Welcome to the final issue of the RSSS Post for 2011.

It has been another year of outstanding achievements for the School.
Some key highlights include our success in both ARC and non ARC funding of important research programs, the introduction of the HDR coursework program, development of new degrees for 2012, including the Bachelor of International Relations, Bachelor of Latin American Studies and Bachelor of European Studies; Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics was also approved and will commence in 2013; and the introduction of the new Master of Biography Research Writing program was introduced.

Since our last issue David Chalmers and Andrew Podger were elected Fellows of the Australian Academy of the Social Sciences, and Ian McAllister was awarded an honorary lifetime membership of the Australasian Political Studies Association.

Our Philosophers have again been acknowledged for their world class reputation in the most recent Philosophical Gourmet Rankings.

Dr Douglas Craig will step aside as Deputy Director (Education) at the end of the year. I would like to thank Doug for his outstanding contribution over the last two years. His knowledge and expertise of education matters has been invaluable and he has been an unfaltering acting Director during my absences.

Dr Frank Bongiorno will assume the role in 2012. I look forward to working with him.

I would also like to commend Christine Fernon, our Editor of RSSS Post in 2011. Christine has produced engaging and informative newsletters of our activities and successes throughout the year.

I thank all of you for your contributions to the School in 2011.

My best wishes for the holiday season and in 2012.

Adam Graycar
2011 ARC Awards

Congratulations to RSSS staff who were successful in the recent round of ARC grants announced in November. The school secured four Discovery grants, four Discovery Early Career Researcher Awards and a Future Fellowship.

DISCOVERY GRANTS

Dr Nicholas Southwood & Professor Geoffrey Brennan (Philosophy)
Political Normativity and the Feasibility Requirement

Dr Simon Niemeyer & Professor John Dryzek (SPIR)
Deliberative Democracy in the Public Sphere: Achieving Deliberative Outcomes in Mass Publics

Dr Katrina Lee-Koo (SPIR)
Gender After Conflict: A Gendered Analysis of the International Community’s Engagement in Postconflict Zones

Professor David Marsh (Sociology)
Innovative Democracy? Changing Approaches to Citizen Engagement in Australia, the UK and Denmark

DISCOVERY EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER AWARDS

Dr David Bissell (Sociology)
Stressed mobilities: Understanding the Significance of the Commute for City Workers

Dr Sean Burges (SPIR)
The Brazilian National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES), Foreign Policy and the Internationalisation of Brazil

Dr Caroline Jones (Centre for Environmental Research, History)
Slow Catastrophes: Drought Resilience Amongst Farmers and Agricultural Communities in South Eastern Australia, 1880s-2000s

Dr Inge Kral (CAEPR)
Connecting, Communicating and Learning Through New Media: Indigenous Youth and Digital Futures in Remote Australia

THREE AWARDS FOR DR SIMON NIEMEYER

Dr Simon Niemeyer, from the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance (SPIR) was remarkably successful, winning two Discovery Grants and a Future Fellowship. Dr Niemeyer is also the recipient of an ARC Discovery grant as Partner Investigator on the project Rethinking Climate Justice in an Age of Adaptation: Capabilities, Local Variation, and Public Deliberation. This project will be realised in collaboration with Professor David Schlosberg (University of Sydney).

Dr Simon Niemeyer (SPIR).
At the recent Australian Political Studies Association (APSA) Conference held in September 2011, Professor Ian McAllister was awarded an honorary lifetime membership to APSA. The award was made for an exceptional contribution to the Association for being Editor of the Association’s journal, the Australian Journal of Political Science, for a total of 12 years, from 1989-95 and then again from 2004-10.

This award has capped off a successful year for Professor McAllister. He was winner of the 2011 Leon Weaver Award for the best conference paper in elections and voting in the American Political Science Association annual meetings in Washington DC. He has published two books, The Australian Voter: 50 Years of Change, and Political Parties and Democratic Linkage: How Parties Organize Democracy with Russell Dalton and David Farrell.


Professor McAllister also appeared as a guest on The National Interest (ABC Radio National) where he discussed his recent publication. The recording of the interview and the transcript is available at: http://www.abc.net.au/rn/nationalinterest/stories/2011/3324641.htm

Professor McAllister was also successful in the recent ARC funding round for Discovery grants commencing in 2012. His upcoming ARC funded project is titled The 2012/13 Australian Election Study: Volatility and Electoral Change. The project, to be undertaken with Professor Clive Bean, Professor Rachel Gibson and Dr Juliet Pietsch aims to provide both an in-depth understanding of general patterns of voting behaviour and a detailed, objective account of how and why voters made up their minds in this federal election. The study adds to the unbroken series of national surveys conducted after each Australian federal election since 1987.

The late twentieth century saw more changes in political attitudes and behaviour in Australia than at any other time since Federation. There have been major changes in the way that election campaigns are conducted, with an increasing reliance on the electronic media and a trend towards the personalisation of politics. Voters’ attitudes towards political institutions have changed, with decreasing confidence in politics and politicians and a greater level of cynicism.

McAllister, Ian, 2011, UNSW Press.

Political Parties and Democratic Linkage: How Parties Organize Democracy

Is the party over? Parties are the central institutions of representative democracy, but critics increasingly claim that parties are failing to perform their democratic functions. This book assembles unprecedented cross-national evidence to assess how parties link the individual citizen to the formation of governments and then to government policies.

Dr Marie Kawaja is an ARC post doctoral fellow in the School of History. Her research focuses on Australian Antarctic foreign policy. She notes that 2011 is an anniversary year for Antarctica for a few striking reasons. It is:

> 100 years since Sir Douglas Mawson sailed to Antarctica to lead the Australasian Antarctic Expedition.

> 50 years since the Antarctic Treaty came into force. Australia played a leadership role in the treaty negotiations, particularly on the non-militarisation of the Antarctic.

> 20 years since the signing of the Madrid Protocol, an environmental initiative led by Australia and France to ban Antarctic mining and declare Antarctica a ‘natural reserve devoted to peace and science’.

Dr Kawaja is often called upon for her expertise by government departments such as the Australian Antarctic Division, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Bureau of Meteorology. In addition to taking part in seminars and symposiums on Antarctica, she is currently converting her 2010 PhD thesis into a book, with working title The Politics and Diplomacy of the Australian Antarctic: from Imperial Offspring to Middle Power.

PROFESSOR AMIN SAIKAL WINS CHANCELLOR’S AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNIVERSITY

This award recognises distinguished service of a high degree. Staff, students and alumni of the University whose contribution to the economic, cultural, scientific or social development of Australia or the international community has demonstrated distinguished service of a high degree are eligible for the award.

Professor Saikal AM is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (CAIS). Since completing his PhD at the ANU as a Colombo Plan scholar, he has served the University for more than 30 years as a scholar, teacher and academic leader.

The Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies was established in 1994 directly as a result of Professor Saikal’s distinguished contribution to the study of the Middle East and Central Asia, and for his distinguished contribution to the University as a scholar, teacher and academic leader.

The award has been presented at the ceremony for CASS (undergraduate students) on 16 December 2011.

Dr Hayley Stevenson

Dr Hayley Stevenson is a postdoctoral fellow in the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR). Her research interests include global environmental politics and climate change, international norms, global governance and theories of international relations, with a particular interest in constructivism. She is presently working on Professor John Dryzek’s Federation Fellowship project: Deliberative Global Governance and is due to publish her book, Institutionalizing Unsustainability: The Paradox of Global Climate Governance, next year with the University of California Press.

RSSS Staff Win CASS Awards

Congratulations to Mrs Akita Hodgson, Executive Assistant, Schools of History and Philosophy, who won the CASS Customer Service and Administration award.

Professor Stewart Lockie, Head of Sociology, won the CASS Best Boss award.

Dr Hayley Stevenson is a postdoctoral fellow in the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR). Her research interests include global environmental politics and climate change, international norms, global governance and theories of international relations, with a particular interest in constructivism. She is presently working on Professor John Dryzek’s Federation Fellowship project: Deliberative Global Governance and is due to publish her book, Institutionalizing Unsustainability: The Paradox of Global Climate Governance, next year with the University of California Press.

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TOM GRIFFITHS SUCCEEDS BARRY HIGMAN TO THE WILLIAM KEITH HANCOCK CHAIR OF HISTORY

Welcome to the new members of the RSSS team

SPIR
Dr Nicole Curato (Postdoctoral Fellow)
Dr Michael Miller (Lecturer)
Ms Penelope O’Brien (Administrator)

Philosophy
Dr Seth Lazar (Research Fellow)
Dr Paolo Santorio (Postdoctoral Fellow)

History
Dr Malcolm Allbrook (Research Associate and Project Manager)

CEDAM
Miss Beth Harris (Centre Administrator)

RSSS Directorate
Mrs Gwenneth Bairstow (Executive Assistant to Director)
Mrs Marianne Forshaw (Coombs Receptionist)

Professor Tom Griffiths, head of the School of History’s Centre for Environmental History, was appointed to the William Keith Hancock chair of History in July, following the retirement of Professor Barry Higman.

Instituted in 1974 to commemorate RSSS’s first quarter of a century, the chair is named after the school’s foundation director, Sir Keith Hancock, who was also the foundation professor of its history department, and the instigator of the Australian Dictionary of Biography.

The chair is awarded to RSSS’s most senior (by appointment) professor in history and has been held by Professors John La Nauze (1974-77), Oliver MacDonagh (1977-89), Ken Inglis (1990-94), Barry Smith (1994-97) and Barry Higman (1998-2011).

Professor Higman, a world scholar in Pacific History, is now an Emeritus Professor and continues his work at a formidable pace. 2011 saw the publication of two of his books: A Concise History of the Caribbean was published in February to outstanding reviews; Proslavery Priest: The Atlantic World of John Lindsay, 1729-1788 was published last month. Professor Higman’s current projects demonstrate the far-reaching breadth of his interests and include a world history of food over the last 5000 years; the global history of domestic servants in the modern world; the history of the Jamaican landscape; the history of Australia as a flat place and the history of islands and insularity.

Professor Tom Griffiths is a worthy successor to the William Keith Hancock chair. Highly regarded nationally and internationally for his pathbreaking work in the fields of environmental and landscape history, Professor Griffiths is also known and esteemed as a public intellectual in Australia. His book, Slicing the Silence: Voyaging to Antarctica (2007) won both the Queensland and New South Wales Premiers’ Literary Award for Nonfiction, 2008 and was co-winner of the Prime Minister’s

Prize for Australian History, 2008. His current projects include research into the social effects, on the Steels Creek Community, of Victoria’s devastating 2009 Black Saturday bushfire.

Professor Griffiths is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, Adjunct Professor of Climate Research at the University of Copenhagen and chair of the Editorial Board of the Australian Dictionary of Biography. He gave the inaugural W. K. Hancock Lecture on The History and Future of Ice on 20 September.
Philosophy Ranked World’s No.1

The ANU is consistently ranked top in the world for two of its philosophy specialties. Additionally, the ANU has been recognised 15th in the world by the international biennial, *Philosophical Gourmet Report* (University of Chicago) for its overall philosophy performance.

The ANU, alongside New York University, has come first in Philosophy of the Mind in the last three rankings and has also come equal first in Philosophy of Biology. The ANU was by far the highest ranked Australian institution overall.

Centre for the Study of Australian Politics

Recently established in the School of Politics and International Relations, the centre will promote greater public interest in the structure of political debate in Australia.

The Centre has subsumed the former ANU Centre for Parliamentary Studies and will continue to relate the drama of parliamentary politics to wider public interest in public policy and political leadership and will promote fresh intellectual analysis of the trends behind the headline news, drawing on the sharpest minds that the ANU can muster.


Hájek and Davidson on Gambling

Professor Alan Hájek (School of Philosophy) recently did a radio interview on *Encounter* (ABC Radio National) where he talked about the historical development of thinking about chance, ‘Pascal’s Wager’ (in which belief in God is regarded as the best bet in a cosmic gamble), and about the ‘gambler’s fallacy’, a common mistake of reasoning about probabilistic processes.


Dr Tanya Davidson, Director of the Centre for Gambling Research, is one of the authors of two new reports profiling help-seeking and problem gambling in the ACT.

More information can be found at: [http://news.anu.edu.au/?p=11851](http://news.anu.edu.au/?p=11851)

Higher Education, Professional Occupations and Indigenous People

To assist the Review of Higher Education Access and Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, CAEPR was commissioned by the Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations to examine the role of higher education in the growth of Indigenous employment in professional occupations, to assess the associated costs and benefits to the Australian economy and society, and to explore likely barriers to growing the professional base.

The report, *Higher Education and the Growth of Indigenous Participation in Professional and Managerial Occupations*, by Professor John Taylor, Professor Matthew Gray, Dr Boyd Hunter, Ms Mandy Yap and Dr Julie Lahn was submitted to the department in October. It will be published online as a CAEPR Working Paper by the end of the year.

CAIS in the Middle of Things

The Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies is adding a graduate certificate to an existing suite of postgraduate offerings focusing on the Middle East and central Asia. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Afghan war and political change sweeping through countries such as Libya are among the centre’s specialist research and teaching areas.

The certificate, which will take its first students in semester one next year, can be studied as a stand-alone course or as a pathway into a diploma or master’s qualification.

The centre anticipates increasing interest in the language, politics, history and culture of the Middle East and central Asia as the regions undergo rapid change.

New Research Contract for CAEPR

Earlier this month CAEPR signed a contract with Charles Darwin University’s Northern Biodiversity Hub to undertake work funded by the National Environmental Research Program (NERP). The work, which will be led by Professor Jon Altman (in close collaboration with Dr Sue Jackson, CSIRO as project partner) will focus on biodiversity values and Indigenous livelihoods and is due to continue until December 2014.
Honour-motivated violence is a trans-historical and cross-cultural phenomenon, yet it has recently become a metonym for Islamic and anti-modern cultures. How can inter-disciplinary conversations unpack this association to produce innovative ways of thinking about and acting against violence justified through claims of honour?

This conference, held 7-9 December at ANU explored honour killing across periods, places, political contexts, legal regimes and religions.

More information:
http://history.cass.anu.edu.au/honourkillingconf

Australian Political Studies Association Conference 2011

The School of Politics and International Relations hosted the annual Australian Political Studies Association (APSA) Conference in September 2011. The theme of the conference was Crisis, Uncertainty and Democracy. As well as presentation of papers on a wide range of subjects, the conference also hosted the launch of the Politics and Law Network Australia and the APSA Environmental Politics and Policy Standing Group.

Two students of the School of Politics and International Relations won awards. Scott MacWilliam was awarded the PhD Thesis Prize, ‘Annual’, a prize that is awarded to the author of the best PhD dissertation completed in the previous year. Scott’s supervisor was Dr Rick Kuhn from the School of Politics and International Relations.

The award for best postgraduate paper at the Australian Political Studies Association Conference was awarded to Mhairi Cowden (below) for her paper called No Harm, No Foul: Australian childrens’ right to know their genetic parents.

Ben Wellings – The Last Lecture 2011

Dr Ben Wellings from the School of Politics and International Relations was selected by over 700 students from a pool of more than 70 lecturers university wide to deliver the annual talk which celebrates the end of the academic year.

Speaking to a brimming Hall at University House, Dr Wellings outlined the currency crisis which was sending shock waves through financial markets in the European Union and beyond. He told the assembled students and staff that teaching and learning experiences in the classroom also generated the same sense of crisis and uncertainty.

In his lecture, punctuated with witty anecdotes of his own successes and failures, Dr Wellings emphasised the importance of understanding and accepting failure; and then learning from it.

“It all seems quite logical really: if you get an assessment wrong you fail. If you get it right, we give you high marks; you get a better job after university, marry someone better looking and lead a happier life.”

“But this leaves you little room to get things wrong which is a pity as getting things wrong is an essential part of learning.”

Dr Ben Wellings is convenor of European Studies at ANU. He is currently researching a book on the links between English nationalism and Euroscepticism.

Much admired by ANU students and staff for his vitality and enthusiasm in student learning and research, Ben’s deep affinity with students makes him a very worthy recipient to deliver The Last Lecture for 2011.

The Last Lecture is a combined effort between the Dean of Students, ANUSA and PARSA.

Further information can be found at:

Victoria Mason Wins Media Award

Dr Victoria Mason, Lecturer in Political Science in the School of Politics and International Relations, recently interviewed award-winning foreign correspondent Sophie McNeill preceding her public lecture at ANU on 3 November 2011.

In 2010 McNeill won a Walkley Award for a segment on the SBS Dateline program, Questions from Oruzgan, which looked into the deaths of six Afghan civilians, including five children.

Dr Victoria Mason is the 2011 recipient of the ANU media award for Best Emerging Talent which recognises the efforts of staff who engage with the public through the media.

A copy of Dr Mason’s interview with Sophie McNeil is available at:
Rights and Realities: Children and the Australian State

There is an ever-increasing amount of work taking place in Australia regarding the relationship between children and the Australian State. Strong theoretical and philosophical work on the topic is evolving across many academic institutions, while the body of jurisprudence and legal theory also grows. Elsewhere, economic, social and policy research into the realities of children’s lives in Australia is beginning to fill in the long-standing absence of data and knowledge in this area.

This workshop’s aim was to bring together academics, researchers and practitioners within Australia working on Children’s Rights, to exchange ideas and promote collaboration. It is necessary to examine how collaboration across disciplines can bring Australian children’s rights from the realm of theory and into reality. The motivation behind the workshop was the belief that shared knowledge, concentrated academic research and excellence can help bring about social policy change.

COMING EVENT: Practical Responses to Climate Change Conference

WATER AND CLIMATE: POLICY IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

PRACTICAL RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2012
1-3 May 2012: National Convention Centre, Canberra

The 2nd Practical Responses to Climate Change Conference will be held in Canberra at the National Convention Centre from 1 to 3 May 2012. Dr Katherine Daniell from the Centre for Policy Innovation (RSSS) is chair of the scientific program. The theme for 2012 is on Water and Climate: Policy Implementation Challenges.

The conference will provide a forum for presenting strategies for managing a variable and changing climate through the lens of the water sector. It will be an opportunity for policy makers, engineers, scientists, planners and academics to present, hear and debate the latest research and practice on water and climate policy implementation challenges in urban, catchment and coastal environments. Full papers are due by 6 February 2012. All papers will be peer reviewed and published in the conference proceedings. For further information please visit: www.climatechange2012.org

CONGRATULATIONS TO NATALIE AZZOPARDI, OUR COOMBS RECEPTIONIST AND HONOURS GRADUATE FROM THE SCHOOL OF ART WHO IS HOLDING HER FIRST ART EXHIBITION (Details below).
On the Road

ALAN HÁJEK IN THE PHILIPPINES

Professor Alan Hájek joined the Philosophy Program within RSSS as Professor of Philosophy in February 2005.

Hájek’s research interests include the philosophical foundations of probability and decision theory, epistemology, the philosophy of science, metaphysics, and the philosophy of religion. His paper *What Conditional Probability Could Not Be* won the 2004 American Philosophical Association Article Prize for the best article published in the previous two years by a younger scholar.

He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and was the President of the Australasian Association of Philosophy in 2009-2010.

In August, Alan Hájek gave a series of lectures in the Philippines, at De La Salle University (Manila) and Bicol University (Legazpi City) - the latter in the shadow of Mt. Mayon, said to be the world’s most perfect volcano.

WASHINGTION BOUND

Congratulations to the seven Politics & International Relations students who have just been selected for next January/February’s ANU Washington Internship. They will spend two months working for a member of the U.S. Congress.

The students selected for the internship, (from left to right): Josh Marks, Georgia Cubit, Tom Langsford, Carla Ward, Ryan Turner, Claire Daily and Andrew Chua. This year there were 33 applicants for the seven places, the competition being the toughest in the eight-year history of the program. Currently, the students are awaiting details of their placement in Congress and navigating the complex process of organising their visas.

Postcards from OSP: Dr Matthew Gray in Jordan and Qatar

Dr Matthew Gray (Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies) is currently partaking in the Outside Studies Program (OSP). Although spending most of his time in Amman, Jordan, his research focuses on Qatar. He is working towards a book on the political economy of Qatar, looking at the reasons for, and challenges from, Qatar’s rise in a single generation from a sleepy British protectorate to the wealthiest country in the world per capita. He has just returned from field research in Qatar, where he interviewed people from business, media, academia, and the public sector. Georgetown University in Qatar is about to publish an occasional paper by him, entitled *A Theory of Late Rentierism in the Gulf*, which outlines some of the theoretical issues that the book will take up in greater detail.

MacArthur Foundation Asia Security Initiative: Seminars in the US

John Ravenhill, together with his co-principal investigator, Bill Tow (ANU College of Asia and the Pacific) gave a number of seminars in the United States summarizing the findings from their three year MacArthur Foundation funded project on Asia security. In early November they made presentations at Stanford University, the University of California at Berkeley, the Washington DC branch of the East-West Center, the National Defense University, and American University.
CAIS Director participates in major international forum and book project on regionalisation.

On 4-5 November, CAIS Director, Professor Amin Saikal spoke on Afghanistan attitudes toward the region, at an international workshop on The Other Sides of Afghanistan: A regional perspective on security issues in Afghanistan. This project is being coordinated by the Centre for Security Studies, Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH), Zurich.

Early Maternal Employment and Child Development in Five OECD Countries

OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers No. 118

Maria del Carmen Huerta, Willem Adema, Jennifer Baxter, Miles Corak, Mette Deding, Matthew C. Gray, Wen-Jui Han, Jane Waldfog

More mothers with young children are in paid work than in the past. There is a long-running debate on possible negative effects of maternal employment on child development. For the first time, this paper presents an initial comparative analysis of longitudinal data on maternal employment patterns after birth on child cognitive and behavioural development.

The working paper can be downloaded from: http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/5kg5dlmbxvh-en

Academics from Islamic Universities in Indonesia at ANU to enhance skills in research and writing for publication

The Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies is facilitating a one-month visit by ten academics from Islamic Universities in Indonesia who have come to the ANU under a Directorate General Of Islamic Education program, Enhancing the Capacity of Lecturers of Islamic Higher Education: Academic University Leadership and Management Research. For further details contact Carol Laslett at: carol.laslett@anu.edu.au

FRENCH-AUSTRALIAN WATER AND LAND MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE: STRENGTHENING CROSS-CULTURAL AND CROSS-DISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION

The complexity of water and land management challenges in Australia and abroad, including conflict over scarce resources and uncertainties about climate impacts, underpins the need for collaborative approaches to research and management practice.

A recent initiative driven by Dr Katherine Daniell from the Centre for Policy Innovation (RSSS), Professor Quentin Grafton from the Crawford School and Dr Olivier Barreteau from Cemagref in France seeks to foster and build mutual understanding and collaboration between French and Australian researchers, policy makers and practitioners working on water and land management issues around the world. The inaugural forum of the initiative was held as a joint workshop event on the 13-17th of June 2011 in Montpellier, France, with the French program Eaux et Territoires (Water & Land) from French Department of Ecology (MEEDTL), CNRS and Cemagref. Fifteen Australians, including researchers from three ANU colleges, participated in the event with French colleagues which included a field trip to meet with a range of stakeholders living and working in the ‘Bassin de Thau’ region near Montpellier demonstrating recent land and water management projects and future research needs. The researchers took part in panel discussion sessions and joint publication development workshops.

As a result of the event and subsequent work by the initiative participants, one contract for an edited book on Understanding and Managing Urban Water in Transition has been secured and a journal Special Feature on other aspects of water and land governance is in development. The second event of the initiative is planned for Spring 2012 in Canberra, and is being developed with the support of the French Embassy in Australia.

Anyone who is interested in the initiative is invited to contact Dr Katherine Daniell for further information: katherine.daniell@anu.edu.au

Participants at one of the sessions of the French-Australian Water and Land Management event in Montpellier, France. Dr Katherine Daniell is standing in the middle at the back in black.
JACK GREEN: CAEPR VISITING INDIGENOUS FELLOW

Mr Jack Green, Senior Cultural Advisor to the Garawa and Waanyi/Garawa Ranger programs in the Gulf region of the Northern Territory visited CAEPR in October under the Visiting Indigenous Fellowship program. As part of this trip, Jack was a keynote speaker in special plenary session Indigenous Rights – A Sustainable Future for Homelands at Amnesty International’s 50th Anniversary Conference, Change the World. The conference was held in Brisbane with assistance from Jon Altman and Seán Kerins and in collaboration with Amnesty International Australia.

In his speech, Jack focused on the Garawa and Waanyi Caring for Country program as a community-based development initiative assisting land owners to manage their country and help them remain living on it.

Jack Green at the Amnesty International 50th anniversary conference in Brisbane this year.

Jack and Seán Kerins of CAEPR gave a seminar at ANU on the Southern Gulf Fire Abatement project titled Still Building, From the Bottom Up: Community-Based Land Management in the Southern Gulf of Carpentaria. Since the Garawa and Waanyi began their Caring for Country program in 2005 they have made a substantial reduction in wildfires in the region – a 63 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions has been made in 2010, a significant achievement for the traditional owners considering the limited organisational support and the remoteness. From Jack’s point of view, informing wider Australia about successful Indigenous development initiatives occurring in remote regions of Australia is a crucial part of his ongoing work.

This collaborative action-research partnership is part of the People on Country, Healthy Landscapes and Indigenous Economic Futures project. The core objective of the project is to assist Indigenous land and sea managers to build an evidence base on how their activities contribute to Indigenous well-being and to the health of land and sea country. It is sponsored primarily by the Sidney Myer Fund, with additional support from ANU and Jon Altman’s ARC Discovery project titled Hybrid Economic Futures for Remote Indigenous Australia.

Central Asian Expert from Oklahoma State University visiting CAIS Under the RSSS Visitor Program

A leading expert on Central Asia, Professor Reuel R. Hanks, is currently at CAIS under the RSSS visiting fellowship scheme. Reuel is Professor of Geography at Oklahoma State University, and serves as the editor of the Journal of Central Asian Studies.

In a public lecture on 17 November, Professor Hanks addressed the challenges inherent in constructing national identity in post-Soviet Uzbekistan.

In addition to his public lecture, Professor Hanks has been mentoring CAIS research and graduate coursework students who work on Central Asia and has conducted a masters class for students in MEAS8117 Islam in Central Asia.

How Many Parents Can a Child Have? Samantha Brennan (VF) on ABC’s Life Matters

Samantha Brennan is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Western Ontario, and is currently a visiting fellow in the School of Philosophy. She has recently appeared on Richard Aedy’s Life Matters where she argued the need “to rethink the whole parents thing in the wake of a rapidly changing society”.

The episode can be downloaded from: http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lifematters/2011-11-01/3611130
Professor Saskia Sassen
Columbia University

Saskia Sassen is the Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology and Co-Chairs the Committee on Global Thought, Columbia University (www.saskiasassen.com). Her recent books include Territory, Authority, Rights: From Medieval to Global Assemblages (Princeton University Press 2008), A Sociology of Globalization (W.W. Norton 2007), and the 4th fully updated edition of Cities in a World Economy (Sage 2011). The Global City came out in a new fully updated edition in 2001. Her books have been translated into twenty-one languages. She is currently working on When Territory Exits Existing Frameworks (Under contract with Harvard University Press) and contributes regularly to OpenDemocracy.net and the HuffingtonPost.com.

CAIS sponsors visit by prominent US Expert on Afghanistan

The Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies sponsored the visit in late October by Karl W. Eikenberry, former US Ambassador to Afghanistan and Deputy Chairman of the NATO Military Committee in Brussels.

During his time in Canberra, Ambassador Eikenberry presented an ANU Public Lecture on Assessing counter-insurgency and state-building efforts in Afghanistan to a capacity audience in the Coombs lecture theatre. This was followed by a dinner at University House hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Young, and CAIS Director, Professor Amin Saikal.

The public lecture was widely reported in the media and Ambassador Eikenberry appeared on the ABC’s ‘7.30 Report’ and was interviewed on ABC Radio’s PM program, as well as giving a major press conference at the ANU.


At the dinner in honour of Ambassador Eikenberry: (from left) HE Mr Jeffrey Bleich, US Ambassador to Australia, Professor Ian Young, ANU Vice-Chancellor, and Ambassador Karl Eikenberry.

Ambassador Eikenberry met with Professor Ian Young, the ANU Vice-Chancellor, to discuss possible collaboration between ANU and Stanford University. He also participated in meetings with a number of senior policy makers, and attended a lunch hosted by the US Ambassador, HE Mr Jeffrey Bleich.

CAIS staff and HDR students also had the opportunity to benefit from a roundtable meeting at which Ambassador Eikenberry spoke frankly about his perceptions of the situation in Afghanistan and prospects for that country and its region.

Book Launch

Dr Kate Brooks, visitor to the School of Sociology launched her book Fishing for Sustainability in October 2011. Her research interests include natural resource management, fisheries, social capital and social impact assessment.
NEW BOOK LAUNCHED BY SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS


A new publication, The Afghanistan Conflict: Australia’s Role, edited by Professor Amin Saikal, was launched at CAIS on 12 September 2011 by Mr Dennis Richardson AO, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Mr Richardson said the book made a valuable contribution to the field as it addressed the differing and complex views on Australia’s strategic objectives in Afghanistan.

The evening’s proceedings included an introduction by the Dean of RSSS, Professor Adam Graycar. ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Young gave the opening address, acknowledging the important role CAIS played in the field of Middle East and Central Asian Studies.

Photo of book launch: (from left), Prof. Amin Saikal, Prof. Ian Young, Prof. Hugh White, Mr Dennis Richardson, Prof. Adam Graycar.

Handbook of Global Research and Practice in Corruption
Adam Graycar, Russell G. Smith, 2011, Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd

This edited volume studies corruption as a pervasive, global phenomenon. The chapters move from general overviews to in-depth studies of corruption-prone sectors such as forestry, financial markets, public procurement, and trade in diamonds and art. The volume is an important, contribution to the international study of corruption that mixes scholarly analysis with practical recommendations for the control and prevention of corruption with investigation into international initiatives and country or sector-specific policies.

“Corruption poses threats to principles of democracy, justice and the economy. It affects all countries regardless of their level of development.”

Doctor Do-Good: Charles Duguid and Aboriginal Advancement 1930s–1970s
Rani Kerin, 2011, Australian Scholarly Publishing

Doctor Do-Good is the biography of Charles Duguid, medical practitioner and Aboriginal rights campaigner.

Rani Kerin is a research fellow at the National Centre of Biography. She is also the author of An Attitude of Respect: Anna Vroland and Aboriginal Rights, 1947–1957, 1999.
Annette Kellerman, Rose Quong and Merle Oberon were internationally successful ‘Australian’ performers of the first half of the twentieth century.

Kellerman was a swimmer, diver, lecturer, and silent-film star, Quong an actor, lecturer and writer who forged a career in London and New York, and Oberon one of the most celebrated film stars of the 1930s and 1940s, first in London and then Hollywood.

These three women performers created newly modern, racially ambiguous Australian femininities. Racial thinking was at the core of White Australian culture: far from being oblivious to racial hierarchies and constructions, Australians engaged with them on an everyday basis. Around the world, ‘Australian’ stars represented a white-settler nation, a culture in which white privilege was entrenched, during a period replete with legal forms of discrimination based on race. The complex meanings attached to three successful ‘Australian’ performers in this period of highly articulated racism thus become a popular cultural archive we can investigate to learn more about contemporary connections between race, exoticism and gender on the global stage and screen.

In *Too Much Luck*, Paul Cleary shows how the resource boom, which seems a blessing, could well become a curse. He argues that we have never seen a boom quite like this one. Under-taxed and under-regulated, multinational companies are making colossal profits by selling off non-renewable resources. New projects are being rushed through weekly, but who is looking out for the public interest? As the boom accelerates, it will drive the dollar higher and higher, and force up the cost of doing business for everyone else. Industries that involve many jobs, such as tourism and education, will fade away. What happens if commodity prices suddenly collapse, as they have in the past? Or worse, when the resources run out?

Many countries before us have been caught by the resource trap: a heady period of boom and growth, followed by a painful bust. This book maps out the pitfalls, counts the human and environmental costs, shows what has worked overseas and suggests a better way forward – one which would turn this one-off windfall into a lasting legacy.

The book was launched at ANU Co-op Bookshop in November, with a discussion between the author, and Professors Bob Gregory and Jon Altman.

**Highlight**

**TOO MUCH LUCK: THE MINING BOOM AND AUSTRALIA’S FUTURE**

Paul Cleary (CAEPR, RSSS), 2011, Black Inc.

‘We think we are the lucky country, but what we really have is dumb luck – too much luck, more than we know what to do with.’

In *Too Much Luck*, Paul Cleary shows how the resource boom, which seems a blessing, could well become a curse. He argues that we have never seen a boom quite like this one. Under-taxed and under-regulated, multinational companies are making colossal profits by selling off non-renewable resources. New projects are being rushed through weekly, but who is looking out for the public interest? As the boom accelerates, it will drive the dollar higher and higher, and force up the cost of doing business for everyone else. Industries that involve many jobs, such as tourism and education, will fade away. What happens if commodity prices suddenly collapse, as they have in the past? Or worse, when the resources run out?

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**The Major Transitions in Evolution Revisited**


In this book Professor Kim Sterelny (School of Philosophy) investigates the different frameworks for understanding macroevolution, prokaryote evolution (the study of which has been aided by developments in molecular biology), and the complex evolution of multicellularity.

Professor Sterelny discusses the “transitions” which constituted major changes in the kinds of organisms that existed but, most importantly, how these events also transformed the evolutionary process itself.