PROGRAM OF EVENTS

Monday 20 May

Global Careers Day
Storey Hall, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Featuring graduates from the Bachelor of Arts (International Studies) and Master of Social Science (International Development) programs working in public policy, humanitarian aid and development, business, media and communications. Presentations will explore the opportunities and challenges of building global careers after graduation.

Keynote Address by Professor Margaret Gardner, AO, Vice-Chancellor and President, RMIT University.

Tom Nairn Lecture, ‘Revitalizing Globalization Analysis’
by Professor Roland Robertson
Storey Hall, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Professor Robertson is one of the pioneers of globalization research. His seminal Globalization, Social Theory and Global Culture (1992), endures as a definitive study of globalization in theory and practice.

Tuesday 21 May

Roundtable discussion, ‘Education for the Global Age’
The Chamber, 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

RMIT is a global university. This roundtable will explore how RMIT, beyond its already extensive activities in Asia, can respond to regional priorities defined in the White Paper on Australia in the Asian Century.

Wednesday 22 May

Emily McPherson Building, 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Dr Aileen Moreton-Robinson is a Goenpul/Nunukul woman from Minjerribah (Stradbroke Island), Quandamooka First Nation (Moreton Bay) in Queensland and is Professor of Indigenous Studies at the Queensland University of Technology.

Seminar, ‘Global Studies and the Study of Political Ideologies with Professor Manfred B. Steger
Emily McPherson Building, 3.00pm – 5.00 pm

This presentation argues that the growing transdisciplinary field of ‘global studies’ can be organized around four key theoretical ‘framings.’ Professor Steger clarifies how a ‘global studies perspective’ can support innovative inquiries into ideologies of globalization.
5:30 pm, location to be confirmed.

Thursday 23 May
Student Learning Conference
Green Brain, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
This annual student conference showcases field research projects by International Studies final year students on a range of topics relating to globalization, politics, policy and culture.

Storey Hall, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Featuring a documentary screening and panel debate on sexuality and human rights.

Friday 24 May
Global Street Party
Bowen Street, 11:30 am – 3:30 pm
“Let’s party!” Everyone is welcome to this event to round-off Global Studies Week. Featuring live dance and music performances, food and social activities.
RMIT University is the first Australian university to develop teaching and research specializations in the field of globalisation studies, with the aim of bringing public attention to the challenges and opportunities presented by globalisation.

As the designated theme for Global Studies Week, ‘the globalisation of Australia’ refers to a whole array of processes; from the ‘liberalization’ of the Australian economy since the 1980s, the increase in migrant arrivals from non-traditional sources, to the opening up of the globe to Australians through international travel, cultural exchange and the Internet. The extent to which this transformation has benefitted Australia remains a hotly contested topic but it can legitimately be claimed that Australia is a more cosmopolitan and global society today than it was a generation ago.

This global age demands new ways of thinking about social, cultural, political and economic issues. Notions of cultural homogeneity and isolationism have no place in a world of increased human mobility and fluid economic relations. It is also true that the geostrategic world in which an independent Australia emerged is long gone. Australia and Australians have to find accommodation with new centres of global power outside of Western Europe and North America, let alone those that challenge the sovereign dominance of the nation itself. Today, more than at any time past, respect for institutionalized international norms of human rights, peace and security, trade and investment, are critical to Australia’s future. There are many other questions still unanswered, about how we accommodate an increasingly diverse nation within Australian civic space and how reconciliation with Indigenous Australians can be achieved.

The Global Studies discipline at RMIT combines International Studies at undergraduate level with postgraduate programs in International Development underpinned by ground-breaking research on globalisation by the Globalism Research Centre. Our aim is to provide students with a genuinely global education revolving around current debates and current issues in global affairs. Equally important is how students engage with the world through internships and study abroad opportunities.

Global Studies Week celebrates the achievements of our students and our researchers over the past decade but also provides insights into the sense of community and the sense of mission that distinguishes our graduates and our programs.

Associate Professor Paul Battersby
Discipline Head, Global Studies