Unravelling Identity: Immigrants, Identity and Citizenship in Australia

In this recently published book, co-authored by Globalism Institute Adjunct Professor Trevor Batrouney, you will hear immigrants’ voices as they share with us their life stories, their migration experiences and citizenship decisions. In telling these stories they show that the very processes of migration and settlement in a new country, including decisions about citizenship, inevitably bring to the fore important issues of ‘group identity’. more >>

Palestine and Israel: Is peace possible?
Wednesday 3 May, 7 pm
RMIT Storey Hall Lecture Theatre

The Global Justice Series 2006 commences in May with a public lecture by Jerusalem-born US Professor Jamal R. Nassar. Professor Nassar is a Jerusalem-born US professor who has written and lectured around the world on the history of the Palestinian liberation struggle and the politics of the Middle East. He has addressed the United Nations as an expert on the question of Palestine, and was consulted or has appeared as an expert witness on the area in highly visible court cases in the United States and Canada. more >>

The Art and Craft of Research in Communities: Forum for Researchers
Friday 28 April, 10.00 am - 1.00 pm
VicHealth, 15 Pelham St, Carlton

This half-day forum will address concerns for researchers investigating the impact of the arts on communities: research strategies, outcomes, dissemination and application. Speakers include Dr Deborah Warr (Research Fellow, Centre for Health and Society), Dr Rob Moodie (CEO, VicHealth), Professor Paul James Direcotr, Globalism Institute) and Nicky Welch (Research Fellow, Globalism Institute). more >>

Local/Global

Professor Paul James: Invited participant in a forum on Global Security at University of California Irvine 16 -19 March.


Professional development

Seminar on the Scholarship of University Learning

Interested in improving your research record? Passionate about teaching? Want to position yourself to apply for one of the Awards for the Scholarship of Teaching? or improve your portfolio for the next promotion round? or simply curious about that nexus between research and teaching?

Come to the first seminar of the annual series of seminars organised by the Deans Academic Development. This one’s being organised by Business and we are delighted to have the opportunity for Assoc Professor Carol Johnston, Director, Teaching and Learning Unit, Faculty of Economics and Commerce at The University of Melbourne to talk to us about strategies to introduce undergraduate students to research and linking research and teaching.

We will provide a light sandwich lunch so please advise Dora Poulakis if you would like to attend (dora.poulakis@rmit.edu.au).

Date Thursday 16 March 2006
Time 12-1.30pm Place Bldg 108, Bourke Street, Level 10, Room 7
**Rats in the Ranks: David Hicks, Terrorism and Appropriate Justice**

Wednesday 12 April, 3.30 - 4.30 pm

RMIT 15.3.03

By analysing various representations of Hicks by Australian governmental authorities and newspaper media, this paper by PhD student Diana Bossio examines the discourse of the ‘terrorist threat’ in an age of insecurity and how this discourse manipulates traditional understandings of citizenship and justice.

**RMIT UNIVERSITY**

**Education for the End of Poverty: Implementing all the Millenium Development Goals**

Friday 28 April
Hotel Y, 489 Elizabeth St, Melbourne

This conference will explore the issues around life-long education in a development context. Speakers will include educationalists, practitioners from NGOs and implementing agencies working in areas of education and poverty reduction.

**Public Lectures on Research**

Every Tuesday, 28 February - 16 May, 4.30 - 5.30 pm
MCCC Lecture Theatre, Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne

**Contemporary Social and Political Theory Public Lectures**

Every Wednesday, 1 March - 31 May, 4.30 - 5.30 pm
MCCC Lecture Theatre, Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne

**MELBOURNE**

**ARENA at the New International Bookshop, Trades Hall**

‘Energy and Economy’ - John Hinkson
Wednesday 12 April 2006

The way we organise our social life is undergoing a basic transformation. Without actually understanding this shift John Howard does respond to it, and that gives him a short-term political advantage. As people come to realise what is at stake his credibility will undergo a sharp decline.

‘Globalisation and the Nation’ - Paul James
Wednesday 26 April 2006

Why does the process of globalisation so often fall outside the understanding of most people, as well as that of elected governments? How might we come to understand it better, and act to limit or redirect its effects?

**The Politics of Ageing in the United States: Implications for Australia**

Monday 10 April, 3.30 - 5.00 pm

The twin phrases “Ageing Australia” and “The Greying of America” are much on the tongues of political pundits and policymakers in both nations these days. Yet, while this demographic trend is both indisputable and unprecedented, its meaning and significance remain open to question. Ideology and politics loom behind the spectre of “apocalyptic demography” found in much contemporary commentary. Such agendas need to be acknowledged as policy responses to population ageing are formulated.
Iraq Three Years After the Invasion
Tuesday 11 April, 5.30 - 7.00 pm
Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

Imad Moosa was a strong supporter of the US invasion of Iraq, and of the subsequent elections that he thought would give the country a new beginning. He last addressed the Institute in September 2004 along these lines. However, he has now had a complete change of mind and believes that the whole adventure was a mistake. He will outline in detail the mistakes that he believes have been made in the three years since the US invasion, and will evaluate alternative courses of action to rescue the country from failure. more >>

Community Development in a ‘Global Risk Society’
20-22 April (Opening night Wednesday 19 April, 5.00 – 7.00 pm)
Hotel Y, 489 Elizabeth St, Melbourne

The academic stream of the conference will explore the contemporary contexts of community development, particularly the ways in which the concept of risk society influences community development practice today. The grassroots stream will discuss how community development works through creative risk-taking, promotion of mutual support and collaborative action for sustainability. more >>

INTERNATIONAL

GSA North America 2006 Conference
‘Alternative Globalisations’
12-14 May
De Paul University, Chicago
more >>

GSA North America Postgraduate and Young Researcher Conference
29-30 June
Manchester Metropolitan University

This conference will be based around the theme of ‘Studying Globalisation: Issues and Problems’, and welcomes papers on the following themes: migration and tourism; poverty and development; protest and resistance; imperialism; North versus South; (political and economic) governance; risk; culture and identity; globalism and localism; and methodology (researching globalisation). more >>

WIDER Conference
‘Advancing Health Equity’
29-30 September, Helsinki

This conference will bring together researchers and practitioners, from both developed and developing countries, to analyze the causes and consequences of health deprivation and inequality, to examine patterns and trends in these outcomes, to evaluate alternative policy options, and to identify future research directions. more >>

Common Ground Conferences

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


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

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

To submit details of your event or to update your details please email globalism@rmit.edu.au.

If you do not wish to receive a copy of the Globalism Institute Bulletin please email globalism@rmit.edu.au with the word ‘Unsubscribe’ in the subject field.
In this book you will hear immigrants’ voices as they share with us their life stories, their migration experiences and citizenship decisions. In telling these stories they show that the very processes of migration and settlement in a new country, including decisions about citizenship, inevitably bring to the fore important issues of ‘group identity’. This process seems to require of most immigrants an on-going re-evaluation and re-alignment of their often dynamic and often continuously evolving relationships to the range of national, ethnic, religious or other markers of collective identity available to them.

The book opens with an historical overview of immigration and citizenship in Australia, as well as a discussion of the different concepts of collective identity which are to be found throughout the book. We then hear the voices of seven immigrants as they tell in vivid, and often poignant, detail their life stories and migration experiences. ‘...I came with one suitcase in this country and I worked very hard, I struggled in the beginning but I got (there)’ says Karim from Pakistan.

What follows is an extended presentation and discussion of the many and varied views immigrants hold of their identity during and after their move from their country of origin to Australia. ‘Your genes belong to your country’ says Lech from Poland while Christine from New Zealand says ‘I suppose I’m a chameleon...I can be whatever I want to be.’ These two definitions of collective identity and the many variations on them form the core of this book. The exploration of these issues provides valuable insights into the many and varied patterns that immigrant group identity takes on and illustrates how it often emerges as pluralistic rather than unitary. As Pan from Hong Kong observes about his own sense of identity: ‘Oh it probably get divided into three sections. In the morning is more Vietnamese and afternoon more Australian and night time it’s Hong Kong’.

The final section examines immigrants’ views of citizenship and the reasons they give for choosing whether or not to take up Australian citizenship. Here we see a divergence of pragmatic and idealistic motivations: ‘If I can survive without being a citizen of this country why not?’ says Das from India. On the other hand, Elise from Algeria believes that becoming an Australian citizen means ‘being more part of the community.’
AUTHORS:

TREVOR J. BATROUNEY
Dr Trevor Batrouney is an historian and sociologist who has written extensively on the migration and settlement of Lebanese in Australia as well as three books and numerous articles and chapters on a number of other immigrant groups and issues. Recent publications include ‘The Lebanese in the World: an Entrepreneurial Minority’ in The Encyclopedia of the World’s Minorities. Ed.Carl Skutch. New York: Routledge, 2005 and ‘Arab Migration from the Middle East: From "White Australia" to “Beyond Multiculturalism”’. In F. Mansouri & A. Saeed (eds), Australia and the Middle East: Migration, Trade, and Globalised Politics. I.B.Tauris Publishers: London/New York (in press). He has been actively involved in Lebanese community organisations and other bodies concerned with migration and settlement issues. He was formerly Assistant Director of the Bureau of Immigration, Multicultural and Population Research and is currently an Adjunct Professor, Globalism Institute, RMIT University.

JOHN GOLDLUST
Dr John Goldlust teaches sociology in the School of Social Sciences at La Trobe University. His research interests include immigration, ethnicity and identity, mass media, popular culture and social history. In the mid-1990s he spent three years as a Senior Research Fellow at the Bureau of Immigration, Multicultural and Population Research. He has researched and published on a variety of subjects, but more recently his work has focused on immigrant and ethnic communities, and more particularly, on studies of the Australian Jewish community. Recent publications include the chapters ‘Jewish Continuity in Australia’ in L. Stein & S. Encel (eds), Continuity, Commitment and Survival: Jewish Communities in the Diaspora, Praeger 2004; and, ‘Jews In Australia: A Demographic Profile’ in Geoffrey Brahm Levey & Philip Mendes (eds), Jews and Australian Politics, Sussex University Press, 2004.

For more information and orders:

http://commongroundgroup.com/publishing.html
The Cultural Development Network and RMIT’s Globalism Institute are pleased to present

‘The Art and Craft of Research in Communities’

Forum for researchers:
10.00 am -1 pm, Friday 28th April
Seminar Room 1, VicHealth, 15 Pelham St Carlton

This half day forum will address concerns for researchers investigating the impact of arts on communities; research strategies, outcomes, dissemination and application. Through a series of presentations and facilitated discussion, the following questions will be addressed. How can research lead to better outcomes for community arts audiences and participants and communities more generally? - more effectively engage stakeholders including individuals, practitioners, arts and non-arts organisations and government? - more strategically influence funding priorities and policy decisions?

Speakers:

Dr Rob Moodie, CEO, VicHealth, Welcome and introduction

Kim Dunphy, Manager, Cultural Development Network
‘The full circle-how research, practice and art- making can come together’

Main speaker: Dr. Deborah Warr, Research Fellow, Centre for Health and Society, University of Melbourne. ‘True Stories: The Importance Of Research As Praxis’
This presentation will apply the concept of praxis to consider how research activities such as community engagement, data collection and the dissemination of findings can be practised in ways that promote the value and benefits of research to those for whom it is intended.

Dale Newman, Community Development Worker, Barwon Health
‘A practitioner’s perspective: outcomes of a research project on communities and organisations in north Geelong’

Professor Paul James, Director, Globalism Institute, RMIT
‘The big picture- tying together research and practice’

Nicky Welch, Research Fellow, Globalism Institute, RMIT; facilitated discussion

This forum will be of particular interest to researchers working or interested in community-based arts practice, and also to managers of arts and community funding programs, local and state government and non-government organisations and policy makers with interests in arts and community.

Lunch and morning tea will be provided. This event is FREE, but RSVPs are essential by Wednesday 26th April to Kim Dunphy at kimdun@melbourne.vic.gov.au or 9658 9976

The Cultural Development Network’s Forums Program is supported by the City of Melbourne
ABSTRACTS AND PRESENTERS

‘True Stories: The Importance Of Research As Praxis’
Dr Deborah Warr, Research Fellow, Centre for Health and Society, University of Melbourne

In addition to the general aim of research to develop valid and reliable knowledge that is theoretically informed and empirically robust, undertaking research among disenfranchised and vulnerable communities and populations present arguably additional challenges and obligations. These include preventing further harm, faithfully representing life-world experiences and perspectives that are often lived out in settings that are unfamiliar to many researchers, and promoting the empowering potential of research. Collaborative and participatory methods are particularly valuable for achieving these aims through research.

This presentation explores how the concept of ‘praxis’ is useful for portraying the ways in which collaborative and participatory approaches to research heighten the value of research for the communities involved. Praxis is ‘the practice of a technical subject or art’ and research that achieves the aims of being insightful, ethical and transformative should be both skilful and creative. The concept of research as praxis will be discussed using examples from recent and current research projects undertaken in vulnerable neighbourhoods. The presentation applies the concept of praxis to consider how research activities such as community engagement, data collection and the dissemination of findings can be practised in ways that promote the value and benefits of research to those for whom it is intended.

Dr. Deb Warr is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Health and Society at the University of Melbourne. Her research is concerned with social contexts for health-related issues and, in particular, those associated with circumstances of socio-economic disadvantage. She has recently completed research for a Neighbourhood Renewal Project, and the Department of Victorian Communities.

‘The full circle- how research, practice and art- making can come together’.
Kim Dunphy, Manager, Cultural Development Network:
The Cultural Development Network is an independent organisation that seeks to promote the role of arts in community and especially to promote best practice- arts activities that have the most positive outcomes for participants and communities. Working across interest groups that include artists, artworkers, local government, community organisations and researchers, the Network seeks to maximise positive connections for the greatest common good. Kim will introduce the day reflecting on experiences working across these diverse groups.

‘A practitioner’s perspective: outcomes of a research project on communities and organisations in north Geelong’.
Dale Newman, Community Development Worker, Barwon Health
Dale is a community development worker who is interested in the contribution of arts and culture to issues facing communities in which she works, including the north Geelong region. Dale will discuss her experience as a worker engaged in the social research process with Deb Warr, including outcomes on the professional practice of local workers from various disciplines, and the local community.

Facilitated discussion
Nicky Welch, Research Fellow, Globalism Institute, RMIT;

‘The big picture- tying together research and practice’
Professor Paul James, Director, Globalism Institute, RMIT;
Professor Paul James will draw together themes of the day explored through the presentations and discussion.
The Globalism Institute Research Seminar Series 2006

Rats in the Ranks: David Hicks, Terrorism and Appropriate Justice

Speaker: Diana Bossio

Date: **Wednesday, 12 April**  
Time: **3.30 - 4.30 pm**  
Venue: **Building 15, Level 3, Room 3**  
Cost: **Free. All welcome!**  
Contact: Todd Bennet. Phone 9925 1921 / email todd.bennet@rmit.edu.au

Abstract:

In December 2001, the Australian ‘Taliban fighter’ David Hicks was captured by the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan. Hicks was subsequently transferred to Guantanamo Bay by the US military, where he has remained for five years awaiting a military commission trial that has been roundly condemned for its partisan approach to justice.

David Hicks’ imprisonment as an alleged ‘terrorist’ saw him branded by both government officials and the media as a ‘rat in the ranks’: a traitor to Australia’s role in the Coalition of the Willing and the embodiment of Australia’s ‘new’ insecurity about the threat in ‘our own backyards’. Indeed, governmental response to Hicks’ imprisonment has focussed on themes of ‘otherness’, where the allegations of Hicks’ terrorist actions have served as legitimation for the apparent circumvention of his legal and civil rights. Nonetheless, media reportage has become increasingly ambivalent towards both US and Australian approaches to justice, allowing more discursive space for dissenting viewpoints in the public arena.

By analysing various representations of Hicks by Australian governmental authorities and newspaper media, this paper examines the discourse of the ‘terrorist threat’ in an age of insecurity and how this discourse manipulates traditional understandings of citizenship and justice.

Speaker Bio-note:

Diana Bossio is a second year PhD student in Applied Communication at RMIT. Her thesis explores newspaper media reportage of governmental responses to ‘post-September 11 insecurity’.
Call for Papers

WIDER Conference

Advancing Health Equity

Helsinki, Finland, 29-30 September 2006

Comparisons of life styles and living standards increasingly pay attention
to non-income dimensions of well-being. Health in particular is recognized
for both its intrinsic and instrumental value, contributing directly to an
individual's level of well-being as well as indirectly via its impact on
other components. Substantial and widespread improvement in health outcomes
has taken place during the past century. But despite this progress many
individuals suffer health deprivation, with outcomes falling far short of
those commonly accepted elsewhere. This conference will bring together
researchers and practitioners, from both developed and developing countries,
to analyze the causes and consequences of health deprivation and inequality,
to examine patterns and trends in these outcomes, to evaluate alternative
policy options, and to identify future research directions.

Conference topics will include:

* concepts and measures of health status
* trends in health deprivation and inequality
* causes of health deprivation and inequality
* link between health and income deprivations
* labour market outcomes and health status
* nutrition and health
* intra-household issues in health
* evaluating alternative health policies

The conference is intended for researchers and policymakers from the
academic, government, and development communities. Participants attending
WIDER development conferences typically come from a university, research
institute, government department or international organization. The
conference is open to advanced PhD students in economics or other social
science disciplines, but is not suitable for students undertaking an
undergraduate or Masters degree.

Those wishing to present a paper should send a detailed abstract or a full
draft of the paper (strongly preferred). Others wishing to attend, but not
present a paper, should briefly explain their reason for interest in the
conference topics. All applicants should submit a short CV, including their
full contact address, institutional affiliation, relevant publications and
professional experience, nationality, age and gender.

All applications must be received by 15 May 2006 by email to
health06@wider.unu.edu or by fax to +358-9-615-99-333.

Funding

There is no conference fee. Travel and accommodation costs will be covered
for selected conference participants subject to UN procedures. Preference
will be given to funding participants from developing and transition
countries, with an emphasis on policymakers and those from universities and
research institutes.

Conference language

The conference is held in English (simultaneous translation will not be
available).

World Institute for Development Economics Research of the United Nations
University (UNU-WIDER) was established in 1985. The institute undertakes
multidisciplinary research and policy analysis on structural changes
affecting the living conditions of the world's poorest people; provides a
forum for professional interaction and the advocacy of policies leading to
robust, equitable and environmentally sustainable growth; and promotes
capacity strengthening and training for scholars and government officials