New Globalism Institute Director

Professor Paul James has recently stood down as Director of the Globalism Institute.

Paul has led the Globalism Institute since its inception in 2002, overseeing its expansion from a small academic unit to a thriving, large-scale research centre.

After six years at the helm, Paul felt the time was right for a new Director. He will continue to play a leading role in the development of the Institute as Academic Director, and as Director of the affiliated Global Cities Institute.

New Director, Professor Manfred Steger, said he was honoured to assume the role. ‘Under Paul’s leadership, the Globalism Institute has emerged as one of the pre-eminent centres of its kind in the world. It is home to a unique and diverse blend of scholars and students of globalization.’

Manfred is committed to the continuation of this success story. In 2008, we will host exciting speakers and visiting scholars from around the world, while maintaining our professional networks and research commitments in the Asia-Pacific region. I expect our strong relationships to the Global Cities Institute and many programs in the School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning to be cultivated even further.

I consider my primary task as incoming director to add a tighter focus to our research agenda; nurture new initiatives, especially in the area of publications; provide consistent encouragement and mentorship; expand our teaching activities; and nurture our sense of collegiality.

Most of all, however, we will maintain a commitment to one common goal: the pursuit of academic excellence in the non-violent struggle for a better world. I look forward to the continuation of our remarkable journey.’

New look for Globalism Institute website

The Globalism Institute website has had a makeover, adopting the contemporary style of the recently redesigned RMIT website.

Our new web address is www.rmit.edu.au/globalism.

The new-look site combines the content and much of the structure of the old site with a fresh interface.

The changes do not affect our three separate research sites. These can still be reached from the home page (under ‘Research’ in the menu) or by using their individual web addresses:

www.communitysustainability.info
www.sourcesofinsecurity.org
www.globalism-nationalism.org

The new site is a work-in-progress, so if you have trouble locating any information please email globalism@rmit.edu.au.
The Political Economy of Global Security

What are the possibilities for and conditions of global security in the twentieth century?

This new book by Globalism Institute Professor Heikki Patomäki provides an innovative study of future wars, crises and transformations of the global political economy. It brings together economic theory, political economy, peace and conflict research, philosophy and historical analogy to explore alternatives for the future.

PATOMÄKI develops a bold, original and thought provoking political economy analysis of late twentieth century neo-liberalization and globalization and their real effects, which he describes as a twenty-first century version imperialism. In order for us to understand global security and to anticipate the potential threats and crises, he argues that a holistic understanding and explanation of history is necessary and demonstrates that a systematic causal analysis of structures and processes is required. Putting this theory into practice, PATOMÄKI constructs a comparative explanatory model which traces the rise of imperialism in the late twentieth century and culminated in the First World War. He argues that even a partial return to the twentieth century ideals and practices is very likely to be highly counterproductive in the twenty-first century world and could become a recipe for a major global catastrophe.

This book will be of interest to students and scholars of international relations, globalization studies, politics, economics and security studies.

For more information visit www.routledge.com/politics

Events

RMIT

Architecture+Philosophy Public Lecture Series 2008 Launch

Architecture+Philosophy returns for the fourth year in 2008. The monthly public program provokes engagement with questions of contemporary urbanism, planning, technology, space, system, design, distribution and other issues in the productive overlap between the two disciplines.

Opening the series is Professor Richard Blythe, Professor in Architecture and Head of the School of Architecture + Design at RMIT.

Thursday 7 February
6.00 pm
BMW Edge, Federation Square
Free entry. No RSVP required.
Website: www.architecturephilosophy.rmit.edu.au

MELBOURNE

Climate Movement Convergence

Over the past few years, we have seen the emergence of a new social change movement, driven by an inspiring new wave of grassroots community activism. Around the country there are literally dozens of new groups, campaigning for effective action on climate change.

As yet, this new movement has not been able to gather in the one place. The climate movement convergence seeks to create this space in a one day forum, aiming to bring together the remarkably diverse climate change community we have here in Victoria, including local climate action groups, peak green groups, thinkers and strategists, social activists and other sectors concerned about climate change, and progressive businesses.

We aim to provide an inspiring day of workshops, open space for discussions, an overview of the latest climate science, ideas on building a strong and vibrant movement, and the opportunity to ponder what opportunities are now present with a change in federal government.

Saturday 9 February
Northcote High School, St Georges Road, Northcote
$15 low income; $25 waged.
Website: www.foe.org.au/climate-justice/media/news-items/front-page-news-feed-
1/climate-movement-convergence-victoria-february-9

In the media

Dr Christopher Scanlon, ‘Educating Creative Thinkers’, Business Spectator, 5 January.

Local-Global


Recent publications


The Urgent Design Challenge: Case Studies from Australia and International Metropolises

For the first time in human history more than half of the world's population lives in cities. As Australia and the globe experience rapid climate change, the design industry faces an urgent challenge on how better urban planning and densification of our cities can significantly reduce our impact on the environment.

Speakers include Norman Day: Architect and Adjunct Professor of Architecture, RMIT University, Melbourne; Enrique Penalosa: former Mayor, Bogota, Columbia; John Denton: Victorian government architect; and Bernard Khoury, architect, Beirut, Lebanon.

Thursday 14 February
6.00 – 7.30 pm
BMW Edge, Federation Square
Free event

A Taste of Slow 2008

Slow Food Victoria is part of an international eco-gastronomic movement that brings together food, ethics, environment and the arts, infusing the question of how we eat with curiosity, passion and creativity.

A Taste of Slow 2008 counters our frantically paced culture by focusing on Slow Food principles that treasure tradition, cherish communities, celebrate conviviality and value and respect the art of contemplation and reflection.

For sixteen days the Slow Food philosophy will be explored through dinners, public talks, workshops, cooking demonstrations, films and tastings, in Melbourne and across regional Victoria.

22 February to 8 March
Melbourne and regional Victoria
Website: www.atasteofslow.com.au

Understanding Globalisation

Global Trade Watch presents this short course exploring the global economic system—the winners, the losers and who sets the agenda.

‘Understanding Globalisation’ brings together leading international experts in politics, economics, law and development to explore the complexities of globalisation and help imagine a just global economic system.

17 March to 19 May 2008
Applications must be received by 5 March.
For more information and application: www.tradewatch.org.au

Community Development and Ecology: Engaging Ecological Sustainability through Community Development

At a time when our social and ecological relationships are becoming increasingly individualised, fragmented and commodified, community development provides a path to building a collective discourse around ecological, social and economic sustainability. Community development can provide alternate pathways through engaging new theoretical and practical understandings that encourage creative responses to questions of how we live in harmony with our planet.

This three-day conference is suitable for academics, researchers, community development practioners, environmentalists and activists.

There will be two separate to the conference—academic papers and community workshops/forums. The streams will run concurrently.

Hosted by the Centre for Citizenship and Human Rights, Deakin University, in conjunction with Borderlands Co-operative and IACD,

Wednesday 26 to Friday 28 March
Angliss Conference Centre, Building A, Level 5, 555 La Trobe Street, Melbourne
Registration: email aok@deakin.edu.au
Website: www.deakin.edu.au/arts/cchr

Cosmopolitan Melbourne: Cultural Diversity and Cultural Cohesion

This interdisciplinary one-day conference invites papers on Melbourne and civic identity. The convenors are particularly keen to include papers in the following areas:

- the role of narratives and images of Melbourne in the promotion of civic identity
- public policy and cultural diversity in Melbourne
- social inclusion/exclusion in stories and images of Melbourne
- public events, memorials and traditions in Melbourne
- street culture, creativity and the built environment of the city
- Melbourne as a global and cosmopolitan city.

Friday 28 March
Monash University Law Chambers, 472 Bourke St, Melbourne
For more information: email Elizabeth. Coleman@arts.monash.edu.au
Today we live in a globalised world with consequent pressures on international relations and diplomacy. Every individual in advanced industrial societies is not only a citizen of their state but, in a sense, also of the world. Accordingly, our ethical responsibilities extend beyond borders in a way that was seldom considered by writers in the classical Western tradition of ethics. Today we all have a part to play in addressing problems of global governance, management of the environment, maintenance of peace, equitable global distribution of social goods and resources, humanitarian assistance, intercultural tolerance and understanding, and the protection of human dignity around the world.

Cosmopolitanism says that the moral standing of all people is equal. One should not give preference to one's compatriots, co-religionists, demographic identity groups, generational groups, or gender. Is this an adequate basis for Global Ethics?

**AUSTRALIA**

**Creating Futures: Research, Practice and Policy. Indigenous, Rural and Remote and Island Nations in Transition**

Creating Futures: Research, practice and policy will focus on theoretical debates and evidence-based interventions with particular attention to three groups of interest: residents of rural and remote communities, Indigenous populations (within Australia and elsewhere) and island nations experiencing social transition.

Across each of these streams, speakers will address: developing the evidence base for effective policy and interventions to bring about positive change; empowering communities and families; and how policy, services and practitioners enable population and personal change that supports wellbeing and recovery. This conference will be relevant for workers involved in clinical and population level policy development, practice and research across both mental health and public health. Undergraduate and postgraduate students will be particularly welcome.

First and final call for papers. Closing date for receipt of abstracts is Friday 28 March.

**INTERNATIONAL**

**Global Studies Conference**

The Global Studies Conference and Global Studies Journal are devoted to mapping and interpreting new trends and patterns in globalization. This journal and the conference attempt to do this from many points of view, from many locations in the world, and in a wide-angle kaleidoscopic fashion.

As well as as an impressive lineup of international main speakers, the conference will also include numerous paper, workshop and colloquium presentations by practitioners, teachers and researchers.

The deadline for the next round of papers is 14 February.
Looking North, Looking South: China and the South Pacific

In recent years, China has become one of the dominant players in the Southern Pacific. Both China and its diplomatic rival Taiwan have been "looking South" to develop partnerships with Pacific Island states, while Pacific leaders have been "looking North" for new sources of political and financial assistance.

As one of the leading states in the region, New Zealand is increasingly affected by that dynamic. During this two-day international forum experts from China, Taiwan, New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific will discuss a range of issues related to these increasing contacts such as the impact on aid, illegal migration concerns, policing and other security matters, China's role in conflict resolution in the South Pacific, Taiwan's foreign policy towards the region, China's interest in Antarctica, and New Zealand's ongoing relationship with China.

Jointly convened by the School of Political Science and Communication, University of Canterbury and the School of Journalism and Communication and the Centre for Studies of Media Development, Wuhan University.

Call for papers: Deadline 28 March.

Alternative Productions of Knowledge & Social Representations.

Nineth International Conference on Social Representations

This conference is an academic tradition aimed at developing the Social Representations Theory, formulated by Professor Serge Moscovici.

As with the earlier eight, this conference has managed to catch the attention of many academics, researchers and practitioners, not only from the sphere of social psychology, from which this theory has been articulated, but also from other fields such as sociology, anthropology, history, culture, communication etc which has been integrated into this approach at the theoretical, empirical, and application levels.

Professor Serge Moscovici himself, as the founder of this theory, will be present and deliver a speech, along with other guest speakers.

30 June to 5 July
Bali, Indonesia
For more information:
www.9icsr-indonesia.net/eng/index.htm

Social Movements and/in the Postcolonial: Dispossession, Development and Resistance in the Global South

The two-day conference will be structured around the following two streams of discussion:

Struggles over dispossession in the global South
Social movements and the politics of development

The Centre for the Study of Social and Global Justice (CSSGJ) wishes to make a contribution to the development of empirically grounded, theoretically informed and politically enabling analyses of these processes and therefore invites proposals for papers for the conference. Deadline 1 March.

Monday 23 to Wednesday 25 June
University of Nottingham, UK
For more information: email Alf.Nilsen@nottingham.ac.uk
Website: www.nottingham.ac.uk/cssgj/CSSGJ_Conference_Social_Movements.php

The State of Sovereignty

The changing nature of sovereignty in a globalising world has attracted attention from a wide range of disciplines, but the practical implications of such changes for boundary-making, management and dispute resolution have rarely been examined in depth.

This major international conference will provide scholars and practitioners with an opportunity to reflect on the impact of the geopolitical upheavals of the last twenty years, and to exchange ideas about the meaning and function of territorial sovereignty today and in the decades ahead.

A formal call for papers will be issued later in the year. However, proposals for panels/papers are welcome at any time.

Tuesday 1 to Thursday 3 April 2009
University of Durham, UK
Website: www.dur.ac.uk/ibru/conferences/sos/

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.