

THE NATIONAL EUROPE CENTRE
RESEARCH SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, ANU,
PRESENTS:



PUBLIC SEMINAR

IMMIGRATION AND ISLAM IN ITALY

Mr Adam Berryman

PhD researcher at the Contemporary Europe Research Centre, The University of Melbourne and Visiting Fellow, National Europe Centre, The Australian National University

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ANU National Europe Centre, 1 Liversidge St [67C], The Australian National University. Light refreshments will follow the seminar. Parking available in Balmain Lane, opposite University House. This lecture is free and open to the public. RSVP preferred: europe@anu.edu.au Enquiries: T: 02 6125 9896 <http://www.anu.edu.au/NEC/>

Adam Berryman is based at the Contemporary Europe Research Centre at The University of Melbourne where he works as a researcher on the project *The European Union: A new global political actor?* His PhD research is a comparative study of local responses to the challenges resulting from immigration in Italy. In 2006 he was the recipient of the Australian European University Institute Fellowship. Adam is currently lecturing on West European politics at The University of Melbourne.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s Italy experienced a dramatic increase in immigration. The resulting series of policy initiatives aimed at regulating the population movement, with little attention to settlement and social cohesion. Despite recent governmental attempts to promote greater social integration, the attitude towards immigrants in Italian society remains characterised by decreasing degrees of toleration.

Particular antipathy is directed at the ethnically diverse Muslim population, which is now the second largest religious community in Italy. This paper looks specifically at the way in which immigration has become conflated with Islam in an Italian context. The anti-immigrant/anti-Islamic sentiment is giving rise to new, exclusive expressions of Italian cultural, religious and national identity. This limits the available space for Italian policy makers to develop an effective approach to multiculturalism and further hinders immigrants' entry into the political and economic spheres of Italian society.

The views in this Lecture are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University



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