The Rise of the Global Imaginary

In his exciting new book *The Rise of the Global Imaginary*, Globalism Research Centre Director, Professor Manfred Steger, explores how deep-seated ideas of community and identity are increasingly becoming global.

The book combines political history, philosophical interpretation, and good old-fashioned story-telling, to offer a highly original explanation for how the global imaginary has radically destabilised the traditional ideological landscape.

‘In modernity, this sense of community has been anchored in the national but that is now slowly turning toward both the global and the local,’ Professor Steger said.

‘It’s the great ideological struggle of our time and a source of real tension, between the national interest and the interests of the global community.’

Professor Steger said the apparent convergence of ideology and religion in recent years has been a sign of the dawning globality—a phenomenon extending far beyond the obvious cases of Christian fundamentalism and Islamic jihadism.

‘The global imaginary is on the rise and it’s very unlikely that we’ll be going back. But new, global ideologies have to find ways of solving our global problems, such as climate change, political violence, poverty and inequality.’

The *Rise of the Global Imaginary* is published by Oxford University Press, UK.

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Saskia Sassen Lecture

World-renowned scholar on globalization and the emergence of Global Cities Professor Saskia Sassen will speak at RMIT University as a special guest of the Global Cities Institute and Globalism Research Centre.

‘Reassembling the Urban at a Time of New Global Challenges’ will examine the analytic implications of the variable ways in which a given underlying dynamic becomes legible as spatial form. But rather than comparing (putative) wholes such as those represented by the Los Angeles model or the Chicago model, Professor Sassen will disassemble these types of wholes into various components and their analytic consequences.

This is more promising than a straight comparison of such models if the aim is to understand how the urban is getting reassembled today.

Saskia Sassen is the Lynd Professor of Sociology and Member, The Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University. Her recent books are *Territory, Authority, Rights: From Medieval to Global Assemblages* (Princeton University Press 2006), and *A Sociology of Globalization* (Norton 2007).

For further information, please contact Dr Erin Wilson erin.wilson@rmit.edu.au or visit www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=3hdrqzh0m6il1

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Thursday 2 October
6.30 pm
Storey Hall, RMIT Building 16,
City Campus, RMIT University
Carmenesa Noronha, a researcher with the Globalism Research Centre, has been attending an English course at RMIT English Worldwide for the last two months. This is part of an arrangement between RMIT English Worldwide and the Globalism Research Centre to support East Timorese women through educational opportunities, and this year was also attended by Nuni Nobre from the Alola Foundation in Dili. Ms Noronha found that ‘the course was very beneficial and it helped me with my English very much, which is so important for my work and my future. The teaching was of very high quality with great learning opportunities, and moreover, the general experience helped me in all sorts of ways, not least in helping me learn a lot about RMIT’.

Ms Noronha will now return to Timor-Leste where she is taking charge of two new research programs, one looking at state integration and the other at community views of the justice system Leste. For more information on the Timor-Leste Research Program please visit www.timor-leste.org

**GLOBALISM RESEARCH CENTRE/GLOBAL CITIES INSTITUTE**

**Utopia and Globalism**

with Professor Lyman Tower Sargent

At the heart of every ideology lies a utopia, an ultimate idealized goal that adherents to ideologies strive for. Professor Sargent will examine the utopias that xist at the heart of dominant ideologies of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

While national utopias remain, there are three other popular forms, the global, the regional, and the local. All four are in tension with each other. None of these utopias are really new, yet the two poles, the global and the local, have recently attracted theorists and writers in increasing numbers.

Attempting to establish why this attraction has occurred, Professor Sargent will focus on the visions of the good life produced at both local and global levels and the depictions, often called dystopias, if what could go seriously wrong and make things worse rather than better.

Lyman Tower Sargent has been Visiting Professor at the Universities of Exeter and East Anglia, the London School of Economics and Political Science, a Visiting Fellow, Mansfield College, University of Oxford, and a Visiting Research Fellow, Centre for Political Ideologies, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford. He has authored and edited numerous books and journal articles, and was founding editor of the journal *Utopia Studies*.

**Globalization, Trade Liberalization, and the Transnationalization of Higher Education**

with Professor Clyde Barrow

The liberalization of trade in ‘higher education services’ is being quietly negotiated in multilateral trade meetings on both a global (WTO) and regional (EU, NAFTA, FTAA) basis. The major trade agreements have potentially enormous impacts on higher education throughout the world, but few students, faculty, or administrators are even aware of provisions in the major trade agreements that promote the marketization and transnationalization of higher education by incorporating it into the world trading system as just another industry.

More recently, the emergence of foreign branch campuses and, especially, for-profit colleges and universities with degree-granting authority has carried commodification and transnationalization to an entirely new level as these U.S. based institutions are increasingly positioned to benefit from the liberalization of trade in higher education.

These trends raise questions about the future mission of higher education and its asymmetrical development across the globe.

Clyde Barrow is the Director of the Center for Policy Analysis at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, USA.

**Events**

**Wednesday 17 September**

4:30-6:00 pm  
Research Lounge, Building 28, Level 5, City Campus, RMIT University  
(opposite RMIT Library)

**Tuesday 30 September**

4:00 pm  
Research Lounge, Building 28, Level 5, City Campus, RMIT University  
(opposite RMIT Library)
Cultures of Sustainability is a forum for critical reflection on the pressing issues of global environmental change and sustainability. The aim of the symposium is to provide a forum for researchers, artists, writers and designers who work in the field of environment and culture to come together to discuss the social, symbolic and material impacts of climate change.

The symposium will include a keynote address from international scholar Dr Wendy Wheeler (Reader in English, London Metropolitan University) and presentations from key Australian academics, writers and art/design practitioners.

Saturday 27 September
9.00am-5.00pm
Storey Hall, RMIT Building 16, 342 Swanston Street, Melbourne

Registration $15/$30 (Includes lunch). Advanced registration is recommended: www.rmit.edu.au/art/culturesofsustainability
For more information: email kristen.sharp@rmit.edu.au

MELBOURNE

Space, Politics and Postcolonial Representations

Through September the Institute of Postcolonial Studies will be presenting this seminar series directly concerned with issues of space, focused on built and physical representations and practices related to postcolonial environments.

The seminars explore the national processes and identity politics resulting from postcolonial conditions and are organised geographically. They combine the work of senior and junior scholars including postgraduate students in panels that address topical issues related to space.

Panel on Indonesia
Jeff Lewis, RMIT University
Amanda Achmadi, University of Melbourne
Eka Permanasari, University of Melbourne
Chair: Ariel Heryanto, University of Melbourne
Thursday 18 September
7.00-8.30 pm
Institute of Postcolonial Studies
78-80 Curzon Street, North Melbourne

Panel on Sri Lanka
Michael Roberts, University of Adelaide
Anoma Pieris, University of Melbourne
Chair: Phillip Darby, Director ICPS
Thursday 25 September
7.00-8.30 pm
Institute of Postcolonial Studies
78-80 Curzon Street, North Melbourne
For more information: email postcol@netspace.net.au

Professional Development
Capacity Development Across Cultures
Facilitators: Ernest Antoine and Deborah Rhodes
8-9 October 2008
What are gender equality strategies and how are they developed and implemented? How can we increase the likelihood of women and men benefiting equally from development activities? What lessons have been learned on gender strategies? This participatory course will enhance participants’ skills for developing key elements of a gender strategy for AusAID and multilateral development initiatives.
For further information and enrolment, please visit the IDSS website on www.idss.com.au

Screen 37
Screen 37 is looking for artists, filmmakers, and multimedia and interaction designers to submit videos or existing and potentially adaptable screen based projects responding to the theme of globalization, global cities and/or sustainability.

The works will be shown on Screen 37, the School of Art and Global Cities Research Institute 61’ plasma screen in building 37 at 244 Swanston Street (located in the ground floor window of building 37, next door to Druids café).
For more information:
Dr. Linda Williams, RMIT
Building 37 Level 2 Room 27
email: linda.williams@rmit.edu.au
Urban Water Sustainability: Infrastructure and Investment

How can business and government ensure security of Australia’s urban water requirements and guarantee a long-term and viable secure water reserve?

Provident management of water resources is essential to protecting Australia’s economic wealth and the well-being of its people and ecosystems. Water constitutes the basis of one of Australia’s largest industries, accounting for about $90 billion of infrastructure investment.

At this CEDA forum, you will hear from State government ministers and water industry professionals discussing initiatives for urban water sustainability, and the challenges of water infrastructure projects and water pricing models. Actively participate in the crucial debate on the need for consistent long-term policies and leadership for a secure and sustainable urban water future.

Friday 19 September
Hilton on the Park
192 Wellington Parade, Melbourne
For more information: email sharon.braun@ceda.com.au

World Vision Sanitation and Water Conference 2008
Meeting the Challenge in East Asia and the Pacific

The conference will seek to review the status of sanitation and water in East Asia and the Pacific region, review best practice and key entry points, and devise actions and approaches that can best provide large scale sustainable solutions with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The conference will also provide a forum for AusAID to discuss its increased focus on sanitation and water.

The conference will provide an opportunity for world-class speakers to inform participants about best practice and encourage dialogue about sanitation and water. The conference will also develop a stakeholder action plan to provide a record and guidance from conference conclusions.

Speakers confirmed for the conference include:
- Bob McMullan MP, Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance – keynote address
- Piers Cross, formerly the Global Manager and Regional Leader in Asia and Africa of the World Bank’s Water and Sanitation Program – Master of Ceremonies
- Tim Costello, CEO of World Vision Australia
- Clarissa Brocklehurst, Chief Water, Environment and Sanitation, UNICEF
- Jaehyang So, Global Program Manager, Water and Sanitation Program, World Bank

27 to 29 October
The Langham, Southbank
Registration cost:
AUD$250 per person – discounted rate until 30 September 2008
AUD$280 per person – standard rate from 1 October 2008
For more information: email events@worldvision.com.au

NATIONAL
Timor-Leste: Security, Development and the Nation-Building Agenda

This workshop will draw together current thinking, experience and theory regarding nation-building, security and development in Timor-Leste, and how the nexus between these areas can be explored by the many parties working in Timor-Leste.

Speakers include practitioners, academics, and members of government from Timor-Leste and Australia, and the keynote address will be given by Julio Tomas Pinto, Secretary of State for Defence, Timor-Leste

19 to 20 September
Art Gallery of South Australia
North Tce, Adelaide
For more information: email Vandra.Harris@flinders.edu.au

Australia’s Strategic Futures

What are the key drivers that will shape Australia’s strategic environment in the first half of the twenty-first century? How will these drivers impact the framework within which Australia’s future military capabilities and force structures are developed?

This conference brings together a range of experts from academia, government, and the private sector to analyse these key questions. Inspired by the scenario building and futures analysis of the US National Intelligence Council and the UK’s Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre, the conference will discuss a range of global and regional issues and themes that will influence Australia’s strategic environment over the next two to three decades and how these might shape Australia’s capability development.

1-2 October
Adelaide Town Hall
128 King William Street, Adelaide
For more information: email mary.lyons@flinders.edu.au
Website: http://fiap.flinders.edu.au
INTERNATIONAL
Futuropolis 2058

How will cities in 2058 be defined?

There is no question, that science and technology has played a huge role in the development of urban environments around the world, shaping many of today’s societies.

Science and technology have a crucial role and responsibility in providing solutions to urban problems and in ensuring the long-term sustainability of cities.

The approaches to create sustainable and liveable cities in the next 50 years must be explored today, as our decisions will impact urban life in 2058 and beyond.

Futuropolis 2058 is the convergence point for urban leaders, private industry and globalization experts to share creative insights and solutions to the future of cities. Acting as a catalyst, this event explores innovation in science and technology and its influence on how the urban environments of the future are researched, planned and managed.

With hundreds of urban leaders and global corporations looking to research & develop initiatives to drive the next phase of growth, Futuropolis 2058 sets the scene for the solutions that we anticipate to come out from these initiatives.

21 to 22 October
Fusionopolis, Singapore
For more information:
email joyce.nunez@iqpc.com.sg
Website: www.futureofcities.com/CTS

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.