Media, Communication and Democracy: Global and National Environments

CONFERENCE IN MELBOURNE (31 August, 1-2 SEPTEMBER 2011)

CONFERENCE VENUE

Opening Event

Public Lecture with Professor Paulo Mancini
Theatrette, State Library of Victoria,
328 Swanston Street Melbourne VIC 3000
(Entry 3 LaTrobe Street)

Conference

RMIT University - Storey Hall
Building 16, 342 Swanston Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

ACCOMMODATION

- The Swanston Hotel, Grand Mercure - 4.5 Star - 195 Swanston Street, Melbourne
  http://www.the Swanstonhotel.com.au

- The Mercure Hotel Welcome - 3.5 Star - 265-281 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne
  http://www.mercurewelcome.com.au

- Jasper Hotel - 4 star - 489 Elizabeth St. Melbourne
  http://www.jasperhotel.com.au

- Travelodge Southbank - 3.5 star - corner of Southgate Avenue and Riverside Quay Southbank

- Stamford Plaza Hotel - 5 star - 111 Little Collins Street, Melbourne
  http://www.stamford.com.au

- Central Sky Lounge Apartment Hotel - 43 Therry Street, Melbourne
  http://centralskylounge.com.au
VISA’s

It is the responsibility of individual delegates to ensure your documentation (visas, travel authorities) is correct and complete before you arrive in Australia. Refer website: [www.dfat.gov.au/visas](http://www.dfat.gov.au/visas)

INSURANCE

Participants carry their own risk for personal injury or loss of property, including baggage, during the conference. We strongly recommend that at the time of booking your travel, you take out a travel insurance policy. This policy should take into account loss of deposit of cancellation, medical insurance, loss or damage of personal property, and financial loss incurred through disruption to accommodation or travel arrangements due to business failures, strikes or other industrial action. The organisers are in no way responsible for any claims concerning insurance.

EXPECTED ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

The Conference will start on Wednesday, 31 August 2011 at 6:00pm and end in the afternoon of Friday, 2nd September 2011 at 5:30pm.

Registration will commence at the foyer of the State library of Victoria from 5:30pm on Wednesday, 31 August 2011 and at the foyer of RMIT Storey Hall, Level 7 from 8:30am on Thursday, 1st September 2011.

MEALS

In addition to the Welcome and Farewell events, breakfast, morning tea, afternoon tea and lunch on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd of September will be provided at the conference.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Melbourne Time Zone Difference
Melbourne is located in the Australian "Eastern Time" zone.
- Standard Time difference to UTC/Greenwich Mean Time: +10 hours.
- Daylight Saving Time difference to UTC/Greenwich Mean Time: +11 hours

Currency
The currency is the Australian dollar (AUD$). Australia has a decimal system with 100 cents to the dollar (AUD$). Coins have values of 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents, and $1 and $2; notes have values of $5, $10, $20, $50 and $100.

Automated teller machines (ATMs) compatible with most international credit cards are readily available in main cities. Foreign currencies are exchangeable at banks and international airports. All international hotels offer exchange facilities for foreign currency and travellers' cheques. Business travellers, especially those travelling from developing countries, may have problems changing less widely accepted currencies. It is best to operate with a recognised credit card or travellers' cheques. All major credit cards are accepted.

Taxes: Goods & Services
There is a 10% Goods and Services tax.

Departure Tax
Departure tax is included in the cost of air tickets.
**Tipping**
Tipping is not a general custom in Australia, and is at your discretion. If you receive good service you may choose to tip 10% at cafes and restaurants. In taxis, no more than rounding off the fare up to the next dollar is generally followed.

**Duty Free Purchases**
The following items may be imported into Australia by persons over 18 years of age without incurring customs duty:

- 250 cigarettes or 250g of tobacco or cigars.
- 2.25l of any alcoholic liquor.
- Articles for personal hygiene and clothing, not including perfume or fur apparel.
- Other goods to a value of A$900 (A$450 if under 18).

*Note:* The Australian government has introduced limits on the amount of liquids, aerosols and gels that can be taken through the screening point for people flying to and from Australia. You may carry these on board in your hand-luggage only if they are no more than 100ml and in a sealed plastic bag. Larger amounts may be taken in your checked-in luggage. Exceptions apply for medicines and baby products. Check with your airline before travelling. More details from the Australian Customs Service at: [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au).

**Prohibited Imports**
There are very strict regulations against the import of non-prescribed drugs, weapons, firearms, wildlife, domestic animals and foodstuffs (including meat, poultry and dairy; plants or parts of plants [including fruit, nuts and seeds]; animal products [including wool, skins and eggs] and any equipment used with domestic animals) and other potential sources of disease and pestilence (such as vaccines or viruses). There are severe penalties for drug trafficking.

**Electricity**
Australian Power Points use 3-Pin Plugs - an earthing pin that points downward, and two flat pins above that form an upside down V-shape. (see picture) Australian Power Points output 240/250 Volt AC 50Hz.

Multi-purpose Adaptors for international appliances can be easily purchased from Electrical Retailers throughout Melbourne.

**Drinking Water**
It is perfectly safe to drink water straight from the tap in Australia. However, for those who prefer bottled mineral water, local supermarkets and grocers usually carry a sizeable selection.

**Safety**
Australia is one of the safest destinations in the world, but you should observe the same precautions with your personal safety and possessions as you would in any other country or at home.

Talk to other travellers about their experiences for advice, and invest in comprehensive travel insurance before departing. Tourists should always take care and be especially cautious when using ATMs.

**Triple Zero (000)** is Australia's primary Emergency Call Service number and should be used to access emergency assistance from all telephones (landline, mobile phones and payphones) in the first instance.
Smoking
You are not able to smoke in public buildings and enclosed workplaces (this includes restaurants/cafes, licensed premises and shopping centres). Smoking is also prohibited at covered areas of train platforms, bus and tram shelters, at underage 'music/dance' events and enclosed licensed premises (including gaming rooms).

Smoking is permitted in outdoor dining or drinking areas, unless the outdoor area has a roof, as well as walls that cover more than 75% of the wall area. At Crown Casino, smoking is only permitted in certain high roller rooms.

Weather
Despite its small size, the Victorian climate varies across the state. The north is much drier and warmer weather than the south. Australia's seasons are the reverse of those in the northern hemisphere. The climate can be characterised as warm to hot in summer (December to February), mild in autumn (March to May), cold and damp in winter (June to August), and cool in spring (September to November).

Further information on Australian culture and tourist attractions can be found at: www.australia.com

CONTACT DETAILS
Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact:

Ms Amanda Crichton, Programme Manager
Tel: (+61) 3 9925 0876, E-mail: amanda.crichton@rmit.edu.au

Ms Fran Martens, Administrative Officer
Tel: +(61) 3 9925 8214, Email: franny.martens@rmit.edu.au

European Union Centre at RMIT University
Building 5, Level 2, Bowen Street
GPO Box 2476, Melbourne VIC 3001
Australia
www.rmit.edu.au/eucentre