GLOBAL CITIES INSTITUTE

Scotland, Social Democracy and the Nuclear Question

This forum will feature prominent Scottish commentator, Iain Macwhirter. Iain Macwhirter is an award-winning political commentator for the Scottish Sunday Herald. He has also been a presenter of BBC political television programmes from Westminster and Holyrood (the Scottish Parliament) for nearly twenty years.

His recent commentary on the Scottish National Party (SNP) Government in Scotland highlights the surprisingly popular social democratic nature of this ‘nationalist’ government in the European context. Leaving the ossified political model of the UK behind, this modernizing Scottish Government is further unsettling outdated British claims to ‘Great Power’ status on the nuclear question.

Monday 12 November
5.30 - 7.00 pm
RMIT Research Lounge, Building 28, Level 5 (opposite Library)
For more information:
Frank Yardley
9925 8357 or frank.yardley@rmit.edu.au

House Prices, Affordability and Risk: Housing Policy Success, Now and into the Future

In the past ten years, house prices have more than doubled in most Australian cities and regions. One of the more controversial explanations for this boom in house prices focuses on the role of land use planning. It is argued that planning restrictions result in an unresponsive supply of land and housing so that sharp surges in demand are met by price increases and worsening housing affordability.

Is this a valid explanation? What should the policy response be?

At this half-day workshop we draw on the knowledge and experience of international housing policy experts, who offer their explanations for house price booms over the last decade, and outline the type of policy responses that are emerging overseas.

Each of the keynote speakers has worked in a number of countries examining housing affordability and urban policy issues and providing policy advice to governments, business and community organisations.

The three keynote speakers are:
Professor Geoffrey Meen, University of Reading, UK
Professor Susan Smith, Durham University, UK
Professor Duncan Maclennan, University of Ottawa, Canada

The workshop will also launch the International Centre for Housing and Urban Economics (ICHUE) in Australia. The centre is a result of collaboration between the University of Reading, UK, RMIT University and Delft University, the Netherlands.

Wednesday 21 November
9.00 am - 1.00 pm
Village Roadshow Theatrette, State Library of Victoria, Entry 3, LaTrobe St, Melbourne
Free event, with morning tea and lunch provided
For more information and registration: Karen Moloney
9925 9888 or ichue@rmit.edu.au
RMIT

2007 e-Learning Symposium

This symposium is designed to be of relevance to any person with an interest in, and concern for, education at any of its levels and in any of its forms, from early childhood, to schools, to higher education and lifelong learning — and in any of its sites, from home to school to university to workplace.

The e-Learning symposium aims to support innovation in teaching practice by providing a space for dialogue about the intersection of pedagogy with information and communications technologies (ICTs).

Hosted by the Knowledge Design Forum1, a research group in the Globalism Institute at RMIT, this symposium will bring together educators, including teachers, principals, teacher educators and researchers from the school and post-school sectors with experts in the area of e-learning, to explore opportunities for pedagogical innovation.

This year’s symposium will include a special focus on the role of participatory research in promoting pedagogical change and will include a showcase of work undertaken by teams of teacher/co-researchers involved in a current ARC project.

Participants are also welcome to submit a presentation proposal either for a thirty-minute paper, sixty-minute workshop, a jointly presented ninety-minute colloquium session.

Sunday 9 to Tuesday 11 December
RMIT Storey Hall
Website: http://learningsymposium.com/

Working Together for Health, Community Services and Justice to Shape Local and Global Workforces

RMIT University invites you to this Industry Forum on exploring the role of universities in shaping the health and community services workforces, locally, nationally and internationally.

The forum will be run with a panel of experts and a chair and then open to an audience of knowledgeable and industry-related professionals.

Thursday 29 November
2.00 - 3.30 pm
 Sofitel Melbourne, 25 Collins Street, Melbourne
RSVP (by 20 November): panayiota.giannoulas@rmit.edu.au
Registration and information: www.rmit.edu.au/aic2007

MELBOURNE

Socceroos v IRAQ
Paintings by Les Morgan

Driving through North Melbourne on the way to his studio, Les spotted a pub chalkboard and was intrigued by the words: ‘Socceroo’s V IRAQ, All Blacks V South Africa’. On the journey home he realised that the advertising board not only concerned the upcoming soccer and rugby games on the big screen, but appeared emblematic of his painting: highlighting the connections and disconnections of race and ‘terror’.

His satirical bent on the social and political world, particularly the panic surrounding the so-called war on terror, is combined somewhat incongruously with a painterly approach that interrogates the recent debacle and deportation of an Indian doctor for ‘recklessly supporting terror’.

13 November - 3 December (Preview day Saturday 17 November)
McCulloch Gallery, 8 Rankins Lane, Melbourne
Website: www.mccullochgallery.com.au

Focus Group Participants Needed

A project titled ‘Home as a commodity’ is being run collaboratively by Durham University, UK and the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) at RMIT. This project is interested in home ownership, and particularly in people’s attitudes and their use of housing wealth, mortgages and financial products based on them. The project is purely research and has no commercial or political purpose.

To find out more about the views of Australian home owners we have been running focus groups at RMIT (approx. ten people per session). We would appreciate if you could find a couple of hours to attend our focus group on 22 November 2007, 6:30-8:30pm at RMIT City Campus, Building 15, Level 4(AHURI). Participants are paid $50 and refreshments are provided.

This particular focus group looks at attitudes of people with high incomes (over $100,000 pa, or close).

Confidentiality is guaranteed and no personal questions asked.

If you cannot make it but you know someone who would be interested, please pass this information onto them.

To register your participation or for further information about the focus groups contact:
Dr Guy Johnson on 9925 9893 or guy.johnson@rmit.edu.au or
Dr Val Colic-Peisker on 9925 9981 or val.colic-peisker@rmit.edu.au

Local-GLOBAL

Professor Manfred B. Steger, ‘Political Ideologies and Social Imaginaries in the Global Age’, National University Singapore, 2 November
Professor Manfred B. Steger, ‘Political Ideologies and Social Imaginaries in the Global Age’, Oxford University, 6 November
Professor Manfred B. Steger, ‘Political Ideologies and Social Imaginaries in the Global Age’, University of Bristol, 7 November
Professor Manfred B. Steger, ‘Political Ideologies and Social Imaginaries in the Global Age’, University of Warwick, 12 November

1 Hosted by the Knowledge Design Forum, a research group in the Globalism Institute at RMIT.
Global Torch Relay for Human Rights in China

The Human Rights Torch Relay is an international campaign that seeks to bring an end to all human rights abuses against people in China, while highlighting the persecution of Falun Gong—the most severely persecuted group in China today. During the run up to the 2008 Olympics, the HRTR will host events in thirty-seven countries across five continents to present its message.

All groups and members of the public are invited to support and participate in the run.

Friday 16 and Saturday 17 November
Federation Square (Ceremony and Concert) Friday 7.30 pm
Queen Victoria Gardens (Parade and Torch Relay) Saturday 11.00 am
Website: www.HumanRightsTorch.org

Europe and Asia between Islam and the United States: Lessons from Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon and Iran

How are conflicts in the Middle East and the ‘war on terror’ impacting on Europe and Asia? How are Europe and Asia responding to domestic and international tensions associated with these conflicts? What are the implications for transatlantic and transpacific relations? Are culture and religion major factors to be reckoned with? What of Muslim minorities in Europe and Asia post-September 11?

These are some of the questions to be addressed at this conference. The conference brings together leading experts from Europe, Asia, Australia and the United State, and will focus on:

• Europe and Asia as two emerging centres of geopolitical gravity
• Islam, which now rightly occupies centre stage in many discussions of contemporary international relations
• The role of US policies and alliances

Thursday 6 and Friday 7 December 2007
La Trobe University, Melbourne
For more information: Dr Luca Anceschi, email l.anceschi@latrobe.edu.au
Registration: Christine Siokou, email dialogue@latrobe.edu.au
Website: www.latrobe.edu.au/dialogue/events.html

INTERNATIONAL

Food, Security and Environment: Linking Science, Development and Policy

The main themes of the conference are:

• Concepts and methods for research on food systems, vulnerability and adaptation, scenarios and decision support
• Regional research from the Indo-Gangetic Plain, Southern Africa, The Caribbean, Europe and elsewhere
• The development agenda and policy processes regarding Global Environmental Change (GEC) and food security
• Emerging issues and frameworks for analysis and policy development of adaptation options for food systems to GEC

2-4 April 2008
University of Oxford, UK
Website: www.foodsecurity.elsevier.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.