Launch of ‘Creating Community’ report

On March 7th, around 80 people attended the launch of a report on the community arts field and its social impacts. The report, titled ‘Creating Community: Celebrations, Arts and Wellbeing Within and Across Local Communities’, presents the outcomes of a study that spanned nearly four years and involved up to nine different researchers from the Globalism Institute. The research was conducted across the four Victorian communities centred on St Kilda, Broadmeadows, Daylesford and the Hamilton region in the western district. It can be described as the most far-reaching study yet undertaken in Australia on the community arts field and its social impacts.

In launching the report at the Global Learning Centre in Broadmeadows, the internally-acclaimed performer and festival director Robyn Archer commended the authors for a full and frank analysis of the kinds of social impacts that authentic arts practices can have. She also expressed the view that the report should become a ‘manual’ for those who advocate for a better deal for the arts in Australia. Those attending the launch were enlivened by energetic performances by members of the Broadmeadows-based Anti-Racism Action Band and enjoyed food presented by members of Turkish Women’s Voice.

Download ’Creating Community’ report (PDF)

Recent events

Upcoming events

2007 Two Fires Festival of Arts and Activism

The Two Fires Festival is a celebration of poet and activist Judith Wright’s impressive double legacy, and an opportunity to explore the ongoing relevance of that legacy in today’s world. The festival stokes the ‘two fires’ of arts and activism. This year’s theme is ‘Identity and Environment: taking up the challenge.’

The 2007 Festival will include Indigenous art exhibition, cross-cultural dialogues, panel discussion, films, cultural events and concert performances; readings and discussions by poets and writers; and Friday and Saturday evening concerts.

The Festival will also see the launch of a special ‘Arts and Activism’ volume of the Globalism Institute’s Local-Global journal. This volume includes a selection of articles, mainly based on talks given at the previous Two Fires Festival in 2005, exploring the legacy of Judith Wright.

Friday 30 March to Sunday 1 April
Braidwood
Email: twofiresfestival@gmail.com
Website: www.twofiresfestival.com/twofires/
Download flyer (PDF)

Staff changes

Peter Phipps has stepped down as Deputy Director of the Globalism Institute due to new commitments in teaching and as a program manager in the Global Cities Institute. Martin Mulligan has been appointed the new Deputy Director.

The Institute is deeply grateful to Peter for the exemplary way he performed in the role over the past two years and welcomes his continued involvement in the management of the Institute in a less formal way.

In the media

Dr Martin Mulligan, ‘Creating Community’ report launch, Jon Faine on 774 ABC Melbourne, 7 March.

Dr Gyorgy Scrinis’s concept of ‘nutritionism’ the subject of the New York Times Magazine cover story ‘Unhappy Meals’ by Michael Pollan, 28 January.

Local-global

Dr Martin Mulligan (with Meme McDonald of the Cultural Development Network), ‘Engaging Active and Creative Communities in Council Strategies’, 2007 LGPRO Annual Conference, Melbourne Park Function Centre, February 15.


Professor Manfred B. Steger, ‘Ideology in the Age of Globalization’, Claremont Colleges Coordinating Committee on International & Comparative Politics & Economics and the Transdisciplinary Studies Program, Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California, February 15.

GLOBALISM INSTITUTE
Pantomime Terror: UK Hip-Hop at War (or Paranoia in London: ‘Lookout he’s behind you!)

With terror alerts and constant announcements at train stations and airports where the Queen’s subjects are called upon to ‘report any suspicious baggage’; with ‘stop and search’ security policing focused upon Muslims (and unarmed Brazilians); and with restrictions on civil liberties and ‘limits’ to freedom proclaimed as necessary, it is now clear that spaces for critical debate are mortally threatened in contemporary, tolerant, civilized Britain. This discussion addresses new work by diasporic world music stalwarts Fun-da-mental and the drum and bass outfit Asian Dub Foundation, relating to insurgency struggles, anti-colonialism and political freedom in the UK. The presentation will argue for an engaged critique of ‘culture’ and assess a certain distance or gap between political expression and the tamed versions of multiculturalism accepted by/acceptable in the British marketplace. Examples from the music industry reception of ‘difficult’ music and creative engagement are evaluated in the context of the global terror wars and a new paranoia that appears endemic on the streets of London today.

John Hutnyk is Academic Director of the Centre for Cultural Studies at Goldsmiths College, University of London and is the author of several books including The Rumour of Calcutta, Critique of Exotica and Bad Marxism: Capitalism and Cultural Studies.

Thursday 22 March
4.45 - 6.00 pm
RMIT Research Lounge
RMIT Building 28, Level 5 (opposite the Library)
For more information: email todd.bennet@rmit.edu.au

RMIT

Contemporary Social and Political Theory Public Lectures

Social movements
Dr Damian Grenfell
Wednesday 21 March
4.30 - 5.25 pm

Gender and social relations
Prof. Pavla Miller
Wednesday 28 March
4.30 - 5.25 pm

Sex, violence and social policy
Assoc. Prof. Adrian Howe
Wednesday 4 April
4.30 - 5.25 pm

Melbourne Central Conference Centre
Cnr Swanston and Little Lonsdale Streets, Melbourne
Free entry. All welcome.

Public Lectures on Research 2007

How to make formal ethics requirements a help rather than a hindrance in designing research projects
Assoc. Prof. Heather Fehring
Tuesday 20 March
4.30 - 5.20 pm

How can you tell if children do any work?
Prof. Pavla Miller
Tuesday 27 March
4.30 - 5.20 pm

Melbourne Central Conference Centre
Cnr Swanston and Little Lonsdale Streets, Melbourne
Free entry. All welcome.

Professional development
RMIT’s Open Program
Support your professional development and choose from a range of calendared workshops available through the RMIT Open Program. Delivered by RMIT experts and industry professionals, Open Program workshops have been specifically designed to support professional development within the following themes:

- Learning and Teaching
- Research and Innovation
- Managing in the Workplace
- Working in Our Environment
- Supporting a Safe Environment
- TAFE

For more information: email professional.development@rmit.edu.au
Website: www.rmit.edu.au/pc/openprogram

International Development Support Services (IDSS)

‘Introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation in International Aid and Development’
Facilitator: Sue Allan
28-29 March

‘Project Design, Management and Logframes’
Facilitator: Chris Piper
17-18 April

IDSS, 60 Albert Road, South Melbourne.
Full fee - $630 (Early Bird $535);
2nd and subsequent course in 2007 - $570 (Early Bird $485);
Staff from ACFID member organisation - $570 (Early Bird - $485);
Student - $470 (Early Bird - $400);
Student with assignment - $570 (Early Bird - $485).

For more information: Atiq Rahman
9697 8184 or email atiqr@idss.com.au

Researchers wanted

Global Trade Watch has begun a new campaign and web site called Corporate Watch Australia (www.corporatewatch.org.au). They are looking to build a team of volunteer researchers to help us with this work a wide variety of areas that relates to Australian corporations and corporations operating in Australia.

A briefing session will be held 6 to 7pm on 28 March, Melbourne University Law School building, 185 Pelham St, Carlton.
For more information: Hammy Goonan
info@corporatewatch.org.au
MELBOURNE

Eliminating Racism: Valuing Diversity

The United Nations has declared 21 March as the global day for the elimination of racism. Discrimination and racism defines social relations between people in very negative ways and impacts on life chances. It is critical that academics, community workers, policy makers and affected communities continue dialoguing and strategising on this key issue. This forum will consider anecdotal and research-based evidence about racism and discrimination in Australia and strategies to counter these phenomena.

Speakers include Associate Professor Santina Bertone, Victoria University; Dr Helen Szoke, Director, Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission; Ms Margaret Donaldson, Director, Race Discrimination Unit, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission; Mr George Lekakis, Victorian Multicultural Commission; and Ms Joumanah El Matrah, Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria.

Wednesday 21 March
9.00 am - 1.00 pm
Function Room 3, Level 12, Victoria University, 300 Flinders Street, Melbourne
$20 (cash only)
RSVP and more information: email sue.butterworth@vu.edu.au

Change the Political Climate: Turn up the Heat

In just the past five years, over 170 social forums have been held in more than 120 cities worldwide, bringing together over a million participants under the banner ‘Another World is Possible’. The Social Forum Process has provided dynamic open spaces for finding solutions to the 21st century's most pressing local and global challenges: fair trade, environmental sustainability, global peace and human rights.

The mission of the Melbourne Social Forum is to create open public spaces to discuss, share and act on ideas for sustainable social and ecological justice. To do this the MSF hosts events, in public and on-line, which bring together progressive individuals and groups from within civil society in the Melbourne area and beyond.

‘Change the Political Climate: Turn up the Heat’ brings two days of workshops and activities for environmental and social change. The event will include workshops, stalls, music, and food

Friday 20 (evening) to Sunday 22 April
CERES Community Environment Park, 8 Lee Street, Brunswick East
For more information: email info@melbournesocialforum.org
Website: www.melbournesocialforum.org

NATIONAL

State of Australian Cities Conference

The Conference will focus on the contemporary form and structure of Australian cities, with the overarching theme of ‘Growth, Sustainability and Vulnerability of Urban Australia’. The conference will be an opportunity for Australian and international academics to explore urban issues in Australia. Its purpose is to report on current research into issues of urban and regional sustainability, to discuss the research with practitioners and policy makers, to identify research gaps, and to improve our understanding of the state of Australian cities. It will also contribute to the development of early career researchers and government officers by offering them a forum to critically discuss their research.

Abstract submission deadline Friday 16 March.

Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 November
University of Adelaide and University of South Australia

World Environment Day Awards 2007

Nominations are now open Australia-wide for the United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Awards program 2007. The Awards recognize Australian businesses, local governments, community organisations, individuals, schools and the media whose work serves to protect, manage or restore the environment.

In 2007, the Association introduced the inaugural ‘Sustainability Victoria Meeting the Greenhouse Challenge Award’ in support of the UNEP World Environment Day theme ‘Melting Ice – A Hot Topic?’ and International Polar Year which focus world attention on issues of climate change and global warming. The Award, which invites nominations from all Australian sectors, recognizes excellence in the implementation of innovative strategies for greenhouse gas reduction.

Major award categories include Sustainability Victoria: Meeting the Greenhouse Challenge, DSE Excellence in Marine and Coastal Management Award, Lincolne Scott Triple Bottom Line Award and Excellence in Water Management Award.

Nominations close 5.00 pm Wednesday 9 May
For more information, entry criteria and nomination forms: www.unaa.victoria.org.au
**INTERNATIONAL**

**Fragile States—Fragile Groups: Tackling Economic and Social Vulnerability**

This conference will bring together researchers and practitioners to discuss different concepts and measures of fragility and vulnerability, to analyze causes and consequences of vulnerability, to consider appropriate policy options, and to identify future research directions.

Conference topics will include fragility concepts and measures; trade and financial shocks; weather and other environmental shocks; state failure and governance in fragile states; household vulnerability and fragile groups; poverty dynamics and economic insecurity; strategies for dealing with economic and social vulnerability; linking aid, debt relief, and fragility; and fragility and MDG implementation.

The conference is intended for researchers and policymakers from the academic, government, and development communities as well as advanced PhD students in economics or social science disciplines. It will be held in English.

**Abstract submission deadline Friday 16 March**

Friday 15 and Saturday 16 June
World Institute for Development Economics Research of the United Nations
Helsinki, Finland

Abstracts and information: email fragile1@wider.unu.edu
Website: www.wider.unu.edu

**Diversity Conference 2007**

The Diversity Conference has a history of bringing together scholarly, government and practice-based participants with an interest in the issues of diversity and community. The conference examines the concept of diversity as a positive aspect of a global world and globalised society, and will seek to explore the full range of what diversity means and explore modes of diversity in real-life situations of living together in community. The conference supports a move away from simple affirmations that 'diversity is good' to a much more nuanced account of the effects and uses of diversity on differently situated communities in the context of our current epoch of globalisation.

In addition to linguistic, cultural, ethnic and 'racial' diversity, the conference will also pursue its established interest in other aspects of diversity, including the intersecting dynamics of gender, sexual orientation, (dis)ability, locale and socio-economic background.

The conference looks at the realities of diversity today, critically as well as optimistically and strategically. It will be a place for speaking about diversity, and in ways that range from the 'big picture' and the theoretical, to the very practical and everyday realities of diversity in organisations, communities and civic life.

Monday 3 to Thursday 6 July 2007
OZW-School of Health, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
For more information: email info+D07@commongroundconferences.com
Website: diversity-conference.com

**Humanities Conference 2007**

This conference will address a range of critically important themes in the various fields that make up the humanities today. Main speakers will include some of the world's leading thinkers in the humanities, as well as numerous paper, workshop and colloquium presentations by teachers and researchers.

Over the past five years, the Humanities Conference has established a reputation as a focal point for new ideas and new practices in humanities research and teaching. Anthropology, Archaeology, Classics, Communication, English, Fine Arts, Geography, Government, History, Journalism, Languages, Linguistics, Literature, Media Studies, Philosophy, Politics, Sociology or Religion are just some of the many disciplines represented at the Humanities Conference.

Tuesday 17 to Friday 20 July
American University, Paris, France
For more information: email info+H07@commongroundconferences.com
Website: humanitiesconference.com
Singapore Economic Review Conference 2007

The themes of the SER 2007 Conference are ‘The Future of Asian Financial Systems: Integration, Growth, and Stability’ and ‘Poverty and Growth Dynamics: Asian and International Perspectives’. However, the SER also invites theoretical and empirical papers on all aspects of economics. Papers with a focus on economic problems and issues related to Asian countries are also welcome in the following areas:

* International Economics and International Finance
* Macroeconomics
* Banking and Financial Markets
* Econometric Models and Applications
* Public Economics
* Population, Demography and Fertility
* Energy, Environment and Resources
* Transport Economics
* Behavioral and Experimental Economics
* China, India and other Emerging Economies
* Singapore and other ASEAN Economies

The keynote address will be delivered by Professor Joseph Stiglitz, 2001 Nobel Laureate in Economics

Tuesday 2 to Friday 5 August
Meritus Mandarin Singapore
For more information: email LYong@ntu.edu.sg
Website: www.serc2007.org/

Immigration, Minorities and Multiculturalism in Democracies

Concern with issues of ethnic pluralism has come to the forefront of public debate in liberal democracies and newly democratizing states. Wide-ranging population movements around the globe, endorsement of cosmopolitanism, and the increasing importance of norms fuzzily labeled ‘civil rights’, have been widely regarded as positive trends. At the same time, there is little doubt that in many cases, ethnic heterogeneity has been characterized by mistrust, suspicion, alienation, and conflict. As many societies are undergoing demographic transformations, there is intense debate about how communal relations are best managed.

The aim of the conference is to explore empirical, normative, and policy-relevant questions relating to inter-group relations in multi-ethnic societies, both Western and non-Western, and from diverse disciplinary perspectives.

Call for papers

The organizing committee welcomes the submission of paper and panel proposals related to the conference theme. For paper proposals, please submit a 300-word (max.) abstract and a 75-word (max.) vitae paragraph.

Deadline 31 March

Thursday 25 to Saturday 27 October
Fairmont Queen Elizabeth, Montreal
Abstracts: email cfp@edg-gde.com
Website: www.edg-gde.ca

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.