

National Graduate Research Workshop

**Interdisciplinary Methods**

in European and International Studies



Gottfried W. Leibniz (1646-1716)

**27 – 28 August 2009**

at

**THE NATIONAL EUROPE CENTRE**

RESEARCH SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, COLLEGE OF ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES



Funded by the European Union as part of the Work Program of the National Europe Centre

Great academic thinking is not restricted to only one discipline. The fields of European and International Studies allow for a lot of freedom to cross boundaries between various academic disciplines. The National Europe Centre wants to encourage doctoral students to do so without fear. This Workshop gives PhD students a chance to present their ideas within a safe environment and to get feedback from established academics.

## PROGRAM

### 1<sup>st</sup> Day

9.00. Welcome

9.15. Introduction – Mr Christian Wicke & Prof Paul Pickering

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9.30. **Panel 1** – Chaired by Dr Mark Nolan, 20+10 min

*Legal Psychology*

10.00. [1.] Ms Kate Fitz Gibbon, 10+10 min

*Till Death Do us Part: Judging the men who kill their Intimate Partners*

10.20. [2.] Mr Tebeje Molla, 10+10 min

*Transnational Educational Agenda and Higher Education Reform in Ethiopia: Gender Equity in Focus*

10.40. [3.] Mr Mustafa M. Naser, 10+10 min

*Climate-Induced Displacement in Bangladesh: Human Rights Implications vis-à-vis Challenges and Responses*

11.00. [4.] Ms Fanny Thornton, 10+10 min

*The Other Side of the Coin – Climate Change Migration and the Internally Displaced*

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11.20. Morning Tea

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11.40. **Panel 2** – Chaired by Dr Julie Thorpe, 20+10 min

*History and Political Culture*

12.10. [5.] Ms Sulamith Graefenstein, 10+10 min

*European superiority and its influence on the colonial approaches of the British Empire in Australia (18th/ 19th/ 20th century)*

12.30. [6.] Ms Constanze Heidt, 10+10 min

*European Identity, Immigration and Integration*

12.50. [7.] Mr Desmond Brennan, 10+10 min

*How are the EU's existence and expansion affecting relations between Poland and its eastern neighbours, specifically Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine?*

13.10. [8.] Mr Guy Emerson, 10+10 min

*The 'weak' state's resistance: analyzing Venezuela's foreign policy through poststructuralist and post-colonial theory*

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13.40. Lunch

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14.40. **Panel 3** – Chaired by Dr Ned Curthoys, 20+10 min

*Literature, Philosophy and Political Theory*

15.10. [9.] Mr Pablo Leighton, 10+10 min

*The enlightened dictatorship: A history of an audio-visual culture of propaganda since 1970 in Chile*

15.30. [10.] Ms Mia Thornton, 10+10 min

*Virtual Inclusion: National museums and digital media in multicultural societies*

15.50. [11.] Ms Annie Morgan, 10+10 min

*Perspectives on Identity Construction and the Role of Place in Andreï Makine's Literature*

16.20. [12.] Mr Pablo Jimenez, 10+10 min

*Making sense of European identity in the interdisciplinary jungle*

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17.30 Evening Drinks

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2<sup>nd</sup> Day

09.30. Welcome

10.00. **Panel 4** – Chaired by Prof Simon Bronitt, 20+10 min

*Socio-legal Methods*

10.30. [13.] Ms Debra Smith, 10+10 min

*The Socio-Political Dynamics of Affect: Correlations with Violent Political Agency*

10.50. [14.] Ms Anne Imobersteg Harvey, 10+10 min

*Terrorism: a type of organised crime or an offence sui generis?*

11.10. [15.] Ms Wulan Sari, 10+10 min

*Measuring Performance of Public Hospitals in Indonesia*

11.30. [16.] Mr Greg P. Lopez, 10+10 min

*ASEAN's trade and investment performance facing India's and China's economic transformation: Identifying a 'useful' international political economy framework*

11.50. [17.] Ms Nashid R. Monir, 10+10 min

*Political Economy of Corruption: The Case of Tax Evasion in Bangladesh*

12.10. [18.] Ms Nina Markovic, 10+10 min

*The European Union at the United Nations: towards a new kind of global governance on international security?*

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12.30-13.30 Lunch and Goodbye...

## STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

### **Till Death Do us Part: Judging the men who kill their Intimate Partners**

*Kate Fitz-Gibbon, Monash University*

The male who kills his intimate partner stands in direct contrast to hegemonic understandings of masculinity. His inability to protect his partner, to provide for his family and to adhere to the law is readily condemned by both society and the criminal justice system. This research explores the construction of different models of masculinity during the trials of men convicted of the murder or manslaughter of their female intimate partner in Victoria, New South Wales and England. Specifically, the research aims to investigate how ideal understandings of hegemonic masculinity are used in judicial decision making to condemn or sympathise with male offenders of intimate femicide. By comparing this across three different jurisdictions the research further questions how these mobilisations of masculinity differ in varying climates of homicide (specifically provocation) law reform. Utilising a qualitative research methodology the research employs both a narrative and thematic analysis of sentencing judgements for male offenders of intimate femicide sentenced between January 2006 and December 2009, alongside semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders (namely Supreme Court judges) from both the Australian and British criminal justice system. Whilst this research does not directly assess the impact of recent homicide law reform to the defence of provocation it is explicitly concerned with the continued influence of gender norms and bias at the sentencing stage of the legal process. As such, it aims to provide an illustration of the key role that judges play in advocating or rejecting change within the criminal justice system, and more broadly legitimising attitudes about male violence against women throughout society.

## **Transnational Educational Agenda and Higher Education Reform in Ethiopia: Gender Equity in Focus**

*Tebeje Molla, Monash University*

Since the late 1990s, Ethiopia has introduced a series of reforms in the higher education subsystem. Financing, governance and management, expansion and admission, and curriculum and instruction have been the major focuses of the planned changes. Basically the planned changes operate in two predominant contexts. First, by the way of influences of donors and lenders, the reform activities are well linked with the global higher education reform trend. In this regard, as a major source of external finance to the education sector, the World Bank remains to be the most influential force. Its efficiency-oriented reform prescriptions that induce governments to cut public spending for higher education are inescapable agendas for an aid-dependent country like Ethiopia. On the other hand, locally there are such pressing challenges as social inequality that the HE system needs to tackle. For example, Women both as students and academic staff are poorly represented. Gender disparity in higher education in Ethiopia is higher even compared to the Sub-Saharan average. This needs both political and economic commitment of the government. In these apparently conflicting contexts, some questions are worth answering: Is addressing social inequality in higher education compatible with efficiency-driven reforms championed by the Bank? To what extent are the recent reforms in Ethiopia aligned with the World Bank's reform prescription? What is the relevance and implications of the reforms to promoting gender equity in higher education in the country?

Therefore, the study intends to analyse recent higher education policy reforms of Ethiopia in relation to major reform prescriptions of the World Bank to the Sub-Saharan African countries since mid 1990s. Besides, following the traces of gender equity related reforms, and provisions of the Gender Equity Action Plan (2006-2010), the state of gender equity policy implementation will be investigated in two selected public higher education institutions. However, currently there is no well-defined research methodology developed to answer these questions. Even so, *conflict approach* to educational reform and *critical policy analysis* will be important theoretical tools to analyse policy documents and interviews. (The study is in its early

stage, and it is my hope that the workshop will help me clarify my idea and develop relevant research design with interdisciplinary theoretical orientation).

**Climate Change Induced Displacement in Bangladesh:  
Human Rights Implications *vis-à-vis* Challenges and Responses**

*Mostafa Mahmud Naser, Macquarie University*

Climate change and migration are two cross-cutting issues demanding immediate and appropriate responses from international community. Climate change contributes to the rise of sea levels, altered patterns of desertification, and to the increase in number and intensity of disastrous environmental events. Consequently, there are apprehensions of problems like reduced agricultural production, food insecurity, poverty, scarcity of water, population pressures, unequal access to resources, and break-out of epidemics and diseases. These obvious threats are feared to generate forced displacements and pose challenges to human rights of such migrants. Bangladesh, with its extremely dense population and for its exposure to cyclones and floods, appears as the quintessential example of environmental displacement. The sea level rise of 1.5 meter, as predicted by scientists, would submerge 16% of total land area in Bangladesh producing millions of environmental refugees, realization of whose human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights, would be a challenging issue to address. In this context, the primary objectives of the paper are to foster a deeper understanding of the human rights implications for the people who are already displaced or feared to be displaced in the days to come due to climate change, and to formulate pragmatic legal tools and institutional frameworks, consistent with international human rights standards and jurisprudence, to address these implications.

## **The Other Side of the Coin – Climate Change Migration and the Internally Displaced**

*Fanny Thornton, Australian National University*

In the climate change debate, the public imagination is incensed by the possibility of mass migration, especially the creation of a new group of stateless persons – so-called ‘climate refugees’. The academic discussion in this area has been dominated by a focus on gaps in the current refugee protection regime, which does not permit the recognition of such a class of refugees. What has been noticeably absent from this discourse, however, is a reality which promises that the large majority of displacement will likely be internal in nature, with individual nation states struggling to cope with displaced populations in their own territory.

This presentation will provide evidence of the current and future extent of climate change-induced internal displacement, before analysing the limited international protection regime afforded to affected persons. In particular, I will outline the relevance of the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*, a soft law instrument, to the climate change displacement debate, arguing that the possibility of ongoing national adoption of its principles in the climate change context may eventually lead to the emergence of a new norm of customary international law. The focus will be on both the strengths and limitations of this notion, emphasizing the role of soft law instruments in international law in general.

The presentation will conclude with a short section on the anticipated future direction of my research, as well as a brief outline of some of the initial methodological and conceptual hurdles I have encountered.

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## **European superiority and its influence on the colonial approaches of the British Empire in Australia (18th/19th/20th century)**

*Sulamith Graefenstein, University of Konstanz, at the NEC as part of her MA Program*

The expansion of the second British Empire during the 18th century was accompanied by a fundamental transformation of Australian society and culture. The loss of the American Colonies in 1776-83 ushered in the end of the first British Empire which had lasted for at least two centuries. The new settlements in Australia and the Pacific during the 18th century were seen as a compensation for the American Colonies. By the end of the 18th century indigenous peoples with a high degree of mobility such as the Aborigines came to be seen as a burden by the British colonial power. As a result of this development they got separated from settled communities with whom they originally maintained trade relations. They were called „barbarians“and „savages“and were socially excluded. In the middle of the 19th century Aboriginal protectorates were established to force them to abandon their nomadic lifestyle. The Aboriginal societies, which were structured by the life of the huntsmen, were destructed to increase the influence of the British government on the indigenous population. Commercial interest played a predominant role in the expansion and colonisation of the Pacific. Especially during the industrial revolution the colonies of settlement were expected to play an important role concerning the acquisition of raw materials for the growing demand of the expanding British population. Therefore, in the 19th century, the British government pursued an increasingly intrusive policy of intervention. At this point of the history the indigenous people of Australia had to cope with the destruction of their social and cultural identities. But why did the British colonisers seize foreign land instead of purchasing it? Thus the points of emphasis in this research project will be the influence of British superiority on the legitimisation of colonial power in Australia during the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, the shaping of the colonisation through these ideas and how arguments have changed over time.

The aim of this research project is to acquire a broad knowledge regarding different components of European, in this case British superiority which had an enormous influence on cultural contacts between Aboriginal people and Britons. Various

motives played a decisive part in the constitution of the European supremacy such as Christian religion, civilized achievements, white supremacy and technical progress. The listed points will be discussed and furthermore presented in the context of their use and relevance within the process of British colonisation of the Australian continent over the above mentioned period of time. The European superiority dominated many western discourses regarding the question, if there could be any legitimising reasons for colonial intervention, land occupation and exploitation of indigenous manpower. From the earliest days of British settlement various questions concerning the status of the indigenous peoples were discussed such as: Can the indigenous peoples make contracts? Do we as Europeans have to abide by agreements made with natives? Are the oaths of natives reliable? Which position are they occupying on „The Great Chain of Being“? All the developed notions related to this discussion are the centre of attention within this research due to the fact that they had a crucial influence on the actions of the British Colonial power and the behaviour of the white settlers towards the Aborigines.

### **European Identity, Immigration and Integration**

*Constanze Heidt, University of Konstanz, at the NEC as part of her MA Program*

In European history, there have been different phases which formed the image of Europe today. Since the days of Colonialism, the places and people that had been conquered still are very much involved into their positions of being an “object” of European discovery. This quite eurocentric perspective was considered as a steadfast self-conception, even though social and hierarchical structures in the foreign places had evolved long before the actual encounter. It is an old stereotype that is still constitutive for the role Europe plays in the world nowadays.

The French philosopher Rémi Brague got to the heart of that position when he stated in his proposition that Europe has an “eccentric identity”. The question would be how it could develop from a self-confident, imperial and eurocentric position to a quite vague and non-defined identity without a real centre. Europe lives through its

pluralities and combines many cultural and political differences, within which integration and exclusion play an important part.

My field of study is Europe's ambiguous identity in the broadest sense and the specific view of a non-European country, like Australia, about questions concerning: How were Europe and the Europeans seen in the first place, during the direct first cultural contact between them and the natives of Australia? Which value has non-European documentation of this period in comparison to European literary work or travel accounts today? What is done within (the Australian) society nowadays to keep these impacts of European encounters on indigenous social life and conditions in mind?

**How are the EU's existence and expansion affecting relations between Poland and its eastern neighbours, specifically Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine?**

*Desmond Brennan, University of Canterbury (NZ)*

I am building on the research I carried out for my two master theses and other studies in Poland in the mid-1990s. I want to determine how the EU's expansion and success is affecting society and culture in the region. I am trying to ascertain how positive the EU's impact has been and whether any changes should be made to EU policies. I am examining the role and stances of the respective governments in each of the countries in question. I am particularly interested in how a new political, economic and social border for Europe is being defined and implemented, to what degree this new border is a result of EU policy, how it is affecting communities on either side of it and whether there are alternative ways of ensuring progress and development in Central and Eastern Europe.

I spent three years studying and working in Poland in the 1990s. During that time I also visited Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine. As part of my research for my PhD I undertook a study trip to the region last year, during which I interviewed and surveyed dozens of Poles, Ukrainians and Lithuanians. My methodological problems have included not being able to get enough people to interview, my limited knowledge of the Ukrainian, Russian, Belarusian and Lithuanian languages (I had to

interview people in English and/or Polish) and properly structuring my survey questions. I will be interviewing more people for my thesis, including highly relevant actors from Poland, and want help in preparing for these interviews.

**The ‘weak’ state’s resistance: Analysing Venezuela’s foreign policy through poststructuralist and post-colonial theory**

*Guy Emerson, Australian National University*

As one of the most oppositional foreign policy positions in international politics today, the reach of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appears to exceed its weight. At best labelled a radical populist and at worst compared to Hitler, the Chávez administration confounds the traditional role of a ‘weak’ or ‘subaltern’ state in international relations. How is this to be explained? In examining this problematic, the thesis intends to examine two further questions: what domestic elements within Venezuela allow the Chávez administration to take such an oppositional policy position? And secondly, what change does Venezuelan foreign policy induce in international politics? That is, does it move the international system closer to, what Chávez labels, a multi-polar world? It is through an exploration of these questions that this thesis intends to examine the foreign policy of Venezuela with reference to both an international and domestic context.

In order to explain the resistance of ‘weak’ states it has been necessary to move beyond traditional concepts that govern international relations. This has resulted in a series of methodological issues. Exploring Venezuelan foreign policy from a variety of disciplines, to date, my research combines critical social theory, specifically the poststructuralist school of foreign policy analysis, with a critical literary perspective outlined within post-colonial theory. It is an amalgam of these perspectives that inform my own research design. By way of this combination, my research aims to enable ‘weak’ states not only to confound traditional views of international relations, but also to inform international relations theory.

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## **The enlightened dictatorship:**

### **A history of an audio-visual culture of propaganda since 1970 in Chile**

*Pablo Leighton, Macquarie University*

My work undertakes a cultural history of Chilean audio-visual media under Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship (1973-1990), examining its roots (1970-1973, under democratically elected Marxist president, Salvador Allende), and its lasting effects (1990-2006, under the centre-left coalition called Concertacion). To do so I develop a concept of propaganda culture to examine the various crossovers that occur between media and politics, fiction and documentary, or practice and theory, in the exercise of power in Chile. This project uses cultural and media theories to offer an interdisciplinary contribution to the field of Chilean studies, which has not yet fully examined the dictatorial regime beyond its economic and political dynamics, and that has discarded the possibility of Pinochet's domination through non-forceful means.

The challenges of my research design can be understood to sit in the tension between fields of cultural studies and politico-economical analysis. Firstly, there is a danger in simplifying the phenomena of the Chilean dictatorship by offering only a cultural analysis. My aim will not be to present cultural manifestations as having primacy over political, economic or physically violent facts. At the same time, however, I consider them as having their own autonomy in contributing to the upholding of the dictatorship. The problem seems to be the permanent academic demand to present supremacy of materialist (economic and political) factors over an analysis of cultural factors. Secondly, there is a risk that, in criticizing the discourse surrounding Chile as a nation, the thesis might also reinforce it. It is methodologically useful to be able to limit the research to borders and one single nationality. I have opted to exclude a comparative approach sampling the political use of media in other countries with dictatorships. Nevertheless, as the thesis is primarily a social-semiotic analysis, the discourse called *Chile* will become obvious as an artificial construction.

## **Virtual Inclusion: National museums and digital media in multicultural societies**

*Mia Thornton, Australian National University*

This research investigates the changing roles for public institutions, namely national museums, within multicultural societies. Since the 1960s and '70s many public institutions have embarked on projects to become more inclusive. Many public institutions have attempted to address the suppressing or silencing of undesirable aspects in multicultural societies, especially minority cultures. In their bid to become more inclusive public institutions are faced with, among many things, evolving multicultural policies, changing public perceptions, and the impact of digital media. It aims to discuss how minority cultures can become fully involved in the life of public institutions. This research asks if and how national museums are fostering more inclusive experiences of citizenship in multicultural societies. The research proposes that public institutions need to work from more inclusive ideas about citizenship and the publics they are addressing. It is based on a comparative case study of the National Museum of Australia, National Museum of Singapore, and Museum of London. In particular, the case study examines the impacts of public policy, public perceptions, and digital media on each national museum. The case study draws on processes internal and external to each museum: interviews with museum staff; public and museum policies; readings and observations of galleries. The research also focuses on minority cultures and how national museums contribute to the way they negotiate their status as citizens. The research aims to contribute research to the ongoing, lasting inclusion of minority cultures in multicultural societies. It is situated across the disciplines of: political studies, museum studies, cultural studies, and digital media studies.

1. Interdisciplinary means any research that engages with more than one discipline. I found in my research, particularly in the area of digital media, that research is often labelled 'interdisciplinary' because the research engages with more than one discipline. For example, research on digital media in museums claims to be interdisciplinary because it combines digital media studies and museum studies. However, the research tends to stay remain in digital media studies, and museums are merely the environment for the research. I believe that research should only be

characterised as ‘interdisciplinary’ when it attempts to fuse disciplines to create new ideas. As Stuart Hall pointed out “serious interdisciplinary work does not mean that one puts up the interdisciplinary flag and then has a kind of coalition of colleagues from different departments, each of whom brings his or her own specialization...” I think it would be useful to discuss in the workshop how to do ‘serious interdisciplinary work’, and not fall into the trap of rebranding old ideas in new research environments or contexts. This also leads to questions about how to situate yourself and your own research voice when conducting interdisciplinary research.

2. Working in interdisciplinary research teams where each researcher works in a distinct philosophy or epistemology. In 2006 I was a research fellow at the University of Brighton and worked in a European project focused on cultural heritage and digital media. The project brought in researchers from across disciplines (and countries) including computer science, archaeology, business studies, linguistics, history, cultural studies. On a daily basis, we had several heated arguments about the nature of the project. We were creating a 3D reconstruction of the Royal Pavilion, a 19<sup>th</sup> century palace built for King George in Brighton. One side of the debate were the computer scientists and archaeologists who argued that the 3D reconstruction needed to be a ‘true’ and ‘realistic’ representation of the Royal Pavilion. On the other side of the debate were the historians and cultural studies researchers who argued that no representation can ever replicate the real thing, and that all representations are subjected to the maker’s judgements and values. Perhaps we could also discuss in workshop how teams can reconcile team members working from different paradigms, epistemologies, etc. particularly when funding and research outcomes need to be met.

3. Wearing different hats when conducting interdisciplinary research. In my experience as an interdisciplinary researcher I have found that in different contexts, different parts of my research are emphasised. For example, when I am talking with political scientists the discussion is centred more on models of democracy and citizenship, and the nature of politics in contemporary society. It would be great to discuss in the workshop how people manage these different hats, particularly in communicating their research to different audiences.

## **Perspectives on Identity Construction and the Role of Place in Andreï Makine's Literature**

*Annie Morgan, University of Western Australia*

Twenty years have passed since the Berlin Wall fell and Communism collapsed in much of Eastern Europe. With the expansion of the EU and the reformation of the Soviet Union how has the transition from old worlds to new been accomplished? Importantly, how is identity constructed and defined in transitory environments? Andreï Makine is a contemporary French-Russian author who sought exile in France from the former USSR twenty years ago. His literature continually refers to the Soviet Russia he left behind and to an (often) idealised Western Europe, a Europe in which he now resides. His work has frequently been analysed as an exploration of the divide between Eastern and Western Europe. By re-evaluating this perspective however, the porous nature of the East-West concept and its symbolic aspects specifically, arise. Consequently, the East-West theme in Makine's work can be viewed as a literary expression of space-place-myth and, as structures that work with rather than against one another.

The current presentation will examine Makine's use of Siberia (East) as a literary metaphor. Historically, Siberia has existed as a political and geographical entity which has shaped Russian consciousness. It has been conceived as both a frontier space free of serfdom - not unlike America's Wild West- and as a place of exile and imprisonment. Russian authors such as Dostoyevsky and Chekov have written about Siberia. Is Makine following Russian literary traditions when he, too, places his characters in the depths of Siberia? Do issues arise when a Russian writes in France, in French? How does he successfully (or not) use Siberian locales in his writing while still drawing on Western European perspectives? My presentation will highlight some of the challenges of understanding concepts of European identity in the East-West context - which itself is slowly disintegrating with the EU expansion - as portrayed in Makine's literature. Is Russia a part of Europe? What role does language play in the crossover between cultures? Moreover, how can social, political and historical methods be successfully incorporated into what is essentially a literary analysis, particularly when exploring larger questions of identity?

## **Making sense of European identity in the interdisciplinary jungle**

*Pablo Jimenez, Australian National University*

Though considerations on Europe as one community have been made in the past – for instance in the Middle Ages – discussion about it has taken a new impetus from the second half of the XX century. The clearest outcome is the European Union (EU). Now a recurrent discussion in moments of crisis – not infrequent in the EU's life so far – revolves around the EU's legitimacy, or its capacity to represent what Europe is today, its *identity*. Therefore, in order to study that phenomenon, it would appear obvious and straightforward to speak about 'European identity' (EI). Yet under this term there are thousands of publications. Different authors consider EI from their own particular disciplines. The result is that EI is not a univocal term. Two very serious thinkers may be speaking about EI but meaning actually very different methodologies and objects of study. EI is studied in at least eight disciplines: sociology, social psychology, history, anthropology, law, political science, literature and political philosophy. And the list is probably bigger. EI is considered under several methodological perspectives, for example the 'top-down' or the 'bottom-up' approaches; the focus on European individuals, or communities, or nations; the cultural, civic or pragmatic 'value' analysis; the 'analytical' (i.e. based on empirical surveys) or theoretical, descriptive or prescriptive models.

So to the question 'What is your thesis about?', answering 'About EI' is almost a riddle. It could mean almost anything, depending, among other factors, on the listener's background, and on the perspective under which his or her sources deal with EI. Instead of being able to happily 'just dive into my topic', I have had to do a work of specification, delimitation and fine-tuning regarding the very subject of the thesis. After all, probably this is part of really diving into a topic in a serious, academic way. At the moment I have been able to define a few core ideas. My work will approach EI mainly from the perspective of political philosophy. Therefore it will be more prescriptive than descriptive. It will deal above all with the identity not of 'Europe' in a broad sense – the one utilised, for example, by the Council of Europe -, but the one of the EU. And even within the framework of the EU, I will not deal with the identity of individuals in the EU, or of diverse groups (communities, nations)

inside it, but with the identity of the EU as a polity. Finally, dealing with the identity of something implies finding out something about its nature – we cannot say that B is identical with A, unless we know what A (and what B) is. I suspect that my work will be dealing with what kind of polity the EU is, has been, and will be in the future (a federation?, a confederation?, a nation?, a ‘post-nation’?...). During the workshop I would like to expose the problems that I have faced in the first months of my thesis work, the way in which I have tried to solve them and the methodological and interdisciplinary challenges that I foresee towards the future. Hopefully this information will be useful to other academics, as their feedback will be certainly of interest to me.

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### **The Socio-Political Dynamics of Affect: Correlations with Violent Political Agency**

*Debra Smith, Monash University*

Recently there has been a renewed interest in the role of emotion as both a site of political knowledge and as a contributing dynamic in the stability or upheaval of political institutions. Nevertheless, this interest has not yet permeated the field of terrorism studies. This is particularly curious given that the concept of terrorism is predicated on the belief that emotion, or more particularly the manipulation of emotions such as ‘terror’, can be used as a political tool. Nevertheless, scholarship in the field of terrorism studies reflects an *implicit* acceptance that emotion is implicated in terrorist behaviour, while largely ignoring it as an analytical concept.

This may be interpreted as a side-effect of long-running debates surrounding pathology or normality within terrorists’ psychology. Those who have sought to ground terrorist behaviour in broadly psychopathological traits have tended to draw unproblematically on the passions to emphasise the role of emotions such as anger and hatred. From this perspective, emotion is presented as a pathological bias that distorts rationality in ways that make an individual vulnerable to violent forms of

political expression. Alternatively, scholars who emphasise the strategic logic in terrorism acknowledge the role of emotions, particularly frustration, anger, and humiliation, in driving a person towards an incremental embrace of violence, yet largely downplay their importance within 'rational' decision-making processes.

It is my contention that valuable insights into the choice of terrorism as a political strategy may arise from an interrogation of the interplay between the structural conditions of people's lives and the emotional consequences these conditions generate. As globalization dilutes the emotional power of narratives centering on the nation state and opens up ever wider spaces for alternative emotional attachments, global terrorist networks such as al Qaeda have entered the emotional market place. Their skill lies in an ability to tap into emotions such as anger, frustration and humiliation through a narrative that explains these existential phenomena in terms of victimhood and oppression by outsiders. However, at the same time the narratives pushed by terrorist groups are designed to stimulate positive emotions such as love, compassion, loyalty, solidarity and pride and then to channel these feelings towards political action.

### **Terrorism: a type of organised crime or an offence *sui generis* ?**

*Anne Imobersteg Harvey, University of Western Australia*

My thesis is a comparative study of the legislation on organised crime and terrorism of Australia and the European Union. It aims at determining if the legislation against terrorism stems substantially from the legislation on organised crime or if it is different/unrelated legislation. The answer to the question would give an understanding of what by-laws/accompanying measures are required. Hence, my thesis has two objectives, which should not to conflict. One is to foster a better understanding of EU legislation in Australia and vice versa, which should be useful in mutual assistance matters. The other one is to highlight to the non-academic the

foundations of the present legislation on terrorism, and trigger, if need be, some legislative changes or adjustments.

The main methodological problems that I would like to discuss are: 1. My dissertation is like a four-entry table. What is the best way to present the contents: by topics ? by “countries” (EU-AUS) ? 2. At first, comparing the EU legislation with Australia seemed straightforward. However, recently the Federal government is looking at using European terminology against transnational crime (participating in a criminal group) to criminalise behaviour that is purely domestic (bikie gangs). How far should my dissertation go? 3. The Australian and EU legislation is not on the same footing. EU criminal law needs to be implemented legislatively by the Member States. Courts interpretation of EU legislation differ from State to State. Commonwealth legislation is on the other hand self-sufficient. It may complement state legislation in area of organised crime, but not in the area of terrorism. Should my study extend to the Australian states?

### **Measuring Performance of Public Hospitals in Indonesia**

*Wulan Sari, University of Canberra*

As public organisations, public hospitals have an obligation to report their performance to related departments. Performance measurement is commonly viewed as being a route for a better management and accountability. Furthermore, it is also a means of monitoring and controlling public hospitals’ activities which is to ensure whether public hospitals achieve predefined objectives, missions and vision or not. The vision of Health Department is “Healthy Indonesians 2010”. As consequently, all health institutions focus on implementation of health programs.

There are two ways to recognise the quality of the hospital health services; public opinions and accreditation status. People assume that the hospitals’ purpose is giving qualified health services due to patients satisfaction. Through the accreditation status, the quality of health services also can be seen as A, B, and C grade. However, the

quality of the hospitals are influenced by internal and external stakeholders. The internal stakeholder influences on the administration and internal services. Meanwhile, the external stakeholders affect through formal processes. For example, hospitals conduct patients surveys, pharmaceutical suppliers evaluate hospitals financial management and their capacity to pay bills, and universities assess public hospital research quality.

Monitoring the performance measurement can be seen as a method designed to meet organizational goals, which the hospitals quality is one of them. The performance indicators can be used for planning improvement in to operational effectiveness, ensuring public accountability, monitoring management and/or fostering collaboration. In Indonesia, there are financial and non-financial performance indicators for public hospitals. The financial indicators include return on investment, current ratio, and inventory turn over. Meanwhile, bed occupancy ratio (BOR), length of stay (LOS) and net death rate are belonged to the non financial indicators. In Indonesia, there are four institutions; Health Department, National Planner Agency (BAPPENAS), Department of Finance and Department of State Apparatus, which compile performance indicators for public hospitals.

**ASEAN's trade and investment performance facing India's and China's economic transformation: Identifying a 'useful' international political economy framework.**

*Gregore Lopez, Australian National University*

My PhD thesis would constitute two broad parts – (i) the main component would be an empirical approach that seeks to explain the trade and investment relations between China, India and ASEAN and (ii) an international political economy (IPE) component that seeks to explain why the trade and investment relations are the way they are. What would an appropriate framework be to answer the following key question, “What has been and is China and India's trade policy towards ASEAN (and

vice-versa) and what were/are the motivating reasons?” to fit in the findings of the empirical component. Identifying an appropriate framework that provides an explanation for the questions above is indeed challenging. A suitable framework to explain ASEAN, China and India’s trade relationship may be a mix between the realist approach and its sub-component – the nationalist approach with liberalism. Within the realist framework, the ‘nationalist’ approach useful in explaining how trade policy reforms had been undertaken in ASEAN, China and India.

The ‘nationalist’ approach is a political economy perspective on the question of the state’s role in the economic life of the nation. The ‘nationalist’ approach finds its intellectual tradition grounded in the historical conditions that were evident in mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. These same conditions are faced by ASEAN, China and India and in fact the same arguments used by these governments when undertaking trade reforms. Drysdale uses the theory of games to explain how countries may behave in international economic policy and argues that welfare is the ultimate aim of economic agents which may result in cooperative or non-cooperative behavior (Drysdale, *International Economic Pluralism*, 1988). This approach in my view is consistent with the mixed realist/nationalist/liberalism approach. Ultimately, a government can only remain in power if it increases the welfare of the groups that supports it specifically and a majority of the population in general. This also improves its prestige internationally. All ASEAN economies, China and India have ‘strong’ governments that promote the ‘national’ interests first and foremost. These governments now also realize that while nationalist interests serve a domestic political purpose, liberal principles are more effective at generating welfare gains.

### **Political Economy of Corruption: The Case of Tax Evasion in Bangladesh**

*Nashid Monir, Monash University*

Corruption is considered to be a major problem across all parts of the world. All countries, developing and developed, are suffering from the ill-effects of corruption. However, arguably, corruption is more prevalent in least developed countries compared to developed industrialised nations. Corruption in Bangladesh, in this regard, presents an interesting

scenario. Bangladesh, being a least developed country, is considered to be one of the most corrupt countries in the world. According to the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) prepared by the Transparency International, Bangladesh had been perceived to be the most corrupt country in the world for a consecutive five year period between 2001 and 2005. The political economy of corruption in Bangladesh draws a dismal picture of the problem that suggests that the apparent corrupt state of Bangladesh has primarily emanated from a long-standing nexus among corrupt politicians, bureaucrats and businesspeople. Tax evasion plays a significant role in creating and maintaining such a nexus. Using the example of tax evasion in Bangladesh, the paper attempts to look into the political economy of corruption.

Although, tax evasion is a major impediment to the economic progress of Bangladesh, it has drawn little or no research attention. From the above perspective, the aim of this study is to examine the issue of tax evasion with the foci on the factors contributing to tax evasion in Bangladesh as well as the nexus of the politicians, bureaucrats, businesspeople and other taxpayers causing the problem. This paper argues that the inappropriateness of all three levels of the taxation regime including tax policy formulation, its implementation and compliance in Bangladesh causes tax evasion.

The method to be adopted in this study will be a qualitative case study based on semi structured and face-to-face interviews among the policy-makers, bureaucrats, businesspeople and other taxpayers.

### **The European Union at the United Nations: towards a new kind of global governance on international security?**

*Nina Markovic, University of Melbourne*

My thesis examines the role of the European Union (EU) at the United Nations (UN) in the post-Cold War security environment. The EU is treated as an international and diplomatic actor in the context of international relations. The EU's activism in the fields of environmental politics, human rights and human security has not gone unnoticed by major powers in the UN system. However, questions remain about the legitimacy of the EU's role and representation at the UN.

The EU does not have a seat on the UN Security Council, which is the most powerful body of the UN. It also lacks cohesion at the UN in its foreign policy agenda. At the same time, the EU is the largest single contributor to the UN's general and peacekeeping budgets, and is seeking to influence the UN's agenda. My dissertation examines some of the practical and normative challenges to the EU's role at the UN, especially on the questions of international security, while seeking to provide a fresh perspective on the 'EU at the UN' towards a new research agenda.

My research project is examining the EU 'actorness' from a multi-disciplinary approach, and seeks to incorporate both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. Inter-disciplinary challenges that I have encountered in my research concern the crossing over of boundaries between political science/international relations (including security studies), law (especially international law) and history. In addition, much of the academic literature on the EU at the UN employs, to a large extent, quantitative research methodology. Lastly, the EU's role in international relations is still being heavily debated, and some academic approaches fail to recognise the EU as an international actor in world politics.

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