

# PUBLIC SEMINAR

THE NATIONAL EUROPE CENTRE AT THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY IS PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO:

## The UK General Election 2005

or

**Don't Mention the War/the Economy/Tony Blair [delete as applicable]**

### Dr Ben Wellings

Convenor, Contemporary European Studies, School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts, The Australian National University

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#### Friday 6 May, 3pm

at the National Europe Centre  
The Australian National University, 1 Liversidge Street,  
(Parking available in Balmain Lane, opposite University House)

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The UK General Election of 2005 has not turned out to be a dull as the previous election in 2001. This is in no small part due to the Conservative Party's election campaign manger, Lynton Crosby. Having helped John Howard retain power on several occasions in Australia, Crosby is now helping Michael Howard (no relation) in his attempt to secure the keys to No 10 Downing Street. Howard's Conservative Party is running hard on fear-driven issues such as asylum, immigration, the state of the UK's hospitals as well as Tony Blair's "lies", particularly over the war in Iraq (although the Conservatives supported the invasion themselves). The Labour Party is highlighting Britain's strong economy and is scrupulously avoiding any mention of the war where possible, and down-playing Tony Blair himself, who will resign at the next election, presuming he wins this one, (which is likely). With the two major parties suffering a loss of credibility with voters, the minor parties are rubbing their hands: will 2005 see the strange rebirth of Liberal England?

By 3pm Canberra-time, most of the votes will have been counted and Dr Ben Wellings, recently returned from London, will provide an analysis of the election campaign and a discussion of the implications of the results.

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#### Enquiries:

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