: Disrupting the boundaries of “art” and “community art”’, Proceedings of the ReGenerating Community Conference, RMIT University Melbourne, Australia, ReGenerating Community Conference, 2–4 September 2009.
6.5 Research reports


One of the aims of the Centre is to disseminate research findings among colleagues and stakeholders through conference papers and lectures.

### 7.1 Conference and seminar papers


Damian Grenfell, ‘Nation-building across the urban and the rural in Timor’, Opening address (with Prime Minister (Acting) of Timor-Leste), Understanding Timor-Leste Conference, Dili, Timor-Leste, July 2009.


Paul James, ‘Beyond internationalization: translocation, globalization and education’, keynote address, Beyond Internationalizing the Curriculum Conference, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia, 13 July 2009.


Paul James, ‘Communications, knowledge and the changing nature of community’, keynote address, Second eBario Knowledge Conference, Bario, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia, 4 to 6 November 2009.

Anne McNevin, ‘Citizenship as a metric of sovereignty’, International Studies Association Convention, New York, USA, 13 to 18 February 2009.


Martin Mulligan and Pia Smith, ‘Art, governance and the turn to community: putting art at the heart of local government’, ReGenerating Community Conference, Melbourne, Australia, 2 to 4 September 2009.


Heikki Patomäki, ‘Neoliberalism and the global financial crisis’, Neoliberalism and Public Involvement in Global Governance, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia, 30 November 2009.


Andy Scerri, ‘Accounting for sustainability: developing a qualitative approach to using quantitative indicators of community sustainability’, Global Cities Research Institute Community Sustainability Seminar Series, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia, 16 October 2009.

Victoria Stead, ‘Creative friction: disrupting the boundaries of “art” and “community art”’, ReGenerating Community Conference, Melbourne, Australia, 2 to 4 September 2009.


Christopher Ziguras, ‘Home country responses to international student emigration’, 14th International Metropolis Conference: Migration and Mobility—National Responses to Cultural Diversity, Copenhagen, Denmark, 14 to 18 September 2009.


Christopher Ziguras, ‘Why do we know so little about the students in transnational education?’, Australian International Education Conference, Sydney, Australia, 13 to 16 October 2009

7.2 Lectures, presentations and public addresses

Paul James, ‘Cities and water: the Milwaukee Project in context’, public address, sponsored by the Milwaukee Water Council and the Water Institute of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA, 28 April 2009.


Heikki Patomäki, ‘Global security: reflections on possible futures at the time of global financial crisis’, guest lecture, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan, 8 January 2009.


Heikki Patomäki, ‘The future of global governance: next 50 years’ (with Raimo Väyrynen, Director, Finnish Institute for International Affairs), a Centre of Excellence in Global Governance research event, Academy of Finland/University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, Wednesday, 27 May 2009.

Manfred Steger, ‘No end to history: the great ideological struggle of the twenty-first century’, Global Studies Program, Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan, 18 June 2009.
Martin Mulligan addresses the Hambantota community forum, Sri Lanka, 2010
In order to disseminate research and engage in public discussion on contemporary issues related to globalisation, nationalism and cultural diversity, the Globalism Research Centre initiates and supports a wide range of public forums, conferences, seminars and festivals.

8.1 Conferences and festivals

**Nation-building across the Urban and Rural in Timor-Leste Conference**  
*Gender, justice, peace and security, development and governance*  
Dili, Timor-Leste, July 2009

Organisers: Globalism Research Centre, NGO Forum Timor-Leste, Australian Volunteers International and Charles Darwin University  
Sponsors: AusAID, RMIT University, Caritas Australia Timor-Leste, Asia Pacific Futures Research Network, Airnorth

Ten years after the 1999 vote for independence, this conference considered how nation-building is being experienced and responded to across urban and rural communities in Timor-Leste. It provided an opportunity for East Timorese and people from around the world to reflect, discuss and debate the nation-building process in Timor-Leste since 1999. Broadening the discussion beyond that of ‘state-building’, at the core of the conference was a consideration of the myriad ways the new republic has been ‘built’. Nation-building was discussed in terms of what appears to be one of the most significant characteristics of contemporary Timor-Leste, namely the sharp distinction found between the urbanised capital and the rural communities where the majority of the population live.

**ReGenerating Community Conference**  
Melbourne, Australia, September 2009

Organisers: Globalism Research Centre and Cultural Development Network

This three-day conference addressed ways in which global issues are being addressed locally through collaborations between artists, communities and local government. Issues of community identity in an environment of globalised culture; issues of energy production in the context of climate change; issues of indigenous sovereignty on leasehold land; issues of country becoming city and changing identity; issues of aging; issues of schooling; issues of imaging futures, issues of having a future...

The conference presented local governments’ creation of new models of civic engagement. Arts were the focus. Examples of arts-based projects tackling the big issues through community cultural engagement were the springboard for discussion by leading national and international speakers, commentators, community leaders, officials, politicians, academics and artists.

8.2 Lectures, seminars and forums

**Annual Tom Nairn Lecture**  
*Global rebellion: religious challenges to the secular state*  
Melbourne, Australia, March 2009

Speaker: Professor Mark Juergensmeyer, University of California, Santa Barbara

Why has the turn of the twenty-first century been rocked by a new religious rebellion? From al Qaeda to Christian militias to insurgents in Iraq, a strident
new religious activism has seized the imaginations of political rebels around the world. Building on his groundbreaking book *The new cold war? Religious nationalism confronts the secular state* Mark Juergensmeyer here provided an up-to-date road map through this complex new religious terrain. Basing his discussion on interviews with militant activists and case studies of rebellious movements, Juergensmeyer put a human face on conflicts that have become increasingly abstract. He revised our notions of religious revolution and offered positive proposals for responding to religious activism in ways that will diminish the violence and lead to an accommodation between radical religion and the secular world.

Global health governance as a contested space: competing discourses, interests and actors
Melbourne, Australia, April 2009
Organiser: Globalism Research Centre
Speaker: Dr Owain Williams, University of Wales
In this free public seminar, Owain Williams, argued that global health governance can best be understood as a process of contestation between a variety of different discourses, each of which takes a particular approach to health as a global issue, and each of which generates certain policy responses.

Securing globalisation: neoliberalism, war and bailouts
Melbourne, Australia, May 2009
Organiser: Globalism Research Centre
Speaker: Professor James Mittelman, American University
Does globalisation promote security or insecurity? In this free public lecture, James Mittelman, argued that a more comprehensive approach is required for us to understand the systemic drivers of global security and insecurity. Such an approach requires us to understand the systemic drivers of global security and insecurity. It also requires historical perspectives that explain current implosions in globalisation.

2009 Herb Feith Lecture
Asia after the crisis: recovery and reform
Melbourne, Australia, December 2009
Speaker: Anwar Ibrahim
Sponsors: Monash Asia Institute, Herb Feith Foundation, Centre for Studies in Religion and Theology, Globalism Research Centre, National Centre for Excellence in Islamic Studies
Anwar Ibrahim has been described as the moderate voice of Islam in southeast Asia, an economic rationalist and an effective politician. His lecture was followed by a panel of commentators reflecting on his presentation. This free public lecture was presented in honour and memory of one of Australia’s finest scholars, Herb Feith (1930-2001)—teacher, scholar, activist and humanitarian.
9. Postgraduate students

The provision of a research culture supporting postgraduate supervision is one of the central activities of the Centre. It concentrates this supervision in the university’s Doctor of Philosophy and Masters by Research degrees within the areas of globalisation, transnationalism, nationalism and cultural diversity.

Listed below are a selection of current PhD students and their topics supervised by Globalism Research Centre staff.

Tommaso Durante, *The symbolic construction of the global imaginary in the contemporary Australian cities of Melbourne and Sydney*

Angus Gollings, *The globalisation of the semantic web: a future aspect of diversity and knowledge*

Maree Keating, *Learning from retrenchment: local textile workers redefine themselves after global restructuring*

Trevor McMahon, *A study of land use, and changes in land use in Vanuatu*

Katarina Sehm Patomäki, *Is international arbitration of sovereign debts viable?*

Rachel Sharples, *Communities, cultural resistance and empowerment in Burma*

Stefan Siebel, *Cooperative economies in a global age*

Victoria Stead, *Land, power and change: globalisation and customary land tenures in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste*

Anna Trembath, *Framing the nation, reconstituting gender*

Mayra Walsh, *Community, security and social integration in Timor-Leste*
Mom + Adam
All the best
to you!
Dad

5/13-97

My loving
husband
My children